



Historical Culture

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Imagine the scene. Strolling along one day, you come across a shop that seems to advertise its ginseng. Realising that you are fresh out of ginseng, and that the shop also sells bird's nest as well, you enter the shop and inquire politely as to whether you may look at the ginseng. The shop owner produces a plastic bag, your eyes widen in horror, and the shop has just lost one customer.

Fear no more from artificially made bags. The Ginseng and Bird's Nest Street is here. Located near the Western Market in Sheung Wan, this street specialises in ginseng and bird's nest. Instead of hiding all their stock away on back shelves, though, all the shops on the street (also known as Bonham Strand West) proudly display their items in large, traditional burlap sacks with signs stuck into the merchandise proclaiming their name and price.

An interesting feature of note is that many of the shops have several steps leading up to the door. The reason for this is because the street was reason for



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Travellers' Code of Ethics

Spend wisely. Remember when shopping that the bargain you obtain is only possible because of the low wages paid to the maker.

this is because the street was built many years ago, and unintentionally made lower than it should be to be safe from floods. The street is a flooding blackspot, and to combat this, new shops built are at least two steps higher than the street.

There are numerous MTR exits on the nearby Des Voeux Road Central. The 55 bus from Causeway Bay also stops there. The number 56 tram from North Point passes Des Voeux and Connaught Road Central, going to Des Voeux Road West, which the Ginseng and Bird's Nest Street is connected to. If taking the bus or MTR, simply find the Sheung Wan Market near the more famous Western Market, and Bonham Strand West is beside it (see map for detail).





Location of Bonham Strand West

