What's Old is New Again in Nanjing

Explore the city’s rich history and glimpse its future through preserved buildings, architecture restoration projects, and ultra-modern new construction

New York, NY (July 17, 2018) – As China moves toward the future at lightning speed, so does its urban development. However, Nanjing, one of the country’s four great ancient capitals, maintains a great deal of appeal thanks to historic architecture that has stood the test of time amongst the city’s equally impressive skyscrapers and modern high-rise buildings. While many of China’s old buildings were destroyed during the Cultural Revolution (1966 – 1976), Nanjing was protected as it was not a commercial or political center.

One individual leading Nanjing’s preservation efforts is renowned architect Zhou Qi who has dedicated a large portion of his career to restoring the city’s pre-war buildings and repurposing them for modern use. Today, travelers can visit the art deco Dahua Cinema which houses a modern movie theater, the Yangtze Villa Hotel which was built with 600-year old bricks from the city wall, and the renovated St. Paul’s Church which remains an active place of worship. Zhou is currently leading his most extensive restoration project to-date, a more than US $67 million project to transform the Nanjing Meat Processing Factory, constructed in 1911, into a modern riverside business district including an expansive shopping mall. The project is projected to be completed in 2023.

To see the best of Nanjing’s past, present, and future through its architecture, travelers can also visit the following sites:

**Jumeirah Nanjing – slated to open in summer 2018**

Designed by Zaha Hadid Architects, the 250-room Jumeirah Nanjing boasts the late visionary’s trademark curves and was designed in the form of a grand sailing ship. Its 32 luxurious suites combine traditional and modern characteristics to create an environment that celebrates cultural heritage and contemporary innovation. The hotel features an all-day dining and Chinese specialty restaurant, café, lobby lounge, tea lounge, bar, junior ballroom, executive club lounge, business center, fitness center, Talise Spa, and indoor swimming pool. More information is available [here](#).

**The Porcelain Temple – rebuilt in 2017**

Considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Medieval Age, Nanjing’s Porcelain Tower was a Ming Dynasty era pagoda built with glazed, white porcelain bricks. It took 17 years to complete and rose more than 250 feet above the ground but was destroyed in the 19th century during the Taiping Rebellion. When archaeologists excavated important relics of the Buddha from the site in 2008, interest in the Porcelain Tower grew, with the wealthy Chinese businessman Wang Jianlin eventually funding the reconstruction project. The reimagined Porcelain Tower was built with a sleek steel exterior and features a futuristic heritage museum providing a stimulating auditory and visual sensory experience. More information is available [here](#).

**Sifang Art Museum - opened in 2013**

The Sifang Art Museum allows visitors to experience the very best of contemporary architecture, design, and art in a lush forest setting outside of Nanjing’s city center. Designed by New York architect Steven
Holl, the Sifang Art Museum was launched by real-estate developer Lu Jun in response to China’s rapid urbanization. Compelling permanent architecture and rotating curated exhibits are designed to promote public appreciation for contemporary art and architecture in Nanjing. The park’s futuristic centerpiece is a suspended gallery created by Holl, which displays a fine art collection. More information is available [here](#).

**Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s Mausoleum – construction completed 1929**
The mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925), the father of the Republic of China, is a site of deep historical significance, magnificent architecture, and beautiful scenery. Located on Purple Mountain and covering nearly 20 acres, the lush scenic area is a tribute to the noble spirit and heroic efforts of Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s devotion to the Chinese people and their fight for independence. Visitors can view the memorial archway, mausoleum gate, tombstone pavilion, and memorial hall. More information is available [here](#).

**The Presidential Palace – rebuilt in 1870**
Originally built during the Ming Dynasty before being destroyed by fire in 1864, this massive compound is one of the largest surviving complexes of modern Chinese buildings. The palace played a particularly important role in provincial history during the 19th century as the grounds where revolutionary Sun Yat-sen was declared the first provisional president of the Republic of China. It also served as the headquarters for successor Chiang Kai-shek’s Kuomintang government from 1946 to 1949. Visitors can see Chiang’s office, kept in its original state, on the second floor of Zichao Building. More information is available [here](#).

**Nanjing City Wall – 600+ years old and one of the world’s longest city walls**
Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang, the founder of the Ming Dynasty, ordered the building of this historic landmark to protect Nanjing from invaders during its time as China’s capital from 1368 to 1421. The original wall was nearly 22 miles long and was considered to be one of the longest city walls in the world. Today, approximately 15.5 miles are still intact, and six sections are open to the public. More information is available [here](#).

**About Nanjing**
Nanjing, the capital of Jiangsu Province is situated in the Yangtze River Delta area 190 miles northwest of Shanghai. Recognized as one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, Nanjing has served as the capital city of 10 Chinese dynasties and regimes for a total of more than 1,800 years. A sophisticated metropolis and a modern center of history, education, and culture, Nanjing is home to some of the country’s most significant historical attractions such as the Xiaoling Tomb of the Ming Dynasty, Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s Mausoleum, The Presidential Palace, and a City Wall, which dates back more than 600 years. Popular attractions also include China’s oldest public library and one of the country’s first museums, the Nanjing Museum.

Nanjing is accessible by Nanjing Lukou International Airport (NKG) with daily flights from North America. Three train stations – Nanjing Railway Station, Nanjing South Railway Station, and Nanjing West Railway Station – connect Nanjing to all of China’s major cities, including Shanghai, which is a 90-minute ride via bullet train or three hours by car.

For more information on Nanjing please visit [www.GoToNanjing.com](http://www.GoToNanjing.com).

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