



NINGBO (Popular Republic of China)

Ningbo, also called "Yong" for short, is located in the middle of the coastal line of the Chinese Mainland and in the South of the Yangtze River Delta, which enjoys the most developed economy in China (120°55"-122°16"E and 28°51"-30°33"N). The Zhoushan Archipelago, as natural bulwark, is to the east of Ningbo, Hangzhou Bay to the north, the City of Shaoxing to the west, and the City of Taizhou to the south. The history of Ningbo can be traced back to 7,000 years ago. The discovery of Hemudu Neolithic Culture Ruins proves that Ningbo was one of the first places in the world for cultivating rice. In Xia Dynasty (about 2,000 B.C.), Ningbo was called "Yin". When it was in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), Ningbo was a part of the State of "Yue". The place then covered "Yin", "Mao" and "Gouzhang", which were three counties of Kuaiji Shire in Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.). The place was named "Mingzhou" in the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.). In 821, the local authority moved to the place where three rivers joined and built a city wall, which marked the beginning of the city. In 1381, the 14th year of the period of the Emperor Hongwu in Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 A.D.), the city got its current name "Ningbo", which means "the calm wave". At present, the City of Ningbo, with six districts of Haishu, Jiangdong, Jiangbei, Zhenhai, Beilun and Yinzhou, three county-level cities of Yuyao, Cixi and Fenghua, and two counties of Xiangshan and Ninghai, covers an area of 9817 sq. km on land. The total population is 5.7102 million in Ningbo. The urban area covers 2,462 sq.km, with the population of 2.2183 million. The camphor tree is the municipal tree, and the camellia is the flower of the city.

Ningbo-Florence Exchanges 2003-2012

- Oct. 2003 Official contact between Ningbo and Florence began when Mr. Mario Razzannelli, Councilor of Florencialed a delegation of Italian entrepreneurs in garment industry to attend the 7th Ningbo International Fashion Festival.
- Oct.2005 Mr. Silvano Gori, Vice Mayor of Florence, led a delegation of Florentine government and business representatives to attend the 9th Ningbo International Fashion Festival and met with Ningbo government leaders for discussions of future cooperation.
- Mar. 2006 Mr. Cheng Yuechong, Vice Mayor of Ningbo, led a Ningbo government delegation to Florence and signed with Florence city government the Letter of Intent on the Establishment of Friendship Relationship between Ningbo and Florence. The two sides agreed on carrying out wide range of exchanges and cooperation in areas like economy and trade, science and technology, culture and education, sports, public health and personnel exchanges.
- Oct. 2006 Mr. Silvano Gori, Vice Mayor of Florence, led a delegation of 30 people to Ningbo and officially donated the bronze replica statue of Michelangelo's *David* to the City of Ningbo on behalf of the City of Florence. The statue was then placed in front of Ningbo Grand Opera House. A series of promotions, such as Italian Fashion Promotion and Italian Tourism and Food Promotion were held in celebration. Mr. Mario Razzannelli was conferred the title of Honorable Citizen of Ningbo by Ningbo people's Congress.
- Feb. 2007 Ningbo Municipal Government decided to donate the stone statues of "Bureaucrat and Warrior" to City of Florence. Mr. Cheng Yuechong, Vice Mayor of Ningbo, and Mr. Chang Minyi, Vice Chairman of Ningbo CPPCC, discussed the proposal with Florence side in their visit to Florence in April and December respectively.
- Sept. 25, 2008 The official Agreement on the Establishment of Friendship Relationship between Ningbo and Florence was signed in Florence by Mr. Wang Zhuohui, Chairman

- of Ningbo CPPCC, Mr. Eugenio Giani, Vice Mayor of Florence, and Mr. Silvano Gori, Vice Mayor of Florence.
- Oct. 2008 Mr. Mario Razzanelli, Councilor of Florence, attended the 12th Ningbo International Fashion Festival.
- Oct. 2008 Mr. Paolo Coggiola, Vice Mayor of Florence, visited Ningbo and met with Ningbo city leader for discussion of future cooperation.
- Oct. 2009 Mr. Mario Razzanelli, Councilor of Florence, attended the 13th Ningbo International Fashion Festival.
- Jun. 2010 As an important event in "Ningbo·Europe Week", Seminar on Garment Design Cooperation and Presentation on Ningbo International Fashion Fair was held in Florence. Mr. Wu Hemin, Vice Mayor of Ningbo, attended the event.
- July 2010 Mr. Matteo Renzi, Mayor of Florence visited Ningbo and met with Mr. Mao Guanglie, Mayor of Ningbo, for discussions of future cooperation.
- Oct. 2010 Mr. Silvano Gori was conferred the title of Honorable Citizen of Ningbo by Ningbo people's Congress.
- Nov. 2010 Mr. Mao Guanglie, Mayor of Ningbo, paid a visit to Florence to promote the strengthening of cooperation between the two cities in areas like economy and trade, culture, industrial design, as well as education and personnel training.
- Jun. 2011 Mr. Mario Razzannelli and Mr. Massimo Fratini, councilors of Florence visited Ningbo and attended the 13th Zhejiang Investment and Trade Symposium in Ningbo.
- Dec. 2011 Ms. Rosa Maria Di Giorgi, Vice Mayor of Florence, visited Ningbo and officially donated the bronze replica statue of *Dante* to the City of Ningbo on behalf of the City of Florence. The statue, which is the world's only complete replica of the Dante Statue in front of the Santa Croce Church in Florence, was successfully installed on the square of Ningbo Book City.
- Sept. 2012 A Cultural Delegation visited Florence in order to meet with the representatives of the cultural office of Florence. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the cultural exchanges and cooperation and learn the experiences from the city of Florence in developing cultural industries and public cultural services.

Useful links:

City's official website: <http://english.ningbo.gov.cn/index.html>

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Ningbo Old Bund



Ningbo night view