



Enshi tea plantations await visitors

Shortly after Tomb-Sweeping Day, in those high mountain tea plantations at Enshi, enveloped in clouds and mist, the tea-picking season begins. Enshi tea leaves are well-known for their richness in selenium. Take a visit to the Wujiatai Tea Plantation of Xuan'en County in Enshi, enjoy the luxurious greenery unfolding before your eyes, and all your fatigue will simply disappear in an instant. In addition to tasting the tribute tea, visitors can also enjoy themselves in the ancient villages of the Dong ethnic minority at Yejiayuan.

Wujiatai Tribute Tea Culture Tourism Area

Wujiatai Tribute Tea

The Wujiatai Tribute Tea Culture Tourism Area is 40 kilometers away from Enshi Railway Station and Enshi Airport. It comprises several tourist attractions such as Camellia Valley, Tribute Tea Square, and Tribute Tea Mountain. Visitors can enjoy unique tea feasts at these attractions and experience the open village ecological culture.

Ancestors of the Wu family relocated here from Changsha of Hunan Province and gradually prospered; hence the name of the place, Wujiatai (buildings of the Wu family). With a history of more than 300 years, Wujiatai tribute tea was once a special flavor reserved for the emperors, the story of which is still being told among local people.

In the 48th year of Emperor Qianlong's reign in the Qing Dynasty (in 1784), Chieftain Shinan, then governor of the minority areas of Southwest Enshi, selected the tea from Wujiatai as the tribute tea and contributed it to the imperial court. Emperor Qianlong was quite pleased and presented a plaque to them, declaring it "The

Emperor's Favorite Tea," and the "tribute tea" of Wujiatai has been well-known all over the country ever since.

The sightseeing area at Wujiatai tea plantation is a good representation of the area, with the walking path made of planks extending from the bottom to the top of the mountains, connecting terraces of tea bushes. Three towering "mother trees" stand upright on the mountainsides.

The raw tea leaves are totally edible. If you take a piece of leaf and chew it, you may feel some bitterness due to the freshness. That bitterness is called the spur, which arouses some kind of element in the depth of your life and then a sense of sweetness comes out. Of course, this is about eating tea here, and drinking it gives you another feeling.

Many tourists come to Wujiatai to experience the fun of tea picking between spring and summer every year. Maybe you would like to invite some of your friends and have fun in the tea plantation, after which you can also go to watch and learn how to make tea.

Ancient villages of Dong ethnic minority at Yejiayuan



The Yejiayuan ancient villages of the Dong ethnic minority are located in a tranquil setting in the middle of Xiaoguan Township in Xuan'en County, boasting a history of more than 200 years, and featuring well-preserved ancient yards and tombs.

Since Zhang and Yang are the most popular surnames of the local people here, the villages where Zhang's and Yang's families gather are thus called Zhangjiayuanzi (Zhang's Courtyard) and Yangjiayuanzi (Yang's Courtyard). The two villages are one kilometer away from each other, each standing independently, but also echoing each other. The architecture of

the villages is characterized by quadrangle courtyards and stilted buildings.

Zhangjiayuanzi is the most representative of the residences of the Dong people, with many of the customs and conventions of the ethnic minority well-preserved. Built during the reign of Emperor Jiaqing in the Qing Dynasty, the village is a perfect reflection of the principles of harmony of man and nature, and the unity of mountains and waters, which prevailed in ancient China. Surrounded by mountains and close to a river, all the buildings are built with wood and linked by chase mortises. Not a single screw is used in their construction.