1. The Palace Museum

Beijing

Palace Museum, in Beijing, museum housed in the main buildings of the former Imperial Palaces. It exhibits valuable objects from Chinese history.

The palace consists of many separate halls and courtyards. The outer buildings of the palace became a museum in 1914, although the imperial family continued to live in the private apartments until 1924. In 1925, after the former emperor Puyi of the Qing dynasty was moved out, the Palace Museum was formally established. Many of the halls surrounding the museum are presented as they would have appeared in dynastic times. The main buildings of the museum include the Hall of Supreme Harmony, one of the largest wooden buildings in China.

1. National Museum of China

Beijing

The National Museum of China, representing the pinnacle of the nation's cultural heritage, is dedicated to collecting, researching, and exhibiting artifacts that embody China's traditional, revolutionary, and socialist cultures. With a vast collection exceeding 1.43 million pieces, spanning ancient relics to contemporary artworks, the museum serves as a comprehensive showcase of China's diverse civilization over 5,000 years. The artifacts, including oracle bones, bronzes, porcelain, jade, and more, uniquely highlight the continuity and brilliance of China's cultural evolution.

1. Shaanxi History Museum

Xi’an, Shaanxi

The Shaanxi History Museum, hailed as "the pearl of the ancient capital and the treasure house of China," stands as the nation's first large-scale modern museum. Boasting a collection exceeding 1.7 million cultural relics, ranging from early stone tools to artifacts predating 1840, it spans over a million years of human history. Not only are the relics abundant and diverse, but they also exhibit exceptional taste and broad cultural significance. The museum proudly houses 762 first-class cultural relics and 18 national treasure-level artifacts, placing it at the forefront among Chinese museums.

1. Shanghai Museum

Shanghai

The Shanghai Museum, renowned for its focus on ancient Chinese art, is committed to the comprehensive exploration of this rich heritage through collection, research, exhibition, and education. Boasting an impressive collection of nearly 1.02 million cultural relics, including over 140,000 precious artifacts, the museum spans diverse categories such as bronze, ceramics, calligraphy, painting, sculpture, oracle bones, talismans, currency, jade, furniture, weaving, embroidery, lacquer ware, bamboo, wood teeth, and ethnic minority cultural relics. Notably, its distinguished collection in bronze, ceramics, calligraphy, and painting underscores its significance in preserving and showcasing the pinnacle of ancient Chinese artistic achievements.

1. Emperor QinShiHuang’s Mausoleum Site Museum

Xi’an, Shaanxi

The Emperor QinShiHuang’s Mausoleum Site Museum is a large-scale archaeological museum based on the Terracotta Army Museum and relying on the Qin Shihuang Emperor's Mausoleum Site Park (Lishan Garden). It primarily focuses on the Qin Shihuang Emperor's Mausoleum and its numerous accompanying burial pits, integrating the protection and exhibition of archaeological sites and their surroundings. The museum serves as a public cultural space that combines various functions such as education, research, tourism, and leisure.

1. Nanjing Museum

Nanjing, Jiangsu

The Nanjing Museum is the first large comprehensive museum constructed with national investment in China. It follows a "one museum, six galleries" framework, including the History Gallery, Special Exhibition Gallery, Digital Gallery, Art Gallery, Intangible Cultural Heritage Gallery, and the Republic of China Gallery. The museum's collection spans from the Paleolithic era to contemporary times, featuring national and regional artifacts, including imperial heirlooms, archaeological discoveries, and items acquired through social collection and donations. These treasures, representing various dynasties, have garnered significant attention from the academic community both domestically and internationally.

1. National Natural History Museum of China

Beijing

The National Natural History Museum of China is the first large-scale natural history museum in New China established through its own efforts. Within the museum's architecture, the most mysterious is the "Tian Jiabing Building." Financed jointly by Hong Kong entrepreneur Mr. Tian Jiabing and the Beijing Municipal Government, this specimen building houses 321,829 collection specimens. Many of these specimens are considered rare treasures both domestically and internationally.

1. Tianjin Natural History Museum

Tianjin

The Tianjin Natural History Museum, established in 1914 as the predecessor of the Northern Xinjiang Museum, comprises four functional areas: the exhibition hall, collection repository, operational spaces, and a botanical garden. The main building, shaped like a "seashell containing a pearl," symbolizes the museum as a shining pearl on the coast of the Bohai Sea. With a rich history, extensive collections, and remarkable research achievements, the museum stands at the forefront among similar institutions.

1. Hubei Provincial Museum

Wuhan, Hubei

The Hubei Provincial Museum was established in 1953. In February 2023, it became an independent entity separate from the Hubei Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, making it one of the eight nationally designated key museums jointly built by the central and local authorities. The museum's collection features distinctive items such as bronze artifacts from the Shang and Zhou dynasties, lacquer and wooden objects from the Warring States to the Qin and Han dynasties, bamboo slips from the Chu, Qin, and Han periods, and gold and jade artifacts unearthed from the tombs of feudal lords in the pre-Qin and Ming dynasties. Known for its comprehensive and abundant collection, exquisite quality, and distinct regional characteristics, the Hubei Provincial Museum enjoys a prestigious reputation both domestically and internationally.

1. Hunan Museum

Changsha, Hunan

The Hunan Museum is a large historical and artistic museum that primarily reflects the regional civilization of Hunan. It is one of the eight nationally designated key museums jointly built by the central and local authorities. The museum's collection is particularly characterized by artifacts unearthed from the Mawangdui Han tombs, bronze artifacts from the Shang and Zhou dynasties, Chu cultural relics, ceramics from various dynasties, as well as paintings, calligraphy, and modern cultural relics.

1. Mukden Palace

Shenyang, Liaoning

The Shenyang Imperial Palace Museum, or Shenyang Imperial Palace was the former palace of the Later Jin dynasty and the early Qing dynasty. It was built in 1625, and the first three Qing emperors lived there from 1625 to 1644. Since the collapse of imperial rule in China, the palace has been converted to a museum that now lies in the center of Shenyang, Liaoning. Covering an area of over 60,000 square meters, it features 114 ancient buildings with more than 500 rooms, all of which are well-preserved. Built on the site of the imperial palace, the Shenyang Imperial Palace Museum is a renowned museum of ancient imperial art, showcasing a rich collection of courtly artworks.

1. Chengdu Museum

Chendgu, Sichuan

The Chengdu Museum is the largest urban museum in the southwestern region to date. Functioning under the title of Chengdu Chinese Shadow Puppet Museum, it was granted the national museum status by the State Council in 2006, making it the first and only national-level museum in Chengdu, Sichuan. The museum hosts three major permanent exhibitions: "Flowers and Prosperity in the City of Brocade: Chengdu Historical and Cultural Display (Ancient, Modern, Folklore)," "Dance of Shadows, Myriad Forms of Puppets: Chinese Shadow Puppet and Marionette Exhibition," and "Human and Nature: The Berin Donation Exhibition." With nearly 300,000 artifacts, the museum has amassed a comprehensive collection ranging from the Neolithic era to the Republican period, including historical relics, shadow puppets, marionettes, and exquisite modern and contemporary paintings and calligraphy.

1. Zhejiang Museum of Natural History

Hangzhou, Zhejiang

The Zhejiang Museum of Natural History, centered around the theme of "Nature and Humanity," is dedicated to the protection and research of natural heritage and biodiversity, the preparation of exhibitions on natural ecology, and the dissemination of ecological culture. It seeks to explore a journey from the confines of the museum to the vast world beyond. The Hangzhou branch is located at 6 West Lake Cultural Plaza, focusing on five major exhibition areas: "Earth's Life Story," "Rich and Extraordinary Biological World," "Green Zhejiang," "Wilderness - Kenneth E. Behring World Wildlife Exhibition," and "Adolescent Health Education Exhibition." With the central theme of the birth and development of the Earth and life, these exhibits lead the public to explore the magnificence of nature.

1. Henan Museum

Zhengzhou, Henan

Established in 1927, the Henan Museum is one of China's earliest museums and was among the first batch of nationally designated key museums jointly built by the central and local authorities. The museum's collection comprises over 170,000 artifacts, with a distinctive focus on prehistoric relics, bronze artifacts from the Shang and Zhou dynasties, ceramics from various dynasties, jade items, and stone carvings. The collection boasts a multitude of exquisite artifacts that are diverse, of high quality, and possess significant historical value. Serving as a cultural and artistic treasure trove, the Henan Museum is a testament to the developmental trajectory of Chinese civilization, showcasing the cultural and historical evolution of China.

1. Suzhou Museum

Suzhou, Jiangsu

The main location of the Suzhou Museum is situated in the residence of the Loyal Prince of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, designed by the renowned architect I. M. Pei. It is particularly known for its extensive collection of archaeological artifacts, Ming and Qing dynasty calligraphy and paintings, as well as exquisite crafts. Functioning as a comprehensive local museum, it serves as a place for the collection, exhibition, research, and dissemination of Suzhou's history, culture, and art.

The Suzhou Museum West Branch is a subsidiary of the Suzhou Museum, located in the Shishan Square of Suzhou High-tech Zone. Designed by the top-ranking German architectural firm GMP Architects, the West Branch features permanent exhibition halls including a comprehensive historical display, the Suzhou Craftsmanship Hall, the Exploration Experience Hall, the International Cooperation Hall, and the Suzhou Colorful Life Hall.

1. Capital Museum

Beijing

The Capital Museum diligently implements the important instructions of national leaders during their inspection of the museum, emphasizing the directive to "let cultural relics speak and convey the wisdom of history to the people." It strives to create a series of exhibitions under the theme of "Appreciating the Wisdom of Beijing, Interpreting the Splendor of Chinese Civilization, and Mutual Learning of World Civilizations." Tailored for young people, the "Capital Museum Youth Society" is designed, and the "City Reading" brand is connected nationwide, contributing to cultural enrichment.