



Busy streets of Chinatown

◀ Enjoying some authentic bubble tea

A Day in Chinatown ■ Compiled By: Suzy Guttler

Chinatown New York City is the largest Chinatown in the United States.

The city's Chinese conglomeration combines authentic Asian-American culture with the energy and influence of the most exciting city in the world. With over 200 restaurants, numerous Asian bakeries and tea houses, jewelry shops, arts and antique stores, an active nightlife and dozens of cultural attractions and landmarks, Chinatown stands as a world within a city.

Located on the east side of Lower Manhattan, Chinatown New York City, is the largest in the United States. The neighborhood has been growing steadily since the mid-1800s, and today stands as a vibrant community offering the opportunity to enjoy and explore Asian-American culture.

Whether dining, shopping, or strolling down the charming, narrow streets, visitors to Chinatown New York City, will find virtually limitless opportunities for new experiences and added insight. Here's a day exploring the busy streets of this bustling town:

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM - BREAKFAST

Start the morning off with one of Chinatown's most beloved breakfast staples: a hot cup of milk tea and a sweet pastry from one of the local bakeries in the area. Popular spots include **Maria's Bakery** (42 Mott Street) and **Fay Da Bakery Corp.** (83 Mott Street), where Eastern and Western

inspired pastries, breads and buns are served up warm and fresh every morning.

10:00 AM - NOON - WALKING TOURS

One of the best ways to experience Chinatown is to make arrangements with a walking tour group. There are several to choose from including the "**Experience Chinatown**" Walking Tour, which begins at the **Museum of Chinese in the Americas (MoCA)** and the **Chinatown NYC Walking Tours** are available daily on request and is conducted by Jami Gong, a licensed New York City tour guide and popular local comedian. The walking tours feature the area's historic and cultural attractions combined with a tea ceremony, dim sum meal or Chinese feast.

NOON - 2:00 PM - DIM SUM

Dim sum (which means "a little bit of heart" in Chinese) is the typical lunchtime tradition among Chinese people all over the world. In Chinatown, there is a wide selection of restaurants specializing in these tasty little dishes including **Dim Sum GoGo**, **Jing Fong**, **Golden Unicorn Restaurant**, **Harmony Restaurant**, **HSF Restaurant**, and **Vegetarian Dim Sum House**.

Popular dim sum dishes include shrimp dumplings, rice noodles and sautéed meatballs.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM - DESSERT

A thirst-quenching *bubble tea* is in order after a great feast and this drink, which originated from Taiwan, is a hip favorite among the younger generation. Cool and refreshing, *bubble teas* are sweetened milk teas with tapioca pearls added to them. Available in a wide variety of flavors, the bubble tea phenomenon single handedly revived Asia's thought-to-be obsolete tea culture.

After some bubble tea, walk over to the **Chinatown Ice Cream Factory**, where you can treat yourself to some fresh homemade ice cream and such unique flavors as *almond cookie*, *green tea*, *lychee*, *mango* and *taro*. Owned and operated by the Seid family, the **Chinatown Ice Cream Factory** has been a Chinatown institution for over 25 years.

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM - SIGHTSEEING

Chinatown is the site of New York's richest history that not only tells the story of the American-Chinese experience but also that of early Irish, Jewish and Italian immigrants. Today, remnants of the neighborhood's European-American ancestry stand side-by-side with more recent Asian-inspired monuments.

Notable landmarks that visitors should see include **Kim Lau Square**, which is the site of the **Kim Lau Memorial Arch**. The arch was erected in 1962 in memory of the American-Chinese who died in World and is



▲ Pastry shops galore!



► The Japanese brand's flagship store in New York



► Shopping on Canal St.

A late night snack in Chinatown



named for Lt. Benjamin Kim Lau, an aircraft commander in the Second World War. Just east of the square, on Division Street, lies **Confucius Plaza**, where a statue of Confucius, the famous philosopher stands. Another monument located in close proximity is the **General Lin Ze Xu Statue** that faces East Broadway. General Lin Zexu is noted for being the catalyst for the Opium War and is widely regarded as a hero among the Fujianese community.

Just a short walk away is **Mott Street**, the oldest Chinese-inhabited street in New York, and today remains one of Chinatown's most vibrant thoroughfares. Its fine restaurants, interesting markets, tea shops and unique shopping opportunities have made **Mott Street**, the unofficial "heart" of Chinatown, drawing tens of thousands of non-residents on any given weekend. **Mott Street** also has a historic site that visitors will probably miss unless they look up - the large white building at 41 Mott Street has the only remaining wooden pagoda roof in Chinatown.

Continuing on the historical trail, one important landmark to take note of is the oldest dwelling in New York City, the **Edward Mooney House**, located on 18 Bowery on the corner of Pell Street. Erected in 1785 by Edward Mooney and used as a residence until the 1820s, the building has been home to a variety of businesses ever since, including a

hotel, tavern, pool hall, restaurant and bank. Today, the house is a recognized historic landmark and is open to the public.

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - SHOPPING

After a historical walk, it's time to begin shopping! For arts and antiques, be sure to visit **Rose's Gallery** and **Sinotique Enterprises**. There is also a great selection of fashion boutiques that are fairly inexpensive such as **Fashion Beauty New York**, and **My Collections**.

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM - DINNER

After a long day of sightseeing and shopping, it is time to "chow down" for dinner. Already had Chinese food for lunch? No problem. There are over 10 Asian cuisines available in the neighborhood, representing many other cultures and catering to even the most discerning of palettes.

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM - LIVE ENTERTAINMENT and KARAOKE

Chinatown's recent resurgence of live entertainment includes a weekly variety show, **Teabag Open Mic** (Fridays at 8PM) at **Silk Road Place**, as well as monthly comedy (**WonTon Laughs**, **Teabag's Sloppy Seconds**) and music shows (**Teabag Amplified**).

Irreverent and unpredictable, **Teabag Open Mic** features some of New York's best emerging musicians, comics and poets and

is absolutely FREE. **WonTon Laughs** (www.takeoutcomedy.com) is a monthly comedy show at **Yello Bar** featuring stand-up acts from the NYC comedy circuit. Also monthly, **Teabag's Sloppy Seconds** (www.teabagopenmic.com) features raw and uncensored stand-up comedy and improv at Silk Road Place. The location also hosts a monthly music show, **Teabag Amplified**, which is a showcase of some of the city's best up-and-coming bands, singers and songwriters.

10:00 PM - 1:00 AM - BARS & LOUNGES

Start winding down the day by heading over to one of Chinatown's many bars and karaoke lounges. **Winnie's** and **Galaxy Karaoke** are two popular karaoke lounges that serve drinks as well as snacks to go along with a good tune.

Before the night ends, make sure to stop by **Yello**, a cozy and fashionable bar that features state-of-the-art karaoke, satellite television and comfy sofas. Be sure to check out one of Chinatown's hippest hang out spots, the **Big Six Bar-Lounge** and the **Bear Café** is another a cozy late night café that serves a variety of teas and alcohol with an outdoor garden in the back. **ATM**

