

What's On

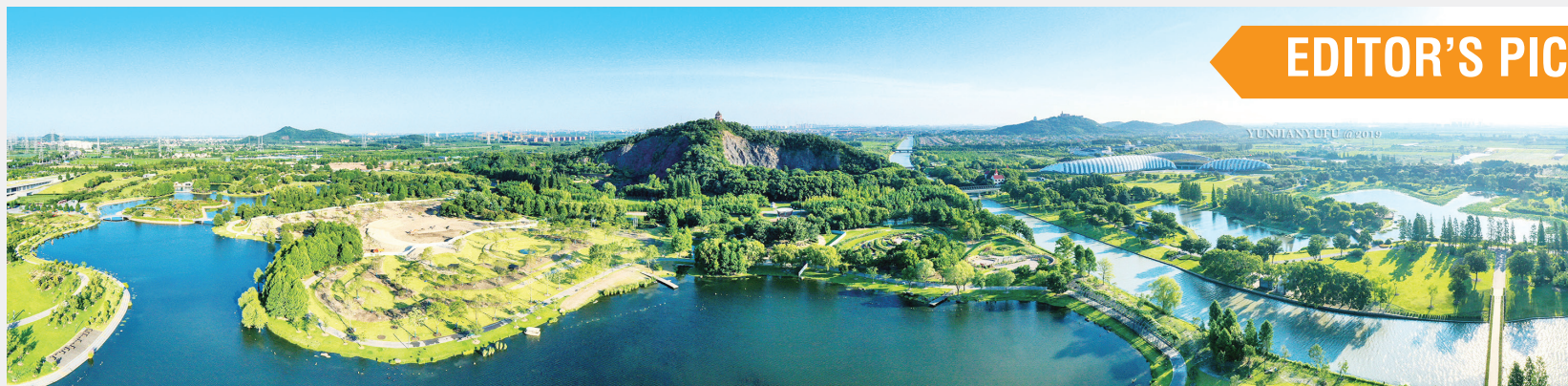
Curtain goes up on Film Park



Shanghai Film Park reopened on June 10 offering a 50 percent discount on tickets until June 30. Visitors have to book tickets online via its WeChat account or other online platforms. Visitors must also provide a negative PCR result within the past 72 hours and scan the venue QR code to enter.
Date: Throughout the year (8:30am-4:30pm).
Tickets: 80 yuan (a 50 percent discount is available through June 30).
Venue: Shanghai Film Park
Address: 4915 Beisong Highway, Songjiang District
 松江区北松公路4915号

Chenshan Garden in full bloom

Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden is open again, with hydrangea and water lily in their prime to welcome visitors. Bookings must be made at least one day via the garden's WeChat account. Visitors must also have a negative PCR test result within the previous 72 hours and scan the venue QR code to enter. The garden will present a special gift of dried Chinese flowers to visitors after staff collected all the withered Chinese roses that bloomed in May and made them into dried flowers to commemorate the May that was "missed" this year.
Date: Throughout the year (9:00am-5:30pm)
Tickets: 60 yuan
Venue: Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden
Address: 3888 Chenhua Highway Songjiang District
 松江区辰花公路3888号



A trail through hills of history, beauty

Yuan Luhang

There is a beautiful tour route, the Xiake ancient path, in the northwest of Songjiang District, starting from Sheshan Hill and going on to Chenshan Hill, Tianmashan Hill, Hengyunshan Hill, Xiaokunshan Hill and ending at the Maohe River, the boundary between Songjiang and Qingpu.

These hills, like a string of pearls, are all about 100 meters high. Known as the Jiufeng Area, they are one of Shanghai's rare natural mountain forests.

Xu Xiake (1587-1641) is a Chinese travel writer and geographer of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), known best for his famous geographical treatise, and noted for his bravery and humility.

He traveled throughout China for more than 30 years, documenting his travels extensively. The records of his journeys were compiled posthumously in "The Travel Diaries Xu

Xiake." It is believed Xu once left his footprint on the five hills.

Sheshan Hill is composed of East Sheshan Hill and West Sheshan Hill. The former has large areas of bamboo and the shoots are known for their orchid flavor. Emperor Kangxi once came here and tasted the shoot and called the hill Lansunshan Hill — "bamboo shoot with orchid flavor."

Xu traveled to Sheshan Hill five times and visited the hermitage of Chen Jiru (1558-1639), a landscape painter and calligrapher.

West Sheshan Hill is famous for two historical buildings — the Sheshan Basilica, officially the National Shrine and Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Sheshan and the Sheshan Observatory. The hill is named after its location — Chen means southwest.

At the foot of Chenshan Hill lies Shanghai's largest botanical garden, the Chenshan Botanical Garden. The south slope has a deep pit due to

quarrying, which had been turned into a garden.

Tianmashan Hill, like a flying horse, has a long and famous history. It is said that Gan Jiang, a swordsmith in the Spring and Autumn period (770-476 BC), once forged swords here.

It is also a Buddhist resort with many temples and monasteries. The most famous is the Huzhu Pagoda with an inclination of up to seven degrees.

Hengyun Hill was called Hengshan Hill before the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907) and since Tianbao Period of the Tang Dynasty, it was called Hengyunshan Hill to commemorate Lu Yun, a writer in Western Jin Dynasty (AD 265-317).

It is a closed mountain conservation area now.

Xiaokunshan Hill is located the southernmost in the Jiufeng Area. There are Erlu thatched cottages and reading desks on the hill, cliff stone carvings, Jiufeng Temple and other attractions.



The mountainous areas along the Xiake Ancient Path. — Photos by Yun Jian Yu Fu



Chinese Snacks

This is a series of stories about famous snacks in China. Each article will break down the ingredients of each tasty treat and tell you how it is prepared. Interesting stories about how each snack got its name will also be included.

Long tradition of tasty eddo soup

Yang Yang

SWEET Chinese eddo soup is a local delicacy of Pinghubang Village, an area about 3 kilometers south of the Songjiang Railway Station.

The soup dates back to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), with a history of more than 300 years. The soup smells fragrant, with the eddos — similar to taro — tasting sticky, soft and slithery.

Local red-stalk eddos are the major ingredient. The skin is removed and they are then cut into small cubes.



Sweet Chinese eddo soup — Ti Gong

The pieces are then put into a wok. Crystal bricks and water are added. The mixture is then heated until the water boils, and stewed on a mild

heat until the eddos turn soft.

Sugar is then added and the soup is further stewed until it becomes sticky.

In the past, local farmers used to put the sweet soup they had made into special wooden buckets. Then they carried the buckets with a shoulder pole as far as the City God Temple in downtown Shanghai to sell the soup.

It is said the wooden buckets were able to keep the soup warm for quite a long time.