



Shoppers Guide to Chinese Stone Markets

Valuable tips, key questions and names of 75 different stone types in English, Chinese and pinyin; and important information about packing and shipping stones.

Simple guidelines when shopping in a Chinese market.

1. Be polite and respectful towards the vendor.
2. Bring a small hand-held calculator to use in negotiating a price. A hand shake or removing the cash from your pocket is a sign that you have agreed to the price, negotiations are over at this point.
3. Bring cash in RMB, almost all transactions are on a cash only basis. It is rare to find a vendor who accepts credit or debit cards, and then those are only for Chinese banks. Do not try and use U.S. dollars or other foreign currency. It's illegal!
4. Bring a sturdy hand bag to carry your purchases.
5. Always ask if it is O.K. to take photos of a vendor's stones. This can be easily accomplished by facial gestures and pointing your camera towards the stones you wish to photograph.
6. In permanent shops, the vendor may ask you to sit at an elaborate tea table and offer you a small cup of tea. It is polite to accept the tea and may help to establish a positive relationship. This is important if you plan to revisit the shop in the future.
7. Take bubble wrap, packing tape, and heavy rubber bands with you to wrap and protect stones you purchase. This is essential if you plan to ship stones back to your country.



Frequently Asked Questions for Use in Chinese Stone Markets

(While it is desirable to learn to speak a few basic phrases, showing the vendor and pointing to the question will help convey the questions)

1. What type of stone is this? What is the name of this stone?

這塊石頭屬於哪類石？此類石的名稱是什麼？

Zhè kuài shítou shǔyú nǎ lèi shí? Cǐ lèi shí de míngchēng shì shénme?

2. What is the price of this stone?

這塊石頭的價格是多少？

Zhè kuài shítou de jiàgé shì duōshǎo?

3. It is expensive, can you lower the price?

这有些太贵了，你能便宜一点吗？

Zhè yǒuxiē tài guìle, nǐ néng piányi yīdiǎn ma?

4. Where does this stone come from? Is it Chinese? From what province in China?

这块石头是在哪里出产的？是中国本地的石头吗？它产自哪个省份？

Zhè kuài shítou shì zài nǎlǐ chūchǎn de? Shì zhōngguó běndì de shítou ma? Tā chǎn zì nǎge shěngfèn?

5. Is this a completely natural stone?

这块石头是纯天然的吗？

Zhè kuài shítou shì chún tiānrán de ma?

6. Has it been cut, carved or altered in any way?

这块石头是否经过切割、雕琢或者其他工艺手续？

Zhè kuài shítou shìfǒu jīngguò qiēgē zhǔ diāozhuó huòzhě qítā gōngyì shǒuxù?

Frequently Asked Questions for Use in Chinese Stone Markets, cont.

7. Has wax or oil been put on this stone?

这块石头是否上过油或者打过蜡？

Zhè kuài shítou shìfǒu shàngguò yóu huòzhě dǎguò là?

8. Do you have a box for this stone? Can you wrap it for me?

你有包装盒吗？能请你帮我把这块石头包起来吗？

Nǐ yǒu bāozhuāng hé ma? Néng qǐng nǐ bāng wǒ bā zhè kuài shítou bāo qīlái ma?

9. Do you ship stones to other countries?

你能将石头邮寄送去海外其他国家吗？

Nǐ néng jiāng shítou yóujì sòng qù hǎiwài qítā guójiā ma?

10. Do you have any books on viewing stones for sale?

你有没有卖什麼關於鉴赏石的书籍？

Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu mài shénmó guānyú jiànshǎng shí de shūjí?

11. Thank you very much for helping me buy a stone?

非常感谢您帮助我购买这块石头。

Fēicháng gǎnxiè nín bāngzhù wǒ gòumǎi zhè kuài shítou.



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Shipping Stones

Do not expect stone market vendors to hold an export license and know how to complete the necessary paper work to ship stones aboard! Some of the better hotels will have arrangements with international shipping companies (DHL, Federal Express or United Parcel Service) to ship acceptable items. See the concierge or ask the front desk if this service is available.

A box holding up to 20 kg (about 44 pounds) shipped from an East coast city in China to the U.S. may cost \$220 or more, depending upon the final destination. The shipping company will handle custom requirements and deliver the box to your address. This is the most reliable and quickest way of shipping stones home.

Large quantities of stones and large stones can be more economically shipped by sea container. This requires advanced preparation with an established export company. Do not expect to find this service in the stone markets. The rates vary with the seasons, but you may be able to ship a twenty-foot container holding up to 20,000 pounds for roughly \$3,000 to \$3,500 from China to a West coast port in the U.S. Customs, broker, and delivery fees will be additional.

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English Name	Chinese	Pinyin
Agate	玛瑙	Manao
Agate, grape	葡萄玛瑙	Putao manao
Balin stone	巴林石	Balin shi
Black pearl stone	黑珍珠石	Heizhenzhu shi
Boshanwen stone	博山文石	Boshanwen shi
Changhua stone	昌化石	Changhua shi
Chicken bone stone	集骨石	Jigu shi
Chrysanthemu Stones	菊花石	Juhua shi
Cloud pattern stone	云纹石	Yunwen shi
Coin stone	金钱石	Jinqian shi
Color Egg stone	彩卵石 (三江卵石)	Cailuan shi (sanjiang luan shi)
Connected Kernal stone	结核石	Jiehe shi
Dahua stone	大化石	Dahua shi
Dawan stone (Laibin?)	大湾石	Dawan shi
Du'an stone	都安石	Du'an shi
Embossed stone	浮雕石	Fudiao shi
Epidote	绿帘石	Lulian shi
Fossil coral	珊瑚化石	Shan hu hua shi
Ginger stone	姜石	Jiang shi
Gobi stone	戈壁石	Gebi shi
Golden Sea stone	金海石	Jinhai shi
Grass and flower stone	草花石 (国画石)	Caohua shi
Han River stone	汉江石	Hanjiang shi
Ink Lake stone	墨湖石	Mohu shi
Iron Stone?	铁胆石	Tiedan shi
Kun Stone	昆石	Kun shi
Lao Mountain Green stone	崂山绿石	Laoshanlu shi
Laibin stone	来宾石	Laibin shi
Lingbi Stones	灵璧石	Lingbi shi
Colorful Lingbi	彩灵璧石	Cai Lingbi shi
White Lingbi	白灵璧石	Bai Lingbi shi
Pattern Lingbi	纹灵璧石	Wen Lingbi shi
Linqu Color stone	临朐彩石	Linqucai shi

English Name	Chinese	Pinyin
Long River stone	长江石	chang Jiang shi
Long River green mud stone	长江绿泥石	
Long white stone	长白石	changbai shi
Luliang stone	吕梁石	Luliang shi
Malachite	孔雀石	Kongque shi
Marble	大理石	Dali shi
Meteorite	陨石	Yun shi
Moore Stones	磨尔石	Moer shi
Mt Tai stone	泰山石	Taishan shi
Mud stone	泥石	Ni shi
Nail Stone	钉石	Ding shi
Nine Dragon	九龙璧石	Jiulongbi shi
Nantian stone	南田石	Nantian shi
Pan River stone	盘江石	Panjiang shi
Peony stone	牡丹石	Mudan shi
Petrified wood	硅化木	Guihuamu
Pine flower stone	松花石	Songhua shi
Plum flower stone	梅花石	Meihua shi
Pottery stone	彩陶石	Caitao shi
Qixia stone	栖霞石	Qixia shi
Quintian stone	青田石	Quintian shi
Rain Flower Pebbles	雨花石	Yuhua shi
Rose stone	玫瑰石	Meigui shi
Stalactite	钟乳石	Zhongru shi
Structure Stone	构造石	Gouzao shi
Taihu Stone	太湖石	Taihu shi
Three georges stone	三峡石	Sanxia shi
Three River stone	三江石	Sanjiang shi
Tiane stone	天峨石	Tiane shi
Tibetan Green stone	西藏绿石	Xizanglu shi
Turquoise	绿松石	Lusong shi

