

SKY TIMES

Inflight Magazine

002 NOV/DEC 2016



The **5** Yummiest
Hotpots in China

SHANXI

A Treasure House of Wooden Architecture

The Undying Tradition
of Shadow Play

ROVANIEMI
A Winter Wonderland

Beijing
Backs Itself to Be the Best


Tea time
in Chengdu

ANA using 'Omotenashi'
to overcome Industry
Challenges

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Editor's Letter



Seeing the Year Out in Style

If I had to describe November and December using hashtags, I would probably use #busy and #joyous. No matter the outcome of the January-to-October period, people and businesses alike often sum up the year as a whole based on what happens in the last two months.



In addition to having a busy schedule, people will celebrate many exciting moments over the holidays that are full of joy and happiness. *Sky Times* is also pleased to bring our readers a wide range of fascinating articles to ensure you have a pleasant and enjoyable flight.

While coffee shops grow in popularity across the world, China is all about tea. It is said that the teahouses of Southwest China's Sichuan province rank first in the world, while those in its capital, Chengdu, rank first in Sichuan. This winter, we take you to Chengdu to explore the different elements of Sichuan culture and enjoy a cheerful Chinese-style tea time (Page 14).



Then you can follow us to Rovaniemi, the capital of Lapland in northern Finland. During the Christmas holiday, you can take a photograph at the North Pole, have a drink in a frozen pub, watch the dazzling aurora borealis in a glass igloo, and even visit Santa Claus Village to meet the real Santa and his red-nosed reindeer, Rudolph (Page 24).

Learn about the history of traditional shadow play and the special stories behind the puppets (Page 30). Discover why German-born designer Kathrin von Rechenberg abandoned her job with a luxury brand to go in search of tea silk in China (Page 46). Meanwhile, All Nippon Airways (ANA) Senior Vice President Shinichi Abe explains how ANA plans to rely on superior service and safety to ensure sustainable growth (Page 54).



“Continuation Innovation, Win-Win Cooperation” is the theme of the 5th Beijing Global Friend Airports CEO Forum, which brings together more than 200 representatives from around the world in Beijing (Page 88). For civil aviation enthusiasts, the shared experiences of airport experts regarding multi-airport system management, hub airport development, aviation security and new technologies is a must-read.

In our September/October issue, I mentioned the new slogan of Alitalia: “Vivi, Ama, Vola”, which was met with a positive response from our dearest readers. We love it, while Alitalia Chief Executive Officer Cramer Ball told me the slogan is not the work of an agency, but rather the brainchild of 200 company employees, which captures the spirit of modern travel: “Live, Love, Fly”.

I hope you enjoy this issue. As always, we aim to give you a joyful reading experience.

Wishing you a pleasant journey.



Cao Shenshen

Cao Shenshen
Executive Editor



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Contents

Now 04

Sky of Twentieth Anniversary

Castells: Tower of People

‘Kumari’ in Nepal

African Penguin Back into the Wild

Run with Colored Water Spray and Bubbles

Items 08

Talk 10

Data 12

Travel 13

Tea Time in Chengdu / 14

Shanghai: Life of a Local / 20

WOW Shanghai / 23

Rovaniemi: A Winter Wonderland / 24



Culture 29

The Undying Tradition of Shadow Play / 30

Shanxi: A Treasure House of Wooden Architecture / 36

Bags of Style, Bags of Class / 42

Stylish German Finds Chinese Luxury in Tea Silk / 46





People 49

Beijing Backs Itself to Be the Best / 50

ANA Using 'Omotenashi' to Overcome Industry Challenges / 54

The Power of Passion for Ancient Patterns / 60



Lifestyle 65

Chic / 66

The 5 Yummiest Hotpots in China / 68

Books & Films 70



Getting Lost in the Great Gardens of Yangzhou / 72

Total Tranquility in the World's Oldest Tea Garden / 76

East Beijing Combines Business With Pleasure / 78

Musicians That Think Different: Radik Tyulyush / 80



Flying 81

Foreign Carriers Keen to Expand in World's Second-largest Market / 82

Aviation Industry Leaders Forge Strong Ties at Forum / 88

Flying High With Wi-Fi / 92

News / 94

The Year 2016 in Numbers / 96







Sky of 珠海 Twentieth Anniversary

The 11th Zhuhai Airshow will be held on Nov. 1 to Nov. 6 in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong. It is a biennially event that started in 1996 and is now the largest air show in Asia. More than 700 exhibitors from 42 countries and regions will take part in the exhibition, covering major spacefaring powers around the world.



‘Kumari’ in Nepal



A little girl is dressed up as a *kumari* in Katmandu, Nepal, on Sep. 14. *Kumari*, or “living goddesses”, are young pre-pubescent girls who are worshiped as manifestations of the divine female energy, or “*devi*”, in Hindu religious culture. In Nepal, *kumari* are worshiped by some of the country’s Hindus as well as the Nepali Buddhists. They are believed to be the incarnation of Taleju. When her first menstruation begins, it is believed that the goddess vacates her body. Serious illness or a major loss of blood from an injury can also cause loss of deity.

Run with

Colored Water Spray and Bubbles

People participate in the 5km Color Run in Vancouver, Canada, on Sep. 24. More than 5,000 participants enjoy the colored water spray and bubbles, instead of spraying powder, during the 5km Color Run. Since its debut in January 2012, the event has been hosted in 50 countries. With no official race winner, or times, runners begin at the starting line in all-white clothing and finish covered in a rainbow of colors.



Castells:

Tower of People

Spain hosts the 26th Castells Competition in Tarragona on Oct. 1 and Oct. 2. A trembling tower of bodies rises tier by tier, the broad-backed men at the base sweating and shaking under its weight, until the tiny girl shimmies to the summit and raises her arm in victory. Central to Catalan culture, castells has become increasingly popular and widespread since the 1980s, and castells clubs have now been established throughout Catalonia. In 2010, the castells were classified by UNESCO as one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.



African Penguin

Back into the Wild

A dozen rehabilitated penguins get released back into the wild at the African Penguin Festival, which is held in Simon's Town on Oct. 8 to celebrate a species of penguins confined to southern African waters. Once extremely numerous, the African penguin is declining in numbers and is now classified as "endangered".





Anker

Anker is a triangular outdoor table that comfortably seats up to six people. The connection between the leg of the table and the bench support is reminiscent of an anchor, lending the structure the necessary stability. The formal unity of the table and the benches lends the Anker outdoor table a contemporary look that appears highly inviting.



Magic Swan

The special feature of the Magic Swan tap is its adjustable height. Latched in the arm holder, the spray head acts as a normal water tap, although it can be set at different heights and angles.



Spherical

Inspired by a sculpture, the Spherical armchair will itself be a feature in the living room. Shape and material turn it into a special piece of furniture.



EGO Movement E-Bike

The innovative e-bikes from EGO Movement redefine smart and sustainable mobility in an urban space. A powerful battery is blended harmoniously into the frame. It convinces with technical refinements such as a powerful mid motor, including a torque sensor, a USB port on the removable lithiumion battery and an LED light that automatically switches on at dusk.



Tink

The Tink table's design exudes lightness and mobility. A notable feature is the wing-like table legs, which are connected to stainless steel bars to form an elegant unit. In combination with an ultra-thin table top made of solid oak or lino, such features make Tink appear almost transparent.



Ozo

The Ozo virtual-reality camera offers professional filmmakers a 360-degree view and surround sound. It accommodates eight cameras and microphones capable of recording stereoscopic 3D video. The camera is operated by remote control to set exposure time and color profile or to follow the camera signal in real time.



Naoshima

Craftsmanship combined with expressive design turn the Naoshima stool into an eye-catcher in the home environment. Despite its sturdy construction, this stool has both a light and vibrant feel, due in part to the empty spaces in the lateral sections.



What is the weirdest food you have ever tried in China?

Stinky tofu is the worst. I tried it with one of my colleagues and I think it's really weird. However, when I was visiting Yunnan province, we went to a local restaurant where they prepared some homemade dishes which I really enjoyed.

I have been living in China for more than six years and during that time, I have had my fair share of strange culinary experiences. One of the foods that has never stuck with me is stinky tofu. It never left a pleasant taste in my mouth, or for that matter, a good smell in the air.

Duck blood soup is my most memorable eating experience. We have blood sausage in my country, which my granny loved to cook. To buy something made entirely from blood is interesting. I think we ate it at a hot-pot restaurant, and it didn't taste like I imagined. If you cut yourself and lick the blood, it tastes different. Duck blood soup does not have the same intense flavor. It is more like pudding with a slight liver-like taste.

Frog. I had never eaten that before I came to China, and I didn't even think it was edible. But actually, it tastes much better than I imagined.



Manoj Panday
(Nepal, Aviation Engineer)



Thomas Ofner
(Austria, Consultant)



Carlin Aichhorn
(Austria, Researcher)



Hiroko
(Japan, Flight Attendant)

What is your favorite nightclub in China?

1912 in Nanjing is a lively, fun place with good music. They used to play a lot of English songs and modern songs, which is attractive to foreigners. By going there, it is possible to make friends with people from different countries, so it is my favorite place. Also, it is conveniently located and there are a lot of clubs in that area.

The Beijing nightlife offers a lot of different experiences. One of my favorite clubs in Beijing is Migas, as I love the relaxed and funky music combined with the great outdoor feel during the warm months in the city. To enjoy house and electro, I usually go to Spark, as it has one of the best sound systems in the city.

My favorite club is Geisha in Shanghai. It's not very big, but has good hip-hop music. We go more often to Mint Club, The Shelter or Myst, but I prefer Geisha, although I have only been there about two or three times.

I used to go clubbing pretty often, and my favorite place was Spark. I have been to Vic's, Coco Banana and Cargo, but I don't go that often nowadays. I guess I am getting older.



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Best Destinations 2016

If you want to take a vacation with your family or friends, which destination would be your number one choice? Recently, the travel Web site Tripadvisor released a survey entitled “Very Best of Travel”, which lists the world’s top 25 hotels, destinations, beaches, islands, landmarks and amusement parks as voted for by millions of travelers. London in England was voted the top destination, followed by Istanbul in Turkey and Marrakech in Morocco in second and third place respectively. Fourth was Paris in France and fifth Siem Reap in Cambodia, with Prague in the Czech Republic, Rome in Italy, Hanoi in Vietnam, New York City in the United States and Ubud in Indonesia rounding out the top 10.

1 **London**
in
England



2 **Istanbul**
in
Turkey



3 **Marrakech**
in
Morocco



4 **Paris**
in France



5 **Siem Reap**
in Cambodia



6 **Prague**
in the Czech Republic



7 **Rome**
in Italy



8 **Hanoi**
in Vietnam



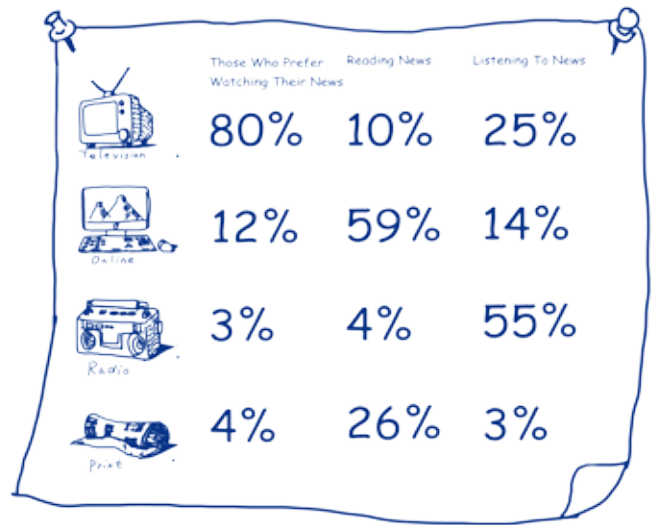
9 **New York City**
in the United States



10 **Ubud**
in Indonesia



The Modern News Consumer



Social media, messaging apps, text messages and e-mails provide a constant stream of news from people we are close to as well as total strangers. News stories can now come piecemeal, as links or shares, attaching less relevance to the publisher, while extreme levels of immediacy and mobility can create an expectation that the news will come to us whether we look for it or not. A new survey by Pew Research Center revealed a public that is cautious as it moves into this more complex news environment and discerning in its evaluation of available news sources.

TV’s staying power over print media is buttressed by the fact that US citizens who prefer to watch news still choose TV, while most of those who prefer to read news have migrated online.

The highest percentage of US adults, 46%, prefer to watch news rather than read it (35%) or listen to it (17%).

When paired with the platforms people prefer, the Web has largely pulled in “readers” rather than “watchers”. While those who prefer watching news predominantly opt for TV and listeners turn to radio, most of those who prefer reading news now opt to get news online (59%) rather than in print (26%).

TRAVEL



Tea Time in Chengdu / 14

Shanghai: Life of a Local / 20

WOW Shanghai / 23

Rovaniemi: A Winter Wonderland / 24

A large, stylized graphic of tea leaves in a light yellow-green color, positioned behind the title text. The leaves are arranged in a fan-like pattern, with some overlapping. The title text is in a gold color.

Tea time in Chengdu

Text & Photos **Wang Yuanchang**

It is said that the teahouses of Sichuan rank first in the world, while those of Chengdu rank first in Sichuan. As far back as the Western Han Dynasty, both the tea trade and tea culture were prosperous — with Chengdu the starting point of the Southern Silk Road.

Teahouses here were traditional men's clubs, where political and business deals were struck, but in modern China, they are clubs for everybody, where face-to-face social networking occurs.

There is a popular phrase in Chengdu which says “winter sun in Chengdu is so valuable that it needs to be bought.” For my first days in a cloudy Chengdu — summer, by contrast, is just as bright as winter is dull — that phrase rang true, but as soon as the sun popped out from behind the clouds, scores of young and old flooded into the 3,000-plus teahouses that are dotted across the city.

As one of the few remaining bastions of true teahouse culture in China, Chengdu's establishments are ubiquitous: on street corners, in every park, and even in office compounds. Their well-deserved reputation is based on their quantity, quality and diversity.


Go to any major public park, Buddhist monastery or Taoist temple and you will find that the tea culture thrives. Even in Chengdu,







An old man in his 80s is enjoying his tea time in Du Fu Thatched Cottage, a park and museum in honour of the Tang Dynasty poet Du Fu.



a city with a population of more than 15 million and rising, its special atmosphere creates a rare city oasis, where the bustle slows down and the spirit stays intact.

So what can you expect to see in a teahouse on any given afternoon? Small society, as Chengdu people call it. It is the perfect spot in which to relax, to socialize, to people-watch. Once you are inside, relax and enjoy a moment where time just seems to slow down.

There is a distinctive style of teapot that is unique to Chengdu. It is made of brass and has an elaborate spout that is approximately one meter long. The servers are called “tea doctors” and their ritual resembles traditional martial arts, shooting tea across the room into small teacups without spilling a drop.

Wait staff present the menu in English as well as Chinese, and once you have selected from the list, an elegant tea set is delivered, complete with porcelain teapot, cup, saucer and lid, plus a steel strainer.

Once pots are duly filled, hot-water pourers make regular rounds to reinvigorate the brew, theatrically dispensing from the long-spouted brass pots. So, no need to worry about reaching the bottom of your cup too soon.

The servers are not the only ones attentive to your needs; you can also order shoulder massages and even ear-cleaning, should you desire such a service. This is a rare, age-old profession and ear cleaners take their job very seriously. For me, it was certainly an eye-and-ear-opening experience to have my listening organs tended to outside the sanctity of my own bathroom, by someone else, in a complicated procedure.

Obviously, there is atmosphere aplenty, but it gets even better at Wenshu (God of Wisdom) Temple, an ancient Buddhist sanctuary founded during the Tang Dynasty, where the buildings are two to three

centuries old.

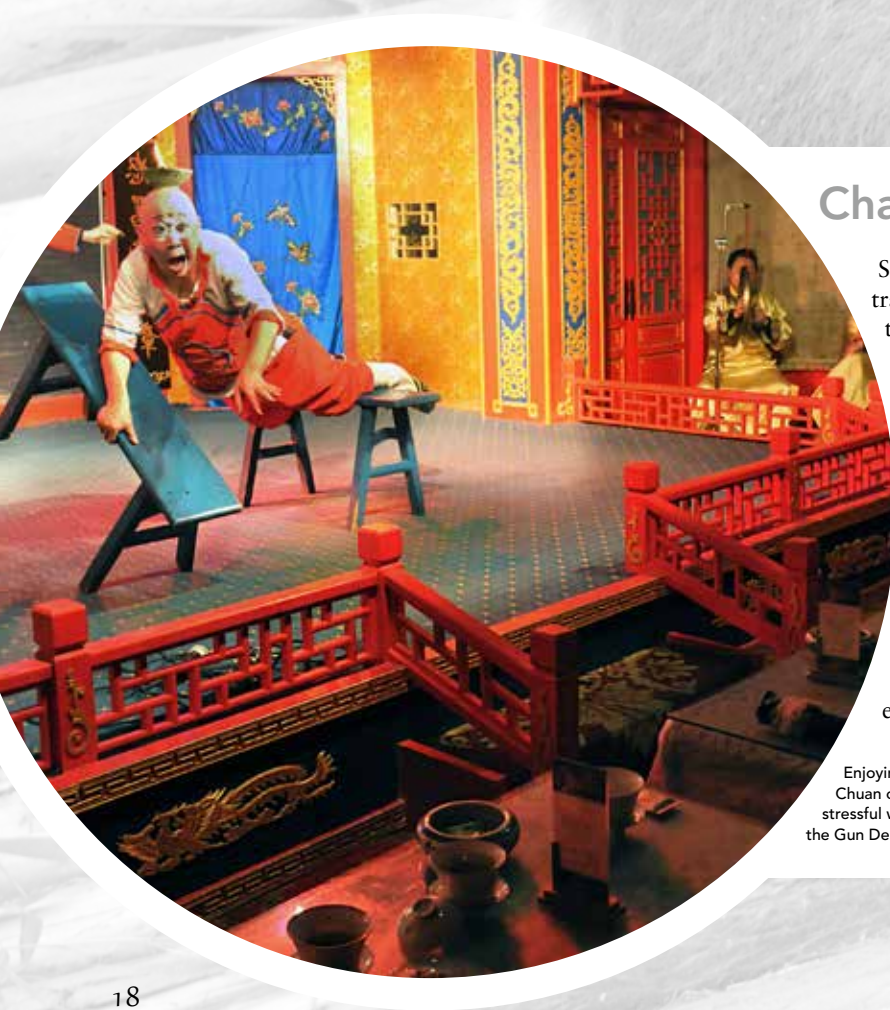
Set beside the temple’s mighty timber halls and red-pillared pavilions is a swath of bamboo chairs and tables shaded by ginkgo trees, a garden teahouse inhabited by a throng of voluble imbibers, and a hubbub of tea-tippers, many of them well-heeled. Surrounded by the dazzling relics of China’s history, I had the strongest sense of being immersed in the nation’s remarkable 3,000-year-old culture. Not every teahouse is this adventurous, of course.

One of the best things about Chengdu’s teahouses is the community atmosphere. With its traditional teahouse principle of “one seat, one cup,” *Renmin* Park Teahouse is the largest and most popular — which seems apt, as *Renmin* Park translates as “People’s Park”. At a lakeside shaded by willows, hundreds of people sit around in bamboo chairs at stone tables, chatting with friends or family; catching up on news; playing cards, draughts or mahjong; and chewing seeds or nuts. Tea lubricates a thoroughly social outing, and it comes in endless forms, from scented teas such as jasmine and chrysanthemum to the many kinds of slightly caffeinated oolong and green teas.

Some people compare Chengdu teahouses to Paris cafes — though they are more likely to have enjoyed a cup of green tea in one of the sedate teahouses along the Funan River, rather than an ear-clearing experience at Renmin Park.

When in Chengdu, try to stay as long as possible and be sure to visit the teahouses, both the traditional and the modern, which will help put your troubles aside. You will find your heart rate slow and your head clear, and you will understand why people in Chengdu are so serious about something as simple as tea.

Alternative activities



Changing Faces

Sichuan Opera is also a must for travelers who want to learn about traditional folk art performance. The operas have three distinct features: “Changing Faces”, where performers switch masks to change roles; “Spitting Fire”, which takes years to master and is quite literal; and “Rolling Light”, a clown-like comedy during which a flame is balanced on the performer’s head. Besides the live performers, Sichuan Opera also includes puppetry. It’s great fun to see a performer inject life into the wooden dummies to create an engaging and lifelike character.

Enjoying cups of tea over performances of the comic Chuan opera is a unique Chengdu way to relax after a stressful workday. In the picture, audiences are watching the Gun Deng or Rolling Light performance in a teahouse.



Chengdu Panda Base

Wildlife conservation has received an enormous boost this year with several births around the world of giant pandas, the “vulnerable” Chinese icon of the conservation movement. Zoos in Atlanta, Taipei, Vienna and Washington DC welcomed panda cubs, while Edinburgh Zoo is preparing for the possible arrival of the first panda cub born in Britain. All the world’s pandas are on loan from China, with many having been raised at Chengdu Panda Base, the leading scientific research and breeding center for the endearing animals. Those who cannot visit in person can take a virtual peek, with Google recently announcing it has added Chengdu Panda Base to its Street View, while live streaming of the giant pandas is also available at ipanda.com

Chengdu Research (Base of Giant Panda Breeding the Panda Base) is probably the most important base in the world dedicated to the protection of the giant pandas.



Kuan-Zhai Xiang

Head to the ancient street of Kuan-Zhai Xiang — “Wide-and-Narrow Alley” — built in 1718 during the reign of the Kangxi Emperor, to taste a host of dishes in restaurants such as *Long Chao Shou* and *Chuanbei Liangfen*. Be sure to try *san da pao* (three big cannons), a sweet dish made from sticky rice, brown sugar, sesame and beans. The names come from the act of throwing these sticky little snacks against a metal tray: “Bang, bang, bang!”

Kuan-Zhai Alley or Wide and Narrow Alley is a special region that represents various lifestyles of Chengdu people. The “Wide Alleyway” presents their people in full leisure, while the “Narrow Alleyway” showcases low-speed lifestyle and the “Well Alleyway” assumes fashionable life.

Shanghai

Life of a local

Text Cao Shenshen



Patsy Yang

Shanghai is a strikingly vibrant city that everyone's talking about. Patsy Yang is a Shanghai-born lifestyle journalist who has been observing the city in transition and is still struck by its unique blend of tradition and modernity. She keeps herself well-informed on the city's latest developments, the thriving creative scene and the plethora of culinary delights. "Changes are afoot in Shanghai, giving visitors more reasons to come and be part of the scene."

What makes Shanghai special in your eyes?

Amid the shiny high-rises and new infrastructures, it is not difficult to see buildings from a bygone era or traditional neighborhoods with a real lived-in vibe. The charm of Shanghai is its special blend of old and new. Some of the fascinating old-world details can be discovered every single day.

How does one spend a day in Shanghai like a local?

The city is fairly Westernized. We love coffee and bread in the morning to start a beautiful day, thanks to the French influence from the 1930s. Personally, I grab a croissant and coffee at a neighborhood cafe, read the newspaper and stroll a bit to feel the city's lively energy. In the afternoon, I like to visit art exhibitions, as the city's art scene is thriving, from independent art galleries to top-notch art museums and institutions. Dusk is my favorite time of the day, when I often meet close friends on a neighborhood bar's terrace or at a new venue to enjoy a glass of wine, simply to unwind or share some information. In the digitalized world, a real conversation between like-minded people is a luxury.

What are the city's must-see attractions?

The iconic riverfront — The Bund — is an absolute must-see for first-time visitors. Walking alongside the riverfront with so many tourists might not seem appealing, but if you find a nice restaurant or lounge along The Bund to take in the fantastic view of the Pudong skyline as well as the grand neoclassical architecture, it is sure to mesmerize you. Personally, I love the view from Sir Elly's terrace at The Peninsula Shanghai or the Pop restaurant terrace inside Three on the Bund. The view and the location make me feel lucky to be living and working in this great city.

What's the "best-kept" secret away from the tourist trail?

Shanghai Propaganda Poster Art Center. Housed in the basement of a residential building on Huashan Road in the former French concession area, the art center features a collection of posters serving as valuable historical documentation of China's 20th-century history. You can see how society changed in each decade of the last century, from the 1930s women in *qipao* to the Big Leap Forward and Cold War posters of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Some of the original posters are also on sale at the art center.

Where do you bring guest to taste Shanghainese cuisine?

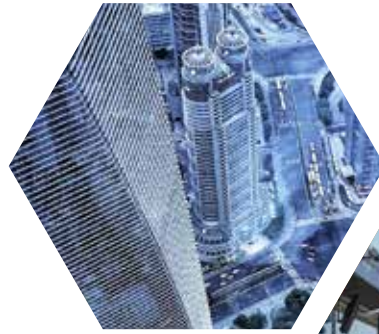
Old Jesse on Tianping Road. Though the Jesse has expanded to different outlets around the town, the original Old Jesse is still my personal favorite for an authentic Shanghainese food dinner without any pretense. Set inside a small yet intimate two-level house on a leafy street in the former French concession area, it gives a nostalgic feel of eating in a local grandma's house. The delectable local fare attracts both local and tourists alike. The signature dishes here include the sticky red dates filled with glutinous rice, the wine marinated crab, the salted chicken, the braised pork in brown sauce and all the local dishes with seasonal ingredients one can find in their menu. Overall, the dishes here tend to be a bit sweet but that's the authentic flavor one can get from a real Shanghainese kitchen.



Ginger by the Park is a three-level bistro looking out to the greens around in the most idyllic spot in Shanghai.

What does a typical night out involve?

Shanghai has such a big offering dining options but I always go back to my favourite restaurant Ginger by the Park on Xingguo Road for the top-quality Asian food. It also occupies one of the former French concession area's most idyllic spots, with a terrace that looks onto the lovely public park. If I want a relaxing conversation over a nice cocktail after dinner, I choose a cocktail lounge, such as Bar No. 3 or Mardi Gras on Xingguo Road.



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WINING AND DINING AT SHANGHAI'S FINEST

Travel | **WOW Shanghai**

Text Feng Shuangqing

Shanghai, situated in East China's Yangtze River Delta, is one of the world's most famous international metropolises. What you will encounter here is not simply modernization, but the perfect blend of tradition and modernity, where Orient meets Occident.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Hakkasan is a fashionable Michelin-starred Chinese restaurant, featuring Cantonese signature dishes such as crispy roast duck with caviar, and grilled Wagyu beef with king soy sauce. Classic ingredients such as abalone and bird's nest can also be found on the menu. Feast on the multifarious dim sum selection and enjoy a delicate dessert, while sampling Hakkasan's award-winning wine list and signature cocktails.

Hakkasan is housed in the illustrious Bund 18 building and overlooks Shanghai's impressive skyline. A vibrant, intriguing and inviting atmosphere hangs over the modern restaurant, originally designed by renowned interior designer Christian Liaigre. The decor is classy, with dim lighting and intricate wooden screens creating cozy alcoves for diners to indulge in.

ADDRESS:

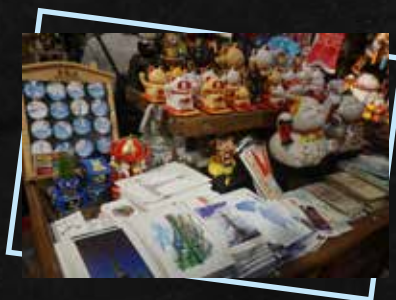
Bund 18, 5F, 18 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu, Shanghai

OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Thursday: 5:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Friday – Saturday: 5:30 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Sunday: 5:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.



PLACE WORTH VISITING

Tianzifang is a great place to enjoy Chinese art. It has transformed itself from a renovated residential location into an artsy area housing bars, crafts stores, cafes, shops, design studios and galleries.

The preservation of local Shikumen architecture can be seen in Tianzifang, with houses displaying stone doorframes and solid wooden doors. An atmosphere of traditional China surrounds the old buildings and fills the narrow alleys, with the area maintaining many of its original features.



CULTURED COCKTAILS

Unico is the largest tapas lounge in Asia, and it reflects the trendiest parts of Latin contemporary culture with unique cocktail creations, stunning interior design, funky music compilations and an exquisite tapas selection. The "Green" is a blend of La Maison Fontaine, France's finest absinthe, and fresh green ingredients. The result is a marriage of salty and sweet that tastes natural and pure. The "Agave & Coriander Mojito" is also highly recommended. It is a fresher version of a mojito, with a base of tequila and fresh coriander.

ADDRESS:

Three on the Bund, 2nd Floor, No.3 Zhong Shan Dong Yi Road, Shanghai

OPENING HOURS:

Weekdays: 6 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Weekends: 6 p.m. – late

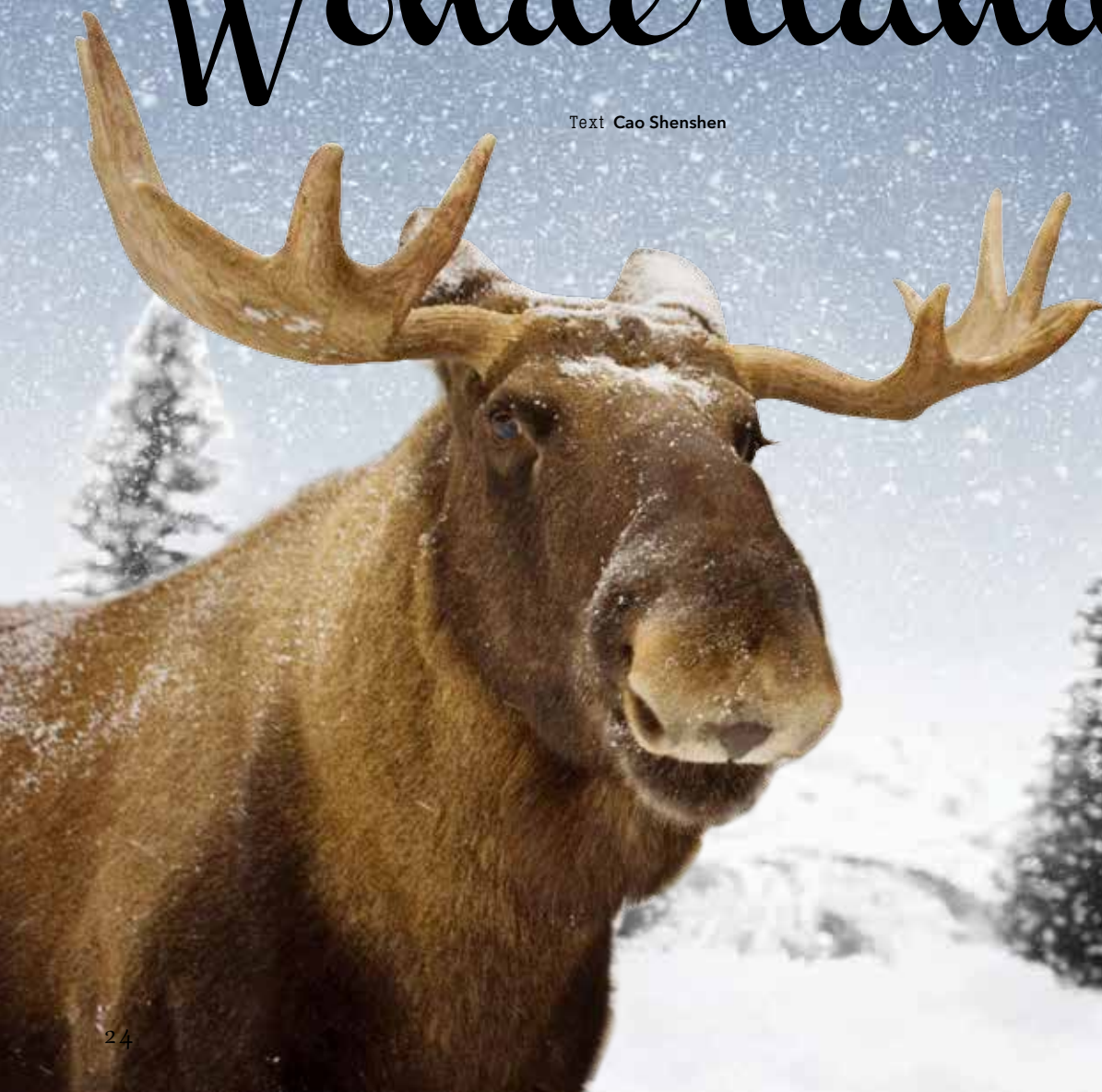



Sleigh Bells Ring – Are You Listening?

Rovaniemi

A Winter
Wonderland

Text Cao Shenshen





Flying north for 1 hour and 15 minutes from Finland's capital, Helsinki, will bring you to the small town of Rovaniemi, the capital of Lapland, which has a small population, but is famous the world over.

The polar day, polar night and Aurora Borealis, known as the Northern Lights, can all be witnessed in Rovaniemi, where winter is full of wonders.

You can be pulled on a sled by huskies through seas of forests and snowy plains; you can relax in the tents of the Sami people — natives of the polar region — eating roast reindeer and listening to them narrate ancient legends; and you can experience the tan-talizing difference between a 60°C sauna hut and the -30°C temperatures outside.

It is like getting onto the legendary Polar Express and heading for the terminal station to see frozen valleys like those found in a Chinese wash painting.

A favorite destination is Santa Claus' home on Ear Mountain; you can fish while wrapped in reindeer skin by breaking holes in the ice on the surface of a lake in Pyha-Luosto National Park; and you can be transported by a reindeer-pulled sleigh. If that is still not enough for you, you can travel on the only icebreaker open to tourists in the world before having a drink in a frozen pub.

All of these wonderful experiences on offer make Rovaniemi a genuine winter wonderland.

Santa Claus Village

Whenever Finland is mentioned, people tend to think of Nokia, Angry Birds, Marimekko and the Aurora Borealis. Of course, there is also Santa Claus. For photographers, Rovaniemi is a fantastic location to witness an aurora, but for everybody else, Rovaniemi is Santa Claus' hometown.

The actual location of Santa Claus' home was a secret for many years, with several places all fighting for the honor, until Christmas Eve in 1995, when then-United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali posted a Christmas card addressed to Santa Claus to Rovaniemi, Lapland Province, Finland, bringing all disputes to an end. Since then, Rovaniemi has been the publicly acknowledged home of Santa Claus, owing to UN recognition.

Santa Claus Village at the North Pole is home to numerous "accredited" Santa Clauses, with qualifications for such a title involving being able

*The glass igloos at Santa's Hotel Aurora in Luosto.
Photo by Antti Kurola*

to drive a reindeer sleigh, speak several languages, give children presents and help children realize their wishes, all of which are tested.

Every morning at 9 a.m., Santa Claus arrives at his office and has his photograph taken with tourists from all around the world. Children are amazed at the sight of the white-bearded man who is said to climb down chimneys on Christmas Eve to silently deliver gifts to children worldwide.

Santa's most famous reindeer, Rudolph, also stars in the photographs. It is said that when Rudolph was born, his nose was red and he was often teased by the other reindeers. However, one Christmas Eve, there was a heavy blizzard and the reindeers could not see which way to go and got lost. Rudolf used his red nose as a lantern and gathered all of his lost stable mates together, and from that point on, Santa Claus chose the red-nosed Rudolph to lead the way.

For those wondering how Santa is able to deliver presents to children all over the world in just one night, they will find the answer in Santa's office, where he keeps a large pendulum called the "Earth Rotation Speed Controller". It is with this magical device that Santa says he is able to appear in every corner of the globe on Christmas Eve.

In addition to his 12 reindeer, Santa's team of elves are also integral to his operation — they help him by providing presents, inspecting his sleigh and drawing up lists of children. Without them, Santa would be unable to get everything done on time.

Santa also has one other extremely important task, which is to read letters. His post office at the North Pole receives more than 500,000 letters every year from all around the world and he replies to every single one. You can send a letter to Santa Claus' Main Post Office, 96930 Napapiiri, Finland. If you want to hear back, just remember to clearly write a return address.

Dazzling aurora in glass igloos

"No matter whether you're going to the office or to the airport, in Rovaniemi, it's always a seven-minute drive," according to Rovaniemi resident Jussi Perkkiö, which gives you an idea of the size of the city.

What the locals are most proud of is their creativity and imagination, which can be seen in a frozen pub, an ice hotel and glass igloos, all of which are difficult to find in other parts of the world and are highly praised.





“No matter whether you’re going to the office or to the airport, in Rovaniemi, it’s always a seven-minute drive,” according to Rovaniemi resident Jussi Perkkiö, which gives you an idea of the size of the city.



Photo by Jussi Perkkiö

Those living in Finland are able to appreciate two aspects which invoke jealousy in others: stunning natural environments and elegant architecture. Wherever you look, you witness a distinct sense of tradition and nature, with the nation having long-maintained a design style that oozes purity and simplicity.

Glass igloos bring people closer to nature to experience the beautiful Aurora Borealis. The first glass igloo in the region was constructed in the town of Saariselka, affiliated with the Kakslauttanen Holiday Village. The owner of this holiday village, Eiramo, on seeing that people were waiting outside on such bitterly cold nights to see the arrival of the Aurora Borealis, came upon the idea of building a glass igloo.

On deciding that the best way to enjoy the Aurora Borealis is from a warm bed, Eiramo started to build his glass igloo by hand in 1999. It became so popular that a variety of glass igloos can now be found in the Lapland region. The Santa's Hotel Aurora in Luosto is renowned for its 10 glass igloos, new 29 igloos will be opened in this December to Rovaniemi at Santa's Igloos Arctic Circle, the other 41 will be completed by next fall in 2017, and these 80 igloos can allow guests to lie down, relax and lose themselves in the Northern Lights.

The coldest bed on Earth

Every winter, for about three to four months, there are some ice hotels, opening for business around December and closing around March, when the building slowly melts away. Then, in late autumn — October to November — local artists and craftsmen begin to build a new ice hotel. The entire construction process takes about six weeks.

How do people sleep on ice beds? With huge amounts of courage as well as reindeer skin to cover the ice and a sleeping bag. Guests must cover every part of their body and face, exposing only their nose for breathing purposes — a unique and unforgettable experience.

If you like a drink, you can enjoy a relaxing beverage in the frozen pub, where everything is made out of ice, including the bar, tables, chairs and even the “glasses” the drinks are served in.

There is also the super-chilly ice restaurant. It is essential to have a healthy appetite if you want to eat there, because if you don't eat everything quickly, the food freezes.



Information

City: Rovaniemi
Province: Lapland
Country: Finland
Languages: Finnish, English
Time difference: 6 hours behind China
Population: 61,000 people (14,000 reindeers)
Currency: Euro



Transport

Flights:
www.finnair.com
www.norwegian.com
Trains:
www.vr.fi
Buses:
www.matkahuolto.fi



Hotels

Hotel Santa Claus
Address: Korkalonkatu 29, FI-96200, Rovaniemi
www.santashotels.fi

Snowman World Igloo Hotel
Address: Joulumaantie 5, FI-96930, Rovaniemi
www.snowmanworld.fi

Arctic Snow Hotel
Address: Lehtoahontie 27, FI-97220, Sinetta
www.snowbrick.fi

Santa's Hotel Aurora
Address: Luppokeino 1, FI-99555, Luosto
www.santashotels.fi/en/hotelaurora

Photo by Jussi Perkkiö

CULTURE



The Undying Tradition of Shadow Play / 30

Shanxi: A Treasure House of Wooden
Architecture / 36

Bags of Style, Bags of Class / 42

Stylish German Finds Chinese Luxury
in Tea Silk / 46

The Undying Tradition of Shadow Play

Text Cao Shenshen
Photos Lin Hao

In an old theater in Yanguan town in Haining city, East China's Zhejiang province, a wonderful shadow play rendition of *Monkey King Subdues the White Skeleton Demon* was being performed: on a small piece of curtain, Monkey King and White Skeleton Demon were fiercely drawing their swords, attacking, dodging and counter-attacking, with every gesture and motion vivid and realistic. Behind the curtain, a pair of nimble hands were operating the eight sticks, with fingers rapidly jumping around. As Monk Tang came on stage, a voice in local Haining dialect said, "it pains me that I mistook a demon for a saint, and now mercy has bought me disaster..." Below, in the audience, applause began. This is a classic example of Haining shadow play, once representative of the southern genre of Chinese shadow puppetry.

The coastal town had a relaxing, comfortable atmosphere after it rained. Strolling across greens then through the old streets of the ancient city, the moist air blew in the fresh smell of grass, giving a vague feeling that one had traveled back in time. The ancient art form of shadow play, with thousands of years of history, fits right in with the similarly ancient town.

Located inside the Shadow Play Art Theater on Prime Minister Mansion Street, a group of rare purple bamboos stood quietly by the corner of the wall. Three old people watched us as we came in, wearing faint smiles on their faces, and said, "welcome. Come to see Madame White Snake?" Two of the people are culture trustees of Hanning shadow play, acknowledged as an intangible cultural heritage of Zhejiang — Xu Er'nan and Zhang Kunrong, who are now in their 70s or 80s.

A melodious flute broke into tune, while water





gracefully trickled below a broken bridge, and Madame White Snake's graceful figure behind a curtain caused sighs over a 1,000-year love. Dragons and phoenix flew through the clouds and came to rest above the ancient curtain — they are always center stage in the traditional stories. The moving stories of antiquity are just as moving in the modern era, and the audience, just like in days gone by, follows the fate of those no larger than a fist in the shadow play, their emotions rising and falling.

The Yiyang tone babbled on, and we sat below immersed. Although we couldn't understand exactly what they were saying, the plot was still enthralling, as were the smooth, dexterous movements and gorgeous colors of the little figurines within the square.

A 'lonely pursuit'

"South of the Yangtze River, shadow play is such a lonely pursuit!" Xu sighed. "Young people nowadays don't have the patience to sit through an entire performance. When guests come, our performances are livelier. It's enough to just show them simple shorts like *Centipede Mountain* or *Chicken Head Mountain*, so that they at least have some idea of about shadow plays."

"Guests" refer to the tourists who are brought to visit the 1,000-year-old town. Most people are surprised at the novelty that they are able to see shadow plays, as most tour groups visit the town to meander along and admire the ancient streets.

Tour groups sit in rows before the curtains, but before a play finishes, their guide directs them to the next place of interest. Those interested enough might steal a moment to lift up the curtain that leads backstage, sating their curiosity by glancing at the magic behind the curtain.

There are usually only two or three guests sitting in each row, and they are often unable to sit quietly through an entire rendition of *Madame White Snake*. Without doubt, time is a factor, but the Yiyang and Haiyan tones of the shadow play performers are far beyond the appreciation ability of the average tourist, and many of the words would probably not be understood by many of those visiting the area.

The protagonist in Zhang Yimou's film *To Live*, Gong Fugui, was a shadow play performer. Shadow play became a hidden thread throughout the whole film. Later, the leather silhouettes were burned in the 1970s, but the camphor chest remained. At the film's end, Fugui placed some small chicks in the chest and

said to his grandson, Mantou, that “when the chicks grow up, they will become geese, the geese will become goats, and the goats will become bulls.”

This chest, which symbolized life and rebirth, became one of hope. This story seems to be the exact replica of that passed down by Haining shadow play.

Prior to 1949, Haining had more than 20 shadow play troupes, large and small. Wei and Lang troupes are both fairly well-renowned theatrical troupes, but by 1954, there were only four shadow play troupes remaining, which were amateur troupes. By June of 1956, Zhejiang province established the Puppet Shadow Play Art Troupe, with Haining’s Wei troupe as the foundation, establishing a shadow play team. In 1958, it became the Zhejiang Shadow Play Theatrical Troupe, management of which was delegated to Haining county.

A Camphor Chest

Everybody thought that Haining shadow play had died, but things took a turn for the better in the late 1970s. When one of the older generation of shadow play performers, Shen Jingsong, once went to Tongxiang city, he discovered a camphor chest. The climate of the south Yangtze River is moist, and shadow play equipment is attractive to insects. This is why the chests for storing shadow play equipment were all constructed from camphor wood. The size of shadow play troupes can be measured by the number of camphor chests; and when those in the business are comparing themselves with each other, they always ask “how many chests do you need for your shadow play figures?”

Shen Jingsong desperately wanted to open the chest. When he did, he found more than 200 ancient leather silhouette figures. As they had not been used in many years, they were covered in a thick layer of dust. Shen Jingsong was excited beyond belief and spent a huge sum of money buying the chest and bring it back to Haining, meaning that the shadow play theatrical troupe was revived in 1980.

The process of making leather silhouette figures





is complicated and involves seven steps: making the leather; tracing the outlines; carving them out; painting; ironing them flat; oiling; nailing; and stitching. In circumstances where there is no master copy, they are extremely difficult to create from scratch. Moreover, there are differences between northern and southern styles of shadow play characters.

“Less carving, more coloring, single lines, flattening, round and lively facial shape, one eye to the side, less exaggerated, more realistic and overtones of wealth; in all, the focus is on single-handed and single foot (sideways portrayal), with rather a folk character,” explained Li Xuelin, an old performer well versed in leather silhouette figure manufacture.

Ever since Shen Jingrong stumbled across the cache of leather silhouette figures, Haining shadow play performers have used them as the master copies. Today, the chest and the puppets, which have been passed down over 800 years, lie in the Haining Museum.

In February 2003, New Zealand held a Chinese New Year Lantern Festival in Auckland’s Albert Park, where Xu and five other old performers took their leather silhouettes and performed for nine consecutive days. It was this trip to New Zealand that revived Xu’s confidence in Haining Shadow Art Play Theater. Since then, he has hosted the stage at the Haining Yanguan Scenic Area, with thousands of tourists from both China and abroad flocking to see him perform each year.

A family tradition

At age 85, Xu suffers from some small ailments, so he has reduced the frequency of his performances. Sometimes, sitting on a bench below the stage, his

thoughts return to his youth, shouldering the camphor chest with his father, and running along a ridge in the fields between villages. Xu is the third generation of his family to perform shadow plays. When he was 12 years old, he would go with his father around the villages and towns, and was famous for being a shadow play operator.

“Performing shadow plays is as particular as the ancient opera. Folk opera developed from performances for home celebrations and temple fairs. Shaoxing Opera and Beijing Opera are both like this, so, of course, shadow plays are no exception,” he said.

A complete shadow play theatrical troupe needs to have at least six people: three operators (who also sing); and three helpers (who sing in accompaniment, one of whom also handles props). The simple stage set only has a sheet of silk and an oil lamp. The thin “male lead, female lead, painted face, middle-aged male and clown” characters made of leather make their entrance. In the midst of intense drumming, the pillars of the stage perform Luan Tan Opera and the Long Tone in rhythmic tones, while several thin bamboo poles narrate about the ways of the world. It is said that the two bamboo poles can perform any human emotion, while a pair of nimble hands can mobilize a powerful army. It is impossible not to admire the artistry.

“In the Haining countryside, every year before cultivating silkworms, families invite the shadow play theatrical troupe to perform to ‘christen’ the room. After the performance, the host family will pull the tissue paper that acts as the play’s curtain and place it on their silkworm basket to wish for a successful year’s harvest. The villagers also ask the shadow play troupe to perform at weddings and funerals as well as on New Year’s Day and at other festivals,” Xu said.

Apart from performing for tourists in Yanguan, occasionally, Xu and his theatrical troupe also receive invitations to perform in other regions.

“A performance lasts for two-and-a-half hours, and earns us about 600 yuan (\$90), so each person can make about 100 yuan. Performances are very particular and we perform different plays depending on the reason behind the invitation, although performing lively, joyous plays is always a safe bet,” Xu said.





An old craftsman is making leather silhouette figures.

Despite Xu's age, his voice is still excellent and he is able to perform all roles with ease. The arias are divided into Yiyang and Haiyan tones. The Yiyang tone is used for kung fu opera, while the Haiyan tone used in literary opera is loud and sonorous, but also has exquisite emotions, with an extremely rich tune.

A race against time

“When I was young, I could sing 248 plays without pausing. I remember the words and songs clearly. My hands were not sloppy, and could make four or five ‘shadows’ dance nimbly. Now I cannot do it anymore, I’m too old and I cannot remember it clearly. I haven’t sung some of the plays in a long time,” Xu said, sighing and shaking his head.

Before he took on apprentices, Xu still adhered to the old practice. He would sing one line and the apprentice would imitate, teaching several lines a day, then examining the apprentice the next day. “This is how my father taught me when I was small. It is more reliable to learn by listening rather than learning by writing it down,” Xu said, adding that many inexplicable hand movements and feelings are passed down from teacher to student; and in this way, the original charm of the music can be preserved.

However, Xu admitted that he has begun to note things down, and has filled up two books, including almost 300 plays. He said he is concerned that one day the traditional style of shadow play will be forgotten. “I’m old, and I worry that there are lines that I’ve forgotten. The apprentices also learn slowly, so I worry that there isn’t enough time for them to learn it all.”

Shanxi

TREASURE-HOUSE OF WOODEN ARCHITECTURE

Text Feng Shuangqing

Photos Lu Ning



When speaking about Shanxi province, what might come to travelers'

minds first is Wutai Mountain, a Buddhist sacred site and home to many of China's most important monasteries and temples; Or Yungang Grottoes, one of the four most-famous ancient sculptural sites in the country.

Architecture and design buffs would likely suffer a lifetime of regret if they were to miss visiting the province, largely on a plateau flanked by mountain ranges, which is known for its abundance of energy and called China's "treasure house of wooden architecture". On an area covering 156,700 square kilometers stands a wide variety of timber architecture, with the oldest structures dating back to the Wei (AD 220-265) and Jin (AD 265-420) Dynasties, and the most recent built before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Most of these architectural gems survived thank to their remote location that spared them during the major wars, and Shanxi's dry climate that prevents wood rot and termites, the primary threats to wooden architecture.

The last four remaining timber-framed buildings that were built during the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907), a high point in Chinese civilization, a golden age of cosmopolitan culture and the heyday of the development

The importance of Grand East Hall of Foguang Temple in China's architectural history is assimilated to pyramid in Egypt and Athenaeum in Greece.

山西



Guangren Wang Temple is also called "Five Dragons Temple". It's a Taoist temple located in Ruicheng, Shanxi Province. The temple contains China's second oldest dated timber building, the Main Hall, which was built in 833.



of Buddhism, are all found in Shanxi. They are Foguang Temple, Nanchan Temple, Tiantai Nunnery and Guangren Wang Temple.

Forgotten for centuries before being rediscovered in 1937 by the great architectural historian and so-called father of modern Chinese architecture Liang Sicheng, and based on a wall painting from Mogao Grotto that depicts the location of the temple in Wutai Mountain, Foguang Temple, especially its main structure, the Grand East Hall, is a primary example of Tang-era architecture seen across China and the rest of Asia.

As the third-oldest known wooden building in China, Foguang Temple's Grand East Hall is a single-storey structure supported by internal and external columns, on top of which are seven sets of brackets connected by crescent-shaped crossbeams. The structure creates rings above the internal and external columns.

In light of an officially recognized technical treatise on architecture and craftsmanship in the 11th century, *Yingzao Fashi*, the Grand East Hall's hipped-roof and extremely complex bracket sets means it conforms to a seventh-rank building in a system of eight ranks. It is proof that even in the Tang Dynasty, the temple was a building of vital importance. The



structure is the only construction from those days with the same rank get that has been preserved.

Liang Sicheng once said that nothing could surpass the wooden temples of the Tang Dynasty, so it is fair to say people today are lucky to still have the opportunity to get a glimpse of wooden architectural heritage which exhibits exquisite craft.

Neglected of regular conservation works since the 17th Century, Foguang Temple faces threats such as a collapsing roof, weathered wood, decomposing sculptures and mosaics. Its overall structural integrity is in jeopardy.

Nanchan Temple, China's oldest preserved timber building, extant with an original set of artistically-significant Tang Dynasty sculptures, was looted in 1999 when three 1,500-year-old Buddha statues were lost.

The fragile treasures in Shanxi province may be the most telling way past artifacts speak to the present, and our closest contact point to the flourishing Tang Dynasty.



Dou-Gong brackets in Nanchan Temple. Ancient timber-framed buildings in China are usually built with Dou-Gong brackets and sockets to connect all posts and beams, without any metal connectors like nail, screw, or bolt.





The Tiantai Nunnery that was built in the late Tang Dynasty.

Bags of Style, Bags of Class

Text **Yang Yang**

Designer handbags have leaped from being a mere accessory to taking center stage in the fashion world. Increasing numbers of designers are expressing themselves through these one-of-a-kind, unique pieces, with some of the more funky bags and clutches even being considered as art.

We selected four fantastic female designers from around the world who create bags and purses for women who favor the “indie-boho” look and love to use handbags to display their individuality.

BARBARA BONNER

Barbara Bonner creates luxury bags for women who prefer a chic style and live a free-spirited, bohemian lifestyle. Each of Bonner’s pieces showcases a rebellious classicism with a wild, eccentric twist.

The designer has been in love with fashion since she was a child. While she studied psychology, Bonner started a clothing line with a friend and turned fashion from a hobby to a job.

In 2008, Bonner conceived her first fringe bag in Ibiza in the Balearic Islands. The design was such a curiosity that other shops from around world asked her to supply them with the bag, which remains her iconic piece. Bonner then started her own accessory line that can now be found in the world’s fashion capitals.

“A Barbara Bonner bag is more than just a bag,” she said. “They are a fashion statement on their own, completing your outfit and giving personality to your look.”

“In designing each collection, I try to create “ultra-luxe” handbags that celebrate the archetypical strong women who always inspire me. Since the brand’s inception, I have made designs for sensual and empowered females,” she added.

Each bag is crafted using luxurious, high-quality leathers and cutting-edge materials. The bags are manufactured in Tuscany, Italy, by the same artisans that tailor Prada and Rick Owens bags. Barbara uses lamb leather, which is much lighter than calf leather, and she designs all of the metal parts herself.

Bonner said she tries to look to other designers as little as possible.

Among her collection, her favorite models include the Baba bag in handknitted leather, the Elle Back Pack in cream leather and the Lilith bag delineated in Batik denim-printed leather.



DEC LILITH DECO BAG



ALTEA MINI BAG





TONYA HAWKES



After 19 years of working for some of the world's most prestigious designer labels, Tonya Hawkes unveiled her own line in 2012.

"All good things that happen are usually some sort of a wonderful accident," Hawkes said.

She was working at DKNY in the clothing department, but loved to chat with the handbag designers every morning. When Hawkes was asked if she would prefer working in the accessory department, she jumped at the opportunity.

Hawkes quickly began to make her mark as an expert in the field. During her nine years with DKNY, she steered the accessory design team to become one of the most profitable divisions of the company, which eventually led to her becoming an executive at Donna Karen and vice president of shoes and accessories.

Giovanna Furlanetto, president of the global luxury accessory brand Furla, personally chose Hawkes to become the company's creative director in Bologna, Italy. Hawkes continued working in Italy for various luxury brands and built an outstanding reputation for creating original designs that capture the essence of a brand.

Her namesake brand features collections of funky clutches that brighten up eveningwear.

"My style is raw and refined, using materials in a modern way," she said. "My references are always art deco, contemporary architecture, sculpture, African culture and animals. In addition, I am inspired by indigenous culture."

Hawkes said the concept behind her work is to make women feel unique and connected to their "inner artist".

"Quality is essential. We use an acrylic structure under all our external materials, while all other designers are only using acrylic and designing acrylics in various ways," she said.

In the creation process, the designer always starts with their inspiration and then moves into the color palette, selecting materials one by one.

"We have a long process of building the hardware, which we enjoy because it is like making jewelry to adorn our little boxes," she said.

Working for Donna Karen helped train her eye for beautiful design.

"I am grateful to Donna Karen for passing down her knowledge to me," Hawkes said.



MALTA CLUTCH



BLACK TANGRAM

BEA VALDES

Coming from a family that was in the fine jewelry trade for three generations, the Manila-born designer Beatrice Panlilio-Valdes was fascinated with embellishments from a young age.

Today, she has won global recognition and respect for her distinctive hand embroideries.

“My pieces are rooted in the craft of hand. What can be expressed through the language of beadwork is quite distinctive: It is always an intriguing conversation, which links many different cultures together. Our vision was to bring this into a contemporary context,” she said.

“I often say that the material is our muse. Whether precious or humble, the tactile and visual qualities of stones, fabrics or feathers always spark something in the imagination,” she added.

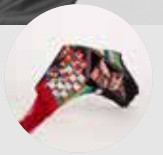
Valdes creates one-of-a-kind pieces, exploring beadwork and other hand-crafted techniques, and using a wide variety of materials to experiment with.

“I do like to work with semi-precious stones – and usually irregular or unusual ones. I like to experiment with what other people may find less than perfect, to find ways to enhance something and coax it into an appealing setting. I like that they seem character-driven,” Valdes said.

The much-celebrated accessories designer remains in the Philippines, working with modern local artisans and perfecting her craft at her Manila-based studio. She chooses Manila over New York to maintain a creative environment that allows for the time-intensive hand embroidery work to be carried out. The bags, belts and jewelry can take up to 10 weeks to be made. “In our atelier, my girls take a lot of pride in their work. Everything is created in-house, from concept to design and production. Everything is proudly made in the Philippines.”



CYCLOPS CLUTCH



DIAGEM CLUTCH



O'AR CLUTCH



CHRISTIANNE CLUTCH



GIULIA VENTURI

Supermarket Bag is a label born from Giulia Venturi's passion for "everything handmade," one of the most celebrated Italian traditions.

"After my degree in agriculture science, my interest in the artisan industry has developed fast and I have been working as a fashion designer for luxury leather companies, working closely with authentic Italian artisans. Since then, my passion and desire for details and research have been growing remarkably in a profession which travels through centuries-old Italian tradition, handmade goods," the Rome-based designer said.

The value of handmade items, constructed with utmost care and dedication, is echoed in every Supermarket Bag model. It is an all-season product that nonetheless follows the seasonal rhythm, with successive new thickness and tactile sensations, but maintains its signature form with an interchangeable handle, both available in the basic version and in bolder styles.

The idea to create an ironic yet glamorous version of a simple carry bag for shopping was born through her experience in luxury sectors.

"A new everyday product with an intentionally audacious contraposition between daily and luxury use is my intention. Its name, Supermarket Bag, was born as a joke, trying to imagine the beauty of walking into a grocery store carrying a bag adorned with Swarovski," Venturi said.

"Supermarket Bag would never be seen just as a traditional accessory. It is a feature that becomes the center of attention," she added.

Behind every Supermarket Bag there is a strong desire to use uncommon and sophisticated materials during daily routine activities, such as shopping in a grocery store. An iconic, recognizable everyday object is revisited and reinterpreted through smooth leathers, which are carefully selected by Venturi.

The simple bag concept combines a natural shape and utility with elaborate materials and unique pairings. Traditional leathers – washed and intensely treated to take on a worn and authentic feel – are mixed and alternated with exotic textures, ranging from pony-skin effects to contrasting python, giraffe, zebra and crocodile skin designs. "As a designer and also a customer, I believe it is not easy to find items that are fashionable and suitable for everyone. Likewise, I get the same feeling when I am looking at a runway shoe when models wear gorgeous dresses which are often prohibitive," Venturi said.



STYLISH GERMAN FINDS CHINESE LUXURY IN TEA SILK

Text Ruan Fan

Sixteen years ago, German-born Kathrin von Rechenberg left Paris, where she used to work for luxury brands such as Chanel, Christian Dior and Christian Lacroix. She didn't leave to make a fortune.

In search of a particular kind of material, tea silk, she came to Shunde, a small city in South China's Guangdong province. She didn't come for fame.

A piece of clothing is a piece of art, and Rechenberg is the artist, she said. And that's why she has spent decades dedicating herself to her mission of making durable art clothing that appreciates with time.

"My clients have to be quite patient. Usually, they will have to stand for an hour, sometimes two, for me to get the perfect cut," she said.

For Rechenberg, a perfect cut should be as precise and smooth as Chinese calligraphy. She always avoids complicated decorations, which she says are often used "to cover up the imperfection of a cut".

"Making clothes is like carving a sculpture. It's about taking off things that are unnecessary, and you have more strength when it is kept simple," Rechenberg said, adding that she got her inspiration from her father.

"My father is quite precise with the sculptures he's doing.

Sometimes he will spend hours adjusting the light, just to get the right shade on the sculpture," she said. "While I couldn't understand why my father is so particular with his work, it sure influenced me in a subtle way."

Rechenberg said her pursuit of precision began when she was growing up, and developed as her self-identity took shape.

"I don't like superficial people. I hate being extravagant and over dramatic. I would rather find a companion in Bach's music than by going to parties."

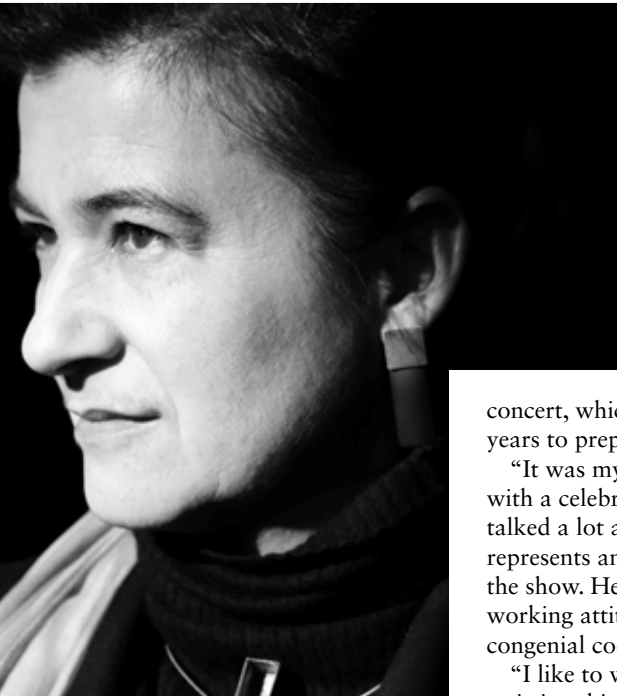
'ALMOST AS GOOD' NOT GOOD ENOUGH

It might also explain why Rechenberg insists on being in charge of everything she does to achieve the best possible result — going to Shunde to witness for herself the production of tea silk, and working with her colleagues in her workshop to dye clothing. "I try to be both an artisan and an artist at the same time," she said.

Adopting such an attitude over the years, Rechenberg has attracted the attention of celebrities who share common perspectives.

Two years ago, the famous Chinese singer Gong Linna and her husband, Robert, contacted Rechenberg, asking if she could make outfits for her upcoming





concert, which would take three years to prepare.

“It was my first time to work with a celebrity. Robert and I talked a lot about what the concert represents and the central idea of the show. He and I share the same working attitude, so it was quite a congenial cooperation.”

“I like to work with people with artistic achievements, rather than just celebrities. I think they can better understand the beauty of my clothing,” Rechenberg said.

Having resided in Beijing for more than a decade, Rechenberg’s small studio apartment has grown into a workshop that has more than a dozen employees. And she has grown more “picky” about her customers.

“I hated being ‘almost as good’, it’s never good for me, and I hope to sell my clothes to those who respect and can appreciate them,” she said.

THE OLDER, THE BETTER

Before Rechenberg came to China, she was a promising apprentice designer at Chanel, one of the world’s top haute couture houses in Paris.

Prior to that, she was a first-prize winner in a clothes-making competition in Germany, and an honor graduate from the top haute couture school, The School of the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne in Paris.

If she had persisted in working

at Chanel, she might have moved her way up from a pattern maker to a fashion guru just like famous alumni from her school such as Yves Saint Laurent and Karl Lagerfeld, dictating the fashion trends of each season.

But being an iconic trendsetter was simply not what Rechenberg was after. Taking things into her own hands always mattered more.

“Starting at a young age, I liked making clothes. I would take my friend’s mother’s handkerchief to make clothes for my dolls, and at the age of 11, I made the first dress for myself,” Rechenberg said.

“It was more about making clothes that had character, something that is uniquely Rechenberg.”

So, while others could not comprehend why she wouldn’t stay, she needed only one reason to leave when she first touched a piece of tea silk.

“I liked the material so much, and it is only produced in China. That’s why I came to China in the late 1990s,” she said.

For the last decade or so, she has been focusing on exploring the beauty of tea silk, and made the material a signature of her own label, Xiangyunsha — fragrant cloud organza — the Chinese name for tea silk.

Today it remains a cornerstone of her collections.

“I first got to know the material while I was working in a haute



couture house in Paris. One of my classmates, a fashion designer from Taiwan, showed me a piece of such clothing, the Chinese gambiered silk. I fell in love with it at first sight.”

Rechenberg said the material’s texture was totally new from what she had felt in Paris — it has a papyrus-like rustle, an inimitable black metallic sheen and a look of leather, while the complicated production process only made it more captivating.

The preparation process involves dyeing the silk up to 40 times in tea and other organic ingredients and covering it with mud to dry in the sun. The finished piece is comfortable to wear and not too glamorous. And the longer you wear it, the more comfortable it becomes.”

“It represents a humble elegance and helps underline the personality of the wearer, rather than hiding it,” she said.

In tea silk, Rechenberg found a way to express her own philosophy, which aims to bring out the confidence and inner beauty of the wearer, or in her words, it is “functional, but not decorative”.

“One should not see the clothes first, but the woman wearing them. She looks good when she feels comfortable and makes the clothing her own,” Rechenberg said.

“Such clothes are like a little black dress, which will never be outdated, and just like a fine wine: the older, the better.”

The Chinese gambiered silk has a papyrus-like rustle, an inimitable black metallic sheen and a look of leather.



PEOPLE



Beijing Backs Itself to Be the Best / 50

ANA Using 'Omotenashi' to Overcome
Industry Challenges / 54

The Power of Passion for Ancient
Patterns / 60

Beijing BACKS I

Text Zeng Xiaoxin

In March this year, Han Zhiliang formally assumed the position of General Manager of Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA). Already, Han has a clear strategy for the future development of BCIA — a leading enterprise affiliated with Capital Airport Holding Company (CAH). This autumn, Han Zhiliang shared with Sky Times his perception of the airport management concepts, hub strategy, technology, “green” airports and services.

Development opportunity greater than challenge

When asked whether BCIA, which has the highest passenger throughput in China, is confident about the future as the country enters into a “new normal” stage of economic growth, Han said with a smile, “the opportunity is greater than the challenge for BCIA.”

The 13th “Five-year Plan” period (2016-2020) will be a decisive stage for China to increase the nation’s overall wealth and build a dominant aviation industry.

While maintaining a national economic growth rate of 6.5 percent, it is estimated that the civil aviation industry will grow at a rate of 10 percent, he said, adding that regional cooperation in areas such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road will aid such growth. He said the rapid advancement of technology innovation worldwide, including new technologies such as cloud computation, mobile Internet, big data and the Internet of Things, will help BCIA to realize its more global vision.

After construction of Beijing’s second airport is completed, the city will form a double hub operation system of great strategic significance. “I proposed that BCIA focuses on confidence, self improvement, service, responsibility, co-construction and sharing, which are the guiding principles of the company’s development,” Han said.

“BCIA is the gateway to China and is a leading enterprise of CAH. Our goal is to build a large international hub airport, becoming the benchmark for global airports to aspire to. To achieve this goal, we not only need to work hard, but also to be supported. Therefore, we aim to enable our partners to share the social value, brand value and economic value brought by the development of BCIA,” he said.

ITSELF TO BE THE BEST



*Han Zhiqiang
General Manager & CEO of
Beijing Capital International
Airport Co., Ltd. (BCIA)*

Construction of international hub imperative

“BCIA has a shortage of flight schedule and operation resources, but this is a so-called ‘good headache’ to have,” Han said. “Many airlines want to establish an air route to

Beijing, but they are not able to, and many flights want to stop overnight here, but there are no aircraft stands for them.”

“With three terminals and three runways, BCIA provides service for 600,000 flights, with annual passenger throughput of 90 million. The capacity of the three terminals is fully utilized and some terminals have exceeded their design capacity.”

“To deal with the shortage of operation resources, we are building a large international hub which will focus on international integration and flight transfers,” Han explained.

“Within three to five years, BCIA aims to increase the proportion of its international flights to 30 percent, and the proportion of its international passengers to 33 percent.”

He added that BCIA will increase flight density, simplify check-in procedures, shorten processing time and provide value-added services through integrating new and existing resources.

Fulfilling social responsibilities

Information technology is changing people’s travel patterns and experiences. Evolving to become intelligent airports is an inevitable choice for most airports in China. Han believes that the priority for an intelligent airport is to meet the individualized demands of diversified passengers.

As one of the busiest airports in the world, BCIA attaches great importance to information technology construction. By utilizing new technologies such as cloud computation, the Internet of Things and big data, BCIA is moving toward becoming an intelligent airport. For example, by borrowing the concept of Industry 4.0, BCIA can realize the target of meeting individualized demands of passengers. The airport already makes use of new technologies such as passenger recognition, indoor location services and big data.

BCIA recently successfully passed the Grade 1 Airport Carbon Accreditation, becoming the first airport on the Chinese mainland to achieve such certification. Han said there is no conflict between enterprise development and environment protection — the truth is they share a common



interest. Going “green” to protect the environment is an inevitable choice for enterprise to realize sustainable development, and is also the best embodiment of an enterprise’s social responsibility, he believes.

“In terms of green airport construction, I believe we should not only improve our own standards, but also set a benchmark for others. Green airport construction can not be achieved overnight, but it is a dynamic process. It requires us to constantly strive to achieve advanced international standards and actively learn the best practices of the industry,” Han said.

Reports suggest that since last year, BCIA has made great progress in energy-saving and reducing carbon emissions by taking a series of measures, including promoting large-capacity public transportation, the use of LED lamps, attempting photovoltaic power generation, promoting the use of bridge equipment and reusing reclaimed wastewater.

Increasing customer satisfaction through sincere service

In the second quarter of this year, the Airports Council International (ACI) said passenger satisfaction at Beijing airport had reached 4.99 out of 5.

“The score is affirmation of our progress. However, research shows that Singapore Changi Airport, South Korea’s Incheon International Airport and Hong Kong International Airport consistently achieve a score of around 4.9, indicating that BCIA must strive to maintain such a rating in the long-term,” Han said.

“More important than the ACI service evaluation system is that BCIA fully implements the concept of sincere service in all aspects of its management system, service ability, operation quality and employee awareness.”

BCIA’s concept of sincere service is based on the actions of promoting systematic production, improving weak links, perfecting key products and building positive perceptions of technology projects.

“Many people think that walking distances in BCIA terminals are too long. We are not able to physical cut the distance, so we optimized operation management of battery carts and introduced moving walkways. We also redesigned the landscape in the corridor between T1 and T2, to give passengers the feeling they are in a bamboo forest to help relieve the feeling of fatigue or stress,” Han explained.

BCIA places high importance on recruiting model employees. On Nov. 26 last year, BCIA initiated the “Love and Warm Service” program to help more than 1,000 employees provide passengers with the best airport experience possible. BCIA also offers promotions and special services during major holidays.

“By referring to international standards, BCIA has realized the simultaneous development of a hub airport, an intelligent airport and green airport through the implementation of the sincere service concept,” Han concluded.



ANA

USING 'OMOTENASHI'

to

OVERCOME INDUSTRY

CHALLENGES

Text Cao Shenshen



In Japanese culture, “omotenashi” is the notion of providing hospitality which entertains guests wholeheartedly, and this is at the center of All Nippon Airways’ DNA.

“This notion is not only shown in the origins of the ANA brand, but can also be seen in the pursuits of ANA’s 35,000 employees,” Shinichi Abe, ANA senior vice president and general manager of China said. When talking about the aviation industry in Japan, most people often think of Japan Airlines, while ANA, the nation’s largest airline, is often confused with JAL.

“We conducted a survey this year and found ANA’s brand recognition in China had declined 8.5 percent compared with 2015,” Abe said. “We hope increasing numbers of Chinese customers can be made aware of the ANA brand, so when they travel to Japan or other counties, ANA can be their first choice.”

Anyone who traveled with ANA before is likely to have been deeply impressed by its competitive services, products and high-quality operations, both at the airport and onboard the flight. This year, ANA was certified as a 5-star airline for the fourth consecutive year in the World Airline Rating issued by Skytrax. In July, ANA won the World’s Best Airport Service and Best Airline Staff in Asia categories at the prestigious Skytrax World Airline Awards.



Over the past 60 years, since ANA was founded in 1952, the airline's operations have been based on a foundation of safety and trust, connecting people around the world. "We bring the world closer together to inspire infinite possibilities," Abe said. "The wings within ourselves help to fulfill the hopes and dreams of an interconnected world."

In winter 2014, there were newly added 43 routes between the Chinese mainland and Japan, with 41 of those being operated by Chinese airlines. By summer 2015, the number of weekly flights between China and Japan had increased by 219, of which 201 were operated by Chinese carriers.

"The competition is so fierce, but we want to rise to the challenge with our high-quality services and security," Abe said.

"ANA opened its first international route from Tokyo to Guam in 1986, followed by the first Sino-Japanese route from Tokyo to Beijing, via Dalian, in 1987. Currently, we operate 25 Sino-Japanese routes per week — including Hong Kong — and in April this year, we opened a new flight from Narita, Tokyo, to Wuhan, the capital of Central China's Hubei province," Abe said, adding "next year, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first Sino-Japanese route, and we hope to increase cultural exchanges between China and Japan."

Abe has lived in Beijing and Chengdu for many years. This autumn, Sky Times interviewed him in his Beijing office to discuss ANA's strategies, sustainable growth and challenges.

ST: What's the overall performance of the air routes to China opened by ANA?

Abe: From April 2015 to March 2016, the number of global passengers traveling by air between China and Japan totaled more than 2.2 million. The number of tourists to Japan showed a 10 percent year-on-year increase. However, starting from October 2015, Chinese carriers opened new routes between China and Japan, low-cost airlines offered discounts, and cruise ship tourism grew in popularity. As a result, ANA is undergoing a comparatively hard time.

The number of travelers in the Chinese mainland using ANA between April 2015 and March 2016 reached more than one million, a year-on-year increase of 30 percent. The figure is based on one-way trips from China to Japan or vice versa. The number of Chinese traveling to Japan totaled 4.99 million, with about 10 percent of such travelers using ANA.

The number of travelers to Japan in July and August — a peak season for tourism — this year grew significantly from the previous year, with group-ticket purchasing outweighing individual-ticket purchases, especially via online bookings on ANA's website.

ST: What challenges does ANA face?

Abe: This year, ANA opened a new route from Wuhan to Narita, which is the 25th route opened by ANA in China. The ANA Wuhan office is the company's 11th office in China, and next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of ANA's air routes to China.

Increasing passenger numbers is not only a challenge, but also an opportunity for ANA. The second challenge is the above-mentioned change in the way that the Chinese passengers are purchasing tickets — online and in groups. The third challenge for ANA is how to enable more Chinese travelers to explore the charm of Japan using domestic air routes.

ANA operates 116 domestic air routes linking 50 cities in Japan. It has a huge network, with more than 860 daily flights. Travelers flying from China can transfer to many different Japanese cities by taking ANA domestic flights via four airports, including Narita, Haneda, Nagoya and Osaka.



ANA offers authentic Japanese Cuisine on the flights, including sashimi, sushi and miso soup, etc.





ST: You mentioned that some domestic carriers, particularly low-cost airlines, have a significant impact upon ANA since the end of 2015. Can you elaborate on this?

Abe: In 2014, the number of air routes between China and Japan increased by 43, of which 41 were opened by Chinese airline companies. For example, air routes between Shijiazhuang and Shizuoka, and between Tianjin and Okinawa were opened by numerous Chinese carriers, including Air China, China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Capital Airlines, Spring and Autumn Airlines and Juneyao Airlines.

ST: ANA is cooperating with some Japanese cities to promote the development of local tourism, such as Shimane and Tottori. What is the result of the promotional activities, and will ANA work with other cities?

Abe: ANA hopes it can introduce some cities in northeast Japan, such as Yamagata, to tourists. In this way, tourists will have the chance to explore more destinations in addition to popular places such as Tokyo and Osaka.

ST: How to attract the transfer passengers?

Abe: ANA is actively expanding the routes between China and other countries via Japan. For example, travelers flying from China to the US via Japan usually take two routes. On the first route, travelers stop in Narita before transferring to other flights heading to destinations in the US, such as Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Saint Jose, Seattle, Chicago and Honolulu. On the second route, travelers stop at Haneda before transferring to flights bound for Los Angeles or Honolulu, or Vancouver in Canada. Many passengers stay overnight in Tokyo to shop before transferring. ANA offers substantial discounts. For example, an one-way trip to the US costs just 6,000 yuan (\$900), which is popular with Chinese students studying in the US.

ST: Has the appreciation of the yen affected Chinese tourists? Will it exert any pressure on ANA's operations?

Abe: It means that travelers have to spend more money than before, with commodity prices increasing. Travelers might feel it is more cost-efficient to travel farther countries than Japan, which would result in ANA losing some clients. In terms of internal operations, conversions from yuan to yen results in losses caused by foreign exchange rates.



ST: Chinese carriers opened new air routes rapidly, the competition from low-cost airline companies is also fierce. What kind of strategy does ANA adopt to deal with such competition?

Abe: ANA competes against low-cost airline companies from the perspectives of service quality and flight safety. It is not appropriate to compare ANA's transportation rate with that of low-cost airline companies. ANA adjusts its transportation rates using the average prices of some Chinese domestic carriers as a reference. As a Japanese airline company, ANA attaches the highest importance to our service quality.

ST: Which are the most popular routes from China to Japan?

Abe: ANA operates both wide-body and narrow-body aircrafts. The Passenger Load Factor(PLF) of smaller airplanes is naturally higher than that of larger ones. A high PLF is often recorded on routes from Beijing to Osaka, and from Hangzhou to Osaka. The number of passengers is directly linked with the number of flights and their profits. A large number of passengers is often recorded on the route from Narita to Pudong. Higher profits are recorded on the routes from Beijing to Haneda, from Shanghai Hongqiao to Haneda, and from Shanghai Pudong to Haneda, as passengers on these air routes often buy business-class tickets. Routes from Japan to Chengdu are comparatively popular with Japanese travelers.

ST: Amid fierce competition in terms of air routes between China and Japan, what role will the Chinese market play in ANA's strategy? Will ANA enhance its capacity in the Chinese market by increasing flights or opening new air routes?

Abe: ANA flights between China and Japan account for one-third of its total number, but the company hopes to open more air routes in China. For example, destinations in China are mostly concentrated in coastal regions, with Chengdu and Wuhan the only two cities in Central China. ANA hopes it can explore more of China's domestic market, linking Japanese cities with Chongqing, Xi'an and Harbin. ANA also hopes it can increase flight frequency. For example, travelers can fly from Japan in the morning and arrive in Chinese destinations such as Dalian, Qingdao and Xiamen by the afternoon. We hope to enable travelers moving in the opposite direction to do the same.





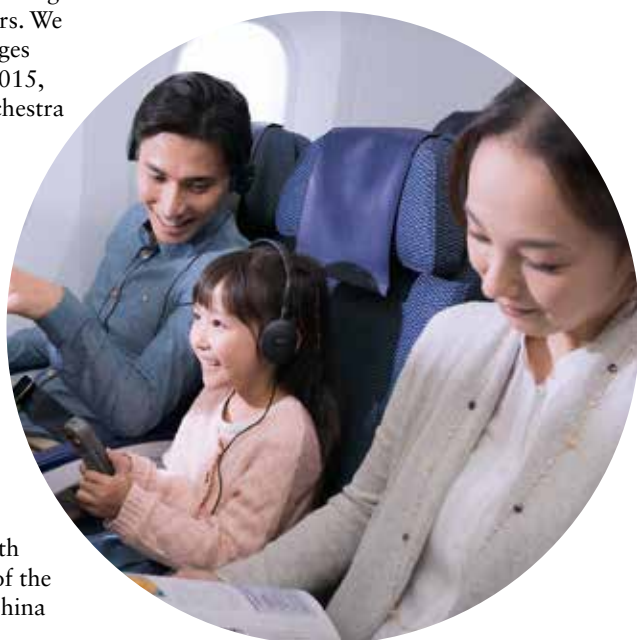
ST: 2017 will be the 30th anniversary of the first ANA's air route between China and Japan. What is your vision for the future?

Abe: ANA has been working hard to improve its operating performance in the Chinese market over the past 30 years. We hope it can make more contributions to cultural exchanges between China and Japan. For example, in November 2015, ANA sponsored a performance by NHK Symphony Orchestra in China.

To make it more convenient for tourists to travel in Japan, ANA will open more domestic routes. This is an important direction for ANA's development in the years to come.

The year 2017 will not only mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of China-Japan routes by ANA, but also the 45th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between China and Japan. It will also mark the 120th anniversary of the birth of Okazaki Kaheita, former president of ANA, who made considerable contributions to the opening of air routes between China and Japan.

So the year 2017 will be a year of great significance. ANA will conduct its business in the Chinese market with a sense of gratitude and by making use of the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the opening of air routes between China and Japan.



The Power of Passion for

Text **Qiu Lian**

Photos **China National Silk Museum**

Design sketch of the costume of the painted bodhisatva in the 45th cave of Tang Dynasty.



The frescoes and colored sculptures in the Mogao Caves, also known as the Thousand Buddha Grottoes, are not strange to Chang Shana, who has lived with her late father, Chang Shuhong, in Dunhuang, Northwest China's Gansu province, since her childhood. As luck would have it, Lin Huiyin has led her along the path of craft design, which granted her an opportunity to immerse herself in studying the various patterns in the caves and to carry on the destined relationship between the elder generation and Dunhuang.

Discovering Dunhuang

In 1959, Chang Shana, who was then a teacher at the Central Academy of Fine Arts' Department of Dyeing and Weaving, and two of her colleagues, Li Mianlu and Huang Nengfu, traveled from Beijing to Lanzhou by train to visit Dunhuang. As the surroundings turned from city to Gobi Desert, Chang Shana said she recalled when she first visited Dunhuang with her parents. While Chang Shuhong was studying oil painting in France, he had seen a catalog about Dunhuang by chance at a small bookstore alongside the River Seine. The painter, who had been fascinated by Western culture was instantly drawn to Dunhuang.

In 1942, following the alleged sale of relics by profiteers at the Longmen Grottoes in Luoyang, Henan province, Chongqing residents stirred discussions on how to protect such relics. Pressured, the national government ordered the Ministry of Education to establish the National Dunhuang Research Institute. Recommended by his friend, Chang Shuhong was named deputy director of the preparatory committee and after spending that winter recruiting a team in Lanzhou, he went to Dunhuang in February next year. After carrying on the work on protecting the caves and investigating the conditions, Chang Shuhong decided to return to Chongqing to pick up his wife and daughter.

"In the autumn of 1943, we left Chongqing for Lanzhou by truck. Mother sat in the passenger seat, holding in her arm my younger brother, Jia Ling, who was two years old then. I stayed at the back of the truck, which had a felt cover acting as a roof. I did not feel tired or bored. Instead, I thought it was fun, enjoying the scenery along roads that I had never seen before. Mother could not adapt to the bumpiness of the roads and the weather, which got colder and colder, so Father kept comforting her," Chang Shana told me.

In 1959, thanks to the work of Chang Shuhong and his colleagues, the Mogao Caves took on a new look: As the numbering rule of Zhang Daqian had some inconveniences,

Ancient Patterns



caverns were renumbered, totaling 465. With the progress of maintenance work, which commenced in 1948, many new caverns were found. Statue numbering was completed in 1957, statistics stating there are 2,415 statues in the Mogao Caves. An anti-sand wall, measuring about 1,000 meters in length, was built to keep out plant-eating animals, as vegetables and crops such as Hami melon, celery, potato, leek and wheat were planted within the wall. Copy was being done at the same time, but it was on a small scale and slow to limited manpower and equipment before the founding of the People's Republic of China.

In 1954, the Ministry of Culture purchased a power generator for the research institute, enabling the fine arts team to work at night, which Chang Shuhong described in his autobiography:

“According to relevant regulations, power generation commenced at 6 p.m. Suddenly, passing the Guhan Bridge from the Zhongshi Temple, I found that all the electric bulbs were shining, making the frescoes and colored sculptures in the millennium-old grottoes look resplendent. I ran into every cavern with excitement. In the end, I walked into a grotto which was as brightly lit as in daylight and saw Ouyang Lin, who was copying in an overhead location. I noticed her eyes were damaged from working for so long in dark caverns. Lit up by the strong light, she was gazing at me, unable to open her twinkling eyes completely. I could see tears running down her smiling face – they were tears of happiness and excitement.”

It was summer when Chang Shana, Li Mianlu and Huang Nengfu arrived at Dunhuang. Summer is the best season for copying.

“The sun rises from Sanwei Mountain at 5 a.m. in the early morning and falls on the Mingsha Mountain at 10 p.m. at night. In the longest days, the sun hangs in the sky for as long as 17 hours. At that time, the grottoes were not equipped with doors made of aluminum alloy, and the frescoes had no glass barrier in front of them. With the aid of the reflection of the strong light on the stone wall, you could see the frescoes and sculptures clearly without having to use an electric bulb. In the daytime, we would draw the pattern lines with pencil on our notebooks and indicate the colors beside them. At night, we would stay in to color them. Portraits of humans or gods were painted near most patterns,” Chang Shana recalled.

At that time, the Mogao Caves had no tourists and all the grottoes were open to those who were there to copy for research purposes. Work inside the Mogao Caves has helped preserve images of the Buddha, frescoes and colored sculptures from ancient dynasties and kingdoms. In the manuscripts left behind, the costume patterns of 10 dynasties are all described.

Design sketch of the costume of the provider in the 61th cave of Song Dynasty.



An eventful exhibition

Since 1945, guided by her father and the work staff of the research institute, Chang Shana has developed amazing copying skills.

“We went back to Lanzhou first. As advised by local officials, Father publicly displayed his sketches of ethnic minorities from Dunhuang and oil paintings that he carried with him, as well as my copied works of frescoes, naming the exhibition the ‘Art Show of Chang Shuhong and His Daughter,’” Chang Shana told me.

“Reva Esser (Chinese name: Ye Lihua), a Canadian woman from the US, thought that it was rare that the paintings were drawn by a girl of 13 or 14 years of age, and wanted to send me to the US for further education. Father thought that I was still young and could not take good care of myself so he did not agree. In 1948, Mrs. Ye came to visit Father again and he nodded when she said that she wanted to send me to the fine arts school affiliated to Boston Fine Arts Museum to study painting,” she added.

The outbreak of the War to Resist the US Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-1953) worsened China-US relations, with many Chinese students studying in the US returning to China. Chang Shana also gave up her unfinished studies and returned to China in late 1950.

“Upon arriving in Beijing, I found that Father was preparing the Dunhuang Art Exhibition as a patriotic publicity activity for the War to Resist the US Aggression and Aid Korea, so I helped him with the exhibition. During the event, Father told me that Liang Sicheng and Lin Huiyin would come to visit the exhibition and asked me to accompany them. They are both good friends of Father,” Chang Shana said.

With her support, Lin Huiyin, who was weak due to suffering from tuberculosis, walked up the stairs of the Meridian Gate at the Forbidden City. They stood for a long while and Lin Huiyin’s face turned red when she saw the copies of the frescoes of the past.

After the exhibition, they told Chang Shana’s father that they wanted to make her a teaching assistant at Tsinghua University’s Fine Arts Teaching Research Group. This became a turning point



Design Sketch of the costume of the provider from Cao Yijin Family in the 98th cave of Five Dynasties.



Dermatoglyphic pattern of Vi-malakirti embroider in the 360th cave of late Tang Dynasty.

for her to shift from fresco copying to pattern research. Her task was to be apprenticed to Lin Huiyin and assist her in sorting out and studying Chinese traditional patterns. According to Lin Huiyin's plan, they set out in the innovative transformation of applying Dunhuang and other traditional decorative patterns in the modern design of arts and crafts, and started to creatively inherit, design and explore Beijing's special workmanship, such as cloisonne, porcelain burning and lacquer art. In 1952, they designed a souvenir for the Asia and Pacific Rim Peace Conference — a colored silk scarf.

Chang Shana realized that the beautiful Dunhuang decorative patterns should not only exist on the cold grotto walls or the drawing paper of copy painters, but that they should also instill vitality in the daily lives of ordinary people. She also learned that appropriate application of patterns is related to the essence of arts and crafts, and people should view and utilize traditional patterns with modern awareness on the precondition of using the materials and functions of the articles being designed.

Chang Shana remembers clearly that, even despite her serious illness, Lin Huiyin still visited the factory of cloisonne along with several of her assistants. She understood that it is highly expressive and can display the styles of many other materials, such as the mildness and semi-transparency of ancient jade; the naturalness and liveliness of porcelain of the Song Dynasty; and the beauty of brocade, which was the basis for applying Dunhuang patterns to design cloisonne.

In 1952, all teachers at Tsinghua University's Department of Marketing Construction were transferred to the Central Academy of Fine Arts, which established its Department of Practical Fine Arts by combining the departments of national painting, oil painting, sculpture and woodcut. In 1956, the Central Academy of Fine Arts was founded, which involved the merging of the Central Academy of Fine Arts' Department of Practical Fine Arts, while Chang Shana became a teacher at the new academy's Department of Dyeing and Weaving.

It was not until 1999 that Chang Shana got an opportunity to apply for a research subject and to sort out and collect the Dunhuang decorative patterns of the past with her students. In the past, she had often asked her students on basic pattern-teaching courses to copy the Dunhuang decorative patterns.

“The Mogao Caves include more than 700 grottoes. Among them, 492 grottoes have numbered frescoes and colored



sculptures. The frescoes cover an area of about 45,000 square meters and there are more than 2,000 sculptures. Despite our careful selection and classification, it is only a drop in the ocean,” Chang Shana said.

On Aug. 21, 1980, Chang Shuhong, aged 76, wrote a letter to Chang Shana, saying “Shana, do not forget your relationship with Dunhuang. It is time that you did something about Dunhuang.”

Chang Shana said that she would always keep his words in mind. As it happens, Chang Shana left Dunhuang and followed the path of arts and crafts design. Nevertheless, she is still studying patterns, extending the traditions of Dunhuang to a new generation.



Chang Shana
Photo by Duan Wei

LIFESTYLE



Chic / 66

The 5 Yummiest Hotpots in China / 68

Books & Films / 70

Getting Lost in the Great Gardens of Yangzhou / 72

Total Tranquility in the World's Oldest Tea Garden / 76

East Beijing Combines Business With Pleasure / 78

Musicians That Think Different: Radik Tyulyush / 80

Gifts for Him on

Text Ting Ting



Bottega Veneta

The particular proportions of this fedora hat have been studied especially for Bottega Veneta, making the style unique. Expertly crafted in soft felt, it features the classic grosgrain ribbon trim in contrasting color and an unlined interior, ensuring it remains comfortably light to wear.



Rolex

The Yacht-Master is revered for its casual yet purposeful allure. The large hour markers and broad hands are reserved for Professional models and remain extremely readable in all situations. The Yacht-Master is at home on deck on the open sea as well as on land in an elegant yacht club lounge.



Burberry

The Classic Cashmere Scarf in check with color block print is made at a 200-year-old mill in the Scottish countryside. Add up to three initials or special characters to the scarf. Choose from colored thread or crystals in different sizes and layouts.



Salvatore Ferragamo

The new foldover briefcase from the FW2016 Collection has removable and adjustable straps in calfskin.



Rimowa

Classic Flight is an elegant and timeless retro collection made from aluminum. The meticulously handcrafted cases are a special highlight for nostalgic globetrotters in particular.



Calvin Klein

Eternity Now for Men symbolizes the spirit of today's man: sensitive yet masculine, refined yet strong.

Prada

Brushed calf leather derby-style laced sneaker with Saffiano print rubber sole.



and Her



La Mer

Born from the sea, the legendary Creme de la Mer, offers unique formulas with power to soothe sensitivities, heal dryness and restore radiance for younger-looking skin.

Stuart Weitzman

An even-sexier incarnation of the perpetually popular Highland, this sleek Allegs boot has been cut to boldly graze the upper thigh. Crafted from a unique ultrastretch material, this sizzling showstopper is the perfect finishing touch to dark-washed skinnies or bare legs and a relaxed mini-dress.



Cartier

The Tourbillon Mysterieux Azure pendant watch is designed by an expert hand, out of which the form of a butterfly appears amid outstretched lines and rhythmical curves. The wings are comprised of sapphires, with rows of diamonds making up the body.



Tiffany

Beautifully crafted and carefully designed Dazzling icons set with sparkling diamonds, Tiffany Keys celebrate the wisdom, joy and optimism of a life well-lived. Icons of self-expression, the keys embody independence, confidence and power.



YSL

The YSL Sparkle Clash Holiday 2016 makeup collection with sparkly gold packaging has seven limited-edition products, which come in lots of colors that will have you ready for any event.



Furla

The Metropolis shoulder bag with a leather shoulder strap offers a sophisticated, chic look, combining elegance and functionality.

The 5 Yummieriest Hotpots in China

Text Feng Shuangqing

As the temperature drops lower and lower in the northern hemisphere, hotpot leaps to the top of the list for an evening meal in China. A pot of stock is kept simmering at the center of the table, while diners place thin slices of meat, leafy vegetables, mushrooms, dumplings, tofu and seafood into the broth and cook them.

Although hotpot is a classic of Chinese cuisine on the world stage, most people don't know that as many as 30 different varieties can be found in China. Here are the most popular hotpots that will warm you up on cold nights this winter.

Sichuan Hotpot

Sichuan hotpot is a fiery feast featuring a steaming, bubbling vat of chili oil in which searing spices can ignite your lips and numb your tongue. The most common soup bases are red chili oil with beef tallow, chili pepper and Chinese prickly ash (a mouth-numbing spice); clear soup, which is a non-spicy version with mushrooms in a chicken broth; and the double-flavored. Must-try ingredients include goose intestine, fresh pork aorta and tripe. Don't forget to order the perfect partner of sesame oil and mashed garlic as the dipping sauce, since it can help cool the food, and also relieve the heat in your mouth.



Mutton Hotpot



Copper pot, charcoal fire, you see them everywhere on cold winter nights at mutton hotpot restaurants in Beijing. According to traditional Chinese medicine, mutton can ward off coldness and maintaining warmth in the body, replenishing energy and even improving circulation. The fat-hemmed mutton slices present your taste buds with a splendidly fresh and tender treat. Don't keep the slices in the pot too long, as they cook quickly. Usually the soup base is simply boiled water with chopped spring onion and ginger flakes to let the natural flavor of the mutton shine through.

Yunnan Wild Fungi Hotpot

Richly endowed by nature, Yunnan Province in Southwest China abounds with wild fungi that not only have a spanking fresh, sweet and juicy taste, but are also nutrient-dense, packed with vitamins and high-quality protein. So the most interesting hotpot in Yunnan is the soup base made with dozens of kinds of wild mushrooms, including some rare types such as matsutake and chanterelle. Wild fungi hotpot restaurants usually provide a timer to remind diners to wait until the mushrooms are well-cooked. A sip of the scrumptious boiled soup makes the wait well worth it.



Chaoshan Beef Hotpot

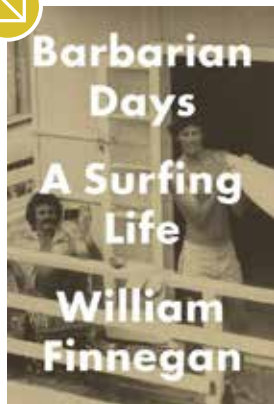
Chaoshan district is known as a linguistic and cultural region in Guangdong province on Southeast China's coast. Although there are no pastures, Chaoshan district is hailed as being home to the best beef hotpot in China. The beef comes from cattle that have been butchered no more than four hours previously, and some meat can even be seen still twitching, as the nerve endings are still alive. The finely sliced meat can be cooked within 10 seconds. Chaoshan beef hotpot is so popular that one restaurant can go through two cows' worth of meat per day to satisfy demand.



Hong Kong-style Porridge Hotpot

What happens when light porridge is made into big meals like hotpot? Hong Kong-style porridge hotpot is a bold attempt to apply seafood congee as a soup base. The most popular version is a dried scallop soup, in which dried scallops and round-grained rice are stewed on a slow heat, with black shiitake, sliced red tomato and green minced cilantro added. Instead of beef or mutton, porridge hotpot is best served with ingredients such as shrimp, fish, crabs and mushrooms. The longer the ingredients are boiled, the more delicious the porridge will be.





Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life

by William Finnegan

“When you surf, as I then understood it, you live and breathe waves. You always know what the surf is doing. You cut school, lose jobs, lose girlfriends, if it’s good.” — William Finnegan

“How many ways can you describe a wave? You’ll never get tired of watching Finnegan do it.” This is how TIME magazine described the winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Autobiography, *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life*.

It’s probably the most detailed delineation of surfing ever. The mechanics and intoxicating thrills, history and culture, evolution of surfboard designs and transition from the longboard to the agile short board coalesce to create a vivid picture of what makes surfing so exciting. The book is sure to persuade young men to roam the world, to experience the ocean’s power and chase the waves, despite the guaranteed blood, sweat and tears along the way.

The primary reason for reading a memoir might be to experience a tale of an interesting life. However, the adventurous journey of William Finnegan, a writer of rare subtlety and observational talent, is certainly outside the realm of normal human experience. With an artist’s eye for color and light, and a poet’s ability to convey what he sees in precise, lyrical detail, Finnegan uses high-definition clarity to describe, for example, how he sees a wave in the distance, referring to “a dark, bottlegreen light in the bottom of the wall and a feathering whiteness overhead.”

Finnegan travels the world on an endless search for the world’s biggest waves. He brings to life other cultures, politics, people and their surroundings with rare insights. He spends time in Fiji, teaches in South Africa during apartheid, and even endures some brutal medical conditions.

“The particulars of new places grabbed me and held me, the sweep of new coasts, cold, lovely, dawns. The world was incomprehensibly large, and there was still so much to see ... I liked surrendering to the onrush, the uncertainty, the serendipity of the road.”

Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life is a read that induces wanderlust in anyone who follows along, surfer or not. Surfing is the backbone of the book, but the author’s relationships with people, not waves, form its flesh. When a young Finnegan almost gave up the sport after a particularly grueling outing, his father encouraged him to take one more wave. Over the years, it has been his parents’ encouragement that has spurred Finnegan to follow his dream.

In a sense, the book is a restless, searching meditation on love, friendship and family. By taking the risk that he might reveal himself as a superficial and irresponsible child of privilege who selfishly abandons his responsibilities in life at the sight of something as transient and inconsequential as a totally awesome set of waves, Finnegan tells the true story of his life.



Mischling

by Affinity Konar



Named after the term that was used during the Third Reich to characterize those who bore both Aryan and Jewish blood, *Mischling* is arguably one of the most harrowing, powerful and imaginative books of the year. Affinity Konar focuses on an ongoing Holocaust event: the torture of and experimentation on twins. The twinning of two young girls — with hope and despair, life and death, fortitude and triumph — is a theme that is interwoven throughout. It resists limpid sentimentality and the contortion of history, and pays witness to the darkest of times from an entirely new perspective.



Pax Romana: War, Peace and Conquest in the Roman World

by Adrian Goldsworthy

A leading historian of the ancient world, Adrian Goldsworthy turns his attention to Pax Romana, the peace and prosperity brought by the Roman Empire at its height in the first and second centuries AD. Goldsworthy examines how the Romans came to control so much of the world and asks whether traditionally favorable images of the Roman peace are true. He reveals that hostility was just one reaction to the arrival of Rome, and that from the outset, conquered peoples collaborated, formed alliances and joined invaders, causing resistance movements to fade away.



Bridget Jones's Baby

After a successful first film and a terrible sequel, Bridget Jones's Baby is much better than expected, coming 15 years after the last installment.

Adapted from the novel of the same title by British writer Helen Fielding, the Bridget Jones's Diary series starts with Jones as a single 30-something in the 1990s looking for love. In the newly released film, her character is much the same. She is still single, childless and has not had an intimate encounter for a long time, but now in her 40s, she has lost weight and has a successful career.

An outdoor music festival turns Bridget's entire world upside down when she meets a handsome stranger named Jack, who is immediately smitten with her. A couple of days later at a baby christening, Bridget runs into her ex-boyfriend, Mark Darcy. The old flame burns hot into a night of passion. The situation becomes even more complex when Bridget's focus on single life and her career is interrupted by an accidental pregnancy. But there is a major



hitch — she doesn't know who the father is.

Romantic comedies are often drawn-out dramas involving characters who are too shy to admit their feelings until intoxicated, but this is not the case for this film. The cast of Bridget Jones's Baby is able to cram in plenty of romance into a short period of time and keep the plot moving in an entertaining way with witty dialogue.

However, some critics have

fretted about gender equality, especially relating to when Bridget is delivered "like a piece of meat" to a hospital immediately before she is about to give birth, with Bridget appearing to be little more than a commodity to her so-called suitors.

You know you are in for a happy ending with a film like this, so you can sit back and enjoy the ride. Even if this is your first Bridget experience, you are bound to have fun watching it.

The Dressmaker

Based on Rosalie Ham's best-selling novel, the film tells a story of femme fatale Tilly Dunnage who returns to her small hometown in the country in Australia to right the wrongs of the past. The stylish drama with comic undertones explores themes of haute couture, love and revenge.



Cape No. 7

This music-based romantic film directed by Wei Tesheng describes the rise of a local rock band from Hengchun Township, Taiwan, and the discovery of seven love letters written 60 years ago. Cape No. 7 is a safe bet if you are looking for an entertaining film with a humorous take on life in Taiwan.



Getting Lost in the GREAT GARDENS

Text CRSB

The significance of a real journey lies not only in finding a new world, but also in creating a new insight. What beauty can you discover when capturing images in the exquisite gardens of Yangzhou?



GEYUAN GARDEN

Geyuan Garden, situated on the north side of the ancient city, is the best-preserved of its kind, with the longest history and highest artistic value. It was created and expanded based on the original site of *Shouzhi* Garden of the Ming Dynasty by Zhuang Zhijun (1770-1836), a salt merchant during the reign of Emperor Jiaqing of the Qing Dynasty. Despite its small size, its uniqueness is reflected in every corner of the garden. Significantly, the technique of *Fen Feng Yong Shi* was used in the overlapping-stone art of the garden, creating the four scenic spots of spring, summer, autumn and winter.

No. 1 Backyard Garden

The Backyard Garden is the main area of the garden and also the place with the most distinctive characteristics, including the rockeries representing the four seasons.

Summer

This area has a rockery made from Taihu Lake stones, a pond and ancient trees, which provide shade. The rockeries have a moon-shaped arched door, corresponding to the ancient city of Yangzhou, which is also known as “Moon City”.

Spring

It consists of two areas: “Early Spring” and “Late Spring”. The former, also known as “Bamboo Shoots after a Spring Rain”, consists of Baiguofeng stone, Wufeng stone and bamboo. The latter, also known as “Animals Celebrating the Spring”, consists of Taihu Lake stones which look like animals, such as dragons, tigers, snakes, monkeys, oxen, roosters and goats.

S OF YANGZHOU



No. 2 Book Collection Attic

The Book Collection Attic is a two-story attic, situated within a rockery made of yellow stone. It is unique because it must be accessed via the rockery stairs behind the house.



No. 3 West Road Building

The West Road Building has “three bright rooms with two dark rooms”. That is to say, when viewed from the outside, it appears there are only three bright rooms. But in fact, there are also two dark rooms that are only noticeable after entering the building, so it is actually a five-room structure.

Winter

The owner designed a rockery with Xuan stone, which is partially white due to containing quartz, thus creating an impression of snow thawing. The ground is paved with ice-crack bricks, to represent ice.

Autumn

The main area consists of a rockery made of yellow stone. There is a cavern which offers shade. Inside it are a chess table, a tea table and a stone bed. Maple trees are planted on top of the rockery, which provides a unique sight. Also on the rockery sits a pavilion named “Zhu Qiu Ge”, which implies a special affection for autumn.



HEYUAN GARDEN

Heyuan Garden not only represents a classic garden, but it is also a historic venue. Formerly known as “Ji Xiao Shan Zhuang”, Heyuan Garden is hailed as the No. 1 garden of the Qing Dynasty. It is divided into four parts: East Garden, West Garden, Garden Yard and Stone House.

No. 1 Door and Window

All the doors and windows of the buildings in the garden are made from glass and display a floral style that is distinctive and exquisitely carved.

No. 2 Vessel Hall

The core of the building is composed of glass windows with a floral display. The ground bricks are in the shape of rippling water and all the patterns on them are inverted, symbolizing reflections forming in water and creating an atmosphere of a vessel sailing on water. Behind Vessel Hall is the “Wall-leaning Rockery”, which uses a stone-making technique unique to the Jiangnan, the region south of the Yangtze River which is known as China’s Eden.

No. 3 Fudao Corridor

Fudao Corridor runs through the whole garden and includes a wall on which there are 12 floral windows with different distinctive patterns of terrazzo bricks. Through the windows, one can see foreign-style buildings and a spacious yard.



No. 4 Yuxiu Building

Yuxiu Building, also known as the “Western-style Building”, combines Western and Chinese architectural styles beautifully. The overall layout is similar to China’s quadrangle style. The building uses shutters with water pipes on the top and in the bottom. The marriage of Western and Chinese architecture can also be seen in many other aspects of the building.

No. 5 Stone House

The Stone House is the most famous area of Heyuan Garden and a masterpiece of Shi Tao, a painting master in the late Ming Dynasty and early Qing Dynasty. The rockery is made of Taihu Lake stone and the unique “moon in the water” imagery is formed through refraction of light into a special round cave on the rockery. Walking around it, one can see the shape of the moon in different stages.



The “Snow Beer (Chun Sheng) with Ingenuity and Craftsmanship – Chinese Ancient Architecture Photography Competition 2016” selected “Hu You (户牖 : doors and windows)” as its annual theme. It is the second time that the competition has focused on a specific component of Chinese ancient architecture; “Dou Gong (斗拱 : interlocking bracket sets)” was selected as the theme of the 2015 event. Since the photography was solicited in May, a total of 80 excellent photographers have stood out from more than one million participants after a three-month assessment and selection.

雪花 纯生
匠心营造





Hotel Reviewer:
Wang Ruosi

Total Tranquility in the World’s Oldest Tea Garden

Within the borders of Yunnan province in China, the Mekong River is known as the Lancang River, the river basin of which is the oldest area for tea production in the world. Here, the most famous place for tea cultivation is Jingmai Mountain. More than 1,700 years ago, the original inhabitants of Jingmai Mountain began planting tea leaves here. It is the birthplace of

the world’s tea, with the largest, most ancient groupings of tea trees in the world.

The Jingmai Bolian Resort & Spa is situated on this ancient tea mountain. A two-and-a-half-hour drive from the Xishuangbanna Gasa International Airport in Jinghong, through the beautiful mountainous and riverine embankments, will bring you to this outstanding hotel resort, which itself is hidden among a

vast multitude of tea plantations.

The resort serves as a foothold for the preservation and passing on of the cultural legacy of tea and has a distinct lifestyle centered around tea. The hotel experience marries local folk culture and customs with the natural scenery. We had the great fortune of taking a two-day trip to the resort and surrounding villages. Here is what we experienced:

DAY 1

We arrived at the hotel and were welcomed with a cup of Pu’er tea and melodic tunes drawing us into a world of tea. At around 3pm, all of the guests gathered in the resort’s tea room and spent the rest of the afternoon there. Beautiful dark-skinned female native singers enchanted us with their natural tones, while a tea server prepared Pu’er with an aroma of basil.

hotel for picking tea, we visited the ancient tea plantations and discovered it was the day for offering sacrifices to the inventor of tea, and we did so together with the local tea pickers before sharing a celebratory meal. Legend has it that tea was invented in 2,737 BC when dried tea leaves landed in a cup of boiling water served to Chinese Emperor Shen Nung.

In the village of the Wengjibulang tribe, deep in the mountains, old women sucking on tobacco pipes were happily sunning themselves underneath a bamboo building. On the balcony, everyone was drying out tea leaves picked during the spring, while a scent of smoldering tea filled the air, and a tea flower cockerel crowed away. The scene felt as if we had traveled back in time several centuries to an agricultural age – so blissful and tranquil.

Our trip then took us through the musical town of Laodabao, which was also a form of escape for the soul by listening to the sounds of nature. It is the hometown of the “Lusheng Love Song”

and 80 percent of the locals in the town know how to play the guitar and dance to the song. The atmosphere created an unforgettable evening among wildly joyous music and dancing.

Special recommendations

We had an organic-tea dinner at the Guanyun Pavilion, where we drank local tea with tender tea buds and ate fresh crab legs. The hotel’s freshly-roasted breads, topped with handmade butter and local camellia honey provided a uniquely distinctive eating experience.

Spa

Between Spa kiosks in the tea garden are wooden paths. Natural tea flowers and leaves are put into the bath pool to increase the concentration before hot tea is poured in. In the bath water, soaked with tea flowers, tea fruits and tea leaves, traditional Chinese Spa therapy using natural tea extracts was an ultimately relaxing experience.

DAY 2

We were driven in a private car from the hotel to a village deep in the mountains, which was surrounded by ancient tea plantations. Wearing hand-sewn clothes provided by the

Towards 150 years old

Do you believe that people can live up to 150 years old?

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In 1962, American Museum of Natural History exhibited DNA double helix model



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EAST BEIJING COMBINES BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE

Text Patsy Yang



Beijing can be overwhelming for visitors. But at the East Beijing hotel, guests have an opportunity to feel warm, cozy and relaxed.

The hotel is for those who like to feel they are part of their surrounding community and environment.

East Beijing, a lifestyle business hotel, is located in the newly developed commercial area Indigo in Jingtai, very near the famous 798 Art Zone, which is home to a number of galleries exhibiting Chinese culture and art.

The area where the hotel is located is a thriving center for business, art and residential life, as well as a dazzling showcase of contemporary architecture, culinary experiences and modern community landscaping.

The hotel's minimalist decor reflects its urban location, while still offering a sense of escapism. It is modern and spacious, but far from pretentious, with its muted palette intended to help soothe and pamper guests after a working day, or night out enjoying the city's boundless energy.

The 389 guest rooms, including 23 suites, range from 30 to 70 square meters in size. Each room is equipped with the latest iPod touch technology and modern amenities, employing cutting-edge design without sacrificing comfort.

In the public area, every effort has been made to create a serene indoor environment, with the hotel home to an art collection that reflects the neighborhood's spirit, making East Beijing an ideal retreat from the rigors of work and city life. The same relaxed, international flavor that pervades the decor can be enjoyed at the hotel's two restaurants and bar, which offer dishes made using seasonal ingredients as well as a fine selection of wine and cocktails. During the summer, Xian's terrace space is an excellent spot for recreation, not only for hotel guests, but also for community residents.



East Beijing is a lifestyle business hotel located in Jingtai, near the 798 Art Zone.

HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

Feast (Food by East):



Following the success of Feast at East Hong Kong, the restaurant's philosophy of "simple things, done well" have been brought to East Beijing. It's one of the neighborhood's best brunch venues, where the chefs utilize fresh ingredients to prepare Asian and Western dishes to order in open kitchen.

Hotel guests can enjoy all-you-can-eat buffet breakfast with a wide range of choices from fresh pastries to local Beijing snacks.

Xian:



Xian is a popular night-time spot among the locals. It's a laid-back lounge that offers a chilled vibe for those seeking a pleasant evening over quality drinks and ambient music. The bar offers a large selection of cocktails and whiskies, and has a relaxing outdoor space.



Musicians that Think Different: Radik Tyulyush

Text **Andy Bauer**

In August 2015, stranded on the side of a road with three young Tuvan men trying to fix a wheel that had been demolished by washboards, I looked out across the landscape and the 200 km of rolling mountains, taiga and prairie between us and the nearest service station.

For better or worse, I was 24 hours into a 36-hour trip to the final southwest Tuva outpost town of Kyzyl-Haya, in the autonomous Russian republic that was home to the late Aldyn-ool Sevek, deemed by many Tuvans as the greatest kargyraa singer of all time. Determined to continue onward to find the throat-singer's relatives, I left the broken-down car behind at about 2 a.m. and decided to hitchhike, eventually arriving at my destination a few days later, where I met Sevek's brother to discuss the origins of what is known as Tuvan throat singing.

Upon returning to Kyzyl, the capital of Tuva, I met a young, well-known throat-singer by the name of Radik Tyulyush, who was also interested in Sevek's legacy, and thus keen to learn about my trip.

That day in August of 2015, as he sat perched across from me in a Kyzyl restaurant I could quickly tell that he is a man of honor and is passionate about Tuvan culture. He is a gifted

vocalist and the youngest member of one of the most successful ethnic ensembles ever: Huun Huur Tu. Son of a chauffeur and doctor, Tyulyush learned throat singing, folk music, melodies and instruments from his grandfather and uncle at a hunting site deep in the taiga during the summers of his youth. He has mastered the igil, byzaanchy, shoor and other Tuvan instruments. Capable of producing both traditional and contemporary Tuvan music, Tyulyush has released four albums with Tuvan rock band "Uer" and worked with the band "Yat-kha", touring internationally, releasing two albums and winning first prize in the BBC Radio 3 World Music competition. In 2013, he released his second solo album, Chalama, which features new traditional Tuvan music as well as interpretations of traditional classics.

In September this year, I caught up Tyulyush, who was touring China with Huun Huur Tu. As we walked the streets of Beijing, he explained to me his interpretation of life and described how he thinks the human race has changed.

"We need to keep everything inside of us and pass it down, but music needs to also reflect and take part in the changes occurring in the world. I am neither a herder

nor a hunter by trait. In fact, I carry a cellphone and travel by car, not by horse," Tyulyush said, adding that developing traditions in the contemporary world requires careful thought.

He said people should listen to their elders, summing up his motivation for being a throat singer by saying "I sing for my ancestors".

What makes Tyulyush's kargyraa singing stand out from others is that he sings with his mind and his heart. He fortifies my belief that musicians who think differently can move listeners in the most profound ways.

Tyulyush is working with Chinese and American musicians on a new studio recording and tour project titled Living Mythologies that he said "breaks all language barriers", incorporating aspects of multiculturalism, poetic use of seven languages and unprecedented arrangements encompassing a vast array of instruments for all originals songs.

It was confirmed to me that Tyulyush is a musician who truly thinks differently when I asked if this new ensemble plays is contemporary, traditional or experimental music.

"It is something that will be thought of as deeply beautiful for many years, for many centuries to come," he said.



FLYING



Foreign Carriers Keen to Expand in World's
Second-largest Market 82

Aviation Industry Leaders Forge Strong Ties
at Forum 88

Flying High With Wi-Fi 92

News 94

The Year 2016 in Numbers 96



Photo by Chen Bei

Foreign Carriers Keen to Expand in World's Second-largest Market

Text Tu Lei



Photo by Yang Huanmin

The year 2016 could be an important one for some foreign airline carriers in China, as they celebrate operations in the world's second-largest aviation market.

In September, Air France celebrated 50 years of operating in China, having launched its Paris-Shanghai route in September 1966, becoming the first European carrier to serve in China.

Air France-KLM now operates 90 weekly flights, departing from Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, to nine destinations in China, including Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Taipei, Wuhan and Xiamen.

Over the past five decades, Air France-KLM has also strengthened its network. With its Chinese airline partners China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines, the Air France-KLM group offers up to 132 weekly flights in and out of China.

The European giant is not alone.

In September, American Airlines (AA) celebrated 10 years of operations in China, having entered into China in 2006.

As of now, AA flies seven routes in China, including to Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

It is still awaiting the approval of the US Department of Transportation for its Los Angeles to Beijing route, having submitted an application to operate daily flights between the two cities in March. If approved, flights on the route are expected to begin on Dec. 16.

To further woo Chinese customers, AA is updating its fleet with Boeing 787





Photo by Chen Bei



Photo by Zhang Dibin

Dreamliners and it also plans to launch a “luxury economy” class for all wide-body aircraft on international routes by the end of the year.

Rising capacity in first-tier cities

Less than two weeks before AA submitted its application, Delta Air Lines also announced plans to begin daily direct flights between Los Angeles and Beijing on Dec. 16, pending government approval.

If Delta gets the nod, it will be the only carrier in the US operating flights from Los Angeles to both Beijing and Shanghai.

Although AA and Delta Air Lines have applied for approval to operate flights between Los Angeles and Beijing, the US regulator can only approve the application of one airline, as there are limits on traffic rights between the US and China.

The struggle in Los Angeles could be a mere footnote for foreign carriers competing in China’s first-tier cities, as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou all boast sound economies, rising tourist numbers and robust demand.

Guangzhou will see a lot more A380s landing at its airport, as Emirates, which owns most of the world’s A380s, recently announced that it will deploy the jumbo jet on its daily route between Dubai and Guangzhou, capital of South China’s Guangdong province, beginning Oct. 1.

The airline will become the second carrier from the Middle East, after Qatar Airways, to deploy A380 aircraft on a route to Guangzhou. The change will allow Emirates to increase the capacity of its flights by 15 percent, helping it meet growing passenger demand between Guangzhou and Dubai.

The growing use of A380 aircraft could signal that more airlines are targeting the Chinese market, with many carriers operating flights to Guangzhou.

In May, Finnair opened a direct route between Helsinki and Guangzhou, making it the airline’s sixth destination in China after Beijing, Chongqing, Shanghai, Xi’an and Hong Kong.

Since July 1, Qatar Airways has deployed an A380 for

its daily route from Doha to Guangzhou, making it the airline's fourth destination to utilize the aircraft, after London, Paris and Bangkok.

In addition to Emirates and Qatar Airways, Saudi Arabian Airlines and Kenya Airways have also been flying to Guangzhou for many years.

In March, Royal Jordanian Airlines launched a direct route from Guangzhou to Amman, while Oman Air is expected to open a direct route from Muscat to Guangzhou and Rwanda Airlines also has a route to Guangzhou in the pipeline.

Targeting second- and third-tier cities

As the commercial flight market in China's first-tier cities becomes saturated and airport slots grow scarce, foreign airlines have been targeting the country's second- and third-tier cities, especially in West China.

In the same week in May, two foreign airlines both opened a new international route from a city in West China, illustrating the growing demand in this once sleepy part of the world's second-largest aviation market.

On May 10, United Airlines launched service with three flights weekly from Xi'an, capital of Northwest



Photo by Chen Bei





Photo by Chen Bei

China's Shaanxi province, to San Francisco. It is the first trans-Pacific route to Xi'an.

A week earlier, on May 3, Emirates opened new routes from Dubai to Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui autonomous region in Northwest China, and Zhengzhou, in Central China's Henan province. The airline now flies to five destinations on the Chinese mainland.

For Emirates, which has been operating in China for 14 years, the new route aims to provide residents in and around Yinchuan and Zhengzhou with convenient and efficient connections via Dubai to destinations in the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

Yinchuan is the latest city in West China seeking to attract airlines to operate additional international routes. Other examples include Chongqing municipality and Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan province, while many foreign carriers have also added Xi'an to their networks.

In June 2013, Finnair launched a direct route from Xi'an to Helsinki. There are now 28 international routes from Xi'an to 12 international countries and regions, including Rome, Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur, with Prague and New Delhi said to be in the pipeline.

Airlines have also been increasing flights from Chinese cities to overseas destinations. For example, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines increased the frequency of flights on its route from Chengdu to Amsterdam from three to four times per week, starting in July.

United Airlines also increased the frequency of its flights from Chengdu to San Francisco from thrice weekly to daily in the summer peak season last year, while Air New Zealand has said it expects to open a direct route from Auckland to Chengdu by the end of this year.

AVIATION INDUSTRY FORGE STRONG TIES AT

Text Cao Shenshen & Feng Shuangqing

The 5th Beijing Global Friend Airports CEO Forum was held in Beijing in September, with the theme “Continuation Innovation, Win-Win Cooperation”. During the opening ceremony, Civil Aviation Administration of China Deputy Director Dong Zhiyi, Deputy Mayor of People’s Government of Beijing Municipality Sui Zhenjiang, Beijing Capital Airport Holding Co. President Liu Xuesong and Beijing Capital International Airport Co., Ltd. (BCIA) General Manager & Chief Executive Officer Han Zhiliang delivered a joint speech. Global CEOs meet to discuss how to deliver personal service — and keep things moving — as major airports get bigger and bigger.

The Forum brought together more than 200 representatives from aviation carriers and tourism trade associations, plus 26 sister airports of Beijing Capital International Airport.

A total of 19 representatives from Aeroports de Paris, Chicago Department of Aviation, Finavia Corp, Heathrow Airport, Munich Airport, Narita International Airport Corp, Korea Airports Corp and Changi Airport discussed the development of the airport industry in relation to managing multi-airport systems, hub airports, improving airport operations with new technologies, aviation security and emergency response.

The first Beijing Global Friend Airports CEO Forum launched in September 2011, with follow-up events in 2013 and 2015. The forums have not only deepened cooperation and exchanges, but also enhanced friendly relations between BCIA and other airports.



LEADERS FORUM



Han Zhiliang
*General Manager &
CEO of Beijing Capital
International Airport
Co., Ltd. (BCIA)*

What are the key points for the construction of the large-scale international hub airports?

During the process of constructing one of world's largest international hub airports, BCIA made some achievements, while also meeting many problems and challenges. We need to pay more attention on three key points. First of all, let our partners work together. For BCIA, the core partner is the base airlines, especially the main base airline. We want to increase our international routes proportion to 30% and international passengers scale to 33% in three to five years. Secondly, developing two air-route products: One is domestic air express, such as adding more air expresses from BCIA to major domestic airports; and the other one is international special lines. The third key point is striving for more supporting policies, such as optimizing the flight time.



WHAT INDUSTRY LEADERS

say:



Michael Kerkloh
*Flughafen Munchen
GmbH President and
Chief Executive Officer*

What is the most important aspect of an airline hub, in your opinion, and what are the challenges of hub airport construction in Munich?

If they grow too large, there is the danger that passengers are not treated personally. I think that in Munich, personalization is a strong point. However, the larger the airport, the more impersonal they tend to be. The art of good management is ensuring that even if a hub airport is big, passengers don't think or feel it's big. We look at airport management from the eyes of passengers — that's our purpose. In Munich, we have a highly efficient two-runway system involving 90 flights per hour, which means there is a departure or an arrival every 40 seconds. However, for 10 hours every day, there are no more available time slots for additional flights. As a hub airport, we have six peak times per day that last between 90 minutes and two hours. We definitely need a new runway and more time slots. I think we can strengthen the existing hub structure through network optimization by hub carriers and partners, expansion of point-to-point traffic and the existing hub system, and promotion of additional transfer options across borders.



Jerome Davis
*Metropolitan
Washington Airports
Authority Executive
Vice President
and Chief Revenue
Officer*

What are the crucial elements of building a smart airport?

If you go to our website, you will find it is one of the best in the world in terms of the way we make it easy for passengers to understand the airport, such as how to go from point A to point B. In addition, we have started investing in technology that will give us the ability to connect with our passengers. We are spending a lot of time truly understanding our customer base and customer segmentation. That's all built to ground the foundation of a loyalty card. A loyalty card gives us the capacity to connect with passengers and develop more platforms, while passengers can communicate with us digitally via their portable devices such as a cellphone.



Sasisubha Sukontasap
*Airports of Thailand Co
Ltd Corporate Strategy
Senior Executive Vice
President*

During the construction process of the multi-airport systems in Thailand, what difficulties have you encountered?

Airports in Thailand are under one policy, which means they have the same target, but at the same time, they are quite competitive. The difficulty is that we need to all move in the same direction. The challenge for us now is that we have to develop infrastructure, because all of the airports are experiencing overcapacity, which is a significant challenge.



Susan Kurland
*Chicago Department
of Aviation Deputy
Commissioner of Air
Service Development*

Do airports in Chicago make use of any cutting-edge technology?

We work very closely with our carriers in order to improve technology and efficiency, for example, with air traffic-control management systems. We also work very closely with US Customs and Border Protection. We were one of the first users of the mobile passport control system, and we are always looking for ways to improve efficiency.



Ross Baker
*London Heathrow
International Airport
Director of Operations*

What is the core competency of Heathrow as a major international airline hub? Have you met any problems in building a multi-airport system?

The core competency of Heathrow is connectivity. Heathrow connects directly to more than 80 long-haul destinations, and that is really valuable for the UK to help connect with global markets. To do that, we need to deliver great service to passengers and make sure the effort that we have for connecting passengers is really strong.

In London, we have the benefit of a diverse collection of airports, but we have a shortage of airport capacity. We need to build additional runway capacity to enable connections to grow. So the government is deliberating on that currently, and I hope that we'll soon be able to build hub capacity to help London connect with more international markets.

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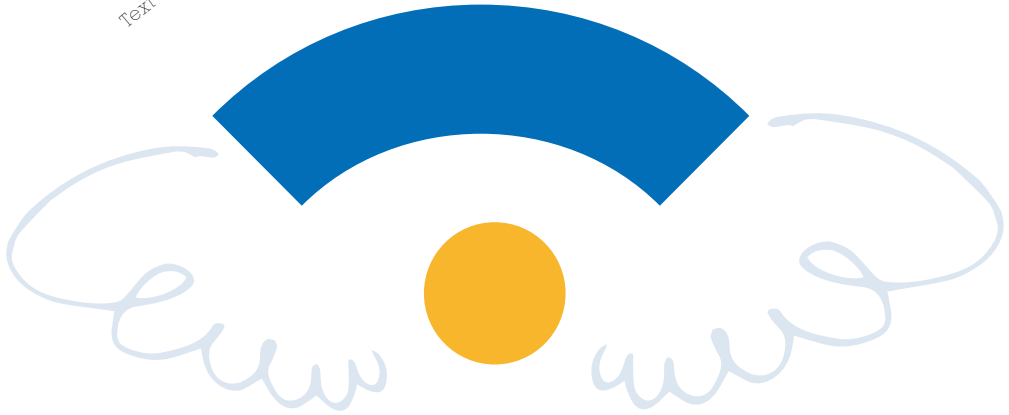
Global Merchant Hot Line





FLYING HIGH WITH WI-FI

Text Carl Esposito



Recently, I was traveling to London on business and was excited to have some time between e-mails to watch my son's latest adventures in backyard metal smelting. My son had uploaded a video and just as I was watching him fire up the furnace, the video paused to buffer and never recovered, thanks to a spotty Wi-Fi connection. You can imagine my disappointment and frustration. I had to wait to watch his experiments until I landed, which involved shuffling off the plane and connecting to the airport Wi-Fi before racing to the day's meetings. I'm sure you've experienced spotty Wi-Fi on a recent flight. This situation is all

too familiar and simply not what we expect in this day and age of connectivity.

Honeywell recently completed their third connectivity survey, which asked passengers about their opinions and experiences with in-flight Wi-Fi. Unfortunately, it showed that in-flight Wi-Fi offerings are causing even more misery than before, compared with findings from its previous surveys. Only 22 percent of those surveyed found their Wi-Fi service to be extremely reliable over the past 12 months, a dip from 27 percent in 2014.

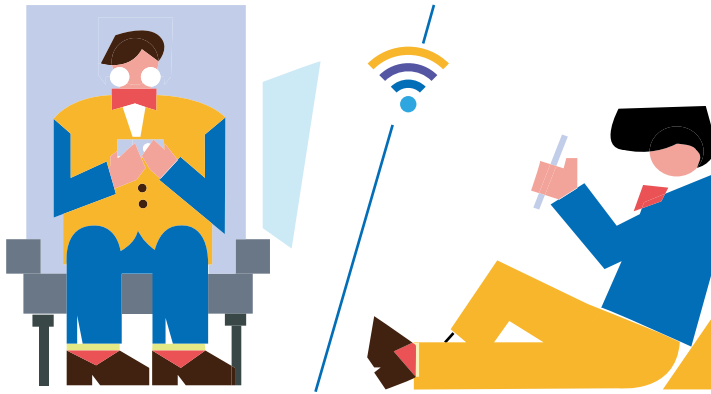
Consistent, faster in-flight connectivity is a must. If an airline isn't prioritizing this,

passengers will switch airlines to find better Wi-Fi. They expect a similar experience to what they have at home or in the office. No exceptions.

The survey revealed three reasons why Wi-Fi is the new top-shelf service passengers thirst for when they fly.

Wi-Fi is travelers' top priority

Time check. It's 2016 and being connected is something travelers expect — anytime, anywhere. Forget the free drinks and platinum-status perks; passengers want a reliable connection to



stay in touch with their friends and family, get work done and be entertained.

If that means selecting another airline over their preferred choice, they'll do it. Twenty-one percent have abandoned their preferred airline for an option with better in-flight Wi-Fi (up from 17 percent in 2014).

When I plan my trips, in-flight Wi-Fi is top of my list of priorities, and I'm not alone. Sixty-eight percent of travelers say in-flight Wi-Fi impacts their flight bookings. They are on the search for the best in-flight Wi-Fi possible, which means a powerful combination of speed and reliability is crucial.

Wi-Fi should be like breathing — simple

If astronauts in the International Space Station can stream video, and climbers at the Everest base camp can access social media, shouldn't airline passengers be able to access the same service 30,000 feet up in the sky? Yes, of course.

Do you want to catch up on the latest episode of *Game of Thrones* or *Silicon Valley* while flying to New York on business? Me, too.

In fact, 83 percent of respondents agree that it's essential to have a connection that's fast enough to stream audio or video on sites

like YouTube and Netflix. Even more (90 percent) find it essential to have a reliable connection throughout their entire flight anywhere in the world.

Almost everyone travels with a personal electronic device these days. I'll be honest: I usually have my laptop, tablet and mobile phone at the ready, and I expect reliable connectivity anywhere I go, including while flying. The majority of Honeywell survey respondents feel the same; 60 percent say they'd feel disappointed or frustrated if they got on a plane that didn't have in-flight Wi-Fi.

Youth appeal

I'll be the first to admit that I fall a bit outside of the millennial generation, but you can't argue with US\$200 billion in annual buying power. United States millennials represent the most connected generation that took part in this survey, and that's no surprise. They've grown up in a digital age where news, entertainment, commerce and social networks are at their fingertips.

Airlines must listen to what these millennials want, because they mean business. To earn the loyalty of one of the largest consumer segments, airlines need to offer the best global in-flight Wi-Fi services.

Wi-Fi impacts the flights I book,

but more millennials than people of older generations (73 percent versus 63 percent) say Wi-Fi availability impacts their booking choices. Even more millennials find it important to have fast connection speeds to stream content (89 percent versus 77 percent), and have switched from their preferred airline to an airline with better in-flight Wi-Fi options (27 percent versus 15 percent).



73% 63%



strong wi-fi

89% 77%



27% 15%

■ millennials

■ older generations

We believe pilots, passengers and airlines should all be able to enjoy the benefits of reliable, fast connections, anywhere. So the next time you find yourself with a poor Wi-Fi connection, remember you have choices.



Japan Airlines' (JAL) first Doraemon-themed flight landed at Shanghai Pudong Airport on Sep. 22. According to JAL, such flights will be serving the Narita (Tokyo) to Pudong (Shanghai) route until March next year. The Doraemon flights will use Boeing 767-300 aircraft and in addition to having the cartoon character's image painted on the outside of the aircraft, the carrier features a supply of Doraemon postcards and cups for passengers.

Singapore Airlines provides global links for Wellington, Canberra

On Sep. 21, Singapore Airlines linked the capital cities of Australia and New Zealand to its global network via Singapore Changi Airport. Singapore Airlines operates four flights per week via Boeing 777-200 aircraft, offering 36 business class and 228 economy class seats.

Flights depart Singapore at 23:00 and arrive in Canberra at 08:15. After a short time on the ground, the service continues to Wellington, landing at 15:00.

The return service takes off from Wellington at 21:15 and arrives in Canberra at 22:05. It departs soon after and lands in Singapore the following morning at 05:50.



CASC Founded to Focus on Component Sharing

With authorization from the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, China Aviation Material Sharing Platform Co.'s shareholdings were transferred to China Aviation Supplies Import and Export Group Corp on Oct. 18, with the restructured entity renamed China Aviation Supplies Corp. (CASC).

The shareholders of the newly restructured company are China Southern Air Holding Co. (24%), China National Aviation Holding Co. (23%), China Eastern Air Holding Co. (22%), China Aviation Supplies Holding Co. (21%) and China Reform Holdings Co. (10%).

CASC is to focus on monetizing surplus assets through disposal, rotatable component sharing and streamlining consumable supply, creating a new and innovative aviation materials supply platform.

The company will then promote the introduction of innovative material supply programs to other airlines in China, including existing private airlines, low-cost carriers and start-up airlines, and eventually branch out into international markets.

Air China, Lufthansa form joint venture

Star Alliance members Air China and Lufthansa have signed a long-awaited deal, which will see them coordinate flights and schedules between Europe and China.

In a statement released on Sep. 21, Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spoor said: "The Chinese aviation market is one of the most important growth markets worldwide. We want to profit from this growth together."

The Air China/Lufthansa arrangement is subject to regulatory approval, and is set to start in summer 2017.



China Southern orders 12 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners

China Southern Airlines has finalised an order for 12 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, adding to the airline's ten existing B787-8s. The 787-9, with a fuselage stretched six metres more than the 787-8 and 20 percent more fuel efficiency, will expand the carrier's long-haul capabilities.

China Southern was the launch customer of the 787 for China, and the aircraft have enabled the airline to launch six non-stop global routes, connecting Guangzhou to London, Rome, Vancouver, Perth, Auckland and Christchurch.



Routes



Beijing ⇌ Warsaw

Air China launched flights from Beijing to Warsaw on September 21. This route is operated by A330-200, and served four times a week, which are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

CA 737 will depart Beijing at 02:30 and arrive in Warsaw at 06:20. The return flight CA738 will leave Warsaw at 14:10 and arrive in Beijing at 04:30 the following day.

Xi'an ⇌ Melbourne

Hainan Airlines will launch flights from Xi'an to Melbourne on November 8.

HU7901 will depart Xi'an Xianyang International Airport on Tuesday and Friday at 16:30 and arrive at Melbourne International Airport at 07:00 the following day. The return flight HU7902 will leave Australia at 09:00, and touch down in China at 17:30.

Beijing ⇌ Las Vegas

Hainan Airlines has received approval to launch the first direct flights from China to Las Vegas.

This route will begin serving on December 2. HU7969 will depart Beijing at 13:30 and arrive in Las Vegas at 09:40. The return flight HU7970 take off from Las Vegas at 11:40, before touching back down in Beijing at 16:40 the following day.

Beijing ⇌ Lisbon

Capital Airlines will launch the first direct flight from Beijing to Lisbon.

This route will begin serving in June 2017 with a four-times weekly service. Capital Airlines will deploy A330 on this route.

The Year 2016 in

Amid uncertainty over the global economy and Britain's vote to leave the European Union. How has the aviation industry's economic performance been affected in 2016?

The year is not over yet, but the International Air Transport Association's airline industry economic performance mid-year report enabled experts to make the following forecasts:



The total aviation industry payroll for 2016 will reach
US\$153 billion
(an increase of 6.4% from US\$144 billion in 2015).



Passenger numbers will reach
3.8 billion,
with passenger demand increasing by 6.2% and capacity growing by 6.8%, while the average load factor will be 80%.



Customers will witness a reduction in flight prices compared with 2015 (although the figure was distorted by the sharp rise of the value of the US dollar).

The average return airfare (before surcharges and taxes) will be
US\$366, which marks a **62%** reduction on 1995 levels (after making adjustments for inflation).

Numbers

The number of flight destinations is forecast to rise by at least 2%, with frequency of flights also increasing, while the number of unique city pairs will reach

18,243.



The number of jobs in the aviation industry will rise by **2.8% to 2.61 million.**



The aviation industry's tax bill will grow to **US\$118 billion,** a **5.5%** increase on 2015.



Fuel costs will account for

19.7%

of the industry's expenses, down from a high of **33.1%** in 2012-2013. Fuel efficiency in the aviation sector has improved by an average of **2.4%** year-on-year since 2009.



Productivity of each airline employee will improve to **3.4%**. Each airline will generate gross value added (GVA – the company-level equivalent of GDP) of

US\$100.19

per employee.

The graphic above takes a broad look at how the aviation industry is adding value for its consumers, the wider economy and governments, as well as for its investors.

Welcome to Flying Reimagined on Etihad's new 787 Dreamliner



Experience our 787 Dreamliner now flying daily from Shanghai to Abu Dhabi. Our onboard food menus have been designed to suit Chinese tastes and include local dishes. Catch up with some of your favourite Chinese movies and shows on our inflight entertainment. Every detail has been considered and tailored to ensure your journey is a remarkable one.

787 DREAMLINER

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