



Shopping

fact sheet

Shopping in China is becoming more convenient by the day. Every year new shopping centres and plazas sprout up in cities around the country. Beijing and Shanghai are still the 2 major cities to catch the bargains, however you will find that you will come across interesting souvenirs in smaller places. Just a few years ago there was only a few department stores and small bazaars, but now there are many superstores, mega-malls and markets where you can buy just about anything you need.



In the major cities, there are several popular shopping destinations. In Beijing you can visit Wangfujing, Silk Markets, Pearl Markets and the Xidan Markets, and in Shanghai you cannot go past the Xiangyang Markets and Yu Yuan Gardens. Each place has specialties, and it is best you ask in your hotel to the best place to purchase whatever you are after.

One of the main things about markets in China is the fact that none of the prices are set. This can work for or against you. It all depends on your bargaining skills. If you are a proficient (i.e. stubborn) bargainer, then you may get a great deal on all kinds of products, but if you are soft-hearted and don't like confrontation, then you may get taken for a ride.



Be persistent in your bargaining. Do not be afraid to offer a ridiculous price. For example a genuine 'Ralph Lauren' polo shirt may have a starting price of 400rmb, you should expect to pay about 30rmb - and that genuine 'Prada' handbag may start at 600rmb, depending on the style, you shouldn't pay more than 60rmb.



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