

Tian Tang Dim Sum



High Concept:

Tian Tang Dim Sum is an interactive three-part indoor attraction that allows guests to build community through food, performances, and adventures in an RPG-styled traditional Chinese setting.

Synopsis:

Over the past decade, the nations have fought each other for power, land, and money, continuing an endless war that has left cultures deteriorated and people divided. To make matters worse, the brewing violence has driven away most of the nature spirits in the spiritual land of *Bei*, leaving the grasslands, forests, and farmlands barren and infertile. Outside the front lines and the battlefields, civilians, daily heroes, have struggled to provide for their families and have resorted to dangerously traveling, foraging, and questing in the woods to fight for themselves.

The nature spirits, troubled by the heroes' tenacity and desperation for survival, revived a haven within the Tian Tang forests to restore a semblance of what once was: a microcosm of peace, culture, and community within the bitterly divided villages. Tian Tang Dim Sum was created as a dim sum parlor that prides itself on its unifying and empowering values, allowing any traveler who stumbles upon this dim sum parlor to make a positive contribution to the community and help restore the spirits in the forest.

Daily life is often busy, stressful, and alienating; whether it be fighting the monsters that fester in the North Mountains or working to provide for one's family, each civilian's adventures require non-stop attention and care. Tian Tang Dim Sum welcomes all who desire a break from these activities and provides a warm community of passionate heroes to empower and unify all who enter the premises, regardless of background.

Guest Experience:

Tian Tang Dim Sum encapsulates not only the dim sum parlor, but also the surrounding forests and a small theatrical performance area, all located within a spacious indoor area with a high, glass ceiling structure. The glass ceiling allows natural light and the rhythms of day and night to define the nature-like environment inside the attraction.

The Dim Sum restaurant and the performances are suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Building community means being inclusive and welcoming of all identities, and Tian Tang Dim Sum strives to allow everyone to have a wonderful experience on the premises.

For the interactive quests, guests must be 6+ to participate in the team quest, and 13+ or accompanied by an adult to participate in the individual quest.

Our target audience, given the RPG aesthetics of the environment, are young people— gamers, in particular— who are familiar with this style and interactivity of gameplay.

Entering and Waiting:

On a winding stone path that trails from the very entrance to the attraction, guests enter the Dim Sum Parlor, a quadrangle courtyard building primarily built with natural materials like wood and stone. An accessibility path and ramp is available as well. From the restaurant, they smell the delicious scent of freshly prepared Chinese dim sum and hot tea.

There, guests enter a wide waiting room, where they interact with a waiter to get seated. A large goldfish tank and pixelated calligraphy and paintings adorn the room. Pixelated bamboo plants decorate the corners.

Waiter: Welcome to Tian Tang Dim Sum! How many heroes are in your team today?

Guests respond with the number of individuals in their party.

Waiter: Excellent!

< 4 Members	4 - 10 Members
We will be seating you shortly! [in the communal dining area]	Would your team like to be seated in the communal dining or a private room today?

Guests respond accordingly.

Waiter: Great! Here is your team number.

While guests are waiting, they may sit in the pixelated Chinese-style chairs. 8-bit Chinese folk music creates a playful atmosphere. Guests may even interact with the fish tank while they are waiting; tapping the tank at various places causes it to play a range of bubbly sound effects and makes the lighting within the tank change colors. Tapping the tank on the bottom right corner even briefly activates a hologram of Jin, a character from the Lotus Quest, swimming around!

Soon, the waiter announces that a table is ready for the party.

Waiter: Team 301, a table is ready for you!

Ordering and Dining:

The guests follow the waiter and make their way through a bustling wooden hallway. On one side is the courtyard, full of diners and dim sum, and on the other is a row of screens that lead into private dining rooms.

Communal Dining	Private Dining
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>After guests are seated, the dim sum carts are wheeled around and they may obtain food from the cart immediately.</i>- <i>They are provided a menu with drinks and additional dessert items that may not appear on the cart.</i>- <i>Communal dining is located either in the open-air courtyard or in the semi-open patios towards the back of the dim sum parlor.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>After guests are seated, they order all dim sum via the full dim sum menu and inform the waiter of their order.</i>- <i>Their food will arrive within 5-15 minutes of ordering.</i>- <i>Each private dining room has a colorful and peaceful view of the forests outside the dining parlor. The rooms are decorated with pixel Chinese traditional art.</i>

Regardless of communal or private dining, each table with a party size more than 4 people has access to a Lazy Susan to distribute food within their tables. Each person has a set of porcelain utensils on a bamboo place mat designed to look like a game inventory. Every food item is handcrafted, and some may replicate the playful pixelated food shapes found in RPG games.

Around the Dim Sum Parlor

Guests may explore the dim sum parlor while dining. Towards the back of the restaurant is a hallway leading to the restrooms. The hallway features several labeled and pixelated images of characters, as well as a small shrine with a guardian lion statue.

The label on the image reads: “致所有为和平而战的人 [to all who fight for peace].”

Collaborative Performances

After enjoying their dim sum, guests exit the parlor and make their way to the theatrical stage near the forest.

But instead of a performance where they sit back and watch, they find themselves standing around a circular stage.

Suddenly, a crew of performers, notably a large dragon, enters the stage area, draped in colorful costumes. The forest offers a scenic backdrop for their entrance.

The performance resembles the interactive and community-based dragon dances that occur in Lunar New Year parades across China. Guests are encouraged to dance along the music, partner up, and participate in the lively community performance.

After three selections, loud popping sound effects resembling fireworks ring out from the theater. The ceiling even flashes with various colors, announcing the end of the performance period.

From there, the guests trail to the front of the attraction to wait in line for forest quests.

Forest Quests:

A wooden sign at the entrance reads: 'The Tian Tang Forest carries many secrets of its own.' A large digital clock above the fence indicates the time duration until the next quest.

Guests, who have reserved their spots and quests earlier, line up by the front temple, preparing to embark on their adventure on the premises. An employee crew manages the attraction at the front. Calming and adventurous 8-bit music can be heard in the queue.

Guests may choose between three quests:

Heaven's Password and The Lotus Quest are both individual quests, while The Forest Spirit is a team quest (3-6 people). Each quest lasts for an hour, and different parties may play the same quest at the same time. While the quests are not designed to be competitive between parties, the first parties to complete each quest during a designated quest period receive bragging rights and an exclusive quest badge.

Heaven's Password: To help Kai reopen the gates to heaven, guests must scavenge the forest for hints and uncover the password before the spirits become displeased. (10 players per play period)

Lotus Quest: To let the water spirit, Jin, restore balance to earth and water, guests must locate all 12 lotus blossoms scattered in the forest by a violent windstorm. (10 players per play period)

Forest Spirit: Guests must collaborate and trust each other to revitalize the forest spirit, who is afraid of human violence and has vanished since the wars. (5 parties/teams per play period)

The quests feature the following recurring characters:



Note: Individual players on the same quest at the same time will receive a different order of instructions, and the location tracking technologies will minimize the number of interactions that these players have with each other.

Finally, the guests may start their quest. Each guest receives a digital tablet with instructions and an 8-bit map of the forest and landscape. For each quest, a character narrates the beginning of the quest, providing context for the quest. A short animation of how to complete tasks is played (players find the icon/symbol they are seeking, and tap it with their tablet; RFID signaling tracks each player as they make their way through the map. The tablet screen automatically updates their location as they walk.

The tablet also indicates the time limit they have until the quests end.

Sample Script of Heaven's Password (Quest Opening):

The game starts. Guests look at their tablets and see Kai, the guardian lion, introduce their mission.

Kai: Thank you for agreeing to the quest! I am in desperate help. The battle last night shut the gates to Heaven, and I am responsible for opening the doors. (whispers) Don't tell anyone this, but I forgot the password and it's somewhere in the forest. If I don't reopen it soon, people are going to stop coming for Dim Sum!

Guest: Oh no! How can I help?

Kai: Luckily, my line of ancestors left the password coded in the forest. The guardian lion statue near the caves should hold some clues! Good luck!

The tablet indicates to 'Find the Lion Statue.' Guests may check the map to see where the caves are, and proceed.



Around the Forest:

The trees, plants, and other features are designed to have an 8-bit, pixel aesthetic. Natural features are shaded and shaped into squares and blocks. The grass is slightly bouncy, firmer than carpeting, but softer than spiky blades of grass or simple plastic turf. Tree trunks have a wooden texture, while foliage have a fabric-like texture. Rocks are created from blocks of real stone, cool and smooth to the touch.

The artificial lake in the center of the forest includes a shallow stream of water flowing atop a translucent blue screen, with several lily pads and 8-bit plants on top. This screen feature allows the water to glitter and shine with 8-bit pixels, as well as glow in a deep blue color even in low light. The screen also yields animations for the fish characters in The Lotus Quest. A wooden bridge arches over the lake. Players may hear the bubbling of running water near the lake, and 8-bit sound effects associated with it: croaking frogs, chirping crickets, and cicadas.



Different parts of the forest also yield different 8-bit soundtracks and sound effects. Walking on the designated earth path versus the grassy forests yields slightly different rustling sound effects that can be heard through hidden stereos within the trees. When a task is complete, an 8-bit “success” sound effect is played through the tablet.

- Deep within the forest patches: calming, adventurous 8-bit music (similar to Zelda)
- On the small hills and forest clearings: slow, soft, pulsing 8-bit music (major key)
- Near and inside the caves: sharp, steely, and quickly pulsing 8-bit music, with a hint of cymbal crashes and percussion
- Around the lake: moderate and mystical 8-bit music that bubbles and swells
- Near the gazebo/temple/buildings: calming, whimsical, and playful 8-bit music

Although the music is primarily 8-bit, there are hints of Chinese influences, including sequences in the pentatonic scale and counterpoint by Chinese instruments: the erhu and guzheng.

In general, the forest does not have any substantial smells. The trees may smell faintly of wood, pine, and flowers. Players may detect the natural smells of water near the lake. The cave smells faintly of earth and coal.

The clues and tasks associated with the quests may be located anywhere in the premises. Some locations include:

- The lion statue near the caves
- The giant mushroom in the southeast corner of the forest

- The large lily pad on the lake
- The top of the wooden bridge
- The second pole of the gazebo
- The flower patch behind the theater
- The garden patch in front of the dim sum parlor

Finishing the Game:

Guests find the final location and scan the missing piece of their puzzles.

Heaven's Password: On the tablets, the player enters the password in front of the lion statue. The jade lion's eyes glow golden, and the player is congratulated on their tablet. Kai gives some finishing remarks, and the player is directed back to the front temple.

Kai: You did it! The gates to heaven are open once more. Thank you for saving us!

Lotus Quest: Guests end the quest after having collected all 12 lotus blossoms, hidden around the forest, and head to the bridge, where the screen of the lake is animated. They see Jin, the fish spirit, appear and glow under the water, before more goldfish appear around it. They thank the player via the tablet. The player is directed back to the front temple.

Jin: What you have done, fellow traveler, is admirable. We thank you for your dedication to nature, and all the spirits that live here.

Forest Spirit: Guests go to the gazebo north of the lake after having finished all of their tasks around the forest. The forest spirit, Feng, appears as a holographic projection in the center of the gazebo. The hologram spirit shakes, jumps in circles, and thanks them on the tablet.

Feng: I'm back! I'm back! Yay! Thank you so much, my heroes!

Regardless of whether the guests have finished, when the play period is over, all the screens direct them back to the main entrance, where they return the tablets. The first place players of each quest are rewarded an exclusive quest badge.

To commemorate their adventures, guests may also purchase some souvenirs, costume items, and merchandise from the front of the temple.