

JIN
MAGAZINE

今日天津

T I A N J I N T O D A Y

2015 ISSUE 2 MONTHLY
2015年第2期·总第157期 / 月刊



国内统一刊号: CN12-1262/Z

ISSN 1004-826X



9 771004 826095

定价: 10元





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For more information, or to receive an application package, please visit <http://www.isttianjin.org/our-enrollment-process/scholarship-program/> (you can also scan the QR code at the right to go to this link) or call us at 022-2859-2001.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 13th February 2015 at 12:00PM.**



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL of TIANJIN
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Just some of our recent university acceptances:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Brown University | University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill |
| Cornell University | University of California, Los Angeles |
| Johns Hopkins University | University of Cambridge |
| KAIST | University of Melbourne |
| Korea University | University of Toronto |
| Kyoto University | University of Washington |
| Seoul National University | Waseda University |
| University College London | Yonsei University |
| University of British Columbia | |
| University of California, Berkeley | |



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TEL: +86 (22) 2859 2001 FAX: +86 (22) 2859 2007
WEB: www.isttianjin.org EMAIL: info@isttianjin.org

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ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS @RENAISSANCE



Book our "R" romantic dinner on February 14, 2015 and spend an unforgettable evening at Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel.

Fire House Valentine's Day Set Menu, RMB 1,188 net for 2 pax
(Inclusive of 2 glasses of sparkling wine)

BLD Valentine's Day Dinner Buffet, RMB 388 net per person
(Inclusive of 1 welcome cocktail)

Sweet Treat:

- Enjoy above menus (or spend over RMB 999 at Fire House), and get one rose soap gift box per couple.
- By choosing above menus you can enjoy a sweet room rate on Valentine's Day at RMB 399/nett per night in Deluxe Room, inclusive of breakfast buffet for 2 pax. (Need to present the voucher upon check in*)

2 glasses of Valentine's Day cocktail at The Lounge for just RMB 68 net

*Voucher available at Fire House and BLD.

For more information and reservation please contact 5822 3388.

R
RENAISSANCE
TIANJIN LAKEVIEW HOTEL
万丽天津宾馆



16 Bin Shui Road, He Xi District, Tianjin, 300061, China T. +86 22 5822 3388

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- *Tianjin International School (5km)
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January – March, 2015

Monday

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Tuesday

50% off on Tempura



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The Exchange, Heping District, Tianjin, China
Tel: 8319-8888 Fax: 8319-2266
www.nikkotianjin.com

Pasta Gift RMB 138

- Red Bean Bun
- Plain Twisted
- Fakes Bun
- Red Fruit Bun
- Hawthorn Bun
- Fragrant Bun
- Corn Flour Bun
- Prosperity Bun
- Red Date Filling Twist

Prosperity Gift Box RMB 358

- Marinated Duck Breast
- Soy-Preserved Radish
- Marinated Chicken Feet
- Marinated Ox tongue
- Spicy Triple-Choe Sauce
- Spicy Beef Sauce
- Marinated Qingyuan Chicken
- Marinated Beef

Riverside Chinese Restaurant
For more information, please call 2627 6888 ext. 2211

- Chinese New Year Family Pot ¥388
- Chinese New Year Fortune Pot ¥888
- Chinese New Year Supreme Pot ¥1,288

The Chinese Lunar New Year 'Poon Choi' is going to be launched out at Riverside Chinese Restaurant in Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside. Our Cantonese master chef personally chooses the premium ingredients such as Abalone, Sea Cucumber, Shark's Fin, and fish Maw with the intention of providing delicate and sumptuous food to satisfy our gourmet's saliva and taste bud. In Chinese belief, by eating 'Poon Choi' layer and layer can absolutely get for you and your family a good fortunes. Perfection, unity and happiness, prosper in business will go together with you after having our good omen 'Poon Choi'.

Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside
Phoenix Shopping Mall, East Haihe Road, Hebei District, Tianjin
(Nearby Eye of Tianjin) T: +86 (22) 2627 8888

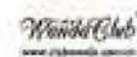


Romantic Valentine's Day Buffet Dinner @ Café Vista

RMB 521 nett per couple

Savor a seductive romantic dinner buffet with the one you love on the 14th February to celebrate this special occasion. Feast on a selection of ocean-fresh seafood, goose liver, Boston lobster and more. Toast one another with sparkling wine over flickering candlelight. Enjoy the live in-village waltz and dainty dishes, and there's sweet Valentine's Day surprise for you. Renew your vows at Wanda Vista Tianjin.

1/F, 300 Wanda Vista, 114 Jie, Heping District, Tianjin 300118, P.R. China
Tel: +86 (022) 7322 8888 Fax: +86 (022) 5463 7998 www.wandavista.com



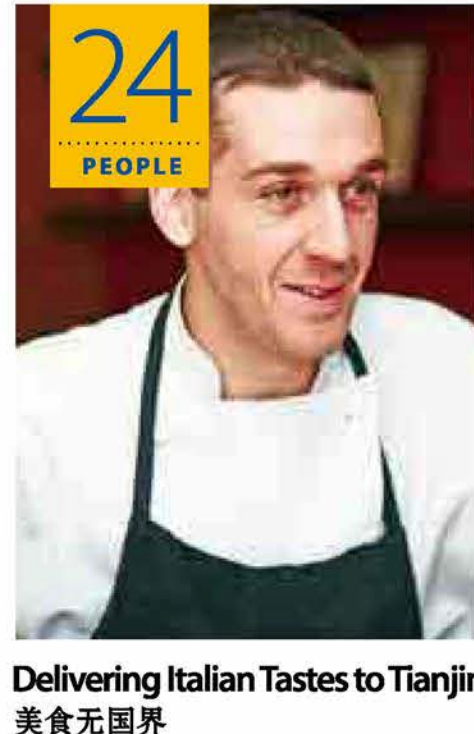
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The highly esteemed Dagu Bridge & A combination of China and the West—the Bei'an Bridge 获得最高殊荣的桥——大沽桥与最体现中西合璧的桥——北安桥

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Bus line: 1,9,705,826,953 stop nearby

www.TJIF.com

Please contact Scott Carlson with any questions:
• Phone: 8829 7772
• Tianjin email: enquiry@tjif.com
• TEDA email: enquiry@tedafellowship.com
Open to foreign passport holders only.




Support
Encouragement

People who share our goals and beliefs

All of these things help us to discover how we fit into the place that God has put us.

Join our fellowship Sundays at 8:30 AM or 10:00 AM in Tianjin or at 10:00 AM in TEDA as we discover God and His great plan, together



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2/06

Western Shore Museum
西岸艺术馆



Piano Concert
梦中童话
经典钢琴重奏作品音乐会
演出: 温雨川、蒋恭明、韩莹
Time: 20:00

ADD: No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
河西区友谊北路3号
Tel: 8622-23263505

2/07

Western Shore Museum
西岸艺术馆



New year's Piano Concert by Li Yue and Students
泉水叮咚 钢琴演奏-李玥师生钢琴新年汇报音乐会
演出: 李玥及其学生
Time: 19:30

ADD: No.3 Youyi Bei Lu, Hexi
河西区友谊北路3号
Tel: 8622-23263505

2/01

Tianjin Grand Theatre 天津大剧院

Concert by Take Five Quintet
“漂泊”情境音乐会
演出: Take Five 五重奏
Time: 19:30

ADD: Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
河西区平江道文化中心
Tel: 83882000

2/07

Tianjin Grand Theatre 天津大剧院

Mu Lan Children's Chorus
铃儿响叮当
木兰童声合唱团音乐会
演出: 木兰童声合唱团
Time: 19:30

ADD: Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
河西区平江道文化中心
Tel: 83882000

2/13

Tianjin Grand Theatre 天津大剧院

Guitar Concert
来自星星的吉他
德尼·成浩吉他音乐会
演出: 德尼·成浩
Time: 19:30

ADD: Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
河西区平江道文化中心
Tel: 83882000

2/14

Tianjin Grand Theatre 天津大剧院

Concert by Hiroko Seta and Sheng Zhongguo
永恒的爱
盛中国濑田裕子情人节专场音乐会
演出: 盛中国、濑田裕子
Time: 19:30

ADD: Culture Center, Pingjiang Dao, Hexi
河西区平江道文化中心
Tel: 83882000

DON'T MISS!

02/21-22

02/23-24

Tianjin Guang Hua Theater 天津光华剧院

Puppet show: Thumbelina
童话木偶剧《拇指姑娘》
Time: 10:30

Visual drama: Dragon
大型视觉戏剧《龙》
Time: 19:30&10:30

ADD: No.2 Nan Bei Da Jie, Hexi
天津河西区南北大街2号

DON'T MISS!

02/07

Akarua, Central Otago Special Wine Tasting

Time: 14:00-16:00
Price: 100 yuan / person
Location: 100 meters past the Rongji Hotel, which is across the street from the Tianfang Meiyu apartment complex located on the extension of Weijinnan Road, Xiqing District, Tianjin
Contact: 15900202175 and ask for Ms. Wei
Alipay payment: lisafu1123@hotmail.com (after successful payment, guests will receive a SMS to participate in activities)

中奥塔哥精品酒庄双葩花专场品鉴会

日期: 2月7日, 周六
时间: 14:00-16:00
价格: 100元/人
地点: 天津西青区卫津南路延长线天房美域对面荣吉宾馆前行100米(见房源招租)及入口
报名人数: 20人
报名联系方式: 15900202175魏女士
支付宝付款方式: lisafu1123@hotmail.com (支付后凭短信参加活动)

DON'T MISS!

02/01-14

Tianjin Hua Xia Theatre 天津华夏剧院

Hello Kitty Musical: Magic Kingdom
HELLO KITTY音乐剧“OZ的魔法王国”

Time: 10:30

ADD: No.3 Huan Hu Zhong Lu, Hexi
天津河西区环湖中路3号



DON'T MISS!

02/13

Tianjin Jinwan Grand Theater 天津津湾大剧院

Lang Lang City New Year's Concert in Tianjin
郎朗2015天津城市新年音乐会
演出: 郎朗
Time: 19:30



ADD: Building 4, Jin Wan Plaza,
48 Jie Fang Bei Lu, Heping
天津和平区解放北路48号津湾广场4号楼

DON'T MISS!

02/21-22

People's Stadium 天津人民体育馆

2015 Guo Degang-De Yun She Celebrate the Spring Festival Crosstalk Conference
2015“省亲十年”郭德纲·德云社新春贺岁相声专场
演出: 德云社
Time: 19:30



ADD: No.33 Guizhou Lu, Heping
天津和平区贵州路33号

DON'T MISS!

02/05-08

Tianjin Bin Hu Theater 天津滨湖剧院

Stage Play by Mahua FunAge: Sherlock's Troubles
开心麻花爆笑舞台剧之《夏洛特烦恼》
演出: 开心麻花
Time: 19:30

ADD: No.6 Huan Hu Zhong Lu, Hexi
天津河西区环湖中路6号



DON'T MISS!

02/05-08

Chinese Theatre 天津中国大戏院

Crosstalk Conference by Tianjin City Folk Art Troupe
天津市曲艺团相声专场
天津北方演艺集团2015年春节惠民演出季
演出: 天津市曲艺团
Time: 19:15



ADD: No.104 Harbin Road, Heping
天津和平区哈尔滨道104号

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Chief Representative Melbourne Office Tianjin
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The names of the honorary advisors are listed according to the alphabetical order of the first name initial. 以上荣誉顾问按姓名首字母顺序排列, 排列不分先后

Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei reduces coal consumption

2017年京津冀煤炭消费量将比2012年减少6300万吨

根据国家发展改革委、工业和信息化部等六部门发布的重点地区煤炭消费减量替代管理暂行办法,2017年京津冀煤炭消费量将比2012年减少6300万吨。其中,北京市减少1300万吨,天津市减少1000万吨,河北省减少4000万吨。

Six national departments, including the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, have launched an interim regulation on the management of reducing consumption and alternative energy of coal in major areas.

According to the regulation, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area will cut 63 million tons of coal consumption in 2017 when compared to the amount in 2012. Beijing, Tianjin, and Hebei province will reduce their coal consumption by 13 million, 10 million, and 40 million tons respectively.

It is said that the implementation of the interim regulation aims to eliminate outdated capacity, reducing the consumption of coal, and finding and utilizing premium energies as alternatives to coal to eliminate air pollution and improve air quality.

In the process of reducing the use of coal and finding alternative energy supplies, the government will provide a series of support policies, which include accelerating the construction of a power grid of networked channels, completing the environmental protective electricity price system, and supporting the coal consumption reduction and alternative energy utilization in a cross industrial dimension.

It is reported that Beijing continuously enhanced its pollution reduction last year. The average density of PM2.5 has fallen four percent. In addition, Tianjin is managing its pollution levels. The amount of days whose air quality met minimum standards increased 31 days in the first nine months of last year. Moreover, Hebei province reduced coal consumption by 15 million tons last year, realizing a negative growth of coal consumption for the first time.

HUYA Bioscience International Establishes Alliance with China Wuqing Development Area

沪亚生物与天津武清开发区建立战略合作

近期,沪亚生物国际宣布与天津武清开发区建立战略合作协议。此次合作将致力于促进武清周边企业的生物医学创新。沪亚生物国际是促进和加速源于中国的新生物医药产品在全球合作开发的领军企业,已与中国学术界和工业界的生物医药研究机构建立了广泛的合作关系。

HUYA Bioscience International, a leader in accelerating the global development of China's pharmaceutical innovations, recently announced a strategic collaboration agreement with China Wuqing Development Area, a state-level economic and technological development area located between Beijing and Tianjin. The collaboration will focus on promoting biomedical innovations from companies located in the Area.

The alliance combines the expertise of both HUYA and China Wuqing Development Area to promote biomedical innovations originating in Wuqing with global market potential. Chinese pharmaceutical companies in the Area will be able to leverage HUYA's international pharmaceutical knowledge and networks, and consult with HUYA's team of experts in drug development and commercialization. HUYA will also assist the Park in introducing business and investment opportunities.

Goodman Secures Tianjin Binhai Concentrating Solar Power as a Major Customer for its New Development in Tianjin

嘉民喜签天津滨海光热发电成为其中国天津新落成项目的主要客户

专注于持有、发展及管理工业物业的全球综合房地产集团嘉民集团近期宣布,集团与天津滨海光热发电投资有限公司已签署新租约,在位于中国天津的嘉民滨海科技工业园租用园区的22,700平方米优质工业设施。嘉民滨海科技工业园地理位置优越具有战略性意义,它连接多个高速公路网,并毗邻天津滨海国际机场。该项目包括两幢单层工业设施,共提供44,680平方米的优质工业空间。整个项目已于2014年11月竣工,完工后物业价值估计将达2,600万美元。天津滨海光热发电将租用两幢物业之中的其中一幢,作为其生产及研发基地。嘉民在天津拥有另外四个工业物业,包括嘉民武清物流中心、嘉民武清电子商务物流中心、嘉民陆路港物流中心及嘉民西青物流中心,并将继续在天津物色其他投资机会。

Goodman Group, the global integrated property group which owns, develops and manages industrial space, is pleased to announce that it has signed a new lease agreement with Tianjin Binhai Concentrating Solar Power Investment for 22,700 sqm of prime logistics space at Goodman Binhai Hi-Tech Industrial Park in Tianjin. Strategically located in Binhai New Area in Tianjin, Goodman Binhai Hi-Tech Industrial Park has excellent accessibility to the expressway network and is in close proximity to the Tianjin Binhai International Airport. It comprises two single-storey industrial facilities, providing a total of 44,680 sqm of prime industrial space. With an estimated end value of US\$26 million, the project was completed in November 2014. TBCSP will take up one of the two buildings at the development as its manufacturing, and research and development facility.

TBCSP specialises in the production of solar energy storage technology, such as receiver, reflection and tracking software, as well as related solar equipment and accessories. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Shenzhen Nuclear Power Engineering Construction Co., Ltd. (NPEC), a "National Hi-Tech Enterprise" specializing in the engineering and construction of nuclear and petrochemical facilities. In September this year, NPEC signed an agreement with Tianjin's Binhai New District to invest RMB3.5 billion in the establishment of a solar thermal power development base in Binhai New District.

Philip Pearce, Managing Director Greater China for Goodman, said, "We are delighted to welcome TBCSP to our latest development project in Tianjin. This agreement is a testament to our ability to meet the demands and specific requirements of our clients in diverse industries."

Goodman has four other industrial properties in Tianjin, including Goodman Wuqing Logistics Centre, Goodman Wuqing E-commerce Park, Goodman Landport Logistics Estate and Goodman Xiqing Logistics Park. The Group continues to eye opportunities to invest further in this city.

Volkswagen China delivers 3.68 mln automobiles in 2014

上海大众和一汽大众共同向客户交付汽车368万辆

大众汽车集团(中国)近期宣布,2014年在中国大陆和香港市场,大众汽车集团(中国)携手两家合资企业上海大众和一汽大众共同向客户交付汽车368万辆(2013年同期交付327万辆),同比增长12.4%,成功突破2014年目标,创造了中国汽车产业新的纪录。去年11月,大众还曾在天津成立其配件厂,总投资达265万欧元。据悉,该厂是大众在中国成立的第十八个工厂,主要生产新一代直接换挡变速箱。

Volkswagen Group China delivered 3.68 million automobiles to market in the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong in 2014, up 12.4 percent year on year. The automobiles jointly delivered by Volkswagen Group China, Shanghai Volkswagen and FAW-Volkswagen also include 221,000 imported models. A total of 2.76 million Volkswagen automobiles were delivered in 2014, up 10 percent year on year, thanks to popular models including Lavalida, Santana and a new Jetta model. About 578,900 Audis have been delivered in the past year, up 17.7 percent year on year. In the luxury market, 236 Lamborghinis, 2,600 Bentleys and 46,900 Porsches were delivered in 2014. Jochem Heizmann, head of Volkswagen Group China, said the company managed double-digit growth above the market average in 2014. In November last year, a Volkswagen solely invested automobile parts plant opened in the north China port city of Tianjin. With an investment of 265 million euros, the plant is the 18th built by Volkswagen in China, and will mainly produce a new generation of direct-shift gearboxes.



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well, we are now officially through the winter and with the Spring Festival just around the corner.

Our feature article will deal with the drinking aspect of celebrations and the Spring Festival as we cheer in the year of the Sheep or Goat (羊 Yang), recognized for the qualities of love and peace. During the celebrations, we hope everyone will enjoy their favorite drinks, whether it will be the traditional Chinese "white liquor" or Baijiu 白酒, or Western wines, champagne, single malt whiskey or custom brewed beer. In any case, drink wisely and don't drink and drive.

February is also the month of Valentine's Day and we will look at the tradition and how it all started and lovers should not forget the 14th. We also look at Chinese dating websites if you are in need of new relationships.

Our travel destination is Harbin in the most northern province of China, Heilongjiang which literally means Black Dragon River, which is the river that borders China and Russia, in Russia the river is called Amur. Harbin is becoming a popular destination for Chinese; with six different airlines that offer the daily 2-hour direct flight from Tianjin, it is very convenient. We also will look at the Tianjin Free Trade Zone from a business perspective and our regular district review this month is Hongqiao.

Culture will consider the aspect of Chinese in-laws from the foreign wife and another view from the foreign husband perspective. Not an easy task to establish a good relationship in any marriage but even more difficult when it involves different cultures. Almost as difficult as finding a good tailor or doing well in the National College Entrance Exam as reviewed in our Tianjin Tips and Education sections respectively.

Jin Magazine wishes everyone a wonderful holiday and best of health and fortune in the coming year of the Sheep. Happy New Year! 新年快乐 Xin Nian Kuai Le.

当一年中最寒冷的日子悄然离去之时，我们迎来了象征爱与和平的农历羊年。中国人的传统，喜欢在欢度佳节之际把酒言欢，而本期主题我们讨论的就是那些与酒桌有关的礼仪文化。不过庆祝归庆祝，切记莫要在酒后驾车，尊重自己也是尊重他人。2月14日，是大家众所周知的情人节。如果你正单身着，不妨看看我们这期介绍婚恋网站的文章，或许会对你有帮助。本月旅游目的地，我们来到了美丽的“冰城”哈尔滨，这个时节恰逢第31届哈尔滨国际冰雪节的开幕时节，所以如果你对它感兴趣，切莫错过我们精彩的文章。跨国婚姻是一件美好的事，但如何维持好跨国婚姻中家庭关系的问题却一直是个难题。姑且看看我们的相关文章，听听有经验的人是如何做到的。最后，《今日天津》恭祝大家新年快乐，羊年大吉，身体健康，万事如意！

Monica Wang



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Tianjin International Culture Communication Association

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JIN MAGAZINE

Legal Consultants

Logos Law Firm

Korean Advertising Agency

Duoyun Advertising

Price ¥ 10



主办 今晚报社

承办 今日天津杂志社

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广告独家代理 天津市风华广告有限公司

固定形式印刷品广告登记证号 120103200482505027

地址 天津市南开区南京路358号今晚传媒大厦8楼

电话 +86 22 2750 0877

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广告销售 杨颖, 陆惠期, 李鹤, 由高峰

发行 陈朝宇

E-mail service@jinmagazine.com.cn

法律顾问 道名律师事务所

韩国广告代理 天津市多芸广告有限公司

2015年2月刊

国内统一刊号: CN12-1262/Z

国际标准刊号: ISSN1004-826X

价格: 10元



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YOU ARE WHAT YOU DRINK

by David Wong, Carmen King, Bryce Cristiano

In Western traditions, during a celebration such as New Years, birthdays and weddings, champagne and the popping of the cork is an integral part of the event. If you are watching the final championship of an important title game in football, baseball or racing, what is the tradition? It is usually the popping of champagne bottles and flowing of endless cheers of happy celebrations. With the Chinese Spring Festival or known as Chinese New Years in the West, the time of celebration and good cheer will be upon us soon.

What is the traditional drink in China? Without a doubt, it is Bai Jiu 白酒 literally means "white liquor" or sometimes referred to as white wine, but make no mistake it is strong distilled liquor usually about 40-60% alcohol by volume. By comparison, most Western liquors are usually 40% and wine is 12-14% and beer is 4-6%. Bai Jiu is usually distilled from

sorghum高粱 GaoLiang and can vary in quality and price.

The low end is ErGuoTou 二锅头 can be bought in any corner store in a small 250ml green bottle for 2rmb or the most expensive 50 year aged class made by WuLiangYe 五粮液 (literally means 5 grain drink from Sichuan province) will cost over 26,000 RMB (over \$3,000 USD) for a one liter bottle. For the Westerner, the taste of BaiJiu is formidable, no matter at what level of quality due to the higher strength and is usually referred to as "jet fuel". Fortunately, it is usually served in very small glasses. However, the problem is at a banquet there are many guests and many small glasses and the tradition is to down the glass in one gulp, referred to as "Gan Bei" 干杯 literally dry glass or in the West: "Bottoms Up".

One can try to avoid the ritual by trying to substituting your BaiJiu with water or trying

to convince your host to spare you by proposing the toast: Sui Yi 随意 which means "as you please" or "cheers" in place of the traditional, "bottoms up" GanBei. Even proposing half salute or "BanBei" 半杯, literally "half glass" may be acceptable but be prepared that all this may be in vain, because "Face" or saving face, is extremely important in this society and nothing is more cherished by the Chinese host than seeing his guests be happy. By Chinese standards, success is measured by the amount of liquor consumed and if the guest becomes inebriated to a state of being intoxicated, the host has succeeded and it was a great party.

BaiJiu has been produced in China for the past 5,000 years and has many classifications, one method is by fragrance. The first fragrance is known as "Sauce" or JiangXiang 酱香 a highly fragrant distilled liquor of bold character, named for its

similarity in flavor to Chinese fermented bean pastes and soy sauces. To the Western palate, sauce fragrance Baijiu can be quite challenging. It has large amounts of chemical compounds, which in combination with the ethanol in the liquor, imparts a sharp solvent-like note. To the initiated, it is quite delicious and is considered the perfect complement for fine preserved and pickled foods JiangCai 酱菜.

This class is also referred to as "Mao-scented" 茅香, after the best-known liquor of this class, Moutai. Moutai is produced in the town of Maotai 茅台 in the southwest China, in the province of GuiZhou. The reason there is the difference in the commercial name of Moutai and the official pinyin, MaoTai, is because the brand name is over 200 years old and was translated using the traditional Romanization method. In a similar fashion to the existence of old names of Tientsin and Peking for Tianjin and Beijing respectively. There is also thick fragrance, NongXiang 浓香 or LuXiang 泸香. This is a class of distilled liquor that is sweet tasting, soft and velvety in texture, and mellow, with a gentle lasting fragrance. Most of these liquors are made using fungus type starters. An example of this type of liquor is the expensive one, WuLiangYe from the city of Yibin in the province of Sichuan.

Other fragrances are: light fragrance qingxiang 清香 or fenxiang 汾香. Delicate, dry, and light, with a delectable mellow and clean texture in the mouth. An example of this kind of liquor is Fenjiu 汾酒 from the north China province of Shanxi 山西. Not to be confused with the neighboring province of Shaanxi (2 "a's) 陕西. It is interesting that the actual pinyin translation for both provinces is the same so in order to make a difference; they added the extra "a" although tones are different. The way I remember the difference is the capital city for Shaanxi is Xian 西安 and Taiyuan 太原 is the capital of Shanxi.

Finally there are rice fragrance BaiJiu mǐ xiāng 米香 and honey fragrance fēngxiāng 蜂香, a class of distilled liquor with the fragrance of honey. Liquors of this class are subtle in flavor and sweet in taste; and layered fragrance: jiānxiāng 兼香 or fùxiāng 馥香 which is a combination of all the above fragrances. Each province will have a local brand but the most famous and well-known brands are from the province of Guizhou with Moutai achieving international recognition with its white ceramic bottle.

Wine

In Tianjin where the infamous "white liquor" reigns supreme is there room for wine? To find the answer we sought the advice of a local wine expert Mr. Zhang Jie. Mr. Zhang's penchant for wine began as a hobby in 2005. As he drank wine with friends, more than just a good drink was found, a business emerged. In recent years Mr. Zhang has gone on to start and run a successful wine importing company headquartered in Tianjin. As such, he himself, the business he owns and the many customers who enjoy his selection of imported wines are all evidence, yes, there's still plenty of room for wine in Tianjin.

Our conversation with Mr. Zhang revealed however, like so many other things wine upon arrival in Tianjin, put simply "has changed". As the old saying goes when in Rome do as the Romans. So too wine like the expats that are in Tianjin for the most part become "localized". What are some of the biggest differences in how wine related culture in Tianjin is different than overseas? For a start, wine tends to link people to different social groups here. As Mr. Zhang expressed, folks who love to drink "white liquor" essentially the equivalent of drinkable gasoline, don't tend to drink a lot of wine. Thus these two social groups tend to function somewhat independent of each other. For example Mr. Zhang personally rarely drinks white liquor. Likewise, most of his friends do not drink white liquor either. Instead when they get together, be it for business or pleasure, they drink wine.

HOWEVER, AS MR. ZHANG REVEALS, PERHAPS A CHANGE IN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, NAMELY FROM WHITE LIQUOR TO WINE, WILL RESULT IN A CHANGE OF SOCIAL CIRCLES.

Expats may actually want to keep this bit of Tianjin alcohol culture in mind when living, working and playing here. For some, they may feel absolutely required to drink white liquor at business or social gatherings as illustrated in the stories in the outset of this article. However, as Mr. Zhang reveals, perhaps a change in alcoholic beverage, namely from white liquor to wine, will result in a change of social circles. As such, the "need" to drink unwanted white liquor will be drastically reduced.

A second difference in Tianjin wine culture is that of quantity. In Tianjin wine drinking has been "localized". That means, the more the merrier, therefore drunken bouts may likely occur. This is in contrast to how some expats may typically drink wine. In other countries wine may not be drunk with the explicit intent of getting drunk. Overseas folks might drink wine for the alleged health benefits, such as a half-glass of red wine each day. Clearly the goal isn't inebriation. Likewise, if wine is drunk with meals, perhaps a glass or two will be consumed. In such a case, again,



Mr. Zhang Jie



The market has seen various types of wines in Tianjin.

no intoxication may result.

Therefore as wine has found its place in Tianjin's alcoholic culture it may not be the type of wine drinking expats are accustomed to. Forget the scene of a single glass of wine being sipped on slowly as the night slips along. Instead in Tianjin, Mr. Zhang said a few bottles of wine amongst friends wouldn't last the night, as some local party goers drink a glass of wine like its water. While the social circles in Tianjin may change according to the alcoholic beverage being chosen, the style of drinking doesn't appear to change much at all. Large quantities of wine are often consumed, and very likely everyone will be footloose and fancy free by the nights end.

What types of wine are popular amongst expats in Tianjin? Mr. Zhang states red and white wine both sell well. White wine is enjoyed more in Southern China, while red wine is catching on in the North. A top seller is a medium bodied red wine from France called Domaine Val Colombe which sells around 180 RMB/bottle. Another favorite is from France, Grand Vin de Bordeaux at around 300 RMB/bottle. A selection of both dry red wines and dry white wines from Chile also sell well amongst both locals and expats. One thing Mr. Zhang stressed though, price is not everything. Higher price does not automatically mean higher quality. Therefore find a wine vendor which can be trusted and let ones palate be the guide. Drink wine that actually tastes good, rather than simply being expensive.

Wine culture is growing throughout China. Mr. Zhang notes year by year the quantity of wine being imported into China is on the rise. Interestingly though, as with so many things, wine culture in Tianjin is still in its early stages. From Mr. Zhang's perspective it has only been within the last 10 years that wine drinking has started to pick up some momentum in Tianjin. Staying true to its roots, Tianjin tends to be slow on adoption when it comes to accepting "outside" things, which includes wine. Still Mr. Zhang is optimistic about the continued growth of the wine market within Tianjin.



Why not try a craft beer

Beer

Next on the list of alcoholic beverages to be discussed along with its related culture is beer. Beer has faced the same challenges as wine when it comes to Tianjin. Namely, it isn't white liquor. White liquor historically speaking has been the quote un-quote mainstay of northern China alcohol. As such it has sat as bit of an undefeated champion with little to no competition. At least it did, until about twenty years ago when Mr. Lee a Tianjin native and his beer came a knocking.

It was the year 1994 that the young musician turned beer enthusiast Mr. Lee Wenzhong took to the streets of Tianjin to introduce everyone around him to beer. Mr. Lee had found his passion for beer while pursuing his dream of becoming a singer in Beijing. Like so many other musicians no doubt a lot of time was spent in bars and pubs. As such it was inevitable to spend some time drinking. Interestingly though, white liquor was never Mr. Lee's brew of choice. Instead it was beer that hit the mark.

Since Mr. Lee had been mostly pursuing his music career in Beijing he had a great opportunity along the way to see what was new and up incoming not just in music, but also in the bar business. There he found drinking beer not only something to be enjoyable but something he could possibly turn into a business back in Tianjin. While Beijing had more bars than one had the time or money to visit, Tianjin on the other hand was sorely lacking them and foreign beers were virtually non-existent.

Thus it was that a new bar and beer pedaling business began. Early on Mr. Lee took to promoting his passion of beer the old fashioned way, via word of mouth and personal introduction. This experience revealed to him how deep the white liquor culture runs in the hearts of Tianjiners. Tianjin locals like any good northern Chinese, love their white liquor. With alcohol percentages running from 40%-60%, maybe even higher, this "jet fuel" packs a punch and is makes getting drunk really easy.

Beer on the other hand was seen as wimpy, watery and well "foreign". Foreign it was as one of the main brands Mr. Lee was introducing at the time was Corona™ (科罗娜). Perhaps while hard for expats to imagine, at the time other than at Mr. Lee's newly founded Tianjin bar called YY Beer House, it was next to impossible to find Corona around town. Twenty years ago a few foreigners had already found their way to Tianjin. Of course they were more than excited to find out that Mr. Lee's YY Beer House had brought with it Corona™. This proved to be only the beginning as in Time YY Beer House came to offer not ten, twenty or even thirty, but rather 50 different beers.

Fast forward a few decades and Mr. Lee is now hardly the only bar in Tianjin. Yet, the majority of Tianjin locals still love to drink white liquor. This is not to say that the beer business is bad though. With over 20 years of history, right up until today the YY Beer House is going strong, still offering many different kinds of foreign beer. Yet, drinking other peoples beer was only the beginning and not the end for Mr. Lee.

His ongoing desire to find new and interesting foreign beer brands for his bar lead to finding a whole different aspect of beer culture. Why drink someone else's beer when you can drink your own? This self-made is beer is being called craft beer (手工精酿啤酒). It is the creation of the beer lover itself. Of course it takes some time, study and effort to make beer. The equipment and raw ingredients are not cheap. Mr. Lee is proud of the fact that as of a few months ago he has yet again brought something new to Tianjin and to beer lovers, in opening a second bar called YY Craft Beer. There he brews his own beer. What is fascinating in talking with Mr. Lee (beer) and Mr. Zhang (wine) is how one's choice of alcohol seems to dramatically change ones social circle. Beer drinkers tend



Craft beer making

to hang out with other beer drinkers. While wine "connoisseurs" find other wine enthusiasts for companionship. That being said the hard core white liquor drinkers still seem to be hanging on to their shot glasses.

Expats and Beer

While Tianjin locals are slowly but surely expanding their alcoholic horizons by drinking more wine and beer, what about expats? What beers top the list of Tianjin expats? Based on the observations of Mr. Lee over the past 20 years of serving beer to expats, the top three are: Tsingtao (青岛啤酒), San Miguel® (生力啤酒), and Guinness® (健士力黑啤). Other expats have found Harbin (哈尔滨啤酒) and Yanjing (燕京啤酒) also to be decent Chinese beers. The Japanese beer Asahi (朝日啤酒), along with the Korean Hite (海特啤酒) can be found in Tianjin as well. Local beer brands can be found pretty much anywhere, from little convenience shops to large grocery stores. Imported beers however are not as "widely available". The best bet for Tianjin expats wanting to buy that brand from abroad would be to head to an international hotel, a bar marketing to expat clients, or an import store.

Mr. Lee comments the "after work" expat crowd was one of the first groups to start regularly coming to his bar in Tianjin some twenty years ago. For expats there is no "sales job" needed when it comes to drinking beer. It is pretty much a given for many. Not to mention while drinking beer with friends may be a common thing, getting drunk may not be. Unlike eastern culture where drinking alcohol may be closely associated with drinking a lot and getting drunk, in the west such behavior is far more commonly

associated with teenagers or collegiate students having wild parties and getting hammered.

One thing expats may find a challenge in Tianjin is getting a cold beer. In the west beer must be served cold. Anything else would simply be lunacy. However the Chinese standard of cold can often leave expats dumbfounded. Overseas finding a cold bear is as easy as getting gas. There's where the first problem starts. Gas stations overseas are typically at every corner. With gas stations comes a little store with refrigerators stocked with beer, and cold beer at that. In Tianjin gas stations are not at every corner. Not to mention it is highly possible no one is buying anything other than gas at the gas station. Therefore expats may find themselves going on a bit of journey trying to find that cold beer. Nothing is more frustrating than finally finding a fridge full of beer, only to find out the fridge isn't turned on! Or the fridge has been set at some ridiculously high temperature so that the beer isn't even cold!

Mr. Lee knows well the issues associated with cold beer. He states if a beer really is cold, expat cold that is, locals may not want to drink it! For Mr. Lee it isn't an option though. With an estimated fifty percent of his customers being expats, he not only sells some fifty kinds of beer, he makes sure they are all cold. However, Tianjin locals may have a real issue with this. This is due to cold being directly associated with disease. Be it cold from the air conditioner or cold from that beer, cold is bad. Cold will make one sick and cause a number health problems according to Chinese medicine.

Therefore Tianjiners' accepting beer into their alcohol culture has more than a few challenges. One is that alcohol volume is too low. The watery nature of beer at a mere 4-6% of alcohol content might not even be classified as an "alcoholic" beverage to some locals. Second, it has a distinctly different flavor than white liquor. Be it craft beer, which is handmade by beer experts like Mr. Lee using high quality imported ingredients, to the standardized flavors of mass produced beers, a common thread is there is no real "bite" to beer. Beer at its best is smooth and refreshing, no "jet fuel" after burn. Third, temperature is a huge issue. White liquor right on par with Chinese medicine methodologies is served at room temperature. Beer on the other hand is served ice cold.



Sylvia Kim and her whisky club members

Whisky

Quality single-malt whisky in China commonly comes from abroad and its consumption has been treated as something of a Western hobby. Attaining whisky from around the world is growing interest of Chinese people given how varied its regions can be. Most ideas of the drink are commonly associated with its purity and international nature spun out of Scotland. Single-malt whisky can fetch various prices and comes in many different varieties which appeals to people looking for an alcohol which can be experimented with over time.

Given their appeal to this largely untapped market, whisky clubs have been popping up in more international cities like Beijing and Shanghai over the years; only more recently has Tianjin also picked up on the trend. Much like how golfing has exploded from the business class to a more open market of individuals in lower classes, so will single-malt consumption over time as people seek alternative alcohols. Not only is it a relatable cultural point when doing business, but the indulgence of fine liquors is an act which helps relax busy individuals while the smaller quantities keep away negative health ramifications. As everyone is well aware of, the consumption of copious amounts of alcohol tend to bring down the health of people. In this situation though, less means more, and less alcohol means the chance to spend that money on something of greater quality.

Acclimating to fine single-malt whisky isn't always easy says Sylvia Kim, who manages her own golf training studio as well as a whisky club. "People can experience headaches after

trying a single-malt whisky as their bodies are used to consuming fake liquors often sold at local bars." The strong taste of the alcohol can also be a slight deterrent for beginners which is surprising considering that baijiu is drunk as though it's water. Strong tastes and introductory headaches aren't going to keep away a growing group of enthusiastic proto-connoisseurs. While expats in Tianjin see a whisky club open and think, "Finally," the locals haven't had any experiences with such establishments. They see the comfortable atmosphere, smoke-free environment, fine service, quality liquors; and they seek more. To many locals, they're acquiring the tastes and making demands for superior products. While seeking real luxury products can take many forms from purses, clothing, shoes, makeup, etc.; when it comes to food and drinks it can directly influence your health.

Conclusion

The alcohol culture of Tianjin is similar to the rest of northern China. First and foremost is white liquor. However, this trend may be changing although ever so slightly among what the Chinese call "eight zero after" and "nine zero after." These translated into Chinese means "born in the eighties" and "born in the nineties." These younger Chinese are in the process of establishing a new alcohol culture in Tianjin. Add to this the major changes in governmental policies as it relates to Chinese officials and "entertainment". In previous years, drinking white liquor in massive quantities was perhaps a common practice among some big wigs. However with the misappropriation of public and private funds being a very hot topic in all of China right now, the public partying

has at least to some extent been curtailed.

White liquor is seldom drunk in reasonable quantities. With 40-60% alcohol volume it really doesn't take much of the "jet fuel" to take off. The issue is such uncontrollable drinking in the context of business dealings, or in front of the public eye isn't as cool as it used to be. With such, comes a slight redirection in Tianjin alcohol culture. Calmly sipping a glass of wine at a fine restaurant far more fits the part of a polished, well-educated, well-traveled executive or government leader. Far more relaxed yet in control is catching a few cold brews with buddies after work, rather than loudly shouting, laughing, and staggering around after a being filled up on "jet fuel".

When it comes to alcohol culture in Tianjin, expats should realize "what" they choose to drink will likely dictate to "who" they drink with. So too "who" expats are drinking with may well dictate "where" they go. Business in Tianjin is not without its social aspect. With social events likely comes drinking. Thus arrives the questions of what to drink and how much. Expats will perhaps be far more prone to drink

WHEN IT COMES TO ALCOHOL CULTURE IN TIANJIN, EXPATS SHOULD REALIZE "WHAT" THEY CHOOSE TO DRINK WILL LIKELY DICTATE TO "WHO" THEY DRINK WITH.

less when compared with locals. Locals have as stated in the outset long since linked drinking absurd amounts of alcohol with goods times, prosperity, and close relationships. Therefore no matter what drink is drunk, should it be with locals, perhaps there is still the possibility that quantity will be on the high side, along with lots of toasting, and "bottoms up".

No doubt there will be many celebrations during the Spring Festival or other events that have liquor, but just remember to drink wisely and if you drink, don't drive. Always make safety first your main objective, and think ahead by having a designated driver who will abstain from liquor or plan to take public transport or a taxi. There is always an alternative better than risking a fine and cancellation of your license and an accident. So enjoy the coming holidays and Xin Nian Kuai Le 新年快乐!

喝杯好酒，交个朋友！

在西方传统里，每当有新年、生日和婚礼这样的场合，开香槟都是重要的庆祝环节。香槟瓶盖迸出的那一刻，香槟酒喷洒而出，人们欢欣雀跃。

中国的春节马上就要来了，这是中国最重要的节日。白酒毫无疑问是春节宴席上的主角！白酒的酒精度大概在40%到60%之间，比西方的大部分酒都要烈。白酒通常是高粱酿造，品质和价格都有很大差别。

平头百姓钟爱二锅头，250ml小绿瓶只要2块钱。而50年的五粮液每瓶售价高达26000元。大部分西方人都对白酒心存畏惧，在他们心里，这和酒精燃料没什么区别。

在中国式宴席上，虽然白酒酒盅都非常小巧，但也架不住众多宾客纷纷向你敬酒。这时候你该怎么办呢？在别人跟你敬酒的时候，你可以根据自己的酒量选择“干杯”、“半杯”或“随意”。但无论你说什么，你都不能让主人没面子，因为“面子”是中国人最看重的。作为主人来说，能让客人喝高了就算是尽到地主之谊了，这个宴会也就是成功的宴会。

白酒酿造在中国已经有5000年历史了，根据香型分为酱香、浓香、清香、米香。酱香就是有一股类似豆类发酵时发出的一种酱香味。对西方人来说，酱香型白酒最为挑战，味道最烈。

清香型白酒清香醇正，诸味协调，醇甜柔和，余味爽净，甘润爽口，具有传统的老白干风格，代表酒有山西的汾酒。

米香型白酒以清，甜、爽、净见长，其主要特征是：蜜香清雅，入口柔绵，落口爽冽，回味怡畅。

既然中国人如此钟爱白酒，那么西方人更能接受的红酒在这里是否有市场呢？我们采访了天津一位从事多年红酒贸易的张捷先生。张先生从2005年开始对红酒产生兴趣，逐渐从兴趣发展到一项主营业务。在他看来，红酒在天津不仅有市场，而且前景非常光明。

虽然市场前景乐观，但是张先生也发现，来自西方的红酒到了天津以后也不得不做出“本地化”的改变。首先，不同种类的酒也区分出不同的社交群体，喝白酒的人和喝红酒的人就玩不到一起。张先生和朋友无论是谈生意还是休闲聊天，都只喝红酒。张先生认为，现在的天津人已经出现从白酒转到红酒的趋势，以前拼命劝酒的情况已经少多了。

其次，喝酒的习惯也被“本地化”了。中国人喝酒讲究推杯换盏，你来我往。但西方人喝酒更为

随意，不以喝醉为目的。天津人喝红酒依然保持着喝白酒的习惯，天津人的聚会上，一个晚上要喝掉好几瓶红酒，因为人们觉得红酒像水一样淡。而老外喝酒就非常慢，两个人一瓶酒能喝整晚。

张先生还介绍说，红葡萄酒和白葡萄酒在天津卖的都不错，价位在100-300元的酒最受欢迎。但他也强调，不一定价格高质量就好，找到值得信赖的酒商很重要。另外还要跟随你味蕾的感觉，而不是单纯看价格。

啤酒也是天津人常喝的酒。李文中先生是啤酒爱好者，经营餐厅20年来，他一直热衷于向食客和朋友推荐最好的啤酒。李先生早年在天津从事歌唱事业，也让他对北京的酒吧文化有了最早的接触。那时候天津几乎没有进口啤酒，所以他决定把进口啤酒引进天津。但在推广的过程中，李先生深深感受到白酒文化在天津的根深蒂固。

当时李先生引进的第一款啤酒是科罗娜，整个天津只有他一家店能找到。那时天津为数不多的老外循着这味道就找到了李先生经营的粤园餐厅，而李先生的啤酒种类也从这一种，扩大到今天的50多种。

在不断寻找新啤酒的路上，李先生最终发现了一种全新的啤酒文化。为什么不自己尝试酿造啤酒？手工精酿啤酒就是自己制定配方，自己购买原料，在专门的设备上酿造啤酒。虽然自酿啤酒价格不菲，但这又是他在天津的一次首创。

根据李先生的观察，在过去20年里，外国人最爱的啤酒品牌分别是“青岛”、“生力”、“健士力”。日本的“朝日”和韩国的“海特”也都能在天津买得到。

对老外来说，几个人聚在一起吃披萨看足球再加上啤酒就是最好的时光。而当太太们一起逛街的时候，男人们也可以在一起喝着啤酒、吃着薯条，打着扑克。忙碌了一天过后，他们也喜欢到酒吧里点一瓶冰啤酒，解解乏。在西方，啤酒也有自己的文化。

和朋友在工作后去酒吧喝啤酒是最平常不过的事情。店员根本无需费口舌推销，他们会很“自觉”地点上自己最爱的啤酒。但是和中国人不同，他们不是以喝醉为目的。

还有一件令外国人很郁闷的事情是，很多地方都没有冰啤酒。在西方，啤酒必须是冰的。但在中国，所谓的冰啤酒离冰啤酒还有一段距离。很多时候明明看到啤酒冷藏便利店的冰箱里，但其实冰箱并没有开。除了有些店家出于省电的考虑之外，在中国人的观念里，凉的东西对身体有害。

最近在天津开始流行单一麦芽威士忌，天津的威士忌爱好者们开始在全世界搜寻不同种类的威士忌酒。虽然起源于苏格兰，但不同产地的威士忌会有自己的特色。

在北京和上海，威士忌俱乐部不断涌现，直到最近，天津才出现一些这样的俱乐部。除了一些商务场合的社交需要，真正高品质的酒本身就可以让忙碌的人群身心放松下来，少量饮用不会对健康造成伤害。

但是让天津人适应单一麦芽威士忌并不是件容易的事。来自韩国的金贵女士经营了一家威士忌俱乐部，她说：“有些人第一次尝试单一麦芽威士忌之后会出现头疼的症状，因为他们之前喝的并不是纯正的威士忌。”这种酒强烈的味道也对入门者是个挑战，哪怕是习惯白酒的人也是如此。但这并没有阻止人们了解和探索威士忌的热情。他们喜欢威士忌俱乐部舒适无烟的环境，优质的服务以及高品质的酒。当他们遇到了真正的好东西，他们会马上爱上。

虽然白酒仍然占据着天津酒文化的主体地位，但随着80和90后的崛起，新的酒文化正在形成。

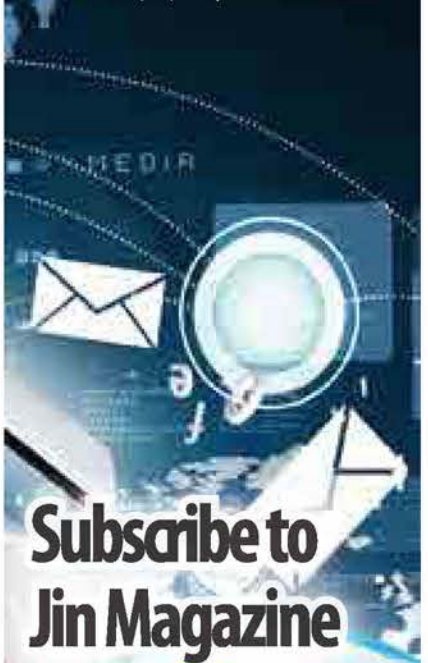
没有节制地喝白酒已经是一种过时的行为了。作为一个受过高等教育，见识广博的高端人士，在一家高级餐厅从容地品一杯红酒才更加有范儿。或者下了班和朋友去酒吧喝几瓶冰啤酒，尽情地宣泄情绪。

在天津，你选择什么样的酒就是选择了什么样的朋友。无论是谈生意还是交朋友都离不开酒。问题是喝什么酒，喝多少。鉴于中国人“感情深，一口闷”的习惯，你不多喝都不行。

新春佳节就要到了，你难免也要和中国朋友喝上几杯。还是注意不要饮酒过量，酒后切勿开车。希望大家都能过一个愉快平安的年！

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DELIVERING ITALIAN TASTES TO TIANJIN

by Bryce Cristiano



Marco at work

China is quickly becoming quite the cultural center as so many nationalities of different cultures and working backgrounds come to the country looking for something which they can't find in their own homelands. While Tianjin is notably less international than places like Beijing and Shanghai, it's certainly no

stranger to expats; who have certainly prominent appearances in NanKai district. With the introduction of more foreigners to city comes the chance for locals to engage with those from all over the world as well as trying the foods they bring into China. Italian food, already being quite the staple of many other Western countries, has begun to curvy

favor with locals over the years. While large businesses like Pizza Hut are far from authentic Italian cooking, it is locations like this which do open up locals and incline them to seek authentic Italian cuisine. Luckily for the locals and foreigners of Tianjin, there is a man making his rounds in the Tianjin restaurant circuit who heralds from Italy and comes to share his beloved food to locals.

Marco Barboni is no stranger to working within China though as he has already been established in the country for quite a number of years, even working in multiple Tianjin Italian restaurants. From the start of his life, he was seemingly certain that he'd follow after the hotel and restaurant business of his parents. As such, he pursued an education in all aspects of the restaurant world from management, cooking, and serving. He's a man who understands every role of the restaurant and as such now manages things quite well as the head chef of an Italian restaurant based in Wuqing district. Prior to Wuqing; he also held positions at two restaurants in JinWan Plaza and the Haiguangsi area.

Originally coming to China with his girlfriend who studies Chinese, he was inclined to study both English and Chinese in order to get by in the international Beijing life and enter the restaurant world in China. Having spent his time in places like Shanghai and Beijing, he has grown to enjoy the laid back nature which many expats to Tianjin note as being their favorite traits. Beijing might certainly have a more livelier nightlife, as Marco concedes, it's far too busy and crowded; being intended as a city more for younger people. Tianjin though has a much more casual feel and is just a better environment for actually living a life. Another great trait of Tianjin which Marco expounds upon is how while Tianjin may be a large city, it's certainly not as international as places like Beijing and Shanghai. Meaning that the city still has the local charm of Chinese culture rather than feeling like a European city. "If I wanted to live in a European city, I wouldn't have to come to China for that", notes Marco. Tianjin feels more a city of the locals and the student expats rather than a flurry of tourists, which while added tourism would be a perk to Tianjin's economy, it would certainly detract from the local feel.



Marco Barboni

ATTENTION TO DETAILS AND THE SUBTLE FLAVOURS ARE THINGS WHICH HE FEELS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO ITALIAN COOKING.

A fan of Asian culture and a chef himself, he's also a big fan of Chinese foods. The only negative remarks he could make is that rather than the spices playing subtly into dishes and helping bring out the taste of the other ingredients, they're rather overbearing. Sichuan foods are fantastic but the over abundance of spices can go to such an extreme that it's hard to even taste the food you're eating with the spices. Also he touches on something which is also pretty bizarre to other foreigners as well, that being the rate at which food flies out of the kitchen in Chinese restaurants. You can sit down and have five dishes under your nose in a matter of ten minutes. Even in the large restaurants it may take a while for them to produce all the food necessary to appease every guest but when it does come out of the kitchen it comes as an onslaught of 20 trays on massive carts. While this expedited food is great, Marco feels that Chinese chefs can be a bit quick handed with food and might miss details of the food in order to simply get it out in time. As a chef he's enthusiastic about the food he is making and wishes to take his home food and share it

with people who have never experienced it before. Since it's such a sharing experience for him, he feels it necessary to put a great deal of time into the preparation of the food. Attention to details and the subtle flavours are things which he feels are very important to Italian cooking.

When asked about whether locals have had any bad experiences acclimating to authentic Italian cuisine, I was quite surprised to hear that he has never had any issues. The people who go out of their way to visit a foreign restaurant understand that they'll be trying tastes which could be entirely new to them and even if they don't enjoy every flavour of the food, they seldom complain. Two issues that he has had were with the serving of certain pasta dishes and the saltiness of certain food being over the normal bounds of Chinese tastes. While many Chinese people are of course used to eating noodles and pastas, they don't quite enjoy the texture of al dente noodles (being noodles which are cooked for a shorter amount of time in order to keep a tougher texture). It's really just the uncanny valley of food at that point. You sit down to what you assume are soft noodles and experience a different texture which could be somewhat deterring. Even I've noticed that Mexican food doesn't fare to well in China. Despite knowing of some great Tex-Mex cuisine in Tianjin, the locals aren't used to products like burritos which include mashed and spiced beans. The only instance which Chinese people normally eat beans are the sweetened red beans, so it's

hard to break that conditioning on how a food should be prepared.

While Marco does love his life in Tianjin and China and sees the country as being remarkably less crime ridden than his own home town, he does plan on returning for the holidays like most expats living abroad. His family has had a hard time understanding just why he would want to stay in such a faraway place but hopefully the experiences which we have here in China will help our families back at home break some of the misconceptions that they have about Chinese culture and daily life. It's certainly not easy for most people to be so far from home but brilliant chefs like Marco can alleviate some of the home-sickness we may be having by providing foods which we're all familiar with. In time we should get to see more foreigners coming to China to not only alleviate any of the homesickness which expats have with their cuisines, but to also contribute to the international nature of Chinese cities which are becoming bastions of international activity.

美食无国界

随着越来越多国家的人来中国寻梦，中国已经成为一个世界文化中心。天津同样吸引着很多外国人来这里学习或工作。他们除了感受中国的一切，也把自己国家的文化带到了中国。比如意大利餐，已经被中国人广泛认识和接受。但我们所说的意餐并不是连锁快餐店提供的那些，而是更为地道的意大利美食。

Marco Barboni 就是一名来自意大利的厨师，在中国已经工作多年了，目前在武清区一家意大利餐厅做主厨。在北京上海这样的城市生活过之后，Marco 最终留在了天津，因为他更喜欢天津的慢节奏生活。而天津作为一个大城市，仍然保留了很多本土传统特色，这也让 Marco 十分欣赏。他说：“如果喜欢欧洲的生活，我不会来中国。”

Marco 也喜欢中国美食，但受不了太辣的菜，比如川菜。同时，他也注意到中餐上菜非常快，十分钟之内能上五道菜。这和西餐的上菜传统很不一样。他觉得，中餐厨师动作很利落，但这也可能导致细节做得不够好。而 Marco 特别希望和中国顾客分享最好的意大利菜，他会非常注重细节和味道的把握。

Marco 说他的中国客人基本对他的菜没有差评，因为大家都做好了尝试新鲜事物的准备，所以即使他们尝到略显意外的味道，他们也不会抱怨。只不过中国人对意大利面的硬度有些不太习惯，因为中国人吃面希望煮的软一点。

Marco 目前很满意在天津的生活。虽然他的家人最初并不理解他为什么要到这么远的地方来，但他不断地和家人讲述天津的生活，已经让他们消除了对中国的误解。Marco 希望用他正宗的意大利菜一解老外们的乡愁，也希望更多外国人能来天津，让天津更加国际化。



**NOTE THE BINHAI NEW AREA
CBD WILL PERHAPS BE A MORE
"METROPOLITAN" LIKE AREA,
WITH GREATER DEVELOPMENT
IN TERMS OF FINANCE,
SHOPPING AND COMMERCE.**

The formal announcement of the Tianjin Free Trade Zone is extremely significant

TIANJIN FREE TRADE ZONE

by Carmen King

According to Baidu there was big news on December 28, 2014 in Tianjin. It was on that day that the Chinese State Council officially approved the establishment of the Tianjin Free Trade Zone. In Chinese the Tianjin Free Trade Zone is called 天津自由贸易试验区, or for short 天津自贸区. Not just Tianjin got good news. State Council also approved to setup free trade zones in Guangdong and Fujian.

The Tianjin Free Trade Zone is a big deal. It follows the pattern of Shanghai's Free Trade Zone. Baidu reports that Shanghai setup its free trade zone in the latter part of 2013. Its overall area is about 120 square kilometers. Interestingly, Tianjin's Free Trade Zone will be about the same size. The Shanghai Free Trade Zone made big news on arrival and has continued to do so. Namely these free trade zones make the headlines because they bring

with them the relaxation of many major policies and procedures as it relates to investment in China, particularly as it relates to foreign investment.

Restrictions related to opening a business in Tianjin typically relate to what type of business can be started and how much capital must be invested. For example some sectors like the financial one has been off limits to foreigners. Another issue may be that a company can be founded however it must be a joint venture whereby a significant portion of power and proceeds would go to a Chinese investor. Obviously this has never been very attractive to overseas investors. Also on the list of troubles with starting a business in Tianjin is setup time. In the past it may have been very time consuming, taking months, even longer to setup a foreign owned business.

Last's year Shanghai free trade zone changed all of that. First, it was to bring with it

new opportunities for foreign companies to invest in previously restricted or controlled areas. Second, it was to allow wholly owned foreign businesses instead of forcing expats to find a Chinese partner to share profits with. Third, business startup times were reduced from months to maybe weeks. Completely revised processes to allow for quick setup meant new business could hit the ground running without wasting valuable time and money while they waited for government approval.

Initially Shanghai's Free Trade Zone was to be a "test". Meaning if it proved unsuccessful or in other words non-beneficial to the Chinese government, well it stood to be altered, or even shut down. However, the past year has shown strong growth in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone. Continued interest by foreign investors has lead to the Central Government not only keeping the Shanghai Free Trade Zone going but adding additional incentives to draw additional investment. This is huge because it reveals the Central Government is at current supporting the free trade zone concept.

All the success of Shanghai's free trade zone led to talks of more free trade zones. Where? When? Of course these have been the questions everyone has been asking. The big news came in recent months. Finally everyone could stop guessing and start planning to make their investment! As stated earlier, not

just one new free trade zone has been approved, but three. The locations are Tianjin, Fujian and Guangdong. Interestingly, this would create a network of four free trade zones that span the country. From north to south, the list will go Tianjin, Shanghai, Fujian, and finally Guangdong.

Expats who have been to China know that cultures and personalities vary greatly from north to south. Thus the setting up of four different free trade zones is significant. Each will not only provide more options for expats to invest in China, but also the option of choosing which area best suits their business. If possible expats should research all four free trade zones before making a move. Try to understand the local culture of the area surrounding the free trade zone. As likely a number of investors will be from those surrounding areas. Not to mention initial customers of a business will perhaps include those nearby the free trade zone in which the company is setup.



Tianjin East Port Free Trade Zone

The Tianjin Free Trade Zone will look to replicate the successes of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone. However, this should not be interpreted as it will be a duplicate of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone. Why? Well, first off remember that the Shanghai Free Trade Zone was only a "test" or "beta". That means that policies would be analyzed as to effectiveness and edited or altered accordingly. Second, the Central Government has announced that each free trade zone will offer exclusive localized policies. This means that by virtue of the laws governing the four different trade zones, the Central Government can control which types of businesses enter and invest there.

Policy control has long since been a favorite of the Central Government for controlling growth and development throughout China. The Tianjin Free Trade Zone will have three functional areas. These are not all in the same exact same location. Instead when looking at a map, they look like three "islands". Each will function as part of the overall Tianjin Free Trade Zone. Yet at the same time the three areas will offer investors something different in terms of geography and foundation for their business to be built on. The three functional areas are as follows: the Binhai New Area Central Business District (CBD), the Dongjiang Free Trade Port Zone, and the Tianjin Port Free Trade Zone.

Note the Binhai New Area CBD will perhaps be a more "metropolitan" like area, with greater development in terms of finance, shopping and commerce. The Dongjiang Free Trade Port Zone and Tianjin Port Free Trade Zone area will likely be good choices for those in the manufacturing, logistics, and shipping industries. With the Tianjin Binhai International Airport in the immediate vicinity, no doubt those related to the aviation and transportation industry will also be interested in these areas. Thus for investors looking to leverage the new Tianjin Free Trade zone, they will need to not only choose "Tianjin", but also choose which one of the three free trade functional areas to invest in. Each will have its pros and cons, so do homework accordingly.

It has been mentioned before in this column, business in Tianjin is like the rest of China in that Central Government policy matters. What the government says goes. In this respect, the formal announcement of the Tianjin Free Trade Zone is extremely significant. As Beijing continues to bust at its seems with over population and Shanghai's cost of living soars, Tianjin may truly be one of

the best investments out there. Especially for investors looking to tap into yet another major Central Government initiative, that is the integration of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei. The Tianjin Free Trade Zone stands unique as the only free trade zone in northern China and the closet to Beijing. With official free trade zone amended policies set to take effect on March 1, 2015 now is the time to get those business ideas finalized. The next three years will prove interesting as the Tianjin Free Trade Zone goes from dream to reality.

中国（天津）自由贸易试验区

2014年12月12日对天津来讲,是一个异常重要的日子。这一天,国务院正式下发第二批自贸区试点名单,其中就包括天津。需要指出的是,“自由贸易区”并非“自由贸易协定”。这两者有很大的区别。根据1973年建立的国际条例,自贸区指的是一块特有的土地,它属于其国家的一部分。规定表明,在自贸区边界以内的进口产品实行全部或部分免征关税政策。而“自由贸易协定”指的却是两国或多国间具有法律约束力的契约,目的在于促进经济一体化,其目标之一是消除贸易壁垒,允许产品与服务在国家间自由流动。

自由贸易区的建立和发展离不开政府的强大支持。2013年8月,上海经国务院批准,成为中国大陆境内第一个自由贸易区,这一批准为上海带来了十年的发展红利。2014年12月5日,习主席的一次重要讲话中,也再次强调了加快自贸区建立的步伐。

中国(上海)自由贸易试验区的建立顺应了全球经贸发展的新趋势,它的主要任务是探索中国对外开放的新路径和新模式,推动加快转变政府职能和行政体制改革,促进转变经济增长方式和优化经济结构,实现以开放促发展、促改革、促创新,形成可复制、可推广的经验,服务全国的发展。而如今新获批的三个自贸区正是可以通过借鉴上海自贸区的宝贵经验,为自己创造更多发展机会。

2014年12月28日,第十二届全国人民代表大会常务委员会第十二次会议决定:授权国务院在中国(广东)自由贸易试验区、中国(天津)自由贸易试验区、中国(福建)自由贸易试验区以及中国(上海)自由贸易试验区扩展区域内(四至范围附后),暂时调整《中华人民共和国外资企业法》、《中华人民共和国中外合资经营企业法》、《中华人民共和国中外合作经营企业法》和《中华人民共和国台湾同胞投资保护法》规定的有关行政审批。但是,国家规定实施准入特别管理措施的除外。上述行政审批的调整在三年内试行,对实践证明可行的,修改完善有关法律;对实践证明不宜调整的,恢复施行有关法律的规定。决定自2015年3月1日起施行。

天津自由贸易区的建立,为它的未来带来了巨大的发展空间。与上海自由贸易区相比,天津自由贸易区将为制造业提供更多的有利政策,这也是天津自贸区的一个特殊功能。天津自贸区的建立意义重大。随着北京人口的不断攀升,上海物价的持续走高,天津极有可能成为继北京上海之后的又一最佳投资城市。京津冀一体化之后,天津作为北方唯一建立一个自贸区的城市,将会有更多的发展机会。就让我们一起拭目以待,期待着未来的天津会有更多的精彩。



A Top-Floor Penthouse Makes A Comfy Home

Canteen

There are many places you can find to live in Tianjin, or you are already familiar with all those hotels, serviced residences and even private apartments. However, I feel it is unlikely you have heard about this apartment which many of us will call 'home' – and now we would like to pay a visit and unveil it to you.

Suited on 36th floor of Somerset International Building Tianjin, this penthouse sits on the ideal location along Nanjing Road and in the heart of Tianjin's CBD. This apartment overlooks the Five Avenue District (aka. Wu Da Dao Area) in the south and Tai'An Dao in the north, amid this building is already known for unblocked view of the city. To the east and west, Xiao Bai Lou and Bin Jiang Dao are within walking distance. You will easily find variety of dining, recreational and shopping options.

Being on the top floor, you will have easy access to the new 24-hours gym, residents and breakfast lounge. Other conveniences include Starbucks, a new minimart, and several local and foreign banks are located in the same building. This property is owned and managed by Ascott and you can rest assured that most of your other basic needs are well managed and taken care of.

This 322 sqm penthouse has one master

ENJOY THE UNBLOCKED VIEW OF SKYLINE WHILE SITTING IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

bedroom and two guests' rooms, two living rooms and the dining area are separately located to match the different function of space. You will have a fully-equipped kitchen, a maid's room and plenty storage space.

Besides those functions mentioned above, the management invites you to help give some ideas on what else do you prefer to have for the rest of the spaces; they may consider doing something specially tailored to your preferences. All you need to do is to Speak to Them...

Monthly Rate: RMB46000
Daily Rate: RMB1730+15%

For reservation or more information, please call Somerset International Building Tianjin at (86-22) 2330 6666 or visit our website at www.the-ascott.com.



Kitchen



Bathroom



Bedroom

Past Events

Tianjin Monthly Executive Breakfast Briefing

January 15, 2015 – The Astor Hotel

AmCham China, Tianjin Chapter held its first Monthly Executive Breakfast Briefing of 2015 at the Astor Hotel Jan. 15. The guest speaker was James Zimmerman, who took over at the start of the year as chairman of the AmCham China Board of Governors.

Zimmerman reviewed with the audience – nearly 40 CEOs, general managers and senior level executives – the chamber's vision and mission, and how they were being translated into member value. He also introduced the major upcoming events, including the Business Climate Survey launch (Feb. 11); APCAC conference in Singapore (March 11-13); White Paper launch (April 21); DC Outreach and Conference (April 27-29); American Ball (May 23) and July 4th Celebration.

The Monthly Executive Breakfast is becoming a signature event for the Tianjin Chapter, providing members an excellent opportunity to meet Tianjin's Executive Committee members.



Upcoming Events

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Forum Networking Night

Time and Date: 6:30PM – 21:00PM, February 10

Venue: The Westin Tianjin

2015 AmCham China Business Climate Survey Breakfast Briefing

Time and Date: 7:15 AM – 9:00 AM, February 12

Venue: The Astor Hotel

Address: Room2918, Exchange Tower 2, No. 189 Nanjing Rd, Heping District, Tianjin 300051
TEL: 86-22-23185075 Contact person: Amanda He amandahe@amchamchina.org Website: www.amchamchina.org



Long Staying Suite Bedroom

Splendid View, Luxurious Experience

by Bryce Cristiano

Sleek, modern, comfortable, and localized; just a few positive words of many to describe the experience of the living spaces in the relatively brand new, Pan Pacific Tianjin. Opened in late 2014, this hotel boasts an impressive level of space and modern amenities which are important to those visiting a foreign country for the first time. Cozily settled in between the Red Bridge (Jin Gang Qiao) and the Ancient Cultural Street, this location offers some fantastic views of the Hai-He river and Dong Nan Jiao areas, dependent of course on which side of the hotel you stay. The 319 guestrooms accompanied by the exemplary 30 serviced suites offer a range of amenities and service types for those to decide what they need out of their stay.

The serviced suites are really at the heart of the Pan Pacific experience and as such we were treated to one of their spacious living suites for a night. Normally intended to be reserved for at least over a week, these rooms offer everything that a traveling couple or small family would need for a luxurious visit in Tianjin. The serviced rooms themselves start at 52 square meters for the Studio King and up to 91 square meters for the Premier One Bedroom. The room we stayed in was the Premier One Bedroom, coming in around 91 square meters. With all of that room, guests are treated to a small kitchenette, a living room, combined bedroom, and bathroom. The room itself had a great design, leaving the

impression that it was a sophisticated space and the integration of massive photo-prints of Tianjin location adorning the walls of the room was a pleasant surprise.

With a fridge, an oven, a coffee maker, and a stove top; guests have at their disposal the resources to prepare their own meals. If you're graced with culinary experiences, that's just fine since the hotel offers three restaurants and the ability to order food 24/7 to be delivered right into your room. The kitchen area expands out into a massive living room offering a plush couch, two arm-chairs, and a desk for working. If you're worried about having guests over to your room, you'll have more than enough room to occupy them. Between the living room and the bedroom, the suite has two large televisions with a wide range of channels from Russian Television to local CCTV. The bedroom is of course the heart of any living space and it doesn't disappoint here. It's easy to fall into the bed



NOODLE BAR

THE HOTEL RESTAURANTS HERE ARE VERY HIGH QUALITY, BOASTING SOME OF THE BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE I'VE YET TO EXPERIENCE IN CHINA THUS FAR.

and drown into a sea of comfort. If you can manage to pry yourself from the luxurious bed, the bathroom is just a step away. The earthy and modern design of the bathroom makes for quite the treat here. A large tub and shower room are just behind thick panels of opaque glass, with the toilet also having a small room of its own. The main space of the bathroom offers plenty of room for getting ready in the morning. From doing laundry, dressing, or ironing; the bathroom feels like a den of preparation as you manage your appearance for the day ahead.

The hotel restaurants here are very high quality, boasting some of the best customer service I've yet to experience in China thus far. The buffet we got to experience really raised the bar for what a buffet can be. No trays of dejected food here, instead you get the best. Fresh prepared sushi with sashimi cut right before you, hot pot prepared on the spot, malatang, gourmet cheeses, fresh barbeque, and hearty soups offer anything you could be craving. The buffet feels well managed and abundant, and indulging in unlimited sushi is always an added plus. Along with their Noodle Bar and Hai Tien Lo; the Pacifica is just one of the restaurants offered here. For those needing a great place to settle down during a stay in Tianjin, one can do no better than checking into the Pan Pacific Tianjin, their kind lobby staff will be more than willing to assist with any needs that arise.

Fruitful Cooperation Expects Promising Potential

Melbourne-Tianjin Friendship Flagship Project: Tianjin Government Leaders Training Program



10-Year Anniversary of Tianjin Government Leaders Training Program

The cooperation and exchange programs have, since Melbourne and Tianjin established sister city relationship, covered a wide range of areas. Education programs are considered the most significant by both cities.

Tianjin Government Leaders Training Program (TGLTP) stemmed from the friendly relationship and is viewed as one of the most important training programs. The idea of such a project was first raised and discussed during the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship. Ms. Xingjun, the then Member of the Tianjin Party Standing Committee and Director of the Party Organization Department, led a delegation of government representatives on an official visit to Melbourne. During the visit, the two cities had in-depth discussions regarding the strategy for training Tianjin young government and corporate leaders. The result was a tripartite agreement between the two governments and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT). TGLTP was officially denominated and initiated in September, 2001. Senior economic management personnel from Tianjin Party Committee, Tianjin government, District and County Bureaus as well as major SOEs were sent on 12-week business management training programs. Until now, more than 270 leaders from all Districts, Counties and Bureaus have taken part in 16 such training programs in Melbourne.

The success of the programs also gave rise to active participation those interested from other industries. In the past 13 years, short and medium term training programs held in Melbourne include: Tianjin Government Work Placement Program, Finance Bureau Leaders Training Program, Institution of Tertiary Education Leaders Training Program (organized by the Municipal Commission of Education), Media Professionals Training Program for personnel from the Municipal Administration of Radio, Film and Television, Hedong District English Language Teachers Training Program. Others programs are currently under preparation and will be initiated in the future. These programs will be held for management personnel from the Municipal Planning, Environmental Protection and Quality Supervision agencies.

The training sessions are comprised of administrative management and corporate management and are held in the form of lectures, seminars, industrial briefings, field trips and mentoring. Apart from the professional lectures, participants of the training programs would also visit their counterparts in relevant fields and departments for observation and symposiums. It is a universal consensus reached by the participants that such systematic training programs have been profoundly beneficial in broadening one's horizon as well as lending a deeper understanding of Australia's politics, economy, culture and history. The

programs were also instrumental in improving their management proficiency while giving close access to the networks of both the government and the business community in Melbourne.

Thirteen years ago, government-led international training programs with such large scale and duration were not only considered a visionary innovation in China, but also a completely new adventure in the global community for friendly exchanges between countries with different systems. The results of such innovation were overwhelmingly positive at the managerial levels across many fields when graduated trainees came back to Tianjin and adopted what they had learnt during the training program.

By December 2014, 16 successful TGLTP programs have hosted a large number of senior management personnel from The Tianjin Municipal Party Committee, Government, Bureaus, Districts, Counties as well as the fields of trade, finance, science and education, culture and sports. The success of the program has laid a profound foundation for the sister city relationship. It helped facilitate wider, deeper cooperation and exchange between the cities and raised the relationship to a new height. Moreover, it provided infinite potential and possibilities for future cooperation between the "Model Sister Cities".



Site visit

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology





Cheer for themselves

THE NATIONAL COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM REFORMS

by Carmen King

Few things mean more to Chinese youth than Gaokao. The National College Entrance Exam is also called Gaokao. This is based on the pinyin of the name in Chinese (高考). This one exam is life changing for Chinese youth. It will decide if and where they go to college. Few topics are more important to Chinese youth or their parents. As such the National College Entrance Exam or "National Exam" as we will call it for short is essentially the equivalent of the SAT's overseas. Just as students in other countries cram for the SAT, so the Chinese students study day in and day out in preparation for the National Exam.

Despite the concept of the SAT and the National Exam being the same, namely being an aptitude test. The others details and the culture surrounding them is very different. In Tianjin the National Exam is held every year on the same two days, June 6 and 7. Some other areas in China extend testing to a third day on the 8th. As National Exam time arrives, even expats can actually feel the tension

around town. From teachers, to parents, to the children themselves it is all about the National Exam. During test time, on the 6th and 7th, it is even restricted for people to blow their horns in the areas nearby the schools so as to not disturb the students.

Students start preparing for the National Exam early on. The final year of high school is like a yearlong cram session with nonstop studying going on. From daily classes which often go into the evening hours to weekend tutor sessions or additional private classes being taken on the weekend, it is an all out war against the National Exam. Students are like little soldiers getting up at the crack of dawn and only getting a few hours of sleep after a long hard day of "battle", filled with reading, writing and reviewing. The amount of homework the average Tianjin student has far exceeds anything seen or imaginable overseas. These poor little souls are put under insane pressure as the National Exam nears.

According to Baidu the National Exam at current is divided into four sections. It has three

sections which are universally tested. These are literature, math and foreign language (this is typically English). Each of these sections can have a maximum score of 150 points, or a total of 450. The fourth part is chosen by the student depending on which college major they are pursuing. They will either take a comprehensive liberal arts test or a comprehensive science test. The liberal arts test includes politics, history and geography. The science test includes physics, chemistry and biology. Each subject has a max score of 100, for an overall total of 300. This score is added to the other three section scores. The total highest score for the National Exam is 750.

Based on this score, colleges can be chosen. College selection in general goes like this. First, a student has to make a best guess on what his National Exam score will be. Then he picks schools based on that theoretical score. Obviously, this only creates more stress and anxiety as there is always the possibility the test score will not be as high as expected. Thus the student would automatically lose

out on the opportunity to apply for that school. This is one of the things which the new National Exam reforms are supposed to address. Instead of students needing to pre-pick schools based on these hypothetical scores, they will simply apply for the school of their choice. The school will then consider the application and decide whether or not to invite the student for study.

According to Baidu in March, 2014 information related to the future reforms of the National Exam where made available. First, no longer will there be a distinction between liberal arts and science. Instead everyone will take the same test regardless of major. Second, the foreign language portion may be tested more than once, with the student getting to keep the highest of their scores. Third, scores from both the National Exam and the Academic Test for High School Students will be considered. That test is taken at the end of high school, again as a measurement of aptitude. Fourth, colleges will look at a student's involvement in extracurricular activities, such as volunteer work. Fifth, stricter controls will be put in place to avoid leaking out test content prior to actual testing and in-exam cheating. Sixth, students in less developed areas such as the countryside will be given a higher chance to go to college.

As to when these reforms will actually take place, only time will tell. Currently it appears some reforms are already being tested in locations like Shanghai and Zhejiang Province. The results of these changes will be documented, reported and analyzed. The date of 2017 has been thrown out there as a critical year for the collection of such data. With complete nationwide reforms happening sometime in 2020. Will the full roll out of reforms not being until perhaps as late as 2020 most students won't be getting relief from the current National Exam stress anytime soon. The current stress associated with National Exam has created a generation of "book worms". Many Chinese students have little time for anything other than study. There overall health and athletic ability is often

ONE THING IS FOR CERTAIN, WHAT ONE BECOMES IN LIFE IS CERTAINLY NOT DECIDED ON BY ONE MERE TEST.



Out of exam venues

subpar. Around Tianjin it is not uncommon as dusk hits to see school age children still out and about hauling their overstuffed backpacks.

Many Chinese students have the dream of going to college. Young Chinese adolescents have really have become nothing but testing machines. These students memorize insane amount of facts and figures with the single goal of getting a high score on their National Exam to the joy of their parents and teachers. Preparation for the SAT abroad can also be very stressful. However the general tone associated with taking the National Exam and the SAT is quite different. In Tianjin going to a good college is primarily based on National Exam scores. Parents tend to demand good test results, not hope for them. Students are under constant pressure as senior year approaches. In Chinese there is even the saying "one test decides one's life" (一考定终生). That test one test is the National Exam.

Will the future National Exam reforms bring with them a more balanced testing environment? Will students be encouraged not only to do well on the National Exam and their High School Test, but also add in a healthy amount of extra-curricular activities such as volunteer work? In addition will the reforms open up the door to a wider spectrum of students having the opportunity to attend college? These are all the questions looming as the new policies take shape and roll out. One thing is for certain, what one becomes in life is certainly not decided on by one mere test. Students need to be able to face the future with open minds and optimism instead of passing the better part of

adolescence with nothing more than the nightmare of trying to score well on the National Exam tormenting them.

高考的改革

普通高等学校招生全国统一考试，简称高考，是中国大陆地区最重要的入学考试。它由教育部统一组织调度，是一种相对公正、公平、公开的人才选拔考试。中国高考，有如美国的 SAT 考试一样，考生日夜奋战，为进入梦想中的大学而努力着。

参加高考的学生，他们所在的学校会在每年的十一月和十二月为考生进行统一考试报名。正式考试之前，每个考生都会收到一个官方下发的准考证，只有携带准考证，考生方可顺利考试。考试结束后，考生需填报志愿。有的地方实行估分填报志愿的政策，而有的学校则是在准确成绩下来之后才填报志愿。2014年9月3日，中国国务院正式公布了未来高考将要实施的改革方案，考试及招生都将有所改变。

高考改革方案中，明确指出未来的高考将全科覆盖、文理不分。考试将实施“3+3”模式，除了语数外之外，考生自主选择的三科学业水平考试成绩也将加入总成绩中。除此之外，每个考生将有两次英语考试机会，考生可选取成绩较高的一次作为最终分数。并且，从2015年开始，国家将取消体育特长生或竞赛加分的政策。未来，中国将实行两类人才、两种模式的高考形式。第一种高考模式是技术技能人才的高考，考试内容为技能加文化知识；第二种高考模式就是现在的高考——学术型人才的高考。

随着高考改革的深入，学生的高考也将进入“自选”时代，这是一种更高层次的教育考试，同时也标志着基础教育阶段教育教学方式将迎来彻底的变革。教育部也就加强和改进普通高中学生综合素质评价做出了明确规定，思想品德、学业水平、身心健康、艺术素养、社会实践等都将作为综合素质评价内容，并进入档案。

改革的目标之一就是提高农村考生的录取机会。这些改革会最先在上海和浙江地区实施。试验的结果将在2017年公布。预计2020年，有关改革将全面覆盖到全国各地。随着时间的推移，改革的成效将一一显现。或许只有到那个时候，学生们才能真正从高考的压力中释放出来吧。



A FOREIGNERS REFLECTIONS ON THE POSTPARTUM MOON MONTH

by Charlotte Edwards

Chinese culture is quite homogeneous and the *zuo yue zi*, or Moon Month, is no exception. The Moon Month is the 30-45 days following giving birth when the new mother is expected to avoid touching, eating or drinking cold things; stay at home; rest; eat traditional foods (like black chickens and ginger and brown sugar tea) to help the body recover. Basically you do as little as possible and stay inside while your husband's mother takes care of you.

I think it's safe to say that every Chinese woman experiences the Moon Month after giving birth, but there are variances in terms of what the women eat and drink and their allowed activity levels. These are based on traditional beliefs about how the body heals following giving birth. Some areas require women to eat large numbers of eggs; others require women to be in bed at all times; most women don't shower for a month. Knowing that I was rather opposed to the idea from the start, my husband and I compromised on many issues.

I followed his mother's requests as best possible when she was at our house. This meant that every day from 6:00 AM to 7:00

PM, I wasn't allowed to use or drink cold water, shower, use the computer, read or knit. I took care of my son, took the occasional phone call and stayed in bed while my mother-in-law cooked, hand washed all of the laundry and did all of the housework for a whole month. My father-in-law brought meat and vegetables each morning, helped with diaper washing and played with the baby. Once they left each evening, I was free to use the computer or watch television. A week after my delivery, my husband finally agreed to my taking a shower.

One day I couldn't stand being kept in our 59-square meter home any longer. Due to its odd layout, we didn't get any direct light in the most of the house. The sun porch was great, but you can only pace back and forth in a two-meter area so many times. I missed my daily walks and workouts. I missed being around people, even if I couldn't communicate with them very well.

Assuring my husband that American women were allowed to go out for a slow walk following delivery, I started going out for late-evening walks. One night I went to the store to get a few things. I was spotted by a friend of my mother-in-law and the next

morning I was lectured endlessly! From then on, I stayed on our side of the community where I was less likely to be noticed.

The most impressive benefit of the Moon Month was the weight loss. The lack of stress from caring for a newborn by myself, abundance of sleep and wholesome food helped me to lose the 10 kilograms that I'd gained during the pregnancy, plus an additional five. I was the slimmest I'd ever been in my adult life!

I come from a culture that prizes self-sufficiency and hard work, even in the most adverse situations, so it was hard for me to appreciate this to its full extent. I felt the need to always be busy and didn't like to rely on others. But overall, I was amazed at how great I felt getting all the rest that I did, the ability to nap while my in-laws entertained the baby and my in-laws' commitment to fulfilling their cultural obligation. I am amazed at all the women who are able to obey all of the "rules" and think Western society needs to let up on the "supermom" idea so women don't feel bad about accepting outside help in those first weeks with a new baby.

坐月子

中国产妇历来有坐月子的传统。月子，指的是生下宝宝后的 30-45 天这段时间。这期间，产妇需时时进补且不能沾凉，通过大量的休息来帮助其恢复体能。每个地方，坐月子的习惯都不尽相同，但有一点他们是高度一致的，那就是月子期间不能洗澡。鉴于文化的差异，就坐月子的问题，我和老公不得不彼此做出让步。

当我婆婆来我们家的时候，我会尽可能的满足她的要求。这就是说每天早晨 6 点到晚上 7 点，我都不准喝凉水，洗澡，用电脑，读书或缝纫。整个月子期间，我就只是照看孩子，偶尔接个电话，然后就是躺在床上，看着我婆婆把所有的家务活做完。只有等晚上他们走了以后，我才能肆意的用电脑、看电视。一个星期后，我老公批准了我的洗澡请求。

后来，我实在受不了每天对着没有阳光照耀的房间的日子，我老公这才同意我可以在每天的傍晚进行短暂的散步。一天晚上，我去商店买东西，恰巧被我婆婆的一个朋友看到，然后第二天早上，她就开始喋喋不休。从那时起，我就缩小了散步范围，以免被人发现。对我来讲，做月子最大的好处就是体重的减轻。每天没有压力，睁眼就是照顾宝宝，充足的睡眠加上营养的食物，很快就减下了 10 公斤。这是我成年以来最苗条的时候！

一直以来，我所接受的是一种崇尚独立的文化，这种文化教会我即便是在最艰难的时刻都要自力更生，所以对我来讲，完全接受这种传统的中国文化还不是很容易。我们已经习惯了一种忙碌的生活，且不依赖于任何人。但无论如何，通过坐月子，我感受到了休息的美好，在亲戚照看孩子的时候我还可以小睡一觉。其实对于每一个刚刚生下宝宝的西方妈妈来讲，在宝宝生下后的几个星期里，如果有人施与帮助，也未尝不是件好事。

Merry Christmas, we are thankful

The annual Christmas program of the Jian Hua Angel Children Rehabilitation Center was held as scheduled on December 20, 2014. Teachers, children, and parents gave a wonderful performance in the Cathy Future Center music hall at 9:30 am. There were dance performances by the children, songs by the teachers, and lively interaction between the parents and their children. The parents also performed a song using sign language.

'Thankful for you' was the theme of this year's Christmas program. The opening song—'Thank You' was performed by the children in the classroom for children with autism. Just as the lyrics of the song say, we are thankful for the hope and surprise which the children brought to us this year. We are thankful for the teachers' hardwork this year. We are thankful for trust and understanding from the parents. We are thankful for the dedication of the loving community and volunteers. After the performance of the children in the classroom for children with

autism, the parents and the children of the parent-child class performed a happy dance to the song 'Cha cha cha'. The mothers sang a song called 'The Color of Love' and then performed the song 'Our Love Makes the World Different' using sign language. It expressed the mother's selfless and great love. Next there was a cheerful father and child dance—'Daddy, where are we going?', bringing even more excitement to the program and livening up the atmosphere even more. Most notably, the children did a dance to the song 'The Father's Garden' on their own without the teachers' assistance on stage. The children's ability to be independent in their performance is a direct result of the dedication and hard work of their parents and teachers this year.

At the end of the program, Santa Claus, one who is loved by all, brought gifts and sincere greetings. He gave a gift to every child and the children and their parents took pictures with him. The children felt the joy and happiness of Christmas and the unending love from their parents and teachers. We believe because the children have this love their futures will be filled with hope.



欢乐圣诞 感恩你我

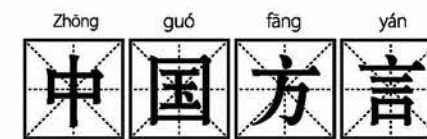
2014年12月20日，建华天使儿童康复中心一年一度的圣诞联欢会如期举行。活动当天，在华夏未来音乐厅，老师、孩子和家长们为大家呈现了一台精彩的表演。这里有孩子们的舞蹈展示，有老师们的歌曲飞扬，有亲子节目家长与孩子的活泼互动，也有家长们的歌曲和手语倾情演绎。

今年的圣诞联欢会主题为《感恩有你》。开场节目是由日托班小朋友带来的歌舞表演《感谢》。正如歌词里面唱到的，我们感恩于一年来孩子们带给我们不断的希望和惊喜，感恩于一年来老师们不辞辛苦的付出耕耘，感恩于一年来家长的信任和理解，感恩于一年来社会爱心人士和志愿者的奉献与陪伴。

联欢会最后，孩子们最喜欢的圣诞老人带着丰盛的礼物和真诚的问候来到现场。他为每一名儿童分发圣诞礼物，孩子们兴奋的与圣诞老人合影，感受着圣诞节的欢声笑语，感受着来自家长和老师们无尽的爱。相信有了这些爱，孩子们的未来一定充满了希望。

CHINESE DIALECTS Part 2

by Zheng Hong Xiang and Carmen King



Pǔ tōng huà zuì jiē jìn, dàn yě yǒu zì jǐ
普通话最接近，但也有自己
dú tè de fāng yán, bǐ rú "dī fèn"
独特的方言，比如“跌份”
diū miàn zi, "mò liǎo" zuì
(丢面子)， “末了儿” (最
hòu dēng dēng, Lǐng wài, Běi jīng huà lì
后) 等等。另外，北京话里
ér huà yīn yě hěn duō
儿化音也很多。

Foreign student: What special about the Tianjin dialect?

Wài guó xué shēng Nà Tiān jīn fāng yán yǒu
外国学生：那天津方言有
shén me tè diǎn
什么特点？

Chinese Teacher: The Tianjin dialect is very unique. There are a lot of fourth tones so it can sound blunt. Yet it is spoken with enthusiasm so comedians often perform speaking the Tianjin dialect.

Hàn yǔ lǎo shī Tiān jīn fāng yán hěn dú
汉语老师：天津方言很独
tè, yǔ qì jiào zhòng, dì sì shēng chū xiàn
特，语气较重，第四声出现
jiào duō, yīn cǐ tīng qǐ lái jí jù xǐ
较多，因此听起来极具喜
gǎn, hěn duō xiào xīng jiù jīng cháng yòng Tiān jīn
感，很多笑星就经常用天津
huà biǎo yǎn
话表演。

Hàn yǔ lǎo shī Suī rán Běi jīng huà yǔ
汉语老师：虽然北京话与

Foreign student: Can you teach me a few words of the Tianjin dialect?

Wài guó xué shēng Lǎo shī néng jiāo wǒ jǐ
外国学生：老师，能教我几
jǔ Tiān jīn huà ma
句天津话吗？

Chinese Teacher: Sure. A classic phrase in the Tianjin dialect is 'bèi gēn'. It means 'tè bié hǎo wánr, tè bié yǒu yì sī' (really funny, really interesting).

Hàn yǔ lǎo shī Hǎo a Tiān jīn fāng yán
汉语老师：好啊。天津方言
lǐ zuì diǎn xíng de yí jù shì "bèi gēn",
里最典型的一句是“倍儿玩儿”，
yì sī shì "tè bié hǎo wánr, tè bié
意思是“特别好玩儿，特别
yǒu yì sī”。
有意思”。

Foreign student: Oh, that's what that means?! I'm always hearing Tianjin locals say that.

Wài guó xué shēng Ò yuán lái shì zhè ge
外国学生：哦，原来是这个
yì sī, wǒ jīng cháng tīng Tiān jīn rén zhè yàng
意思，我经常听天津人这样
shuō.
说。

PROMOTION

IST students' art

International School of Tianjin's (IST's) Grade 9 students have been observing and drawing everyday objects they know well in their Art class. They have spent time drawing detail, considering how light falls on an object and the effect this has when creating texture and form. They have looked at the small, made them large and drawn from the large to the small. They have persisted with the detail looking at the light and dark to create form.

They created a composition that was limited to including: 5 types of line, 3 circles (including a set of concentric circles), an organic shape, a geometric shape and a complex shape. They could use the primary colors red, yellow and blue as their base colors and mixed these, as they preferred. They considered the warm and cool aspects of the colors they mixed as this had an impact on the kind of secondary and tertiary colors mixed.

Here are some of their final works.



PROMOTION

IST Library

International School of Tianjin (IST) takes pride in its magnificent library, which is located right at the heart of its Han Building. The IST Library and Information Literacy Center has an extensive collection of over 37,000 titles in more than 6 languages and is the largest of any international school in Tianjin.

A new shipment of books has just arrived at the IST Library, with a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books that are suitable for all ranges of age groups. We welcome members of the community to come and visit our Library and spent time in its comfortable environs to indulge in some good old reading. No time is better spent than with a good book!

The IST Library subscribes to more than a dozen databases for the Elementary School and more than 20 for the Secondary School. It also offers author visits; book clubs; iPads & Kindles; information sessions for parents; book fairs and Scholastic book ordering.



PROMOTION

TCK Expert Libby Stephens @ TIS

In January TIS hosted Libby Stephens, an internationally recognized expert and lecturer on Third Culture Kids. Third Culture Kids (TCK) is the term used when a child lives outside their passport country for a period of time usually more than one year. Every year TIS invites Libby to come speak to students, parents and staff of TIS. TIS provides this in an effort to educate our school community on the unique characteristics of the children we teach and how to help them through transition.

During Libby's time at TIS she meets with parents to share with them how to help their children thrive and not just survive living outside their passport country. She helps parents understand the stress of transition and how necessary it is for them to leave well when it is time to leave. TIS understands that our students and their families are highly mobile so each year we offer a basic seminar explaining



what a TCK is. TIS also offers advanced seminars for parents that have been here longer in order to help them learn more about their children.

Our TIS seniors attended a four days program with Libby which helps them start the leaving process so they can be prepared to reenter their passport country. Reentry to the passport country can be difficult for TCK's so the senior departure seminar is designed to help seniors be better prepared to make the transition. She will help them understand the uniqueness of their lives and how they can use the skills they have learned while living abroad to be better friends, university students, sons/daughters, employees, and citizens.

Libby also meets with all new TIS staff to educate them in how to work with TCK

students and effectively meet the demands these students have. This year she did a seminar for all the teaching staff to present strategies for effectively providing a high standard of education while helping students develop higher-level critical thinking skills.



PROMOTION

Fantasy Trip of the 2015 Hopeland International Kindergarten Winter Camp

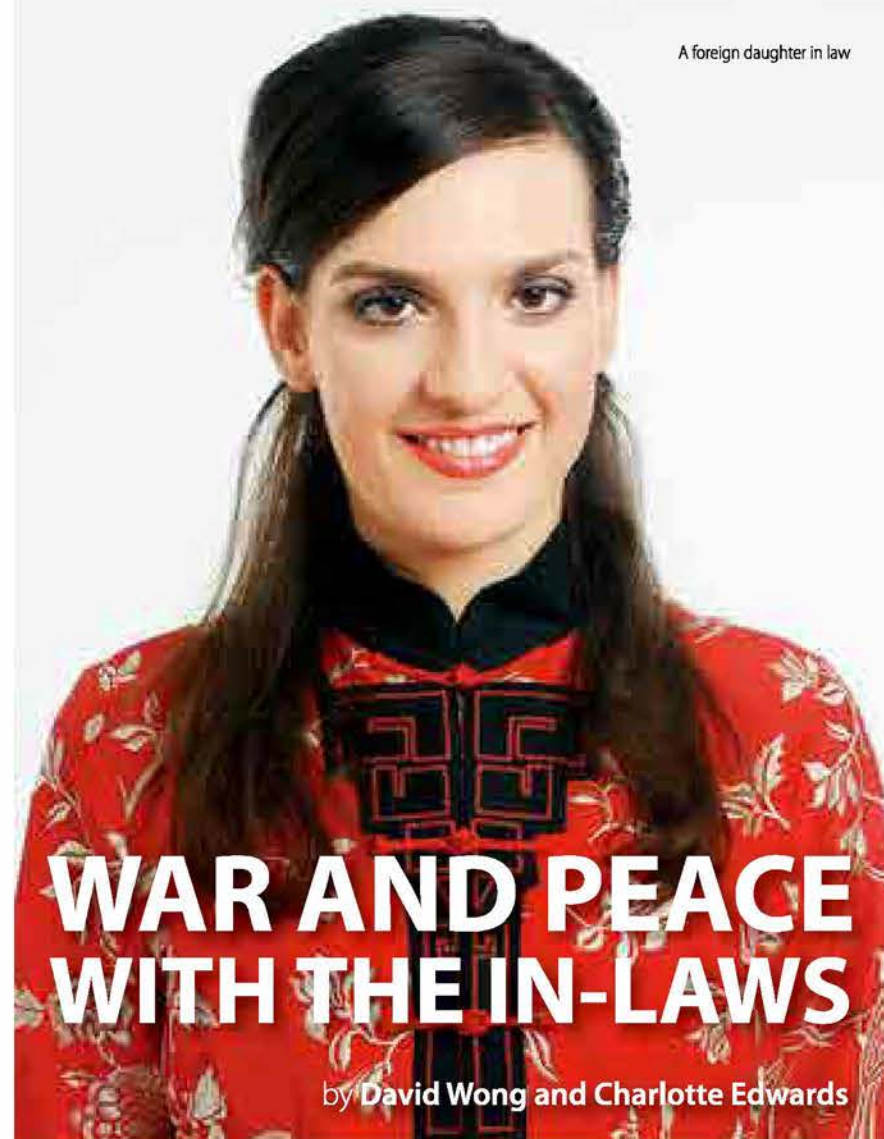
With the New Year's bell ringing, the 2015 Hopeland International Kindergarten Winter Camp is formally started. The 2015 Hopeland International Kindergarten Winter Camp will include many interesting activities and learning courses for all our lovely children. Over the coming winter holidays, Bruno the Bear has invited everybody to come to his Bruno Dream Theater and watch the adorable puppet theater performances. Is there more? Yes there is! How about these: have some fun in the huge indoor heated swimming pool; play and study in a wooden villa; visit Bruno Park. Of course, there are also the many wonderful snow sports challenges waiting for all our adorable children.



Furthermore, we have prepared some interesting learning courses including Taekwondo, creative arts, dance, piano and English strengthening classes as well as some interest groups like a drama group, a

small choir, a creative arts workshops and a music talent show. Well, what are you waiting for? Come and join us! Our winter camp with you and your children will be the perfect holiday.





A foreign daughter in law

threads and some unique approaches.

One common element is the in-laws, although from different parts of China, lived through the Cultural Revolution and struggled with this period of change and food shortages and hardships during this period. It was a time of being without and difficulties with everyday life that Westerners did not experience and by the contrary were in growth economies and times of plenty.

The Foreigner Wife ——“YangXiFu”洋媳妇

Having limited Mandarin skills, the expat wife relied on her husband to communicate with the in-laws and feels that understanding and communication are essential to create good relationships. Since her in-laws lived through the Cultural Revolution; dropping out of school after just a few years so they could help at home while their parents worked, and had very limited knowledge about the world outside of China. In fact before meeting their son's wife, they had never known any foreigners.

However, even with this sudden new relationship, she was fortunate that the in-laws accepted her and they always treated her as part of the family. The in-laws are both smart people with all of the real-life skills that were needed to survive the rough years and raise their three children to be self-sufficient, successful adults. But when it comes to global knowledge and understanding that there's more than one way to do something (cooking, washing clothes, educating children), they simply can't understand another point of view.

China is still a more chauvinistic society and although equality of sexes is gaining, the woman is considered to occupy a lower rung of the family ladder. Especially the new daughter-in-law, so for the new foreigner daughter-in-law to be accepted into this family is exceptional. An example of being flexible and accommodating in this new family is this situation of purchasing a crib.

"Why can't I buy a crib for my baby? What do you mean I can't wash the clothes in the washing machine?" I questioned. Neither cribs nor most new-fangled baby gear registers in the minds of most retirees in China. I see their logic: we didn't have these things, our kids turned out just fine so these things are unnecessary. I can't force them to understand my reasoning or point of view

because it's based on my life experiences. All of which are vastly different from theirs. I chose not to make a fuss about the crib and finally got one when my son was three weeks old."

"I've come to the conclusion that since I'm the one that ventured out of my homeland, in order to broaden my horizons, and am more able to understand these cultural differences, I need to adjust my perspective.

I can't force someone to understand something, so I try to put it to my advantage and learn from them. I learned how to potty train both of my babies, saving me thousands of Yuan in diapers; I've learned new cooking skills; I've even sewn split pants for my kids!"

Something that is very unique about Chinese parents is that they always treat you as though you are a child. Western parents tend to treat their children with more independence and let go by the teenage years. They will rarely give unsolicited advice, but to Chinese parents, the daughter-in-law will always be a child.

"What I've learned is to appreciate their care of us and dedication to instilling knowledge in us. For those times when I'm not particularly interested in listening, I simply smile, nod my head and politely acknowledge what I'm being told", a smart reaction by the YangXiFu.

The Foreigner Husband ——“Lao Wai Lao Gong”老外老公

In this case, the in-laws are from the countryside or rural village and have even less exposure to Western cultural examples than in the previous example. Not having children and not living in the same city, limits the interaction to the major holidays and family gatherings such as Spring Festival, Tomb Sweeping and Mid Autumn Festivals.

"Face-saving" is more important in the Chinese society than in the West. Especially in a rural community, every one knows what is happening within the different families. So giving of gifts for the immediate family during these gatherings is essential, as are "Red Envelopes" during the Spring Festival. This is the tradition of giving money in red envelopes during the Chinese New Year. You need to know what amounts are appropriate for the in-laws and also the children. The amounts will be dictated by tradition, giving too much may embarrass what other siblings have

given, too little may show disrespect.

Just like the previous family, this rural family also has several siblings, since the families were started before the implementation of the one-child policy. This probably defers some of the pressure from the in-laws since they have other children to deflect their attention.

It would be helpful to establish good relationships with the spouse's other siblings. This will be beneficial to ensure that you are doing the proper thing and level of gifting is within traditional bounds. Besides, better to have a friend rather than an adversary within the family. As a foreigner, you will always be an outsider, that cannot be helped and no matter how well you develop your Mandarin skills, there will be local phrases or traditional "hidden" meanings that you will never understand or be able to express yourself completely. Another complication is local dialects which may frustrate the foreigner who feels they have excellent Mandarin.

In summary, it seems that both situations are positive. The Chinese in-laws are very hospitable and accept the foreigners into the family, which speaks well of China in general. Over the thousands of years of history, foreigners tend to be accepted and assimilated into Chinese society. The common theme in these two different situations are

Presents can always enhance family relationships.



acceptance and respect. Common sense would dictate that how a foreigner treats the in-laws is how they will in turn treat the foreigner.

It is hard for the foreigner to accept everything in China, but it may be helpful to remind them that they are the outsider and just accept the fact that not everything can be logically explained. Sometimes, full understanding is not necessary and a simple nodding of the head in apparent agreement will be better than trying to argue the different aspects or viewpoints.

How important is it? Sometimes better to lose a battle and settle for a longer lasting peace.

洋媳妇和洋女婿的生存之道

做出结婚的决定是一个复杂的过程，成功地维持一段婚姻需要很多理解和包容。夫妻双方有各自的问题，双方结合后不一定就能把这些问题——解决，反而会出现新的挑战。尤其在涉外婚姻中，文化的差异会让情况更加复杂。

如果你决定结婚后生活在中国，你首先要面临的就是和配偶的父母搞好关系。我们此次采访了两个外国人，看看他们如何与自己的中国配偶的家人相处。

首先是一个洋媳妇的故事。由于中文水平有限，她需要靠丈夫与公婆交流。她发现，理解和沟通对保持和谐关系至关重要。公婆都是经历过动荡年代的人，上学很少，早早挑起家庭的负担。如果不是他们的儿子娶了个洋媳妇，他们从没有和外国人打过交道。幸运的是，中国公婆很快就接受了这位洋媳妇并且待她如自家人。多年的生活历练让他们拥有精明的头脑和很强的生活技能，但对新观念的接受度明显很差。

他们会以自己的生活经验告诉你什么可以做什么不可以做。当然这对洋媳妇来说是很难接受的。但是这位媳妇试着用积极的方式考虑问题，吸取老人们值得借鉴的经验。比如训练婴儿坐便就节省了上千块的尿布钱。她说：“虽然他们总拿我当孩子，但我还是学着体会他们对我们的关心。如果我实在不愿意听，我会笑笑，点点头，礼貌地表示我知道了。”

下面我们再来看看一个外国丈夫如何搞定娘家人。这位丈夫的太太来自农村，每年重要的节日他们都会一起回太太的老家。中国人最讲面子，尤其在农村地区，家家户户都关系密切，对每家的情况也都了如指掌，每次家庭聚会都不能空手而归。平时要带礼物，春节还要给红包。红包额度也有讲究，给多了让其他亲戚难堪，给少了又没有面子。这位中国妻子不是独生子女，所以还要和她的兄弟姐妹搞好关系。日常的礼数不能少，毕竟在一个家庭里多一个朋友总比多一个敌人要好。但是，作为一个外国人，你永远像是一个外人。就算你中文再精通，他们说起家乡方言来你也是一头雾水！

总之，中国的家长对外国媳妇或女婿还是很接受的。只要双方都抱着接纳和尊重的态度，人心换人心，就能维持家庭的和睦。

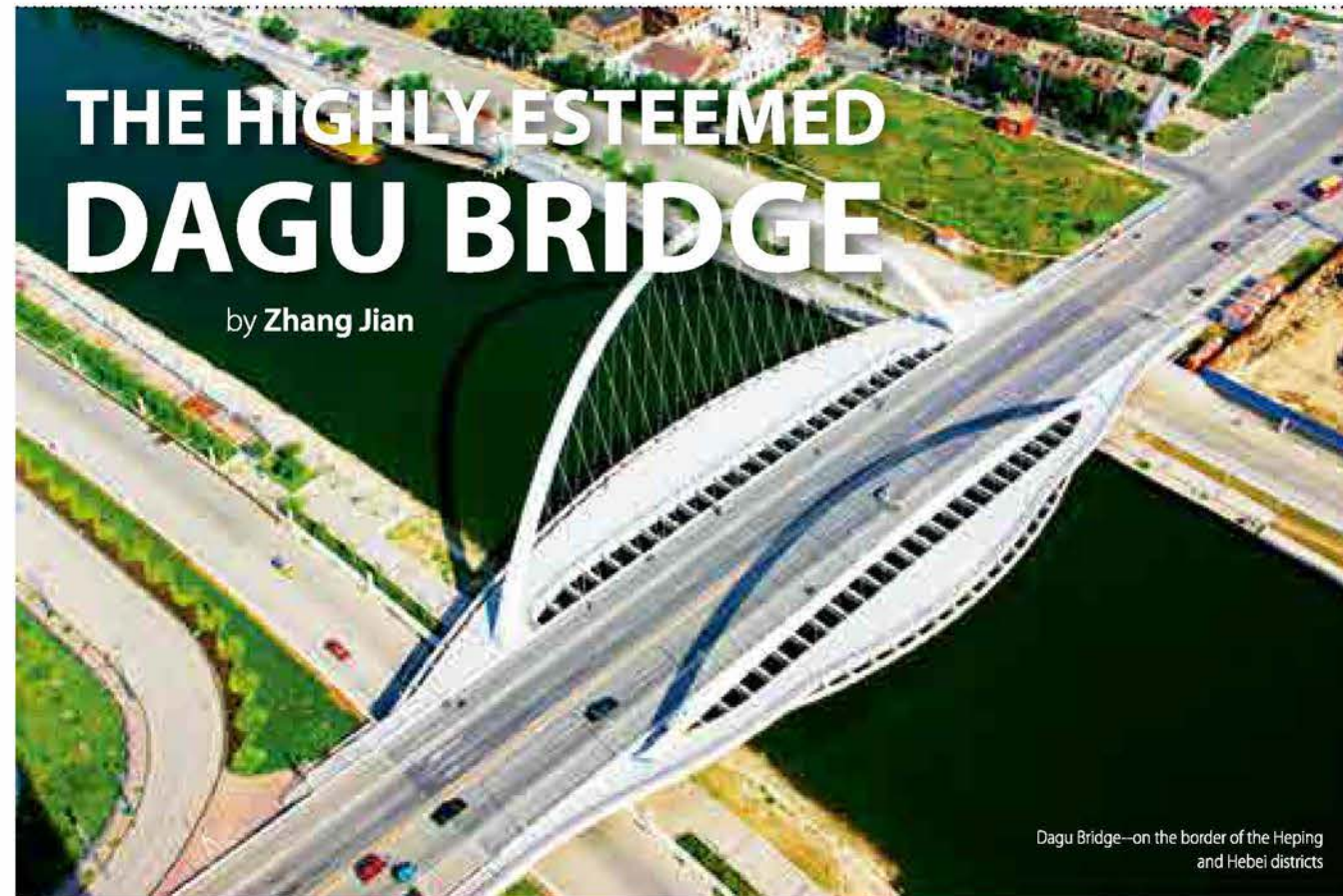
Marriage is a complicated decision and needs great understanding and compatibility in order to have a successful relationship. One needs to remember that the prospective husband and wife have individual problems and a marriage does not guarantee new solutions but usually means a new set of challenges. These challenges may become compounded when there are cultural differences when an expat marries a local Chinese.

One of the challenges that an expatriate will face is when the spouse is local Chinese and the decision is to stay and live in China after the marriage. In addition to adding cultural differences to the new marriage, how does the expat deal with the new Chinese in-laws?

In this article, we will look at these

FOR THOSE TIMES WHEN I'M NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN LISTENING, I SIMPLY SMILE, NOD MY HEAD AND POLITELY ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT I'M BEING TOLD

circumstances from two different perspectives. One is from the expat wife who has married her Chinese husband and lives outside of Tianjin with their two children. The other is an expat husband with his Shandong wife of 5 years. In both cases, the expats have made the decision to live in China and have interesting perspectives, some common



THE HIGHLY ESTEEMED DAGU BRIDGE

by Zhang Jian

Dagu Bridge—on the border of the Heping and Hebei districts

The Dagu Bridge is on the border of the Heping and Hebei districts. It was designed by the renowned bridge designer - Deng Wenzhong. The design of the Dagu Bridge, with its two asymmetrical arches, is meant to represent the "Sun and the Moon". The height of the bigger arch is 39 meters. It faces east and symbolizes the sun. The smaller arch stands at 19 meters in height. It faces west and symbolizes the moon. The length of the bridge is 243 meters and it is constructed in what is known as a three-span continuous beam system. The design is unique and full of modern elements. The Dagu Bridge fully utilizes the major components of modern day bridge design and building with its emphasis on safety and it fits into the natural landscape.



It also uses technical innovation and is cost efficient. The construction of the Dagu Bridge kicked off on July 6, 2003. The pavement of asphalt concrete was completed in October, 2004. The bridge's surface is paved with epoxy asphalt concrete, which solved the problem of connecting the steel structure surface and asphalt concrete. This was the first use of this technology in North China. The bridge was opened for traffic in November 2005. At the 2006 International Bridge Conference in Pennsylvania the bridge, which was designed by Tianjin Urban Construction Design Institute and constructed by Tianjin Urban Construction Group, won the famous award—the Eugene C. Figg Medal. This was the first time a Tianjin Bridge had won. The Eugene C. Figg Award is the top award in international bridge design and named after the famous bridge designer. It was established by the International Bridge Conference to commend recently built landmark bridges that highlight the designer's imagination. It is very strict in its assessment of bridges. If no one bridge meets the criteria of the award then no prize is given. However, if more than one bridge meets the conditions of the award, still only one bridge can win. Now, Tianjin's Dagu Bridge has

become a landmark structure because of its incredible design and innovation and is an outstanding achievement in the world of bridges.

获得最高殊荣的桥 ——大沽桥

也许很多人并不知道，连接本市河北区五经路与和平区大沽北路的跨海河桥——大沽桥，是由世界著名桥梁设计大师邓文中院士设计的，该桥全长243米，宽32米，其构思为“日月生辉”。它的最经典之处在于由两个不对称的拱圈构成，大拱圈弧长140米，高39米，向东倾斜18度，象征太阳，小拱圈弧长116米，高19米，向西倾斜22度，象征月亮，它们共由88根吊杆系于桥的两侧，与桥外伸出的半圆观景平台相对。据介绍，这种设计全称为“不对称外飘式联合梁系杆拱桥”，至今在世界上也是独一无二。

大沽桥2003年7月6日正式开建，2004年10月主体完工，2005年11月通车，它是当时海河首批新建5座桥梁中最先投入使用的一座。2006年在美国宾夕法尼亚州匹兹堡召开的国际桥梁大会上传来喜讯，中国天津的大沽桥荣获该年度尤金·菲戈奖。这个奖项是由已故美国著名桥梁设计师尤金·菲戈的名字命名的，由国际桥梁大会创立，每年全球只有一座桥梁获此殊荣，大沽桥摘得尤金·菲戈奖，也是天津桥梁史上获得的最高荣誉。如今登临此桥，往东看占据沧桑的解放桥与津湾广场浑然一体；往西看以“津门”为题的大型建筑群尽收眼底，尤其是大沽路桥口边伫立的336.9米的津塔好似定海神针使天地相接。

The original Bei'an Bridge was first built in 1939. Then, it was a wooden bridge and was called "the New Bridge" or "the Japanese Bridge". In 1945, after the victory in the war against Japan, the original Bei'an Bridge was rebuilt and renamed the Victory Bridge. In 1973, the original Bei'an Bridge was dismantled. To replace it the government built a new bridge - also called the Bei'an Bridge.

The new Bei'an Bridge was renovated and raised in 2004. The new bridge was 1.2 meters higher than before and four 17-meter-high bridgeheads were added which blend Chinese and western elements. After its transformation, two new 9m-wide bridges were added to both sides of the new bridge. The new bridgeheads were carved in a western style decorative pattern as a replica of the Pont Alexandre III in Paris. For those unfamiliar with Paris or the architecture of Tianjin, this gives the bridge beautiful white masonry which is adorned with large brass statues. The effect of these features is to give the bridge a very elegant look that is wonderful when illuminated at night. On the

bridge, there are four statues: a blue dragon, a white tiger, a rose finch and a black tortoise. The message these statues are meant to convey is the hope for peace and harmony in the world. Besides these, there are 4 bronze female musicians, each of which is 2.8 meters high and each hold different instruments in their hands. Such kind of decoration highlights the charming aspects of Chinese classical architecture. Due to its unique style, the Bei'an Bridge has become a new bright spot over the Haihe River.

最体现中西合璧的桥 ——北安桥

北安桥应该算作一座老桥，它始建于1939年，原来是座木桥，建成后称“新桥”或“日本桥”，1945年抗战胜利后该桥进行了重新拆建，更名为“胜利桥”，解放后一直沿用此名。1973年，拆除老桥改建为钢筋混凝土桥，建成后命名为北安桥。

2004年，按照海河综合开发改造规划和通航的要求，对北安桥实施了扩建和抬升工程，桥面整体抬升了1.2米，并在原桥两侧各增建一座9米宽的新桥，其中6米用于非机动车行驶，3米为人行道。值得一提的是，这座桥的景观设计非常有特色，它将东西方文化

巧妙地融合在一起，堪称最能体现中西合璧的桥梁。据了解，当年专家在充分考虑海河两岸深厚历史文化背景的同时，结合原有桥梁的结构特点，大胆借鉴了法国巴黎亚历山大三世桥的整体造型，其艺术内涵和装饰内容均采用中国传统形式。其中包括寓意东、南、西、北四方平安的“青龙”“白虎”“朱雀”“玄武”四大桥头雕像，青铜压纹的“盘龙”桥墩雕像以及桥栏柱基上舞姿各异的四尊“乐女”雕像。4个铜制的“乐女”分别高2.8米，手中各抱着4种不同的乐器：阮、排箫、琵琶、笙，力求突出中国古典韵味。人行道路面为花岗岩铺装，奶白色宝瓶栏杆描金点缀，改建和装饰后的北安桥达到了古典与时尚的完美结合，不愧为海河上一道靓丽的风景。



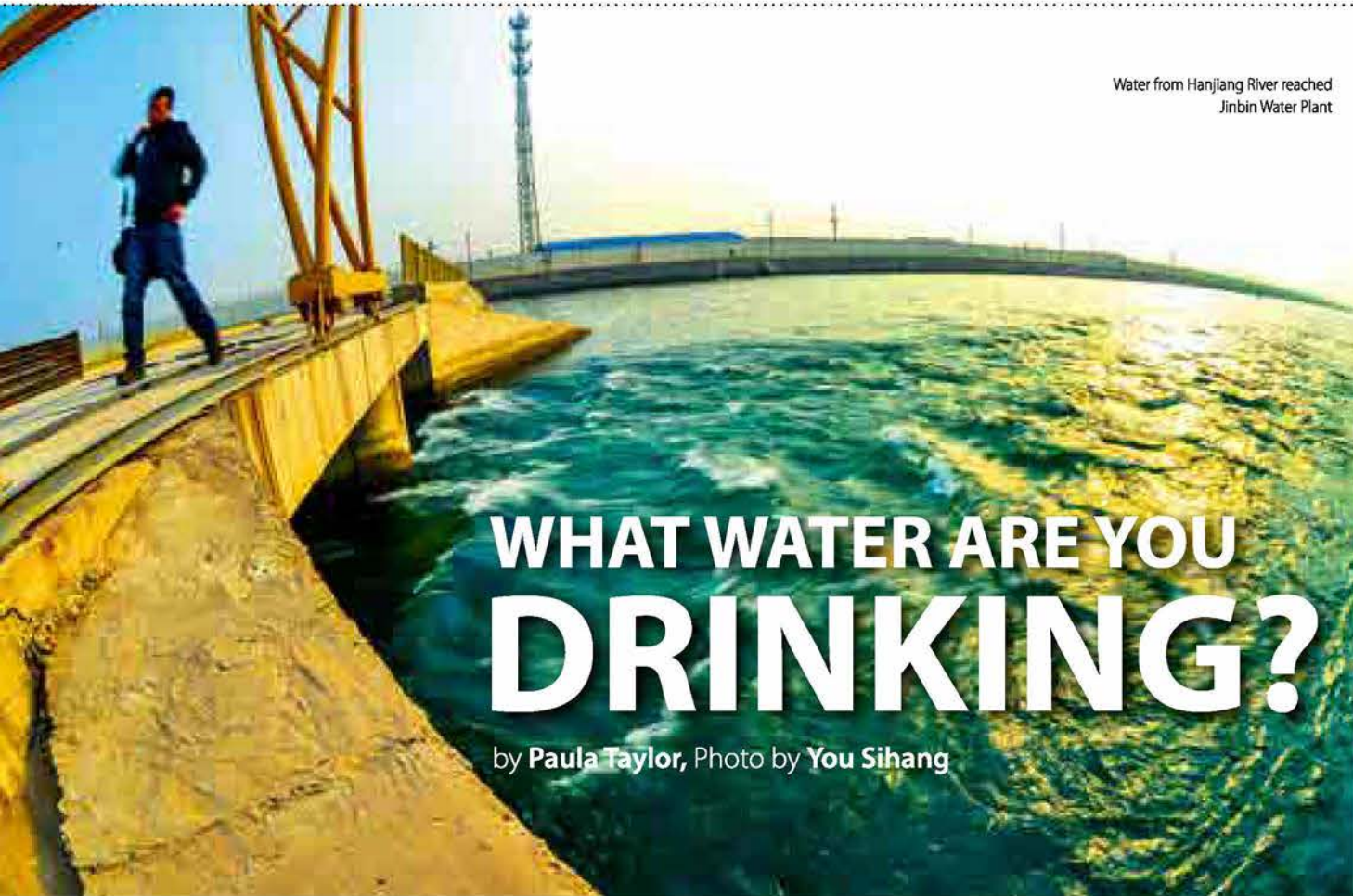
The Beautiful Bridgehead



A COMBINATION OF CHINA AND THE WEST THE BEI'AN BRIDGE

by Zhang Jian

Full View of Bei'an Bridge



Water from Hanjiang River reached
Jinbin Water Plant

WHAT WATER ARE YOU DRINKING?

by Paula Taylor, Photo by You Sihang

A friend of mine from Taiwan came to London for a holiday recently. She nearly died of the cold and unfortunately for her, it rained every single day for the two weeks she was here. She said "London is really polluted" and kept taking pictures of the sky. "How dare you, what pollution are you talking about?" I asked her angrily. "London is so heavily polluted that the sky is always grey" she protested. I heaved a big sigh before I explained to her that the sky was grey because of the rain clouds. Although I felt sorry that the weather was not conducive to sightseeing, I have to say that I love the rain, which is a good thing considering that it is not something we are short of here.

However, they are definitely short of it in the north of China, as you obviously know. What to do? The south of China experiences floods whilst the north is going through a severe drought. Is there some way of resolving the problem? One controversial solution is actually being implemented at the moment – the South to North water diversion project, which as you may gather, is not as simple as it sounds. Many people are worried

about tampering with the natural flow of the water, and the environmental damage that will ensue. It was a colossal task and each step of the way has been documented by the Government.

This project has been decades in the planning. I have reproduced an excerpt from one of the planning committee's meeting reports when it was first raised as a solution: "In November 1991 the Chang Jiang Water Resources Commission proposed a North Water Transfer Planning Report (September 1990 Revision)" and "North Water Transfer Project preliminary feasibility study report. The water supply should include Tianjin. A recommendation was made to heighten the

WE ARE LIMITED IN WHAT WE CAN DO TO CONTROL THE WEATHER, I AM SURE IF WE COULD, MANY PEOPLE IN ENGLAND WOULD LIKE TO ACTUALLY STOP THE RAIN.

Danjiangkou Reservoir dam diversion program. The Ministry of Water Resources of the two organizations reviewed the report, agreed in principle, and also pointed out potential problems in the next phase of the study that needed to be dealt with".

Sometimes when situations occur, it is easy for us to ask why nothing was done sooner, however it is obvious that the water shortage problem has been high on the agenda for a long time now, and much work has already been done. In fact, as a result of this project, which has gone through several phases, on December 27th last year the people of Beijing began to drink the water of the Yangtze River, or to give it its correct name, Chang Jiang.

I don't know about you, but my first thought was, with so many people needing to drink this water, what happens if it runs dry? The internet has been buzzing with rumours, with some people expressing the fear that the "Frozen North is in danger of being unable to receive this water, as parts of the river will freeze".

Obviously a project of this scale has not been free from problems and these were all



Local citizens are using Hanjiang water.

aired during the myriad meetings set up by a number of committees. One problem raised was that many people had to leave their homes and land in order for the project to continue, and there were complaints that the compensation paid was not adequate for them to buy land of the same size as they had had previously.

Environmental damage figured high on the list of complaints, with opponents claiming that the project was too costly, it involved moving a large number of immigrants, the water generated from the transfer would be inadequate, excessive water transfer during the dry season could cause the Yangtze River's water shortage, there would be a huge impact on the river shipping, the Yangtze River estuary salt would deepen and therefore the changing of the natural environment would likely lead to an ecological crisis, etc.

And exactly what does this have to do with you? If you are reading this article, a lot actually as it probably means you are living in Tianjin. We have already seen that as early as 1991 the report stated that Tianjin should receive the water from the River, so it won't surprise you to know that on February 14, 2012 there was a North Water Inspection Experts and Staff training Seminar held in Tianjin. In order for me to write this article it was necessary to trawl through all the reports to find any mention of Tianjin, which in fact features heavily in said reports.

One of the aims of this project was "To improve local water quality in the north, and find an effective solution to water quality problems in some northern areas of groundwater, due to natural causes such as fluoride water, brackish water and other

harmful substances detrimental to humans".

Tianjin has been prepared and ready for some time, and in fact here is a statement from the Tianjin Times Online News: "December 12, 2014, North Water Transfer Project - Tianjin City Water Company is ready to receive water".

In case you are worried about this state of affairs, the water company issued this announcement: "For the security service we have an organization of 800 people for the professional repair team some of who are available 24 hours. We have people, vehicles, machinery, equipment and communications all in place. In the event of problems the Tianjin Water hotline "96655" will be open 24 hours for your service. We will be happy to serve you, allowing you to fully appreciate the Tianjin water supply services". It may not be ideal, but what is the alternative? We are limited in what we can do to control the weather, I am sure if we could, many people in England would like to actually stop the rain.

Some time ago I wrote an article about water conservation, and how you can do your part. Sadly it was a case of too little too late. However as things are now at this stage, any little actions on the part of the public that can conserve this most precious of commodities can never be considered to be in vain. I would still urge you to do your best, little things like teaching children not to leave the tap on whilst brushing their teeth, and reducing shower time by a minute or two can help. If you have any dripping taps it would be good to get them fixed. The little changes made by many people add up to big changes.

Water is obviously essential to life and the thought of it not being available to use as

we wish is frightening. How wonderful it would be if we didn't have to grapple with problems like this. I definitely will keep on telling my friends here to be grateful for the rain, it is after all a miracle that the scientists do not fully understand. As I write this, it has been raining here for the past five days and people are really fed up. What do you think, is it better to be fed up because of too much rain, or anxious because there is too little of it?

你喝的是什么水?

一个台湾的朋友最近来伦敦度假, 不巧的是, 在她度假的这两个星期, 伦敦一直在下雨。我为她感到遗憾, 但同时我又喜欢这雨, 至少我们不会有干旱问题了。

但众所周知的是, 中国北方城市常年饱受干旱之苦。如何解决这个问题呢? 由于中国南方每年都会遭遇洪涝灾害, 于是人们想出了 "南水北调" 的方法, 用南方过剩的降水解决北方缺水的问题。这是一个大胆的想法, 也是一个庞大的工程。但是这个看似 "不可能完成的任务" 一直在一步步地进行着。

南水北调工程的规划就用了几十年的时间。1991年11月, 长江委提出了《南水北调中线规划报告(1990年9月修订)》和《南水北调中线工程初步可行性研究报告》, 明确供水范围应包括天津市。水利部对上述两个报告组织了审查, 原则同意, 也指出下一阶段工作中需要补充研究的问题。

我们很容易抛出这样的问题: 为什么不早一点干? 但很明显, 解决水资源短缺问题的方案很早之前就已经提上日程了并且已经逐步实施。在去年12月27日, 北京市民率先喝上了长江水。

很多网友会担心, 要解决这么多人的喝水问题, 如果长江水也干涸了怎么办? 还有人问, 北方那么冷, 如果长江水流到这边冻上了怎么办?

如此规模的工程自然不缺少要解决的问题。与以上两个问题比起来, 更为严峻的挑战是许多人要离开自己生活了世世代代的故土, 迁移到新的家园。对迁移人口的安置问题才是最复杂的问题。

那么这些和你有什么关系呢? 2012年2月14日, 2012年度南水北调稽察专家及工作人员培训研讨会在天津召开。会议相关材料提到, 南水北调工程的目的之一就是改善北方当地饮用水水质, 有效解决北方一些地区地下水因自然原因造成的水质问题, 如高氟水、苦咸水和其他含有对人体不利的有害物质的水源问题。

2014年12月27日, 来自丹江口水库的一渠清水终于抵达津门。市自来水公司发表了声明: "我们组织了800人的专业维修团队24小时待命。我们的人员、车辆、机器、设备和通讯系统全部就位。一旦出现用水问题, 市民可拨打24小时自来水热线96655。"

很久之前, 我写过一篇关于节约用水的文章。其中提到的节水方法现在依然可用。每个人都从小事做起, 比如教育孩子刷牙的时候关上水龙头, 缩短淋浴时间, 尽快修好滴水的龙头。积少成多, 一点小举措也会带来大改变。

水是生命存活最重要的条件之一, 一想到水资源有一天会枯竭就让人感到害怕。我在写这篇文章的时候, 伦敦已经连续下了五天雨了, 人们怨声载道。因为雨下不停而感到烦心或因为不下雨而焦虑, 哪个更好呢?

LOVE ON-LINE

by Robert Watt

Starting a new job is both exciting and a little nerve wracking. If the job means moving to a new city or country then as well as surviving the new work regime there is the additional pressure of thriving in the unfamiliar world outside of work. Those first weeks in a strange environment, absent of close friends and family, can emphasise feelings of isolation and loneliness. There are few places where this is felt as intensely, as when eating alone in a restaurant. That vacant space, on the opposite side of the table, can feel like a metaphor for the vast emptiness of your social life. On Valentine's night, a table for 1 in a room of smooching couples is a choice between the empty place signalling you've been stood up, or inviting a work colleague and risking a claim of sexual harassment. On Valentine's Day, the only way to eat out is with a date.

According to a recent newspaper report, on-line dating has become the most common way to meet a new partner. It was only a few years ago that using a dating site was an embarrassing admission of a desperate love life. Now, prime time advertising and their common usage has reversed opinion so it's become the norm. Those expecting to meet their dreamboat by chance are now the oddballs.

Many of the dating websites are, at least at their most basic, free and cater for specialist interests, all walks of life, ethnicities, orientations and religions. With registered users often in the millions it's easy to imagine

that finding a partner, who shares your passions and appreciates your eccentricities, will be simple. But, many people who use these sites quickly discover how the anonymity they provide attracts the strange and the scammer, as well as the serious suitor. The most irritating scam is the impossibly beautiful, keen and young, who lure you to the non free chat windows, or bombard you with short generic messages that you have to pay to read. More subtle, are the profiles with false ages, marital status and photographs. Letters that show they've not read your profile, or contain immediate protestations of love. Women have told me that men's profiles are as equally inaccurate, their pictures often in shirtless poses, wearing sunglasses and their letters smutty or barely literate. It's easy to become disillusioned; to think you're the only normal, serious or honest person. If you persist though, you become quite good at spotting the cheats and asking the questions that reveal the inconsistencies in their stories.

With so many seeking love on-line, standing out is important and highly competitive. It's not uncommon in the international sites for women to have their photographs taken in a studio with their make up and hair done professionally. The result is pages of stunning beauties lolling over chairs and sofas, smiling into cameras from angles and positions that cleverly enhance and flatter. Having a striking photograph is such an obvious advantage that it's surprising it's not more common on the more local dating sites. Photographs in websites such as Badoo, who

ACCORDING TO A RECENT NEWSPAPER REPORT, ON-LINE DATING HAS BECOME THE MOST COMMON WAY TO MEET A NEW PARTNER.

claim a staggering 233 million registered users, are typically amateur snaps and selfies.

Regardless of the web site you choose, creating your profile is always the first step. It's the main means to sell yourself and get across your personality. Be positive and humorous rather than moan about your last relationship or your medical problems. Keep it short too, you can save the details for your correspondence. Usually you have to complete this before you can start browsing for a prospective date.

Most sites allow you to enter search criteria, or will choose matches for you based on common answers and preferences. Even so, it's easy to spend hours trawling through the pictures and profiles, adding favourites and finally composing that perfect first contact message. After investing this time, it's important that you get a reply. If you're not very choosy, you can copy and paste a message into a mail shot to a dozen candidates, but if someone special catches your eye then a short letter, based around their profile, will be far more successful. Keep your own profile fresh by updating it regularly, some sites list their members by the date the profile was generated, so regular refreshes put you higher in lists of searches.

Dating websites aren't all about finding marriage partners. Adultfriendfinder, that boasts 30 million registered users has a reputation for casual relationships and Ashley Madison, with 18 million registered users specialises in pairing up married people. While there are specialist dating sites for those



seeking gay relationships most of the popular sites also offer the option to specify same sex relationships. This is, perhaps, the largest difference with dating websites in China where the most popular such as Jiayuan(世纪佳缘) meaning beautiful destiny or Zhenai(珍爱网) meaning True love cater exclusively for those seeking marriage.

Jiayuan is China's largest matchmaker with nearly 100 million users. It was set up in 2003 by Gong Haiyan, who at 25 years old was already being considered a leftover woman and facing pressure for marriage. China has always had matchmakers, the art of pairing people off goes back 2000 years to the Zhou Dynasty. Every village used to have its Red Mother, a local woman employed by families to find the right partner for their sons and daughters. Now, with rapid urbanisation the old social methods of finding a husband, or wife, no longer work. Chinese boys and girls, after focussing on University study, or leaving their villages for jobs in the city are finding themselves with fewer chances to meet prospective partners.

While finding a marriage partner is typically the main hope, there are also many who are just as keen to find friends or pen pals, meet foreigners and practice their English. My first experience of on-line dating was initiated when I first found out I was coming to China. I was terrified of not knowing anything or anyone and used an international dating web site to look for someone who would be willing to show me around Tianjin, help me with the language, as well as be an attractive dinner date. It wasn't too difficult and my first few weeks in China were made a lot easier and more pleasant by a few wonderful young women who were delighted to mother me and introduce me to the history and traditional foods of their hometown.

The international sites aren't free beyond the basic service of searching and first contact. But your receiver will understand this and will move to normal text or e-mail as soon as they

are confident that you're serious and not a nutcase. Even so, it's likely to be a few weeks before someone will be willing to meet you. But with a little forward planning Valentine's day needn't be a desolate dining experience. Out there are literally millions of people wanting to meet you for friendship, marriage, or something different from another night watching TV. Spring is coming, life will soon be renewed or stirring from its frigid sleep. It's the perfect time to make new friendships grow and over time, a rising warmth may bring, a romance into bloom.

网络交友

开始一份新工作总是让人既兴奋又无奈。特别是当你搬到一个陌生的城市,面对大大小小的压力,那种孤独感就油然而生。想要摆脱这种一个人的尴尬处境?不妨开始一段新的恋情。据最新报道,在线约会已经成为时下最流行的交友方式。短短几年的时间,婚恋网站已经从一个尴尬的角色一步飞跃成为最热门的交友工具。单是从它黄金时段的广告位,我们就能想象它是多么受欢迎。

通常,婚恋网站都是自由的,人人都可注册成为会员,所以在数百万的单身大军中,找到一个愿意分享你的喜好,懂得欣赏你的人,并不是件困难的事。鉴于婚恋网站是一个开放的平台,我们难免会碰到一些怪人,比如骗子或结婚狂。最令人痛恨的骗局就是常常会有一些年轻而又漂亮的人,她们谎报年龄和资料,然后把你引到一个非免费的窗口,让你付费聊天。当然,也会有不少女性朋友抱怨男性会员的诚信度,他们试图用一些模糊的照片来掩盖他们本来的面目。在这样的历练下,久而久之,你就能成为揭露骗局的高手,前提是,你得坚持下去。

这么多人注册会员,但如何使自己突出就成了关键。在国际网站上,女性热衷于将自己在专业影棚里照的写真贴出来,以此来吸引男性的注意。事实证明,这样做效果非常显著。可令人惊讶的是,这样的做法,在普通的社交网站上并不多见。人们通常用的还是自己最平常的照片或者自拍。无论你选择怎样的社交网站,第一步永远都是填写资料。记住,这是你推销自己的主要途径,所以尽量用一些积极、幽默的语言,还要避免语句过长。只有完成资料填写之后,你才能浏览其它的数据。大多数网站会基于你的回答和喜好为你推荐相关人选,而下一步就是你做出选择的时候了。你可以海投,直到遇见喜欢的人,再进行邮件往来。这样的做法,成功率会更高一些。不要忘记时时更新你的个人资料,以确保自己常保搜索排名前几名的位置。

中国历来有说媒的习俗。那种以说合婚姻为职业的妇女,中国俗称红娘。今天,随着社会的发展,虽然那种父母之命,媒妁之言早已不复存在,但我们却发现,想找到一个称心如意的人变得更难了。大多数上婚恋网站的人都是希望通过这个平台找到一段佳缘,当然也存在带有别的目的的人。我的第一段在线约会经历就是当我得知我要来中国的时候。当时,我登录了一个国际约会网站,希望找到一个能带我参观天津并帮助我语言的人,当然,同时我也希望她是一个不错的约会对象。后来事实证明,这样的事情并不难办到。多亏几位年轻女士的帮助,我才能在到中国的头几个星期过的如此轻松和愉快。春天就要来了,万物也即将复苏。千万别辜负这样美好的时节,找一个伴侣,开启你的浪漫之旅吧。

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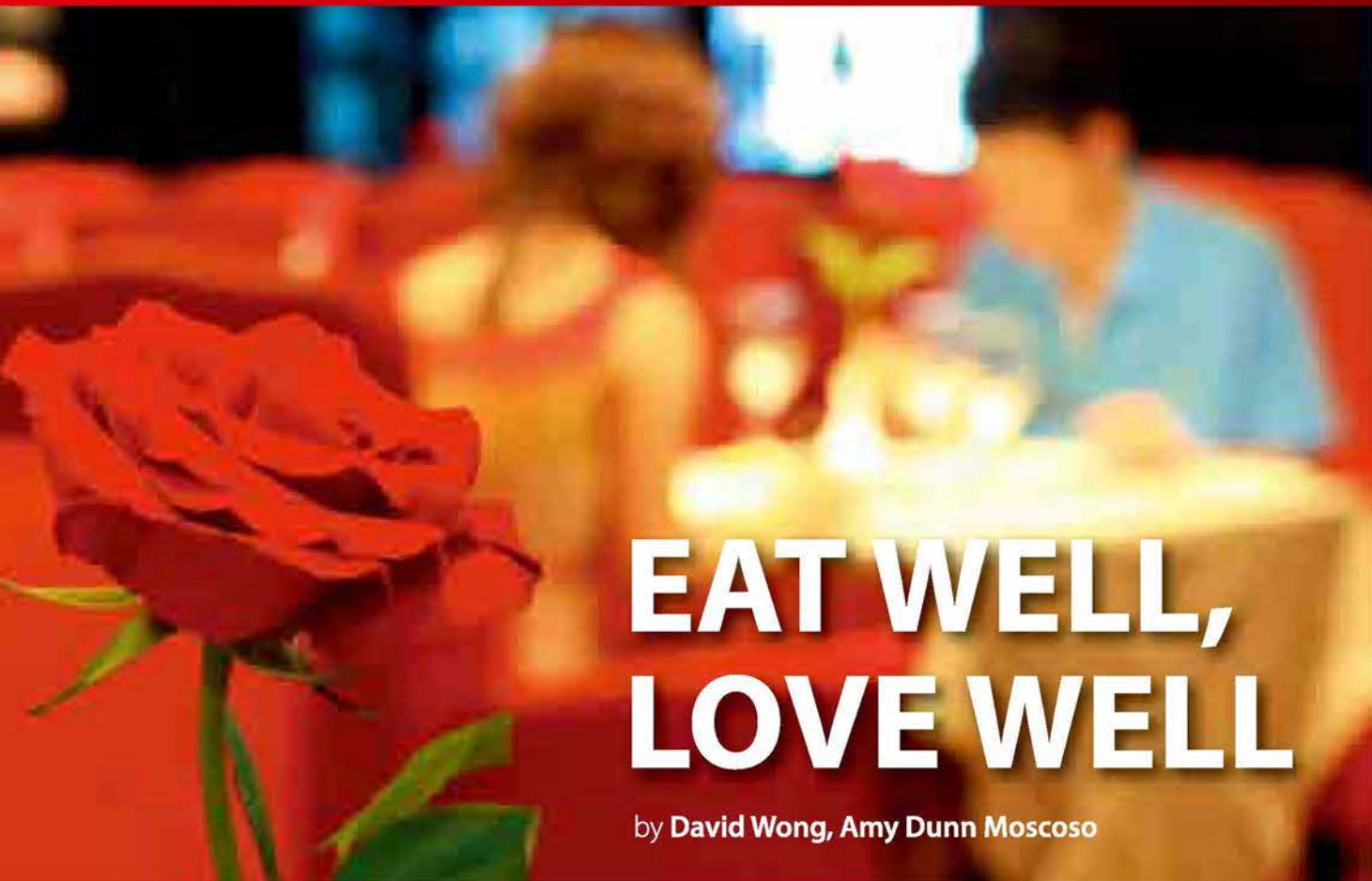
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EAT WELL, LOVE WELL

by David Wong, Amy Dunn Moscoso

Like many Western holidays and traditions, China has recently adopted and commercialized Valentine's Day to the delight of the service industry. Only a few years ago, Christmas, New Years Day (January 1) and Thanksgiving were unheard of in China, but now you can hear Christmas songs and stores decorated with Santa Claus and boughs of holly by November in anticipation of the December holiday. Many news reports were warning the public about high traffic 高峰 (Gao Feng) during the December 24-31 period.

The upcoming February 14th is another Western tradition that has been taken on by the Chinese public, especially the "Yuppie" Young Urban Professionals in China that have the spending power. In China, Valentine's Day is called Lovers' Festival 情人节 (Qing Ren Jie) and if you try to buy roses on this day, you will discover how popular this day has become by the outrageous high prices due to demand, so buy early. This day should not be confused with the Chinese Valentine's Day or the QIXI Festival 七夕节 which is celebrated on the 7th day of the 7th month on the lunar calendar, this year it is August 20. A spin off to Valentines Day was "White Day" celebrated on March 14

and is marked by girls giving the boys gifts in return for the previous month. The gift is usually white chocolate and tradition was started and celebrated more in Japan, although several countries in Asia also follow suit.

Since Chinese culture is quite traditional and open expression of affection and love is usually not easily demonstrated, this is a perfect time for the shy and inhibited to use the opportunity to break tradition. That is probably why retailers, hotels and restaurants have promoted this event and is becoming a major occasion for gift giving and dining out.

THIS CAN BE PRICEY, BUT FOR THOSE WITH SOME DISPOSABLE INCOME TO BURN, WHAT BETTER WAY TO SPOIL YOUR FEMALE OR MALE PARTNER THAN BY SURROUNDING HIM OR HER IN LUXURY?

The present Valentine's Day started as a Christian holiday when a priest named Valentine was executed in the year 496AD and buried on February 14. He was made a saint as legend states that he performed marriages for soldiers, which was against the Roman Emperor's wishes because he believed that married men did not make dedicated soldiers if they became family men. By the middle ages, the poet Chaucer and writer Shakespeare made references to Valentine as reference to dedication of love and by the 1800's the famous nursery rhyme: "Roses are red, violets are blue. Honey is sweet and so are you" was coined and the custom of gifting roses and chocolates was started. One legend of Saint Valentine is he supposedly wore a purple amethyst ring, customarily worn on the hands of Christian bishops with an image of Cupid (the angel of love) engraved in it, a recognizable symbol associated with love that was legal under the Roman Empire. Roman soldiers would recognize the ring and ask him to perform marriage for them. Probably because of the association with Saint Valentine, amethyst has become the birthstone of February, and it's thought to attract love.

Another popular tradition was the sending of valentine cards. In school, children would write individual cards to their favorites and special cards between lovers was a romantic chance to express affection. My how modern technology has changed that and now actual cards are replaced by electronic messages.

Aside the traditional gifts of chocolates and roses, almost all major hotels and restaurants will be advertising special Valentines Day dinners and promotions for February 14th. This can vary from expensive and elaborate packages that include a 5 course meal, gifts of flowers and chocolates and room, since this year Valentines falls on a Friday so expect specials to take advantage of the weekend and a preliminary before the major Spring Festival holiday on February 18th.

How can expats live it up in Tianjin this February 14?

First, by deciding to celebrate. One of the most important things is just to acknowledge the day, and love for a partner. A 2012 survey by Tokii found 37% of men and 13% of women thought their partner would be devastated if they forgot about Valentine's Day. Though the celebration often focuses on men treating women, the survey also found 29% of men thought they should be spoiled as well as women, while just 13% of women agreed.

So how can a Tianjiner treat their partner? By showing romance and offering traditional and time honoured edibles.

One. Give candy. In the United States, candy gifts are the most popular Valentine's Day gift according to StatisticBrain.com. Though consumer research shows people in northern Europe consume the most chocolate in the world, China is catching up. The chocolate market grows by approximately 11% per year in China, which is well ahead of the global growth rate. All five of the largest chocolate brands, such as Nestle, are present in the country and luxury brands, like Godiva, are opening more and more stores across the country. Increasingly, chocolates are becoming a gift of choice for young Chinese men to give to their girlfriends.

Two. Go out for dinner. StatisticBrain.com shows that eating out is also one of the top Valentine's Day gifts. In China, eating out can consist of anything, from five



star restaurants, trendy Tianjin bars, or hole in the wall restaurants selling delicious specialties. Many bars, hotels and restaurants offer special cocktails and evening entertainment. FLAIR at the Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin, claims to have the best cocktails in Tianjin and is promising surprises and prizes to help couples get to know each other much better this Valentine's Day.

Three. Get a room (and multiple meals.) Many hotels offer a Valentine's Day package including one night for two, dinner, drinks and buffet breakfasts. This can be pricey, but for those with some disposable income to burn, what better way to spoil your female or male partner than by surrounding him or her in luxury?

Four. Cook a special meal at home. (Want to make it more romantic? Put away the iPhone and include a handwritten and heartfelt note.) It's romantic and shows chivalry, which is in short supply in modern times, according to The Code of Modern Chivalry report, conducted in 2010 by famous chocolatier Lindt. The report found that though 78% of women would love to get a romantic letter or poem, just 50% of men had ever written one. Men were more likely to use electronic greetings with 21% professing love via text message and 11% settling for an email. So keep it personal and score big points with your partner. Looking for inspiration? Try a cheese, and/or chocolate fondue.

Valentine's Day doesn't have to involve a lot of cash, although it can. No matter what couples decide to do, keeping it romantic can go a long way.

What about those who don't currently have a partner? Valentine's Day for the unpartnered doesn't have to lead to a lonely heart. Throwing a singles party with tasty appetizers and beverages can be a great way to treat yourself, and if you're looking, help you find that perfect someone. If you tend to feel depressed around this season, as many singles report, take heart and save your celebrations for Singles Awareness Day, also known as S.A.D., on February 15.

吃得好，爱得久

中国对西方节日的接受度日益加深，很多中国人都加入庆祝洋节的行列。以圣诞节为例，一进入12月，大街小巷就呈现出浓郁的圣诞气氛。而进入二月，有一个重要的节日——情人节也即将到来。

中国的年轻人十分热衷庆祝情人节，2月14日这一天的玫瑰花都是卖到了天价。当然中国也有自己的情人节，也就是“七夕节”。在西方的传统里，3月14日是白色情人节，女孩要回赠给男孩情人节礼物，最常见的礼物就是白巧克力。

中国人相对传统，不愿意大胆示爱。情人节就是一个好机会，让那些平日害羞、保守的人打开心门。餐厅、酒店、商场一定会借这个机会推出各种特别套餐或优惠活动，趁机促进销量。

如果你忘记情人节这个大日子，你可能就要遗憾了。所以还是提早想想怎么庆祝才好吧。糖果，尤其是巧克力是最为传统也最受欢迎的情人节礼物。世界五大巧克力品牌都已经进入中国，从雀巢到高端的GODIVA，你可以根据自己的实力选择购买。

一顿情人节浪漫大餐也是大部分人都能想到的。无论是五星级酒店、高档餐厅、时尚酒吧还是街边小馆都会为这个特别的日子推出套餐。

很多酒店还会推出情人节餐加房的打包套餐，虽然价格不菲，但在一年一次的特别日子里，任性一回又如何呢？

最能体现你心意的还是亲自为她/他下厨。最简单的选择可以考虑芝士火锅。

LOBKOWICZ



Mixed roast pork ribs marinated in honey, beer, BBQ sauce and garlic

Tianjin's first Czech style restaurant has opened. Located in the newly renovated Min Yuan Stadium, which has an exotic collection of bars, restaurants and pubs, Lobkowicz is in one of the area's best positions facing the quiet horse wagon station.

The name Lobkowicz comes from an ancient Czech aristocratic family. Customers are reminded of the bar's connection to its home country by the painting on the wall behind the bar which is of a classic breath taking view of the beautiful city of Prague.

The Czechs are passionate about their beer and one would expect authentic Czech beer in a Czech restaurant. Fortunately, Lobkowicz does not disappoint as the two beer brewery tanks in the middle of the

restaurant show that they take their beer seriously. According to Mr. Zhang Heng, who used to work in The Czech Republic, all the beer is brewed in house. Not only has he supervised the imported equipment and sourced ingredients from The Czech Republic, but he also hired a Czech master brewer to ensure its quality. At the moment they serve light, dark and wheat beer with the promise of more to come.

As The Czech Republic is land locked, not surprisingly, meat plays the main role in their cuisine. Here in Lobkowicz, you can have a feast of meat. The best selling dish is the mixed roast pork ribs marinated in honey, beer, BBQ sauce and garlic. Other meat dishes include beef tartar served with onions, mustard, ketchup and garlic toast, as well as roasted pork knee with dark beer. As there are two Czech chefs on hand you can trust the quality and authenticity of all the dishes. One of them used to cook for many celebrities – amongst them - Madonna.

洛克维茨自酿啤酒坊是天津第一家捷克风格餐厅，坐落于新民园体育场。餐厅自酿的捷克啤酒是一大特色。所有的设备和原料都是店主从捷克引进的，还特别聘请了捷克酿酒师。捷克美食主打肉类。多味烤猪排骨、捷克传统炖牛肉、脆皮烤猪膝肉都是最热销的菜品。如果你喜欢大口喝酒，大口吃肉，你一定要带上同类来这里大快朵颐！

洛克维茨自酿啤酒坊

101-104, West Building, Min Yuan Stadium, Heping District (by the horse carriage station) 和平区民园体育场西楼101-104(马车驿站)

83122718 / 83122719

RMB 140 11:00-23:00

THE PRESSROOM 26TH

The Pressroom 26th was opened three months ago and specializes in Southeast Asian cuisines. Upon entering, you'll find the first floor area with its spacious feel and high roof which is complemented with a typical bar. If you want to eat, you'll be ushered directly to the 3rd floor where there is a totally different atmosphere – it is modern, artistic and relaxing. As you look through the menu, you will find many classic dishes from Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore. The range is extensive and includes delicacies like esoteric local Malaysian snacks to Singapore's iconic Black Pepper Crab.

All the dishes are presented beautifully which matches the pleasant atmosphere of the eating space. And the effort does not only go into the presentation. From the first bite, it is obvious that the ingredients are fresh and the best. Signature dishes include the Grilled Chicken with Crispy Skin (RMB128), the Fried Snack Combo (RMB68) and the Oil-free



Grilled Chicken with Crispy Skin



Band show

Fish Soup with Vegetables (RMB 46). If you prefer vegetables, you can try the okra fried with cucumber and fungus (RMB38), which is not only extremely delicious but nutritious and light in flavor.

Every evening at 8:30 pm, a international band starts their show. The music, though an eclectic mixture of different styles, is never too loud to make conversation uncomfortable. Rather, it is a perfect way to relax and we enjoy their show while having a sip of imported South African cider. International satellite TV channels are also available here.

The Pressroom 26th 坐落于新民园体育场，主打东南亚特色美食。一楼是宽敞的酒吧、二楼为休息区，三楼则是用餐区。菜单囊括了东南亚一带从马来西亚日常小吃到新加坡国菜的所有经典菜品。每晚八点半，多国乐队准时开演。你可以在乐队时而舒缓时而激情的音乐中，品尝进口自南非的苹果西打酒。

The Pressroom 26th

New Minyuan Stadium, At the crossing of Changde Dao and Hengyang Lu, Heping District 和平区常德道与衡阳路交口新民园

2722-7888

SHU DAO JIANG CHENG



Chongqing style hot pot has really become a trend in Tianjin as more and more restaurants of such have opened. Newly joined is one named Shu Dao Jiang Cheng located in Shanggu. Shu Dao means the mountainous roads in Sichuan Province and Jiang Cheng is another name of Chongqing.

Unlike common restaurants, SDJC only has wooden tables and long benches, creating a roadside feel in southwest China. When the Sudoku hotpot is presented to the table, one may start to feel hot from inside and sweaty from outside. It is suggested to start from minus spicy since the restaurant owner didn't mean to reduce the spiciness

for local palate.

The ingredients to make the soup are all booked from Sichuan Province and the spiciness is not sense-irritating but to make you want to have more.

Maybe this sounds too exotic for you, the main roles in Chongqing hotpot are animal guts, such as tripe, kidney and duck intestine. It doesn't bother to taste some strange food in a foreign land if you are adventurous. But if it is too hard for you, you can simply dip in some common food, such as beef, mushroom and smashed shrimp.

There are various ways of relieve the spiciness in your mouth. The restaurant offers soybean milk, fruit juice and bitter buckwheat tea. The most important tip is to choose sesame oil as the sauce to protect your stomach.

蜀道江城重庆老火锅位于上谷商业街，店内装潢充满重庆市井风格。九宫格火锅的汤底由重庆籍师傅亲自炒制，原料也来自山城。特色涮品包括腰片、泥鳅、毛肚、嫩牛等。来自四川的唯怡豆奶和自制的鲜榨水果汁都是解辣良药。

蜀道江城重庆老火锅

3F, 2-78 Shanggu Business Plaza, at the junction of Tian Ta Dao and Shi Ying Lu, Nankai District

南开区分塔道与士英路交口上谷商业街2-78三楼

23412291

RMB 80 11:00-22:00



BETTER HEALTH VIA FEET SOAKING

by Carmen King

Does the title really read "feet soaking"? Yes, indeed it does. Feet soaking is a popular practice among Tianjin locals. It can be included as one of the many protocols of Chinese medicine. As many are all too well aware, with the cold weather often comes cold and flu season. Looking for a way to get better faster? Or what about trying to improve immune system function in general? The solution according to some Tianjiners is feet soaking.

In most cases feet soaking means to place the feet into a container filled with hot water. Feet should remain in the water for about 20-30 minutes. Longer soaking time does not necessarily mean better results. It seems to be unanimous that soaking time should never exceed 30 minutes. In addition, after soaking, it is extremely important to keep the feet warm. Socks or warm slippers should be put on immediately after drying off the feet. Otherwise it is reported instead of getting better and improving one's health, it will make matters worse, perhaps even bringing on more trouble.

Feet can apparently be soaked at anytime during the day. The most common time though is at night before bed. Specifically folks seem to like sometime

IN TIANJIN FEET SOAKING IS ESTEEMED FOR ITS ABILITY TO PROMOTE GOOD CIRCULATION AND IMPROVE IMMUNE SYSTEM FUNCTION.

between 7-9 pm. Why these hours? No exact reason was found. However the routine seems to be, first soak the feet for about a half hour. Then dry off, cover up the feet and get to bed. Sometimes feet could even be soaked twice daily, once in the morning and once at night. Each soaking would be about 20-30 minutes in duration.

All that is needed for feet soaking is a container of some sort which can hold enough hot water to completely immerse both feet. If possible, it is said best case scenario is have the water cover the ankles as well. There are specific containers or buckets which are made for feet soaking. These containers have good width and depth allowing the feet and ankles to be totally covered by hot water. Some feet soaking containers are made of wood. Wood helps to

retain heat. The goal is to keep the water as hot as possible during the entire soaking period.

There are many different feet soaking containers out there, so don't get overwhelmed or buy some super expensive device in the beginning. Many folks simply go to the local market or grocery store and buy a basic plastic container. These plastic containers are everywhere in Tianjin. Most locals have a number of them in their homes. They are used for everything from washing clothes, cleaning the house, and of course, soaking feet. These containers are like a big, wide plastic pan.

When soaking feet, water temperature should be hot. However, of course be careful not to get burned. Some like to actually heat up water on the stove and add other ingredients such as raw ginger. After the ginger and water simmer for a while, this is poured into the feet soaking container and then other water is added until the temperature is suitable for soaking. If the container being used isn't well insulated, it is possible water will need to be changed a few times during the soaking. Simply dump out the cold water and add in hot water. When doing so avoid getting scalded.

In Tianjin feet soaking is esteemed for its ability to promote good circulation and improve immune system function. It does so by increasing blood circulation in the feet, where many nerves and pressure points are located. It also may induce sweating, which allows internal toxins to be excreted. Expats can add feet soaking to their list of things to try while in Tianjin.

冬季养生多泡脚

冬天是流感易发季，如何在这深冬时节更好更快的提高自身免疫系统？答案就是泡脚。所谓泡脚，即是将双脚浸泡在装满热水的容器中，维持 20-30 分钟。待双脚浸泡完毕并擦干之后，将脚穿上棉袜或是保暖拖鞋，以保证双脚的温度。泡脚可在任何时间进行，但天津人更喜欢在晚上 7 点到 9 点间进行。泡脚容器尽量选择耐高温材质。市面上也会售卖一些专门泡脚的容器或木桶，这些容器可以更好的保持水的温度。很多天津人在泡脚的时候都会加些药材，比如生姜等。他们将生姜或其它药材放在水里，将水煮熟，待水冷却到适宜的温度再进行泡脚。如果你也想尝试这种养生方式，切记不要烫伤。

冬天泡脚，丹田温灼。脚是人的第二心脏，坚持在睡前用热水适当泡洗，长期刺激脚部的穴位，可促进气血通畅，将体内毒素排出体外，间接起到调整脏腑功能、增强体质的作用。如果你也好奇，不妨体验一把这种地道的天津人的生活习惯。

THREE LIFE-ENHANCING ONLINE SHOPPING SITES

by Amy Dunn Moscoso



This Christmas, I started to panic. Attending parties and dinners, making Christmas dinner and multi-hour shopping excursions via bus, taxi and train in the company of two anti-shoppers, ages two and three and a half, was taking weeks versus hours. I needed retail therapy not from a mall.

Fortunately, I dove into online shopping. Wine, food and toys arrived at my door and I saved hours of hassle. Fortunately, I bypassed fraud, affecting nearly one in three online shoppers in China in 2012, according to a Xinhua News Agency translation of findings from the China Electronic Commerce Association.

The options were nigh on endless. If shopping is a hobby here, online shopping is a phenomenon. The demand is incredible. China's Singles' day on November 11 is the world's largest shopping event (Alibaba processed 254 million transactions worth \$5.8 billion in 2013, 2.5 times more than in the United States on Cyber Monday, according The Financial Times). This year could be greater. In 2015, 350 million Chinese will spend 2.6 trillion yuan online, according to www.statista.com.

So where can an expat feed a shopping bug at Noon or midnight?

TAOBAO & TMALL

(www.taobao.com; www.Tmall.com)

Taobao is an online marketplace where thousands of small shops and individuals set items and is similar to Amazon and eBay. Taobao is the world's 10th most visited site.

TMall (Taobao Mall) sells official brand store goods, such as clothing and electronics,

from factories.

Pros: Taobao offers massive selection from an enormous range of sellers. Buyers can communicate directly with sellers through Wangwang chat to get more detailed information. Payment can be made with credit cards or an Alipay account. Savvy users can continue to order from Taobao in home countries from Europe, North America, South America and Australia. Delivery in China generally takes three days.

Cons: Language can be a barrier and deter buyers. Written in Chinese, searches and communication can be challenging though Google translate helps. English searches are possible, but may limit selection and result in higher prices. Fortunately, agents can help for a fee best clarified up front. As a major online site, fraud can also be a problem. However, the platform allows buyers to check selling history, frequency, comments and ratings of sellers. Payment is also released to a seller once items are received and the buyer is satisfied, or 10 days later.

Setting up an account can be a little challenging, though there are many guides and online tutorials to help. Buyers need a Chinese phone number, a credit card, an email and a Chinese mailing address.

AMAZON CHINA

(www.amazon.cn)

Amazon China (formerly Joyo.com and Joyo Amazon) is very much like Amazon in other countries and sells books and other merchandise. Amazon (globally) is the 9th most visited site in the world.

Pros: Buyers familiar with buying from

Amazon will be comforted by this site, which offers an "In English" option. Delivery is rapid and can be free of charge, though checking is a good idea. Buyers can pay cash on delivery so there's no need to provide banking information.

Cons: Like Taobao, language can be a problem. Google translations can solve the problem. Arranging delivery time can also be challenging.

JEDELIVERY

(www.Jedelivery.com)

An online site catering to Tianjiners delivering fresh food including baking ingredients, vegetables and fruits and baked goods, spirits, wine and beer since 2013.

Pros: Delivery is free and can come to your doorstep in TEDA, downtown Tianjin and several other districts of Tianjin. New items are added frequently.

Cons: Planning ahead is important as orders must be made by Tuesday for deliveries on Thursday in TEDA and Friday in downtown Tianjin, though it may be possible to request special arrangements.

Payment is cash on delivery, with orders and pricing confirmed within 24 hours.

Online shopping is a great way to save time, money and stress. It can also beef up your Chinese vocabulary.

三个提高生活效率的购物网站

这个圣诞节，我忙着参加派对、饭局，花几个小时，转换多种交通工具买圣诞大餐需要的材料，真的是忙疯了！再加上我家两个只会捣乱的小不点，几小时能干完的事情往往要花上几个星期。所以我急需不用去商场就能解决的购物方案。

于是我开始学习网上购物。幸运的是，我没有遭遇购物欺诈。而有新闻报道说，三分之一的网上购物者都遭遇过如此问题。根据我的发现，有三个网站是可以随时满足我们各种需求的。

淘宝和天猫

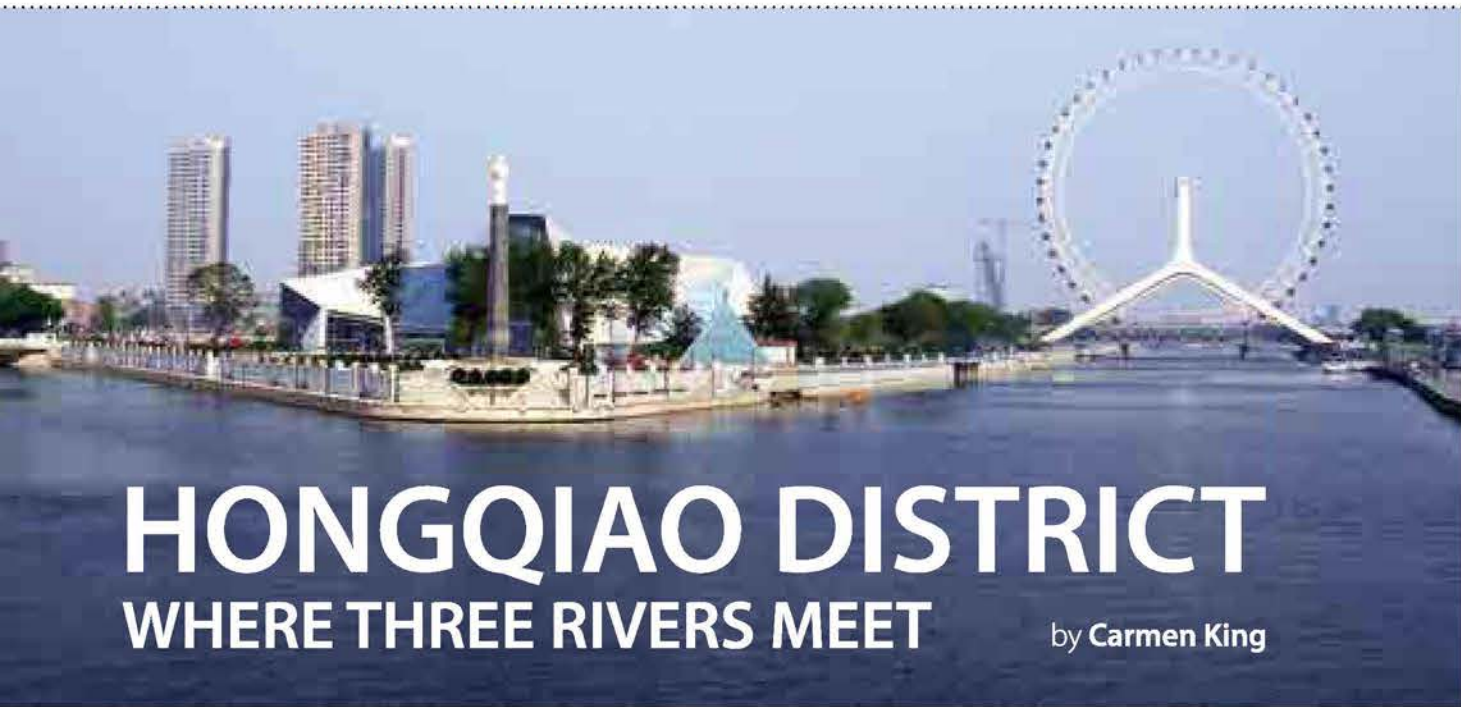
淘宝是一个线上大市场，拥有成千上万个店铺，买家可直接通过旺旺与卖家联系。付款可通过信用卡或支付宝账户。但是语言可能是一个很大的障碍。为了避免上当受骗，你可以关注网站上显示的销售历史、评论和评分。

亚马逊中国

亚马逊中国和其他国家的亚马逊差不多，主营图书和其他商品。熟悉亚马逊的人肯定能轻松使用这个网站，而且该网站也有“英文”选项。

JE DELIVERY

既然语言总是个问题，那么我又找到了一个非常适合外国人的外卖网站。这家 JE DELIVERY 全部是英文界面，可以免费外送。每周二下单，周四周五送货，所以你必须提前计划。



HONGQIAO DISTRICT

WHERE THREE RIVERS MEET

by Carmen King

Three Stones area

It is time to explore yet another one of Tianjin's six core city districts. As mentioned previously in this column, Heping is the heart of Tianjin's financial industry. Nankai has long since been the educational center of Tianjin, as many of the oldest and largest colleges are located there. However it should be noted, this will be changing as the new "College City" in Tianjin has been established. Many colleges once viewed as core features of Nankai will be moving in the near future. Hexi is home to the Tianjin Cultural Center. Hedong is Tianjin's transportation hub. Last but not least, there is Hongqiao.

Hongqiao is located to the north of Nankai district and east of Hebei district. Its name comes from a big red bridge within the district. According to the Hongqiao District website (www.tjhqzf.gov.cn) the district spans an area of over 21 square kilometers and has 530,000 residents. It is possible the actual number of district residents is even higher as many who are from the countryside may not be included in this number. An interesting note as it relates to Hongqiao's population is the large percentage of the Hui ethnic group (回族) who live there. The Hui people often have traditions related to the Muslim culture. As such, one of the better known Muslim Mosque's (天津清真大寺) is located in Hongqiao.

Similar to Hedong district, Hongqiao serves as a major transportation hub. Hongqiao has a lot of traffic passing through

via train, ship, and automobile. Three major rivers flow through Hongqiao, those being the Ziya River, the South Grand Canal, and the North Grand Canal. These all lead to the Haihe River. That means from a shipping transport perspective, lots of goods sail through Hongqiao. As China built up its rail system, so Hongqiao became more important to Tianjin. The Tianjin West Railway station is located there. There trains to Beijing, Shanghai and Shandong depart. Road related traffic also finds its way through Hongqiao as the entrance to the Jingjin highway is in Hongqiao. Last but not least are the many long-distance buses which depart from the Hongqiao West Station.

Another highlight of Hongqiao is the Three Stones Memorial. This is a memorial about the area know as Three Stones. Three Stones refers to the area where the three rivers mentioned above cross through Hongqiao. The Three Stones area during the early 1900's became a significant location in terms of manufacturing. It was there that a lot of manufacturing went on, particularly as it relates to metalworking and the textile industry. With such easy access to the water ways, manufacturers could easily receive and send out cargo. As such quite a number of steel manufacturers setup shop in the Three Stones area of Hongqiao. According to Baidu this memorial was established in 1959 and the name of the memorial was personally picked by the former Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. Premier Zhou studied at Nankai Middle

School. Thus, throughout his political career he continued to support the development of Tianjin. His involvement in the establishment of the Three Stones Memorial is an example of this. Tianjin people in general have a very favorable opinion of Premier Zhou.

The Hongqiao of today has of course grown up and modernized. Now there are high rise apartments and shopping centers. One such modern place of commerce in Hongqiao is DaHutong (大胡同). DaHutong is a huge indoor and outdoor market area. Many manufacturers sell their goods at DaHutong in bulk. While shoppers can still buy things in small quantity, many shops are setup as a wholesale outlet for a particular brand or product. Lots of things are sold at DaHutong. From household goods, to cell phones, to pictures and paintings, there's a good chance it is sold at Hongqiao's DaHutong. Local small business owners may use DaHutong as their source for buying goods at wholesale to be sold elsewhere in city at higher retail prices.

Expats can think of DaHutong as a big flea market. Thus it can be noisy and a bit

FROM HOUSEHOLD GOODS, TO CELL PHONES, TO PICTURES AND PAINTINGS, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE IT IS SOLD AT HONGQIAO'S DAHUTONG.

crazy depending on which part of the market one visits. It is often possible to negotiate with the seller. Prices may start ridiculously high and need to be negotiated down to a lower price. Some expats like going to DaHutong to buy cheap China goods and then take them home as souvenirs or gifts. However, buyer beware, most of the things sold at DaHutong are local Chinese brands. Quality of products may be a real issue. Even if labeled as otherwise, it is possible the product is a knock-off. Like the many markets of Beijing, DaHutong is not for the wary. In addition to being on guard against high prices, visitors should all be aware that sometimes petty theft can be an issue. Since folks come to DaHutong to buy bulks goods, and most deals are done in cash, well it is an ideal location for thieves.

In general expats should be aware of the possibility of thievery throughout Tianjin. Hongqiao's DaHutong is no different in this respect. Where ever in the world there are lots of people carrying lots of money, thieves will likely make their appearance. Thieves in Tianjin often do not work alone. Therefore locals and expats alike should leave their "superman" complex at home. Instead use common sense and good awareness to avoid trouble. Do not try to pick a fight with a thief. Expats may become targets at DaHutong because of being easy to spot (obviously not Chinese) and being thought to have a lot of money. Especially expats who do not speak Chinese should go to DaHutong with a local friend. This eliminates any language barriers increasing the odds of getting goods at a fair price.

Hongqiao district is also home to Tianjin's only Metro (麦德龙). Metro is a bit like Costco® and Sam's Club®. Metro is a big store with products being sold in big quantity. Unlike smaller super markets, Metro focuses on selling items in larger quantity. It does have a selection of imported goods. In addition to



Da Hutong area

household goods, there are also a lot of food related items. While it may be thought buying in bulk means getting a better deal, unfortunately this isn't always the case at Metro. In addition to price issues, there could be freshness issues. Since Metro sells in bulk and at current doesn't appear to be the busiest place in Tianjin, sometimes product expiration dates are close to being expired. It could have been many months or even longer that a product has been sitting there. Therefore expats that shop at Metro should double check product prices and production dates.

Hongqiao district is one that expats will likely visit after arriving in Tianjin. It may be to catch up on a bit of Chinese and Tianjin history at the Three Stones Museum. It could also be to stock up on Chinese goods for cheap at DaHutong. Or it may be a trip to Metro to get a supply of some imported good. So too, it might be nothing more than passing through as one catches a bus or train at the Tianjin West Station. Regardless, Hongqiao is one of Tianjin's six major districts and waits to be explored.

三岔河口-红桥区

红桥区位于南开区以北，河北区以东，面积超过 21 平方公里，是回族人口的聚集地。红桥区也可以被称为交通枢纽。子牙河、南运河和北运河都流经红桥区，最终汇于海河。三条石地区就是这三条河流汇聚的地方。上世纪初，钢铁和纺织工厂都建于此，因毗邻河道，所以方便货物运输。

红桥区的商业历史也由来已久。大胡同商业街是天津最著名的小商品集散地。每天这里都汇聚着熙熙攘攘的人群，有大批量打货的批发商，也有淘便宜货的市民。老外可以把这里当成一个大型跳蚤市场。来这里买东西要学会划价，辨别真伪，同时要看好自己的钱包。

天津唯一一家麦德龙超市也位于红桥区。麦德龙有很多适合家庭的大包装商品，适合欧美人的购物习惯。但是由于这里不是人最多的超市，所以有些商品接近保质期却不能及时卖出去。你购物的时候要注意看一下保质期。

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HARBIN

ICE FESTIVAL

by David Wong



European Architecture

If you really want to experience the chill and a unique ice and snow spectacle of winter, visit Harbin. This is the capital city of the most northern province of China, Heilongjiang 黑龙江 which literally means Black Dragon River, which is the river that borders China and Russia, in Russia the river is called Amur.

The province of Heilongjiang has a population of about 40 million and its capital Harbin is listed as China's ninth largest city at 11 million. The province has a strong economy based on Agriculture, Manufacturing, Hi-tech Pharmacy and Petroleum with China's largest oilfield, Daqing was first discovered in 1959 by Wang Jinxin 王进喜 known as Iron Man Wang. Heilongjiang was also the first province that Communist China took over once the Japanese army was defeated in 1945. Before then, it was part of the area known as Manchuria named after the Manchu 满族 minority group which is the largest minority in the province comprising of 2% of the total population. Today, the area is referred to as the Northeast 东北 DongBei which includes the provinces of Jilin, Liaoning and Heilongjiang.

Harbin became the provincial capital in

1954 and has a colorful history as it was known as the fashion capital of China in the early 1900's and had over 16 foreign consulates. In 1917, after the Russian Revolution, there were over 120,000 Russians living in Harbin and at one point there were over 20,000 Jews. Harbin beer was started in 1900 by a Polish German and is a popular local beer and sold internationally.

Harbin's nickname, "Ice City" is well-earned, as winters here are dry and freezing cold, with a 24-hour average in January of only -18.4°C (-1.1°F), although the city sees little precipitation during the winter and is often sunny. Due to the proximity to the Siberian winds and its location above 45

HARBIN IS A VERY TOURIST FRIENDLY CITY AND WAS VOTED IN FORBES TOP 100 CHINESE TOURIST CITIES IN 2014; IT WAS RATED AT 24.

degrees north latitude, the city is known for its coldest weather and longest winter among major Chinese cities. It is famous for its Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival, which is listed as one of the four major winter events in the world. The other three are the Sapporo Snow Festival in Japan, Quebec Winter Carnival in Canada and Holmenkollen Ski Festival in Oslo, Norway.

This year's theme at the Harbin Ice Festival is "Fascinating Ice-Snow Harbin, Charming Chinese Dream". The Festival is made up of two separate venues. The Snow sculptures are huge and very detailed with intricate designs and have to be viewed during the day. There are hundreds of sculptures and some over 10 meters high, the world's record is a depiction of the Canadian martyr, Doctor Norman Bethune shown in the 2007 event that used 13,000 cubic meters of snow.

The Ice sculptures are just as amazing but should be seen at night as they have beautiful lights incorporated into the carvings. There are several rides at the evening event and there are indoor cafes and coffee shops constructed of ice blocks. They are a bit overpriced but when it is -25 degrees, a break from the bitter

cold is priceless. The two venues are near each other, so if you are pressed for time, you should try to see the snow sculptures in the late afternoon, and then go the ice sculptures by the time the sunsets.

These two events are held at Sun Island. Plan to spend about 2 hours minimum at each, so make sure you dress warmly with several layers of thick underwear, scarves and if possible double socks and mittens. Incredible as it may seem, don't be surprised to see some locals in high-heeled shoes, but they won't last an hour. At the entrance are photographers who will take photos and DVDs that are quite professional but you need to bargain with them and around 2-300rmb is reasonable. Look at the final product, before paying.

Besides these two main events, there is plenty to do in Harbin. The world's largest tiger sanctuary is here and came to be when China agreed to ban sale of tiger products for Traditional Chinese Medicine TCM use. The park now has over 900 tigers and you can tour the park in a caged coach. The park even has a liger, defined as a cross between a lion and a tiger; it basically looks like a lion with stripes. Also for 100rmb you can hold a tiger cub and have a photo taken. For another 100rmb, you can buy a live chicken to feed to the tigers. The Tiger Park is also on Sun Island so if this is of interest, time it with the visit to the Snow Festival.

There are other ice carvings throughout the city and one other notable display is in the Ice Lantern Show at Zhaolin Park, it is not as spectacular as the festivals at Sun Island but still worth seeing. Admission is also less at 150rmb, half as much than the two main displays at 300rmb. Other than ice and snow, other Harbin attractions relate to the Russian influence as mentioned earlier. There are many examples of European architecture, try having a meal at one of the several Russian restaurants, such as the Modern Hotel 馬迭爾 on Central Main Street 中央大街 or the Lungmen Grand Hotel 龙门贵宾楼酒店 which is next to the train station. Both of these restaurants are set in 100 year old beautifully restored buildings and serve authentic Russian cuisine. The Sophia church and the Synagogue turned into a museum are also interesting stops.

Harbin is a very tourist friendly city and was voted in Forbes top 100 Chinese Tourist Cities in 2014; it was rated at 24 (Tianjin was rated #7). Since Heilongjiang is considered a relative newly settled area and because of its sparse population, the central government



Ice Sculptures

conscripted soldiers to this region in the early years. Therefore most present inhabitants are only first or second generation and their ancestry is likely from other province, many from Shandong. This is apparent because there is no local dialect and everyone speaks Mandarin, in fact it is considered a standard version so many diplomats spend their Chinese language training in Harbin.

There is one concern that you need to be aware. Taxis in Harbin are notorious for unfair practices, especially towards foreigners as they think foreigners are easy prey and they can afford to be cheated. They will usually not want to use their meters and try to set a higher price for the fare. It may be helpful to have the hotel arrange the taxi and let you know what is a reasonable fare for the destination. Problem is you will be faced with the same problem upon return. So one other alternative would be to book the car for the day and have the driver wait at the destination. The cost will likely be higher but that will be the price of avoiding the aggravation. Taxis also have a habit of picking up other fares on route.

As for bringing back unique gifts, you can buy European-type Sausages and Russian bread for your friends. The sausages are great but quite strong with garlic, so double wrap them or else fellow plane passengers will be upset.

There are six different airlines that offer the daily 2-hour direct flight from Tianjin, so enjoy, book early as the festival closes at the end of February and flights and hotels become full and don't forget to pack the wool long underwear.

冰城之旅

没有到过哈尔滨，你不算真正体会过寒冷。哈尔滨，黑龙江省省会，中国东北部的政治、经济、文化中心。哈尔滨地处东北亚中心地带，被誉为欧亚大陆桥的明珠，是第一欧亚大陆桥和空中走廊的重要枢纽，也是中国著名的历史文化名城。素有“冰城”之美誉。哈尔滨国际冰雪节在世界享有盛誉，它与日本札幌冰雪节、加拿大魁北克冬季狂欢节和挪威奥斯陆滑雪节并称世界四大冰雪节。

今年的哈尔滨国际冰雪节已于 2015 年 01 月 05 日开幕。成百上千的冰雕巧夺天工，形态各异。自 1985 年，哈尔滨国际冰雪节创办以来，它已经为我们带来了无限的精彩。2007 年哈尔滨国际冰雪节上，它更是一个关于白求恩大夫的雕塑打破了世界纪录，为它辉煌的史册上再添一笔佳绩。

想仔细揣摩这些冰雕，你或许需要白天才能进行，但倘若你想真正见识它的美，唯有夜晚才是最佳时间。每当夜幕降临，绚烂缤纷的灯光打在一个个形态各异的冰雕上，你就会感叹人类的双手竟可以如此神奇。冰雕世界里有一些冰雕咖啡屋，虽然价格有些昂贵，但在零下 20 几度的环境下，这样一杯咖啡也会显得弥足珍贵。冰雕馆和雪雕馆距离很近，如果你时间紧迫，不妨下午参观雪雕馆，然后在日落之时再赶去看冰雕展览。游览每个场馆大概需要两个小时，所以切记做好保暖措施。场馆入口处会有专业的摄影师为游客提供摄影服务，消费之前不要忘记和他们讲价，费用通常在 200-300 元之间。

除了冰雕和雪雕，来哈尔滨旅游，参观虎园也是绝对不可错过的一项。东北虎林园是哈尔滨独具特色的旅游景区也是目前世界上最大的人工饲养繁育东北虎的基地。园区现有 900 多只老虎，你可以乘坐观光车进行游览。东北虎林园坐落在松花江北岸与太阳岛毗邻，如果有时间，不妨去看看。

哈尔滨关于冰的艺术数不胜数，但除此之外，哈尔滨的欧式建筑也绝对值得游览。比如中央大街上赫赫有名的马迭尔宾馆以及火车站附近的龙门贵宾楼酒店。这些建筑装修豪华典雅、古朴新奇，充满异国情调。如果有机会，不妨体验一下这里正宗的俄罗斯菜品，保证让你流连忘返。

从天津飞往哈尔滨，每日有 6 个航班可供选择。所以背上你温暖的行囊，尽情的去享受那北国的风光吧。



SEATBELT by Carmen King

THUS, IT WOULD BE THOUGHT THE PERSON MOST MOTIVATED TO HAVE PASSENGERS BUCKLE UP AND MASSIVELY REDUCE THE CHANCE FOR SERIOUS INJURY WOULD BE THE CAB DRIVER!

injury would be the cab driver! Tianjin taxis are in serious need of attention. Seatbelts are essential. Front and rear passengers must have the opportunity to buckle up. The cab drivers, the cab management companies, and most of all the Tianjin Taxi Bureau would do well to reexamine all practices related to seatbelts. Passengers need protection. Without seat belts soon enough those pretty white seat covers will be red.

安全带的重要性

美国疾病控制预防中心用一组冷酷的数据证明了安全带在危急时刻拯救生命的重要性。尽管如此，还是有不少的天津市民选择在乘车的时候不系安全带。

很多老司机认为只有“生手”才需要系安全带，而如果你在一个老司机车上系了安全带，他会觉得你在怀疑他的驾驶能力。中国人向来忌讳带有禁忌的词语，倘若你在一个司机面前系上了安全带，他会觉得这是一种视觉暗示。司机普遍认为安全带是没有用处的，他们自己不系，也会劝阻乘客不去使用，如此往复，使得安全带陷入了无限死循环中。人们总是认为在城市里驾车，以那样的速度即使再快也不会导致过重的事故。可但凡生活在周边的人，他就会知道，这无疑是个莫大的谎言。想想看，每每日落之时，那些满载负荷的疯狂的卡车司机，穿梭于城市之间，不顾闯红灯的危险，奔向一个又一个的工地。一旦发生事故，其后果必将是惨重的。

天津的出租车必须统一配备白色椅套，而像机场等场所，如若发现出租车没有按照此标准配备座套，那么将会面临巨额的罚款。白色座套的确漂亮，可我们更愿意相关单位能够重视起这些座椅背后所存在的安全隐患，天津市的大多出租车后座都是没有安全带设施的。

天津市的有关规定表明，如果出租车发生意外，导致乘客受伤，那么出租车司机将付全部责任。所以，系安全带更是在保护司机的权益。所有的出租车司机都要引以为戒。如果有机会，请务必保证前后座都要系上安全带。相关单位也要落实安全带的实施。生命诚可贵，务必谨记安全带的重要性，切莫让美丽的白色椅套变了颜色。

huge loads up and down the main streets from numerous building sites currently going on around town. A collision with one of them would be absolutely brutal.

The seat belt story gets even worse. Some cabs, with the word some being stressed, have seatbelts in the front. However these are typically filthy as no one has worn them for some time. The back seat passengers don't even get such a chance. Tianjin taxis in large have no backseat seatbelts.

Why? This is where the tale gets really crazy. Apparently there is a requirement that all Tianjin taxis must have seat covers. These seat covers are standardized. The seat covers must be all white and used on all seats. Cabbies claim at places like the airport if a cab is found without white seat covers a huge fine will be given. While pretty white seat covers may be nice, what about the fact that these seat covers are covering up the potentially lifesaving backseat seatbelts?!

When it comes to seatbelts, Tianjin cabbies are far too overconfident. They feel as though they are “too good of a driver” to get into an accident. Even worse the “white seat cover” requirement by the Taxi Bureau is making it so that rear seat passengers have zero hope of buckling up. Perhaps the most ironic thing of all is the issue of liability.

Taxi talk reveals that if an accident occurs, it is very likely any injuries occurring to the passenger will be the responsibility of the taxi driver. Thus, it would be thought the person most motivated to have passengers buckle up and massively reduce the chance for serious

Seatbelts save lives. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provide a number of cold hard facts that prove such a statement. As the saying goes, the numbers don't lie. Yet, everyday in Tianjin taxis are driving around with most passengers unbuckled.

Why? The problem begins with overconfidence. Many taxi drivers feel that only “bad drivers” need to wear safety belts. It is unbelievable how many cabbies almost get offended if a passenger tries to buckle up. Tianjin drivers seem to feel the passenger is questioning their skills. Not to mention a number of cabbies are highly superstitious. Drivers want absolutely no verbal mention of any possible problems such as an accident, as this is “bad luck”. This also seems to include any visual indication of the possibility of trouble, such as the buckling of a seat belt.

Taxi talk reveals drivers simply do not believe seatbelts are necessary. Not only are they themselves not wearing them but they are persuading passengers not to wear them either! The seatbelt conversation is a broken record. It goes like this. Passenger gets in and tries to buckle up. The driver reaches over and stops the passenger, saying persistently: “no, no, no, there's no need for that”.

Why? Again a broken record response of, in the city limits cars aren't going fast enough to result in any serious accidents. Ah, anyone that has been around town knows this is a falsehood. Not to mention as the sun sets the psycho dump truck drivers take to the streets. These guys love to run red lights and haul



TAILOR-MADE CLOTHES by Daniel McCool

There are many benefits of having clothes tailor-made. For all the clothing shops that are out there, it is often difficult to find a style that you like, especially if you are looking for formal wear. You may also wish to trade the price of a brand name for the luxury of having your clothes match your individual. Though it is worth doing your own research online for recommendations and examples of pricing, what follows is a general glance at what is out there and a few tips to help you along.

Tip 1: Look around and bargain

Just as you would look around for the best value when making any other purchase, do so when choosing a tailor. You will want to find a tailor who has the material, color, and quality you are looking for. Most people, regardless of the price, do not like to be charged more than conventional prices. Stick with a tailor that is reasonable and whom you feel is of reputable character. You will need to have a general idea of what the average going-prices are if you are going to bargain

YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO TRADE THE PRICE OF A BRAND NAME FOR THE LUXURY OF HAVING YOUR CLOTHES MATCH YOUR INDIVIDUAL.

well – so shop around!

Tip 2: Pay half upon completion

Tailors typically request the payment be made up-front. However, to ensure that the tailor provides his best for the money, request to pay half of the cost up-front and the other upon completion of the job.

Tip 3: Know what you want

Knowing what you want not only saves times, but you any after-the-fact trouble. Know if you want your article to fit your figure (合体的) or to be loose (松的). Also, think about any specific requirements you may have, such as extra pockets or zippers. If

buying a suit, for example, know how many pairs of trousers you would like to accompany the jacket.

Hold the fabric up against your body and look at yourself in the mirror. Browse the tailor's catalogues for a style that you like – or take in your own picture! If your article requires buttons, you may need to purchase these separately from a different vendor if the tailor does not have any to match your chosen fabric.

Tip 4: Try it on

When picking up your article, try it on! The tailor will make any adjustments or alterations needed. Walk around, stand up, sit down, and stretch. Get an idea of how it will feel before you walk away.

Tip 5: Form a good relationship

It is nice to be nice, and you may want to return for alternations or additional articles.

Prices and Locations:

There is a multi-story fabric market called Shijitianle (河北区海河东路世纪天乐轻纺城) across from Dabeyuan Temple in Hongqiao District, close to the Tianjin Eye. There are many tailors to choose from. Some offer the option of having your articles made in a factory, at a higher price but better quality, or by hand. They wanted to charge me anywhere from CNY1200 to CNY1500 before haggling. Finally, I got a 2-piece suit (trousers and jacket) for CNY900. (I was satisfied with the quality.) This seems to be the general bracket for a market tailor. More high-end tailors will cost a few thousand.

量体裁衣更划算

如果你在商场里找不到适合自己的衣服，尤其是正装礼服，你不妨考虑一下私人定制。与其把钱花在购买品牌效应上，不如找一个好裁缝，做一身完美贴合自己身材的衣服。只在网上查找评论是不够的，你必须亲自到市场里去考察。

1. 货比三家，勿忘比价：你要考察一下裁缝手里的面料材质、颜色和品质。多问几家，了解一下行情。
2. 不要一开始就付全款，先预付一半。
3. 清楚自己的需求：包括基本款式以及口袋和拉链的数量。
4. 全方位试衣，有不合适的地方马上提出来。
5. 和裁缝搞好关系，方便日后改衣服或做新衣服。



MOVIE TITLE: IF YOU ARE THE ONE II 非诚勿扰2

Fei Cheng Wu Rao



Director: Feng Xiao Gang 冯小刚

Actors: Ge You 葛优; Shu Qi 舒淇 (real name is Lin LiHui 林立慧);
Sun Hong Lei 孙红雷; Yao Chen 姚晨

This is a follow up to the first movie with the same main stars released in 2008 called If You Are The One and was a box office success of over 300million rmb thus resulting in this release in 2010, which was also a success at over 400 million rmb. Ge and Shu decide to test their relationship when they attend their best friends' Sun and Chen's divorce held in Sanya, Hainan. They decide to have

a trial marriage, which fails miserably, but are drawn together with the impending death of Sun at his life celebration event also in Sanya.

The movie is quite easy to follow and no need to see the first 2008 film in order to establish continuity, they both stand alone well and it is doubtful there will be a sequel, although there is a TV series version.

The movie has a strong cast and they blend well together.

Interesting that actor Ge You has a serious aversion towards flying so he probably travelled to the Sanya location via ship. It was well known that he missed the Cannes presentations because of his flying phobia. Ge and Director Feng, who is also from Beijing and both are similar age so probably grew up together.

The female lead, Shu Qi is originally from Taipei and made her start in soft porn when she was a teenager and is now trying to purchase those originals.

The movie is also set in Tianjin and it is fun to see the local landmarks.

《非诚勿扰2》是电影《非诚勿扰》的续集，由冯小刚执导，葛优，舒淇，孙红雷，姚晨，廖凡等人主演。该片延续了第一集的故事，讲述了秦奋和梁笑笑的爱情故事。秦奋（葛优饰）和笑笑（舒淇饰）在好友离婚典礼的启发下，决定试婚。在他们共同生活期间，秦奋深沉的爱意变成了笑笑的压力，两人最终分道扬镳。就在两人即将忘记对方的时候，他们又在老友的人生告别会上再次相逢。在即将离世的老友点化下，笑笑最终明白了婚姻的真谛，两人重归于好。影片主要取景三亚，最终以4亿多票房佳绩获得成功。

TV SERIES: TIANJIN FOOD SEARCH 美食新气象

Mei Shi Xin Qi Xiang



Hosts: Zhu Yi 朱懿 (regular) plus some special guests such as specialists from Traditional Chinese Hospital and Master Chefs for shows.

Since food is such an important part of Chinese culture and there are so many different cuisines in various regions in China. It is generally accepted that there are eight culinary cuisines of China: Anhui, Cantonese, Fujian, Hunan, Jiangsu, Shandong, Sichuan and Zhejiang. However many people can identify variations within these eight categories such as Chui Chow and Hakka within Cantonese.

No wonder most foreigners find it hard to describe their own home-style foods, which are considered quite simple and bland in

comparison with Chinese foods, especially when North American cuisine is used as a reference. Therefore what better way to learn about China, than watching a TV series based on food?

This local program is great as it identifies, the type of cuisine, provides the recipes, shows the viewer the ingredients, preparation and even shows the origin of the dish and where it can be served in a local restaurant. The recipes are so detailed that an attempt at home is not out of the question.

In a recent program, host Zhu Yi had a specialist from Tianjin Traditional University Hospital 天津中医药大学 (Tianjin Zhong Yi Yao Da Xue) and a Master Chef from a local restaurant to demonstrate the preparation of the dish.

Zhu also did a location shot at a local suburb restaurant that are very quaint and features home cooking and most ingredients are grown locally and you can even catch your own fish in their local fishpond. These restaurants are known as Nong Jia Le 农家乐 literally "Farm House Holiday". They usually have limited menus so make sure you confirm the price of the meal before ordering.

饮食，是中国文化的重要组成部分。了解中国的饮食文化，观看美食节目必不可少。《美食新气象》是天津电视台都市频道一档专业饮食健康节目。栏目贴近百姓生活，将美食、健康完美结合，成为百姓心目中健康饮食的风向标。主持人朱懿每期都会请到不同的嘉宾专家，结合季节气候为观众推荐健康饮食。节目自开播以来，受到天津观众朋友的一致好评。



TIANJIN MALLS — Parkson Shopping Center

bai sheng gou wu zhong xin
百盛购物中心



The Parkson Shopping Center is located at the corner of Fuan Dajie and Heping Lu in Heping District (和平区福安大街与和平路交口). The nearest metro station is line 3 Heping Lu stop (和平路站 héping lù zhàn). From the station it is still quite a distance, so a cab may be in order.

The Parkson Shopping Center is one of the older shopping malls in Tianjin. It is within walking distance of the river and the large Beian Bridge (北安桥 běiān qiáo). In recent times it has been renovated. It has a total of eight floors and one basement level. The basement level has bathrooms, a selection of shoe stores

(one of which is "ecco"), a hair salon and Hosa Fitness.

Hosa Fitness (浩沙健身 hàoshā jiànshēn) is a gym with a solid collection of equipment. It is newly renovated, up to date and well lit. While there is no lack of machines to use, there are lots of glass walls. This makes everyone inside a bit of a spectacle on display to the mall shoppers walking by.

Level 1 is a collection of cosmetics, jewelry, and perfume. Level 2 is women's business apparel, handbags and accessories. Level 3 is intimate apparel. Level 4 features a few jeans stores, one of which is Levi's. Level 5 is men's wear. Level 6 is sports apparel. There is where Adidas®, Columbia Sportswear, New Balance, Nike, and The North Face® can all be found. Level 7 is toys, children's goods and small appliances. Lastly level 8 has a few restaurants, though most were empty except for a Sichuan Chinese restaurant called Molihuakai (茉莉花开). The day I visited the Parkson Shopping Center, as a whole, it was very quiet, few if any customers. This indicates the real challenge retailers have in drawing customers these days.

百盛购物中心是天津比较有历史的一家百货公司，最近刚刚进行了一次装修。1楼至8楼分别是是化妆品、珠宝盒香水柜台，女装和内衣专柜，牛仔休闲装，男装，体育用品，儿童商品、玩具和餐饮。地下一层是浩沙健身中心，巨大的玻璃窗让跑步机上挥汗如雨的会员成为一道风景。距离百盛购物中心最近的地铁站是3号线和平路站，但依然要走约一公里的距离。

TIANJIN METRO LINE 3 WU FAMILY KILN STOP

wu jia yao zhan
天津地铁3吴家窑站



Expats around Tianjin were excited by the news that metro line 3 opened in Tianjin. At current Tianjin has line 1, 2, and 3 as the main "intra-city" lines. With lines 5 and 6 in progress, slowly but surely the Tianjin metro system is becoming useful to expats and locals alike looking for a haven from the traffic and driving restrictions related to street level travel.

If needing to go to Tianjin Children's Hospital the closet stop is line 3 Wu Family Kiln Stop, exit A1. This puts passengers on the right side of the road to then catch either a cab or bus to the hospital. Another option is to take line 3 Wu Family Kiln Stop, exit A2 and

then walk to the hospital.

The line 3 Wu Family Kiln Stop, exit B may be quite familiar to expats since the Golden Bridge International Hotel (金桥国际宾馆) along with some administrative offices for the Normal University is in the area. In recent years this location has also been one of the places where the HSK (Chinese Proficiency Test) is administered. So too near exit B is the Tianjin Air Force Base (空军大院) and the Caesar Palace Hotel (凯撒皇宫大酒店).

Exit C is currently not open. Exit D has a TaoBao City (淘宝城) and the Heavenly Water Hotel (天水大酒店) in the area. Another plus of the line 3 Wu Family Kiln Stop, exits A1 and D is the immediate proximity of the 气象台路德才里 and德才里 bus stops, which means transfers from bus to metro or vice versa are particularly easy here.

地铁3号线的开通，为天津的市民提供了极大的方便。其吴家窑站更是设有众多出口以满足不同乘客的出行需求。乘客如果去儿童医院，可从A1或A2口出来。出口B的附近有金桥国际宾馆，师范大学的很多行政办公室都坐落在这边，所以外国朋友对这边应该很熟悉。近几年，这里还成为了HSK的一个考试管理中心。紧邻出口B的是天津空军大院和凯撒皇宫大酒店。目前，出口C尚未开放。出口D可去往淘宝城和天水大酒店。出口A1和出口D的外面是德才里公交站，乘客换乘十分方便。

CAVAZZA Wine Tasting Party

The century-old Cavazza winery is located in central Veneto, Italy, hometown of Romeo and Juliet. Combining modern brewery technology with ancient brewery tradition, CAVAZZA has been offering wines fully of charm and energy for four generations.

Joining hands with Fresco Café, CAVAZZA organized a wine tasting party on Jan 10. On the wine tasting party, CAVAZZA introduced some famous sparkling wines including Prosecco, Toari Rose and Recioto as well as wines like Dulcis white wine, Gambellara and Merlot. All the wines were well received by local connoisseurs.



YY Craft Beer Tasting

On January 10 for the first time, a craft beer tasting party was held at the YY Craft Beer House. An Australian craft beer fan provided his recipe and made his own beer using the equipment and ingredients provided by YY.

The processing and science involved in making craft beer from grinding the malt to fermentation, was of great interest to the customers in the restaurant as well as many passersby. Mr. Li Wenzhong, the owner of the YY Craft Beer House briefed the customers on each kind of malt that was used as well as the procedures involved in producing craft beers. Customers were invited to taste the different malts which have a natural grain fragrance. It took about two hours to complete the whole procedure and it will be another three weeks before the beer will be ready.



Eric won the top prize from the public judges on Chopsticks & Beyond, Tianjin Snack Attack Contest

CRIENGLISH.com and Tianjin Television City Channel organized "Chopsticks & Beyond, Tianjin Snack Attack contest" on 9 January, 2015 in Tianjin.

The contestants were all foreign expats, most of whom make their living in Tianjin's food or hospitality industries. The competitors were dealt the tall order of creating three Tianjin specialties: goubuli baozi (steamed buns stuffed with vegetables), guifaxiang mahua (fried dough twists) or jianbing guozi (fried crepe topped with egg and garnishes).

Eric-Jan van Haastrecht, GM of Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe took part in the competition and won the top prize from the public judges as his works of Jianbing Guozi and Mahua were very popular among the public judges. "I learned something today," Eric said graciously, accepting his prize. "I look forward to welcoming more guests to Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe to try our Jianbing Guozi, Goubuli Baozi and Mahua and have a great time and learn more about Tianjin culture and our neighborhood."



Peter Nast Appointed General Manager of The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel Tianjin

German hotelier Peter Nast has been appointed General Manager of The Astor Hotel in Tianjin, a flagship of Starwood's Luxury Collection brand in China.

A professional and adaptable veteran with almost 3 decades' hospitality work experience, Peter steps into his new role in Starwood after serving in several successive key executive and General Manager position in a variety of premium boutique hotels and international hotel chains, such as Kempinski and IHG groups. He left his footprint across different locations, including Asia, Europe and Middle East. He was previously General Manager at Kempinski Nile Hotel, Cairo, Egypt.

Peter Nast is well known as an accomplished people motivator and result orientated leader strong in delivering extraordinary operational excellence. In his new role, Mr. Nast is responsible for all aspects of the Astor Hotel's operations, including financial performance, guest engagement, employee development and brand recognition.

Peter will bring his senior hospitality industry management experience to the iconic 152-year old landmark in Tianjin's financial and business district. With his depth and breadth of knowledge, keen attention to detail and his expert understanding of the luxury traveller's requirements, hotel will enhance the positioning and reputation of this unique and historical property



Crowne Plaza Tianjin Meijiangan announced the appointment of Iris Sui as the Director of Sales and Marketing

Crowne Plaza Tianjin Meijiangan recently announced the appointment of Iris Sui as the Director of Sales and Marketing. Iris started her hospitality career in sales field in 2004 with 10 years sales experience. Prior to Crowne Plaza Tianjin Meijiangan she took the role as sales effectiveness director of InterContinental Hotels Group, Greater China. Iris with rich sales experiences has serviced several hotels in international hospitality groups such as Hyatt and Starwood. Being the leader of sales and marketing team, Iris looks forward to sharing her considerable experience with her team, and we believe that Ms. Iris Sui will bring more value to Crowne Plaza Tianjin Meijiangan with her passion and extensive sales experience.



Westin Health-Sleep Well

Recently, The Westin Tianjin celebrated the 15-year Anniversary of the Heavenly Bed Products and our fulfillment of keeping the promise of Sleep Well. Again, we held a theme activity about this which called "Westin Health - Sleep Well".



During, all the coming guests joint a wonderful party at the President Suite. Our assistant executive chef provided a traditional Chinese healthy pre-sleep desert - Lotus Seed Soup. The guests spoke highly about it. People would fall in love with Heavenly Bed during their trip worldwide, and they want to bring them home so badly. Our brand is all over the world which let us achieve more in the retail business. During the Sleep Well event, our professionals talked about all aspects about the Heavenly Bed just let the guests knew more about it. What's more, they had a small completion of making bed.

Time came to 9 o'clock in the evening, the "Sleep Well Pajama Party" was on. Yogurt, fruits and all kinds of healthy food were all over the place. The lovely kids even had a lovely pillow fight on the Heavenly Bed."

For the 15-year Anniversary of our Heavenly Bed, we commit that we will strive to keep our promises of increasing the sleep quality. Also, we will explode the mystery of how to sleep well because a high-quality sleep experience will be helpful to live healthy and relief the pressure." General Manager of The Westin Tianjin, Mr. Kanbur Lee mentioned, "It is really our honor to hold this Sleep Well activity, so we can give a chance to let our customers know more about our program. All we do here is to find them a better and healthier status for another new day."

Xun Lounge Introduced a New Mode of Alcohol Sales



Xun Lounge is the first economical alcohol mart with over 1000 types of alcohols, including Japanese sake, wines, whisky. All the alcohols are sold at a price lower than average market price. Xun has joined hands with Qian

He Japanese Restaurant to promote the new type of alcohol sales. While having the Japanese food, you can order any alcohol you like without worrying about the extravagantly high drink bills as all the alcohols of the restaurant are provided by Xun Lounge sold at the same price as in the mart.

On a wine tasting party at Qian He, Xun Lounge presented several types of alcohols including white wine, sake, whisky and soju and guests were able to sample each alcohol with a proper dish prepared by Qian He.

Wherever you want to treat your friends, family or clients, Xun Lounge can also deliver the alcohol to your designated address directly.



hotel nikko tianjin
天津日航酒店

Tao Li Special Discount day January – March, 2015

Monday, Wednesday, Friday Double boiled seafood soup RMB88net
Monday-Tuesday-Thursday Sea Bass with Teriyaki Sauce RMB58/net
Saturday and Sunday Dim Sum Select menu 50% off, more than 20 items
Reservations: 83198888 Ext. 3561
Venue: Hotel Nikko Tianjin Tao Li Chinese Dining 6F



RENAISSANCE
TIANJIN LAKEVIEW HOTEL
万丽天津宾馆

Reunion Dinner for Chinese New Year

Looking for a good deal during the coming Chinese New Year in Tianjin downtown? Dynasty Chinese Restaurant, conveniently located at Xiaobailou CBD, is the right place. You can host your family and friends with our wide varieties of classic Cantonese cuisine from only RMB1588. Please call Dynasty Restaurant at 022-23026888-6420.



TGIFRIDAYS
TEDA INTERNATIONAL CLUB TIANJIN
天津泰达国际会馆

Romantic Valentine's Day Set Meal at TGIFRIDAYS

On Valentine's Day, say you love at TGI FRIDAYS and celebrate it with our classic food. Special guestroom promotion of TEDA International Club Tianjin at only 598RMB/night with breakfast and Ripple Spa for two persons. Love is to share!
Reservation hotline : 58695555—8456
Add: 7+2, Fu Kang Lu, Nankai District



HYATT
REGENCY
TIANJIN EAST
天津东丽皇冠假日酒店

Valentine's Day at Hyatt Regency Tianjin East

Enjoy the romantic ambience and celebrate the special day with your loved one at Hyatt Regency Tianjin East.
Market Café is presenting a special buffet menu with free flow of soft drinks, beer and a half Boston lobster for each person. Each couple will also receive a bottle of sparkling wine and two roses to celebrate this special day.
CNY 688 net per couple
Have an enjoyable time with your loved one with our Valentine's Day Packages. The packages include a one-night stay in a Hyatt Guestroom/Regency Suite, a Western set menu for two, strawberries, a stalk of rose, a box of chocolates, one bottle of sparkling wine and in-room American Breakfast the next day.
CNY1314* for Hyatt Guestroom /CNY1688* for Regency Suite per room night
Above rates are valid on 14February and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Package rate is subject to 15% service charge.
For reservations, please call: +86 22 2457 1234

CROWNE PLAZA
TIANJIN MEIJIANGNAN
天津梅江皇冠假日酒店



You are always in my heart

The ambience of sweet and intimate, the castle style of architecture, creates the romantic memories to enjoy. Romantic Valentine's Day Set Menu, true love price RMB468 net/2pax. An addition of RMB 320 enjoy one night stay in Crowne Plaza Superior Room with two breakfasts.
Venue: Focus Café (On the G floor) Promotion period: 13-14 Feb. 2015

BANYAN TREE
TIANJIN RIVERVIEW
天津河滨 Banyan Tree 酒店



Valentine's Dinner

Celebrate in a festive atmosphere accompanied by your loved one at River Café with Banyan Tree's renowned romantic atmosphere, a sumptuous seafood buffet, soothing rhythm and much more...
February 14, 2015, 6:00pm to 9:30pm Level One, River Café
RMB699 net per couple including a glass of sparkling wine and Valentine's Day gift for Ladies

Radisson BLU
PLAZA HOTEL
TIANJIN
天津泰达国际会馆



Chinese Seafood Buffet RMB188* per person February 1 - March 31, 2015

Celebrate Lunar New Year, let us enjoy sumptuous buffet with lavish traditional Chinese cooking styles seafood, pork soy bean sauce noodles, local snacks, sushi, sashimi and desserts! Inclusive of free flow soft drinks and rice wine.
Every Friday & Saturday from 18:00 - 21:00 hrs. at Cafe@66
Terms and Conditions: *Subject to 15% service charge
For more information or to make a reservation, please call 2457 8888 ext. 3635
ADD: 66 Xinkai Road, Hedong District, Tianjin

PAN PACIFIC
TIANJIN
天津洲际酒店



Amour in the Air

Pacifica presents you a carefully curated buffet spread of the freshest ingredients on this romantic Valentine's Day evening. Indulge in crustacean catches done in our way, including our platter of Gratinated Boston Lobster with Mozzarella Cheese and Fresh Rockefeller Oysters, Roasted Norwegian Salmon and Roasted New Zealand Lamb Rack with Mint Jelly. End your meal with the sweet touches from our delectable desserts, featuring our Signature Freshly Baked Chocolate Lava Cake as well as our Chocolate Fountain in Pretty Pink.
All diners are pampered with a glass of sparkling wine, free flow of beer, juices, soft drinks, coffee and tea.
Ladies are in for a treat with an exclusive gift and a rose with compliments from us. Express the adoration and affection for your significant other on Valentine's Day.
* Make your reservation and pre-pay by 31 January 2015 to enjoy the rate of RMB 198 net per person.
* Prices revert back to RMB 228 net per person from 1 February 2015.
* This promotion is only valid on 14 February 2015.



Shangri-La hotel
天津香格里拉大酒店

ALL ABOUT LOVE AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, TIANJIN

Spoil your loved ones with a five-course set dinner prepared by Executive Chef Johnston Ang at The Horizon Club on Level 32. An evening of decadent delights, such as the Oven-Baked Porcini Mushroom Cream Soup with Puff Pastry and Roasted Wagyu Beef Tenderloin with King Prawn in Hazelnut Coriander Spices drizzled with Red Wine Sauce.
This five-course dinner is available on 14 February 2015 for Rmb1,998 nett for two persons and includes one bottle of Perrier-Jouët Champagne.
For more information or to make a reservation, please call Food and Beverage Reservations on (022) 8418 8111 or email fbreservation.sltj@shangri-la.com.



RENAISSANCE
TIANJIN LAKEVIEW HOTEL
万丽天津宾馆

ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS

Enjoy Valentine's Day Dinner Buffet @ BLD
RMB 388 nett/person inclusive of 1 glass of welcome cocktail per person (One bill includes two people or above can get one Valentine's Day rose soap gift box)
Set Dinner for Your Romantic Valentine's Day @ Fire House
RMB 1,188 nett/2 pax inclusive of 2 glasses of sparkling wine (Enjoy the above menu or actual spend over RMB 999 at Fire House can get one Valentine's Day rose soap gift box)
Make your Valentine's Day a little sweeter with a special cocktail @ The Lounge.
Valentine's Day Cocktail RMB 68 nett/glass, buy one get one free.
Valentine's Day Room Package
Enjoy the sweet room rate RMB 399 nett/night at Deluxe Room, inclusive of breakfast buffet for 2 pax on 14th of February, 2015.
(The rater is only valid for the guests who enjoy the Valentine's Day specials menu, excluding The Lounge)
For reservation and more information, please contact at 5822 3388.



CROWNE PLAZA
TIANJIN MEIJIANGNAN
天津梅江皇冠假日酒店

"Lovers of Sea and Earth" Valentine's Day Dinner

Spoil your loved one with a romantic dinner at The Lakeview restaurant this Valentine's Day in Crowne Plaza Tianjin Meijiangan. Enjoy the exquisite dinner with a deluxe platter of assorted delicacies, including seafood, Aussie beef and lamb and vegetables, all prepared in your choice of sauce ranging from porcini mushroom sauce, red wine sauce and dill lemon emulsion. Diners are welcomed with tempting handmade desserts, romantic rose and chocolate, and can enjoy 50% discount for guest room. (Start from CNY350+15% service charge)
The cost for this Valentine's Day Dinner option is net CNY668 per couple. This offer is only valid for Saturday, 14 February 2015.
ADD: East to South Youyi Road (Opposite to Tianjin Meijiang Conference & Exhibition Center) Xiqing District, Tianjin, P.R. China 300221
TEL: +86 22 5857 6666

ST REGIS
TIANJIN
セント・レジスホテル



Chinese New Year Re-union Dinner the st. regis tianjin reserves the right of final explanations.

Let us welcome the New Year of The Sheep with symbolic dishes representing good luck, prosperity, health and abundance.
Be with all members of your family and have a sumptuous and traditional reunion dinner at Promenade
RMB 388 net per person, SPG / ICARD member enjoy 25% off
Valid on February 18 only
for reservations, please call +86.22. 5830. 9999
or e-mail promenade.tianjin@stregis.com, stregis.com/tianjin

1863 BISTRO & TERRACE
天津 1863 比萨屋



Romantic Valentine's Day at 1863 Bistro & Terrace

Take a chance to indulge your loved ones in celebrating Valentine's Day in one of the most romantic dining venue with a special crafted 5 course menu with Boston Lobster RMB 888 per couple, including 5 course set menu with Boston Lobster as main course - 1 glass JC Le Roux pink sparkling wine per person and roses for the lady
Date: 14th Feb. 2015, dinner only
The price above subject 15% service charge, and accept reservation for Valentine's Day dinner from now.
For more information or make a reservation, please call 86 22 5852 6888 ext. 8918

Wanda Vista
Tianjin
天津万达文华酒店



Wanda Vista Tianjin Launches Asian Cuisine Festival at Cafe Vista

The culinary team at Cafe Vista in Wanda Vista Tianjin is thrilled to unveil the Asian Cuisine Festival, which includes selected ingredients and condiments from Thailand, India, Malaysia and Vietnam which will deliver typical local tastes exclusively for you.
Buffet dinner is at RMB 288nett/person; Club One members or group purchasing can enjoy special discounts; valid from 1 February until 31 March, 2015.
For enquiries or reservations, please contact the hotel at (86 22) 2462 6888 or by email to sales.tianjin@wandahotels.com

THE RITZ-CARLTON
天津



VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER Feb. 14, Sat

Come to FLAIR to treat your beloved one to a flavorful, exotic dinner with live Jazz band performance. Toast to her/him and express your love. RMB999+* for two persons, 7 courses prepared by Chef Henry Li including Pan Fried Scallop with Red Onion Sauce, Slow-Cooked Wagyu Beef Short Rib... and two glasses of selected wine, pay RMB200+* more to upgrade to Moët Rose Champagne
Venue: FLAIR Bar and Restaurant of The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin
Tel: 86-22-5857-8888

E =English Menu 有英文菜单
CC =Credit Card 可信用卡付账
¥ =Cost per person 人均消费
★ =Editor's pic 编辑推介
P =Parking 有停车位

RESTAURANT

[Western 西餐厅]

Tianjin Downtown

Fleur De Lys Restaurant
 利兹卉西餐厅

Fantastic surroundings and marvelous selection of food and teas great for a quiet afternoon with someone special.
 Address: 3F Lotte Department Store, 9 Le Yuan Dao, Hexi District, Tianjin
 天津市河西区乐园道9号乐天百货三层
 Tel: 022-58908026
 Hrs: 10:30am-21:00pm

Café BLD

餐府西餐厅 ★ P E D3
 Offers buffets with open kitchen.
 1F, Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel, 16 Binshui Road, Hexi
 河西区滨水道16号万丽天津宾馆1层
 Tel: 5822 3388
 Hrs: 06:00am-10:30am;
 11:30am-14:00pm;
 17:30pm-22:00pm

Hank's Sports Bar & Grill

★ ¥ 80 P E B4
 Special dishes each week. A real western bar for watching sports and eating steaks.
 Vanke Jin Ao International Square, Zhong Shi You Bridge, Wei Jin South Road, He Xi District, Tianjin, Chian 300221
 天津市河西区卫津南路中石油立交桥东南侧万科金奥国际广场6号楼333室
 Tel: 13821611049 / 13920614814
 Email: theupperdecktj@yahoo.com
 Hrs: 11:00am-23:00pm

Wind Song Western Restaurant

风之颂西餐厅 ¥ 100 P E
 Features an impressive variety of buffet choice for breakfast, lunch, dinner. Continental and Asian cuisine is the fare, with large open kitchen.
 Crown Plaza Tianjin Hotel, No.55 Zhongxin Avenue, Airport Industrial Park.
 空港物流加工区中心大道55号天津滨海圣光皇冠假日酒店一楼
 Tel: 5867 8888 -2333
 Hrs: 06:30am-24:00pm

Café d'Or

西锦汇餐厅 ¥200 P E D7
 From exquisite Chinese cuisine to exciting Japanese-European fusion dishes, Café d'Or satisfy discriminating gourmet patrons.
 6F, Tangla Hotel Tianjin, No.219 Nanjing Road Heping
 和平区南京路219号天津中心津拉雅秀酒店6楼
 Tel:23215888
 Hrs: 06:00am-10:30am;
 11:30am-14:00pm; 17:30pm-21:30pm

Promenade Italian Restaurant

海岸意大利餐厅 ¥200 P E C7
 Cuisines are showcased in a sumptuous à la carte menu. International favorites comprising fresh produce are prepared by a dedicated team of savvy chefs.
 1F, St. Regis Tianjin, No. 158 Zhang Zi Zhong Road, Heping
 和平区张自忠路158号, 天津瑞吉金爵酒店一层
 Tel: 5830 9959
 Hrs: 06:00am-23:00pm

Cholito

西班牙餐厅
 Offers elegant, comfortable afternoon lunch and evening dining, featuring Spanish music and interior design.
 Address: at the crossing of Hebei Lu and Luoyang Dao, Heping District
 地址: 和平区五大道河北路和洛阳道交口
 Tel: 58352833
 Hrs: 11:30am-15:30pm 17:00pm-22:00pm

Buddies Restaurant & Bar

老友记
 The first Tianjin restaurant to offer real American hamburgers and craft beer. Every hamburger was made from prime beef with whole wheat buns and fresh organically grown vegetables.
 Bldg. A3m Magnetic Plaza, Binshui Xi Dao, Nankai
 南开区滨水道时代奥城商业广场A3区
 Tel: 022-58112656
 Hrs: 11:00am-24:00pm

Le Loft

院
 Good steak and nice place for friends and family.
 at the cross of Nanjing Lu and Jinzhou Dao, Heping
 和平区南京路与锦州道交口
 Tel: 27239363, 18702200612
 Hrs: 11:30am-14:00pm;
 14:00pm-17:00pm; 18:00pm-21:30pm

Drei Kronen-1308 Brauhaus

路德维格1308 德餐啤酒坊 ★ P E D7
 Good sausages, awesome pork knuckle and nice beers.
 1F, BLKS, Jinwan Plaza Jiefangbei Road, Heping
 和平区解放北路津湾广场5号楼1层
 Tel: 23219199
 www.ldwg1308.com
 Hrs: 11:00am-24:00pm

TGI FRIDAY'S

星期五餐厅 P E B4
 Great place to have tasty burgers, french fries, chicken and steak.
 No.7-2, Fukang Lu, Nankai
 南开区复康路7-2号
 Tel:23005555
 Hrs: 11:00am-24:00pm

Terrace Café

燕园咖啡厅 C4
 Offers both buffet and à la carte service. Western and Asian specialties featured at the buffet and theme nights are offered nightly.
 1F, Sheraton Hotel Tianjin, Zi Jin Shan Lu, Hexi
 河西区紫金山路天津喜来登大酒店1层
 Tel:27313388
 Hrs: 06:00am-23:00pm

PAULANER Tianjin

普拉纳啤酒坊 D7
 A unique journey experiencing authentic Bavarian food, flair and coziness.
 Venice Square, Italian Territory, No.429-431, Shengli Lu, Hebei
 河北区胜利路429-431号意大利风情威尼斯广场
 Tel:24468192
 Hrs: 11:00am-01:00am

Seasonal Tastes

“知味”全日餐厅 P E D6
 Offers Asian and international dishes.
 1F, The Westin TianjinNo.101 Nanjing Road, Heping
 和平区南京路101号天津君隆威斯汀酒店1层
 Tel: 2389 0088
 Hrs:06:00am-10:00am;11:30am-14:30pm;
 17:30pm-21:30pm

FLEUR DE LYS RESTAURANT HIGH TEA

Fleur De Lys Restaurant has newly launched its high tea with its many different flavors guaranteed to satisfy the pickiest taste buds. During the promotion, customers can buy one piece of honey toast and get the second at half price. There are also free coffee refills and a selection of drinks at half price. What are you waiting for? Come and enjoy a beautiful afternoon with us and your best friend.

Address: 3F Lotte Department Store, 9 Le Yuan Dao, Hexi District, Tianjin Hrs: 11:30-21:30
 For further details please call **022-58908026**
 Only one offer can be redeemed at a time. All rights are reserved by Fleur De Lys Restaurant.

Coffee 咖啡

Tianjin Downtown

Renaissance Cafe
 万丽咖啡厅 E5 E P
 Renaissance Cafe celebrates the best of Western and Asian cuisine.
 2F, Renaissance Tianjin Hotel, 105 Jianshe Rd, Heping.
 和平区建设路105号滨江万丽酒店二层
 Tel: 2302 6888 Ext.6410
 Hrs: 06:00am-10:00am

Victorian Lounge

大堂吧 E6 E P
 Offers a relaxed atmosphere and nice food.
 The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin33 Taier Zhuang Road, Heping
 和平区台儿庄路33号
 天津利顺德大饭店豪华精选酒店
 Tel: 2331 1688
 Hrs: 08:30am-21:00pm

TEDA&Tanggu

Starbucks Coffee
 星巴克咖啡 P E ¥ 40
 C102, Juchuan Jin hai'an Building, No.453,JiefangLu, Tanggu
 塘沽区解放路453号巨川金海岸商界C102
 Tel: 2589 3409
 Hrs: 9:00-22:00(Mon-Fri)
 08:30-22:30(Sat-Sun)

1F, Tianjin Friendship Mingdu Store, No.19, Huanghai Road, TEDA
 开发区黄海路19号天津友谊商厦名都点一层
 Tel: 6620 1781

Wine 红酒

Tianjin Downtown

Montrose Wine House
 名特公司进口葡萄酒
 Imported wines.
 2nd floor YY Beer House, Montrose(Tianjin) Office
 粤园餐厅二楼名特(天津)办事处
 Tel: 139 200 21679
 Hrs: 09:00am-18:00pm

WELCOME TO MONTROSE WINE HOUSE

MONTROSE FINE WINES 名特·梦图丝

TEL: 022-23215888
 www.montrosewine.com
 E-MAIL: yunhu1589@163.com
 地址: 天津和平区粤园餐厅(粤园餐厅二楼)
 名称: 名特 | 名特 | 办事处
 地址: 3F Lotte Department Store, 9 Le Yuan Dao, Hexi District, Tianjin

TEDA &Tanggu

Dublin Irish Pub

普柏林爱尔兰西餐吧 P E
 Great place, nice food. One of the best places to have a relax.
 No.137, 3rd Avenue, TEDA
 开发区第三大街137号
 Tel: 6629 2963
 Hrs: 10:30am-01:30am

[Japanese 日料]

Tianjin Downtown

Benkyu Teppanyaki

奔屋铁板烧 ¥ 180 P E D6
 Luxury Japanese dining for the businessman.
 5F Hotel Nikko Tianjin, 189 Nanjing Lu, Heping.
 和平区南京路189号天津日航酒店5F
 Tel: 8319 8888(Ext.3558)
 Hrs: 11:30am-14:00pm;
 17:30pm-22:00pm

[FRENCH 法餐厅]

Tianjin Downtown

FLO

薇楼 ¥ 350 P E D7
 The best French Restaurant in Tianjin offers the most authentic French cuisine. Brasserie FLO is the first restaurant in Tianjin to offer fresh oysters from France.
 河北区意大利风情区光复道37号
 No.37 Guangfu Road, Italy Style Town, Hebei
 Tel: 2662 6688
 Fax: 2445 2625
 Hrs: 11:00am-22:30pm

[Chinese 中餐厅]

Tianjin Downtown

Din Tai Fung

鼎泰丰 ¥ 150 P E
 Steamed Bread made of choice ingredients are the main attraction. The Special desserts, steamed glutinous rice pudding and almond togu, will melt in your mouth. The luxury washroom on the first floor is an ideal place for ladies to freshen up.
 18 Binshui Dao, Hexi.
 河西区滨水道18号(滨水道与紫金山路交口)
 Tel: 2813 8138 Ext 8001
 Hrs: 11:00am-14:30pm;
 17:00pm-22:00pm

Tian Tai Xuan

天泰轩
 Savor dishes from the renowned Cantonese tradition in concert with innovative creations exploring seasonal local ingredients, together forming a culinary experience which is not only extraordinary but quite possibly the most unique in the entire world.
 The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin, 1st and 2nd floor, No. 167 Dagubei Road, Heping
 和平区大沽北路167号
 天津丽思卡尔顿酒店一楼和二楼
 Lunch 11:30am-14:00pm
 Dinner 17:30pm-21:30pm
 Tel: 5857-8888
 Seats:160

[Thai&Malay 泰国&马来西亚]

Tianjin Downtown

YY Beer House

粤园泰餐厅 ★ ¥ 100 P E D6
 The best Thai Restaurant in Tianjin offers the fantastic Thai food and beer.
 3 Ao Men Lu, (behind the International Building), Heping.
 和平区澳门路3号(国际大厦后)
 Tel: 2339 9634 1382118292(English)
 Hrs: 11:00am-24:00pm



YY Craft Beer House (NEW OPEN)

粤园泰餐厅 ★ ¥ 100 P E D6
 Xiannong Courtyard, No.1, Hunan Lu, Heping District, Tianjin
 天津市和平区五大道先农大院湖南路1号粤园餐厅
 TEL: 58352835 185-2225-5354 (En)
 Hrs: 11:00-24:00



[Italian 意大利餐厅]

Tianjin Downtown

Prego

意大利餐厅 ¥ 400 P E D6
 Prego's cuisine is rustic yet refined, rooted in tradition while producing innovative creations using only the finest and freshest ingredients available. An extensive wine list highlights the best of both Old and New World varieties.
 3F, The Westin Tianjin, No.101, Nanjing Lu, Heping
 和平区南京路101号天津君隆威斯汀酒店3层
 Tel: 23890088
 Hrs: 11:30am-14:30pm;
 18:00pm-22:00pm

BAR

Tian jin Downtown

River Lounge

瑞吉酒吧 ¥ 100 P E D7
 One of Tianjin's premiere destinations, you can enjoy High Tea or artisan cocktails at the gleaming bar or in conversation areas furnished with rich leather seating overlooking the sparkling Hai River. The signature cocktail features a blend of unique Chinese flavors and seasonings, including Fujian lapsang souchong tea, Sichuan pepper, and soy sauce with fine vodka.
 1F, St. Regis Tianjin, No.158 Zhang Zi Zhong Road, Heping (Next to Jin Tower, the opposite side of Ha Mi Road) 和平区张自忠路158号, 津塔旁, 哈密道正对面, 天津瑞吉金爵酒店一层
 Tel: 5830 9958
 Hrs: 10:00am-01:00am

Blauer Engel

蓝天使啤酒屋 ★ P E
 With an array of boutique beers, live band and great hearty german food, blauer engel is the only bar in Tianjin that blends traditional architect with contemporary design.
 314 Jie Fang Nan Lu, Hexi District, Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe
 天津市河西区解放南路314号 英迪格酒店
 Tel: 88327698
 Hrs: 17:30pm-01:00am

O'Hara's-authentic British lounge

海维林酒吧 - 经典美式酒吧 E6
 Offers the intimacy of an English gentleman's lounge with regal Winchester styled sofas and an oversized bar counter.
 1st floor Astor Wing, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin, 33 Taier Zhuang Road, Heping
 和平区台儿庄路33号天津利顺德大饭店豪华精选酒店, 酒店一层
 Tel: 58526888 ext. 8919
 Hrs: 06:30pm-01:00am

Qba

Q吧 P E D6
 Qba's Latin-inspired décor creates an authentic ambience where delicious tapas and Latin-style snacks are shared among friends.
 The Westin Tianjin, No. 101 Nan Jing Road, Heping
 和平区南京路101号天津君隆威斯汀酒店
 Tel: 2389 0088
 Hrs: 17:00pm-01:00am

Happy Soho Live Music & Dance Bar
 欢乐苏荷酒吧
 Live Filipino band with hot Russian dance girls.
 (Opposite of Central Hotel) No.16, Fortune Plaza, 3rd Avenue, TEDA
 开发区第三大街财富广场16号(中心酒店对面)
 Tel: +86 22 2532 2078
 Hrs: 20:00-02:00

Flair

★ P E E5
 The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin, 1st floor, No. 167 Dagubei Road, Heping District, Tianjin China
 和平区大沽北路167号天津丽思卡尔顿酒店一楼
 Tel: 5857-8888
 Mon-Fri 17:00-24:00 Sat-Sun 17:00-01:00
 Seats:118

SHOPPING

[Department Store 百货]

Tianjin Downtown

Galaxy Mall
 银河国际购物中心
 No.9, Le Yuan Road, Hexi
 河西区乐园道9号
 Tel: 8388 9577
 Fax: 8388 9733
 Web: www.galaxy-mall.com.cn
 Hrs: 10:00-22:00

Tianjin Joy city

大悦城
 No.2, Nanmen Wai Da Jie, Nankai
 河西区南门外大街2号
 Tel: 5861 8888
 Web: tjjoycity.com

Tianjin Aeon Mall

天津永旺购物中心
 Zhongshanbei Store
 中山北路 (10:00-22:00)
 No.1, Fushan Dao, Zhongbei Industrial Park, Xiqing
 西青区中北工业园阜盛道1号
 Tel: 8719 5700
 TEDA Store 泰达店 (10:00-22:00)
 No.29, Shishangdong Lu, Development Zone
 开发区时尚东路29号
 Tel: 5985 7000

plaza66

天津恒隆广场
 160 Zhangzizhong Lu, Heping District
 和平区张自忠路160号

[Grocery 超市]

Tianjin Downtown

Hisense Supermarket

海信超市
 -1F, Hisense Plaza, No.188, Jiefang Bei Lu, Heping
 和平区解放北路188号海信广场负1层
 Tel: 2373 1998
 Hrs: 10:00-21:30 (Mon-Fri)
 10:00-22:00 (Sat-Sun)

Isetan Supermarket

伊势丹超市
 -1F, Isetan, No.108, Nanjing Lu, Heping
 和平区南京路108号伊势丹1层
 Tel: 2722 1111
 Hrs: 10:00-21:00

[Decorations 家居装饰]

Tianjin Downtown

IKEA
 宜家家居
 A No.433, Jintang Road, Dongli District
 东丽区津塘公路433号
 Tel:400-800-2345

SPORTS

[Gym 健身]

Tianjin Downtown

Sheraton Hotel Fitness Center
喜来登健身美容中心
Inside Sheraton Hotel Tianjin, Zi Jin Shan Lu, Hexi
河西区紫金山路天津喜来登饭店内
Tel: 27313388
Hrs: 06:00-24:00

Westin WORKOUT®
威斯汀健身中心
5F The Westin Tianjin, No.101 Nanjing Road, Heping
和平区南京路101号天津君隆威斯汀酒店5层
Tel: 2389 0088
Hrs: 06:00-22:00

HOTEL

[Hotel 酒店]

Tian jin Downtown

The Westin Tianjin
天津君隆威斯汀酒店
No.101, Nanjing Road, Heping District
和平区南京路101号
Tel: 2389 0088
Fax: 2389 0099
Website: westin.com/Tianjin

Wanda Vista Tianjin
天津万达文华酒店
No.486, Ba Hao Lu, Da Zhi Gu, Hedong
河东区大直沽八号路486号
Tel: 2462 6888

The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin
天津丽思卡尔顿酒店
No. 167 Dagubei Road, Heping
和平区大沽北路167号
Tel: 5857-8888
Fax: 5857-8899
www.ritzcarlton.com

Sheraton Tianjin Hotel
天津喜来登大酒店
Zi Jin Shan Lu, Hexi District
河西区紫金山路
Tel: 27313388

Shangri-La Hotel Tianjin
天津香格里拉大酒店
No. 328 Haihe East Road, Hedong
District, Tianjin, 300019, China
天津市河东区海河东路328号
Tel: (86 22) 8418 8888

Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel
万丽天津宾馆
16 Binshui Dao, Hexi District
河西区滨水道16号
Tel: 58223388

CROWNE PLAZA
Crowne Plaza Tianjin Meijiangnan
天津梅江中心皇冠假日酒店
East to South Youyi Road (Opposite to Tianjin Meijiang Conference & Exhibition Center), Xiqing District, Tianjin, P.R. China 300221
地址: 天津西青区友谊南路东侧 (天津梅江会展中心正对面)
Tel: +86 22 5857 6666
Fax: +86 22 5857 6688
Web: www.crowneplaza.com/tjmeijiangnan

TEDA International Club Tianjin
泰达国际会馆
7+2 Fu Kang Lu, Nankai.
南开复康路7号增2号
Tel: 5869 5555
Fax: 2300 5656

Holiday Inn Tianjin Aqua City
天津水游城假日酒店
No. 6, Jieyuan Road, Hongqiao
红桥区芥园道6号
Tel: 5877 6666

The St. Regis Tianjin
天津瑞吉金融街酒店
1F, St. Regis Tianjin, No.158 Zhang Zi Zhong Road, Heping (Next to Jin Tower, the opposite side of Ha Mi Road) and 和平区张自忠路158号, 津塔旁, 哈密道正对面, 天津瑞吉金融街酒店一层
Tel: 5830 9999
Stregis.com/tianjin

Tangla Tianjin
天津中心唐拉雅秀酒店
No. 219, Nanjing Road, Heping
和平区南京路219号
Tel: 2321 5888

Banyan Tree Tianjin Riverside
天津海悦悦榕庄
34 Haihe East Road Hebei
河北区海河东路34号
Tel: 5861 9999
Fax: 5861 9998
banyantree.com

HYATT REGENCY TIANJIN EAST
天津帝旺悦酒店
126 Weiguo Road, Hedong District, Tianjin, 300161, People's Republic of China
中国天津市河东区卫国道126号 邮编300161
Tel: + 86 22 2457 1234
Fax: +86 22 2434 5666
Email: tianjin.regency@hyatt.com
tianjin.regency.hyatt.com

Hotel Indigo Tianjin Haihe
天津海河英迪格酒店
No.314, South Jiefang Rd., Hexi Dist
天津市河西区解放南路314号
Tel: 88328888, 4000380666
Web: www.indigohotel.tianjin.com

Renaissance Tianjin downtown Hotel
滨江万丽酒店
105 Jian She Lu, Heping.
和平区建设路105号
Tel: 2302 6888
Fax: 2302 8530

Hotel Nikko Tianjin
天津日航酒店
189 Nan Jing Lu, Heping.
和平区南京路189号
Tel: 8319 8888
Fax: 8319 2266
Website: www.nikkotianjin.com

The Astor Hotel, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Tianjin
天津利顺德大饭店 豪华精选酒店
33 Taier Zhuang Road, Heping
和平区台儿庄路33号
Tel: 2331 1688
www.luxurycollection.com/astor

Holiday Inn Tianjin Riverside
天津海河假日酒店
Phoenix Shopping Mall, East Haihe Road, Hebei (Nearby " Eye of Tianjin ")
河北区海河东路凤凰商贸广场 ("天津之眼"摩天轮旁)
Tel: 2627 8888
Fax: 2627 6666

TEDA & Tanggu

Holiday Inn Binhai Tianjin
天津滨海假日酒店
86 First Ave., TEDA.
经济技术开发区第一大街86号
Tel: 6628 3388

Crowne Plaza Tianjin Binhai
天津滨海圣光皇冠假日酒店
55 Zhongxin Avenue, Airport Industrial Park
空港物流加工区中心大道55号
Tel: 5867 8888
Fax: 5867 8899
Web: www.crowneplaza.com

Renaissance Tianjin TEDA Hotel & Convention Center
天津万丽泰达酒店及会议中心
空港物流加工区中心大道29号
Tel: 6621 8888

Sheraton Tianjin Binhai Hotel
天津滨海喜来登酒店
No.50, 2nd Avenue, TEDA, Binhai New Area
滨海新区天津经济技术开发区第二大街50号
TEL: 6528 8888
FAX: 6528 8801
www.sheraton.com/tianjinbinhai

[Hotel Apartment 酒店公寓]

Tianjin Downtown

Somerset International Building Tianjin
天津盛捷国际大厦服务公寓
No 75 Nanjing Road, Heping
和平区南京路75号
Tel: 2330 6666

Somerset Olympic Tower Tianjin
天津盛捷奥林匹克大厦服务公寓
No 126 Chengdu Road, Heping
和平区成都道126号
Tel: 2335 5888

Somerset Youyi Tianjin
天津盛捷友谊服务公寓
No 35 Youyi Road, Hexi
河西区友谊路35号
Tel: 2810 7888

Ariva Tianjin No.36 Serviced Apartment
招商·艾丽华36号服务公寓
No.36 Xikang Road, Heping
和平区西康路36号
Tel: 2352 3636

TEDA & Tanggu

Green Park Villa
格林园
No.34, 1st Avenue TEDA, Tianjin
天津经济技术开发区第一大街34号
Tel: 2528 0670

SCHOOL

Tianjin Downtown

International School of Tianjin
天津经济技术开发区国际学校天津分校
Only international school in Tianjin fully authorized by the IBO to teach all three IB programs (PYP, MYP and DP) from age 3-18.
Weishan Nan Lu, Jinnan District, Tianjin
天津市津南区(双港)微山南路
Mon-Fri 07:30-16:30
T: +86 22 2859 2001
W: www.istianjin.org

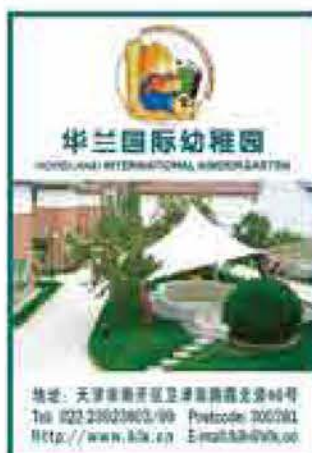
Wellington College International Tianjin
天津惠灵顿国际学校
NO.1 Yide Dao, Hongqiao District
红桥区义德道1号
Tel: 8758 7199 / 187 2248 7836
Email: admissions@wellington-tianjin.cn
www.wellington-tianjin.cn

SmartKidz International Tianjin
童童国际
5F, Building C, He Zhong Building, You Yi Bei Lu, Hexi District
天津市河西区友谊北路合众大厦C座5层
Tel: 18822359571, 18622303926
Landline: 022-83860916
Email: thai.enc_cn@yahoo.com

Green Mandarin School
格林教育
Room 705, Block B, Kang Ning Building, Xi Kang Lu, Heping District
和平区西康路康宁大厦B座705室
1-2-302, Cheng Ji Center, Nan Jing Road, Heping District
和平区南京路诚基中心1号楼21302室
Chengdu road No.151, Heping District
和平区成都道151号
Jiuhe International Village, 140 Wei Guo Dao, Hedong District, Tianjin
河东区卫国道140号九河国际村
2401 Zaia Wanli Hotel & Apartment, 8 Huang Hai Lu, Teda
滨海新区黄海路8号豪亚万丽公寓2401室



Tianjin New Century Language & Culture Education Center
天津新世纪语言文化教育中心 C3
Room 603, Building C, Huan Bo Hai International Apartment, Bin Shui Dao, Hexi District, Tianjin (opposite Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel)
天津市河西区滨水道环渤海国际公寓C座603 (天津宾馆对面)
Tel: 2301 2820 / 15122706201
Email: office@newcenturychinese.com
www.newcenturychinese.com



Hopeland International Kindergarten
华兰国际幼稚园 (海逸园)
No.5 Cuibo Road, Meijiang Bay, Tianjin, China
天津市梅江湾聚波道5号
Tel: 022-6046-2555

Hopeland International Kindergarten
华兰国际幼稚园 (梅江园)
No.7 Huandao Middle Road, West Side of Jiefang South Road, Tianjin
天津市解放南路西侧环岛东路7号
Tel: 022-5810-7777

Shuoba Chinese Academy
说吧汉语
Tianjin Heping District Chengdu Dao
No.126 Somerset Olympic Tower 403
天津市和平区成都道126号盛捷奥林匹克大厦403室
Tianjin Heping District Nanjing Rd. No.75 International Plaza 1802
天津市和平区南京路75号国际大厦1802室
Hrs: 022-2335 0585
Tel: 139-1079-8835 (Mr. Lu Tong)
187-1017-7191 (Sandra)

Tianjin International School
天津国际学校
No. 4-1 Sishui Road, Hexi
河西区泗水道4号增1号
Tel: 8371 0900 Fax: 8371 0400
admissions@tiseagles.com
www.tiseagles.com

TEDA & Tanggu

Teda International School
泰达国际学校
72 Third Ave, TEDA.
经济技术开发区第三大街72号
Tel: 6622 6158/6622 6157
Fax: 6200 1818
admin@tedainternationalschool.net
www.tedainternationalschool.net

MEDICAL FACILITY

Tianjin Downtown

ARRAIL International Dental Clinic
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Tel: 022-2331-6202
Fax: 022-2331-6215

Tianjin United Family Hospital (TJUH)
天津和睦家医院
No. 22 Tianxiaoyuan, Tianjiang Road, Hexi District, Tianjin 300221
河西区津浦道天津道22号 300221
Tel: (022) 58568500
Web: http://www.ufh.com.cn

Tianjin International SOS Clinic
天津国际 (SOS) 紧急救援诊所
1F Sheraton Tianjin Hotel, Zijinshan Lu, Hexi.
河西区紫金山路天津喜来登大酒店公寓楼首层
Tel: 2352 0143
Hrs: 09:00-18:00 (Mon-Sat)
Tel: 65377616



Tianjin TEDA International SOS Clinic
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102-C2 MSD, No.79, 1st Avenue, TEDA
天津经济技术开发区第一大街79号泰达MSD-C区2座102室
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Tel: 6628 0211
Fax: 6628 0216
tjadmin@jrecorporate.cn
www.jrecorporate.cn

CHAMBERS

Tianjin Downtown

European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, Tianjin Chapter
中国欧盟商会天津办公室
41F, The Executive Center, Tianjin World Financial Center, 2 Dagubei Lu, Heping District, Tianjin 300020.
天津市和平区大沽北路2号天津环球金融中心41层商务商务中心
Tel: +86 (022) 58307608
Website: www.eurochamber.com.cn
Email: tianjin@euccc.com.cn

The American Chamber of Commerce, Greater Tianjin Branch
美国商会天津分会
Rm.2918, The Exchange Tower 2, 189 Nanjing Road, Heping
和平区南京路189号津二二期2918室
Tel/Fax: +86 (0)22- 8787 9249
Website: www.amchamtianjin.org

German Chamber of Commerce in China - North China
中国德国商会
Rm.1502, Global Center, No. 309 Nanjing Road, Nankai
南开区南京路309号环球置地广场1502室
Tel/Fax: +86 (0)22- 8787 9249
Email: tianjin@bj.china.ahk.de
Internet: www.china.ahk.de

German Business Circle Tianjin, Deutscher Unternehmerkreis Tianjin, DUK
天津德国人联谊会
Rm 803, Huake Center, 3 Kaihua Road, Huayuan Industrial Zone.,
华苑产业园区开华道3号华科创业中心803室.
Tel: 8371 7855
Fax: 8371 7859
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天津市和平区南京路75号国际大厦1008室
Tel: 86 22 23136003
Fax: 86 22 23136005
Business Hours: 8:30-17:30

CHURCH

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St. Joseph's Cathedral
西开教堂
No.9, Xining Dao, Heping
和平区西宁道9号

Tianjin Christian Fellowship
King Hall Hotel, No.22, Huan Hu zhong Lu, Hexi
河西区环湖南路22号
Tel: 8829 7772
enquiry@tjcf.com
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TEDA & Tanggu

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Building A, Report Hall, TEDA
International Hotel, 2nd Avenue, No. 8, TEDA Tianjin
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Email: enquiry@tedafellowship.com
Phone: 151-2264-5704

THEATRE

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Tianjin Grand Theatre
天津大剧院
Culture Center Pingjiang Road Hexi
河西区平江道文化中心
Tel: 8388 2000

Tianjin Concert Hall
天津音乐厅
88 Jianshe Road Heping
和平区建设路88号
Tel: 2332 0068

Western Shore Art Salon
西岸艺术馆
3 Youyi Road North Hexi
河西区友谊北路3号
Tel: 2326 3505/3501

MUSEUM

Tianjin Downtown
Tianjin Museum
天津博物馆
Intersection between Pingjiang Road and Yuxiu Road Hexi
河西区平江道与越秀路交口
Tel: 8388 3000

MASSAGE

Tianjin Downtown

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和平区南京路诚基中心1号楼11607
Tel: 2313 7919 / 136 821 90233
Hrs: 10:00-02:00

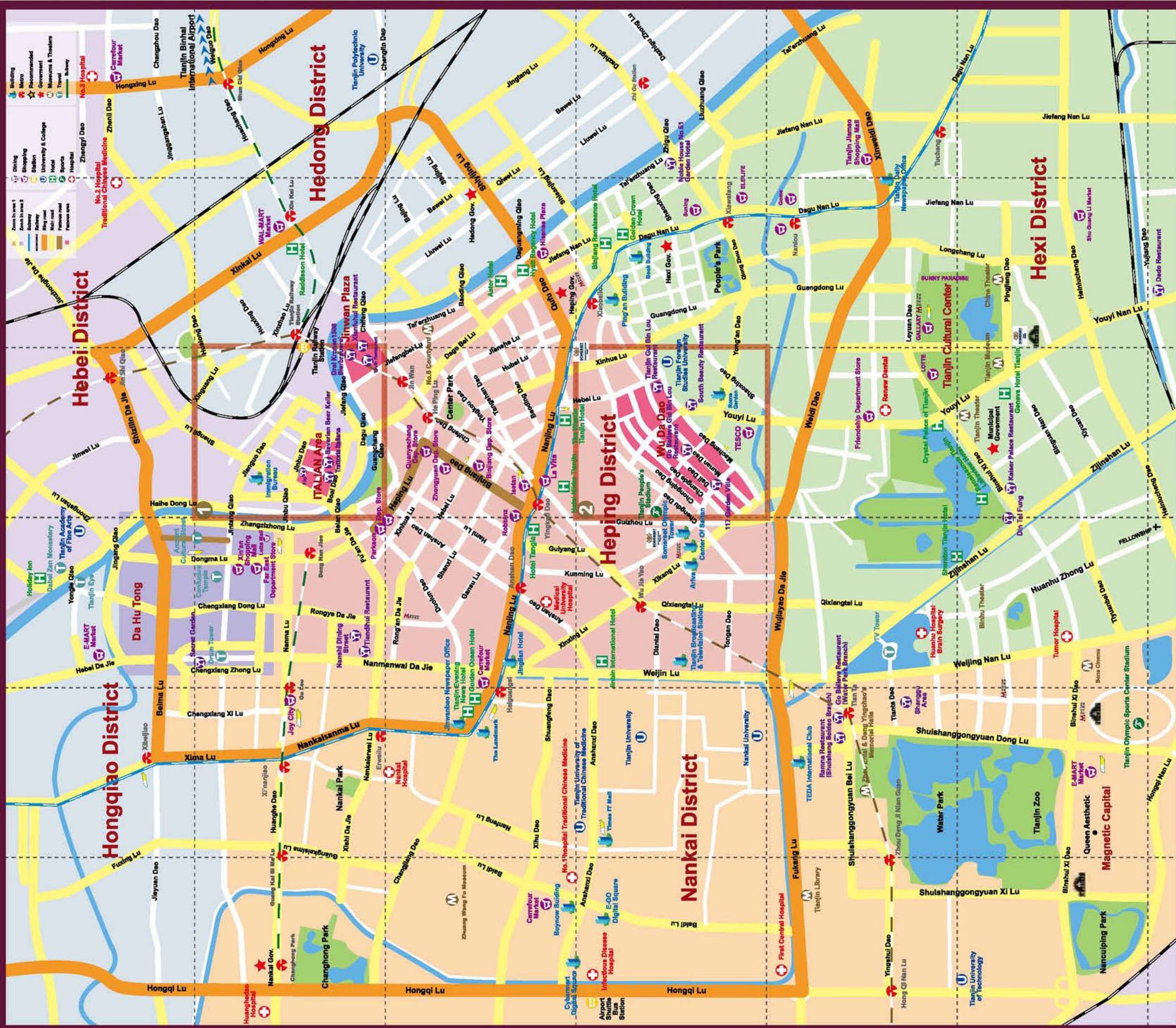
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Tel: 88294330, 13512489654
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BYE BYE E-MART

by Carmen King

Have you heard? The Korean based E-Mart grocery store brand is saying goodbye to Tianjin. With several stores around town E-Mart has been a favorite of many. As with so many other foreign companies though, E-Mart didn't find the profits it hoped for in Tianjin. Having stuck it out for years, it has finally called it quits. This "here today gone tomorrow" phenomena is nothing new to Tianjin expats. No matter how big the brand, how big the store, how big the investment, it still seems like businesses fold up and disappear in the blink of an eye here in Tianjin.

Typically each and every time a particular business vanishes it brings with it a bit of inconvenience. However E-Mart was a mainstay for perhaps a number of expats when it came to getting their daily or weekly groceries and other household items. As such, saying bye bye to E-Mart isn't just shocking, it likely also calls for rearranging ones shopping routine. How will expats deal with this latest change?

Perhaps a first reaction to E-Mart leaving is to find another big grocery store to shop at. There are certainly a number of these such as Carrefour, Vanguard, RenRen Le, and RT Mart to name a few. However this tactic may have a few flaws. One, it is possible these stores will be extra busy as other customers also need to find a new place to shop. Second, they may not be conveniently located. Third, they may not have all the products E-Mart did.

Therefore expats will perhaps want to

YET, INSTEAD OF GETTING DOWN OR TAKING MORE DRASTIC MEASURES LIKE MOVING APARTMENTS OR CITIES, WITH A LITTLE EXPLORATION, THIS BYE BYE E-MART WAVE CAN BE RIDDEN LIKE THE REST OF THEM.

consider another option. Namely, explore the little shops nearby. These smaller stores may actually have a number of the same goods as the big stores not to mention shorter lines. While one of these smaller stores may not have everything on the list, it is common that where one is, nearby are two or three others. So check all the different shops in the area, taking note of which products are where and whose prices are best.

Some examples would include JinGong Supermarket 津工超市, Century Supermarket 世纪华联, Fomax Supermarket 好收成超市, and Wu-Mei Mini Mart 物美便利店 to name a few. In addition to these there are many more. Some are small chain stores. Others may even be a personally owned mini mart. However, one thing in common is that the store won't be that large and it will be packed with an assortment of household goods, perhaps even some food related items. JinGong at some locations sells electric and/or train

tickets. Century Supermarket has paper goods, drinks and snacks. Fomax Supermarket may sell fruits, vegetables, eggs and a good variety of ice cream.

The key to dealing with E-Mart's departure is flexibility and adaptability. Expats who don't like change probably have already left Tianjin. Being able to ride the waves of change, both big and small which frequent the shores of Tianjin is mandatory for anyone looking to stick around. Losing E-Mart in some respects is a big wave which came crashing down on Tianjin expats.

Yet, instead of getting down or taking more drastic measures like moving apartments or cities, with a little exploration, this bye bye E-Mart wave can be ridden like the rest of them. So goes the old Chinese story about the guy who loses a horse and at first feels frustrated over the loss. In time though sadness turns to happiness as the horse returned and brought with it another horse! (塞翁失马, 焉知非福) Likewise, at first going to a few small stores instead of one big one may seem like a hassle. Yet, in time this new routine may prove better and more efficient than the old one.

再见, 易买得!

你可能已经发现, 易买得已经关闭了天津所有旗下的连锁超市, 彻底和天津消费者说再见了。易买得在天津的效益并不怎么好, 坚持了几年之后不得不关门大吉。其实, 在天津这样 "今天开, 明天关" 的商家不在少数, 人们已经见怪不怪了。无论是多大的买卖, 它总能在一夜之间就消失得无影无踪。

对很多老外来讲, 易买得的消失会改变他们日常出门购物的轨迹。那么该如何应对这突如其来的不便呢?

人们的第一反应通常是找一个和易买得规模相当的卖场解决购物问题, 比如家乐福、华润万家、人人乐、大润发等。不过这样的大超市往往人满为患, 也可能离你住的地方比较远, 或者不像易买得的商品那么全。

那么不妨去探索一下小区周边的小超市。有些大超市有的商品这些小超市也都能买到。虽然不能应有尽有, 但一个小区周边往往有多个类似的小超市, 也许这家没有的别家会有, 而且你也可以比较一下价格。

常见的小超市有津工、世纪华联、好收成和物美便利店。它们共同的特点就是规模小, 日常生活用品紧凑陈列。你可能不知道, 在津工这样的小超市还能买火车票呢!

在天津生活你需要有极强的适应能力和灵活性。那些不愿意改变的老外恐怕早就离开了。能应对任何变化, 大小商场通吃的老外才能在天津生存下来。

虽然因为一家易买得的消失就考虑搬家有点夸张, 但你确实要拿出一些探索精神去寻找它的替代品。就像中国古语说的: 塞翁失马, 焉知非福。也许这些小超市会给你的生活带来更大的便利呢。

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