

FIELD GUIDE / COMPLETE EDITION

Suzhou Shopping Field Guide

苏州

Look closely at silk, fan ribs and the food label.

Compare textiles and fans through their materials and technique. Pair old-town stops, keep fresh sweets for the end, and give Jinji Lake a separate outing.

8 places, with a reason to choose each

Four starting points from the free city guide plus four additional researched stops. Each card includes a fit, a reason to skip and a question that changes the purchase.

3 ready-to-adapt outings

Choose by interests and a spending cap. Each plan includes priorities, a fallback and something to cut when time or money is tight.

A kit for the shop counter

Recipient-matched gifts, bilingual questions, a worked comparison, packing decisions and a purchase record.

Research edition: 17 September 2026. Independent public-source research, not personal store visits. Prices, stock, access and opening hours are not live-verified. Route budgets are planning examples, not seller quotations.

01 / CHOOSE BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Which stop earns its place?

Use this board to build a short list. The four additional stops are marked +; the complete guide also expands the original four.

01 Taihusnow Silk Building

Someone comparing scarves or textiles with a clear luggage limit.

Skip: Pass on bedding before checking both filling and cover plus packed size.

03 Ruyi Sandalwood Fan Shop

Someone who wants to handle and compare a crafted folding fan.

Skip: Pass if you cannot establish the material or protect the fan in your bag.

05 Huang Tian Yuan - Guanqian Street +

A companion or host who will receive the food soon.

Skip: Skip fresh cakes for a long journey if storage and usable life are unsuitable.

07 Eslite Spectrum Suzhou +

A reader, a design-minded recipient or a family comparing different gift types.

Skip: Skip a cross-city detour if you need only one quick old-town souvenir.

02 Caizhizhai

Someone choosing labelled Suzhou sweets for one or several recipients.

Skip: Pass if ingredients, storage needs or remaining shelf life are unsuitable.

04 Suzhou Museum - Art Shop

A planned museum visitor wanting a collection-inspired souvenir or art book.

Skip: Pass on a shopping-only plan without confirmed access to the Dongbei Street museum.

06 Momi Café - Pingjiang Road +

A friend who keeps travel letters, or several recipients with limited luggage space.

Skip: Skip a generic illustration if you want a recognisable record of Suzhou.

08 Wang De Chuan - Eslite Suzhou +

Someone who drinks tea regularly and can describe the flavours they enjoy.

Skip: Skip it if the only acceptable gift is locally grown Dongting Biluochun.

Route cards follow on pages 3–5. Detailed stop cards are on pages 6–13. Copyable Chinese addresses are embedded text; save the PDF on your phone before travelling.

02 / OUTING 1

Guanqian: one textile and food to share

For a practical silk gift and a small edible purchase in the central old town. Illustrative budget ceilings, not quoted prices.

Your spending cap: CNY 600

Illustrative allocations, not current store prices. Only costs explicitly listed below are included; budget separately for anything else. The cap is not a target.

Silk ceiling: CNY 350

Packaged sweets ceiling: CNY 100

Rice cakes ceiling: CNY 70

Travel and unspent reserve: CNY 80

1. Taihusnow Silk Building

Start on Renmin Road with fibre, dimensions and edge checks for a scarf.

2. Caizhizhai

Continue toward Guanqian Street and compare smaller labelled sweets.

3. Huang Tian Yuan - Guanqian Street

Finish on Guanqian Street with cakes only if their storage needs suit your plans.

If a stop does not work

If fresh cakes will not travel well, use the food allowance for suitable labelled sweets or leave it unspent.

Short on time or budget?

Choose one food shop if recipients do not need an assortment; do not buy duplicate boxes to fill the budget.

Before you head back

Head toward your next meal or accommodation with the delicate food, and keep it separate from the silk.

03 / STOP 05 / ADDITIONAL SELECTION

Huang Tian Yuan - Guanqian Street

Suzhou rice cakes & pastries

Use Huang Tian Yuan for a different texture from the sweets at Caizhizhai. The company's site and Suzhou tourism listing identify the Guanqian Street address and rice-cake products. Make this the final food stop: ask which items suit eating today and which, if any, fit the time until your recipient will open them.

Best for

A companion or host who will receive the food soon.

Look for

A modest quantity of rice cakes or clearly labelled packaged pastries.

Make this comparison

Ask about the least durable item before choosing an assortment; buy fewer pieces if the answer shortens your sharing window.

Walk away or skip when

Skip fresh cakes for a long journey if storage and usable life are unsuitable.

黄天源（观前街店）

苏州市姑苏区观前街86号

86 Guanqian Street, Gusu District

One last check at the counter

Confirm storage needs, ingredients, allergens and the date for the actual item. Seasonal examples on a website do not guarantee today's selection.

Huang Tian Yuan: official address and gift rice cakes

Suzhou tourism: Guanqian Street businesses

Research compiled September 2026. Reconfirm the exact branch before a special trip. Individual product stock and tax-refund participation are not guaranteed.