

SCOOT

Get outta here!

YOUR HACKS

17
GAME
ON

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

In the red, there's Hangzhou: China's most poetic city, referred to in a popular saying as "heaven on earth". And in the blue corner, there's Nanjing: capital of China for no less than eight dynasties. But who will win? Seconds out, round one!

18
DOWN
MEMORY
LANE

TAKE A HIKE



Nanjing's recently restored Ming Dynasty-era city wall is the perfect way to get out and about in the former capital. To begin, head to the Taicheng City Wall section, where you'll find a museum explaining the wall's history – obtain route recommendations there. For the shutterbugs, opt for the picturesque 1.5km trail that goes north-west along the Wall, overlooking Xuanwu Lake.

NANJING

VS

HANGZHOU

ROUND 1: Water, water everywhere

Both cities are defined by the stuff. Nanjing commands a prize perch on the Yangtze, China's greatest river, and the plump ducks from the wetlands are salted, boiled or roasted in restaurants across the city. **Xuanwu Lake**, once an imperial garden, is overlooked by the remains of Nanjing's mighty city wall.



VS

Similarly, Hangzhou grew rich as the southern terminus of the Grand Canal. But the dreamy expanse of its **West Lake**, framed by willow trees and rolling hills, is the single most famous body of water in China, inspiring poets and artists for millennia. 'Nuff said!



WIN

ROUND 2: Imperial sights



WIN

Nanjing, capital of China for eight dynastic periods, has its own unrivalled imperial jewel. Rising up 400m from the foot of Xuanwu Lake, **Purple Mountain** is a treasure trove of ancient tombs and temples, including the final resting place of the founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Zhu Yuanzhang.

VS



Hangzhou was a favourite destination of the Qing emperors, who wandered the shores and causeways of West Lake, picking out the finest views and having them inscribed on stone tablets. One of these is "Moon over the Peaceful Lake in Autumn". Immortalised these views may be, but they're still far off from Nanjing's imperial accents.

ROUND 3: People

Even more famous today than the first Ming emperor is **Sun Yat-sen**, whose office can be viewed at Nanjing's captivating Presidential Palace. His mausoleum, one of China's most important pilgrimage sites, sits atop nearby Purple Mountain and can be accessed by a 480m-long stairway.



VS

Hangzhou's most famous son is a poet, essayist and gastronome called **Su Dongpo**. The Song Dynasty governor fashioned the 3km-long, ever-water Su Causeway, which has been a magnet for dreamers and sightseers. He also gave his name to one of the city's tastiest dishes, Dongpo pork.



WIN

ROUND 4: Food



WIN

Nanjing is quackers for duck, and the most famous recipe is **yaoya** (salted duck). The meat is marinated in salt, spice and osmanthus flowers. Not forgetting pan-fried beef dumplings, beloved of Nanjing's foodies, and **tang biao**, which is steamed, paper-thin dumplings stuffed with minced pork and filled with chicken broth.

VS



Hungry yet? Hangzhou cuisine, like the poetry the city is famous for, is light and subtly refined. Discover eats like **minced crab with silken tofu**, and **stealing gantly poached in a Longjing tea broth**. That's nice and all, but dumplings and duck? Get in our bellies.

ROUND 5: Further afield

Nanjing is a little harder to escape, but head west to check out the new **Sifang Art Museum**. Its outlandish architecture hugs the slopes of a mountain. The artistic locale, surrounded by nature and tranquility, is difficult to turn down, especially in the busy and rowdy cities of China.



VS

Venture into the highlands beyond Hangzhou's West Lake and you'll encounter farmers nurturing **delicate terraces of Longjing tea**. You could also stumble across **Buddhist temples** and the **China Tea Museum** - the museum is a tribute to the art of tea tasting and cultivation.



WIN

FINAL RESULT

With one win ahead of Nanjing, Hangzhou nicks it in this match. Nanjing might have its imperial treasures and revolutionary spirit, but Hangzhou is outright heavenly with its poetic beauty, historical significance, natural landscapes and delectable cuisine. Congratulations Hangzhou - a worthy champion!

