

The Fulin Ancient Kiln Fragments Memory Museum officially opened its doors to the public on International Museum Day (May 18), inviting visitors to step back in time and explore the rich history of Chinese ceramics.

Located in Shaonian Village, northwest of the Guangfulin Cultural Relics Site, the museum's exterior resembles an ancient bun-shaped kiln, constructed with bricks and pottery jars, creating a textured and uneven facade that evokes the ancient pottery-making scene with a touch of fairytale charm.

The museum covers an area of about 300 square meters and displays a variety of ancient ceramic fragments, offering visitors a treasure hunt-like experience as they navigate through the exhibits.

With Songjiang's urban planning, a large number of ancient ceramic fragments have been unearthed in the district and surrounding areas, spanning from the Shang and Zhou dynasties (1600BC-256 BC) to the end of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The discovered fragments represent a multitude of kilns and a well-organized sequence, which is quite rare around the Taihu Lake region.

"The museum, in collaboration with Songjiang's Xilin Collection Committee, will display the ancient ceramic fragments collected over the years from an urban archaeology perspective, in an open and immersive manner, to celebrate the charm of ancient porcelain," said Zhang Qin, who is in charge of the project.

The museum's permanent exhibition is divided into two main parts. The first showcases specimens collected from the Guangfulin site, while the second displays specimens from Songjiang Old City and historically related areas such as Haiyan in Zhejiang Province and Suzhou in Jiangsu Province.

"The artifacts from these regions

## Kiln fragments museum opens in Shaonian Village



The displayed ancient ceramic fragments provide visitors with an experience akin to a treasure hunt. — Ti Gong

share a high degree of similarity and embody the common cultural characteristics around the Taihu Lake area," Zhang said.

The exhibits are synchronized with ancient Chinese history, with kilns as the main line of connection, followed by the characteristics of ancient ceramics. The combination of physical artifacts and text provides a visual and tactile panoramic

display, allowing the public to engage closely with the ancient ceramic fragments in an easy-to-learn manner, facilitating historical research and the study of ancient ceramic identification.

The museum is set to launch a series of activities, including a children's ceramic treasure hunt, family heirloom porcelain restoration, a college student internship base and public lectures.

## Ancient cliff carving newly discovered at Tianma Hill

A major discovery has been made at Tianma Hill, where a cliff carving from the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) has been found.

Pang Fei, an artist from the Shanghai Academy of Painting, stumbled upon an ancient cliff carving known as "Làng Jiǎ Yán" while sketching in the hill's serene environs last month. Further investigation by Chang Yong, vice president of the Humanities and Creativity Institute of Songjiang, confirmed that the carving dates back to the Southern Song or Ming (1368-1644) dynasties.

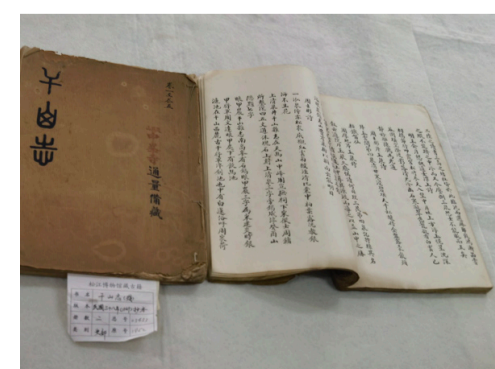
Tianma Hill is home to the famous scenic spot "Horse Drinking Pond." It was near this landmark, hidden behind moss-covered cliffs, that the carving was found. It was not immediately noticeable, requiring a closer look to be properly identified.

Chang's thorough examination and review of historical documents revealed that the inscription "Làng Jiǎ Yán" only appeared in the Qing Dynasty's Zhou Houdi's "Gan Mountain Chronicles."

The term "làng" means to air or expose to sunlight in the Songjiang dialect. "Làng Jiǎ" refers to a practice among ancient generals to display their armor (jiǎ) as a sign of loyalty and gratitude to their sovereign. This act also symbolically represented a return to civilian life.

Further research suggests that the carving was likely made in 1157 by General Zhou Wenda during the construction of the Huzhu Tower at Tianma Hill. The carvings' latest possible date is around 1643, the period covered by Ming Dynasty Lu Tingzhen's "Gan Mountain Miscellaneous Records." It is believed the inscriptions were made to commemorate the achievements of Zhou family's ancestors.

"The discovery of the 'Làng Jiǎ Yán' cliff carving not only corroborates the records in the 'Gan Mountain Chronicles' but also adds a new cultural attraction to Tianma Hill, enriching the heritage of Songjiang," Chang said.



The thread-bound edition of "Gan Mountain Chronicles," edited by Zhou Houdi in 1786 — Ti Gong

## Splash into fun at Shanghai Maya Beach Water Park

GET ready to dive into a world of watery wonders. The Shanghai Maya Beach Water Park splashed open its gates on June 1, bringing a wave of excitement with it.

With over 40 large water attractions and a massive 200,000 square meters of play area, the park is the city's ultimate destination for thrill-seekers and families alike looking to beat the heat this summer.

Hold on tight as you twist and turn through the "Deep Sea Python" or get swept away by the "Super Tornado." For a journey through a different kind of wonderland, step into the "Mystic Journey & Cyber Space" or race down the "Giant Octopus Slide." If you're in the mood for a more leisurely float, the "Lazy River" and "Maya Water Village" are calling your name, along



The super slide resembling a gigantic horn is a popular attraction. — Ti Gong

with five family-friendly play zones that promise fun for all ages.

The park isn't just about the rides, however, it's also about the vibes. Get your groove on at the "Water Music Party" where resident DJs are spinning beats and getting everyone

moving to the rhythm of the waves.

Step into a world of ancient culture with the "Tribal Carnival Grand Parade," where you can immerse yourself in the spirit of the Maya. For those who like a bit of friendly competition, the "Joyful Hi-Wave Water Sports Meeting" and "Tribal Water Gun Battle" are sure to get your adrenaline pumping.

Planning your visit just got a lot easier - and more affordable - with the introduction of "Early Bird Tickets" priced at just 99 yuan (US\$13.65), valid from June 1 to June 30.

The park is also offering a 599 yuan annual pass that activates 365 days of unlimited fun during the park's operational period. That's a year of sun, water and unforgettable memories for the price of a few summer outings.