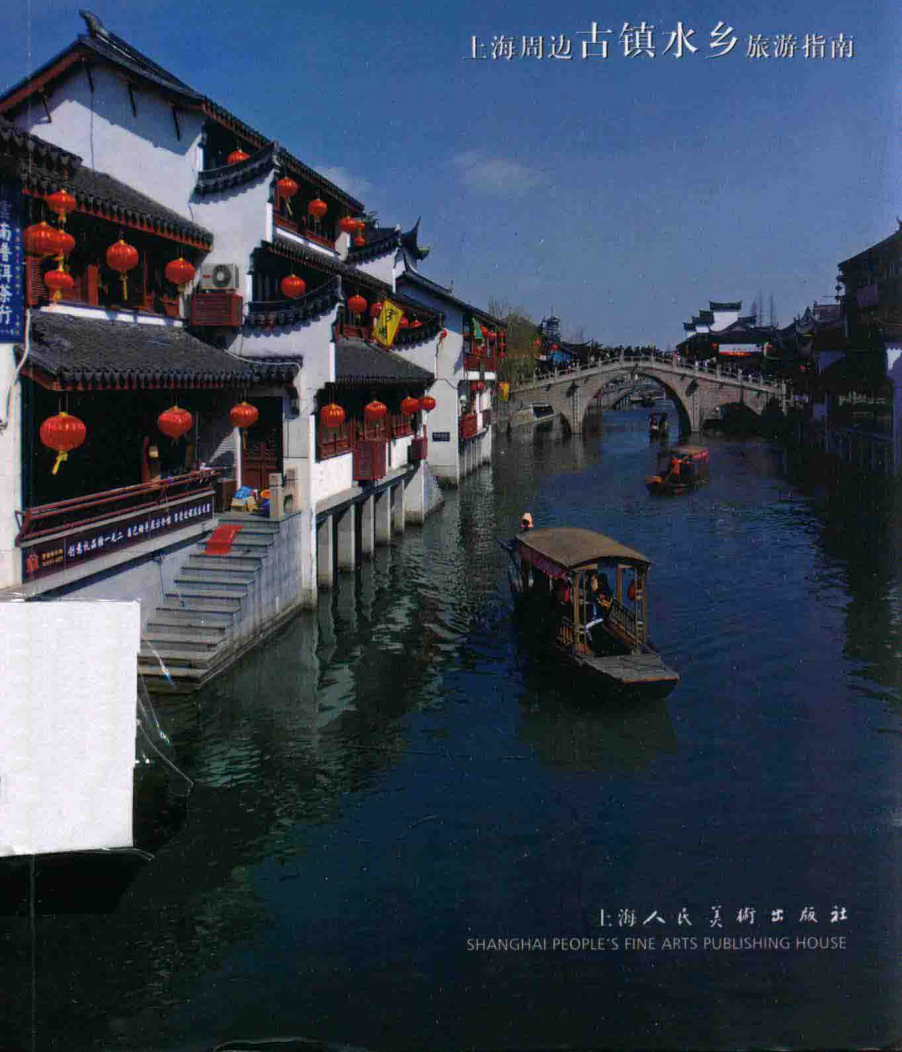


Charming Old Towns Near Shanghai

上海周边古镇水乡旅游指南



上海人民美術出版社

SHANGHAI PEOPLE'S FINE ARTS PUBLISHING HOUSE

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Other Old Towns near Shanghai



Welcome to Shanghai! After a bedazzling tour in the cosmopolitan city and its ultra-modern skyscrapers and shopping malls, wouldn't you care for a little change in your itinerary? Well, there are quite a number of charming old towns outside the city proper offering picturesque waterside sceneries, characteristic architectural styles, abundant historical sites and colorful folk customs.

We have carefully chosen 10 famous towns as most popular tourist destinations near Shanghai downtown: Qibao, Songjiang, Jiading and Zhujiajiao in suburban Shanghai, Zhouzhuang, Luzhi and Tongli in Jiangsu Province, and Xitang, Nanxun and Wuzhen in Zhejiang Province.

These towns are at least hundreds of years old and boast attractive sceneries in the waterside flatlands in southeast China in the downstream of the Yangtze (called "Jiangnan" in Chinese). Tranquil, elegant and free from city turmoil, these towns feature the poetic scenery of "quaint bridges, burbling streams and waterside households". The houses in the traditional styles are neatly arranged along the winding streams, and the local hand-rowed boats scurry around in a network of watercourses. The town streets and lanes are connected by bridges, and there are corridors, street arcades and an occasional pavilion by the streams. You can sip tea in a painted pavilion while admiring the waterfront scenery from a latticed window, or enjoy the ethereal music from a traditional band playing Chinese zithers, flutes and stringed erhu. Rediscovered from countryside obscurity, these old towns near Shanghai are gems in the characteristic culture of Jiangnan.

The old towns near Shanghai are well-known for their four advantages:

- 1) Waterside scenery: With streets and houses along the streams, and every household offering a waterfront platform for viewing the beautiful scenery, the towns are often compared to "Venice in the East".
- 2) Historical architecture: These towns boast a number of well-preserved mansions and courtyard residences built in the Ming and Qing dynasties (the 14th century to the early 20th century).
- 3) Cultural heritage: Expect to find an excellent collection of classical gardens, historical sites, venerable shops, ancient temples and interesting museums with different themes in the 10 towns.

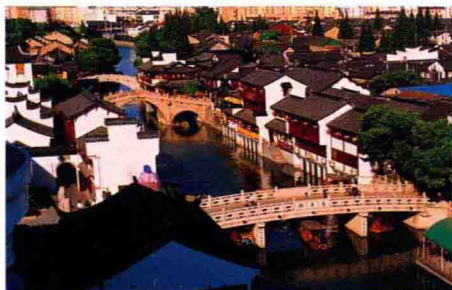


4) Unspoiled folk customs: Traditional Chinese customs are still order of the day for the townsfolk, who engage in such activities as holding temple fairs, walking in procession on the bridges, performing dragon lantern dances and rowing land boats on the lunar calendar holidays.



It is hoped that by visiting the attractions in these towns you may come to understand the quintessential aspects of the Chinese history and culture. Start exploring now!

How to travel to the 10 old towns near Shanghai



Qibao



Jiading



Zhujiajiao

How to travel to the 10 old towns near Shanghai

Qibao

Take the Metro Line 1, transfer to the Metro Line 4 at Shanghai Indoor Stadium, transfer again to the Metro Line 9 at Yishan Road, and get off at either Zhongchun Road or Qibao; or take the buses No.91, No.953, No.803 or Xinbei Special Line at Caohejing or Xinzhuang Metro Station to Qibao. At other locations, the buses No.87, No.92, No.513, No.748, No.735, No.753, No.763, Xinji Line, Xinhua Line, Huchen Line, Husong Line, Hukun Special Line, Shangshe Regular Line, Shanghai Tourist Line 1 can take you directly to Qibao.

If you drive your own car, you can first go to Hongqiao or Xujiahui and get to Qibao via Caoxi Road N. or Caobao Road.

Jiading

Take the Metro Line 2, transfer to the Metro Line 11 at Jiangsu Road, and travel all the way to Jiading or get off at Nanxiang.

Go to Shanghai Stadium by bus or the Metro and take the Shanghai Tourist Line 6A, which departs on an hourly basis and costs only RMB 10 for one person. The journey ends at the Huilongtan Pool and takes about 125 minutes.

If you fancy the buses, take the Shangjia Line at the intersection of Chengdu Road N. and Weihai Road, or the Xinjia Line at Hengfeng Road near the South Square of Shanghai Railway Station, or the Beijia Line at the intersection of Zhongshan Road N. and Gonghexin Road.

If you drive your own car, just take the Shanghai-Jiading Highway.

Songjiang

Take the Metro Line 1, transfer to the Metro Line 4 at Shanghai Indoor Stadium, transfer again to the Metro Line 9 at Yishan Road, and get off at the terminal – Songjiang New Town.

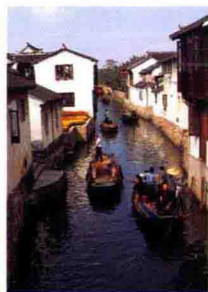
At Shanghai Stadium, the Shanghai Tourist Line 1A takes you to Qibao, the Square Pagoda and the Pond of the Drunken Poet, and the Shanghai Tourist Line 1B takes you to Sheshan National Tourist and Vacation Park.

The Husong Special Line bound for Songjiang is available at the intersection of Danshui Road and Changle Road near Xintiandi and at the intersection of Zhongshan Road S. and Caoxi Road N. near Shanghai Indoor Stadium.

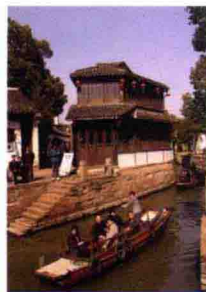
If you drive your own car, take the Shanghai-Hangzhou Highway. The route is a little tricky: go down Humin Road (or the G204 Highway) for 1.5km, then leave the road at the exit of the Shanghai-Hangzhou Highway (or the A8 Highway), and finally exit the highway at the Songjiang ramp after 19.4km.



Songjiang



Zhouzhuang



Tongli

Zhujiajiao

At Shanghai Stadium, take the Shanghai Tourist Line 4, which stops at Shanghai Zoo, Zhujiajiao, the Oriental Green Boat Park and the Grand View Garden.

Take the long-distance bus from Shanghai to Kunshan at 1015 Zhongshan Road N. and get off at Zhujiajiao.

Huzhu Line at the Shanghai Western Long-Distance Bus Station (at the intersection of Zhongshan Road W. and Wuzhong Road) and Huzhu Special Line at Laochengdu Road N. or Pu'an Road can take you to Zhujiajiao. (Huzhu Special Line also stops at the Oriental Green Boat Park.)

Zhouzhuang

The tourist bus from Shanghai Stadium to Zhouzhuang costs only RMB 22 for one person. The regular bus to Zhouzhuang from Shanghai Qiujiang Road Long-Distance Bus Station (80 Gongxing Road) has the same price.

If you drive your own car, you can take the Shanghai-Qingpu-Pinghu Highway. First move onto the A30 Highway heading for Qingpu and turn to the A9 Highway heading for Huzhou. Exit the A9 at the Jinze ramp into the Shanghai-Qingpu-Pinghu Highway and turn right into Jinshang Highway, then turn left into Shangzhou Highway, and finally turn left to exit the highway.

Tongli

The tourist bus from Shanghai Indoor Stadium to Tongli sets out at 8, 9, 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning, and the tourist bus from Shanghai Long-Distance Bus Station (on Hutai Road) to Tongli sets out at 12:30 and 13:40. The bus journey takes about 2 hours.

If you drive your own car, follow this route: enter the A9 Highway from Yan'an Elevated Road, move onto the A30 Highway and exit at Beiqing Road, then enter Suzhou-Shanghai Highway and head west, exit the highway at the ramp of Suzhou Circular Highway, go through Tunxi Bridge and head south, and finally arrive at Wujiang and Tongli.

Luzhi

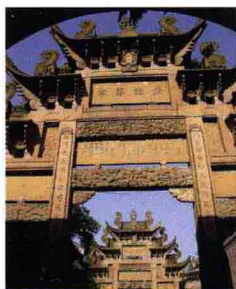
The tourist bus from Shanghai Stadium to Luzhi sets out at 8, 9, 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning, and the tourist bus from Shanghai Western Long-Distance Bus Station (at the intersection of Zhongshan Road W. and Wuzhong Road) to Luzhi set out at regular intervals. Shanghai Long-Distance Bus Station (on Hutai Road) offers 22 runs from 806 Zhongshan Road N. to Luzhi every day. The bus journey takes about 2 hours.



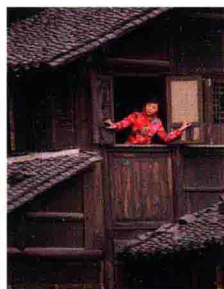
Luzhi



Xitang



Nanxun



Wuzhen

If you drive your own car, you can follow the above instructions to go to Zhouzhuang via Shanghai-Qingpu-Pinghu Highway and then to Luzhi.

Nanxun

Long-distance buses to Nanxun are available at Shanghai Long-Distance Bus General Station (the North Square of Shanghai Railway Station), Shanghai South Long-Distance Bus Station (Shanghai South Railway Station), or Shanghai Qiujiang Road Long-Distance Bus Station (80 Gongxing Road). If you drive your own car, follow this route: enter the A9 Highway from Yan'an Elevated Road, move onto the G318 Highway, drive past Pingwang Bridge into Jiangsu Province, turn to the direction of Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, and finally exit the highway at the Nanxun ramp.

Xitang

You can take the frequent trains at Shanghai South Railway Station to Jiashan. When you arrive in Jiashan, take the buses leaving for Xitang at an interval of 10 minutes.

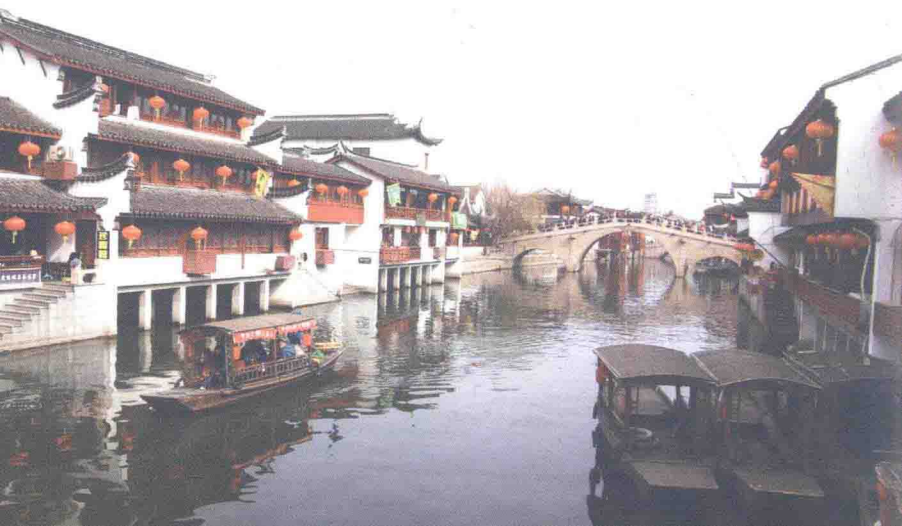
If you fancy the buses, you can take a bus leaving for Jiashan at an interval of 15 minutes at Shanghai Long-Distance Bus General Station (the North Square of Shanghai Railway Station) or at Shanghai South Long-Distance Bus Station (Shanghai South Railway Station) at a cost of RMB 35. If you drive your own car, here is the recommended route: take the Shanghai-Hangzhou Highway and exit at the Dayun ramp, drive along Shanjiang Highway and exit at the Xitang ramp, and finally arrive at the ancient town after driving on the ground for 15 minutes. The entire journey may take one and a half hours.

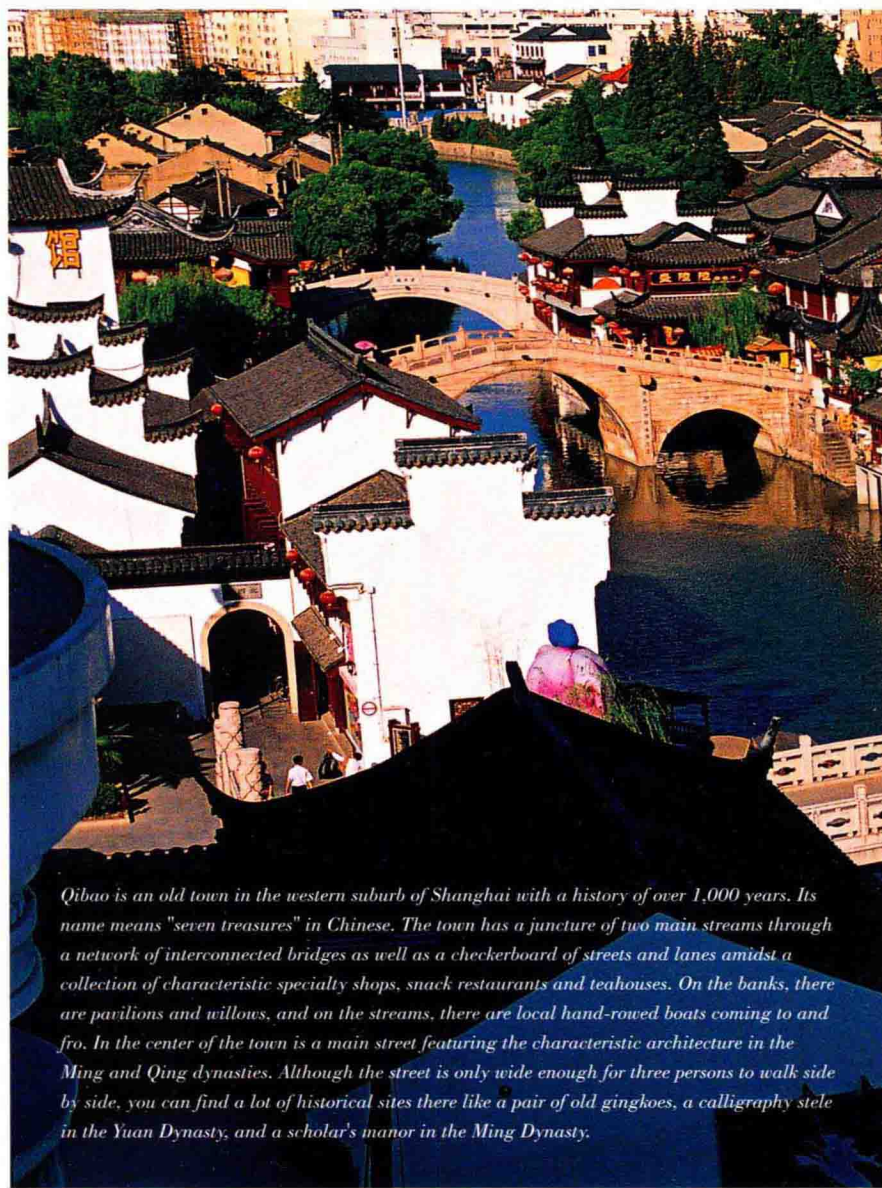
Wuzhen

Special Line Buses to Wuzhen from Shanghai Tourist Center are available near Hongkou Football Stadium at 8:00 and near Shanghai Stadium at 7:50 and 8:45 on weekends and holidays. Special Line Buses to Wuzhen from Shanghai South Long-Distance Bus Station are available at Shanghai South Railway Station (Metro Line 1 and 3) at 16:15 every day.

If you drive your own car, take the Tudian exit on the Shanghai-Hangzhou Highway and turn right to proceed into Tongxiang and then Wuzhen. It may cost you about 2 hours for the 138km journey.

Qibao / 七宝





Qibao is an old town in the western suburb of Shanghai with a history of over 1,000 years. Its name means "seven treasures" in Chinese. The town has a juncture of two main streams through a network of interconnected bridges as well as a checkerboard of streets and lanes amidst a collection of characteristic specialty shops, snack restaurants and teahouses. On the banks, there are pavilions and willows, and on the streams, there are local hand-rowed boats coming to and fro. In the center of the town is a main street featuring the characteristic architecture in the Ming and Qing dynasties. Although the street is only wide enough for three persons to walk side by side, you can find a lot of historical sites there like a pair of old ginkgoes, a calligraphy stele in the Yuan Dynasty, and a scholar's manor in the Ming Dynasty.





Qibao Old Street



Snacks on Qibao Old Street

Attractions

1 Qibao Theatre 七宝戏园

→ *The Bell Tower Square on Qingnian Road*

Originally the theatrical stage of Qibao Buddhist Temple, the theatre offers local traditional operas and silhouette shows as well as wonderful tea.

2 Thatched House of Cricket Fighting 蟋蟀草堂

蟋蟀草堂

→ *37 Fuqiang Street, Qibao Town*

This museum features an interesting theme of cricket fighting, a well-known folk tradition of Qibao. Cricket speci-

mens, tools and urns are on display here, and you can even watch a live fight.

3 Silhouette Show Museum 皮影艺术馆

→ *95 Beixi Road, Qibao Town*

The characteristic folk art of silhouette show was introduced into south China in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127 – 1279) and became popular in Shanghai, especially Qibao, in the late 19th century. The museum gives an exhibition of the development, pedigree and artistic value

of silhouette shows and displays all the paraphernalia. You can even watch a live show here.

4 Qibao Buddhist Temple 七宝教寺

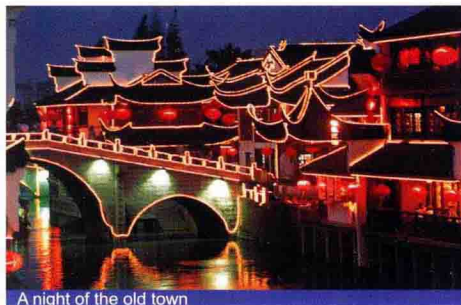
Qibao Buddhist Temple was originally built as a family ancestral temple in the Jin Dynasty (265 – 420) and relocated to the town in the 10th century. It is said that the town of Qibao was named after the temple. Today the relics of the millennium-old temple include the gateway arch, the Hall of Bubbling Lotus, the Lotus Pond, the

Chinese catalpa, the bell of the Ming Dynasty and the Lotus Sutra in Golden Script. After the reconstruction efforts in 2001, the temple now has new structures like a new arch, a bell and drum tower, a seven-level pagoda, the Hall of the Heavenly Kings, the Hall of Sakyamuni, the Hall of Buddhist Lectures, the Library of Buddhist Classics, and gardens. It is one of the most popular Buddhist temples in Shanghai.

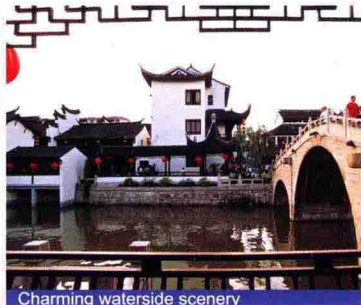
5 Pavilion of Goddess Doumu 斗姆阁

斗姆阁

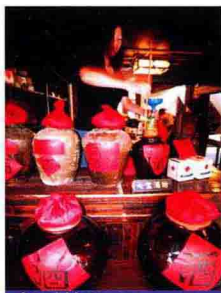
→ *2678 Qixin Road*



A night of the old town



Charming waterside scenery



An old brewery



Qibao Old Street

(in the North of the Agriculture College of Shanghai Jiaotong University)

This two-storey pavilion, built in years immemorial, is dedicated to the Taoist goddess Doumu, the fabled mother of the seven stars of the Big Dipper. The temple was converted into a theatrical stage for local traditional operas in the late 18th century, though the statue of the goddess, with 8 arms and 4 heads facing 3 directions, is still enshrined in front the pavilion. The opera shows in the back of the pavilion are

for the local Town God, also a Taoist deity.

Venerable Shops

6 Qibao Pawnshop 七宝当铺

This old pawnshop was established in the early 19th century and became a financial magnet in the region. Today the site is mainly a museum which offers a vivid demonstration of the old pawning business as well as the colorful folk culture of Qibao.

7 Old Artisan Shops 老行当

→7 Dongtangtan, South of Qibao Town

Old artisan shops like blacksmiths, bamboo workshops and woodwork parlors are preserved in this site to provide tourists with an insight into the old ways of life in the town.

8 Old Brewery 老酒坊

This old brewery tells you how the famous "Qibao spirit" is made from rice and yeast. Additionally, all kinds of Chinese alcoholic drinks are on display here.

9 Cotton Cloth Textile Workshop 棉织坊

Qibao was once an important cotton cloth

production base in the Ming and Qing dynasties. The museum shows how cotton is planted, harvested, made into cloth and dyed with different colors in the unique local styles. Sometimes there is a show of traditional wedding.

Museums

10 Zhou's Museum of Miniature Engraving 周氏微雕馆

The father-and-daughter engravers of the Zhou family have created over 1,000 pieces



A tour in a local sedan chair



Tea enjoyment in Qibao



An old stone bridge



An old theatrical stage

of stunning artworks carved carefully with minuscule Chinese characters, which are only discernable under a magnifying lens.

11 Museum of Zhang Chongren

张充仁纪念馆

→ 75 Puxi Square,
Qibao Town

Opening since March 17, 2003, the museum is dedicated to the memory of Zhang Chongren (1907 – 1998), a Chinese painter and sculptor with international renown. Over 20 representative sculptures of Zhang Chongren are on display in the sty-

lish venue featuring the traditional high-gabled Chinese architecture.

12 Tower of the Floating Bell

余来钟楼

In the bell tower there is one of the "seven treasures of Qibao" – a 4-ton bell with a history of over 500 years. It originally belonged to Qibao Buddhist Temple. According to the inscriptions on it, the bell was built in the 15th century. Legend has it that the bell floated to the town by itself amidst blinding light in a huge flood. It went missing decades ago, but was fortunately

returned to Qibao in August 2001. The bell gives out an old, mottled look in its inside and hangs by a node of two crossing dragons. It is believed that one may be blessed with good luck by striking at the bell.

13 The Lotus Sutra in Golden Script

妙法莲花经

The Lotus Sutra in Golden Script is one of the "seven treasures of Qibao". It was written with gold powder on blue silk paper in the 10th century, complete with golden lotuses painted between the lines, and

the prince in control of the region personally sent the sutra to Qibao Buddhist Temple as a gift. Originally the sutra had 31 pages, but only 19 pages remain today. The sutra is so valuable that it is not kept in Qibao, but in Shanghai Museum.

Local Specialties

Banana-Scented Rice Baked in Bamboo Tubes, Strong-Smelling Bean Curd, Rice Dumplings Stuffed with Shepherd's Purse, White Pastry of Qibao, Chrysanthemum Pastry,



The tower of the Floating Bell



A sight of the riverside town