

JURONG LAKE GARDENS

National Gardens in the Heartlands

DIY Guide

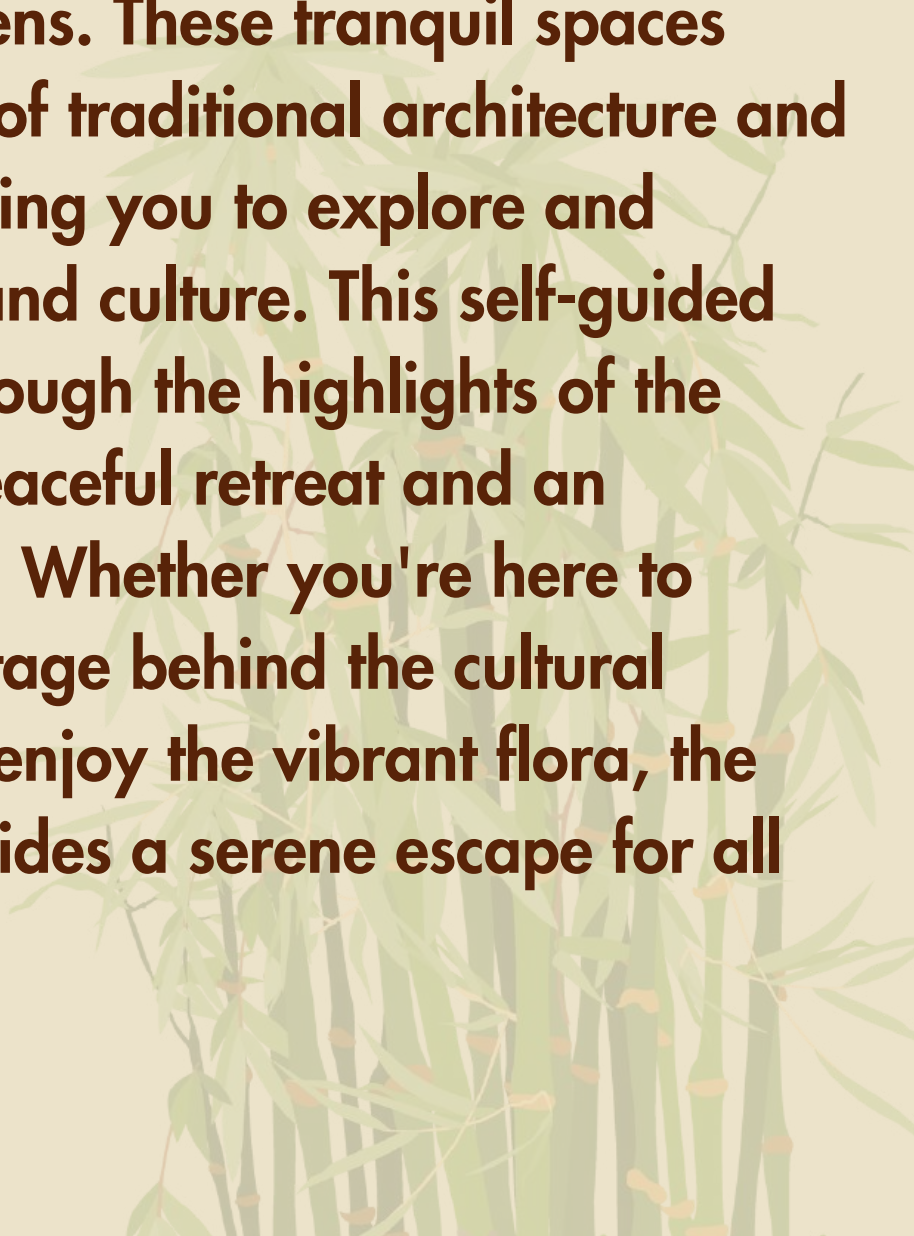
CHINESE GARDEN





Welcome to Chinese Garden!

Discover the beauty and serenity of the newly opened Chinese Garden, nestled within the heart of Jurong Lake Gardens. These tranquil spaces offer a perfect blend of traditional architecture and lush landscapes, inviting you to explore and connect with nature and culture. This self-guided tour will take you through the highlights of the garden, offering a peaceful retreat and an enriching experience. Whether you're here to discover the rich heritage behind the cultural attractions or simply enjoy the vibrant flora, the Chinese Garden provides a serene escape for all visitors.



Chinese Garden

Route Map:



How to get here:

Car: Park at the North Carpark

Bus: Take Bus 154 or 246 from Opp Lakeside Stn to Chinese Gdn bus stop.

Checkpoint 1: Grand Arch



Key Highlights:

The Grand Arch has been an iconic feature of the Chinese Garden since the garden first opened to the public in 1975. As a landmark at the entrance to the Chinese garden, it is captured in the memories of many tourists and Singaporean families who visited the gardens over the years. The White Rainbow Bridge and the Grand Arch are conserved in efforts to preserve these memories while the complex is further enhanced with a variety of facilities to enrich visitors' experiences.

The Main Arch building is also one of Chinese Garden's definitive landmark and an example of a classical Chinese arch building. The magnificent and grandiose form has made it very popular for picture-taking.

What you can do here:

The edible garden and plant factory features edibles grown outdoors and indoors. Visitors can also participate in workshops and cooking demonstrations in the edible garden during events organised by NParks.

Have a hearty meal at Canopy restaurant, dining in verdant nature with a touch of lakeside tranquility.



Checkpoint 2: Edible Garden



Key Highlights:

The Edible Garden showcases tropical vegetables and fruits in ornamental displays, featuring themes like a climber garden, herb garden, and fruit forest. Each space is thoughtfully curated to highlight the unique beauty and growth of these familiar plants.



Sustainability

The Edible Garden promotes food resilience through sustainable growing practices and highlights the benefits of local, self-sufficient food production. As you tour the newly renovated Chinese Garden, you'll see various edible plants, showcasing its commitment to sustainability and food resilience.

Checkpoint 3: Twin Pagoda



Key Highlights:

The Twin Pagoda, Moon Receiving Tower ("Yeh Yueh Lou", 延月楼), and Cloud Draping Tower ("Pi Yun Ge", 披云阁) are replicas of Southern China's Spring-Autumn Tower. These 3-storey towers, positioned opposite each other by the lakeside, exemplify classic Chinese architecture with internal spiral staircases and encircling balconies on each floor.

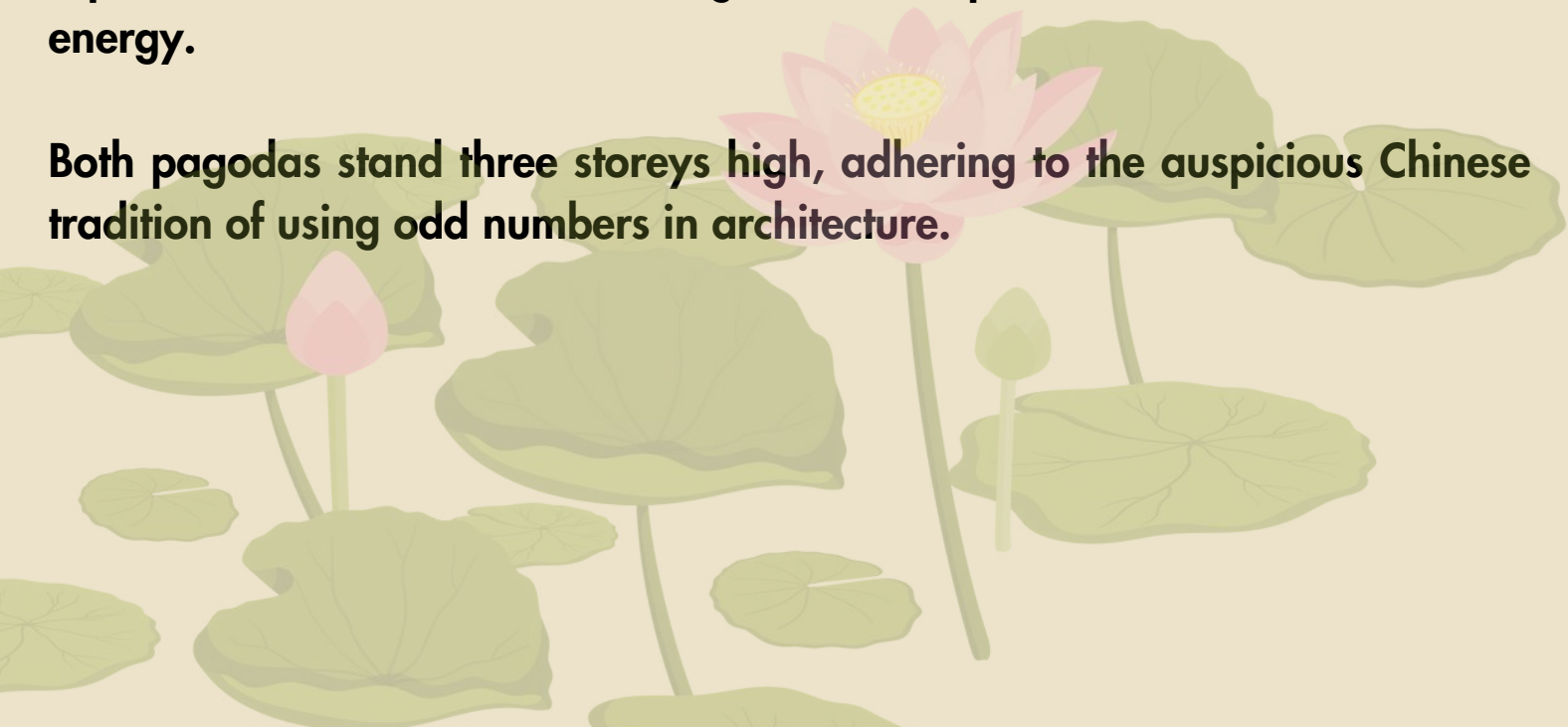
Culture and Heritage

The Twin Pagoda in the Chinese Garden exemplifies the fundamental principle of Yin and Yang, showcasing the harmonious balance of opposing yet complementary forces. This architectural marvel comprises two distinct structures, each embodying one aspect of this cosmic duality.

The broader of the two, the Cloud Draping Tower ("Pi Yun Ge", 披云阁), represents Yang, the masculine principle. Its name evokes imagery of clouds embracing the structure, symbolising the active, assertive, and expansive qualities associated with Yang energy. The robust and commanding presence of this tower reflects the outward-facing aspects of existence.

In contrast, the narrower Moon Receiving Tower ("Yeh Yueh Lou", 延月楼) embodies Yin, the feminine principle. Its name suggests a receptive quality, as if welcoming the moon's gentle light. This tower's more slender form represents the inward, nurturing, and receptive characteristics of Yin energy.

Both pagodas stand three storeys high, adhering to the auspicious Chinese tradition of using odd numbers in architecture.



Checkpoint 4: Water Wall Court



Key Highlights:

Water Wall Court provides a serene, reflective experience with a pavilion where visitors can enjoy the moving water and views of Jurong Lake. Hidden until you turn a corner, the water wall transforms into a brilliant display of golden strings at sunset or under night lighting.

Checkpoint 5: Cloud Pagoda



Key Highlights:

The Cloud Pagoda ("Ru Yun Ta", 入云塔) has 3 main entry points, all leading to the Pagoda Platform which is aptly named Plateau overlooking Scenic spots ("Yun Tai Lan Sheng", 云台揽胜). The "Yun Tai" (literally Cloud Terrace) is situated at the highest point of the Garden. The Cloud Pagoda is also surrounded by the 12 Zodiac stone statues.

Culture and Heritage

The Cloud Pagoda, designed by a Taiwanese architect, draws inspiration from a temple in Nanjing. Its seven-storey structure holds deep significance in Chinese culture.

In traditional Chinese architecture, seven-storey pagodas are considered the pinnacle of pagoda design. They symbolise the harmonious connection between heaven and earth, with each level representing one of the seven steps to enlightenment in Buddhist philosophy. The number seven is also associated with good fortune and completeness in Chinese numerology.

These towering structures serve not only as places of worship but also as symbols of a region's prosperity and cultural heritage. The seven levels often house sacred relics or scriptures, with the topmost floor typically reserved for meditation or as a lookout point.



Checkpoint 6: Bonsai Garden



Key Highlights:

The Suzhou-style Bonsai Garden, first opened in 1992, features bonsai from China, Taiwan, Japan, Southeast Asia, and Singapore, showcasing the art of cultivating miniature living sculptures. Inspired by the poetic freehand style of traditional Chinese landscape paintings, the garden captures the timeless beauty of Suzhou's classic gardens.

What you can do here:

The revitalised Bonsai Garden draws inspiration from the renowned gardens of Suzhou, blending the delicate art of bonsai with classical Chinese landscaping principles. This harmonious fusion creates a tranquil oasis that captivates visitors with its exquisite beauty and attention to detail.

Indoor workshop spaces and display areas offer a climate-controlled environment for the most delicate specimens, while large windows frame picturesque views of the outdoor displays. The garden's centrepiece is a gentle stream, reminiscent of the waterways in Suzhou's famous gardens.

The main entrance features an elegantly designed F&B outlet, offering visitors a place to rest and rejuvenate. Here, one can savour traditional Chinese teas or light refreshments while gazing out over the artfully arranged landscape, further enhancing the immersive experience of this Suzhou-inspired haven.

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Checkpoint 7: Tea Pavilion



Key Highlights:

The Tea Pavilion or "The Gallery of Tea Fragrance" ("Ming Xiang Xie", 茗香榭) consists of three pavilions interconnected by a winding corridor, giving the appearance of floating on the waters of the Main Lake. This is inspired by the Summer Palace's elaborate and winding gallery. This meandering design is a characteristic and graceful Chinese architectural feature.

As you approach the Tea Pavilion, you will see a stone inscribed with wordings inviting you to stay and enjoy the view. From here, you can see the Stoneboat moored at the Main Lake and enjoy the view of the lotus pond with gentle breeze rustling through the leaves.

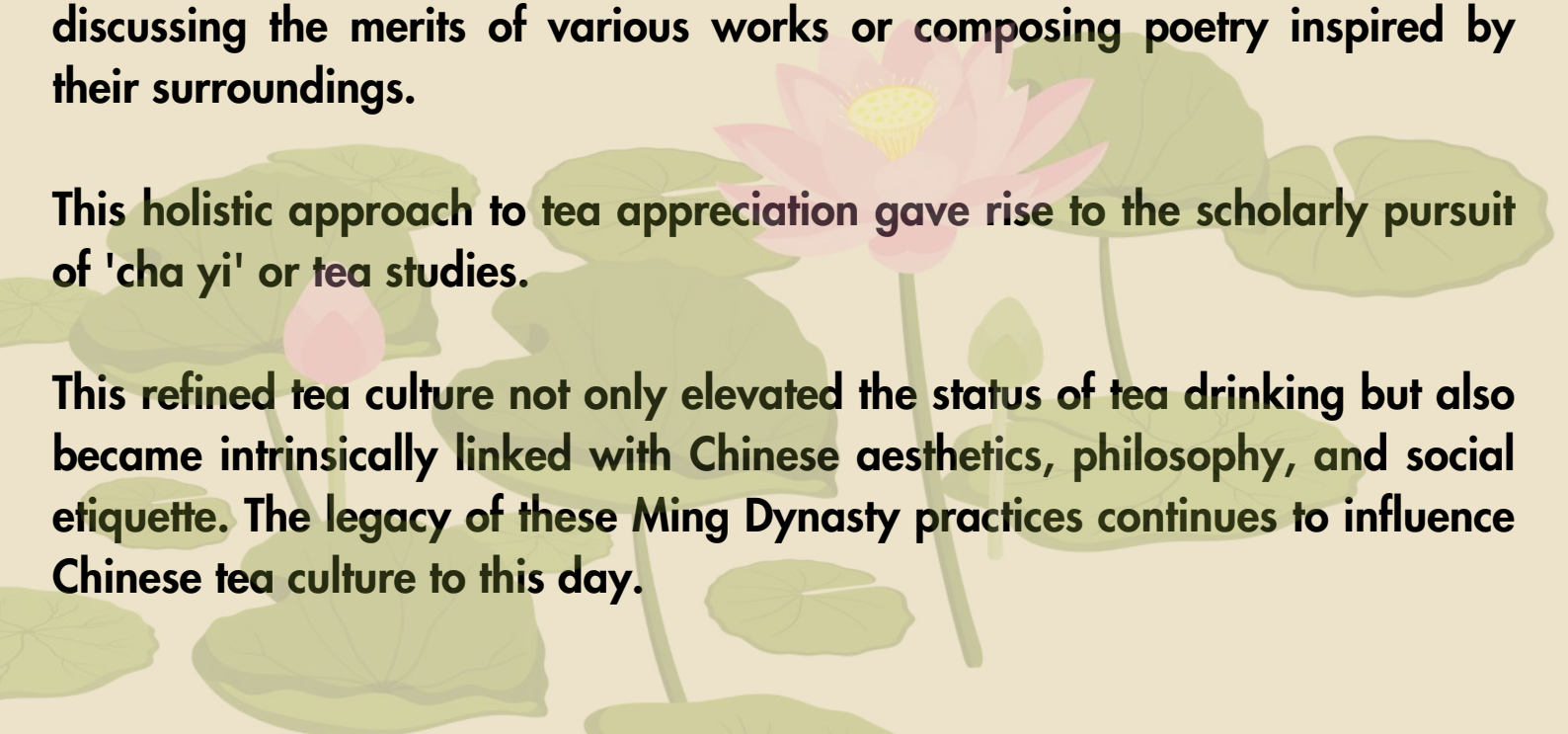
Culture and Heritage

During the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Chinese scholars cultivated a refined approach to tea appreciation that profoundly influenced cultural practices and artistic pursuits. These erudite individuals established elegant tea pavilions, known as 'cha tang', strategically positioned near pristine river springs and striking rock formations. These carefully chosen natural settings were believed to stimulate creativity and facilitate spiritual contemplation.

In these serene environments, scholars engaged in a multi-sensory ritual that epitomised the cultivated lifestyle of the literati. They would savour fine teas while simultaneously burning fragrant incense, often sandalwood or agarwood, to purify the air and enhance the overall sensory experience. The gentle strains of the guqin, a seven-stringed zither, might fill the air, its meditative tones complementing the tranquil atmosphere. Scholars would also engage in the appreciation of paintings and calligraphy, often discussing the merits of various works or composing poetry inspired by their surroundings.

This holistic approach to tea appreciation gave rise to the scholarly pursuit of 'cha yi' or tea studies.

This refined tea culture not only elevated the status of tea drinking but also became intrinsically linked with Chinese aesthetics, philosophy, and social etiquette. The legacy of these Ming Dynasty practices continues to influence Chinese tea culture to this day.



Checkpoint 8: Stoneboat



Key Highlights:

Moored on the banks of the Main Lake in the Chinese Garden, the picturesque Stoneboat ("Yao-Yueh Fang", 邀月舫) is named after the ancient saying, "The chamber along the waterside always gets the moon earlier." Inspired by the Peking style, the Stoneboat's design and materials were adapted to create a more beautiful and grandiose structure.

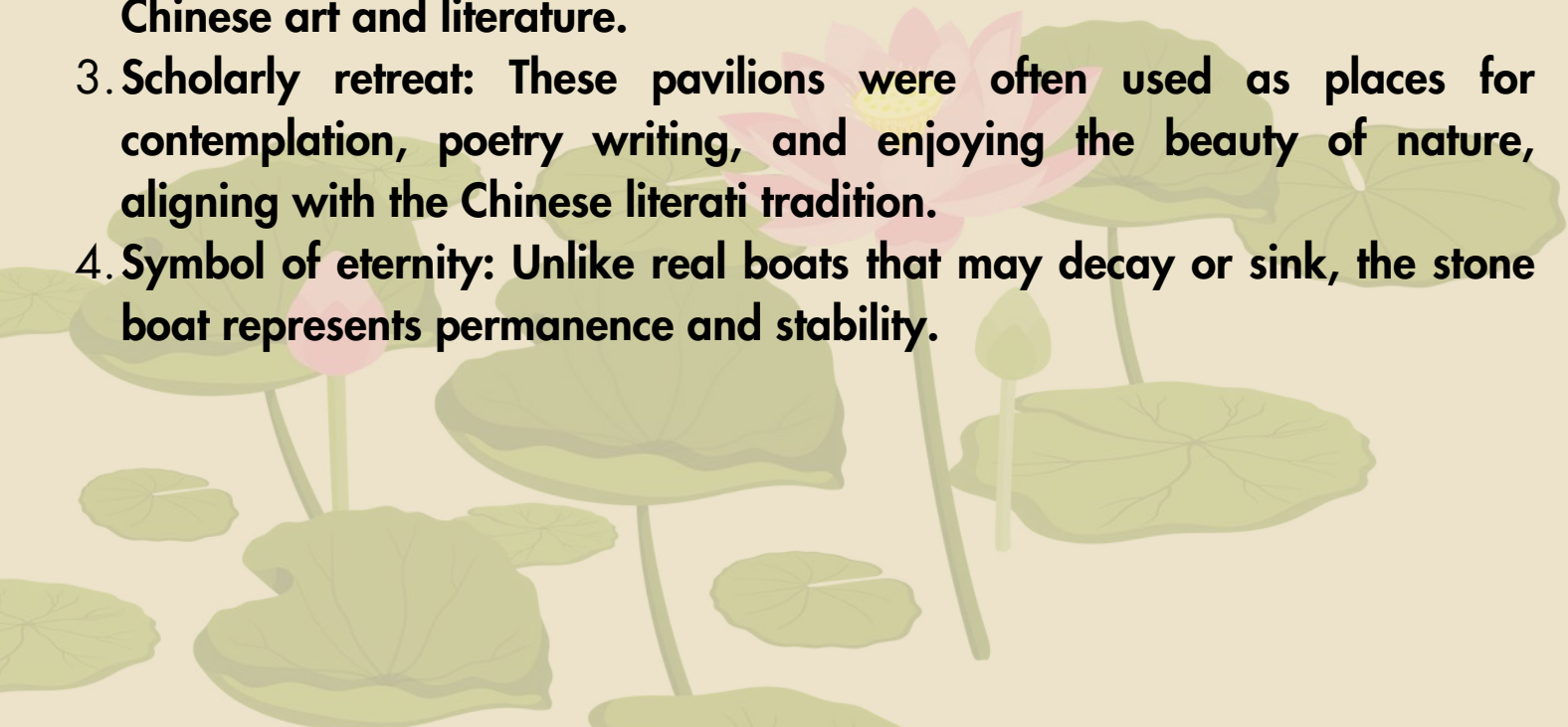
The Stoneboat has two floors: the ground floor (23.5m x 8.5m) and an air-conditioned upper floor (17m x 8.5m). It holds nostalgic value for the older generations of Singaporeans, as it once served as a branch of the Registrar of Marriages.

Culture and Heritage

The concept of stone boats, or 石舫 (shí fǎng), has a rich history in Chinese garden design dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD). Despite their name, these structures are not actual boats but rather pavilions built to resemble boats, typically constructed on the edge of a lake or pond. They serve as both functional and ornamental elements in classical Chinese gardens.

Stone boats embody several key aspects of Chinese philosophy and aesthetics:

1. **Harmony with nature:** The boat-like structure blends seamlessly with the water, symbolising the Taoist principle of living in harmony with one's surroundings.
2. **Illusion and reality:** The juxtaposition of a 'boat' that doesn't sail plays with the concept of perception versus reality, a theme often explored in Chinese art and literature.
3. **Scholarly retreat:** These pavilions were often used as places for contemplation, poetry writing, and enjoying the beauty of nature, aligning with the Chinese literati tradition.
4. **Symbol of eternity:** Unlike real boats that may decay or sink, the stone boat represents permanence and stability.



Checkpoint 9: Bamboo Grove & Waterfall



Key Highlights:

Fragrant flowers are planted at the cascading waterfall so that the wind will always carry an aroma into the bamboo tunnel; This interplay of wind, fragrance, and sound creates a symphony for the senses, transcending the physical.

Culture and Heritage

In traditional Chinese culture, bamboo symbolizes moral integrity, modesty, loyalty, and elegance. It is a major theme in Chinese painting, calligraphy, and poetry. Bamboo is an important part of traditional Chinese culture and daily life, and also played a vital role in Chinese civilization, being used historically for products like arrowheads, baskets, writing scrolls, pens, paper, boats, shoes, food (shoots), and construction materials.





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Lake Gardens!



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For any enquiries, please contact:
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