



Shaoxing- Xinchang- Xikou- Ningbo Field Study Trip Travel Book



Shaoxing is a prosperous and historic city in north central Zhejiang Province, located midway between Yangzhou and Ningbo, and approximately 3.5 hours south of Shanghai. Two counties, three county-level cities and one district compose the whole of Shaoxing prefecture. Covering an area of 8,256 square kilometers, Shaoxing Prefecture has a population of 4, 340,000, including 640,000 residents in the central city.

Shaoxing is one of the most famous historical cities in China. Numerous accomplished scholars and political figures were born or lived here, such as Yu the Great in the ancient China and the writer Lu Xun in modern times. This city thus boasts the title of 'City of Personages.' Shaoxing was also the seat of the ancient Yue Kingdom during the Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC-476 BC) and was quite prosperous during that time. Owing to its long history, this old city reveals less vanity and tinsel than a modern metropolis like Shanghai or Hangzhou. What's commonly seen and felt here is a kind of leisurely and peaceful ambience.

Although the city appears quite comfortable and peaceful, the economy here has been developing rapidly, especially with regards to the textile industry. Thanks to advanced silkworm-rearing developed over thousands of years, silk products from Shaoxing are famous all over China for their high quality as well as a large quantity. Every year, there are various textile exhibitions and fairs featuring silk goods production. The China Light & Textile Industrial City in Keqiao, a suburb in Shaoxing prefecture, is one of China's largest professional markets of light and textile goods and the largest cloth market in Asia.

Trip Highlights- Friday, February 27th

- **Group Lunch -Longhua Temple (vegetarian meal)**

Longhua Temple is located among the well-preserved lanes and alleyways near Bazi Bridges. Longhua Temple was first established in the Song Dynasty (477 A.D.) by Jiang Biao, the Imperial Secretary's father. In the Ming Dynasty (1598 A.D.), the temple has been re-built by resident monks and since then has been re-built numerous times, such that by in 1931 the temple included 20 buildings. Longhua Temple's Buddhist symbols and images were destroyed during the Cultural Revolution and thereafter became home to average Shaoxing residents. Over the past few years, under authorization of the Shaoxing municipal Government, Longhua Temple is once again a place of worship and stands as the largest Buddhist Temple in the city.

Su4Zhai1 is the proper name for the age-old tradition of eating a vegetarian mean in a Buddhist Temple. Suzhai was served to Imperial and ordinary donors visiting the temple. Famous Suzhai dishes include veggie "sausages," "roast-chicken," and "beef," etc. The dishes are actually made with potatoes, mushrooms, doufu and carrots to look exactly like sausages, etc. They are really "keepin-it-real-fake."

- **BaZi Bridge**

BaZi Bridge, which is shaped like a Chinese eight --(八), is an 800-year old stone beam bridge built in the Southern Song Dynasty era. Today, Bazi Qiao is located on a quiet waterway lined by classical white-washed residences and stone walkways, just a short walk from the center of Shaoxing. Longhua Temple is also nearby.



- **Lu Xun and Lu Xun's Former Residence**



Lu Xun, the great contemporary novelist of modern China, spent his youth in Shaoxing. Today, Lu Xun's former residence, a collection of structures in which Lu Xun lived and studied, has been developed into a historic district depicting traditional lifestyles of East China. The most popular buildings and sites include the Sanwei School or Three Flavor Study, Baicao Garden, and Xianheng Restaurant, and others.

The central part of Lu Xun's former residence presents plenty of historical and cultural information concerning Lu Xun and the past he depicted in his works. Lu Xun's former residence, Lu Xun's ancestral residence and Sanwei School are well known historical sites all under the protection of the government. What is more, Xianheng Restaurant, Taziqiao Bridge, Tugu Clan Hall, Changqing Temple and Hengji Pawnshop are all nearby sites depicted in Lu Xun's stories, which still today appear nearly unchanged since Lu Xun wrote of them in his works.



- **Black-Awning Boats**

Black-awning boats used to be Shaoxing river town's special vehicle. Along the riverbanks are residential areas; the river used to play a critical role in local people's life. You can still witness some elderly residents washing their clothes with the river water.

“Shaoxing is a special for its waterways. Sitting in the boat, drifting randomly in these interwoven waterways, I seemed to have come back to the ancient time, as if I could see the ancient nobles strolling about on the boat and hear the peddlers hawking their wares along the bank. When the boat is sailing along the right bank, the old worn-out buildings give me a strong sense of melancholy. The boatman told me the romantic love stories, the legend of heroes and sang the local songs. What a charming place! Please allow me to call it the ‘Venice of China.’” Edie, Germany



- **Shen Garden Night Visit**

Shen Garden, built during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), is a famous garden open to the tourists after being renovated. It is well known for a story of tragic marriage. Lu You, a patriotic poet in the Southern Song Dynasty, inscribed Chaitoufeng (Hairpin of Gold Phoenix) on the wall and visited Shen's Garden where he composed several poems to express his feelings during his last years. Through two expansions in 1944 and 1987, the plot of the whole garden measures 1.23 hectares. At night, you can hear the Shaoxing Opera and taste the green tea.



Highlights- Saturday, February 28th

- **Xinchang Qianzhang Valley**

Qianzhang Valley is located on the east Shi2 jiu3 (19) peaks. Chinese Central Television (CCTV) has used this view as backdrop for numerous martial-arts maxi-series, including “The Legendary Swordsman,” “The Eagle Shooting Heroes,” and “Heaven Dragon-The Eighth Episode.” The small wooden bridge on the Han-Fei River is a classic rural scene with towering mountain peaks and bamboo forests on either side. In order to facilitate tourism, a 600 meter tunnel was built, connecting to the new highway.



- **Xikou Township Enterprise- Hanguang Aerodynamic Package Plant**

During the trip, the group will visit a small scale automotive parts manufacture. The owner will lead the tour and share his experiences.

- **Xikou Historical Town**

Xikou, in Fenghua City, is a 4-star national-grade scenic spot, well-known at home and abroad for its integrity of Buddhist culture and scenic beauty. It is the place where Maitreya Buddha practiced his rites. Xikou is also the hometown of Mr. Chiang Kai-Shek and his son Chiang Ching-Kuo, two important historical figures in the modern history of China. As a famous scenic spot, it consists of three areas of interest: Xikou Town, Xuedou Hill and Tingxia Lake.



Xikou Town is situated northwest to Fenghua City and 35 km southwest of Ningbo City. Xikou, or literally the Mouth of the River, derives its name from the Shanxi River. The river originates in the Dahu Mountain of Shanjieling Range and winds its way through Xinchang County to Fenghua, runs across Fenghua Town from west to east, and flows out between Wuling Mountain and Xinan Mountain. Hence the town got its name: a town at the mouth of the river. Xikou is also called Wuling, after the Wuling Mountain which stands to the south of the town.

Xikou is proud of its picturesque scenery and landscape. One of the scenic spots of particular interest in Xikou is Xuedou Hill. With abundant scenic spots and historical sites, Xuedou Hill is a well-known tourist resort in East Zhejiang. During the Han Dynasty (206 B.C-A.D. 220), the hill was described "as Beautiful as the Penglai Fairy Island in the Sea and Magnificent as the Tiangtai Mountain on Land."

Early in the 20th century when Chiang Kai-Shek came to power as head of the Nationalist government in China from 1920's, Xikou, as his hometown, became an attraction to a large number of his admirers and for the time it became a focus of the nationalist party and important government officials who came in flocks to visit Xikou when Chiang Kai-Shek was back at home.

Highlights- Sunday, March 1st

- **Tianyige Museum**

The Tianyige Museum occupies a land area of 26,000 square meters. The environment is quiet and tasteful with a beautiful botanical garden and a building rich in local characteristics.



- **The Old Bund of Ningbo**

One of the most attractive areas in Ningbo is the old bund. The Bund is nestled on an old river bank of Ningbo which, at one time, used to be where cargo ships docked, cleared customs, and warehoused their goods. Now it is a place where a combination of art, culture, food, and music keep the residents of Ningbo entertained. The Ningbo Bund has been refurbished to suit modern-day needs. The area does date back to the 1800s but the streets still have an old European vibe. Walking down the cobblestone paths transports your mind to another place and time. The streets are also unbelievably clean and even though the fixtures may not be authentic, they are still suited to the ambiance of the Old Bund.

- **Hangzhou Bay Bridge**

One of the masterpieces of modern architecture, the fantastic Hangzhou Bay Bridge opened to the public in May 2008. The Bridge is an S-shaped stayed-cable bridge with six lanes in both directions and links Ningbo's Cixi County in the south to Jiaxing in the north. It is the longest sea-crossing bridge in the world - 36 kilometres long - and shortens the distance between Shanghai and Ningbo by 120 km. This fantastic bridge crossing the Hangzhou Bay is expected to have a 100-year lifespan, and has a price tag of 11.8 billion yuan (US \$1.70 billion).



The first preparations for planning the bridge started a decade ago; close to 600 experts spent nine years designing the Hangzhou Bay Bridge. Chief Commander of the Hangzhou Bay Bridge project is Mr Wang Yong. The bridge was linked in 2007 and an opening ceremony was held in June. Almost one year later, after several tests and evaluations, Hangzhou Bay Bridge was open to the public.

Recommendations for Shaoxing

- Shaoxing Cream Little Pan, a custard tart with a creamy center. This is a specialty of Shaoxing and highly recommended by many people.

Average Price: 1-2 RMB/cream little pan

Location: Cangquiao Street



Recommendations for Ningbo

- Ningbo Central Business District- Tianyi Square

The Tianyi Square, also known as Tianyi Business District, is situated in downtown Ningbo in the business center between Rixin Street, Kaiming Street, Zhongshan Road and Yaohang Street. Covering a total of 193,000 square meters, the area has a central square of 35,000 square meters, buildings of 220,000 square meters, and decorative pools of 6,000 square meters. 32% of the area is for the green belts. With its multi-functionalities of shopping and entertainment, it is known as the



"Business Aircraft Carrier of Ningbo" and the "Face of Ningbo City. "

Co-designed by a US architectural designing agency and Ningbo Architectural Institute, the square comprises a complex of 22 low buildings of widely different styles laid out around the round central square, which, set off against the surrounding tall buildings, looks broad and stately. All the buildings on the square are bilaterally symmetrical along the main entrance axis and at the two ends of the southwest oblique axis stand two entrances, one opening to Kaiming Street--the other to the Sanjiangkou Area--another business center of the city.

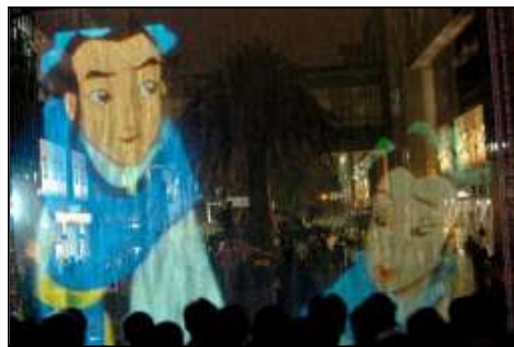
At the east end of the square between the Happy Mall and the row of exotic buildings of Fine Food Area is a 180-meter-long. In addition, the square is equipped with complete facilities for recreation and the convenience of visitors: chairs and corridors, 31 auto elevators, a large parking area for over 7,000 automobiles, green belts, statues, all these making the square a business center. Since its opening in March 2001, the square has successfully attracted 250 businesses and now it has over 800 shops of various kinds, including some well-known ones: Benz, Boss Garment, Ermenegildo Zegna, Pacific Department Store, Jisheng Wellborn Furniture, to mention just a few. The business area is divided into 11 districts: the supermarket district that houses Happy Mall, McDonalds, and Dicos; the district for computer and communications companies; the district for

children's clothes; the districts for men and women's clothes where 118 famous-brand franchised fashion stores such as Romon, Peach Bird, and Ochirly are located, as well as the comprehensive district in which there are some 30 dealers of jewelry, fashion, glasses, domestic appliances such as Firs, Progen, and Laofengxiang. There are also districts of restaurants, fine food, and recreation, and so on.

In the construction of this modern Yiyi Square, an ancient building called Hall of Medicine King was preserved and renovated. Built in 1708 of the Qing Dynasty, it played a decisive role in the medicine history of Ningbo. In the past, it was not only the temple for Shennong--King of Medicine, but also an important medicine market and a meeting place for doctors. After the renovation, the hall now covers an area of about 1,600 square meters, and it has a large number of cultural relics of sculptures. Today, the hall is a pharmacy of Ningbo Dahongying Medicine Company, and at the same time, it is an exhibition hall of medicine history of Ningbo.

- **Ningbo Tianyi Square Water Screen Movie**





Every Friday and Saturday night at 8:00 p.m. Ningbo Tianyi square shows a water screen movie. One of the most famous films is “Liang Zhu,” know as the Chinese Romeo and Juliet.



Trip Reminder: WHAT TO PACK

- Passport
- Student IDs
- Recharge cell phone minutes about 100 Yuan
- ATM/credit card and cash (approximately 300~500 RMB)
- CISI Insurance card
- Any medication you need
- Camera and Cell phone charger
- Comfortable shoes for walking up Xinchang Qianzhang Valley
- Coats for the cold weather
- Umbrella

Weather:

Shaoxing	Xinchang	Ningbo
Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		 
Middle Rain	Big Rain	Middle Rain to Cloudy
High 9°C/48.2 F	High 7°C/44.6 F	High 8°C/46.4 F
Low 6°C/42.8 F	Low 3°C/37.4 F	Low 6°C/42.8 F