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概 况

江南水乡主要是指长江下游南面的苏南浙北一带地区。这里土地肥沃、气候温和、物产丰富,自古就有先民在此聚居,千百年来,逐渐形成了许多村落和乡镇。这些乡镇依河而建,因水成街,因水成市,形成了精巧独特的建筑布局,镇上粉墙黛瓦,小桥流水,老街深巷,洋溢着浓郁的江南乡土气息,构成了一种独特的地域文化景观。因地理人文环境的差异,各镇又各有自己的特色。20世纪80年代以来,中国农村经济迅速发展,大多数历史古镇经历了现代建设的改造,基本失掉了原来的风貌。值得庆幸的是,浙江省的西塘、南浔、乌镇和江苏省的周庄、同里、甪直等古镇得到了及时的保护。近年来,这些古镇又在专家的指导下进行了合理的整治,较完整地保存了原汁原味的历史风貌,成为人类珍贵的文化遗产。

西塘,属浙江省嘉善县,地处江、浙、沪三角腹地,有"吴根越角"之称。明清时已成为江南手工业、商业重镇。镇上小河绕街,有长长的廊棚,给水乡住家和来往的行人以莫大的方便和舒适。古石桥、古巷弄、古树是西塘文化源远流长的写照。

西塘的廊棚,是古镇特有的建筑风光。木柱沿河而立,架起简单的木屋架,铺有瓦顶,遮阳避雨,沿河沿街绵延千米,把小镇主要的沿河街都盖住了。每逢节日,檐下挂起了大红灯笼,夕阳西下,红灯点点,水中倒影连成一串,增添了欢乐的气氛。廊棚作为沿街建筑的延伸,作为悠悠河流的傍依,充满了浓浓的人情和乡情。

西塘居民爱植花草, 尤善培植杜鹃花, 名品之多闻名四方, 春来花发, 蔚为大观。西塘又是民俗文化荟萃之所, 民间自行开办了木雕、根雕、瓦当、服饰、书法绘画等博物馆。西塘还有许多名人故居、大宅深院及名胜古迹, 这些都是古镇历史文化的见证。

主要景点: 廊棚、石皮弄、古石桥、烧香港、陆坟银杏、种福堂、尊闻堂、倪天增祖居、木雕馆、西园。





INTRODUCTION

The Canal Towns in Jiangnan Area mainly refer to the old towns which lie at the lower reaches of the Yangtze River in the south of Jiangsu Province and north of Zhejiang Province, and endowed with fertile land, mild climate and rich produce, this area was inhabited by primitive people many thousand years ago. Natural villages and towns have formed along small rivers, comprising exquisitely unique architectural layout. The towns feature white walls and dark tiles, small bridges and streams, old streets and long lanes. Local color constitutes a unique regional cultural landscape. These towns vary in style due to different geographic and cultural environments. Since 1980s, most of the ancient towns have been modernized with the takeoff of China's rural economy, losing the original framework. Fortunately, Xitang, Nanxun and Wuzhen in Zhejiang Province and Zhouzhuang, Tongli and Luzhi in Jiangsu Province have been timely preserved. In recent years, these old towns have been renovated under the guidance of experts. With original historic features, they are becoming the common heritage of our human race.

Situated close to Shanghai, Xitang has been a major town of handicraft industry and trade in Jiangnan Area since the Ming and Qing Dynasty. With its meandering rivers, and long roofed corridors, residents living here and passing pedestrians enjoy great comfort and convinience. The ancient stone bridges, lanes and trees are an epitome of its long history.

The roofed corridors, over a thousand meters in total length, are unique in Xitang. The wood pillars along the river support a tiled roof to provide shelter. During the holidays, red lanterns are hung along under the eaves, together with the reflection in water, forming the atmosphere of happiness. The roofed corridors, as the extention of buildings along the streets, are full of human concerns.

The local people like to grow flowers, especially good at growing azaleas, with famous varieties to be distributed far and wide. Xitang is also known for its folk artifacts, local people voluntarily set up museums for woodcarving, root carving, tile-end relief, garment, calligraphy and painting. Here you can also find residences of famous persons, big houses and other historic wonders.

Major places of interest:

Roofed Corridors, Shipi Lane, Ancient Stone Bridges, Pilgrims' Port, Lufen Ginkgo, Zhongfu Hall, Zunwen Hall, Ni Tianzeng's Ancestral House, Woodcarving Museum and Western Garden.







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水乡明珠—西塘

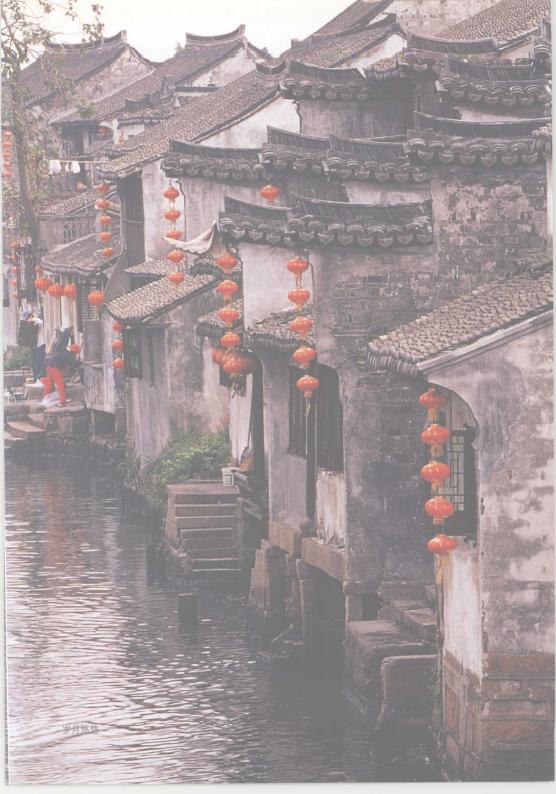
A Bright Pearl among Canal Towns

这里粉墙黛瓦杜鹃红,这里长廊临水映清波,这里弄堂深邃 富诗意,这里善酿黄酒醉人心。古镇西塘在河塘的怀抱中静静地 呈现着一派澹泊明净,像一首小诗低吟浅唱了数百年。她的古老, 她的简朴,她的精细,她的平和,洋溢着特有的魅力和情调,感 染着四方的游客,感染了这个世界。

西塘离上海、杭州很近,在浙江嘉善县境内,位于江苏、浙江、上海三角腹地,有"吴根越角"之称。走沪杭高速公路在大云出口下,再走嘉善公路,车行10多分钟就可抵达。西塘距上海90公里,距杭州110公里。

西塘很古老,春秋时,伍子胥出兵于此,开凿运河,兴水利称"伍子塘",又称"胥塘","胥""西"音相近,遂称"西塘", 距今已有2500多年了。据《西塘镇志》,这里元末统称"斜塘",明代始建镇,明万历年间复称"斜塘市"。现格局未变,旧貌依然,





镇区面积约2.3平方公里,人口1.3万余人。

西塘河很多,丁字河形成全镇的骨架,南北叫西塘市河,东西称杨秀泾,河面开阔、河水清冽,拱桥高驼。其他河道有乌泾塘、六斜塘、烧香港、里仁港、来凤港、十里港、三里塘等,都交汇在丁字河上。这些称港、塘的都是过去来往商舟渔船停泊卸物的地方,可以想像当年的风光,当年的繁盛景象。

西塘的廊棚最长,绵延覆盖和串连了全镇1.5公里的河沿和街道,下雨天不用打伞,走路不会湿鞋,暑天更好遮阳,给居民和行人一片清凉的世界。

西塘的弄堂最有名,有长弄、短弄,明弄、暗弄,一步弄、石皮弄……各式各样的弄堂有122条。弄堂是西塘人家生活的组成部分,也是游客们寻觅别趣的天地。

西塘人都爱杜鹃花,家家种、户户栽,品种多、名品多,花 期长、色漫烂,春来别样红,古镇盈春风。

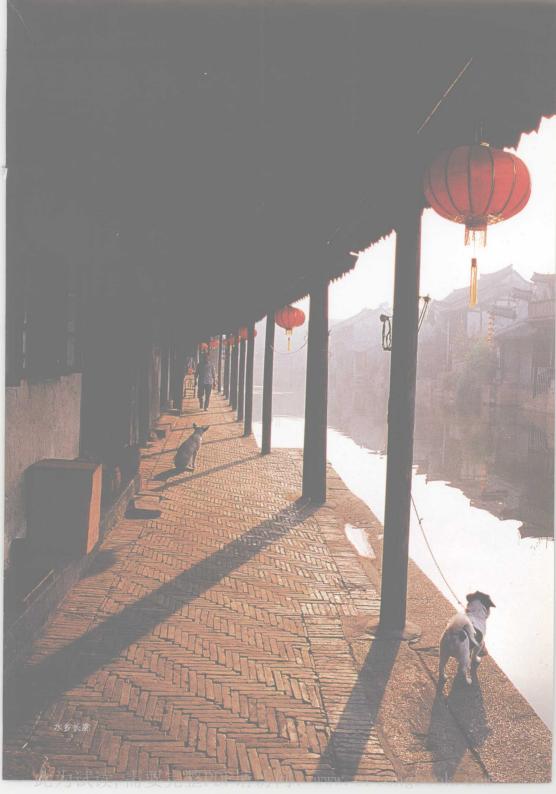
西塘盛产黄酒,嘉善黄酒西塘出,质高价廉,誉满苏、浙,垄断了上海料酒市场。以酒兴镇,以酒会友,梅花三白,脍炙人口。

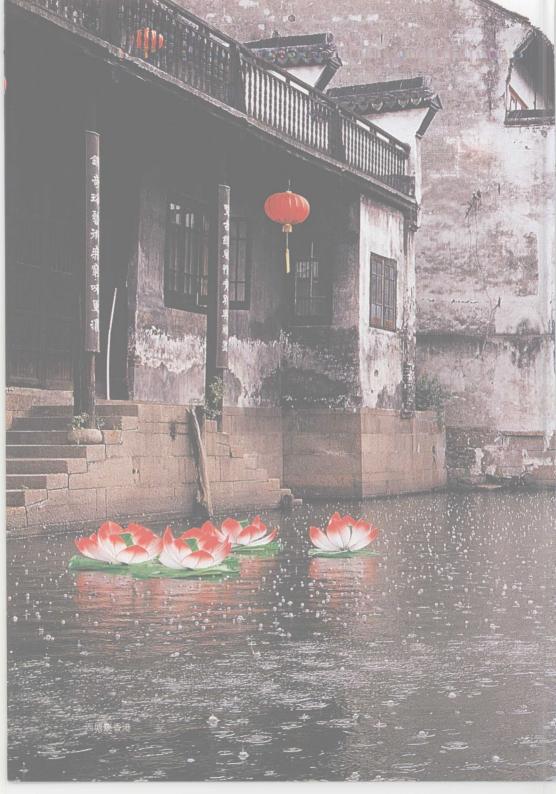
西塘开了多家民间博物馆,陈列着许多富有价值又有趣味的 东西,由你去慢慢地观赏,由你去细细地揣摩,会有不少收益、 不少乐趣。

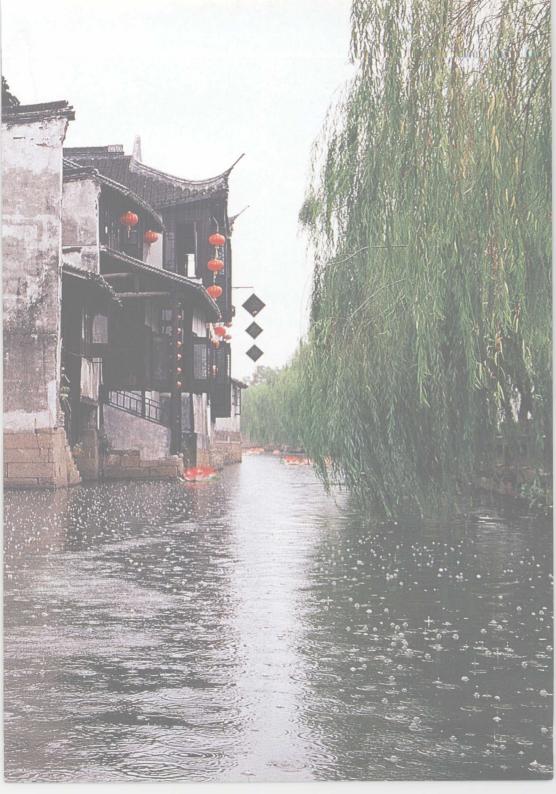
西塘的许多旧街、老屋、花园、院落还保持着原来的风貌, 虽然有些显得破旧,但很纯真、很道地,是真古董,看得出历史 老人的步痕。这些东西,你会觉得很亲切、很生动、很平易,可 以理解,可以对话,会引起你的思考,会令你流连。

这就是西塘, 这就是江南水乡的一颗明珠。

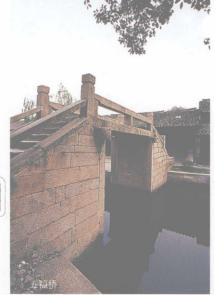


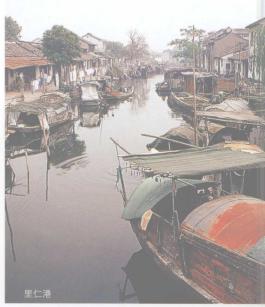
































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