



扬州琼花 天地中间第一花



寂寂蕃百观里花，伊谁封殖得名嘉。
应知天下无他本，惟有扬州是尔家。
种雪春温团影密，攒冰香重压枝斜。
倚阑莫问荣枯事，付与东风管物华。

——贾似道《琼花》

扬州位于中国东南部，毗邻上海，是一座有着 2500 年历史的名城，总面积 6634 平方公里，总人口 460 万人。这里文化悠久，环境优美，交通便捷，是一座颇具中国特色的城市，曾获得“联合国人居奖”。

扬州城是精致江南小城的代表，而烟花三月绽放满城的琼花，则被称作“事纪扬州千古胜，名居天下万花魁”。自古扬州都是春游的好去处，不少人都是奔着这仙姿绰约的花而来。

关于琼花的传说

据宋朝周密撰的《齐东野语》记载，宋仁宗庆历年间（1041—1048 年），曾从琼花观中将琼花移栽到开封的官苑

中，第二年这些琼花不仅不开花，还全部枯萎了！可是，当这些花被送回扬州后，却又照常开花了。南宋孝宗淳熙年间（1174～1189 年），又令人把琼花移栽到都城临安（今杭州）的皇宫禁苑之中，谁知它却萎靡无花。不久，只得又将它送回扬州，没想到却又枯木复苏，人们皆称琼花是有情之物。

赏花地推荐

大明寺平远楼前的庭院内，有扬州唯一一棵琼花古树。据记载，这棵琼花是大明寺住持道宏禅师于康熙年间所栽，至今已有 300 多年历史。上世纪 80 年代末因遭虫害，主干枯死，经过救治，“老树发新枝”，重新与游客见面。漫步在梵音缭绕的大明寺中，古老的琼花成了一处独特景观，让游人驻足。

每到四五月份，古树便会轰轰烈烈地盛开一树琼花，显得芳姿绰约动人。

花大如盘，洁白如玉；嫩黄的花蕊，玉白的花瓣，好像由无数颗细小而晶莹的珍珠镶嵌而成，在枝干上摇曳出万种风情，在春日的阳光下悠然淡雅地绽放。最让人称奇的是黄色花蕊四周的花瓣，由八朵白玉的“小花”组成，这八朵小花如姊妹携手，簇拥着花蕊起舞；如蝴蝶翩跹，环绕着花蕊游戏。中间为花蕊，边上为八朵小花，这种花型不多见，因而古人也叫它“聚八仙”，宛如八个仙女相聚起舞。

现在扬州很多地方都栽植有琼花，其中，数量最为集中的是瘦西湖东门的琼花广场、瘦西湖二十四桥、平山堂路蜀冈西峰和扬州动物园的琼花园，要赏琼花，这几个地方最值得去。

扬州还有其他很多地方可赏琼花，如各个大小公园、古运河风光带、文昌路、琼花观、润扬路等。在扬州，琼花是公园以及道路绿岛的标配植物。



Tips

- 1) 琼花观这座千年古道观里的琼花非常值得一看。
交通：4、88、12、26、32、33、66 路琼花观站
门票：旺季（3-5 月，9-12 月）8 元，淡季 5 元
开放时间：8:00-17:00
- 2) 扬州赏琼花另一好去处是瘦西湖方花园（在瘦西湖景区内），碰上雨天，瘦西湖清秀婉丽，繁花似锦中的烟雨江南，让人别有一番遐想。
瘦西湖门票：旺季 150.00 元，淡季 120.00 元
时间：白天：07:00-17:30
交通：扬州市内可乘坐 525 路至观音山站台，39、40、50、107、216 路至二十四桥站台，4、27、29 路至五亭桥站台等多辆公交车至瘦西湖北门；扬州火车站乘坐 26 路到石塔寺换乘 103 路、17 路、27 路到瘦西湖；
- 3) 每年 4 月中下旬，亭林园会举办琼花艺术节，琼花是昆山的市花，亭林园内赏琼花的地方有昆石馆北侧的琼花园。



瘦西湖小金山



瘦西湖二十四桥美景



享扬州美食
赏琼花之余，可以去尝尝扬州三春：富春茶社、冶春茶社、共和春茶社的蟹黄灌汤包，鲜香肉嫩、皮薄筋软，外形玲珑剔透，汤汁醇正浓郁，入口油而不腻。

Chinese Viburnum in Yangzhou: The First Flower between Heaven and Earth

The tranquil flower in the Fanbai Temple, Who cultivated and gave you such a good name,

Knowing that you appear nowhere else, And have but Yangzhou as your home.

Like snow, you bloom with a riot of flowers in the warm spring. Like ice, you emit fragrance so heavy that it bends the twigs.

Leaning on the balustrade, I ask no matters of thriving and withering Leaving them to the east wind administering the natural scene

JiaSidao—"Jade Flower" (Chinese Viburnum)

Located in southeastern China and neighboring Shanghai, Yangzhou is a famous city with a history of 2,500 years, a total area of 6,634 square kilometers and a population of 4.6 million. As a city featuring vibrant Chinese characteristics, including time-honored culture, a beautiful natural environment and convenient transportation, Yangzhou has been granted the UN Habitat Scroll of Honor Award.

As a delicate and tiny city typical along the southern lower reaches of the Yangtze River, Yangzhou, in the exuberant and misty spring, is filled Chinese viburnums, a beautiful flower representing the area. The viburnum is known as a "spectacular part of Yangzhou's charm, with a reputation greater than thousands of the world's other flowers". Since ancient times, Yangzhou has been an excellent destination for springtime excursions, with this charming and graceful flower attracting most of the visitors.

The Legend of Chinese Viburnum

As recorded in the *Hearsay in Eastern Qi State* (In Chinese: 齐东野语; in Pinyin: Qi Dong Ye Yu) by Zhou Mi during Song

Dynasty, during the Qingli Years (1041–1048) of Emperor Renzong, the Chinese viburnum trees were transplanted from the Qionghua (Chinese Viburnum) Temple to the imperial garden in Kaifeng, a city in modern day Henan province. In the following year, the trees yielded no flowers at all, and even withered. However, after being sent back to Yangzhou, they bloomed as usual. During the Chunxi Years (1174–1189) of the Southern Song Dynasty, Emperor Xiaozong ordered the Chinese viburnum to be transplanted to the imperial garden in the capital city Lin'an (modern day Hangzhou). There, they once again unexpectedly withered and put forth no bloom. Therefore, they were sent back again to Yangzhou, where they revived and thrived. People praised the Chinese viburnum as sentient beings.

Recommended Venues to Enjoy Chinese Viburnum Blossom

Inside the yard in front of the Pingyuan Building at the Daming Temple lies the only ancient Chinese viburnum tree in Yangzhou. Records show that, planted by Chan Master Daohong, the abbot of



Daming Temple, during the years of the Kangxi Emperor in Qing Dynasty, this Chinese viburnum tree has a history of more than 300 years. At the end of 1980s, due to insect infestation, its trunk withered. After the insects were removed and the tree was returned to health, its prouted new branches and once again appeared with vitality before visitors. Strolling around the Buddhist chant-filled Daming Temple, visitors cannot help stopping to admire the uniqueness of this ancient Chinese viburnum tree.

Every March or April, this ancient tree vigorously takes on a whole body of Chinese viburnums, appearing graceful and majestic. The flowers are as big as plates and as white as jade. With tender and yellow pistils and jade-white petals, they look like a mosaic of numerous tiny

crystal pearls, swaying flirtatiously on the twigs and blooming elegantly under the spring sunshine. To the amazement of visitors, the petals around each yellow pistil consist of eight jade-white "tiny flowers"; as if holding hands closely like sisters and dancing around the pistil like a whirling butterfly. This flower pattern, with one pistil in the middle and eight tiny flowers around, is rare and was thus known by the ancient people as "eight gathering goddesses", bringing to mind the image of eight fairies gathering together and dancing.

Currently, Chinese viburnum trees are present in many places in Yangzhou, mostly concentrated in the Chinese Viburnum Square near the eastern gate of the Slender West Lake, the Twenty-four Bridge on the Slender West Lake, Shugangxifeng in Pingshantang Road and the Qionghua (Chinese Viburnum) Garden at the Yangzhou Zoo. These are the best venues to enjoy the Chinese



The Beautiful Scenery of West Lake in Hangzhou

viburnum blossom.

Chinese viburnums can also be appreciated in other places in Yangzhou, including various gardens, the Scenery Belt of the Ancient Canal, Wenchang Road, Qionghua (Chinese Viburnum) Temple, and Runyang Road. In Yangzhou, Chinese viburnums are the plants most commonly seen in gardens, on the sides of roads and in concentrated areas of vegetation.

Tips

1. The best place to view the Chinese viburnums is at the Qionghua (Chinese Viburnum) Temple, a thousand-year-old Taoist temple.
Transportation: Bus Lines 4, 88, 12, 26, 32, 33 or 66 to Qionghuaguan Station
Tickets: 8 RMB during Peak Season (March–May, September–December) and 5 RMB during Quiet Season
Operating Hours: 8:00–17:00
2. Another great venue to view the Chinese viburnums in Yangzhou is the Wanhua Garden (found inside the Slender West Lake scenic spot). On a rainy day, the Slender West Lake is delicate and lovely, showcasing the gentle rain and fog typical in the low southern reaches of the Yangtze River amidst exuberant flowers.
Slender West Lake Tickets: RMB 150 during Peak Season and RMB 120 during Quiet

Season
Operating Hours: 07:00–17:30
Transportation: Within Yangzhou City, visitors can take bus line 5 or 25 to Guanyinshan Station; 39, 40, 50, 107 or 216 to Ershiqiao Station; 4, 27 or 29 to Wutingqiao Station and many other buses to the northern gate of Slender West Lake.
From Yangzhou Railway Station, visitors can take bus line 26 to Shitashi Station and then transfer to bus line 103, 17 or 27 to Slender West Lake 3. Every year in mid-to-late April, Tinglin Garden holds a Chinese Viburnum Art Festival. Chinese Viburnum is known as the Flower of Kunshan. Found within the Tinglin Garden, the best venue for appreciating the Chinese viburnum is the Chinese Viburnum Garden (Qionghua Yuan) on the northern side of Kunshi Garden.



Yangzhou's Yechun Steamed Dumplings



Yangzhou's Tang Gansi (boiled scaly tofu threads)



Taste Local Delicacies of Yangzhou

After enjoying the fantastic view of the Chinese viburnum blossom, visitors can enjoy any of the three teahouses named after Spring (In Chinese Pinyin: Chun) in Yangzhou: the Fuchun Teahouse, the Yechun Teahouse and the Gonghechun Teahouse. There, you can taste Crab Shrimp Soup Dumplings, which are fragrant, with tender meat and thin and soft skin, exquisite and translucent in appearance. The mellow and rich soup is succulent but not too rich.