

Shopping Markets Visited in China

Jade Factory (BEIJING)

Group will visit a jade factory, learn how it is carved and have an opportunity to shop for custom jewelry (necklaces, rings, and bracelets) and carved goods.

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 used for personal ornaments. After the middle and later Neolithic age, large jade articles replaced small ones. Large jade article usually symbolizing a certain prestige began to reflect the ideas of social class system and ancient religions.

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)

Group will visit a pearl market, learn how it they are harvested. We will have an opportunity to shop for custom jewelry.

As early as 4000 years ago, Chinese people discovered a kind of delicate gem with soft brilliance when searching ocean for food. This is pearl. Since then, countless pearl jewelry and artwork have been created by talented Chinese people. Hence, pearl has been one of the important parts of Chinese culture.

Pearls have been harvested and cultivated primarily for use in jewelry, but in the past, they were also stitched onto lavish clothing. Pearls are also 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.

DongLin Silk Factory (SUZHOU)

Group will visit a silk market, learn how it silkworms are harvested, and goods are made. The group will have an opportunity to purchase silk bedding, mattress duvets, clothing, scarves, etc.

Jiangsu Provincial Department of Commerce silk is one of the biggest tourist shopping center all around the country at present time. The silk culture of Suzhou is famous all round the world for years, and 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)

Group will visit the embroidery market, and watch artisans work their craft. The group can purchase many types of custom pieces, tapestries, etc.

Lan Liyuan Embroidery Research Institute is one of the biggest embroidery research institute 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)

Group will visit the tea farm, and learn more about the artisan practice of harvesting tealeaves. They group can purchase many types of teas from this location.

Hangzhou's Mei Jiawu tea culture village has more than 600 years of history. The village is located in a deep and secluded valley and is surrounded by green hills, small streams running down through the valley and an abundance of wild life. I, 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.

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.

Shanghai Artistic Carpet Factory (SHANGHAI)

Group will visit the carpet factory, and watch artisans work their craft. The group can purchase many types of rugs and have them shipped back to the U.S., or packaged for transportation (if small).

The Shanghai Artistic Carpet Factory was set up in 1904 with a long history. They can design and produce according to the customers' demands. Most of their products are exported to America and Europe.

*****Each of the tours to these marketing and factories last about one hour. All of the oversized items for sale (bedding, rugs, tapestries, etc., can be shipped back to the U.S. *****