

China Travel Retail - Market Share Analysis, Industry Trends & Statistics, Growth Forecasts (2025 - 2030)

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Report description:

The China Travel Retail Market size is estimated at USD 25.80 billion in 2025, and is expected to reach USD 67.99 billion by 2030, at a CAGR of 21.39% during the forecast period (2025-2030).

The Chinese travel retail industry has emerged as a rapidly growing sector, driven by several key factors. Firstly, the rising disposable income and increasing affluence of Chinese consumers have led to a surge in domestic and international travel, creating a robust demand for retail products and services at transportation hubs such as airports, train stations, and major tourist destinations. This trend is further fueled by the expansion of transportation infrastructure, including airports and high-speed rail networks, facilitating greater accessibility and convenience for travelers, thereby boosting passenger traffic and retail sales. Additionally, the Chinese government's supportive policies promoting duty-free shopping, particularly in Hainan Province, have contributed to the growth of the travel retail industry by attracting Chinese tourists with tax-free incentives and an extensive range of luxury and premium products.

Furthermore, integrating e-commerce platforms with travel retail channels has revolutionized the shopping experience for Chinese travelers, allowing them to pre-order products online and pick them up at airports or other travel hubs, thereby enhancing convenience and driving sales. Moreover, the industry's focus on luxury and premium brands aligns with the preferences of Chinese consumers, who have shown a strong inclination towards high-end products in categories such as fashion, cosmetics, and electronics. Despite the COVID-19 setback, the Chinese travel retail industry has demonstrated resilience and adaptability, with the gradual easing of travel restrictions leading to a recovery in passenger traffic and retail sales.

China Travel Retail Market Trends

Scotts International. EU Vat number: PL 6772247784

tel. 0048 603 394 346 e-mail: support@scott-international.com

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Expansion of Duty-Free Shopping Driving the Market

Duty-free shopping in China refers to the practice of purchasing goods at designated retail outlets located in specific areas, such as airports, seaports, train stations, and border crossings, where travelers can buy certain products without paying import duties, value-added tax (VAT), or other taxes typically levied on retail goods. The Chinese government regulates duty-free shopping in China and is subject to specific policies and regulations.

One of China's most prominent duty-free shopping destinations is Hainan Province, which has become known as a duty-free shopping paradise. The Chinese government expanded the duty-free shopping policy in Hainan by implementing the "Hainan Free Trade Port" initiative. Under this initiative, the annual duty-free shopping quota for travelers visiting Hainan was significantly increased, and the range of eligible products was expanded to include additional categories such as electronic appliances, sports equipment, and healthcare products. The duty-free shopping quota was further increased, allowing travelers to purchase a higher value of duty-free goods during their visit to Hainan.

The expansion of duty-free shopping in Hainan has contributed to the province's growing reputation as a premier tourist destination and shopping hub in China. It has attracted many domestic and international tourists, driving retail sales and stimulating economic growth in the region.

Rise of Domestic Tourism Boosting the Market Growth

The surge in domestic tourism has significantly increased passenger traffic at transportation hubs such as airports, train stations, and major tourist destinations across China. This influx of domestic travelers has resulted in higher footfall and consumer spending within travel retail outlets, driving sales and revenue growth for retailers and brands operating in these locations.

The Chinese government's policies supporting duty-free shopping, particularly in Hainan Province, have contributed to the growth of domestic tourism and the travel retail market. Domestic tourists visiting duty-free shopping destinations like Hainan could enjoy tax-free shopping incentives and a wide range of duty-free products, driving consumer spending and stimulating economic activity in these regions.

Travel retail outlets in China have increasingly integrated with tourism experiences, offering value-added services such as guided tours, cultural activities, and entertainment options to attract domestic tourists. This integration enhances the overall travel experience for domestic travelers, encouraging them to spend more time and money within travel retail environments.

China Travel Retail Industry Overview

Chinese travel retail market is characterized by a diverse range of players competing to capture a share of the growing consumer demand within transportation hubs. China's travel retail market is highly competitive, with a mix of international and domestic players vying for the attention of Chinese travelers. The competitive landscape is characterized by offering a wide range of products, providing unique shopping experiences, and leveraging digital technologies to enhance convenience and engagement for travelers. Some of the major players in the market include China Duty-Free Group Co. Ltd, Sunrise Duty-Free, China National Service Corporation, Lagardere Travel Retail, and DFS Group.

Additional Benefits:

- The market estimate (ME) sheet in Excel format
- 3 months of analyst support

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