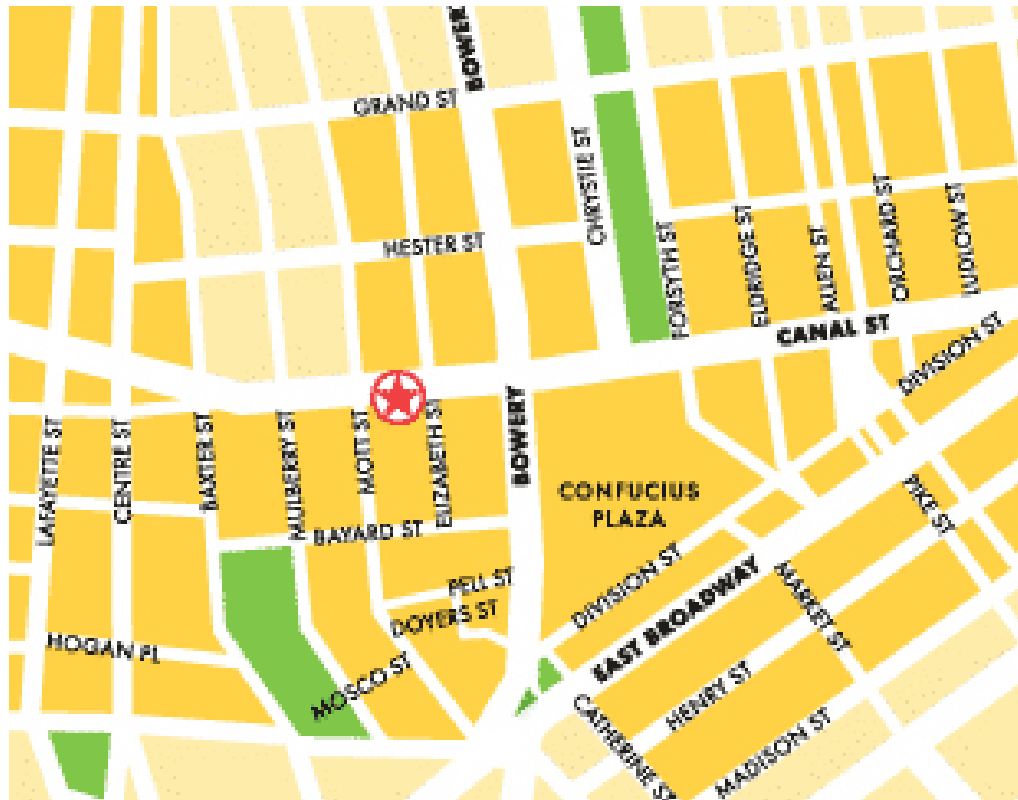


A CHINATOWN ADVENTURE – GET READY TO EXPLORE!!!



HISTORY OF CHINATOWN

New York City's Chinatown, the largest Chinatown in the United States—and the site of the largest concentration of Chinese in the western hemisphere—is located on the lower east side of Manhattan. Its two square miles are loosely bounded by Kenmore and Delancey streets on the north, East and Worth streets on the south, Allen street on the east, and Broadway on the west. With a population estimated between 70,000 and 150,000, Chinatown is the favored destination point for Chinese immigrants, though in recent years the neighborhood has also become home to Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Burmese, Vietnamese, and Filipinos among others.

YOUR GOAL TODAY

1. Buy Rose Tea
2. Order Chrysanthemum Tea at a Restaurant
3. Drink Bubbly Tea
4. Eat a Hot Mini Cake (Hong Kong Cake)
5. Visit the Chinese Ice Cream Factory
6. Buy a Fortune at the Buddhist Temple
7. Wave Hello to Confucius
8. Find Chocolate Covered Sunflower Seeds
9. Peel a Rambutan
10. Walk Under the Chatham Square Arch
11. Stand at the center of Five Points
12. Run a Race through Columbus Park
13. Touch a Brick on the Oldest Townhouse in Manhattan
14. Tiptoe down the old center of commercial life
15. Say hello, goodbye, and thank you in Chinese

First: We will start out at Chatham Square!

Chatham Square sees two important statues: the statue of Lin Zexu, a historic hero who is remembered for his heroic role in the 19th-Century anti-opium war in China, and the Kim Lau Memorial Arch, erected in 1962, in memory of the Chinese Americans who died in the Second World War. This is the place where the Chinese New Year parade goes by every year. At the intersection of Bowery and East Broadway.



Second: Lin Sister Herbs: 4 Bowery at Chatham Square

Herbs have been an important part of Chinese culture for thousands of years, according to Frank Lin of Lin Sister Herbs. In the heavy wooden drawers behind the counter of this shop, there are said to be herbs to help every bodily organ or function. There are concoctions for those who want to strengthen the immune system, increase one's energy, alleviate upset stomach, help regulate blood pressure, or relieve muscle pain. Most are brewed as tea or soup.



Next Valentine's Day, why not try Rose tea, which is said to open the heart meridian. You can buy it here for only \$2 an ounce (and get the experience of seeing it weighed on the old fashioned, hand held scale system). Chrysanthemum tea, they say, is good for the eyes and for blood pressure.

Third: Cross over to Confucius Plaza

Confucius Plaza (you can see it from Chatham Square) was built in 1978 and is the tallest building in Chinatown. It habits mostly Chinese. A statue of Confucius stands nearby. Can you find it? Give him a wave. Be sure to read the inscription.



Fourth: Does It Look Like it is That Old????

At the corner of Bowery and Pell, the oldest townhouse in Manhattan was built in 1785 by Edward Mooney, a butcher, following the Revolutionary War. It became a tavern in the 1820's, a store and hotel in the early 20th century, then a pool parlor, a restaurant, and a Chinese club. Today it is a bank. The architecture combines late Georgian and early Federal styles. Go ahead and touch it!



Fifth: Hungry Yet??? Get A Snack!!!! Try Hot Mini Cakes (or Hong Kong Cakes)

We found a street side mini cake vendor on Bowery near the Mooney house. For only one dollar, you get a small bag to share. The flavor is reminiscent of fortune cookies – perhaps? If you don't see any here, keep your eyes open, you will find one. Another option is to save this treat break until later. After visiting Buddha, you can make your way up Bowery to Grand Street, where more vendors are stationed. Take the snack to Sarah D. Roosevelt Park to munch. On the corner of Chrystie and Grand St is the Chrystie Street playground. (Go two blocks east of Bowery on Grand.)

Make sure to say hello (ni hao or nin hao for elders), thank you (xie xie – sounds like shi shi), and goodbye (zai jian). Can we also learn the word for hot mini cake?

Sixth: Walk in a Circle

Doyers Street runs between Pell Street and Bowery at Chatham Square. This unusual street features a 90-degree turn. Why? It was once the driveway of brewer Heinrich Doyers' home.

In early Chinatown, Doyers Street was the center of commercial life. The building that housed a 400 seat theater where Cantonese opera was performed is still there. Remnants of the era include one of Chinatown's first dim sum restaurants, and lots of barber shops. Walk down Bowery from the Mooney house. Take your first right onto Doyers. Walk (or tiptoe because it is more fun) around the bend. You are now back on Pell Street. Congratulations! You walked in a circle! Has it changed much in the past 100 years?

Continue to your next location by turning left on Pell Street. Take to the end and turn left on Mott St. Take your first right onto Mosco. Welcome to the park!

Seven: Find the Five Points

If you've seen "Gangs of New York", you know some of the history of this area. Five Points was one of the most infamous slum and crime-ridden areas in New York (and the world) in the mid to late 1800s. Even police were afraid to walk alone there. After German immigrants, Irish immigrants poured into the area, especially in the 1840s, during the time of the Great Potato Famine. Five streets converged here, forming a star, giving rise to the "Five Points" name. Baxter Street used to be called Orange (and it continued south beyond Worth, connecting to Park Row), Worth was called Anthony (which dead-ended here coming from the west), and Mosco (which was called Cross Street) extended across the park area now found here and continued on to the southwest.



The "Gangs of New York" also shows the New York Riots of 1863, instigated by the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War draft. Working-class German and Irish immigrants were angered at the thought of having to compete with freed slaves for low-paying jobs, at a war that drafted them and exempted Blacks, and by rules that let wealthy men buy their way out of the draft (for \$300). They released their frustration on the city and its Black population with days of violent riots that required the Army to put them down. So keep in mind that Chinatown grew up in the shadow of such a neighborhood. Note: Most references to Five Points pictures the arch, shown above. However, we found the intersection of the roads to be at the corner of a different park (hint, hint). Let the map show you the way!

Eight: Get Ready, Set, Run!!!!



Below Bayard Street, between Baxter and Mulberry, is Columbus Park, where you can often see people doing Tai Chi in the morning, playing table games, or relaxing with their caged birds. Created in the 1890's to improve the "Five Points" neighborhood, it is a major recreational facility used for sports, festivals, and outdoor events. If you need to burn some energy, try racing across the astro turf. It's nice and springy after the concrete jungle of New York City!

Nine: Bubbly Tea Break: Vivi Bubble Tea: 49 Bayard Street

Thirsty after your run in the park? Take a Bubbly Tea break! Bubble Tea is said to have originated in Taiwan in the early 80's at a tea stand popular with kids getting off school. The proprietor experimented with adding fruit flavors to a standard tea-and-milk mix, and later came up with the idea of adding marble-sized balls of tapioca. As the tapioca pearls sat at the bottom of the glass, a wide straw was introduced to draw them up through the tea. Japanese media coverage led to a pan-Asian youth fad in the 1990s that is spreading to North America in communities like Chinatown New York City.

Pearl Milk Tea is the most common in the US (*zhen zhu nǎi chá*). Other common flavors include bubble black tea and bubble green tea. The word for tea is cha.



"Enjoy"

Ten: Pay a Visit to Buddha

Enjoy your tea on the way to the Mahayana Buddhist Temple: 133 Canal Street (corner of Canal and Bowery) It is the largest Buddhist temple in Chinatown, across from the Manhattan Bridge. See the golden Buddha, perhaps the largest in New York, seated on a lotus. Buy your good fortune for only one dollar!



Eleven: Get A Snack!!!! Try Rambutan

Visit one of the fruit and vegetable stores in the four square blocks bordered by Grand Street, Mott Street, Canal Street, and Bowery.

A close relative of the lychee, rambutans are native to Malaysia but found throughout all of Southeast Asia. When ripe they are deep crimson or bright yellow. Sometimes used for desserts and preserves, they are most often eaten hand-to-mouth by cutting the rind in a circle and pulling half of it off. Or just start peeling the rind away with your nail. Once they get to know the fruit, lots of people pop the whole thing into their mouth and nibble down to the seed that is not, I repeat NOT, edible.



Twelve: Ready for a sit down meal?

If you ready for a break, try one of these restaurant favorites:

Restaurant at 16 Mott Street (don't remember the name)
Golden Unicorn – DimSum, 18 East Bway
Yeah Shanghai Deluxe Restaurant – 65 Bayard Street

Here's a **tip**: at many Chinese restaurants, you can get Chrysanthemum tea instead of the usual, black tea they serve, but only if you ask for it.

Don't forget cash. A lot of restaurants do not accept credit cards in this area.

And dessert? Check out a local institution: The Chinese Ice Cream Factory, 64 Bayard Street. But be brave and experiment with one of the Asian flavors. You haven't come all this way to order vanilla.

Thirteen: Get A Snack to Take Home!!!! Munchie Paradise

That's Aji Ichiban's Munchie's Paradise, one of five Chinatown outlets of the Hong Kong-based snack empire founded in 1993. Aji Ichiban means "Number One Taste" in Japanese, and the Japanese influence is evident in the packaging and many of the selections. Many items you may well recognize, such as seasoned potato chips, dried fruit, assorted gummies, and wasabi peas. Others may sound new yet tantalizing, such as the Chocolate-Covered Sunflower Seeds (in the lower photo) or chocolates in the shape of Chinese gold bullion.

188 Lafayette St, 37 Mott St, 167 Hester St, 23 E. Broadway, 153 A Centre St.



Four Main Streets:

Canal Street, the busiest street in Chinatown, runs from east to west. At its west, it is the Hudson River, and at its east, it is the Manhattan Bridge Gate. Everyday, it is crowded with visitors from all over the world. Stores, banks, supermarkets, restaurants, offices are all found on this street. Peddlers make it even more crowded.

Mott Street, crossing Canal Street, is the heart of Chinatown. Like Canal Street, it is crowded by stores, supermarkets, restaurants, cafes, etc. It is considered the paradise for shopping in Chinatown.

Bowery Street, crossed by Canal Street on the east side, is dotted with stores and travel agencies. Confucius Plaza and Chatham Square are located on this street. Jin Feng Restaurant, the biggest in Chinatown, is at its corner with Canal Street

East Broadway, a litter outside of Chinatown at the east, is where most Chinese do their business and spend their daily life. It is also crowded not by visitors but by local Chinese. The street is flanked by different kinds of cheap stores and traditional Chinese restaurants.

Other Stores of Interest:

Kam Kuo, 7 Mott St. (near Chatham Square), 349-3097: large, two-story emporium with a full range of groceries on the street level and dinnerware, decorative pieces, plus all manner of cooking equipment, on the upper floor.

Asia Market Corp., 71 1/2 Mulberry St. (near Bayard St.), 962-2028: a good selection of Chinese, Thai, Indonesian and Philippine groceries, fruits and vegetables.

Hong Keung Seafood & Meat Market, 75 Mulberry St., 571-1445: the large selection of fish is nicely displayed and clearly identified, and there's a meat section, as well.

Chinese American Trading Co., 91 Mulberry St. (south of Canal Street), 267-5223: a few steps below street level, this crowded grocery is filled with an amazing array of foodstuffs.

Mark's Wine & Spirits Inc., 53 Mott St., 962-1993: This is the place to go if you want to make your Jade Flower Chicken with Mei Kuei Lu Chiew instead of with gin or if you are looking for a good bottle of Shaohsing wine.

Here is a larger map if you need a broader street guide. Subways are also included. Ignore the numerical references. They do not refer to this adventure!

