

NANJING

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Nanjing is a famous historic city described as "a birthplace of southern beauties and a habitat of royal rulers" by ancient Chinese poets. Historically known as Jinling, Jianye, Jiankang, Jiangning or Tianjing, Nanjing ranks with Xi'an, Luoyang, Beijing, Hangzhou and Kaifeng as six major ancient Chinese capitals.

The fossils of Homo sapiens and those of ape-men's skull caps discovered at Tangshan in the east suburbs of Nanjing indicate that Nanjing was home to a large community of human beings in the late period of the mid-Pleistocene epoch 350,000 years ago. As far back as the late Spring and Autumn Period (770-475 B.C.) Prince Fu Chai of the state of Wu erected a "metallurgical city" in the vicinity of present-day Chaotiangong, where large quantities of bronze vessels were cast and smelt. After the conquest of Wu by the state of Yue in 472 B.C., under the supervision of Minister Fan Li a "Yue city" was built at Changganli outside today's Zhonghua Gate. This event, which took place almost 2,470 years ago, resulted in the emergence of a walled city at Nanjing.

In A.D. 229 Emperor Sun Quan of the Wu Kingdom in the Three Kingdoms Period made Nanjing (known as Jianye at the time) his capital, which had its central axis at today's Taiping Road, with the Qinhuai River in the south and Xuanwu Lake in the north, and was crisscrossed by bustling streets. After that, Nanjing was again made national capital (then known as Jiankang) of Eastern Jin (317-420) and of Song, Qi, Liang and Chen in the Southern Dynasties Period (420-589), thereby earning for the city its fame as the "ancient capital of six dynasties." Nanjing in those periods boasted a brilliant

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culture, a thriving commerce, and a large population of anything up to 1,400,000 people. Promotion of Buddhism by emperors of successive periods brought about in Nanjing an ecclesiastical population of well over 100,000 monks and nuns and a host of magnificent temples and monasteries. "Four hundred and eighty temples from the Southern Dynasties remain standing imposingly there / Glittering towers and pavilions please the eye in the mist and rain," to quote from a poem by the celebrated Tang Dynasty poet Du Mu.

In the Five Dynasties Period following Sui and Tang, when the rest of China was torn by wars among various states contending for supremacy the Southern Tang Dynasty with its capital at Jinling was still able to exercise sovereignty in that part of China south of the Yangtze River. It witnessed no notable wars for upwards of 70 years, during which period the marketplaces and bazaars on both banks of the Qinhuai River thronged with businessmen from far and near. The prospering of the economy brought in its wake a flourishing culture and the emergence of a galaxy of outstanding poets, painters and calligraphers.

Nanjing became the nation's political center again in 1368, when Zhu Yuanzhang (r.1368-1398) founded the Ming Dynasty and named the city his capital. It took him 21 years to build a wall 33.65 kilometers in girth around Nanjing, then the largest city in the world.

In 1853, when the Taiping peasant insurgents stormed into Nanjing they made it the capital of their Taiping Heavenly Kingdom and renamed it Tianjing (Heavenly Capital), a name which stayed for only 11 years. Dr. Sun Yat-sen established the Republic of China and was chosen as its Provisional President in Nanjing on December 29, 1911, after the victory of the 1911 Revolution that ended the monarchy of the Qing Dynasty. Nanjing became the capital of the Republic on April 18, 1927, when Chiang Kai-shek proclaimed the inauguration of his National Government there.

Nanjing has undulating hills and mountains on all four sides, with the towering Purple Mountain in the east; the craggy Mufu Hill in the north; the crouching tiger-like Qingliang (Cool and Refreshing) Hill in the west, where the area around the Qingliang Temple and Saoye Tower on the slope is said to be the site of a summer resort of Li Yu (961-975),

the last emperor of the Southern Tang Dynasty; the Rain Flower Terrace (Yuhuatai) in the south, renowned for its colorful pebbles; the Niushou (Ox Head) Hill, the birthplace of the Niutou (OX Pate) Sect of Chinese Buddhism, and the Zutang Hill, site of the mausoleums of the first and second Southern Tang emperors Li Bian (937-943) and Li Jing (943-961); the Xixia (Cloud Nestling) Hill in the northeast, which is crimsoned through by its serried red maple and oak woods deep-dyed in the depth of autumn; and the Swallow Cliff (Yanziji) precipitously overlooking the Yangtze River like a swallow about to take flight.

Apart from hills and mountains, Nanjing has many rivers and lakes, such as the Qinhuai, Jinchuan, Xuanwu and Mochou, as well as the Yangtze. No wonder that while speaking of Nanjing Zhuge Liang, prime minister of the Shu Kingdom in the Three Kingdoms Period, should exclaim, ``This is indeed an abode of kings and emperors, with the Zhongshan Mountain like a curling dragon and the Stone City like a crouching tiger!"

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Nanjing takes pride in an abundance of places of scenic or historical interest created by its environment, culture and celebrities: the magnificent Emperor Sun Quan, Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang and Dr. Sun Yat-sen mausoleums at the foothill of the Purple Mountain in the east suburbs; the Beamless Hall in Linggu (Soul Valley) Temple, the Monument to Martyrs of the Northern Expeditionery Force of the National Revolutionary Army, and the Sun Yat-sen Classics Depositary; and the stone sculptures in the Southern Dynasties Period's tombs. The Zhan (Prospect) and Xu (Radiance) gardens downtown are two gems of southern garden-landscaping art of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The Zhonghua Gate castle and the Ming Dynasty city wall, both the largest extant in China, and the famed Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge are also tourist destinations.

Present-day Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province, ranks fifth among the "50 strongest" of Chinese cities. It is a transport and telecommunication hub in East China, and the second largest international trade port after Shanghai in the Yangtze River Delta.



"江南佳丽地,金陵帝王州"。

南京是中国著名的历史文化名城,与西安、洛阳、北京、杭州、开封并称为中国的六大古都。先后称金陵、建业、建康、江宁、天京等。

在南京东郊汤山发现的古人类化石遗址和猿人头骨化石,标志着早在35万年前的中更新世晚期,南京就是人类的聚居之地。春秋(公元前770 - 前475年)末年吴王夫差就已经在今朝天宫一带筑冶城,冶铸铜器。公元前472年,越国灭吴后,越国大夫范蠡在今中华门外的长干里筑越城,此为南京建城垣之始,距今已近2470年。

公元 229 年,三国吴大帝孙权在此建都称建业。都城以今太平路一带为中轴线,南拥秦淮,北枕玄武湖,市井繁富。此后,东晋(公元 317 — 420年)及南朝(公元 420 — 589 年)的宋、齐、梁、陈均相继在此建都称建康。故南京有"六朝古都"之称。六朝时的建康文化璀璨,商业繁盛,人口多达 140 万左右。由于帝王们崇信佛教,城中的僧尼竟达 10 余万,所造佛寺穷极宏丽,以致唐朝诗人杜牧有"南朝四百八十寺,多少楼台烟雨中"的咏叹。

隋唐之后五代时的中华大地,诸雄相争,战乱不断。而南唐国建都金陵府,偏安江南一隅,境内70多年没有发生大的战争。秦淮河两岸集市兴隆、商贾云集。同时,经济繁荣伴随着文化的发达,诗词、书画都开一代之风。

1368年,明太祖朱元璋(公元1368-1398年在位)在这里称帝,创建明

朝,这里成为华夏的政治中心。他用了21年的时间修建了周长33.65公里的都城城垣,是当时世界上的第一大城。

1853年,太平天国农民革命军攻克南京,在此立都11年,改称天京。1911年爆发的辛亥革命推翻了清王朝的君主统治。同年12月29日,孙中山先生在南京被推选为临时大总统,在这里建立了中华民国。1927年4月18日,蒋介石在南京成立国民政府,南京成了中华民国的首都。

南京城四周山峦起伏,东有最高峰紫金山;北有幕府山峭壁如屏;西有清凉山犹如伏踞之虎,山麓中的清凉寺、扫叶楼一带相传是南唐后主李煜(公元961-975年在位)避暑的地方;城南的雨花台是一座盛产色彩鲜艳玛瑙卵石的山岗;西南有中国佛教的牛头宗发源地牛首山和南唐的先主李昪(公元937-943年在位)和中主李璟(公元943-961年在位)两位皇帝的陵墓所在地祖堂山;城东北的栖霞山,深秋时节,红枫黄槲,层林尽染;临江兀立的燕子矶,山体虽小,但险峻峭拔,宛如欲飞的燕子。

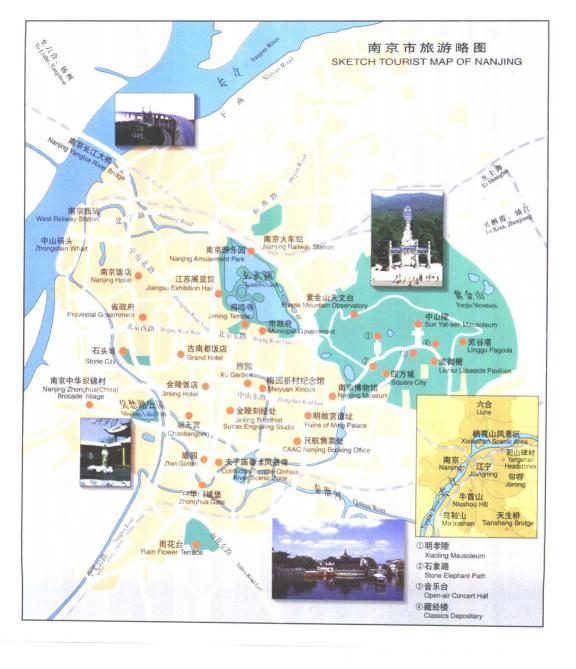
古城既有群山环抱,又有秦淮河、金川河和玄武湖、莫愁湖等大小河流湖泊萦绕、点缀于城中南北。与浩荡的长江一起,组成一曲山川河湖纵横交错的交响诗。难怪三国时,蜀国丞相诸葛亮也不禁赞叹道:"钟山龙蟠,石城虎踞,真帝王之宅也。"

南京山环水绕,雄浑深蕴、文化璀璨、名人荟萃、留下众多的名胜古迹。

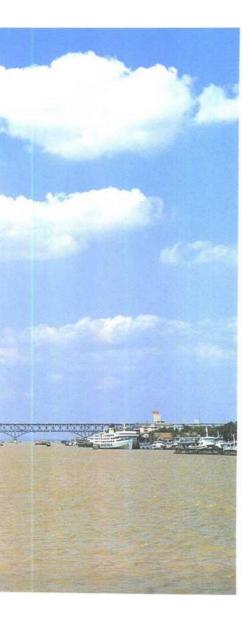
东郊紫金山麓,吴大帝孙权、明太祖朱元璋以及孙中山先生的陵墓雄伟庄严,浩气磅礴;灵谷寺无梁殿、国民革命军北伐阵广将士纪念塔、孙中山藏经楼,奇巧无匹;分布在东郊的南朝陵墓石刻放射出中国古代文化的灿烂光芒。

市区的瞻园、煦园是明清两代江南园林艺术的珍品;国内现存最大的中华门城堡和明代城垣以及举世闻名的南京长江大桥更令人留连忘返。

今日的南京是江苏省会,是中国城市综合实力"50强"第五名,是中国东部地区重要的交通和通讯枢纽,是长江三角洲地区仅次于上海的国际性大商埠。



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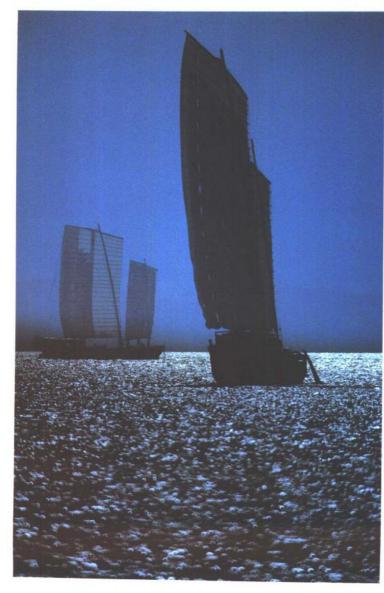


Nanjing

Nanjing is situated in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, which flows past it from the southwest to the northeast. Here, the river is wide, even the narrowest section exceeding one kilometer in width.

南京

位于长江下游,长江由西南滚滚而来,向东北滔滔而去。这里江面宽阔,最窄处也有1公里多。



Sailing boats on the Yangtze River.

长江风帆

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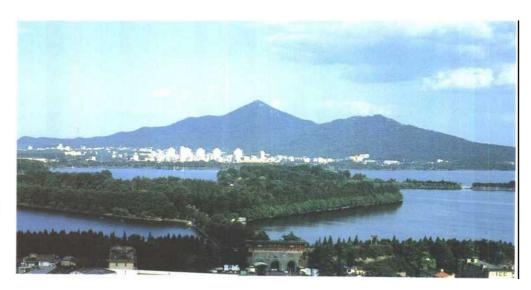
Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge

Designed by China and constructed with home-made materials, this bridge, opened to traffic in October 1968, is a double-decker with a four-lane, 4,589-meter-long highway and 6,772-meter-long double railroad tracks.

南京长江大桥

1968年10月建成通车。是我国自行设计、用自己的材料建造的现代化大桥。公路桥长4589米、铁路桥长6772米。



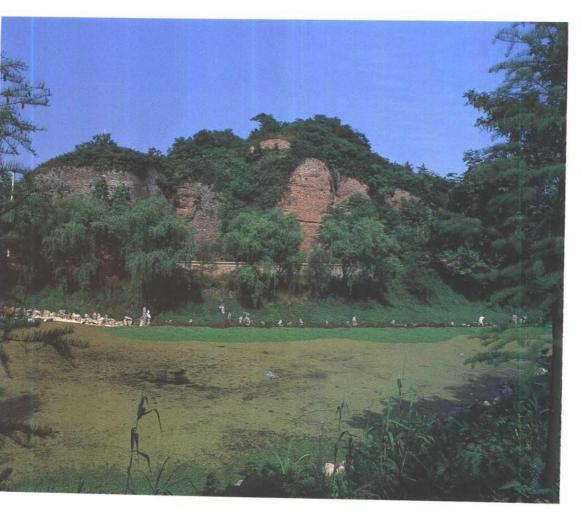


Mt. Zhongshan As Viewed from a Distance

Also called Purple Mountain, it is 448 meters above sea level and curled like a huge dragon in Nanjing's east suburbs.

远眺钟山

钟山又名紫金山,海拔 448 米,它像一条巨龙 盘亘在南京东郊。



Shitoucheng (Stone City)

Built by Emperor Sun Quan of the Wu Kingdom during the Three Kingdoms Period, it was compared to a "crouching tiger" by the ancients.

石头城

这里古为长江故道,江涛逼城,形势险峻。三国时,吴大帝孙权依山傍江筑石头城,作为军事堡垒。所谓"石城虎踞"指的就是这里。

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