

300,000 years of history at a glance

By HAO NAN haonan@chinadaily.com.cn

ic Zone. north, Shandong province. ing and Huizhou.

– the Yangtze and Huaihe tant cradles of China's pre- the Yangtze River.

county.

The province of Anhui as The Xuejiagang cultural about 61.96 million were per- producing province and also Anhui province is located it is known today was estab- site, which was excavated in manent residents. one of China's important proin East China, with Hefei lished in 1667 by the Kangxi Qianshan county, indicating Anhui has valuable resourc- duction bases for pollution as the provincial capital. It Emperor during the Qing the presence of humans in the es in light, heat and water and free and organic farm prodadjoins Jiangsu and Zheji- Dynasty (1644-1911). The area between 5,000 and 6,000 abundant flora and fauna. ucts. ang provinces in the east and name of the province comes years ago, is mostly comprised. There are 104 nature reserves. Anhui is home to a variety Hubei and Henan provinces from the combination of the of remains from the Neolithic in the province, including of mineral resources, with 128 in the west. To the south lies first characters of two prefec- Age. It has important aca- eight national-level reserves kinds of minerals discovered Jiangxi province, and to the tures' names at the time: Ang- demic value for the research and 30 provincial-level there. of primitive cultures in the reserves. Endangered species Anhui is home to 11 nation China's two major waterways Anhui is one of the impor-middle and lower reaches of found in the province include al 5A-level tourist attractions

rivers — flow through Anhui historical civilization. Evi- The province covers an area white-flag dolphin. The Anhui Famous tourist spots include and divide the province into dence of human activity in the of 140,100 square kilometers, Yangtze Alligator Reserve is Huangshan Mountain, Jiuhua three topographic forms: region dating back to some 2.5 accounting for about 1.45 per- the only artificial breeding Mountain, Hongcun village, plain, hilly areas and moun-million years ago were found cent of China's total land area. base for Chinese alligators Taohua Pool and the Hefei tainous regions. It is home to in Fanchang county and a It has 16 prefecture-level cit- worldwide. China's fifth-largest freshwa-site containing relics from ies, six county-level cities, 55 The province also boasts province received 522 million ter lake, Chaohu Lake, and the Paleolithic Age, between counties and 44 city districts. rich agricultural resources, at Chinese visitors, up 17.7 peran important part of the 300,000 and 400,000 years By the end of 2016, the prov- the forefront of the country cent year-on-year.

Yangtze River Delta Econom- ago, was discovered in Hexian ince had a registered popula- in terms of output of grain, tion of 70.27 million, of which cotton and oil. It is a large tea

Chinese alligators and the and 167 4A-level attractions. Wildlife Zoo. In 2016, the



he Jiuhua Mountain (left) and the Chaohu Lake represent the typical mountain and water landscapes in the province.









e provincial capital of Hefei is a modern metropolis and a hub for science and technology in the region.

n international promotional fair for Anhui is being held today in Beijing, aiming to make the East China province's recent development, business opportunities and glorious culture better known to the world. The event, organized by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has attracted the attention of foreign diplomats in China, representatives for international organizations and multinational companies as well as international media. Anhui's authorities expect to use the event to showcase Anhui's business environment to international investors, attractions for foreign tourists and the province's determination to integrate into the global economy.

of Anhui province. He said Anhui is an important part of several key national already operational.

and the Yangtze River Delta Economic Zone. When visiting Anhui in April last year, Chinese President Xi ment totaled \$760 million.

y reforms and innovations.

central and western regions through a comprehensive transpor- Base – a joint education and research program between Anhui's growth.

Anhui is on the lower reaches of the Yangtze River – the Party chief of Hefei University. western regions along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and try 4.0. lk Road Economic Belt.

Zone in the south.

ment and reform commission.

ation system consisting of waterways, highways, railways and Hefei University and Germany's Stralsund University of Applied Science – began operations last year, according to Cai Jingmin, New opportunities

on the river, the province is linked to the world through shipping broke ground in Hefei, aiming to integrate the two nations' governor of Anhui.

regions and beyond.

He said Anhui has launched a total of 106 projects for invest-These programs include the Hefei-Xinjiang-Europe freight good position to overtake advanced manufacturing and high-tech Contact the writer through zhaoshijun@chinadaily.com.cn

ment and trade cooperation with countries along the trade routes train line initiated in 2015, the Guangzhou-Hefei-Los Angeles car- industries from Shanghai and Jiangsu. Anhui is on its way to becoming a new frontier in China's since the Belt and Road Initiative began in 2013. The combined go flight launched in 2016, the Hefei Cross-Border E-Commerce One location poised to witness and support the industrial shift inland regions' opening-up, according to Li Jinbin, Party chief value of such projects amounted to 962.4 billion yuan (\$140 bil- Pilot Zone established in 2016 and the Hefei Airport Bonded is the Wanjiang City Belt, a region in south-central Anhui that lion). More than half of the projects are under construction or Logistics Center set up in 2016. These facilities are expected to includes the province's major cities like Hefei, Wuhu, Ma'anshan, boost foreign investment and international trade for Anhui. Anging, Chuzhou, Chizhou, Tongling, Xuancheng and Lu'an

development strategies, including the Belt and Road Initiative Last year alone, 13 multinational companies from Belt and Anhui's fruitful cooperation with these regions has caused The city belt runs roughly parallel to the Yangtze golden Road countries established operations in Anhui. Their invest- a rise in the province's inbound investment and international waterway, ensuring that products in Anhui can be effectively transported to the vast hinterland of central and western China trade inping also encouraged Anhui to blaze a new trail for the devel- In the same period, companies in Anhui set up 27 enterprises According to the Anhui Bureau of Commerce, a total of 121 and to overseas markets.

opment of central China, based on its own advantages and driven in countries along the routes, with total investment of \$73.27 foreign-funded projects were approved in Anhui last year. The "We are planning to develop a comprehensive, air-land-riveractual foreign investment value in Anhui in 2016 was \$1.24 bil- ocean shipment channel to ease logistics and trade," said Zhang The province is at the crossroads linking China's eastern, The Sino-German Educational Cooperation Demonstration lion, growing 28 percent from 2015 and setting a new record for Xiaozhong, an official at the Anhui Development and Reform Commission, who is responsible for the city belt's development. According to Zhang, improvements to the Yangtze waterway and ports along the river are underway to accommodate larger The province's recent economic development has presented ships. Several new highways and railways linking Anhui to the golden waterway of China". Thanks to its large number of ports A Sino-German smart manufacturing industrial park also new opportunities for international investors, said Li Guoying, rest of the country are either operational or under construction. He also mentioned that the recently built airports in Hefei

routes to the Pacific in the east, as well as China's central and industrial strategies - Made in China 2025 and German Indus- He said Anhui is adjacent to Chinese economic powerhouses and Jiuhuashan and nearly a dozen new cross-Yangtze traffic like Shanghai, Zhejiang and Jiangsu, which are all in the Yangtze channels can play bigger roles in expanding Anhui's transport German automaker Volkswagen signed an agreement with River Delta region. Regional cooperation has been flourishing capacity. The province is also between the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Eco- Anhui's local automaker JAC Motors in September last year for due to the complementary nature of these economies. According to the provincial development and reform com-

nomic Zone in the north and the Pearl River Delta Economic the opening of Volkswagen's third joint venture in China. The Shanghai, Zhejiang and Jiangsu are currently moving their mission, Anhui hopes to enhance its electronic information, venture will mainly produce electric vehicles. manufacturing industries inland due to limited available space advanced manufacturing, automobile, bio-medicine, new energy "Anhui plans to become a pivotal region for the Belt and Road In addition to the Sino-German facilities, Anhui has launched a and higher operational costs closer to the coast. and new materials industries through attracting investment, nitiative," said Zhang Shaochun, head of the provincial develop- number of programs to enhance cooperation with Belt and Road Capitalizing on its solid industrial foundation and its strength technology and high-end professionals from home and abroad.

in higher education and high-tech research, Li said Anhui is in a





ZHAO SHIJUN

Over a millennium, the merchants of Anhui province, collectively known as the Huishang, ecame legendary for their hard work, enterprising spirit, honesty and their unique contribution o China's development. They began as vendors of small articles in the

countryside and cities of this ancient land, dominated by self-reliant agriculture, in China's east. Gradually, they turned to bigger businesses th a sales network that covered the entire country. Their success was unparalleled, except by the merchants of Shanxi, also famous for their ousiness acumen.

The name Huishang was first used during the Jin Dynasty (265-420) and, throughout the following centuries, Anhui's merchants flourished with a long period of prosperity during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. The Huishang merchants were mostly from

Huizhou, today's Huangshan city in southern Anhui, with many coming from Shexian, Xiunng, Qimen, Yixian, Jixi and Wuvuan counties According to records, the number of trad-**Today's** major commercial hubs in Anhui province

ers accounted for about 70 percent of the male population in Huizhou during the middle Ming promotions, trade talks, exhibitions, forums and Dynasty. They mostly sold locally produced tea, conferences. ink, paper and other items to the rest of the The event is also used to describe the prov-

icle, "Many people in Huizhou – a mountainous region with limited farmland – chose to engage **Huizhou-style buildings** in trading business because they had no other Huizhou-style buildings, associated with local options to make a living". Huizhou people were not born merchants region of Huizhou — what is known as today's

- their success was the result of various social Huangshan city - and the neighboring areas, factors and their painstaking efforts. Huishang merchants maintained good rela- of ancient Chinese architecture, with striking ions with the government to ensure their features in the delicately crafted eaves and deco-

businesses' success. For more than 1,000 years, rative ceilings. inese officials were selected according to aca- Huizhou-style buildings, influenced by the demic ability. As such, the merchants built many city's unique geographic location and folk culchools in their hometowns and provided funds ture, are nothing like anything else in China. for students to train there, hoping to groom Such an ancient house in Huizhou is usually neficial friendship in the future.

ons with their home communities. When they which literally means "skylight yard" — is located returned home with success and glory, they built in the center of the house, with bedrooms on mansions, ancestral temples, guild halls, roads each side, and a living room in front. and bridges to extend the influence of their clans. People from Huizhou have focused on the However, the sun began to set on the Huis- aesthetic side of the houses in addition to their hang lifestyle during the late Qing Dynasty due practical use for a long time. to intense competition from businesspeople in The cornices of the houses are shaped some-China and abroad who were more skilled in thing like a mustache, curling up at the edges. modern commerce. Nonetheless, the unique But the most distinguished features are the intriculture that grew from the Anhui merchants — cate carvings, including windowpanes carved teamwork, moral integrity, honesty, sympathy from stone and carved wooden pillars. for the poor, and loyalty to the country — is still While the Huizhou-style buildings are famous remembered by the province's people and is even for their complicated and delicate carvings, the

Huishang conference

some new legends by reviving those ancient tra- among the renowned ancient towns with many ditions, once again for greater economic growth. well-preserved Huizhou-style buildings. These One way to do this is through the International embody both ancient and modern Chinese cul-Huishang Conference, held annually in Hefei, ture, reflected in the contrasting styles of archi-Anhui's capital.

It will be the 13th session of the event. have preserved what the towns were like hun-Its official name is the China Anhui Invest- dreds of years ago, featuring Huizhou-style ment and Trade Expo and it has become the architecture like carved stone bridges and province's most important trade and invest- traditional houses around every corner. The ment fair. The event is a prime platform for cultural legacies have made the two towns Anhui to promote key investment projects and and their neighboring areas popular tourist build connections between foreign and domestic destinations in Anhui, receiving millions of



Huizhou's roots in trade still echo today

and are some of the most distinguished examples

metric. The indoor garden called the tianiing

with only black roof tiles and white walls, resem-

bling a typical Chinese painting.

ince's history and promote its tourist attractions, According to the Ming Dynasty Anhui Chron- economic growth and business opportunities. merchants, can be found in the southern Anhui

divided into two parts that are in perfectly sym-

recognized in the rest of the country. color tones outside remain simple and clean.

Now, Anhui's leaders are looking to create Xidi and Hongcun in Yixian county are

This year's expo is to be held in May in Hefei. Even in the modern age, Xidi and Hongcun

Hefei science center to pursue technological specialization

tech sector's growth

By LI YOU liyou@chinadaily.com.cn

Hefei, the capital city of Anhui province, launched a major project on Feb 27 to construct a comprehensive national science center by the year 2020.

It will be the second comprehensive nationl science center in China, following Shanghai's Zhangjiang Comprehensive National Science Center, and also the first national innovation platform in the central and western regions of China. The science center will focus on research

of information technology, energy, health and the environment, and will seek breakthroughs in quantum communications, nuclear fusion, The quantum science satellites developed by the University of Science "Comprehensive national science centers science development. are regarded as an important symbol of a country's strength in scientific and technological power. Anhui province is one of the eading provinces to put forward the idea of constructing a national science center, and has continuously made unremitting efforts and all-round preparations," said Lin Nianxiu. vice-minister of the National Development and Reform Commission.

Hefei has attracted many prominent institutions and universities, including the University of Science and Technology of China and the Hefei Institutes of Physical Science under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

More than 1,000 R&D institutions have settled in Hefei, as well as a number of national-level key laboratories and cutting-edge scicities in the country's rising R&D projects.

"Large scientific equipment is at the core of the Hefei science center," said Kuang Guangli, president of Anhui University. The Hefei center currently has equipment for study and use of synchrotron radiation, superconducting tokamak and steady high-magnetic fields. The next step is to build a new fusion reactor, air quality detection facilities and the fourth-generation synchrotron radiation

"We have high expectations for the comprehensive national science center, hoping to put forward a large number of original scientific results and put them into practice to serve economic development," Kuang said.

To support scientific development in the cies for the transformation of theories or ideas center. into products, and made progress in protecting original works

Anhui used to be an agricultural province, but now the innovative, high-tech industries have become an important driving force for the local econom

In 2016, 15,300 national invention patents were granted to entities and individuals in Anhui, giving the province a leading position in the country. There were 706 newly established high-tech enterprises in the province, producing more than 1 trillion yuan (\$145 billion) worth of output that year.

"Construction of the Hefei comprehensive national science center is a milestone in the history of Anhui. We must cherish the chance and make good use of it," said an official at

munist Party of China



The University of Science and Technology of China is one of the top universities in China with programs for both domestic and international students.



A researcher in Hefei works on programming a robot



smog prevention, cancer treatment and more. and Technology of China have played an important role in China's space



entific devices, making Hefei one of the core Technology of China is one of the powerful engines driving the local high-



province, Anhui has explored a chain of poli- **Workers** test steady high-magnetic field equipment at the Hefei science



the Hefei science center



in Hefei is also increasing at a very quick pace, most of them seeking work to IT and various types of technologica or staying for studies. The locals here are very friendly and like to have a chat ven that you understand and speak Chinese. I am very happy that I got this opportunity to come to China and experience a city like Hefei firsthand.

his is my eightl year in China, most of time being spent in Hefei, where I did my bachelor's degree and master's degree at Hefei echnology





Edna Laurinda Muianga, Mozambique Hirra Butt, PhD student at USTC

Anhui in the eyes of foreigners

China Daily reporter **Zhuan Ti** interviewed international scholars and students a universities in Anhui. They expressed their feelings toward the province.



hard-working lives in an environment of

enthusiasm for change and innovation.

professors who have witnessed China's

transformation and among especially

bright students who, every day, work

on their China Dream at one of China's

of Science and Technology of China).

new, coexisting and thriving – people,

architecture, agriculture and industry.

For me, it's a privilege to be an expat in

Anhui. And it's an advantage too. Within

Anhui are many national treasures such

as Huangshan's misty peaks and Xidi's

mysterious alleys. From Anhui, in every

direction, all of China is accessible for

weekend travels on the amazing high-

or Yellow Mountain — to the fantastic

architecture and stone carvings from

been listed by UNESCO on the world

getting to know China and the Huizhou

heritage list. For those interested in

combines both the ancient and the

As an expat living in Anhui for the past

and development in the province. Hefei,

eight years. I witnessed huge change

the provincial capital, has developed

rapidly in the past few years and is one

of the fastest-growing cities in the world.

Mohamed Noureldin, PhD candidate

culture, Anhui is one place that

Ming and Qing dynasties in Xidi and Hongcun ancient villages, which have

Kathryn Chang Barker, visiting

speed trains

professor at USTC

l consider Anhui

my second

Anhui province

is blessed with

beautiful tourism

attractions, from

the marvelous

landscape of Huangshan —

modern.

l have been

a student in

hometown.

All across Anhui, I see the old and

premier universities — USTC (University

I live on campus among old retired



witnessed the

I feel very comfortable and at hom in this grand city. There are abunda things to do in this city. For me, I like work out, eat healthy food and sper a safe and enjoyable campus life as student. The city is relatively quiet, can be very lively as well. Edgar Agostinho, postgraduate fro Angola at Hefei University of Teo

Vietnamese student studving for my master' degree at Anhui University, He the provincial capital of Fas very good city for people who wa



to study as it provides a very good environment in terms of quality of lif and social activities. The city is growin erv fast and there are many new buildings under construction. Met e One was opened up last year an ere are currently more metro line under construction. With the current atmosphere here in this city, I migh plan on staying for my follow-up deg because Hefei proves to be a city v of calling my second home Vu Viet Duc, postgraduate from Vietnam at Anhui Universit

from Iran, I've been living in Anhui for abou six months. There is a lot to learn and understand while living in Hefei. But,



tough. The cultural change is huge it's all about simple daily life activiti that are just so different. It can really get stressful, depending on how you nanage it and accept different thing hose things aside, people are fantasti ere, and there is a lot to experience here if you can manage to get around to see them. Having a good Chinese companion will help a lot here. Life is really different here and I have learned so much about what is really important by living here.

for first-time visitors, it can be real

Like many other Chinese cities. Hefei has seen rapid few years. Partially due to the University of Science and



Technology of China being situate here, there are many companies relat advancement doing their business in Hefei. Fast trains, an urban bus transportation system — this place h all the necessary things that you might need. In addition, Hefei's subway sta its operation last year, certainly making **Firdaus Samijadi**, USTC Master student living in this city more convenient. Daria Soloveva, Master student at USTC School of Management



I was afraid to



D cople who are familiar with Chinese calligraphic art should know the "Four Treasures of the Study". It is an expression used to denote the brush, ink stick, paper and ink stone.

The best of the "Four Treasures" products have been and are still produced in Anhui

Xuan Paper, known as Xuanzhi, was named after the origin of its production -Xuancheng, a city in southeastern Anhui province.

This particular form of paper upholds th marks made by Chinese brushes and ink. Though soft and fine-textured, it has a

high tensile strength and resistance to distortion and color changes, gaining it the reputation of "the paper of a thousand-year The special processing methods of the

paper determine its exceptional quality. The paper can be made unprocessed, half processed or processed.

The various processes are used for controlling the amount of ink absorbed into the paper fiber, as well as the stiffness of the paper itself.

Unprocessed papers are very absorbent and quite malleable, whereas processed papers are far more resistant to absorption and stiffer.

The processing methods for Xuan Paper were listed in the first batch of national intangible cultural heritage items in 2006. Paper and writing brushes are indispensable in calligraphic art. Xuancheng's brush-

es have also won fame over the past 2,000 The brush is nothing like the pen we use today. It is soft because it is made of hair

from animals such as rabbit, goat and wolf. With elegant decoration, clean animal hair and neither too-soft nor too-hard brush points, the brushes of the best quality made in Xuancheng were exclusively supplied to emperors in the past.

The ink stick produced in Huizhou today's Huangshan city – also has a thousand years of history. The ink stick is mainly made out of pine soot and 20 other materials, and is then glued together and pressed into the shape of a chocolate bar and allowed to dry.

The ink stick has a rich and thick color, subtle gloss and fragrant scent because of the precious ingredients. It also possesses antiseptic and moth-proofing properties. The last treasure, the ink stone, is used

to grind the ink stick into a powder to be mixed with water.

ern Anhui used to be regarded as one of the Chinese culture. most famous ink stones in China. The ink stones made there can keep the

ink wet for a long time, while the smooth surface of the ink stone can protect the ragile point of brush. The stones produced there are rich in

natural texture, with a variety of texture patterns available, making each ink stone As one of the important cradles of Chi-

nese culture, Anhui doesn't just have ink and paper.

Wuhu, another city in A special kind of "painting" by using iron as ink, and a hammer as the pen.

Drawing on the experiences of Chinese folk art such as paper cutting, sculpture and mosaics, the painters depict landscapes, people, flowers, insects, fish, birds, animals and other figures out of iron materials.

The black iron material and the white background create a strong contrast, endowing the iron painting with the artistic characteristics of Chinese classical paintings made with ink and paper.

zhou include brick, stone, wood and bamboo









The She ink stones from Shexian in south- **The Four Treasures of Study** – brush, ink stick, paper and ink stone – are the great contributions to the



Huizhou carvings are the local art in Hui-



The Ding cauldron discovered in Anhui is evidence of the province's high level of bronze ware manufacturing technique during the Warring States period.

carvings. The carvings are used for residential ouildings, ancestral temples, memorial halls and other types of building decorations as well as furniture, screens, pens and other craft production. Jieshou, a city in northern Anhui, is renowned for its painted pottery.

Originating in the Sui (581-618) and Tang (618-907) dynasties, the painted pottery in Jieshou prevailed during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. It inherited the style of ang tri-colored pottery and adopted the exquite techniques and styles from other artistic ns, such as Chinese paper cutting and new r woodcutting.

The main products are utensils for daily use, such as bottles, jars and jugs, decorated with tricolor carvings. The thick and primitive shape, vivid carvings and unique reddish brown, beige and white color scheme are the characteristics of Jieshou's painted pottery. Frequently used subjects for painting include characters from folk stories, landscapes, flowers, birds, fish and grass.



The discovery of this jade figure in Lingjiatan shows the locals' craftsmanship of more than 5,000 years ago.





painted pottery of Jieshou features decoration with tricolor carvings. **The ink stick** produced in Huizhou has a thousand vears of history.



PROVINCE PROMISES RICH BLEND OF NATURAL DELIGHTS

nhui province in eastern China is blessed with natural gifts, a rich history and abundant L tourism resources to cater to the many visitors attracted by its delights. Tourists planning a visit to Anhui might first think of Huangshan Mountain, a world cultural and natural heritage site listed by UNESCO in 1990. This is the landmark attraction in

Anhui and one of the most famous mountains in China. As an ancient Chinese saying goes,

na makes its unnecessary to visit other mountains, and a visit to Huangshan mountains."

all at altitudes of more than 1,800 meters. Great Hall of the People.

are a major part of eastern China's strik- paintings.



"Visiting the five holy mountains in Chi- **The Tiantangzhai Scenic Area** is a national-level nature reserve and geological park.

to be more than 1,000 years old. Its name China's breathtaking natural wonders plicated maze. The Huangshan Mountain scenic area comes from the tree's resemblance to a and culture. in southern Anhui province covers an warm host stretching out their arms to The mountain has also attracted some "The wise enjoy water, the humane enjoy area of 160.6 square kilometers. Its three welcome visitors. Its image appears as a of China's most notable figures, includ- mountains." Those who wish to draw major peaks, the highest Lotus Flower decoration in restaurants and homes all ing Li Bai, a poet of the Tang Dynasty wisdom from nature may, therefore, go Peak, the precipitous Celestial Capital over China and a huge iron relief of the (618-907), Xu Xiake, a geographer and to Chaohu Lake in central Anhui. Peak and the flat Bright Summit Peak, are tree is exhibited in Anhui Hall in Beijing's explorer of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Chaohu Lake, one of China's five big-

The tourist destination is known for The view from the mountaintops is Another landmark attraction in nearly 800 square kilometers. It abounds peculiarly-shaped rocks, pine trees, hot known as the Sea of Clouds, because of Anhui is Jiuhua Mountain. springs, winter snow and views of the the clouds' resemblance to an ocean. The Jiuhua Mountain, with its 99 tem- shrimps and crabs are known as the looking to get closer to nature. billowing clouds above. views, pine trees, granite peaks and rocks ples, nearly 1,000 monks and nuns and "Three Treasures". Huangshan pine trees (Pinus hwang- resemble magnificent, natural paintings, more than 10,000 Buddhist statues, is The lake is also noted for its gorgeous high altitudes on steep, rocky crags and quently depicted in traditional Chinese tains in China.

their own names, such as the renowned the Yangtze River, Great Wall and Yel- 20 academies of classical learning have more than 300 years.

been successively established there since ancient times, and there are more than 2,000 extant cultural relics and some **Other attractions** 00 related poems and essays written by some of China's renowned writers and scholars from past dynasties. he Tianzhu Mountain in Qianshan county, also called Mount Wan, is the place from which the abbreviation of nhui — "Wan" — derives.

Tianzhu Mountain has 45 peaks which are 1,000 meters above sea level. Its highest point has an elevation of 1,760 meters.

One of the famous sites of Tianzhu is the Mystery Valley. It is a valley formed

As Confucius wrote in his Analects:

as well as former premier Zhou Enlai. gest freshwater lakes, covers an area of in aquatic resources and its silver fish,

can be seen on the cliffs of Yinping Moun-It is also a noted mountain in cul- tain on the lake's southern bank. Peonies ing landscapes. Many of the trees have Huangshan Mountain, together with tural and historical terms. More than have been growing on the same spot for

The mountain is in the southwest region of Chuzhou city. Winding paths leading to secluded places can be found in the scenic area, which covers of the lake. Forest coverage in the Taiping Lake Scenic an area of 35 square kilometers. It is also home to Area surpasses 95 percent and the area is home to a wealth of flora and fauna. The area boasts rich more than 580 wild plants. cultural attractions such as Langya Temple, which was originally built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and Shexian county Zuiweng Pavilion, constructed in the Song Dynasty The region has been home to many renowned (960-1279). The Song Dynasty poets Ouyang Xiu and historical figures including art historian and painter by rocks falling from the mountain. The Xin Qiji both served as officials in Chuzhou and wrote Huang Binhong and educator Tao Xingzhi. It is noted makes it unnecessary to visit the five holy Welcoming-Guests Pine, which is thought low River, are outstanding examples of valley has 53 caves, forming a very com-

Fiantangzhai Scenic Area

The area is a national-level nature reserve and county has numerous historical sites and relics such geological park. It is said to be the last primitive forest as memorial archways, ancestral halls and ancient in East China, with a diversity of plant life. It covers villages featuring houses built several centuries ago. 120 sq km and has 25 peaks at an altitude of more than 1,000 meters. The highest peak in the area is a **Sanhe ancient town** main peak of the Dabie Mountains, which form the main watershed of the Yangtze and Huaihe rivers. 2,500 years and its present name derives from the Tiantangzhai is an ideal place for travelers who are fact that three rivers — Fengle, Hangbu and Xiaonan

shanensis) typically grow at moderate to and the trees themselves have been fre- one of the four great Buddhist Moun- scenery. A cluster of white wild peonies The lake lies at the northern foot of Huangshan national intangible cultural heritage item.

Mountain. It is the largest artificial lake in Anhui covering an area of 88 sq km. It is surrounded by mountains and more than 10 islands dot the center

Traditional Chinese Medicine, Hui School of Sculpture and the Huizhou branches of Chinese cuisine. Shexian

The town in Hefei traces its history back more than meet there. It boasts a number of well-preserved old buildings, abounds with folk culture and is home to Luju, a local opera in Hefei, capital of Anhui, also a

Hongcun in southern Anhui welcomes millions of visitors to view its ancient residential buildings. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



dragon boat race takes place in Sanhe ancient town in Feixi county



because of a verse by Song Dynasty poet Ouyang Xiu.



The Zuiweng Pavilion, or Drunken Old Man's Pavilion, in Chuzhou has become famous **The Tianzhu Mountain**, or Heavenly Pole Mountain, is one of the landmark attractions in Anhui.



legacy of great thinkers still shapes modern culture

By ZHAO SHIJUN liyou@chinadaily.com.cn

defined today is less than 400 years old. *Ching* – or *Daodejing* – and the founder of 220), Ruan Ji and Tao Yuanming during the Dynasty. However, its contributions to Chinese civi- philosophical Taoism, and is worshipped as Six Dynasties (222–589), Li Bai during the Tang A school of Confucian thought prevailed in

Anhui became a province in 1667 during tional Chinese religions. the reign of the Kangxi Emperor of the Qing According to Loazi's philosophy, the uni- enced and inspired by Zhuangzi. Dynasty (1644-1911). Its name is a combina- verse is dominated by Tao, the powerful Despite its criticism of "useless technologies", interpretation of the classics by Confucius and tion of the first characters of Anging and and yet supremely humble natural rules. Taoism is also an important source of inspira- Mencius, became the mainstream of Chinese Huizhou (today's Huangshan city) prefec- He deemed that people should live in har- tion for modern science and technology. culture for nearly 1,000 years.

as it was home to the ancient Wan Kingdom govern according to the principle of "wu Huainan with his fiefdom in today's central flourishing in southern Anhui covering a wide more than 3,000 years ago.

A great number of relics of human activi- against the natural rules. ties in the region dating back to the Paleo- Laozi's philosophy had a great influence on meant to be a scientist, an inventor or a writer. lithic and Neolithic ages have been found politics in the following generations, though he But he became all of the above, never becoming in Anhui, showing its important role in himself didn't like politics at all. the development of ancient Chinese civi- A number of emperors, especially the found- Using the Taoist ideas of Tao and Yin Yang,

ing the Spring and Autumn (770-476 BC) and less interference in social life, levying light taxa-farming. Warring States (475-

王茂蔭雕伯

(1798-1865)

221 BC) periods when two Anhui natives created oism, a prominent school of philosophy with a lasting impact on the

Laozi, or Lao-Tzu, born in Anhui's Woyang admired by many famous Chinese intellectuals. verses of the three Caos, unpretentious and county, was a famous Chinese philosopher Many major Chinese poets and writers in profound, helped to reshape the poetic style of

The history of Anhui province as it is He is known as the author of the *Tao Te* Qian during the Han dynasty (206 BC-AD to the poetic styles associated with the Tang lization extend far beyond that period. a deity in religious Taoism and other tradi- Dynasty (618–907) and Su Shi and Lu You of Anhui during the Song Dynasty because of

mony with nature, free from unnatural Liu An, grandson of the first Han Dynasty The historical legacies finally led to the Anhui is also commonly known as "Wan", desires, and that administrators should emperor Liu Bang, was appointed king of formation of Huizhou Culture – a culture wei", which means not doing anything Anhui.

ers of later dynasties, believed in governing by Liu explained the change of the four seasons Anhui's culture reached its first peak dur- wu wei, practicing limited government with and invented the 24 Solar Terms to guide tion and allowing more freedom for people Liu is also the inventor of bean curd —

and businesses to develop. Laozi's legacy was inherited by Zhuang- the editor-in-chief of the book Huainanzi, a zi, or Zhuang Zhou, another proponent of encyclopedia based on Taoist thought, cover philosophical Taoism who lived in Anhui's ing science technology literature philosop Mengcheng county in the fourth century BC. and medicine. Zhuangzi is the author of at least part of Anhui's literature came to a peak during the a famous work bearing his name, *Zhuangzi*. late Han Dynasty. Cao Cao (155-220), who The book, a collection of anecdotes, allegories, was born in Bozhou, Anhui, was parables and fables, advocates spiritual free- the greatest statesman of dom and independence, which can help people the age. He and his two o transcend worldly worries such as failure, sons – Can Pi and

sadness, fear and even mortality. Cao Zhi – were The story-driven text of Zhuangzi's book also the greatcontains wildly imaginative tales and the est poets of skillful use of reasoning and rhythm, the time. The

an emperor.



From left: Wang Maoyin, a Qing Dynasty financial expert; Bao Zheng, a Song Dynasty judicial officer; Qi Jiguang, Ming Dynasty general; and Bi Sheng, the inventor of movable type in Song Dynasty, were all renowned historical figures born in Anhui.

The politically ambitious prince was not

byproduct of his alchemy practice – and

during the Spring and Autumn period. history — such as Sima Xiangru and Sima their time and beyond, eventually contributing

the Song Dynasty (960–1279) – were all influ- the great thinkers Cheng Hao, Cheng Yi and Zhu Xi. Their thoughts, focusing on rationalist

> range of fields such as philosophy, literature, medicine,

architecture, fine art. handicrafts and folk customs.

Local opera serves as foundation of beloved national art form

By ZHAO SHIJUN

China has thousands of types of local opera, but only a few of them have become famous nationwide.

The Huangmei Opera, a local form of opera in East China's Anhui province, is one of the mainstream opera genres in China, along with the Peking Opera in Beijing, Yue Opera in Zhejiang, Ping Opera in Hebei and Yu Opera in Henan.

The original Huangmei Opera was sung by women while picking tea, and was called the Picking Tea Song.

During the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) songs became a local opera popular in Anhui's ing local folk art and the Anging dialect in programs.

singing and chants. Huangmei Opera was active in borde regions among Anhui, Hubei and Jiangxi

provinces in the 18th century. In the first half of the 20th century, Huangmei performances gradually became professional, rising from rural areas to city stages. Artists developed the opera and borrowed performance styles from other operas. They reformed the traditional chants, making the drama easy to understand with a lively

The year 1952 was crucial for Huangmei Opera, when excellent artists Yan Fengying, Wang Shaofang and others gave performances in Shanghai for a big opera festival. Audiences from various areas were shocked and appreciated Huangmei Opera, attracted by its new singing forms and stories.

Huangmei Opera became very famous nationwide after that. The big success evoked the passion of Huangmei Opera artists and they created such classics as The Heavenly Match, The Herd Boy and the Weaving Girl and The Female Prince Consort.

It attracts the audience with its unique melody, its heart-touching narration and its simple and elegant costumes.

Anhui Opera

The most famous operatic genre in China is the Peking Opera, however audiences can judge from the dialect it uses that it is not a Beijing-native opera at all.

the "Four Great Anhui Troupes" brought the stage. Anhui Opera, or what is now called Huiju, to Beijing in 1790 for the 80th birthday of the Qianlong Emperor. It was originally staged for the court and only made available to the public later.

In 1828, several famous Hubei troupes arrived in Beijing and performed with Anhui troupes. The combination gradually formed Peking Opera's melodies and the Anhui dialect is used in the singing, dialogues and narrations.

Anhui Opera originated from the "Huichi elegant tones" – operas that are popular in Huizhou (today's Huangshan city) and Chi (1368 - 1644)

It is among the oldest existing operas in China. Because it had incorporated the singing and performing styles of neighboring provinces and regions and made its own innovations, the opera has made a great contribution to development of China's timeless opera culture.



Anging city and its adjacent regions, combin- **The Couple Watching Lanterns** is one of the classical Huangmei Opera



Indeed, the Peking Opera was born when Han Zaifen, a renowned contemporary Huangmei Opera artist, performs on



The locals' enthusiasm is the main reason for the development of Huangmei Opera.

