

# Suzhou, China

**Founded:** 514 B.C.

**Head of Government:** Mayor Li Yaping

**Population:** 10,465,994

**Area:** 8488 km<sup>2</sup>

**Important Industries:** Electronic & Telecommunications, Textiles, Tourism & Cultural Heritage

San Antonio, Texas and Suzhou, China established a Friendship City relationship in May 2010.

Suzhou is a major city located in the southeast of the Jiangsu Province in Eastern China, located adjacent to Shanghai. The city is situated on the lower reaches of the Yangtze River and on the shores of Taihu Lake, belonging to the Yangtze River Delta region. Administratively, Suzhou is a prefecture level city with an urban population of over 4 million expanding to over 10 million in the administrative area.

Originally founded in 514 B.C., Suzhou has over 2,500 years of rich history, and relics of the past are abundant to this day. The city's canals, stone bridges, pagodas, and meticulously designed gardens have contributed to its status as one of the top tourist attractions in China. Since the Song Dynasty (960-1279), it has also been an important center for China's silk industry.

Known for the Suzhou Industrial Park, it is one of the largest economies in China and considered to be one of the most pleasant and live-able cities.

Suzhou, like San Antonio, is home to a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a UNESCO Creative City. The Classical Gardens of Suzhou were inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1997, and the city was designated a Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art in 2014.