

## SHOPPING

## Hualin Jewellery Street

华林寺玉器一条街

Located on Xiajiu Lu, Hualin Jewellery Street specializes in jade and jewelry processing for retail and wholesale. Since the Qing Dynasty (AD 1644-1911), this street has been famed for its jade ware fair. At present, hundreds of jade ware stores can be found here. Many of the items are made from jade — from China's Yunnan province and Myanmar.

## Wende Cultural Shopping Street

文德文化商业街

This street is known as "Guangzhou Gallery" for its art stores which sell Chinese paintings and calligraphy, high-grade curios and the "Four Treasures of Study".

## Jiangnan Dadao 江南大道

This street is also called the "Wedding Dresses Street". Located at the northern end of Jiangnan Dadao Lu, it is the biggest retail area for wedding attire in Guangdong province. It was first developed into a commercial street when overseas Chinese living there turned their own gardens and lawns into wedding dress shops. In the very beginning, those shops were simple affairs with business at the front and a factory in the backyard. Now, dress styles have become more and more diverse and chic.

## Yuemu Antique Wood Furniture Store 阅木居



As you walk in the store and head down the stairs, a vast space comes into sight catching visitors by surprise. The store is underground in downtown Guangzhou and the hidden location provides shoppers with a pleasant browsing experience.

The story behind each piece of furniture is unique and gives the shopper the illusion of traveling back in time. Each piece has its own story. Some came from old merchant ships that once traveled the Marine Silk Road. Others are from whale ships, which once sailed the high seas.

**Address:** 470 Huanshi Dong Lu  
**Tel:** (020) 87301268

## Tiancheng Bronze Ware Store 天程铜艺

Few people would guess when entering the Tiancheng Bronze Ware Store that bronze-making was one of Guangzhou's most important industries for centuries.

The handicraft can be traced back to the Qing Dynasty, when more than 2,000 bronze workers had stores in Xiguan. Today, Guangzhou has put Xiguan bronze ware on the city-level Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

**Address:** Shop 143, En'ning Lu, Liwan district  
**Tel:** (020) 81054741

## Qing Ping Herbal Medicine

清平药材市场

Located just north of Shamian Island (Huangsha Metro stop), this medicine market has a vast number of herbal specialists, who sell all kinds of different remedies. Here you will find rare mushrooms, roots and hundreds of kinds of tea you never knew existed. There are also many more esoteric remedies, for which you'll probably need a guide to work out what to do with them (think scorpion tail and snakeskin).

## Toys 'R' Us 玩具反斗城

This US-based toy chain store opened its first store in Guangzhou in May. Located in Grandview Mall, the store claims to be the biggest global toy store in the world. Their store offers a large range of products for children of all ages including reputable brands such as Hasbro, Mattel, Lego, Bandai, and many more. The fifth floor of Grandview Mall covers 15,000 square meters and is entirely dedicated to children. Numerous children's clothes are available, as well as educational toys and items, books, photo studios and a small playground with plenty of activities for the little ones.

**Address:** 5/F, Grandview Mall, Tianhe district

## RESTAURANTS

## Tong Xiang Hui 同湘会

This place is definitely worth a try as one of the most authentic Hunan restaurants in Guangzhou, which serves home-made dishes with a Hunan flavor, especially its house specialty: steamed fish head with chili pepper. It has a nice environment, but there are always a lot of people, so you can't really avoid the noise.

**Hours:** 11 am-10 pm  
**Address:** 3/F, Hongxiang Mansion, 613 Tianhe Bei Lu, Tianhe district  
**Tel:** (020) 38142460

## Tiancheng Chuancai Restaurant 天成川菜餐厅

This is a popular midrange Sichuan cuisine chain where the staff will listen if you tell them you'd rather your head doesn't explode today. Packed at peak times, so plan your visits.

**LIGANG BRANCH**  
**Address:** 16 Ligang Lu, Haizhu district  
**Tel:** (020) 84355728

**DASHATOU BRANCH**  
**Address:** 16 Dashatou, Yuexiu district  
**Tel:** (020) 83845718

**JIANGNAN DADAO BRANCH**  
**Address:** 2/F, 332 Jiangnan Dadao Zhong, Haizhu district  
**Tel:** (020) 84250819

## Pan'e Vino 意中小厨

This is a nice little Italian place that tries hard for an intimate ambiance and mostly succeeds. A competent kitchen and a list of good wines round out a generally favorable picture.

**Hours:** 11:30 am-1 pm  
**Address:** 15 Jianshe Liu Ma Lu, Yuexiu district  
**Tel:** (020) 83766584

## Saint Germain 胜日门

Located near the Garden Hotel, this cute bistro has a great atmosphere, and serves brunch, lunch and dinner. There are full-length floor to ceiling windows and outdoor seating, so it's the perfect



## EDITOR'S PICK &gt;&gt; THE DIM SUM CULTURE

The unique culinary art of dim sum originated with the Cantonese in southern China, who over the centuries have transformed tea tasting from a relaxing respite to a loud and happy dining experience. In most cities and towns in Guangdong province, many restaurants start serving dim sum as early as 5 am. It is a tradition for the elderly to gather to eat dim sum after morning exercises, often enjoying the morning newspapers. Restaurants specializing in this kind of food typically only serve it until mid-afternoon (around the time of a traditional Western 3 pm coffee break), and serve other kinds of Cantonese cuisine in the evening. Nowadays, various dim sum are even sold as take-out for students and office workers on the go.

Standard fare include shrimp dumpling (up right), a steamed dumpling, *cha shao bao*, the most popular bun with a Cantonese barbecued pork filling, and turnip cake (up left), which is made from mashed daikon radish mixed with bits of dried shrimp and pork sausage that are steamed and then cut into slices and pan-fried.

Recommended restaurants for dim sum:

- Guangzhou Jiujiu (广州酒家) **Address:** 2 Wenchang Nan Lu, Liwan district **Tel:** (020) 81380388
- Lian Xiang Lou (莲香楼) **Address:** 67 Dishipu Lu, Liwan district **Tel:** (020) 81813388
- Panxi Restaurant (泮溪酒家) **Address:** 151 Longjin Xi Lu, Liwan district **Tel:** (020) 81815955

spot to sit, eat and talk the day away when the weather is fine. The menu is extensive; you'll find classics like foie gras and brisket on the evening specials list. The food is of great quality, the staff and the owner are friendly, and the price is pretty decent.

**Hours:** 10:30 am-2:30 pm, 5:30 pm-11 pm  
**Address:** 475 Huanshi Dong Lu  
**Tel:** (020) 87606465  
**Transportation:** Metro Line 1, Martyr's Park Station

## WHAT'S ON

## Bijou Opera Story of the Pearl

Bijou Opera is a unique style of Japanese opera, in which all roles, regardless of gender, are played by women. What sets Bijou Opera apart from normal operas is that rather than using extravagant sets and costumes, Bijou focuses on themes like love and the value of existence. This top-class song and dance performance has received rave reviews in Japan and promises to deliver a highly memorable show for Guangzhou audiences.

**When:** 8 pm, Nov 26  
**Address:** Guangzhou Baiyun International Convention Center, 1039-1046 Baiyun Dadao Nan, Baiyun district  
**Ticket hotline:** (020) 86003397/85567446

## NIGHTLIFE

## Rose GaGa

Due to the popularity of Lady Gaga in China, this new club is becoming more and more popular. The music style is dance/pop and the crowd is mainly young and hip Chinese. The décor is inspired by British/European interior designs and the drinks are reasonably priced.

**Address:** 354 Changdi Da Ma Lu, Yuexiu district  
**Door policy:** No entrance fee, relaxed dress code

## Amigo 亚米高

This French pub, with a Portuguese or Spanish name (depending on whom you ask), is divided into different sections by wooden barriers and spiraling wooden stairs. Saddles, whips, Western historical paintings and antique wine bottles decorate every corner. The small Western restaurant upstairs is a good place to enjoy picturesque views of the Pearl River.

**Hours:** 5:30 pm-3 am  
**Address:** B03, Bai'e Tan Bar Street, Changdi Lu, Fangcun, Liwan district  
**Tel:** (020) 81558173

## O Spa

If you want to pull out all the stops, visit O Spa. Located on the top floor of the Grand Hyatt Guangzhou, it looks out over the Pearl River. The spa uses only natural ingredients like black rice, red ginger, lotus and green tea along with pure aromatic extracts to practice a whole array of powerful therapies. O Spa is staffed by the best Chinese specialists in the area, and works not only to relax your mind and body, but also to reinvigorate the vital energy that the Chinese refer to as *qi*. This spa will give you probably the most comprehensive experience in town.

**Hours:** 9 am-7 pm  
**Address:** The Grand Hyatt Guangzhou, 12 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Pearl River New City, Tianhe district  
**Tel:** (020) 83961234

## Garden Café 花艺咖啡

This little coffee shop is a great place to sit back, relax and drink some decent

brews while taking in the eponymous garden. The décor of the Garden Café is almost as big a reason to visit as the coffee itself.

Catering to Guangzhou's American expat population, Garden offers good home-style cheeseburgers — probably the best in town. So if you like coffee, food, flowers and relaxing, give Garden Café a try.



**Hours:** 9 am-10 pm  
**Address:** Zhongfu Mall, Panyu district  
**Tel:** (020) 34637083  
**Transportation:** Metro Line 1, Kengkou Station

## The Paddy Field Irish Pub

“爱尔兰的稻田”酒吧

Paddy can be understood as "paddy rice" or "Irish people" in slang, so "The Paddy Field" can be directly translated to "field of paddy rice". With all wooden decoration, an extremely high roof and oversize stools and food, it is full of Irish feeling. If you don't have 40-inch-long legs like some expats, you will not be able to touch the ground while sitting on stools.

**Address:** First Floor, Guangyi Building, 38 Huale Lu  
**Tel:** (020) 83601379