297442 Suzhou, China

Arriving at the Xi'an Xianyang International Airport

Although a major tourist destination, Suzhou does not have an airport. Instead, visitors are advised to use the Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport or the Pudong International Airport for Cheap flights to Suzhou. These airports are 53 Miles and 65 Miles from downtown Suzhou respectively. Shanghai Hongquiao International Airport features two terminals that service 91 airlines from domestic and international locations. A free shuttle operates every 15 minutes between the two terminals. Pudong International Airport features three terminals connected by two passageways. Pudong Airport provides Cheap Airfares to 62 domestic destinations and 73 international locations. Both airports offer a variety of amenities including shopping, dining, clinics, business centers, smoking rooms and lounges.

Getting Around (transportation)

Despite the distance from each airport to downtown Suzhou, transportation is surprisingly easy. There are several busses that operate every half hour between each airport and Suzhou. Another viable option is the bullet train which is only a 30 minute ride from Shanghai Airport to Suzhou. The bullet train drops passengers off at the North Railway Station, Suzhou New District Railway Station and Industrial Park Railway Station. An additional option is long-distance bus. All three choices are reasonably priced with the bullet train being the most efficient.

Once in Suzhou, there are a number of mass transit options to move around town. These choices include; bicycle, bus, subway, taxi and train. Given the traffic conditions within the city limits, a bicycle may be the quickest and cheapest option for traveling locally. Busses and taxis are viable options for longer distances. The subway system covers the most popular areas of Suzhou and is clean and efficient. The train system is excellent for inter-city travel and to head out to the suburbs.

Main Attractions

Suzhou is best known for its gardens located south of the Yangtze River. These gardens can be traced back to the 6th century B.C. The most famous include; Blue Wave Pavilion, Couple’s Retreat Garden, Garden of Master of Nets, Humble Administrator’s Garden, Lingering Garden and the Lion Grove Garden. Another popular site is the Zhouzhuang Water Town which is the best example of water country residences. The number one site in Suzhou is Tiger Hill which offers a philosophical cultural background. Featuring beautiful gardens, incredible water towns, delightful natural beauty and fabulous history, it is known as “paradise on earth.” Finally, the Panmen Scenic Area features the Wumen Bridge, Ruiguang Pagoda, water and land City Gates and many other historical sites.

Shopping, Dining and Night Life

Praised by food connoisseurs and known as one of the eight famous culinary arts in China, Suzhou cuisine is derived from time-honored culinary methods and skills. Flavors stem from carefully selected ingredients, cooking method, aroma, color and shape. There a number of Jiangsu cuisines within the city that exhibits these cooking methods that are hundreds of years old.

Complementing its natural beauty, Suzhou also boasts numerous local products including embroidery, son brocade, the Suzhou Fan, woodblock prints, writing brushes and tea products. Guan Qian Street features businesses that have been around for many years. Shi Quan Street boasts many clubs and pubs, modern clothing outlets, hotels and a number of restaurants. Also scattered through the city are department stores and shopping malls.

Once the sun falls, visitors can enjoy the Garden of Master of Nets at night which features folk music, dancing and other artistic performances. Also, coffee houses, teahouses, bars and karaoke are popular forms of nightlife.