

Observe the 80th Anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre by Visiting the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall Documents of seminal World War II event are part of UNESCO's 'Memory of the World' program

New York, NY (November 9, 2017) – In its more than 6,000 years of existence, the city of Nanjing has seen its share of historically significant events including the Nanjing Massacre, one of the seminal events of World War II. On December 13, the **Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall** will mark the 80th anniversary of Japan's sixweek occupation of the city and the more than 300,000 Chinese lives lost with a solemn commemoration ceremony. Travelers interested in learning more about this period in Chinese history can plan a visit to explore the architecturally striking Memorial Hall and view important historical material that is part of UNESCO's "Memory of the World" program. Documenting a dark chapter in Nanjing's history, the Memorial Hall was built in 1985 on the site of a former mass burial ground, part of which is on display. Visitors will also have the chance to view the "2017 Poster Biennale Exhibition for Peace" which showcases 100 posters capturing the themes of "remember" and "future" from designers around the world.

Travelers interested in exploring the Memorial Hall can do so via several travel packages including the 16day "Yin and Yangtze" package from On The Go Tours and the 18-day "Swing Across China" golf tour from Remote Lands. Comprehensive China travel packages including Nanjing can be booked <u>here</u>.

In addition to the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall, Nanjing is home to a number of other sites that travelers can visit to examine the city's history and the stories of its great leaders, including the following:

Ming Era City Wall

Built to protect Nanjing from invaders, Nanjing's City Wall is a symbol of the city's illustrious time as the capital of the Ming dynasty between 1368 and 1421. A unique characteristic of the wall is the calligraphy inscribed on its bricks, designed as a quality seal ensuring every brick matched exact size specifications. More than 70 characters are carved onto some bricks while others have a single character, with the style of the calligraphy dependent on whether it was an official or an artisan who marked the bricks. Visitors can view the evolution of Chinese characters as they walk along the wall.

Xiaoling Mausoleum of the Ming Dynasty

Xiaoling, the mausoleum of the Ming dynasty's founding emperor Zhu Yuanzhang and his wife Ma, is one of the largest imperial tombs in China. The most iconic part of the 600-year-old UNESCO World Heritage Site is the half-mile long Sacred Path, lined with four pairs of stone warriors and 12 pairs of mythical creatures that protect the deceased emperor. Breathtaking backdrops surround the state protected tomb, with the seasonal plum blossom in full bloom in spring, while gingko and maple trees showcase their beauty in autumn.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's Mausoleum

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, commonly referred to as the Father of Modern China, was declared the first provisional president of the Republic of China in Nanjing on January 1, 1912. Covering nearly 20 acres in Purple

Mountain National Park, his mausoleum is considered a holy land for Chinese people both home and abroad. It is a tribute to the fight against oppression and Yat-sen's priorities of democracy, nationalism and people's livelihoods - the three principles inscribed above the arches of the tomb's Sacrificial Hall.

The Presidential Palace

Located in the center of Nanjing's tourism zone, the Presidential Palace is the largest modern historical museum in China, featuring a blend of Western and Chinese architecture dotted throughout the opulent rooms, gardens, and courtyards of this 600-year-old building. The palace served as home to a number of influential leaders including Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. His successor, Chiang Kai-shek, expanded the site with new government buildings built in the distinctive grey brick of classic republican architecture. Visitors can see Chiang's office, kept in its original state, on the second floor of the Zichao Building.

Editor Note: High-res images can be downloaded here.

About Nanjing

Nanjing is the capital of Jiangsu province in eastern China, 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 <u>www.GoToNanjing.com.</u>

Media Contact Ashley Norman PHG Consulting <u>anorman@phgconsulting.com</u> 646-465-9775