



## Unit Six

# Shopping In Travelling



### Learning objectives

After learning this unit, you should:

- understand how to give shopping information;
- master the basic words and expressions about shopping in travelling;
- be able to explain why Hong Kong is known as a “shopping paradise”;
- find ways to improve your writing skills in invitation.



### Part 1 Speaking

#### Dialogue 1

#### Shopping in the Arts and Crafts Store

(Lucy, the local guide, together with her tourists, has arrived at a store which sells arts and crafts. The following dialogue is between them. Lucy: L Tourist: T)

L: Ladies and gentlemen, attention please. We have arrived at an arts and crafts store. This store is the best you can find in this city.

T: What does it sell?

L: It mainly covers jade wares, silk products, paintings and calligraphy.

T: Does the store sell writing brushes, ink sticks and paper?

L: Yes, the store sells writing brushes, ink sticks and paper.

T: How about the quality of the articles in this store?

L: You can rest assured. This store is designated by the state and provides authentic articles.

T: Excuse me. But could you tell me how to choose jade wares?

L: You have to pay attention to its color, design and carving skills. Chrysolite is the best of Chinese jade. It has the color of white and green. Agate ranks the second in terms of value, it has the color of red or white. If you need help, please don't hesitate to ask.

T: What about the price?

L: The price here is moderate.

T: Can we bargain here?

L: Sorry to say that this is a store operated by the state, so bargaining here is not allowed.

## Dialogue 2

### Buying Embroidery

(Assistant: A Tourist: T)

A: Good afternoon, sir. Can I help you?

T: I heard Chinese arts and crafts are famous for their careful workmanship. I'd like to take some back.

A: We have many kinds of articles, such as the tri-colored glazed pottery of the Tang Dynasty, embroidery, brocade, jade carving, bamboo carving, lacquer ware, braiding, etc.

T: I want something typically Chinese and easy to carry.

A: Well, the tri-colored pottery is beautiful, but it's fragile. Cloisonné is heavy and can be easily damaged. I suggest you buy some embroidery. It's easy to carry.

T: I'm interested in it. It looks delicate.

A: Here is a piece of Su embroidery.

T: Let me see it. Oh, a dog's playing with two balls. The dog is so cute. How much is it?

A: 500 yuan.

T: I'm afraid it's too expensive.

A: Too expensive? Feel the material. Look at the pattern. Aren't they excellent?

T: Excellent as they are, they aren't worth that much. This morning a peddler showed me a piece of Su embroidery. The pattern was great. He only asked for 300 yuan.

A: Did you take it?

T: Yeah, I took it for 240 yuan only. Here it is.

A: They are quite different. Yours is machine-made, I mean it is mass produced. It isn't worth that much. At most it can sell at 150 yuan. You were overcharged.

T: Really?

A: But look at all the embroidery I'm dealing in. they are all hand-made. Both sides display the exactly same pattern. It's worth every penny I asked for.

T: How about 400 yuan?

A: 500 yuan is the last price I can accept. I know some foreigners never bargain, so I've never over priced my goods. You can compare mine with other sellers'. Then you will find 500 yuan is quite reasonable for such an excellent item.

T: Ok, I do love it. I'll take it. Here is the money.

A: Thank you. Anything else you need?

T: No, thank you, bye.

A: Goodbye. Have a good trip!



## Part 2 Reading

### Hong Kong—The Shopping Paradise

#### Hong Kong SAR in Profile



Hong Kong of China is a bustling, vibrant city, renowned for its work-hard, play-hard ethic and its enterprising entrepreneurial spirit.

In Cantonese, Hong Kong means “Fragrant Harbor”, which was the original name of a pre-colonial fishing port near Aberdeen. The area was also known for producing incense, a truly fragrant commodity.

The territory of Hong Kong SAR extends well beyond Hong Kong Island and includes the Kowloon Peninsula, the New Territories and 235 outlying islands. Much of the 1,100 square

kilometers (about 425 square miles) is mountainous, of which the low-lying areas are used for housing, farming and industry. Of Hong Kong's 6.8 million inhabitants, 40 percent live in the largely agricultural New Territories. More than 95 percent of the population is of Chinese descent. The international community includes people of many nationalities.

The outlying islands, known as the "other face of Hong Kong", have a tranquil beauty with little traffic, unspoiled wilderness and traditional farms and fishing villages.

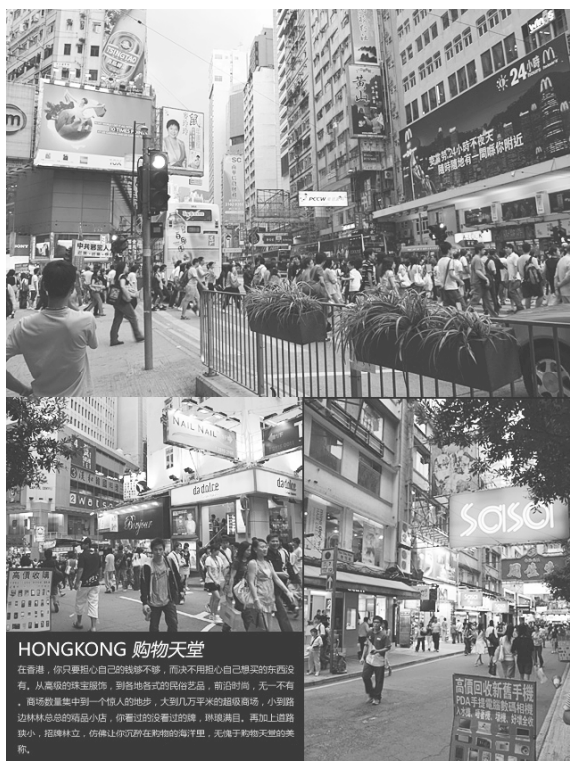
Hong Kong's position as one of the world's most important economic centers is based on several factors. It is located midway between Japan and Singapore, and it lies astride the main shipping and air routes of the western Pacific. It also has long served as a major port of entry and trade for China, which uses Hong Kong as a primary link to the world economy. Furthermore, Hong Kong has a favorable atmosphere for business and trade. Hong Kong's economy has always been based upon commerce, trade, and shipping, and today it vies with Singapore as the world's largest container port. Industry and tourism are also important, and agriculture continues to provide a significant share of the territory's food and flower supplies, although Hong Kong must import the majority of its food.

Hong Kong is a vibrant mix of East and West, old and new, where the abacus is almost as prevalent as the pocket calculator, and high-tech architecture soars above ancient temples. There is so much to see here, with fascinating Chinese traditions and festivals, excellent shopping, restaurants and nightlife, in which you can't help staying for an extra day.

Tourism is one of Hong Kong's most important service activities and it is the third largest source of foreign exchange earnings. Tourism dollars injected more than \$ 7 billion into the Hong Kong economy each year of the early 1990s, when nearly 9 million tourists visited annually. In 2002, 16.6 million tourists visited Hong Kong. Most visitors came from Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, and other locations in East and Southeast Asia. Many European and North American tourists also visited.

Hong Kong has a variety of cultural attractions and activities. The Hong Kong Arts Festival and The Hong Kong International Film Festival are annual events. Professional music companies include the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, and the Hong Kong Dance Company. The territory has a thriving film and television industry. One of Hong Kong's most popular actors is Jackie Chan, who is known for his starring roles and stunts in action movies.

## A Shopping Paradise



Millions of visitors come to Hong Kong every year, and shopping is high on their list of things to do. The territory's variety of goods has tempted visitors for decades and its reputation as a shopper's paradise is well deserved.

No matter why you come to Hong Kong, and whether or not you're a shopper by nature, it's highly unlikely that you'll leave here without having bought something. Indeed, Hong Kong does roaring trade in bargain-priced luggage simply because so many travelers run out of space in their suitcases.

There are several good reasons for this. The first is Hong Kong's status as a free port, where everything other than alcohol, tobacco, perfumes, cosmetics, cars, and some petroleum products comes in without import duty. The second is that Hong Kong has access to a skilled and still relatively inexpensive labor force just across the border in Mainland of China. Goods made on either side of the border are considerably cheaper than they will be when they reach shop shelves anywhere else in the world. The third factor is the highly competitive nature of the retails business—the result of a local policy of free trade, which encourages every store to try to undercut its neighbors. To this end, many shops, with the exception of those in the Western and Central districts, stay open until 10 p. m. . Shops also hum on Sunday and on all holidays apart from the Chinese New Year, when

everything closes for at least three days.

What else makes Hong Kong special? Because it's very small and very heavily populated, Hong Kong has had to grow upward and downward rather than outward—which means there are shops and small business in all sorts of unexpected places. You'll find a trendy fashion designer tucked away on the third floor of a scruffy building in an alleyway, a picture framer in the basement of a lighting shop, a tailor snipping and stitching in the back room of a shoe shop.

Many buildings will appear dingy and dirty, and you may be inclined to think that no self-respecting business can be carried on inside; but it can, and it is. These are the places where Hong Kong people do much of their own shopping. Prices for the same goods vary from sky-high to rock-bottom within a 100-yard stretch.

### **What Makes a Business Reputable?**

It is always advisable to deal with reputable establishments. By reputable establishments it means those that have been recommended by a friend who lives or shops regularly in Hong Kong, or by the Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA) in its invaluable *The Official Dining, Entertainment & Shopping Directory and Factory Outlets for Locally Made Fashion and Jewelry*. All shops bearing the HKTA's red-junk logo in their windows are supposed to provide good value for money, accurate representation of the products sold, and prompt rectification of justified complaints.

### **Shopping Malls**

Many shopping malls are located at MTR or KCR stations. Festival Walk at the Kowloon Tong MTR/KCR station has more than 200 retail stores offering everything from home furnishings to fashion, along with more than 25 restaurants, an ice rink and 11-screen cinema. Diamond Hill MTR Station has Plaza Hollywood and Kowloon Bay MTR Station has Telford Plaza. At the Tsing Yi MTR Station, you'll find Maritime Square with more than 200 shops, themed restaurants and a cinema. This mall is just one train stop away from the Hong Kong International Airport making it an ideal place for transit passengers. In the New Territories, you can find the New Town Plaza at the Sha Tin KCR Station. Other popular shopping centers include The Peak Galleria and The Peak Tower on The Peak, and the Wonderful World of Whampoa and The Metropolis Mall near the Hung Hom KCR Station. At the airport itself, Hong Kong SkyMart, the world-class airport retail complex offers a unique shopping and dining experience. It covers a total of 30,000 square metres in five zones throughout the passenger terminal building presenting a well balanced mix of over 100 shops, and 25 food and beverage outlets.

### **Hong Kong's "Must-Buy" Products**

Visitors will be delighted with a truly unique souvenir that reflects all the graceful charm of the

city where East meets West! The six signature Hong Kong “Must-Buy” products selected by residents and visitors are truly representative of the myriad treasures of Hong Kong.

Travelers can check out the wide range of handicrafts with which Hong Kong has long been synonymous. A treasure trove for handicrafts and home furnishings produced locally and imported from Chinese provincial cities, Hong Kong specializes in quality products at reasonable prices. The same high quality is apparent in Chinese clothing. One of Asia’s leading fashion centers, Hong Kong offers the best craftsmanship and widest range of styles and fabrics in fashionable Chinese and fashion-style clothes and accessories. Local tailors are renowned worldwide for their speedy tailor-made service.

Similarly, no visit to Hong Kong would be complete without refreshing Chinese tea. Tasting tea is an art and is believed to be good for your health. A wide selection of attractively packaged teas from different Chinese provinces is available in Hong Kong. Alternatively, tourists can spoil themselves with gold jewellery. Hong Kong’s huge numbers of jewellery shops offer an unsurpassed selection of modern and traditional gold jewellery, accessories and ornaments, the purity of which is guaranteed.

Equally irresistible are scrumptious Chinese assorted cakes. Traditional Chinese cakes and festive delicacies such as “wife cake” and mini moon cakes are tasty treats for young and old alike. They’ll taste even sweeter when served on fine Chinese tableware. Classic Chinese tableware, such as chopsticks, bowls and dishes, is a lasting symbol of Hong Kong’s exhilarating dining culture.

Hong Kong is a sophisticated fusion of East and West; a city of diversity where old and new meet at every turn. It is a unique experience shaped by a distinctive past and dreams of the future, an age-old synthesis of culture and traditions that opens a window into what will be, while embracing what has passed.



## Part 3 Writing

### Invitation

#### 请柬

#### Sample Writing I : 正式请柬

##### Sample 1

Mr. and Mrs. Zhang Liang

Request the pleasure of

Mr. and Mrs. John

The presence at Beijing Opera

On Friday, August 22nd

At seven p. m.

Peace Theater

R. S. V. P.

Telephone: 010-68965432

## Sample 2

President Gu Binglin

Tsinghua University

Requests the pleasure of the company of Mr. Luis Brankurt,

At a New Year's Party

On Dec. 30th, 2020, Wednesday at 7:00 p. m.

In Rm 201, Guest House

R. S. V. P.

Telephone: 010-62780011

December 20th, 2020

## Sample Writing II : 非正式请柬

### Sample 1

Dear Mr. and Mrs. John,

Will you please go with us to see a farewell performance of Tom Waker on Sunday August 24th, at 7:00 p. m., at Peace Theater?

It has been a long time since we met in Shanghai last year. We do hope you will find it possible to go with us.

Sincerely yours,

Zhang Ming

### Sample 2

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Brown,

July 5th, 2020

We shall be pleased if you can be present for dinner in our apartment at 7:00 p. m. this Friday, July 30th in honor of Dr. Zhang Jie and his colleagues who are visiting us from Zhejiang



University.

Please let us have an early reply. Tel: 83364455

Sincerely yours,

Xiao Hong

### Writing Practice:

A new Hyatt Hotel in your city will have a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a reception. Please design an invitation card for the new Hyatt Hotel.



## Part 4 Supplementary Reading

### Ancient Commercial Streets in Beijing

Beijing is a modern city for people to go shopping. It was also a place where people would like to come to do shopping in the Ming Dynasties and Qing Dynasties. At that time, Beijing was also the capital of China. Emperors lived here together with all the noble people who got money. So businessmen from all over the country came here to gain more opportunities and profits. Consequently people can buy goods from all over the country here in Beijing. On the other hand, there are also some local businessmen who do business with the imperial family and noble families. They got stores outside the Imperial City, and were proud of their business relationship with the imperial family. So people could get opportunity to buy goods offered to the imperial family, although the quality might be different, which could not be bought in any other places outside Beijing. So at that time the commercial and cultural streets came into being in Beijing, for example, Wangfujing, Dazhalan and Liulichang Streets.

#### Wangfujing Street

Beijing Wangfujing Pedestrian Street is a well-known commercial street with a long history. It is also called “Gold Street” in Beijing. The street intercrosses the Chang’an Avenue (or Everlasting Peace Avenue) in the south, and is 810 meters long from south to north. The pedestrian street starts near the Wangfujing Bookstore and ends near the New Dong’an Department Store. There are 765 big or small stores along the street and it is the most popular commercial street in Beijing nowadays.

The history of Wangfujing Street can be traced back to the Yuan Dynasty. To the Ming



Dynasty, there had been 10 royal mansions and three princess mansions, so the street was called “Royal Mansions” street, which pronounced as “Wangfu” in Chinese. In 1905 during the Qing Dynasty, the government renamed the street because there was a well in the street. So the name became “Wangfujing”, which means “The Well of Royal Mansion”. There were some legends about the well and now you can see it on the northwest side of the center cross of the street.

During the reign of Emperor Guangxu, the “Dongjiaominxiang” embassy district in the south of Wangfujing was formed. So some banks and businesses offering services for foreigners were started on Wangfujing Street.

In the early 20th century, the Wangfujing Street entered a new commercial era, and became one of the major commercial districts in Beijing. Nowadays Wangfujing has become a wonderful place where people can do shopping, have dinner, see films, etc.

Wangfujing Street is like a museum, with its extensive and profound convergence of traditional culture. There are lots of stores with ancient Chinese famous brands like “Tongshenghe Shoes Store” and “Shengxifu Hat Store” which had ever made shoes and hats for lots of Chinese leaders, such as Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai, etc. “Dong-lai-shun Hot Pot”, the most famous hot pot restaurant in Beijing, is also located in the street.

Besides all these ancient brand stores, Wangfujing Street is more like a kaleidoscope. It seems to roam into a shopping paradise when people hang around here. Since the reform and opening up of China, Wangfujing Street has changed greatly. There are many newly renovated stores along the street, such as Wangfujing Bookstore, the modern Oriental Plaza, Arts & Crafts Department Store, and the first Chinese “shopping malls” —Beijing Department Store and Dong'an Department Store. All of these ancient brand stores and modern shopping malls embody the perfect combination of tradition and modernization of the new central business district.

On September 11, 1999, Wangfujing Street finished its eight-year renovation and presented a brand new appearance to all the people in Beijing. After the renovation, the street formed a “cross”. The center of the cross is the cross of “Golden Fish Alley” from east to west. To the east, there is the street of hotels, such as Wangfu Hotel, Taiwan Hotel, newly opened Regency Hotel and so on. To the west, there is the Donghuamen Snack Street where people can try lots of snacks of Beijing. The flourishing pedestrian Wangfujing Commercial Street is to the south of the cross. And there is an entertainment street to the north of it. There is a big sporting goods store named Lisheng, where you can see some huge facilities for some extreme games just in front of the store. The church is located right across the road.

Today’s Wangfujing has become a complex commercial street with shops, sports and leisure places, and catering business.

In the future, Wangfujing will be created into a digitalized commercial street of the central business district. It will keep on developing and lead the trend of the development of world commercial streets.

### Wangfujing Snack Street



Beijing is known for its great variety of snacks. Most have their origin in the pastries invented by people of the Manchu ethnic group during the Qing Dynasty. These include aiwowo (steamed dumplings made of glutinous rice flour and stuffing), lüdagun (cake made of glutinous rice flour and sweetened red bean paste and coated with soybean flour), luzhuhuoshao (pot-stewed pig’s intestine with baked wheat cakes), and fried guanchang (fried starch sausage in garlic sauce).

Chinese snacks are a must for visitors to Beijing, and the snack street on Wangfujing is the best place to go.

## Front Gate Street



### Dazhalan

Beijing Dazhalan is the oldest and most unique ancient market which still exists today in the downtown area in Beijing. We call it “Dashiler” in Beijing dialect. It lies to the west of the famous Front Gate Street, about 275 meters from east to west. Along this street, there is a large number of genuine preservation of the ancient buildings and stores. These ancient buildings, stores, together with the old stories along the street in the history are all important human treasures and cultural resources of Beijing.

Dazhalan has a history of 580 years. The origin of the street dates back to the first year of Hongzhi in the Ming Dynasty, during the reign of Emperor Xiaozong. At that time, the government implemented a policy of Night Ban which means all the gates of the city would be closed at night and nobody could come in or go out of the city at night. And in order to prevent thieves hidden in the streets and alleys, government set wooden fences in many streets crossing in Beijing. According to the records in the Qing Dynasty, during the reign of Emperor Yongzheng, there were 440 fences set in the city. And when it was in Emperor Qianlong’s reign, there were 1,919 fences in the inner-city and 196 ones in the imperial city. Dazhalan was originally called Langfangsitiao. Just because the fence set here was well-produced, excellent-looking and long-lasting, people made Dazhalan as the name of this street gradually.

From 1420 of the Ming Dynasty till now, after having developed for hundreds of years, the street has become a commercial district with numerous shops. Now, in this street there are 36 stores of 11 industries. Every Beijinger knows the Front Gate Dazhalan and it’s also well-known around the world. Although the street got ups and downs in the history, it is still the oldest commercial street which came through business storms of over 500 years with its own styles well-preserved. There was an old saying in Beijing, “Watch games at Tianqiao, and buy things at Dazhalan.” From this you

can tell the importance of this place in history.

Nowadays, after the renovation of Dazhalan Street, it shows a completely new face. The street appears brand new, but you can still find many ancient stores like Ruifuxiang Silk Store, Liubiju Pickles Store, Neiliansheng Shoe Store, Rongbaozhai Stationary Store, Tongrentang Medicine Store, Zhangyiyuan Tea House, etc. They all look so new from appearance, but they all have a long history, as long as the street. These old stores have a common characteristic, which is to emphasize reputation, such as Tongrentang's business tenet, which is passed from generation to generation, says, "Although the medicine-making process is complex, we dare not pinch any labor. Although it would cost a lot in order to get perfect quality, we dare not reduce any material."

Dazhalan was a shopping center for the ancient people in the old days. It was so prosperous that every one knew it and liked shopping there. But now it has become a place for modern people to experience the long history of the city. Hanging around in various stores which have lasted for hundreds of years, people would imagine the climax time of the street and would see some shows full of ancient style in some stores. All ancient brands which still exist today can tell unnumbered stories of ancient Beijing. Government had got the whole street renovated in order to give better preservation to all these ancient stores. The street can show the history of Beijing, especially its commercial history.

Among all the ancient brands, Ruifuxiang and Neiliansheng are the most famous ones in Beijing.

### **Ruifuxiang Silk Store**

The store is built in Western Baroque architectural style. Every day it attracts numerous people from all directions of the country.

The derivation of the name Ruifuxiang is untraceable now.

Fu is a cicada-like insect in ancient story. It was said that the copper coin coated with blood of Qingfu could fly back after being spent. And "xiang", "rui" means auspicious signs in Chinese. Therefore, the name of the store involves deep consideration.

Beijing Ruifuxiang Silk Store was established in 1893 (during the reign of Emperor Guangxu, Qing Dynasty) by Meng family from Shandong Province. The family first built up their business by selling hand-woven cloth. The owner was Meng Luochuan, the 68th generation grandson of Mengzi (Meng Ke, Chinese Confucian philosopher).

Meng Luochuan started to develop the business in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and other big cities in 1880. The store's customers covered the royal family members, high-ranking officials, actors, young ladies from rich families or small families, and common people.



Beijing Ruifuxiang is the biggest one among the 24 stores that Meng family owns all over the country. Thanks to the flourishing and profitable business, the store won great reputation shortly after its foundation. There was a ballad when a man meant to show off, “Majuyuan hat on my head, Neiliansheng shoes under my feet, dress up by Ruifuxiang silk.” It was a symbol of honor to wear Ruifuxiang silk.

At that time, there were many cloth stores outside Qianmen. To survive the fierce competition, Ruifuxiang should have its unique advantages. So the storekeeper made exquisite decoration, particular arrangements and restricted the speech and deportment of the staff so as to satisfy every customer. Hence the business developed prosperously and swiftly. It almost monopolized the Beijing market.

In 1900, the Eight Power Allied Forces invaded Beijing. They set fire in Dazhalan and destroyed all the business. Ruifuxiang didn't survive the disaster. All the accounts and properties became ash in an instant. However, the storekeeper was not stricken down by difficulties. He promised seriously to the society: What Ruifuxiang owed customers would be returned; what customers owed Ruifuxiang would be cancelled totally.

The extraordinary verve and magnificent credit of Ruifuxiang caused a surprise stir in the society and was highly appraised.

After 1949, Ruifuxiang was set free from the dilemma. It obtained its vitality with the consideration of the government. In the Founding Ceremony of the People's Republic of China, Chairman Mao raised the first Five Starred Red Flag, which was made of Ruifuxiang silk. It was the

pride and honor of Ruifuxiang as well as the silk industry.

### Neiliansheng Shoe Store

Shoes made by Neiliansheng Shoe Store were worn by officials of the Qing Dynasty, wives and concubines and also by Hong Kong kungfu movie stars such as Jackie Chan.

Neiliansheng stems from the Chinese “nei”, which means “the imperial court”, and “liansheng”, which means “getting successive promotions”. Zhao Ting, the founder of Neiliansheng, used this name in hopes of that officials who wore his shoes would win promotions. Because of the good reputation and high quality of the hand-made shoes, Zhao quickly became rooted in Beijing. After Neiliansheng’s founding in 1853, Zhao focused his business on the middle and upper classes of the society, mainly officials in the imperial court. He often sent his staff to the officials’ homes to measure their feet. Years later, Neiliansheng had accumulated a detailed record of many officials’ shoe sizes, special requirements and even their positions. Even today, the book is stored at Neiliansheng.

Before the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in 1911, Neiliansheng was famous for making shoes for officials. The vamps were in black satin that remained smooth even with long wear; dust could be easily removed. Neiliansheng’s comfortable, light and soundless shoes were popular with court officials and helped ensure its success.

After 1911, there was no longer a market for these shoes; they were supplanted by multiple layered, hand-made cloth shoes. The vamps were made from wool, silk or cloth and the soles from 32 layers of white cotton cloth. Stitched with hemp string, the soles are more durable than those stitched with ordinary thread. Quite different from the shoes made by using machines, a pair of such shoes takes one worker about four days and more than 30 procedures to make, just to make one sole with 32 layers requires two-day work and seven procedures, including cutting the cloth to form, assembling and gluing the layers, stitching and more. About 81 stitches are required for every 1.69 square inches, and the stitches on the soles should be distributed in order.

Niu Shuxin, Neiliansheng’s Director of General Manager’s Office, said, the sticky materials used for assembling the 32 layers of the soles are made from rice, and they are even edible. We use all-natural materials and hand work. This explains why the cloth shoes sold at Neiliansheng are more expensive than others.

The company has also developed a variety of embroidered shoes for women. The vamps of these shoes are made with silk and the soles with cloth or leather. Patterns used may include flowers and plants such as plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo, chrysanthemums or peonies. Or they may use mandarin ducks that symbolize an affectionate couple.



Another style of women's shoes sold at Neiliansheng is the huapen-style shoes (flowerpot shoes, named for their shape). You can sometimes see them in Chinese movies or in photos. The wives and concubines of the emperors wore this kind of shoes. They are now used mostly in the movies. A tiny version of hand-made huapen-style shoes is now sold at Neiliansheng for home decoration. A pair of such shoes is smaller than a lady's palm.

A visitor to Neiliansheng should take the time to visit the store's historic exhibitions. On the first floor of the store are copies of shoes made by Neiliansheng that were once worn by Chairman Mao and Premier Zhou Enlai. On the second floor, there is an exhibition of shoes. Some date back to thousands of years ago. It explains the development of shoes in China and features photos of shoes worn by the Empress Dowager Cixi and officials of the imperial court.

### Liulichang Street



Liulichang is a famous Cultural Commercial Street in Xuanwu District, which is famous for selling paintings, calligraphy and antiques. In the Liao Dynasty, the place here was suburbs of Beijing and liulichang was a small village called Haiwang Village. In the Yuan Dynasty because of construction of the imperial palaces, the government set up a kiln here in order to produce colored glazed tiles. Colored glazed tiles were called Liuli in Chinese, so the place was named Liulichang, which means a factory producing colored glazed tiles. At that time the five-colored glazed tiles produced here were not only used to decorate the imperial palaces, but also welcomed by constructors of temples and royal mansions. So the place of Liulichang became prestigious and the glazed tile business was booming.

However, in the Qing Dynasty, the business gradually declined. And at the end of the reign of Emperor Kangxi, the imperial court held lantern festival of inner-city here. With the city's carnival here, the place thrived again. During the holidays, it was bustling and filled with people here.



In addition, the codification of two books serves well for the prosperity of Liulichang. One is ancient and modern books integration in Kangxi's reign, which is called Kangxi Da Dian in Chinese. The other is imperial collection of four categories in Qianlong's reign, which is named Siku Quanshu in Chinese. The compilation of these two books made a large number of bachelors from all over the country gathered in the capital. They all lived in their assembly halls respectively outside the Front Gate which is not far away from Liulichang. So Liulichang became the best place to exchange ideas and books. And most of the officers in charge of the work lived in south Beijing, where Liulichang was located. So they thought it was also a perfect place to discuss their research and learn from each other. Astute book dealers were also aware of these two advantages and started to do their business here and gradually they enlarged their book business to antiques, the four stationery treasures, scroll paintings and calligraphy. Finally Liulichang turned into a cultural street.

In 1982, the street was renovated, and some parts of the street were reconstructed according to the original architectural style. The street is 750 meters long and extends east to Yanshousi Street and west to Nanbeiliu Alley, with South Xinhua Street in the middle. The crossing of South Xinhua Street and Liulichang Street divides the street into two sections. The stores in the eastern section mainly deal in the business of antiques, while the stores in the western section mainly do ancient book business.

Walking along the street, you would get the feeling like walking in an ancient market with brick pavements in the street, gray tiles on the roof, brick carvings and antique paintings on the edge of the roof. There are so many ancient stores with sound brands along the street. For example, Rongbaozhai Scroll Painting and Calligraphy Store, Baowentang Bookstore, Cuizhenzhai Porcelain Store, Ancient-melody Cloisonné Store, and some famous ancient stores for stationery treasures, such as Daiyuexuan Huzhou Brush and Anhui Chinese-Ink Store, Yidege Chinese-Ink Store, Boguzhai Xuan Paper Store and Baojinzhai Duan Inkstone Store. The four stores represent four most famous places in China that produce stationeries of the best quality. They are Huzhou Chinese Brush, Anhui Chinese Ink, Xuan Paper and Duan Inkstone.

Liulichang is a place really worth going because you can experience the life of ancient Chinese intellectuals. The four stationeries, the ancient books, the scroll paintings and calligraphy all give you a strong taste of Chinese tradition.

### **Daiyuexuan Huzhou Brush and Anhui Chinese Ink Store**

Daiyuexuan is the only shop that is named after a man in Liulichang. Originally the shop was called Daiyuexuan Brush and Ink Store, and then it was changed into Daiyuexuan Brush

Store. The plaque of the store was written by Xu Shichang, a famous official in the Chinese history.

Daiyuxuan was a businessman who sold Huzhou brush. Mr. Dai came to Beijing when he was a little boy, he worked in a brush store as an apprentice. He studied hard, and just a few years later, he gained the methods of how to make a calligraphy brush. In 1916, Mr. Dai set up a calligraphy store with brush-making factory at the back. All the raw materials were from Huzhou, and Mr. Dai would make brushes personally in order to ensure the authenticity.

Hu brush was produced in Zhejiang Province. It was in the charge of Huzhou in the history, thus the products of the place were called “Hu brush”. According to the use of different materials, Hu brush can be divided into four categories. They are Yanghao (wool), Zihao (Rabbit), Langhao (weasel hair on the tail), and Jianhao (a mixture of the three kinds of hair mentioned above). Yanghao is the softest, Zihao is the hardest; Langhao is sharp, and Jianhao is not so soft and not so hard. To make a Hu brush, it would go through more than 70 procedures, and the requirements of each procedure are very strict. The brushes made here are loved by the scholars in Beijing.

### Key Words

consequently	<i>adv.</i> 结果
pedestrian	<i>n.</i> 行人
intercross	<i>vt.</i> 互相交叉
kaleidoscope	<i>n.</i> 万花筒
paradise	<i>n.</i> 天堂
mutual	<i>adj.</i> 共同的, 相互的
facility	<i>n.</i> 设施, 设备
roam	<i>v.</i> 漫游, 闲逛, 徜徉
dimensional	<i>adj.</i> 空间的
genuine	<i>adj.</i> 真正的, 真实的
ban	<i>n.</i> 禁令 <i>v.</i> 禁止
tenet	<i>n.</i> 教义, 信条; 原则
derivation	<i>n.</i> 来历; 诱导
ballad	<i>n.</i> 民歌, 歌谣
dilemma	<i>n.</i> 困境, 进退两难
vamp	<i>n.</i> 靴面, 鞋面

hemp	<i>n.</i> 麻, 大麻
edible	<i>n.</i> 食物 <i>adj.</i> 可食用的
affectionate	<i>adj.</i> 情深的
kiln	<i>n.</i> 窑 <i>v.</i> 烧窑
weasel	<i>n.</i> 狡猾的人, 黄鼠狼