

# SKY TIMES

Inflight Magazine

015 MAY/JUN 2017

## Pingnan

*A Magical Land of Water, Bridges  
and Ancient Villages*

Follow the Local's Pace to Visit  
**Hangzhou**

New Orleans

*A City That's All Heart*

*Four Writings on*  
**Jiangnan**

THE ART OF PUBLIC ART  
SPACES

Clouds Cast

Shadow Over Airline Earnings

No Fear of Color

*Afternoon Tea*  
Sweet Sips of Summer

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CAAC INFLIGHT MAGAZINE



**CAAC Inflight Magazine**

with the largest circulation  
of all inflight publications.

# Editor's letter

## Switch Spring into Summer

As April passes and early summer arrives, I think of the United States poet Sara Teasdale's *May Night*:

*"The spring is fresh and fearless,  
And every leaf is new,  
The world is brimmed with moonlight,  
The lilac brimmed with dew.*

*Here in the moving shadows  
I catch my breath and sing —  
My heart is fresh and fearless  
And over-brimmed with spring."*

— Sara Teasdale



Cao Shenshen

Cao Shenshen  
Executive Editor

I always think May and June are the best months of the year, with pleasant weather, excitement and relaxation. When the seasons alternate, we not only see the view of spring on the street, but also come across the smell and taste of summer in the air. So, do not waste your time, finish everything as soon as possible and enjoy the beautiful late spring and early summer.

As always, in the May/June edition, we bring you something fresh. Have you visited the water towns in China? Maybe you have been to Wuzhen, the famous water town that *Sky Times* introduced in our Jan/Feb issue. This time we will show you some different scenes of Pingnan, a county in Fujian Province that is a magical land of water, bridges and ancient villages (page 14).

With the popularity of Hollywood musical film *La La Land*, more and more people around the world have fallen in love with jazz. This classical music genre brings swings and blues notes to its listeners, like fresh air blowing into our fast-paced modern lives. Do you know the birthplace of jazz? In this issue, we bring you to New Orleans to visit the city where jazz music originated. Perched on the banks of the Mississippi River in the US state of Louisiana, New Orleans also has a storied history, including the celebration of Mardi Gras (page 24). Let us help you enjoy a carnival full of funky parades.

In Chinese, we use "Jiangnan" to describe regions south of the Yangtze River. During spring and summer, Chinese usually go on outings in this area. So, the City Insider section will take you to Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang Province and one of the seven ancient capitals of China, which was described by Italian traveler Marco Polo as the finest and most luxurious city in the world (page 20). While in the Lens section, we will show you the beautiful scenery of Jiangnan (page 36).

Tea or coffee? That is one of the most-asked questions when you are onboard a flight. As one of the most popular drinks around the world, coffee plays an important role in many people's daily lives. Even though you might be addicted to this bitter drink, do you really know the culture and history of coffee? Then follow us to Ethiopia, where coffee culture was born (page 30).

For Delta Air Lines, 2017 should be a lucky year, as it began operating passenger flights on June 17, 1929, and this coming June, Delta will celebrate its 88-year anniversary. We talk with Wong Hong, Delta Air Lines president for Greater China, about strategies, challenges, partnerships and the digital development of the long-running US carrier (page 50).

As always, *Sky Times* aims to bring our treasured readers high-quality content, so relax and enjoy the read.

We wish you a pleasant journey and hope you enjoy the beautiful spring/summer season.



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## French Like to Bike

On March 26, a biker conducts a cycling performance near Trocadero Square in Paris, France. While France is certainly not as cycle-friendly as the Netherlands, and some parts of the country are distinctly lacking in dedicated cycle paths, cycling has a place close to the heart of many French. At weekends in France, drivers on country roads know that it is advisable to look out for cyclists – either bunches of speed-cyclists on sleek bicycles preparing for or taking part in local races or championships; or individual cyclists or families out for an afternoon ride.









## Milan's Salone Del Mobile: What an Experience

Interactive experiences dominated the 56th edition of Milan's Salone Del Mobile, from April 4 to April 9. Furniture and design was once enough to lure attendees by the thousands, but this year, visitors thronged to experience-oriented events. The Ikea Festival hosted live bands, food stalls and morning yoga, while Airbnb took visitors on excursions around hidden locations within the city. A series of experience-first installations made for show-stopping and unmissable visitor sites. With over 2,000 exhibits scattered around Milan during Salone Del Mobile, brands were fighting for visitors' attention more than ever before.

## Harvest Festival Dance



College students celebrated the annual Indian spring harvest festival of Baisakhi on April 5. Dressed in colorful attire, they danced to Bhangra beats in middle of the fields. Throughout the year, farmers work hard for good crop yields, and during the harvest festival of Baisakhi, they dance and be merry. After the celebrations, the farmers start cutting the crops. Several Indian festivals coincide during the harvest time and Baisakhi is one of them. It is celebrated in northern India, particularly in Punjab, when the winter-sown crop are ready to harvest.



## Coming Back Down to Earth



The Russian Soyuz MS-02 spacecraft carrying three crew members of the International Space Station successfully landed on April 10 in Kazakhstan. The spacecraft landed at 4:21 p.m. local time, 147 kilometers southeast of the Kazakh city of Zhezkazgan. The crew members included Russian astronauts Andrei Borisenko and Sergei Ryzhikov, as well as their US colleague Robert Kimbrough. The three members of the Expedition 50 mission had been aboard the station since Oct. 21, 2016. They carried out a programme of scientific and applied research and experiments, supported the station's work capacity and upgraded it with equipment delivered by cargo ships.

## Easter Treat for Meerkats

Meerkats at London Zoo woke up on the morning of April 13 to a trail of hidden colored eggs laid out as an Easter treat. The vigilant mammals – which are part of the mongoose family – did not take long to dig out the eggs, which were made from papier-mache and contained fresh veggies. The zookeeper said that while there was no chocolate for the inquisitive meerkats, the zoo prepared an Easter egg hunt for the clan, which may stimulate them to seek out treats hidden in the foliage and forage for food, mimicking how they would seek food in the wild.





## Wet and Wild

There are many different ways to celebrate a new year. Thailand has the most unusual way of celebrating a new year, called Songkran Festival. Celebrated on April 13, 14 and 15, Songkran is regarded as the longest holiday in Thailand. A day before the celebration, housewives must clean their house and remove all rubbish. The festival would not be complete without lots of water. Armed with water guns and water containers, tourists and locals, including children, throw water upon each other, which symbolizes the cleansing and rejuvenating of their bodies.

## Magic City of Munich



A diverse show of over 50 urban artists from five continents, the “Magic City – The Art of the Street” exhibition began on April 13 in Munich’s Olympic Park. Described as a “playground of the imagination”, this urban museum, which runs through Sept. 3, celebrates spontaneous street art creativity across several-thousand square meters. The Magic City line-up includes stars of the street art world like Banksy, Blek Le Rat and Shepard Fairey, plus Polish-American crochet artist Olek and Egyptian artist Ganzeer, who came to fame for his provocative works during the 2011 Arab Spring. Also featured is Munich-based graffiti artist Loomit (Mathias Kohler), the best-known spray painter in Germany.



What is your favorite Chinese TV play or movie?

I love *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* because of its many thematic layers and its stunning recreation of the historical period in which it is set. It might be a bit cliché, but it is a gorgeous film to watch.

My favourite Chinese movies are Zhang Yimou's martial arts works. Films like *Curse of the Golden Flower* and *Hero* show a beautiful side of ancient China that I wish still existed.

I barely watch TV, but if I do, I watch *Miss Puff*, to learn more about modern China. I watch online, so it allows me to rewind as many times as possible so I understand most of it.

To be honest, I have found it rather hard to get into any serious TV shows or plays. My wife really likes to watch *Qipa Shuo* and *Jin Xing Show*. I try my best to understand as much as I can, and she fills me in on the rest of the juicy details and complex humor.



**Camilla Tenn**  
(Britain, Editor)



**Dale Fox**  
(Britain, Journalist)



**Francisco Chia**  
(Peru, Restaurant Owner)



**Win Jackson**  
(US, Teacher)

What is the biggest change in your lifestyle habits since coming to China?

I eat out a lot more here because it is much cheaper than in London. It is a great way to try all the varied Chinese culinary styles.

I have noticed that I eat out almost every night here as it is so cheap compared to the UK. This has done absolutely nothing for my figure, however.

It is either riding a motorcycle or eating out. Before China, I always drove a car everywhere, but in Beijing not only is it expensive to buy a car, and difficult to get a driving license, the traffic is terrible. I am very happy with my motorbike. On top of that, before China, I would eat at home quite often. Other than breakfast, I don't remember the last time I ate at home.

Using public transportation has become a major part of my day-to-day life. Having a car in the United States is mandatory, but it is not really feasible here because of parking, costs and traffic. So the bus, subway and Didi Kuaiche are a daily habit. Also a funny tidbit is that I am the voice of Qingdao subway, so I get to hear myself when I use the subway line. That is actually quite annoying and makes me want to use the subway less.

# iF Gold Award Design Delights

On March 10, more than 2,000 guests from 41 countries celebrated the winners of the iF Product Design Award 2017 at the BMW Welt in Munich. For the 64th time, the internationally renowned award ceremony for design was held in grand style. A total of 75 winners out of 5,575 contributions from around the world were honored for outstanding design achievements on stage by Ralph Wiegmann, iF CEO, with the coveted trophy, the iF gold award. Here is a glance at the best products iF brought to us this year.



## Loewe | Klang 5 Wireless active speakers

The overall design language of the Loewe Klang 5 speakers is minimalistic and well balanced. The technology is sophisticated, capably solving the wire issue by embedding it in the product itself. These high-end wireless speakers are designed in the rich tradition of German design, while providing a sensual experience at the same time. The subtle color scheme will fit any kind of home circumstances perfectly.



## Dell | Canvas 27 PC work surface

This entry represents a new way of working. For years, the creative professions had adapted to the limitations of PCs for creative work. Now, at last, Dell has made an effort to liberate people, giving them a hands-on way of working. A very significant step in the right direction. The aesthetics of the product are utilitarian, yet at the same time exquisite. Simple but well-executed, built with quality.



## CIGA Design | Master Series Michael Young Watch Watch

This watch takes a holistic approach to design, signifying a new interpretation of a classic masterpiece. Appealing sensory details such as a visible movement and a tactile crown winder will delight the user, while the curved face lends a softness to its appearance. Michael Young has succeeded in imparting this watch with a unique experience.



## Sony | PlayStation VR Virtual reality system

A design that looks cohesive when worn on the body, while at the same time applying materials in the right way to ensure comfort, and easy and fast adaptability, adjusting for different head sizes. The overall balance of black and white is appealing, while the confident use of thermoplastic materials is masterful. All of this comes at a price that is very affordable for the technology. This product brings VR to the masses.







### Kovea | E-stove Outdoor stove

The lightweight and incredibly compact mini induction cooker from Kovea transports high-tech kitchen technology to the outdoor realm. As traditional liquid or gas camp stoves generate carbon monoxide fumes, up until now, it has not been possible to cook in small, enclosed spaces such as tents. The rechargeable battery marks the end of gas canister waste. An ecologically responsible product and a must-have for all outdoor enthusiasts who want to enjoy nature for years to come.



### Bragi | The Dash Wireless smart earphones

This is a consistent and highly functional ergonomic design in a tiny and fully waterproof form. The Dash is more than a pair of headphones — a heart rate monitor, pedometer, internal music library, gesture interface, motion command recognition, bone induction microphone and noise cancellation truly make it stand out in its category. The visual and haptic interface of the device is complemented by an internal audio guide system. The production quality matches the formal aesthetics of this premium product.



### SAMSUNG | ArtPC PULSE Desktop computer

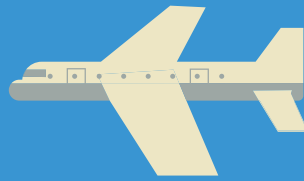
This entry stands out in the PC category as a coherent theme that is extremely well executed. The build quality is excellent, the proportions are well considered and the color, material and detailing are attractive. The stackable modular function works perfectly every time and underlines the simplicity of the aesthetics. It is a mature and measured design: restraint governs every detail of the product.



### Sony | Future Lab Program T Interactive projector

This interactive projector won over the jury with a minimalistic and understated design. The execution is well suited for an innovative product and application, while the use of colors and materials mark an honest and clearly structured design approach. The design is clear, a logical reflection of the product's superb functionality.





# Most-loved locations and longest flights

## TRAVELERS' TOP DESTINATIONS

Which location tops your list of places to visit in 2017, and which left deep impressions during your travels in the past year? TripAdvisor, the online travel website company, recently released "The Very Best of Travel Awards 2017".

WORLDWIDE	TOP10	Bali	CHINA	TOP10	Hong Kong
		London			Beijing
		Paris			Shanghai
		Rome			Lhasa
		New York City			Xi'an
		Crete			Jiuzhaigou County
		Barcelona			Shangri-La County
		Siem Reap			Chengdu
		Prague			Huangshan
		Phuket			Hangzhou

## THE WORLD'S LONGEST FLIGHTS



**1** **Qatar Airways**  
Doha - Auckland

**14,535 km**

Qatar Airways launched what is currently the world's longest commercial non-stop flight in February, between Doha and Auckland. The route takes approximately 17-and-a-half hours each way, covering 15,535 km.

**2** **Emirates**  
Dubai - Auckland

**14,200 km**

Emirates has also operated non-stop flights to Auckland since March 2016, and this route was the previous holder of the longest nonstop service title until the introduction of Qatar Airways' flight from Doha, which is situated about 300 km west of Dubai.

**3** **Qantas**  
Sydney - Dallas

**13,800 km**

Prior to the Auckland services above, Australia's flag carrier held the record for the world's longest commercial flight, between Sydney and Dallas. This route was launched in 2014, with a flight time of about 16 hours, 50 minutes.

**4** **Singapore Airlines**  
Singapore-San Francisco

**13,595 km**

The carrier launched nonstop flights between Singapore and San Francisco in October 2016, a route that is currently the longest in the airline's network. The route is operated by A350-900 aircraft.

**Z**

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# TRAVEL



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# *Pingnan* A magical *of water, bridges and ancient villages*

Text Cao Shenshen



Like many small cities and towns with ancient customs that have been passed down through generations, the county of Pingnan has its own story. The people there spend most of their lifetimes around the local waters, bridges and villages; their amiable but frank personalities are rarely seen outside this simple and tranquil land. They have set up few restrictions for their peaceful paradise.

Our car bumped along the rugged mountain roads at high speeds, crossing over one peak after another. I was used to the mountains with gentle slopes and smooth roads in regions south of the Yangtze River, having traveled southward through Shanghai and Ningbo, so I was not prepared for such tough terrain in the northeastern part of Fujian Province. No wonder Fujian is described in a Chinese folk saying as being 80 percent mountains, 10 percent water and 10 percent land.

I stumbled upon Pingnan by



# land



accident. This small county is covered by rolling mountains and criss-crossing streams. The weather-beaten bridges form a distinct landscape together with the green hills, blue waters and ancient villages. It tells us stories about a small town with its simple and serene beauty, just like the locals.

## A poem with rhythm

From the moment we arrived in Fujian's city of Ningde, it did not stop raining. The moist melancholy

in the air brought by the rain really dampened my mood. I dislike rain, especially seemingly endless downpours.

However, I was suddenly reminded of one of my roommates from my college days — a beautiful girl from Changchun city in northeast China — who used to say in a soft tone: “My favorite days are the rainy ones.” On such days, she said, she could stay in the dormitory alone, draw the curtains and dream a sweet dream. Or she could recite *A Lane in the Rain*, a poem written by Dai

Wangshu, again and again with the accompaniment of the rain, and image herself to be the girl in the poem, holding an oil-paper umbrella and being surrounded by the color and fragrance of lilacs. That is the beauty of rainy days for poets.

However, I regard myself as a more practical person who loves sunny, bright days. Fortunately for me, there is not much rain in Beijing.

Outside of the car, the rain fell heavier and heavier. Big raindrops slapped against the roof and the windshield. One of the accompanying experts from Ningbo said: “When guests come from afar, it rains. The heavier the rain is, the more welcome they are.”

I had no idea whether he was comforting us or just joking. Laozi, a philosopher in ancient China, once said: “The best people are like water, which benefits all things and does not compete with them.” Among all things in the world, water is the most versatile for it has no color, flavor or shape, but it is the most rigid, sincere and soft.

Until I came to Pingnan, I had not experienced a place where water is all around in the form of waterfalls, streams and lakes. Whether static or moving, crystal clear or turbid, all water in Pingnan is interwoven with the villages.

Inside a deep ravine surrounded by mountains, a flat stretch of water as large as several fields suddenly came into my view. It was so clear that I could almost see the bottom. It was the amazing Baishuiyang, a plain covered by streams with clean, sweet water from a hidden source in the mountains.

Beneath the gentle flow of the shallow water, the stream bed can be seen. It is not soft golden sand, steamy black mud or pebbles, but an expansive, flat maroon rock



with almost no cracks, the largest area of which is about 40,000 square meters — extraordinarily rare. The local people call it the “Aquatic Square”.

I could not wait to put on the white cotton socks handed out at the entrance to the park. I hurried into the center and stood on the bed of the stream, feeling the steadiness and calmness. The stream flowed gently past my ankles, caressing my insteps. What a wonderful way to cool down in the heat of summer.

After leaving the stream, I sat in a pavilion nearby and enjoyed the charming landscape of mountains and water. The hills near and far seemed intertwined and the greenness of the lush forests seemed to spill over. In the rays of the setting sun, the broad surface of the water glistened like a dream.

As water from Baishuiyang flows into the Mandarin Duck Stream, it becomes trickles. The streams winding through the high mountains and low gullies turn out to be unpredictable and enchanting due to the abundance of water. Walking in the valleys and woods, I witnessed trees covering the sky, fallen leaves carpeting the earth,

running water murmuring and wild vines thriving. As I advanced, I heard a loud sound like a dull thunderclap. The noise turned out to be the Baizhangji Waterfall, which came into my view several minutes later after I walked along the stone paths by the stream.

As I looked up at the waterfall, a drizzle of water caressed my face, so I hurried to cover my camera with clothes and found a platform to stand on. From a bird’s-eye view, I could see the waterfall cascading, the water roaring and slapping against the rocks. At the bottom of the pool, the water stirred crystal-clear ripples. Bathing in the hot sunshine, the ripples were bright like glass, while the murmuring water was dyed blue and green by the shadows of the mountains rising straight up on both sides. The water became a poem with rhythm.

## A rainbow hidden in mountains

Pingnan’s covered bridges stretch over trickling streams like rainbows, connecting mountain districts and the outside world. Wooden covered







The wooden covered bridges in Pingnan.

bridges are the most renowned ones, representing the superb skill of traditional construction.

There are 13 ancient but well-preserved wooden covered bridges in Pingnan. As it was impossible for us to visit all of them within the limited time, we concentrated on

Wan'an Bridge, appreciating the architectural skill employed to create the bridge without a single nail or iron sheet. The bridge is said to have a 1,000-year history and to be the longest woven-timber framed bridge in China.

We left for Changqiao town by bus the next morning. Despite the feeling of dizziness caused by circling along the steep green mountains, I could not keep my eyes from the scenery outside the window: verdant mountains, trickling streams and ancient villages. The bridges connected the villagers, ancient and modern, to the beautiful green world around them.

Built in the Northern Song Dynasty, the 98.2-meter-long Wan'an Bridge crosses the Long Jiang Stream in Changqiao. It was rebuilt in the seventh year of the Qianlong era of the Qing Dynasty, in a simple and exquisite way using standard planks on the surface to form a beautiful pattern, with rails on both sides and benches inside. Above the bridge sill is an elegant bucket beam with gray tiles on it. The bright colors of the structure have not faded in the face of 270 years of wind and rain. Looking from afar, you might even mistake

it for a rainbow.

Located in the remote mountains, the bridge is not a crowded scenic spot, but a place for the locals of Changqiao to relax. On the bridge, kids run and bounce joyfully; women carry chicken and vegetables; old men lean against the rails to rest; village people play cards, chatting and drinking tea.

The picturesque bridge is an amazing view for visitors, but for locals, it represents a traditional lifestyle dating back thousands of years. It is an elegant place for commuters to rest and for villagers to gather.

In addition to their transportation benefits and aesthetic value, wooden covered bridges in Pingnan are tied to local folk custom and religion. Many of the 13 remaining bridges in the county retain their shrines and censers. Local people, especially women, burn incense and pray on the first day of each lunar month, as well as on Dragon Boat Festival and Spring Festival.

Shuanglong Bridge, which can be dated back to the third year of the Tongzhi era of the Qing Dynasty, sits on the upper reaches of the Yuanyang Stream. We happened to witness the "Worship toward Qu Yuan" ceremony conducted by several old ladies during our visit. In colorful clothing, they gathered on the bridge with incense and *zongzi*, or rice dumplings, and recited passages from scriptures intently. I could not understand a single word and had to step forward with the crowd. A local person told me it was the Avalokitesvara Sutra: The song was a prayer to Avalokitesvara to help protect them from flooding.

The old ladies went to and fro three times on the bridge, yelling out for a while before finishing the



The “Worship toward Qu Yuan” ceremony conducted by several old ladies.

ceremony. A teacher said that they were calling Qu Yuan to enjoy the incense and fish, and to eat the *zongzi*. Then the ladies burned the incense and threw it with *zongzi* into the water as a mark of respect and prayed for their health.

I ran down to take some pictures and was amazed by how tall the bridge is. The construction is free of nails, and the exquisite mortise-and-tenon woodwork is truly fascinating. Building a covered bridge is an art combining wisdom and aesthetics. However, ancient covered bridges are struggling to exist under pressure of modern architecture. In October 2009, “Traditional Design and Practices for Building Chinese Wooden Arch Bridges” was added to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

Traditional covered bridge construction skills will disappear with history like water in a flowing stream if no one inherits or records them.

## A profound ancient village

After the visit to Pingnan, we went eastward along the highway and arrived at an inconspicuous crossing. It seemed that we had broken the barriers of time and space, entering an ancient village isolated from modern society. Jitou village was the last destination of our Pingnan tour.

Originally built in the Qianfu era of the Tang Dynasty, Jitou has a history of more than a thousand years, with buildings from the Ming and Qing dynasties everywhere



# 屏南

to be seen. Common houses with cob walls and gray tiles stand in harmony with elite houses with white walls and black tiles.

The village was quiet, perhaps because it was afternoon. We took photos in silence. The plaques on the doors, the coir raincoats and bamboo baskets hanging on the walls as well as farmers squatting to smoke all presented an intriguing atmosphere.

The best road in the village is no more than 2 meters wide, which forms a deep alley against the surrounding walls. Each slate beneath our feet reflected greenish light as if it had just been washed. I could not imagine how inspiring the moonlight shining on the road would be on a clear night. Our tour guide, an old local farmer named Zhang, said proudly that up to 200 villagers had passed

the imperial examination, making Pingnan the most educated of the Four Literary Villages.

I entered a spacious quadrangle, following Zhang. Wood was set neatly in the yard and an old man was making straw sandals. He stopped to greet us with a kind smile. After passing through a doorway, we came to the main hall with plaques and wooden couplets hanging on the walls. Although the centennial house appeared run down and lacking suitable protection, it still remained impressive and luxurious. Antique furniture, delicate doors and windows, plain statues and a vivid wooden statue all made us gasp in admiration.

A stream outside the quadrangle crossed the whole village. Zhang told us it is called Carp Stream. Some say it originated during the

Tang Dynasty, while others say the Song Dynasty. According to authentic records, it can be dated back to the early Qing Dynasty. Most villagers drink water from the stream, so they raise carp in it in case outsiders try to poison the water. In addition, carp are auspicious in Chinese culture. Villagers set rules to protect carp, so they live unharmed in this 1,500 m-long stream.

Jitou felt like we had traveled back in time. Listening to stories from the seniors of the village, we sighed in appreciation and praise.

It was raining again when we left Pingnan. The beautiful scenery in the rain was impressive. The honest and welcoming people there spend their lives around the local streams, bridges and villages.

They have built a secular heaven in this pure and quiet land.



# FOLLOW THE LOCAL'S PACE TO VISIT HANGZHOU

Text Cao Shenshen

Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang Province and one of the seven ancient capitals of China, was described by Italian traveler Marco Polo as the finest and most luxurious city in the world. What are the must-see and must-do spots in this historic but modern city? Do you want to know the best-kept secrets of Hangzhou? This summer, let us go south to visit Hangzhou, following Freya Yang's pace.

As a new local, Freya was actually born in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, and moved to Hangzhou to attend university. She has been here for six years, working as a new-media editor. She enjoys traveling and tasting delicious food and wine, so she gave us her best advice on how to spend several days in Hangzhou like a local.



*What makes Hangzhou special in your eyes?*

I really enjoy the slow pace of life in Hangzhou. Living in this city, you do not need to think about how to make money all the time — you can just have a cup of tea in the afternoon, or read a book after a meal. Happiness is the most important thing here, not money or power.

I think Hangzhou is a city that boasts a long history, and combines rich culture and modernization. It is one of China's best cities as it is fast-growing, but has a slow pace.



*How does one spend a day in Hangzhou like a local?*

In the morning, you can bike or boat around West Lake to relax in the fresh air. The landscape of West Lake is so iconic that it is printed on the one-yuan note.

Then have some typical Hangzhou dishes for lunch. Later in the afternoon, you can have afternoon tea with friends. Hangzhou is home to the renowned longjing (Dragon Well) tea; it's often ranked among China's top teas.

After sunset is the best time to climb Baoshi Hill, the city's best spot to gain a panoramic view of West Lake, the heart of the city. You can end the night in a bar if you are ready to have a few drinks, chat and listen to some live jazz.

*What are the city's must-see attractions?*

West Lake is the most famous attraction in Hangzhou. No matter whether the weather is cloudy, rainy, snowy or sunny, no matter whether early in the morning or late in the night, West Lake always puts on a show of beauty.

Qinghefang Old Street is a good place to experience the life of Old Hangzhou. It is a place for shopping, eating and sightseeing. You can see the well-preserved old buildings, explore interesting stores and buy some souvenirs, although it can be very crowded in peak season. It is just east of West Lake, about 10 minutes' walk.

*The Romance of the Song Dynasty* is a show that deserves to be watched. This show is about Hangzhou's history and culture, performed at Song Dynasty Town.

*What is the 'best-kept' secret away from the tourist trail?*

Dadou Road Historic Block is a great place that people often do not know about. You can hunt for delicacies, step into the fray among swords and ceramics, appreciate artistic celadon — a greenish ceramic glaze originating in China — or sit sipping a cup of tea if you get tired.

*Where do you bring guests to taste Hangzhou cuisine?*

Maybe Yan Xihu restaurant. You all know the famous Grandma's Kitchen — you might have even queued up for a long time to eat there. Now the owner, Wu Guoping, has a place that takes his hometown food to a new level in Yan Xihu, which presents exquisite Hangzhou dishes with a French twist. You can have foie gras in fermented red bean curd, drunken crab with grapefruit and lamb steak wrapped in *congbaogui*. All the food is creative and the restaurant is surrounded by water with boats oaring next to you. It is like dining in a Chinese ink painting.

*What does a typical night out involve?*

As a modern metropolis, the nightlife in Hangzhou is vigorous and fascinating.

Hangzhou is known for its karaoke venues, night clubs, discos and pubs. They are mainly located on Nanshan Road and Hubin Road.



*Which restaurant is your personal favorite?*

No doubt, it is Jin Sha Restaurant in the Four Seasons Hotel.

The Jin Sha Restaurant is like a precious stone, where I ate the best food in Hangzhou ever. All the dishes are beautifully plated, delicious and full of different flavors, combined to perfection. After a long walk around West Lake, this is a good place to recharge your batteries.

Furthermore, while having meals, you are also able to appreciate the beautiful West Lake. The price of the food is not cheap, but the quality makes it well worth a visit.

*What is your latest great 'find' in the city?*

In spring and summer, Meijiawu Tea Village is a beautiful spot to relax and explore the tea fields, so I often go there. I can simply walk into the tea fields without anyone bothering me.

Meijiawu Tea Village also attracts me for its tea-infused food, which is known for its lightness, smooth texture and slightly salty taste, such as shrimp in Longjing tea, shrimp in Biluochun tea and Longjing fish.

Local restaurants also offer several popular dishes such as carp with Qingshui tea and crispy chicken with tea.

*Where do you shop for fashion?*

The Mix Mall, Hangzhou Tower Shopping Mall and INtime Mall.

*When is the best time to visit?*

There is no good or bad time to tour Hangzhou, as different seasons present different scenic views.

Spring is considered to be the most beautiful season. Walking along West Lake, you can see the peach blossoms one after another.

In summer, lotus flowers wake up in West Lake, presenting their beauty in the hot and humid weather.

Autumn in Hangzhou is regarded as the most fragrant season. You can smell the rich Osmanthus while walking along the streets.

If you are lucky, when snowing in winter, you can see the wonderful sight of *Broken Bridge with Thawing Snow*.





# Wine and Dine at Hangzhou's Finest

Text Feng Shuangqing

"There is a paradise in heaven, on Earth there is Hangzhou" are famous words used to describe this fantastic metropolis. Hangzhou is one of China's big tourist attractions, and also one of the most-visited tourist cities in the world. It has many historical relics and scenic spots, including West Lake, and offers much to explore in addition to its beautiful landscape. Here you find distinguished culinary treasures from Zhejiang as well as international gourmet restaurants. Moreover, in ancient times, Hangzhou was called a "heaven for shopping". Today, you find shopping areas for traditional goods and also modern shopping centers that fulfill every need.

## Food for thought

### Jin Sha Restaurant

Situated along the enchanting West Lake, Jin Sha Restaurant features exquisite Shanghaiese, Cantonese and classic local cuisine. By using the very best ingredients, mostly sourced in the West Lake area, well-known dishes such as beggar's chicken are elevated to a new level of flavor. To accompany the meal, Hangzhou's finest selection of teas is served from the Tea Station, including a range of white, green, oolong, black and herbal teas, as well as the famous Longjing tea native to the West Lake area. The restaurant adheres to the traditional Jiang Nan style with a chic contemporary touch. Terraces provide lagoon views and willow-veiled glimpses of West Lake enhance a truly memorable dining experience.



#### Address

1st Floor, Four Seasons Hotel Hangzhou at West Lake, 5 Lingyin Road, Hangzhou

#### Opening Hours

Lunch: 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Dinner: 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.



## Drinks worth sipping

### Connections Lobby Bar

You can enjoy a range of "zodiac" teas and cocktails at the Connections Lobby Bar beneath the stunning chandelier. Zodiac recipes are full of creativity, with each drink representing one of the zodiac signs. The bartender maintains the original flavor of each tea and adds other ingredients to make refreshing beverages. Furthermore, the pastry chef makes a range of desserts to match the 12 drinks on offer. The bar is decorated in an elegant purple, and it offers views of Hangzhou Grand Theater's Music Fountain outside of the floor-to-ceiling windows.

#### Address

5th Floor, Intercontinental, Hangzhou, 2 Jiefang East Road, Hangzhou

#### Opening hours

10 a.m.-midnight daily

## Venues worth visiting

### Xixi National Wetland Park

Covering an area of 10.08 square kilometers, Xixi National Wetland Park is located in the west of Hangzhou, less than 5 km away from West Lake. It is China's first and only national wetland park. About 70 percent of the area is covered with water, which creates a special habitat for many species of flora and fauna. Six creeks crisscross the park, which is scattered with various other creeks, ponds, lakes and swamps, where fish swim freely and water birds fly about. Because of its peacefulness and primitiveness, the park remains a favorite haunt for many literati, who have left behind many works of art, which in turn provide a profound cultural flavor to enhance the park.

#### Address

Zhoujia Village, Xihu District, Hangzhou



## New Orleans

# A City That's All Heart

Text Patsy Yang







New Orleans may have a painful past, from the slave trade to Hurricane Katrina, which killed more than 1,240 people and flooded 80 percent of the city. But nothing, it seems, can bring down the cheer and joyful attitude of its residents.

The birthplace of jazz, New Orleans offers a truly colorful vibe for travelers in the American South.

While New York is nicknamed the Big Apple, New Orleans is referred to as the Big Easy, which is a nod to the laid-back attitude of local people. Why would they be stressed? Beautiful jazz music is always around the corner, as is excellent Cajun food.

Perched on the banks of the Mississippi River in the US state of Louisiana, the city has a storied history, including the celebration of Mardi Gras, a carnival full of funky parades.

The city's biggest party, is a last bit of whoopee before Lent, a season of atonement in this traditionally Catholic area. Exuberance is the order of the day at this citywide costume party:

There's a massive float parade with elaborate feather costumes, intricate masks and, of course, the ever-present Mardi Gras beads. King cakes are a special treat.

In any season, New Orleans is also a popular wedding destination. Typically, newlyweds will carry umbrellas as they march and dance down Second Line, accompanied by a brass band and cheered on and supported by their guests.

## French Quarter

My five-night trip started in the French Quarter, also known as Vieux Carre, where most visitors choose to stay. There is a lot going on in the historic area, and you can easily spend several days here without needing to venture too far.

Bourbon Street is New Orleans' most famous stretch of road, which is right at the center of the French Quarter.

People flock to the street and parade up and down here every single night. Either you love it or you hate it, but Bourbon Street — as old as the city itself — has exported a vision of New Orleans

*“The birthplace of jazz, New Orleans truly offers a colorful southern American vibe for travelers.”*



culture around the world.

After Hurricane Katrina destroyed the city in 2005, Bourbon Street was the first commercial area to re-open, and it quickly became one of the few places to put on a brave face when the city most needed a place to forget the misery and pain.

Today, people party on Bourbon until they are unconscious, but if you leave the street, you will find that the rest of the French Quarter is also packed with history, color and charm.

## Jackson Square

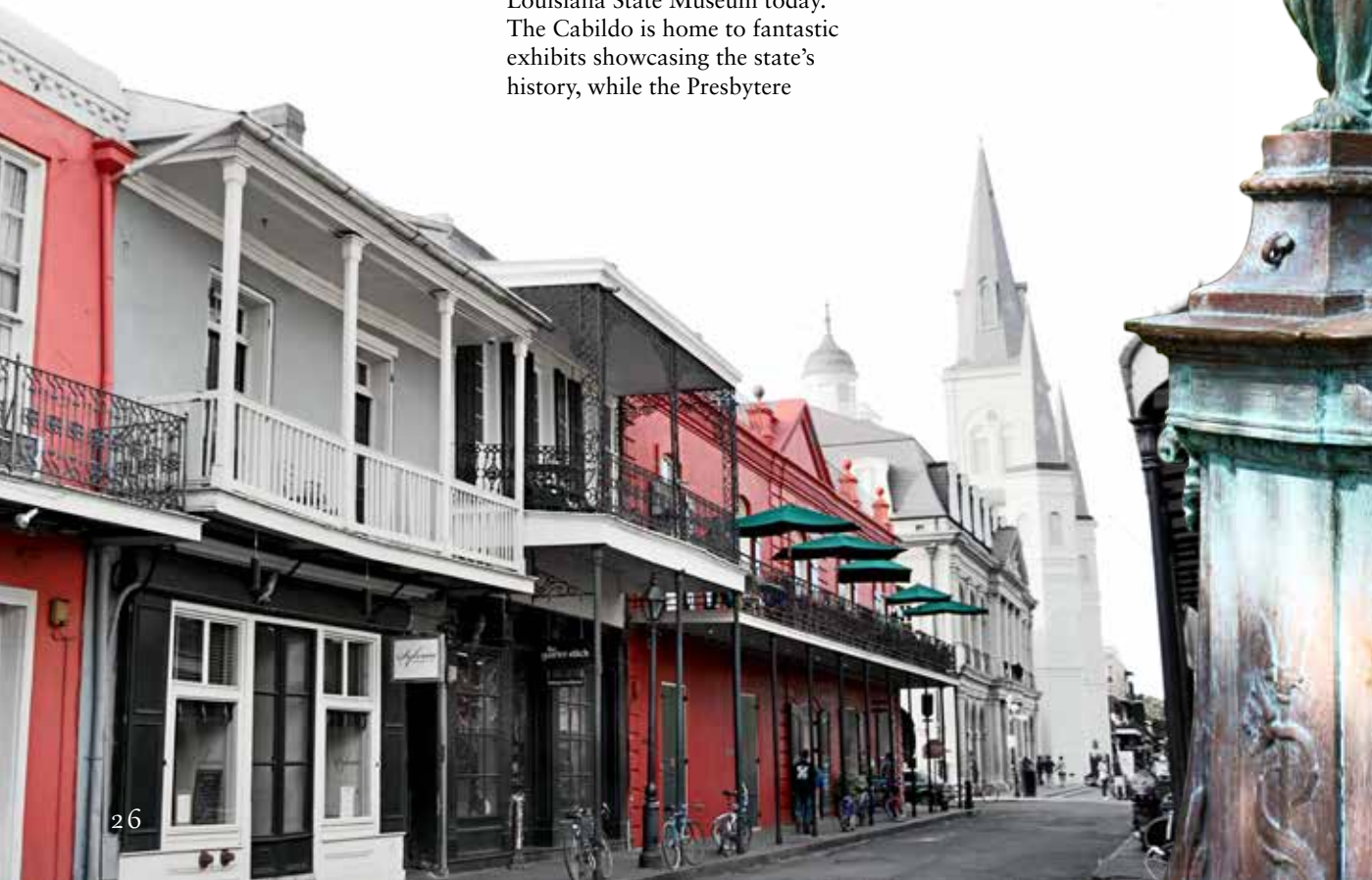
Jackson Square is the city's historic epicenter. Located in front of St. Louis Cathedral, it was here that the Louisiana territory was officially transferred from

Napoleon's France to the newly formed United States.

Situated on a bend of the Mississippi River, 160 kilometers from its mouth, New Orleans has been the Gulf of Mexico's busiest northern port since the early 1700s. It was founded by the French in 1718, ruled for 40 years by the Spanish before reverting to French control, and bought by the United States in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Jackson Square was first laid out in 1721 as a military parade ground and later renamed to honor Battle of New Orleans hero Andrew Jackson. Facing the square is St. Louis Cathedral, the oldest active Catholic cathedral in the country. Adjacent to St. Louis Cathedral is the Presbytere, built to match the Cabildo on the other side of the cathedral. Both are magnificent examples of colonial Spanish architecture.

Both structures are part of the Louisiana State Museum today. The Cabildo is home to fantastic exhibits showcasing the state's history, while the Presbytere





“While jazz is certainly the most common music here, the scene today also includes bluegrass, classical, blues and even opera soloists.”

is dedicated to contemporary Louisiana and its vibrant culture. It is home to a fascinating exhibit on Hurricane Katrina that delves deep into the events, causes and aftermath – informative, compelling and shocking. Another permanent exhibit explores the history and development of Mardi Gras celebrations.

Along the edges of the garden of the square, street performers, artists, bands and fortune-tellers conjure a Paris-meets-the Caribbean vibe.

Creole townhouses, Spanish-influenced courtyards and ironwork balconies have become synonymous with southern style. Intimate and romantic, it is a compact quarter with many attractions within walking distance.

Royal Street is also worth exploring. It is lined with long-established high-end antique stores, galleries and some of the best boutiques, all with an elegant colonial charm. It’s also a hot spot for emerging artists.

It does not take long for a visitor to the French Quarter to encounter music on the streets. While jazz is



certainly the most common music here, the scene today also includes bluegrass, classical, blues and even opera soloists.

Like-minded folk with a carefree spirit gather on the streets to enjoy musicians showing off their talent.

With an abundance of local specialty foods, seasonal vegetables and homegrown spices, the market also functions as a community even — meet, greet, shop and eat there to get an idea of what life is like for residents.

If you are pressed for time, there are several guided tours inside the French Quarter that give you a glimpse into the city’s history. Royal Carriage Tours is fun and takes you to the most scenic spots, and the conductors of these mule-drawn carriage tours really know their stuff.

## Uptown and Garden District

If you stay longer in this amazing city, then hop onto the St. Charles Avenue Streetcar and ride it all the way to neighborhoods that feel a world apart from the French Quarter.

A great way to see the city for just \$1.25, the streetcar is the oldest continually operating





*“As one of the few streetcars that survived the automobile era, locals use the streetcars daily, even though the buses tend to be a little faster.”*

trolley system in the US. Extremely atmospheric, it rumbles beneath St Charles Avenue’s oaks, and runs along the Mississippi riverfront and down Canal Street before clipping Loyola Avenue.

As one of the few streetcars that survived the automobile era, locals use it daily, even though the buses tend to be a little faster.

I hopped aboard at Canal Street and passed the beautiful St. Charles Avenue, which is dotted with big oak trees next to superb historic mansions that once housed the city’s rich and famous. Many of the tree branches are still laden with shiny beads tossed from Mardi Gras floats.

After about 40 minutes, I reached Audubon Park opposite Tulane University, a favorite spot for locals to enjoy a beautiful day. A shuttle bus takes you from the park to Audubon Zoo, home to animals from across the globe as well as endemic species.

Stretching from Audubon Zoo to Louisiana Avenue, Magazine Street is the city’s best shopping destination. En route, you will discover quaint Victorian homes revamped into chic and eclectic boutiques. With art, antiques, clothing and home accessories, it’s well worth scheduling at least half a day to stroll down the street and check out the best shops and boutiques.

Walking toward Canal Street, you will reach the Warehouse Arts District, filled with galleries and museums.

After five days in the city, I had become spellbound by its history, its vibrant music and its unique blend of cultures. Boarding an airplane home was almost heartbreaking — a fate that countless revelers have suffered before.



# CULTURE



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Although a cafe with a comfortable couch was not far away, Ethiopians in suits prefer to enjoy their coffee under the thatched awning.

# Ethiopia

Where Coffee Culture was Born

Text & Photos Qiu Lian

*“Ethiopia is the seventh-biggest coffee-producing country worldwide and the biggest in Africa. Seventy percent of the coffee is consumed within the country.”*

The grassy area is covered by a thatched awning. A woman in traditional white cloth sits behind a round-bellied stove, tending the long-necked clay pot on top of it. Once people are seated before her, she stands up to pour coffee into a white Chinese porcelain cup. Many of the attendees are Ethiopians in suits, and although a cafe with a comfortable couch was not far away, they preferred to enjoy their coffee under the thatched awning.

The coffee ceremony is my introduction to Addis Ababa, the

capital of Ethiopia.

Coffee is serious business here. Some men joked about how maybe they used instant coffee in the folk show. However, I was quickly put in my place when I asked for instant coffee several days later. Because I had an early flight the next morning, I asked the reception staff for some instant coffee out of convenience. “Madam,” I was told, “we do not drink that here. If you need coffee in the morning, we can offer you a cup of freshly ground coffee.”

Ethiopia is the seventh-

biggest coffee-producing country worldwide and the biggest in Africa. Seventy percent of the coffee is consumed within the country.

Legend has it that coffee originated in Ethiopia. A shepherd found that sheep would be restless after having eaten the leaves and fruits of a certain plant. He tried himself and became so excited that he danced with his sheep. Monks in the monastery nearby saw his weird behavior, and they too grew to love the magic fruit as it helped them stay alert during long prayer ceremonies. However, this legend does not explain the development from eating the fruit to drinking the mixture of fried and ground coffee beans and water. Another story: After a wild forest fire burned a coffee plantation in Ethiopia, the local people noted the aroma of burned coffee and came to realize that roasting the beans could make coffee more fragrant.

The serious daily coffee ritual reflects the profound coffee culture in Ethiopia. The whole ceremony starts with baking green coffee beans, which often lasts for more than one-and-a-half hours.

It was on our visit to the family of a local resident, named Mohammed, that we experienced a complete coffee ceremony.

Mohammed works for the government and his wife, Jenny, has a job with a Chinese company. When he graduated from university a few years ago, he was a rural man with an uncertain future. Jenny, however, was the daughter of a businessman in the capital. Their relationship was not supported by Jenny's parents because of their financial differences. However, Mohammed, aided by his Chinese friend, helped Jenny get a job and ultimately married her. Jenny gave birth to their child a year ago and stayed at home, which made Mohammed the sole breadwinner.

## Coffee ceremony

On a dimly lit evening in Addis Ababa, we stopped at an iron door after threading through a maze made of small houses. In Mohammed's independent house there was also a car. After years of hard work and support from Jenny's family, they live as a middle-class family in the capital.

Shortly after we were seated, Jenny began the coffee ceremony silently. Coffee beans crackled loudly and the aroma of caramel floated around us. When the oil secreted began to polish the dark brown coffee beans, it was time to grind them. A wooden mortar and pestle were used in the ceremony to turn the coffee beans into powder. Jenny put coffee powder into a clay pot of boiling water. After a while, she poured the coffee into a big glass cup and then back into the pot, a process that was repeated three or four times. I was puzzled by this step — as the aroma of coffee seemed to be reduced each time. Jenny said timing is crucial, adding that she learned how to conduct a coffee ceremony from her mother as a child.

“Every day after school, I came home to the smell of coffee and milk,



Coffee leaves and shells will be served together with milk in the Ethiopian coffee ceremony.





An Ethiopian woman holding a coffee ceremony



which made me feel safe as it meant my mother was waiting for me,” Jenny said.

When the bean dregs settled, we began to share the coffee. Senior men in the family are served first, as they are the most respected members of the family. Also, the first coffee is deemed too strong for women or children to drink. Coffee is shared three times, with more water added each time, so the first coffee is equal in strength to an espresso, while the last is more like a straight black. Children are only allowed to taste the last coffee. Snacks served alongside the coffee include popcorn and fried wheat.

Traditionally, the coffee ceremony is held three times a day: after breakfast, lunch and dinner. However, as the pace of life in Ethiopia speeds up, it is now only performed once a day. There is an Ethiopian saying that goes, “Coffee is our bread”. Making coffee at home is time-consuming, so people buy it on the street, now a common practice in some small cities. When I traveled in three northern ancient cities, I saw women selling coffee in small pottery cups. People would buy a cup or two and exchange a few words with the hostess. It reminded me of people selling tea in Beijing in the 1990s.

Although it originated in Ethiopia, coffee was not spread by Ethiopians. As Aksum, the ancient Ethiopian kingdom, expanded, coffee appeared in the Arabian Peninsula in the 6th century and the Islamic world in the 15th century, including Persia, Egypt, Turkey and North Africa. When Ottoman Turks occupied Yemen in 1536, they also controlled the Mocha Port for transporting coffee, so they accumulated a great deal of wealth. From Yemen, via the Suez Canal, coffee beans arrived in Alexandria where businessmen from Venice and France gathered. The businessmen

Freshly picked coffee beans





transported the coffee beans into Europe. Both Arabic and Turkish people protected their secrets about how to grow coffee trees. They insisted that only half-baked coffee beans could be exported because raw ones can be used to grow new trees. Despite that, a pilgrim called Baba Bodine took coffee beans to India. At the same time, the Dutch, a mighty maritime force, planted coffee secretly in the Netherlands and then took it to the Indonesian islands of Java, Sumatra, Timor and Sulawesi as well as other colonies in the East Indies.

### Variations on techniques and tastes

Boiling coffee is popular in the areas where coffee originated, but techniques vary. In Ethiopia, sugar is added to coffee when drinking it.

In Turkey, coffee powder, sugar and cold water are added together in a copper pot and once the mixture boils three times, it's poured into a cup. After the third boiling, the dense foam that forms in the cup is considered to be the best. Boiling coffee is a simple process that does not involve complicated techniques or high-tech equipment, but the method is not prevalent worldwide, because many coffee connoisseurs believe that the flavor of coffee is affected in the boiling process. In addition, boiling coffee several times leads to excessive extraction, which makes it taste bitter. Therefore, in both Ethiopia and Turkey people







The most famous cafe in Addis Ababa — an Italian one called To.Mo.Ca.

add incense to hide the bitter taste.

The key to making coffee is to figure out the ideal proportion of coffee powder and water to produce the perfect aroma.

Italy is known for its fondness of espresso. The Illy family contributed a lot to the development of espresso, including the espresso coffee machine; according to the company, espresso is best made with 7 grams of fresh coffee powder in water that is 91 degrees Celsius under 9 bars of pressure for 25 minutes to produce a 30 ml cup of coffee. Espresso dates back to the first Industrial Revolution: It requires skills, but lacks the personal touch and experience required to conduct a boiled coffee ceremony.

Italian coffee is popular all over the world and companies such as global giant Starbucks serve

coffee named after famous Italian variations such as latte, cappuccino and macchiato. All of them are made of espresso, with varying proportions of milk used.

Ethiopia is another place where Italian coffee is popular outside of Italy. However, that's thanks to an Italian invasion rather than the result of globalization. There were two wars between Ethiopia and Italy. The first took place from 1894 to 1896, in which Emperor Menelik II led the war himself and defeated the Italians in the Battle of Adowa. The second one occurred from 1935 to 1942 during World War II, when Italian Fascists occupied some major cities in Ethiopia and sent the Emperor Haile Selassie into exile abroad. However, the Ethiopian people never stopped rebelling. The emperor kept lobbying





Britain, France and other countries to intervene. Finally, Ethiopia regained its independence in January 1942.

Italy's six-year occupation left cultural imprints on Ethiopia. The Italians built districts in cities they considered strategic for developing administration, business and residences. The yellow Italian buildings in the capital still function today as business centers. Italian words such as *operazione* (operation) and *tutta* (sportswear) also exist in daily conversation. In northern Ethiopia, adjacent to the former Italian colony Eritrea, the bilingual phenomenon is more common, with words or phrases such as *furnello* (stove), *forquetta* (fork) and *scusa, signore/signora* (excuse

me miss/sir) still used. Italian dietary habits are also rooted in Ethiopia. Pasta, pizza and Italian dumplings are available in almost every restaurant, while the prevalence of Italian cafes will have you wondering whether you are in Italy.

The most famous cafe in Addis Ababa is an Italian one called To.Mo.Ca. The name is an abbreviation for the Italian *torrefazione moderna* cafe, which means modern roasted coffee. Founded in 1953, this Ethiopian family corporation moved into the cafe business after producing coffee beans. The headquarters oozes a sense of nostalgia, representing a cafe from the 1940s or 1950s. The interior is decorated in warm yellow, a large counter runs down one side with a brass weighing machine and grinder perched on it, and customers lining up to order and pay are given color-coded plastic bands. After giving their bands to the barista, they pick up their coffee and drink it standing at the long table. Italians are used to drinking coffee standing up because espresso is made quickly, comes in a small quantity and should be drunk while it is hot.

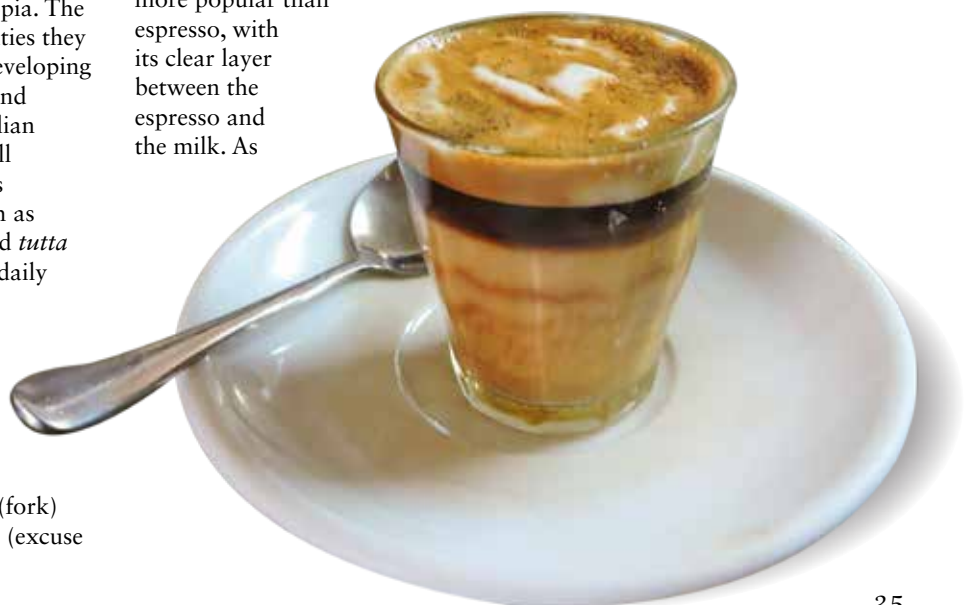
I found *macchiato* was more popular than espresso, with its clear layer between the espresso and the milk. As

it was afternoon, no one made a mistake of ordering a cappuccino.

In a developing economy, young people in Ethiopia have no time to attend coffee ceremonies, but they still need a place to meet friends and talk about work. Therefore, US-style coffee shops have become the popular new choice for the young generations in the capital in recent years.



A lasting Italian colonial influence at Ethiopia is people's favor for a cup of espresso.



Four Writings on

# Jiangnan

Photos Jia Shoufeng / Text Su Cangsang

## Wuzhen

Looming out of the fog, is it really the water lane of Jiangnan I have been anxiously searching for in my dream?

The water from the Shaoxi River, also called the Chexi River, is clean and placid. It is the river of Wuzhen, running through the city from south to north and crisscrossing the town area. There is an old legend about the river: A long time ago, General Wu fought against rebels and turned into a ginkgo tree after he died; his battle steed changed into a green dragon and hid at the bottom of the river in Wuzhen, with its fresh blood nourishing this piece of land. Though the old ginkgo tree is no longer there, the Chexi River seems to harbor a particular spirit. On a foggy autumn morning, the rippling river water frolicks under the thick, hazy shroud like a crowd of naughty kids. Then comes the “creaks” of small boats, the “chug-chug” of ship motors, along with the yelling of boatmen and their wives who get up early to earn a living. All of a sudden, Chexi River becomes noisy and vibrant.

The waterfront dwellers quietly row their boats, raise their silkworms, and live a simple, peaceful life. Can it be that the land, the river and the lanes have endowed them with a natural quietness that will never recede?

The creaking sounds of a boat with black awnings took my thoughts away. Looking back to the river and the water lanes, my eyes were blurred by the misty water town again, like the ending of an exquisite and anguished poem.













## Xin'anjiang River Flows with Fog

On a summer night, Xin'anjiang city took off the old day's makeup and was enveloped in a light purple haze. The river was meandering in a calm and peaceful manner. A fishing boat returned late, and occasionally generated a ripple mark on the surface of the water. The breeze brushed my cheeks, carrying with it some vapor at 14 degrees Centigrade. Up to that point, the lights brightened up both sides of the river in tranquility and silence — a herald of something happening very soon.

If you were a fish at this moment, you would see a lingering scene between Qiandao Lake and the Xin'anjiang River: As the water of Qiandao Lake gently flows into the heart of the river, it gives birth to the white magic fog between heaven and Earth. Like a newborn baby, the fog stretches about in her mother's arms — pure and white, gentle and ethereal — laying on the surface of the river. I am really worried that the dots of lights on fishing boats will melt her down.

Just as beautiful are stars in the sky. It seems that the stars are so close to the ground surface that they seem to hang just over our heads, within reach at any time. Their extraordinary splendor makes people feel as if they are not real. As an old friend of stars, fog often jumps up to the sky to hear what they are giggling about.

Around midnight, I wake up and all sounds were hushed. With fog on my mind, I push open the wooden windows to the riverside, finding her lying flat under the starry sky and sleeping quietly. Unconsciously she had turned the water landscape into a light ink painting.

As the sun rises, she will vanish, leaving us with happy memories.



## Descendants of Zhuge Liang

It was in the afternoon when I walked along the narrow stone lanes into Zhuge, a village built on the design of Eight Diagrams.

The winter sun illuminated white walls, black tiles, carved gatehouses and roof eaves of buildings — exuding a sense of antiquity. On wooden gates of every household were pasted some Chinese characters — phrases such as “Three Thousand Students Are Studying Hard” rather than the traditional striking couplets.

The Bell Pond is situated at the center of the village. In front of the pond lies the real heart of Zhuge — the Grand Public Hall. It is in this small village that gathers the largest population of descendants of Zhuge Liang, an important military strategist and statesman in the period of the Three Kingdoms. There is a distinct architectural style in Lanxi city, including the prestigious Dengying Academy, the National School for Girls sponsored by the local government, which has produced a family of traditional Chinese medicine physicians, and more than 50 doctorate degree graduates, senior engineers and professors. For hundreds of years, the village has retained its simple culture, despite all of its ups and downs.

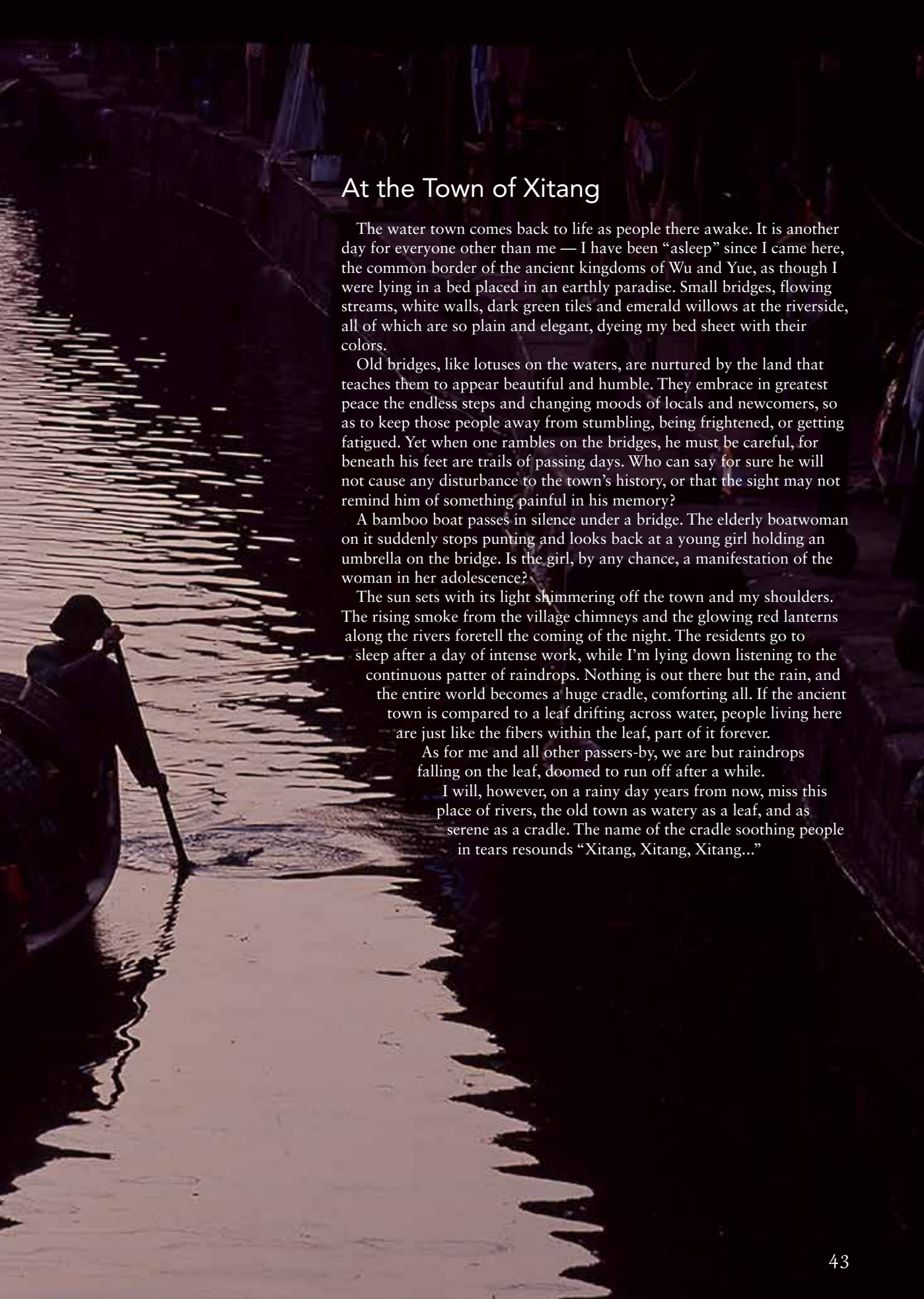
Out of nowhere, I heard some students reading: “Only calm can strengthen your will; only peace can get you afar,” which is a famous quote by Zhuge Liang. After hearing this, I felt strongly that this is a village that every Chinese should visit.









A person in a bamboo boat is seen from behind, paddling down a narrow river. The water is calm, reflecting the warm, golden light of the setting sun. The background shows the silhouettes of buildings and trees along the riverbank, creating a peaceful and atmospheric scene.

## At the Town of Xitang

The water town comes back to life as people there awake. It is another day for everyone other than me — I have been “asleep” since I came here, the common border of the ancient kingdoms of Wu and Yue, as though I were lying in a bed placed in an earthly paradise. Small bridges, flowing streams, white walls, dark green tiles and emerald willows at the riverside, all of which are so plain and elegant, dyeing my bed sheet with their colors.

Old bridges, like lotuses on the waters, are nurtured by the land that teaches them to appear beautiful and humble. They embrace in greatest peace the endless steps and changing moods of locals and newcomers, so as to keep those people away from stumbling, being frightened, or getting fatigued. Yet when one rambles on the bridges, he must be careful, for beneath his feet are trails of passing days. Who can say for sure he will not cause any disturbance to the town’s history, or that the sight may not remind him of something painful in his memory?

A bamboo boat passes in silence under a bridge. The elderly boatwoman on it suddenly stops punting and looks back at a young girl holding an umbrella on the bridge. Is the girl, by any chance, a manifestation of the woman in her adolescence?

The sun sets with its light shimmering off the town and my shoulders. The rising smoke from the village chimneys and the glowing red lanterns along the rivers foretell the coming of the night. The residents go to sleep after a day of intense work, while I’m lying down listening to the continuous patter of raindrops. Nothing is out there but the rain, and the entire world becomes a huge cradle, comforting all. If the ancient town is compared to a leaf drifting across water, people living here are just like the fibers within the leaf, part of it forever.

As for me and all other passers-by, we are but raindrops falling on the leaf, doomed to run off after a while.

I will, however, on a rainy day years from now, miss this place of rivers, the old town as watery as a leaf, and as serene as a cradle. The name of the cradle soothing people in tears resounds “Xitang, Xitang, Xitang...”



# No Fear of

*An interior designer known for his stark use of black and white is perfectly at home with vivid hues, Patsy Yang discovers.*

Text Patsy Yang / Photos Dong Jun

# Color



An artful, even dramatic blending of classic ornaments and modern inspiration has produced one-of-a-kind settings that seamlessly suit period spaces in the heart of Shanghai.

Baptiste Bohu, a renowned interior designer is the lucky tenant of this gorgeous 220 square meter old Shanghai apartment.

When he took it from the previous tenant, it was in good condition, with lots of original features intact such as the floors, the moldings, and all the doors and doorframes.

The highlights of this historic apartment for Bohu are really the old features: high ceilings, beautiful herringbone-pattern wood floor, plaster moldings, arches and door details.

“The first time I entered this apartment I loved the entrance and the long corridor, which is typical of Parisian apartment layouts,” Bohu says.

“My previous apartment was a type of loft, all open and modern so this time I wanted something completely different, with many rooms and a bit secretive.

“After spending a decade in Shanghai, I felt a little homesick



The living room, where Bohu socializes with friends and clients, is decked out in a more neutral palette with a few dramatic highlights.

and wanted a piece of Paris here.

“It turned out quite successful, when people come to my home they feel ‘somewhere else.’ People like the fact that the apartment is classical yet modern and young. It’s not a boring old representation of the past but rather an adaption into our current time. I’m young and even though I love the classics, I still live in my own time.”

He says the highlight is the corridor as viewed from the entrance. When he organizes a dinner party, he places lines of candles there, which produces a dramatic effect for people as they

come in.

Living in Europe and China has refined his artistic sensibility, combining old and new, the West and the East. The apartment is a bit of a patchwork of Bohu’s different inspirations with some classical 18th-century French looks mixed with Chinese elements and North African touches.

“I prefer strong lines and graphic elements, so I think that’s what would characterize my style with black and white stripes or other patterns. Overall, it is a modern take on classical design from different countries and eras,” Bohu says.



While some people think Bohu is all about black and white due to the stripes that became his signature, this designer does use colors — some bold hues — in his living space.

“My house is a great place to experiment with colors,” he says.

Bohu mixes Asian and French sensibilities in colors, playing with velvet fabric in blue or green and a Southeast Asian green accent in the bedroom.

Then there are the deep red lacquered cabinets and red walls in the kitchen – and the Venetian blue of the dining room that matches his blue Chinese pots.

“I used colors mostly in small rooms,” he says, “or rooms without too much sunlight to create interesting angles.”

“Bigger rooms or rooms with a lot of light are kept more neutral with light gray or white on the walls.”

The living room, where Bohu socializes with friends and clients, is decked out in a more neutral palette with a few dramatic highlights.

“The design of this room started when I purchased an old fireplace from a warehouse and an old door with beautiful wood moldings that

I attached to the wall,” he says.

He painted the fireplace and a part of the wall behind it black and the rest in white and light gray to create a cool contrast.

He has added a huge, heavily decorated mirror for the “Parisian” look. On the ceiling, there is a Moroccan chandelier and the sofa is a modern twist on a traditional French style sofa in green velvet. There are two 1950s wall lamps on each side, two huge green Chinese pots, some busts and customized curtains and blinds in pure white silk.

The dining room is unfortunately quite dark as it’s oriented to the north without enough sunlight even on a very sunny day.

“So the challenge was to make it still interesting, instead of choosing a bright color like most people would do, I decided to even make it darker choosing a deep Venetian blue and make the room a little more mysterious,” Bohu says.

He added shelves on the walls with blue Chinese pots and blue silk curtains decorating the window, placed an old fireplace there that was not part of the original apartment. It turned out to be an intimate dining room for gatherings.



Baptiste Bohu is a renowned interior designer and decorator based in Shanghai.



Bohu chose a deep Venetian blue for the dining room in order to make it more mysterious.



Each room of this apartment is elegant yet bold, an eclectic but happy mix.

“I like to spend the most time in the kitchen. Since a lot of people come to my house everyday, I have to keep the overall house quite neat,” Bohu says.

“The kitchen, however, is really my personal space. I have put an Eames chair and a book library in that room as well. I keep it messier and with a more casual design. When friends come over for dinners we always spend time in the kitchen, having wine first and very often end up in the kitchen, too,” he said.

Bohu says a home represents who you are.

“The biggest challenge in my career is to fully understand people’s personalities and taste. I don’t opt for the furniture showroom style, so I will never buy everything from the same store or brand.

“The best is to mix and match: 18th century with 1950s pieces; Asian with a French touch, for instance. I love contrasts and I think they make interiors very vivid.

“Another important thing is lighting. I have a dimmer on every lamp of my house. Adjustable lighting is very important if you have tea, a dinner, a party or if you are working.

“Dimmers give you the opportunity to create any mood you want. Lighting can create a very dramatic atmosphere like I did in the corridor.”



# PEOPLE



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Delta Celebrates Lucky 88th Anniversary by

# PROMOTING P

Text **Cao Shenshen**



Photo by **Lu Ning**



# PARTNERSHIPS

In Chinese culture, the number eight symbolizes fortune and good luck, so this year should be a lucky year for Delta Air Lines, which is celebrating 88 years since it began operating passenger flights. This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the first China route, which Northwest Airlines, one of Delta's predecessor airlines, opened in 1947.

"The year 2017 is not only a milestone in Delta's long history, but also the beginning of our future," said Wong Hong, Delta Air Lines president for Greater China.

As the oldest airline still operating in the United States, Delta's history can be traced back to Huff Daland Dusters, founded in 1924 in Macon, Georgia, as a crop-dusting operation. The company then moved to Monroe, Louisiana, and was later renamed Delta Air Services, in reference to the nearby Mississippi Delta region, commencing passenger services on June 17, 1929.

Twelve years later, Delta moved its headquarters to its current location in Atlanta and continued to grow through the addition of routes and the acquisition of other airlines. They replaced propeller planes with jets in the 1960s and began operating international flights to Europe in the 1970s and across the Pacific in the 1980s.

Moving into the 21st century, Delta's recent history was marked by its merger with Northwest Airlines in 2008, creating a global airline with major operations in every region of the world.

At present, Delta along with its worldwide alliance partners operate more than 15,000 flights daily. Delta and the Delta Connection carriers serve an extensive domestic and international network that includes 323 destinations in 57 countries on six continents. In the Greater China region, the airline operates seven daily flights from Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong to Seattle, Detroit and Los Angeles in the US, and Tokyo in Japan.

"We are putting more focus on globalization, and China is a significant part of Delta's plan. We believe it is an important strategy to continue to invest in strong partnerships." Wong said. "We have good relationships with China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines, and as the founding members of the Sky Team alliance, we have joint venture partnerships with Air France-KLM and Alitalia on trans-Atlantic routes, Virgin Atlantic between the U.K. and the US, Virgin Australia between Australia and the US, and Aeromexico between Mexico and the US. We prioritize cooperation with our partners in key markets to ensure win-win situations."

Coming from Singapore, Wong joined Delta last year. Previously, he spent more than 20 years in aviation industry working for leading service provider SATS, the International Air Transport Association, MasterCard International and Singapore Airlines.

Wong visited China many times for travel and work before

moving there. He speaks fluent Mandarin and is a big fan of Chinese delicacies such as dim sum and noodles with bean paste. He currently lives in Shanghai, which is his favorite Chinese city. Recently, *Sky Times* interviewed Wong Hong in Delta's Beijing Office to discuss strategies, challenges, partnerships and the digital development of the long-running US carrier.

*ST: How many nonstop routes does Delta Air Lines operate in the Greater China region? Are there any new domestic or international routes to be launched in 2017?*

**Wong:** At present, we fly four flights a day out of Shanghai to Seattle, Los Angeles, Detroit and Narita respectively; two flights a day from Beijing to Seattle and Detroit; and one flight a day out of Hong Kong to Seattle.

Seattle is a huge hub for us. It is the first point of arrival and first big city you come across if you take a trans-Pacific flight. From Seattle, Delta then flies to many other destinations within the United States.

We have no plans to increase our number of flight routes from China this year, as we are happy with the current network. That being said, the current network gives us tremendous room for growth because of our partnership with China Eastern and China Southern, which enables Delta to use the distribution capability that the domestic Chinese airlines have.

*ST: What products and services has Delta launched to meet the needs of Chinese passengers?*

**Wong:** Many Chinese customers are flying for the first time, so they may feel uncomfortable when they fly with a US carrier. On each flight, we have three or four Chinese-speaking flight attendants, so there are no problems communicating. We work closely with catering companies in Beijing and Shanghai to ensure we provide top Chinese cuisine. We also have more than 50 movies that can be viewed in Chinese or with Chinese subtitles. In addition, we provide sleepwear for passengers in our business class to help them relax. We also offer a Chinese video, as one of the inflight entertainment contents, to introduce arrival procedures at Detroit, Seattle and Los Angeles for Chinese arriving in the US for the first time.

*ST: Which US destination is the most popular in the Chinese market?*

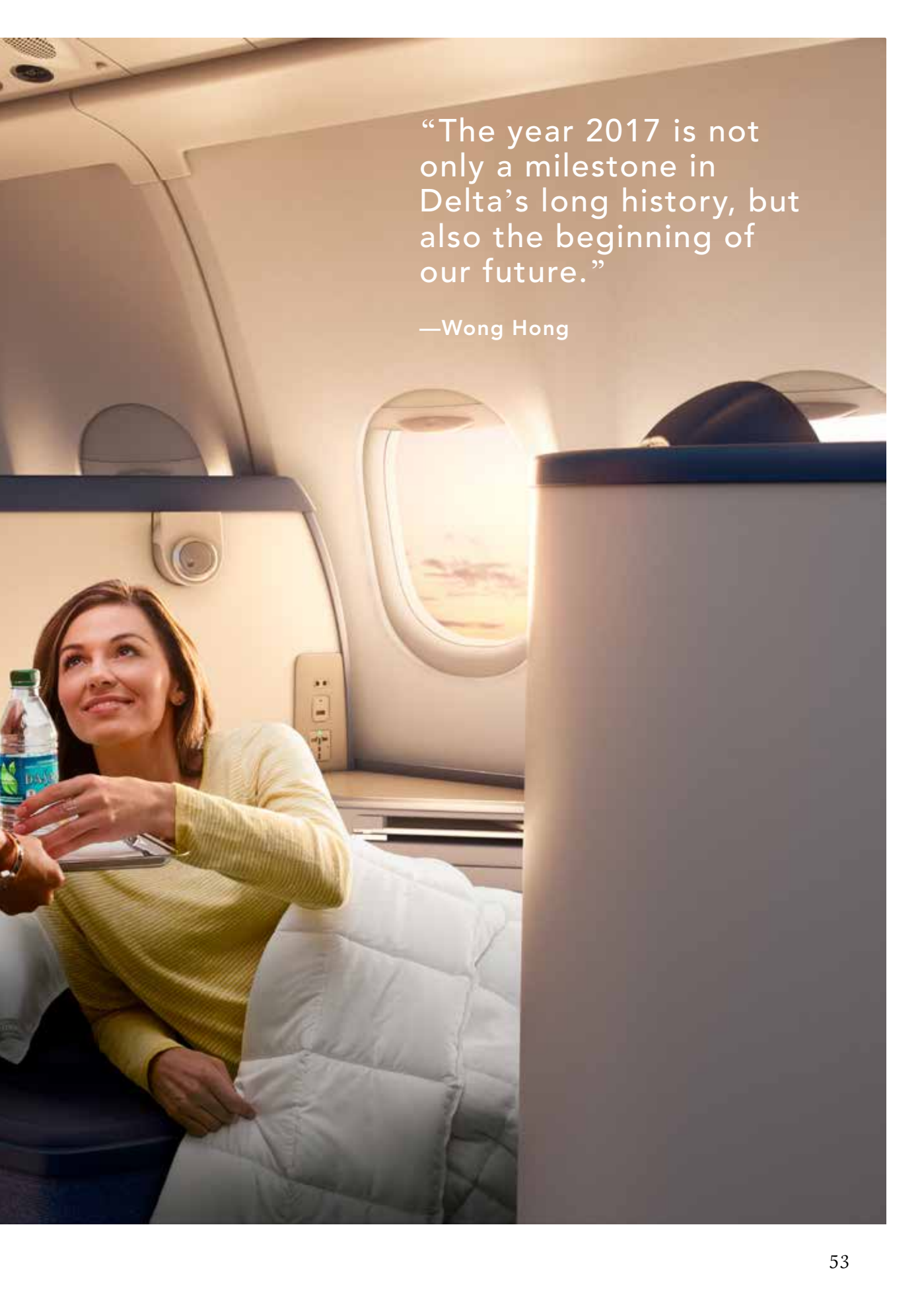
**Wong:** As far as Chinese travelers are concerned, Los Angeles is the favorite. It is a well-known holiday destination, with many interesting attractions such as Universal Studios and Disneyland, as well as Hollywood. There is also a huge Chinese community. I think it is the biggest Chinese community in the US, so many Chinese go to visit friends and relatives who live there. In addition, many Chinese students go to study in high school or college, not just in Los Angeles, but also the surrounding areas. It is for these reasons that we operate direct flights from Shanghai.

*ST: In October last year, Delta announced the installation of in-flight Wi-Fi on all long-haul international flights. Tell us more about the Wi-Fi pass?*

**Wong:** In the modern day, people





A woman with long brown hair, wearing a yellow ribbed sweater, is seated in an airplane cabin. She is holding a clear plastic water bottle and a small tray. She is looking out of the airplane window with a slight smile. The cabin interior is visible, including the window, overhead storage bins, and a white quilted blanket. The lighting is warm and soft, suggesting a sunrise or sunset view from the window.

“The year 2017 is not only a milestone in Delta’s long history, but also the beginning of our future.”

—Wong Hong

want to be connected even if they are flying, which is why Delta chose to invest in the installation of Wi-Fi. We are the only large-sized airline with Wi-Fi on all long-haul international aircraft. If you buy a simple pass at [delta.com](http://delta.com), it's US\$16 for 24 hours. If you do not have a screen in your seat, you can access the Delta Studio and you can enjoy all the in-flight entertainment on our website using your phone or laptop.

*ST: How do you compete with US airlines in the intensely*


*competitive Chinese market?*

**Wong:** To stay ahead of competition and remain competitive, our strategy has always been focused on trying to form partnerships. If we have the right partners, we will succeed. We are building our success through partnerships with China Eastern and China Southern. To deepen those partnerships requires a lot of time. There are many areas that require commercial cooperation, and many that also require learning from each other.

We learn a lot from the Chinese

airlines and we have a lot that we can share because of our practices in the US. Together with the Chinese airline partners, we can offer much better services and more access to Chinese customers. So whether you are in a third-tier city or a second-tier city, you don't have to worry because through our partners and codeshare agreements, we cover through more than 40 cities in China. We have data that shows we have almost covered more than 98 percent of the market demand in China to US, if you include all





the cities involved in codeshare agreements. So we believe that through partnerships, we can now reach out a lot more effectively.

*ST: Do you have deeper cooperation planned with China Eastern or in other markets around the world?*

**Wong:** We have been looking over the past few years at placing a greater focus on globalization, being more international, being more global. We have regular meetings with China Eastern and deeper cooperation will

come when we have joint sales activities. There are discussions ongoing all the time about how we can offer better products and services to our customers.

In the global market, we just announced a strong partnership with Aeromexico. We appointed two senior executives to work on the Aeromexico partnership, one of who will be the chief operating officer for Aeromexico, so that shows the kind of commitment that Delta is willing to make. For the US, Mexico is the biggest market because it is its closest neighbor. So it's a huge opportunity for us to use these partnerships to become more international and more global.

The other partnership that we are working very closely on is Korean Air. In June, we are going to introduce nonstop flights from Korea to Atlanta. The overall partnership with Korea will make us much stronger in the Asian market.

*ST: Do you have plans to expand your fleet size?*

**Wong:** We have 25 Airbus A350s on order and another 25 Airbus A330s on order to support different requirements and different routes.

When ordering new aircraft, we have to consider efficiency,

as we want the best turnaround performance possible. Two key differences with the new A350 aircraft will be our introduction of world's first all-suite business class with Delta One suite and a premium economy class, which will be called Delta Premium Select.

*ST: What efforts has Delta*

*made to go to digital?*

**Wong:** Going digital is something that Delta is always making progress. What we have done recently is invest in radio frequency identification (RFID) for baggage tracking. RFID bag tags track checked bags and implemented push notifications in real time so customers can track their bags using the Fly Delta app throughout the travel experience.

*ST: Do you have an online flagship store in China?*

**Wong:** No, not at the moment. We sell mostly, as far as online is concerned, through partners such as Ctrip. Our strategy for distribution involves using different channels and optimizing them as best as we can. Mobile and online channels are clearly significant in the Chinese market, so we will continue to invest in these areas to make sure that the channels can help us reach out to customers in a more effective way. We also have an account on WeChat with a fast-growing follower base, which is one way that helps us serve the needs of customers in China.

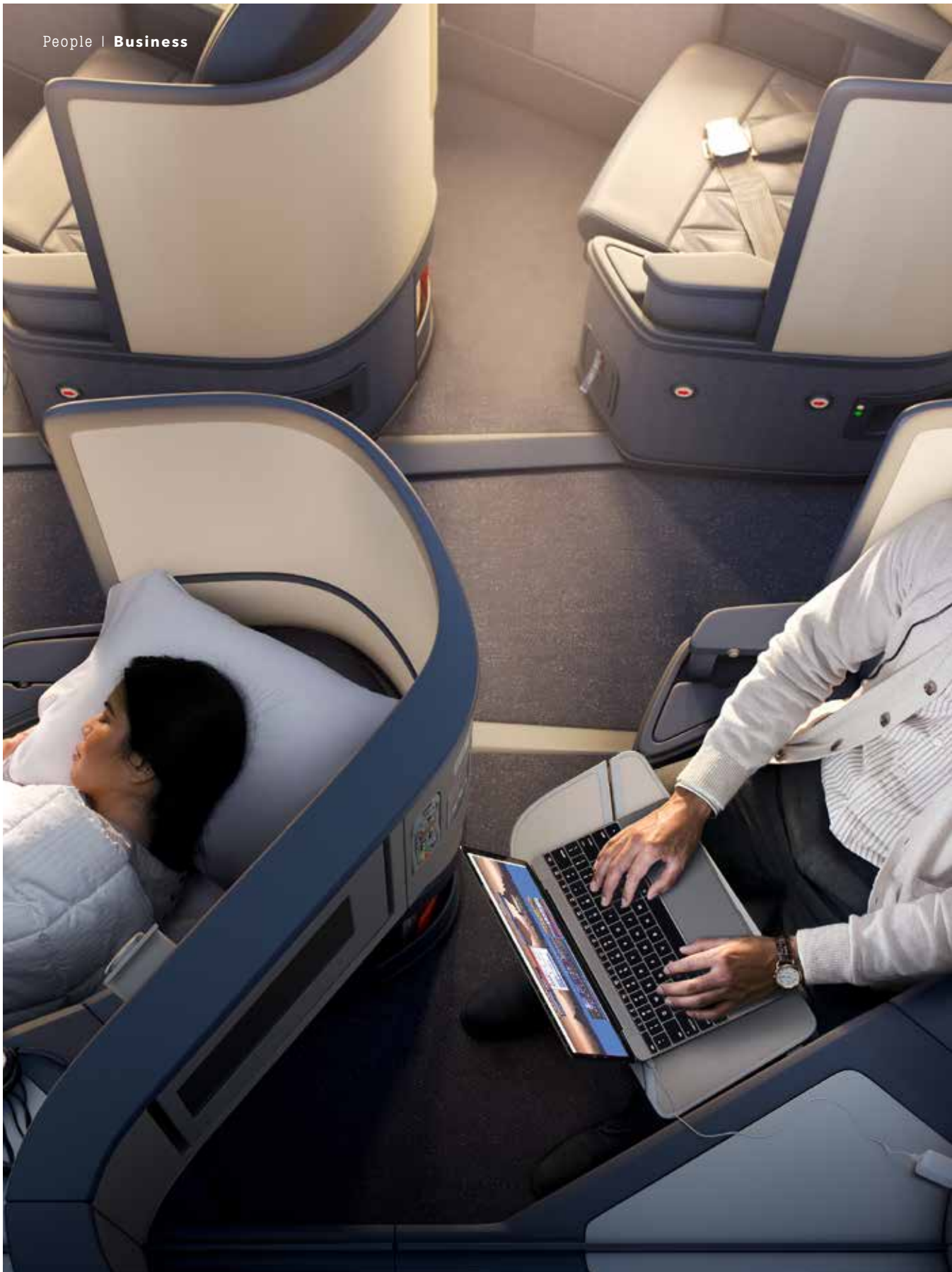
*ST: Delta cooperated with UnionPay last year, but in China, young people like to use WeChat Pay and Alipay. How is Delta addressing this issue?*

**Wong:** Customers have been able to pay via Alipay since March 2015. We were the first US airline to allow Alipay. We launched our UnionPay scheme in August last year, so on our website, you can use either payment method. As for WeChat Pay, this is something we are discussing.

*ST: Could you recommend a couple of US destinations to travel to in the summer?*

**Wong:** I recommend Seattle and Los Angeles. Seattle is a coffee city, so having a coffee at a Starbucks over there is a must. Chinese people







Heavenly bedding in a laid flat seat in Delta One on an Airbus 330-300.

love to shop. From Seattle, you can drive to Portland, which is a fantastic tax-free haven for shopping. Oregon State and Seattle are beautiful areas.

As for Los Angeles, Delta operates nonstop flights from Shanghai every day. When you get there, I recommend driving down the beautiful coast in California. You can even drive to Las Vegas and enjoy the stunning scenery along the way. Yosemite National Park is another place that I love. San Diego is also very pleasant and is known for its wonderful zoo.

*ST: Which Chinese city is your favorite?*

**Wong:** Well, I have lived in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou before. Now, I live in Shanghai. It is increasingly becoming my favorite city. Being Singaporean, I have not been able to experience four seasons, so Shanghai is great. I love the city because it is very vibrant, with lots of things happening and lots of opportunities in terms of lifestyle. Twenty years ago, when I was in China living in Beijing and Guangzhou, it was a very different experience, but it was also a wonderful insight for me.

*ST: Which place would you like to visit that you have never been to?*

**Wong:** I have visited many countries, but one area that I have never been to is South America. Maybe because it is so far from where I live in Asia. I have a

classmate in Brazil, so maybe one day I can visit South America and experience what Latin America is all about.

*ST: What is your favorite Chinese dish?*

**Wong:** Oh, there is a lot of Chinese food that I really enjoy. Dim sum is something I really enjoy, as well as noodles. I like *zha jiang mian* (noodles with fried soy bean paste) and in Shanghai, I eat a lot of *cong you ban mian* (noodles with fried scallions).

*ST: Have you taken flights of other Chinese carriers?*

**Wong:** Of course I have, especially with my job for Delta. I mostly fly up to Beijing because we have operations here, and also to Guangzhou. So I fly with China Eastern and China Southern.

*ST: During your spare time, what kind of activities do you like to do to relax?*

**Wong:** I have a couple of hobbies. My hobbies change with time, but my most recent hobby is running. It started two years ago because I thought that I had better get back in shape. I took part in a half-marathon in Singapore in 2015, and last year in Shanghai. I also enjoy swimming and catching up with friends during weekends.

*ST: In your spare time, what kind of activities do you like to participate into help you relax?*

**Wong:** I like to get up early in the morning and go running at about six o'clock. It is a great way to start the day.

# Cheng Bi

Giving Voice to Poetry

Text Feng Shuangqing







If you are a big fan of poems or enjoy a cup of coffee in a quiet bar, folk music from a young Chinese singer like Cheng Bi makes a perfect accompaniment. With her poetic or humorous lyrics, slow tempo and calming melodies, you may find that folk music is not just a music genre but a way to embrace everyday life.

In Cheng's eyes, her grandmother led the most idyllic life: singing, reading poems, writing about the meaningless things in life and teaching her little grandchild calligraphy using a writing brush. After a summer rainfall, Grandma would pick some wet green beans, make them into steamed dumplings with water and flour, and then sit under a leafy grapevine in their small courtyard with a cattail-leaf fan in her hand, waiting for little Cheng to come home from school. At the end of a year, Grandma would choose paper of different patterns and teach Cheng how to paper-cut to make window decorations.

In her teens, Cheng wrote a short poem recollecting her childhood memories of living in the courtyard with Grandma, which has always inspired her music. When Cheng joined the campus guitar club during her master's studies, she developed the poem into a rhyme, *Make Paper-cuts For Window Decoration Together on a Clear Day*, which was her first original song.

In 2014, Cheng released the album *Poetry Meets Song* at her own expense. It includes music she composed for several poems: *All* by Bei Dao, commonly considered the most influential poet in China during the 1980s; *Dying in Spring* by Shuntarou Tanikawa, one of

the most widely read and highly regarded living Japanese poets; and *The Train* by Cahit Sıtkı Tarancı, a less-known Turkish writer. The album created quite a stir among literary and artistic youth and sold more than 5,000 copies, helping Cheng cover most of her costs.

"*Everything is about destiny, everything is like a fleeting cloud, everything is the beginning without ending...*" By introducing a jaunty ukulele, Cheng infuses more appeal into All, Bei Dao's poem that was known for its sad tone. During Cheng's live show in Beijing, this song moved a listening poet to tears, showing why Cheng is praised by some poets as "the voice closest to poetry".

Cheng's latest album is also all about poems. The one named *Early Born Cricket*, which was released last summer, is a collection of 12 Kaneko Misuzu Rhymes. Misuzu, whose poetry for children has been compared to the writing of Christina Rossetti.

"In late summer last year, I heard a cricket chirping," said Cheng. "It suddenly dawned on me that crickets are usually born in autumn, and those born earlier may die sooner. There could be some connection between early-born crickets and Kaneko Misuzu, who became a literary celebrity in her early 20s, but committed suicide shortly before her 27th birthday."

Cheng is not an early starter in terms of music. It is no wonder that a woman obsessed with poems is an unmitigated bookworm. Before learning her first chord, she spent almost 20 years reading literature. Rather than forcing herself to read any particular topic, Cheng believes a book picked up off the cuff is more likely to tug at her heartstrings.

## No defining, always evolving

Cheng encountered music by accident. Though keen on art, she was always a good student, deeply engrossed in studies. In 2009, Cheng went to pursue a master's degree in Japanese at Peking University. The turning point came when she got the chance to take a half-year exchange program in Tokyo as a second-year graduate student.

"I was at a party with a few friends. When one of them played acoustic guitar, I was astounded by its sound. How could it be so melodious?" said Cheng. Back in Beijing, she started to learn the instrument, but did not turn to a music career right after graduation. Instead, Cheng unexpectedly accepted an offer from a securities company in Tokyo.

"Actually, I was curious about finance and securities then. It is a field I had never set foot in. I was interested in giving it a try to help me achieve a well-rounded life," Cheng said.

During that time, Cheng went to live shows of singers she appreciates, such as Kimie Fukuhara and Yukawa Shione, and got to know more independent musicians in Tokyo. Cheng saw independent music in Tokyo brimming with life, but being performed in a gentle manner. Light-hearted or cheerful, the true expression of the music infected her, and Cheng worked up the courage to hand her rustic album *Make Paper-cuts For Window Decoration Together on a Clear Day* to the managers of livehouses in Tokyo.

Cheng's "double life" started

"I can still feel what young ladies in China are feeling, and understand the way of life they are pursuing, through Cheng's voice and tone."

—Kenya Hara





when she received a performance invitation. In the daytime, she is a white-collar worker at the securities company, a sleepy-eyed commuter on the trains and subways of Tokyo that serve tens of thousands every day. When night falls, if you go into a livehouse in Shibuya, Omotesandou or Aoyama-itcho, you may find Cheng on stage, singing gently while plucking at a acoustic guitar. Gradually, Cheng created the ideal life she had been longing for.

As she moved from the guitar club to the campus singing contest and then to the livehouses in Tokyo, Cheng has attracted more and more followers with her poetic lyrics and light melodies that soothe listeners' minds. In 2016, she arranged an 18-concert cross-country tour for herself. The unusual element: the concerts were turned into musicals. Theaters were chosen as the venues, as Cheng believes the enclosed space helps audiences break away from dull everyday routines by going somewhere only music and imagination exist. Instead of using multi-colored lights, real plants were put on the stage, with warm lighting helping to create a "concert in the forest".

"I love plants. There is a lot that people can learn from plants, such as being silent and humble. People who come to a concert like this will chill out, as if in boundless woods, and so do I,"

Cheng said.

One of Cheng's biggest fans is Kenya Hara, a leading design personality in Japan, who has been the art director of Muji since 2001, and designed the opening and closing ceremony programs of the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympic Games. The first time they met was at Hara's lecture at Peking University in 2011, and Cheng eventually wound up working for his firm.

"Even if I cannot understand Chinese," Hara said. "I can still feel what young ladies in China are feeling, and understand the way of life they are pursuing, through Cheng's voice and tone. In the face of adversity, youth embraces change and uses it to grow stronger."

Coincidentally, that is how Cheng approaches her music: "No defining, no fixed style, but always evolving."

## Poetry lives in everyday life

Off stage, Cheng is an active user of social media. She has been sharing everyday moments with her 390,000 followers on Weibo, China's version of Twitter. Cooking, plants, cats, interior design and books are among her most common topics.

"For me, the ideal life is one where I can take full control of the pace of my life and stay close to nature. For example, settling down near a park, so that it is easy to go for a stroll anytime, where there are restaurants that may enjoy no fame, but serve tasty cuisine, where you can spend a night with a close friend, and there are grocery stores to hang around and



“After learning that we will finally say goodbye to everyone around us, I bear in mind the ‘once in a lifetime’ mindset and treat the world with warmth and brightness.”

—Cheng Bi



pick adornments to decorate the apartment. Besides, I love cooking. To cook a big meal for the family is also a great way to spend time. An ideal life for me is just an ordinary life,” Cheng said.

It is easy to tell that Cheng has a zest for life, though she has always cultivated a rather detached image through her music. She says listening to music is an expression of one’s inner self, and a way to contend with the stresses of life.

“It is impossible to find someone who spends every minute being purely poetic. Poetry lives in everyday life,” Cheng said. She believes those who listen to her songs are the type of people who spare some time, even a few minutes, to do “something else” on a busy day. For example, turn on a reading lamp, cocoon oneself in the sofa and read a few pages of a book. “Actually, it is an act of amplifying the important things in life. The amplification creates a balance between work and play.”

“Once in a lifetime” is a phrase

that originated from Japanese tea ceremonies, meaning that you may meet another person only once in a lifetime so you should treat them in the best possible way, which is a reflection of ancient Japanese culture. Cheng used to quote the phrase to show her attitude toward life. “After learning that we will finally say goodbye to everyone around us, I bear in mind the ‘once in a lifetime’ mindset and treat the world with warmth and brightness.”



# LIFESTYLE



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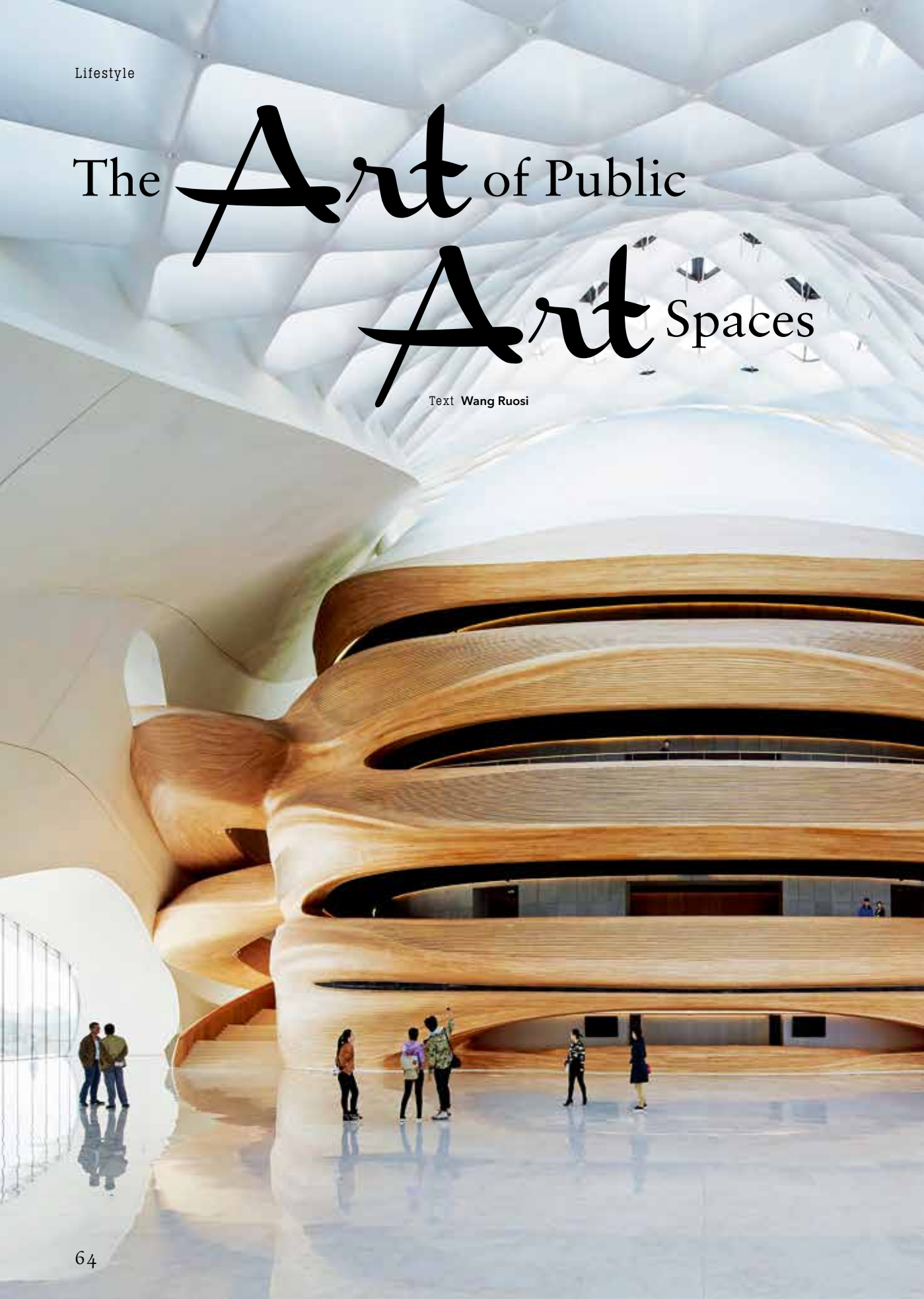
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Lifestyle

# The Art of Public Art Spaces

Text Wang Ruosi







In his *The Story of Art*, E.H. Gombrich, a British art historian, divides art into applied arts and fine arts. Buildings offer background space and new possibilities for creating other kinds of art, while presenting their own beauty. Recent years have seen the appearance of many public art spaces designed by renowned architects, which enable people to enjoy art in ideal architectural environments.

## Harbin Grand Theater

*Location:* Harbin

*Architect:* Ma Yansong

*Opened to the public:* Early 2016

Musician J. Jules Combarieu (1859-1916) once said: “Music is the art of thinking with sounds.”

Harbin Grand Theater strives for an ambience where it is possible to create a kind of sound that enables people to rethink the relationship between humans and nature.

Located alongside the Songhuajiang River, the theater occupies 79,000 square meters, including a 1,600-seat theater and a smaller one that has 400 seats. The acoustics are world-class.

The theater is a new cultural landmark for Harbin, and its complex engineering matches that of more renowned structures. The building has been featured in many top architecture magazines, such as *Abitare* in Italy, *MARK* in the Netherlands and *Architectural Record* in the United States.

Architect Ma Yansong used entirely new architectural forms highly integrated with nature to create “a spectacular view unique to the frigid zone in north China”. The theater’s exterior form is a double-curved surface, and it is surrounded by a natural wetland. Visually, it becomes part of the white horizon during the bitterly cold winter. It does not appear as a building of massive scale, as it merges with the surrounding environment.

The exterior surface is made of pearl white aluminium sheets, looking like a layer of smooth human skin, with some flowing wrinkles and bulges. The theater is rather like a living body that can breathe. The intimate interior space is hand-made with ash, a common local timber, which creates a warm ambience. The natural grain and varied organic forms enable people to appreciate the local features and a sense of life contained in the space, which integrates in an inviting way with music.

Main Hall of Harbin Grand Theater



Night view of Mu Xin Art Museum

## Mu Xin Art Museum

Location: Wuzhen Township  
Architects: Hiroshi Okamoto, Lin Bing  
Opened to the public: November 2015

Many readers learn about Mu Xin from Chen Danqing and his well-known book *Literary Recollections*. A versatile man, Mu Xin was not only a man of literature, but also an artist who established his own style in modern wash-painting. On Nov. 15, 2015 — the eve of the fourth anniversary of the death of Mu Xin — the museum, with Chen Danqing as its curator, was formally opened to the public in Wuzhen township, displaying many of his valuable art and literary works and thus his achievements and his aesthetic legacy.

Mu Xin only held two art exhibitions in his life, which meant his art achievements were little known even in China. However, his achievements in fine arts were no less impressive than his achievements in literature, including poems. While he was a student, Mu Xin studied Western paintings at the Shanghai Academy of Fine Arts and Hangzhou National Art College. His teachers included Lin Fengmian (1900-1991), a renowned artist. Coupling his educational background with his remarkable skills in Chinese landscape wash-painting, Mu Xin transcended the boundary between Chinese and Western paintings when

expressing, without restraint, the pure “landscape in his heart”.

The museum also has a hall where special exhibitions of work by renowned literary figures or artists from around the world are held each year. These literary figures and artists are all mentioned in the book *Literary Recollections*. The museum’s first two exhibitions were themed “Lin Fengmian and Mu Xin” and “Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche and Mu Xin”, revealing the deep impact that these two “spiritual idols” exerted upon Mu Xin. The Memorial Hall at the Former Residence of Mu Xin displays of paintings, manuscripts and relics of Mu Xin. The museum was the first to exhibit *Manuscripts Behind the Bar* by Mu Xin.

North of the museum there is a terrace library, which faces the backyard of the museum. The buildings of the museum were designed by Hiroshi Okamoto and Lin Bing, two disciples of I.M. Pei and partners of OLI Architecture PLLC. As curator Chen Danqing put it, Mu Xin is someone who lived in “modern” times rather than in “contemporary” times. Therefore it was appropriate to adopt a minimalist style — a type of modernism — in the museum’s design.



The unadorned exterior suggests tranquility and gracefulness, inviting meditation. The beauty of conciseness was a principle always upheld by Mu Xin. The buildings of the museum are arranged in a disorderly yet picturesque fashion along the riverbank and cross over the water of Zhenyuanbao Lake, reflecting the water in a low key but explosive manner. The museum represents an ingenious pursuit of tradition and mirrors the ambience of those riverside and lakeside towns in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River.

Wuzhen was more than the hometown of Mu Xin. It is the place where he spent his final days. During those days, Mu Xin stayed in his *wanqing xiaozhu* (a small house bathed in the sunset). Upon seeing the blueprint for the museum while he was dying, he sighed: “Wind, water and a bridge”. Today, the Mu Xin Art Museum stands in the wind, across the water and beside the bridgehead – integrated in a way as imagined by the artist.

“If you would like, you can meet me at a place of mixed feelings,” Mu Xin said. You can understand Mu Xin’s personality or discover your own at the Mu Xin Art Museum.



**Location:**

Wuzhen Township

**Tel:** 0573-8873-1158

**Open hours:**

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fridays, Saturdays and national  
Holidays:

9 a.m. - 8 p.m. (closed on Mondays)

**Ticket price:** 15RMB





Southern Branch  
of Taipei Palace  
Museum (Drawing)

## Southern Branch of Taipei Palace Museum

Location: Chiayi, Taiwan

Architect: Kris Yao

Opened to public: December 2015

Kris Yao, an architect from Taiwan, won wide acclaim for the Southern Branch of Taipei Palace Museum, which he designed using the analogy of three kinds of writing techniques: dark ink, hollow strokes and applying colors to images. Dark ink is referenced by solid buildings such as the closed and light-sheltered exhibition hall. Hollow strokes are reflected in hollow buildings that are characterized by unobstructed sunlight and a broad field of vision, such as the large hall, restaurant, library and office. Applying colors to images can be seen in bridges, on which he uses slight, graceful and lively lines to join all the spaces. In addition, the three kinds of buildings also symbolize Asian culture, which takes its root from a mix of three kinds of civilization: Chinese, Indian and Persian.

**Location:** No. 888, Gugong Blvd,  
Taibao City, Chiayi County, 61248

**Tel:** 05-3620777

**Opening hours:** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
(closed on Mondays)

**Ticket price:** 250 New Taiwan Dollars

During the three-month trial operation period, starting on Dec. 28, 2015, the museum was opened to the public for free. The regular exhibitions include *Silhouette of Buddha — Beauty of the Works of Asian Buddhist Art Collected in the Museum*; *Fragrance of Tea Leaves — Exhibition on Asian Tea Culture*; and *Kaleidoscope of Colors and Shapes — Exhibition of Asian Brocades Collected in the Museum*. These exhibitions enable visitors to enjoy the charisma of art from Southeast Asia. The special exhibitions for the opening of the museum include *Treasures from Across Kunlun Mountains — Special Exhibition on Islamic Jade Wares Collected in the Museum*, and *Seeking the Match Between Blue and White — Special Exhibition on Blue-white Porcelain Collected in the Museum*.

## Jixi Museum

*Location: Jixi Town, Anhui Province*

*Architect: Li Xinggang*

*Opened to public: November 2013*

Walking into Jixi Museum, you feel as if you have walked into an ancient town in Huizhou city.

Enclosed by plaster walls that are capped with black tiles, tucked away in magnificent old trees and set against the undulating mountains in the far distance, the museum is intoxicatingly beautiful. Designed by Li Xinggang, chief designer of China Architecture Design and Research Group, Jixi Museum is an ancient-style building that is well-known for two key design concepts: being modeled to look like a mountain range by using a folded roof, and creating an ancient courtyard feel through the positioning of plants and trees.

A 700-year-old ancient Chinese scholar tree occupies an independent courtyard, while the use of a small courtyard and transparent glass wall introduces more natural light into the museum.

Jixi Museum is divided into six exhibition halls, with themes of river and mountain, humans and culture, local business, customs, art and cuisine. The exhibits showcase the soul, natural scenery, and historical and cultural legacies in Jixi.

Particularly valuable exhibits include:

- 12 hanging scrolls named On Thatched Hut, a calligraphic work in running script written by Zha Shibiao (1615-1698), an artist during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912);
- Wood block from the Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace (1851-1864), established by Hong



**Location:** No. 100, Liang'anlu Road, Huayang Township, Jixi Town, Anhui Province

**Tel:** 0563-8167190

**Ticket price:** free

Xiuquan, leader of the Taiping Revolution, the largest peasant uprising in Chinese history;

- Paintings by renowned artists, such as Reading by Wu Changshuo (1844-1927), Moonlight on Wuzhu Platform by Huang Binhong (1865-1955) and Bamboos Amid the Mist by Zhang Shanma (1882-1940);
- Letters and antithetical couplets written by Hu Shih (1891-1962).

There are also many valuable exhibits portraying life in ancient Huizhou, such as portraits of people, contracts, genealogy of clans and families, and sculpture works of brick, wood and stone.

Jixi is the hometown of the philosopher and diplomat Hu Shih. There is an antithetical couplet hanging in the hallway of the museum, which translates as: "I feel at ease wherever I am as I build my home with trees. There is no need to go far to appreciate the subtlety of nature, because if I open the door, I can see the mountains." This outlook meshes perfectly with the design of the museum.

Jixi Museum











## Meisi Lake International Culture and Arts Center

*Location: Changsha*

*Architect: Zaha Hadid*

*Expected opening: June 2017*

It is not an exaggeration to call Zaha Hadid “a witch in the circle of architecture”. Hadid always subverted people’s imagination of buildings with her bold and stylish designs. People can understand how “crazy” she was by observing her works in China, such as Chaoyang Soho and Wangjing Soho in Beijing; Guangzhou Grand Theater; and the terminal building that is under construction at the new Beijing airport. A similar style is also embodied in Meisi Lake International Culture and Arts Center, which is set to open to the public in June.

The center beside Meisi Lake is an eye-catching architectural complex without a single straight line. Distortion, an enduring characteristic of Hadid’s designs, makes the complex an aura of the future or perhaps another planet. The thrilling charisma of Hadid’s design allows gracefulness and a lack of restraint to both collide and coexist. Taking the form of a blossoming flower, the center has a large theater that can seat 1,800 people, a modern art center, a small multifunctioning hall and a central plaza. Green lawns and winding paths connect the buildings, while a landscape bridge links the buildings with the luxurious island in the center of the lake.


The Grand Theater, with first-class performance facilities, is the biggest of the three buildings. In addition to the theater, there is a cloakroom, a restaurant, a bar, a VIP lounge, a rehearsal hall and other facilities. The modern art center is designed like a flower pistil rising in the center of the flower, and the three “flower petals” are independent exhibition and activity centers. Its transparent roof and open balcony allow people to watch over the lake. The public square facing Meisi Lake can also accommodate outdoor activities, including exhibitions. The small multifunctioning hall can be used as a small theater with 500 seats, and it can also serve as a T-stage for fashion shows or music concerts.

*Location: Meisi Lake Road,  
Xiangjiang New Zone, Changsha City*

Meisi Lake International  
Culture and Arts Center  
(Drawing)

# Afternoon

## Sweet Sips of Summer



**M**ay and June are my favorite months of the year. For many people, this season means they can enjoy the outdoors. Balmy spring breeze, genial sunshine and blooming flowers all create the best time to hang out with a friend or two and talk about the good old days.



# Tea

Text Feng Shuangqing



## Shanghai Aristo Mansion

Shanghai Aristo Mansion is a typical Spanish three-story garden house, which was built in 1938 and is where former Chinese vice-president Rong Yiren lived for many years. This half-timbered house has a simple appearance with a double-slope roof. It has been repaired and converted into a new exclusive venue in the city center, displaying sophisticated Oriental life, emphasizing the tolerance and diversity of Shanghai's local culture during the Republic of China (1912-1949) and recreating quality life in a materialistic and spiritual way.

At the old-style mansion, you can try delicate afternoon tea, known as Infinite Afternoon Tea, which includes a carefully selected array of leaves, refreshments and ceremonies, as well as various tea sets, such as French style, English style and American style.

### Macaron

The sweet meringue-based confection consists of a ganache, buttercream or jam filling sandwiched between two cookies. It is made with egg white, icing sugar, granulated sugar, almond powder or ground almond, which is slightly moist and melts in the mouth. Macarons at Shanghai Aristo Mansion will charm foodies with their delicate texture and pretty colors.



### Tie Guanyin

Tie Guanyin is probably the most famous of all Chinese oolong teas. The name means "Iron Goddess of Mercy" and the tea is as magnificent as its name implies. Curled jade-green leaves produce an infusion that is yellowish in color. Tie Guanyin has a sweet, appetizing honey-like fragrance and taste. The sweet aftertaste lingers in your mouth after a few sips. Studies show that drinking oolong during or after a high-cholesterol meal can lower cholesterol.



**Address:** No. 83-85, Wuxing Road, Shanghai

**Opening hours:**

Monday to Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Tel:** (86) 13754323790

Photo by Li Bixiao



## Aman Summer Palace

Just outside the Summer Palace's East Palace Gate, Aman Summer Palace offers a retreat and sanctuary of peace and tranquility in the frenetic capital. Sitting beside a serene courtyard just a few steps from China's most iconic site, you can enjoy the Palace Afternoon Tea Set at the Reflection Pavilion that overlooks a peaceful pond and garden. Beyond the pond is the Music Pavilion, where Chinese instrumentalists perform on summer afternoons and evening.

There is a daily selection of six delicate special sweets and cakes, four finger sandwiches and savory pastries, and freshly baked walnut-and-raisin scones with homemade cream and jam.

### *Yogurt Ricotta Cheese Cake with Mango Topping*

If you visit the hotel in late spring or early summer, be sure not to miss the seasonal mango dessert. The special soft and succulent mango jelly is coated with whipped cream and mousse, and filled with mango puree. Both savory and sweet, it melts in the mouth immediately. The cookie base is made of rice flour in consideration of those who are allergic to gluten.

### *Foie Gras Mousse with Apple Pickle and Truffle on Brioche*

Using a unique cooking method, excess grease is removed. The exterior is covered with finely ground pistachios, producing a crisp texture. The savoriness of foie gras is balanced wonderfully with pickled apple slices that taste sweet and sour, while the truffle shavings on top add to the rich flavor.

**Address:** Reflection Pavilion, Aman Summer Palace, 1 Gongmenqian Street, Summer Palace, Beijing.

**Opening Hours:**

Monday to Sunday 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Tel:** (86) 10 5987 9999



Photo by Ba Gen



## The Ritz-Carlton, Beijing

Situated in the heart of Beijing's Central Business District, the Lobby Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton, Beijing provides a blissful getaway from the hustle and bustle of the city with an unforgettable English afternoon tea experience.

Entering the Lobby Lounge feels like one has entered the living room of a wealthy estate, with a flanking pair of portraits that could represent two generations of the home's owners. Triple-tiered silver stands present an extensive selection of loose-leaf tea, delicate desserts, sandwiches, and renowned English scones with jam and clotted cream.

Assorted desserts created with the finest European ingredients — including Fresh Seasonal Raspberry Chocolate Tart, Classic Cheese Cake with Blueberries, The Chocolate Dulcey, Red Currant Choux Bakery and Double Chocolate Cake— complete a cozy and relaxing afternoon tea experience.

### *Scone*

The most highly recommended dessert at The Ritz-Carlton, Beijing is the British scone. It is

made of wheat, barley and oatmeal, with baking powder as a leavening agent, baked and then glazed with egg wash. British scones are not as sweet or as rich as American scones, and that makes them more suitable for serving with butter and jam. Currants are added for tiny bursts of fruity flavor, and milk and egg are brushed on top to enhance browning.

### *The Chocolate Dulcey*

Dulcey is dubbed the Rolls Royce of chocolate, being smooth, creamy and unctuous with a velvety and enveloping texture and a warm, blond color. It is a little on the sweet side, but well-balanced. It contains 32 percent cacao butter along with regular dairy butter, milk and vanilla. Chocolate and dessert lovers should never miss out on the full-bodied flavor of the Chocolate Dulcey.

**Address:** Lobby Level, 83A Jian Guo Road, China Central Place, Chaoyang District, Beijing

**Opening Hours:**

Monday to Sunday 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Tel:** (86) 10-59088180



## King's Joy

King's Joy is unfailingly popular and for good reason. It is adjacent to Yonghe Lama Temple, the largest and best-preserved lamasery in Beijing. In a beautiful courtyard, the restaurant boasts plenty of natural sunlight, with groves of bamboo and secluded paths integrated with diners.

Imperial-style Beijing snacks are an exceptional part of afternoon tea at King's Joy. The fame and flavor of Beijing's snacks have taken centuries to become what they are today, many of which are made of glutinous rice or soybeans, or fried. As a restaurant that provides not just excellent food, but a message of good health and environmental awareness, King's Joy offers low-sugar, low-oil and low-fat desserts with healthy tea and special fruit juice.

### *Jujube Paste Mung Bean Cake*

Mung bean cake is a popular Chinese dessert in summer. Mung beans, the main ingredient, are a common ingredient in daily Chinese cooking. In traditional Chinese medicine, the little green beans have a cold property, which can help to protect the human body from hot temperatures



in summer. Mung bean cake at King's Joy is handmade using organic mung-bean flour and filled with jujube paste, which is believed to maintain beauty and youth.

### *Hawthorn Berry and Roselle Juice*

Chinese hawthorn berry is a small, bright-red fruit with a tart flavor, which can be overpowering if eaten raw. After being heated and soaked in sugar water, the sharpness disappears and the berries taste far less sour. It has a color and flavor resembling that of cranberry juice, but freshly made hawthorn juice tastes even better, especially chilled after a heavy meal. The sweet and sour juice helps digestion and is refreshing. Maroon-colored roselle adds to the nutrition content of the drink, which is high in vitamin C.



**Address:** 2 Wudaoying Hutong, Yonghegong, Dongcheng District, Beijing

**Opening Hours:**

Monday to Sunday 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Tel:** (86) 10-84049191





Photo by Fannie

**Address:** Berko, Building No.15, Sanlitun Village North, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing

**Opening Hours:** Monday to Sunday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Tel:** (86) 10-64640464

## Berko

Berko is the best place in Paris for cupcakes. Now in Beijing's Sanlitun, you can also get a taste of its trademark cupcakes in a vast range of flavors. It's easy to fall in love with this place if you like sweets. I think it's worthwhile coming here just to look at the display! All of their creations are brightly colored and beautifully decorated.

The cream topping of the cupcakes does not taste greasy or buttery at all, as they use real cream cheese. Cheesecakes and miniature cakes are also available at Berko. There is something for everyone, whether you want something substantial or just a light bite.

The outdoor design of lace-like mesh in pure white makes Berko a quiet white palace in the downtown area. Indoors, the floor is a white natural marble, and three French windows render the dessert shop bright and sunny.

### *Red Velvet Cupcake*

French-sized cupcakes at Berko are carefully measured to restrict calories, with the idea that exquisite food is never oversized. The red velvet cake is iced with a French-style butter roux icing, which is light and fluffy, but time-consuming to prepare. It

has a mild chocolate flavor with moist and tender crumbs. The layer cake is dyed red-brown using the juice of corn poppy, making it perfect for a romantic afternoon.



### *Charlotte aux Fruits Rouges*

A bite of the raspberry-red dessert may turn your cheeks a rosy color all of a sudden. Raspberry mousse is topped with fresh red berries from the south of France, with the sweetness of the cream is neutralized by the tart flavor of raspberry. A thin chiffon cake on the exterior, Charlotte aux Fruits Rouges has a rich texture that will melt in your mouth.



# EYE-CATCHING ACCESSORIES

Text Ting Ting



Valentino

## Her

It is amazing what a well-designed accessory can do for your summer street style. Based on my personal experience, it is best not to wear too many clothing items. So, my recommendation for gals who want to be outstanding is to adorn themselves with an eye-catching accessory. Exaggerated earrings are a hit now, including large hoops and ball earrings. Patterned socks are still hot in this summer, but fishnets are the big fad. You can wear a skirt, hot pants or ripped jeans with different lengths of fishnets. Furthermore, fishnets can be worn with almost every type of shoe, sneaker, high heel and loafer.



A/X



Givenchy



Lanvin



Salvatore Ferragamo



D&G

# LESS IS MORE

## Him

There are lots of style codes for this summer, such as denim, stripes and patterns. I am sure some guys will just mix them together and sport an odd street look. The smartest way to be fashionable is to keep your look simple. The fewer elements you wear, the more chic you are. For example, if you want to dress up in denim from head to toe, a white T-shirt is the right item you should have, not one with stripes. Another rule for men: No sandals for street style. No matter how amazing your style is, once you put on sandals, your street look will not be chic anymore.



Givenchy



Ferragamo



Philipp Plein



Ray-Ban



Lanvin

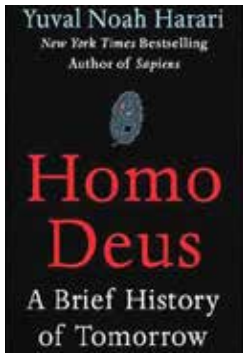


Philipp Plein



D&G





### Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow

by Yuval Noah Harari  
(Publisher: Harvill Secker)

The original, compelling and provocative book focuses on humanity's future, and our quest to upgrade humans into gods. It looks back at our evolutionary development, and examines where we might be headed. Predicting the future is not as easy as deconstructing the past, and Harari openly admits the challenge. Even if he is completely wrong in his predictions, and many doubt he is, *Homo Deus* is the kind of provocative, food-for-thought read that drew so many to his work in the first place. According to Harari, our future could be very different from our present — dark, technocratic



and automated — but reading about our possible fates, presented in Harari's clear-eyed and illuminating style, sure is fascinating.

Over the past century, humankind has managed to do the impossible and rein in famine, plague and war. This may seem hard to accept, but, as Harari explains in his trademark style — thorough, yet riveting — famine, plague and war have been transformed from incomprehensible and uncontrollable forces of nature into manageable challenges. For the first time ever, more people die from eating too much than from eating too little; more people die from old age than from infectious diseases; and more people commit suicide than are killed by soldiers, terrorists and criminals put together. The average United States citizen is 1,000 times more likely to die from binging at McDonalds than from being blown up by Al Qaeda. *Homo Deus* examines how improved technological development, liberal political and cultural institutions, and economic freedom have led to very significant declines in each of these maladies.

Some of Harari's arguments — against the existence of an

indivisible self, against free will — are similar to those found in Buddhism. He discusses how animals and people have consciousness and subjective experiences, and presumes that artificial intelligence will remain unconscious.

What then will replace famine, plague and war at the top of the human agenda? As the self-made gods of planet Earth, what destinies will we set ourselves and which quests will we undertake? *Homo Deus* explores the projects, dreams and nightmares that will shape the 21st century — from overcoming death to creating artificial life. It asks the fundamental questions: Where do we go from here? How will we protect this fragile world from our own destructive powers? This is the next stage of evolution. This is *Homo Deus*.

Reading about views on these topics not from a futurist, but from a historian, contextualizing our current ways of thinking amid humanity's long march — especially with Harari's ability to capsulize big ideas memorably and mingle them with a light, dry humor — is an extraordinary experience. Harari offers not just history lessons, but a meta-history lesson.



### Ai Jing, Love Art 2007 – 2017

by Ai Jing  
(Publisher: Foreign Language Press)

Ai Jing, one of the most popular Chinese pop singers in the 1990s, published her latest monograph *Ai Jing, Love Art 2007 – 2017*, covering her past 10 years as a professional visual artist. The year 2017 also marks the anniversary of the Hong Kong handover from Britain to China and echoes Ai Jing's song "My 1997", which narrates a mainland Chinese woman's hardship in visiting her lover in Hong Kong the same year just before the handover of the city.

This book will be the best approach to her artistic expressions and a most useful tool in understanding her approach towards art.



**The Girls** by  
Emma Cline  
(Publisher: Hamish Hamilton)

Nadia and Saeed are two ordinary young people, attempting to do an extraordinary thing — to fall in love — in a world turned upside down. Civil war has come to the city that Nadia and Saeed call home. Before long, they will need to leave their motherland behind — when the streets are no longer useable and the unknown is safer than the known. They will join the great outpouring of people fleeing a collapsing city, hoping against hope, looking for their place in the world. Theirs will be a love story, but also a story about how we live now and how we might live tomorrow, of a world in crisis and two human beings traveling through it.

## Logan



James Mangold's *Logan* is an interesting example of the somewhat lowered expectations that we possess for superhero comic book movies. The film is a relatively straightforward Western drama, a “famous gunslinger’s last rodeo” type adventure not

unlike *The Shootist*, which is quite successful in its respective goals.

In 2029, the mutant population has shrunk significantly and the X-Men have disbanded. Logan, whose power to self-heal is dwindling, has surrendered himself to alcohol and now earns a living as a chauffeur. He takes care of the ailing old Professor X, whom he keeps hidden away. One day, a female stranger asks Logan to drive a girl named Laura to the Canadian border. At first he refuses, but Professor X has been waiting for a long time for her to appear. Laura possesses an extraordinary fighting prowess and is in many ways like Wolverine. She is pursued by sinister figures working for a powerful corporation; this is because her DNA contains the secret that connects her to Logan. A relentless pursuit begins. In this third cinematic outing featuring the Marvel comic book character Wolverine, we see the superheroes beset by everyday problems. They are aging, ailing and struggling to survive financially.

What makes the movie different from other superhero flicks is

the way director James Mangold has dealt with the subject, without hesitating to show his aging superheroes go into battle while they fight their own inner demons. The highlight of the film is Hugh Jackman’s compelling performance. He knows it is his swan song and he exits with a flourish — an unforgettable end to a remarkable odyssey. You do not have to be a comic superhero fan to enjoy this movie — watch it for the outstanding performances by Jackman, Patrick Stewart and Dafne Keen. This one is a gripping finale to Wolverine’s indomitable journey.

What I truly applaud this movie for doing is keeping the story simple. It is a road movie, it is a bickering buddy movie, it is a man trying to run away from his past movie, but what it is not is an overcomplicated sci-fi head-trip involving ancient deities or time travel or even a battle between mutants of different ideologies. Did all of the past adventures we have seen on screen actually happen? We do not know, but ultimately, it does not matter.



## Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2

This movie continues the team’s adventures as they traverse the outer reaches of the cosmos. The Guardians must fight to keep their newfound family together as they



unravel the mysteries of Peter Quill’s true parentage. Old foes become new allies and fan-favorite characters from the classic comics will come to the heroes’ aid as the Marvel cinematic universe continues to expand. Near the end of the film, it is revealed that he is only part human, which accounts for the reason he held onto the Power Infinity Stone for so long.

## Love off the Cuff



The third installment in the popular romantic comedy series about a star-crossed couple, Cherie and Jimmy, follows the couple to Taiwan and sees their relationship tested when Jimmy’s childhood friend asks him to donate sperm for her artificial insemination. In 2010, Jimmy and Cherie fell in love in the back alleys of Hong Kong. In 2012, they each found a new love in a new city, but they ultimately chose to stay together. In 2017, can Cherie and Jimmy overcome their seven-year itch? The path to finding out the answer is filled with laughter and tears.

# Liquid Jam

## Bringing the Best Musicians Together in Beijing

Text Mike Peters

The seven musicians of Liquid Jam combine for a sound as smooth as silk. They have fans all across Asia, so I was intrigued to learn, as we sat and chatted over afternoon coffee at the Rosewood Beijing hotel, that it would be the first time for them to all play on the same stage.

However, that does not mean these musicians are strangers. Most of them have played various gigs with most of the others. Two members of Liquid Jam, for example, have been playing Hong Kong and Macao venues for decades.

"I think I made my first trips to Asia in 1987 and 1989," said guitarist Brian Weimert, a Canadian who has known the hotel general manager at Rosewood — where the band is playing until June in Mei bar — for 20 years.

Meanwhile, R&B vocalist Fyfe Monroe is a newbie to the region. But she, too, knew most of her bandmates before flying to Beijing.

As a black United States citizen on her first trip to Asia, Monroe said: "I did not know what to expect," adding that she has been thrilled by the warm welcome she has received from Chinese wherever she goes.

"The crowds here are great for live bands," said Monroe, a vivacious Tina Turner lookalike who sports power heels on stage.

The band's huge repertoire of more than 500 songs can hardly help evolving. The playlist

ranges from pop, soul, R&B and hip-hop to disco, funk and Latin jazz.

"You cannot describe our sound in one word," said jazz saxophonist Dean Mongerio. "We all bring something different to the table."

Mongerio's embrace of sound is almost spiritual.

"It is a feeling of being connected to what is happening musically from the middle, as if I am in the center of a bubble with the music surrounding me," he said in an earlier interview.

Monroe knew what she wanted to do with her life when she saw Whitney Houston in *The Bodyguard*, which led to embraces of The Beatles, Pink Floyd, the Rolling Stones and Duran Duran.

Fellow vocalist Oscar Toorn grew up on gospel music in South Africa. He started out singing at church before winning a reality TV show called *Popstars* in 2010. Since then, he has performed on an Italian cruise liner, in a party band at the Venetian in Macao, and he even had an earlier gig at the Rosewood Beijing with the HB Wild band for four months.

Bass guitarist Selwyn Lombard said: "Politics separates people, but music brings people together. Even if we do not have a language in common, we understand each other's music."

"People can have a bad day and still come to a bar like this and have a great time," he added.





# LIVE IN LAVISH STYLE AT ROSEWOOD BEIJING

Text Wang Ruosi

China's thriving modern capital is full of top luxury hotels, but not many of them are also compelling to locals. Rosewood Beijing is an exception.

Founded in 1979 in Dallas, Texas, the Rosewood group manages one-of-a-kind luxury properties in the world's most desirable destinations and maintains "A Sense of Place" philosophy by reflecting the history, culture, architecture and sensibilities of the location. Opened in fall 2014, Rosewood Beijing is Rosewood Hotels & Resorts' first property in China.

Located in the busy Central Business District area, Rosewood Beijing offers easy access to the subway and also the landmark CCTV building.

The buzzing lobby bar is a favorite meeting and tea-break spot for people working in the CBD. For the hotel's popular eateries, it's best to book two or three days in advance.

There are six restaurants and lounges serving authentic local and international cuisines. Red Bowl offers iconic Beijing-style hot pot in a nightclub-like space. The House of Dynasties presents a fine Cantonese dim sum lunch and exquisite Cantonese and Huaiyang dishes at dinner. Country Kitchen's northern Chinese specialties include hand-pulled Chinese noodles, Beijing duck and a variety of dumplings.

Award-winning Bistrot B serves up French dishes in a contemporary bistro style. An extensive selection of wines focuses on Old World classics and fresh New World wines.

Rosewood Beijing has 282 rooms, including 30 Manor Suites, 15 Rosewood Suites, five Spa Suites and a Presidential Suite.

The Presidential Suite Beijing House brings luxury to new heights. The 177 square meters of grand living space includes a foyer entrance, separate kitchen, separate guest bathroom, large walk-in closet and study office with a large screen TV. A separate dining room seats up to 10 people, while a spacious living room boasts three sofas for entertaining visitors.



All suite guests can enjoy exclusive access to the Manor Club and a higher level of privileges. A bar station is available on weekend mornings and the nightly cocktails combine sophistication with fresh of ingredients, using only top-shelf spirits and premium champagnes.

## HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

### Spa Suites



For the ultimate indulgence, guests can reside in the Deluxe Spa Suites for a soothing retreat. These exclusive suites measure 74 square meters and feature a king bed, private outdoor balcony, separate living room and magnificent views of the CCTV building. The Premier Spa Suites also offer an in-room massage table and oversized bath tub, allowing guests to unwind

and feel rejuvenated. With 100 square meters of living space, this suite is a paradise for the mind, body and soul.

### Red Bowl



This one-of-a-kind restaurant with a menu that celebrates Chinese hot pot offers the freshest meat, seafood and vegetables cooked at the table along with a vast assortment of draft beers, wine and sake. Inspired by authentic Chinese cuisine along with other Asian flavors, Red Bowl features a large bar counter with an individual hot pot for each guest, or guests can gather around a delicious simmering metal

pot at the center of each table. Four private dining rooms are also available for additional privacy, if desired.

# LOSE YOURSELF IN NATURE AT ALILA ANJI

Text Xiao Yang

**A**lila Hotels and Resorts chose enchanting Anji county in Zhejiang province as the first location in China to unveil its model of luxury living.

Set in the calm of a bamboo forest, this resort sits on a hillside overlooking Tian Fu Lake, surrounded by panoramic views of the mountainous landscape.

It embraces one of the most exclusive corners of the vast bamboo forest that is world-renowned as the movie set for film director Ang Lee's 2011 global blockbuster *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

Alila Anji is not just a resort, but a destination in its own right. The discreetly situated, low-rise retreat offers guests a hideaway with fresh mountain air, boundless greenery and wholesome country living.

The entire resort resembles a traditional Chinese village, with whitewashed exteriors and sweeping dark-tiled roofs. Local indigenous materials are used such as wood, bamboo and stone. A total of 74 stately villas and rooms are designed to provide understated comfort within a peaceful oasis that feels a world away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Each room, with a spacious terrace, offers incredible views of the natural surroundings.

Anji is China's first national ecological county and one of the nation's sustainable environment development zones. It was awarded the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour in 2012 as one of the world's greenest cities.

Guests staying at Alila Anji are sure to experience some of the best air in the county and an abundance of local flavors and activities.

Spring is the perfect time to enjoy a stroll through the orchard surrounded by beautiful plum blossoms, a scenic picnic lunch or a trip to the nearby tea

plantation, where visitors can participate in picking and processing tea leaves with a local farmer.

A stay at Alila Anji is not complete without a spa experience. The extensive spa menu combines both Asian and Western therapy techniques, using specially selected natural and active ingredients.

## HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

### Alila Experience



Alila is known for offering unforgettable personal experiences that go beyond a merely luxurious, comfortable stay. The Anji White Tea Tour includes breakfast with white tea at Lake View, lunch at a local farmer's house and a 60-minute white-tea bath experience at Spa Alila. Guests travel on foot to a nearby tea plantation where a local farmer will teach you the skill of tea plucking. With

a basket of tea leaves, you will learn the process of preparing and packing tea for consumption at the farmer's house. Other experiences include bird-watching, enjoying plum blossoms, cycling in the country, outdoor archery and kite-making.

### Local cuisine



Alila Anji's Chinese restaurant serves farm-to-table local cuisine that promises to stimulate the senses and satisfy the appetite. The menu incorporates the best ingredients in the county, freshly prepared and presented by top chefs in a refined style. An array of bamboo dishes is cooked in local styles from appetizers

to hot dishes. The professional staff will guide guests in experiencing some of the best local cuisine around.

# FLYING



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# BEIJING BEATS

## for Runway Revamp

Text Liu Jianfeng & Zeng Xiaoxin

Photo by Ma Ruzhuang

At 9:05 p.m. on April 26, with the safe takeoff of Air China Flight CA947, Beijing Capital International Airport completed the overhaul of its middle runway, which lasted 25 days, allowing airport operations to resume as normal, ahead of schedule.

That evening, after a final check was certified, the Civil Aviation Administration of China's North China Regional Administration concluded that the repaired middle runway met set standards for operation. Later, airport staff removed temporary barricades at the northern and southern ends of the middle runway, turned on the runway's navaid lighting facilities, navigational devices and meteorological equipment, and swept and examined the middle runway one last time before reopening it. Phase III of the middle runway overhaul project, which started at midnight on April 2, was completed smoothly, three days ahead of schedule.

During the construction period, safety was the biggest concern, both in terms of construction

and operations. The airport worked out a detailed set of safety management and control measures to detect various hidden dangers and make corrections in time. After the middle runway was closed, there were about 330 flights each day operating across the East Zone and the West Zone. Among them, two-thirds needed to cross the middle runway through the runway intersection. At the same time, every day there were 1,100 vehicles entering the middle runway area through the intersection for construction purposes. Owing to proper safety precautions, the airport experienced no conflict between the operation of flights and construction during this period. Measures such as construction transportation vehicles covered by tarpaulin, cleaning of vehicle wheels and sweeping of the driving routes also helped avoid any impact of the construction on operations in the surrounding areas.

To ensure the normal operation of the airport and the smooth transition of passengers during

the runway overhaul period, Beijing Capital International Airport, in collaboration with air traffic control departments and airline companies, formulated the "Operation Adjustment Plan for BCIA's Runway Overhaul Project". By reducing the number of flights without closing the number of air routes, about 300 daily flights were suspended. However, international routes and routes to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan were unaffected. Despite the major impact caused by the closing of the middle runway, only 20 percent of flights were eliminated to meet passengers' needs as much as possible. BCIA conducted all-weather monitoring of the operation status of flights. During the period, the airport implemented an emergency response mechanism at various levels 14 times, kept a close eye on long delays and onboard waiting, and coordinated priority passes.

Attaching great importance to engineering quality during construction, the airport applied digital quality-monitoring technology in an innovative

# DEADLINE



manner. By installing sensors on the mixing station, the paving machine and the transportation vehicles, BCIA monitored the proportioning of all asphalt mixtures in a real-time manner and recorded the paving position and the paving time of the materials of each vehicle, providing long-term tracking of the quality of the runway. A third-party unit also conducted tracking and detection throughout the whole process and made corrections in time to improve the quality of construction. Meanwhile, the airport increased the application of new products, processes and technologies. The addition of Portland cement helped to strengthen the paving and further reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and asphalt dust during construction. The newly adopted rubber asphalt gravel-sealing process not only reduced the time required for the project, but also strengthened the paving's anti-reflective crack capacity. (Reflective cracks are caused by underlying materials that crack the surface due to force, humidity, temperature

and other factors).

The last overhaul of Beijing airport's middle runway was 21 years ago in 1996, which means that it had reached its designed service life. To avoid serious impact from the major overhaul, BCIA started to plan the project in 2012, and conducted initial repair of damaged areas in 2013 and 2015 respectively.

This time, the area for overhaul totaled 194,000 square meters, equivalent to six times the construction area of the 2015 project, which caused the suspension of air routes for six days. This time, about 1,200 construction workers and 300 operation vehicles were working in turn each day. To ensure that the overhaul could be completed on schedule, BCIA, drawing on the experience of the runway closure in 2015, prepared the construction materials in advance, set up a special security-inspection passageway, backed up the main mechanical equipment as well as vulnerable parts and components, and optimized the raw material storage site and asphalt-concrete

mixing station. At the same time, the airport made rational use of construction equipment, and utilized automatic processes and large mechanical equipment, thus effectively saving on manpower and shortening the duration of the project. In addition, BCIA also improved construction organization and management, and refined nine construction stages and 27 construction procedures. According to progress, it optimized work procedures and thus improved the efficiency of construction.

Following the completion of the overhaul, flights that had been suspended at BCIA were to be resumed. The designed service life of the runway is 15 years, while maintenance will be carried out on a regular basis to ensure that the runway is always in a good condition.

# Chinese

Embarks on ‘Superwhite’ Paradise Tour

Thirty years ago, a chubby Chinese boy promised to take his sweetheart to the South Pole. It was the girl’s dream to see the “world’s most remote place”.

Zhang Xinyu was 10 years old and Liang Hong was 8 when they decided to “play together for a lifetime”.

Several decades later, Zhang and Liang announced that they are taking a little a trip to the end of the Earth: the South Pole.

The Chinese Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, marked the start of a new adventure for a globetrotting couple who are inspiring their fellow Chinese to

embrace the world.

Zhang is now 40, and Liang 38. The childhood sweethearts set off in a small plane during the recent holiday with the aim of flying around the world.

The plane — a Y-12 twin-engine turboprop aircraft nicknamed “Superwhite” — took off from Harbin International Airport, in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, for the first leg of the journey to Sakhalin, in Russia’s Far East.

“We chose to start the trip on the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday to send new-year’s greetings to the world,” said Liang.

“Seeing the snow-covered world stretching below us into the distance

was unforgettable,” she said.

From Russia, to the flight plan was North America, South America, the Antarctic, Africa, Southeast Asia and back to China. On April 16, they successfully completed the longest leg of their 80,000-kilometer round-the-world journey, a nine-hour crossing of the Atlantic in a 2,700-kilometer flight from Brazil to Cape Verde.

“We will fly Superwhite to China’s Zhongshan Station in the Antarctic,” said Zhang.

The expedition will take them across more than 20 countries, the equator and the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.

They have been learning to fly over the past year to realize their childhood dream of flying







# Couple

Text Hu Tao / XINHUA

the globe — and to be the first to achieve this goal in a China-made aircraft.

In 2016, the couple studied at the flight school of China Flying Dragon General Aviation Co Ltd.

During the global flight, Zhang is the captain, taking on multiple tasks including maintenance. Liang is the co-pilot and is responsible for communication with airport control towers.

The Y-12 is 100 percent Chinese designed and built, with an airworthiness certificate from the United States Federal Aviation Administration.

The modified Y-12 Superwhite is a heroic old plane that was in operation for 32 years for missions such as scientific explorations and aerial photography before the couple bought it from China Flying Dragon General Aviation.

“After years of exploring, we are finally ready. Flying is more ambitious than going overland,” said Zhang.

“We are ordinary Chinese and we have pride in our nation. The dream of flying around the world is shared by many people, and we are going to make it come true in a Y-12 plane made in China.”

“We have worked so hard for years in our businesses to earn the money, and we have collected

experience on multiple overseas trips,” said Zhang.

For more than a decade, they have visited some of the world’s “most challenging, but exciting, places” by land, sea and air.

In 2014, they made a 29,000-kilometer voyage across the Pacific Ocean to the Antarctic in a yacht they had modified themselves before cruising up the coasts of North and South America.

Their On the Road online video stream has drawn an international following of their expeditions.

Soon it will feature the most beautiful but extreme landscapes — including the Antarctic ice, the deserts of Chile, the Amazon rainforest and Kenya’s grasslands — from the air.

“We really want to share our experience from a new angle with more Chinese and send our regards to the world,” said Zhang.

Since 2008, the couple have traveled through strife-ridden Somalia; wondered at the ghosts of Chernobyl in Ukraine; shivered at Oymyakon, the coldest place in the northern hemisphere; and sweltered near the lava flows of Marum, one of the world’s most active volcanoes.

“The most magical thing about Zhang is that when he talks about

something, he goes all out and makes it come true,” Liang said.

On their travels, the couple has learned to cherish the better aspects of humankind.

“There is light in desperation and warmth in the cold. We have seen so many people suffering from sorrow or misery, but have found a warming light inside all of them,” she said.

Liang remembers a hug from an Iraqi girl who had suffered some horrific experiences.

“When we were finding it extremely hard to find words to comfort her, she just stepped forward to embrace me,” Liang said.

Liang said she was touched by the girl’s bravery, and that the girl’s words about her ordeal will forever stay in her mind: “It is not so bad; I escaped. The doctors saved my life.”

Heart-wrenching moments like this drive the childhood sweethearts on.

“I saw the light when I served as a rescue volunteer after the Sichuan earthquake,” Zhang said.

“People never know what will come tomorrow,” said Liang.

The Antarctic flight means realizing a childhood dream, she added “We love our lives and want to live for a long time, but always on the go.”

# Clouds Cast Shadow

Text Tu Lei

Weakening yuan,  
rising oil prices  
erode profits of 3  
major carriers



# Over Airline Earnings



It's no surprise that China's three largest airlines had their best earnings results in four years in 2016. China Southern Airlines, Air China and China Eastern Airlines earned a combined 16.38 billion yuan (\$2.37 billion) in net profit in 2016, compared with 11 billion yuan in 2012, according to their latest fiscal reports.

The results signal a recovery in the domestic airline industry, though the clouds of rising fuel costs and a depreciating yuan continue to cast a shadow over the business.

But before getting into that, let's review the airlines' earnings for 2016.





**Revenue**      **Net profit**

(Billion RMB)



It's easy to see that China Eastern's revenue grew the most, even though its net profit fell from a year earlier. Also, the revenue gap between Air China and China Southern narrowed. Although China's three largest airlines performed better than their foreign competitors still struggling with the global economic downturn, their earnings failed to meet analyst expectations.

2 The airlines had been on track to meet analyst forecasts, but hit some turbulence in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Three Chinese airlines were projected to earn **RMB19.5 billion** in profit in 2016

Source: Bloomberg

Through the first three quarters of 2016, the three airlines had reported a combined profit of

**RMB 20.36 billion**

Air China's profits fell short of analysts' forecasts, which predicted a full-year net income of **RMB 7.35 billion**

Source: Reuters

The reported loss of China Southern is

**RMB 1.39 billion** ↓  
in the fourth quarter  
**Its largest since 2009**

**In the fourth quarter, losses eroded those gains**

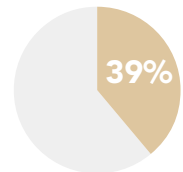
3 Fuel costs and a depreciating yuan are the main culprits.



Fuel is an airline's largest single expense. It typically makes up about one-third of an airline's total operating costs.

**2014**

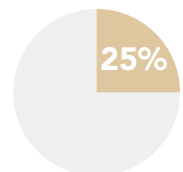
The average fuel cost for Chinese airlines



**2016**

Due to the declined oil price, the International Air Transport Association predicted that fuel cost accounted for less than 20 percent of airlines' total operating costs in 2016.

The expected average fuel cost for Chinese airlines



4

The depreciating yuan has also hurt the airlines' bottom lines.



RMB against USD

6.39%



In 2016

The reported exchange loss for the three Chinese airlines combined to

**RMB 11 billion**

The airlines are sensitive to the exchange rate because they have considerable debts denominated in dollars. When the US currency appreciates against the yuan, those debts effectively grow larger and cost more to repay.

According to Air China, it has lost 376 million yuan for every one percent the Chinese currency depreciates against the dollar.

2014

**RMB  
0.837  
billion**

2015

**RMB ↑  
15.85  
billion**

Measures are taken to pare those losses through buying currency swaps and by reducing the dollar debts.

China Southern, for example, paid back \$1.84 billion in debt in advance in 2016.

5

As for 2017, there are still many uncertainties ahead, including the outlook for crude oil prices and exchange rates, as well as geopolitical risks and growing competition.



*The fluctuating exchange rate and the expansion of China's railway network will be challenges for the years ahead.*

– China Southern

*The challenges include sluggish cargo market demand, geopolitical events, intensifying competition and a continuously appreciating US dollar.*

– Air China



Soaring domestic demand for overseas flights has bolstered the airlines' revenue.


The Chinese airlines are increasing cooperation with foreign airlines, which will also boost overseas demand.

American Airlines invested

**\$200 million**

in 270 million Hong Kong-listed shares of China Southern – Asia's largest airline by fleet size, which is expected to help China Southern expand in North America.



 Boeing 737 MAX 9 completed its first flight on April 13 in the skies above Puget Sound. The 737 MAX team achieved the milestone on schedule, beginning a comprehensive flight-test program leading to certification and delivery. Boeing’s 737 Max 9 aircraft is the second variant in its 737 Max line behind the Max 8, and the company plans to put it in service in 2018. The aircraft has a maximum capacity of 220 passengers – 16 more than its precursor – and has an operational range of 3,515 nautical miles (6,510 km), which Boeing says “will open up new destinations in the single-aisle market”.

## Cathay Pacific and Lufthansa Group to Cooperate



Cathay Pacific and the Lufthansa Group signed an agreement in March, covering codeshare services and frequent-flyer programs, which took effect from April 27. In Europe it will involve Lufthansa’s main line along with Swiss and Austrian Airlines, but Brussels Airlines is not included.

There are two main advantages: Travelers departing from Lufthansa Group hubs such as Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich and Vienna will be able to make more convenient transfers in Hong Kong for selected Cathay Pacific destinations in Asia and Australasia, particularly Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns and Auckland. Cathay Pacific travelers departing Asia and Australasia can gain easier access to 14 different destinations in Europe using Lufthansa Group carriers in addition to Cathay Pacific’s currently offered destinations of Dusseldorf, Frankfurt and Zurich.

## ANA Unveils A380 ‘Sea Turtle’ Livery

ANA has unveiled a special “sea turtle” livery, which will be featured on the carrier’s first Airbus A380.

The design was chosen from more than 2,000 submissions in an open competition. The aircraft will operate on ANA’s Tokyo-Honolulu route, and will be named “Flying Honu”. The green sea turtle is known as the “honu” in Hawaii, and is a symbol of good luck and prosperity. About 1.5 million Japanese fly ANA to Hawaii each year.

ANA placed an order for three Airbus A380 aircrafts in 2016, and will be the first Japanese airline to operate the superjumbo when it takes delivery in early 2019.



## China Southern Launches New Rapid-Transfer Service

China Southern Airlines has introduced a new rapid-transfer service for international travelers at its home base, Baiyun International Airport in Guangzhou.

Starting in March, the service enables all travelers aboard international China Southern flights going via Guangzhou to pass through China customs without needing to first claim their checked baggage.

Under the rapid-transfer service, checked luggage will now be directly transported through to passengers’ final destinations, although customs declarations will still be required where applicable.

China Southern said in a statement that the new system “will significantly enhance the transfer passengers’ service experience” at Guangzhou airport. Passengers can follow the signs through to China customs, while China Southern has also deployed pink-coated ground staff at the airport who can offer directions to travelers.



## Etihad Airways Crowned Winner Of ‘Taste The World’



Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates and official airline partner of “Taste of Hong Kong”, crowned Eric Raty of Cafe Gray Deluxe as the winner of the “Taste the World” competition in

Hong Kong on March 18.

The “Taste the World” award is presented to the chef who best epitomizes Etihad Airways’ food philosophy, which aims to provide remarkable culinary experiences throughout guests’ entire journey. Each chef entry was independently judged by a panel that included an Etihad Airways inflight chef, a competition expert and a renowned food influencer. Eric Raty will receive return flights and accommodation courtesy of Etihad Airways to participate in the competition’s global final – “Taste of Abu Dhabi” – in November. They will compete at the Etihad Airways Taste the World Theater, representing Hong Kong and Cafe Gray Deluxe.

The winning “Taste the World” dish at “Taste of Hong Kong” was “Brittany Diver Scallop with XO emulsion and Amalfi lemon”.

Beijing Capital International Airport Co. Ltd (BCIA) recently signed the Agreement of Jointly Advancing the Strategic Cooperation on Inbound Tourism with Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism Development and Air China.

The agreement covers many aspects such as market promotion, joint publicity and policy development. Through the integration of resources, it aims to promote the Beijing area’s rich tourism resources, inbound tourism policy, Air China’s global network, and BCIA’s international routes and domestic products. As a large international aviation hub, BCIA is eager to attract more overseas tourists to come to China for sightseeing and learning more about the capital and the country.

In order to facilitate the development of Beijing’s inbound tourism market, the three parties have set up a leading group and offices, and designated personnel to deal with specific businesses in a strategic way. The agreement allows BCIA and the local government and base airline company to work hand-in-hand to plan for future cooperation and development through strategic thinking, to improve the innovation cooperation mechanism, to build the communities of interests, responsibility and a shared future, to reach consensus in a down-to-earth and cooperative manner, and further establish cooperative relations.

**BCIA Starts Strategic Cooperation on Inbound Tourism**

## Routes

### Shanghai ⇌ Barcelona

Air China launches new service from Shanghai to Barcelona on May 5. On Friday and Sunday, Flight CA839 departs Shanghai at 12:30 a.m. and arrives in Barcelona at 8 a.m. The return Flight CA840 leaves Barcelona at 12:30 p.m. and arrives in Shanghai at 6:40 a.m. the following day. On Tuesday, Flight CA839 departs Shanghai at 12:30 a.m. and arrives in Barcelona at 8 a.m., while the return Flight CA840 leaves Barcelona at 11:45 a.m. and arrives in Shanghai at 5:55 a.m. the following day.

### Guangzhou ⇌ Mexico City

China Southern has launched a new flight connecting Guangzhou, Vancouver and Mexico City, which operates three times a week using Boeing 787. On Monday, Thursday and Saturday, Flight CZ 377 departs Guangzhou at 11:30 p.m., arriving in Mexico City at 5:15 a.m. the following day, while the return Flight CZ 378 departs Mexico City at 7:45 a.m. and arrives in Guangzhou at 4:30 p.m. the following day.

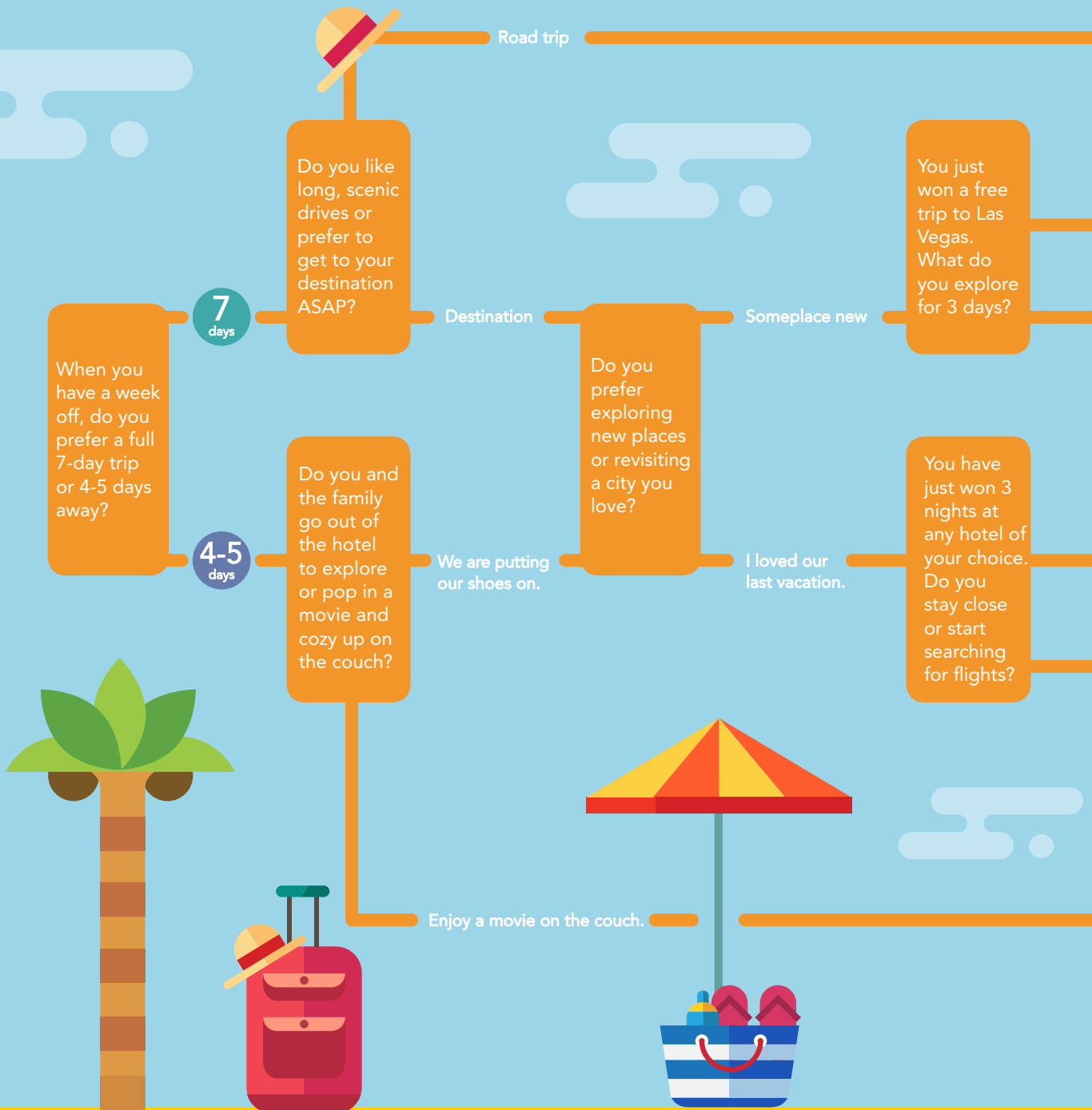
### Haikou ⇌ Rangoon

China Southern has launched a new service from Haikou to Rangoon, which operates twice a week. Flight CZ 8471 departs Haikou at 11:10 a.m. and arrives in Rangoon at 4:40 p.m. The return Flight CZ 8472 leaves Rangoon at 5:40 p.m. and arrives in Haikou at 12:55 a.m.

### Manchester ⇌ Hong Kong

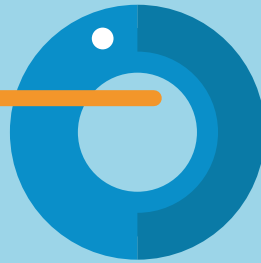
Cathay Pacific has announced plans to increase the frequency of selected routes to the UK. The carrier will expand its current Manchester-Hong Kong service to six flights per week from early December. Cathay Pacific had already recently announced an increase in its existing Manchester-Hong Kong service from four to five flights per week as of June 2, as well as an expanded daily service on its Gatwick-Hong Kong route from June 1.

# Making a perfect family vacation





May and June are the most wonderful months of the whole year. The end of spring and start of summer brings sunshine, warm weather and a gentle breeze, making people want to go outside. Need help deciding what type of vacation is right for your family? Let this decision tree help you figure it out!



Grand Canyon

Las Vegas

The White House

Which is more exciting, a guided tour or the fastest roller-coaster in the world?

Get away

The roller-coaster

Stay close



### **The Cross-Country Trip**

You may not be the Griswolds, but a journey together is more important than the destination. Pack up the car and head for the open road.

### **The Historical Trip**

For you, traveling is an adventure full of learning moments to enrich your family's lives. Museums, national parks and historic sites are just the ticket.

### **The Amusement Park Trip**

Your family works hard all year, so a vacation is your one chance to break free, live it up and to enjoy some thrills for a change.

### **The Staycation**

When time or money is short, book yourself a room at a local hotel, enjoy the sights and leave household chores behind.





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