# 300,000 years of history at a glance

ainous regions. It is home to in Fanchang county and a It has 16 prefecture-level cit- worldwide.

Yangtze River Delta Economago, was discovered in Hexian ince had a registered population in terms of output of grain, The province of Anhui as 
The Xuejiagang cultural about 61.96 million were perproducing province and also

Anhui province is located it is known today was estab-site, which was excavated in manent residents. one of China's important pron East China, with Hefei lished in 1667 by the Kangxi Qianshan county, indicating Anhui has valuable resourc- duction bases for pollution as the provincial capital. It Emperor during the Qing the presence of humans in the es in light, heat and water and free and organic farm prodadjoins Jiangsu and Zheji- Dynasty (1644-1911). The area between 5,000 and 6,000 abundant flora and fauna. ucts. ang provinces in the east and name of the province comes years ago, is mostly comprised. There are 104 nature reserves. Anhui is home to a variety Hubei and Henan provinces from the combination of the of remains from the Neolithic in the province, including of mineral resources, with 128 in the west. To the south lies first characters of two prefec- Age. It has important aca- eight national-level reserves kinds of minerals discovered Jiangxi province, and to the tures' names at the time: Ang-demic value for the research and 30 provincial-level there. China's two major waterways Anhui is one of the impormiddle and lower reaches of found in the province include al 5A-level tourist attractions the Yangtze and Huaihe tant cradles of China's pre-the Yangtze River. rivers — flow through Anhui historical civilization. Evi- The province covers an area white-flag dolphin. The Anhui Famous tourist spots include and divide the province into dence of human activity in the of 140,100 square kilometers, Yangtze Alligator Reserve is Huangshan Mountain, Jiuhua three topographic forms: region dating back to some 2.5 accounting for about 1.45 per- the only artificial breeding Mountain, Hongcun village, plain, hilly areas and moun-million years ago were found cent of China's total land area. base for Chinese alligators Taohua Pool and the Hefei

of primitive cultures in the reserves. Endangered species Anhui is home to 11 nation

China's fifth-largest freshwa- site containing relics from ies, six county-level cities, 55 The province also boasts province received 522 million

ter lake, Chaohu Lake, and the Paleolithic Age, between counties and 44 city districts. rich agricultural resources, at Chinese visitors, up 17.7 peran important part of the 300,000 and 400,000 years By the end of 2016, the proves the forefront of the country cent year-on-year.

tion of 70.27 million, of which cotton and oil. It is a large tea



he Jiuhua Mountain (left) and the Chaohu Lake represent the typical mountain and water landscapes in the province.



# WELCONINGTHEWORLD Anhui is poised to overtake its coastal counterparts in manufacturing and transport through low cost, high capacity, Zhao Shijun reports.

The Chinese saying that "a visit of Huangshan makes it unnessesary to visit other mountains in the country" reflects the popularity of the mountain among tourists. Photos Provided to China Daily



n international promotional fair for Anhui is being held today in Beijing, aiming to make the East China province's recent development, business opportunities and glorious culture better known to the world. The event, organized by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has attracted the attention of foreign diplomats in China, representatives for international organizations and multinational companies as well as international media. Anhui's authorities expect to use the event to showcase Anhui's business environment to international investors, attractions for foreign tourists and the province's determination to integrate

He said Anhui is an important part of several key national already operational.

When visiting Anhui in April last year, Chinese President Xi ment totaled \$760 million. inping also encouraged Anhui to blaze a new trail for the devel- In the same period, companies in Anhui set up 27 enterprises According to the Anhui Bureau of Commerce, a total of 121 and to overseas markets.

Anhui is on the lower reaches of the Yangtze River — the Party chief of Hefei University. western regions along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and try 4.0.

opment of central China, based on its own advantages and driven in countries along the routes, with total investment of \$73.27 foreign-funded projects were approved in Anhui last year. The "We are planning to develop a comprehensive, air-land-rivercentral and western regions through a comprehensive transpor- Base — a joint education and research program between Anhui's growth. ation system consisting of waterways, highways, railways and Hefei University and Germany's Stralsund University of Applied Science — began operations last year, according to Cai Jingmin, New opportunities on the river, the province is linked to the world through shipping broke ground in Hefei, aiming to integrate the two nations' governor of Anhui. German automaker Volkswagen signed an agreement with River Delta region. Regional cooperation has been flourishing capacity.

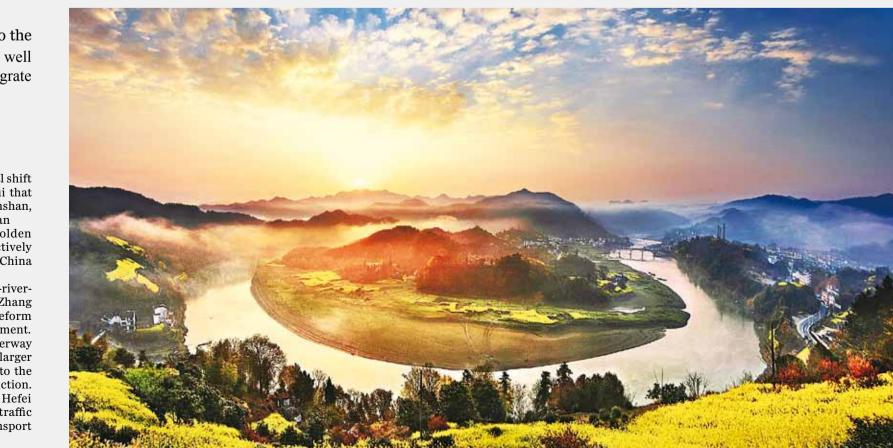
ment and trade cooperation with countries along the trade routes train line initiated in 2015, the Guangzhou-Hefei-Los Angeles carindustries from Shanghai and Jiangsu. Anhui is on its way to becoming a new frontier in China's since the Belt and Road Initiative began in 2013. The combined go flight launched in 2016, the Hefei Cross-Border E-Commerce One location poised to witness and support the industrial shift inland regions' opening-up, according to Li Jinbin, Party chief value of such projects amounted to 962.4 billion yuan (\$140 bil-Pilot Zone established in 2016 and the Hefei Airport Bonded is the Wanjiang City Belt, a region in south-central Anhui that lion). More than half of the projects are under construction or Logistics Center set up in 2016. These facilities are expected to includes the province's major cities like Hefei, Wuhu, Ma'anshan, boost foreign investment and international trade for Anhui. Anqing, Chuzhou, Chizhou, Tongling, Xuancheng and Lu'an development strategies, including the Belt and Road Initiative Last year alone, 13 multinational companies from Belt and Anhui's fruitful cooperation with these regions has caused The city belt runs roughly parallel to the Yangtze golden Road countries established operations in Anhui. Their invest— a rise in the province's inbound investment and international—waterway, ensuring that products in Anhui can be effectively transported to the vast hinterland of central and western China

actual foreign investment value in Anhui in 2016 was \$1.24 bil-ocean shipment channel to ease logistics and trade," said Zhang The province is at the crossroads linking China's eastern, The Sino-German Educational Cooperation Demonstration lion, growing 28 percent from 2015 and setting a new record for Xiaozhong, an official at the Anhui Development and Reform Commission, who is responsible for the city belt's development. According to Zhang, improvements to the Yangtze waterway and ports along the river are underway to accommodate larger The province's recent economic development has presented ships. Several new highways and railways linking Anhui to the golden waterway of China". Thanks to its large number of ports A Sino-German smart manufacturing industrial park also new opportunities for international investors, said Li Guoying, rest of the country are either operational or under construction. He also mentioned that the recently built airports in Hefei routes to the Pacific in the east, as well as China's central and industrial strategies — Made in China 2025 and German IndusHe said Anhui is adjacent to Chinese economic powerhouses and Jiuhuashan and nearly a dozen new cross-Yangtze traffic like Shanghai, Zhejiang and Jiangsu, which are all in the Yangtze channels can play bigger roles in expanding Anhui's transport

The province is also between the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Eco- Anhui's local automaker JAC Motors in September last year for due to the complementary nature of these economies.

According to the provincial development and reform comnomic Zone in the north and the Pearl River Delta Economic the opening of Volkswagen's third joint venture in China. The Shanghai, Zhejiang and Jiangsu are currently moving their mission, Anhui hopes to enhance its electronic information, venture will mainly produce electric vehicles. manufacturing industries inland due to limited available space advanced manufacturing, automobile, bio-medicine, new energy "Anhui plans to become a pivotal region for the Belt and Road In addition to the Sino-German facilities, Anhui has launched a and higher operational costs closer to the coast. and new materials industries through attracting investment, nitiative," said Zhang Shaochun, head of the provincial develop- number of programs to enhance cooperation with Belt and Road Capitalizing on its solid industrial foundation and its strength technology and high-end professionals from home and abroad. in higher education and high-tech research, Li said Anhui is in a He said Anhui has launched a total of 106 projects for investThese programs include the Hefei-Xinjiang-Europe freight good position to overtake advanced manufacturing and high-tech Contact the writer through zhaoshijun@chinadaily.com.cn





Hefei, the capital city of Anhui province, launched a major project on Feb 27 to construct a comprehensive national science center by the year 2020. It will be the second comprehensive nationl science center in China, following Shanghai's Zhangjiang Comprehensive National

Science Center, and also the first national innovation platform in the central and western regions of China. The science center will focus on research

Huizhou's roots in has continuously made unremitting efforts

Over a millennium, the merchants of Anhui

province, collectively known as the Huishang, ecame legendary for their hard work, enterprising spirit, honesty and their unique contribution They began as vendors of small articles in the countryside and cities of this ancient land, dominated by self-reliant agriculture, in China's east. Gradually, they turned to bigger businesses th a sales network that covered the entire country. Their success was unparalleled, except by the merchants of Shanxi, also famous for their ousiness acumen. The name Huishang was first used during the Jin Dynasty (265-420) and, throughout the following centuries, Anhui's merchants flourished with a long period of prosperity during the Ming

icle, "Many people in Huizhou — a mountainous

options to make a living".

prosperity with better transport links.

(1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. The Huishang merchants were mostly from Huizhou, today's Huangshan city in southern Anhui, with many coming from Shexian, Xiunng, Qimen, Yixian, Jixi and Wuyuan counties According to records, the number of trad-**Today's** major commercial hubs in Anhui province ers accounted for about 70 percent of the male

region with limited farmland — chose to engage Huizhou-style buildings

in trading business because they had no other Huizhou-style buildings, associated with local Huizhou people were not born merchants region of Huizhou — what is known as today's their success was the result of various social Huangshan city — and the neighboring areas, factors and their painstaking efforts. Huishang merchants maintained good rela- of ancient Chinese architecture, with striking cions with the government to ensure their features in the delicately crafted eaves and decoousinesses' success. For more than 1,000 years, rative ceilings.

inese officials were selected according to academic ability. As such, the merchants built many city's unique geographic location and folk culchools in their hometowns and provided funds ture, are nothing like anything else in China. for students to train there, hoping to groom Such an ancient house in Huizhou is usually divided into two parts that are in perfectly symons with their home communities. When they which literally means "skylight yard" — is located returned home with success and glory, they built in the center of the house, with bedrooms on mansions, ancestral temples, guild halls, roads each side, and a living room in front. and bridges to extend the influence of their clans. People from Huizhou have focused on the However, the sun began to set on the Huis- aesthetic side of the houses in addition to their

hang lifestyle during the late Qing Dynasty due practical use for a long time. to intense competition from businesspeople in The cornices of the houses are shaped some-China and abroad who were more skilled in thing like a mustache, curling up at the edges. modern commerce. Nonetheless, the unique But the most distinguished features are the intriculture that grew from the Anhui merchants — cate carvings, including windowpanes carved teamwork, moral integrity, honesty, sympathy from stone and carved wooden pillars. for the poor, and loyalty to the country — is still While the Huizhou-style buildings are famous remembered by the province's people and is even for their complicated and delicate carvings, the

Huishang Conference, held annually in Hefei, ture, reflected in the contrasting styles of archi-Anhui's capital.

businesses, with activities such as investment visits each year.



**The village of Xidi** is an example of the harmony between its ancient buildings and nature.



of information technology, energy, health and the environment, and will seek breakthroughs are regarded as an important symbol of a country's strength in scientific and technological power. Anhui province is one of the eading provinces to put forward the idea of constructing a national science center, and

and all-round preparations," said Lin Nianxiu. vice-minister of the National Development and Reform Commission. Hefei has attracted many prominent institutions and universities, including the University of Science and Technology of China and the Hefei Institutes of Physical Science under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. More than 1,000 R&D institutions have

settled in Hefei, as well as a number of nationcities in the country's rising R&D projects. "Large scientific equipment is at the core of the Hefei science center." said Kuang Guangli, president of Anhui University. The Hefei center currently has equipment for study and use of synchrotron radiation, superconducting tokamak and steady high-magnetic fields. The next step is to build a new fusion reactor, air quality detection facilities and the fourth-generation synchrotron radiation

"We have high expectations for the compre-

producing more than 1 trillion yuan (\$145

"Construction of the Hefei comprehensive

national science center is a milestone in the

A researcher in Hefei works on programming a robot

hensive national science center, hoping to put

forward a large number of original scientific

results and put them into practice to serve

economic development," Kuang said. population in Huizhou during the middle Ming promotions, trade talks, exhibitions, forums and To support scientific development in the Dynasty. They mostly sold locally produced tea, conferences. cies for the transformation of theories or ideas center. ink, paper and other items to the rest of the The event is also used to describe the province's history and promote its tourist attractions, into products, and made progress in protect-According to the Ming Dynasty Anhui Chroneconomic growth and business opportunities. ing original works

Anhui used to be an agricultural province, but now the innovative, high-tech industries have become an important driving force for merchants, can be found in the southern Anhui In 2016, 15,300 national invention patents were granted to entities and individuals in and are some of the most distinguished examples Anhui, giving the province a leading position in the country. There were 706 newly established high-tech enterprises in the province,

billion) worth of output that year. history of Anhui. We must cherish the chance and make good use of it," said an official at

color tones outside remain simple and clean. with only black roof tiles and white walls, resem-

recognized in the rest of the country. bling a typical Chinese painting. Now, Anhui's leaders are looking to create Xidi and Hongcun in Yixian county are some new legends by reviving those ancient tra- among the renowned ancient towns with many ditions, once again for greater economic growth. well-preserved Huizhou-style buildings. These One way to do this is through the International embody both ancient and modern Chinese cul-

This year's expo is to be held in May in Hefei. 
Even in the modern age, Xidi and Hongcun It will be the 13th session of the event. have preserved what the towns were like hun-Its official name is the China Anhui Invest- dreds of years ago, featuring Huizhou-style ment and Trade Expo and it has become the architecture like carved stone bridges and province's most important trade and invest- traditional houses around every corner. The ment fair. The event is a prime platform for cultural legacies have made the two towns Anhui to promote key investment projects and and their neighboring areas popular tourist build connections between foreign and domestic destinations in Anhui, receiving millions of



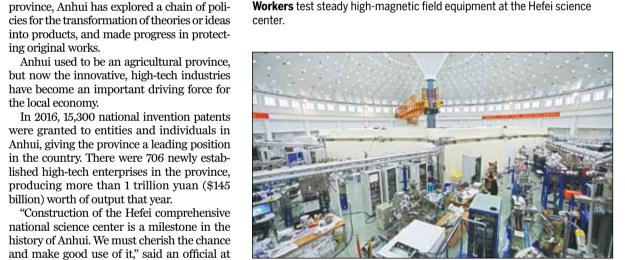
Hefei science center to pursue technological specialization

in quantum communications, nuclear fusion, The quantum science satellites developed by the University of Science smog prevention, cancer treatment and more. and Technology of China have played an important role in China's space "Comprehensive national science centers science development.



al-level key laboratories and cutting-edge scientific devices, making Hefei one of the core Technology of China is one of the powerful engines driving the local high-







The University of Science and Technology of China is one of the top universities in China with programs for both domestic and international students.



## Anhui in the eyes of foreigners

Llive on campus among old retired

weekend travels on the amazing high-

Kathryn Chang Barker, visiting

professor at USTC

Anhui province

is blessed with

beautiful tourism

attractions, from

the marvelous

Anhui's Hefei

degree at USTC. I have visited many

Yellow Mountains. I am honored to

here. What I like the most in Hefei

is that, due to its fast development.

innovation, business, entrepreneurship

and travel. The foreigners' community

or staying for studies. The locals here

ven that you understand and speak

this opportunity to come to China and

experience a city like Hefei firsthand.

Chinese. I am very happy that I got

a perfect environment for study with

is welcoming more and more foreign

students, creating a bridge with the

most of time

being spent in

my bachelor's

degree and

master's

Hefei, where I did

in Hefei is also increasing at a very

it offers many opportunities for

exciting places in Anhui. One of the most famous scenic places is the

China Daily reporter **Zhuan Ti** interviewed international scholars and students a

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universities in Anhui. They expressed their feelings toward the province.



I feel very comfortable and at hom hard-working lives in an environment of enthusiasm for change and innovation. things to do in this city. For me, I like professors who have witnessed China's work out, eat healthy food and sper a safe and enjoyable campus life as student. The city is relatively quiet,

transformation and among especially bright students who, every day, work on their China Dream at one of China's can be very lively as well. Edgar Agostinho, postgraduate fro premier universities — USTC (University of Science and Technology of China). All across Anhui, I see the old and new, coexisting and thriving — people, architecture, agriculture and industry. For me, it's a privilege to be an expat in Anhui. And it's an advantage too. Within Anhui are many national treasures such

as Huangshan's misty peaks and Xidi's mysterious alleys. From Anhui, in every direction, all of China is accessible for to study as it provides a very good environment in terms of quality of lif and social activities. The city is growin

buildings under construction. Met e One was opened up last year an ere are currently more metro line under construction. With the current atmosphere here in this city, I migh plan on staying for my follow-up deg because Hefei proves to be a city v of calling my second home Vu Viet Duc, postgraduate from

or Yellow Mountain — to the fantastic architecture and stone carvings from Ming and Qing dynasties in Xidi and Hongcun ancient villages, which have been listed by UNESCO on the world heritage list. For those interested in getting to know China and the Huizhou Anhui for abou six months.

culture, Anhui is one place that combines both the ancient and the As an expat living in Anhui for the past eight years. I witnessed huge change and development in the province. Hefei, the provincial capital, has developed for first-time visitors, it can be real rapidly in the past few years and is one of the fastest-growing cities in the world.

it's all about simple daily life activiti that are just so different. It can really get stressful, depending on how you nanage it and accept different thing hose things aside, people are fantasti ere, and there is a lot to experience here if you can manage to get around to see them. Having a good Chinese companion will help a lot here. Life is



development of Hefei during my time over the past Partially due to Technology of China being situate here, there are many companies relat quick pace, most of them seeking work to IT and various types of technological advancement doing their business are very friendly and like to have a chat in Hefei. Fast trains, an urban bus transportation system — this place h all the necessary things that you migh need. In addition, Hefei's subway sta its operation last year, certainly making

Daria Soloveva, Master student at

**Firdaus Samijadi,** *USTC Master student* living in this city more convenient.

I had the chance to meet student from all over the world, experiencing their culture and habits. During my spare time, I go shopping with my local cuisine or just go out for walks. specially during spring time when the city is most beautiful. There is so much to explore in Hefei. I had the chance to visit some neighboring cities engaging in the school activities such as Huangshan city, where we had the chance to climb the mountains. Lam really enjoying my time in Hefei. It has

**Edna Laurinda Muianga**, *Mozambique* **Hirra Butt**, *PhD student at USTC* 

good schools and great programs. Hefei Metro now! Hefei has grown so much in three years and so has my love for it and I am very hopeful that will get ever better in the years to come.

be in a "not so developed" city. But by the time I got to know Hefei, I couldn't help but fall in love with it. The people here are so welcoming and hospitable

foreigners. Every time I go somewhere I get so much love and smiles from th local people. I feel so comfortable and a home, I feel like a celebrity sometimes Not only that, life itself in Hefei is good and it has improved so much in the past three years, with more variety of international cuisine and so man places for foreigners to hang out and enjoy their life. We even have the Hefei

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017

eople who are familiar with Chinese calligraphic art should know the "Four Treasures of the Study". It is an expression used to denote the brush, ink stick, paper and ink stone. The best of the "Four Treasures" products have been and are still produced in Anhui

Xuan Paper, known as Xuanzhi, was named after the origin of its production -Xuancheng, a city in southeastern Anhui This particular form of paper upholds th

marks made by Chinese brushes and ink. Though soft and fine-textured, it has a high tensile strength and resistance to distortion and color changes, gaining it the reputation of "the paper of a thousand-year

The special processing methods of the paper determine its exceptional quality. The paper can be made unprocessed, half processed or processed. The various processes are used for controlling the amount of ink absorbed into the

paper fiber, as well as the stiffness of the Unprocessed papers are very absorbent and quite malleable, whereas processed papers are far more resistant to absorption

The processing methods for Xuan Paper were listed in the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage items in 2006. Paper and writing brushes are indispensable in calligraphic art. Xuancheng's brushes have also won fame over the past 2,000

The brush is nothing like the pen we use today. It is soft because it is made of hair from animals such as rabbit, goat and wolf. With elegant decoration, clean animal hair and neither too-soft nor too-hard brush points, the brushes of the best quality made in Xuancheng were exclusively supplied to

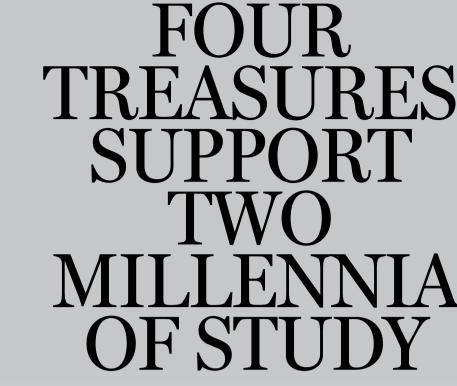
emperors in the past. The ink stick produced in Huizhou today's Huangshan city — also has a thousand years of history. The ink stick is mainly made out of pine soot and 20 other materials, and is then glued together and pressed into the shape of a chocolate bar

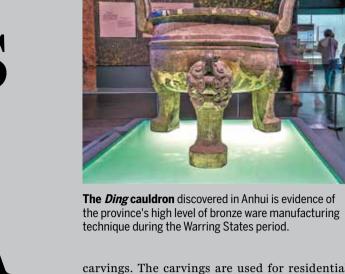
and allowed to dry. The ink stick has a rich and thick color, subtle gloss and fragrant scent because of the precious ingredients. It also possesses antiseptic and moth-proofing properties. The last treasure, the ink stone, is used to grind the ink stick into a powder to be mixed with water.

ern Anhui used to be regarded as one of the Chinese culture. most famous ink stones in China. The ink stones made there can keep the ink wet for a long time, while the smooth surface of the ink stone can protect the ragile point of brush. The stones produced there are rich in natural texture, with a variety of texture

patterns available, making each ink stone As one of the important cradles of Chinese culture, Anhui doesn't just have ink

special kind of "painting" by using iron as ink, and a hammer as the pen. Drawing on the experiences of Chinese folk art such as paper cutting, sculpture and mosaics, the painters depict landscapes. people, flowers, insects, fish, birds, animals and other figures out of iron materials. The black iron material and the white background create a strong contrast, endowing the iron painting with the artistic characteristics of Chinese classical paintings made with ink and paper. Huizhou carvings are the local art in Huizhou include brick, stone, wood and bamboo





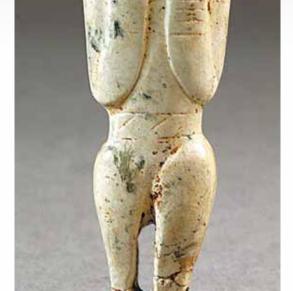
carvings. The carvings are used for residential ouildings, ancestral temples, memorial halls and other types of building decorations as well as furniture, screens, pens and other craft production. Jieshou, a city in northern Anhui, is renowned for its painted pottery.

Originating in the Sui (581-618) and Tang (618-907) dynasties, the painted pottery in Jieshou prevailed during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. It inherited the style of ang tri-colored pottery and adopted the exquite techniques and styles from other artistic ns, such as Chinese paper cutting and new The main products are utensils for daily use,

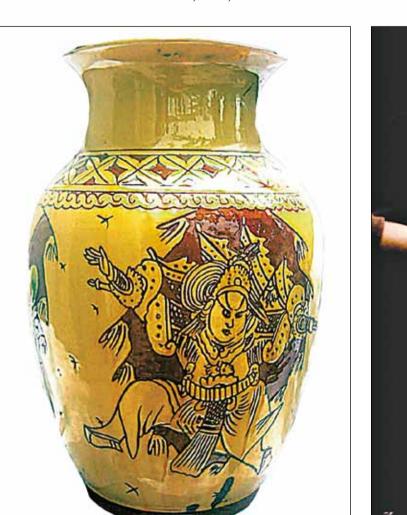
such as bottles, jars and jugs, decorated with tricolor carvings. The thick and primitive shape, vivid carvings and unique reddish brown, beige and white color scheme are the characteristics of Jieshou's painted pottery. Frequently used subjects for painting include characters from folk stories, landscapes, flowers, birds, fish and grass.

The She ink stones from Shexian in south
The Four Treasures of Study — brush, ink stick, paper and ink stone — are the great contributions to the









**painted pottery** of Jieshou features decoration with tricolor carvings. **The ink stick** produced in Huizhou has a thousand vears of history.

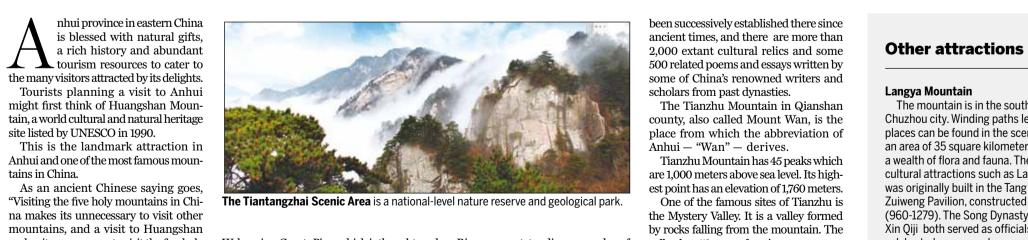




# PROVINCE PROMISES RICH BLEND OF NATURAL DELIGHTS

00 related poems and essays written by

he Tianzhu Mountain in Qianshan



This is the landmark attraction in Anhui and one of the most famous mountains in China. As an ancient Chinese saying goes, na makes its unnecessary to visit other mountains, and a visit to Huangshan all at altitudes of more than 1,800 meters. Great Hall of the People.

The Huangshan Mountain scenic area comes from the tree's resemblance to a and culture. peculiarly-shaped rocks, pine trees, hot known as the Sea of Clouds, because of Anhui is Jiuhua Mountain. billowing clouds above. views, pine trees, granite peaks and rocks ples, nearly 1,000 monks and nuns and "Three Treasures". high altitudes on steep, rocky crags and quently depicted in traditional Chinese tains in China. are a major part of eastern China's strik-paintings. ing landscapes. Many of the trees have Huangshan Mountain, together with tural and historical terms. More than have been growing on the same spot for their own names, such as the renowned the Yangtze River, Great Wall and Yel- 20 academies of classical learning have more than 300 years.

nhui — "Wan" — derives. Tianzhu Mountain has 45 peaks which are 1,000 meters above sea level. Its highest point has an elevation of 1,760 meters. One of the famous sites of Tianzhu is to be more than 1,000 years old. Its name China's breathtaking natural wonders plicated maze.

in southern Anhui province covers an warm host stretching out their arms to The mountain has also attracted some "The wise enjoy water, the humane enjoy area of 160.6 square kilometers. Its three welcome visitors. Its image appears as a of China's most notable figures, includ-mountains." Those who wish to draw major peaks, the highest Lotus Flower decoration in restaurants and homes all ing Li Bai, a poet of the Tang Dynasty wisdom from nature may, therefore, go Peak, the precipitous Celestial Capital over China and a huge iron relief of the (618-907), Xu Xiake, a geographer and to Chaohu Lake in central Anhui. Peak and the flat Bright Summit Peak, are tree is exhibited in Anhui Hall in Beijing's explorer of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Chaohu Lake, one of China's five bigas well as former premier Zhou Enlai. gest freshwater lakes, covers an area of The tourist destination is known for 
The view from the mountaintops is 
Another landmark attraction in nearly 800 square kilometers. It abounds in aquatic resources and its silver fish, springs, winter snow and views of the the clouds' resemblance to an ocean. The Jiuhua Mountain, with its 99 tem-shrimps and crabs are known as the looking to get closer to nature. Huangshan pine trees (Pinus hwang-resemble magnificent, natural paintings, more than 10,000 Buddhist statues, is The lake is also noted for its gorgeous can be seen on the cliffs of Yinping Moun-It is also a noted mountain in cultain on the lake's southern bank. Peonies

the Mystery Valley. It is a valley formed by rocks falling from the mountain. The Xin Qiji both served as officials in Chuzhou and wrote Huang Binhong and educator Tao Xingzhi. It is noted makes it unnecessary to visit the five holy Welcoming-Guests Pine, which is thought low River, are outstanding examples of valley has 53 caves, forming a very com-As Confucius wrote in his Analects: 120 sq km and has 25 peaks at an altitude of more than 1,000 meters. The highest peak in the area is a **Sanhe ancient town** 

main peak of the Dabie Mountains, which form the

The mountain is in the southwest region of

Mountain. It is the largest artificial lake in Anhui covering an area of 88 sq km. It is surrounded by Chuzhou city. Winding paths leading to secluded mountains and more than 10 islands dot the center places can be found in the scenic area, which covers of the lake. Forest coverage in the Taiping Lake Scenic an area of 35 square kilometers. It is also home to

Area surpasses 95 percent and the area is home to a wealth of flora and fauna. The area boasts rich more than 580 wild plants.

cultural attractions such as Langya Temple, which was originally built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and Shexian county Zuiweng Pavilion, constructed in the Song Dynasty

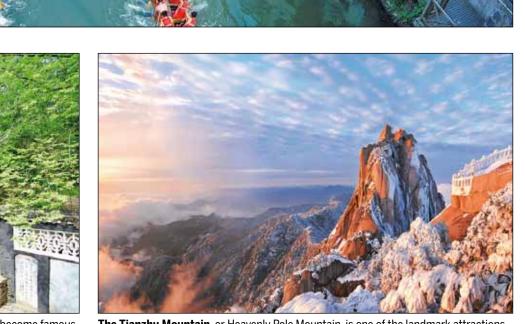
The region has been home to many renowned (960-1279). The Song Dynasty poets Ouyang Xiu and historical figures including art historian and painter Traditional Chinese Medicine, Hui School of Sculpture and the Huizhou branches of Chinese cuisine. Shexian The area is a national-level nature reserve and county has numerous historical sites and relics such geological park. It is said to be the last primitive forest as memorial archways, ancestral halls and ancient in East China, with a diversity of plant life. It covers villages featuring houses built several centuries ago.

The town in Hefei traces its history back more than main watershed of the Yangtze and Huaihe rivers. 2,500 years and its present name derives from the Tiantangzhai is an ideal place for travelers who are fact that three rivers — Fengle, Hangbu and Xiaonan meet there. It boasts a number of well-preserved old buildings, abounds with folk culture and is home to Luju, a local opera in Hefei, capital of Anhui, also a shanensis) typically grow at moderate to and the trees themselves have been fre- one of the four great Buddhist Moun- scenery. A cluster of white wild peonies The lake lies at the northern foot of Huangshan national intangible cultural heritage item.



because of a verse by Song Dynasty poet Ouyang Xiu.









philosophy with

a lasting

Laozi, or Lao-Tzu, born in Anhui's Woyang admired by many famous Chinese intellectuals. verses of the three Caos, unpretentious and county, was a famous Chinese philosopher Many major Chinese poets and writers in profound, helped to reshape the poetic style of liyou@chinadaily.com.cnduring the Spring and Autumn period. history — such as Sima Xiangru and Sima their time and beyond, eventually contributing The history of Anhui province as it is He is known as the author of the *Tao Te* Qian during the Han dynasty (206 BC-AD to the poetic styles associated with the Tang defined today is less than 400 years old. Ching – or Daodejing – and the founder of 220), Ruan Ji and Tao Yuanming during the Dynasty. However, its contributions to Chinese civi- philosophical Taoism, and is worshipped as Six Dynasties (222–589), Li Bai during the Tang A school of Confucian thought prevailed in lization extend far beyond that period. a deity in religious Taoism and other tradi- Dynasty (618–907) and Su Shi and Lu You of Anhui during the Song Dynasty because of Anhui became a province in 1667 during tional Chinese religions. the reign of the Kangxi Emperor of the Qing According to Loazi's philosophy, the uni-enced and inspired by Zhuangzi. Dynasty (1644-1911). Its name is a combinaverse is dominated by Tao, the powerful Despite its criticism of "useless technologies", interpretation of the classics by Confucius and tion of the first characters of Anqing and and yet supremely humble natural rules. Taoism is also an important source of inspira- Mencius, became the mainstream of Chinese Huizhou (today's Huangshan city) prefec- He deemed that people should live in har- tion for modern science and technology. culture for nearly 1,000 years. mony with nature, free from unnatural Liu An, grandson of the first Han Dynasty The historical legacies finally led to the

Anhui is also commonly known as "Wan", desires, and that administrators should emperor Liu Bang, was appointed king of formation of Huizhou Culture — a culture more than 3,000 years ago.

A great number of relics of human activiagainst the natural rules. ties in the region dating back to the Paleo- Laozi's philosophy had a great influence on meant to be a scientist, an inventor or a writer. lithic and Neolithic ages have been found politics in the following generations, though he But he became all of the above, never becoming in Anhui, showing its important role in himself didn't like politics at all. the development of ancient Chinese civi- A number of emperors, especially the found- Using the Taoist ideas of Tao and Yin Yang, ing the Spring and Autumn (770-476 BC) and less interference in social life, levying light taxafarming. Warring States (475when two Anhui

From left: Wang Maoyin, a Qing Dynasty financial expert; Bao Zheng, a Song Dynasty judicial officer; Qi Jiguang,

Ming Dynasty general; and Bi Sheng, the inventor of movable type in Song Dynasty, were all renowned historical

ers of later dynasties, believed in governing by Liu explained the change of the four seasons Anhui's culture reached its first peak dur- wu wei, practicing limited government with and invented the 24 Solar Terms to guide tion and allowing more freedom for people Liu is also the inventor of bean curd — Laozi's legacy was inherited by Zhuang- the editor-in-chief of the book *Huainanzi*, a zi, or Zhuang Zhou, another proponent of encyclopedia based on Taoist thought, cover philosophical Taoism who lived in Anhui's ing science technology literature philosophical Mengcheng county in the fourth century BC. and medicine. Zhuangzi is the author of at least part of Anhui's literature came to a peak during the a famous work bearing his name, *Zhuangzi*. late Han Dynasty. Cao Cao (155-220), who The book, a collection of anecdotes, allegories, was born in Bozhou, Anhui, was parables and fables, advocates spiritual free- the greatest statesman of dom and independence, which can help people the age. He and his two o transcend worldly worries such as failure, sons — Can Pi and sadness, fear and even mortality. Cao Zhi — were The story-driven text of Zhuangzi's book also the greatcontains wildly imaginative tales and the est poets of skillful use of reasoning and rhythm, the time. The

as it was home to the ancient Wan Kingdom govern according to the principle of "wu Huainan with his fiefdom in today's central flourishing in southern Anhui covering a wide wei", which means not doing anything Anhui. range of fields such as philoso-The politically ambitious prince was not phy, literature, medicine, architecture, fine art. handicrafts and folk byproduct of his alchemy practice — and

Zhu Xi. Their thoughts, focusing on rationalist

the Song Dynasty (960–1279) — were all influthe great thinkers Cheng Hao, Cheng Yi and

# Local opera serves as foundation of beloved national art form

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By ZHAO SHIJUN

China has thousands of types of local opera, but only a few of them have become famous The Huangmei Opera, a local form of opera in East China's Anhui province, is one of the mainstream opera genres in China, along with

the Peking Opera in Beijing, Yue Opera in Zhejiang, Ping Opera in Hebei and Yu Opera The original Huangmei Opera was sung by women while picking tea, and was called the

Picking Tea Song. During the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) songs became a local opera popular in Anhui's Anqing city and its adjacent regions, combin
\*The Couple Watching Lanterns\* is one of the classical Huangmei Opera ing local folk art and the Anqing dialect in programs. singing and chants.

Huangmei Opera was active in borde regions among Anhui, Hubei and Jiangxi provinces in the 18th century. In the first half of the 20th century, Huangmei performances gradually became professional, rising from rural areas to city stages. Artists developed the opera and borrowed performance styles from other operas. They reformed the traditional chants, making

the drama easy to understand with a lively The year 1952 was crucial for Huangmei Opera, when excellent artists Yan Fengying, Wang Shaofang and others gave performances in Shanghai for a big opera festival. Audiences from various areas were shocked and appreciated Huangmei Opera, attracted by its new singing forms and stories. Huangmei Opera became very famous

nationwide after that. The big success evoked the passion of Huangmei Opera artists and they created such classics as The Heavenly Match, The Herd Boy and the Weaving Girl and The Female Prince Consort. It attracts the audience with its unique melody, its heart-touching narration and its

simple and elegant costumes. The most famous operatic genre in China is the Peking Opera, however audiences can judge from the dialect it uses that it is not a Beijing-native opera at all. the "Four Great Anhui Troupes" brought the stage. Anhui Opera, or what is now called Huiju, to Beijing in 1790 for the 80th birthday of the

Qianlong Emperor. It was originally staged for the court and only made available to the In 1828, several famous Hubei troupes arrived in Beijing and performed with Anhui troupes. The combination gradually formed Peking Opera's melodies and the Anhui dialect is used in the singing, dialogues and narra-Anhui Opera originated from the "Huichi elegant tones" — operas that are popular in

It is among the oldest existing operas in China. Because it had incorporated the sing-



