



蘭蘇園

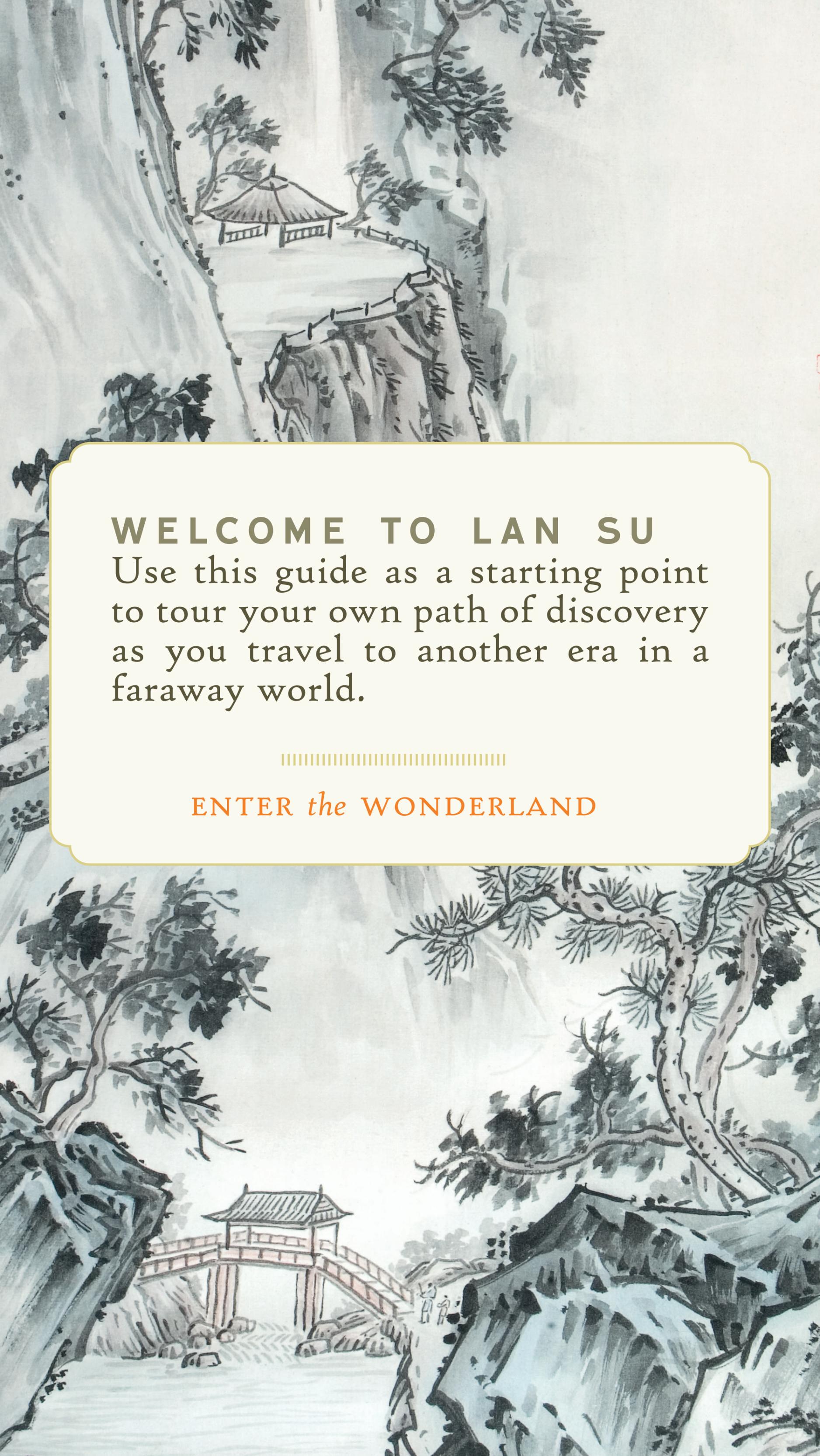
LAN SU CHINESE GARDEN

BETWEEN LAKE *and* MOUNTAIN
LIES TRUE MEANING

INDULGE IN THE GARDEN'S
WONDERS FREE OF WORRIES

*We thank you for staying on the
one-directional visiting loops and
practicing social distancing with others.*

PORTLAND, OR. · SUZHOU, CHINA

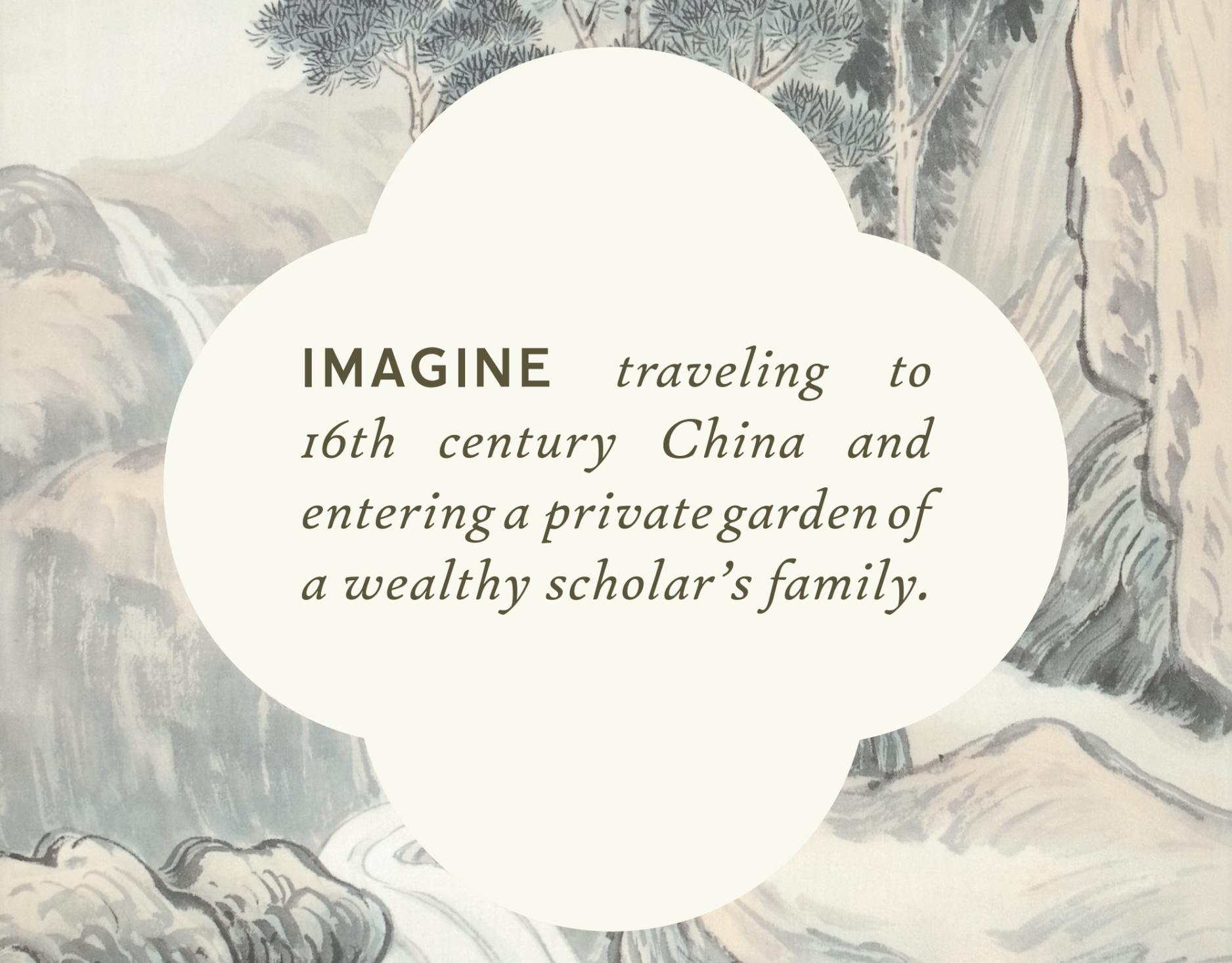
A traditional Chinese ink wash painting of a mountain landscape. In the upper portion, a pavilion with a tiled roof sits on a rocky outcrop, with a path leading down a steep, misty slope. The lower portion shows a bridge with a pavilion-like structure crossing a river, with more trees and rocks in the foreground. The style uses varying shades of ink and wash to create depth and texture.

WELCOME TO LAN SU

Use this guide as a starting point to tour your own path of discovery as you travel to another era in a faraway world.



ENTER *the* WONDERLAND



IMAGINE *traveling to
16th century China and
entering a private garden of
a wealthy scholar's family.*

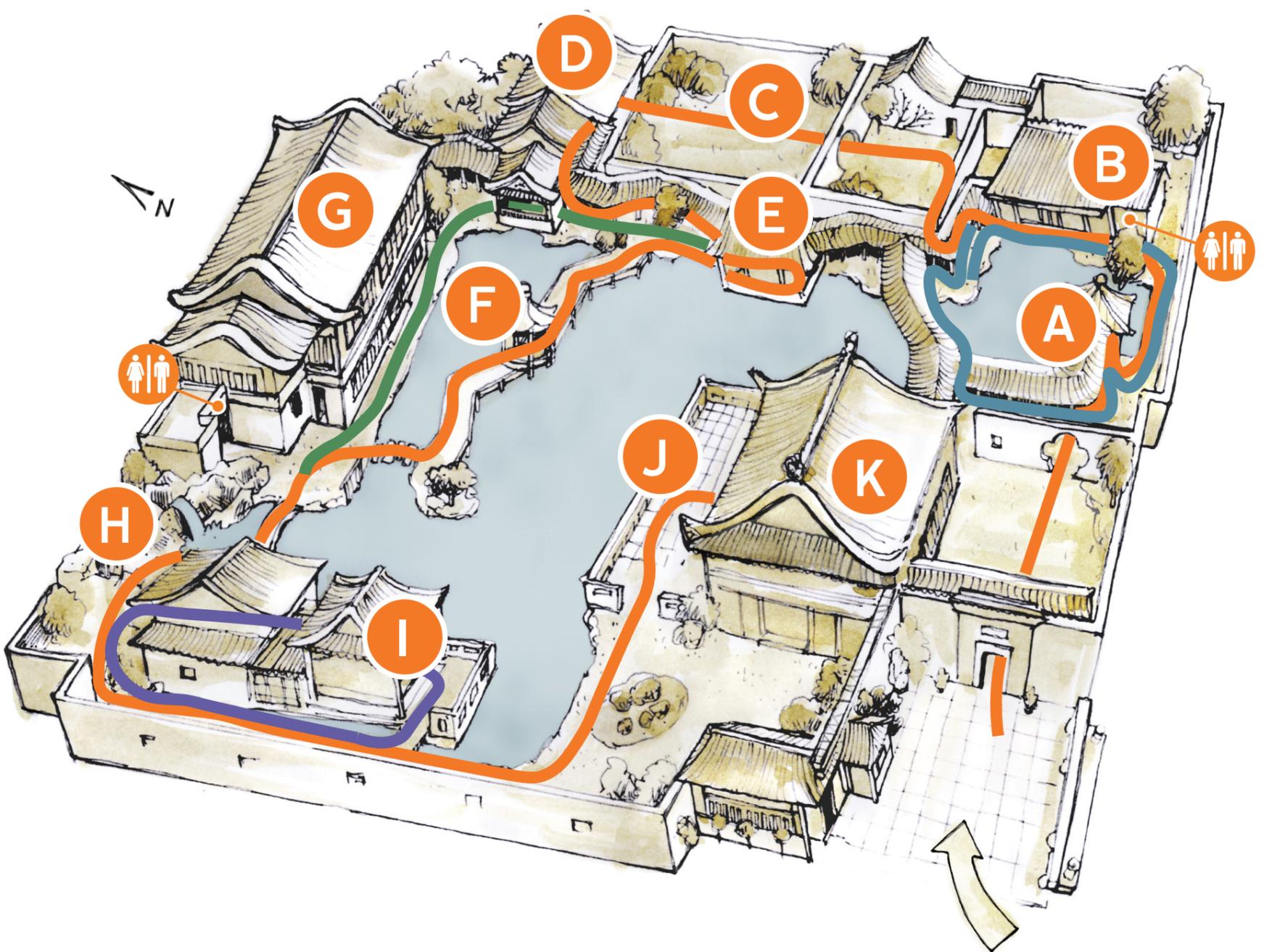
Built by expert artisans using traditional materials and methods in 2000, Lan Su Chinese Garden represents the relationship between Portland and Suzhou, our sister city in China's Jiangsu Province. Sounds from both Portland and Suzhou are combined to form Lan Su. "Lan" (蘭) is also the Chinese character for "orchid" and "Su" (蘇) is the character for "awaken." Therefore, the name of our garden can be interpreted poetically as "Garden of Awakening Orchid."

Lan Su Chinese Garden is your window into Chinese culture, history, and philosophy. We welcome you to walk into a living Chinese landscape art and a spiritual utopia. This is a garden where nature, cultures, and people intermingle.

TO EXPLORE, tap any of the letters on the map to read more about different vistas in the garden.

TO RETURN TO THIS MAP, tap  on any page.

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU MAY WISH TO SCROLL through this guide. The order aligns with the one-way path through the garden.



-  **MAIN PATH**
-  **RAINBOW BRIDGE LOOP**
-  **TEA HOUSE DETOUR**
-  **BOATHOUSE LOOP**

Lan Su is a universal accessible garden. UA map is available at the Garden Ticket Booth.

A

KNOWING the Fish Pavilion



Named after a millennial-old debate between two Chinese philosophers, this pavilion introduces a Daoist paradox—“How do you know the fish are happy?” Story has it, one philosopher spots the fish in a stream and tells the other how happy he finds the fish to be. The other replies, “You are not a fish. How can you know that the fish are happy?” The first responds “You are not me. How do you know I don’t know the fish are happy?”

This Daoist paradox has inspired generations of scholar’s debates. Do you project your feelings onto nature, or does nature simply inspire you? Maybe the bliss of nature is a given, with or without the presence of ourselves or the fish.

B

REFLECTIONS in
Clear Ripples

In Ming and Qing Dynasty, a scholar and his multi-generational family could have lived within Lan Su and its surrounding buildings. In the pavilion, also known as the lounge house, family members of the scholar would gather for music, conversations, and games.





SCHOLAR'S Courtyard



As an extension to the Scholar's Study, this is the place for reflection and inspiration. The plum trees and the plum motif symbolize a Chinese scholar's spirit and resilience. The Tai Hu rocks provide a mind getaway to the world of nature. Don't forget to look up to see the bat-shaped drip tiles along the roofline. Each tile is adorned with five bats, the Chinese symbols of "blessing", representing the five blessings in life— Longevity, fortune, health, a love of virtue, and a painless passing.



INSCRIPTIONS *above either side of the circular moongate remind us to look for meanings and use our senses in new ways.*

LISTEN TO THE
FRAGRANCE

香聽

READ THE PAINTING

畫讀





SCHOLAR'S Study



The Scholar's Study is where men in the family prepared for grueling examinations. Success would allow them to serve in government as ranked officials. The study also serves as a place for practicing poetry, calligraphy, traditional music, and art. The two-line poetic couplet on the interior pillars reads:

"BRAVING THE SNOW,
*myriad flowers come
into blossom; Leading
the world, a single tree
heralds the spring."*



E

FLOWERS Bathing in Spring Rain



These six ginkgo wood panels illustrate six actual gardens in our sister city of Suzhou that inspired the construction of Lan Su. On the back of the fourth panel, you will find the words of influential scholar, Wen Zhengming (1470-1559): “Most cherished in this mundane world is a place without traffic; truly in the midst of a city there can be mountain and forest.”

“**MOST** cherished in this mundane world is a place without traffic; truly in the midst of a city there can be mountain and forest.”



MOONLOCKING Pavilion



The zig-zag bridge allows visitors to slow down and enjoy the view of Lake Zither from different physical perspectives. On a clear night, you can see the reflection of the moon in the center of the lake, “locked” in by the pavilion’s shadow.





TOWER of Cosmic Reflections



Tao of Tea Teahouse



To-go service only. Please practice social distancing and be mindful of your exit time.

TEAS

A selection of Chinese teas including all of the major categories of color and flavor: white, green, oolong, pu-er, black and herbal teas. As the seasons change, the selections change, complimenting the ever-changing views in the garden.

SNACKS

In addition to a wide variety of teas, The Tao of Tea offers light snacks including cookies, nuts, mooncakes, and fresh and dried fruit.





ROCK Mountain & Waterfall



The rockery is designed to appear as rugged mountains in the distance, complete with waterfalls and cascading streams.

The poetic inscription on the rockery translates to
**“TEN THOUSAND RAVINES ENGULFED
IN DEEP CLOUDS.”**





PAINTED Boat in Misty Rain



Perched on the edge of Lake Zither in the shade of a willow tree, the Painted Boat provides a place for visitors to further the imagination and join the scholar for a sail into the spring mist and haze.

The translation of the inscription couplet at the south-facing entrance reads:

“ON THE PAINTED BOAT I LISTEN IN THE NIGHT RAIN; MIST AND WILLOW FADE INTO MY SWEET DREAMS.”





THE Terrace



The philosophy of Daoism idealized a hermit life in the mountains, surrounded by nature. Since city life provided more comforts and convenience, nature was brought to the scholar and his family as elements in a residential garden. The Terrace is where the visitors could admire the garden at its finest.



HALL of Brocade Clouds



Garden Shop



In order to maintain proper social distancing, please wait for entry on the Terrace if there are more than four visitors in the Garden Shop.



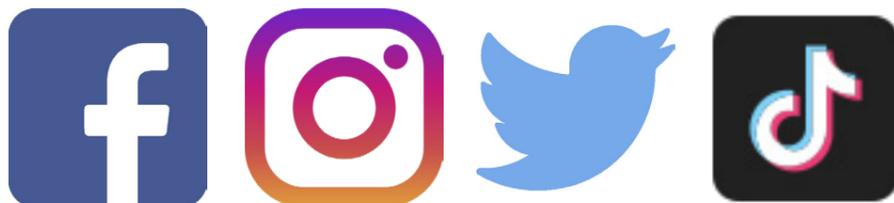
“After endless mountains and rivers that leave doubt whether there is a path out, suddenly one encounters a wonderland in the shade of a willow and bright flowers.”

—Lu Yu, Southern Song Poet



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#LANSUCHINESEGARDEN



蘭蘇園



Learn more about Lan Su Chinese Garden at
WWW.LANSUGARDEN.ORG