

# EXPLORE CHINA

*Sioxland*  
**Chamber**  
of Commerce

## SHOPPING AND DINING EXPERIENCES

Travelers will enjoy various shopping and dining experiences while in China. To give you an idea of what you can expect, we've highlighted some experiences below.

### Arts & Crafts:

#### Jade Factory (BEIJING)

Jade articles produced in ancient China were used in sacrificial ceremonies, rituals and adornments. With their solid and smooth quality, and lustrous colors, jade products have always been famous for their beauty and style. In ancient time, jade was only used for personal ornaments. After the middle and later Neolithic age, large jade articles replaced small ones. Large jade articles usually symbolized a certain prestige and began to reflect the ideas of social class system and ancient religions.

In the book of Rites, jade is described as "mild, smooth and lustrous like the virtue of a kind and decent man. It is cut with angles and corners, but will not hurt anyone, like the virtue of a righteous man. A jade ornament worn as a pendant is like a benign, modest man of good manners. When it is struck, it gives a clear, resonant and lingering sound which lasts till it comes to a sudden stop, just like the attitude of a man of virtue toward music. The beauty of a piece of jade co-exists with its flaws which are not covered up, like the behavior of a loyal and honest man. It is crystalline and transparent and shiny, like the quality of purity which springs from the bottom of a good man's heart."

So the art of jade carving and traditional is most representative respect of Chinese culture, it is subtle to detail, deeply involved in craftsmanship and natural beauty, which shows a unique form of the glorious Chinese civilization.

#### Pearl (BEIJING)

As early as 4,000 years ago, Chinese people discovered a kind of delicate gem with soft brilliance when searching the ocean for food—the pearl. Since then, countless pearl jewelry and artwork have been created by talented Chinese people. Hence, the pearl has been one of the important parts of the Chinese culture. The first book note of the pearl in China is four thousand years ago, and people in China have been collecting, growing, and harvesting pearls for over two thousand years - we have the oldest pearl production tradition anywhere in the world. China was also the first country to develop cultured pearls, around 1082 A.D. The country is huge, with diverse waterways that provide many different environments for oysters providing many kinds of freshwater pearls and salted-water pearls.

Pearls have been harvested and cultivated primarily for use in jewelry, but in the past they were also stitched onto lavish clothing. Pearls have also been crushed and used in cosmetics, medicines, and in paint formulations. Generally, saltwater pearls are higher in quality than freshwater pearls. They often have a smooth, round, regular shape—freshwater pearls tend to be more irregular. Saltwater pearls have a glossy surface with moderate luster. Their color is most often white or light. Because a saltwater oyster can produce only one pearl, while a freshwater mollusk can produce several at once, saltwater pearls are more rare than freshwater—and thus more expensive.

#### DongLin Silk Factory (SUZHOU)

Jiangsu Provincial Department of Commerce silk located at No. 636, Xiyuan Road, the crossway of Xiyuan Road and Xihuan Road, is one of the biggest tourist shopping centers in the country at present time. It is the sub-company belonging to Dongling Group which has an abundance of manpower and natural resources.

The silk culture of Suzhou has been famous all round the world for years. And the silk identification center of our silk research institute has inherited and exalted this traditional culture. The shopping center has many special items, such as silkworm's feeding, choose cocoons, boil cocoons, silk-reeling, silk-throwing and silk weaving. All the processes are full of traditional features and they have exhibited the comfort and magnificence of the traditional silk to the tourists all round the world. Especially the "long-lived" brand silk quilt, which has the advantage of light, soft and warm, is popular with the tourists both at home and abroad.

#### LanLiyuan Embroidery Research Institute (SUZHOU)

Lan Liyuan Embroidery Research Institute, located at No 518 Huqiu Road, is one of the biggest embroidery research institutes in China. Suzhou or "Su" embroidery is one of the oldest embroidery techniques in the world, with origins stretching back more than 2,000 years. Suzhou embroidery was one of the first embroidery styles to be developed in China, but its detailed needlework and intricate images are still produced today. It is a style characterized by brightly colored silk embroidered with well-proportioned and uncluttered representations of almost any pastoral scene, person, animal, or object. Examples of Suzhou embroidery were so detailed and intricate that many people used the pieces as artwork, and some of the oldest pieces still in existence date back hundreds of years.

#### MeiJiawu Tea Culture Village (HANGZHOU)

Hangzhou's Mei Jiawu Tea Culture Village has more than 600 years of history. It is situated to the west of the famous West Lake scenic area, to the south of the Mei Lin tunnel and runs along both sides of Mei Lin road for ten miles. The village is located in a deep and secluded valley and is surrounded entirely by green hills. With small streams running down through the valley and abundance of wild life, this fertile land is a true paradise on earth. The fragrant green tea aroma that fills the atmosphere is that of the famous West Lake Dragon Well green tea. Mei Jiawu remains Hangzhou's most affluent suburb and is characterized by the timeless tea farmers who continue to farm and labor in the same manor as their ancestors. The area remains an important tourist attraction allowing the promotion of Chinese tea culture across the world. During 1950s' and 1960s' Mei Jiawu had already been a focal point for opening Chinese culture to the world. As a sightseeing village, it has received a lot of distinguished guests from both home and abroad. Today Mei Jiawu's exquisite scenery, unique style and friendly character have firmly placed it on the world map as a representative of Chinese tea culture. Of the four green teas found within Hangzhou, Mei Jiawu's Dragon Well green tea is renowned as the finest of all. It's strong pleasant fragrance and light refreshing taste with a soft sweet after bite have made it a favorite choice for not only the people of China but for the people of the world. The warm hospitable small tea village is both honest and sincere in its invitation for both Chinese and foreign tourists to visit Mei Jiawu and appreciate Dragon Well green tea as much as they do.

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### **Shanghai Artistic Carpet Factory (SHANGHAI)**

Shanghai Artistic Carpet Factory was set up in 1904 with a long history, which is almost 100 years. Now, it is a big government carpet woven factory with six branches distributed around suburbs of Shanghai. They have about 2,000 fixed employees and professional designers. They are one of the biggest produce and sale carpet factories in South China. They can also design and produce according to the customers' demands. They attach great attention to the quality and detail which has earned them a good reputation during the National Carpet Quality Competition many times. Most of their products are exported to America, European countries and so on.

### **Xi'an Art Ceramic & Lacquer Ware Factory (XI'AN)**

Xi'an Art Ceramic & Lacquer Ware Factory is also named Terra-cotta Army Museum Government Factory. It shows how to make the genuine Qing Dynasty Terra-Cotta Warriors. There are 8,000 individual warriors in the Terra-cotta Warriors Museum, but many tourists wonder how to make the Qing Dynasty warriors and this factory will show them. Travellers will also see other lacquer products which have a long history in China such as lacquer panel screens, lacquer furniture, elm wood and other precious hard wood furniture.

### **Lacquer Furniture Factory (XI'AN)**

The lacquer ware products had a very long history in China. More than 3,000 years ago the ancient people realized it is much more comfortable to sit on the chairs than on the ground. From then on the lacquer ware products gradually became better reaching a peak in the Ming and Qing Dynasty. Nowadays our craftsmen develop and make various lacquer ware products, such as the lacquer panel screens, all kinds of furniture and other precious hard wood furniture. You will find something you like.

### **Restaurants and Dining**

#### **Beijing: 金殿餐厅 Golden Palace Restaurant**

Braised Beef Brisket, Beef fillet with oyster sauce, Fried chicken fillet, Sweet and sour pork, Braised eggplants, Fried sauté seasonal vegetable, Diced chicken with bean paste sauce, Rice, Chinese traditional dumpling, Oxtail soup

#### **Suzhou: 兰莉园 Lan Li Garden Restaurant**

Fried shrimp with pepper and salt, Special-flavored minced pork, Fried fish with tomato sauce, Fried chicken nugget, Bean curd with ham, mushroom and shrimp, Poached sliced pork in hot chili oil, Braised eggplant with minced pork, Two seasonal vegetables, Mixed vegetable soup with ketchup, Suzhou-style fried rice

#### **Hangzhou: 百合花 Li Ly Hotel**

Deep fried fish row with tomato sauce, Braised meat ball, Braised pork with bun, Braised beef brisket with potato, Kung Pao Chicken cu ham, Mushroom and shrimp sauce, Fried season vegetable, Fried cabbage, Tomato with eggs soup, Noodles with soybean paste, Cream cake

#### **Shanghai: 傣家村 Dai Jia Cun Restaurant**

Borsch, Chicken chop salad, Fillet beef teppanyaki, Dai jia la wei, Special Chinese sausage, Sweet and sour weever, Homemade pita bread, Dry pot wild mushroom, Curry flavor potato, Dry pot lotus root, Scrambled egg fried rice, Fried noodles

#### **Xian: 汉唐天下 Hantangtianxia Restaurant**

Vegetable soup, Roast beef tenderloin with black bean sauce, Pork fillet with sugar and vinegar sauce, sautéed shredded pork in sweet bean sauce, Stir fry ham with vegetable, Braised meatball with potatoes, Sautéed cauliflower with oyster sauce, Sautéed seasonal vegetable, Braised eggplants, Egg fried rice, Stir fried noodles with vegetable