

# One-Day Suzhou Tour

**Fee:** US\$100/RMB630(cash)/per person: Registration ([Registration Form](#)) prior April 22, 2013;

US\$120/RMB760(cash)/per person: Registration ([Registration Form](#)) during April 22-26, 2013.

**Note:** The fee includes: entrance tickets of the Humble Administrator's Garden and Hanshan Temple, lunch at Songhelou Restaurant, and round trip bus and insurance.

**Tour Time:** April 26, 2013

## Tour Itinerary:

8:00: Boarding at the gate of MAJESTY PLAZA

9:30: Visit the most well-known historical Chinese garden - Humble Administrator's Garden, (Zhuozhen Yuan)

12:00: Taste Chinese Royal traditional local food (lunch at one of China top four most famous restaurants)

13:30: Visit a famous historical Buddhist temple – Henshan Temple

15:00: Enjoy the traditional silk culture from China

16:30: Boarding to return Shanghai

18:30: Back to Hotel in Shanghai

## Features: The Humble Administrator's Garden, (拙政园 Zhuozhen Yuan in Chinese)

One of China's four most famous Chinese gardens, built in 1509 during the Ming Dynasty, covering about 52,000 square meters, is the largest and most renowned in Suzhou city and generally considered the finest garden in southern China. Due to its unique designs and ethereal beauty, the garden has acquired many special honors. In 1997, Zhuozheng Yuan was declared as a UNESCO “World Cultural Heritage” site and has also been designated as one of the “Cultural Relics of National Importance” under the Protection of the State as well as a “Special Tourist Attraction of China”.



*East Garden*

The garden was split up in the later Ming Dynasty, and it remained neglected until the Qing Dynasty reigns of Emperors Shunzhi and Kangxi, when the garden was extensively rebuilt with major modifications to its earlier plan. During Emperor Qianlong's reign the gardens were again divided into the Shu Yuan (Book of Study Garden) and the Fu Yuan(Restored Garden).

The garden's site was a scholar garden during the Tang Dynasty, and later a monastery garden for the Dahong Temple during the Yuan Dynasty. In 1513, during the Ming Dynasty reign of Emperor Zhengde, an administrator named Wang Xianchen appropriated the temple and converted it into a private villa with gardens, which were constructed by digging lakes and piling the resultant earth into artificial islands. The garden was designed in collaboration with renowned Ming artist Wen Zhengming, and was as large as today's garden, with numerous trees and pavilions, the Wang family sold the garden several years later, and it has changed hands many times since then.



*Central Garden*



*Western Garden*

Today's garden is only very loosely related to its earliest version, but closely resembles its late Qing appearance, with numerous pavilions and bridges set among a maze of connected pools and islands, it consists of three major parts set about a large lake: the eastern garden(once called Guitian Yuanju 歸田園居, as dwelling upon return to the countryside), the central garden(Zhuozhen Yuan, or fu Juan 复园), Dwelling Upon Return to the Countryside), and western garden(Bu Yuan 补园 meaning as Supplementary Garden). Then house lies in the south of the garden.

## Hanshan Temple (寒山寺)

Literally "Cold Mountain Temple", is a Buddhist temple and monastery in Suzhou, China. It is located at the town of Fengqiao (Maple Bridge) Township, about 5 kilometers west of the old city of Suzhou.



Traditionally, Hanshan Temple is believed to have been founded during the reign of Emperor Wu of Liang (502–519), the in the Southern and Northern Dynasties period. The current name of the monastery derives from Hanshan, the legendary monk and poet. Hanshan and his disciple Shide are said to have come to the monastery during the reign of Emperor Taizong of Tang (627–649), where Hanshan became the abbot.



The bell of Hanshan Temple: Two bells are currently used at Hanshan Temple, both dating from the late Qing Dynasty when the temple was last rebuilt. One was forged in China in 1906, and the other was forged in Japan at the same time. The dedication on the bell was written by Japanese Prime Minister Itō Hirobumi 鐫日本首相伊藤博文铭文. The original Tang Dynasty bell is believed by some taken to Japan in ancient times. A new 108 tone bell commissioned by Hanshan Temple and built by a foundry in Wuhan was completed recently, and is on its way to Hanshan Temple to replace the hundred years old Japanese built bell. The new bell is 8.5 meters high and 5.2 meters in diameter at its widest.

An Hanshan Temple in Japan (pronounced kanzan-ji in Japanese): was established in Ōme, Tokyo, Japan in 1929.

The poem about the bell in Hanshan: Hanshan Temple is famed in Asia because of the poem "A Night Mooring by Maple Bridge" by Tang Dynasty poet, Zhang Ji. The poem describes the melancholy scene of a dejected traveler, moored at night at Fengqiao, hearing the bells from Hanshan Temple:

**楓橋夜泊 A Night Mooring by Maple Bridge - Zhang Ji-张计, Tang Dynasty poet**

月落烏啼霜滿天， While I watch the moon go down, a crow caws through the frost;  
江楓漁火對愁眠。 Under the shadows of maple-trees a fisherman moves with his torch;  
姑蘇城外寒山寺， And I hear, from beyond Suzhou, from the temple on Cold Mountain,  
夜半鐘聲到客船。 Ringing for me, here in my boat, the midnight bell.

The poem is still popularly read in China, Japan and Korea. It is part of the primary school curriculum in both China and Japan. The ringing of the bell at Hanshan Temple on Chinese New Year eve is a major pilgrimage and tourism event for visitors from these countries.

**Songhelou (松鶴樓菜館 Crane Hall) Restaurant**



It have been founded about 275 year ago during the reign of Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty (1737), from as a tinny noodle shop, gradually it developed into a famous restaurant by serving traditional local Suzhou Gourmet.



*Sweet & Sour Fish*

The Emperor Qianlong held his square meals there times during his three visits in the south China during different years.

Many of its dishes; Sweet & Sour Fish; Triple Shrimp with Doufu; Chinese Ham with Honey Source, etc..., have owned the Gold Metals of Chinese National Gourmet Championships in recent years. It is named as one of China top four most famous restaurants (others as: Pinking Duck Restaurant in Beijing, Fuchun Lou Restaurant in Yangzhou, Louwailou Restaurant in Hangzhou).



**Suzhou No. 1 Silk Factory (苏州第一絲綢廠-絲綢博物館)**

Suzhou is well-known for its best to their silk production in China, so no trip to Suzhou can be complete without visiting a silk factory. The No.1 Silk Factory was founded in 1926 as a state-owned factory today.

With this tour, firstly from the Workshop, you can get the knowledge of the whole life of a silk worm. How amazing about the process is that the silkworm creates its cocoon out of a single silk thread that is continuous for

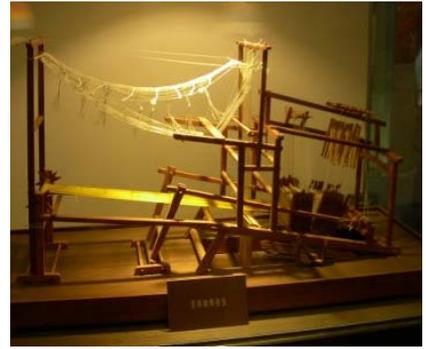


*King's Clothe*

Then a giant gift shop sells all kinds of silk products in many different varieties and fashions. There are all kind of choices to your gift selections for your family members, relatives and friends on your way back to home.

approximately 3,600 feet. Then you will see how the people produce silk with the old style machine, and the making process of handmade silk quilt and a tour of the factory itself. In ancient times, the process around making silk was a closely guarded secret. Divulging the secret to outsiders was punishable by death.

Secondly the Factory Exhibition Hall shows the collections of silk production history, and luxury goods, and antiques, as well as tributes and supplements to the royal families include to the kings or queens.



*Old Style Machine*