



From the soaring peaks of Mount Tai to the shores of the Yellow Sea, Shandong is where ancient traditions and full-throttle celebrations collide. Set on China's east coast, facing Korea and Japan across the water, this province lives and breathes culture all year round. Whatever the season, Shandong knows how to throw a party. And everyone's invited.

WHERE THE PARTY NEVER ENDS
IN SHANDONG, EVERY SEASON IS A REASON TO CELEBRATE



SPRING | MAR-MAY

- 1 Heze International Peony Cultural Tourism Festival
- 2 Weifang International Kite Festival
- 3 China (Shouguang) International Vegetable Sci-Tech Expo

SUMMER | JUN-AUG

- 4 Qingdao International Beer Festival
- 5 Jinan Spring Water Festival

AUTUMN | SEP-NOV

- 6 Mount Tai International Mountain Climbing Festival
- 7 China International Confucius Cultural Festival
- 8 Calligrapher Sage Culture Festival of Linyi

WINTER | DEC-FEB

- 9 Rizhao New Year Sunrise & Blessing Ceremony
- 10 Baotu Spring Lantern Fair
- 11 Qingdao Radish, Lantern Festival & Sugar Ball Fair

SPRING | MAR-MAY

HEZE INTERNATIONAL PEONY CULTURAL TOURISM FESTIVAL

EARLY TO LATE APRIL

Heze's citywide festival features blooming peony gardens, cultural performances, street markets and an evening lakeside show celebrating flower traditions.

- 1 Caozhou Peony Garden 曹州牡丹园, 1000 Renmin Road, Mudan District, Heze. 60RMB
- 2 Peak bloom usually falls around mid-April, but visit earlier for fewer crowds and later for better bargains at the peony markets

Explore ✨

Baihua Garden 百花园

A historic garden with over 400 years of floral heritage. Known for its seasonal blooms, peaceful layout and peony traditions, it's one of Heze's oldest public spaces.

National Peony Garden 国花牡丹园

Extra viewing spot for rare varieties and peaceful strolls.

Guanyu Peony Garden 冠宇牡丹园

Quiet, photography-friendly garden.

Eat

Peony Banquet 牡丹宴

Elaborate dishes garnished with edible peony petals.

Peony Bud Tea 牡丹花蕊茶

Light floral tea made from dried peony stamens.

Shanxian Lamb Soup 单县羊肉汤

Hearty, slow-cooked lamb broth.

Yuncheng-style Zhuangmo 壮馍

A round, stuffed bun filled with spiced meat that is crispy on the outside and comforting within.



HEZE



SPRING | MAR-MAY

WEIFANG INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

MID TO LATE APRIL

Every April, kites of all shapes and sizes fill Weifang's skies while markets on the ground offer workshops, folk crafts and hands-on fun for all ages.

- 1 World Kite Park 世界风筝公园, 79 Xin'an Road, Anqiu City, Weifang. 60RMB
- 2 Arrive early to catch the international kite battles, where teams duel in mid-air with stunning formations and daring acrobatics

Explore ✨

Yangjiabu Folk Art Grand View Garden

Traditional woodblock prints and kite workshops.

Weifang World Kite Museum

潍坊世界风筝博物馆

Home to rare historic kites from around the world.

Shihu Garden 十笏园

A Qing-era courtyard garden known for poetic pavilions and classical charm.

Eat

Weifang Meat Pie 潍坊肉火烧

Juicy minced pork wrapped in crispy flatbread.

Weifang Hele 潍坊烩馅

Hearty hand-pulled noodles in a rich meat broth.

WEIFANG

SPRING | MAR-MAY

CHINA(SHOUGUANG) INTERNATIONAL VEGETABLE SCI-TECH EXPO

APRIL 20 TO MAY 30

Giant vegetables, edible art and high-tech greenhouses take over Shouguang in this colourful celebration of farming.

- 1 Shouguang Vegetable High-Tech Demonstration Park 寿光蔬菜高科技示范园, 108 Shengcheng Dong Street, Shouguang, Weifang. 50RMB
- 2 Set aside at least half a day; there's more than veggies, from DIY planting to "pick-your-own" patches and farming tech

Explore ✨

Qingzhou Flower and Plant Trading Centre

青州花卉苗木交易中心

One of China's largest flower markets.

Qingzhou Ancient City 青州古城

Historic streets lined with Ming and Qing architecture.

Qingzhou Museum 青州博物馆

Home to one of China's top Buddhist art collections.

Eat

Qingzhou Honey Peaches

青州蜜桃

Famously sweet, juicy local peaches that come into season in autumn.



SUMMER | JUN-AUG

QINGDAO INTERNATIONAL BEER FESTIVAL

MID-JULY TO MID-AUGUST

Qingdao's beer festival pours out brews, live music and seafood across tents, beaches and historic streets all summer long.

- 1 Golden Beach Beer City 金沙滩啤酒城, Jinshatan Road, Qingdao. Admission varies on events; check the latest festival announcements
- 2 Start at Golden Beach for classic beer tent mayhem, then hop between venues for concerts, seafood markets and epic sunset views over the sea

Explore ✨

Tsingtao Beer Museum

青岛啤酒博物馆

Home of China's most famous brew, with tastings included.

Dengzhou Road Beer Street 登州路啤酒街

Endless seafood and beer pairings, all night long.

Buxi Seafood Market 埠西海鲜市场

Qingdao's largest seafood market, packed with pop-up grills.

Eat

Spicy Stir-Fried Clams

辣炒蛤蜊

Qingdao's ultimate beer snack, spicy and juicy.

Charcoal Grilled Squid 炭烤大鱿鱼

Smoky, tender squid skewers sizzling over coals.

Seafood Potstickers 海鲜锅贴

Crispy dumplings packed with ocean-fresh fillings.



SUMMER | JUN-AUG

JINAN SPRING WATER FESTIVAL

LATE AUGUST TO MID-SEPTEMBER

Springs, canals and lakes come alive with parades, music and koi-spotting during Jinan's splashy, citywide Spring Water Festival.

- 1 Baotu Spring Park 趵突泉公园, 1 Baotuguan Nan Road, Lixia District, Jinan. 40RMB; Daming Lake 大明湖, Five Dragon Pool Park 五龙潭公园 and Black Tiger Spring 黑虎泉 are free
- 2 Bring a bottle — during the festival, locals line up to sip fresh spring water straight from Black Tiger Spring. It's the purest souvenir you can get

Explore ✨

Daming Lake 大明湖

Vast lake fed by Jinan's underground springs.

Furong Street 芙蓉街

Historic street packed with street food stalls.

Kuanhouli 宽厚里

Revamped alleyways blending old Jinan with trendy cafes and boutiques.

Liberation Pavilion 解放阁

Iconic monument with rooftop views.

Eat

Spring Water Banquet

泉水宴

A local feast with ingredients grown from the city's springs. Dishes include Stewed Cattle in Milk Soup 奶汤蒲菜 and regional staples from Lu cuisine, China's most revered culinary tradition, such as Braised Sea Cucumber with Scallion 葱烧海参 and Sweet and Sour Carp 糖醋鲤鱼.

KNOW MORE DO MORE

Official Shandong Tourism Social Media Accounts



Before you go... All information (including dates, locations, ticket prices and activities) is correct as of 30 April 2025. Please check official websites or social media channels for the latest updates. Details related to venues and attractions are provided by their respective operators; please refer to their official announcements for the most up-to-date information.

AUTUMN | SEP-NOV

MOUNT TAI INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN CLIMBING FESTIVAL

MID-SEPTEMBER

Climbers, racers and culture lovers gather each September to ascend Mount Tai and celebrate with shows, races and mountain-side rituals.

Mount Tai Scenic Area 泰山

- 18 Hongmen Road, Taishan District, Tai'an. Entry 115RMB
- Start before sunrise if you want to catch the first golden rays from the summit. Bring layers; it gets chilly fast the higher you climb

Explore

Dai Temple 岱庙

Sprawling temple complex dedicated to the god of Mount Tai. **Taishan Show Park** 泰山秀城 Indoor and outdoor performances inspired by ancient legends and imperial ceremonies.

Eat

Mount Tai Three Treasures 泰山三美

A soul-warming soup made from Mount Tai cabbage, tofu and spring water.

Mount Tai Tofu Balls 泰山豆腐丸子

Soft, juicy tofu fritters.

Mount Tai Tea 泰山茶

Local green tea grown on the mountain's misty slopes.

AUTUMN | SEP-NOV

CHINA INTERNATIONAL CONFUCIUS CULTURAL FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 28, AROUND CONFUCIUS'S BIRTHDAY Every autumn, the hometown of Confucius honours its sage with solemn ceremonies, folk performances and fireworks. See scholars in flowing robes bow before ancient cypresses, wander the Sankong 三孔 — the temple, the mansion and the cemetery — and stay after dark for *The Ode to Confucius* 大哉孔子, a night of music, dance and majestic light show.

- The Temple of Confucius, 1 Donghuamen Street, Qufu
- Sankong joint ticket 140RMB

DON'T MISS

At the heart of the Confucius Temple is Dacheng Hall 大成殿, a ceremonial hall of rare grandeur, with 28 carved columns and architecture modelled after imperial standards. It's honoured as one of the Three Great Halls of China.

Explore

Mencius Mansion and Temple 孟府孟庙

Dedicated to another great Chinese philosopher.

Confucius Museum 孔子博物馆

Interactive exhibits about Confucius's life and legacy.

Nishan Sacred Land 尼山圣境

A sprawling cultural park with statues, temples and a giant Confucius sculpture.

Eat

Confucius Family Banquet 孔府宴

Intricate dishes once served to impress emperors and honoured guests.

Daizi Shangchao 带子上朝

Braised pork belly stuffed with lotus seeds, slow-cooked until rich and tender.

A festive dish symbolising family honour.

Confucius Family Pastries 孔府糕点

Delicate traditional cakes and sweets.

AUTUMN | SEP-NOV

CALLIGRAPHER SAGE CULTURE FESTIVAL OF LINYI

SEPTEMBER Calligraphy comes alive in Linyi each September with street art, workshops, water brushes and hands-on fun for all ages.

- Linyi Calligraphy Square 临沂书法广场, intersection of Shuangling Road and Binhe Road, Lanshan District, Linyi. Free
- Pick up a water brush 水写笔 at a local stall — it's the perfect souvenir and lets you practice street calligraphy without ever running out of ink

Explore

Former Residence of Wang Xizhi 王羲之故居

Calligraphy experience centre and historic home.

Yinqueshan Han Tomb Bamboo Slips Museum

银雀山汉墓竹简博物馆

Ancient bamboo scripts and archaeological treasures.

Langya Ancient City 琅琊古城

Lively streets packed with shops and teahouses.

Brilliant Lanshan-New Langya 灯火兰山·新琅琊

Night-time streets lit up with food stalls and lanterns.

Eat

Linyi Stir-fried Chicken 临沂炒鸡

Free-range chicken wok-fried with a secret sauce blend.

Linyi Sa Soup 临沂糁汤

Hearty wheat broth with meat and vegetables.

Linyi Pancake 临沂煎饼

Crisp and chewy wheat pancakes with savoury fillings folded within.

WINTER | DEC-FEB

RIZHAO NEW YEAR SUNRISE & BLESSING CEREMONY

JANUARY 1 EVERY YEAR

Celebrate New Year's Day in Rizhao with sunrise prayers, ancient rituals and drumming by the sea at first light.

Wanpingkou Seaside Scenic Area

万平口海滨风景区

- 398 Haiqu Dong Road, Donggang District, Rizhao. Free

- Dress warmly with layers and gloves. If you have time, nearby Dongyi Town

东夷小镇 and Rizhao Ocean Park 日照海洋公园 are worth a visit

东夷小镇 and Rizhao Ocean Park 日照海洋公园 are worth a visit

Explore

Tiantai Mountain 天台山

Coastal hikes with sweeping sea views.

Juguo Ancient City 莒国古城

Preserved city walls and history of the Ju State.

Bailuwan Town 白鹭湾艺术小镇

A thoughtfully designed cultural and ecological destination that blends natural landscapes with artistic architecture.

Liujiawan Beachcombing Park

刘家湾赶海园

A tidal park where visitors can dig for clams, hunt for crabs and explore the mudflats at low tide.

Eat

Haishazi Noodles 海沙子面

Handmade noodles in a savoury seafood broth; perfect comfort for a cold winter morning.

WINTER | DEC-FEB

QINGDAO RADISH, LANTERN FESTIVAL & SUGAR BALL FAIR

AROUND THE LANTERN FESTIVAL EVERY YEAR

Qingdao's streets burst with lanterns, candy and carved radishes as ancient rituals and sizzling snacks welcome the Lunar New Year.

Dabaodao Cultural Leisure District

大鲍岛文化休闲街区

- Shibei District, Qingdao. Free

- Come early to beat the crowds, then stick around as lanterns glow and street snacks fire up the night

Explore

Nuanshi Xiang 暖食巷

Alley packed with old-school Qingdao snacks and street eats.

Ninghua Road Food Street 宁化路美食街

A bustling row of stalls serving everything from dumplings to seafood skewers.

Eat

Gaojia Sugar Balls 高家糖球

Crunchy hawthorn candy skewers famous among locals.

Fresh Seafood 海鲜

Qingdao's must-try, fresh from the morning's catch.

Wontons 馄饨

Piping hot pockets of broth and minced pork.

WINTER | DEC-FEB

BAOTU SPRING LANTERN FAIR

FIRST DAY TO THIRTIETH DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR

Jinan's springs glow with lanterns, colours and reflections as boats drift between Baotu Spring 趵突泉, Five Dragon Pool Park 五龙潭公园 and Daming Lake 大明湖.

- Baotu Spring Park, 1 Baotuquan Nan Road, Lixia District, Jinan. Entry 40RMB; Free for Five Dragon Pool Park and Daming Lake
- Arrive before sunset to catch the golden-hour beauty of the springs, then stay as the lanterns light up the night for a stunning transformation

Explore

Qianfo Mountain Temple Fair 千佛山庙会

Traditional New Year celebrations with folk performances.

Impression Jinan Lantern Fair 印象济南·花灯会

Vibrant lantern displays at Jinan's modern cultural hub.

Jiuru Mountain Icefall 九如山冰瀑

Dramatic frozen waterfalls in the nearby hills.

Eat

Tianmo 甜沫

A hearty bowl of millet or corn porridge with veg and peanuts.

Youxuan 油旋

A flaky, spiral-shaped deep-fried pastry, crisp outside and tender within.

Suanzhan'er 酸蘸儿

Crisp, syrup-coated hawthorne on a stick.

ESSENTIAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

GETTING TO SHANDONG

Shandong is served by five major international airports:

Qingdao Jiaodong International Airport (TAO) Best for Qingdao's festivals.

Jinan Yaoqiang International Airport (TNA) For Jinan's Spring Water & Baotu Spring Lantern Festival.

Yantai Penglai International Airport (YNT) Good for onward connections.

Linyi Qiyang International Airport (LYI) Closest for the Calligrapher Sage Culture Festival of Linyi.

Weihai Dashiupo International Airport (WEH) Gateway for sightseeing around the coastal area.

High speed rail from Beijing and Shanghai:

From Beijing around 1.5 hours to Jinan around 3 hours to Qingdao

From Shanghai around 3 hours to Jinan around 4 hours to Qingdao

GETTING AROUND SHANDONG

Shandong's key high-speed rail hubs

Jinan Station/Jinan West Station For Baotu Spring Lantern Festival and Spring Water Festival.

Qufu East Station For China International Confucius Cultural Festival.

Tai'an Station/Taishan Station For Mount Tai International Mountain Climbing Festival.

Qingdao Station/Qingdao North Station For easy access to Qingdao's festivals.

Linyi Station/Linyi North Station For Calligrapher Sage Culture Festival of Linyi.

Weifang Station/Weifang North Station For International Kite Festival.

Weather Snapshot

Spring (Mar-May) Mild, breezy; great for hiking.

Summer (Jun-Aug) Hot & humid; pack sunscreen.

Autumn (Sep-Nov) Dry, golden and crisp — Shandong's best season for festivals.

Winter (Dec-Feb) Cold, with possible snow inland — dress warm.

Emergency Numbers

Police 110 | Ambulance 120 | Tourist Complaints 12345

Tipping

Not expected. Round up for great service, but locals rarely tip.

Essential Travel Apps

Super Apps

WeChat App Alipay App

Alipay and WeChat are China's must-have super apps, combining mobile payments with everyday services like taxi booking, food delivery, bills, and even hotel reservations. Both support Visa, Mastercard and UnionPay international cards, but while WeChat is stronger for messaging and social sharing, Alipay excels in travel and shopping features. Most travellers use both to cover all bases.

Navigation

Baidu Maps Gaode Maps

The two most popular and accurate map apps used by locals to get around by foot or by car.

Travel & Tickets

Trip.com 12306

The go-to English-friendly booking app for flights, trains, hotels, and more within China.

The official booking app for China Railway.

