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China Tour Guide: Cartoons

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China Tour Guide:

Cartoons

Wang Qicheng 王启成

China Intercontinental Press



Preface

Wang Qicheng is a famous young cartoonist I have known him by name for a long time.

Wang is known as a knight-errant in the world of cartoons because in the short span of 10 years he has travelled alone close to 100,000 km, covering the major parts of the country. All along the way, he created many cartoons covering the customs, folklore and profiles of the places he visited. When he was putting all these cartoons together into a book, I was invited to write a preface for it. I agreed readily.

It is not easy for cartoons to cover the scenery of China. Wang is indeed a great man in this regard. His cartoons make it easy for Chinese readers to view their own country in a different light, and for foreign readers to see China without a language barrier. With Wang as our tour guide all of the readers can enjoy a happy trip around China.

Cartoons first appeared in the United Kingdom as early as the 18th century when critics made comment on major events with drawings. To highlight the effect or views the drawings were exaggerated. For instance, a man might have arms and fists which were made big and strong to show force. As these strange drawings were loved by the public they found their way into newspapers and this in turn made such drawings more popular among the public. It was then called "cartoon" in English.

Believe it or not this time, Wang recorded his trips with cartoons complete with captions. It is indeed a new step for him. I hope Wang will cover more of China with his cartoons in the future.

Fang Cheng
July 22, 2007



三國志

11



2008. 10. 10

Mr. Cai Zhizhong

—Mr. Cai Zhizhong, Expert in Cartoons

To
wang qi cheng!



MORDILLO

Mr. Guillermo Mordillo, noted Argentina
cartoonist and Honorary Chairman of the World
Association of Cartoonists



Chinese Name: Qi Qi

English Name: Qii

Temperament: Pleasant personality and confident

Color Loved: All colors

Hobbies: Books, music, traveling, chatting

Sports Loved: Football, basketball, tennis, table tennis

Pet Phrase: Good!

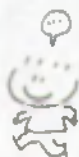
Food Loved: Chinese food

Clothes Loved: Traditional Chinese clothing

Good Friend: Lin

Places Loved to Go: Seashore

Qi Qi is as curious for things as a child. Cherishing a deep love for the Chinese culture, he has many dreams. For this purpose, he loves to do reading and make friends. It is his dream to become a cartoon ambassador charged with the task of spreading the Chinese culture, traditional and modern, all over the world.



Statement From the Author

"Reading large quantities of books and travelling around the country for news" — this is my favourite saying. I always yearn for opportunities to travel around the country, as described in the *Merry Trips* by Zhuang Zi.

During 10 years in the 1990s, I finally ventured all over the country and recorded my trips with cartoons. These cartoons recorded not only the landscapes I saw and the folklore I experienced but also my feelings and my understanding of the areas I visited and the people I came across.

I created so many cartoons in these 10 years that I decided to make a book so that more of my friends could share my experiences and feelings. I also hope this book will be of some help to people, who develop a fresh interest in China because of the 2008 Olympiad held in Beijing, in getting to know more of the country and its people in an easy way.

The book is also expected to be a tour guide for those who are travelling in China.



Wang Qicheng As I Know Him ☺



Born on January 13, 1973 Blood type: O



Capricorn

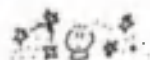
Zodiac Year



Since childhood



curious



Interest in all things



Strong interest



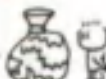
Love reading



Love to sing

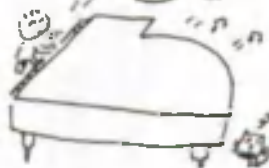


play guitar



Collect artworks and also love

Play piano which he is not good at playing



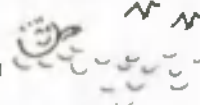
Especially love



badminton

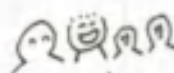
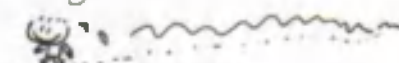


Play football

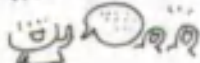


and swim in the sea

Love traveling the most



Optimistic



Humorous



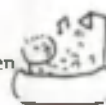
Straightforward but not rude



When in good mood



Love to listen to music



take baths



chat with friends

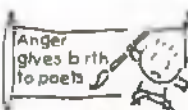
When not happy



Will go to sleep



rack brains to think



practice calligraphy

Occasionally

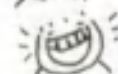
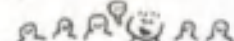


love to sip wine

chat with friends



crack jokes



then became happy.



Go to primary school in 1979. Every day



study hard and love to



play glass balls. Love



to 'promote graffiti culture'

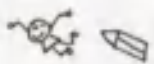
Including



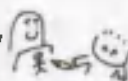
drawing on classroom walls. In 1984



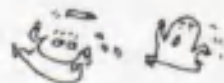
go to middle school



But continuing to draw everywhere. One day



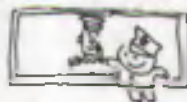
he left his masterpiece on the collar of his classmate and this was discovered...



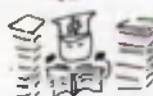
In 1990 he joined the PLA and continued



to record his daily life with cartoons



Later on, he became the art editor of the blackboard in his company, making it possible for him to draw in the public.



He went to the military school



hit books on fine art and cartoons which are truly eye opener to him

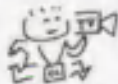


He won promotion in 1994



By then, he had created many diaries in cartoons

In 1999



becoming a 'man of letter'. He didn't forget to everywhere



draw



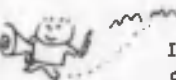
When he had launched his company, he drew everywhere



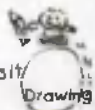
In 2004, his cartoons



Were shown in a national cartoon exhibition and even an international cartoon exhibition



In future, he vows to visit other parts of the world



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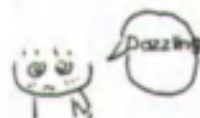
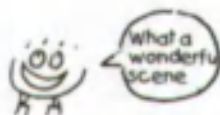
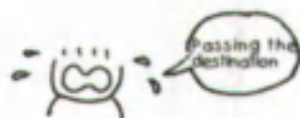
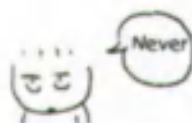
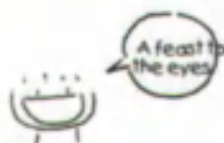
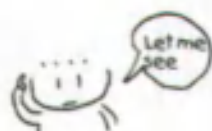
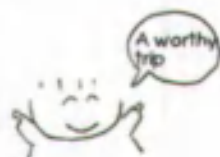
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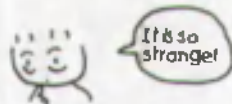
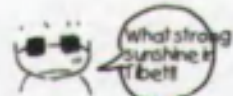
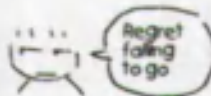
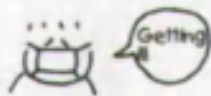
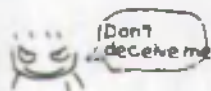
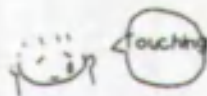
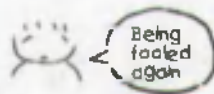
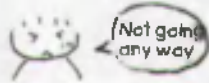
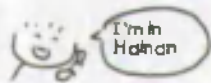
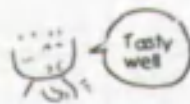
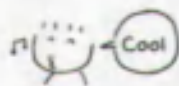


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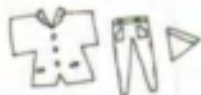
Expressions Used in Tours





...

Tourist Preparation — I Decide to Start



At least two sets of favourite clothes for alternating



Shoes, pretty, comfortable and durable



High-quality self-timer camera and films



A pair of sunglasses capable of hiding exhaustion and mood



Backpack big enough to contain gathered treasures



Portable canteen



Lighter



A little tea



A cheap but durable watch with alarm



A multi-purpose knife able to cut fruit, open bottles and for self-defence



A mobile phone with a good enough signal and charger so as to keep in contact with others



Indispensable medicines (for colds, plasters, antibiotics and for diarrhoea)



A hat for sunshine and to keep my head warm



A small flashlight



Umbrella



Necessary documentation



Enough cash



A safe bank card



Several ball-point
or sign pens



An inspirational book



Multi-purpose
paper towels



A pocket mirror for
checking whether one's
smile is sincere or not at
any moment



Tooth brush
and toothpaste



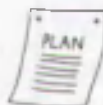
Comb



An All Purpose Towel



A notebook for
recording thoughts and
ideas



A concise travel plan



Preparing
enough smiles



A mind full
of enthusiasm



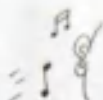
A pair of eyes,
sharp but kind



A nose sensitive
for delicacies



A kind and
polite mouth



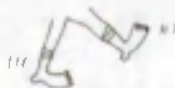
A pair of ears with an
acute sense of hearing
songs and nature



A pair of diligent hands always ready to record what one sees and
hears on the journey, take photos and greet others



A pair of hands



A pair of feet keen
on travelling



Of course, a sensible and amiable
heart full of joys is indispensable and
of vital importance



Happy Journey — Make a More Pleasant Journey



It is a pleasure to hear the birds singing when getting up early in the morning and to imagine the coming day's tour.



Magnificent scenery intoxicates people.



The fantastic stories heard on the journey satisfy our curiosity to the full.



Seeing a rare scene in an unfrequented place is a real delight.



It is a pleasure to make friends on the road.



Tasting the local cuisine for the first time makes one happy.

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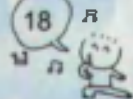
Finding new local handicrafts is a great surprise.



An unprecedented experience brings us joy.



Getting a fleeting wonderful shot is very lucky.





It is great to reach your destination after a hard trek and then derive some comprehension on life from it.

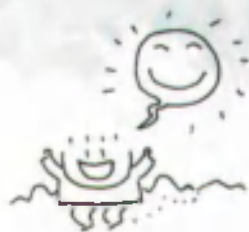


A deep sleep after a tiring tour is very satisfying.



It is wonderful to broaden our views and minds and enrich our life through journeys.

Moving Views on a Journey — Let's Cheer for Life



Walking on the embrasured watchtowers of the Simatai Great Wall near Beijing at dusk, one may recall the wary garrison one hundred years ago with excitement.



I enjoy the leisure of wandering, on my own, on the Nanjing Road in Shanghai at night. In particular the sharp contrast between the splendid buildings and the flow of pedestrian on both sides.



When visiting Wudangshan Mountain in Hubei Province, I passed by a farmhouse where a woman was sweeping the courtyard. When she saw me totally exhausted, she invited me to drink some water and have a rest in her house. The modesty and enthusiasm of the people living in the mountains are really touching.



On a common street in Guangzhou, I saw a blind couple sing sincerely. Their resolution and devotion moved every listener.



In the early autumn, in the golden fields of Shangri-La in Yunnan, the dark remote mountains looked especially beautiful. There the black-necked cranes flied freely and the wind blew gently. All these combined to form a magnificent picture which was extremely moving.



In a rural area in north Shaanxi Province I met a lovely girl. Standing in front of a cave, her kind and shy smile seemed so beautiful and pure under the warm winter sunshine. It was moving.

On the long rugged path of Huangshan Mountain in Anhui Province, I saw a handicapped man walking with a stick. He had beads of sweat rolling down his forehead. His indomitable spirit was deeply touching.

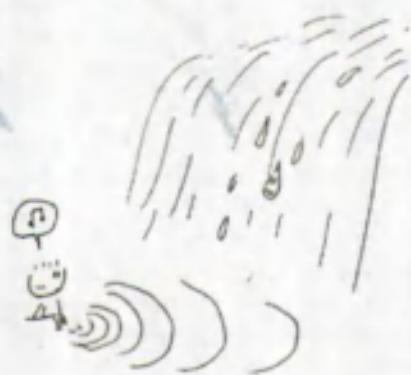


On the seashore in Qingdao on Mid-Autumn Day a pair of lovers leant close to each other accompanied by a background of a bright full moon. Such a classical picture of love is moving.



In Lvshun, Liaoning, I was feeling lonely when I was told a friend of mine lived there. I called at his house without contacting him in advance. The excitement of our meeting was beyond description. Long-lasting and sincere friendship is moving.





In front of the roaring Huangguoshu Falls in Guizhou, I, on the one hand, listened to the loud sound of the falls and on the other hand, felt the peaceful Buddhist sound in my mind. I was deeply moved by the transcendent feeling at that moment.



In Kashgar, Xinjiang, an amiable old man, of Uygur origin, guided me on my way with his little Han Chinese and directed me for a long way. His precious enthusiasm and sincerity were touching.



In Nagqu in Tibet, I saw a Tibetan mother and her children. Their clear eyes and brilliant smiles, special to the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, are touching.



In Yangshuo of Guilin in Guangxi I saw a couple more than 70 years old walking hand in hand. This kind of common but profound happiness is moving.



In the small courtyard of a farmhouse in Guang'an of Sichuan Province I saw a doggy and a kitten. They were fighting with each other for a small rubber ball. The farmer smiled and looked on as a spectator. This kind of pleasure is touching.



On the seashore of Sanya in Hainan Province I saw two children putting up their 'Versailles Palace'. The puerility and dedicated expressions are moving.

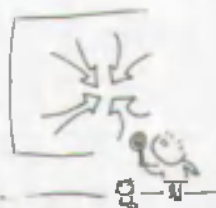


After innumerable trials and hardships I finally climbed up Tabhan Mountain in Shandong. Upon shouting several times I heard the echo all around the hills. All of a sudden thousands of feelings went through me. It was really exciting.



One dark night I lodged alone in an inn in the Hexigten Banner of Inner Mongolia with a gale roaring outside. I felt both grateful and happy thinking of my various experiences on the way. It is good for the spirit to taste loneliness.

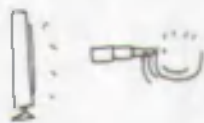
Elegant and Wise Travel — Make the journey
Like a Glass of Vintage Wine, Worthy of a
Careful Tasting.



Before travelling, it is advisable to get acquainted with the local geography culture



history



Customs



folk customs



specialties



ethnic groups



religion



cuisines

.....



Enrich your brain
by doing some
readings



You should not know
nothing of the place
to be visited



Take good care
of your health
during the trip



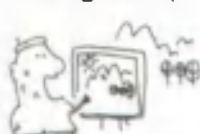
Try to satisfy
your curiosity



open your eyes wider



to enjoy the
landscape.



the color of the
environment



and even its taste.



Examine things you see, and details of the trip.



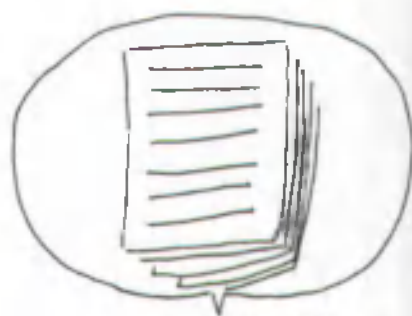
Record your trip with camera:
Everything you have interest.



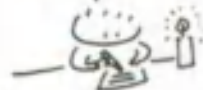
This will make your
trip interesting



and ... more



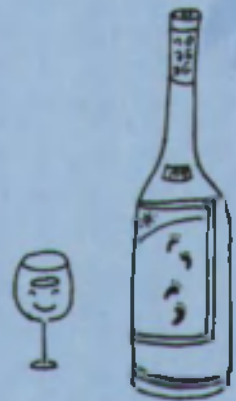
Record what you see, think,
hear and realize...



Chan Realization



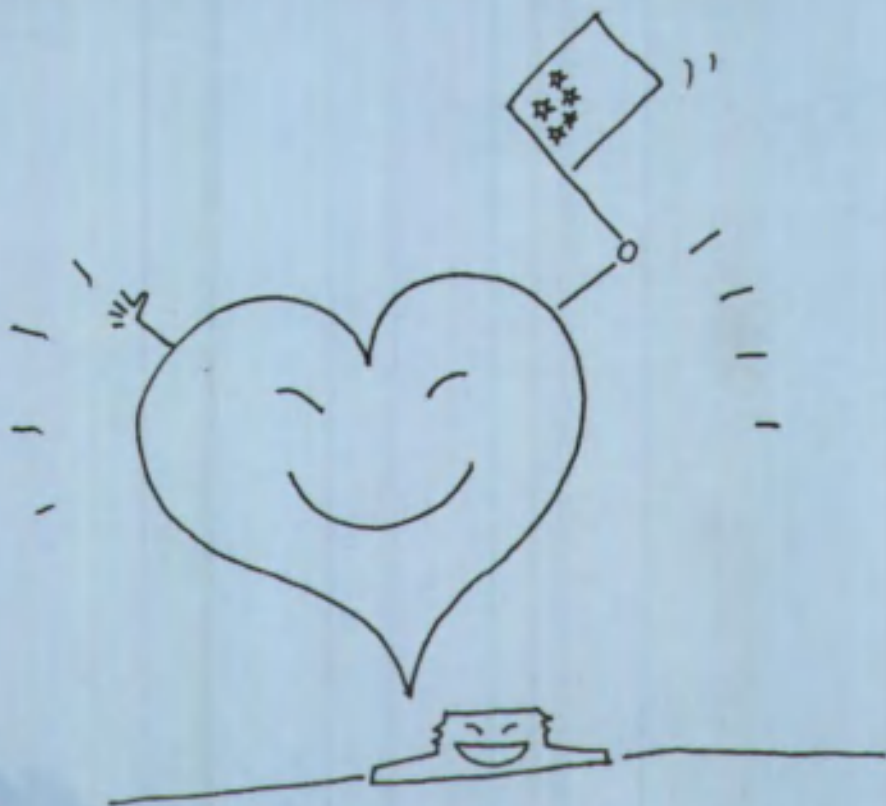
Stored in memory...
Gradually...
The scenes you saw...
The experiences you had...
And the journeys you made...
...turn into a cup of mellow wine,
...worthy of your careful tasting
On a fine afternoon,
Or a fresh dusk washed by rain.



The Heart of China— Beijing



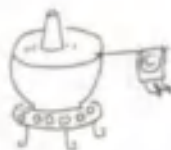
Called Jing for short, Beijing has been the capital of China since the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368). It is the national, political, economic and cultural centre and is rich in history. Beijing had a unique cultural atmosphere under the direct reign of emperors for several hundred years. It was always relaxed, quiet and elegant while at the same time solemn and orthodox. When you visit Beijing you get a great feeling of its past history.







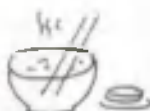
Local Specialities



Instant-boiled Mutton



Boiled Sheep's Head



Wheaten Cake Boiled
in Meat Soup



Soybean Cake



Folk Customs



Siheyuans (quadrangles)
and Hutongs (lanes and alleys)



Laashe Teahouse



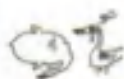
Comic Dialogue



Beijing Opera



Special Local Products



Beijing Roast Duck



Wangzhaihe Bean Curd
with Fermented Bean Sauce



Nefansheng Cloth Shoes



Tangrentang Drugstore



Impression on the Local People



Decent



Informed



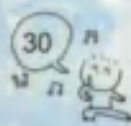
Talkative



Enthusiastic

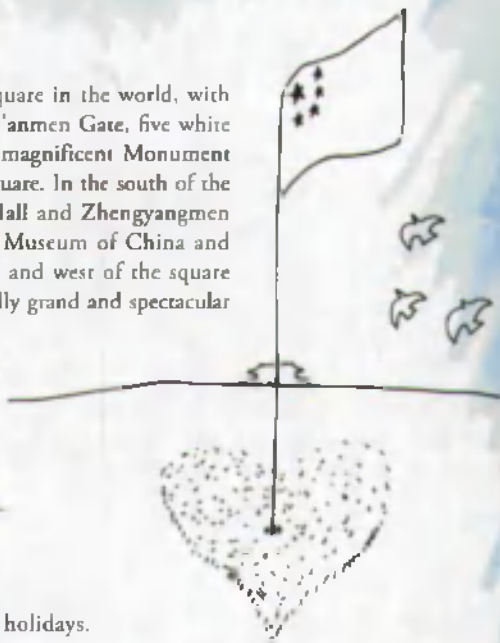
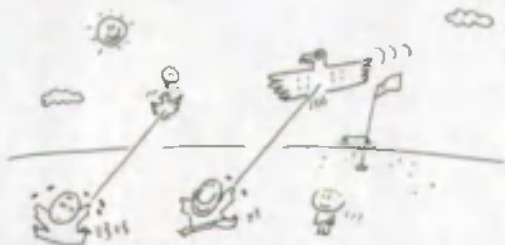


Native girls have
good taste



Tian'anmen Square

Located in the center of Beijing, it is the largest square in the world, with a capacity of 1 million people. In front of the Tian'anmen Gate, five white marble bridges span the Golden Water River. The magnificent Monument to the People's Heroes towers in the center of the square. In the south of the square lie the solemn Chairman Mao Memorial Hall and Zhengyangmen Gate Tower. The Tian'anmen Rostrum, National Museum of China and the Great Hall of the People sit to the north, east and west of the square respectively. The Tian'anmen Rostrum looks especially grand and spectacular in such a lovely setting.



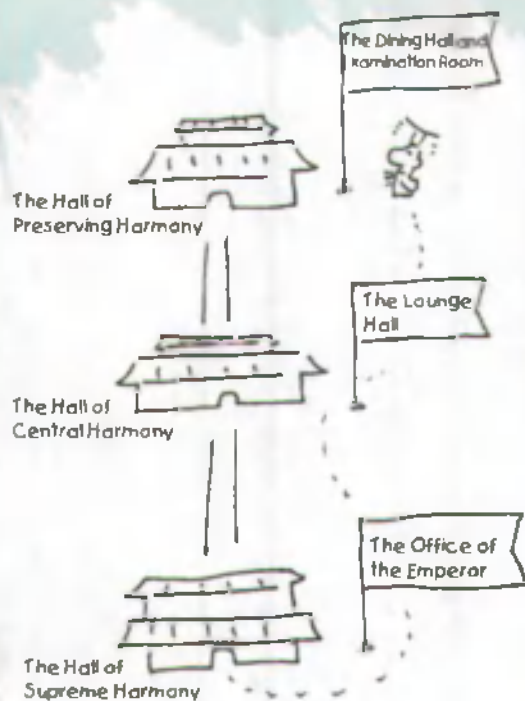
The square is filled with tourists on festivals and holidays. People often fly kites in the square on warm, sunny days.

Palace Museum

Located to the north of the Tian'anmen Rostrum the Palace Museum is the largest and most complete architectural complex extant in the world. With a total area of around 720,000 square meters, it served as the imperial palace during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1616-1911) Dynasties. The Tian'anmen Gate is the main gate of the imperial palace. The Gate of Divine Prowess to the south of the Jingshan Hill is the back gate of the palace.

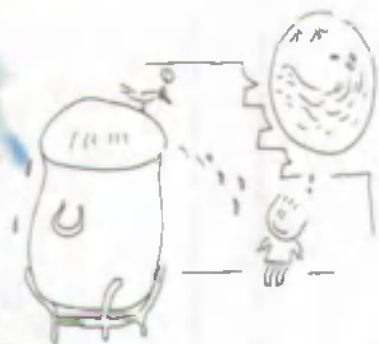
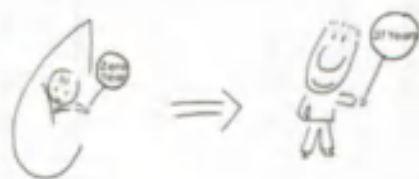


A total of 24 emperors lived in the palace. It would be very interesting to listen to them if they stood together exchanging views on how to control and stabilize a country.



Architecturally, the Imperial Palace is divided into the forecourt and the inner court. It features a distinct central axis and its layout is extremely precise. The Hall of Supreme Harmony, the Hall of Central Harmony and the Hall of Preserving Harmony are the most magnificent buildings in the Palace. The Hall of Supreme Harmony is customarily called the Throne Hall and was the venue for emperors to hold grand ceremonies. The inner court served as the residence for the emperor and his wives. Wandering around it one may get the feeling of power and calm the emperor had.

The Imperial Palace has more than 9,000 rooms. If a newborn baby spent one day in each room it would be 27 years old by the time it had been in every one.



There are many huge water jars each with a capacity of more than 3,000 litres, like small reservoirs. They were used in case of fire and for water storage.



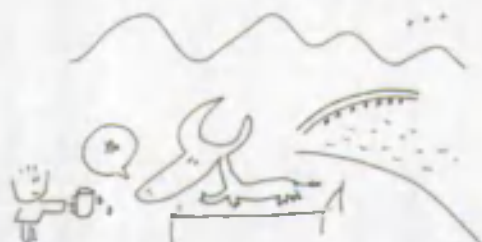
The furnishings in the Palace are full of meaning. The dragon represents power and supremacy; the crane symbolizes imperial power; the tortoise signifies an ever-lasting solid country. An elephant carrying a treasure bottle on its back indicates a peaceful country and good grain harvests. All these images are lucky.



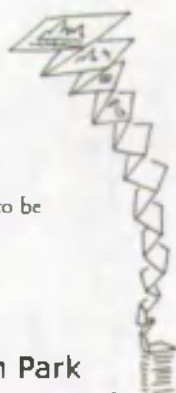
The architecture of the palace is of supreme workmanship. It is not only a great place of interest but also one of the best classical gardens of China.

Summer Palace

Located to the northwest of Beijing, the Summer Palace comprises the Wanshoushan (Longevity) Hill and the Kunming Lake. The palace architecture distributed in it have more than 3,000 rooms. Major constructions include the Pavilion of the Buddhist Incense (Foxiangge), the Long Corridor and the Seventeen-arch Bridge. Suzhoujie Street behind the Longevity Hill was built in imitation of the streets in the prosperous cities south of the Yangtze River. The whole place has exquisite ancient buildings of all kinds combined cleverly with the natural scenery. The Yuanmingyuan Park is adjacent to it. The well-known Peking and Tsinghua Universities are near here.



A bronze ox sitting by the Kunming Lake was said to be cast to control flooding of the lake.



The Long Corridor, with a length of 728 meters, has over 14,000 coloured paintings on it based on various myths, legends and folk tales. If they were compiled into an album it would be enormous!



Yuanmingyuan Park

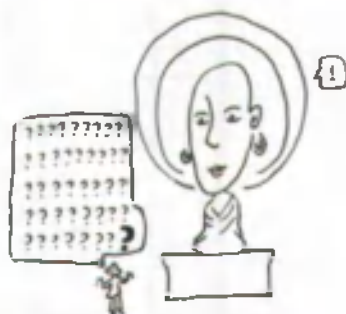
Located to the northwest of Beijing, it was built 150-odd years ago and is reputed as the "garden of gardens" and "museum of Oriental classical gardens". Unluckily, in 1860, this gem was ruined by fire when the British-French Allied Army invaded Beijing. The site is now open as a park. Of the beauty spots, the sites of the Western-style Buildings and the Great Fountain are most notable.



Walking in the Yuanmingyuan Park, one might hear the broken walls narrate the disastrous modern history of China.

Tiantan Park

Located in the southern part of Beijing, it is the largest ancient architectural complex for worshipping heaven. Major buildings include the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests and the Circular Mound. The ancient Chinese concept of a round sky and a square earth can be seen in the architectural design. The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests served as a venue for ancient emperors to pray for good years. It was, at one time, the tallest building in Beijing.



Sound resonates very clearly in the centre of the Circular Mound. An emperor would feel very strong when his voice echoed to the full here.

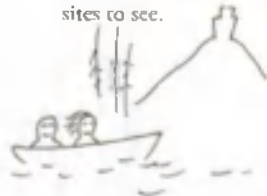
Yonghegong Lamasery

Located in the eastern part of Beijing, it is an important monastery of Tibetan Buddhism. The huge Buddha statue carved from white sandalwood, the niche made from golden-thread Nanmu timbers for the Buddhist statue and the 500 Arhats carved from rosewood are three treasures of the monastery. The Buddha statue is carved from a gigantic piece of white sandalwood and was produced in Nepal. It has a height of 26 meters and a diameter of eight meters. It is the largest wood-carved Buddha statue in the world.



Beihai Park

Located on the northern side of the back gate to the Palace Museum, it is a royal garden of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911). The Jade Islet, on which a Tibetan dagoba stands, lies in the centre of the park. The lake is covered with lotus leaves forming a beautiful scene. In the southern part of the lake sits a Circular City, housing a jade Buddha and a huge jade urn called "Du Shan Da Yu Hai" in Chinese. The Nine-Dragon Wall and Kuaixuetang Hall to the north of the lake are highly recommended sites to see.

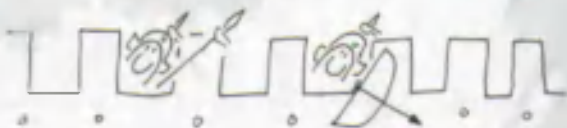


The Beihai Park is a great place for lovers to go boating in the summer and skating in the winter.

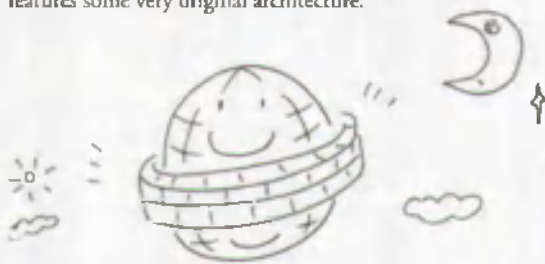


Great Wall

It is advisable to visit the Badaling Great Wall, the Mutianyu Great Wall and the Simatai Great Wall. The Badaling Great Wall is the most famous section and the most convenient to get to. The Mutianyu Great Wall is very well preserved with luxuriant forests all around it. The Simatai Great Wall is famous for hazardous and steep terrain and features some very original architecture.



The Great Wall is a defensive wall built in ancient China.



If all the bricks of the Great Wall were used to build a new wall with a thickness of one meter and a height of six meters it would circle the earth more than once.

Ming Tombs

The Ming Tombs, located in the northern area of Beijing, are the tombs of the 13 emperors of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). They form the largest group of tombs for emperors in the world. They are also the best preserved. Their total construction time took more than 200 years. The grand underground palaces of the Dingling Tomb and the Changling Tomb are open to visitors.



The Changling Tomb is the largest among the 13. Its largest chamber is constructed from 60 pieces of Nanmu golden-thread timbers, each of which is unusually large.

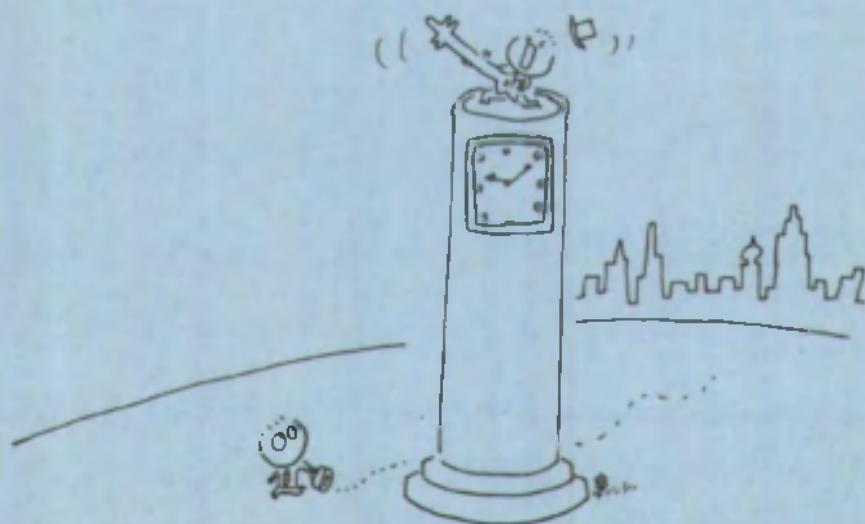
Chan Realization



The world is like a great book. For those who have never left their homes, they need only read one page of the book.

Chan Realization

Continuously people start or end a journey; some stop over or carry on. In fact, we human beings are only an episode in the endless passage of time.



Bright Pearl of the Bohai Sea— Tianjin



Under the direct jurisdiction of the Central Government, it is the largest coastal city in northern China and serves as the port to the capital city of Beijing. The Haihe River meanders through the city, creating some lovely scenery. The commercial centre is in the Binjiangdao Area. The Old Culture Street and the blocks nearby it are the main tourist areas in Tianjin. Historically Tianjin was always a semi-feudal, semi-colonial city. Britain, France and other countries left lots of Western style buildings in the parts of Tianjin used as foreign settlements.







Local Specialities



Ear-hole Fried
Cake



Maobuwen
Jiaozi Dumpling



Zhang's Nuts?

!!!



Goubuli Stuffed
Buns



Mingshunzhal
Sesame Seed
Cake



Shibajie Fried
Dough Twists



Guhuahong
Bean
Porridge



Ligonglou
Banchu
Chestnut

Banchu



Dafula Crispy
Rice



Folk Customs



Yangliuqing New Year
Pictures



Jingyun Dagou (Story-
telling in the Beijing
Dialect with a Drum
Accompaniment)



Zhang's Clay Art



Special Local Products



Duku Aged Vinegar



Tianjin Juicy Pears



Kites



Weiqing Radish



Impression on the Local People



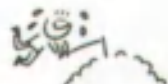
They have a fairly
wide horizon



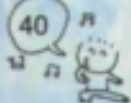
They have a tongue
in their head



They are good
at doing business



They work hard





Tianjin

Tianjin was built when the Grand Canal of the Sui Dynasty (581-618) was opened. In the second year (1404) of the Yongle Period of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Tianjin City came fully into use and has grown ever bigger since then.

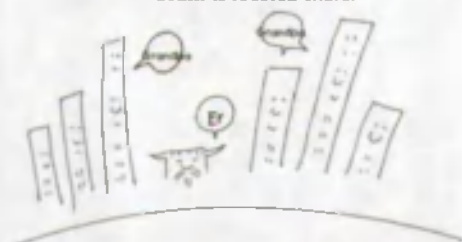
Nanshi Food Street

Nanshi Food Street is a large three-floor castle of delicacies with four gate towers. Two passages cross in the centre where cuisines from various places in China can be found. One can enjoy a gourmet's choice to the full there.

The Nanshi Food Street brings together the cuisines of Sichuan, Shandong, Hunan and Jiangsu Provinces and has more than 140 kinds of specialty snacks. There is also Russian-style and Italian-style food as well as other delicacies.

Tianhougong (Queen of Heaven) Temple

The Tianhougong (Queen of Heaven) Temple is one of the ancient temples in Tianjin and is located in the Old Culture Street. It has been the centre for worshipping the God of the Sea for dynasties. It also served as a place for sailors to get together and have fun. The Tianjin Folk Customs Museum is located there.



The Tianhougong Palace is normally called Niangnianggong Palace. Built in 1326, it is the oldest building in downtown Tianjin. An old saying goes like this, "The Tianhougong Palace is older than Tianjin City".



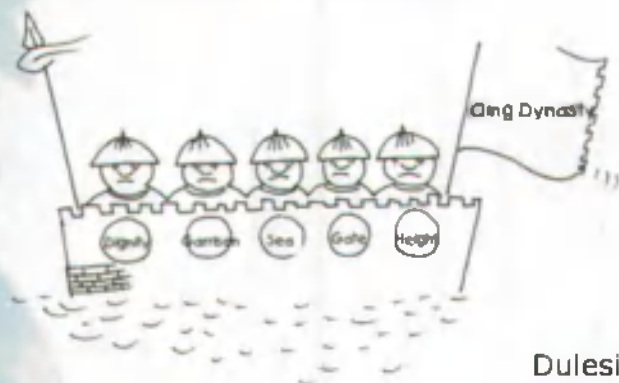
A traditional thread-bound book made of Xuan paper with a red cover and a depth of two cm is hidden in the golden tip of the ancient streamer, known as a "sealed book without words". It is telling a big secret regarding religion and architecture with special materials and in a special way.

Old Culture Street

It is a 580-meter-long commercial street featuring the architectural style of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911). The street is decorated on both sides with 1,500-odd paintings and 500-plus brick sculptures. It is full of Chinese flavour, Tianjin flavour, classical flavour and cultural flavour. In particular the

Mud-

folk craftworks such as the Yangliuqing New Year Pictures and Zhang's Art of Clay exhibited in the 90-odd shops are the most attractive.



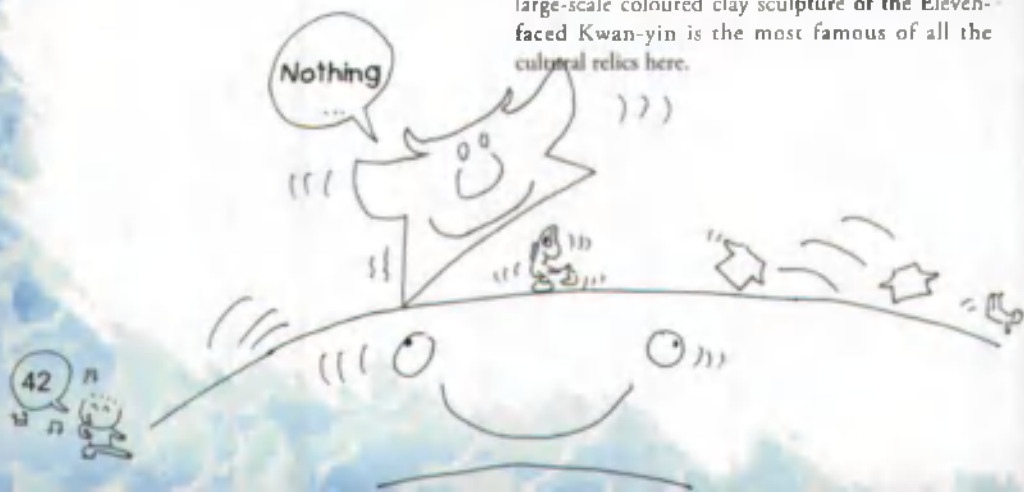
Dagukou Fort of the Barbettes

Located at the confluence of the Haihe River, it is a strategic point for coastal defence. It was composed of five barbets called "Dignity, Garrison, Sea, Gate and Height". They were like five august generals guarding the coastal defence. However, there are only three extant barbets today.

The Kwan-yin Pavilion where the clay sculpture is located is the oldest and largest wooden structure building in China. It has the value of a cultural relic, history and science. Even though it has experienced 28 earthquakes throughout the ages it is still in good condition.

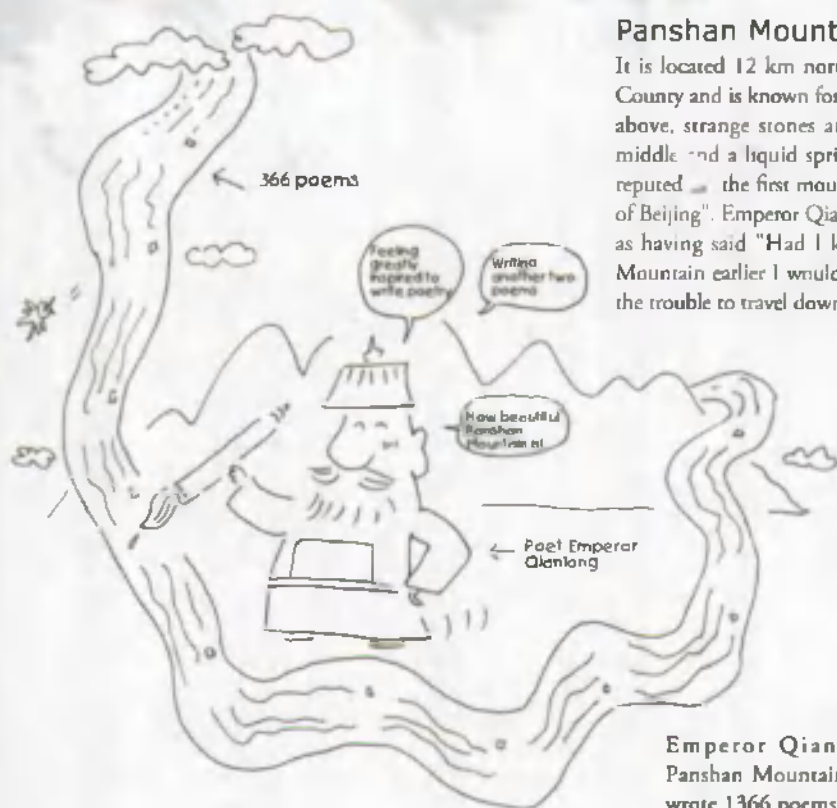
Dulesi Temple

It is located in Jixian County. The name "Dule" has two different explanations. One is that it is the place where An Lushan, a governor of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), took a pledge and raised troops to betray the imperial court. He loved to spend his time on his own rather than with others, so it is called the "Dule Temple" with "Du" meaning "staying alone" and "Le" meaning "to enjoy". The other is that the Dulehe River passes through it. The buildings in the temple are well preserved. The large-scale coloured clay sculpture of the Eleven-faced Kwan-yin is the most famous of all the cultural relics here.



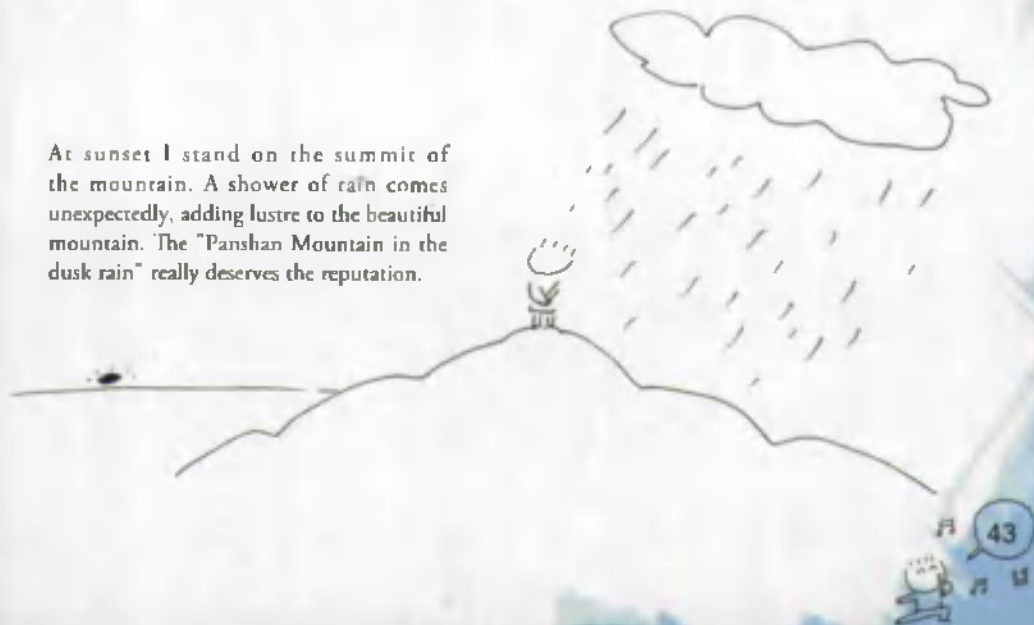
Panshan Mountain

It is located 12 km northwest of Jixian County and is known for its "queer pines above, strange stones and rocks in the middle and a liquid spring below". It is reputed as the first mountain to the east of Beijing". Emperor Qianlong is reputed as having said "Had I known Panshan Mountain earlier I would not have taken the trouble to travel down to the south."



Emperor Qianlong visited Panshan Mountain 32 times and wrote 1366 poems praising it.

At sunset I stand on the summit of the mountain. A shower of rain comes unexpectedly, adding lustre to the beautiful mountain. The "Panshan Mountain in the dusk rain" really deserves the reputation.



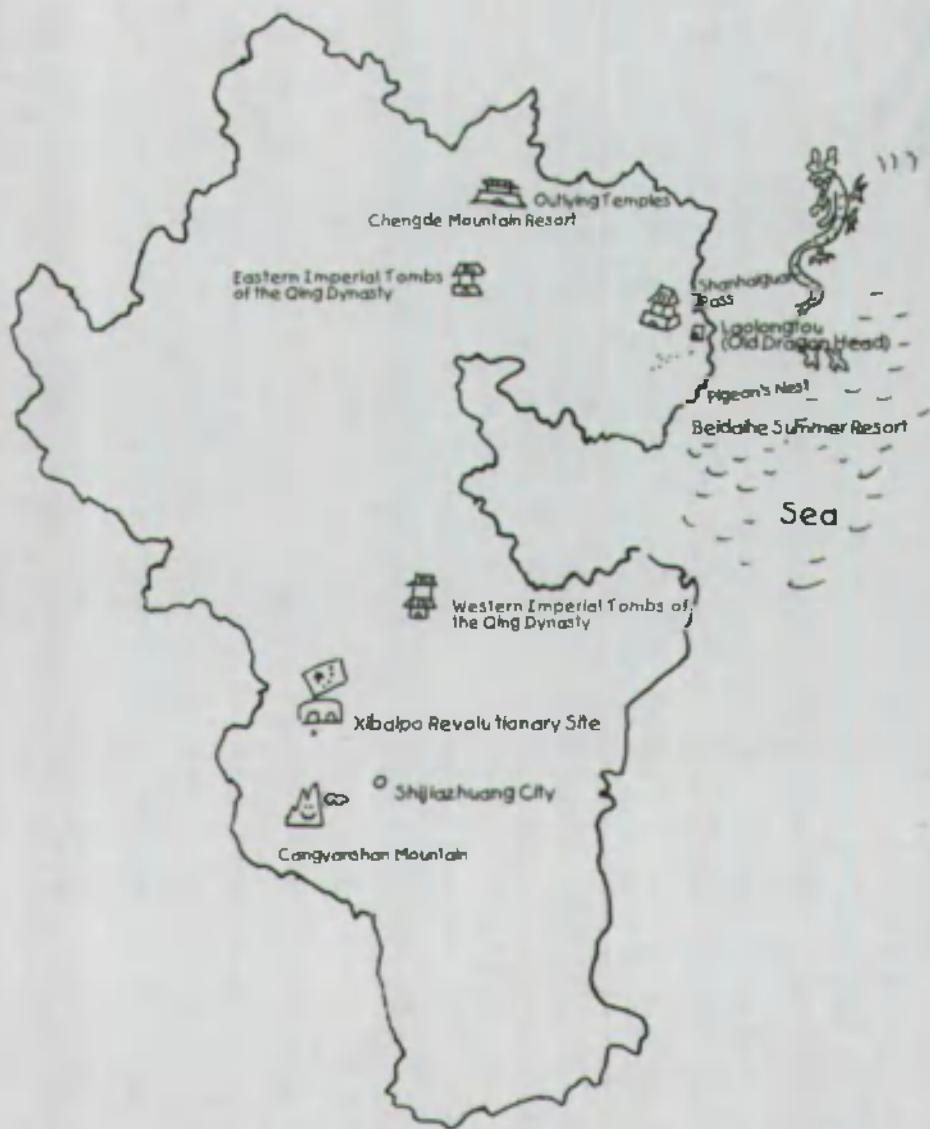
The Land of the Yan and Zhao States, the Birthplace of Great People —

Hohai Hebei



Hebei Province is called Ji for short. In the Warring States Period (475 BC-221 BC), its northern part belonged to the Yan State and its southern part to the Zhao State; hence the name the "Land of the Yan and Zhao States". The province has a terrain of mountains, seas, rivers, highlands and valleys. Since it was the land of the Yan and Zhao States, it is rich in cultural relics and historical sites. It boasts 58 key cultural relics sites under State protection, ranking first in China.





Local Specialities



Donkey Meat Sandwich



Pingquan Frozen Rabbit Meat



Zhaoxian Fried Flour Cake



Steamed Jiaozi Dumpling

Folk Customs



Cangzhou Martial Arts



Wuqiao Acrobatics

Impression on the Local People



Unpretending



Hard-working



Modest



Generous and righteous

Special Local Products



Hengshui Laobaigan Liquor



Hebei Juicy Pears



Baiyangdian Reed Screen



Yuxian Paper-cuts



Baoding Iron Balls

Shijiazhuang

Shijiazhuang is the capital of Hebei Province. It occupies an important geographical position, known as the "strategic passage to the Yan and Jin States" historically.



Cangyanshan Mountain

Located in Jinjing County under the jurisdiction of Shijiazhuang, Cangyanshan Mountain is a national scenic area. The ancient people praised it for combining a wonderful view of the Five Famous Mountains and No.1 among the Taihang Mountains. Its highest peak boasts an altitude of some 1,000 meters. The whole mountain is densely forested.

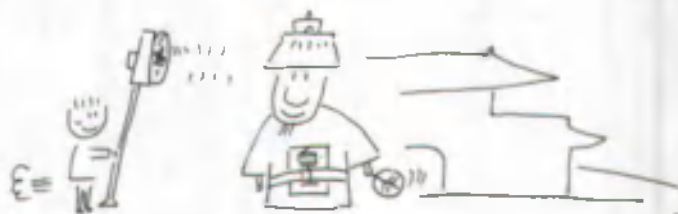
The Bridge Hall is the major building of the Fuqingsi Temple and stretches over two peaks. It reaches the sky and overlooks the deep valley. With regard to location, design and construction it is extremely audacious and a rare wonder in the world.



It is said that Princess Nanyang, the daughter of Emperor Yangdi of the Sui Dynasty (581-618), became a nun in the Fuqingsi Temple in the mountain. Thus, the temple became well-known.

Chengde Mountain Resort

Located in downtown Chengde City, it was built in the 42nd year (1703) during the reign of Emperor Kangxi. It is the largest ancient royal garden in China, featuring both the elegance of south China and the magnificence of north China, and these find full expression in the Building of Misty Rain and the Garden of Trees respectively.



In 1994, the Mountain Resort was put into the list of World Cultural Heritage sites.



Chengde Mountain Resort

230 km



Having to go back to work

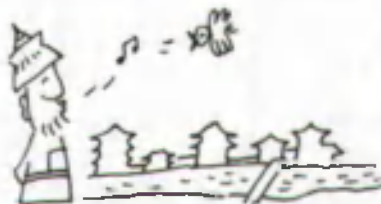


The Mountain Resort is divided into the palace area and the garden area. The former provided a venue for the emperor to handle government affairs and live; and the latter served as a recreation venue for him. It seemed that the emperor knew well the principle of alternating tension with relaxation.



Beijing

The Chengde Mountain Resort is also called the Rehe Palace as it was a venue for the Qing emperors to spend summer and deal with government affairs.



Outlying Temples

Emperors Kangxi and Qianlong built 12 temples near the Mountain Resort. Eight of them were accredited with lamas by the court and known as the **Eight Outlying Temples**. However, there are only seven extant. They vary in style and were built on the lines of the religious architectural styles of the various ethnic groups of China. The Temple of the Potaraka Doctrine was built in imitation of the Potara Palace of Tibet. The Anyuanmiao Temple, Pulesi Temple and Shuxiangsi Temple were built in imitation of the Gu'erzhamiao Temple on the northern bank of the Ili River in Xinjiang, the Temple of Heaven in Beijing and the Shuxiangsi Temple on the Wutaishan Mountain respectively.



The temples were built to comply with the customs of the Mongol and Tibetan ethnic groups believing in Lamaism. Such construction is in accordance with the Qing court's reigning principle of showing kindness to those who are distant and helping those who are near so as to solidify the country.

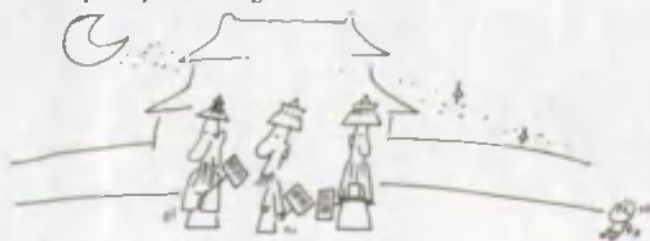


Geomantic principles stress that a favourable house should have a flowing water source to the left, a road or path to the right, a wide empty space in front and a gentle hill behind. When Emperor Shunzhi came here for hunting he was taken by surprise by the beauty of the mountain and river. Accordingly he decreed at once: "This mountain is full of imperial vigour. It will be the location for my mausoleum." From then on, the enormous construction of the Eastern Imperial Tombs of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911), which lasted 200-odd years, began.



Eastern Imperial Tombs of the Qing Dynasty

Located in Zunhua, Hebei Province, the cemetery has five emperor's tombs, four empresses' tombs, five for imperial concubines and one for a princess. In addition, Empress Dowager (Cixi) who reigned for 48 years is also buried there. The longest Sacred Way and the widest stone torii in China lie here. The relief carvings on Cixi's mausoleum place the phoenix above and the dragon below, which shows her unique way of thinking.



The Eastern Imperial Tombs of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) form an imperial tomb complex of the largest scale with a much improved system and reasonable layout in China.

Western Imperial Tombs of the Qing Dynasty

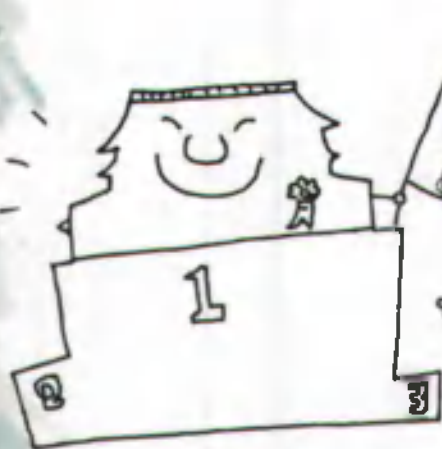
Located at the foot of the Yongningshan Mountain in Yixian County of Hebei Province, the cemetery has the Tailing Tomb of Emperor Yongzheng, the Changling Tomb of Emperor Jiaqing, the Muling Tomb of Emperor Daoguang and the Chongling Tomb of Emperor Guangxu, three other tombs for empresses, three for imperial concubines and four for princes and princesses. The cemetery terrain features undulating hills covered in lush grass and trees. The Tailing Tomb of Emperor Yongzheng is the largest one among them.



It is said that Emperor Yongzheng got the throne by changing the imperial edict of Emperor Kangxi. He felt guilty and dared not be buried beside the tomb of his father.



The Western Tombs of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) are surrounded by more than 10,000 old pine trees, covering an area of dozens of square km. It is known as the "sea of jade green trees".



Shanhaiguan Pass

The Shanhaiguan Pass is known as "the first pass under heaven". It holds a strategic position, being the main communication town between northern China and northeast China. It has four main city gates. It is the first pass from the eastern starting point of the Great Wall.

Pigeon's Nest

It is located in Qinhuangdao. Historical data show that Emperor Qinshihuang and Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and Cao Cao of the Three Kingdoms (220-280) often visited here.



Laolongtou (the Old Dragon Head) lies on the high land beside the sea to the south of Shanhaiguan forming a peninsula stretching into the Bohai Sea. Standing on top one faces the sea and gets a bold and generous feeling inside.

Beidaihe Summer Resort

Beidaihe has been a famous summer resort since the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911). Ambassadors from various countries to China constructed lots of foreign-style buildings there. Lots of bathing places are to be found along the long coastline stretching from the Pigeon's Nest in the east to the estuary of Beidaihe in the west. After appreciating the splendid sunrise on the seashore, it is a great pleasure to pick up starfishes and shells on the beach at the ebb tide.

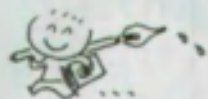


Laolongtou

Laolongtou (the Old Dragon Head) is the eastern starting point of the Great Wall. People compare the Great Wall to a huge dragon. It goes across the great Gobi desert, climbs over the Helanshan Mountain, Taihangshan Mountain and Yanshan Mountain and makes a coil on the Liaoxi Corridor and flies into the Bohai Sea after the Shanhaiguan Pass. The part in the sea is the Old Dragon Head. This part of the Bohai Sea combining with the Jiaoshan Great Wall in the north and Weiyuan Tower in the east, surrounds and protects Shanhaiguan.

Beidaihe has a coastline of 22.5 km, with beaches and reefs interlacing. The sandy beach is soft and clean, and is reputed as the "best in northern China".





Hometown of Confucius and Mencius — Shandong

Shandong Province, also called Lu for short, is situated on the coast in eastern China on the lower reaches of the Yellow River. With the Bohai and Yellow Seas to the east it overlooks the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago across a vast stretch of the sea. It is a large province and is well known for its economy and its cultural influence on China through the ages. It is known as the "Province of Confucius and Mencius". Confucius, perhaps the greatest Chinese philosopher whose philosophies still influence China today, was born here.



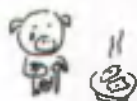




Local Specialities



Pancake Roll with Scallions



Wuling Pig's Fritters



Fried Prawns



Kong Family Banquet



Folk Customs



Confucius Festival



Liyu Opera



Weifang Kite Festival



Special Local Products



Weifang Kites



Laoshan Cloud and Mist Tea



Tsingtao Beer



Heze Peony



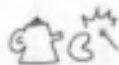
Linyang Pear



Dezhou Braised Chicken



Yantai Wine



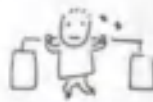
Wooden Fish Stone



Impression on the Local People



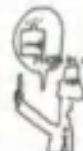
Straightforward and pure-hearted



Responsible



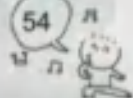
Stressing 'virtue and morality'



Faithful



Girls from Shandong care for their families



Jinan

It is the capital of Shandong Province and famous as a "city of springs" in China. Ancient people praised it because "every house in Jinan has a spring and willow trees" and "the lake is filled with lotus flowers on four sides and surrounded by willows on three sides; while the city is embraced by the mountains and nearly half of it is covered by the lake".

Baotu Spring

Located in downtown Jinan, it is recognised as the best of the 72 springs in Jinan. There are three strings of spring flowing day and night like three piles of snow. The Baotu Spring maintains its temperature at 18 degrees Centigrade all year round. There are also 15 other springs such as Shuyu Spring and Liuxu Spring close to it and together they form a famous spring scenic spot.



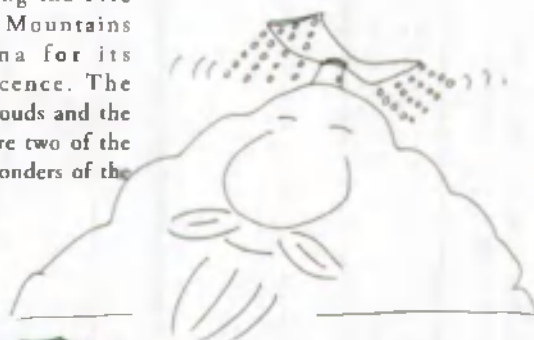
The two characters "Baotu" in Chinese describe the action of gushing out and rushing water.

Memorial Hall of Li Qingzhao

Located to the north of the Shuyu Spring in Baotu Spring Park, it is a classical Chinese building. The courtyard is quiet and elegant. The main hall exhibits the statue of Li Qingzhao along with stories of her life and different works. Standing in front of her statue and reading her famous poems, one can realize the loneliness this woman felt some 1,000 years ago.

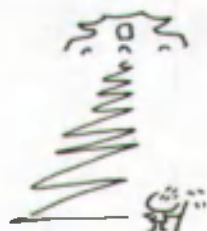


Taishan Mountain is regarded as the leading one among the Five Famous Mountains in China for its magnificence. The Sea of Clouds and the Sunrise are two of the natural wonders of the mountain.



Taishan Mountain

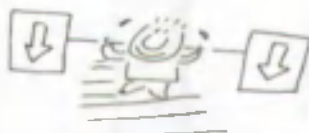
It is located near Tai'an City and the most famous among the Five Famous Mountains in China (including the eastern Taishan Mountain, western Huashan Mountain, southern Hengshan Mountain, northern Hengshan Mountain and central Songshan Mountain). It combines natural and cultural scenes and is thought of as being a precious gem endowed by the Gods for Shandong.



The Eighteen Bends is the toughest section when climbing Taishan Mountain.



Some sections look like ladders.



The porters of Taishan Mountain are capable of carrying up to 500 kg, which is quite a feat.



The stone carvings of Taishan Mountain are the real expression of the culture of the mountain.



It is a huge test for one's willpower to climb Taishan Mountain.



The Sunrise on Taishan Mountain makes people forget all their fatigue.

Daminghu Lake

The Pearl Spring, Lotus Spring and Wangfuchi Spring combine together to form the Daminghu Lake which is four meters at its deepest. It is famous for its willows and the lotus flowers on it as well as the remote green mountains which surround it. Here we can find the Lixiating Pavilion, the Mingshixuan Hall, the Tiegongci Ancestral Temple, the Jiaxuanci Ancestral Temple and the Nanfengci Ancestral Temple. These famous pavilions along with all its poems and books are known as the three major wonders of the Daminghu Lake.



Lotus flowers on four sides
Willow trees on three sides
City surrounded by mountains
Half a city of lake

The Daminghu Lake is surrounded by over 800 willows and the water in it is clean and clear and looks like green jade.

Thousand-Buddha Mountain



The Thousand-Buddha Mountain is like a green sea, serving as a huge oxygen bar for Jinan.

The Cave of Buddhas below the mountain is a holy place for Buddhism and contains more than 28,000 Buddhist statues.



Qianfoshan Mountain

The mountain is one of the three major places to visit in Jinan. The Sui Dynasty (581-618) saw the golden period of the mountain for Buddhist activities and it got the name because Buddhist statues were erected all over it. The Xingguo Buddhist Temple was originally built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and is famous for its cliff carvings.

Confucius's Mansion

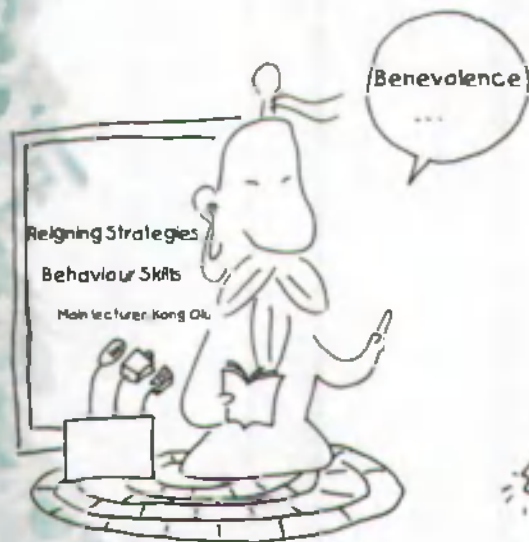
It is located in Qufu and is also known as the Mansion of the Kong Family. Covering an area of some 100,000 square meters, it has nine courtyards with a total of 463 rooms. The largest ancient family mansion in China is divided into the central, east and west lines: in the central line are the main buildings (the official residential mansion is in the front, with three halls and six chambers), in the east line is the family temple and in the west line is the school. The school is home to lots of cultural relics, among which the ten bronze wares of the Shang Dynasty (1600 BC-1046 BC) endowed by Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) are the most precious.

The Mansion is the place where Confucius and his descendents used to live. It is the largest mansion in the world. A huge tablet inscribed with The Gate of the Sage is inspiring, enlightening people to a profound understanding of their traditional culture.



Confucian Temple

The Confucian Temple serves as a place of worship to Confucius. It is one of the largest extant ancient architectural complexes in China with a total of 466 rooms. Its main hall, the Hall of Great Accomplishments, is regarded as one of the three major ancient halls in China (the other two are the Hall of Supreme Harmony of the Forbidden City and the Tiankuangdian Hall on Taishan Mountain).



In front of the Hall of Great Accomplishments stands a pavilion called Xingtian. This served as Confucius lecture hall in his later years. "Confucius lectures in the Xingtian Pavilion, training altogether 3,000 disciples".

Family Cemetery of Confucius

Lying in the northern part of Qufu is the family cemetery for Confucius and his family. It is also known as the Holy Cemetery used exclusively by the family of Confucius. It covers an area of more than 2 million square meters and has more than 20,000 old trees. The grand and solemn cemetery has been in use for over 2,500 years. In the centre of the cemetery lies the tomb of Confucius. The huge stone carvings beside it are relics of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

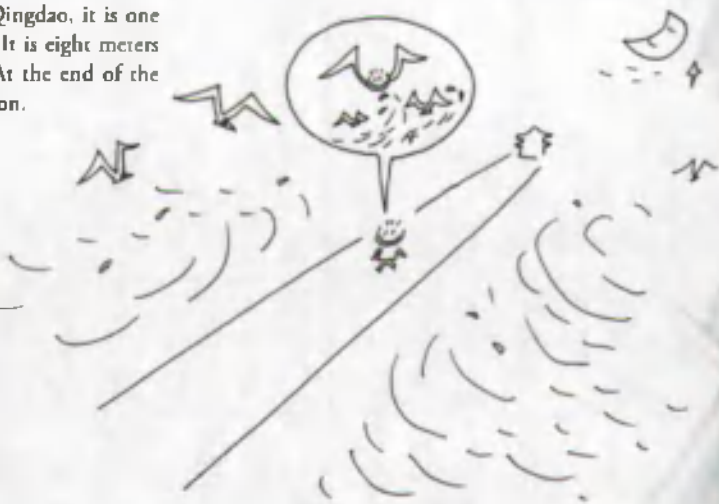


The cemetery has interred 70-odd generations and is one of the oldest family cemeteries in existence. There are about 100,000 tombs of the Kong Family. Such a huge family cemetery kept in such good condition is extremely rare in the world. There are more than 4,000 steles distributed around the cemetery and some are in good condition and some are broken, true witnesses to the changes of time. No matter whether someone is honourable or humble, we all turn into earth after death. Hence, it is of great importance to cherish our lives.

Trestle Bridge

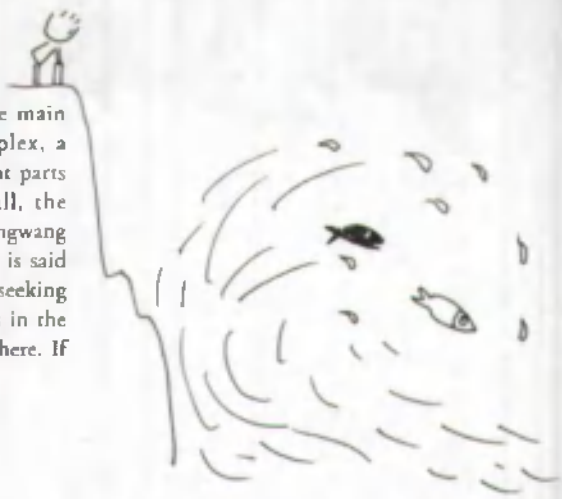
Located on the seashore of Qingdao, it is one of the landmarks of the city. It is eight meters wide and 480 meters long. At the end of the bridge stands Huilange Pavilion.

One night, I wandered along the bridge in a gale admiring the waves crashing into the bridge. Suddenly I noticed that lots of seagulls were playing cheerfully with the stormy waves. How respectful they were.



Penglai Pavilion

Located in downtown Penglai City, it is the main building of a religious architectural complex, a renowned fairyland. It is divided into different parts including the Lvzu Hall, the Sanqing Hall, the Penglai Pavilion, the Tianhou Palace, the Longwang Palace and the Amitabha Buddha Temple. It is said that the stories about Emperor Qinshihuang seeking the immortals and about the Eight Immortals in the legend going across the sea etc., all happened here. If you are lucky you may possibly see a mirage.



Steep cliffs and ripples can be seen from a path with a guardrail. It is really outstanding.



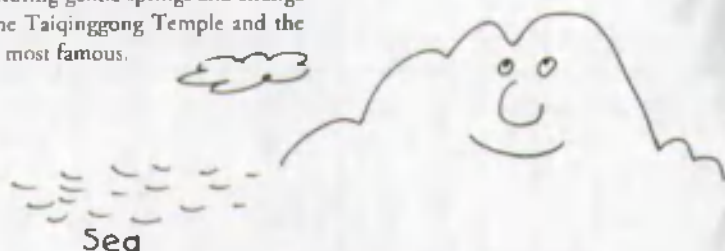
Having a bird's eye view of the sea at top floor, one feels he's an immortal himself.

The No.1 Bathing Beach

It is located in downtown Qingdao and is a lovely sandy beach with a gentle slope down to the sea. It is the largest bathing beach in China and is said to be capable of accommodating 250,000 swimmers.

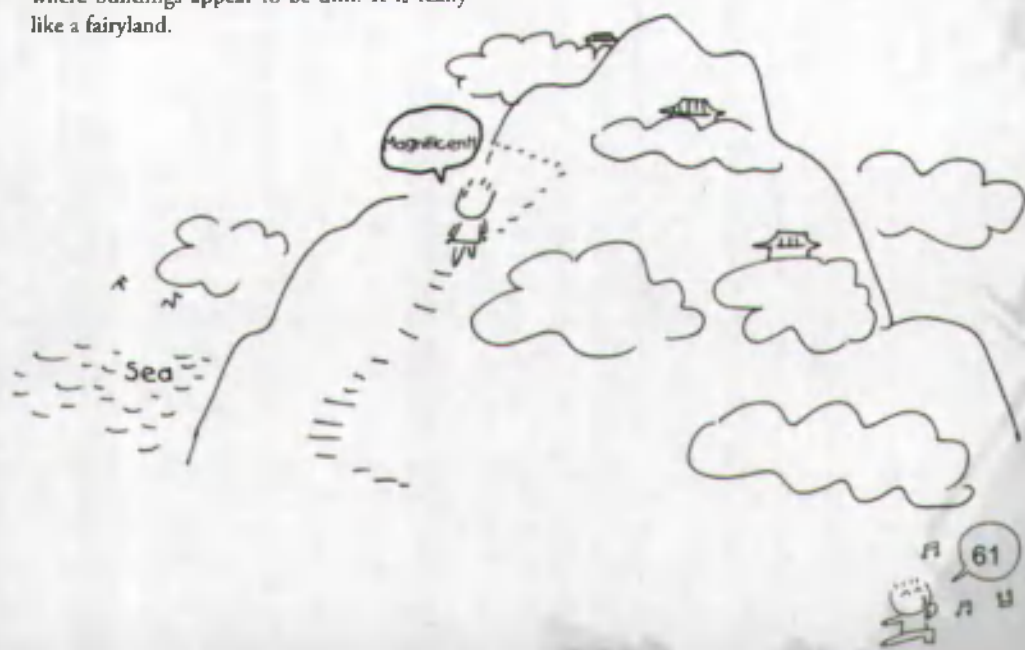
Laoshan Mountain

Located on the seashore near Qingdao, it was described in ancient times as a "mansion for immortals" and a "miraculous mansion". It is magnificent and steep in the east and comparatively gentle in the west. According to history Emperors Qinshihuang and Hanwudi sent people here to seek an immortal elixir. After the Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1206-1368) Dynasties it gradually became a famous Taoist mountain, with numerous simple Taoist temples. They are set off by the natural scenery featuring gentle springs and strange stones. Of all the temples the Taiqinggong Temple and the Taipinggong Temple are the most famous.

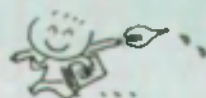


The coastline of Laoshan Mountain extends 87 km. Wandering along the bluestone path in the mountain one can appreciate the green jade sea and the huge waves on one side and the green pines and strange stones on the other side. The mountain is enveloped in clouds where buildings appear to be dim. It is really like a fairyland.

Taoists of Laoshan Mountain are well-known. In their golden period there were 17 Taoist temples and ten nunneries with a total of 1,000 people.



An Affluent Region— Jiangsu



Jiangsu Province is located on the southeastern coast of China. The name comes from the fact that it is home to the city of Jiangning (now Nanjing) and the city of Suzhou. Due to good natural conditions the province is known as "an affluent region". It is like a big garden with many beauty spots which attract many tourists.







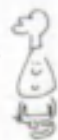
Local Specialities



Nanjing Dry-cured Duck



Crackling Whitebait



Huayang Dishes



Stewed Minced Pork Ball



Deep Fried Mandarin Fish
with Sweet & Sour Sauce



Folk Customs



Kunqu Opera



Suzhou Pingtan (a
term for Pinghua and
Tanci)



Huishan Clay Figurines



Special Local Products



Zhenjiang Vinegar



Yuhua Pebbles



Yunlin Brocade



Yixing Ceramics



Jintan Folding Fans



Suzhou Embroidery



Impression on the Local People



They are friendly and
open-minded, smart



Good at finance



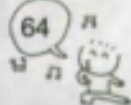
United

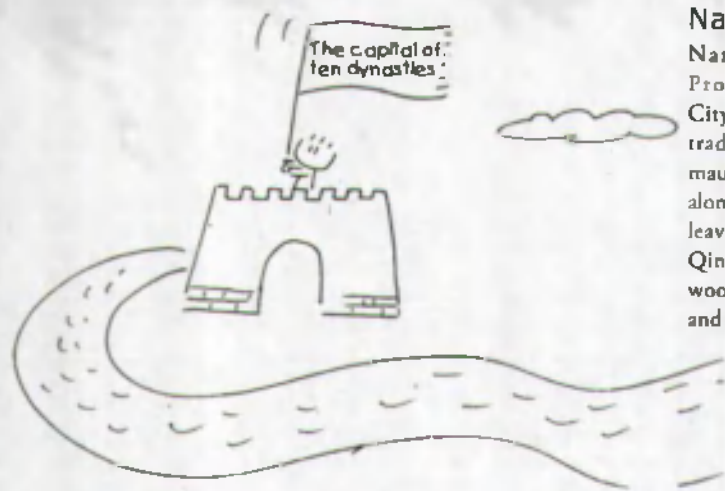


Of the blood
of poets



There are plenty
of talented and
good-looking girls

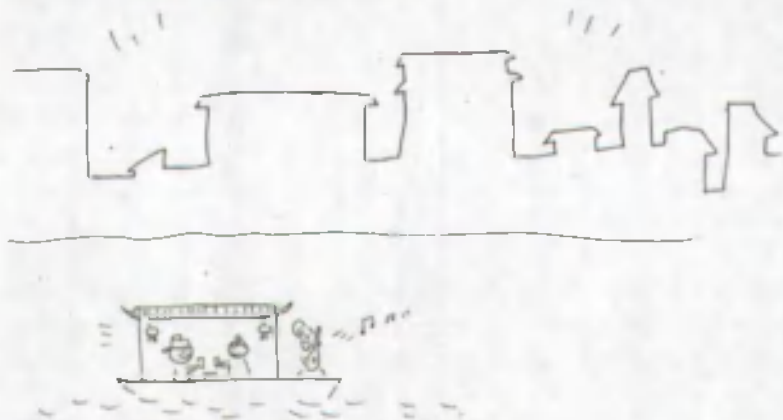




Nanjing

Nanjing is the capital of Jiangsu Province. The charm of Nanjing City lies in its historical and cultural traditions. Looking into the imperial mausoleum in the setting sun, strolling along by the city wall covered with fallen leaves or listening to the sound of the Qinhuaihe River as it flaps against the wooden ships, one can feel a maturity and tranquillity.

In 229, Sun Quan, one of the three heroes in China's Three Kingdoms Period (220-280), moved the capital of his kingdom to Jianye—present Nanjing—to strengthen his influence in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. From then on the city served as the capital for ten dynasties during China's history, hence the name the "capital of ten dynasties".



Qinhuaihe River Scenery and Temple of Confucius

The Qinhuaihe River meandering through Nanjing City has been praised by many writers. In the moonlight one listens to the sound of oars on the water and sees the shadows of the streetlamps.

The Temple of Confucius, located on the northern bank of the Qinhuaihe River, is famous for its rich speciality snacks and craftworks. After having some snacks it is nice to go boating on the Qinhuaihe River and enjoy the charming and gentle scenery.

Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum

The Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum, near the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, is the tomb of Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang and his wife Ma of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The mausoleum was originally built on a larger scale with its perimeter reaching 22 km. According to historical records 100,000 pine trees were planted, 1,000 deer were raised and as many as 10,000 soldiers guarded the Mausoleum. Later the buildings above the ground were destroyed during the war. Now only a small part of the Mausoleum is preserved. The sculptures in the tomb passage are large and heavy representing the swift changes of the world.

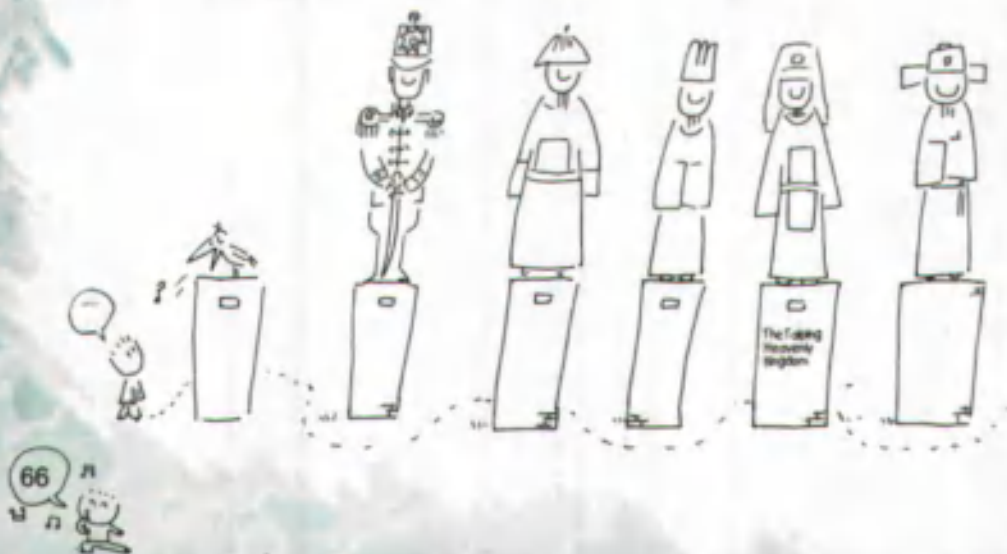


In 1368, Zhu Yuanzhang, whose parents were poverty-stricken peasants, ascended the throne and founded the Ming Dynasty. In 1398, he was buried in the Xiaoling Mausoleum.

Presidential Palace

The Presidential Palace, which has gone through many upheavals, has been a witness to modern Chinese history. Sun Yat-sen and Chiang Kai-shek conducted political activities here.

In the Ming Dynasty, this site was the location of Prince Han's Mansion. In the Qing Dynasty, it became the Office of the Governor-General, the chief government official in charge of what is today Jiangsu, Anhui, and Jiangxi.



Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum

The Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, situated on the slope of Zijinshan Mountain in Nanjing of China, occupies a commanding position. The overall layout of the complex takes the shape of a bell, symbolizing Dr. Sun's great spirit in arousing the people and rejuvenating China. There are 392 steps leading up to the vault. The marble sarcophagus of Dr. Sun Yat-sen lies surrounded by trees. The tri-arched marble gate is inscribed with four Chinese characters written by Dr. Sun, "Tian Xia Wei Gong" which means "What Is Under Heaven Is For All".

Construction of the tomb started in January 1926 and was finished in the spring of 1929. The testament "because the revolution is still not successful, all comrades still need to try hard" left by Dr. Sun Yat-sen re-echoes like an alarm bell in the valley.

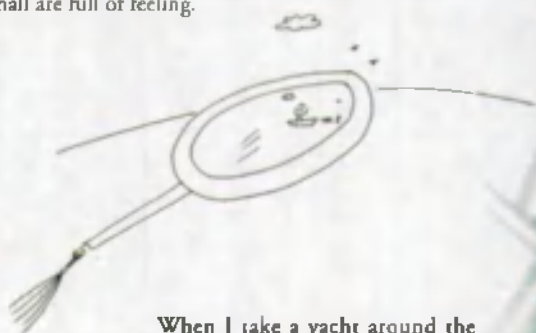


Memorial Hall to the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre


In December 1937 the Japanese army committed the Nanjing Massacre, horrifying the Chinese and the world. Estimates of the number killed reached over 300,000. The Memorial Hall to the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre was built in Jiangdongmen, on one of the execution sites and mass burial places of the massacre. It is full of all the information relevant to this atrocity committed by the Japanese troops. The large sculptures outside the memorial hall are full of feeling.

Yuantouzhu

Yuantouzhu (Turtle Head) is a peninsula on the northwest bank of the West Lake in Wuxi City. There is a huge rock sticking out into the lake with the shape of a turtle head, hence the name Yuantouzhu. It is located in the southern part of Wuxi City and is the best place to enjoy the Taihu Lake scenery. The poet Guo Moruo left the inscription "Best Site of the Taihu Lake". There is an inscription on the bank of "Embracing the Wu and Yue States".



When I take a yacht around the lake the beautiful scenery makes a big impression.



Taihu Xiandao (The Islands of the Deities) is a group of islets on the Lake. They cover an area of 12 hectares and look like turtles quietly floating on the water.

Xihui Park

The Xihui Park is located in the west of Wuxi City. In it there are the Xishan Hill and Huishan Hill. The former is bright while the latter is meandering. It is full of beauty spots including an ancient well, the Second Largest Fountain under the Heaven of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), and the Yingshanhu Lake. The Jichangyuan Garden near Huishan Hill is filled with ancient buildings such as Jiashitang and beauty spots such as the rockery. When Qing Dynasty Emperors Kangxi and Qianlong came to Wuxi, they never missed it.

Hua Yanjun (1893-1950) also known as Abing, a folk musician, wrote his famous work *Er Quan Ying Yue* (*Moon Reflecting on the Fountain*) for the erhu.

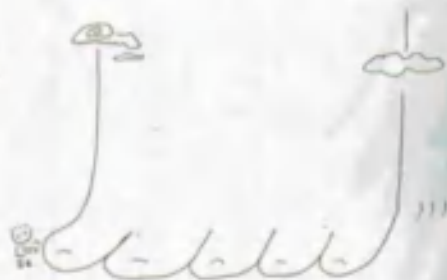


Lingshan Grand Buddha

The Lingshan Grand Buddha is located on the outskirts of Wuxi City. Lingshan mountain is famous for its resemblance to a peak called Grdhrakuta (pronounced "lingjiu" in Chinese) in India where Sakyamuni became a Buddha, hence the name Lingshan Mountain. A huge bronze statue of Buddha stands on the slope of Lingshan Mountain. Set off by the many Buddhists at the foot of it, it looks dignified, kindly and magnificent. On Foshou (Buddha's Hand) Square in front of the Grand Buddha is the very tall No.1 Palm under Heaven on the centre of which hands are imprinted, symbolizing the removal of the pain of the all living creatures.



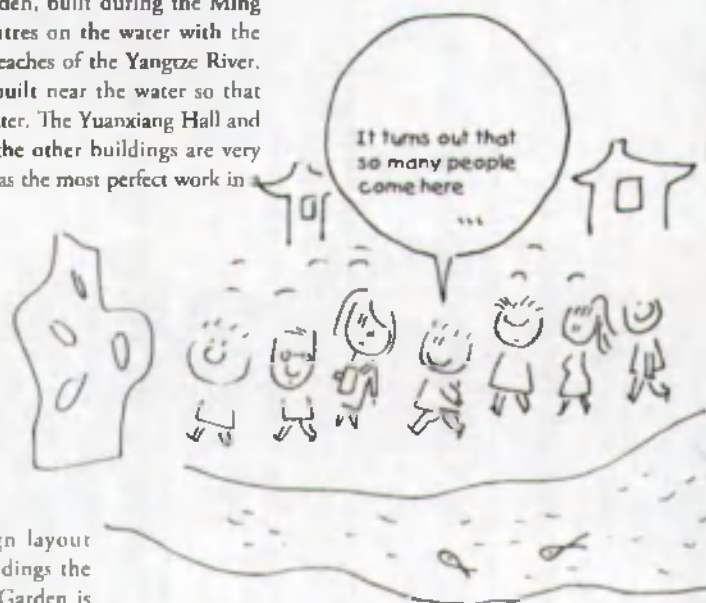
The Lingshan Grand Buddha known as The Oriental Grand Buddha is 88 meters high and is the largest statue of Buddha in China. It weighs 2,000 tons which includes 700 tons of copper. It is said that if it was cast completely in copper the ground of any place in the world would not be able to support it.



Coming to the foot of the Grand Buddha I temporarily held the foot of the Buddha in my arms. I found that I was almost the same size as the toe of the Grand Buddha.

Humble Administrator's Garden

The Humble Administrator's Garden, located in downtown Suzhou City, is one of four great Chinese gardens. The garden, built during the Ming Dynasty(1368-1644), centres on the water with the bright style of the lower reaches of the Yangze River. The main buildings are built near the water so that they are reflected in the water. The Yuanxiang Hall and the Jianshan Tower and the other buildings are very lovely and are well known as the most perfect work in a Chinese classical garden.



With the original design layout and the shape of the buildings the Humble Administrator's Garden is known as the "mother of gardens under heaven".



Wang Xianchen, a Ming Dynasty official, was frustrated in official circles and gave up his official position and returned to his native place. He built a garden on the site of the Dahong Temple of the Yuan Dynasty. The garden was named after a sentence from Pan Yue's article *The Idle Life*, written during the Western Jin Dynasty (265-317), "this is also a way of administration by humble people".



"Whom do I sit in the house with?" came from the poem by Su Shi. "Whom do I sit with? Bright moon, cool breeze and me," which are lines that show thoroughly the psychology of the master of the Garden for living in seclusion.

Lion Garden

The Garden gets its name from the rocks piled up skilfully everywhere in the shape of lions in different postures and actions. In addition to the rockeries there are more than 60 calligraphy stone inscriptions by four Song Dynasty calligraphers — Su Shi, Huang Tingjian, Mi Fu and Cai Xiang. These stones attract many calligraphy lovers from all over China. Reputed as the Kingdom of Rockeries, the Lion Garden has many rock formations grotesquely resembling lions. It is very interesting.



"People say I am in a city but I suspect I am among thousands of mountains," which is the true picture of the Lion Forest.



Occupying an area of some 30,000 square meters, the whole garden is spanned by a 700-meter-long zigzagging veranda.

Lingering Garden

The Lingering Garden is one of four great Chinese gardens with natural scenery. There are 17 pavilions dotting around the pond. There are three rocks in the Lingering Garden and they are the Guanyun, the Ruiyun and the Youyun. They are all really just strange looking groups of stones. The Guanyun Rock is the largest of its kind in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River and is known as a peerless work of stone art for its thinness, wrinkling and transparency. Legend has it that it was the rock work left behind by Hua Shigang of the Song Dynasty.

Tiger Hill

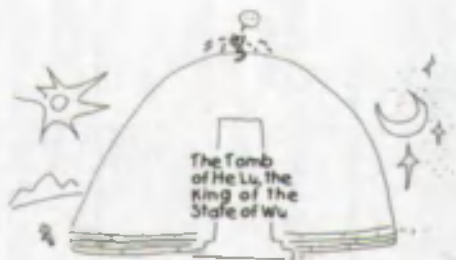
There are 18 beauty spots here, including the Sword Pool inside Tiger Hill Park, which is known as the "first beauty spot in the State of Wu". The ancients often enjoyed the full moon here and came here to sing during the night of the mid-autumn festival.



The Tiger Hill Pagoda also known as the Pagoda of the Yunyan Temple stands on the hill's summit. It is 47.5 metres high and was built from bricks during the Song Dynasty in 961. Due to the ground, the pagoda leans 2°40' to the northwest. This was first noticed during the Ming Dynasty and the pagoda became known as the Oriental Leaning Tower of Pisa.



Tiger Hill, with its strange scenery, has still retained the old saying of "first seeing the pagoda when going out of the city and beginning to climb the mountain when going into the temple". A famous Song Dynasty poet, Su Shi, wrote, "It is a lifelong pity if having visited Suzhou you did not visit Tiger Hill."



The Tiger Hill is known also as Surging Sea Hill. According to the book of *Historical Records*, after King He Lu's death his body was buried inside the hill. Three days after the funeral a white tiger came and sat upon the grave as though guarding it. From that time on the hill has been known as Tiger Hill.

Cold Mountain Temple or Hanshan Temple

The Cold Mountain Temple is located in the town of Fengqiao (Maple Bridge) about three km west of the old city of Suzhou. The ancient architectural appearance of the inside of the temple is still retained. A book of rubbings of the tablet of the poem *A Night Moored by the Maple Bridge* by Zhang Ji is a precious souvenir. At Chinese New Year, a great number of people from home and abroad gather here and wait to hear the ringing of the bell to welcome the arrival of the new year.

As the moon sets the
crows cry and the first
light streaks the foggy sky,
Dimly lit fishing boats
neath maple sadly lie.
Beyond the city walls
from the Temple of Cold
Hill
Bells break the ship-borne
roamers' dream and only
midnight still.



During the reign of Emperor Tianbao (742-755) of the Tang Dynasty, Zhang Ji failed in an imperial examination. While returning to his native place he passed Suzhou and moored beside the Maple Bridge at night. The sight awakened his feelings, so he wrote the poem *A Night Moored by the Maple Bridge*, which reads, "Beyond the city walls, from the Temple of Cold Hill, bells break the ship-borne roamers' dream and only midnight still."

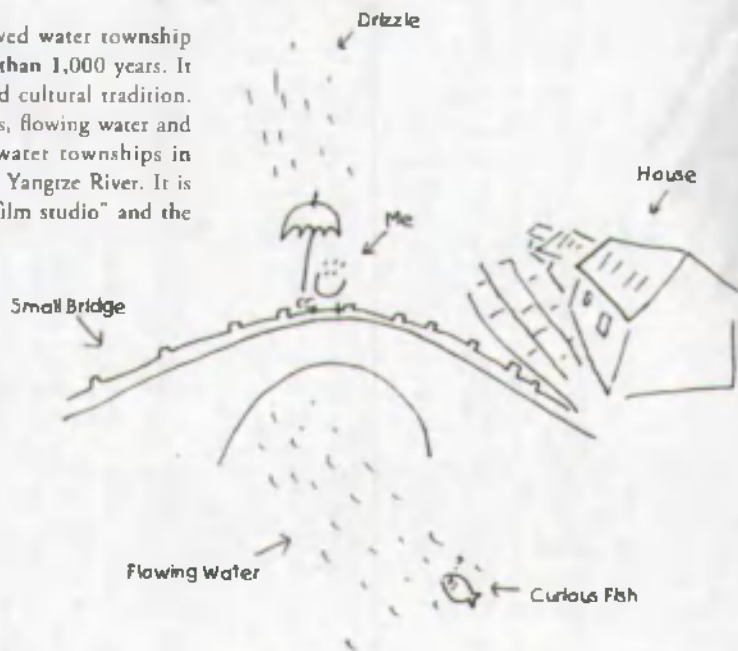
Guoqing Temple in
Zhejiang Province

Cold Mountain Temple

The current name of the temple is derived from Hanshan, a legendary monk and poet. Hanshan and his disciple Shide are said to have come to the temple from the Guoqing Temple on Tiantaishan Mountain in Zhejiang Province during the reign of Emperor Taizong (627-649) of the Tang Dynasty. Later Hanshan became the abbot.

Tongli

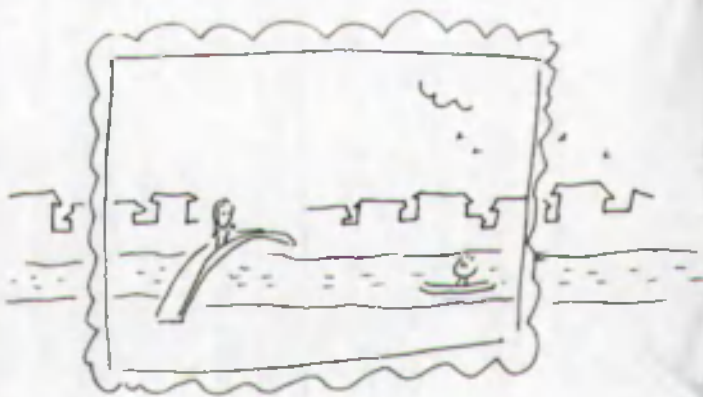
Tongli is a well-preserved water township with a history of more than 1,000 years. It has a long historical and cultural tradition. It is full of small bridges, flowing water and houses typical of the water townships in the lower reaches of the Yangtze River. It is known as the "natural film studio" and the "Eastern Venice".



Zhouzhuang

Zhouzhuang, which was the First Water Township in China, was called Yaocheng and belonged to the fief of the Prince of the State of Wu during the Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC-476 BC). Zhou Gong, a native in the Northern Song Dynasty who was a very devout Buddhist, donated his house and fertile land to the temple here. The local people were sincerely grateful for this favour and changed the name of the village to Zhouzhuang. Covering an area of 80 square km, the circular Zhouzhuang is

like a lotus leaf floating on water. It has a long history of 900 years and deep cultural traditions, like many of the water townships in the southern reaches of the Yangtze River. The charming and gentle natural scenery, unique human insight and simple folk customs and practices allow people to enjoy themselves here and make them forget to go back home.



Slender West Lake in Yangzhou

The Slender West Lake is located in Yangzhou City. It is very narrow which makes it look a tall, slender woman in comparison with the West Lake in Hangzhou. It is four km long and is divided by bridges, islands, pavilions and causeways. The Five Pavilion Bridge, well-known for its unique layout, is one of the landmarks of Yangzhou City.



24 Bridge catches the eye most. The verse "Bright moonlight is shining over the Twenty-Four Bridge, where are you teaching someone to play the bamboo flute?" made the bridge very famous.

When walking along the Slender West Lake, one can feel the artistic concept of the verse "My friend has left the west, the Yellow Crane Towers, for River Town green with willows and red with flowers".

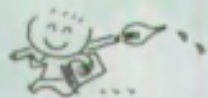


Writers in previous dynasties liked to compare the slender west lake to a graceful girl.

Chan Realization

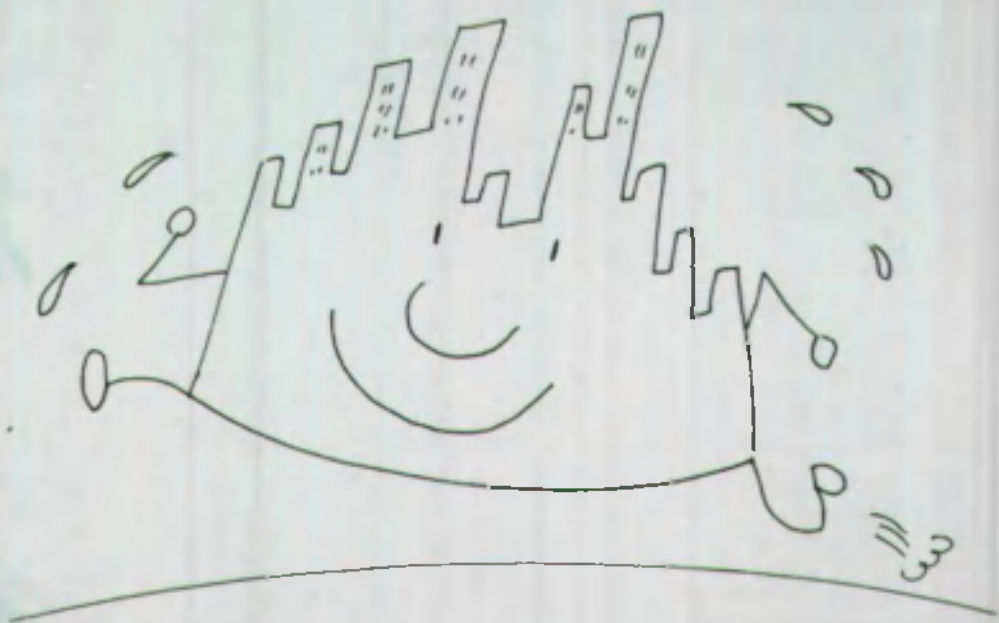
On the trip,
I walk...
I wait and see...
I enjoy...
I think deeply...
I am moved and comprehend
I collect all my memories,
Stagnation in my life...





The Most Vigorous City in China— Shanghai

Shanghai is a municipality directly under the Central Government. It is bordered by the East China Sea to the east and Hangzhou Bay to the south. With an advantageous geographical position it is a good river and sea port. It has also the largest industrial base, the largest foreign trade port and is the largest commercial city in China. Buildings of all kinds are numerous. It is known as the "Bright Pearl of the Far East". Shanghai's booming economy and modernized architecture make a profound impression on me.







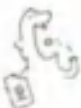
Local Specialities



Xiaoshaoxing
Chicken
Congee



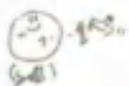
Plain Noodles
in Superior
Soup



The
Chenghuang
Temple Five-
Flavoured
Beans



Ronghua
Chicken



Zhenru
Mutton



Glutinous Rice
Dumplings in
Sweet Rice
Wine



Daoxiangcun
Spiced Duck
Gizzard



Nankang
Steamed
Buns



Folk Customs



Longhua Temple Fair



Chenghuang
Temple Culture



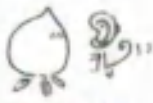
Shikumen (a kind
of Residential house)
Culture



Special Local Products



White Rabbit
Creamy Candy



Juicy Peaches



Chongming
Daffodils



Rosewood
Furniture



Impression on the Local People



Neatly dressed



Reasonable



Careful



Warm

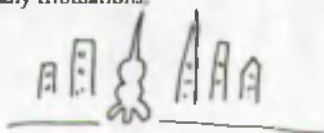


Canny



The Bund in Shanghai

The Bund is the symbol of Shanghai as the Far East Financial Center. Here you can enjoy all kinds of architecture and the scenery of the Huangpu River. At night, illuminated by the lights, the Bund looks magnificent. The Bund, which extends from Jinling Road in the south to the Waibaidu Bridge on Beijing Road East, is a 1.5 km boulevard on the western bank of the Huangpu River. The quintessence of the Bund is the variety of architecture along it, the so-called "world architectural fair". The Bund has 52 buildings of different architectural styles. Of them the ancient Greek style domed building, the HSBC Building, is the most famous. It has been called "the most luxurious building in area east of the Suez Canal". During a history of more than 70 years the pair of copper lions outside the main door underwent many tribulations.



The Bund — a paradise in Shanghai for talking love



Holding a flower in your mouth

One person, Ah Ah...

Shanghai Museum

The Shanghai Museum is shaped like a Tripod. This symbolises the ancient Chinese perception of the world as "round sky, square earth". It is an example of the combination of Chinese history and modern science and technology. Located on the southern side of the Renmin Square it is famous for its collection of ancient Chinese artworks. The Shanghai Museum has 11 galleries, one showroom for donated cultural relics and three exhibition halls.

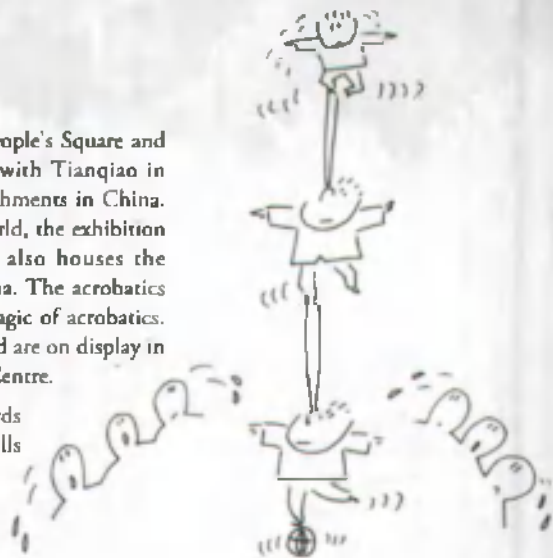


The museum possesses a collection of 120,000 works of art representative of China's 5,000-year civilization. As you look through these exquisite items it's as if you held a magic mirror in your hand and saw the past and present of Chinese art.

Great World

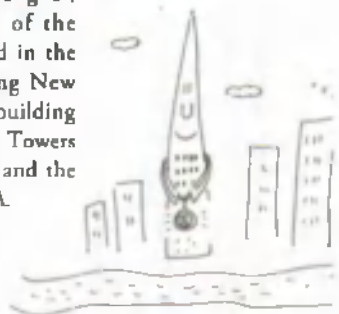
The Great World is located to the south of the People's Square and is more than 80 years old. It is equally famous with Tianqiao in Beijing as one of the oldest entertainment establishments in China. It consists of the pleasure world, the acrobatics world, the exhibition world and the food world. The Great World also houses the Guinness Book of World Records Office in China. The acrobatics world has many different shows displaying the magic of acrobatics. Many treasures and pictures of the best in the world are on display in the Guinness Book of World Records Exhibition Centre.

The Great World Guinness Book of World Records arena attracts many past masters with unique skills who set numerous world records there.



Jinmao Tower

The Jinmao Tower is another landmark skyscraper in Shanghai, showing the architecture of the 21st century, and is located in the Lujiazui area of the Pudong New Area. It is the third tallest building in the world, after the Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the Sears Tower in Chicago, USA.

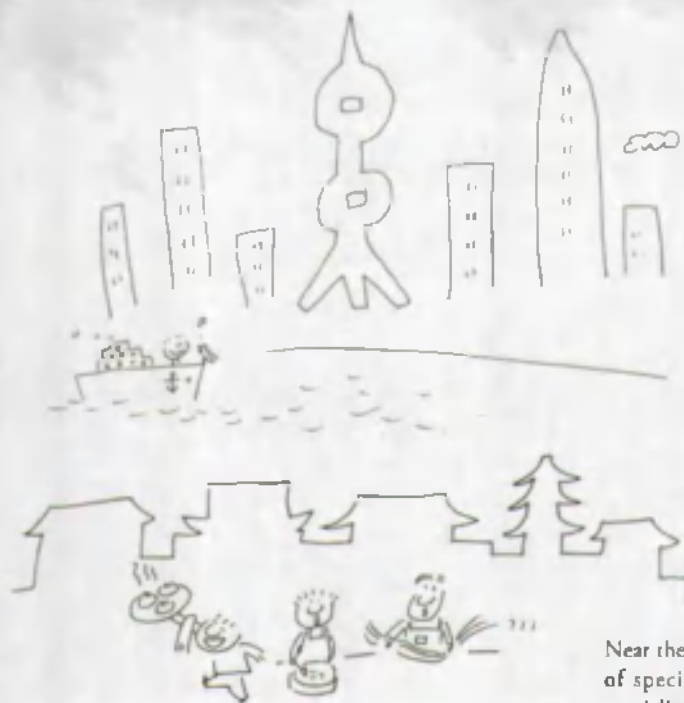


The Jinmao Tower is the tallest skyscraper in China at present. It has 88 stories reaching to a height of 420.5 meters.



Overlooking Shanghai from the observation deck is like doing so from a plane.

The building is equipped with high speed elevators. It takes only a few minutes to reach the top from the ground floor.



Sightseeing by Boat on the Huangpu River

The Huangpu River is the mother river of Shanghai as well as a great landmark. On both banks of the river you can see all of Shanghai's urban sights: Yangpu Bridge and the Oriental Pearl TV Tower. The two bridges recline across the Huangpu River and the 468-meter-high Oriental Pearl TV Tower — the first tallest tower in Asia stands between them, forming a huge picture scroll featuring two dragons frolicking with a pearl. Buildings of various foreign architectural styles on the west bank of the Huangpu River and towering modern buildings on the east bank set each other off. There are too many buildings for the eye to take in.

Near the Yuyuan Garden is the famous kingdom of speciality snacks where you can taste the speciality snacks of Shanghai and other regions.

Yuyuan Garden — Chenghuang Temple

The Yuyuan Garden is located in southern downtown Shanghai. It is the largest classical garden in Shanghai and in the style of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Inside the garden, the Great Rockery is typical of the Yuyuan Garden. The Dianchun Hall was once the headquarters of Xiaodao Hui (Small Knife Society), a group who revolted between 1853 and 1855 against the government of the Qing Dynasty. The Chenghuang Temple in the south of the Yuyuan Garden is a comprehensive business centre in which around 100 shops in ancient style sell craftworks and commodities.

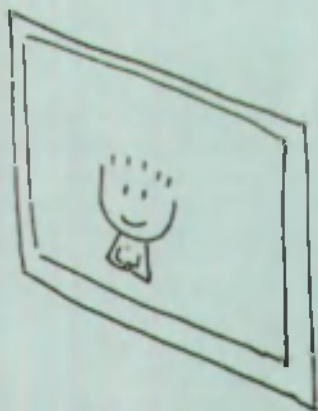
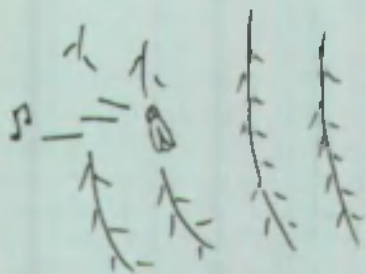
The garden was finished in 1577 by a government officer of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) named Pan Yunduan. Yu in Chinese means pleasing and satisfying and this garden was specially built for Pan's parents as a place for them to enjoy a quiet and happy old age.





Province of Historical Relics— Zhejiang

Zhejiang Province is called Zhe for short. It is located on the shores of the East China Sea. In the coastal area there are more than 200 islands making Zhejiang the province with the most islands. Zhejiang is very hilly and is known as a "province of historical relics". This makes it a popular tourist destination. It is also an important province economically.







Local Specialities



West Lake Fish in
Sweet Sour Sauce



Beggar's Chicken



Boiled Fresh
Meat Ravioli



Dongpo Pork



Jinhua Ham



Glutinous Rice
Dumplings in
Fermented Rice
Wine



Mini steamed Bun
Stuffed with Pork



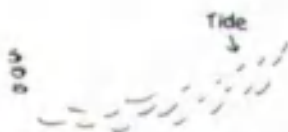
Folk Customs



Liang-Zhu Culture



Yueju Opera



Tidal Waves Watched from the
Qiantangjiang River



Special Local Products



Silk



Folding Fans



Huangyan Oranges



Longjing Tea



Hangzhou Silk
Umbrellas



Zhang Xiaoquan
Scissors



Impression on the Local People



Industrious and tough



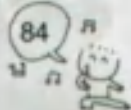
Good at business



Well travelled



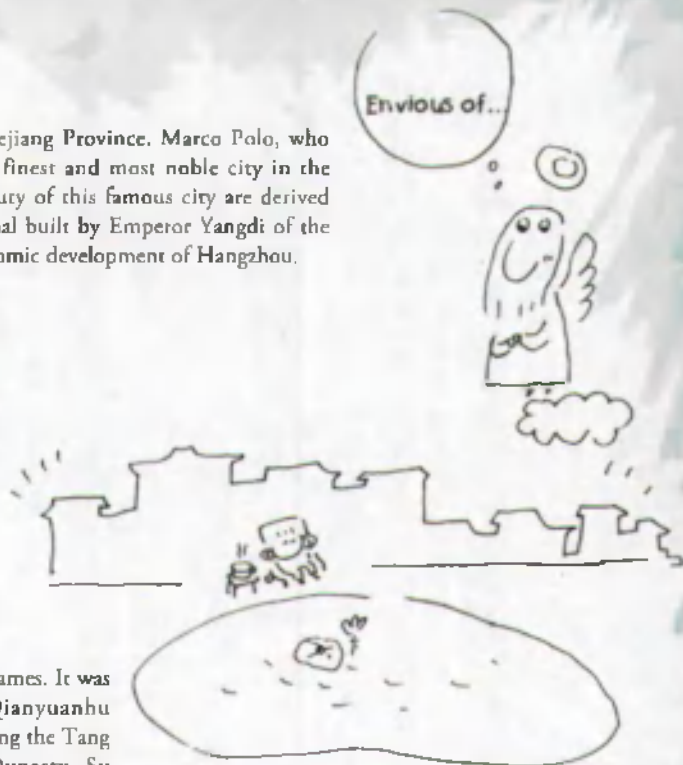
Gifted scholars
and beautiful ladies



Hangzhou

Hangzhou is the capital of Zhejiang Province. Marco Polo, who visited there, praised it as the finest and most noble city in the world. The prosperity and beauty of this famous city are derived from its water. The Grand Canal built by Emperor Yangdi of the Sui Dynasty, promoted the economic development of Hangzhou.

Just as there is a paradise in heaven there are Suzhou and Hangzhou on earth. The beauty of Hangzhou allows people to relax. Hangzhou is the place where all Chinese people would like to live.



The West Lake has had many names. It was called Longchuanhu Lake, Qianyuanhu Lake and Qiantanghu Lake during the Tang Dynasty. During the Song Dynasty, Su Dongpo wrote, "The West Lake looks like a fair lady at her best; whether she is richly adorned or plainly dressed"; hence the West Lake was called Xizi Lake.

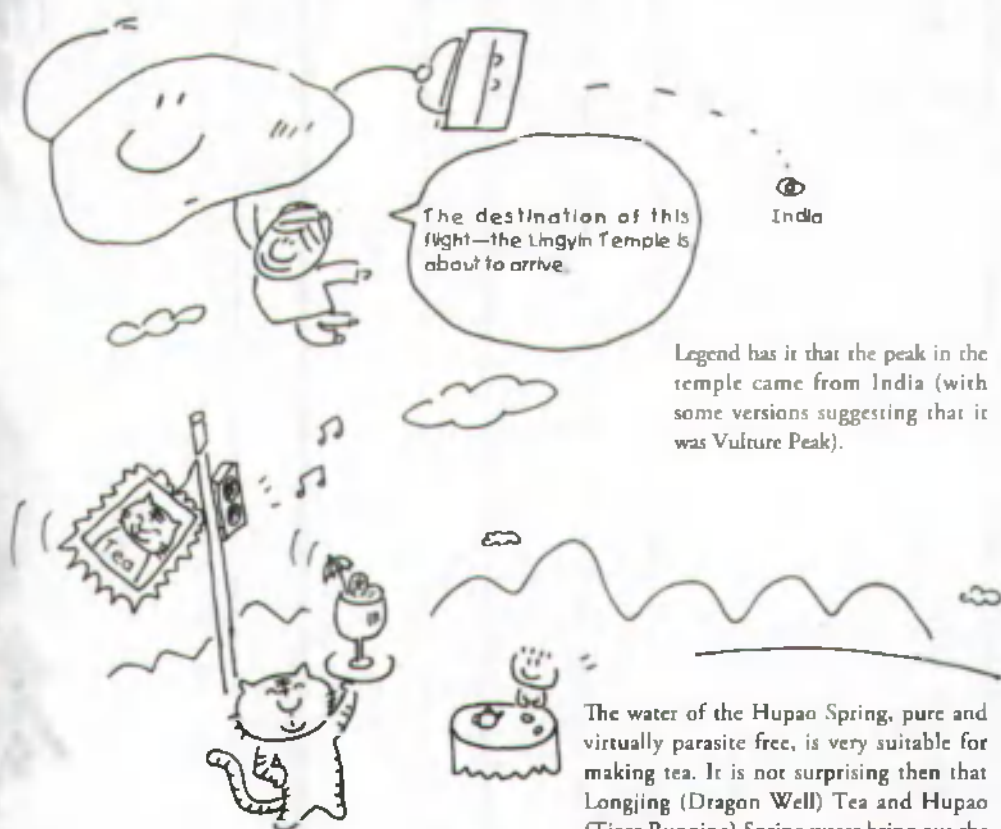
West Lake

The West Lake covers an area of 6.5 square km. It is divided into five parts by the Su and Bai causeways and these are: the Outer Lake, the North-Inner Lake, the Yuehu Lake, the Xilihu Lake, and the Xiaonanhu Lake. There are many islands on the lake and the best known of these is Solitary Hill. There are many beauty spots on the lake but they are narrowed down to the ten best beauty spots of the lake. Here are the names of five of them: the Lingering Snow on the Broken Bridge, the Spring Dawn on the Su Causeway, the Lotus Pool, the Viewing Fish at the Flower Pond, the Orioles Singing in the Willows, and the Three Pools Mirroring the Moon.



Lingyin Temple

The Lingyin Temple, standing at the foot of a hill north of the West Lake, is one of the ten Buddhist Temples of the Chan Sect. At its peak, during the Five Dynasties and Ten States, the temple had more than 3,000 monks. The Grand Hall of the Great Sage has triple eaves and is 33.6 metres tall. It has, as is traditional, a statue of Sakyamuni. The statue was carved from 100 pieces of camphor wood.



Legend has it that the peak in the temple came from India (with some versions suggesting that it was Vulture Peak).

The water of the Hupao Spring, pure and virtually parasite free, is very suitable for making tea. It is not surprising then that Longjing (Dragon Well) Tea and Hupao (Tiger Running) Spring water bring out the best in each other and are acknowledged as the "two wonders of West Lake".

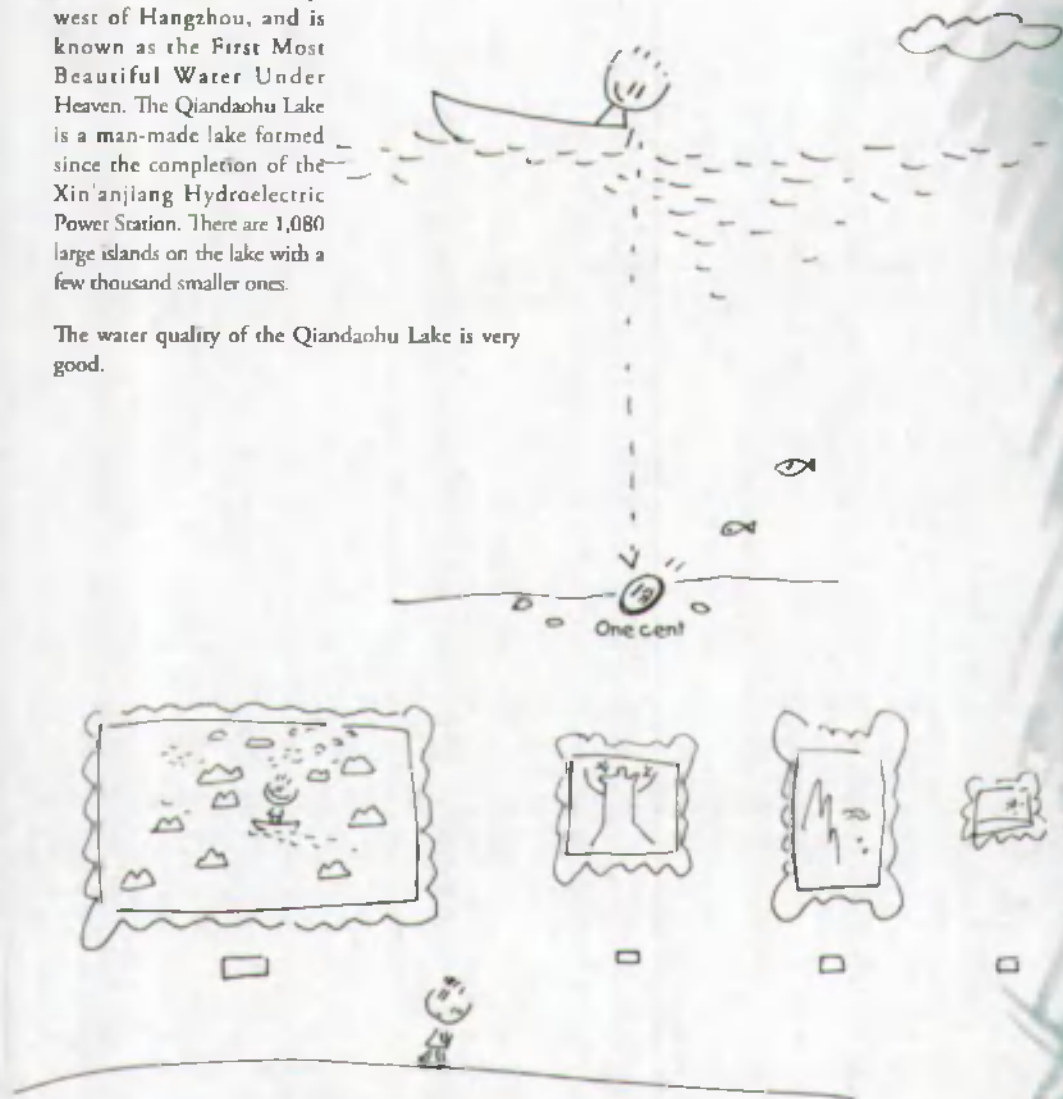
Hupao Spring

The Hupao Spring is located to the south of the West Lake. Legend has it that two tigers came here and dug a hole and the spring immediately gushed forth. Hence, the spring was named the Hupao Spring (the Tiger Running Spring). The Hupao Spring is ranked third in China, according to scientific research on the quality of its water. Most interestingly, the spring water rises three millimetres above the edge without overflowing. This is a scientific phenomenon made possible by the high surface tension of the spring water.

Qiandaohu Lake

The Qiandaohu Lake is located in Chun'an County, west of Hangzhou, and is known as the First Most Beautiful Water Under Heaven. The Qiandaohu Lake is a man-made lake formed since the completion of the Xin'anjiang Hydroelectric Power Station. There are 1,080 large islands on the lake with a few thousand smaller ones.

The water quality of the Qiandaohu Lake is very good.

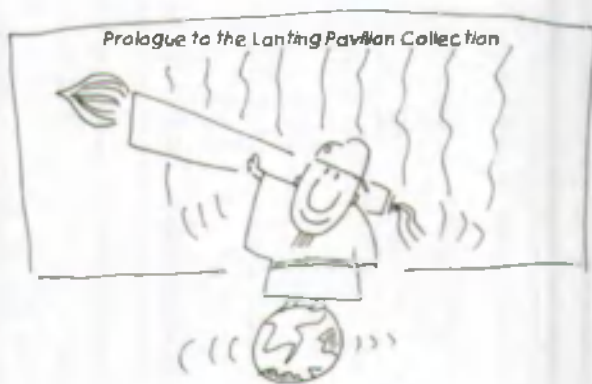


Covering an area of 580 square km, the Qiandaohu Lake is known as "a painting of green mountains, beautiful water, strange caves and odd stones".

Lanting Pavilion (Orchid Pavilion)

The Orchid Pavilion, 14 km southwest of Shaoxing City, is the Mecca for Chinese calligraphy art. It is said that this was the place where Gou Jian, the King of the State of Yue, planted orchids. There are many buildings around here including the Liushang Pavilion, the Goose Pond (Echi), the Imperial Stele Pavilion (Yubei Pavilion) and the Memorial Temple of Wang Youjun. At the Goose Pond (Echi), there is another pavilion which houses a stone tablet engraved with two Chinese characters: "鵝(É)池(Chí)" which are said to be Wang Xizhi's brush writing. On the Imperial Stele is a model of calligraphy of the full text of the *Prologue to the Lanting Pavilion Collection* copied by Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty.

In the spring of the 9th year of Emperor Yonghe's reign (early March 353) of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, Wang Xizhi, the "sage of calligraphers", invited his friends to come drinking and to write classical poetry conforming to a set pattern, by the Curved Stream (Qushui). Wang Xizhi wrote an article called *Prologue to the Lanting Pavilion Collection* while drunk. Eminent and praiseworthy in both calligraphy and literary talent this article became a masterpiece in these two fields. An International Calligraphy Festival is held here each year.



Shen's Garden

The Shen's Garden is a famous old garden in Shaoxing City. There is a poem from the Southern Song Dynasty about the tragic love between Lu You and Tang Wan, which is very moving. The Shen's Garden is the place where Lu You encountered Tang Wan with a broken heart.



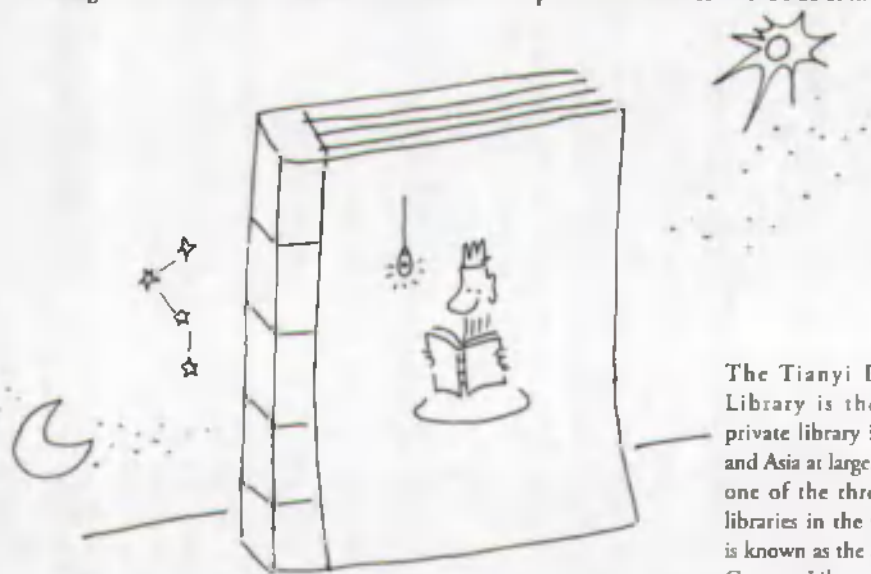
Lu You and Tang Wan were forced to divorce. The two met each other by chance in the Shen's Garden when both of them had remarried. Lu You wrote down the plaintive and touching poem *Phoenix Pin* on the wall of the Shen's Garden. One year before Lu You's death, he wrote two romantic poems *Shen's Garden* to commemorate his first love.

A story goes that Fan Qin got inspiration from a line in a book which goes "water comes from heaven". He built and compared his two-story pavilion to heaven and earth. He believed his structure could generate water to resist fire from the earth.



Tianyi Pavilion Library

The Tianyi Pavilion Library is located in downtown Ningbo City. The owner of the Tianyi Pavilion was Fan Qin, a deputy minister of defence of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). When the library was built he had a collection of about 300,000 books, 4,000 ancient calligraphies and paintings and 20,000 articles of all kinds. Inside the library is the Ningbo Historical Relics Exhibition Centre and the Ningbo Industrial Arts Exhibition. In front of it is a pool with rockeries on the side of it.

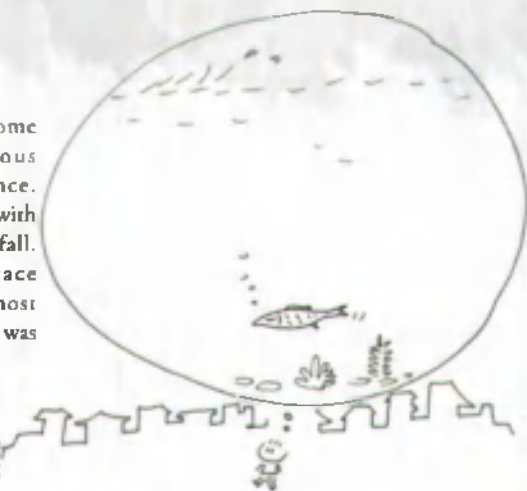


The Tianyi Pavilion Library is the oldest private library in China and Asia at large. It is also one of the three oldest libraries in the world. It is known as the Southern Country Library.

Former Residence of Chiang Kai-shek in Xikou

Xikou is the birthplace and ancestral home of Chiang Kai-shek. Xikou is a famous scenic area in eastern Zhejiang Province. Xuedoushan Mountain is very picturesque with lush green forests and a snow-like waterfall. On the mountain the Miaogao Terrace and Qianzhangyan Waterfalls are the most picturesque, where General Zhang Xueliang was once imprisoned.

Walking on the flagstone roads of Xikou and browsing the stories of the Chiang Family, one may get the real meaning of "Everything ends up in simple terms".



Putuoshan Mountain

The Putuoshan Mountain is one of the four sacred mountains in Buddhism, the others being the Wutaishan Mountain, the Jiuhuashan Mountain and the Emeishan Mountain (Bodhimandas for Manjushri, Ksitigarbha, and Samantabhadra, respectively). At its peak there were 300 temples on the island. Pantushi rock is known as the First Strange Stone under Heaven. It is considered the Bodhimanda of Avalokitesvara (Kwan-yin), a revered Bodhisattva in many parts of East Asia. The 29th day of the 2nd lunar month is the birthday of Kwan-yin, the 19th day of the 6th lunar month is the day she entered Buddhahood and the 19th day of the 9th lunar month is the day when Kwan-yin became a Buddha.

The Putuoshan Mountain is encircled by the sea and is known as the "maritime Buddhist nation".

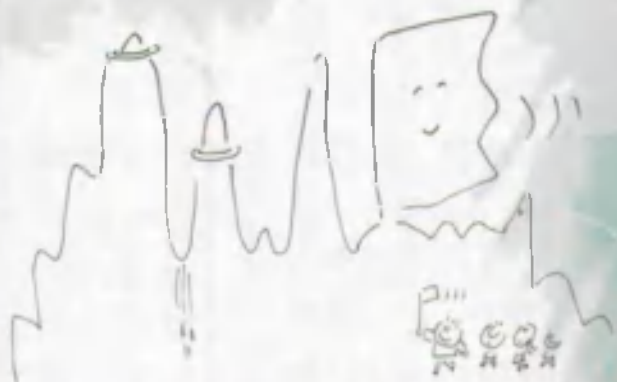


Roaming about the island you often meet the monks walking around wearing cassocks which gives a mysterious colour to the Buddha Kingdom.



Yandangshan Mountain

The Yandangshan Mountain which is known as the First Mountain in Southeast China has some 500 beauty spots. It is composed of eight scenic areas which are the Spiritual Peaks, the Spiritual Rocks, the Three-Step Waterfall, the Big Dragon Waterfall, the Goat-Horn Cave, the Wild Goose Lake, the Wonder-Displaying Gate and the Immortal Bridge. Of them the Spiritual Peaks, the Big Dragon Waterfall and the Spiritual Rocks are the three best.



Seen in the distance, the Fluttering Flag Peak is like a flag fluttering in the wind.



The performer made many difficult movements on the ropeway on the Nantianmen(Southern Heavenly Gate).



Changing Scenery

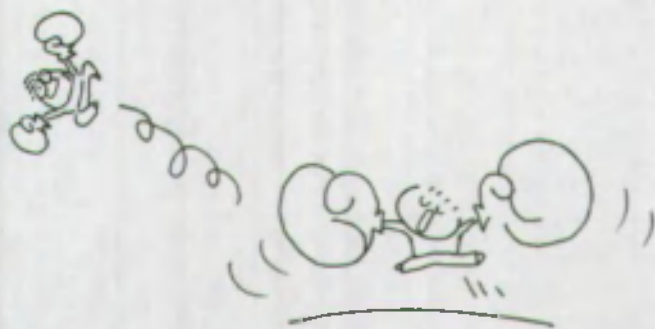


Visiting the mountain scenery and enjoying the seafood.



Working Hard to Win— Fujian

Fujian is one of the provinces on the southeastern coast of China. It faces Taiwan across the Taiwan Straits. With many rivers and green mountains it is known as the "kingdom of the mountains in southeast China". Over the past thousands of years, the Han people from the Central Plains moved towards the south frequently to avoid wars. They combined with the ancient native Yue people creating the Min Culture which is particular to Fujian Province. The landscape, historical sites, architecture, dialects, snacks and dishes constitute the Minyue way of life and the customs which are full of charm and vigour.







Local Specialities



Fotiaoqiang



Fish Balls



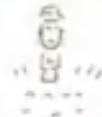
Eight-Taste Food



Chicken and
Carp Soup



Folk Customs



The Meizhou Mazu Festival



Hu'an women's Costume



Congou Tea



Special Local Products



Fuzhou Jasmine Tea



Fuzhou Bodiless
Lacquer Ware



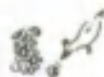
Wuyi Rock Tea



Da Hong Pao Tea



Zhangzhou
Daffodils



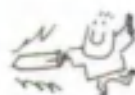
Putian Lichees



Shoushan Stone Carvings



Impression on the Local People



Exploitation spirit



High IQ and EQ



Go all out in doing things

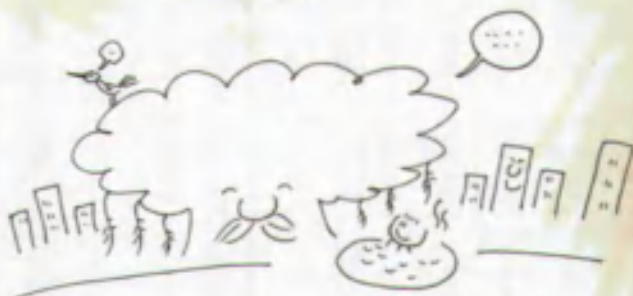


Capable girls

Fuzhou

Fuzhou is the capital of Fujian Province. It is a famous city in southeast China with a long history and a well developed port.

In the Song Dynasty (960-1127) Banyan trees could be found everywhere in Fuzhou, hence the name "City of Banyan Trees." Fuzhou is famous for its widespread hot springs which have a high temperature and good quality water, so Fuzhou is known as the "City of the Hot Springs".



Sanfang-Qixiang

A fair number of laneways and alleys built during the Tang and Song Dynasties have been preserved in Fuzhou. Among them the Sanfang-Qixiang (three lanes and seven alleys) group in the heart of downtown Fuzhou is the most famous.

Sanfang (three lanes) includes Yijin Fang, Guanglu Fang and Wenru Fang. Qixiang (seven alleys) refers to Yangqiao Xiang, Langguan Xiang, Huang Xiang, Anmin Xiang, Gong Xiang, Ta Xiang and Jipi Xiang.



Sanfang-Qixiang has all the features of the traditional houses in Minyue ancient cities. This is a place where the Minjiang River culture can be seen and felt. This area has been praised by many architects as the "architectural museum of the Ming and Qing Dynasties".

Gushan Mountain

Gushan Mountain is located in southeast Fuzhou with lush vegetation all the year round. The historic sites on the mountain centre on the Yongquan Temple built in 908. Inside the temple there are examples of the Song Dynasty Pottery along with some Thousand-Buddha Pagodas and a white jade reclining Buddha.



Legend has it that on the top of the mountain there is a huge flat stone like a drum. When it rains you can hear a rumbling drumbeat from the mountain, hence the name "Drum Mountain".

An impressive array of inscriptions on rocks can be found everywhere on the Gushan Mountain. There are many inscriptions by celebrities of past dynasties which give them a very high cultural relic's value. There are more than 300 inscriptions on rocks on the mountain and of them 109 were engraved during the Song Dynasty.



Wuyishan Mountain

The Wuyishan Mountain, located in the north of Fujian Province, is famous for its eroded red sandstone terrain. Sheer red sandstone erect on both banks of the mountain streams. This beautiful scenery is a blend of the strangeness of the Huangshan Mountain and the beauty of Guilin. The Wuyishan Mountain is also known as the Green Water and Red Mountain to the south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River. The Wuyishan Mountain was entered into UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites, both natural and cultural. One beauty spot area is the Jiuquxi River (the Nine-Bend River) flanked by 36 peaks and 99 crags.



The Wuyishan Mountain is home to the largest and most representative example of Chinese subtropical forests and the biodiversity of the south Chinese rainforests.



The Yunv (Jade Lady) Peak facing the Hantan Pool is the very image of a graceful girl, hence the name. It is a symbol of the Wuyishan Mountain.



The Tianyou Peak towers in the middle of the Jiuquxi River. On top of the peak stands the Tianyou Temple. I lodged in the temple for the night, which gave me an opportunity to watch the stars at night and enjoy the sunrise in the morning...

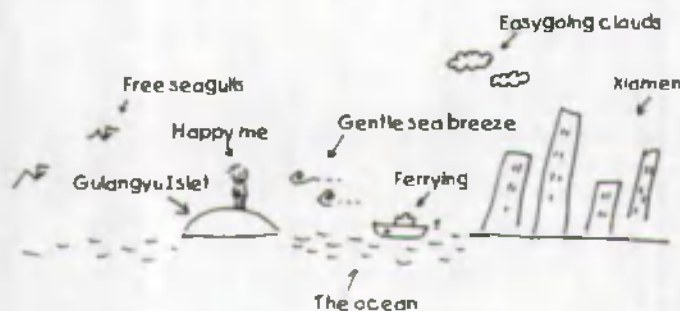


Xiamen

Located in southeast China, Xiamen is one of the best places suitable for human habitation. It has pleasant climate and beautiful scenery.

Gulangyu Islet

It got its present name from the huge reef surrounding it. When the tide comes in, the waves pound the reef and it sounds like the beating of a drum. The island came to be named Gulang. Gu in Chinese means "drum", and Lang "waves". Some countries including Great Britain and the US established consulates, churches and hospitals here turning the island into a concession. A lot of foreign-style buildings are still found on the islet.



The Gulang Islet, known as the "Garden on the Sea", faces Xiamen City across the sea. This well known islet covers an area of less than two square km.



The Gulangyu Islet known as the "Island of Music" ranks first in the per capita ratio of pianos in China. There are more than 100 well-known music families. "Beneath the moon and in the wind, the voice of the piano is melodious".

Earthenwork Buildings

Around Yongding County in southwest Fujian Province there are many houses of a unique architectural style. They are earthenwork buildings and are of great scientific value as well as interesting to see.

The earthenwork buildings in Yongding County are divided into two kinds: square and circular. Around

Yongding, in the west of Fujian Province, there are 4,000 square buildings and 360 round ones, which are quite breathtaking. The buildings are usually formed in two or three circles. The outer circle can be as high as 10 meters (31 feet) and its four stories may hold between 100 and 200 rooms. The kitchen and dining room are to be found on the first or ground floor. The second floor is used as warehousing, and the third and fourth floors contain the bedrooms.

The Chengqi Building, known as the King of Earthenwork Buildings, has four stories and four circles which makes it the round earthenwork building with the most circles. There are 72 rooms on each story. The whole building could house more than 600 people at its peak. What a big family!

This type of building provides a solid defence from enemies. The earthenwork buildings are made from rammed earth and timber without any sign of concrete or steel.

Qingyuanshan Mountain

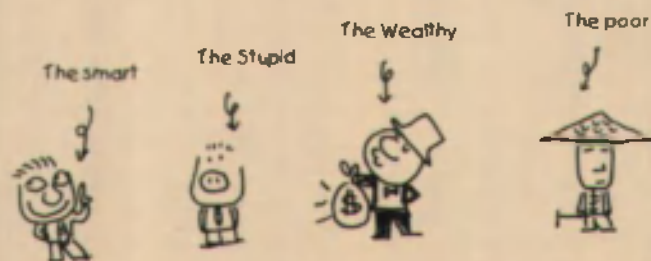
Located in the northern suburb of Quanzhou, the Qingyuanshan Mountain is so famous for its clear springs and strange stones that it was a tourist attraction in south Fujian in ancient times. There are many spring sources on the Qingyuanshan Mountain, hence the nickname Quanshan Mountain (Spring Mountain). The mountain towers into the sky, hence the name the Qiyunshan Mountain. The mountain is located in the north of the city, hence the name the Beishan Mountain (North Mountain). There are three peaks on the mountain, hence the name Santaishan Mountain (Three-Terrace Mountain).

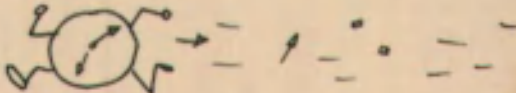
Near the Qingyuanshan Mountain is a granite statue of a Song Dynasty Taoist saint. The statue is six meters high. This is the largest Taoist sculpture in China. It is known as "Lao Zi the No.1 under Heaven". "The Tao produces the one. The one produces the two. The two produces the three. The three produces all beings." The wisdom of Lao Zi is truly very influential in Chinese philosophy.

Tao produces...

Chan Realization

When
The smart
The Stupid
The Wealthy
The poor
Lived for years,
All are 50 years old



Lived for years, 

All are 50 years old ...



The First to Strike It Rich in China— Guangdong

Guangdong Province is called Yue for short. Known as the south gate of China, it is one of the most developed regions in China. It has a long coastline facing the South China Sea and lies to the south of the Nanling Mountains. It is very hilly with the Nanling Mountains in the north and along the coast are the Pearl River Delta and the Chaoshan Plain.







Local Specialities

Steamed Pork with
Preserved Vegetables
Casserole



Morning Tea (Cantonese
Barbecued Pork Bun, Shrimp
Dumplings, Rice Noodles)

Fengkai Xinghua
Chicken



Snake Banquet

Salted Roast
Chicken

Golden Roasted
Suckling Pig



Folk Customs



Drinking Morning Tea



Cantonese Opera



Lunar New Year
Flower Market



Special Local Products



Lichees (Eating 300 lichees a day,
I'd rather stay here permanently
-Song Dynasty, Su Shi)



Mangos



Cantonese Mooncake



Pineapples



Guangdong
Embroidery



Superior Light
Soy Sauce



Wife Cookies



Impression on the Local People



Very smart



Good at human
relations



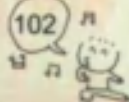
Canny



Love to cook



Guangdong girls
are able-minded



Guangzhou

Guangzhou is the capital of Guangdong Province. Flowers are abundant here and their fragrance can be smelt all year round. The region produces many products and has a highly developed food culture.



The city's nickname is Yangcheng (the City of Rams). The bustling metropolis and the quiet ram form an interesting contrast.



Baiyunshan Mountain

The Baiyunshan Mountain has been known as the First Beauty of the City of Rams from olden times. Its main peak, Moxingling Peak, which is 382 meters above sea level is known as the First Peak in the Southern Sky as well as being the highest point in Guangzhou. On the mountain, the forest is lush, birds sing and flowers are in constant bloom.

When the sun comes out after the rain the white clouds float around the green mountains making some beautiful views and so it is called the Baiyunshan Mountain.



Yuexiushan Mountain

Yuexiushan Mountain is covered with lush forest and has numerous historic sites. The Zhenhai Building (the Guangzhou Museum), the Five-Ram Stone and the Yuewang Stone are all on the mountain.

There is a story told that sometime during the Zhou Dynasty (1046 BC-256 BC) there had been a famine for some years. The fields were deserted and people were starving. One day some beautiful music came from heaven accompanied by five colourful clouds. Five immortals dressed in colourful gowns, riding on rams with wool of various colours and miller in their mouths were in the clouds. They landed in Guangzhou. The immortals listened to the local people and prayed for the land to be free from famine. Having finished their prayer they rose up and disappeared into the sky. The five rams remained on the hillside and changed into stone rams. Ever since then Guangzhou has had a bumper grain harvest every year. The area has become the richest in South China. Legend has it that the Five Immortals Temple was where the five immortals flew down to. Guangzhou people built a temple especially in their memory. In the Grand Hall there are statues of the Celestial Beings and the rams.

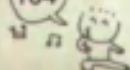
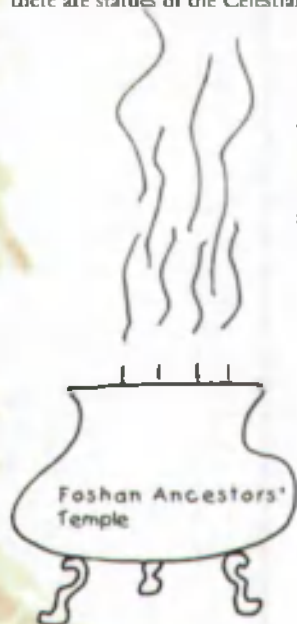


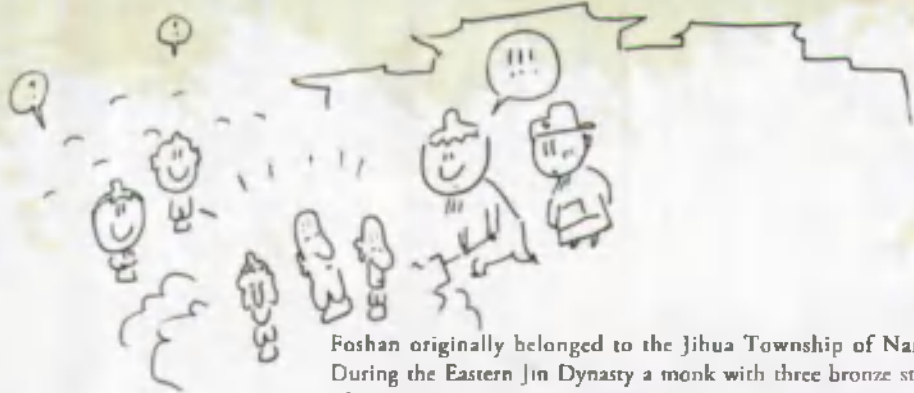
Baiyun Mountain is full of great momentum and vigour with its undulating mountains and staggering cliffs.

Foshan Ancestors' Temple

Located on Zumiao Lu in downtown Foshan, the Ancestors' Temple was built during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) and was rebuilt in the 5th year (1372) of Emperor Hongwu's reign of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It is well-known for its exquisite architectural style and is full of the characteristics of the Five Ridges. It now houses the Foshan Museum.

Those who come here, man or women, old or young, high ranking official or common people, show piety.





Foshan originally belonged to the Jihua Township of Nanhai. During the Eastern Jin Dynasty a monk with three bronze statues of Buddha came here to spread Buddhism and built a temple. Later the temple collapsed. During the reign of Emperor Zhenguan of the Tang Dynasty the three Buddha statues were unearthed in the area. People felt it was supernatural and changed the name of the place from Jinghua Township to Foshan.

Shenzhen

The tremendous pace of the modernization drive changes the appearance of Shenzhen continually. High-rise buildings can be found everywhere in the city. The sculpture corridor on the Shennan Dadao Road stretches one km.



Shenzhen, which was a small fishing village more than 20 years ago, is the youngest metropolis as well as one of the fastest growing cities in China.

Splendid China

The Splendid China, on the Shennan Dadao Road, covers an area of 300,000 square km and is the largest miniature park in the world. Replicas of some 100 scenic areas including imperial palaces, temples, pagodas and pavilions are positioned according to their geographical locations. Most replicas are constructed on a scale of 1:15, exceeding the international practice which is a scale of 1:25.



One single step through history; one single day across China

Window of the World

The Window of the World occupies an area of 480,000 square metres. The World Square is the centre of the park. At nightfall, illuminated by spotlights, the carnival art tour of ethnic song and dance is something to see. On International Street you can taste different food from many countries and buy traditional handicrafts also from many countries.



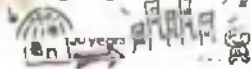
The park has 118 magnificent attractions which are grouped into nine areas, the World Square, the Asian Area, the Oceanic Area, the European Area, the African Area, the American Area, the Recreational Centre of Modern Science & Technology, the Sculpture Park and International Street. It gathers together the best and most famous architecture from all the continents in the world. The Pyramids of Egypt, France's Arc de Triomphe, India's Taj Mahal, France's Eiffel Tower and Australia's Sydney Opera House are all here built on different scales.

It is a large cultural tourism area mainly showing national landmarks, customs and folk dances. Here, one can enjoy all the wonders of the world...



Impression on Shenzhen

A Small Fishing Village \ metropolis



Develop rapidly



In a hurry to go on a trip



We all are the bosses



Downright
Hong Kong style



All corners of the land



Big pressure

Dinghushan Mountain in Zhaoqing

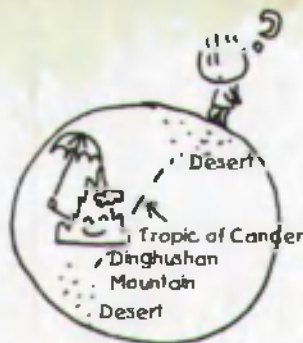
The Dinghushan Mountain is a famous mountain to the south of the Five Ridges. There is a lake on top of it. The Qingyun Temple, an ancient temple on the mountain, is one of the four famous temples in the southern area of the Five Ridges. It has three main scenic areas, i.e., the Tianxi (Heavenly Brook) Scenic Area, the Tianhu (Heavenly Lake) Scenic Area and the Yunxi (Cloud Brook) Scenic Area. The architecture blends in well with the natural scenery.

The Tropic of Cancer passes through 16 countries and regions. The areas which it passes through are mostly arid desert, but the Dinghushan is the only oasis covering an area of 1,133 hectares. It is also among the first group of designated scientific research stations of the UN called Man and a Natural Biosphere.

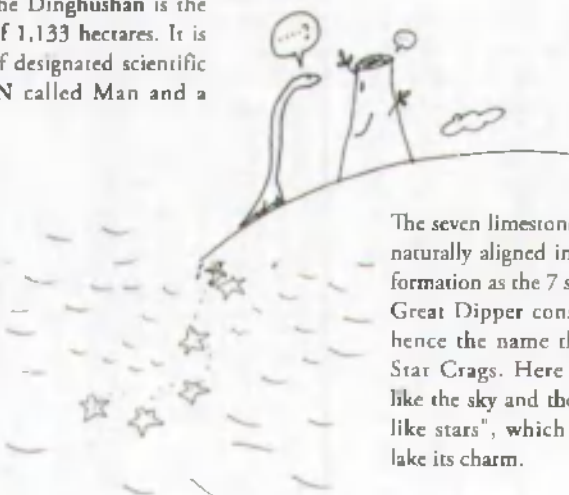
Seven-Star Crag in Zhaoqing

Zhaoqing is a famous tourist destination. Seven-Star Crag, also known as the Xinghu Lake (Star Lake), is located four km north of Zhaoqing City. Seven limestone peaks are scattered through the lake.

The Seven-Star Crag has the most and best-preserved inscriptions on the cliffs known as the "1,000-year-old poem corridor". There are about 500 inscriptions, most of which are concentrated on the *Stone Chamber Rock* (Shishiyan). There are inscriptions from all the dynasties since the Tang and Song Dynasties. The oldest one is the *Stone Cabin in Duanzhou* which was written in the 65th year (777) of Emperor Kaiyuan's reign of the Tang Dynasty.



Dinghushan Mountain is home to 1,843 species of higher altitude wild plants.



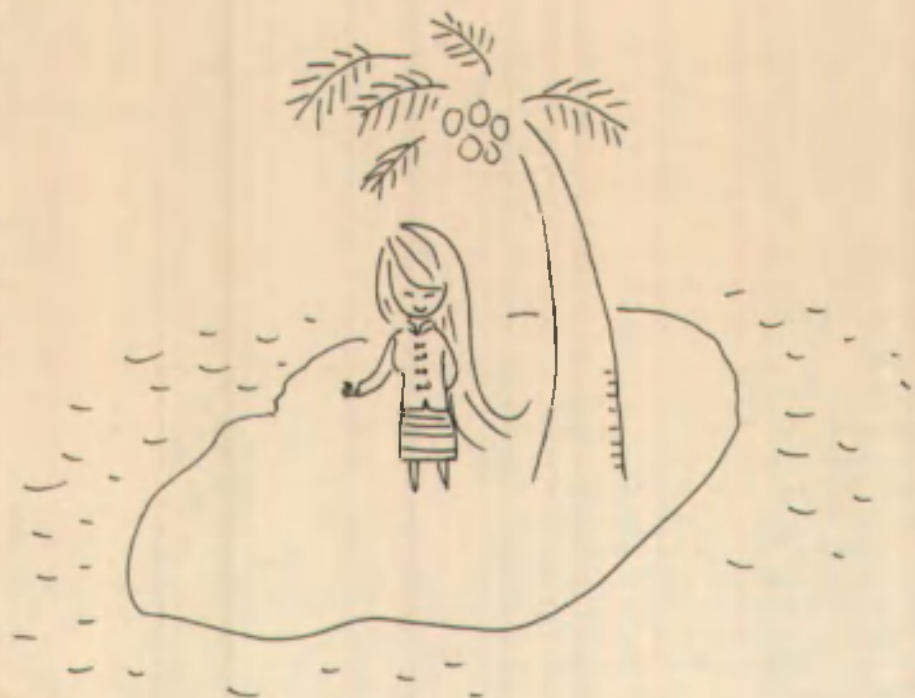
The seven limestone crags are naturally aligned in the same formation as the 7 stars of the Great Dipper constellation, hence the name the Seven-Star Crag. Here "water is like the sky and the crags are like stars", which gives the lake its charm.

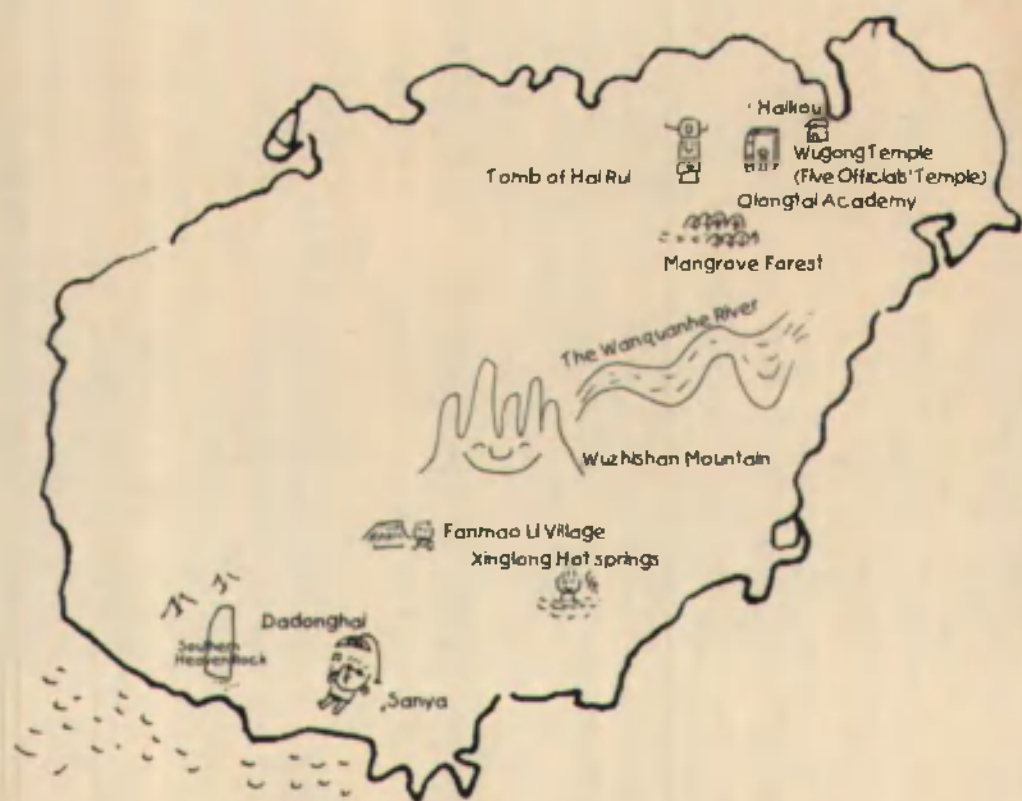


A Land Full of Charms— Hainan



Hainan is the largest oceanic province and the smallest land province in China. It has one-third of the national total oceanic area. Its administrative regions are the Hainan Island, the Xisha Islands, the Zhongsha Islands and the Nansha Islands. Of them, the Hainan Island, covering an area of approximately 34,000 square km, is China's second largest island after Taiwan. With some very picturesque scenery and four pleasant seasons, it is a paradise for holiday making.







Local Specialities



Coconut Rice



Dongshan Mutton



Wenchang Chicken



Roasted Scallop



Jiali Duck



Steamed Grouper



Bamboo-tube Rice Unique to the LI Ethnic Group



Folk Customs



Hainan Island Coconut Festival



Danzhou Folk Song



Bamboo Dance



Chewing Betel-nut



Special Local Products



Coffee



Coconuts



Shells



Betel-nuts



Pepper



Coconut Shell Carving



Impression on the Local People



It is difficult to follow Hainan Dialect.



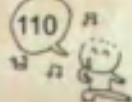
Life of leisure



Unrestrained



Strong Hainan Island consciousness





Haikou

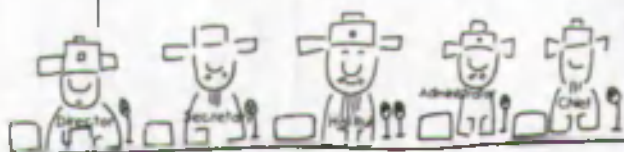
Haikou is the capital of Hainan Province. Owing to the large number of coconut trees located in the city Haikou is known as Coconut City. The buildings are hemmed in by the clear ocean on one side and green trees on the other.

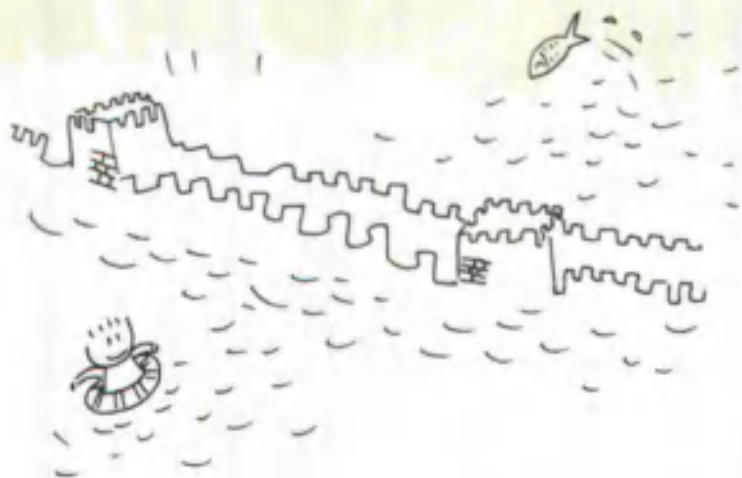
Haikou is such an easy-going place that the people walking there feel like whistling.

Tomb of Hai Rui

Hai Rui is a well-known honest and upright official in Chinese history, who is equally as famous as Lord Bao (the revered name of Bao Zheng, an official of the Song Dynasty), and is known as Blue-Sky Hai. Hai Rui was born in Qiongsan, Hainan. His tomb lies in the western suburb of Haikou City. Legend has it that when the coffin was carried to the very spot where the present tomb is situated, the rope of the coffin broke and people believed that this was the place that Hai Rui chose himself. Thus the tomb was built on that spot.

Report on the Honest and Upright Stories of Hai Rui





Dongzhai Port Mangrove Forest

Mangrove forests are a very special flora on the beaches of tropical and subtropical areas. The Dongzhai Port Mangrove Forest is located in the southeast of Haikou, known as the Garden on the Sea.

Mangrove forests are reputed as the "bodyguards of coastal areas" because their developed, stout, crooked, long roots clutching at the beach are a natural barrier resisting the force of the sea. Viewed from the sea the lush green forest stands in the seawater like an unfading great green wall.



When the tide is rising, the mangrove forest is bathing in the sea with the verdant crowns of the trees in the air. If you travel by yacht along the wide groves it looks as if you are inspecting the "green guardsmen" in a military review.

Wanquanhe River

The Wanquanhe River combines the scenery of three rivers (the Wanquanhe River, the Longgun River and the Jiuqujiang River), three islands (the Dongyu Island, the Shapo Island and the Yuanyang Island), two ports (the Bo'ao Port and the Tanmen Port) and one stone (the Shengggong Stone). It boasts the sea, beach, forest and bright sunshine. The Wanquanhe River, originating in the Wuzhishan Mountain, is 170 km in length. On the upper reaches it is flanked with peaks while on the middle and lower reaches the river water is smooth and clean. The story of the famous *Red Detachment of Women* took place here.

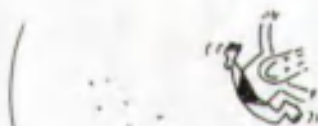
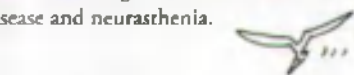


Xinglong Hot Springs

The Xinglong Hot Springs are located in Wanning City in Hainan Province. Sanatoriums built near the hot springs have lush green vegetation as a result. The Xinglong Hot Springs contain mineral elements and are kept at around 60 degree Centigrade. They have an outstanding curative effect on skin disease and neurasthenia.



Around the hot springs are many holiday villages where the people appear to be happy and harmonious.



Sanya

- Sanya is the most southern city in China. The vast sea, the clear blue sky, bright sunshine and graceful coconut trees combine to make Sanya a place where one unwinds the body and soul.

Dadonghai

Dadonghai is located in between the Tuziwei (Rabbit Tail) and Luhuirou (Deer Returning His Head) Mountains some three km from downtown Sanya. With clear sea water, a fine sandy beach and green trees stretching along and away from the beach, it is a wonderful place for entertainment.

At Dadonghai, you may...



Lift your voice and sing



...have a bee in your head



Dive



Play beach volleyball



Pick up sea shells



Brave the wind and the waves



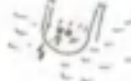
Surf



Eat seafood



Swim freely



Choke yourself

Standing on the Cape Tian-Ya-Hai-Jiao, I can see that the horizon in the distance is far away and dim. At that moment I feel as if I truly came to Tian-Ya-Hai-Jiao.

See the Southern Heaven Rock

Cape Tian-Ya-Hai-Jiao

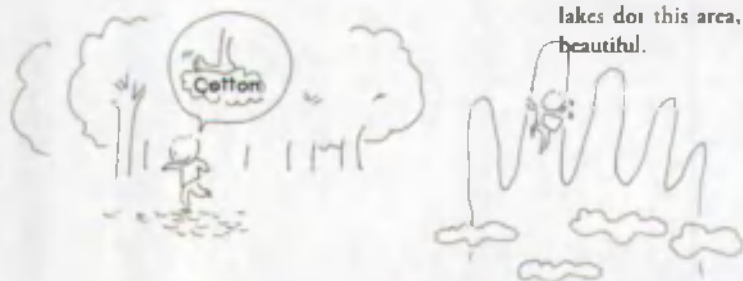
Cape Tian-Ya-Hai-Jiao is located 23 km west of Sanya City. The Hainan Island is a place to where criminal officials were exiled during the feudal dynasties. The first people who came here saw the endless sea and sky and felt as if they were in a remote place, hence the Cape Tian-Ya-Hai-Jiao which means the End of the Land and Sea. The huge rocks inscribed with the Chinese characters of "Tian-Ya", "Hai-Jiao" and "Southern Heaven Rock" tower on the sea shore are the landmarks of Hainan Province.

Every year the Tian-Ya-Hai-Jiao International Wedding Festival is held here during which the lovers swear, "I will follow you to Tian-Ya-Hai-Jiao and I will love you until the seas run dry and the rocks crumble"...



Wuzhishan Mountain

The Wuzhishan (Five Fingers) Mountain towers up at the center of the Hainan Island. The Tongshi City (Wuzhishan City) is located in the hinterland of these mountains. The Wuzhishan Mountain consists of five peaks shaped like five fingers, hence the name. The second finger with an elevation of 1,876 meters is the highest peak. Tropical rain forest covers the cloud-shrouded ranges. The Wanquan River as well as other rivers of Hainan Province all rise in the mountains. Streams and lakes dot this area, and the scenery is ravishingly beautiful.

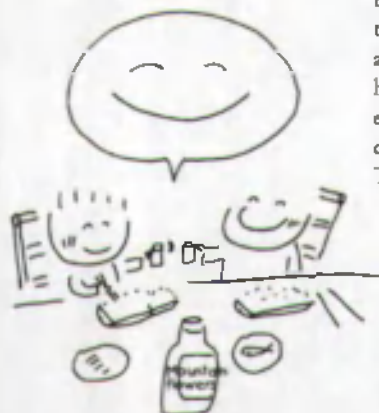


In the forest, during the autumn the leaves on the ground can be as much as 50 cm deep. When you stroll there, you will feel like you are stepping on cotton.

The Wuzhishan Mountain is the "green heart" of the Hainan Island, and is definitely worth a trip. Tourists can visit the first finger and the second finger.

Li Village

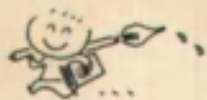
The Li Village is situated in a suburb of Wuzhishan City. There are traditional bamboo houses in the style of the Li ethnic group in the village. Various traditional Li tools and household implements and some musical instruments are displayed in the bamboo houses. From these, visitors can experience the culture of the Li ethnic group. They can also enjoy a performance of traditional Li dancing, and buy handicrafts with typical Li features in the village. The whole village is a showcase of vibrant Li culture.



In the Li Village, visitors can sample the glutinous rice stuffed in bamboo tubes and the mountain flowers wine. It is a great experience to have a good chat with friends over wine.

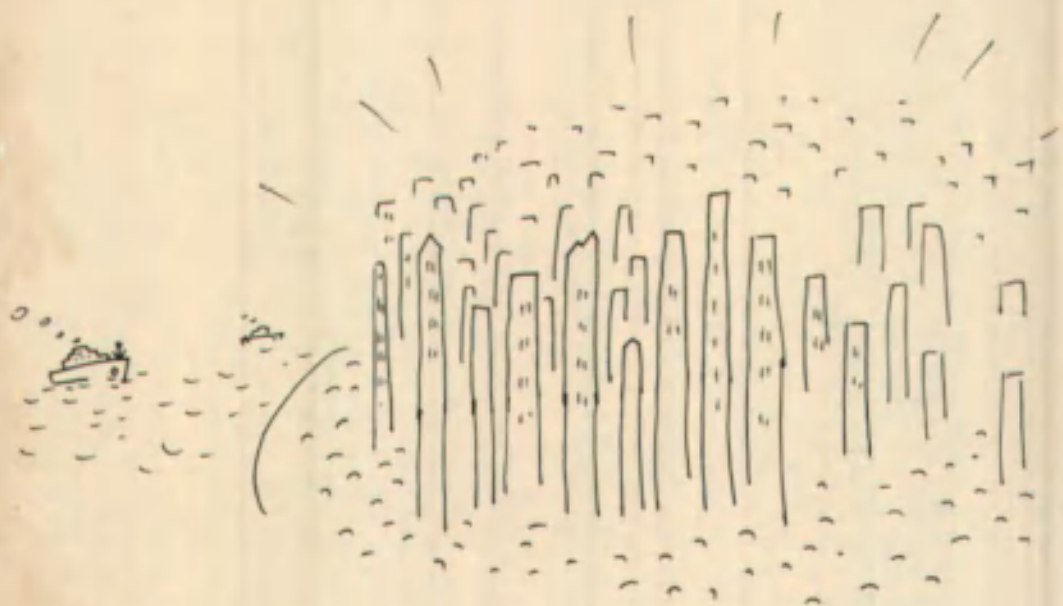


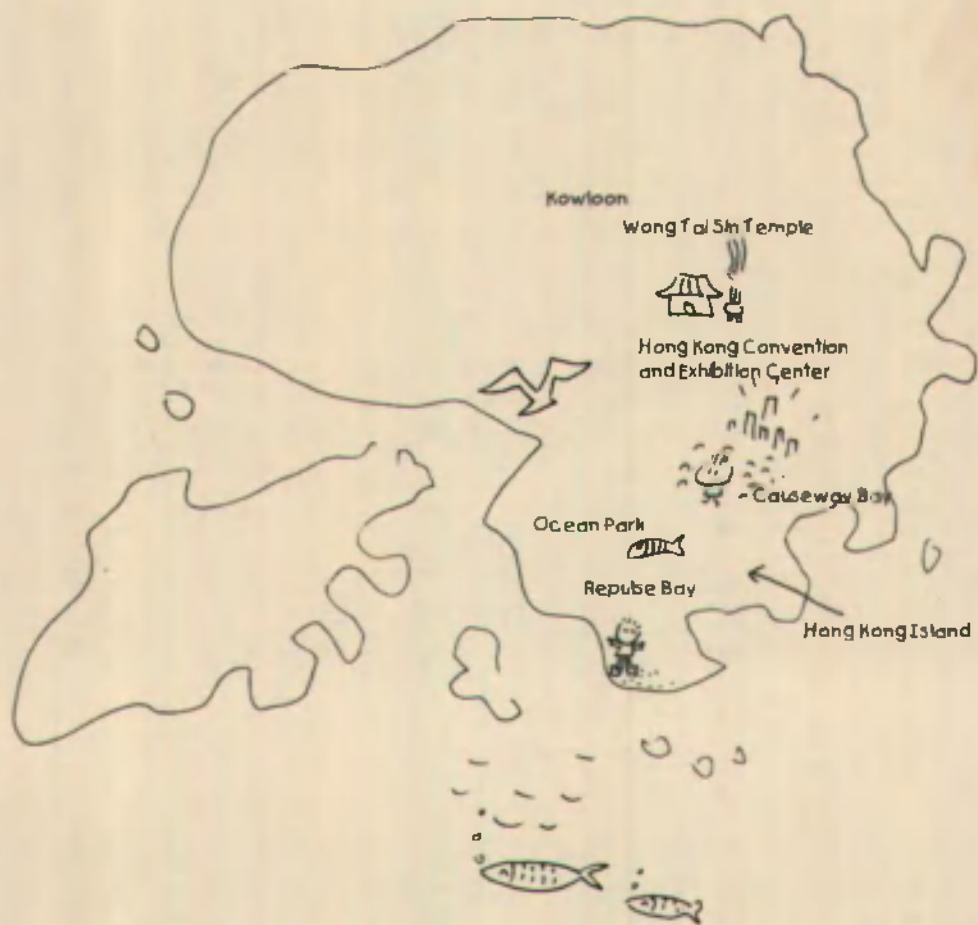
The Li people are known for their bamboo dance. People dance between the bamboo rods to the rhythm of the music and the strain of drumbeats. Some are relaxed, and some are nervous.



Pearl of the Orient— Hong Kong

Hong Kong is hailed as the Pearl of the Orient. It is divided into Hong Kong Island, the New Territories, Kowloon and the Outlying Islands. Hong Kong is a new booming city. It has home to numerous marvels and legends and offers great attractions for visitors. Its world-leading building design, quick pace of life and fashionable entertainment are all legendary.







Local Specialities



Folk Customs



Wong Tai Sin Temple



Lan Kwai Fong Bar Streets



A Shopping Paradise



Special Local Products



Toys



Electronic Products



Ready-made Clothes



Camellia



Butterfly



Grouper



Impression on the Local People



Working hard



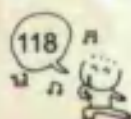
Professional devotion



Fittingly dressed and talking refinedly

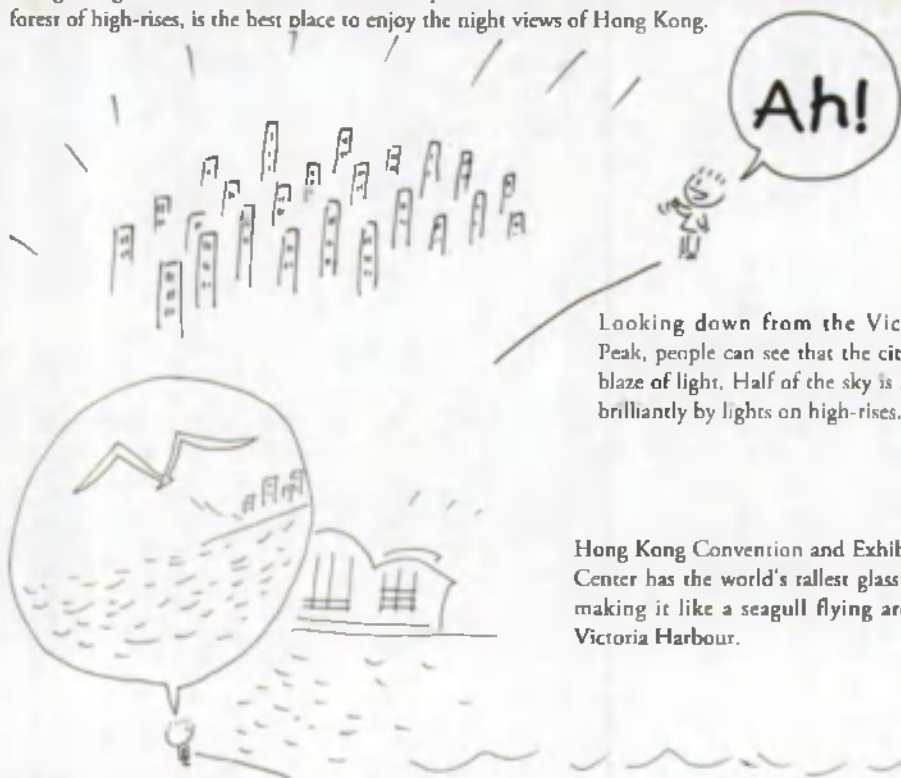


Fashionable Hong Kong girls



Victoria Peak

The Victoria Peak, 554 meters above sea level, is the highest peak in western Hong Kong Island. Looking down from the Peak, people can have a bird's eye view of Hong Kong and the Victoria Harbour. The landscapes in Hong Kong and Kowloon are thrilling for visitors. When night falls, the Hong Kong Island and Kowloon shine like pearls in the Victoria Harbour. The Central District, a forest of high-rises, is the best place to enjoy the night views of Hong Kong.



Looking down from the Victoria Peak, people can see that the city is a blaze of light. Half of the sky is lit up brilliantly by lights on high-rises.

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center has the world's tallest glass wall, making it like a seagull flying around Victoria Harbour.

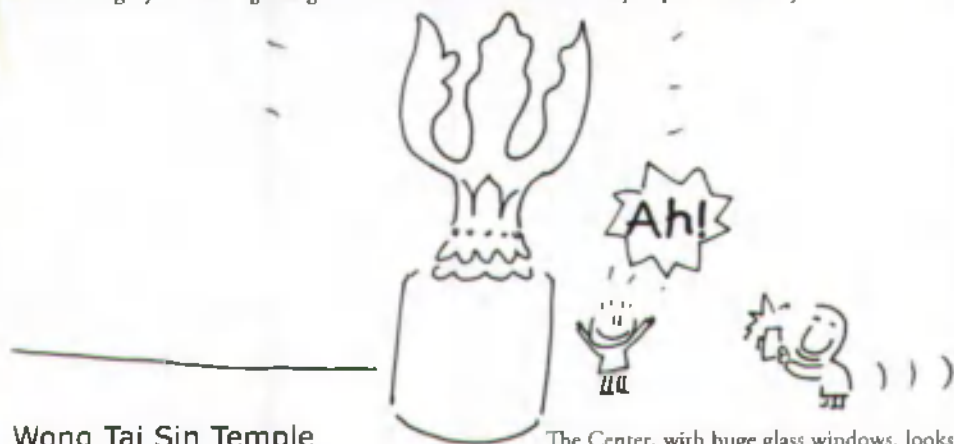
Ocean Park

The Ocean Park is one of the largest amusement parks in Southeast Asia. It is a major attraction which combines spectacular ocean and leisure facilities. Travelers can see the whole area by cable car. Tourists can view a variety of beautiful corals through glass windows. Dolphins and killer whales stage a wonderful performance. In addition, travelers can view seals and penguins, visit the Bird Paradise, the Shark Aquarium and the Butterfly House.



Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center

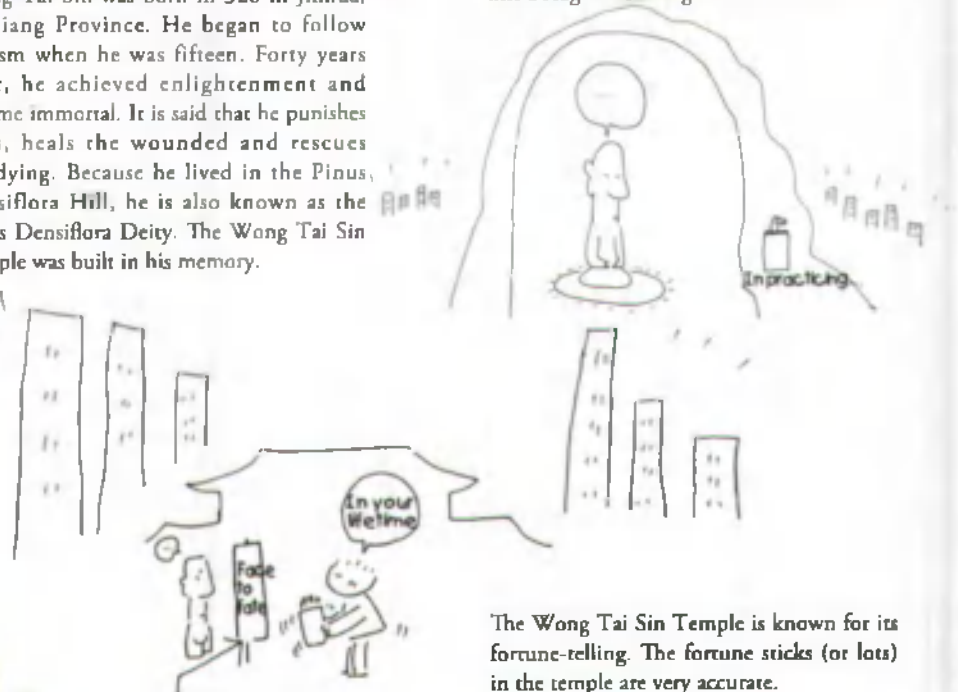
On the Golden Bauhinia Square neighboring the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center stands a beautiful figure of golden bauhinia. It symbolizes the fact that China exercises jurisdiction and sovereignty over Hong Kong, and that China is a unified and prosperous country.



Wong Tai Sin Temple

Wong Tai Sin was born in 328 in Jinhua, Zhejiang Province. He began to follow Taoism when he was fifteen. Forty years later, he achieved enlightenment and became immortal. It is said that he punishes evils, heals the wounded and rescues the dying. Because he lived in the Pinus, Densiflora Hill, he is also known as the Pinus Densiflora Deity. The Wong Tai Sin Temple was built in his memory.

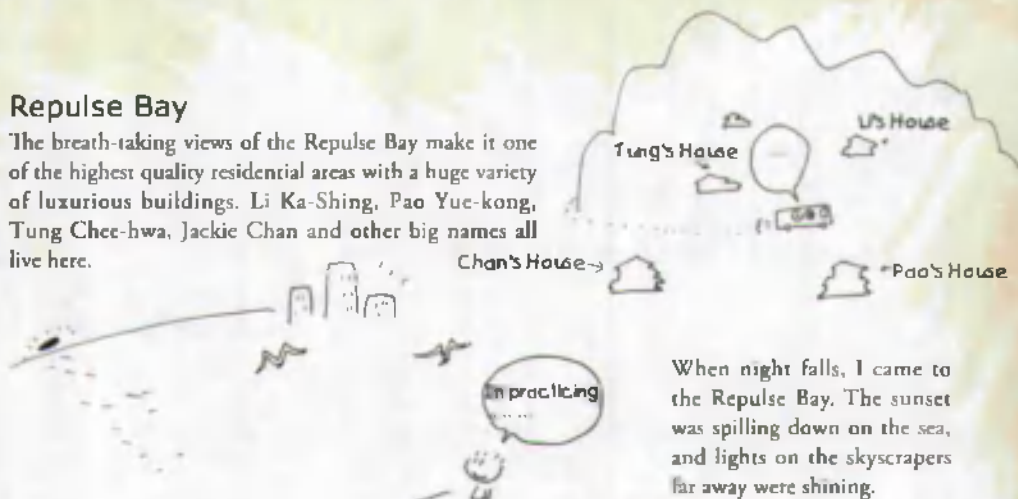
The Center, with huge glass windows, looks like a seagull hovering around the sea.



The Wong Tai Sin Temple is known for its fortune-telling. The fortune sticks (or lots) in the temple are very accurate.

Repulse Bay

The breath-taking views of the Repulse Bay make it one of the highest quality residential areas with a huge variety of luxurious buildings. Li Ka-Shing, Pao Yue-kong, Tung Chee-hwa, Jackie Chan and other big names all live here.



When night falls, I came to the Repulse Bay. The sunset was spilling down on the sea, and lights on the skyscrapers far away were shining.

Causeway Bay

The Causeway Bay is the most prosperous business block in Hong Kong. It is a forest of high-rises gathering businessmen from all over the world. People can enjoy a rich and colorful night life here.



Hong Kong Disneyland

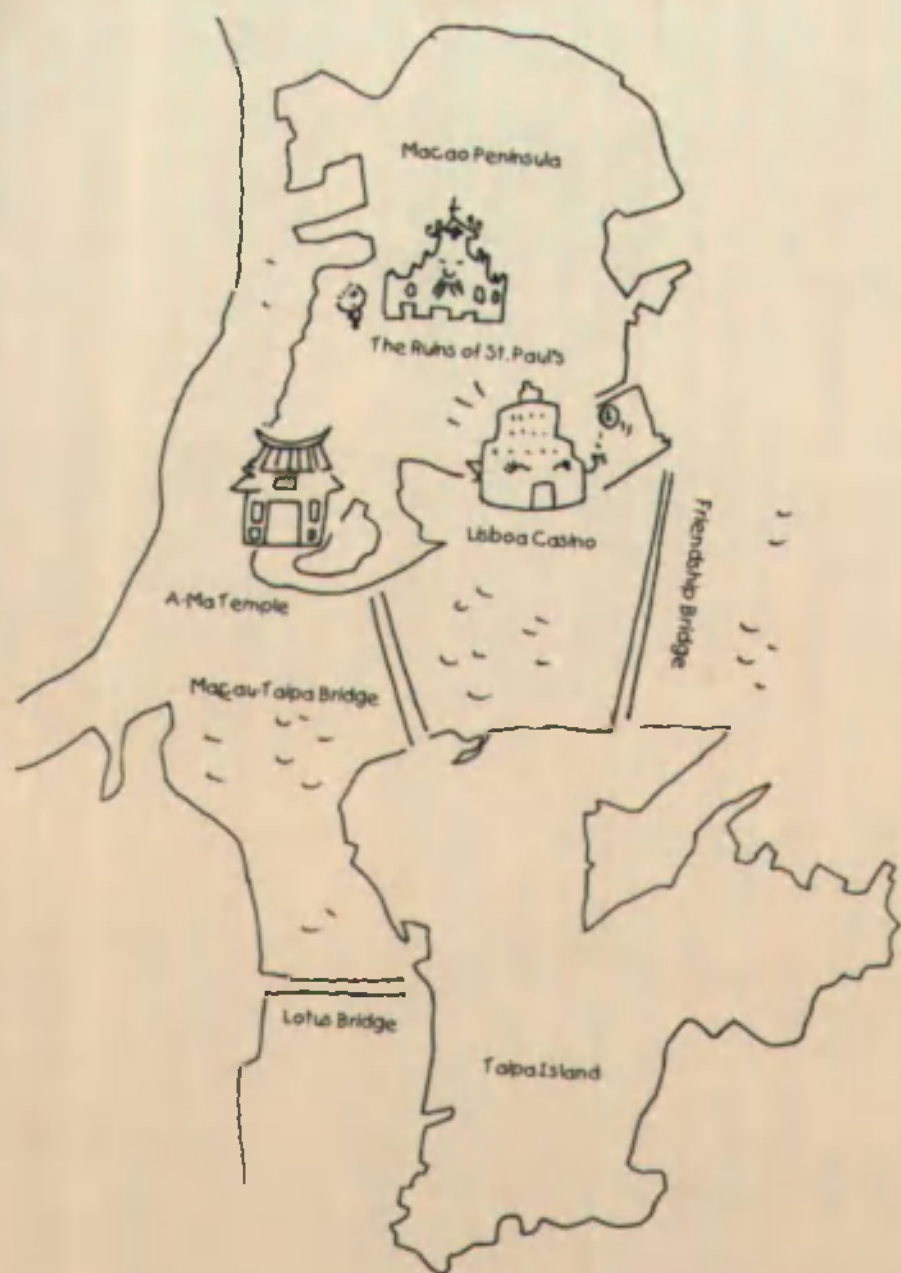
This is the first theme park that reproduces many of the exact features of the original Disneyland in California. Main USA Streets, Adventure Land, Princess Castle and Tomorrow Land are its most popular spots. Wandering around, people can enjoy the buildings, elegant street vehicles and various delicious foods on USA streets from the old days. In the Adventure Land, travelers can explore the wonders of nature when they enter the mysterious Asian forest and arrive in Tarzan's Island after passing through the African Grassland along big rivers. The Princess Castle is a wonder land full of happiness. Travelers can find Snow White, Dumbo, and Winnie. In Tomorrow Land, travelers can experience the wonders of outer space and explore the infinite cosmos.



A Gambling Paradise— Macao

Macao is located to the south of the Pearl River Delta. It was under the jurisdiction of Xiangshan County (today's Zhuhai) in Guangdong in the old days. In 1535, the Portuguese got the right to dock and do business by bribing the officials. In 1553, the Portuguese cooked up an excuse to dry their wet goods so as to occupy the island. They officially settled down here and named it Macau in 1557. In 1999, the Chinese Government resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Macao and set up the Macao Special Administrative Region.







Local Specialities



Portuguese Food



Pepper Fried Rice



Celery with Milk



Roasted Chicken



Curried Crab



Folk Customs



A-Ma Temple

Obverse side Reverse side



Love to Play for Small Stakes



Special Local Products



Pearl and Jewels



Oyster



Portuguese Egg Tart



China wine



Pork Chop Bread



Drysallery

Portuguese Wine



Egg Roll



Chai Heang Yuen
Almond Cakes



Works of Art



Impression on the Local People



Friendly



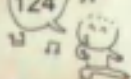
Light life



Easy talk



Live a peaceful life
and work happily



Ruins of St. Paul's

The Ruins of St. Paul's is the most typical place of interest in Macao. It is the front wall of St. Paul Church which was built in 1637. It is in the classical style of the Italian Renaissance. The building is divided into five floors. At the top stands the Cross, underneath which is a bronze dove, representing god. Around the dove, there are stone sculptures of the sun, the moon and the stars symbolizing the pregnancy of the Virgin Mary in a flash of light.

It was late at night when I arrived in Macao. I went to the Ruins of St. Paul's as my first stop. Cloaked in silver moonshine, I sat alone under the ruins, lost in contemplation.



The portraits on the ruins are vivid. It is a mixture of Eastern and Western cultures, representing both the style of European Architectures and Oriental cultural traditions. It is a religious stone-carving famous in the Far East and deemed as a three-dimensional *Bible*.

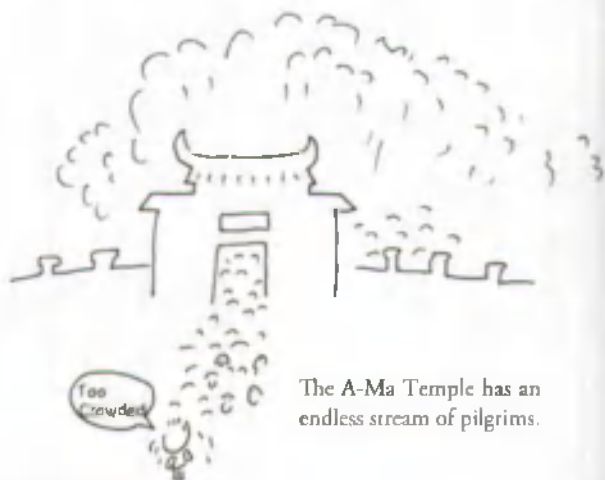


Some 300 years ago, it cost 30,000 taels of silver to build the St. Paul's Church. It gained a great reputation in Southeast Asia. In 1835, the church unfortunately caught fire, leaving only the 68 stone steps in front of the church and the front wall made of granite. The ruins got its Chinese name from its Chinese-memorial-archway-like appearance.



A-Ma Temple

The former name of A-Ma Temple (Ma Kok Miu) was Ma Tsou. As the legend goes, it was built by Fujian immigrants living in Macao. The A-Ma Temple is No. 1 among the three ancient temples in Macao. It was built during the Chenghua Period in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and has a history of over 500 years. The incense has never ceased to burn in the temple, and lighting fireworks is also allowed in specified areas, creating a peaceful and auspicious atmosphere.

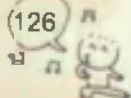
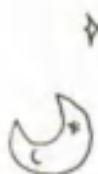


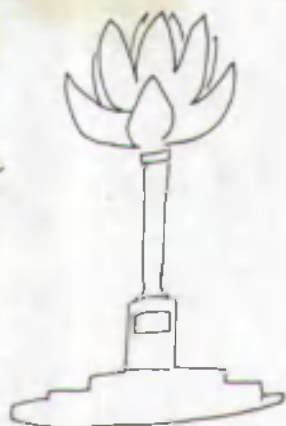
The A-Ma Temple has an endless stream of pilgrims.

Lotus Square

On December 20, 1999 when the Chinese Government resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Macao, the huge sculpture of "Lotus Flower in Full Bloom" was unveiled on the Lotus Square. It is a gift presented by the State Council to the people of Macao. The bronze bust is covered with gold. The main part of the sculpture comprises a total of 16 components including the stem, petals and pistils. This six-meter-high icon weighs 6.5 tons. The pedestal of the flower comprises 23 pieces of scarlet granite.

The lotus flower in full bloom exemplifies the everlasting material comfort of people of Macao. The three layers of crimson rock at the support in the contour of lotus leaves represent the Macao Peninsula, the Coloane Island and the Taipa Island.

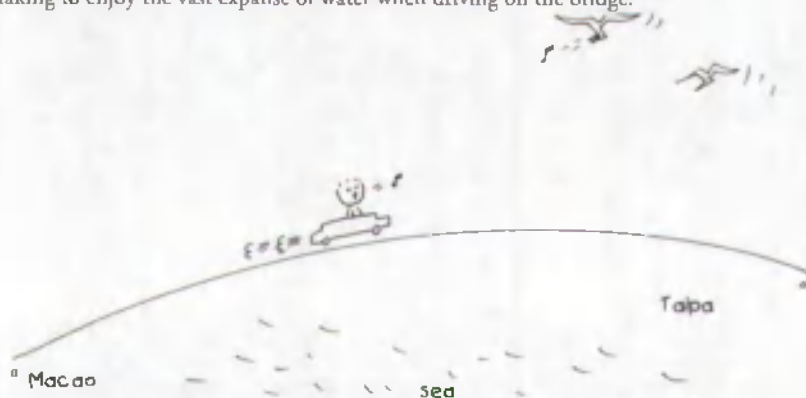




When I looked at the sculpture on the Lotus Square, I thought of the Lotus Lantern, an ancient Chinese myth. The blooming lotus symbolizes the auspicious life in Macao and the prosperity of the country.

Macao-Taipa Bridge

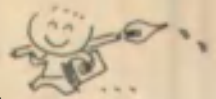
The Macao-Taipa Bridge extends 2.6 km between the Macao Peninsula and Taipa across the sea. It is breath taking to enjoy the vast expanse of water when driving on the bridge.



Lisboa Casino

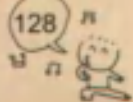
The Lisboa Casino is the most famous hotel casino in Macao. It has a unique architecture style with the outer wall painted with alternate stripes of canary and gold. The whole building is covered with the gold color. The Lisboa Casino is always packed to capacity.





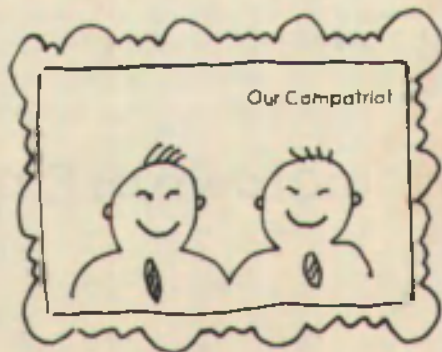
Our Compatriots— Taiwan

Taiwan is the largest island in China. It covers an area of 36,000 square km and has a population of 22.90 million. It borders the Pacific Ocean in the east. Taiwan is a multi-island province. It has altogether 88 islands big and small, including the Taiwan Island, the Penghu Islands, Diaoyu Islands, Chiwei Island, Orchid Island, Kasho-to and other affiliated islands. Taiwan stands at the center of waterway in the West Pacific Ocean and represents China's key transport hub in the Pacific Ocean.



Taiwan is a beautiful landscape with vast forests and fields. It has abundant sunshine and a pleasant climate. Its eight views and 12 places of interests have been famous since the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911).

Tourists often choose to travel around the Island from north to south or from south to north. They are always attracted towards the Alishan Mountain, the Sun Moon Lake, the Taiwan Island, Kenting at the southernmost end.



In northern Taiwan, major tourist sites in Taipei include the majestic Taipei's National Palace Museum, the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, the Ren'ai Road, the Shihlin night market and 101 Tower (the highest in the world). If time permits, tourists can also visit the Grand Hotel, the Yangmingshan National Park, the Railway Museum and the Miniatures Museum of Taiwan (ranking second in the world). Seam Eett is another tourist attraction. Tourists can find almost so many interesting things here. Seam Eett is a fashion leader and also the place where Taiwan film stars and singers choose to hold their promos.

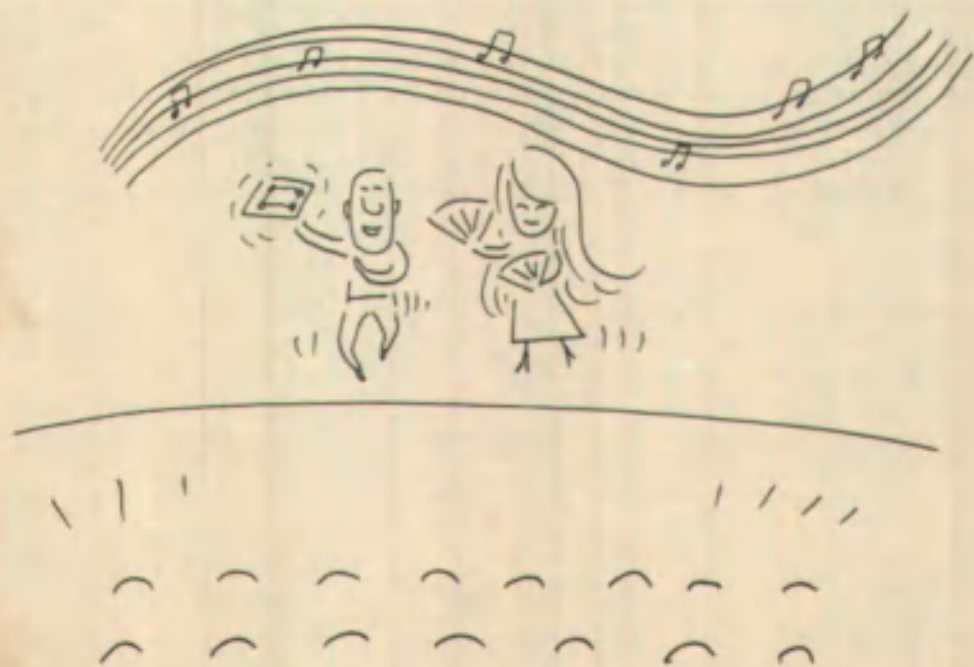
In central Taiwan, the leading attraction is the rolling Alishan Mountain. It features the thriving sacred trees in primitive forests, mini trains in high mountain forests, sunrise, sea of clouds and the Sisters Lake. When climbing up the mountain, tourists can enjoy the culture of the Gaoshan ethnic group. The Sun Moon Lake is the largest high mountain lake in Taiwan (perimeter 35 km). The northern part of the lake is round like the sun, while the southern part is shaped like a crescent moon hence the name "Sun Moon Lake".

Kenting in southern Taiwan is like the Cape of Good Hope in Africa. It lies at the foot of the mountain and is embraced by the sea. It is a popular beach, the only area bordering on the tropical region of Taiwan. It is home to the Eluanbi Lighthouse (Ngoluanpi Lighthouse), the largest lighthouse in the Far East. The Eluanbi Park is located in the south of Pingtung County. Eroded by strong wind, waves and rain for years, exotic limestone caves have been formed.



Hometown of Errenzhuān— Liaoning

Liaoning is located in the coastal area in the southern part of northeast China. The Liaodong Peninsula is hailed as the "Golden Triangle" in northeast China. During the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911), it was called Fengtian Province. In 1929, it changed its name to Liaoning Province.







Local Specialities



Manchu and Han Banquet



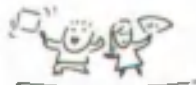
Braised Chicken
with Mushrooms



Park with Vermicelli



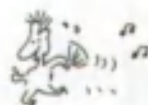
Folk Customs



Errenzhuan



Dalian Fashion Festival



Dongbei
Yangge Dance



Special Local Products



Mosaic Paintings



Silk Flowers



Cherries



Impression on the Local People



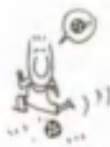
Leadership



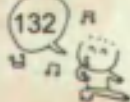
Humorous - Liaoning is the
hometown of many comedians



Good at singing -
Liaoning is the
hometown of many
singers -



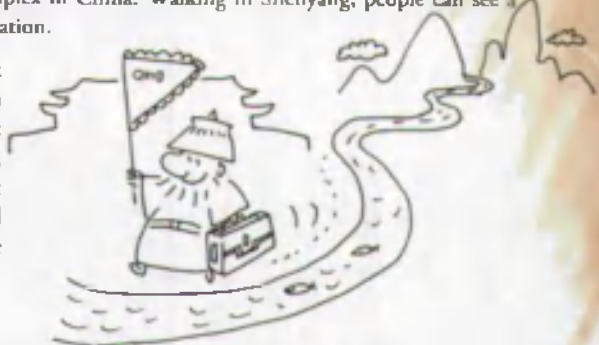
Loving sports - Liaoning
is the hometown of
many sport stars



Shenyang

Shenyang was once called Shengjing and Fengtian. This is the birthplace of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) and has long been reputed as "the birthplace of one dynasty and the capital of two emperors". Apart from the Imperial Palace in Beijing, the Shenyang Imperial Palace is the second most famous and largest palace building complex in China. Walking in Shenyang, people can see a strong contrast between history and modernization.

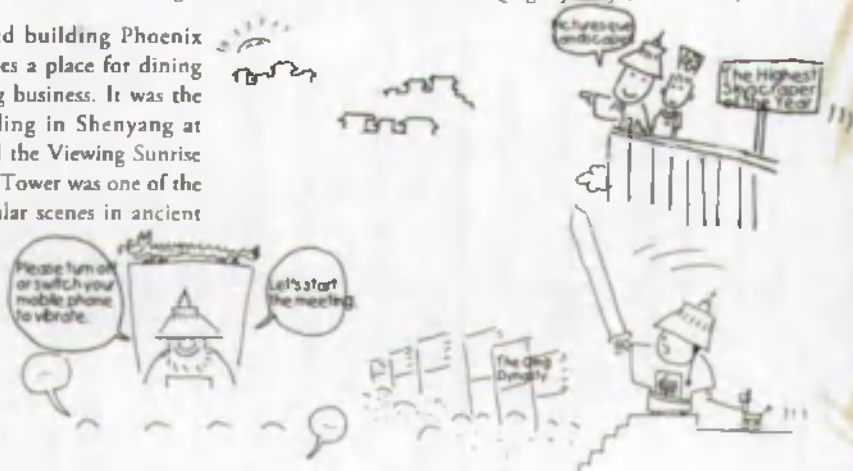
Shenyang is located on the northern bank of the Hunhe River (named as Shenshui in ancient times). In 1625, Nurhachi, the first emperor of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911), moved its capital here, and renamed it Shengjing. In 1636, Huangtaiji, the second emperor of Qing Dynasty, changed the reigning title into Qing Dynasty.



Shenyang Imperial Palace

Its construction was completed in 1636 by Nurhachi, the first emperor of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911). There are more than 300 rooms in over 90 buildings inside. The Shenyang Imperial Palace is divided into the Eastern Line, the Middle Line and the Western Line. Of these, the Chongzheng Hall in the Middle Line is the place where national affairs were dealt with. On the other lines are the Dazheng Hall for national ceremonies and the Wenshuo Pavilion for storing the *Complete Collection of Four Treasures*. The whole structure is neatly designed. Now it serves as the Shenyang Palace Museum, storing an abundance of relics from the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911).

The renowned building Phoenix Tower provides a place for dining and discussing business. It was the highest building in Shenyang at that time, and the Viewing Sunrise from Phoenix Tower was one of the eight spectacular scenes in ancient Shenyang.



On the southern part of the Dazheng Hall, the Shiwan Pavilion (Pavilion for Ten Kings) is shaped in the form of a swallow's wing. This is the embodiment of the Manchu's Eight Banner System.

fa

u

Zhaoling Mausoleum

The Zhaoling Mausoleum is the tomb of Emperor Huangtaichi and his Empress. It is located in the northern part of Shenyang, hence the name of North Tomb. This is the largest and best

Benxi Water Cave

Benxi Water Cave is located 35 km northeast of Benxi and covers an area of 42 square km. Scenic areas here feature an integration of mountains, water, caves, springs, and lakes.

As early as 570 million years ago, the area was under water. The Benxi Water Cave was formed when the earth's crust shifted and the limestone dissolved.

Trillions of years
later..



This is the Houshan Mountain Ancient Cultural Relics and also the cave relics of early northeast China. It is of considerable value to the research on ancient human history and ancient geography in eastern Liaoning.

The cave is deep and wide, with the underground river extending for 3,000 meters. The temperature in the cave remains at 10 degrees Centigrade all year round.

Dalian

Deemed as the Northern Pearl in China, Dalian has long been known for its prosperous economy, clean environment and optimistic city spirit. Football and fashion are the symbols of this famous coastal city.

(2)

Dalian is a typical modern city.

Laohutan Beach

The Laohutan Beach (Tiger Beach) is famous for its bathing beach. It is surrounded by mountains, leaving only one side facing the sea. The huge stone in the sea looks like a lying tiger. There is a park to the east, an amusement park in the center and a Marine Aquarium in the west.

It is home to China's largest bird cage that covers an area of 18,000 square meters. About 2,000 rare birds live here.

The Laohutan Beach is a modern amusement park with 4,000-odd-meter coastal line and covering an area of 1 million square meters.

The Tigers — the world's largest animal sculpture made by white and black granite (length: 36 meters, height: seven meters, weight: 2,000-odd tons)

Jinshatan Bathing Beach

Located on Binhai Road in Dalian, the Beach (Golden Sand Bathing Beach), has top-quality water and soft sands. People can feel comfortable and relaxed here.

It is easy to see over 300 kinds of stone elephants, which look as if they are drinking water, flying roc and the famished tigers.

Jinshitan Beach

The Jinshitan Beach(Golden Pebble Bathing Beach) is a precious Natural Geological Museum. It is 20 km away from Dalian and has a top-quality natural bathing beach and modern leisure facilities. On the eastern side of the beach, there are many rare stones, with abundant organic fossils and typical sedimentary structures.

The stones here are more precious than gold, because this non-renewable resource is only found in China and rarely seen in the world. Among all stones found here, the turtle stone, which was formed 600 million years ago, is the most precious and thus hailed as the No. 1 grotesque stone in the world.

Xinghai Square

Dalian has the most squares in China. Among the 50-odd squares, the Xinghai Square, covering an area of 1.1 million square meters, is the best place for holiday relaxation.

Some are kicking shuttlecocks

Some are riding tandem bicycles

,or>

'c ;

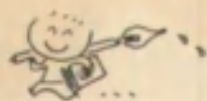
Some are flying kites

Some are holding their wedding ceremony

S '

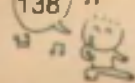
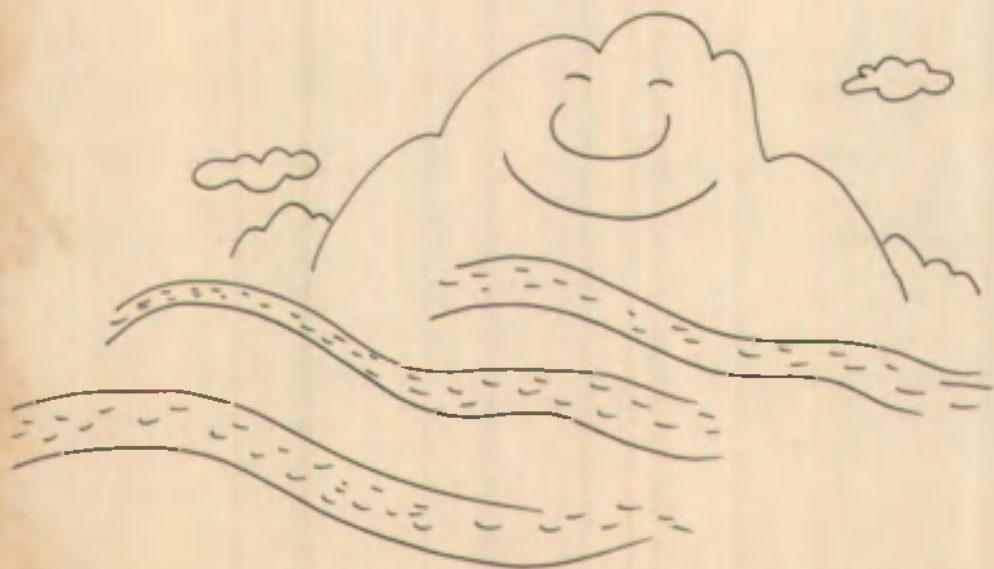
People are enjoying themselves on the square.

And, I am watching the fun.



Lofty Changbaishan Mountain and Surging Three Rivers— Jilin

Jilin Province is located in the central part of northeast China, adjacent to Russia, and the DPRK. As a whole, the province has a distinct temperate continental monsoon climate with a clear-cut change of four seasons. It boasts the Changbaishan Mountains, green grasslands, and fairyland-like ice and snow landscapes. Abundant wildlife, rivers and lakes are all found here. Besides the Han, there are minority ethnic groups such as the Korean, Manchu, and Mongolian.







Local Specialities

Jiaozi Dumplings



Vinegar



Hui Baozhen Jiaozi Dumplings



Wangul Smoked Meat
Large Flatbread



Changbasha Special
Feast



Cabbage with
Vermicelli



Folk Customs



Beshan
Temple Fair



Customs of the Korean
Ethnic Group



Sauerkraut

Cuihua, on the Sauerkraut



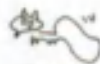
Special Local Products



Ginseng



Pilose Antler



Sable



Kafir Lily



Tonghua
Grape Wine



Impression on the Local People



Serious



Personal loyalty



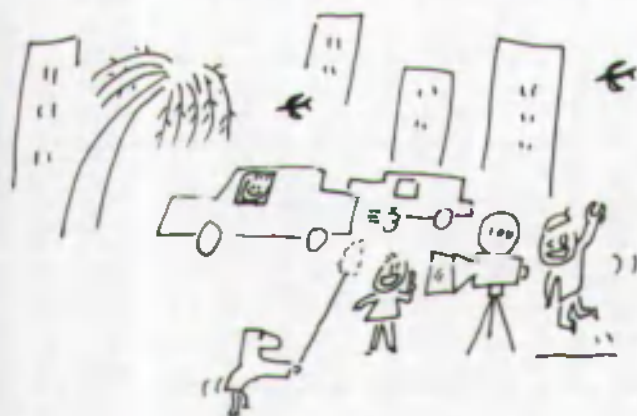
Humorous



Girls are keen-witted
and capable

Changchun City

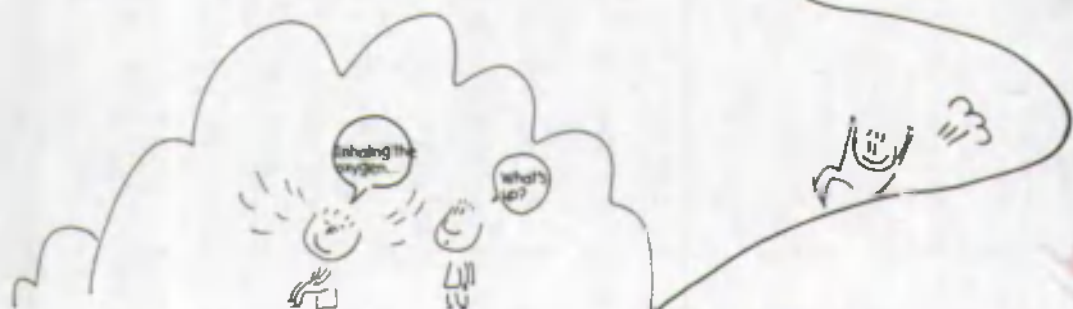
Changchun City is the capital of Jilin Province. Changchun means being in spring all-year-round. In spring, the Oriental cherry blossom and catkin can be seen everywhere; in summer, the whole city is covered in green; in autumn, the silver birch is elegant and graceful; in winter, the city is covered with snow and ice but is often called the City of Perpetual Spring in Northern China.



Changchun City is the birth place of China's vehicle industry and is thus called Chinese Motown. It is also China's biggest film production base — the Changchun Film Studio is located here and is the reason for yet another name City of Film...

Jingyuetan Forest Park

The Jingyuetan Forest Park, 15 km away from the southeast of Changchun City, is a park surrounded by mountains and tranquil lakes. Around the lake, there are a number of deer farms in the forests. The park has become an ideal vacation spot in summer and a mecca for winter sports fans in winter.



The Jingyuetan Forest Park has the biggest plantation in Asia with over 30 species of trees. The content of oxygen is 400 times that of the urban area.

Reaching the top of the mountain via cable car and then descending through the longest 1,000-meter fall in Asia, I felt myself flying down the green mountains. What a fantastic experience!



Rime in Jilin

Beside the banks of the Songhua River, located beyond the Fengman Reservoir near Jilin is a good place to enjoy the beautiful rime. In winter, the ice on the river is thick, but the water underneath the ice is not freezing. When the temperature drops during the night, rime and icicles form on the trees around the lake. When the sun rises the next morning, it turns the area into a crystal fairy world, with trees glistening in the sunlight. Willow branches become silver bands and pine trees turn into white chrysanthemums. "A sudden visit by the spring breeze," as a poem says, "brings white pear blossoms to thousands of trees."

Yanji

Yanji is



home to the Korean ethnic group.

It is famous for



its BBQ

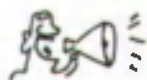
spicy pickles



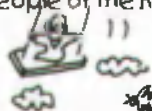
beaten pastry



and cold noodles



In the eyes of the people of the Korean ethnic group, white is their favorite color

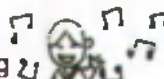


and they love playing on the swings

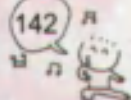


and seesaw very much.

Most of them are good at singing and dancing



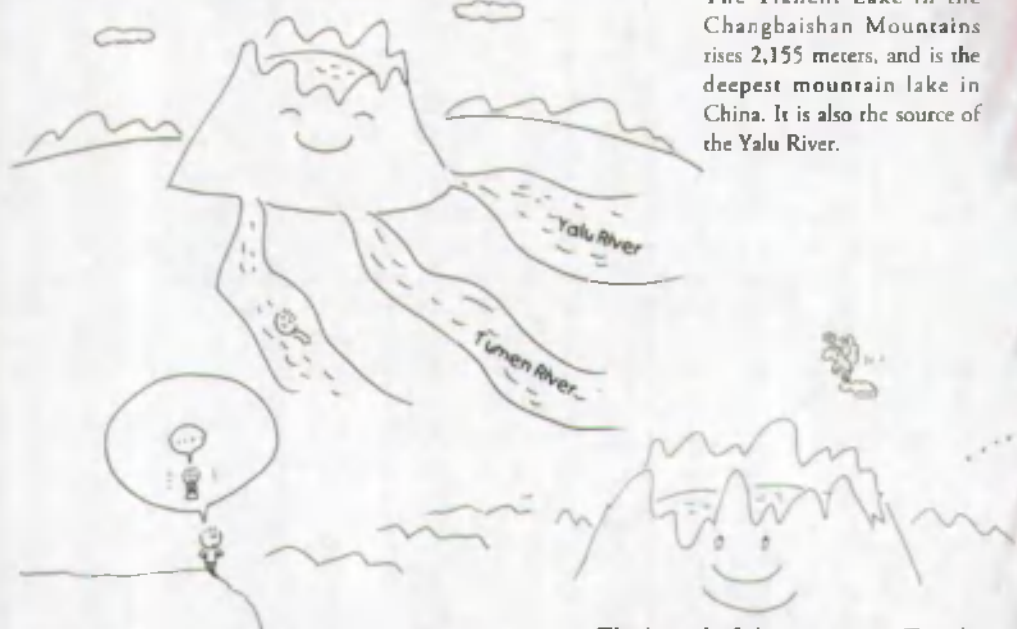
The most important thing is that the Korean ethnic group is optimistic towards life.



Tianchi Lake in the Changbaishan Mountain

The Tianchi Lake is the most characteristic natural scenic spot in northeast China. It is famous for its rare animals, plants and majestic icy landscapes. Its magnificence is different from the delicate natural scenes in north China. Referred to as the Green Corridors of the Eurasia Continent, it is amazing due to its forests, perilous peaks, lakes and waterfalls. The main peak of the Changbaishan Mountain, 2,691 meters high, is the highest peak in northeast China.

The Tianchi Lake in the Changbaishan Mountains rises 2,155 meters, and is the deepest mountain lake in China. It is also the source of the Yalu River.



Overlooking the Tianchi Lake from the calm volcano mouth, people are always brought back to the magnificent scenes when the volcano erupted.

The legend of the monster in Tianchi Lake is still popular today.

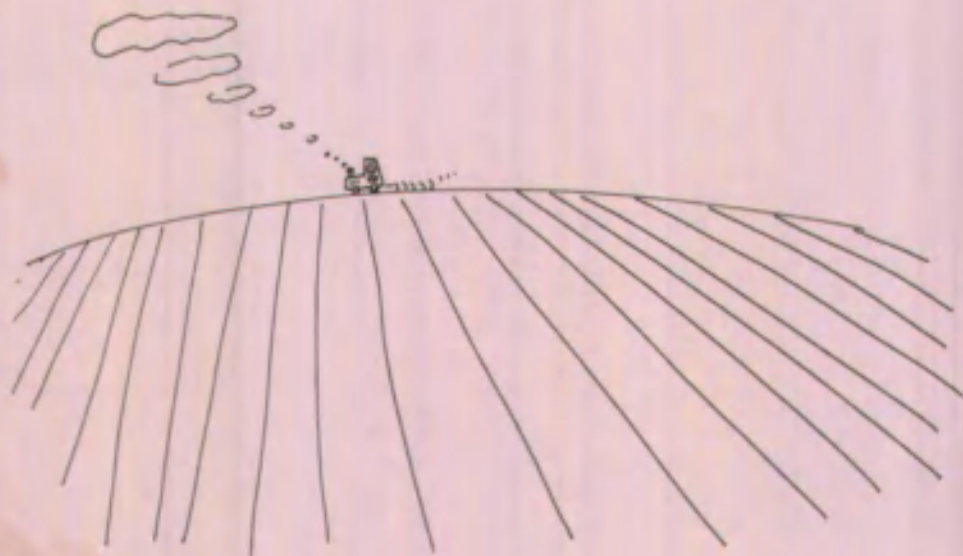


The mirroring Tianchi Lake in the Changbaishan Mountain is surrounded by 16 peaks, like a jade embraced by rolling mountains.



Vast Beautiful Black Soil Land— Heilongjiang

Heilongjiang Province is located in northeast of China, at the highest latitudes and the at the northernmost end of the country. It is shaped just like an elegant swan. In its northwest you can find the Greater Hinggan Mountains, and in the north, the Lesser Hinggan Mountains. The Songnen Plain lies in the southwest. Its numerous rivers form five water systems, including that of the Heilongjiang River, Wusulijiang River, Songhuajiang River, Nenjiang River and Suifen River. Large lakes include the Greater and Lesser Xingkai, Jingbo and Wudalianchi. Heilongjiang is also rich in forest resources and pastures. In the old days, it was called the Great Northern Wilderness but now things have greatly changed — it has developed into the Great Northern Resource Treasury.







Local Specialities



Lobscouse of
Northeast China



Carp Casserole



Plain baked Pork
and blood sausage



Jiaozi Dumpling of
Northeastern China



Folk Customs



Harbin Ice
and Snow Festival



Elunchun Hunting
Festival



Skee



Special Local Products



Harbin Beer



Big Bread



A stick of Sugar-Coated
haws (or apples, etc.)



Harbin Sausage



Mineral Water
of Wudalianchi



Salmon



Piose Antler of
a Young Stag



Impression on the Local People



Young men tall
and handsome



Young ladies also tall



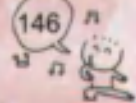
Bold and generous
characteristics



Expressive



Doing what
he/she says





Harbin City

Harbin City is the capital of Heilongjiang Province. When I first visited Harbin, I saw heavy snow and freezing temperatures of -30 degrees Centigrade. Cold, isn't it? This may be people's first impression of Harbin City.

Hagia Sophia in Harbin

Sophia Plaza, covering an area of 50,000 square meters, lies on the south bank of the beautiful Songhua River. The symbol of the plaza is Hagia Sophia, a typical baroque building. Its hall can hold some 2,000 people and it is covered with a huge dome which forms a special hall shape at the top centre.



Hagia Sophia is like a castle from Aladdin. You feel like you become an angel on hearing the hymns from Hagia Sophia and seeing the thousands of pigeons on the plaza.



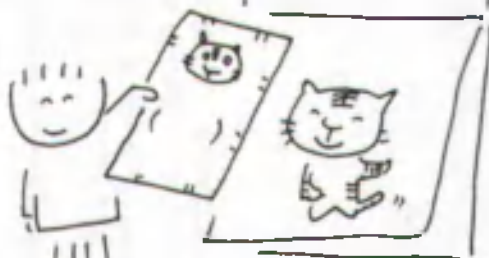
There are many painting stalls around the square where portraits are painted. The painter's expression is solemn and the customer sits properly with a serious mien...

Northeastern China Tiger Zoo

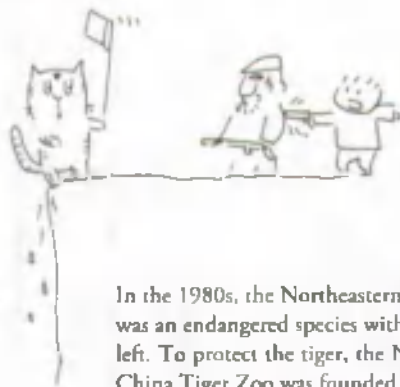
The Northeastern China Tiger Zoo, facing the Taiyang Island, lies in the Development Area of Harbin City. It is the biggest nature reserve for wild northeastern tigers in the world.

The Post Office of the Northeastern China Tiger Zoo sells tiger postcards. You can send one to your friends.

To the Post Office of the
Northeastern China Tiger Zoo



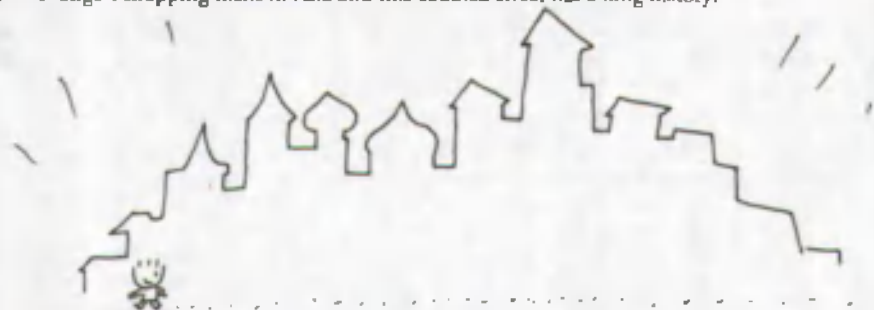
The tigers are not fed as such — some small animals are usually put in the nature reserve for them to hunt and eat.



In the 1980s, the Northeastern China tiger was an endangered species with only 20-30 left. To protect the tiger, the Northeastern China Tiger Zoo was founded in 1996.

Central Street

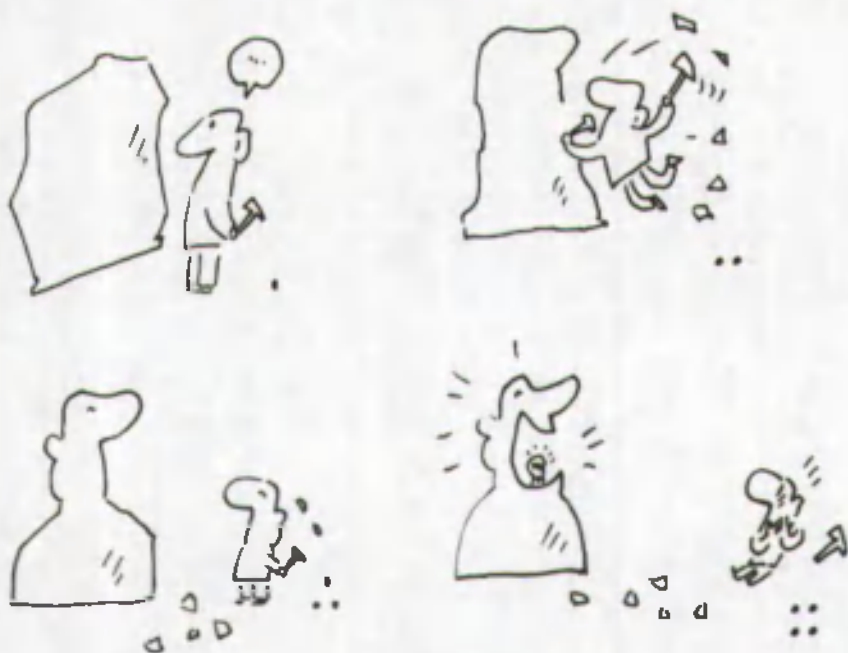
The Central Street, over 1,400 meters long, is a pedestrian street with a European flavor. It is also one of the longest shopping malls in Asia and this cobbled street has a long history.



The Central Street was first built in 1898. It is a street of varied architecture with 71 buildings in European styles including baroque and modern eclectic styles.

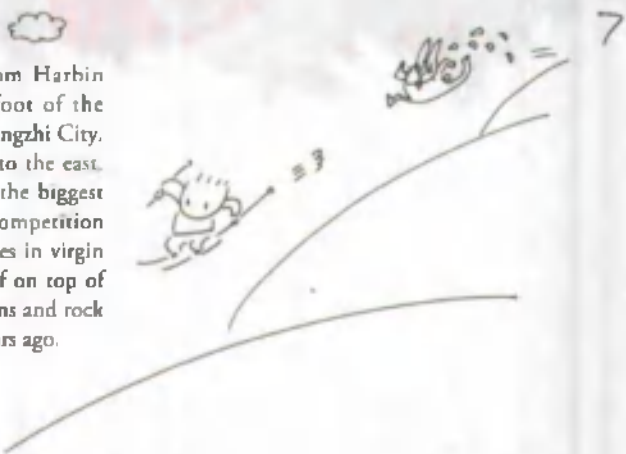
Ice Lantern

The Zhaolin Park is named in memory of General Li Zhaolin. Every year in January, the park is a universe of ice lanterns. The skillful craftsmen design their sculptures into all kind of shapes including animals and buildings. When night falls, the resplendent multicolored ice lanterns are an amazing sight. It is one of the most distinctive sights to be seen in the north of China.



Yabuli Ski Resort

The Yabuli Ski Resort, 200 km away from Harbin to the west, is located at the northern foot of the Dagukui Mountain in Yabuli Town of Shangzhi City. It is 120 km away from Mudanjiang City to the east. It was originally founded in 1980, and is the biggest base for comprehensive ski training and competition for south-pole visitors. Most of the resort lies in virgin forest. There is a rare tree species *Fujithionf* on top of the Dagukui Mountain. The high mountains and rock here were formed by glaciers 100 million years ago.



Zhalong Nature Reserve

The Zhalong Nature Reserve, 35 km away from the southeast of Qiqihar, is famous for rare birds especially for Red-Crowned Cranes. There are a lot of marsh, rivers and lakes here. Reeds and grasses grow tall, so it is a paradise for waterfowl. The best season for watching birds is in April, May or August and September. In these months, there are over 200-300 kinds of birds here and visitors can see numerous birds flying in the sky.

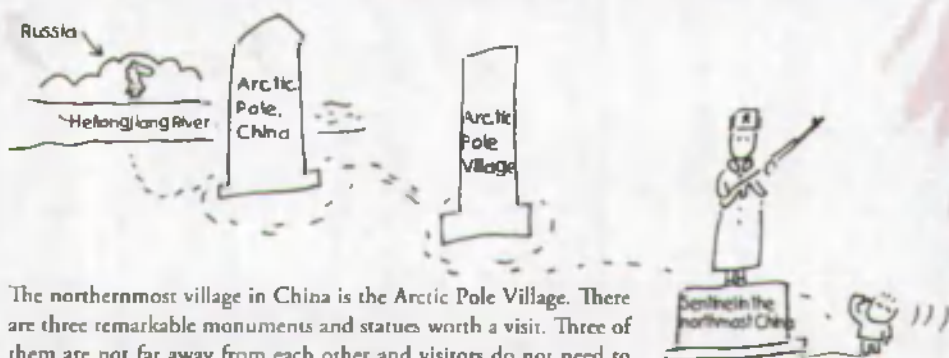
There are 15 species of cranes in the world and in this reserve we can see nine species which are subject to first-grade State protection.



Standing on the observation platform and looking into the distance, I can see the Red-Crowned Cranes dancing elegantly in the sky...

Mohe

Mohe sits at the northern foot of the Greater Hinggan Mountains, on the southern bank of the upper reaches of Heilongjiang River, the most northerly point of China. It is also near the North Pole.



The northernmost village in China is the Arctic Pole Village. There are three remarkable monuments and statues worth a visit. Three of them are not far away from each other and visitors do not need to use a car.

Wudalianchi

Wudalianchi or the Natural Volcanic Museum or the Volcanic Garden is formed of five volcanic dammed lakes. The natural cold mineral water is well-known and can be used for drinking and bathing. It can even be used to treat common diseases effectively. It is honored as the Holy Water and also called the Three Holy Spring of the World together with the Vichy of France and the Trans-Caucasus Spa of Russia.



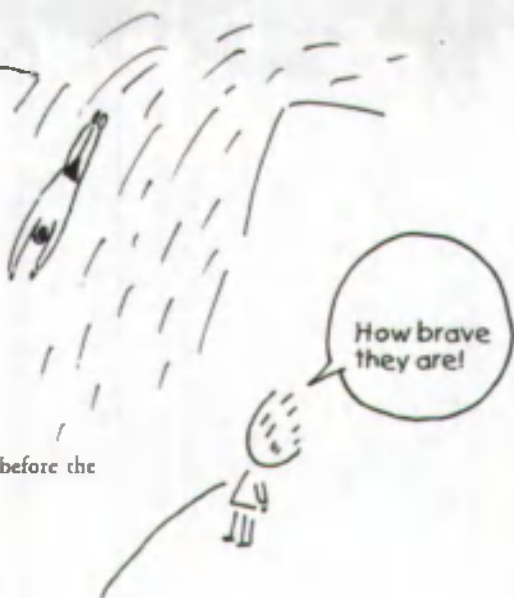
Heilong volcano and Huoshao volcano erupted between 1719 and 1721. The stream of lava silted up the Baihe River forming five lakes. That is how Wudalianchi came into being. In this area, there are 14 volcanoes; some have histories of over 2 million years.

During the process of the 4.6-billion-year evolution of the earth, it became more beautiful and comfortable. And Wudalianchi was formed by the Quaternary Volcanic Activity.

Jingpo Lake in Mudanjiang

The Jingpo Lake, lying in the southwest of Anning City, is very beautiful where the smooth surface of the lake shines like a mirror on fine days. It is the biggest volcanic dam lake in China. No visitors like to miss the best scenic spots of the lake region such as the Diaoshuilou Waterfalls, craters of the volcanoes and virgin forest.

An excellent diving exhibition is held daily before the grand Diaoshuilou Waterfalls...



Sailing through the mirror-like lake, I can feel the long history of this lake on the plateau...

Chan Realization

Beautiful life should be accompanied
with the jubilant delight, and joyful
whistles...

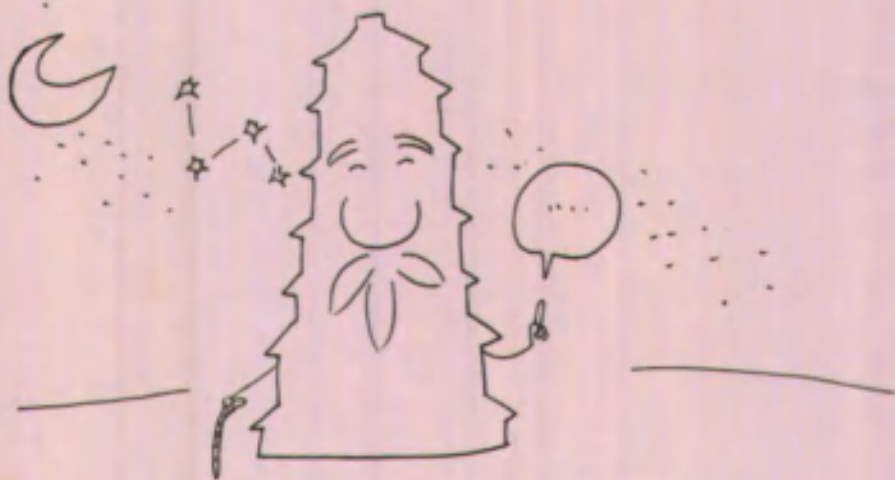


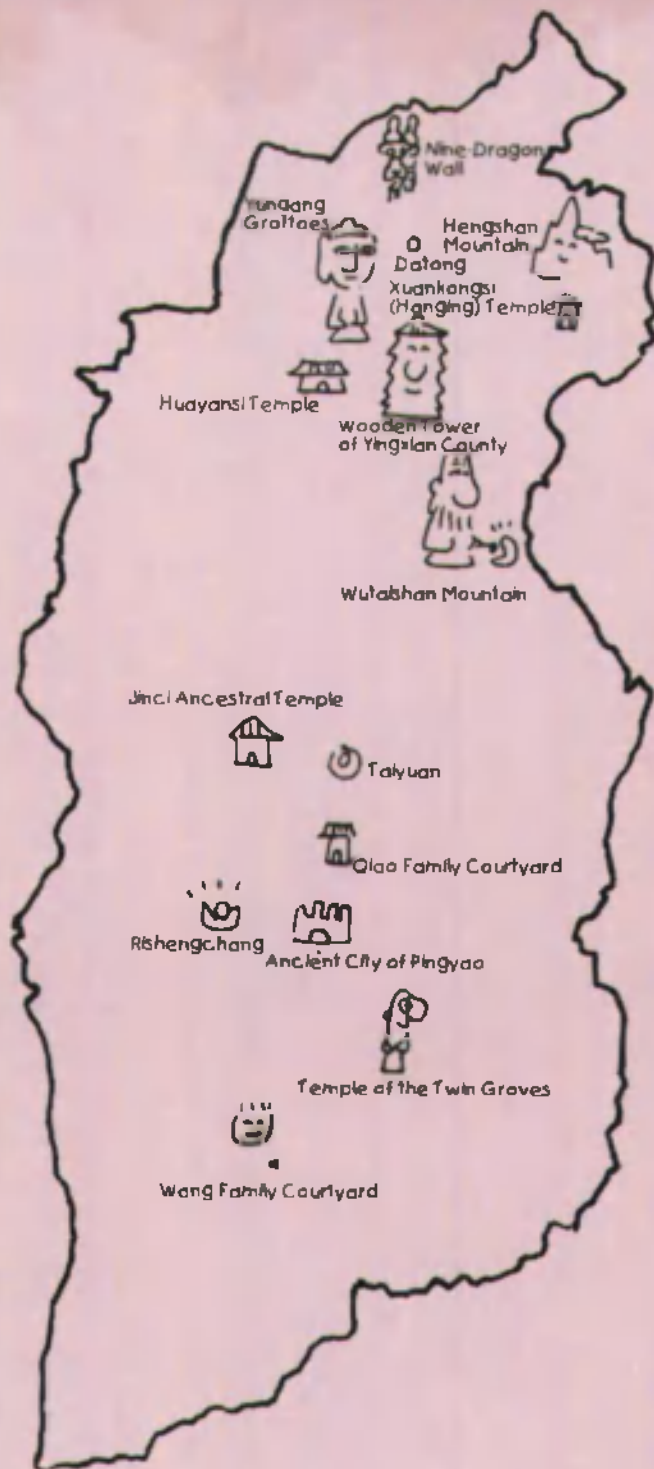


The World of Ancient Buildings in China—

Shanxi, Shanxi

The province gets the name Shanxi (Shan means "mountain" and Xi means "west") due to its location, west of the Taihangshan Mountain. In the Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC-476 BC), most of it belonged to the Jin State, so it is called Jin for short. It is an important province in terms of coal and cultural relics in China.







Local Specialities



Sliced Noodles



Cat's Ear



Bayu'er



Folk Customs



World of Noodles



Awe-Inspiring
Gongs and Drums



Vinegar Culture



Special Local Products



Zhuoying
Liquor



Copper Hotpot



Bingzhou
Scissors



Pingyao
Matches



Pingyao Beef



Shanxi Mature
Vinegar



Taigu Cake



Hongfeng
Soft-shelled Turtle



Fenju Liquor



Impression on the Local People



They love their hometown



They are careful



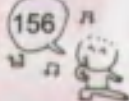
Shanxi business
people are
renowned



The Girls of
Shanxi are
very musical



They are good at
doing housework



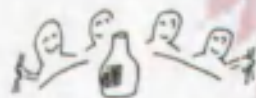
Eight Strange but True Specialities of Shanxi



Selling dust on the roadside as coal



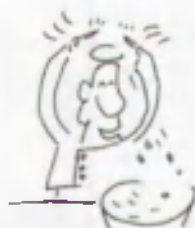
Pancakes contain stones



Having mature vinegar as a dish



The Houses feature eaves on one side only



Sliced noodles running faster than the cutter moves



Serving guests with Fenjiu Liquor and steamed Corn bread



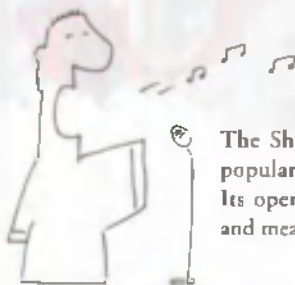
Potatoes and cabbages are sold in bags



Covering the donkey head with the bride's red veil

Taiyuan

It is the capital of Shanxi Province and was the site of the national mint in the golden period of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The downtown area of Taiyuan is screened by mountains in the east and west, with the Fenhe River flowing through its central area.



The Shanxi Bangzi Opera is popular in the Taiyuan area. Its operas are full of intrigue and meaning.

Temple of the Twin Pagodas

Located in the southeast of Taiyuan, it was built during the Emperor Wanli Period of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Two pagodas stand side by side in the temple grounds and these have become the symbol of Taiyuan City. The temple is famous for the ancient pagodas, some calligraphy tablets and peonies.

The two pagodas face south, backing onto the Taihangshan Mountain and overlooking the Fenhe River. From the top of the pagodas, one can get a panoramic view of Taiyuan and the surrounding plains. The two pagodas are the tallest among the extant ancient buildings in Taiyuan, sitting beside each other like twins.

Jinci Ancestral Temple

Located 25 km southwest of Taiyuan, the Jinci Ancestral Temple backs onto a mountain and faces a river. It is surrounded by ancient trees and boasts grand buildings. It has a history of more than 1,500 years. The cypresses of the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046 BC-771 BC) and the locust trees of the Sui Dynasty (581-618), the Forever Young Spring and the sculptures of maidservants are known as the "three treasures of the Jinci Ancestral Temple". The cypresses of the Western Zhou Dynasty are said to have been planted in the early Western Zhou Dynasty. The Forever Young Spring has a constant temperature of 17 degrees Centigrade. The spring, glittering and translucent, never dries up. The rice produced from the farmland irrigated by the spring is of excellent quality.

The Saint Mother Hall houses 43 exquisite painted sculptures of maidservants which are very vivid and agreeable. They look like real people all with different expressions. When you stand in front of them you might just hear their silvery laughter.

The iron warriors, cast during the Song Dynasty (960-1279), which stand still and upright in the temple are majestic as always.



Qiao Family Courtyard

Located in the Qiaojiabao Village of Qixian County, it is the mansion of Qiao Zhiyong, a financier of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911). It was originally called Zaizhongtang and has six big courtyards and 20 small ones with a total of 313 rooms.

After the Movie *Raise the Red Lantern* was made, here the fame of the courtyard spread far and wide.



Ancient City of Pingyao

The Ancient City of Pingyao lies 100-plus km south of Taiyuan in central Shanxi Province. Its walls and streets and alleys form a unique irregular interlaced pattern. This is where it gets its nickname the "city of the tortoise". It was built in the third year of the Emperor Hongwu Period of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and has 12-meter-high walls all around. There is a gate tower in each of the four walls. Outside the walls lies a moat which has a width of four meters.

The ancient city was a masterpiece among the cities of the Han ethnic group during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1616-1911) Dynasties. It is an uncommonly complete picture scroll unveiling the development of Chinese history, culture (both social and economic) and religion.

The Enemy Tower 72

Crenel 3,000



The city walls have 3,000 crenels and 72 enemy towers, symbolizing the 3,000 disciples and 72 saints of Confucius.

Temple of the Twin Groves

It is located in the Qiaotoucun Village seven km southwest of Pingyao. Built during the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534), it is uniquely surrounded with cob (earth) walls. It has many rich cultural relics and exquisite frescos that are known as "small Dunhuang".

The Temple of the Twin Groves covers an area of 15,000 square meters and has 2,056 painted sculptures of different sizes, ranging from several meters to less than one meter. The figures and expressions are very vivid and have an extremely high artistic value. The temple is prized as the Oriental Treasury of the Art of Painted Sculptures. It is included in the list of World Cultural Heritage sites and the sculptures are praised as "real unique treasures".

Wang Family Courtyard

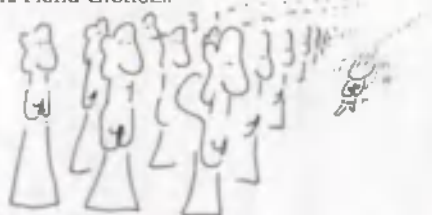
It is located in the Jingshengcun Village, Lingshi County. In the second year of the Emperor Huangqing Period of the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368), Wang Chengzhai brought his families to Jingshengcun Village. In the early Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) Wang Xingwang began to do business. Wang Qianshou was the 14th generation of the Wang Family and gradually became a tycoon. The Courtyard of the Wang Family is comprised of the East Yard, the West Yard and the Xiaoyici Ancestral Temple, covering a total area of 34,650 square meters.

The Courtyard of the Wang Family is known as the Folk Palace of China, the First Mansion of Chinese Vernacular Dwellings and the Forbidden City in Shanxi Province. The Wang Family "prospered in business and became distinguished for its high-ranking officials".

The Wang's Museum is located at Hongmenbao and is the only museum of the Wang Family in the world. Since it was opened many people surnamed Wang from all over the world have visited it.

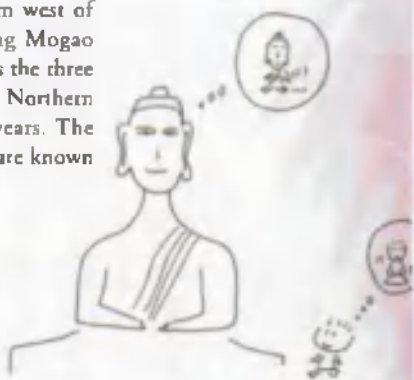
Datong Yungang Grottoes

These are located at the foot of Wuzhoushan Mountain 16 km west of Datong and are as equally well-known as both the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes and the Luoyang Longmen Grottoes. They are known as the three major grottoes in China. The Yungang Grottoes, built during the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534), have a history of more than 1,500 years. The grottoes Nos.16-20 were built first; the five from No.9 to No.13 are known as the Five Florid Grottoes.



The grottoes are cut into the mountains and extend for 1,000 meters. There are all together 53 grottoes, with 252 niches of various sizes and more than 51,000 carved stone statues. It is one of the largest grotto complexes in China.

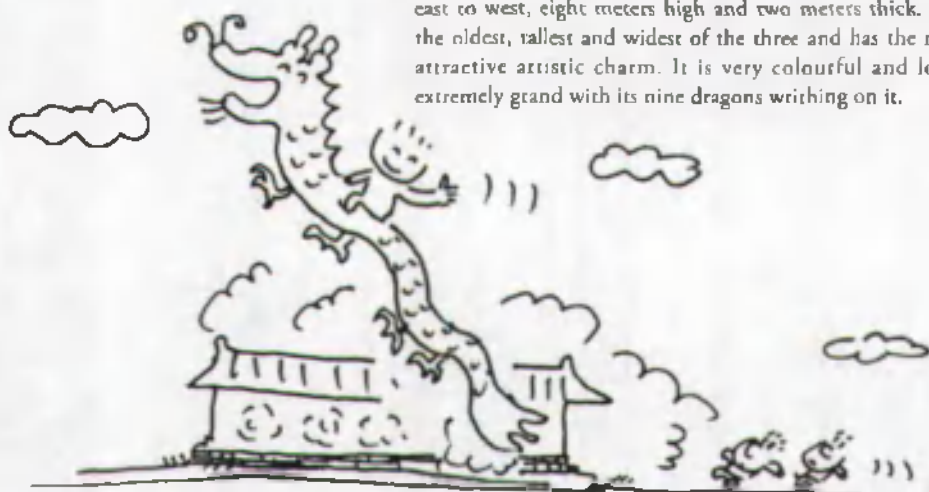
The outdoor statue of Sakyamuni in the No.20 Grotto, with a height of 13 meters, has a splendid background and shows a plump face. He smiles slightly and looks downwards impressing people with his affability. It is the best known work in the Yungang Grottoes.



Nine-Dragon Wall

There are three extant Nine-Dragon Walls in China: two in Beijing and one in Datong. The one in Datong is situated at Dongjie Street and it served as the front wall of the mansion of Zhu Gui, the 13th son of Emperor Taizu Zhu Yuanzhang of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

This Nine-Dragon Wall is 45 meters long, running from east to west, eight meters high and two meters thick. It is the oldest, tallest and widest of the three and has the most attractive artistic charm. It is very colourful and looks extremely grand with its nine dragons writhing on it.



Huayansi Temple

The Huayansi Temple sits in the western part of Datong and features towering buildings and magnificent vigour. It is one of the important temples of the Liao (907-1125) and Jin (1115-1234) Dynasties of China. The Hall of Sakyamuni, which covers a total area of 1,599 square meters, is the largest wooden Buddhist hall of the Liao and Jin Dynasties.

The Hall of Sakyamuni contains some 900 square meters of frescoes which are extremely colourful and very well executed. This is one of the rarest and best frescoes in China.



Hengshan Mountain

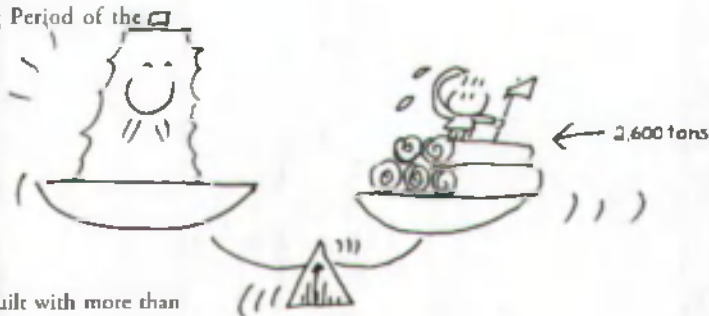
The Hengshan Mountain stretches 150 km in the northeast of Shanxi Province. The Hengzongdian Hall was first built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and is the main hall on the mountain. The paths to the rear of the mountain are very steep and feature cliffs on one side and strange natural scenery on the other side.



Hengshan Mountain itself is a famous Taoist mountain. Zhang Guolao, one of the eight immortals, who are known to all in China, was supposed to have lived a secluded life there.

Wooden Tower of Yingxian County

The Wooden Tower, located in Yingxian County, lies inside the Fogongsi Temple. It was erected in 1056 or the second year of the Emperor Qingning Period of the Liao Dynasty (907-1125).

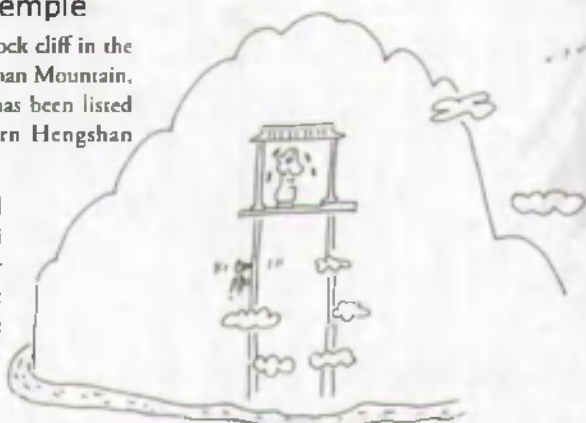


The Wooden Tower was built with more than 2,600 tons of rosewood.

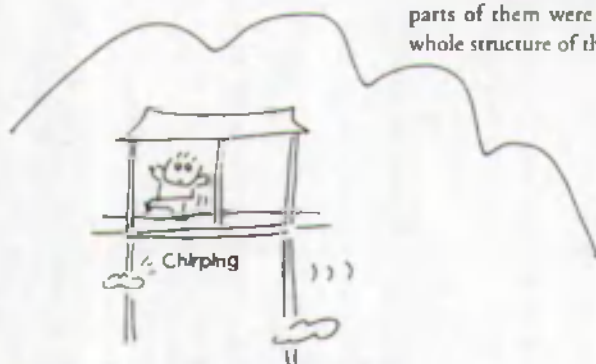
Xuankongsi (Hanging) Temple

It is literally hung from the western rock cliff in the Jinlongxia Gorge at the foot of Hengshan Mountain, five km south of Hunyuan City. It has been listed as the great wonder of the northern Hengshan Mountain.

The Hanging Temple was established around 471 in the late Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534), and has lasted for over 1,400 years. Facing eastwards, it looks like an exquisite carving in the middle of a huge screen.

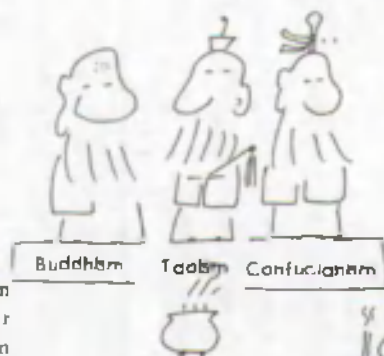


The temple is built out from the cliff and hangs in midair. Holes were cut in the cliffs to put support beams. Parts of the buildings of the temple were put on the beams and parts of them were supported by protruding rocks. The whole structure of the temple is extremely solid.



The temple has 40-odd rooms of pavilions and halls which are all connected by wooden walkways. Interestingly, the wooden walkways make a birdlike noise when there are people walking on it.

The Hanging Temple brought Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism together, enshrining their founders in one hall. This is a well-known story in Chinese religious history.



Wutaishan Mountain had more than 300 temples in its prime. However, only about 100 temples are in existence today.



Wutaishan Mountain

Located 80 km from Wutai County, the mountain has five peaks whose tops are completely flat; hence the name of the mountain (with Wu meaning "five" and tai meaning "terrace".) The northern peak is tucked away at an elevation of 3,058 meters and is known as the "roof of north China". The Wutaishan Mountain is one of the four major Buddhist Mountains where Bodhisattva Manjusri performed rites. The Buddhist Center is located in Taihuai Town which is surrounded by the five peaks. Of the 100-plus extant temples, the Xianrongsi Temple, the Tayuansi Temple, the Shuxiangsi Temple, the Luohousi Temple and the Pusading Temple are the major ones on the Wutaishan Mountain. The Xianrongsi Temple in Taihuai is the largest one and has a beautiful copper hall in it. There is also a Tibetan-style pagoda in the temple, being the symbolic building of the Wutaishan Mountain.

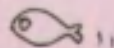
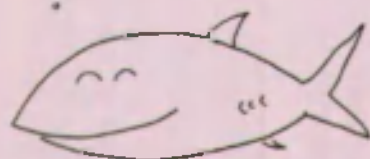


Snowfall begins in September and it is very cold in winter on the Wutaishan Mountain. The snow and ice on it thaw in April, so it is also known as the Qingliangshan (Cool) Mountain.



Chan Realization

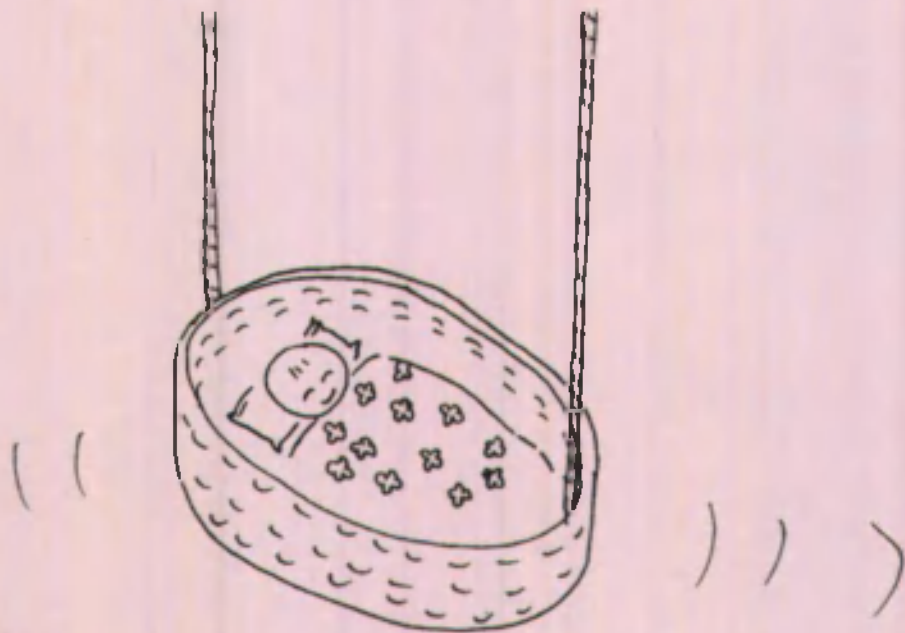
Travelling is a way for human beings to communicate with nature. What you see is your wealth; what you appreciate is your possessions; what you realize is your harvest; and what you experience comes into eternal existence.





The Cradle of Chinese Nation— Henan

Located in central China it has the name Henan (with "He" meaning "river" and "nan" meaning "south") because most of its terrain lies to the south of the Yellow River. It also has the names "Zhongzhou" or "Zhongyuan" and is called Yu for short. Henan is the cradle of Chinese nation. The ancestors of today's people have lived and grown here from the earliest times of primitive society.







Local Specialities



Beef Soup



Xiaoyao Town Hot
and Spicy Soup



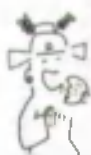
Kaifeng
Stuffed Bun



Zhengzhou
Braised
Noodles



Luoyang
Water Banquet



Zhuangyuan
(No.1) Cake



Folk Customs



Shaolin Martial Arts



Henan Opera



Luoyang Peonies



Special Local Products



Tang Tri-color Glazed
Pottery Decorations



Nanyang Jade



Yuanyang Tribute Rice



Daokou Brailed
Meat or Fish



Impression on the Local People



Active-minded



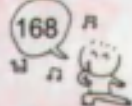
Well versed in
both polite letters
and martial arts

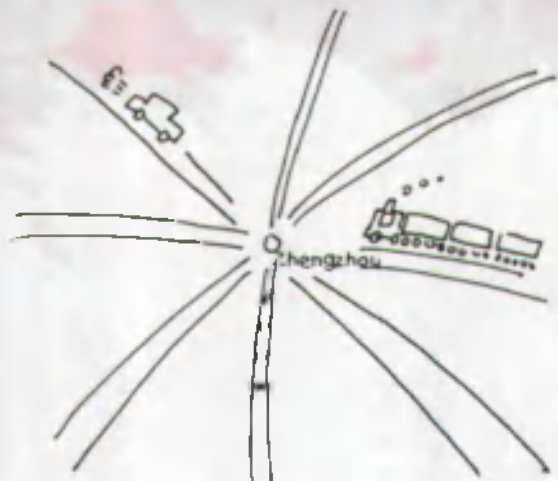


Rich life interests



Everybody can
sing Hua Mulan
(Henan Opera)



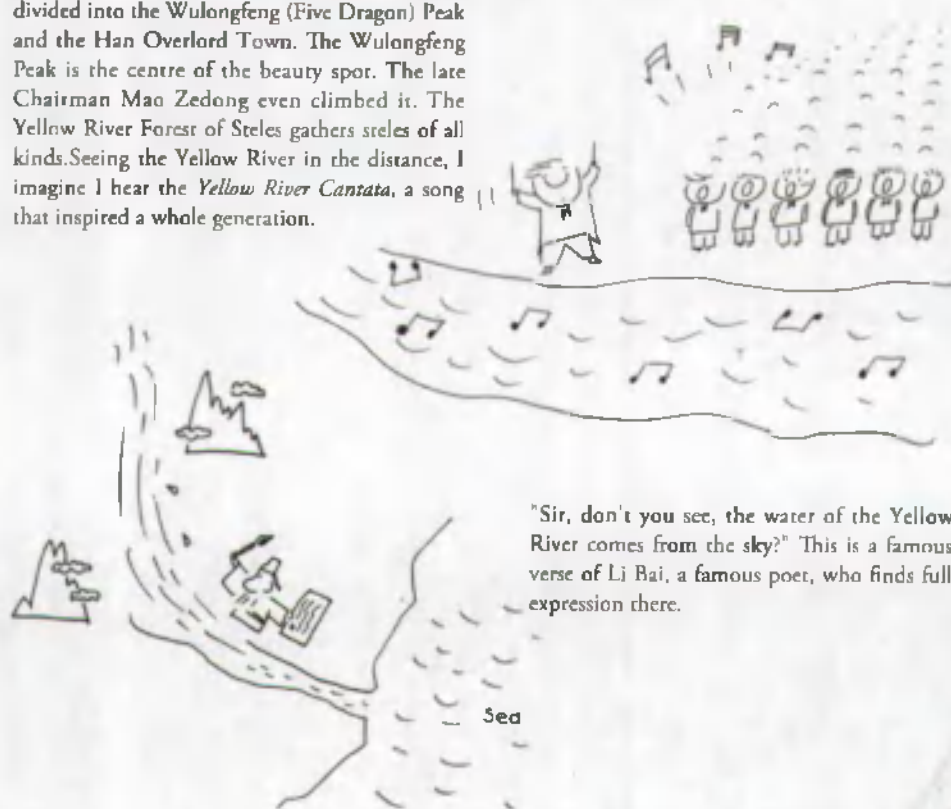


Zhengzhou

It is the capital of Henan Province. Located in inland China, it is an important industrial city. At the same time it is well developed commercially and is reputed as "the commercial city of inland China". It is a major railway hub in China as it stands at the junction of the Beijing-Guangzhou Line and the Lianyungang-Lanzhou Line. Its railway passenger volume ranks first in China.

A Yellow River Beauty Spot

Located in the suburbs of Zhengzhou this spot is divided into the Wulongfeng (Five Dragon) Peak and the Han Overlord Town. The Wulongfeng Peak is the centre of the beauty spot. The late Chairman Mao Zedong even climbed it. The Yellow River Forest of Steles gathers steles of all kinds. Seeing the Yellow River in the distance, I imagine I hear the *Yellow River Cantata*, a song that inspired a whole generation.



"Sir, don't you see, the water of the Yellow River comes from the sky?" This is a famous verse of Li Bai, a famous poet, who finds full expression there.

On the west side of Wulongfeng Peak, a statue of Dayu, ten meters high and weighing 150 tons, stands on top of the mountain, facing the Yellow River. The great feat of Dayu harnessing the Yellow River still inspires Chinese people today.



Baimasi Temple

The Baimasi (White Horse) Temple, located 10 km east of Luoyang, occupies an important position in Chinese Buddhism. Since the Buddhist sutras and images were carried by a white horse (pronounced "baima" in Chinese), the temple was named Baimasi Temple. The Baimasi Temple is universally honoured as the Cradle of Buddhism in China. What remains now are the buildings constructed during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1616-1911) Dynasties. These buildings total more than 100 halls and rooms.



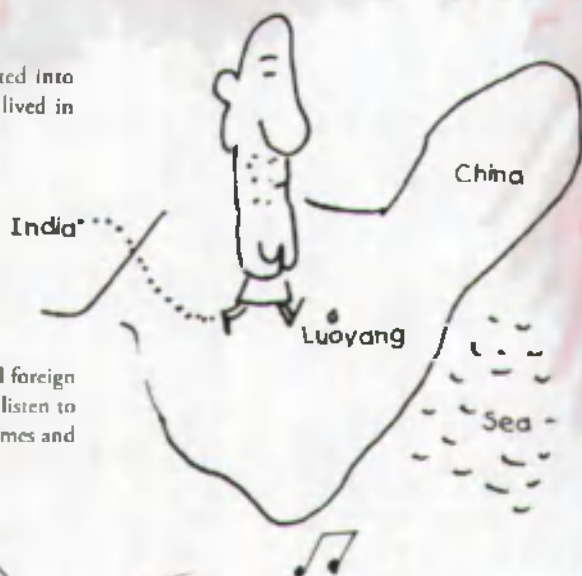
The White Horse Temple leads China in many aspects:

The first old temple

The first ancient pagoda

The first Bodhi venue where Buddhist rites were performed...

It was here that the first Han was initiated into monkhood when the monks from India lived in this temple.



On the New Year's Day both Chinese and foreign friends gather at the Baimasi Temple and listen to the bell of the temple while it rings 108 times and prays for a good life.



Tomb of Bai Juyi

The Tomb of Bai Juyi, a famous poet of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), is located on the Pipafeng Peak near the Longmen Grottoes. From the peak one can see the Songshan Mountain. Bai Juyi lived in the Xiangshansi Temple nearby in his later years.

It is said that Bai Juyi would read his new poems to the old people and would rewrite them until they were satisfied with them.



Shaolin Temple

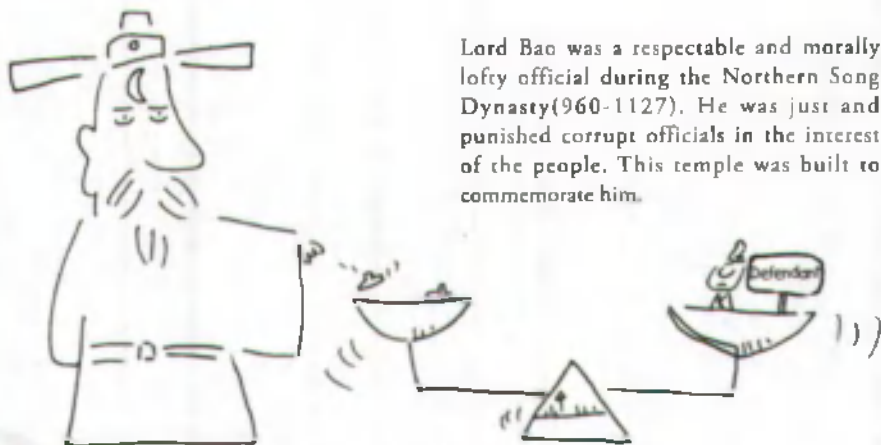
It was built in 495. In 527, Bodhidharma, an Indian monk, founded Zen Buddhism in the Shaolin Temple. The Shaolin Temple is rightly regarded as the ancestral temple of Chinese Zen Buddhism. The temple is quite large in size with the two main buildings being the Dharma Cave and the Hall of Sakyamuni. The Dharma Cave is reputed to be the place where Dharma faced the wall and meditated for ten years until he attained enlightenment. The forest of tombs stretching several hundred meters to the west of the temple has been the cemetery for generations of monks. The Thousand-Buddha Hall and the White Clothes Hall are famous for their frescoes.

In the early days of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the martial arts monks of the temple helped Li Shimin who later became Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty to defeat his enemies, making the Shaolin Temple well-known in China. The Shaolin Temple became famous for Zen Buddhism and martial arts. Today you can see and appreciate wonderful performances of martial arts in the Shaolin Temple.



Baogong Temple

There is a hall in the Baogong (Lord Dao) Temple where large numbers of sculptures and frescos depict the legendary stories of Lord Bao.



Lord Bao was a respectable and morally lofty official during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). He was just and punished corrupt officials in the interest of the people. This temple was built to commemorate him.

Longmen Grottoes

Located 13 km away from Luoyang, the Longmen Grottoes were initially built around 493 when Northern Wei Emperor Xiaowen moved his capital to Luoyang where it remained during the Eastern Wei (534-550), the Western Wei (535-556), the Northern Zhou (557-581), the Northern Qi (550-577), the Sui (581-618) and the Tang (618-907) Dynasties. The construction lasted for 400-odd years and it now has 3,600 inscriptions and steles and 39 pagodas.

Over 2,300 grottoes with more than 100,000 statues

The Vairocana Buddha of the Fengxiansi Temple

Longmenshan Mountain

Curious me

Great Gate

Yi He River

The Longmen Grottoes was included in the list of World Cultural Heritage sites in 2000.

The Vairocana Buddha is the largest statue in the Longmen Grottoes standing 17.14 meters high and featuring a plump Buddha figure. The grand statue embodies the extremely high accomplishment of Buddhist art during the prosperous Tang Dynasty (618-907).

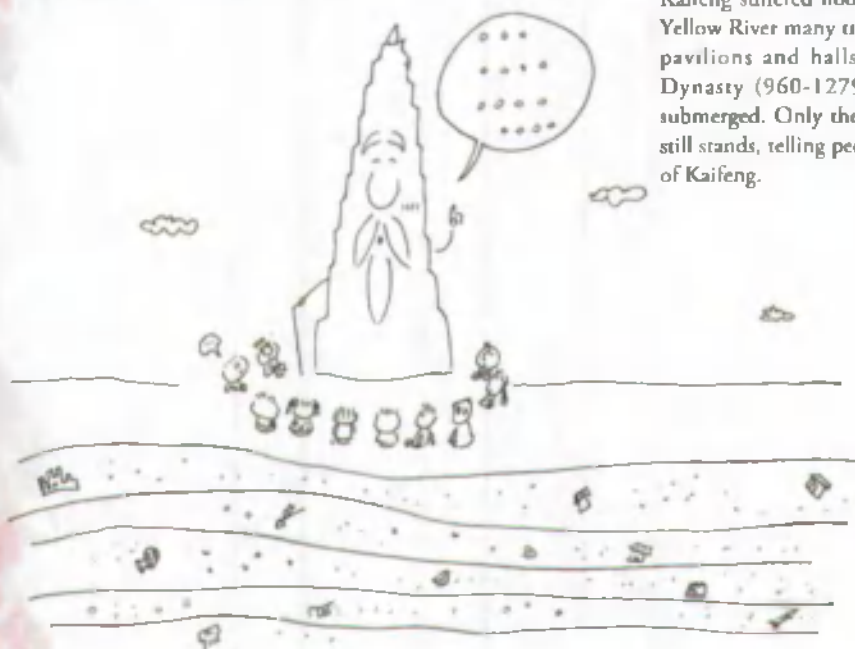
The smallest Buddha statue is only three cm high showing a high artistic standard.

There is a TCM Prescriptions Cave in the grottoes, which gets its name because there are 140-odd TCM prescriptions carved on both sides of the cave. They are the earliest stone carved TCM prescriptions in China.

Tieta Pagoda

Located in the northeast of Kaifeng, the Tieta (Iron) Pagoda is in fact a glazed-brick pagoda and it gets the name due to its brown colour. Built in 1049 during the Northern Song Dynasty, it was formally named as the Youguosi Temple and has 13 floors and is 55 meters tall. Its body is exquisitely carved with over 50 different designs such as flying Apsaras and Hercules. One can climb to the top of the pagoda using the 168-step staircase.

Kaifeng suffered flooding from the Yellow River many times. The royal pavilions and halls of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) are mostly submerged. Only the Tieta Pagoda still stands, telling people the stories of Kaifeng.



The older locals say that if you walk around the pagoda three times in both directions, Buddha will bless you with a safe and happy life.



Longting Pavilion

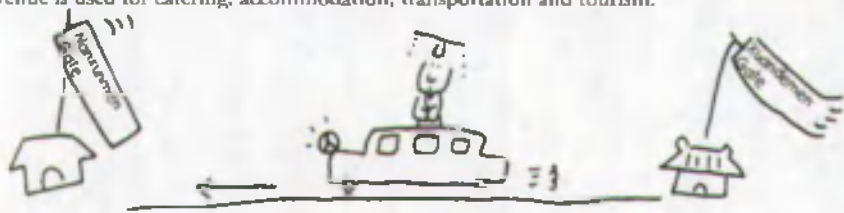
Located to the northwest of Kaifeng, the Longting (Imperial) Pavilion is the only building left on the site of the imperial palace of the Song Dynasty (960-1279). The centre of the pavilion was originally the imperial palace of the Later Liang (907-923), Later Jin (936-947), Later Zhou (951-960), Song (960-1279) and Jin (1115-1234) Dynasties. The imperial pier base of black rock in the hall is said to be the place where the imperial edicts were received and read and the memorial tablets of emperors were placed. The Longting Pavilion is covered with glazed tiles and is the symbol of Kaifeng City.



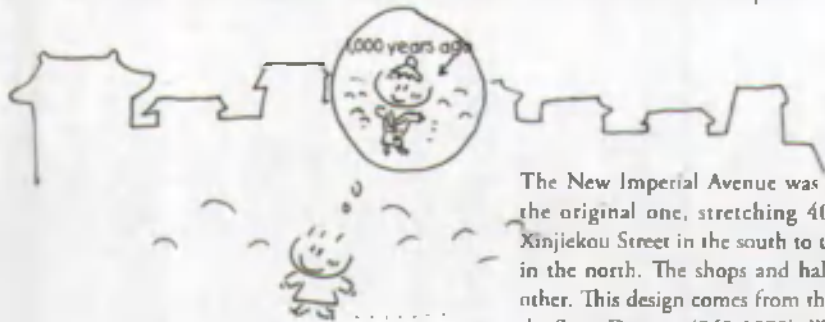
There is a straight road in front of the Longting Pavilion with lakes on either side. The east side, where the water was muddy, was supposed to be the mansion of the treacherous court official Pan Renmei and the west side, where the water was limpid, to be the mansion of the loyal court official Yang Jiye also called Yang Linggong.

Imperial Avenue of the Song Capital

This is located in the centre of Kaifeng. The buildings on both sides are mainly two or three-storey pseudo-classic pavilions and halls. All the people who work there wear Song-style clothes. The imperial avenue is used for catering, accommodation, transportation and tourism.



The Imperial Avenue of the Song Capital extends from the Xuandemen Gate in the north to the Nanxunmen Gate of the outer town. It was a main street built for an emperor.



The New Imperial Avenue was built on the basis of the original one, stretching 400-odd meters from Xijiekou Street in the south to the Wuchaomen Gate in the north. The shops and halls connect with each other. This design comes from the historical records of the Song Dynasty (960-1279). While walking through it, one may feel his or her presence in the Song Dynasty some thousand years ago.

Anyang Yin Ruins Museum

The Yin Ruins are the site of the capital of the late Shang Dynasty (1600 BC-1046 BC) and are located in the Xiaotun Village, Anyang in Henan Province. This site has a history of more than 3,300 years. It became world-famous when bones and tortoise shells with inscriptions were excavated here along with a lot of bronze wares. This enabled it to be included in the list of World Cultural Heritage sites.

The ruins cover an area of 24 square km and are divided into the palace area, the imperial cemetery, the common cemetery, the handicrafts area, the common people dwelling area and the slave dwelling area. The Huanshui River flows through the city. With respect to the scale, area and magnificence of the city as well as the crafts, beauty, strangeness and the number of cultural relics found here, it was the political, economic and cultural centre of not only China but perhaps also the Orient at that time.



The Simuwu Ancient Square Tripod; which is the largest bronze ware unearthed in the world, was found here and bears witness to the old and well developed civilization of China.

The inscriptions found on bones and tortoise shells are the records of the Yin Dynasty (1300 BC-1046 BC). They are the earliest known written characters of China and thus are the earliest "archives" of ancient China. About 150,000 fragments of bones with inscription and 4,500-odd characters have been found, showing the unique origin of Chinese characters.



Chan Realization

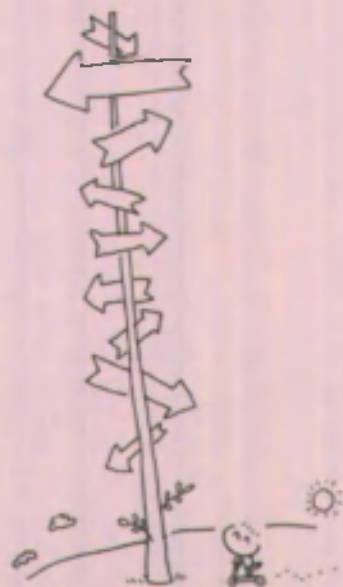
Walking and singing on the road is
not lonely, it is a kind of lifestyle.





A Land with Direct Accesses to Nine Provinces— Hubei

Located on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, it is called E for short. It is inhabited by 42 ethnic minority groups such as the Tujia and the Miao. Its mid-southern part is the alluvial Jiangnan Plain formed by the Yangtze and Hanjiang Rivers and it is connected with the plains of Dongtinghu Lake.







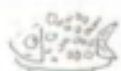
Local Specialities



Hot dry Noodles



Fried smelly Bean Curd



Fishball Sticks



Glutinous Rice Dumplings



Laochang Dried Bean Curd



Steamed Wuchang Fish



Jiangling Eight Treasures Rice Pudding



Folk Customs



Huagu Opera



Guozao in Wuhan
(Having breakfast)



Chime Bells



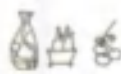
Wudang Sword



Special Local Products



Baiyunbian Liquor



Three Treasures of Yichang City
(Coloured Pottery, Miniatures and Tangerines)



Honghu Feather Fans



Jingzhou Brocade



Preserved Eggs



Xiaogan Sesame Biscuits



Impression on the Local People



Intelligent and Capable



Love to use their brain



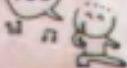
A little shrewd



Naturally joyous



Resilient



Wuhan

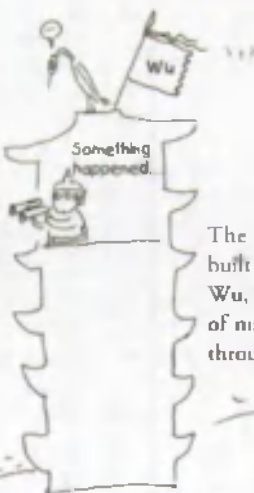
This is the capital of Hubei Province. It is an agglomeration of the three towns — Hankou, Wuchang and Hanyang, which are situated in the junction of the Yangtze River and the Hanshui River. It is the largest commercial and traffic hub in central China and is known for its direct accesses to nine provinces. In the city are the Guishan (Turtle) Mountain and the Sheshan (Snake) Mountain, which stand side by side. The Yangtze and Hanshui Rivers meet there making it a very picturesque city.



Wuhan is one of the "four major furnaces" in China. During the period when I studied in Wuhan, I discovered how hot it could get in Wuhan in summer.

Yellow Crane Tower

The Yellow Crane Tower which is located near the Yangtze River is one of three famous towers in the south of the Yangtze River. The other two are the Yueyanglou Tower of Hunan and the Tengwangge (Prince Teng's) Pavilion of Jiangxi. It got the name because the immortals were supposed to pass by it while riding yellow cranes. The tower has been repaired many times. From the tower you can see the Yangtze River flowing eastward and you get a good view of the three towns.



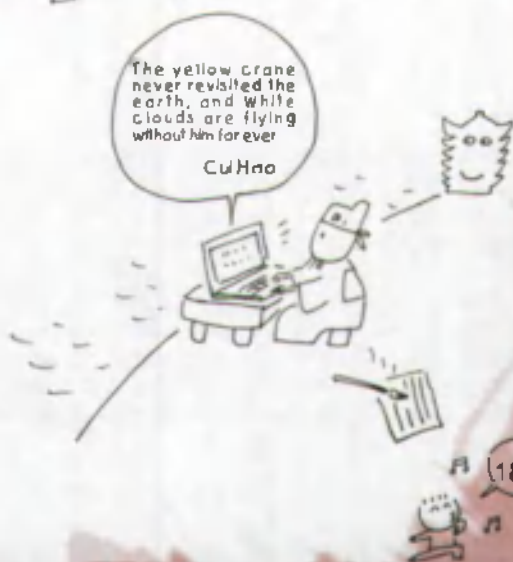
The Yellow Crane Tower was built by Sun Quan, the King of Wu, in 223 to realize the aim of making his state prosperous through military reign.



The yellow crane never revisited the earth, and white clouds are flying without him forever

Cui Hao

"The yellow crane never revisited the earth, and the white clouds are flying without him for ever". This was written by Cui Hao about the tower.

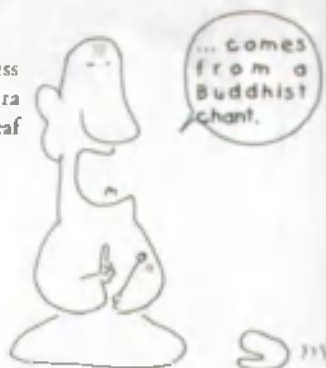


Guiyuansi Temple

It is located in Hanyang. The 500 arhats made from special bodiless lacquer are a wonder with vivid features and expressions. The Sutra Pavilion houses 7,000-odd volumes of sutras including the Patra-leaf Sutra, which is extremely valuable.



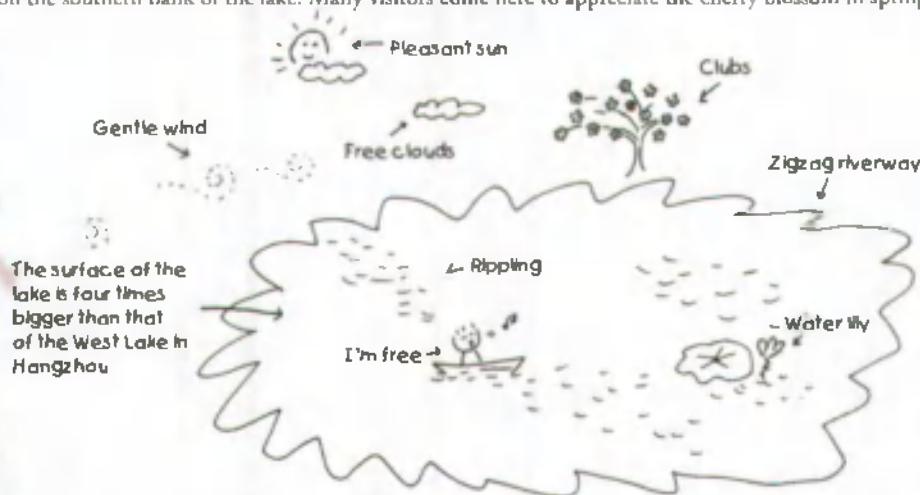
The Vegetarian Banquet of the Guiyuansi Temple is well-known. All the chicken, duck, fish and goose are made from bean curd.



The Guiyuansi Temple was built in 1658 or the 15th year of the Emperor Shunzhi Period of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) and the name comes from a Buddhist chant.

East Lake

Places to be visited on the western bank of the East Lake include the Xingying Pavilion built to commemorate Qu Yuan and the Hubei Museum which houses a large number of cultural relics including the magnificent and beautiful Chime Bell of Zenghou Yi's Tomb. Wuhan University lies on the southern bank of the lake. Many visitors come here to appreciate the cherry blossom in spring.

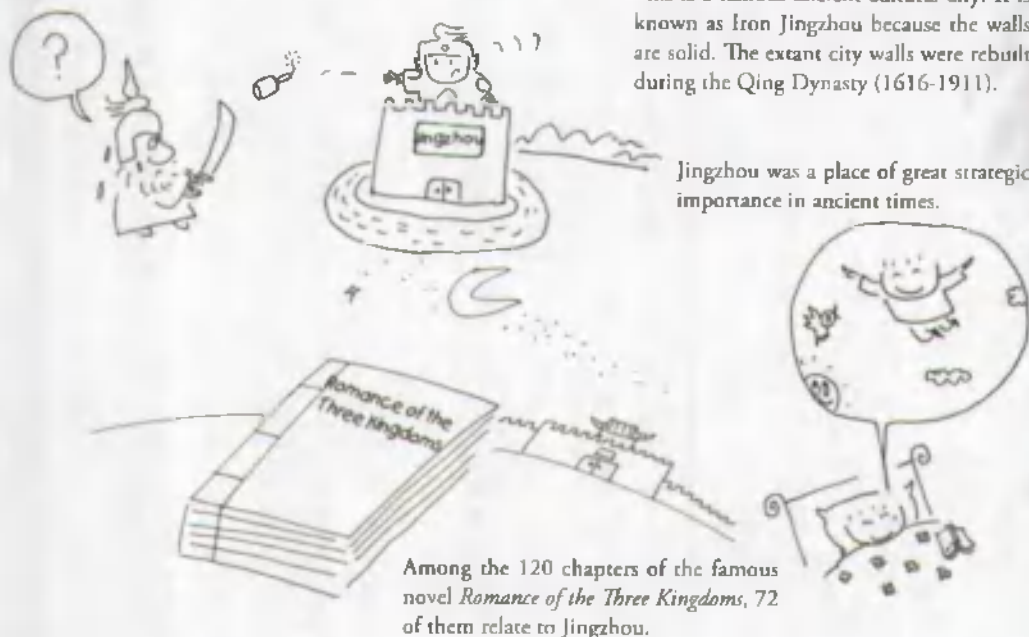


The East Lake covers an area of 33 square km and is the largest lake in any city in China. Apart from Zhongnanhai, the late Chairman Mao Zedong lived here for the longest time. The river way of the East Lake zigzags and is reputed as having 99 bends. It has 140 different kinds of plum blossoms and 300 varieties of water lilies on it. This is the largest selection of water lilies for anywhere in China. Boating on the wide lake is one of the great pleasures of this city.

Jingzhou Ancient City

This is a famous ancient cultural city. It is known as Iron Jingzhou because the walls are solid. The extant city walls were rebuilt during the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911).

Jingzhou was a place of great strategic importance in ancient times.



Dongpo Chibi

This is located in Huangzhou City, where the famous writer Su Dongpo of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) lived. He wrote the well known *Memory of the Past at Chibi* while looking at the beautiful scenery and remembering the famous legend about here. Hence, people named it as Dongpo Chibi. Nowadays it is called simply Chibi Park. Due to the changes of mountains and rivers the red cliff is several km from the Yangtze River.



The Chibi Battle is famous in Chinese history because a very small army beat a much bigger one. The two smaller and weaker states of Wu and Shu joined together and beat the powerful state of Wei.

Wudangshan Mountain

The Wudangshan Mountain covers an area of 400 square km and has many steep cliffs. The main peak, Zixiaofeng, stands 1,612 meters above sea level. The mountain range has 72 peaks and 24 streams. There are Taoist buildings on the mountains with a total of more than 20,000 rooms. The monasteries and buildings have been made a UNESCO World Heritage site.

On the top of Tianzhu Peak of Wudangshan is Jindian or Golden Palace. The hall is 5.5 meters high, 5.8 meters wide and 4.8 meters long. The hall is a complete gilded bronze structure. The hall is one of the biggest gilded copper temples in China.

The Wudangshan Mountain is known as a Taoist sacred mountain and is dedicated to the Great Perfect Warrior Emperor of the Mysterious Northern Heaven, from whence it gets the name Wudangshan. In the swordsmen novels the Wudang Sword reaches the height of perfection.

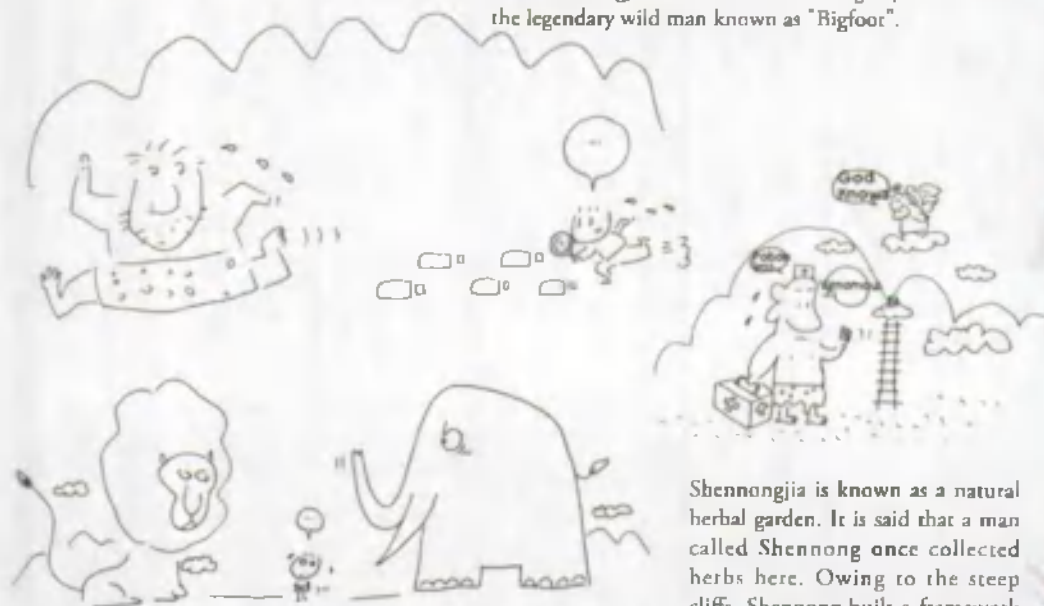
Shennongjia Nature Reserve

Shennongjia in northwest Hubei Province, known as the Ridges of Central China, has six peaks each with an altitude of more than 3,000 meters. Its chief peak, the Shennong Crest, is 3,105 meters above sea level, and is known as the highest peak in central China. The Shennongjia Nature Reserve with its high mountains and vast forests is rich in wildlife. The animals of the whitenized type are very mysterious. The species of whitenized ones found so far are the white bear, the white snake and the white monkey. Shennongjia has more than 10,000 species of trees of which many are very rare.



It is home to more than 900 golden monkeys which are under the State Class A protection. They are national treasures.

The Shennongjia Nature Reserve is allegedly the home of the legendary wild man known as "Bigfoot".



Shennongjia is known as a natural herbal garden. It is said that a man called Shennong once collected herbs here. Owing to the steep cliffs, Shennong built a framework (pronounced "jia" in Chinese) and climbed up the cliffs, hence the area got the name "Shennongjia".

In Songboping, a forest area of Shennongjia, two mountains stand towering opposite each other. The south mountain is like a howling lion, while the north one a glowering elephant.

The Land of Hibiscus With Three Streams and Four Rivers— Hunan



Hunan is a province in south China. It is located on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. As the bulk of the province lies south of the Dongtinghu Lake, hence it is called Hunan, meaning "south of the lake". Hunan is sometimes called Xiang for short, as the Xiangjiang River runs through the province. It is a province where many ethnic groups inhabit including the Miao and the Dong. It has a long history and a rich culture plus it is very picturesque. The east, south and west of the province are surrounded by mountains and hills. The central part of the province is mainly hilly areas, while the northern part is mostly plains and lakes. The Xiangjiang, the Zijiang, the Yuanjiang and the Lishui Rivers converge on the Yangtze River at Dongtinghu Lake, the second largest freshwater lake in China, in northern Hunan.







Local Specialities



Mao Braised Pork with
Brown Sauce



Dag Meat Casserole



Stinky preserved Bean Curd



Xuchangxing Roast Duck



Folk Customs



Dragon
Boat Race



Glutinous
Rice Dumplings



Diaojiao Stilted Building in Xiangxi



Special Local Products



Xiangquan Liquor



Hunan Embroidery



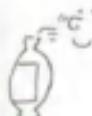
Xiangxi Preserved Ham



Ningxiang Pork



Xiang-Huang Chicken



Baishaye Liquor



Bamboo Products



Impression on the Local People



Gifted scholars



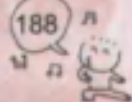
Generally great
people



Deep consideration
when handling affairs

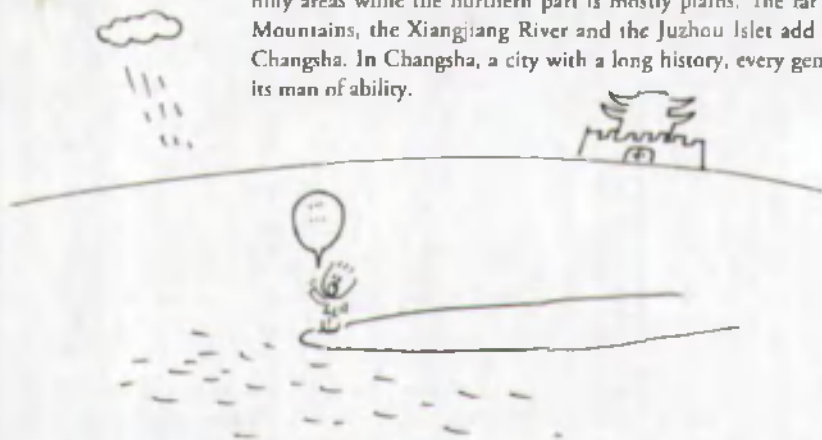


Steady



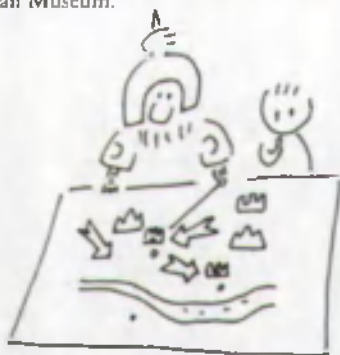
Changsha

Changsha is the capital of Hunan Province and is a major transportation hub between central and south China. The southern part of Changsha is mainly hilly areas while the northern part is mostly plains. The far flung Yuelushan Mountains, the Xiangjiang River and the Juzhou Islet add to the beauty of Changsha. In Changsha, a city with a long history, every generation produces its man of ability.



Mawangdui Han Tombs and the Hunan Museum

The corpses and more than 3,000 cultural relics of the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD) were unearthed from three tombs in 1972 and attracted many archaeologists both from home and abroad. Now the cultural relics are housed in the Hunan Museum.



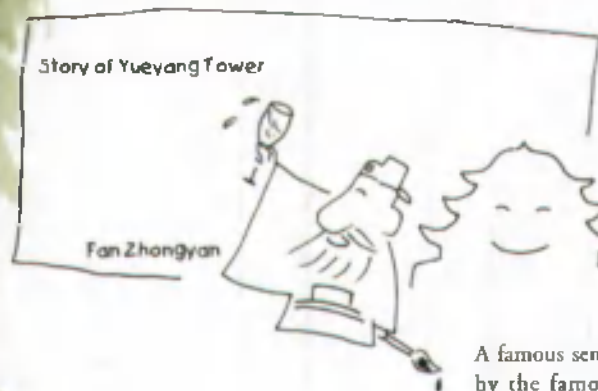
There were maps unearthed there also and they are the oldest maps extant in the world, for that they have a high scientific value and hold an important position in the history of map making.



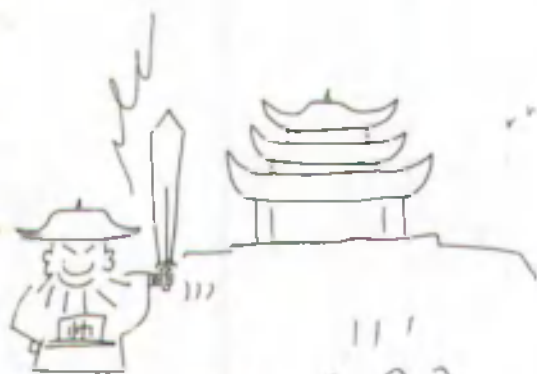
One tomb contained the remains of a woman. Her name was Xinzhuai and she was the wife of the prime minister of the State of Changsha of the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD). She died in 186 BC. When disinterred her corpse was complete and the body was still moist and supple. Some of her joints could move, her organs and surrounding tissue were still intact and the skin was still flexible. It is the first time that a humid corpse from ancient times was found in the world, astounding many people. Now the image of Xinzhuai is reproduced through high-tech means with a clear lifelike appearance.

Yueyang Tower

The Yueyang Tower, which is located on the shores of the Dongtinghu Lake, is an ancient architectural treasure. It was built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and rebuilt and expanded in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). It stands in Yueyang old town. It overlooks the Dongtinghu Lake, and has the Yangtze River in the north and the Xiangjiang River in the south.



A famous sentence from the *Story of the Yueyang Tower* by the famous Northern Song Dynasty writer Fan Zhongyan — "I am worried before the folks start to worry and feel happy after the folks have rejoiced" — became a great advertising message for the Yueyang Tower.



It is a rare structure in classical architecture. The tower is a three storey, rectangular building with a height of 15 meters and is constructed entirely from wood. Pillars have been included in the construction to ensure the strength of the building. Four pillars made of Nanmu wood support the entire tower; 12 pillars of catalpa wood support the eaves of the first storey and a further 12 pillars have been included to support the second storey. The surprising thing is that the girders, pillars, purlins and rafters are joined by rabbits only and

no nails whatsoever are used in its construction. Notwithstanding this, the tower is as stable as a huge rock. The roof of the tower was built using unusually curved lines which are similar to the shape of a helmet used by a knight of ancient times.



Yuelushan Mountain

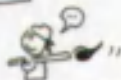
The Yuelushan Mountain is located on the west bank of the Xiangjiang River in the western suburb of Changsha. It is the last peak among the 72 peaks of the Hengshan Mountain range and is covered with very tall old trees creating a pensive scenery. From the top one can overlook Changsha City and see the Xiangjiang River flowing northwards.



The **Aiwan Pavilion** is one of the four famous pavilions in ancient China and was built in the 57th year (1792) of Emperor Qianlong's reign of the Qing Dynasty. It gets its name from a poem by Du Mu of the Tang Dynasty, "I stop my cart to watch the maple forest laden with frostbitten leaves more crimson than spring blooms."



The Yuelu Academy is located on the east side of the Yuelushan Mountain. It was founded in 976 and was one of the four most renowned academies of higher learning. When the renowned Confucian scholar Zhu Xi and other scholars lectured at the academy, there were some 1,000 students studying there. They were laying the foundations of the Huxiang culture.



Looking at the ordinary farmhouse in front of me, I imagined the grand life of Mao Zedong who walked out of here, sighing with emotion and surging thoughts.

Former Residence of Mao Zedong in Shaoshan

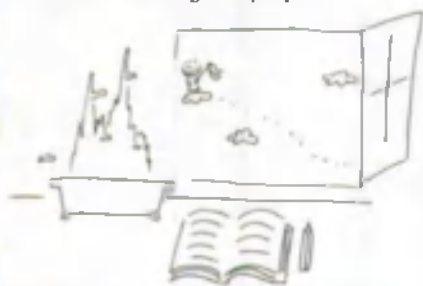
Mao Zedong was born in Shaoshan which is more than 100 km southwest of Changsha. His former residence which is located in Shangwuchang, Shaoshan has been renovated and returned to its original appearance. Nearby is the Memorial Hall of Mao Zedong. There are the Bronze Statue of Mao Zedong, Mao Zedong's Cultural Relics Museum, the Shaoshan Martyr Cemetery, Mao Zedong's poems and steles and the Dishui Cave, a country villa where Mao Zedong once lived in 1966 when he returned to his hometown.

Wulingyuan Scenic Area

Covering an area of 397 square km, the Wulingyuan Scenic Area has four parts — the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, Suoxiyu, the Tianzishan Mountain and Yangjiajie. Thanks to geographical changes, water erosion and efflorescence, the sandstone peak forest physiognomy was formed. It has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage sites list.



It has 3,103 unusually tall quartzite sandstone pillars rising above the ground and these are known as the "3,000 grotesque peaks".



It is said to be the "original manuscript of Chinese landscape pictures" and was admitted to the World Heritage site list.

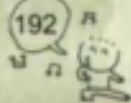


Another highlight of the Wulingyuan Scenic Area is the beautiful water scenery. There are many rivers, streams and brooks which drain into the Jinbianxi River and the Suoxi River running through the area from west to east. The site is popularly known to have "800 beautiful streams".



There are more than 80 high plateaus on the Tianzishan Mountain and in the Zhangjiajie National Park where one can enjoy the beauty of such peaks.

It is home to all the species of plants known in the world. The number of species of plants on the mountain is twice that in the whole of Europe. It is known as the "kingdom of plants".



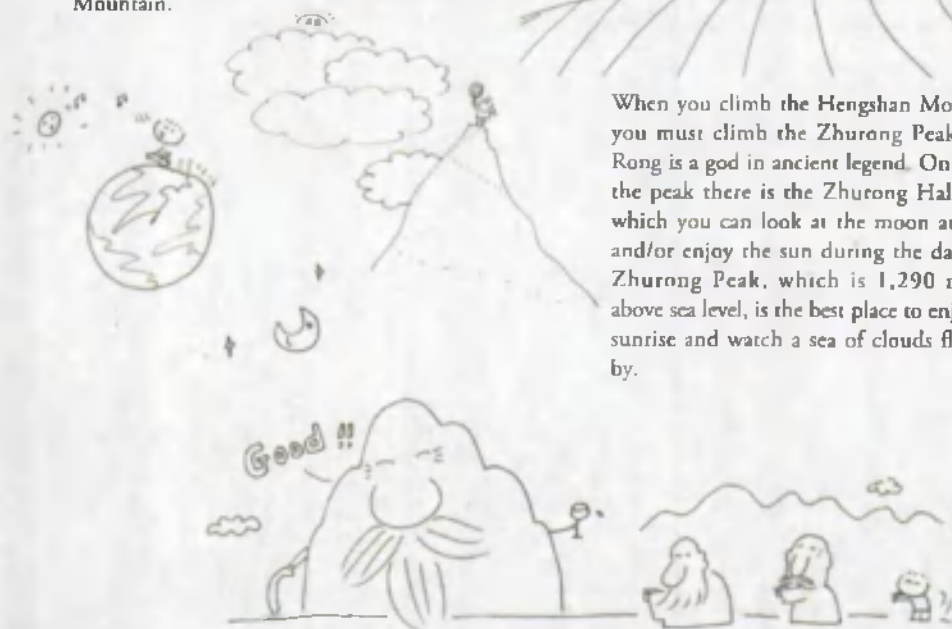
Hengshan Mountain

The Hengshan Mountain is known as the Southern Mountain of the Five Sacred Mountains. It is located 50 km to the north of Hengyang City. Grand, graceful, secluded and culturally abundant, the Hengshan Mountain leads the five sacred mountains in gracefulness. The renowned Four Wonders of the Southern Mountain are the height of the Zhurong Peak, the quietness of Fangguang Temple, the delicacy of the Sutra Hall, and the mystery of the Water-Screen Cave. "Sunrise, the sea of clouds, snow scenery and frog gathering" are the four natural spectacles of the Hengshan Mountain.

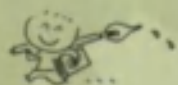
Weiyuan, a famous poet of the Qing Dynasty(1616-1911), wrote in the *Journey to Hengshan Mountain*: "The Hengshan Mountain is like walking, the Taishan Mountain is like sitting, the Huashan Mountain is like standing, the Songsan Mountain is like sleeping, but only the Southern Mountain feels like flying."



When you climb the Hengshan Mountain you must climb the Zhurong Peak. Zhu Rong is a god in ancient legend. On top of the peak there is the Zhurong Hall from which you can look at the moon at night and/or enjoy the sun during the day. The Zhurong Peak, which is 1,290 meters above sea level, is the best place to enjoy the sunrise and watch a sea of clouds floating by.

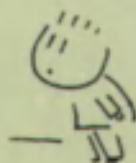
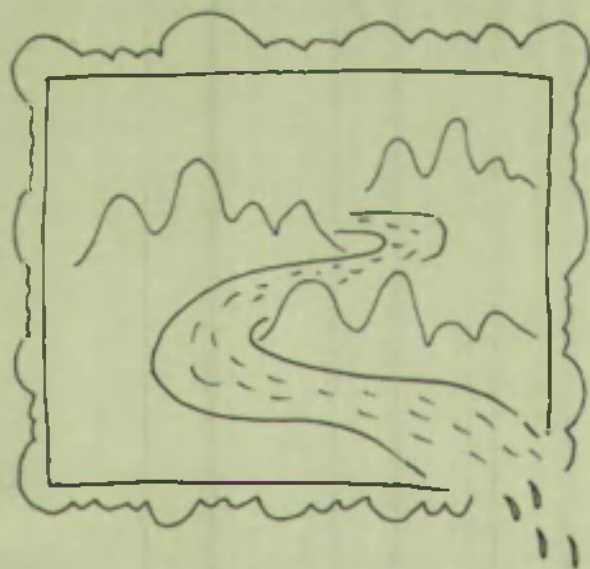


When congratulating an elderly person whose birthday is being celebrated, we often say: "May you have great happiness and may you live as long as the Southern Mountain". The Southern Mountain refers to the Hengshan Mountain. The Hengshan Mountain has been known as the Longevity Mountain since the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD). According to *Stars*, the Southern Mountain corresponds to one of the 28 constellations, the one which looks after the longevity of life.



A Land of Wonders— Anhui

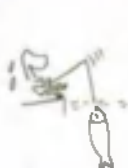
In 1667 or the sixth year of the reign of Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911), when a province was to be established in what is Anhui today, the name Anhui was taken from the first characters of the names of two cities, Anqing and Huizhou. The abbreviation for Anhui is Wan because there was a State called Wan and there are the Wanshan Mountain and the Wanhe River. It is an important place concerning China's prehistoric civilization. During the Warring States Period (475 BC-221 BC) Shouchun (modern Shouxian County) in central Anhui Province once became the capital of the State of Chu. The Huaihe River and the Yangtze River flow through it from west to east.







Local Specialities



Fang La Fish



Butterfly Noodles



Cao Cao Chicken



Tunxi Drunk Crab



Folk Customs



Huangmei Opera



Feng Yang
Flower Drum Dance



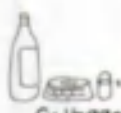
Jihuashan Temple Fair



Special Local Products



Tea (Qimen black tea, Tunxi
green tea and Huangshan
Maofan tea)



Gujinggong
Liquor



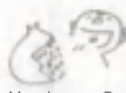
Wuyuan
Guapian Tea



Jingxian Xuan Paper



Jingxian Xuan Paper



Huaiyuan Guavas



Impression on the Local People



They are
clear-eyed



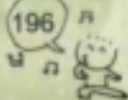
They are brave
enough to make a
living wandering from
place to place



They are
adventurous

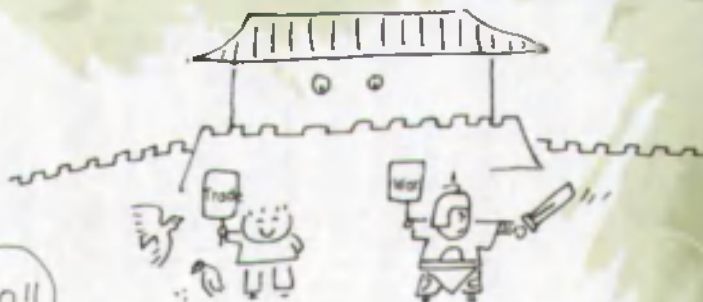


The Anhui girls
are hardworking
and good



Hefei

Hefei is the capital of Anhui Province. It has a history of more than 2,000 years and has always been a large city attracting many merchants. During the war, it was a strategic frontier town.



Bao Gong or Lord Bao, was born in Luzhou (present-day Feidong County of Anhui Province), and was an honest and upright official.

Memorial Temple of Lord Bao

Because of his renowned fairness and honesty, Baozhen or Bao Gong or Lord Bao, a native of Hefei, was popularly known as "Blue-Sky Bao". The Memorial Temple of Lord Bao in south downtown Hefei City is a temple dedicated to him. It is widely rumoured that the red flower lotus root planted in the temple has no threadlike things; a metaphor of Lord Bao's selflessness in pursuing public affairs. The well in the temple is called the Honest Spring. It is said that corrupt officials dared not drink the water from it.

Huangshan Mountain

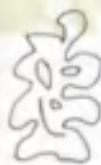
"Don't visit any mountain after finishing the Five Mountains and don't visit the other four mountains after seeing Huangshan". The beauty of the Huangshan Mountain is a blend of the majesty of the Taishan Mountain, the ruggedness of the Huashan Mountain, the clouds of the Hengshan Mountain, the flying waterfall of the Lushan Mountain and the beauty of the Emei Mountain. It has a reputation as "China's first strange mountain". It was included into the UNESCO's World Heritage site list and is one of China's most popular tourist destinations. The three tallest peaks are the Lotus Peak (Lian Hua Feng), the Bright Summit Peak (Guang Ming Ding) and the Celestial Peak (Tian Du Feng, literally the Capital of Heaven Peak). On the Huangshan Mountain the pine trees mostly grow between the cliffs. Influenced by the topography and the wind the pine trees have different poses with their limbs going in different directions. The pine trees are called "the guest greeting pine trees" and "the black tiger pine trees". All the peaks on the Huangshan Mountain are dangerous. There are many grotesque and fantastic stones all over the mountain. The Squirrel Skipping to Tiandu Peak, the Immortals Playing Chess Peak and the Pillar on the tip of a Pen Peak are too beautiful to be absorbed all at once.

The Huangshan Mountain was known as Yishan Mountain in ancient times. According to legend Yellow Emperor made pills of immortality on the mountain. Emperor Minghuang of the Tang Dynasty changed its name to Huangshan Mountain.





Strange Pines



Strange Stones



Sea Of Clouds



Hot Springs

Huangshan Mountain is well-known for its "strange pines, strange stones, sea of clouds and hot springs."

Looking westward from the Guang Ming Ding, you can see a 12-meter-high stone which weighs 600 tons — the Flying Stone. Its base is separated from the peak as if it flew from outside...

Tunxi Ancient Street

The Tunxi Ancient Street is a well-preserved ancient street in western downtown Huangshan City. It is paved with maroon flagstones on both sides of which stand the white-walled, black-based houses, just like an ink wash painting. Walking through it is like entering into an ancient picture scroll.



The Ancient Street is known as the Natural Studio and several hundred films have been shot here starting from the movie *Xiao Hua* (*The Little Flower*).

The Tunxi Old Town is the seat of the Huangshan Municipal Government. It gets its name from Huang Gai, a famous general during the Three Kingdoms period, who stationed (pronounced "tun" in Chinese), his troops in Xishui River area.



It produces Qimen black tea and Tunxi green tea, which are well-known for their mellow taste.

Jiuhuashan Mountain

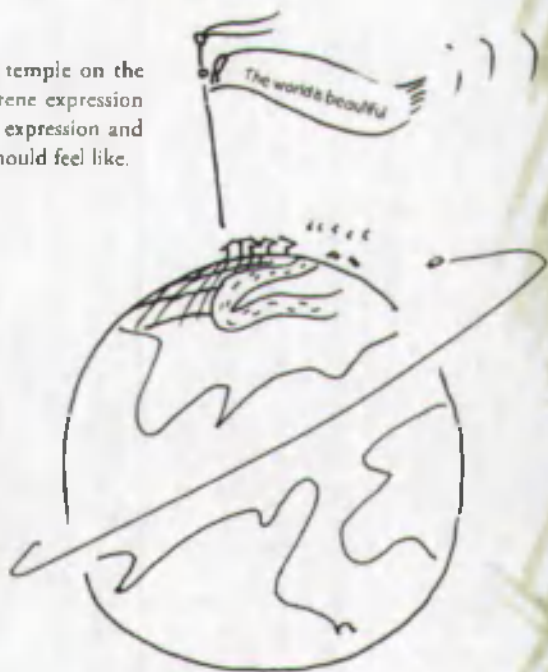
It is located beside Jiu Hua Town, 38 km south of Qingyang County in Anhui province. The Jiuhuashan Mountain is one of the four sacred mountains of Chinese Buddhism. Many of the mountain's shrines and temples are dedicated to Ksitigarbha (Known in Chinese as Dizang), who is a Bodhisattva and the protector of souls in hell according to the Mahayana Buddhist tradition. The mountain, known as the Lotus Buddhist Kingdom, has six scenic areas, including Jiu Hua Street and the Ganlu (Sweet Dew) Temple.



In the Huacheng Temple, the first and holiest temple on the Jiuhuashan Mountain, I met a monk with a serene expression who was sweeping the temple. His transcendent expression and the quiet temple reminded me of what a temple should feel like.

Ancient Villages in Anhui — Xidi and Hongcun Villages

The villages are located in Yixian county and have a precise layout and well-preserved residences. Today the major attraction in the Xidi Village is 124 well-preserved wooden buildings from the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1911) with beautiful carvings. These are known as the "treasures of Chinese ancient residential architecture". For fireproofing and field-irrigating the ancient Hongcun villagers had to build the water system known as "being unique to China".

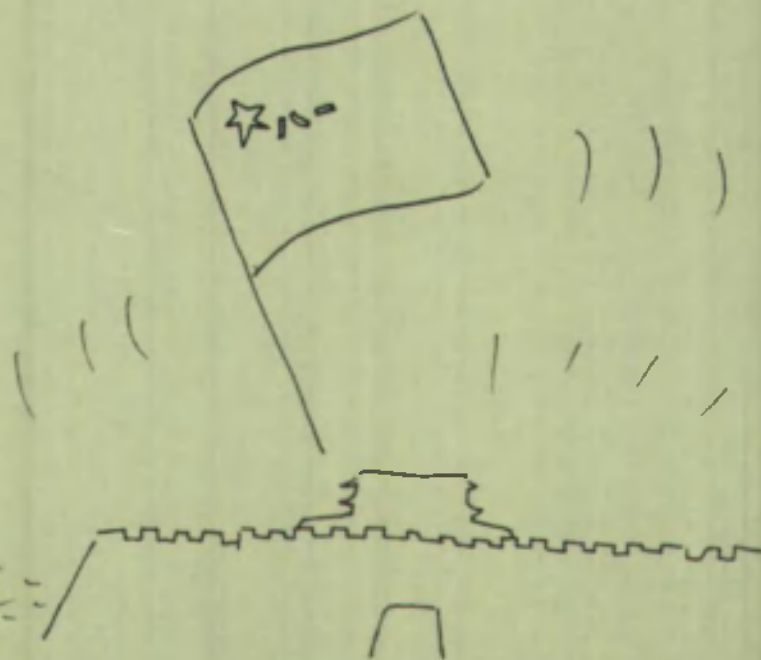


Having escaped the ravages of war, the Xidi Village, dating back to the 11th century, is well-preserved. It is known as the "the most beautiful village in the world". The two villages were made UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2000.



The Rise of the August 1 Army Flag— Jiangxi

The Ganjiang River flows through Jiangxi Province from south to north, so "Gan" has become the short name of the province. Due to its long history, prosperous economy and developed culture, the province is rich in resources and well known for its talented people. It is worthy of the name "the flourishing place in areas south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River".







Local Specialities



Red Capital Vegetables



Three-Cup Chicken



Lettuce and sliced Eels



Pork Slices with
Glutinous Rice Flour



Jialiang
Fish Banquet



Dog Meat Casserole



Folk Customs



Ceramics
Festival



Folk Songs of the
She Ethnic Minority



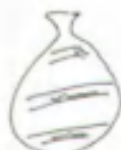
Fairy Meeting



Special Local Products



Famous Fans
of Jiangxi



Jingdezhen
Ceramics



Lushan Yunwu
(Cloud and Mist) Tea



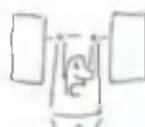
Local Liquor



Impression on the Local People



Steady going



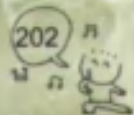
Assiduous



Single-hearted



The Jiangxi girls are gentle





Nanchang

Nanchang, the capital of Jiangxi Province in southeastern China, is located in the north of the province. The Nanchang Uprising organized by the CPC took place in Jiangxi on August 1, 1927. It is quite a flat province and has three rivers and five lakes making it very scenic.




Nanchang is known as the City of Heroes.



Pavilion of Prince Teng or the Tengwang Pavilion

The Tengwang Pavilion, which is magnificent, is one of the Three Great Towers in the south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River. Wang Bo, a writer in the early Tang Dynasty (618-907), wrote the *Preface to the Pavilion of Prince Teng*. The building as well as the city became celebrated because of Wang's introductory article and the author is known to all Chinese-speaking people from this masterpiece.



The Tengwang Pavilion was repeatedly destroyed and rebuilt during the past centuries. The present pavilion was rebuilt on the 29th time in a faux-Song Dynasty style.



Mao Zedong lit a single spark of revolution here leaving numerous war ruins and cultural relics. The Jinggangshan Mountain is known as the "cradle of the Chinese revolution".

Jinggangshan Mountain

The Jinggangshan Mountain, located near Ji'an City, is 370 km from Nanchang. In 1927 Mao Zedong set up the Jinggangshan Revolutionary Base Area. With its high peaks, flying waterfalls and flowing springs, it consists of eight scenic areas which are: Ciping (the center of the Jinggangshan Mountain area and the red revolutionary base of China), the Dragon Pond, Huangyangjie, the Five-Finger Peaks, the Bijiaoshan Mountain (Pen-Rack Mountain), Xiangzhou, Tongmuling and Xiankou with 270 scenic spots.



Jingdezhen

Jingdezhen is known as the Porcelain Capital and was famous for firing the imperial porcelains in the 1004-1007 period or the reign of Emperor Jingde of the Song Dynasty. The porcelain made in Jingdezhen was "as white as jade, as thin as paper, as bright as a mirror and produced a musical sound when struck". It joins Foshan Town in Guangdong Province, Hankou Town in Hubei Province and Zhuxian Town in Henan Province to be the four famous towns in China. The streets are lined with shops full of beautiful porcelain and china ware.

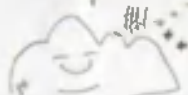


Lushan Mountain

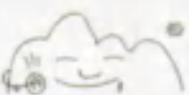
The Lushan Mountain towers over the southern bank of the Yangtze River and the western side of the Poyanghu Lake. One poem describes it as "one mountain flying along the Yangtze River". The Lushan Mountain owes its reputation to its steep and spectacular features that include ravines, waterfalls, grottoes, rocks and rivulets. The major beauty spots include the Flower Path, the Sandi Spring, the Hanpo Pass, the Jinxiu Valley and the Xianren (Immortals) Cave. Legend has it that during the Shang (1600 BC-1046 BC) and Zhou (1046 BC-256 BC) Dynasties there were seven brothers surnamed Kuang who built houses here and lived in seclusion, hence the mountain's name of Kuang Lushan Mountain.



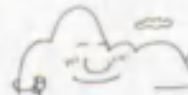
The Lushan Mountain has also attracted more than 1,500 eminent writers such as Sima Qian, Tao Yuanming, Li Bai, Hu Shi, and Guo Moruo, to name but a few, who left over 3,400 poems and essays praising the Lushan Mountain.



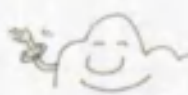
In spring it is like a dream
wreathed in swathes of
thick mist



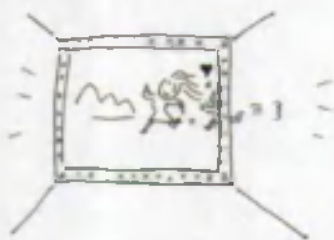
In summer abundant
rains drench the
mountain



In autumn the views
are intoxicating



And in winter the mountain
changes into a world of
white jade, covered by
thick snow and frost



The film *The Romance at Lushan* has been shown for more than ten years at the cinema in Lushan. The cinema claims the largest number of showings for a single film and the greatest number of viewers in a single cinema for the same movie.

In spring the Lushan Mountain is like a dream wreathed in swathes of thick mist. It is a famous summer resort.



During the War of Resistance Against Japan, the Lushan Mountain temporarily became the Summer Capital of the Kuomintang government. The villas in the shade of trees are still capped with a mysterious veil. After the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the CPC Central Committee convened political meetings here several times.

When I visited the Lushan Mountain, the rainy season had just started so it was overcast and rainy for several days.

Tao Yuanming, a famous pastoral poet, wrote a great number of poems on the subject of the Lushan Mountain which enjoyed great popularity. "As I pick chrysanthemums beneath the eastern fence, my eyes fall leisurely on the Southern Mountain". His line of this refers to the Lushan Mountain.

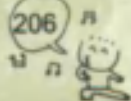
Wuyuan

Wuyuan is a county of Jiangxi Province with a long history. Originally it was under the jurisdiction of Anhui Province. It used to be one of six counties and one prefecture governed by ancient Huizhou. This remote county was home to some of China's top scholars, including Zhu Xi, a Confucian master during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), and Zhan Tianyou, China's first railway engineer. The county has many well-preserved old buildings from the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1911).

Wuyuan, known as the "most beautiful countryside in China," is surrounded by mountains and bound by rivers. Residential houses of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, old bridges, old pavilions and old trees set each other off and form a pleasing contrast. As you walk through here it's as if you were in an earthly paradise.



The Jialu Paper Umbrellas are very famous since they won an international gold medal in 1936. The Hui Ink and the Longwei Inkstones have also been made here since the Tang Dynasty (618-907). They are known as one of the four famous inkstones of China.



Chan Realization

From fickleness to simplicity
From being aggressive to being easy going
From limpness to easiness
From hesitation to leisure

Maybe
This is the maturity that the trip brought to...





Girls Here Are "Spicy"— Chongqing

Chongqing, a municipality directly under the Central Government, has a history of some 3,000 years. It lies on the south of the Jialingjiang River once called the "Yu Shui". The name comes from the fact that the city is often covered by fog, so it is generally referred to as the Foggy City. In Chinese history, Chongqing was the capital of three separate dynasties. In the 11th century BC, it was the capital of the Ba State. At the end of the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368), Ming Yuzhen, a peasant leader, held Shu (Sichuan area), and Chongqing became the capital of the Great Xia. In 1939, during the War of Resistance Against Japan, the Kuomintang government moved their capital to Chongqing from Nanjing. The culture of Chongqing can in some ways be seen as a unique compound of all these elements fusing together down the century to form the characteristic atmosphere and culture of this city.







Local Specialities



Crispy Skin Fish



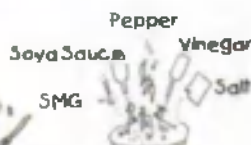
Chongqing Hotpot



Sichuan Flavor
Noodle



Stuffed Dumplings/
Wuchaoshou



Chicken (Splay
Chicken, Koushui
Chicken, Spring
Water Chicken)



Small Tangyuan
Dumplings



Stewed Duck
with Beer



Folk Customs



Tongkang Dragon Lantern
(Performance of Dragon Dance)



Fengdu Ghost City



Special Local Products

Pickled mustard root
exported to foreign
countries



Pickled Mustard Root



Broad Bean with
Many Tastes



Tuo Tea (Brick Tea)



Babshui Board Duck



Impression on the Local People



They like making friends



They handle matters in a
steady sensible way



They are warm hearted
in helping others



Chongqing girls are
nice and hot



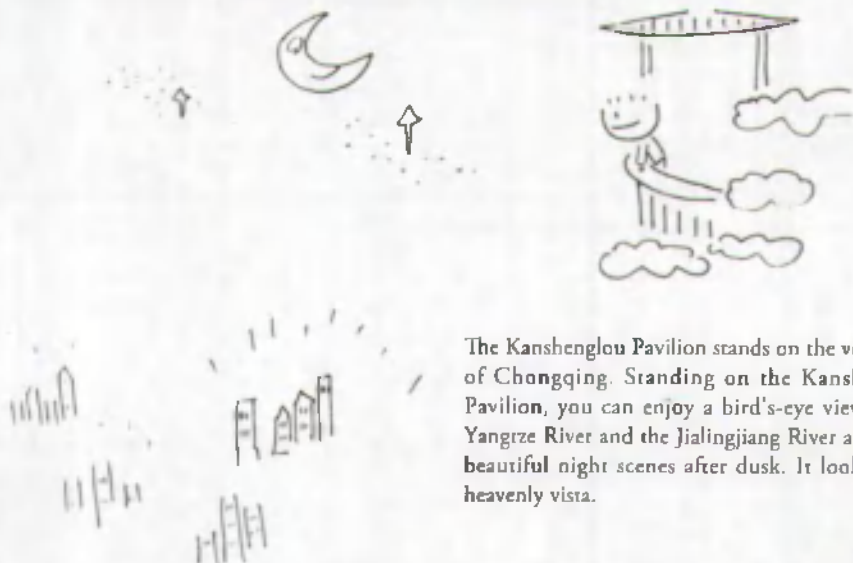
Chaotianmen Dock

The Yangtze River and the Jialingjiang River meet at the Chaotianmen Dock. The Chaotianmen Dock is an important maritime hub of Chongqing Municipality.

In the early years of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), there were 17 city gates. Of these, the Chaotianmen which means the gate ("men" in Chinese) faces ("chao" in Chinese) the heaven ("tian"), was the largest one. From the Chaotianmen Dock, people sailed eastward with the tide on the Yangtze River to Nanjing — the imperial capital of Ming Dynasty. In feudal China, the emperor was considered to be the Son of Heaven, so his capital city was thought to belong to Heaven. Thus, the Chaotianmen Dock meant a passageway facing Heaven. The local officials always welcomed imperial commissioners and received imperial edicts at the Chaotianmen Dock.

Erling Mountain Park

Situated in Yuzhong District of Chongqing, the Erling Mountain Park borders the Yangtze River to the south and the Jialingjiang River to the north. It was said that the ancient people considered linking the Yangtze and the Jialingjiang River through the Erling Mountain. There is a pavilion called Liangjiangting or Kanshenglou at the top of the park. The inside of the park is a peaceful and secluded place with pavilions and wonderful examples of bonsai trees.

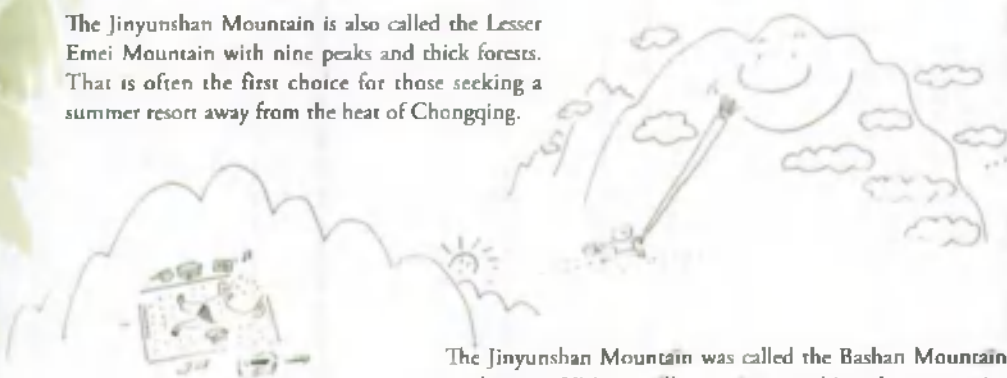


The Kanshenglou Pavilion stands on the very brow of Chongqing. Standing on the Kanshenglou Pavilion, you can enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Yangtze River and the Jialingjiang River and some beautiful night scenes after dusk. It looks like a heavenly vista.

Jinyunshan Mountain


Blessed with lush undulating hills, the Jinyunshan Mountain is a nature reserve with over 1,700 species of subtropical plants. The Botanical Garden lies in this area. Temples can also be found in the forest.

The Jinyunshan Mountain is also called the Lesser Emei Mountain with nine peaks and thick forests. That is often the first choice for those seeking a summer resort away from the heat of Chongqing.




The Jinyunshan Mountain was called the Bashan Mountain in the past. Visitors will see mist wreathing the mountain, and rosy clouds at dawn and dusk. The ancient people called this scene Jinyun (rosy cloud and white mist get together), so the mountains got the name Jinyunshan.

Dazu Cliff Carving



Dazu County is famous for the art of cliff carving in China. Carvings have been done at Dazu from the late years of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) right up to the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). The Baodingshan Mountain, located in Dazu County, is a ritual site for Tantric Buddhism with many pilgrims visiting every year. In the heart of the true pilgrim, the Baodingshan Mountain is just as holy as the Emei Mountain. The Dazu Cliff Carving was designated a World Heritage site by the UNESCO.

No. 136 statue of Samantabhadra Buddha among northern mountain cliff carvings — the depiction of an Oriental woman, is praised as the Oriental Venus.



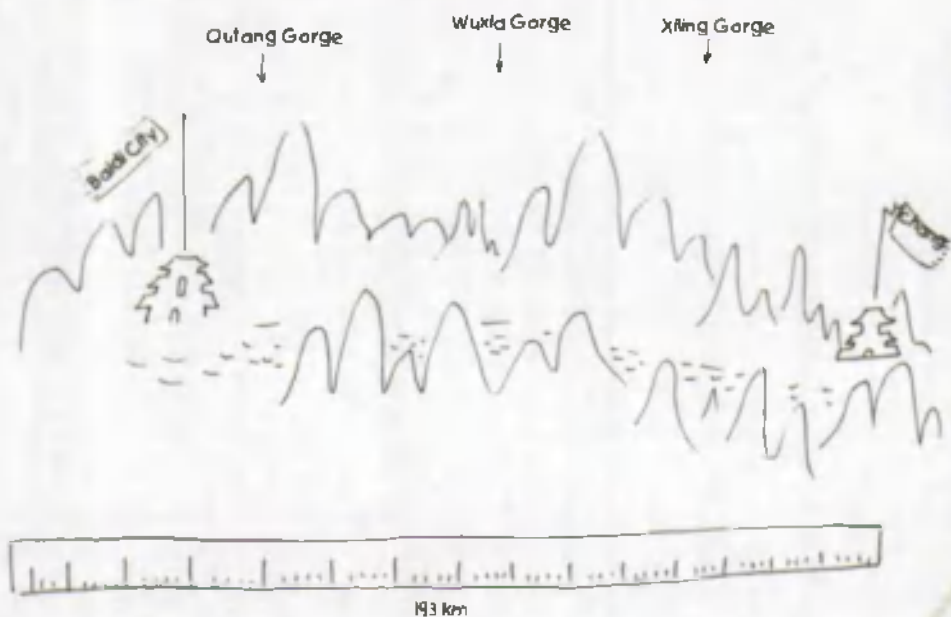
Wow!
So beautiful


The Dazu Cliff Carving boasts 76 areas of cliff carvings comprising over 60,000 statues and over 100,000 Chinese characters — mostly Buddhist inscriptions and epigraphs. The rock carvings of the Baodingshan Mountain boast some 15,000 statues recording 19 stories of Buddhist Scripture. No statue is the same as any other. This amazing artwork is a stunning manifestation of the integration of man and Buddha.



Three Gorges of the Yangtze River

The Three Gorges are Qutang, Wuxia, and Xiling, and together they form the most spectacular section of the Yangtze River. The Three Gorges extend from Baidi City in Chongqing in the west to Yichang in Hubei Province in the east, via Fengjie, Wushan and Zigui.





The waterways of the Three Gorges are an extremely busy navigation channel with abundant traffic every day. The characteristic sound of the area is the echoes of the famous songs sung by the boaters as they sail by on the Yangtze, the songs that have echoed on the air for thousands of years.

The middle gorge is the Wuxia Gorge, 40 km long, famed for its deep valley. The Xiling Gorge, 120 km in length, is one of the most dangerous parts of the river with many treacherous shoals and rapids. The current runs slowly and softly through the broad part of the Three Gorges, but turbulent currents can be encountered in the deep and narrow valleys.


Baidi City

Baidi City means the City of the White Emperor. Many ancient Chinese poets wrote odes in praise of the beauty of Baidi City. Hence it is also called the City of Poems. There is a temple called the White Emperor Temple, and it is here you will find the best spot for gazing out over the majestic scenery. During the Three Kingdoms, the King of Shu State, Liu Bei asked his Prime Minister Zhuge Liang to assist his son to manage government affairs at Baidi after his death.




City of Poems

In the late Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD), Gongsun Shu held the area of Shu (today's Sichuan area), and began major defensive constructions and



fortifications. In accordance with local legend, when construction of the defensive town began, a stream of white steam rose up from a well, like a white dragon flying up to heaven. In Chinese, white means "bai", and dragon is the animistic form an emperor usually takes. The town was therefore named Baidi (White Emperor) City. Today, visitors can see the ruins of the ancient city.

Setting Off From Baidi City in the Morning, written by Li Bai, is a poetic masterpiece for the ages.



There is a poem called 'Setting off from Baidi City in the Morning' written by the great Tang Dynasty poet Li Bai. The main story of the poem can be summarized thus: The poet sets off in the morning from Baidi City, and it takes just one day to sail a thousand li (500km) (arriving at Jiangling) on the tide of the Yangtze River. When his boat passed through the valleys, he heard the voices of the monkeys in the mountains. Because he was sailing with the current, the mountains seemed to fall away as they passed through.

Chan Realization

Sometimes, life is dull, trivial, solemn and even hopeless, but sometimes, life can be pleasant, happy and even delightful and joyous. Life is various. The key is to always try to find the positive in everything.

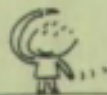
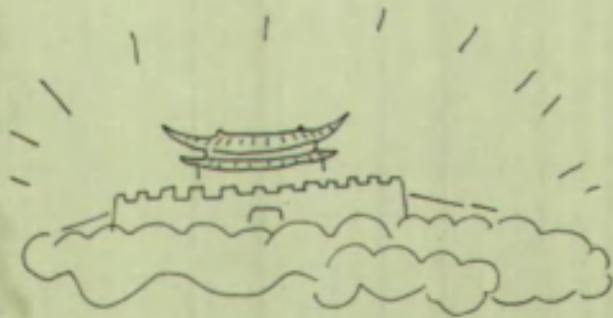


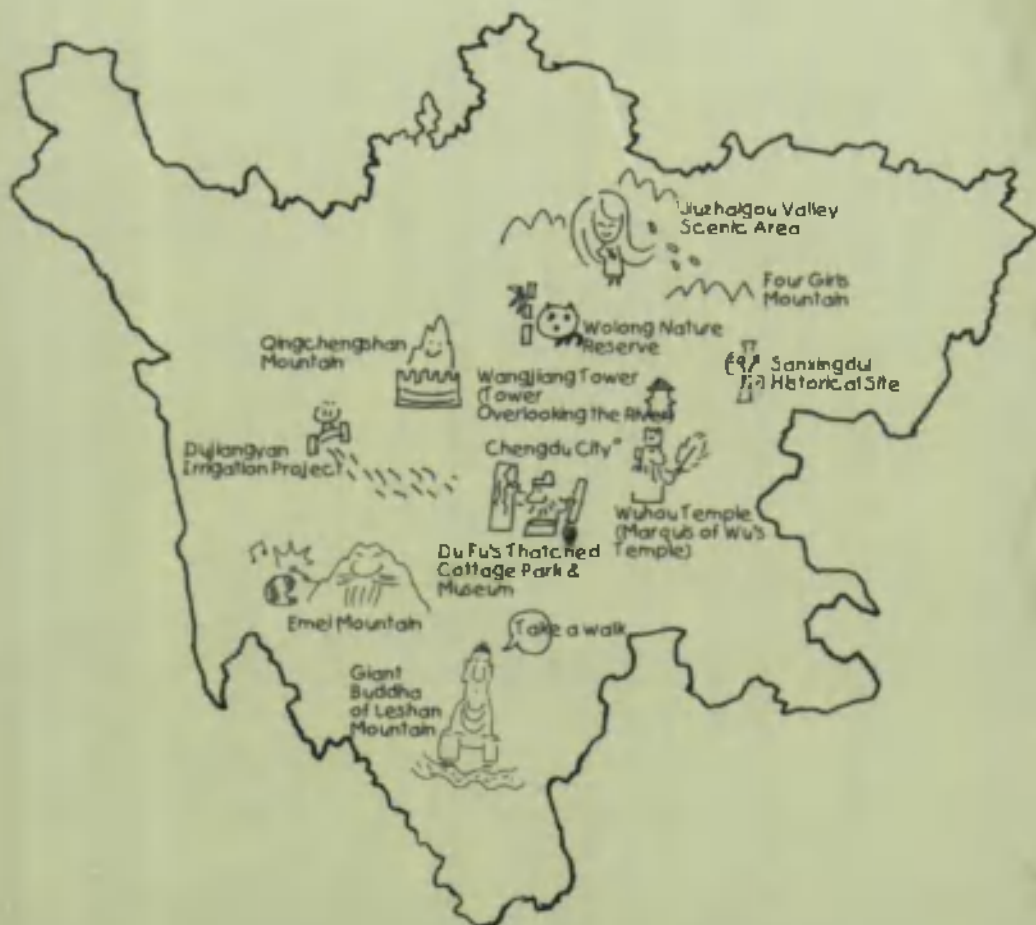
People compare traveling to a kind of dreamlike life with constant new and unimaginable sensations.



The Land of Abundance— Sichuan Sichuan

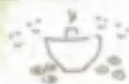
Located on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, Sichuan Province, called Shu for short, borders on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to the west, the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River to the east, the Qingling and Bashan Mountains to the north, and the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau to the south. Sichuan Province can be said to connect the southwestern, the northwestern and the central parts of China. With a comfortable climate and abundant resources, one can see how Sichuan has earned the nickname the Land of Abundance.







Local Specialities



Hotpot



Dandan Noodles
(Sichuan Flavor Noodles)



Stir-fried Bean Curd
in Hot Sauce



Pork Lungs in
Chili Sauce



Babao
Gruel



Chinese Crispy
Bread with Beef



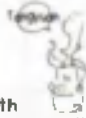
Maoxuewang, a
dish of Boiled Blood
Curd and Other Stuff
with Spicy Sauce



Banban
Chicken



Vermicelli with
Spicy sauce
and Vinegar



Dumpling
Balls Made
of Glutinous
Rice Flour



Folk Customs



Tea House
of Chengdu



Torchlight
Festival



Sichuan Opera



Special Local Products



Various Grain Wine
such as Wuliangye
(Five-Grain
liquid), Jianshan Chun,
Quanxingdaqu



Sichuan
Embroidery



Sichuan
Brocade



Chinese
Herbal
Medicine



Bamboo Woven
Articles with
Porcelain Inside



Bixian
Fermented
Bean Sauce



Impression on the Local People



Good at
exercising
their brains



Possessed of an
artistic disposition



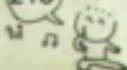
Possessing
great tenacity

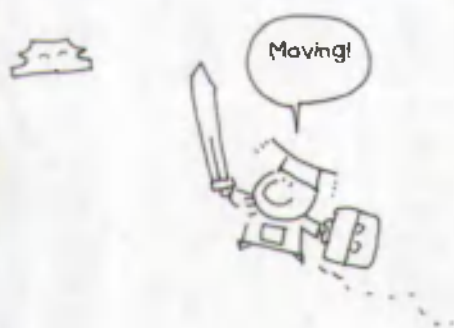


Enjoy their life



Beautiful, hot
Sichuan girls





Chengdu

Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan Province. Blessed with a comfortable climate and abundant resources, people enjoy a very good lifestyle. Chengdu is also famous for its rich culture. Du Fu, a famous Tang Dynasty poet, wrote of Chengdu "Seeing at dawn the sleek expanse of red, one finds the brocaded Town — a flowerbed". Chengdu in the spring is the perfect manifestation of the scene described in the poetry. In the 4th century BC, the king of the Shu State set up his manor in the place where Chengdu today lies.

Du Fu Thatched Cottage Park & Museum

Escaping from the turmoil resulting from the rebellion waged by An Lushan and Shi Shimin in Tang Dynasty (618-907), Du Fu, the Holy Poet, came to Chengdu and lived there. Today the cottage where he lived has been rebuilt as a park and museum.

Du Fu lived here for four years, composing over 240 poems, including *The Heartening Spring Rain*, *Song for the Cottage Wrecked by the Autumn Wind*.

Wangjiang Park

The Wangjiang (Overlooking the River) Tower lies in the Wangjiang Park. In the park, one can find the Xue Tao Well. Xue Tao was a famous Tang Dynasty poetess who lived there. Not only a poet, she was also a clever inventor. She invented Xue Tao Paper with water from the well. Superior to the yellow and coarse paper used at that time, Xue Tao Paper was colorful and delicate. The bamboo grabs visitors' attention as soon as they enter the park. People can buy various bamboo handiworks in the park.



Xue Tao left a lot of wonderful poetry written on Xue Tao Paper she invented with water from the well in the park.

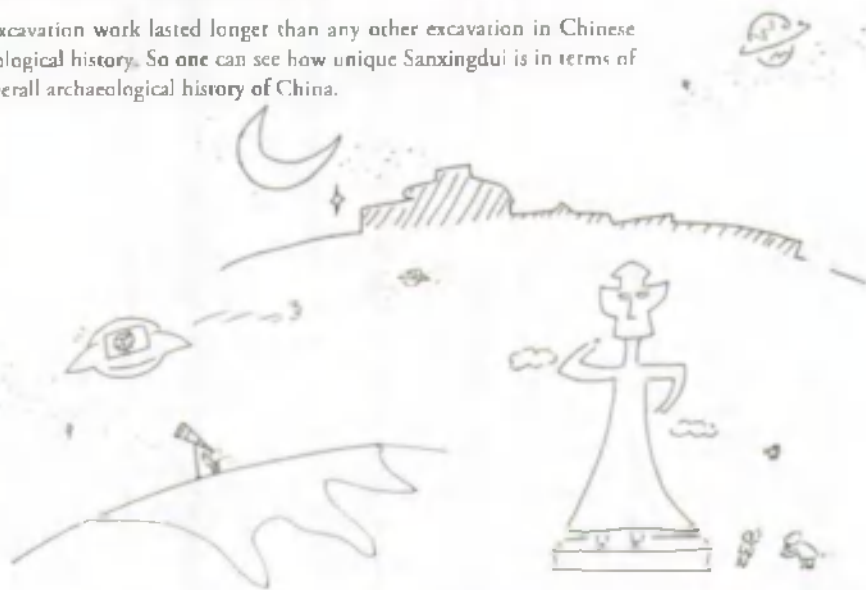
There are over 100 kinds of bamboo; indeed the park is a veritable encyclopedia of bamboo. The Wangjiang Park has the finest bamboo garden in Chengdu. Visitors can enjoy the fresh air in the bamboo garden.



Sanxingdui Historical Site

Located in Guanghan, north of Chengdu, the ruins of Sanxingdui from the ancient State of Shu constitute the most ancient and large-scale archeological discovery in China. The archeologists found many bronze artifacts — exotic figures and exquisite handicrafts, as well as a lot of jade, gold and pottery ware. The bronze artifacts are especially noteworthy featuring such strange figures as one with the head of a man and the body of a bird.

The excavation work lasted longer than any other excavation in Chinese archeological history. So one can see how unique Sanxingdui is in terms of the overall archaeological history of China.



Some even consider the artifacts unearthed at the Sanxingdui Historical Site to be from an alien world.

The golden club is the oldest and largest bronze artifact unearthed in the world. It stands 260 cm and weighs 300 kg. Its craftsmanship has drawn gasps of admiration and wonder from modern artists.

Dujiangyan Irrigation Project

The Dujiangyan Irrigation Project is about 60 km north of Chengdu City. The construction of the project began in 256 BC. It was one of the ancient water works, and its construction was undertaken by Li Bing, son of a Shu official. In 2,200 years ever since its construction, Chengdu has been free of flooding from the Minjiang River. Thanks to the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project, the Chengdu Plain became a land of abundance.

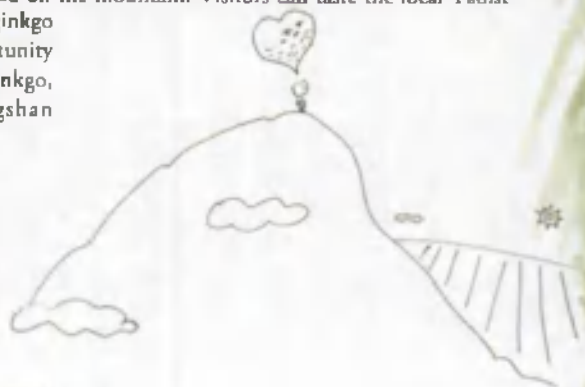


Dujiangyan Irrigation Project is the oldest surviving non-dam irrigation system in China.

Qingchengshan Mountain

About 15 km southwest from the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project can be found the Qingchengshan Mountain, one of the most famous Taoist sanctuaries in China. Surrounded by green peaks that stand like city walls, some people call it Qingcheng in Chinese, which means "green town" in English. Many Taoist sites like Tianshi Cave are situated on the mountain. Visitors can taste the local Taoist tea and wine. The mountain is teeming with ginkgo trees and so tourists should not miss the opportunity to sample the famous chicken stewed with ginkgo, which is a noted dish of the Qingchengshan Mountain.

The peak of the Qingchengshan Mountain affords a wonderful bird's eye view over the Chengdu Plain.



Endowed with so many wonderful examples of ancient architecture, small bridges, streams, and cliffs, the green peaks seem like an ancient wonder land to visitors and indeed, some describe the Qingchengshan Mountain as the most tranquil place under heaven.

Emei Mountain

The Emei Mountain is one of the four most sacred Buddhist sanctuaries. Its main peak is 3,099 meters above sea level, which is double the height of the Taishan Mountain, famous for its great majesty and beauty. It has dozens of Buddhist temples, where visitors can see many of the great cultural relics of Buddhism. Many pious Buddhist pilgrims, especially old ones, spend several days climbing to the top. When they arrive at the top, four kinds of wonderful scenes await them including the sunrise, sea of clouds, the light of Buddha and the Holy Lamp.



The Emei Mountain has many splendid landscapes. It is said that Buddhism was first introduced into the area in the 1st century AD. Blessed with nearly 2,000 years of Buddhist history, the Emei Mountain is a key repository for the richness of Buddhist culture.

There are many lovely "highway monkeys" along the mountain paths. These wild monkeys are the bosses here, so visitors have to pay some food to pass when they want to go to the top. In fact, feeding monkeys is a really fun part of your journey.



Giant Buddha of Leshan Mountain

The Giant Buddha Sculpture is located close to Leshan City. According to the historical record, Hairong, a Tang Dynasty (618-907) monk, was the driving force behind the erection of this gentle giant. He thought it would help to reduce the threat of flood if the area had the blessing of Buddha. The construction lasted for some 90 years. The sculpture is so huge that over 100 people can sit together on just the instep of the Giant Buddha. Recently, people discovered Buddha image-shaped caves on the chest of the sculpture, so the Giant Buddha seems to become more and more mysterious. As the largest stone Buddhist sculpture in the world, the Giant Buddha sits happily beside the Minjiang River in peaceful harmony with the mountain and the surrounding environment.





In the 1980s, the Jiuzhaigou area, a land of extraordinary natural beauty isolated for millions of years from the outside world, was discovered accidentally by some lumberjacks.



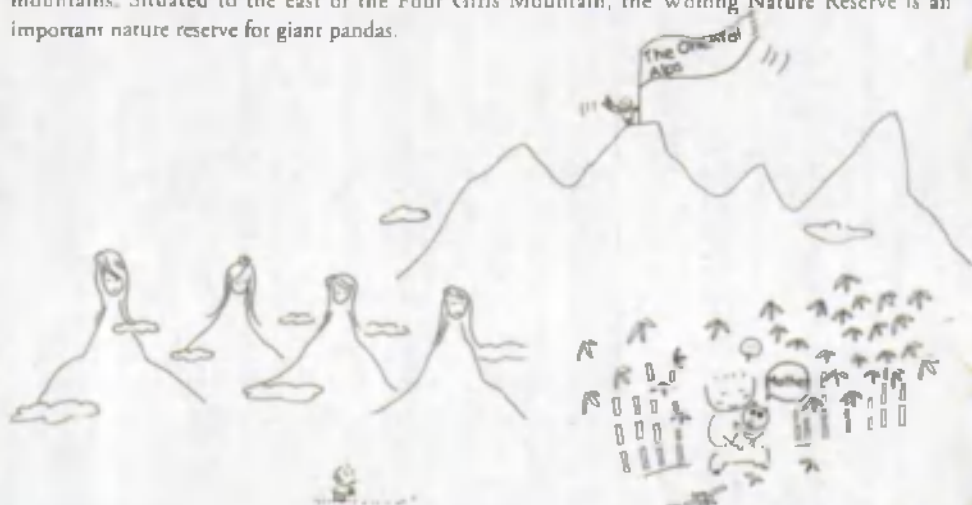
Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic Area

Located in the Minshan Mountains in the northwest of Sichuan Province, the Jiuzhaigou Valley is home to nine Tibetan villages. Endowed with blue-mirror-like water, unique karst topography and thick virginal forest, Jiuzhaigou is a world famous area of natural beauty on the plateau.

As the saying goes, the clouds of Huangshan Mountain are the most beautiful, and the water of Jiuzhaigou is the most wonderful in China. The lakes on the plateau are called "haizi" by local people. It seems that the plateau is dotted with lots of jade and crystals. The lake water is so clean that you can see clearly to a depth of 30 meters. Water is the very spirit of the Jiuzhaigou area, so here should be your first choice if you wish to see water scenery in China.

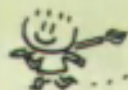
Four Girls Mountain and Wolong Nature Reserve

Located in the Qionglai Mountains, the Four Girls Mountain is 230 km away from Chengdu. Its main peak, with an elevation of 6,240 meters above sea level, stands alongside its three snow-clad sister mountains. These four snow-capped peaks are like four angels in white walking in the mountains. Situated to the east of the Four Girls Mountain, the Wolong Nature Reserve is an important nature reserve for giant pandas.



With splendid landscape and craggy cliffs, the Four Girls Mountain is called China's Alps by mountaineers.

In Wolong Nature Reserve, you can hug the lovely giant panda.



A Land Where Every Square Meter Gets Some Sun at Least Once Every Three Days— Guizhou

Guizhou Province, often referred to as Qian, lies in the southeast part of China. There are 12 ethnic minority communities here such as the Miao, Buyi, Dong, Yi, Sui, Tujia, Hui, Yao, Zhuang, Gelao, Bai, and Manchu. All have lived in Guizhou for generations. Water, mountains and karst caves are the main features of the landscape of the province.







Local Specialities



Silk Doll



Changwang Noodle



Fish in
Hot Chili Oil



Glutinous Rice Cake
in Lotus Shape



Folk Customs



Folk custom of
Wax Printing



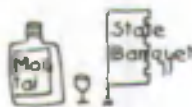
Tongren
Sorcerer Opera



Long history of
Liquor Culture



Special Local Products



Maotai Liquor



Cured Tobacco



National Costumes
of the Miao People



Impression on the Local People



Being shrewd



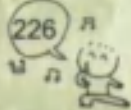
Following fashion



Individuality and
personality



Like eating



Guiyang

Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province, is famous for its lush green mountains. It rains a lot all year round. Also, it is a high altitude city located as it is on a high plateau with an altitude of 1,071 meters. Visitors can enjoy the charming karst landscape. With a climate similar to Kunming City, it is often called the Second City of Perpetual Spring with no harsh climate in winter and not so severe heat in summer.

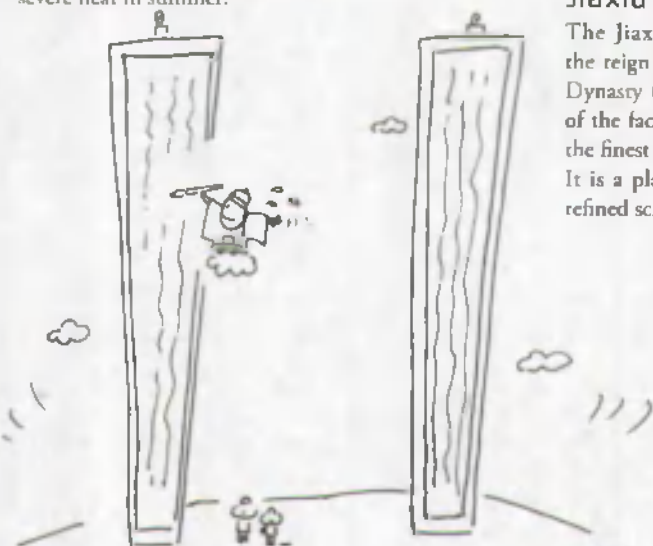


In Guiyang City, what impressed me most was the food. It is hard to forget the flavor of the fish in the local sour soup...

Jiaxiu Pavilion

The Jiaxiu Pavilion, first built during the reign of Emperor Wanli in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), was in recognition of the fact that the people in Guiyang are the finest and most talented under heaven. It is a place where people of letters and refined scholars gathered in ancient times.

There are many poems praising the pavilion. The 206-word couplets written by Liu Yushan in the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911) describing both the history and landscape of Guiyang City, are known as the First Couplets under Heaven.



Thanks, CCTV
Thanks, MTV
Thanks
All MTV



The Pavilion was built by Jiang Dongzhi, an imperial inspector, who named it Jiaxiu Pavilion. He would be satisfied that there were many talents in the history of Guiyang ...

It is a uniquely magnificent 20-meter-high and three-storied building with three caves and a pointed top, containing upturned caves on all sides in the tradition of Chinese architecture.

Qianlingshan Mountain

The Qianlingshan Mountain is located in the northwest of Guiyang City. It is a place, with rich plant and wildlife resources where visitors can enjoy beautiful natural scenery. The famous Hongfu Temple, lies in the mountains, which has been turned into an urban park.

The most exciting thing is the over 300 wild macaques in the park. Visitors can feed them for a unique experience.

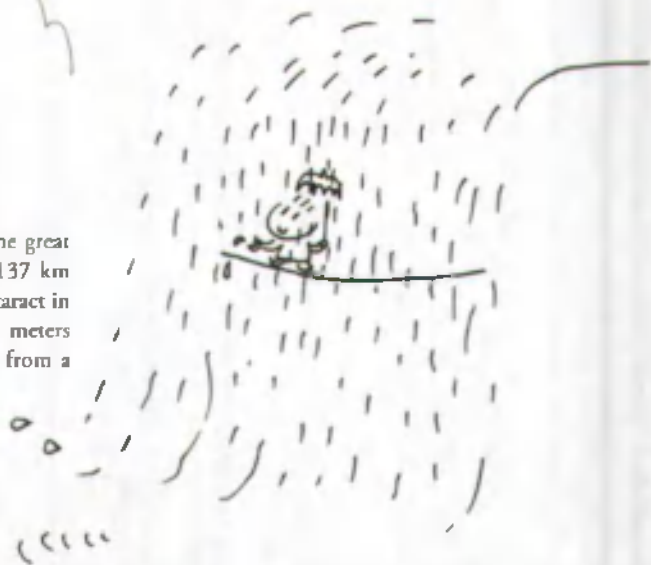
Toll Station



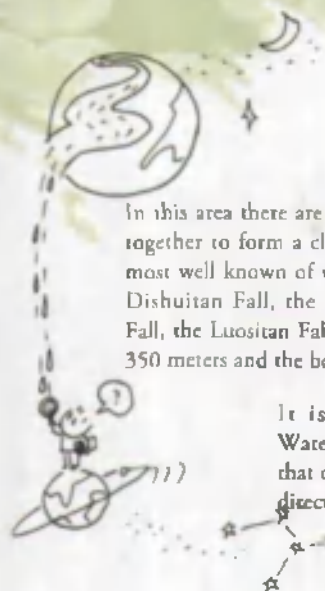
The Nine-wind Path, zigzagging up the mountain, is a stone path with over 380 steps. The path features a variety of stunning scenery. You can find ancient engraved calligraphy and you may find yourself drifting away with the spirit of ancient poetry.

Huangguoshu Waterfalls

The Huangguoshu Waterfalls is one of the great marvels of the world. The Grand Fall, 137 km away from Guiyang City, is the largest cataract in China. It is about 67 meters high and 81 meters wide. The waters are amazing and seen from a distance the sight is unrivalled.



Hidden behind the waterfall is a 134-meter-long water-curtain cave which is the most spectacular one in the world. Visitors can see and even touch the rushing water as it plunges past like numberless strings of pearls flying down from heaven.



In this area there are 18 different falls. They come together to form a cluster of cataracts, among the most well known of which are the 410-meter-high Dishuitan Fall, the 110-meter-wide Doupotang Fall, the Luositan Fall where the beach extends for 350 meters and the beautiful Yinlianzhui Fall.

It is said that the Huangguoshu Waterfalls is the only one in the world that can be appreciated from six different directions.



Tianxing Bridge

The Tianxing Bridge is also named Tiansheng Bridge. This scenic spot is famous for its scenery and its natural stones of fabulous shapes. The stones are just like high cactus extending far and wide forming a dense forest. When the river rises, the water overflows the banks and the whole stone forest stands above it. Seen from the distance, it makes for a fascinating sight. The Tianxing Bridge is at the lower reaches of the Huangguoshu Waterfalls. Visitors should definitely visit the village of the Buyi ethnic group which is not far away from here and where you may find some interesting things.

The mountains, waters, forests and caves form some marvelous scenery. It is a masterpiece of the nature.



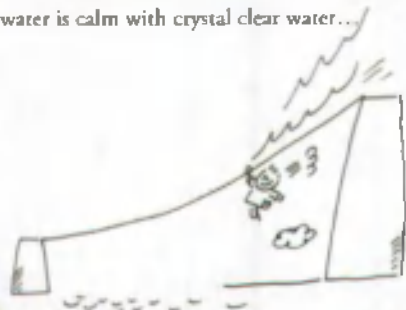
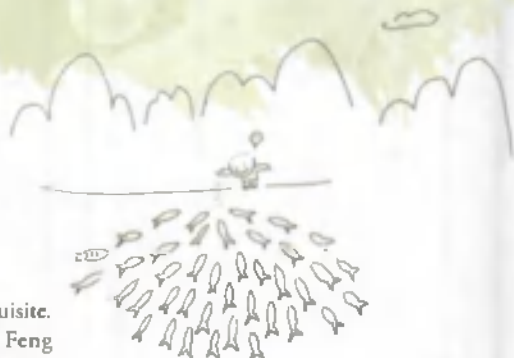
Stones, trees and water have been ingeniously combined together. The visitor may be surprised at the prodigious skills of nature and linger awhile to wonder at the beauty of the landscape.



Huaxi Park

The Huaxi Park is situated in the suburbs of Guiyang City. An ancient poet once wrote: "Green Lake covering 30 li (15 km); peach blossoms on both banks — a feast for the eyes". In the park, the mountains, dotted with pavilions, are very beautiful. Many rivers flow down their slopes.

The mountains in the Huaxi Park are small but exquisite. There are four mountains including Lu (Deer), Feng (Phoenix), Gui (Tortoise) and She (Snake) mountains. The water is calm with crystal clear water...



On top of the mountain, visitors can catch a cable car down if they want a bird-eye's view of the Huaxi Park or if they would like to experience the feeling of flying in the sky.

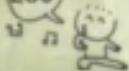
Zhijin Cave

The Zhijin Cave, located in Zhijin County, is one of the largest karst caves in the world. The whole cave, covering an area of about 700,000 square meters, is 12.1 km long and 175 meters wide at its widest point and 150 meters high at its highest point. It is a wonder created by nature and is honored as the King of All Caves with its rich karst accumulations of various shapes and sizes.

The Zhijin Cave consists of 11 scenic areas with 47 halls inside, totaling over 150 scenic spots. The largest hall covers an area of over 30,000 square meters. The sights to be seen inside the caves are indeed spectacular and there are rock formations of almost every conceivable kind and all of outstanding beauty. It is hard for anyone to describe this wonder of nature. It is so vivid and so splendid that when one comes in, one is dazzled and excited as if stepping into a fairyland...



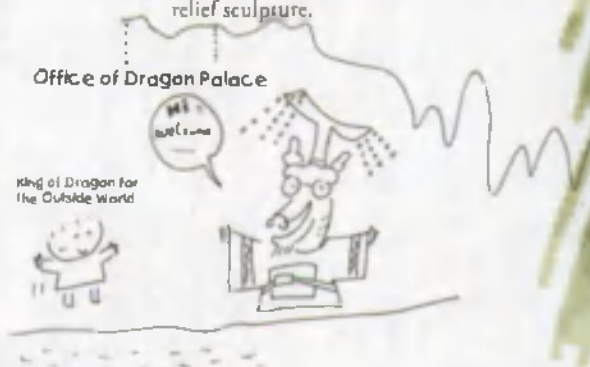
The Surra Lecturing Hall is a major attraction. Here, visitors can find a huge statue of Buddha seated in the altar, cupping her hands in front, with a Wooden Fish (used by Buddhist monks to beat rhythm when chanting scriptures) on the left side. The 800 Arhats sit around him and seem to be listening respectfully with various manners and expressions.



According to the colors of the limestone, there are four halls named after the four seasons which are the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter Halls. Among these halls, spring and winter are the most similar with authentic spring and winter scenes. The Winter Hall is also called Xuexiang Palace and here white calcium carbonates crystal can be seen everywhere. The main attraction of the Spring Hall is 10,000 Mu Rice Seedling Bed (1,000 meters=1 km). The karst accumulation here is very complex and looks just like a natural green seedling bed.



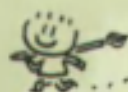
The Guanghan Hall, over 400-meter long, is the best part of the Zhiqin Cave. It is like a huge natural exhibition hall with a vast number of relief sculpture.



The best scenic spot of the Dragon Palace is called San Zui (Three Best of All) in China with the longest Karst cave, the highest waterfall in the caves, and the lowest natural radiation level. It is also honored as San Jue (Three Wonders) with numerous short rivers, a large Buddha Hall, and spectacular flowing water.



At the heart of the Dragon Palace, there are Wolonghu (Reclining Dragon) Lake, the Longmen (Dragon Gate) Fall, the Tianchi (Heavenly Pool) Lake. It was believed to be a the crystal palace for the Dragon King in fairy tales.



Yunnan

Yunnan

Yunnan Province, called Dian for short, is situated on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau in the southwestern border area of China. It is home to a number of communities of ethnic people including the Han, Yi, Bai, Hani, Zhuang, Dai, Miao, Lisu, Hui, Lahu, Va, Naxi, Yao, Tibetan, Jingpo, Mongolian, Drung and Jino. The area boasts extremely various topography, but hilly areas and plateaus account for over 90 percent of the total area of terrain. Yunnan is home to large areas of primeval forest, various geographic features, exotic ethnic customs, and a wondrously varied climate.







Local Specialities



Yunnan Pancake



Rice Cooked in the Bamboo Tube



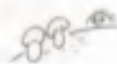
Guoqiao Rice Noodles (Across the Bridge Rice Noodles)



Steam-Pot Chicken



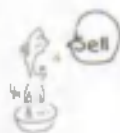
Vinegar-Pepper Fish/Source and Hot Fish



Various Wild Mushrooms



Sweet Herb Chicken



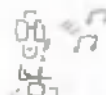
Pot Stewed



Folk Customs



Sanyuesan Festival



Naxi Classical Music



Horse Caravan



Water-Sprinkling Festival of the Dai



Special Local Products



Yunnan Baiyao Drug Powder for Injury



Pseudo-Ginseng (medical herb)



Xuanwei Ham



Three Toasts of Tea of the Bai



Wax Printed



Sani Bags



Pu'er Tea



Yunnan Tobacco



Impression on the Local People



Loyal and honest



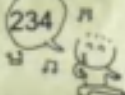
They are lovely when they act in a charming manner



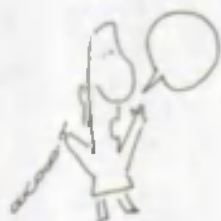
They always speak gently and softly



Folk songs and dances are their favorites. Very wonderful



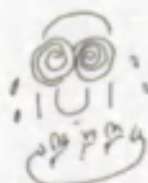
Eight Interesting Things About Yunnan



Selling eggs strung on wheat stalk braids



Using a broad-brimmed hat as cooking pot cover



Three mosquitoes used to cook a dish



Locusts Cooked for drinking wine



Girls are called old ladies



Flowers blossoming all year round



Elderly females climb mountains faster than monkeys

Spring Summer
Autumn Winter

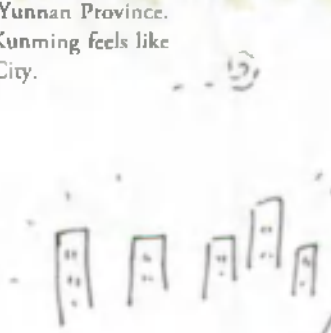


Dressing the same in four seasons of the year



Kunming

Kunming is the capital city of Yunnan Province. Because the annual climate of Kunming feels like spring, people call it the Spring City.



Dianchi Lake

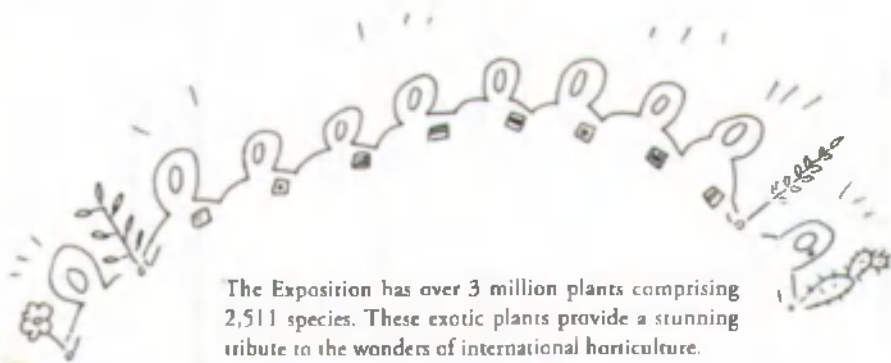
With its surrounding mountains, lakes, and its rich history, the Dianchi Lake is known as a Pearl of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. Mountains and lakes make for a most picturesque scene.



The Dianchi Lake, nicknamed the Kunming Lake, is crescent-shaped with a vast lake surface. When you go boating on the lake, it seems as if you are on the sea.

Kunming World Horticultural Exposition

Located in the urban district of Kunming City, the Exposition is a joint work of 90 countries and regions. Exhibitions of horticulture from all over the world are held in many local galleries and venues, including the Chinese Gallery, the Museum of Man and Nature, the Great Green House, the Science Museum, and the International Museum. The plants make for a riot of color in the Expo and provide a huge amount of delight both for the eye and the mind.

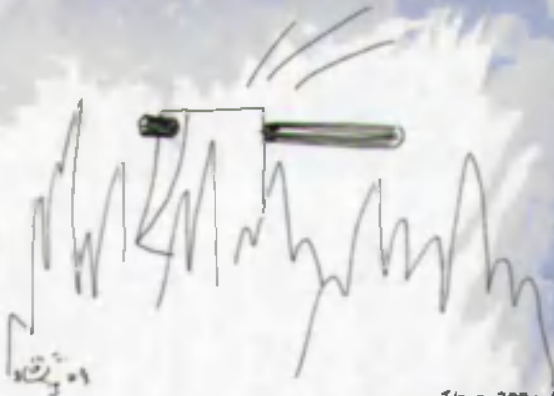


The Exposition has over 3 million plants comprising 2,511 species. These exotic plants provide a stunning tribute to the wonders of international horticulture.

Stone Forest

Located in the Li ethnic autonomous county to the southeast of Kunming City, the Stone Forest covers an area of over 26,667 hectares of typical karst topography. The Stone Forest is a world famous natural wonder and an absolute magnet for tourists.

With towering massive rock pillars, it seems as if a heavenly carpenter cut them with his great axe. 



Time: 200 million
① years ago

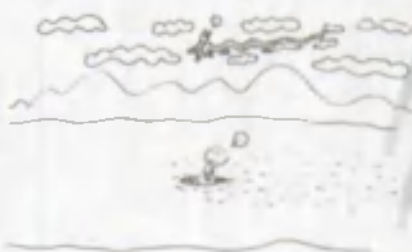
With a vast array of stones in the shape of humans and animals, each with unique features, the Stone Forest captures the imagination of all who visit it. Visitors rack their brains to try to give a suitable name to every stone in the Forest, according to their shapes.



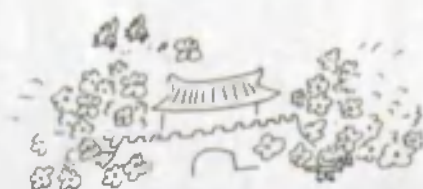
Some 200 million years ago, the Stone Forest was a boundless sea.

Ancient Town of Dali

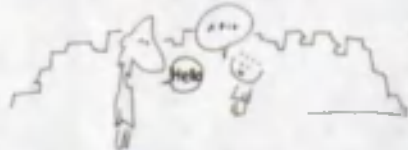
Historically, Dali was a political, economic, and cultural hub in Yunnan Province, as well as an important stopping off point on the Southern Silk Road. It was once the capital city of the Nan Zhao Dali empire (738-1258) in ancient times. The prosperity of the ancient town of Dali lasted for 500 years. Today, the ancient town of Dali is famous for the characteristic dwelling place architecture of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Visitors enjoy drinking the local Bai ethnic flavor tea, and feeling the fascination that comes with exploring such an ancient town.



If you can go boating on the Erhai Lake, and gaze on the dragon-like mountains and white clouds, you will be overwhelmed with feelings of peace and harmony with nature.



Blessed with over 600 years of history, Dali is a world of flowers, and every family there has a garden. The local flowers, such as Dali camellias, and azaleas, can be seen everywhere in glorious colors.



Dali boasts a famous street, called Foreigners' Street. Foreign visitors can experience the wonders of an ancient Chinese style street.

Three Pagodas at the Chongsheng Temple

The Chongsheng Temple is located in the northwest of Dali. The temple was the site of large-scale construction throughout history, but today only three pagodas survive. On top of each pagoda, there are four bronze birds with gold wings, all representing good omens. The Three Pagodas at the Chongsheng Temple are the prominent landmark of Dali.



Before the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the Chongsheng Temple had over 800 houses and 11,400 Buddhist statues, and was an important Buddhist Capital.



Since the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), several earthquakes have caused untold destruction in the ancient city of Dali and in the Chongsheng Temple. It seems only the three remaining pagodas are magically immune to earthquakes.

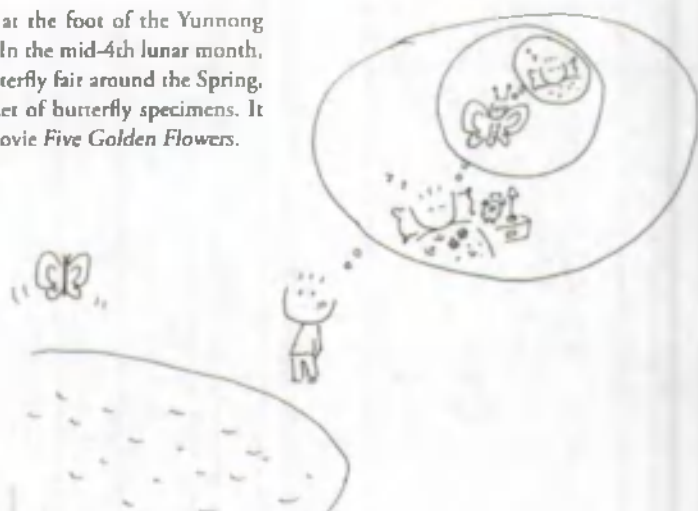


The main pagoda stands 70 meters tall with 16-storeys. Today, it is the highest surviving pagoda built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Set against the backdrop of mountains and the Erhai Lake, it is an amazingly apposite location for a place devoted to harmony and benevolence.

Butterfly Spring

The Butterfly Spring is situated at the foot of the Yunnong Peak of the Cangshan Mountain. In the mid-4th lunar month, local people hold a traditional butterfly fair around the Spring, where can be found a large market of butterfly specimens. It becomes famous because of the movie *Five Golden Flowers*.

There was a story, which tells of how one became a butterfly in his dreams. So, sitting by the Butterfly Spring on a summer's day, it is no wonder that one's thoughts turn to that most beautiful of creature — the butterfly.



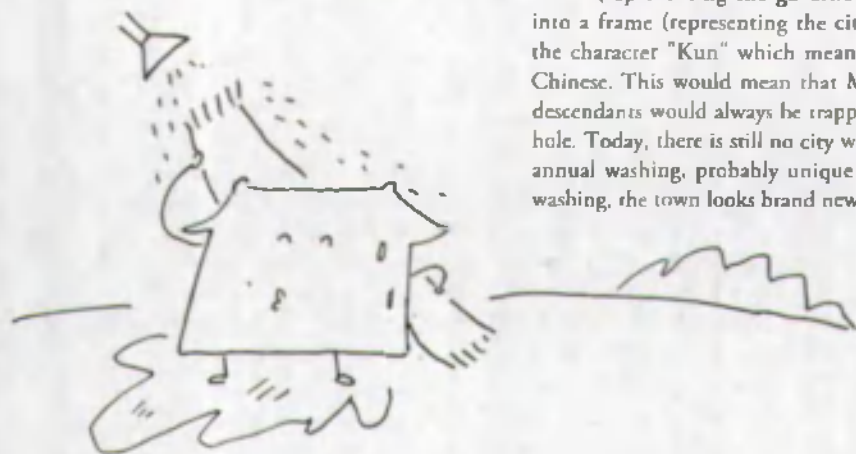
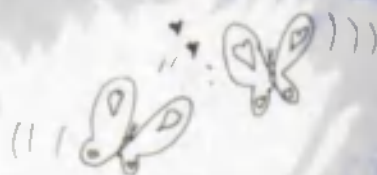
An ancient tree which lies beside the spring has butterfly-shaped flowers, and so is called the Butterfly Tree. As spring turns to summer, thousands of butterflies decorate the tree and present a delightful picture to visitors.

Lijiang Town

Blessed with over 800 years of history, Lijiang, a key town on the Southern Silk Road and the Ancient Tea-horse Road, covers an area of four square km. Surrounded by green mountains, the topography of Lijiang is like a Chinese ink-slab, and so the town is often called Ink-slab Town. The centre part of the Old Town lies on Square Street (Sifangjie). Over 40 stone paths radiate from the Square Street and extend in different directions. Countless lanes extend in all directions and form a network connecting every corner of the town. Three crystal water streams flow into the Old Town from the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Lijiang is also home to the Naxi ethnic people. Lijiang Town has been designated a World Heritage site by the UNESCO.

Surrounded by several clear streams, Lijiang Town is often and deservedly called the Eastern Venice.

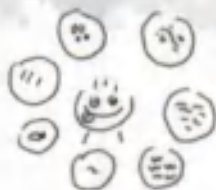
"There was neither a nail in the house, nor a city wall round the town". There is an interesting story behind this popular Chinese saying. Lijiang was ruled for a long time by the Mu Family. If the Chinese character "Mu" (representing the governor of Lijiang) is put into a frame (representing the city wall), it becomes the character "Kun" which means "be caught in" in Chinese. This would mean that Mu family and their descendants would always be trapped like a mouse in a hole. Today, there is still no city wall. The town has an annual washing, probably unique in the world. After washing, the town looks brand new.



Impression on Lijiang



The prosperous Square Street is the center of Lijiang Town, where many stores can be found.

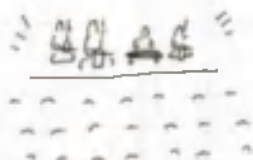


Visitors will enjoy an excellent flavour of Lijiang in Snap Street.



On the streets of Lijiang Town, one can often see old Naxi people in traditional costumes.

Naxi Classic of Music



Naxi Music is considered a living fossil of world classical music. In the Square Street, there are performances of Naxi Music every evening, and there is a full house for every show.



The vivid Dongba Script is the Naxi pictograph language — the only living pictographic script in the world.



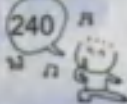
In the Black Dragon Park, I saw a young calligrapher with no arms, and I was deeply moved by his handiwork.

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

The Spruce Ground, with an area of 1 square km, is located in the eastern part of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain about 50 km away from Lijiang Town. Walking in the primeval spruce forest, you will experience the wonders of the forest. Visitors also can enjoy the scene of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain by cable car or on horseback.



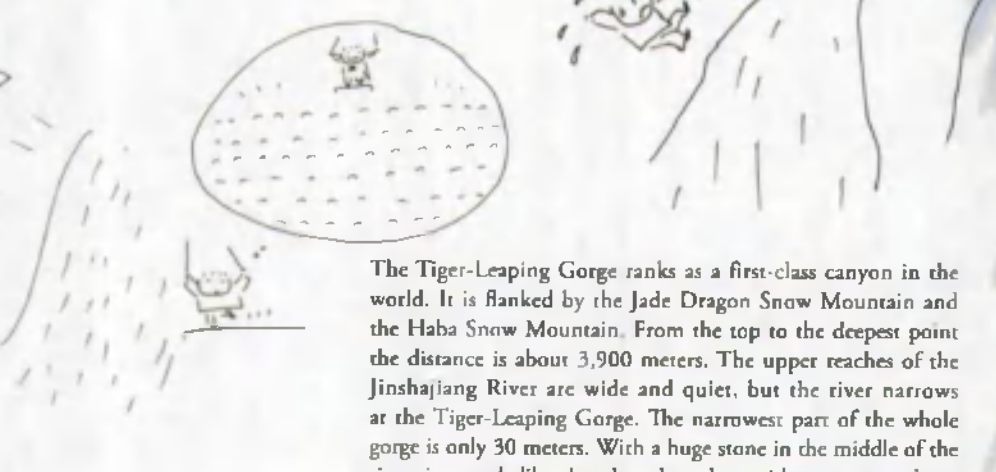
The Jade Dragon Snow Mountain stretches for 35 km along the north bank of the Jinshajiang River. It consists of 13 peaks, among which the highest one, the Fan Peak has an altitude of 5,596 meters. The mountains are covered with snow and glaciers, so it seems as if a white dragon is flying under the sky. Jade Dragon Snow Mountain is the mountain nearest to the equator in the Northern Hemisphere, and combines tropical, temperate and frigid scenes. Visitors can enjoy both the alpine scenery and the blooming flowers. It is a natural marvel.



Tiger-Leaping Gorge

The gorge starts in Qiaotou Town, and extends for 16 km. The gorge is divided into the upper, middle, and lower parts. With rapid currents between the craggy gorges, it is a wonderful sight.

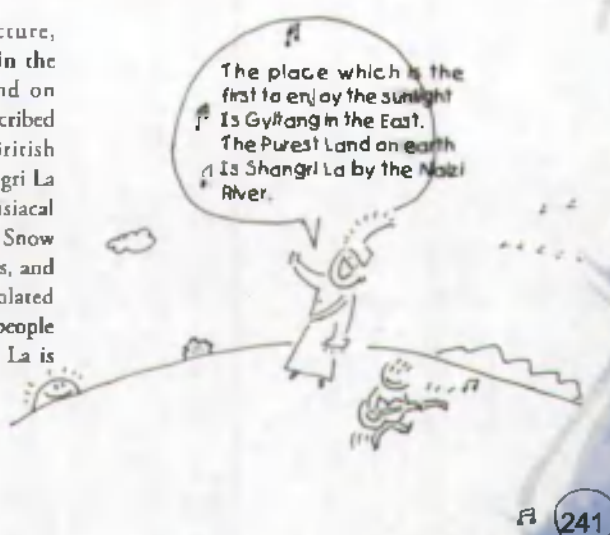
The name "Tiger-Leaping Gorge" comes from a legendary story. Long ago, a hunter was chasing a tiger. The tiger escaped to the Jinshajiang River by leaping through the gorge with the help of a large stone in the middle of a raging river, hence the name of the Tiger-Leaping Gorge.



The Tiger-Leaping Gorge ranks as a first-class canyon in the world. It is flanked by the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and the Haba Snow Mountain. From the top to the deepest point the distance is about 3,900 meters. The upper reaches of the Jinshajiang River are wide and quiet, but the river narrows at the Tiger-Leaping Gorge. The narrowest part of the whole gorge is only 30 meters. With a huge stone in the middle of the river, it sounds like thunder when the rapid currents crash on the stone. Some say that the *Symphony of Fate* is played by the river and the gorge.

Shangri La

In the Tibetan autonomous prefecture, Shangri La enjoys the first sunshine in the east, and is renowned as a Pure Land on Earth. Shangri La is a fictional place described in the novel *The Lost Horizon* by British author James Hilton. In the book, Shangri La is synonymous with an earthen paradisiacal and permanently happy land. With the Snow Mountains, valleys, temples, forest, lakes, and grassland, Shangri La is a fairyland isolated from the outside world. In the mind of people of the Tibetan ethnic group, Shangri La is "utopia".



The place which is the first to enjoy the sunlight
Is Gyltang in the East.
The Purest Land on earth
Is Shangri La by the Naki River.



The beauty of Shangri La moves people's hearts, like a breath from ancient time.

Lugu Lake

Located in the northwest of Yunnan Province, this is a typical plateau lake, with an elevation of 2,609 meters above sea level. Around the lake can be found the community of the Mosuo ethnic group in which the woman takes the leading role in the family. The canoe is the main method of transportation in the lake area.



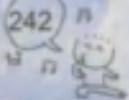
Mosuo people do not marry. When girls and boys are grown-up, they are allowed to start love affairs. The Mosuo girl has a special house to meet her lover, who visits her during the night and leaves in the morning. The lovers call each other Asha in Mosuo language, which means "intimate partners".



The Lugu Lake is U-shaped. Legend says it was a lake filled with lover's tears.

When the Goddess Gemu met her Asha, God Warugkana, they were so intoxicated with each other that they forgot time. They had to go back to heaven before dawn, or else become mountains. God Warugkana tried to go back on a horse at daybreak but failed and became a mountain. The horse tumbled in a deep U-shaped pool. The sad tears of Goddess Gemu filled the pool and that became the Lugu Lake. Goddess Gemu became the Gemu Mountain.

Living around the Lugu Lake, the Mosuo ethnic group is an ancient and mysterious Kingdom of Daughters. Maybe, the Mosuo tribe is the only matriarchal tribe in the world.



Xishuangbanna

Jinghong is the capital of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture. Xishuangbanna is located in the south of Yunnan Province. It has a tropical rainforest climate. In Xishuangbanna, the most noteworthy feature is rare and precious plants and various ethnic customs. The Kingdom of Plants or the Land of the Peacock is its nickname. There are many scenic spots, including the crystal water of the Lancangjiang River, the Olive Land, and the Bamboo Building of the Dai, which are all poetic.



The Manfeilong Dagobas are a great symbol of history and culture to the Dai ethnic group. It is the most famous dagoba group in Xishuangbanna.

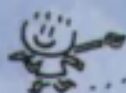


As the largest botanical garden in China, the Menglun Tropic Botanical Garden boasts over 20 species of plant with over 4,000 varieties of rare and precious plants.



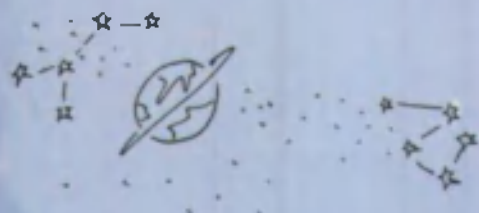
The Water-Sprinkling Festival of the Dai is unique in China. By sprinkling water, the Dai people give blessings to others.

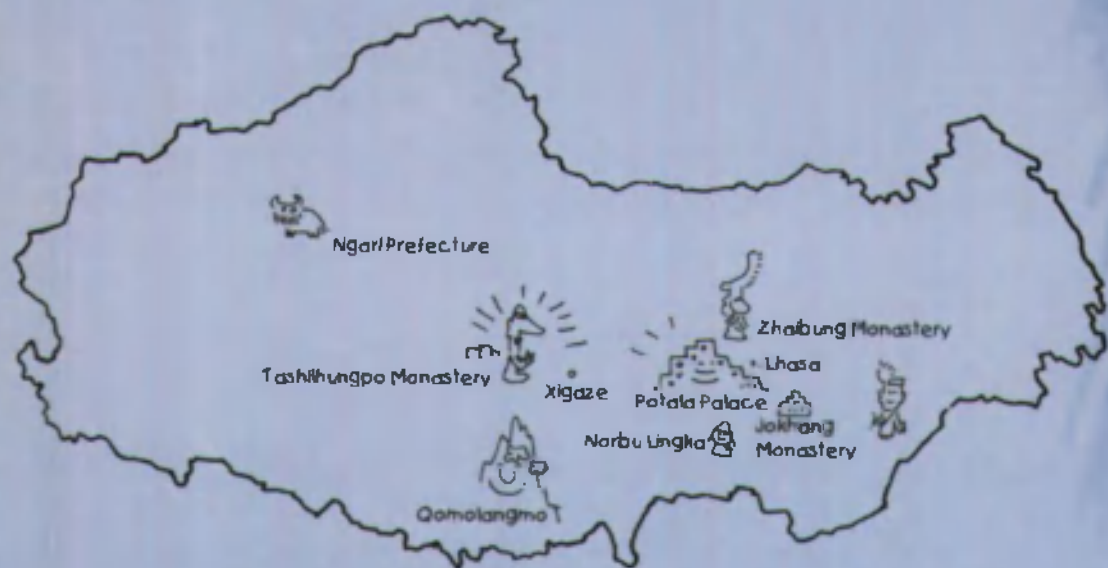
The Water-Sprinkling Festival of the Dai



The Nearest Place to the Sun— Tibet Autonomous Region

The Tibet Autonomous Region, Zang for short, located on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in southwest China, is known as the "roof of the world". It has an average elevation of more than 4,000 meters. It covers an area of some 1.2 million square km, accounting for one-eighth of the total land of China, next only to that of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. There are many huge mountains, endless forests, rapid rivers, and lakes.







Local Specialities



Tibetan
Boiled Lamb



Qingke Barley Wine



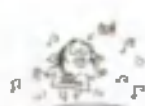
Buttered Tea



Zanba (Roasted
Highland Barley
Flour)



Folk Customs



Mainpa Opera, Tibetan
Opera, Masks



Tangka Painting Scrolls
of Regung-Tibetan
Buddhist Paintings



Hada Scarf



Special Local Products



Tibetan Knife



Agate Artware



Joss Sticks



Thangka



Yak's Skull



Impression on the Local People



Clear eyes



White teeth



Magnanimous



Tough and persistent
in life and faith



Tibetan people
also follow
fashion



Loud and clear
singing



Honest smile

In the Tibet Autonomous Region...



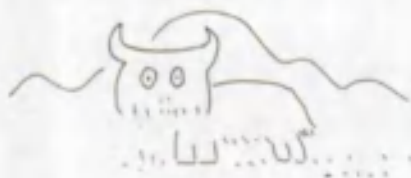
You may see the most sincere smiles and curious eyes



You may hear the loudest and clearest singing and the oldest music



You may walk along the remotest road with the highest altitude



You may encounter even tempered yaks or bad-tempered birds



You will see the highest mountain and the most desolate wasteland



You will taste the most mysterious culture and see the clearest lake

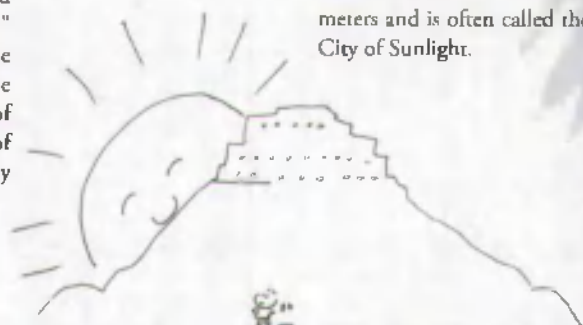


The cloudless sky; the most brilliant ...

Lhasa City

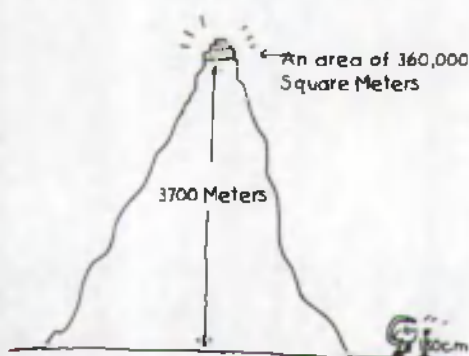
Lhasa is the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region and is the region's political, economic, cultural and transport center. In Tibetan "Lhasa" means land where Buddha lives. The city sits on the northern bank of the Lhasa River and at the south edge of the mountains. The full operation of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway has greatly boosted the prosperity of Lhasa.

Lhasa, one of the cities with the highest altitude in the world, has an average elevation of some 3,700 meters and is often called the City of Sunlight.



Potala Palace


The Potala Palace was the political and religious centre of Tibet when religion and politics were integrated. It is considered as a Vertical Versailles by Westerners. The palace houses numerous cultural relics and treasures. There are holy stupas of the previous generations of the Dalai Lama. The stupa of the fifth Dalai Lama is the most magnificent and covered with 3,700 kg of gold foil and decorated with pearls and jades. And another 14-meter-high one for the 13th Dalai Lama is inlaid with 200,000 natural pearls.



With its height of 117 meters and its total area of 120,000 square meters, the stone-and-wood-structured Potala Palace is the highest and largest palace-like example of architecture in the world.

The Potala Palace means the dwelling place of Buddha in the Tibetan language. Every winter, the Dalai Lama used to live here. It comprises the Red Palace and the White Palace. The red one houses eight holy stupas for previous generations of the Dalai Lama and Buddha halls; the white one was the residence of the Dalai Lama.






During the seventh century, Songtsam Gampo, ruler of the Tubo Kingdom, married the Tang Princess Wencheng and had a nine-storey palace with 1,000 rooms built on the Red Hill and named it Potala Palace.

Potala Palace has a very religious atmosphere with a complex network of corridors where history and the mysteries of religion are to be seen everywhere...

Jokhang Monastery

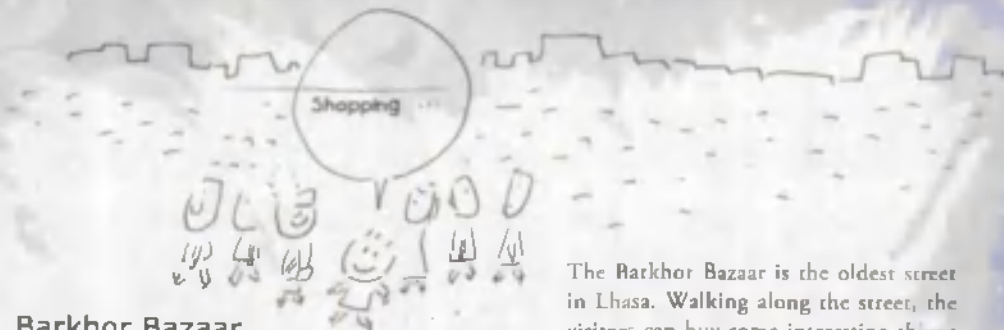
The Jokhang Monastery, covering an area of 25,000 square meters, has a history of over 1,300 years. The monastery was first built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) for the worship of the statue of 12-year-old Sakyamuni which Tang Dynasty Princess Wencheng brought to Lhasa when she married Tubo King Songtsam Gampo. On the top of the monastery, visitors can appreciate the scenery of the front plaza and see the grand Potala Palace as well.

Jokhang was supposedly built by filling up the lake Worhang with the help of a sacred goat and even today there are the statues of the white goat offered as sacrifice in the monastery.



Tibetan pilgrims are often seen to kneel before the Jokhang Monastery, paying homage to the Buddha. It is deeply moved to stand before the monastery and listen to the chanting...

The chanting of sutras is just like a male chorus — one voice leads and then suddenly the air is filled with chanting. Although visitors maybe do not understand the content, they are still moved by this mysterious rite...



Barkhor Bazaar

Snaking around the Jokhang Monastery is the Barkhor Bazaar which is a tourist mecca. It is a must visit part of ancient city of Lhasa. It is also a good way of getting to know Tibetan folk customs.



According to Tibetan Buddhism, one should walk clockwise around the Jokhang Monastery to worship the statue of Sakyamuni. In the Barkor Bazaar, you can see pilgrims with their prayer wheels in one hand and prayer beads in the other hand; sometimes, you may see some Lama sitting on the ground chanting...

The Barkhor Bazaar is the oldest street in Lhasa. Walking along the street, the visitors can buy some interesting things with distinctive national and folk features.

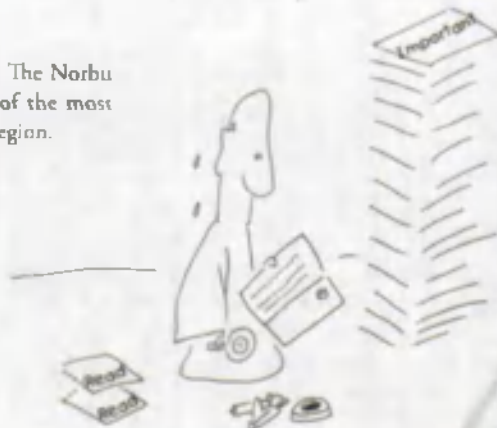



Here are all kinds of shops on both sides of the over-1,000-meter street. The goods here are distinctive Tibetan goods. But the buyers should learn to bargain with the sellers because they will make a price ten times as high as what it should be.

Norbu Lingka Palaces

Lingka means garden in the Tibetan language. The Norbu Lingka, in the west suburb of Lhasa, is one of the most renowned gardens in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

There, the Galsang Phodrang was the summer palace where the previous generations of the Dalai Lama handled religious affairs.






The garden is a Botanical Garden on the Plateau in which there are many kinds of exotic flowers and rare herbs from Qomolangma and some rare flowers from foreign countries.

Zhaibung Monastery

The Zhaibung Monastery, 5 km away the northwest of Lhasa, is the largest Tibetan Buddhism monastery in the Tibet Autonomous Region with an area of 250,000 square meters. The previous generations of the Dalai Lama recognized it as their mother monastery. It is like a mini-mountain city with its buildings attached and overlapping. Unfolding a giant portrait of Buddha is a major event of the monastery. By then, when the sunlight of the plateau shines on the pictures on the rock wall, visitors are treated to a magnificent sight.

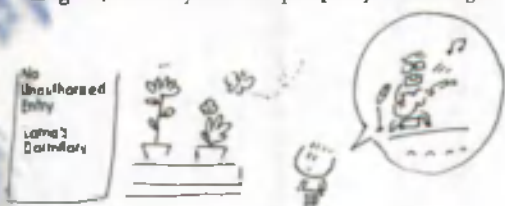
Zhaibung means Miju (gathering rice together in English) which symbolizes prosperity and strength.



The Norbu Lingka observes the principle of building palaces on high ground and digging the ponds on low ground. The builder let nature take its course and natural views dominate. In the Shoton (Sour Milk Drinking) Festival in the Tibet Autonomous Region from the 15th-30th days of the 6th Tibetan month, the park is awash with Tibetan people who come to watch the Tibetan opera performance and have a pleasant time.



The Zhaibung Monastery is the largest monastery among the six monasteries of Tibet's Gelug Sect with its 141 manors and over 540 pastures at its peak.



I reached the lamas' dormitory before I noticed it. There were several flowers blooming, which called to mind the song of the *Story of Time* sung by a famous Chinese singer Luo Tayu: "These lamas' faith can be testified by the flying times ..."



The Chochin Tachin Hall, covering an area of 4,500 square meters, lies in the centre of the monastery and is supported by 183 wooden pillars. It can hold about 10,000 people.

Shannan Prefecture

Shannan Prefecture is a beautiful place in the Yarlung River Valley, with snow-capped mountains, dense forests, meandering rivers, vast pastures, and fertile fields. In this vast land can be found the Samye Monastery, the Qamzhub Monastery, and the Tombs of Tibetan Kings all worthy of a visit.



Folk houses of Tibetan style dot the countryside of Shannan where can be found kind Tibetan people with tame yaks...

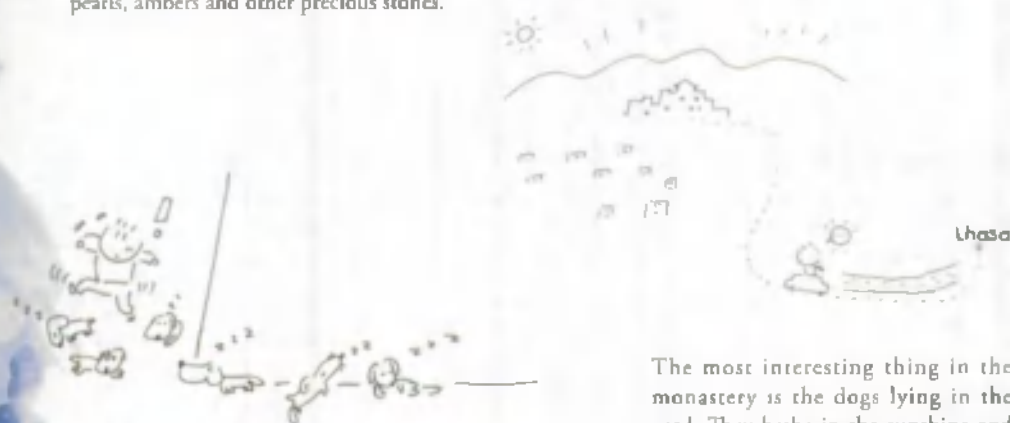
The Yarlung Zangpo River irrigates the fertile land of Shannan.



Tashilhunpo Monastery

The Tashilhunpo Monastery, with a history of over 500 years, lies in Xigaze City. The monastery is a huge art palace where treasures include the stupas and statues of previous generations of the Panchen Lama, and a statue of Maitreya Buddha. Furthermore, their gorgeous stupas are decorated with gold and silver.

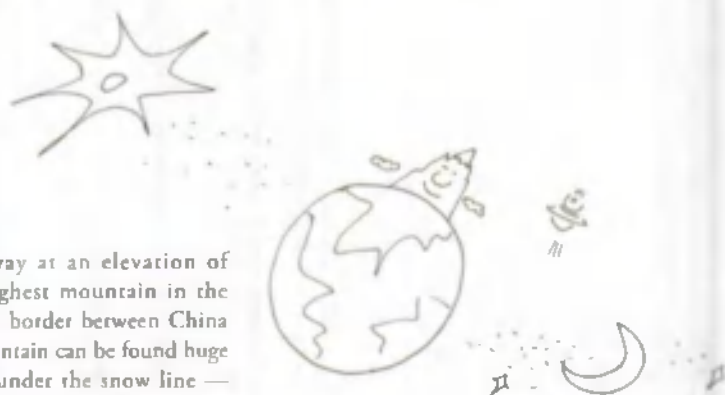
The Maitreya Hall houses the sitting golden-gild bronze statue of Maitreya which is the biggest of its kind in the world. The statue stands 26.7 meters high with 1.2-meter-long middle finger. Some 900 craftsmen spent nine years building the monastery, which is inlaid with numerous diamonds, brass, pearls, ambers and other precious stones.



The most interesting thing in the monastery is the dogs lying in the yard. They bathe in the sunshine and neglect the visitors passing by.

Qomolangma

Qomolangma, tucked away at an elevation of 8,844.43 meters is the highest mountain in the world. It is situated on the border between China and Nepal. Around the mountain can be found huge glaciers. Seracs are found under the snow line — deep water tunnels and meandering glacial rivers.



Chan Realization

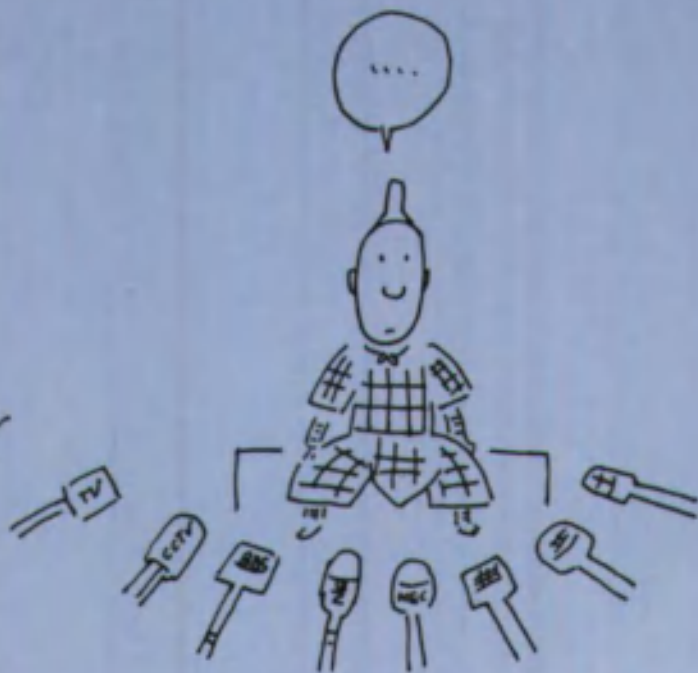


You meet the person you should meet from all the people in the world
after tens of thousands of years...
earlier or later...
or you just meet...



Where You Know the 5000-Year-old History— Shaanxi

Shaanxi (called Shaan for short) is situated in the northwest China. It has a complex topography — to the north lies the loess plateau; in the centre is the Guanzhong plain. The region is widely known as "400 km Qinchuan". It has 72 imperial mausoleums recorded spanning various historical eras.



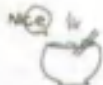




Local Specialities



Big Sliced Mutton Stewed
with Various Sauces



Huluotou (Cake
Soaked in
Calabash Soup)



Jiasan
Soup Buns



Roujiamo
Sandwich



Noodle Soup with
Dice Meat



Cake Soaked in
Mutton Soup



Sweet Wine
Made of Polished
Glutinous Rice



Folk Customs



Xintianyou (a Kind of
Folk Song)



Ansal Wabai Drum



Ch in Melody



Shaanxi
Paper-Cut Art



Special Local Products



Pomegranate



Chinese
Gooseberry



Jade from
Lantian



Crystal
Persimmon



Shaanbei
Red Jujube



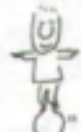
Xifeng Wine



Impression on the Local People



More lenient



Feel no anxiety
when doing sth



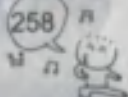
Full of love



In this ancient town
with thousands of years
of history, people look
peaceful and leisurely,
with well bred manners



The ladies of Xi'an
are like an iron fist
in the velvet glove



Ten Strange Phenomena in Shaanxi Province



Prefer to squat rather than sit on wooden stools



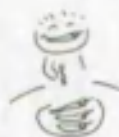
Girls always get married nearby



Singing in a howling way



Shaanxi Guokui is shaped like a cover



Hot pepper as a dish



Noodles are shaped like girls



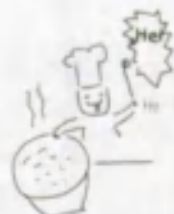
Wearing handkerchief on the head



Rooves of the house tilt towards one side



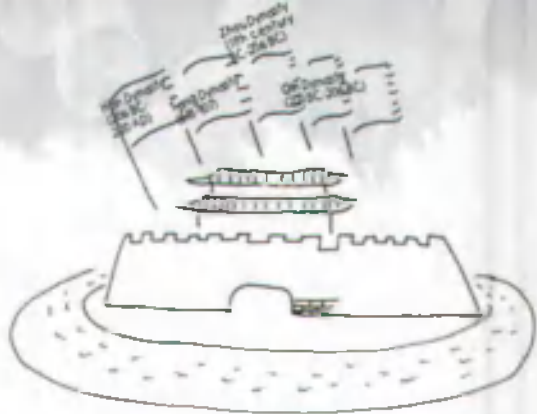
Baths are used as bowls



Selling soaked bread in big bowls

Xi'an

Xi'an, once called Chang'an, is the capital of Shaanxi Province. Since the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046 BC-771 BC), 12 dynasties established their capital here, including the Western Zhou, the Qin, the Western Han, the Xin Mang, the Western Jin, the Early Zhao, the Early Qin, the Later Qin, the Western Wei, the Northern Zhou, the Sui and the Tang. At the height of power and splendor during the Han and Tang Dynasties, Xi'an joined Athens, Cairo and Rome to form the Four Ancient capitals in the world.

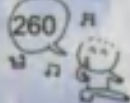


City Walls

The city walls of Xi'an are on average 12 meters high. They include four gates and they are named Changle (meaning eternal joy) in the east, Anding (harmony peace) in the west, Yongning (eternal peace) in the south and Anyuan (forever harmony) in the north. Inside the wall is the city zone covering 12 square km, and outside it is a wide moat. A park is built along the city wall. The tidy and strong city wall built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) is the largest in the world with the longest history and the most integrated preservation. Standing on the top of the wall, you can look over the ancient city in the darkening evening and ponder how many others have done the exact same thing down through the millennia.

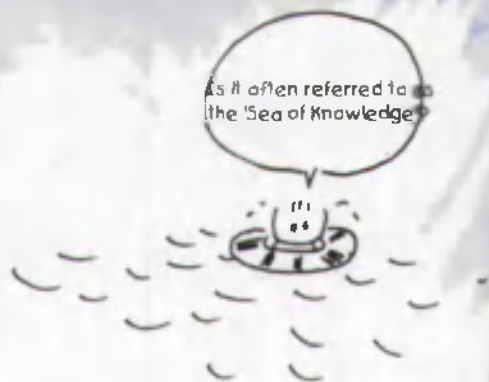
Stele Forest Museum

This museum is famous for its large number of steles, and has earned the reputation of 'the largest carved stone library' in China, with more than 2,500 slabs of stele stones. The Museum of Stone Steles Forest is divided into seven large-scale exhibitions halls, eight stele corridors and one stele pavilion. It features the work of many famous calligraphers. It is an absolute Mecca for anyone interested in these wonderful arts.





One of the most famous exhibits in the Stele Forest features a set **or** book of stone engraving named the *Kaicheng Stone Classics*, which contains 114 steles with carvings on 228 sides.



When you **wander** around this spectacular Stele Forest with over 2,000 stone steles all carved during the Han and Tang Dynasties, visitors are like starry eyed pupils adrift in a sea of knowledge.

Big Wild-Goose Pagoda

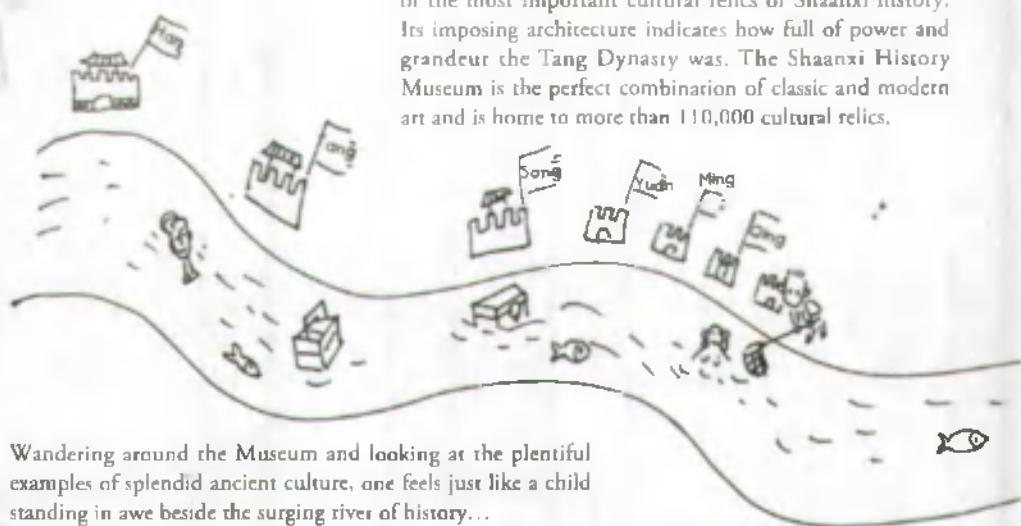
Standing among the Tang Dynasty Da Ci'en Temple complex in the southern part of Xi'an City, the Big Wild-Goose Pagoda was originally built in 652 to store Buddhist scriptures that were brought from ancient India by the renowned Master Xuanzang. It is said that the candidates who received what was called the third degree in the Tang Dynasty national civil service examination always came here to sign their names and celebrate their academic success. This explains the origins of the idiom of Yantatiming (Sign One's Name on the Big Wild-Goose Pagoda). This 64-meter-high pagoda was the highest building in Chang'an during the Tang Dynasty. On the top of the pagoda, visitors will have a bird's-eye view of the city of Xi'an.



Entrusted with the mission by Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Master Xuanzang, the first abbot of the Da Ci'en Temple, asked his followers to copy and record his 19-year pilgrimage and compiled it into a book entitled *Pilgrimage From Great Tang to the West*, totaling 12 volumes. This was the basic history used by Wu Cheng'en, a famous writer in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), to produce his great literary masterpiece *Journey to the West* which was handed down from generation to generation in China.

Shaanxi History Museum

This museum is famous for the collection of art murals from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) tombs. It houses many of the most important cultural relics of Shaanxi history. Its imposing architecture indicates how full of power and grandeur the Tang Dynasty was. The Shaanxi History Museum is the perfect combination of classic and modern art and is home to more than 110,000 cultural relics.

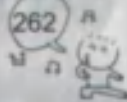


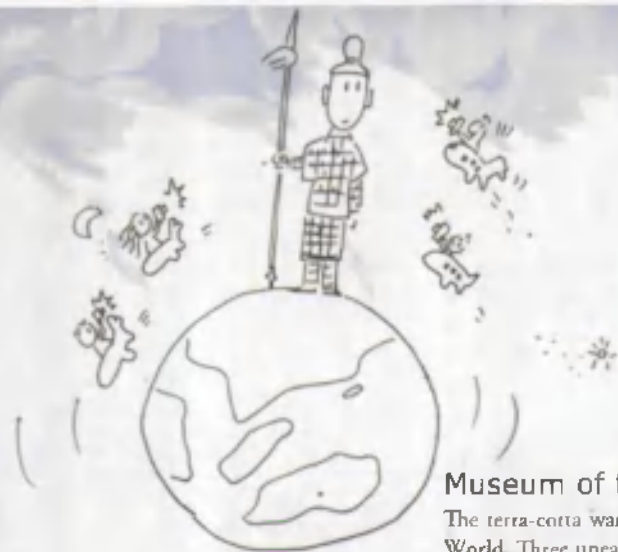
Wandering around the Museum and looking at the plentiful examples of splendid ancient culture, one feels just like a child standing in awe beside the surging river of history...



Ancient Cultural Street of Shaanxi

There is an old-fashioned cultural street situated on the Shuyuanmen Street, west of the Stele Forest. The Guanzhong Academy found in the middle of the street was the highest school of learning in the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1911).





Museum of the Qin Terra-Cotta Warriors

The terra-cotta warriors are known as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Three unearthed mortuary pits are filled with over 10,000 life-sized terra-cotta warriors and an amazing array of metal weapons and copper vehicles and horses. Visitors can but gape in awe when they come face to face with this gigantic 2,000-year-old Underground Army.

Lishan Mountain

Located in Lintong Town, this mountain belonged to Lirong State during the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046 BC-771 BC), so it was called the Lishan Mountain. The Lishan Mountain is famous for its scenic beauty and is divided into the Eastern and Western Xiuling which both abound with forests and old trees.

It has always been a tourist attraction since the Zhou Dynasty, with many villas and royal palaces built there. These villas and palaces are known as "thousands and millions houses" attracting tourists and scholars throughout Chinese history.



Huaqing Pool

The Huaqing Pool (Huaqing Hot Spring) is located on the north side of the Lishan Mountain. During the reign of Emperor Tianbao of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the emperor ordered the large-scale construction here and he, with his favorite concubine, Yang Guifei (Lady Yang), used to make their home here. It is said that the present Huirang Pool was once a hot spring where Yang Guifei bathed. The Huaqing Pool now has four spring mouths with an average temperature of 43 degrees Centigrade or so.



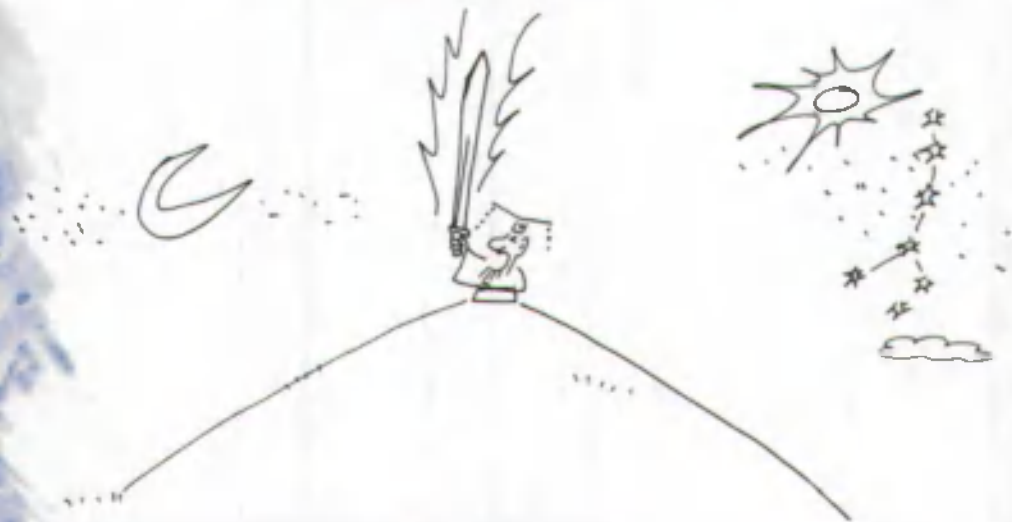
Shaped like a lotus, the Lotus Pool was a pool for emperor's bathing.



Shaped like a Chinese flowering crab apple, the Huirang Pool was exclusively for high-ranking imperial concubines.



The Huaqing Pool witnessed the famous love story of Tang Emperor and His Concubine Yang Guifei.



Mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shihuang

Located 37 km east of Xi'an, the gigantic and majestic mausoleum housed countless rare treasures, but also contained numerous hidden dangers. During that time, Emperor Qin Shihuang ordered the large-scale construction of the E Pang Palace and the Mausoleum by enslaving 700,000 people. The Mausoleum of Emperor Qin Shihuang is one of the most imposing imperial mausoleums. Climbing to the top and looking out over the land he ruled and conquered, one gets the inescapable feeling of the overwhelming power of Emperor Qin Shihuang.

Huashan Mountain

Located in Huayin County of Shaanxi Province, this is a high and straight mountain with narrow paths where one can only climb by pressing an ear close to the cliff. It has five peaks, the East Peak, the West Peak, the South Peak, the North Peak and the Middle Peak. Of them, the South Peak is the highest with an altitude of 2,154.9 meters. The Huashan Mountain is a holy Taoist mountain. There are many Taoist temples dotted around and with the starry night and the beautiful sunrise it constitutes a feast for both the eyes and the soul.



It is the highest and steepest of the Five Sacred Mountains. Huashan is so steep that there is only one path which leads to the top since ancient times.

Mausoleum of Emperor Huangdi

Located in Huangling County of Shaanxi Province, this tomb has been designated the First Mausoleum of China by the State Council, as well as the First Mausoleum of the World. It is a place to offer sacrifices to the emperor of Hua Xia (an ancient name for China). And there is the Huangdi Temple under the Lishan Mountain. On the Tomb-Sweeping Day, many Chinese people from home and abroad gather here for a grand festival, so the Mausoleum of Emperor Huangdi has become a spiritual holy land for the Chinese nation.



Huangdi was the progenitor of the Chinese nation and the initiator of the Chinese civilization.



It is said that there is a cypress tree over 5,000 years old in the Huangdi Temple which was planted by the Emperor Huangdi himself.



Hukou Waterfalls

These falls are located in Yichuan County in Shaanxi Province. When the Yellow River, blocked by mountains on both sides, surges towards the Hukou, its width abruptly narrows down from over 500 meters to just 30 meters. It makes for some spectacular scenery and accounts for the vivid name Hukou (kettle spout) Waterfall for it seems as if an enormous teapot absorbs all the rushing water. It is an amazing view with mist all around more than 50 meters high. The thundering sound can be heard from quite a distance. Standing by the river, I looked at the roaring waterfall and recited the famous line from Li Bai, China's greatest poet — "the water of the Yellow River comes from heaven". Standing here, I could truly understand his words.



Yan'an

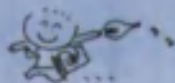
Located in the northwest of Shaanxi Province, it is the sacred land of the Communist revolution. So, it is very important and special in China's modern history.

Chan Realization

For mankind, without life, without vitality ...

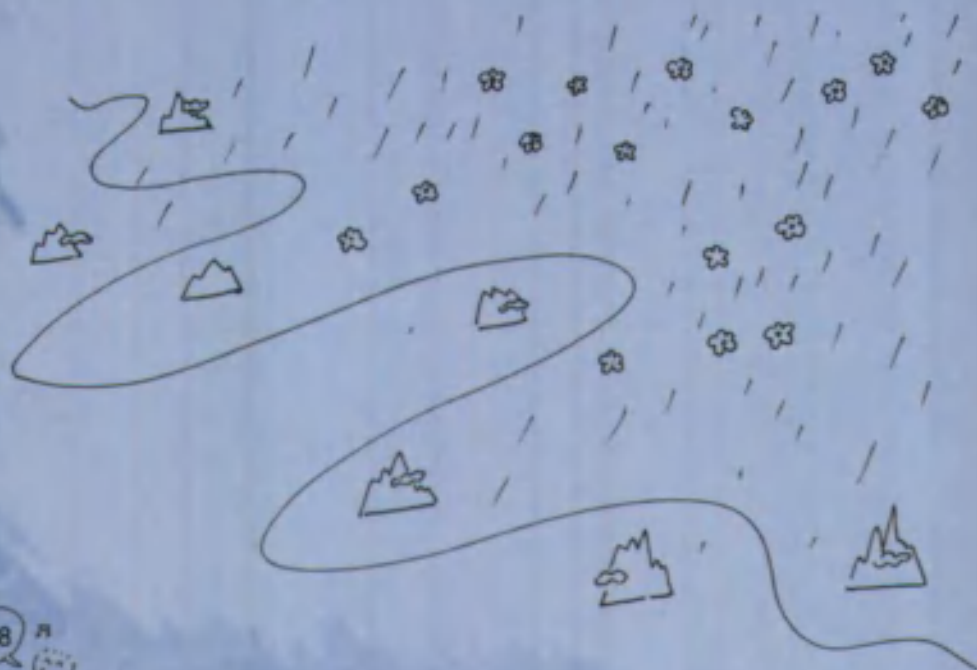


Silk Road—



Gansu

Gansu Province is located in the northwest of China, lying right in the middle of the world-famous Silk Road. Over 1,000 famous landmarks and natural scenic spots are scattered along this long, ancient road. Gansu Province, with a vast expanse of land, has some amazingly beautiful natural scenery. The Loess Plateau stretches grandly — a vast expanse, and the Yellow River surges with unspeakable power. The grassland is broad and the glaciers tower up imposingly. In the desert, the melodious ring of camel bells is heard. On the over-1,000-km Silk Road are found the Gobi, oases, ancient cities, caves, temples and ancient tombs, all unrolling like a marvelous picture scroll.







Local Specialities



Hand-stretched Beef
Noodles of Lanzhou



Noodles with
Ground Pork



Fried Lamb Tail



Niangpi



Noodles with Fermentative
Vegetable Soup and Bacon



Roasted Pork



Folk Customs



Taping Drum
of Lanzhou



Wheaten Food
of Lanzhou



Crossing the River
in Sheep Hide Raft



Fu Xi Culture and
Tourism Festival



Special Local Products



Honeydew Melon



Luminous Wine Glass



Gansu Tea (Sanpaotal)



Qilian Jade Sculpture



Impression on the Local People



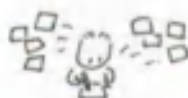
Cardial



A little conservative



Straightforward and
unsophisticated



Skilful

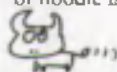


Lanzhou

Lanzhou, the Golden City of ancient times located right in the center of China, is the capital of Gansu Province. In history, it was a key hub on the Silk Road. Both the famous monk Xuanzang who went to India in quest of Buddhist Scriptures and Princess Wencheng who went to Tibet to marry Tubo King Songtsam Gambo passed through Lanzhou. Marco Polo, the world famous traveler, visited this city, too. It is famous for its melons, the honey-dew variety being the best known. It is said that the most beautiful scenery is in Suzhou and Hangzhou, and the most delicious melons in Lanzhou.



Hand-stretched noodles may be the first thing that Chinese people think of when they think of Lanzhou. This kind of noodle is very popular in China.



Leitai Tomb of Eastern Han Dynasty

The Leitai Tomb of Eastern Han Dynasty lies outside the north gate of Wuwei City. The Leizu Temple in Leitai was built during the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911), beneath which lies the large Eastern Tomb. The famous Bronze Galloping Horse was unearthed in 1969 in this area.



The Bronze Galloping Horse is a great symbol of China and is a popular tourist attraction.

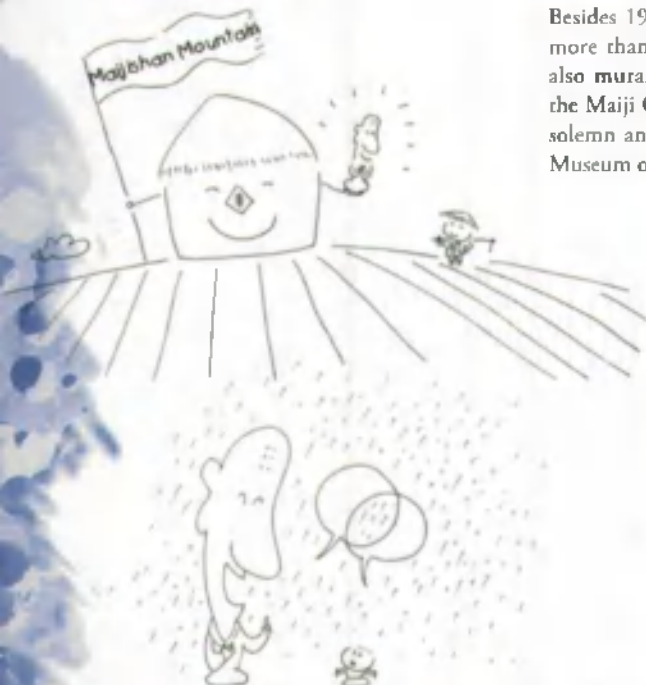
Maijishan Mountain

The Maijishan Mountain, located 45 km southeast of Tianshui City in Gansu Province, rises up sharply out of the landscape. It is part of the Danxia Landform and is covered with greenery. Its forests and springs are the most beautiful in this area. Work on the Maijishan Mountain caves began in the later Qin Dynasty (221 BC-206 BC), and the Northern Wei (386-534) was the time of its great prosperity. It is one of the four most important caves in China. These Maiji caves overlap up and down, in a honeycomb formation. Carved into the cliff at a height of between 20 and 80 meters, these caves are connected by plank roads that hang along the cliff. It must have been very difficult to build them. So, as the saying goes, "Cutting down all trees on the south slope to build the Maiji Caves".

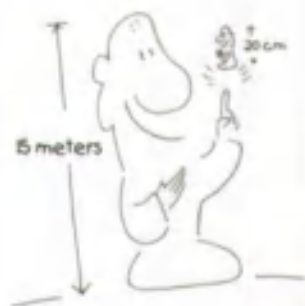


Besides 194 Buddhist caves and niches, containing more than 7,200 clay and stone statues, there are also murals covering over 1,300 square meters in the Maiji Caves as well. The Buddhist statues are all solemn and respectful, and the caves are called the Museum of Oriental Sculpture.

People named the mountain Maiji because it resembles a stack of wheat straw ("mai" meaning wheat, and "ji" meaning stack). The Maijishan Mountain towers up 142 meters above the landscape.



One day, I was strolling on the road and there were few visitors. Suddenly, the rain began to fall and I had to shelter in a cave. Looking at the Buddhists and listening to the rain, I felt strongly the interplay of space and time.



These clay statues vary in height from 20 cm to 15 meters.

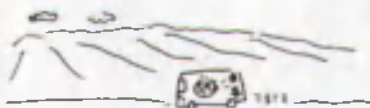
Experiences on the Silk Road



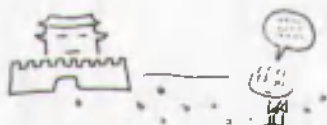
The broken beacon towers scattered on the route



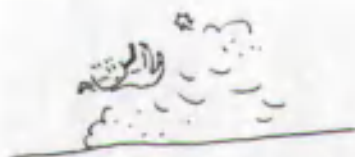
On the road, having enough melons to eat



The wasteland makes visitors feel lonely



Looking at the pass one will remember many poems describing them



Blowing hard



The skill of the chef in the hand-stretched canteen is wonderful

Monastery of the Great Buddha in Zhangye

The Monastery of the Great Buddha is situated in Zhangye City. The monastery was built in 1098 during the Western Xia Dynasty, and was called Hongren Temple in the Qing Dynasty. The monastery has the largest clay recumbent Buddha statue of Sakyamuni in China, hence the Chinese name Da Fo Si which means the Monastery of the Great Buddha in English. The monastery has 7,000 volumes of Buddhist scripture (including over 600 volumes of golden painted scripture), and the Zhangye Museum lies in the monastery too.



Jiayuguan Pass

The Jiayuguan Pass is situated in a suburb 6 km away from Jiayuguan City. It was the westernmost pass of the Great Wall, and was historically called the Western Throat of the Yellow River. The Qilianshan Mountain to the southwest of the city is capped by snow, but beyond one can see the endless desert, an amazingly beautiful vista.

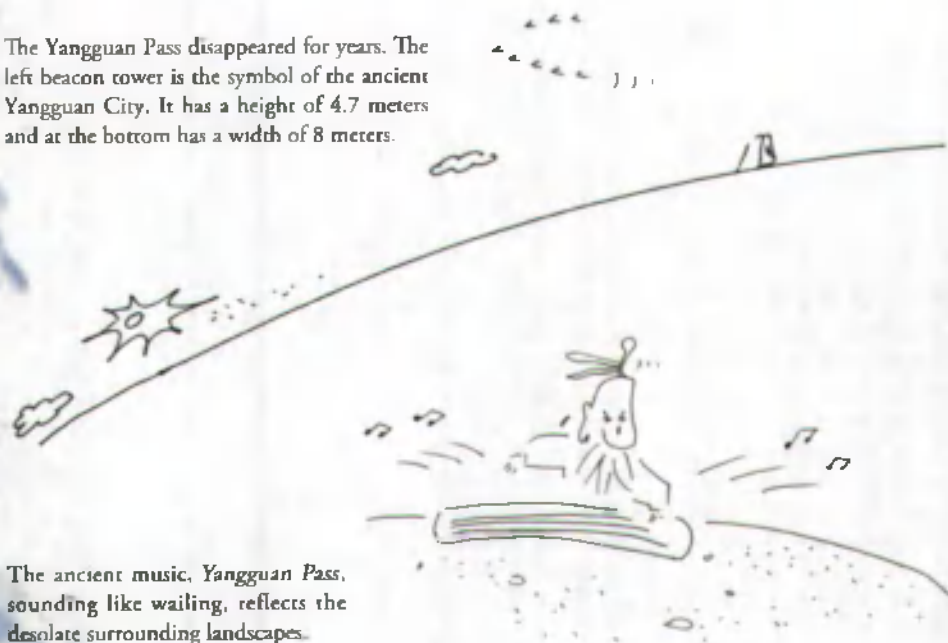


The Jiayuguan Pass was always the most important pass holding the Hexi Corridor for many years, and is a must visit place on the Silk Road.


Yangguan Pass and Yumenguan Pass

The Yangguan Pass is located 70 km southeast of Dunhuang, and the Yumenguan Pass is situated 90 km southwest of Dunhuang. Their names featured prominently in ancient poems, but now all that remains are peaceful ruins.

The Yangguan Pass disappeared for years. The left beacon tower is the symbol of the ancient Yangguan City. It has a height of 4.7 meters and at the bottom has a width of 8 meters.



The ancient music, Yangguan Pass, sounding like wailing, reflects the desolate surrounding landscapes.



90 km southwest
of Dunhuang

Dunhuang

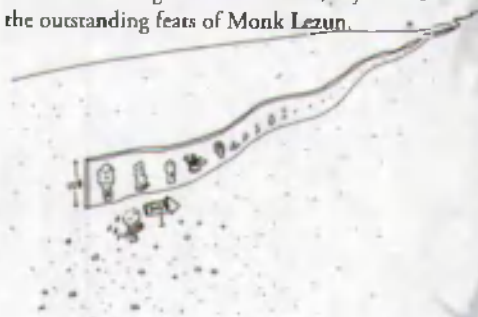
In ancient Chinese, Dunhuang means magnificent and glorious. The city, located at a strategically vital point on the Silk Road, was historically called Sha Zhou (Sand Town), a beautiful oasis in the desert. In those years many merchants crowded there, and the city thrived. The most prosperous era was during the Tang Dynasty. The Mogao Grottoes with a long history became world-famous as the Capital of Oriental Arts.



The Mogao Grottoes were named in memory of Monk Lezun who was the first person to build them. Mogao in Chinese literally means the outstanding feats of Monk Lezun.



In 366, Monk Lezun arrived there, and he identified it as the perfect place to build a monastery. So, he began to carve out the grottoes. After many years of effort, the Mogao Grottoes were established.



There are 50,000 square meters of frescoes in Dunhuang.



The Mogao Grottoes consist of 735 caves. Recent years saw excavation of the Literature Cave, which has some 50,000 pieces of precious cultural relics. This gave birth to the Dunhuang Studies.

The art of the Mogao Grottoes blends the arts of architecture, colored modeling and fresco together. It is one of the most well preserved exant Treasury of Buddhist Art in the world.



Mingshashan Mountain and the Crescent Spring

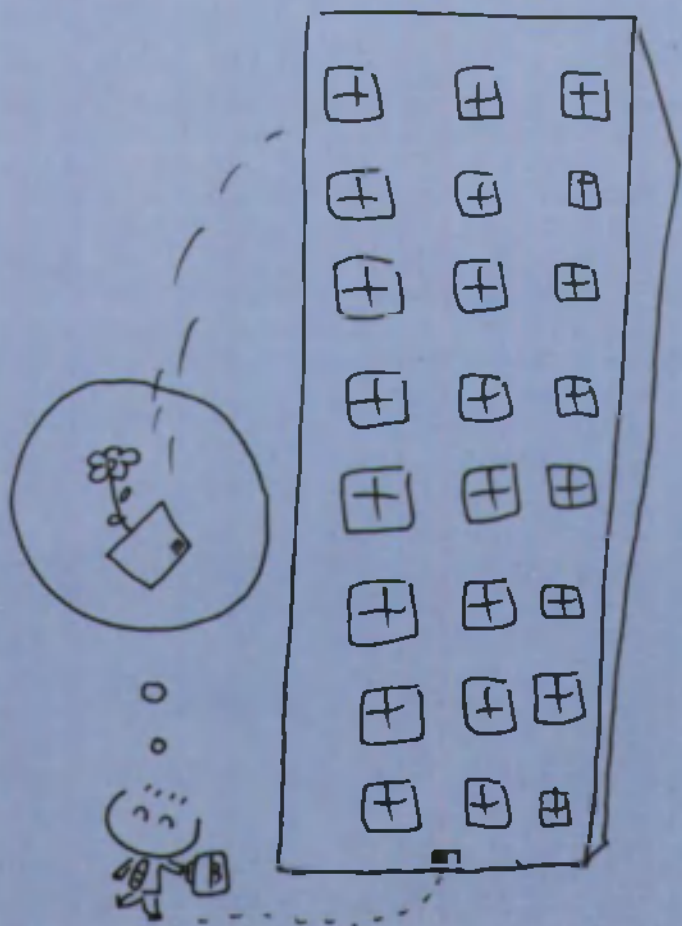
The Mingshashan Mountain and the Crescent Spring are located 5 km south of Dunhuang. The rolling sand dunes run for 40 km. Camel caravans wind through the sand dunes, an evocative typical scene in the Western Regions. The quality of sand is unique to this region. The mountain was called Mingshashan Mountain because the sands flow from up to down making a quite loud sound. Mingsha means "echoing sand" in English. In the hinterland of the desert is found a spring shaped like a crescent, called Crescent Spring. It is a marvelous spectacle and the spring has been in existence for thousands of years.



The mountains are famous for their presiding deities, and the waters are known for their delicate beauty. It is a relaxed and joyful experience to stay in Mingshashan Mountain, and enjoy the peace of the Crescent Spring.

Chan Realization

It is strange that people always dream of distant rose gardens but neglect the roses on their windowsill.





A Charming Girl in the Distance— Qinghai

Both the Yellow River and the Yangtze River, ancient emblems of Chinese nation, rise in Qinghai Province. The Qinghai Lake in Qinghai is the largest inland salt-water lake in China. Hence the province is called Qinghai, Qing for short. The eastern area is the agricultural region where the Loess Plateau meets the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. The Qaidam Basin, a famous Treasure Bowl, lies in the northwest. The region around the Qinghai Lake, the southwest part and the southeast part of Qinghai is all cool alpine pasture land. Qinghai has many mountain ranges and forests dotted with many of the ice-covered peaks. The Kunlunshan Mountains run through the plateau from east to west, and to the south and north are respectively the Tanggula, A-erh-chin, and Qilian mountains. There are hundreds of rivers scattered around the plateau. In summer, the Qinghai climate is delightfully cool. It makes it a wonderful time for visitors to the area.







Local Specialities



Hand-Stretched
Noodles



Milk Tea



Roasted Leg
of Lamb



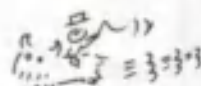
Mazhong
Niangai



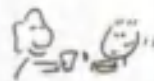
Folk Customs



Tar Monastery
Lantern Festival



Yak Racing



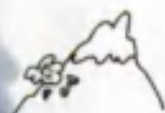
Shangma Jiu' - Drinking
to Welcome Guests



Splashing Water on
Wedding Ceremony - the
Wedding Custom of the
Tu Ethnic Nationality



Special Local Products



Lotus



Chinese Caterpillar Fungus



Colored Egg



Silverware



Yak Down



Impression on the Local People



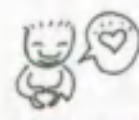
Reserved character



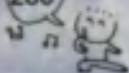
Enormous capacity
for liquor



Speaking loudly



Treating people
honestly



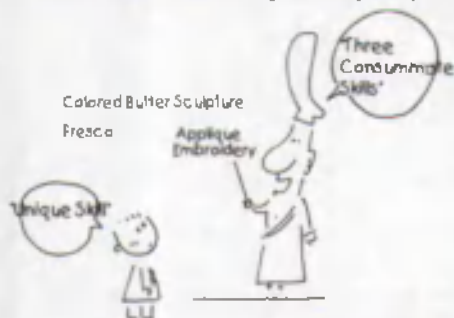
Xining

Xining, a highland city with an elevation of 2,275 meters, is the capital of Qinghai Province. Even at the height of summer, its climate is cool. Xining occupies the only road from Tibet to the interior.

The city (Xining) is shaped like a boat, perched on the eastern edge of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Xining, the gateway to Qinghai, is hemmed in by mountains and three rivers meet there. Its winter is not too cold and its summer is not too hot.

Tar Monastery

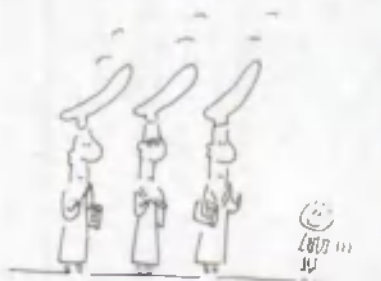
The Tar Monastery is 26 km southwest of Huangzhong County. It has over 9,000 rooms. The monastery is a repository for numerous precious historical relics. According to the traditional Chinese calendar, on the 15th day of the first and fourth lunar months, the seventh day of the sixth lunar month and the 22nd day of the ninth lunar month, the monastery celebrates the Buddhist rituals known as the Four Festivals of Reciting Buddhist Scripture. At that moment crowds of people will gather around the temple. It is quite splendid.



The colored butter sculptures, frescos and applique embroidery are the three most well-known features of the Tar Monastery. Of them, the colored butter sculptures, made of a mixture of butter and colors, are the most famous one. The figures, animals, flowers and grass are all very realistic.



In a yard, I saw two monks discussing Buddhist Scripture. They asked and answered questions on scripture and resolved their doubts to the accompaniment of a whole range of gestures. It was the most interesting.



The Tar Monastery is the Holy Land for Chinese Lamaism, a senior institute for Tibetan intellectuals. It includes Schools of the Esoteric, Medical and Astronomy.



The Tar Monastery is the birthplace of Zongkapa who was the founder of the Gelug Sect (Yellow Sect) of Tibetan Buddhism.

Qinghai Lake

Qinghai Lake, about 150 km away from Xining, is the largest salt-water lake in China. It covers an area of 4,600 square km. The surface of the lake is 3,195 meters above sea level, and the lake's perimeter covers an area of 360 km. The water and the sky blend into one color, naturally and magnificently. The lake is teeming with Huang fish, a cold water fish without scales, which grows very slowly.



The Qinghai Lake, called Xihai in ancient time, looks like an aspen leaf, narrow in the southwest, floating in the grassland.

Wow!



The Bird Isle covers an area of 0.5 square km. Some 100,000 migratory birds visit the isle in spring and summer.

Even in scorching summer, the daily average temperature of the Qinghai Lake is only 15 degrees Centigrade. It has always been the perfect place for poets to escape the summer heat and seek poetic inspiration away from climates where the hot sun makes such creativity impossible.

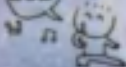


When I arrived there, there were few visitors. The remote snow-capped mountains, the quiet lake and the birds sweeping across the sky inspired in me a feeling of utter calm and eerie sensibility.

In the early 1950s, Golmud was a vast expanse of wilderness. PLA soldiers and officers were the earliest residents of Golmud.

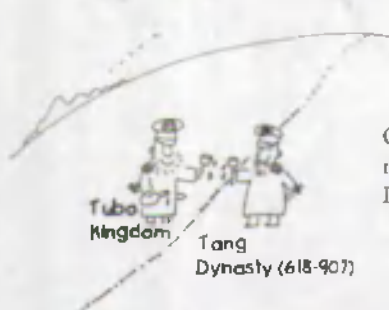
Golmud

Golmud with an administrative area of 123,460 square km is the largest city in the world. It is a new city developed during the construction of the Qinghai-Tibet Highway. The Qinghai-Xinjiang Highway, the Qinghai-Tibet Highway and the Qinghai-Tibet Railway all meet there. Golmud, 2,800 meters above sea level, is a peaceful city. The Qarhan Salt Lake, China's largest salt water lake, is about 60 km away from this city. The lake is famous for its Long Salt Bridge. It is said that there is enough salt in the lake for all the people in the world to use for 1,000 years.



Riyue Mountains

The Riyue Mountains (Sun and Moon Mountain), situated at the juncture of Huangyuan County and Gonghe County, 40 km away from Huangyuan County, is the dividing line between the farming region and the pastureland of Qinghai Province. To the east lies farmland, and on the west stretches away a vast expanse of pastureland.



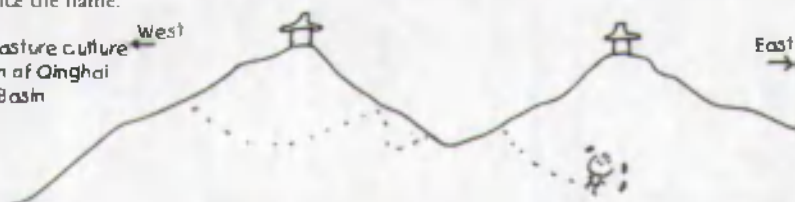
Over 1,000 years ago, it marked the boundary between the Tang Dynasty and the Tubo Kingdom.



A unique river named Daotanghe (literally meaning "running backward") lies near the Sun and Moon Mountain. Generally rivers run from west to east in China, but this river runs from east to west, hence the name.

The pasture culture region of Qinghai Lake Basin

West



East

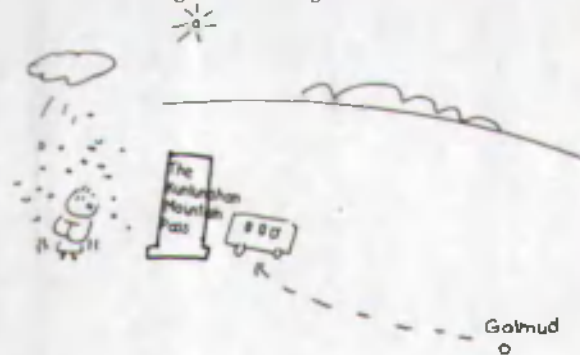
The farming culture region of Huangshui valley

It is said that when princess Wencheng arrived there, she saw the desolate and uninhabited land and wailed. She threw her Riyue Mirror to the ground, and the mirror split and became the two hills, namely, the Ri (sun) and Yue (moon) Mountains.

Kunlunshan Mountain Pass

According to ancient legend, the Kunlunshan Mountain was the residence of Queen Mother of the

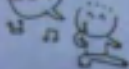
West (Xi Wang Mu). The Kunlunshan Mountain Pass is 3,170 meters above sea level. A monument stands there. On the east side stands the Yuxu Peak and on the west side is the Jasper Lake. Standing at the pass, one can get a panoramic view of the range stretching away for thousands of meters like a jade dragon. The Kunlunshan Mountain Pass is the only road as the Qinghai-Tibet Highway runs through the Kunlunshan Mountain. And it is an important scenic spot at which visitors can enjoy the snows in June.

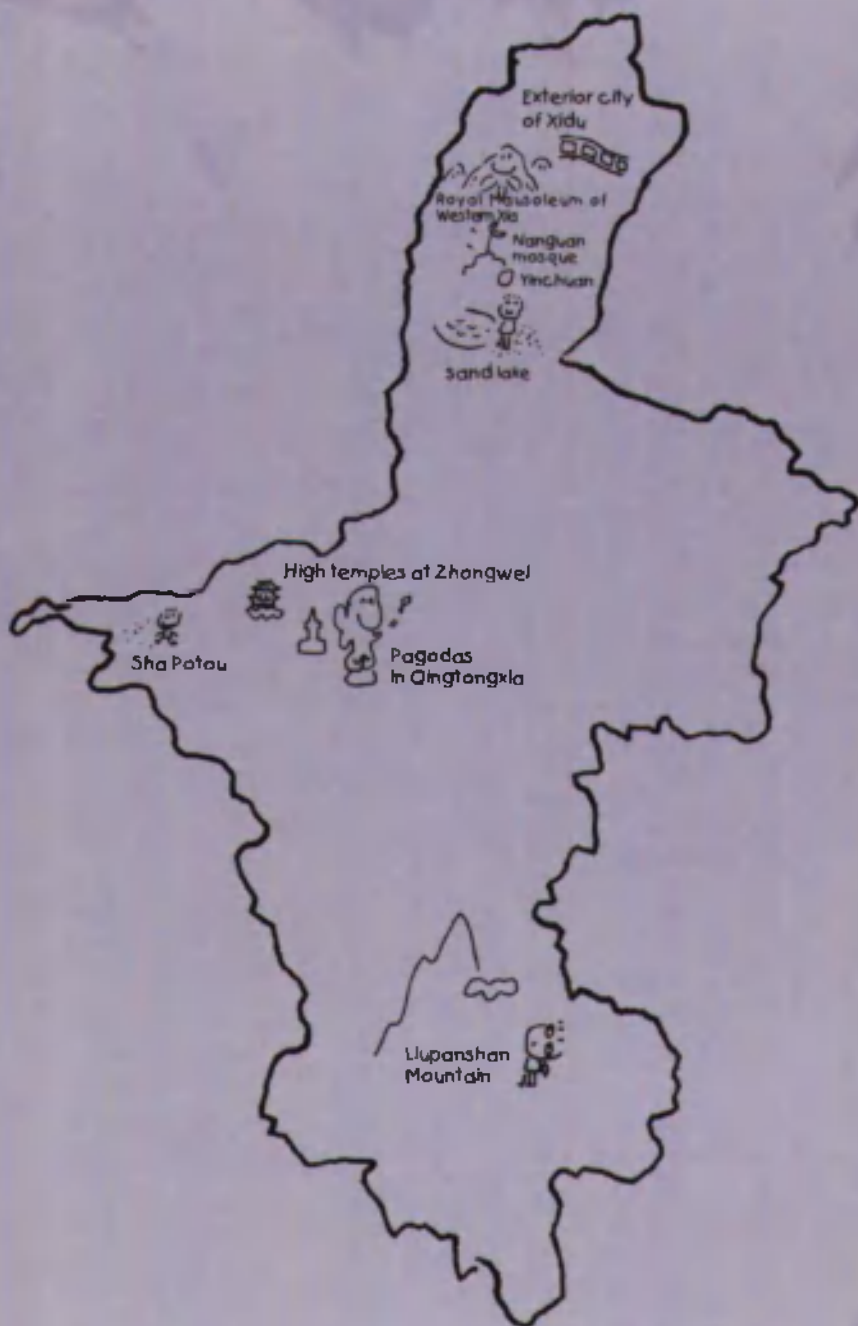




Chinese Muslim Province— Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

Ningxia is China's only Hui autonomous region, where some 30 percent of the total population is Hui Muslims. Li Yuanhao, the leader of Dangxiang tribe, once established the shortlived but rich and powerful Western Xia Dynasty (1038-1227) on this land. Later, this dynasty was mysteriously destroyed in history. This history has left a large variety of historical sites and countless unsolved mysteries in Ningxia.







Local Specialities



Sanzi (Deep-Fried Dough Twists)



Cruller



Sliced Lamb Boiled in the Hot Pot



Cooked Chopped Entrails of Sheep



Folk Customs



Ningxia Hua'er (Artistic Form of Folk Song)



Baimam



White and Plain Dress—Traditional Costume



Special Local Products



Chinese Wolfberry



Licorice Root



'Faca' (Nastar Flagelliform)



Tan Sheep Fur



Helan Stone



Impression on the Local People



Every one is good at cooking mutton



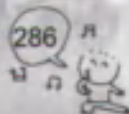
Optimistic



Preciseness



Good at singing and dancing



Yinchuan

Yinchuan, the capital of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, is a famous historical and cultural city in China. It is a most well-known city of great antiquity on the frontier.

Yinchuan — a land blessed by the Yellow River — is a bright pearl in the Yellow River Valley.



Nanguan Mosque

Located in the urban district of Yinchuan, the Nanguan Mosque is characterized by the vivid Islamic architectural style and divided into an upper floor and a ground floor. It is an important place for Muslim activity and can hold thousands of people during religious services. And inside this building, there are exhibition rooms displaying the great art of Muslim culture.

Sand Lake

South of the Yangtze River can be found landscapes dominated by sand, water, reeds, birds and mountains.

Standing on a sand dune, you can see on one side of the hill the endless yellow sand, and on the other side the landscapes unique to the richly endowed area south of the Yangtze River featuring flying birds, reeds, and rippling lake water. These are indeed wondrous sights.



'Down'



'Down—Sliding'



You can take a motor boat on the lake and watch flocks of widgeon ducks flying past.



You could also sample the delights of the delicious Fish Head feast.

Royal Mausoleum of the Western Xia

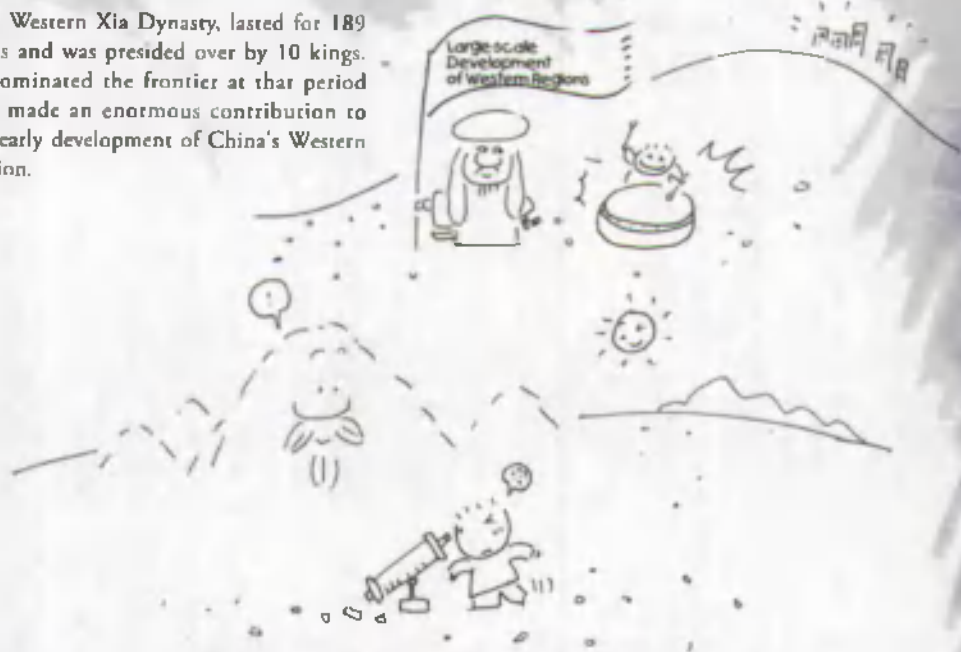
Royal Mausoleum of the Western Xia has been called the Chinese pyramid. It sits at the eastern foot of the Helan Mountain, in the western suburbs of Yinchuan, and all the kings of the Western Xia Dynasty were buried here. This is the Western Xia Royal Mausoleum. Its architecture was heavily influenced by Buddhism, but it has a style of its own with influences from both the Han ethnic group and Dangxiang tribe.

According to the historical record, the Western Xia Dynasty covered a large area — it reached as far as the Yellow River in the east, Yumen in the west, Xiangnan in the south and the great desert in the north. But now, there remains only a few records, so the last civilization has become a historical mystery.

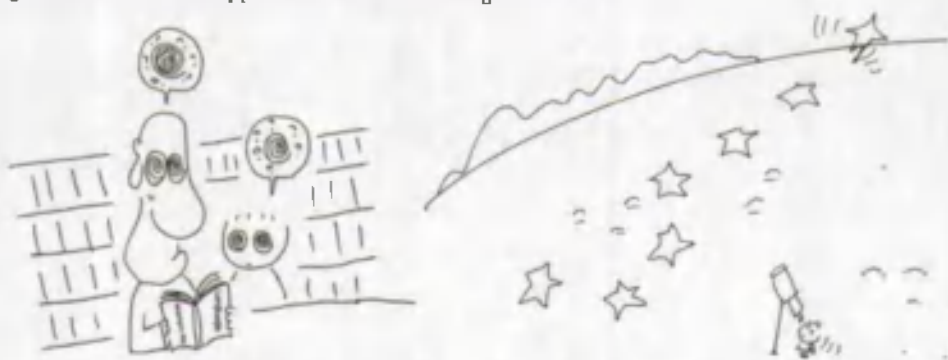


It occupies an area of 50 square km, including nine kings' mausoleums and 200 subordinate tombs. Visiting the huge mausoleums, tourists can experience the history of the mysterious Western Xia Dynasty.

The Western Xia Dynasty, lasted for 189 years and was presided over by 10 kings. It dominated the frontier at that period and made an enormous contribution to the early development of China's Western Region.



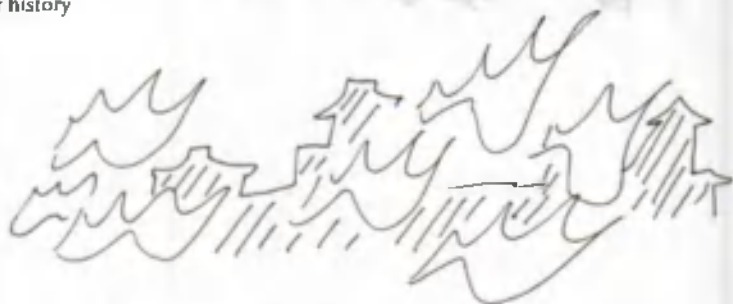
In 1227, Xingqing, the capital of the Western Xia, was sacked by Mongolian troops. From then on, this glorious dynasty disappeared from the ancient historical record — only fragments remain that can give us hints of what happened all those centuries ago.



Every aspect of the Western Xia era is nevertheless cloaked in mystery for us.

It was found that the mausoleums of nine Western Xia kings were configured in the same shape as the Big Dipper picture and that subordinate tombs were laid out according to other constellations.

In 1227, this cemetery was destroyed. Only the ruins of the divine walls, bird platforms and turrets now stand in the desert and the 20-meter-high octagonal pagoda made of ocher bears eloquent testimony to the evolution of history



108 Pagodas in Qingtongxia

Qingtongxia is a famous canyon on the Yellow River. As part of a water conservation project, it became a large reservoir. On the hill near the big dam, there are 108 pagodas which were laid out according to a triangular pattern from top to bottom — 1, then 3, then 5, then 7, then 9 and so on in 12 lines. The reason for this unique overall arrangement remains unknown, a mystery of ancient Buddhism construction.

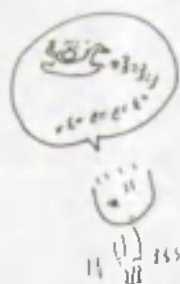
According to Buddhism, there are 108 kinds of vexation that people experience, so the Buddhist prayer beads have 108 beads on every string; monks chant sutras 108 times to eliminate vexation. It is said that as long as you come here and pray before these pagodas, you can get rid of your troubles and obtain endless good luck.



According to folklore, it was once used by Mu Guiying, a female commander of the Northern Song (960-1127), as a place where soldiers were assigned particular jobs.

High Temples at Zhongwei

Located in the north of Zhongwei County in Ningxia, this temple is used for the religious activities of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. After additions and renovations during successive dynasties, it became a large-scale ancient architectural complex until the Qing Dynasty. The temples are famous for their height. On a high terrace of about 4,000 square meters, buildings and pavilions containing more than 260 rooms are to be found, a magnificent sight. The buildings and pavilions are all built in a unique style.

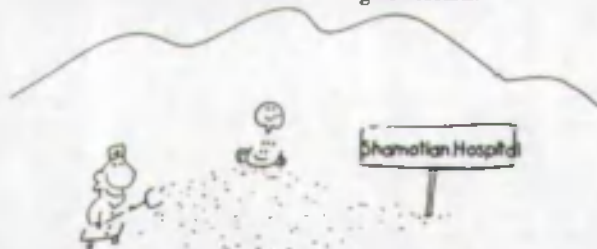


There is also a Temple Hell under the foundations, which is one of China's four Ghost Cities. The statues in this building are so vivid that they can be quite scary for visitors, especially if you are alone. Some sound and light created by electronic equipment accentuate this horrific atmosphere for visitors.



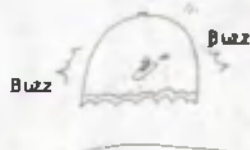
Sha Potou

This is one of China's four Whispering Sands, and is located in the interior of the Tengger Desert. At this spot, we can look out over the surging Yellow River, and over the seemingly endless oceans of sand and over thick green forests.



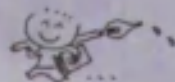
This place is abundant with yellow silver sand which makes Sha Potou a perfect site for treating arthritis, rheumatism and all kinds of wind-cold-damp diseases.

The biggest natural sand skating field in China.



When people slide down the sand slope, it makes vivid buzzing noises just like the ringing of a golden bell. This is where the name Sha Po Humming Bell comes from.

A Good Place—



Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region is located in the northwest border area of China, with an area of 1.6 million square km, accounting for one-sixth of China's total territory. In the north is found the Altai, and in the south are the Kunlunshan Mountain, the Kara-Kunlun Mountain and the Aljin Mountain. The Tianshan Mountain, the great symbol of Xinjiang, runs through the region from east to west. To the south is the Tarim Basin, and to the north the Jungar Basin. Generally, South Xinjiang refers to the region to the south of the Tianshan Mountain, and North Xinjiang refers to the north of the mountain. Both the Hami and the Turpan Basin are called East Xinjiang. With a distinct difference in elevation, Xinjiang has the Aydingkol Lake which is the second lowest lying lake in the world — next only to the Dead Sea, and also to the Qogir Peaks, the second highest range of mountains in the world, next only to the Himalayas. They often reach a height difference of 8,765 meters.







Local Specialities



Lamb Kebab



Baked Full
Goat / Roasted
Whole Lamb



Roasted Leg
of Lamb



Xinjiang
Flavor Noodles



Xinjiang Hand
Phaf / Xinjiang
Finger Rice



Pellicle Baozi



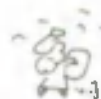
Xinjiang's Pizza
/ Baked Nang



Kaayoupi



Folk Customs



Going to the Bazaar



Corban Festival



Musik of Darguma



Uygur Dance



Special Local Products



grapes



Raisins



Yengkar
Uygur Knife



Hetian Jade



Hami Melons



Snow Lotus



Darguma
(Plucked
Stringed
Instrument)



Carpets



Impression on the Local People



Optimistic



Warm-hearted
and hospitable



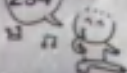
Humorous



Magnanimous



Graceful



Eight Strange Phenomena in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region



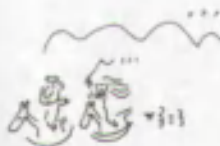
Monsters appear in mysterious Kanas lake



Head might be hit by wind-blown stones



Wells are linked through its water



Love always emerge under the horsewhips of youths



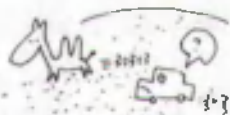
Men are accustomed to wearing colorful hats



The sound of wild shrieks and howls is made by the unknown



Four seasons of weather in one day



Camels are faster than cars



Urumqi

Urumqi is the capital of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the city farthest to the sea in the world.

Erdaoqiao Bazaar

People who are dressed in various ethnical costumes crowd in the Erdaoqiao Bazaar. In the bazaar is found an endless array of beautiful national handicrafts including carpets and copperware.



The Erdaoqiao Bazaar is the great market for the Xinjiang cultural handicrafts where one can buy all kinds of Xinjiang delicate special handicrafts.

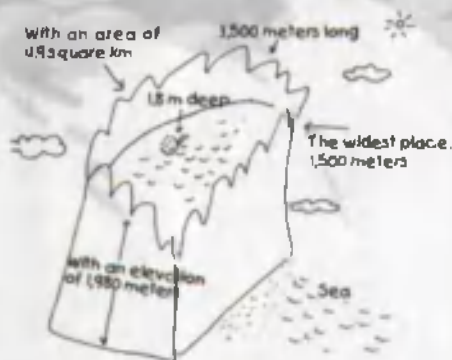


The Bazaar teems with music stores, from which Uygur music came.

Geographical Center of the Asian Continent Square

The most famous landmark is the tower on the Geographical Centre of the Asian Continent Square, commonly called the Asian Centre Square. The tower comprises four poles. Each side of the tower is shaped like the letter "A" standing for Asia. It is a showcase for the very best that the Asian continent has to offer culturally.





Tianchi Lake in the Tianshan Mountains

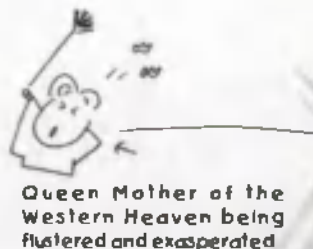
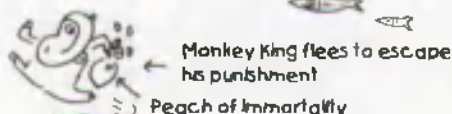
The Bogda Peak, with an elevation of 5,445 meters, is the second highest peak in the Tianshan Mountain. The snow on the mountain melts and runs down to form the famous Tianchi Lake that provides a stunning mirror reflection of the surrounding snow-capped mountains. The scene makes you think you have entered a magical fairyland. If you get the chance to ride a horse to the source of the lake where the snow begins to melt, standing under the impossibly high azure sky with the land stretching away below you, you will feel like a king of the world.

The Tianchi Lake gets its name from a sentence of a prose poem written by Ming Liang, a Urumqi Military Commander. The sentence says "the revered lake stretches far into the distance, looking like a mirror floating in heaven."



Tianchi, called the Jasper Lake in old time, is said in ancient mythology to be a fairyland where the Queen Mother of the Western Heaven and Emperor Zhoumu enjoyed happy feasts.

A very famous legend associated with the Tianchi Lake tells how the Monkey King disturbed the feast of the immortals at which the peaches of longevity were being offered.

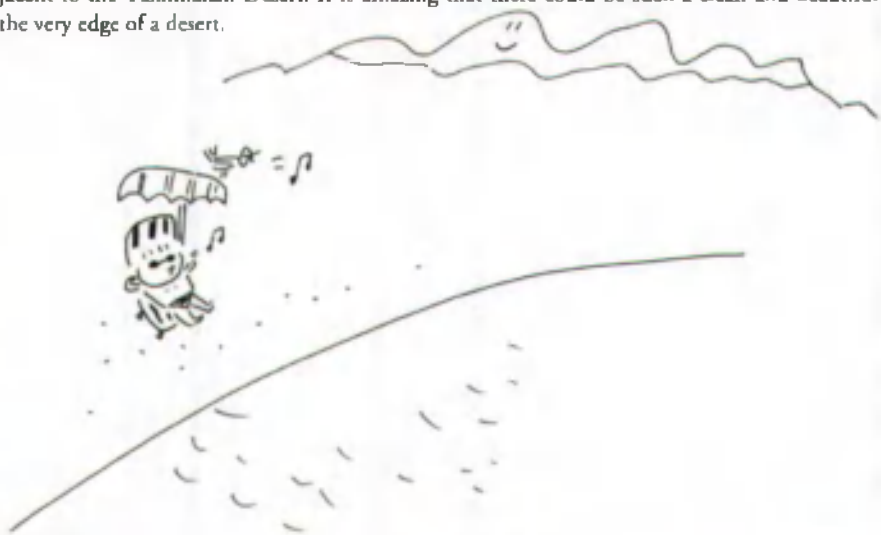


Ku'erle

Ku'erle is 500 km from Urumqi. Here can be found the Bosten Lake which is the largest inland fresh water lake in China and the world-famous Loulan Ruins. This area abounds in fragrant pears.



The meaning of Ku'erle in Uyghur language is to "look around" and "overlook". It is a clean modern city adjacent to the Taklimakan Desert. It is amazing that there could be such a clean and beautiful city at the very edge of a desert.

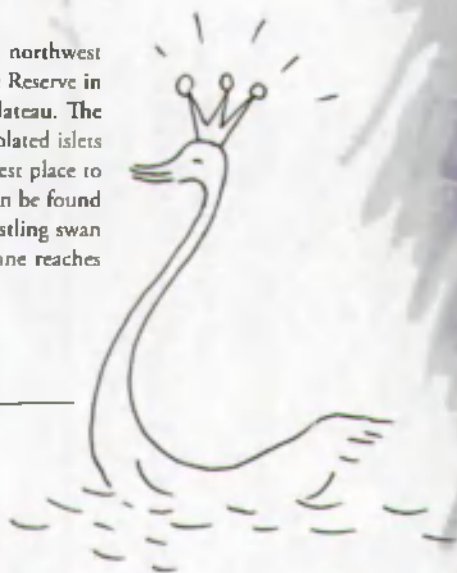


Bosten Lake

The Bosten Lake, historically known as West Sea or Fish Sea, got its modern name in the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911). It was named after the three hills which stand in the center of the lake. Bosten means "stand" in the Mongolian language. Washed by gentle rippling waves, with a wide expanse of beach the lake is called the Hawaii of Xinjiang, with an area of over 1,000 square km. It is most pleasant to lie on the sands, looking at the snow-capped mountain in the distance and listening to the waves gently lapping on the sandy beach.

Bayinbulak Swan Nature Reserve

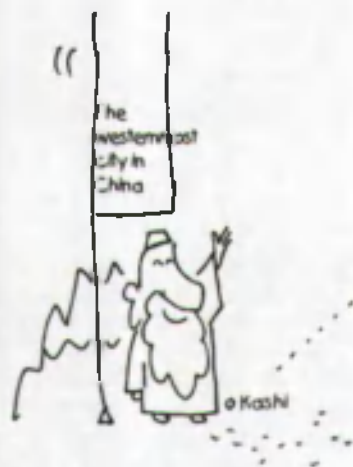
The Bayinbulak Swan Nature Reserve is located 338 km northwest of Jingxian County, and is the only national Swan Nature Reserve in China. The snow-capped mountains surround the flat plateau. The Kaidu River runs through the area. Lakes, marshes and isolated islets are scattered around the wide pasture land, and it is the best place to see swans. Three of the five kinds of swans in the world can be found living in this reserve. They are the whooper swan, the whistling swan and the cygnus swan. The number of whooper swans alone reaches some 10,000.



Kashi

Kashi is the westernmost city in China, and has the typical features of the Western Regions. People often say anyone visiting Xinjiang without seeing Kashi is bound to regret it. There are over 100 mosques there, some big, and some small. If time permits, one can visit the workshops of Uygur handicrafts to experience the culture and crafts of South Xinjiang.

Kashi means a jade-like place. About 2,100 years ago, it was a hub on the Silk Road from east to west, and was praised as the Bright Pearl on the Silk Road. Monk Xuanzang passed through this city on his journey to India for Buddhist study.



Etigur Mosque

The Etigur Mosque is the center of Islamic activities in Xinjiang, and is the biggest mosque in China. Its main entrance is light green, with delicate figures. The great porch is lateritic in color. The mosque can accommodate 4,000-5,000 people during religious services.



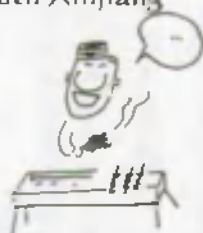
Grand Bazaar

The Uyghur Bazaar in Kashi is praised as the best bazaar in central Asia, and historically has been called the Largest Fair in Asia. It is the biggest international trade market in China's northwest, with over 2,000 years of history. It has 5,000-odd booths selling tens of thousands of products. The flow of people exceeds 100,000 every day. Passing through it is like finding oneself in a big labyrinth.

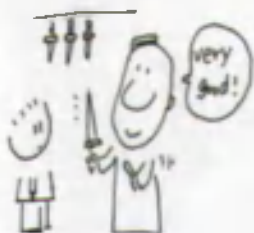
What One Sees and Hears on the Journey in South Xinjiang



Keeping the most ancient skills
in hand workshops



South Xinjiang mutton kebab, the
most delicious in Xinjiang



Yengisar Uygur Knife, sharp and
decorated beautifully



Various Uygur hats of South
Xinjiang very beautiful



The Uygur people are good at singing and
dancing. Their music and dance are both
very interesting.



When I was walking in the Taklimakan Desert,
among the endless oceans of sand, I
experienced strongly just how important the
role played by water and green is to human
existence.



Desert Cars on the desert road,
what a colossal



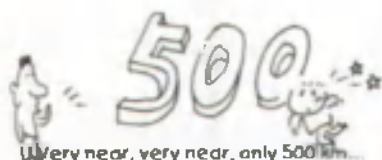
Diversiform-leaved poplar — when living, these
trees live for thousands of years; when dying, they
continue to stand for thousands of years; when
falling, they do not rot for thousands of years.



The perfect combination
between the modern style and
the traditional style



Running in the street



Very near, very near, only 500 km...

Xinjiang is vast in territory and its people are often prone to exaggeration. When you ask for directions, they often say 'very close, very close'. In fact, you can be astonished by the actual distance. So far!



The water-fried Baozi dumplings are very famous in South Xinjiang. It is very interesting that when the chef takes the lid off the food steamer, he will sing a loud chant. This song is said to give the customers a good appetite.

Sayram Lake

The Sayram Lake means a lake on the mountain ridge. It is surrounded by hilly area, forests and pasture which make for some absolutely enchanting scenery. It truly gives the sense of life lived to a slow rhythm. Nadamu Gathering, a traditional annual pageant, takes place during the period from July to August each year.

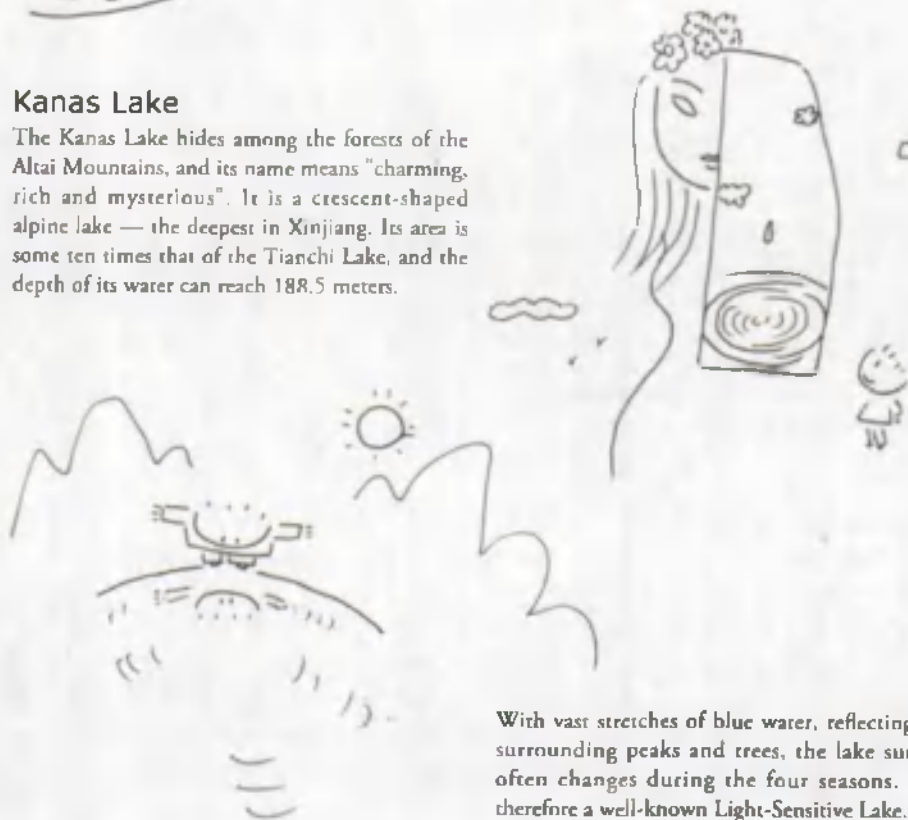


It is said that the Sayram Lake is filled with the tears of two martyrs who died for love.



Kanas Lake

The Kanas Lake hides among the forests of the Altai Mountains, and its name means "charming, rich and mysterious". It is a crescent-shaped alpine lake — the deepest in Xinjiang. Its area is some ten times that of the Tianchi Lake, and the depth of its water can reach 188.5 meters.



One of the great attractions of the lake is the mysterious dam made of fallen trees. The fallen trees on the lake were blown together by a gale to form this formidable barrier.



Legends tell of a huge monster which can pull full grown horses into the lake. Some locals believe this is none other than the local speciality, a kind of big red fish. Whatever the truth is, it certainly lends an air of mystery to the Kanas Lake.

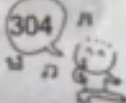
Turpan

Turpan is a key oasis town on the ancient Silk Road. Due to its unique topography, its temperature in summer is very high. In July, the temperature can reach a scorching 48 degrees Centigrade, giving it the well earned nickname "land of fire". In the urban area, many streets are covered by grape trellises. Walking under these trellises gives one a beautiful cool feeling.

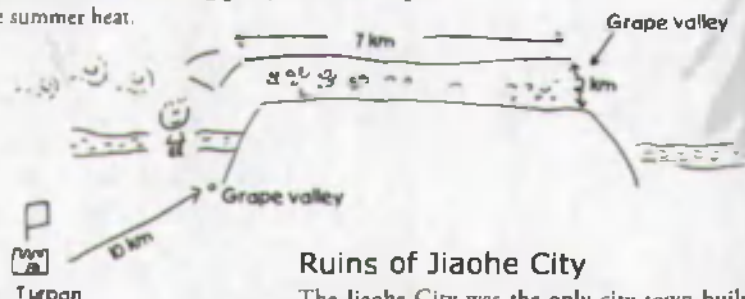


Grape Valley

In the Grape Valley, visitors can taste the sweet, crisp Horse Udder grape straight from the vine. Both the Grape Museum and the Uygur Custom Showroom are situated in the valley. Visitors can watch performances of traditional songs and dances. Beautiful Uygur girls dance gracefully.



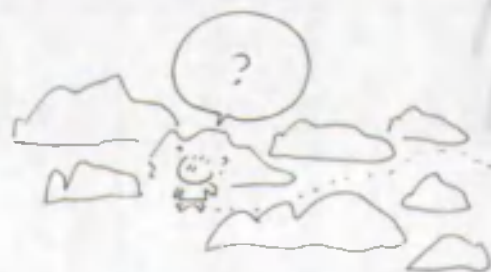
The Grape Valley lies in the Flaming Mountains in northeast Turpan. The freshly-melted snow from the Tianshan Mountain flows through the valley, and with the cool breeze blowing gently it is the best place to escape the extreme summer heat.



Ruins of Jiaohe City

The Jiaohe City was the only city town built with clay in the world, and the ruins of the town are the best preserved from the past 2,000 years in China. The shape of the town looks like a willow leaf, two rivers lying to the east and west. The length from south to north is about 1,650 meters, and the widest place from east to west is about 300 meters. This was the capital of the Cheshi Regime. In the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the Anxi ("Anxi" means to pacify the west) Pacification Command, a most powerful military institution, was established there.

Walking among the empty broken walls of the Cheshi capital, I saw a little traces that could tell prosperity the town enjoyed thousands of years ago.



The city only has an east gate and a south gate. All buildings were dug out from the raw soil. Of them, the highest building had three stories. It was the largest and the oldest and the best preserved soil city in the world.



Ruins of Gaochang City

The ruins of Gaochang City are located 40 km east of Turpan. From the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD) to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), it flourished for about 1,000 years. After the Ming Dynasty it declined and now only the dilapidated walls are left. Many Chinese and foreign explorers discovered numerous cultural relics in the city, and the visitors today can still find some historical traces of past glory. A Uyghur village is adjacent to the east of the ruins. Spending some time in the village is the best way for visitors to experience the Uyghur life.



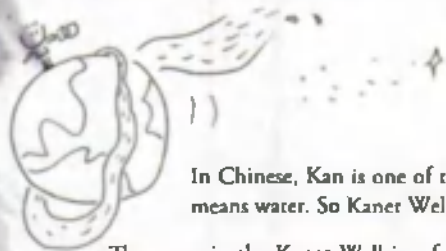
Gaochang City was built in the 1st century BC, and destroyed by wars in the 13th century AD. The walls are still in good condition. With an area of 2 million square meters, the city includes the interior city, the exterior city and the imperial palace. The walls of the city are 12 meters thick and 11.5 meters high, with a 5.4 km perimeter.

In the southwest of the exterior city, there is a large monastery with an area of about 10,000 square meters. Frescoes can be found in the main hall. It is said that Monk Xuanzang went to Gaochang to lecture on the Buddhist doctrines in this hall in 628.



Kaner Well

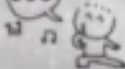
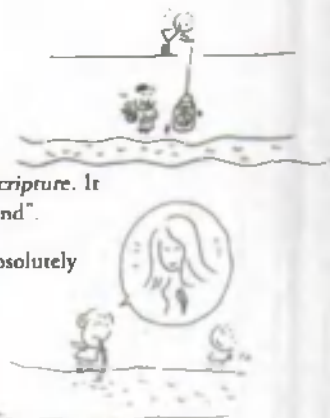
Mainly found in the Turpan and Hami areas, the Kaner Well, historically known as a Well-Canal, is a special water conservation facility consisting of vertical wells and horizontal canals. The surface of the ground in this area is dry, and the snowmelt constitutes the main source of water. In fact, the evaporation volume is more than the precipitation that falls. Due to these natural conditions, the local people built underground canals. The lengths of the Kaner Well are different. Of them, the longest one can reach 20 to 30 km. There is a well vertically connecting the surface of the ground every 20 to 30 meters. In summer, the ground is extremely hot, but in the Kaner Wells cool water flows effortlessly. It is one of the great wonders of the Western Regions.



In Chinese, Kan is one of the Eight Trigram in *Yijing Scripture*. It means water. So Kaner Well means "the water underground".

The water in the Kaner Well is refreshing and cool, and it is absolutely natural mineral water.

Xinjiang has over 1,200 Kaner Wells, with a total length of about 5,000 meters. The Kaner Well, the Great Wall and the Grand Canal are the three great projects undertaken in China's history, and the Kaner Well is also the biggest water irrigation system in the world.

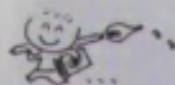


Chan Realization

Go on a long journey ...
to smell ... the taste of
life ...



Cattle and Sheep Are Seen When the Grass Bends in the Wind— Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region



The Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region is located southeast of the Mongolian Plateau, inhabited mainly by the Mongolian, Daur and Ewenki ethnic groups. It is a high, flat plateau dotted with more than 1,000 lakes of different sizes. With the exception of the Greater Hinggan Mountain and the Daqingshan Mountain, it is a gently undulating region of grassland.





Local Specialities



Kumiss (An
Alcoholic Milk Drink)



Naked Oats Flour



Tea with Milk



Oatmeal



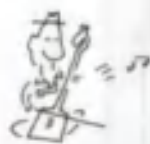
Folk Customs



Meeting in a Yurt



Nadamu (Once
a Year Fair)



Horse-Headed Stringed
Instrument



Special Local Products



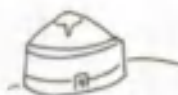
Sanhe Horses



Mongolian Knives



Hetao Honeydew
Melon



Mongolian Yurt



Bain Stone
for Seals



Impression on the Local People



Loud Singing



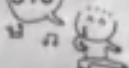
All are brothers in
the Four Seas



Everyone is a
heavy drinker



Everyone is healthy





Huhhot

Huhhot is the capital of Inner Mongolia and contains many lamaseries. In the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1616-1911) Dynasties it was famous as a Monastery City. Huhhot is a Mongolian word meaning green; therefore Huhhot is also called Green City. Here the stars at night seem to be within one's reach.

Inner Mongolian Racecourse

The Inner Mongolia Racecourse is located in the northern suburbs of Huhhot and is the largest racecourse in China. The large-scale racecourse has the highest architectural standard in Asia.

The viewing area is capable of accommodating 100,000 people. There are often Inner Mongolian equestrian teams performing gymnastics, shooting, archery and other horseback skills here.



Zhaojun Mausoleum

Located nine km from Huhhot, it is the tomb of Wang Zhaojun of the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD). The tomb appears to be dark green which is very striking in the endless desert here. Because of this it is also called the "green tomb."



The story *Wang Zhaojun Departing the Frontier* has been widely eulogized.

Wutasi Monastery

The Wutasi (Five-Pagoda) Monastery was originally a building of the Cidengsi (Kind Lamp) Monastery. The Five Pagodas are still standing though the lamasery has almost disappeared. Various Buddhist designs and characters are carved on the pagodas and these have a fairly high artistic value.

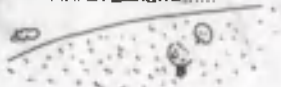
The most valued item in the monastery is the Mongolian stone carved with astronomical picture composed of 270 constellations formed by 1,500 stars, the orbit of the sun and the 24 solar terms. This picture is the only astronomical picture recorded in Mongolian and is therefore of an extremely high academic value.

Hulun Buir Grassland

Located to the west of the Greater Hinggan Mountains, the Hulun Buir Grassland is the largest grassland in China and one of the three largest meadows in the world. The Sanhe Oxen and the Sanhe Horses which are bred on the grassland are well-known. In the summer and autumn, the grasses run riot with a height of over 50 cm. When the breeze blows it looks like a sea of green.

The vast Hulun Buir Grassland and the Morqin River in it form a beautiful picture on the plateau.

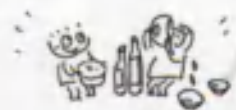
Ahi Grassland.....



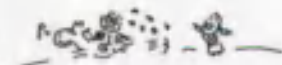
Feeling 'tiny' on the vast grassland



High sky and low clouds



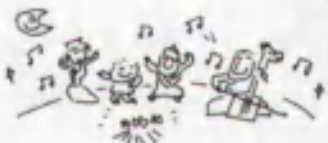
What heavy drinkers the people on the grassland are.....



The first time riding a horse



The really excellent Mongolian traditional long tune.....



The unforgettable night on the grassland

Hulun Nur Lake

It is located in the vast Hulun Buir Grassland, close to Manzhouli City.

The Hulun Nur Lake is famous for being large, alive, clean and fertile.

Large: The largest lake in Inner Mongolia.

Alive: Many rivers flow into it.

Clean: Each river in the area of the lake is basically not polluted.

Fertile: The waste from the livestock flows into the lake and serves as a natural food for the fish.

The lake is home to more than 240 kinds of birds which is one-fifth of the total species of birds found in China. It is a rare paradise for birds in the world. Coming here, I also become a happy bird in paradise.

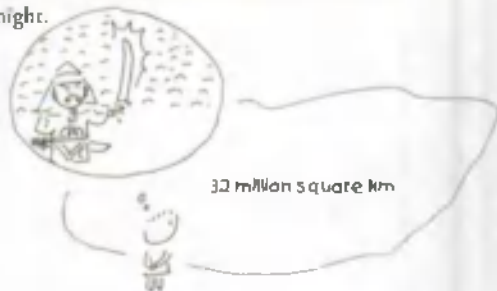


Genghis Khan's Mausoleum

The Genghis Khan's Mausoleum is located on the Ordos Plateau some 150 km south of Baotou City. The major building in the cemetery is a huge Mongolian-style Memorial Hall, whose golden roof looks especially magnificent against the blue sky and white clouds. Any articles used by Genghis Khan are enshrined in the palace. In the splendid and solemn hall huge fresco portraits show the legendary life of Genghis Khan, a great national hero. The mausoleum is the spiritual Holy land of the Mongolian people. Four grand memorial ceremonies are held there every year.

In front of Genghis Khan's Mausoleum there is said to be a ghee lamp which has not gone out for 800 years and which is guarded by the Darkhads day and night.

Standing in front of the Mausoleum and imagining the Asian-European Territory of 32 million square km conquered by Genghis Khan, one may be shocked. Genghis Khan's life of conquest really shows what a hero he was.



Xiangshawan

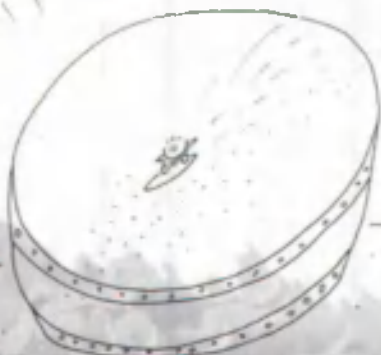
Xiangshawan (Whistling Sand) is located 50 km south of Baotou City, where the golden desert stretches to the horizon. It is the most pleasant thing to slide on sand. Riding on a camel to look for wonders in the endless desert is another kind of experience. Here you may find yourself in a kind of unreality.

It is 110 meters high, 500 meters long and has a 40-degree gradient with a crescent shape.



The yurt in the camp of Genghis Khan is the largest Mongolian yurt in the world.

The desert sands slide away from the top of the dune and make a loud noise, forming the famous wonder "sand hill with bugle", hence the name of Xiangshawan which means whistling sand.

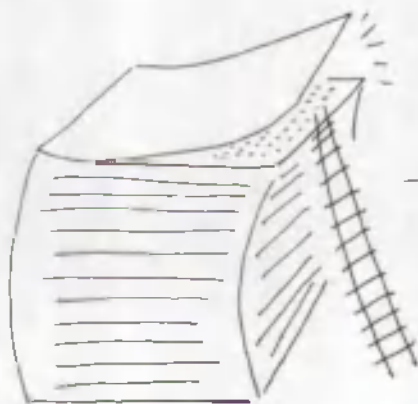


Wudangzhao Monastery

Located 70 km to the northeast of Baotou, it is one of the most famous monasteries of Tibetan Buddhism. It was built in imitation of the Potala Palace in Lhasa and has a long cultural history.



Wudang in Mongolian means "willow". Willows are plentiful in the Wudang Valley where the Monastery is located; hence the name Wudangzhao. The monastery is built along the mountain and has a total of 2,500 halls. It is known as the "small Potala Palace".

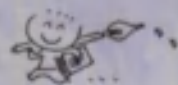


Wudangzhao is not only a religious temple but also an institution of higher learning for those studying Tibetan Buddhism, philosophy, esoteric Buddhism, astronomy and geography.

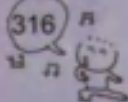


The monastery boasts 1,500-plus Buddhist statues of gold, silver, copper, wood and clay. They vary in height ranging from that of a three-storey building to less than 3 cm.

An Ocean of Folk Songs— Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region



Guangxi, called Gui for short, is located in the southern border area of China. It is mainly inhabited by people of the Zhuang ethnic group. It is also home to the Yao, Miao, Dong, Gelao, Maonan, Yi, and Shui ethnic peoples. There are many hills in the territory and rich karst physiognomy resources.







Local Specialities



Drunken Squab



Gulin Rice Noodles



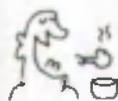
Vegetable Noodles for Nuns



Dried Flour Noodles



Gingko Stewed with
Old Duck



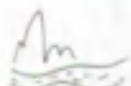
Bean and Glutinous Rice



Folk Customs



A Folk Song
Festival



Gulin
Landscape
Festival



Wuyang Folk Songs



Horse Fighting



Special Local Products



Bananas



The Fruit of the
Mangosteen



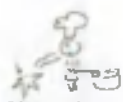
Gulin Sanhua Jiu, a
Variety of Rice Baijiu or
Liquor Distilled from Rice



Hepu Pearls



Paper Umbrellas



Star Aniseed



Zhuang
Brocade



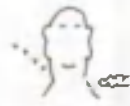
Impression on the Local People



Gentle and
cultivated



Coy



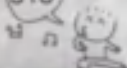
Transcendent

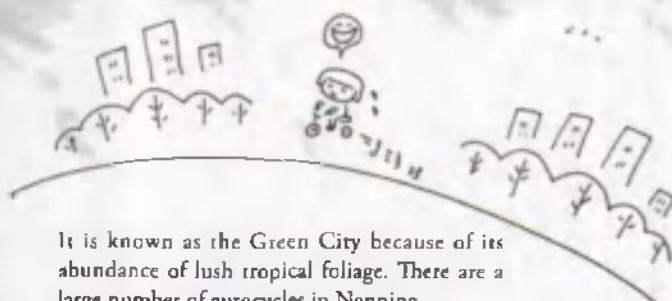


Know exactly
about things



Able to sing folk songs





Nanning

Nanning is the capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. With plenty of sunshine and an abundant rainfall, Nanning has green trees throughout all seasons of a year. Charming sub-tropical scenery can be found everywhere.

It is known as the Green City because of its abundance of lush tropical foliage. There are a large number of automobiles in Nanning.

Museum of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

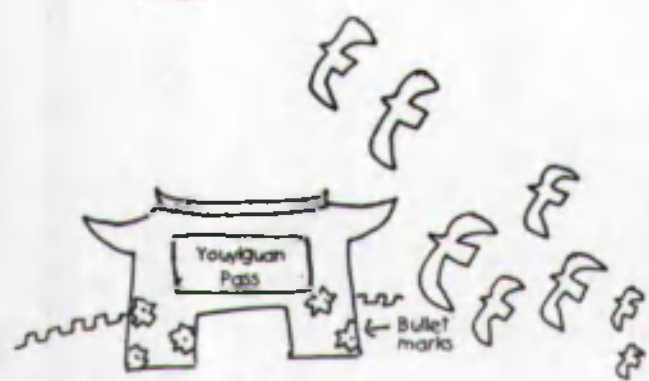
The Museum of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is located on Minzu Street and has a collection of more than 50,000 cultural relics. They include 152 pieces of Class A cultural relics and 1,791 Class B cultural relics. Many ancient bronze drums have been excavated in Guangxi; they feature great variety.

The Ancient Bronze Drum Exhibition has a total of 300 drums, a figure more than any other similar exhibitions. The largest drum on display is 1.65 meters in diameter, known as the King of the World Bronze Drum.

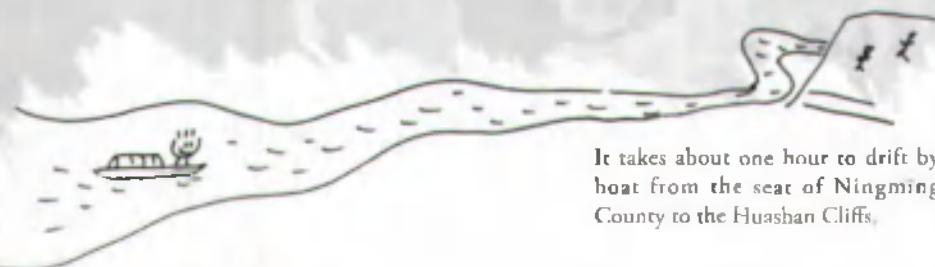


Youyiguan Pass

Owing to its stately architecture and extremely dangerous position, the Youyiguan (Friendship) Pass, located in Pingxiang City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is known as the the Second Pass Under Heaven. It is one of the nine well-known passes in China. It has been a strategic pass and an important place for frontier defence in south China in past dynasties.



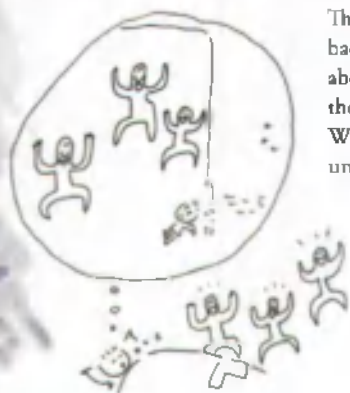
The Youyiguan Pass now is a symbol of friendship between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples. Although the marks left from the various wars may be clearly seen here, it is still a very peaceful place.



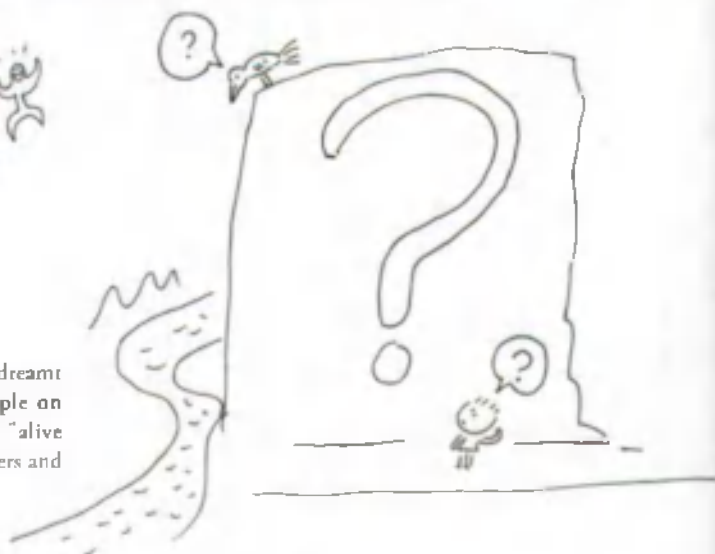
It takes about one hour to drift by boat from the seat of Ningming County to the Huashan Cliffs.

Huashan Cliff Paintings

The Huashan Cliff Paintings, located in Ningming of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is a famous ancient cultural site. The paintings were drawn on the cliffs. Some figures stand with the pas de cheval and face outward with their two elbows raised and bent. Some ride horses with their heads covered with pheasant plumes and with swords at their sides. They look like a chieftain or a general. Some figures bend and go down on their knees with both hands being raised at one side, making a pose of holding something, dancing or leaping. Some wear tall hats and some have plaits hanging down to the ground. They seem like riffraff. There is a tall figure wearing a tiger crown and holding an arrowhead in his left hand with great dignity. There are some round articles such as bronze drums, bronze gongs or rattan shields and some images of animals like horses, wolves and tigers on the cliff paintings. They are complicated and confusing and have a very mysterious colour.



There are more than 1,800 figures on those cliff paintings which date back to the Spring and Autumn as well as the Warring States periods about 2,000 years ago. When were these cliff paintings done? What's the purpose? Why were these cliff paintings drawn so magnificently? Why has the ochre dye used not faded over thousands of years? These unsolved questions constitute the mystery of the Huashan Cliffs.



That night I had a dream. I dreamt those mysterious small people on the Huashan Cliffs became "alive and kicking" cartoon characters and came to my bed...



Guilin

In China almost all people know the saying "Guilin's landscape tops China". On both banks of the Lijiang River are **many** steep peaks and deep caves such as the Duxiufeng (Solitary Beauty) Peak, the Xiangbi (Elephant Trunk) Hill,

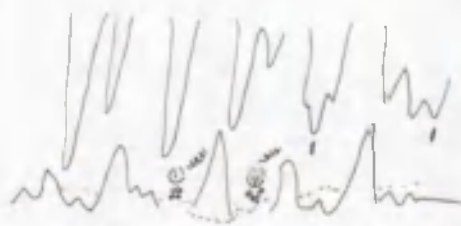
the Fuboshan (Wave-Subduing) Hill, the Diecaishan (Folded Brocade) Hill, the Seven-Star Cave and the Reed Flute Cave.

Reed Flute Cave

The Reed Flute Cave is located south of Guangmingshan Mountain in the northwest suburb of Guilin. It is a lava cave which has evolved from the underground erosion of the river. It has lots of stalactites, stalagmites and stone pillars, and geologists call the Cave "the most typical lava cave in China".



The Cave got its name from the reeds growing outside it, with which people make flutes.



Inside this water-eroded cave is a spectacular world of stalactites, stalagmites, stone pillars and rock formations created by years of carbon deposits. While walking through the stone pillars, tourists feast their eyes on the changing sights, as if they were in a paradise where the Gods live.



As early as 1,000 years ago, this cave attracted tourists; many of them left paintings, of which 77 are well preserved. Most of them were written with ink brushes and the handwriting can still be clearly seen and understood.

Duxiufeng Hill

The Duxiufeng (Solitary Beauty) Hill, 66 meters high, is one of the landmarks of Guilin City. It is known as the beautiful Sky-Supporting Pillar in the South. At the foot of the hill is the site of the ancient Mansion of Prince Jingjiang of the Ming Dynasty and it is called the imperial city. Now it serves as the campus of the Guangxi Normal University.

Stone stairs will lead you to the top of the peak where you can enjoy a full view of Guilin City.

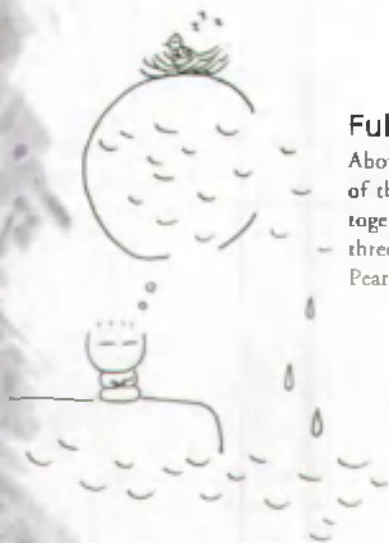


When bathed in the dawn sunshine or the afterglow of the sunset, the peak seems to be wearing a purple gown and a golden belt, which is the origin of its other name Purple Golden Hill.

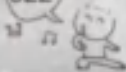


Fuboshan Hill

Above the western bank of the Lijiang River in the northern part of the city, there is the Fuboshan (Wave-Subduing) Hill, which, together with the Duxiufeng Hill and the Diecaishan Hill, are the three main peaks of Guilin. On Fuboshan there is the supernatural Pearl-Returning Cave.



Half of it stands in the river and the other half of it on land. With its picturesque scenery and unique lava rock, it is a good place to meditate and seek the truth.

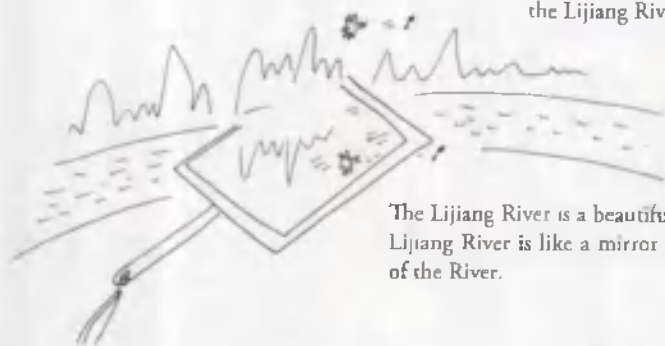


Lijiang River Scenic Area

If the scenic spots in Guilin are like twinkling bright pearls, the Lijiang River flowing through it would be like a jade belt stringing the bright pearls. The 437-km-long Lijiang River, and its tributaries — the Taohuajiang River and the Jinbaohe River — constitute the most picturesque of waterscapes which "is like flowing light when moving and a bright mirror when stationary". This is how the poet He Jingzhi described the Lijiang River.

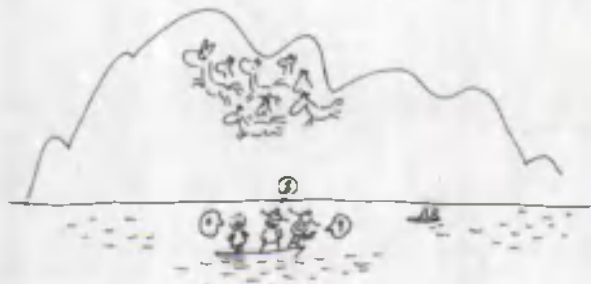
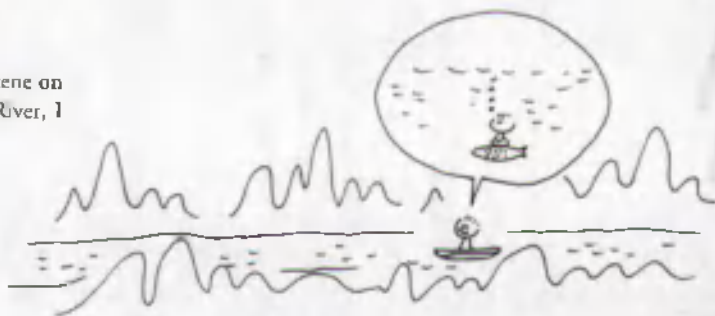


The 83-km Lijiang River from Guilin to Yangshuo contains all the picturesque scenes of the four seasons and is known as the "1,000 Pictures Along the River". With the hills changing along both its banks the Lijiang River looks like a picture gallery.



The Lijiang River is a beautiful lava landscape area. The water of the Lijiang River is like a mirror reflecting the landscape on both sides of the River.

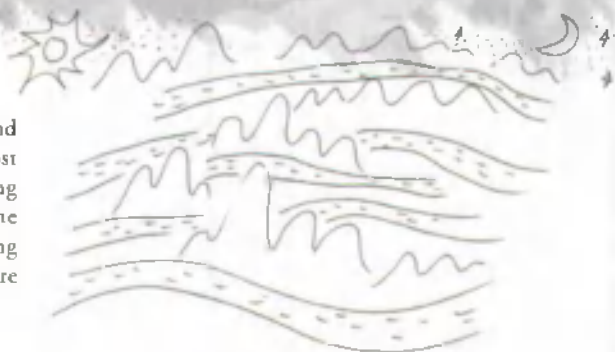
Enjoying the picturesque scene on both banks of the Lijiang River, I am intoxicated.



A hill skirted by the Lijiang River bears patterns of nine galloping horses. Legend has it that one will have the chance to be an official equal in rank to the number of horses he can count. It turned out that there were some of my fellow travellers on our boat, who had the chance to be "elected" prime ministers.

Yangshuo

"Guilin's landscape tops China and Yangshuo's tops Guilin." The most picturesque section of the Lijiang River is the Yang Causeway, the Nine-horse Fresco Hill, Xingping and the Yucun Village and they are all in Yangshuo.



Yangshuo has more than 20,000 hillocks and 16 rivers and is surrounded with green mountains and picturesque waterways. The strange peaks and deep caves are wonders to see.

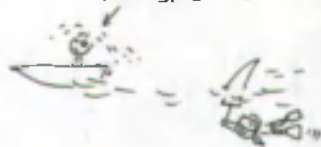
The Xijie Street in Yangshuo refers to Foreigners' Street and is 517 meters long. Many expats have regarded here as their home, so Xijie has the name of the 'global village'. The adults and children on Xijie are able to speak foreign languages.



Beihai Silver Beach

The Beihai Silver Beach, lying in the southern suburb of Beihai City, gets its name from its sand which is bright as silver. The beach extends for 10 km and is a good natural bathing beach because of its long length, fine white sand and clean and warm water. It is also safe and free from sharks in the swimming area.

Moving, ha-ha...



On the sea in the distance float two small boats while motorboats speed along. The former is stationary and the latter is moving and this constitutes the easygoing life of Silver Beach.

The natural advantages of the beach give it the reputation of the Eastern Hawaii and the First Beach in China. Walking barefoot on the beach for a long time I am filled with great thoughts of wandering around in the country.



Detian Waterfall

The Detian Waterfall, which is located along the border between China and Vietnam, is 50 meters high with a thundering water sound. The turbulent river gushes down the cliff to the bottom with a huge spray of water. In the sunshine it is colourful presenting a splendid sight. In spring or summer, the water of the waterfall is in full flow with magnificent strength. Its elegance startles everyone who sees it.

Connected with the Banyue Waterfall of Vietnam, the Detian Waterfall is the second largest waterfall along a national border after Niagara Falls and the largest transnational waterfall in Asia.

Under the waterfall there is a 30 meter deep, 200 meter wide pool. The local farmers from the two countries often catch fish in it while singing folk songs.



The 208-meter-wide waterfall rushes down the cliff over three tiers like strings of pearls hanging on a girl.

Postscript

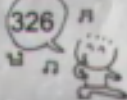
On a World Cartoon Conference, Wang Qicheng told me that he had just finished his travels around China and was preparing for the publication of his new book entitled *China: Tour Guide Cartoons*. The book finally came out, I found its humor and joy wonderful to behold.

Wang Qicheng is one of the few who can vividly describe a tour of China in cartoons. He draws for us an easy path towards the numerous breathtaking landscapes of China. His book presents a valuable experience that brings him great happiness. With the expectation of future happiness, he is brave enough to challenge himself with hardship and fatigue. He succeeded in expressing almost all his experiences and sightseeing in cartoons. This makes it possible for us to be able to travel around China with him in cartoons.

We have been friends for years. I still remember when we met for the first time at an international cartoon festival, which was the largest and had the most countries participating. Many world-famous cartoonists were invited. Fortunately, Wang Qicheng and I were both selected to take charge of the festival. Wang was so open to communication and exchange with cartoonists from all over the world. He was warm and humorous, and spoke about his work happily.

I am so lucky that we are friends. I hope that his book and cartoons will be popular and that he will devote himself to drawing for kind people with a sense of humor. Bless Qicheng and all his fans.

Xia Dachuan
Secretary-General
Cartoon Committee of China Artist Association
August 1, 2007



When a Cartoonist Loves Travelling

When I met Wang Qicheng for the first time, he was an armyman. At that time, he loved travelling so much that he spent every vacation traveling with his bag on his back. After his return, he always showed his drawings which recorded the attractions he saw during his trip. From this we learn that he recorded his travels in cartoons rather than in photos. Every time on his trip, he always recorded his life with a large amount of cartoons, vivid or humorous or deep, but only accompanied by simple words.

After he left the army, Wang Qicheng worked as an advertising agent, later a consultant, and then became general manager and chairman of the board. But he has always been a cartoonist. Three years ago, when the Ministry of Culture held an activity in China, I worked with him and had the opportunity to appreciate his fine skills. At that time, he served as the Project Chief in charge of public relations. Facing the most complicated work, he coped with it in an efficient way. His sober mind helps, and he was able to combine his passion for traveling with his work.

For ten years, Wang Qicheng has visited almost all famous natural scenic spots, leaving tens of thousands of travel cartoons. This becomes the sources of this book. Readers can share his feelings and enjoy the humor in his cartoons. Moreover, you can also experience the wisdom of trying to snatch a little leisure from a busy life.

When a cartoonist loves travelling, we find that travelling itself is a kind of emotion.

Xu Tao
President
Pioneer Cartoons
July 2007

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

漫画旅行中国:英文/王鹏波著 王国振 孙强译.

—北京:五洲传播出版社,2009.4

ISBN 978-7-5085-1332-4

I. 漫... II. ①王...②王...③孙... III. 旅游指南—中国—英文 IV. K928.9

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2009)第058017号

著 者:王鹏波

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责任编辑:张美景

设计总监:周志全

封面设计:周敏一

设计制作:中真真

出 版:五洲传播出版社

发 行:五洲传播出版社

地 址:北京市海淀区北小门6号华天大厦

邮 编:100038

网 址:www.cicc.org.cn

电 话:010-58891281

印 刷:北京正合伟业印刷技术有限公司

开 本:787×1092mm 1/32

印 张:10.5

版 次:2009年4月第1版 2009年4月第1次印刷

定 价:99.00元





19700 cyper.