

# Many outdoor options make Jiading summer bearable

With temperatures rising in summer, life at home becomes more comfortable by turning on the air-conditioner. However, this is not always healthy and increases power costs. To make your summer in Jiading more comfortable, try the following places, which are naturally cool and free.

## Green forest and fish pool

Pick a fine day, head north along Shengxin Road and turn right after passing Lianqihe Bridge to Jiabao Forest and Fish Pool.

Clean water and green trees will immediately make you feel cool and relaxed. The 1 hectare pool contains different varieties of fish including herring and grass carp. In addition, there are barbecues available for 15 yuan.

There are more than 20 little forests in Jiading, many with such fishing pools. If you don't fish, just enjoy the green environment.

Jiabao Forest, covering more than 213 hectares, is one of the largest in Shanghai and hosts more than 130 tree varieties, as well as small animals like rabbits and hedgehogs.

## Romantic parks

This summer, many parks in Jiading are adopting a romantic theme and offer many special activities.

From June 26 to August 30, Guyi Garden is holding a flower show with over 300 kinds of lotus. At the same time, female college students will compete for the title of

"lotus girl."

In Malu Grapes Park, you can look at the grape garden as well as take a boat ride through the aquatic grapes garden.

The most romantic award definitely goes to the famous Wisteria Garden, which is the "holy land" for lovers. Getting into the wisteria trellis on a summer day with your lover is definitely heart warming.

## Swimming

There are several different public swimming pools — indoor and outdoor — in Jiading. The Shen Jianqiang Club and Yingyuan Hotel pools offer monthly, seasonal and yearly passes.

The pool at Automobile Industry Activity Center is not cheap, but swimming time is not limited to a day, and prices include drinks and snacks. The sauna, gym and an artificial beach are free for swimmers.

## Plazas

Plazas are Jiading people's favorite destinations, especially in summer.

Almost every town and community has at least one plaza, which livens up after dark.

Old men fly kites and practice *tai chi*; middle-aged people dance to familiar music; youths and children laugh around the fountain. There's happiness in the air to fill your heart.

Just pick one night and take a look at the plazas. You may find the summer nights amazing and exciting.



Beautiful view of the garden of Aurora Group — Shi Xunfeng

## Keeping down heat and energy costs

Huan Huan

Every time when it comes to summer, my family's energy costs rapidly increase. This summer will be the same, and my father cannot fall asleep even with the air-conditioner on. He'd rather sleep to the noise of television.

For me, I like to keep my computer on to download movies overnight. However, several days ago, after my mother almost fainted when seeing the energy bill, we were determined to begin a "revolution" in our energy use.

First there's the shower. Now my mother has closely scheduled regular shower times every day, from 8pm, one after another.

It saves energy since the water heater works continuously.

Also, it's a time when you often feel tired after dinner and watch television so you save energy by not turning it on.

Then there are the computers. Of course, they should be shut down when not used but that's not enough.

Remember to unplug them because it may save you 4-10 percent of energy costs. Since I always forget to do so, I bought an energy-saving outlet, which automatically cuts the power when the computer is shut down. So, even if I forget to unplug, it doesn't cost money.

Last but also the biggest problem is the air-conditioner.

It's something that people both love and hate — you love it when you feel cool in a room during summer, and you hate it when you catch a cold.

So my mother decided that we could only turn it on when it's extremely hot, when the temperature is above 26 degrees Celsius, which is environmentally friendly as well as good for the health.

However, those hot days are very tough without air-conditioning.

But mum has come up with some great ideas — we made ice blocks in the freezer and put them into very big vacuum flasks without lids. We then aimed the fan toward them.

The ensuing breeze is soft and comfortable and, most importantly, it's cool.

It works just like an air-conditioner, but with much less cost.

After we take all these measures, we're no longer afraid of seeing the energy bill, and our life has become more interesting and comfortable.

(Translated by Pan Zheng)

# Rich heritage of ancient bridges

## Zhang Lichun and Pan Zheng

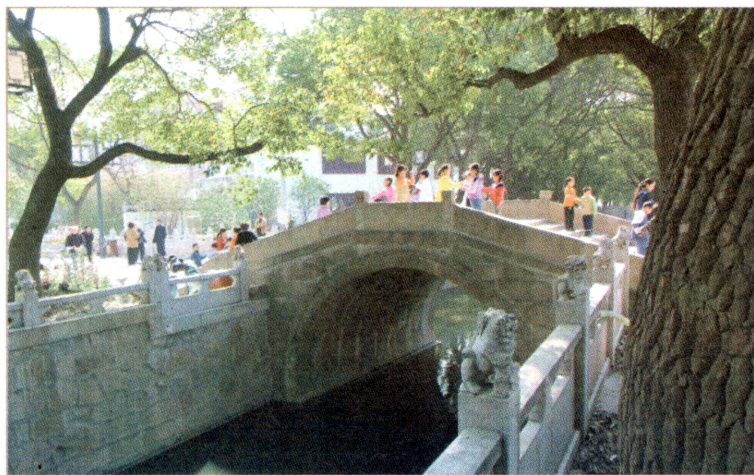
Located on the coast of the East China Sea, Jiading is a typical water town in southern China. A lot of bridges have been built in Jiading since the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) and some are still in use today.

In Jiading, most ancient bridges are built in the beautiful arch style, which allow for greater height for boats to pass under.

There were over 400 bridges in Jiading at the beginning of the last century, however only 58 retain their original appearances.

Most of them were built in the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, with a few from the Yuan (1271-1368) and Song (960-1279) dynasties.

The bridges are mostly located in the centers of Jiading's towns. There used to be 22 bridges over the Lianqi River and the Hengli River by the end of the Qing Dynasty. The famous



Children play games on the ancient Yansi Bridge in Anting Town. — Chen Qiyu

ones, such as the Denglong Bridge, the Taiping Bridge in Nanxiang Town and the Yansi Bridge in Anting Town, are all located in the town centers.

However with modern development, some of the ancient bridges

did not survive and some, such as the Guangping Bridge, the Gongbao Bridge and the Zhengxian Bridge, which were built in the Song Dynasty, were removed in 1970.

But most bridges have survived,

although their appearance has changed. In Jiading, there used to be some grand ancient arch bridges.

Ying'en Bridge, a stone bridge with three arches in Huangdu Town, was built in 1699. With 50 steps on both sides of the bridge, it towered over the residential houses.

Standing on the bridge, people could take in the whole surrounding landscape. However, it was rebuilt as a single arched bridge with steel and concrete and renamed the Dongfeng Bridge.

Also, there was the Qianqiu Bridge which was built in 1759 and was designated one of the Top 8 attractions of Huangdu Town. In 1937, it was damaged by the Japanese army and repaired as a level stone bridge. But in 1983, it was finally removed and a new concrete arch bridge was built west of the original site.

The heritage of the ancient bridges, whether removed or preserved, all reflect the area's history.