THE MAGNIFICENT NATURE OF CHINA

Preface

China is home to a vast, surpassingly beautiful territory with a variety of natural landscapes. As of 2019, China has established 474 national nature reserves, 897 national forest parks, 1,051 scenic and historic areas, 613 geoparks, and 111 special marine protected areas (marine parks), which have become tourist hot spots for both domestic and foreign travelers.

In 2005, a committee of 200 scientists, sociologists, writers, and photographers selected 114 sites that best reflect the natural splendor of China from a pool of 500 candidates. This exhibition is a collection of photographs of these pristine landscapes divided into 15 categories—mountains, lakes, deserts, Danxia landforms, peak forests, yardangs, canyons, waterfalls, glaciers, forests, coasts, wetlands, caves, grasslands, and islands—displaying China’s natural beauty to the world.
Mountains

Mount Gongga is the main peak of the Daxue Range located south of the city of Kangding in Sichuan province. At 7,556 meters above sea level, it is also the highest peak in the Hengduan Mountain range. Known as the “King of Sichuan Mountains”, it is also the highest peak in the province, and has been dubbed one of China’s ten most beautiful mountains.
Mount Qomolangma is the main peak of the Himalayas on the border between China and Nepal. Its northern part is in Tingri, Tibet, while its southern slopes lie in Nepal. It is the world’s tallest peak at 8,844.43 meters above sea level according to a 2005 measurement, and one of China’s ten most beautiful mountains.
Meili Snow Mountain is a massive chain running north-south 150 km within the border of Zayü county, Tibet and Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan. Its tallest peak is Kawakarpo, which rises to 6,740 meters and is surrounded by 13 peaks each higher than 6,000 meters. Meili Snow Mountain is known as one of China’s ten most beautiful mountains.
黄山位于中国安徽省南部黄山市境内，有七十二峰，主峰莲花峰海拔1864.8米。黄山以“奇”闻名，是花岗岩造景、兼得奇松、云海、日出、晚霞、佛光、雾凇等景观，被评为“中国最美的十大名山”之一。

“Huangshan”  
Photo by Sun Zhongmin

Huangshan Mountain is located within the city of Huangshan in Anhui. It has 72 peaks, the largest of which is the 1,864.8-meter-high Lotus Peak. Huangshan is known for its miraculous granite landscapes, which include peculiar pines, cloud-tipped peaks, stunning sunrises and sunsets, “Buddha's Light” rings, and rimes. Huangshan has been called one of China’s ten most beautiful mountains.
Mount Tai stretches across three cities in eastern Shandong province: Tai'an, Jinan, and Zibo. The main peak, Jade Emperor Peak, rises 1,532.7 meters above sea level. Mount Tai, which is known as one of China’s ten most beautiful mountains, has great cultural importance as well, as it is a major ceremonial place for the emperor to worship Heaven and Earth in ancient China.
峨眉山位于中国四川省西南部、四川盆地的西南边缘，距峨眉山市7公里，是中国“四大佛教名山”之一，主峰万佛顶海拔3099米，从山脚至山顶，相对高差2000多米，形成直上云天的雄伟山势。峨眉山被评为“中国最美的十大名山”之一。

“Mount Emei”  
Photo by Tian Jiyan

Mount Emei sits along the southwest margins of the Sichuan basin 7 km away from Emei city. It is one of the “Four Sacred Mountains of Buddha” and its main peak, Wanfo Summit (Ten-Thousand Buddhas Summit), rises 3,099 meters above sea level. The 2,000-meter upward sweep of the main peak’s cliff gives the mountain a grandiose profile. Mount Emei is one of China’s ten most beautiful mountains.
二、湖泊

Lakes

“Qinghai Lake”
Photo by Ge Yuxiu

Qinghai Lake, China’s largest interior lake, is a salt lake located in the eastern portion of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau within the province of Qinghai. Its surface is 3,260 meters above sea level, its total area is 4,340 square km, and it has a shoreline more than 360 km long. It is known as one of China’s five most beautiful lakes.
“Kanas Lake”  Photo by Li Xueliang

Kanas Lake is located in the Alay prefecture of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. It is positioned 1,374 meters above sea level and has a total area of 45.73 square km. Kanas Lake is China’s deepest moraine-dammed lake at 188.5 meters deep. The lake’s east and west banks are covered in primeval taiga forests of conifer and white birch trees, giving the area a singular appeal and making the lake one of China’s five most beautiful lakes.
West Lake is a cultural symbol of the city of Hangzhou in Zhejiang province. It is not only a source of scenic beauty, but also a treasure trove of rich folklore and poetry. Its eastern romanticism has inspired generations of historical figures, and it is known as one of China’s five most beautiful lakes.
Deserts

“Badain Jaran Desert” Photo by Gao Dongfeng

Badain Jaran Desert, home of the world's tallest sand dunes, is the third largest desert in China and the largest in Inner Mongolia. Amid its massive dunes one finds more than 140 lakes, which are mostly salt lakes. Badain Jaran Desert is one of China's five most beautiful deserts.
塔克拉玛干沙漠位于塔里木盆地中央，面积为3.76万平方公里，是中国最大的沙漠，也是世界上第二大流动沙漠。塔克拉玛干沙丘类型复杂多样，包含了中国境内几乎所有的沙丘类型。它被评为“中国最美的五大沙漠”之一。

“Taklamakan Desert”
Photo by Li Xueliang

Taklamakan Desert, located in the center of the Tarim Basin, is China’s largest desert and the world’s second largest shifting sand desert, with an area of 337,600 square km. Its incredibly diverse assortment of dunes comprises nearly all the types found within China’s borders. Taklamakan Desert has been dubbed one of China’s five most beautiful deserts.
“Gurbantünggüt Desert”
Photo by Hao Pei

Gurbantünggüt Desert, China’s second largest desert, can be found in the middle region of the Junggar Basin in Xinjiang. The desert’s generous east-west expanse makes it an ideal winter pasture for Xinjiang herdsmen. Gurbantünggüt Desert’s wind-formed longitudinal dunes, which stretch north-south for more than 10 km, help make it one of China’s five most beautiful deserts.
Mount Danxia in Renhua

Mount Danxia, in Renhua, located in Guangdong's Shaoguan city is home to a vast, spectacular landscape of fantastic red cliffs. The Mount Danxia range was where the first Danxia rock formations were discovered. Mount Danxia is one of China’s seven most beautiful Danxia landforms.
The Wuyi Mountain range, located in northern Fujian, occupies an area of 70 square km, 54.4 square km of which are Danxia formations. The average height of the mountains’ peaks is 350 meters. There is a 9.5-km-long creek that winds through the range, creating a wonderful contrast between the red rocks and blue waters. The Wuyi Mountain range is one of China’s seven most beautiful Danxia landforms.
Golden Lake, located in Taining, northwestern Fujian, is part of the middle section of the Wuyi Mountain range. It is home to China’s largest aquatic Danxia formation, featuring towering red peaks linked together by the waters of the lake, and it is one of China’s seven most beautiful Danxia landforms.
The Danxia landforms of Bajiao Stockaded Village can be found in Xinning county in Hunan along the border with Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The Zi River, one of the tributaries of the Yangtze River, flows from Langshan Mountain down to Bajiao Stockaded Village, encircling its many Danxia cliffs. This area is known as the “Soul of Danxia” and is one of China’s seven most beautiful Danxia landforms.
“Guilin-Yangshuo Li River Landscape”  Photo by Jiang Jiang

The Li River, a part of the Pearl River drainage system, flows from the highest peak in Southern China, Kitten Mountain. The most beautiful scenery of the Li River can be found along an 83-km stretch from Xishi Mountain in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region’s Guilin to Green Lotus Peak in Yangshuo. The Li River landscape combines karst formations, peak forests, caves, deep ponds, perilous shoals, sheer cliffs, and waterfalls, and it is considered one of China’s five most beautiful peak forests.
武陵源石英砂岩峰林位于中国湖南省西北部，澧水之上游，属武陵山区腹地。峰林区连绵26000多公顷，分布着3000余座砂岩柱和砂岩峰，40多个洞和两座天然形成的巨大石桥，是全国乃至全球最典型的石英砂岩峰林地貌，被评为“中国最美的五大峰林”之一。

"Wulingyuan Quartzite Sandstone Peak Forests"  Photo by Sun Jianhua

The quartzite sandstone peak forests of Wulingyuan are located in northwestern Hunan along the middle and upper reaches of the Lishui River as part of the interior of the Wuling Mountains. The peak forests stretch across more than 26,000 hectares, including more than 3,000 sandstone formations; more than 40 caves; and two massive, naturally-formed stone bridges. It is one of the finest quartzite sandstone peak forest formations in China and even the entire world, and it is considered one of the country’s five most beautiful peak forests.
Forest of Ten Thousand Peaks

Forest of Ten Thousand Peaks is in southeastern Xingyi in Guizhou. It is one of China’s most pristine examples of developed karst landforms. The Forest of Ten Thousand Peaks covers an area of 2,000 square km, taking up approximately two thirds of the city of Xingyi. It contains the finest cone karst specimens in the world and is one of China’s five most beautiful peak forests.
Mount Sanqing Granite Peak Forest is located on the border between Dxing city and Yushan county in northern Jiangxi. With an area of 220 square km, it gets its name from its three main summits—Yujing, Yuxu, and Yuhua—which are compared to the “Three Pure Ones” of the Taoist trinity. Its impressive granite cracks and joints have made it the most beautiful granite formation in the Western Pacific Rim, and it has been called one of the five most beautiful peak forests of China.

Photo by Zhong Mingji
“Qaramay shehiri Orku Yardangs”
Photo by Ju Jianxin

The Qaramay shehiri Orku Yardangs, also known as the Demon City or the Orku Wind City, are located in the Orku mining site along the northwestern edges of the Junggar Basin in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, 100 km from Qaramay shehiri in the southwest. The strong wind eroded the sandstone formations to "yardangs landform", which was rated as one of China’s three most beautiful yardangs.
The Lop Nor White Dragon Yardangs, which cover 1,000 square km, are located along the northeastern side of Lop Nor in northern Chaqiliq nahiyyisi in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. They include wind-formed dunes of 200 meters to several km long which resemble great white dragons in the desert from afar. They are known as one of China’s three most beautiful yardangs.
The Sanlongsha Yardang, which has an area of 100 square km, located to the east of the Sanlongsha dune field in the Aqik Valley in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, is a part of the overall yardang formations of Lop Nor. The forms of the Sanlongsha Yardang evoke imagery of soaring pavilions, cruising fleets, and even people and animals, making it one of the most unique yardangs in China. The Sanlongsha Yardang has been dubbed one of China’s three most beautiful yardangs.
“Three Gorges” Photo by Zheng Yunfeng
The Three Gorges ranges 192 km from Baidi town in Fengjie county, Sichuan, in the west to Nanjin Pass in Yichang, Hubei. Formed from multiple wide river valleys, it contains 90 km of gorge, and is considered one of China’s ten most beautiful canyons. This photo displays Qutang Gorge, the westernmost of the Three Gorges, which stretches approximately 8 km from Baidi to Daxi. Though it is the shortest of the Three Gorges, it is the most magnificent.
The Nujiang River Canyon runs approximately 300 km from Cawarong, Zayu county, Tibet in the north to Lushui city, the capital city of the Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan in the south. It is the steepest canyon along Nujiang River, with an average height of above 2,000 meters. Tea Horse Road, a caravan route that runs along the canyon, encompasses nearly a thousand years of history. The Nujiang River Canyon is known as one of China’s ten most beautiful canyons.
The Lancang River Canyon is located in Yunnan’s Dechen county, running 100 km from Foshan township in the north to Yanmen township in the south. Its greatest heights reach 4,734 meters tall. The Lancang River Canyon is one of China’s biggest and most important nature reserves, offering protection to such precious animals as the black snub-nosed monkey and the alpine forest biomes of the Hengduan Mountains. The canyon is known as one of China’s ten most beautiful canyons.
《太行山大峡谷》

太行山大峡谷之不同凡响，在于形成了“太行山峡谷系”：在南北长600公里、东西宽250公里的范围内，拒马河、滹沱河、漳河、沁河以及“太行八陉”近似平行横断太行山脉。这些峡谷地貌形态一致，美学价值颇高，历史文化悠久，被誉为“中国最美的十大峡谷”之一。

“Taihangshan Gorge”

The Taihangshan Gorge forms the “Taihangshan Gorge System,” covering an area 600 km long and 250 km wide that includes Juma River, Hutuo River, Zhang River, Qin River, and the Taihang Baxing (eight passes in Taihang Mountain) which basically run parallel with the gorge. The gorge features uniform landforms that are highly aesthetic and historically significant, making it one of China’s ten most beautiful canyons.
Tianshan Grand Canyon
Photo by Song Shijing

Tianshan Grand Canyon is located at the southern foot of Tian Shan about 64 km north of Kuchar Nahiysiyi in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. It is a river valley of the Kuche River, which is a tributary of the Tarim River. The canyon is 5 km long in total with a depth of 150-200 meters. Its narrowest point is only 1.2 meters wide, making it a classic example of a slot canyon and one of China’s ten most beautiful canyons.
“Detian Falls”  Photo by Li Guiyun

Detian Falls is located on the border between the town of Shuolong in Daxin county, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region bordering Vietnam. Detian Falls has three tiers that descend more than 70 meters. Its widest waterfall is more than 200 meters wide. Detian’s karst rock formations, connected waterfalls, gorges, and lakes give it the appearance of a classical landscape painting, also making it one of China’s six most beautiful waterfalls.
Hukou Waterfall is a rare yellow waterfall located 45 km west of Ji county in Shanxi, 165 km from Linfen. The waterfall descends about 30 meters with a maximum width of more than 1,000 meters. The silt that surges through the water reflects China’s loess culture, and has earned the Hukou Waterfall the title of one of China’s six most beautiful waterfalls.
Jiulong Waterfall, named after the Jiulong River, is located in Luoping county in eastern Yunnan. The falls have ten tiers interspaced with shoals and deep ponds. Within this system, the most impressive waterfall is the “Shenlong Waterfall,” which is 112 meters wide and descends 56 meters. There is a 10-meter-deep cave directly behind the waterfall, and the water drops off into a circular pond of immeasurable depth. Jiulong Waterfall is known as one of China’s six most beautiful waterfalls.
“Nuorilang Waterfall”  Photo by Tian Jieyan

Nuorilang Waterfall is located 2,365 meters above sea level in Sichuan’s Jiuzhaigou Valley. At its most intense, the waterfall is 325 meters wide and 30-40 meters tall, making it one of the biggest travertine waterfalls in China, as well as the country’s widest. There are 18 lakes of various sizes among the upper reaches of the Nuorilang Waterfall. The falls pass through dense thickets, creating the impression of waterfalls going through a forest. Nuorilang Waterfall is one of China’s six most beautiful waterfalls.
The Huangguoshu Waterfall derives from the Dabang River, which is a tributary of the Beigan River in the Pearl River drainage system. It is 77.8 meters high, 81 meters wide, and there is a 134-meter-long cave concealed behind the main waterfall. This cave has 6 lookouts, 5 interior halls, and 3 springs. Visitors can descry the waterfall through the portals of the lookouts from within the cave. Huangguoshu Waterfall is one of China's six most beautiful waterfalls.
Glaciers

“Mount Tomur Glacier”  Photo by Ma Zhanfeng

Situated 7,443.8 meters above sea level on the border between China and Kyrgyzstan, Mount Tomur is the highest peak of Tian Shan. Mount Tomur includes 829 glaciers, 510 of which are within China’s borders. The Mount Tomur Glacier itself is 32 km long, making it China’s longest glacier and one of the country’s six most beautiful glaciers.
Teram Kangri Glacier is located in the source zone of the Yarkant River in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. It is a 28-km-long glacier of the Teram Kangri massif (7,441 meters above sea level), a subrange of the Karakoram Range. Starting from an altitude of 5,200 meters to the tip of the glacier, there are approximately 11 km of glacier that have developed dozens of impressive serac bands. The Teram Kangri Glacier is one of China’s six most beautiful glaciers.
“Baima Snow Mountains Rhododendron Lapponicum Forest”
Photo by Yang Tao

The Baima Snow Mountains, located in the middle region of the Hengduan Mountain Range, is a dividing range between Lancang River and Jinsha River under the administration of Dechen county, which is a part of Yunnan’s Diqing Tibetan autonomous prefecture, where Rhododendron lapponicum, a type of azalea flower, bloom in the spring and summer, painting the mountainside with their dazzling colors. The Baima Snow Mountains Rhododendron Lapponicum Forest is one of China’s ten most beautiful forests.
"Tian Shan Xueling Spruce Forest" Photo by Ju Jianxin

The Xueling spruce trees are the living fossils of Tian Shan with 40 million years of life history. They are mostly spread among the snow-covered northern and southern slopes of Tianshan mountain in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The forest extends 1,800 km latitudinally along the western portion of the Kunlun and Junggar Mountains. It is the main alpine coniferous forest in the Central Asian desert belt and has been called one of China's ten most beautiful forests.
“Changbai Mountain Broad Leaf Red Pine Forest”
Photo by Sang Yuzhu

In China, there are only two well-preserved primeval red pine forests, in the Lesser Khingan mountain range and on Changbai Mountain respectively. The Changbai Mountain Broad Leaf Red Pine Forest is located within the Jinjiang Valley in Jilin province. It features dense forests that change appearance with the seasons, and it is known as one of China’s ten most beautiful forests.
《西双版纳热带雨林》 周勇 摄

地处中国云南省澜沧江谷地的西双版纳热带雨林，堪称动植物的王国，被评为“中国最美的十大森林”之一。热带雨林特有的板根、老茎开花、空中花园现象以及绞杀植物、独木成林的大榕树等在这里都能见到。

“Xishuang Banna Tropical Rainforest”   Photo by Zhou Yong

Xishuang banna Tropical Rainforest, located in the Lancang River Valley Basin in Yunnan, is home to an impressive array of flora and fauna. Known as one of China’s ten most beautiful forests, it features buttress roots, cauliflory, hanging gardens, strangler plants, great banyan trees, and more.
“Luntai Huyang Poplar Forest Park”    Photo by Cao Sen

At the foot of Tian Shan in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region’s Luntai county along the northern edge of Tarim Basin is over 26,667 hectares of poplar forest. Known as a living fossil from the Tertiary, it is the world’s largest poplar forest by area and the most densely thicketed. Huyang Poplar Forest is a symbol of life’s tenacity, as it thrives in inhospitable conditions, spreading evenly among the riverbed of the entirety of the Tarim River basin. It is known as one of China’s ten most beautiful forests.
"Libo Karst Forest"  Photo by Xiao Wenlin

Libo Karst Forest is located within the borders of Libo County in Guizhou. Here, the karst peaks dip throughout the scenery, featuring crisscrossing karst funnels and depressions in a landscape where karst mountains, rivers, caves, waterfalls, and rocks become one. Libo Karst Forest is home to the world’s best-preserved karst primeval forest. It has been called one of China’s ten most beautiful forests.
“Shunan Bamboo Forest”  Photo by Zhang Hua

Shunan Bamboo Forest in Sichuan’s Changning county was originally called Wanling Jing (ten-thousand hills of bamboo forests). The central part of the forest is mainly comprised of mao zhu bamboo. The forest, which includes 58 different types of bamboo, covers 27 mountains and more than 500 hills. It is 47 square km large, making it China’s biggest bamboo forest and one of the country’s ten most beautiful forests.
“Yalong Bay”  Photo by Shi Huaxun

Yalong Bay in Sanya, Hainan offers an expansive, bright landscape of white sand beaches suitable for leisure all year round. It allows visitors to experience the majesty of the ocean and gives them a chance to integrate with the water. Yalong Bay is one of China’s eight most beautiful coasts.
“Chengshantou”  Photo by Hou Heliang

Chengshantou is located in Longxudao, Rongcheng on the easternmost tip of Shandong Peninsula. It has been called the “Cape of Good Hope of China.” Chengshantou and the surrounding coastline twist and wind to create inlets of varying sizes. Thanks to this and local marine food, it is one of the four largest habitats for swans in the world, earning it the name “Eastern Kingdom of Swans” and status as one of China’s eight most beautiful coasts.
“Yehliu”
Photo by Qi Bolin

Located in Yehliu village, Wanli township, New Taipei City, Taiwan, Yehliu is a promontory jutting about 1,700 meters into the sea. The site features many breathtaking features caused by coastal erosion, such as bizarre rock formations on the nearby beaches, including the famous “Queen’s Head.” Yehliu is one of China’s eight most beautiful coasts.
"Changli Gold Coast"
Photo by Lu Shunping

The Changli Gold Coast is a littoral region in Changli county, Qinhuangdao, Hebei, which features a sandy coastline containing China’s tallest and largest coastal sand dunes. It is an ideal sandboarding resort and also a relay point for migratory birds. Its beaches and sand-blown landforms extend dozens of ten km. Changli Gold Coast is one of China’s eight most beautiful coasts.
《维多利亚海湾》 So Hing-keung 摄

维多利亚海湾位于中国香港的香港岛和九龙半岛之间，是世界三大天然良港之一。维多利亚港宽1.3公里，东西长约10公里，水域总面积达59平方公里，经过150年的开发与建设，沿岸已成为世界著名的金融、交通、旅游购物中心，被评为“中国最美的八大海湾”之一。

“Victoria Harbour”  Photo by So Hing-keung

Victoria Harbour, which separates Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Peninsula in Hong Kong, is one of the world’s three largest natural harbours. 1.3 km wide, 10 km long, and with an overall area of 59 square km, Victoria Harbour has been developed for 150 years and has already become a world-famous financial, transportation, travel, and shopping center. It is one of China’s eight most beautiful coasts.
“Chongwu Coast”    Photo by Chen Hao

Chongwu Coast is located 24 km southeast of Huian county in Fujian in the southernmost tip of the Chongwu Peninsula. Surrounded on three sides by water, Chongwu Coast offers great seaside views, historical sites, and local flavor. It uniquely blends its old city with the marine environment, making it one of China’s eight most beautiful coasts.
Xisha Islands Qilian Yu
Photo by Zha Chunming

The Xisha Islands are located in the north-western part of the South China Sea, and they are formed by two groups of atolls in the east and west respectively. The group in the east, formed from 7 islets, is known as Xuande Qundao. Its main island is Yongxing Island. The group in the east, made up of 8 islets, is known as Yongle Qundao. The Qilianyu islands were located in the north-eastern of Xuande islands. The Xisha Islands Qilian Yu make up one of China’s ten most beautiful islands.
**“Taiping Island”**  Photo by Tong Kaijian

Taiping Island is located in the Nansha Island archipelago in the southern part of the South China Sea. Which area is 0.43 square km, and it is known as one of China’s ten most beautiful islands.
涠洲岛位于中国广西壮族自治区北海市南面，南北长约6公里，东西宽5公里。涠洲岛是中国最大、最年轻的火山岛，岛的南部有大量火山地貌景观，岛的北部有沙堤和沙滩，平坦开阔，岛城海底还有珊瑚礁群落。多样的海岛景观使这里有了“南海蓬莱岛”的美称，被评为“中国最美的十大海岛”之一。

“Weizhou Island”
Photo by Zhang Zhan

Weizhou Island can be found south of Beihai in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. At 6 km long and 5 km wide, Weizhou Island is China’s largest and youngest volcano island. The southern part of the island is marked by volcanic landforms, while the northern half features sandbanks and beaches. The island is flat and open and surrounded by coral reefs. Its unique landscape has earned it the moniker “Penglai Island of the South China Sea,” and it is known as one of China’s ten most beautiful islands.
南麂岛位于中国浙江省平阳县鳌江口外30海里的东海海面上，距温州市区50海里。南麂岛的外形像一只奔跑的山麂，因而得名。周围多岛屿，是国家级海洋类型自然保护区，被评为“中国最美的十大海岛”之一。

“Nanji Island”
Photo by Jiang Guangshu

Nanji Island is located 50 nautical miles from Wenzhou in the East China Sea, 30 nautical miles from the Aojiang Port in Pingyang county, Zhejiang. The island gets its name from its resemblance to a running muntjac, as nanji in Chinese means “southern muntjac”. Nanji Island is surrounded by islets, and is also a national-level marine nature reserve, making it one of China’s ten most beautiful islands.
《庙岛列岛》 顾小军 摄

庙岛列岛位于中国山东半岛与辽东半岛之间，黄海和渤海交汇处。岛礁面积56平方公里，属长岛县，由32个岛屿、25个岛礁组成。庙岛列岛属于基岩岛，因此地势陡峭，地貌多样，被评为“中国最美的十大海岛”之一。

“Miaodao Archipelago”
Photo by Gu Xiaojun

Located between Jiaodong Peninsula and Liaodong Peninsula at the confluence of the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea, Miaodao Archipelago belong to Changdao County—which covers an area 56 square km large—is composed of 32 islands and 25 islets. The islands are rocky islands with precipitous terrain and diverse landforms. The Miaodao Archipelago is one of China’s ten most beautiful islands.
Wetlands

“Zoigê Marsh”
Photo by Lù Linglong

The Zoigê Marsh extends across Sichuan and Gansu and includes the Xiaman, Zoigê, Manzhatang, Shouqu, and Naihai nature reserves. At nearly 10,000 square km large, it is the world’s biggest and best-preserved plateau marsh, and one of China’s six most beautiful wetlands.
“Bayanbulak Wetland”  Photo by Wang Yaoshi

Located at the southern foot of Tian Shan and northwest of Jingxian County, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 636 km from Korla Shehiri, the Bayanbulak Wetland covers approximately 23,000 square km across an elevation ranging from 2,000 to 2,500 meters. Each year, hundreds of thousands of birds come here to mate. The Bayanbulak Wetland is the world’s largest swan breeding ground and one of China’s six most beautiful wetlands.
The Sanjiang Plain Wetland, an alluvial plain wetland, is formed from the alluviation of the Songhua River, Heilongjiang River, and Ussuri River. The wetland is a richly colorful environment thanks to the crisscrossing and hilly terrain. It is one of China’s six most beautiful wetlands.
“Yellow River Delta Wetland”  Photo by Wu Sa

The Yellow River Delta Wetland, located along the coast of the Bohai Sea in northeastern Shandong, is the most extensive, best-preserved, and youngest wetland ecosystem in a warm temperate zone on earth. The wetland covers a portion of Binzhou prefecture and almost the entirety of Dongying. This constantly growing land is formed from an annual 1.21 billion cubic meters of sediment form the Yellow River. It is one of China’s six most beautiful wetlands.
Zhalong Wetland can be found in Songnen Plain in the southeastern portion of Qiqihar in western Heilongjiang. Its innumerable reeds are fed by the downstream waters of the Wuyner River. It is an extremely popular breeding ground for birds, as well as home to the most diverse and greatest number of cranes in China. Zhalong Wetland is one of the world’s richest areas for cranes and one of China’s six most beautiful wetlands.
Grasslands

“Ili Grassland”
Photo by Li Xueliang

Ili Grassland is located in western Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in the Ili River Valley north of Tian Shan. It is composed of several grasslands, including Nalat, Kalajun, Kuerdening, Bayanbulak, Tangbula, and Kongnaiz. Ili Grassland is surrounded by mountain ranges in the north, east, and south. It receives moist air from the open west, which has made it known as an “island of moisture” in the badlands and one of China’s six most beautiful wetlands.
The Hulunbuir Grassland is located in Hulunbuir prefecture-level city, west of the Great Xingan mountains range in Inner Mongolia. The Hulunbuir Grassland is flat with tall, dense grass and many winding rivers, making it suitable for grazing animals; in fact, the Sanhe breeds of horse and ox come from this area. Hulunbuir Grassland is one of China’s six most beautiful grasslands.
“Nagqu Frigid Grassland”  

Located in Tibet’s Nagqu prefecture, the Nagqu Frigid Grassland is encircled by the Dangla and Nyenchen Tanglha mountain ranges, which places it at an average elevation of more than 4,200 meters. Known for its vastness and frigid climate, it is an exemplar of China’s high-cold steppe biome and one of the country’s six most beautiful grasslands.
“Xilin Gol Grassland”
Photo by E Bo

Located in mideast Inner Mongolia, the Xilin Gol Grassland, a vast, expansive area, covers 179,600 square km. Its most impressive features include the Xilin River Bend, Xilin River, Dalinur River, and the Pingdingshan volcanic group. Xilin Gol Grassland is one of China’s six most beautiful grasslands.
Caves

“Zhijin Cave”
Photo by Li Guiyun

Zhijin Cave is located in Guanzhai village township, Zhijin county, Guizhou on the south bank of Wujiang River, which is one of the origins of the Linchong River, 120 km from Guiyang. Zhijin Cave is large, incredible, and comprehensive. Not only is it big, but it is highly diverse; there is a large variety of densely distributed sediment in its central region, which gives it the majestic look seen in the photo. Zhijin Cave is one of China’s six most beautiful caves open to tourists.
“Furong Cave”    Photo by Li Guiyun

Furong Cave is located in the middle of a mountain on the left bank of the Furong River, which is a tributary of the Wujiang River, near the town of Jiangkou in Wulong District, Chongqing. It is home to the world’s largest sediment pool. There are 108 vertical shafts running through Furong Cave within a range of 10 kms, and the cave itself has more than 100 different types of sediment. Furong Cave is one of China’s six most beautiful caves open to tourists.
Huanglong Cave is located in a mountain in the Suoxi Valley nature reserve, which is in the Wulingyuan scenic area in Zhangjiajie, Hunan. Huanglong Cave, which is a limestone cave formed from groundwater erosion, consists of four layers of dry and water tunnels running 13 km. The two water layers and two dry layers intersect with each other to create a complex, spiraling structure. The biggest cave hall covers 12,000 square meters of land area and capable of holding more than 10,000 people. Huanglong Cave is one of China’s six most beautiful caves open to tourists.
“Tenglong Cave”  
Photo by Sun Jianhua

Located in Lichuan, Hubei, Tenglong Cave is the largest of China’s nearly 400 tourist caves and the world’s seventh longest known cave. It features water tunnels, dry tunnels, catfish caves, cool wind tunnels, Dujia village, three dragon gates, and the immortal pit. It is one of China’s six most beautiful caves open to tourists.
"Benxi Water Cave"

Benxi Water Cave is 35 km northeast of Benxi, Liaoning. It is the longest known underground water-filled cave in the world, and the longest cavernous watercourse in China with about 3,000 meters of developed underground river. Its water is clear and never dries up, and the cave has broad tunnels with grandiose scenery on its cavernous banks. Benxi Water Cave is one of China’s six most beautiful caves open to tourists.
Presented by:
Bureau of International Exchanges and Cooperation, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China

Produced by:
Network of International Culturalink Entities
Chinese National Geography Magazine