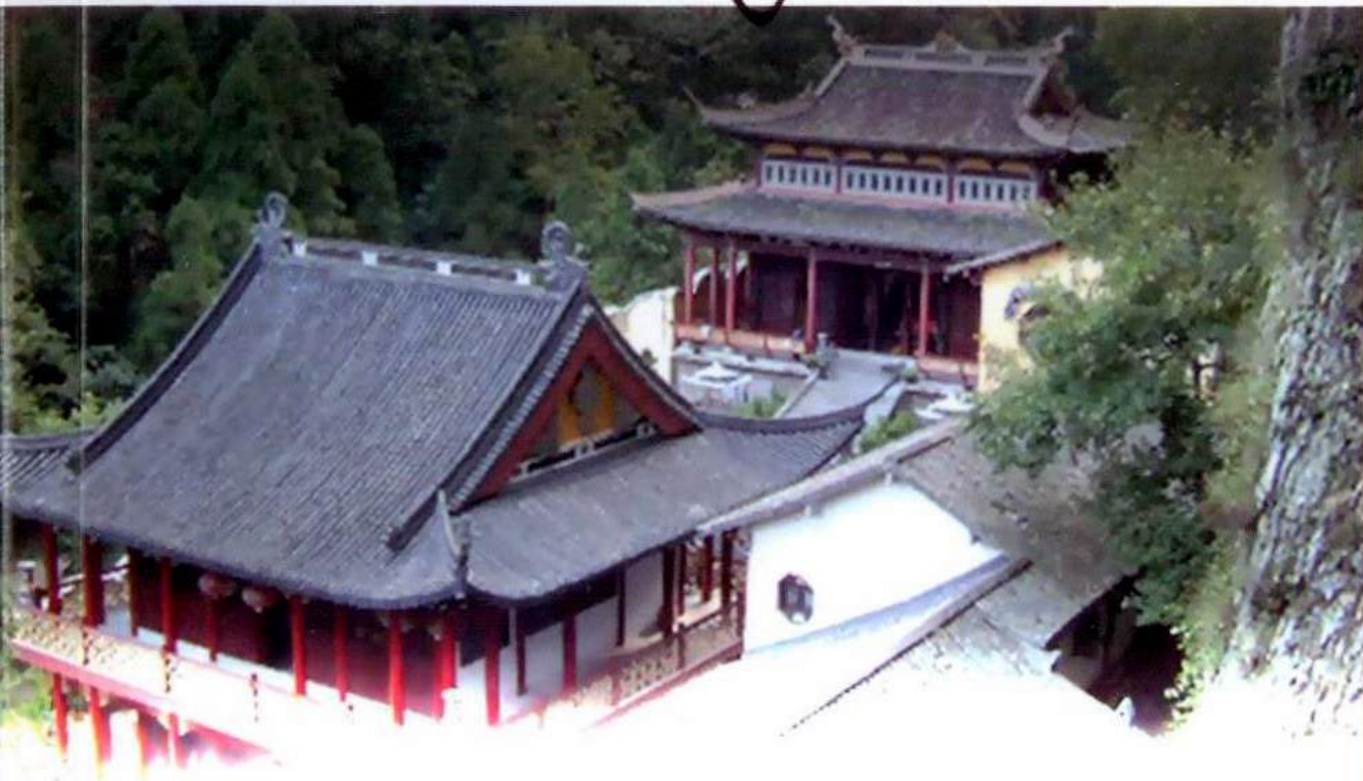


ALİ BAYLAR

CHINA

at a glance

CULTURE AND TRAVEL GUIDE



BASIC FACTS · POPULATION & RELIGIONS · SCRIPTS
HISTORY · CULTURE · HOROSCOPE · LANGUAGE
CHINESE PHILOSOPHY & WISDOM · YIN & YANG
TRADITIONS & CUSTOMS · BASIC CHINESE · HOTELS
CUISINE · CHINESE INVENTIONS · MUSIC & ARTS



CHINESE CULTURE

at a glance

CULTURE AND TRAVEL GUIDE

Ali Baylar

CHINESE CULTURE

at a glance

CULTURE AND TRAVEL GUIDE

CİNİUS YAYINLARI
GEZİ KİTAPLARI

Babıali Caddesi, No. 14 Cağaloğlu - İstanbul
Tel: (0212) 5283314 — (0212) 5277982
<http://www.ciniusyayinlari.com>
iletisim@ciniusyayinlari.com

Ali Baylar
CHINA AT A GLANCE
CULTURE AND TRAVEL GUIDE

BİRİNCİ BASKI: Kasım, 2007

ISBN 978-9944-126-77-9

Kitap Matbaası'nda basılmıştır

© ALİ BAYLAR, 2007

© CİNİUS YAYINLARI, 2007

Tüm hakları saklıdır.
Bu yayının hiçbir bölümü yazarmın ön izni olmaksızın,
herhangi bir şekilde yeniden üretilemez,
basılı ya da dijital yollarla çoğaltılamaz.

Printed in Türkiye

Ali Baylar

▷ CİNİUS

Content

Preface	9
Travel Packing List	11
Basic Facts	13
Chinese Flag	14
National Emblem	15
Chinese National Anthem	16
Map Of China	17
Population	17
Religions	18
Chinese Script	18
Provinces	20
Ethnic Groups	22
History	25
China in Ancient Times (Antiquity - A.D. 1840)	25
China's New Democratic Revolution (1919-1949)	30

Opium Wars and Hong Kong's British Rule	33	Chuan (Sichuan) Cuisine	83
Chinese Culture	34	Su (Jiangsu) Cuisine	83
Silk Road	34	Zhe (Zhejiang) Cuisine	84
Language	35	Yue (Guangdong) Cuisine	84
Famous Chinese People	35	Xiang (Hunan) Cuisine	84
Confucius (孔子)	35	Min (Fujian) Cuisine	84
Sun Tzu (孫子)	37	Hui (Anhui) Cuisine	85
Zu Chongzhi	39	Chopsticks	85
Mao Zedong	40	Chopstick Etiquette	86
Family Names:	41	How to use chopsticks	86
Chinese New Year	42	Dinner Invitations	88
Chinese Calendar	44	House Invitations	91
Chinese Horoscope	46	Chinese Tea	92
The Restless Rat January 31, 1900 to February 18, 1901 (met-		Puerh Tea:	95
al)	56	Tie Guan Yin or Ti Kuan Yin Tea:	96
The Hard Working Ox	58	Oolong / Wulong Tea:	96
The Powerful Tiger	60	Long Jin Tea:	96
The Delicate Rabbit	62	Drinking	96
The Divine Dragon	64	Tsingtao Beer (Ching Dao Beer)	97
The Dialogistic Snake	66	Smoking	98
The Productive Horse	68	Hygiene	99
The Gentle Goat	70	Toilet Culture	100
Merry Monkey	72	Tourism	101
The Enthusiastic Rooster	75	Airport And Arrival	101
The Dutiful Dog	76	Hotels	102
The Chivalrous Pig	78	Taxis And Roads:	103
Chinese Elements	80	Bargaining	105
Fire	81	Money	106
Metal	81	Phone Cards:	108
Wood	82	The Great Wall. (Chang Cheng)	109
Chinese Cuisine	83	China's 49 places of ultimate attractions	113
Lu (Shangdong) Cuisine	83	Chinese Business Culture	132

Basic Chinese	136
Numbers in Sign Language	140
Jade	143
Abacus	145
Feng Shui	146
Shao Lin Temple and Kung fu	147
Tai Chi	149
Paper Cutting	149
Pottery	150
Cloisonne	151
Chinese Poems	152
Yin & Yang	158
Interesting Facts About China:	158
Chinese Inventions:	159
A CHILDREN SONG	164
Strange Anecdotes	165
Conclusion	167
About Me	167

你好！

Ni Hao!

Hi!

Preface

I HAVE BEEN VISITING CHINA SINCE 1991. The country has gone under a grand transmission since then. Shanghai of 1991 is a lot different from today's Shanghai. Hong Kong was then under British rule, and six years later, as it was planned, it became a Chinese city. It's hard to summarize the enormous change in a couple of words. In about twenty years I have visited many cities and met many Chinese people from different regions of the country. I made wonderful friends and they are all like my brothers now. The times I have spent studying Chinese culture have been times of great joy for me; and it was a process of learning with my own sights and experiences. I asked my Chinese friends numerous minor details that I could not understand, and they were always delighted to help me. And as I read books on life in China, Chinese culture and Chinese society, I learned many things. This book is in great debt, as every book on earth, to both friends and books.

There may be passages in this book, that you will find of-

fensive or distressing, but I request from the reader not to think that these are written to humiliate or make sarcasm of Chinese people... Every culture has its own originality and we have to accept them as they are, and if the culture we are dealing with is an ancient culture like the Chinese culture, one has to focus on the beauty, many times the strange beauty of the culture. I myself enjoyed experiencing the Chinese culture as it is. And this book is an account of that enjoyment with interesting details and events.

No one can write a book on China without loving China.

I believe everybody will find something interesting on Chinese life and culture in this book. If you think about travelling to China or if are just curious about China, this book has many things for you.

* * *

The most crowded country in the world is China -a country with a population of more than 1.3 billion people and a culture which dates thousands of years back. Any student of cultural studies, world history and politics must start with or at some point come to studying Chinese culture during his or her research. This culture is the centre of cultural understanding. *A world without China*, is not a world at all.

Like every teenager of my generation, I watched numerous Bruce Lee movies. Together with my friends I used to run from school directly to the cinema. These movies always showed Chinese people making Kung Fu, at any place and at any time. So inevitably I believed that all Chinese people were masters of Kung Fu, that they were born with the gift.

So when I went to China for the first time in 1991, I was frightened by even looking at the Chinese people; I believed they could beat me up, without asking or giving any reason. But nothing like that happened. No one hit me. Everyone was very friendly and up until today I have never seen any Kung Fu fighters on the streets or anywhere else.

Film is not the reality, do not trust the movies! ☺

TRAVEL PACKING LIST

Very Important

Ticket
Passport
Money, wallet
Credit Card
Clothes
Underwear
Suitable Clothes for the climate you travel
Socks
Pyjama

Accessories

Shaver, razor
Make up accessories for ladies
Pad for ladies
Perfume
Mirror
Nail Clipper
Toothbrush
Tooth paste
Toothpicks
Medicines
Shampoo
Soap
Lip Cream
Comb
Hair Gel
Medical Plaster

Other Useful Things

Small Notebook
Phone book
Pen, pencil
Small knife or Swiss Army knife with many functions (can only put in luggage)
Small Bag that can be put inside the luggage
Watch with alarm function
Digital Camera
Photograph films if you use classic cameras
Name card
Walkman, CD player
Battery
Video Camera
Travel Ironing Machine
Hair Dryer
Multivitamins
Sunbath Oil
Sunglasses
Travel Books and Guides
Map
Small Umbrella
Hat

have a nice trip!

BASIC FACTS

CHINA IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST COUNTRIES. With an area of about 9.6 million square kilometers, China comprises about 6.5 percent of the earth. 23 percent of the world's population is Chinese. And China is the world's oldest civilization. And as the 2008 World Olympics has shown, this country has the potential to embrace the ancient and the modern cultures. As high-tech culture develops in modern China, the World Travel Organization's predict that China will be the most visited country öş 2020.

This large country (the third largest in fact, after Canada and Russia) is situated in the eastern part of Asia on the coast of the Pacific Ocean. The distance from its eastern border to its western border measures over 5,200 kilometers and from north to south, over 5,500 kilometers. This means a time difference of nearly a day: As the sun is high up over the Wusuli River in the east, the Pamire Plateau in the west sees the first lights of morning. As the stormy winter arrives to Heilongjiang River in the north, spring begins to show its face to Hainan Island in the south.

The country border runs along twelve countries and is 22,143.34 kilometers long; in the northeast and the northwest, there is Russia; in the north, Mongolia; in the west and southwest, India, Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal; in the south, Burma, Laos and Vietnam.

Besides the land area, the seas and islands which accompany China are enormous. A coastline of 14,500 kilometers runs along Eastern and Southern China Sea. Japan, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia lies to the east and south east. There are more than 5,000 islands in China's seas. Taiwan is the largest, Hainan the second largest. The whole sea area reaches up to 4.73 million square kilometers.

CHINESE FLAG



The national flag was designed by Zeng Liansong and was accepted in September 1949. On the first day of October 1949, which is the founding day of the People's Republic of China, the flag was raised for the first time in Tiananmen Square.

This flag has a rectangular red field with five golden-yellow stars which has five points each, in the upper left corner. One star stands on the left surrounded by the others and is larger than the others.

The color red symbolizes revolution. The large star symbolizes the Communist Party which was founded in 1921 and the smaller stars represent the people of China.

NATIONAL EMBLEM



The national emblem of China, or the People's Republic of China by its official name, features Tiananmen Gate, five shining stars and ears of grain surrounding them and a cogwheel at the bottom. All these pieces are of gold; the ground color and the ribbons at the bottom of the circle are red. Gold or yellow and red represent fortuitousness and happiness.

During the twentieth century, the Tiananmen Gate was the symbol of Chinese people's determination to fight against impe-

rialism and feudalism. Today it represents the nation's determination to modernize and become an independent super-power. The cogwheel represents the working class and ears of grain represent the peasantry. The five stars are the symbols of people's acceptance of the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

CHINESE NATIONAL ANTHEM

The national anthem was written and accepted in 1935. The lyrics writer was a well-known poet, Tian Han and the composer was, Nie Er. The lyrics of the anthem may seem furious:

*Arise, ye who refuse to be slaves;
With our very flesh and blood
Let us build our new Great Wall!
The peoples of China are at their most critical time,
Everybody must roar defiance.
Arise! Arise! Arise!
Millions of hearts with one mind,
Brave the enemy's gunfire,
March on!
Brave the enemy's gunfire,
March on! March on! March on, on!*

The song was originally named "March of the Volunteers" and it was the theme song of the film "Sons and Daughters in a Time of Storm." The film was telling the story of the warriors who went to the front to fight against the Japanese invasion in northeast China in the 1930s.

"March of the Volunteers" was a powerful song which expressed the Chinese people's determination to sacrifice themselves for na-

tional liberation. On 27 September 1949, the Communist Party of PRC accepted the song as the provisional national anthem. And on 4 December 1982, it was officially declared as the national anthem of the PRC.

MAP OF CHINA



POPULATION

There are 1.3 billion people living in China.

The total number of Chinese cities is 666.

11 cities have a population over 2 million;

23 cities have a population between 1 million and 2 million;

44 cities have a population between 500,000 and 1 million;

159 cities have a population between 200,000 and 500,000;

393 cities have a population less than 200,000.

RELIGIONS

China is a multi-religious country. Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism and many other religions coexist. Different ethnic groups have adopted different religions. For example the Hui, Uygur, Kazak, Kirgiz, Tatar, Dongxiang, Salar and Bonan nationalities have accepted Islam; Tibetan, Mongolian, Dai and Yugur nationalities have accepted Buddhism and Lamaism; Christianity is accepted by the Miao, Yao and Yi nationalities; Shamanism is accepted by the Oroqen, Ewenki and Daur nationalities; Han nationality which is the major nationality believes in Buddhism, Christianity and Taoism.

CHINESE SCRIPT

Written Chinese is more than 4000 years old. Compared to other scripts, this is one of the oldest living scripts. Of course, it has changed; in the beginning, it was a drawing.

Chinese style of writing is called (漢字-Hanzi). Each character is a word and has a definite meaning. Characters can be used together to form another character and another meaning.

There are nearly 50000 Chinese characters. For an ordinary day 3000 characters are enough to read a newspaper. A university graduate in China can probably read 10000 characters.

The script has strict rules, and these rules are taught at schools, but they are not easy to learn. Every character consists of strokes. You may write some characters with only one stroke. A very complicated character may have 64 strokes.

Not every one is able to learn complicated scriptural forms, so the Chinese government has adopted a simplified version of

these characters to an easier form. Today, Chinese writing is a simplified form of traditional characters. But traditional Chinese script is still in use in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

PROVINCES

China is divided into 22 *sheng* (provinces), five *zizhiqu* (autonomous regions). It also has two special autonomous regions (Hong Kong and Macau).

<u>Province</u>	<u>Capital City</u>
Anhui	Hefei
Fujian	Fuzhou
Gansu	Lanzhou
Guangdong	Guangzhou
Guizhou	Guiyang
Hainan	Haikou
Hebei	Shijiazhuang
Heilongjiang	Harbin
Henan	Zhengzhou
Hubei	Wuhan
Hunan	Changsha
Jiangsu	Nanjing
Jiangxi	Nanchang
Jilin	Changchun
Liaoning	Shenyang
Qinghai	Xining
Shaanxi	Xi'an
Shandong	Jinan
Shanxi	Taiyuan

Sichuan	Chengdu
Yunnan	Kunming
Zhejiang	Hangzhou
Taiwan ¹	Taipei

Autonomous Regions	Capital City
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	Nanning
Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region	Huhehot (Huhhot)
Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region	Yinchuan
Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region	Urumqi
Tibet Autonomous Region	Lhasa

ETHNIC GROUPS

In China there are 56 different ethnic groups. Below is the names of these ethnic groups:

< (汉族 : Hànzú)
 Zhuang (壮族 : Zhuàng Zú)
 Manchu (满族 : Mǎn Zú)
 Hui (回族 : Huí Zú)
 Miao (苗族 : Miáo Zú) (Hmong)
 Uyghurs (维吾尔族 : Wéiwú'ěr Zú)
 Yi (彝族 : Yí Zú)
 Tujia (土家族 : Tǔjiā Zú)
 Mongols (蒙古族 : Měnggǔ Zú)
 Tibetan (藏族 : Zàng Zú)
 Buyei (布依族 : Bùyī Zú)
 Dong (侗族 : Dòng Zú)
 Yao (瑶族 : Yáo Zú)

Korean (朝鲜族 : Cháoxiǎn Zú)
 Bai (白族 : Bái Zú)
 Hani (哈尼族 : Hāní Zú)
 Li (黎族 : Lí Zú)
 Kazak (哈萨克族 : Hāsàkè Zú)
 Dai (傣族 : Dǎi Zú, also called Dai Lue, one of the Tai ethnic groups)
 She (畲族 : Shē Zú)
 Lisu (傈僳族 : Lìsù Zú)
 Gelao (仡佬族 : Gēlǎo Zú)
 Lahu (拉祜族 : Lāhù Zú)
 Dongxiang (东乡族 : Dōngxiāng Zú)
 Va (佯族 : Wǎ Zú) (Va)
 Sui (水族 : Shuǐ Zú)
 Naxi (纳西族 : Nàxī Zú) (includes the Mosuo (摩梭 : Mósuō))
 Qiang (羌族 : Qiāng Zú)
 Tu (土族 : Tǔ Zú)
 Xibe (锡伯族 : Xíbó Zú)
 Mulao (仫佬族 : Mùlǎo Zú)
 Kyrgyz (柯尔克孜族 : Kē'ěrkèzī Zú)
 Daur (达斡尔族 : Dáwò'ěr Zú)
 Jingpo (景颇族 : Jǐngpō Zú)
 Salar (撒拉族 : Sǎlá Zú)
 Blang (布朗族 : Bùlǎng Zú)
 Maonan (毛南族 : Màoánán Zú)
 Tajike (塔吉克族 : Tǎjīkè Zú)
 Pumi (普米族 : Pǔmǐ Zú)
 Achang (阿昌族 : Āchāng Zú)
 Nu (怒族 : Nù Zú)
 Ewenke (鄂温克族 : Èwēnkè Zú)
 Jin (京族 : Jīng Zú) (The same group as Vietnamese or *Kinh*)

people)
 Jino (基诺族 : Jīnuò Zú)
 De'ang (德昂族 : Déáng Zú)
 Uzbeks (乌孜别克族 : Wūzībiékè Zú)
 Russian (俄罗斯族 : Èluōsī Zú)
 Yugur (裕固族 : Yùgù Zú)
 Bonan (保安族 : Bǎoān Zú)
 Monba (门巴族 : Ménbā Zú)
 Oroqen (鄂伦春族 : Èlúncūn Zú)
 Derung (独龙族 : Dúlóng Zú)
 Tatars (塔塔尔族 : Tǎtǎěr Zú)
 Hezhen (赫哲族 : Hèzhé Zú) (The same group as Nanai on the Russian side of the border)
 Lhoba (珞巴族 : Luòbā Zú)
 Gaoshan (高山族 : Gāoshān Zú) (A collective name for all Taiwanese aborigine groups)

HISTORY¹

China in Ancient Times (Antiquity - A.D. 1840)

China has a recorded history of nearly 4,000 years.

China's earliest discovered hominid, "Yuanmou Man" was discovered by the anthropologists in Yuanmou, in Yunnan Province. According to the estimations, "Yuanmou Man" had lived in this area approximately 1.7 million years ago. And also, 400,000 - 500,000 years ago, "Peking Man" lived in Zhoukoudian, to the southwest of modern Beijing and he had the basic characteristic

¹ This part has been adopted mainly from http://www.asianinfo.org/asianinfo/china/his/ancient_times.htm.

of Homo Sapiens. Scientist say that Peking Man walked upright, made and used simple tools, and knew how to make fire like the Homo Sapiens.

China's first dynasty, Xia Dynasty marked the change to slave society in 21st century B.C. The dynasties which came after it, Shang and Western Zhou developed this slave society to new levels. After this era came the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods, and in time, a kind of feudal society appeared.

Economic activities first flourished in China. Even 5,000 to 6,000 years ago, farming and livestock raising had started in the Yellow River valley. About 3,000 years ago, bronze smelting and use of iron tools started during the Shang Dynasty. Also at that time white pottery and glazed pottery were seen. Silk weaving techniques developed with the development of silk production. And China became synonymous with silk. Also steel production developed in the period between 770-476 B.C., in the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.).

During the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), Li Bing and his son directed the construction of the Dujiang Dam near present-day Chengdu in Sichuan Province. This brilliant achievement in water conservancy made possible rationalized irrigation supply, flood diversion and sand discharge, and is still playing tremendous role in this regard even today. During the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods, philosophy and other branches of scholarship were unprecedentedly thriving, with the representatives of various schools vying with each other in writing books to discuss politics and analyze society. Hence the appearance of a situation in which "a hundred schools of thought contended." Famous philosophers in this period include Lao Zi, Confucius, Mo Zi and Sun Zi.

In 221 B.C., Ying Zheng, a man of great talent and bold vision, ended the rivalry among the independent principalities

in the Warring States Period and established the first centralized, unified, multi-ethnic state in Chinese history under the Qin Dynasty, and called himself Shi Huang Di (First Emperor), historically known as Qin Shi Huang, or First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty.

During his reign, Qin Shi Huang standardized the script, currencies, and weight and measures, established the system of prefectures and counties, and constructed the world-renowned Great Wall as well as a large palace, mausoleum and temporary regal lodges respectively in Xianyang, Lishan and other places. The structures of these places above the ground have long been destroyed, but the objects underground are still there.

The life size terracotta horses and armored warriors excavated from sites near the mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang are known as the eight wonder of the world, attracting swarms of Chinese and foreign visitors every day. At the end of the Qin Dynasty, Liu Bang, a peasant leader, overthrew the Qin regime in cooperation with Xiang Yu, an aristocratic general. A few years later, Liu Bang defeated Xiang Yu and established the strong Han Dynasty in 206 B.C.

In the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. - A.D. 220), agriculture, handicrafts and commerce were well developed. During the reign of Emperor Wudi (Liu Che), the Han regime reached the period of its greatest prosperity: The emperor conquered the Xiongnu nomads and sent Zhang Qian as envoy to the Western Regions (Central Asia), and in the process pioneered the route known as the “Silk Road” from the Han capital Chang’an (today’s Xi’an, Shaanxi Province), through Xinjiang and onward, finally reaching the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Along the Silk Road, beautiful silk products made in China were transported to the West in a steady stream. In 33 B.C., Wang Zhaojun, a palace maiden, was married to Huhanzie, chieftan of

the Xiongnu, leaving a moving story about marriage ties between the Han and the Xiongnu. The multi-ethnic country became more consolidated. The Han regime existed for a total of 426 years. It was followed by the Three Kingdoms Period (220-265) of Wei, Shu and Wu.

The most famous statesmen during the Three Kingdoms Period were Cao Cao (155-220). Zhuge Liang (181-234) and Sun Quan (182-252). Cao Cao was the founder of the State of Wei. He collected people of talent from all over the country, stationed troops in border areas to open up wasteland, established military farms, and finally gained control over the Yellow River valley.

Zhuce Liang was the prime minister of the State of Shu, and a symbol of wisdom in ancient China. For many centuries, his lofty spirit of “bending himself to the task and exerting himself to the utmost till his dying days” has encouraged the Chinese people.

Sun Quan was the founder of the State of Wu. He once allied with Liu Bei (161-223) to defeat Cao Cao at the Red Cliff, and later inflicted a crushing defeat on Liu Bei at Yiling. In addition, Sun Quan appointed officials in charge of agriculture, and had garrison troops or peasants open up wasteland and grow grain, thus promoting land reclamation to the south of the Yangtze River. Stories about them can be found in a novel called Three Kingdoms.

The Three Kingdoms Period was followed by the Jin (265-420), the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589), and the Sui Dynasty (581-618). In 618, Li Yuan founded the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Later Li Shimin, son of Li Yuan, ascended the throne as Emperor Taizong, who was one of the greatest emperors in Chinese history. Emperor Taizong adopted a series of policies known as the Zhenguan reign period reforms, which pushed the feudal society to the height of prosperity.

Agriculture, handicrafts and commerce flourished; technologies for textile manufacture and dyeing, porcelain production, smelting, metal casting and shipbuilding made great progress. During this time, land and water transportation was also fairly well developed and economic and cultural relations with Japan, Korea, India, Persia, Arabia and other countries were extensive. After the Tang Dynasty, there came the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms (907-960).

In 960, Genral Zhao Kuangyin of the Late Zhou Dynasty rose in mutiny, and founded the Song Dynasty (960-1279). In 1206, Genghis Khan unified all the tribes in Mongolia and founded the Mongol Khanate. In 1271, his grandson Kublai Khan, conquered the Central Plain, founded the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) and made Dadu (today's Beijing) the capital. During the Song and Yuan Dynasties, handicraft industry and domestic and foreign trade boomed.

Many merchants and travelers came from abroad. Marco Polo came from Venice and traveled extensively in China, later describing the country's prosperity in his Travels. The "four great inventions" of the Chinese people in ancient times - paper making, printing, the compass and gunpowder - were further developed in the Song and Yuan dynasties, and introduced to foreign countries during this time, making great contributions to world civilization.

In 1368, Zhu Yuanzhang founded the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in Nanjing, and reigned as Emperor Taizu. When his son, and successor, Zhu Di, ascended the throne, he started to build the palace, temples, city walls and moat in Beijing. In 1421, he officially made Beijing his capital. In the Ming Dynasty, remarkable progress was made in agricultural production and handicrafts, and toward the end of the dynasty, the rudiments of capitalism appeared. In addition, there were friendly contacts

between China and other countries in Asia and Africa.

In the late Ming Dynasty, the Manchus in northeast China grew in strength. Under the leadership of Nurhachi, the Manchus invaded the Central Plain for three generations in succession, and finally founded the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The two most famous emperors of the Qing Dynasty were Emperor Kangxi and Emperor Qianlong. The Kangxi and Qianlong reign periods were known as the "times of prosperity." During Qing rule, some novels of high artist value were created, of which Zou Taofen's Dream of Red Mansions is the best known. It describes the decline of a prosperous feudal aristocratic family.

China's New Democratic Revolution (1919-1949)

Under the influence of the October Revolution in Russia, China's May 4th Movement arose. During this great anti-imperialist, anti-feudal revolutionary movement led by patriotic students, the Chinese proletariat for the first time mounted the political stage. The May 4th Movement marked the change of the old democratic revolution to the new democratic revolution.

It enabled Marxism-Leninism to further spread and link up with the Chinese people's revolutionary practice, and prepared the ideology as well as the cadres necessary for the founding of the Communist Party of China. In 1921, Mao Zedong, Dong Biwu, Chen Tangqiu, He Shuheng, Wang Jinmei, Deng Enming and Li Da, representing the communist groups in different places throughout the nation, held the First National Congress in Shanghai, founding the Communist Party of China (CPC). In 1924, Sun Yat-sen, pioneer of China's democratic revolution and the founder of the Kuomintang (KMT), worked together with the Communist Party of China to organize workers and peasants for the Northern Expeditions (historically known as the Great

Revolution).

After Sun Yat-sen passed away, the right-wing clique of the KMT headed by Chiang Kai-shek staged a counter-revolutionary coup d'état in 1927, murdering Communists and revolutionary people, and founded the Kuomintang regime in Nanjing. Thus the Great Revolution ended in failure. After that, the CPC led the Chinese people to wage the 10-year Agrarian Revolution War against the reactionary rule of the Kuomintang, which is also known as the “10-Year Civil War.”

In July 1937, Japan launched all-out aggression against China. The Kuomintang armies started a series of battles, which gave relentless blows at the Japanese invaders. In the enemy's rear area, the Eight Route Army and the New Fourth Army, under the leadership of the CPC, fought against most of the Japanese forces and almost all the puppet armies under extremely difficult conditions, thus playing a decisive role in the victory of the War of Resistance against Japan.

From June 1946, the Kuomintang armies launched an all-round attack on the Liberated Areas led by the CPC, and an unprecedented large-scale civil war started. To thoroughly emancipate the Chinese people, the CPC led the army and people in the Liberated Areas to start the nationwide War of Liberation.

Through the Liaozi-Shenyang, Huai-Hai and Beiping-Tianjin campaigns, the CPC overthrew the rule of the Kuomintang and won a great victory in the new democratic revolution in 1949.

CHINESE DYNASTIES:

China had several dynasties over many centuries. Below is a list of the main dynasties:

- ❑ Xia Dynasty About 1994 BCE - 1766 BCE
- ❑ Shang Dynasty 1766 BCE - 1027 BCE
- ❑ Zhou Dynasty 1122 BCE -256 BCE
- ❑ Qin Dynasty 221 BCE - 206 BCE
- ❑ Early Han Dynasty 206 BCE - 9 AD
- ❑ Xin (Jin) Dynasty 9 AD - 24 AD
- ❑ Later Han Dynasty 25 AD - 220 AD
- ❑ Three Kingdoms - Period of Disunion 220 AD - 280 AD
- ❑ Jin Dynasty 265 AD - 420 AD
- ❑ Nan Bei Dynasty 386 AD – 581 AD
- ❑ Sui Dynasty 589 AD - 618 AD
- ❑ Tang Dynasty 618 AD - 907 AD
- ❑ Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms 907 AD – 960 AD
- ❑ Sung Dynasty 969 AD - 1279 AD
- ❑ Yuan Dynasty 1279 AD - 1368 AD
- ❑ Ming Dynasty 1368 AD - 1644 AD
- ❑ Manchu or Qing Dynasty 1644 AD - 1912 AD

Opium Wars and Hong Kong's British Rule

In the 19th century, the British, which were an imperial force in the Asia then, were trying enlarge their shares of silk and tea from China, but China was strictly against this. By then Britain had adapted tea as the national drink and it was only produced and exported from China. As they could not come to an agreement, China even forbade the British to enter to the country.

Then the British invented a new item of import to China. Opium, which was grown in India and used as a medicine for all

diseases in China, was now becoming a drug. And this was consumed by almost all Chinese people. This was a big problem on the country, so the emperor banned opium imports from British in 1830, but this did not stop British from selling opium illegally. In 1836, the amount of illegally smuggled opium was 8 million pounds. Deaths were common all over China.

In 1839, as the Chinese army destroyed the opium warehouses in Guangzhou area, war was declared between the two countries. Chinese were defeated in the First Opium War and in 1842 the Nanjing Treaty was signed between the two countries. According to the treaty the island of Hong Kong was given to British rule and China was forced to open its ports (Guangzhou, Xiamen, Fuzhou, Ningbo, Shanghai etc.) to free trade again.

The Second Opium War was in 1856. This time British and French attacked China. At the end of the war the British took control of Kowloon Peninsula with the Tientsin Treaty. In 1898, another agreement was made and after that the British kept the area under British rule until 1997.

In 1997, Hong Kong was handed back to Chinese control again. The city had been under a foreign government for a century.

CHINESE CULTURE

Chinese culture is a deep and well grounded culture. Its analysis always shows that invaders and foreigners have always been fascinated and then absorbed with the Chinese culture. People like the northern Mongolians have attacked China many times and have always been assimilated by it. Even in the times they have succeeded in invading China, they have also become Chinese in the process. Today people in China generally feel a strong affinity with their own cultural background and history.

SILK ROAD

What is silk? First of all, it is a wonder. It's also one of the most interesting products on earth. Its material is silkworm. Silk makers boil the eggs of the worms in water and then collect the silk threads around the worms. It is estimated that silk production began in around 6000BC. Even in Ancient Egypt mummies using silk clothes have been found. Before the modern age, silk was a luxury substance, and only kings or noble men used silk clothes.

Its production was a secret. This secret did not leave China for many centuries and Chinese people were keen on protecting this secret.

The Silk Road is the name given to the route between Europe and China. Its starting point was the city of Xi An in China and it ended in the Mediterranean shores. The most famous traveler of this route is the Venetian trader Marco Polo. In the 12th century the Western world learned many secrets of Asia and China from him.

LANGUAGE

The official language in China is Putonghua (the common speech) or Mandarin. Mandarin is the dialect of the Beijing province. Most minorities also have their own languages. Cantonese (Guangdonghua) is one of the many local dialects of southern China. Cantonese is also spoken in Hong Kong. Dialects such as Mandarin and Beijing are also officially taught at schools.

As every province has its own dialect, when people from different provinces come together, they use Beijing dialect. Each

dialect is unique in its difference from the Beijing dialect. The Guangdonghua dialect is as different from Beijinghua dialect, as English is from German.

Chinese language belongs to the Sino-Chinese language group and has millions of speakers. As the entire population of China speaks Chinese, it means that Chinese, with its many dialects, is the most widely used language of the world.

FAMOUS CHINESE PEOPLE

CONFUCIUS (孔子)



The most worldwide known Chinese teacher, philosopher, and political theorist. His philosophy became known as the Confucianism.

His thought has achieved an importance beyond the limits of China. He has influenced many Western philosophers. In China he is known as Kong Fu Zi or Kong Fu Tzu. He was born in 551 BC at the Shandong province. Being a self-educated bookkeeper, he soon learned the art of ritual, music, archery, calligraphy and arithmetic. His poetical philosophy influenced many people of the time. His sayings were collected by his disciples in a book called *Lun Yu* (Analects). He died in 479 BC at the age of 72.

— WISDOM OF CONFUCIUS —

- *Wherever you go, go with all your heart.*
- *Men's natures are alike, it is their habits that carry them far apart.*
- *Knowing is not as good as loving; loving is not as good as enjoying.*
- *The scholar who cherishes the love of comfort is not fit to be deemed a scholar.*
- *Everything has a beauty, but not everyone sees it.*
- *Pleasure is to learn and practice what is learned from time to time; happiness is to have friends from afar and to be a gentleman is to be unperturbed when not appreciated by others.*
- *The ability to review the old and to deduce the new is what makes one a teacher.*
- *A noble man understands righteousness, the petty man understands interest.*
- *Stay with the principle, be virtuous, pray with kindness, and immerse yourself in the arts.*

SUN TZU (孫子)



The most important and worldwide known strategist in China is Sun Tzu. His Chinese name is Sun Zi or Sun Tse. He lived in the 5th century BC. He was a military strategist with a realist look on international relations theory.

His military thoughts have been compiled in a book called *The Art of War*, or 兵法 in Chinese. An important saying from that book can be used in daily life which sometimes seems like a war:

- When you go to a war; if you don't know both your strength and your enemy's strength, then you will absolutely lose; if you know your strength but if you don't know your enemy's strength, you might win; but if you know both your strength and your enemy's strength, then you will absolutely win.

ZU CHONGZHI



Zu Chongzhi or Tsu Ch'ung-chih was an astronomer and mathematician born in 429. His most important discovery was that he had derived the best approximation for the number pi. He had calculated the number up to its seventh decimal, between 3.1415926 and 3.1415927.

Besides the approximation of the pi number, Zu Chongzhi with his son, found the formula for the volume of sphere: $\pi D^3/6$. This formula was rediscovered by the Italian mathematician Cavalieri about 1000 years later. This formula is known as the Zu formula. He died in the year 500.

MAO ZEDONG



In order to understand today's China, it's very important to know Chairman Mao Zedong.

Mao Zedong was born on December 26, 1893, and he died on September 9, 1976 at the age of 83. At the time of his death, he had been the head of the Chinese Communist Party for forty-one years; ever since the historic Zun Yi meeting (1935) which was made during the famous Long March.

He built the Red Army (later it became known as the People's Liberation Army), took part in the anti-Japanese War and the civil war in China and finally chased the Guo Min Dang to Taiwan and established the People's Republic of China.

After his death, a mausoleum in honor of Mao Zedong was built at Beijing Tiananmen Square. His body is preserved at the mausoleum and is open to visitors.

DENG XIAOPING



Deng Xiaoping was born on August 22, 1904. He was the leader of the Communist Party of China from 1978 to the early 1990s, in the turmoil days. He was not a cold and distanced leader; he had, on the contrary, close connections with the Chinese people. The system known as “Socialism with Chinese characteristics” and the Chinese economic reform (which is now called the “socialist market economy”) were his inventions. It was thanks to his enormous efforts to integrate China to the world system and economy that China has managed to become a superpower. He died on February 19, 1997.

FAMILY NAMES:

To think that Chinese family names are being used for about 5,000 years, is an amazing fact. In China there are about 5,000 family names and from these 200 to 300 are the most popular ones. First comes a family name (like “Wang”), then this is followed by a given name (like “Dong”) the whole name in consti-

tuted by both of them (“Wang Dong”). Li, Zhang, Wang, Lee, Zhao, Liu, Chen are the most popular family names. According to an official investigation, Li, Wang and Zhang were each used by about 100 million people in China.

Besides Chinese names, most Chinese people use western and international names. This sometimes gets funny. I have met Chinese whose western names had the meaning walnut, *samanfar*, *potti*, *dolphin*, *hunter*, *lucky*, *drinphy*, *Vaseline*...

It's important to have a Chinese name, in case you open a company in China. When I applied for some legal documents concerning my ownership of a mechanical pencil factory in Northern China, the officials gave me a legal Chinese name.

My name is Ali Baylar.

But in Chinese it is LEE BAI LE, 李百樂.

LEE is my surname in China and BAI LE means one hundred happiness.

My Chinese friends find this name to be very suitable for me. In China all names have clear meaning and it's important that a name would have a good meaning.

Chinese people also like to give Chinese names to Western products. For example Coca-cola is “KI-KOU-KI-LI”, which means something like “TO MAKE MOUTH HAPPY” And a BMW car is named “BAO MA”, which means “TREASURED HORSE”. Samsung is “SAN XING” which means THREE STARS.

CHINESE NEW YEAR



In China preparations for the New Year starts early. Everyone pay their debts. Employers give bonus to their workers. Everyone make preparations like a festival. The houses are decorated with paper cut-outs which are made with the themes of happiness, wealth and longevity. In every house and temple incense is burned to pay respect to ancestors and ask the good for good health in the coming year.

Families join together on New Year's Evening. In every house every dinner is a feast. In the north the most popular dish is a steamed dumpling called "jiao zi". In the south a sweet rice pudding called "nian gao" is very popular. People play games, sing songs, watch films on this night. And at midnight, everyone welcomes the New Year with fireworks. People believe that fireworks drive away the evil spirits. And also, all night lights are burned.

In the morning, children embrace their parents and get their

gifts from them. This is mostly a lucky money which is given in red envelopes. Then the family visits the relatives and neighbors. Everyone forgets their problems, enjoys the day and people give gifts to each other during the visits. New Year is just like a festival.



CHINESE CALENDAR



Tang Dynasty Mirror shows cycles in Chinese calendar. Innermost circle shows 4 cosmological animals depicting the 4 cardinal points N,S,E,W and the 4 seasons. Next ring shows 12 animals signifying the 12 year Jupiter cycle. Outer ring has 28 creatures representing the 28 Chinese 'hsiu' or stellar station.

In China lunar calendar is used. This calendar consists of 12 animals which correspond to a month and each year is symbolized by one of these animals: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig.

Chinese believe that the each year with an animal symbol gives the people born in that year its characteristics and one's general personality may be known by the year which he or she is born. Also a horoscope is devised to know people's characteristics.

CHINESE HOROSCOPE



Do you want to learn your animal sign in Chinese horoscope? This chart shows your sign according to your birth date.

Year	Chinese New Year Day	Zodiac Color Animal Sign	First Day of Animal Year
1900	January, 31 1900	1900 Metal Rat Year	February 4, 1900
1901	February, 19 1901	1901 Metal Cow Year	February 4, 1901
1902	February, 8 1902	1902 Water Tiger Year	February 5, 1902
1903	January, 29 1903	1903 Water Rabbit Year	February 5, 1903
1904	February, 16 1904	1904 Wood Dragon Year	February 5, 1904
1905	February, 4 1905	1905 Wood Snake Year	February 4, 1905
1906	January, 25 1906	1906 Fire Horse Year	February 5, 1906
1907	February, 13 1907	1907 Fire Sheep Year	February 5, 1907
1908	February, 2 1908	1908 Earth Monkey Year	February 5, 1908
1909	January, 22 1909	1909 Earth Chicken Year	February 4, 1909

1910	February, 10 1910	1910 Metal Dog Year	February 5, 1910
1911	January, 30 1911	1911 Metal Pig Year	February 5, 1911
1912	February, 18 1912	1912 Water Rat Year	February 5, 1912
1913	February, 6 1913	1913 Water Cow Year	February 4, 1913
1914	January, 26 1914	1914 Wood Tiger Year	February 4, 1914
1915	February, 14 1915	1915 Wood Rabbit Year	February 5, 1915
1916	February, 4 1916	1916 Fire Dragon Year	February 5, 1916
1917	January, 23 1917	1917 Fire Snake Year	February 4, 1917
1918	February, 11 1918	1918 Earth Horse Year	February 4, 1918
1919	February, 1 1919	1919 Earth Sheep Year	February 5, 1919
1920	February, 20 1920	1920 Metal Monkey Year	February 5, 1920
1921	February, 8 1921	1921 Metal Chicken Year	February 4, 1921
1922	January, 28 1922	1922 Water Dog Year	February 4, 1922
1923	February, 16 1923	1923 Water Pig Year	February 5, 1923
1924	February, 5 1924	1924 Wood Rat Year	February 5, 1924
1925	January, 24 1925	1925 Wood Cow Year	February 4, 1925
1926	February, 13 1926	1926 Fire Tiger Year	February 4, 1926
1927	February, 2 1927	1927 Fire Rabbit Year	February 5, 1927
1928	January, 23 1928	1928 Earth Dragon Year	February 5, 1928
1929	February, 10 1929	1929 Earth Snake Year	February 4, 1929
1930	January, 30 1930	1930 Metal Horse Year	February 4, 1930
1931	February, 17 1931	1931 Metal Sheep Year	February 5, 1931
1932	February, 6 1932	1932 Water Monkey Year	February 5, 1932
1933	January, 26 1933	1933 Water Chicken Year	February 4, 1933
1934	February, 14 1934	1934 Wood Dog Year	February 4, 1934
1935	February, 4 1935	1935 Wood Pig Year	February 5, 1935
1936	January, 24 1936	1936 Fire Rat Year	February 5, 1936
1937	February, 11 1937	1937 Fire Cow Year	February 4, 1937
1938	January, 31 1938	1938 Earth Tiger Year	February 4, 1938
1939	February, 19 1939	1939 Earth Rabbit Year	February 5, 1939
1940	February, 8 1940	1940 Metal Dragon Year	February 5, 1940
1941	January, 27 1941	1941 Metal Snake Year	February 4, 1941
1942	February, 15 1942	1942 Water Horse Year	February 4, 1942

1943	February, 5 1943	1943 Water Sheep Year	February 5, 1943
1944	January, 25 1944	1944 Wood Monkey Year	February 5, 1944
1945	February, 13 1945	1945 Wood Chicken Year	February 4, 1945
1946	February, 2 1946	1946 Fire Dog Year	February 4, 1946
1947	January, 22 1947	1947 Fire Pig Year	February 4, 1947
1948	February, 10 1948	1948 Earth Rat Year	February 5, 1948
1949	January, 29 1949	1949 Earth Cow Year	February 4, 1949
1950	February, 17 1950	1950 Metal Tiger Year	February 4, 1950
1951	February, 6 1951	1951 Metal Rabbit Year	February 4, 1951
1952	January, 27 1952	1952 Water Dragon Year	February 5, 1952
1953	February, 14 1953	1953 Water Snake Year	February 4, 1953
1954	February, 3 1954	1954 Wood Horse Year	February 4, 1954
1955	January, 24 1955	1955 Wood Sheep Year	February 4, 1955
1956	February, 12 1956	1956 Fire Monkey Year	February 5, 1956
1957	January, 31 1957	1957 Fire Chicken Year	February 4, 1957
1958	February, 18 1958	1958 Earth Dog Year	February 4, 1958
1959	February, 8 1959	1959 Earth Pig Year	February 4, 1959
1960	January, 28 1960	1960 Metal Rat Year	February 5, 1960
1961	February, 15 1961	1961 Metal Cow Year	February 4, 1961
1962	February, 5 1962	1962 Water Tiger Year	February 4, 1962
1963	January, 25 1963	1963 Water Rabbit Year	February 4, 1963
1964	February, 13 1964	1964 Wood Dragon Year	February 5, 1964
1965	February, 2 1965	1965 Wood Snake Year	February 4, 1965
1966	January, 21 1966	1966 Fire Horse Year	February 4, 1966
1967	February, 9 1967	1967 Fire Sheep Year	February 4, 1967
1968	January, 30 1968	1968 Earth Monkey Year	February 5, 1968
1969	February, 17 1969	1969 Earth Chicken Year	February 4, 1969
1970	February, 6 1970	1970 Metal Dog Year	February 4, 1970
1971	January, 27 1971	1971 Metal Pig Year	February 4, 1971
1972	February, 15 1972	1972 Water Rat Year	February 5, 1972
1973	February, 3 1973	1973 Water Cow Year	February 4, 1973
1974	January, 23 1974	1974 Wood Tiger Year	February 4, 1974
1975	February, 11 1975	1975 Wood Rabbit Year	February 4, 1975

1976	January, 31 1976	1976 Fire Dragon Year	February 5, 1976
1977	February, 18 1977	1977 Fire Snake Year	February 4, 1977
1978	February, 7 1978	1978 Earth Horse Year	February 4, 1978
1979	January, 28 1979	1979 Earth Sheep Year	February 4, 1979
1980	February, 16 1980	1980 Metal Monkey Year	February 5, 1980
1981	February, 5 1981	1981 Metal Chicken Year	February 4, 1981
1982	January, 25 1982	1982 Water Dog Year	February 4, 1982
1983	February, 13 1983	1983 Water Pig Year	February 4, 1983
1984	February, 2 1984	1984 Wood Rat Year	February 4, 1984
1985	February, 20 1985	1985 Wood Cow Year	February 4, 1985
1986	February, 9 1986	1986 Fire Tiger Year	February 4, 1986
1987	January, 29 1987	1987 Fire Rabbit Year	February 4, 1987
1988	February, 17 1988	1988 Earth Dragon Year	February 4, 1988
1989	February, 6 1989	1989 Earth Snake Year	February 4, 1989
1990	January, 27 1990	1990 Metal Horse Year	February 4, 1990
1991	February, 15 1991	1991 Metal Sheep Year	February 4, 1991
1992	February, 4 1992	1992 Water Monkey Year	February 4, 1992
1993	January, 23 1993	1993 Water Chicken Year	February 4, 1993
1994	February, 10 1994	1994 Wood Dog Year	February 4, 1994
1995	January, 31 1995	1995 Wood Pig Year	February 4, 1995
1996	February, 19 1996	1996 Fire Rat Year	February 4, 1996
1997	February, 7 1997	1997 Fire Cow Year	February 4, 1997
1998	January, 28 1998	1998 Earth Tiger Year	February 4, 1998
1999	February, 16 1999	1999 Earth Rabbit Year	February 4, 1999
2000	February, 5 2000	2000 Metal Dragon Year	February 4, 2000
2001	January, 24 2001	2001 Metal Snake Year	February 4, 2001
2002	February, 12 2002	2002 Water Horse Year	February 4, 2002
2003	February, 1 2003	2003 Water Sheep Year	February 4, 2003
2004	January, 22 2004	2004 Wood Monkey Year	February 4, 2004
2005	February, 9 2005	2005 Wood Chicken Year	February 4, 2005
2006	January, 29 2006	2006 Fire Dog Year	February 4, 2006
2007	February, 18 2007	2007 Fire Pig Year	February 4, 2007
2008	February, 7 2008	2008 Earth Rat Year	February 4, 2008

2009	January, 26 2009	2009 Earth Cow Year	February 4, 2009
2010	February, 14 2010	2010 Metal Tiger Year	February 4, 2010
2011	February, 3 2011	2011 Metal Rabbit Year	February 4, 2011
2012	January, 23 2012	2012 Water Dragon Year	February 4, 2012
2013	February, 10 2013	2013 Water Snake Year	February 4, 2013
2014	January, 31 2014	2014 Wood Horse Year	February 4, 2014
2015	February, 19 2015	2015 Wood Sheep Year	February 4, 2015
2016	February, 8 2016	2016 Fire Monkey Year	February 4, 2016
2017	January, 28 2017	2017 Fire Chicken Year	February 3, 2017
2018	February, 16 2018	2018 Earth Dog Year	February 4, 2018
2019	February, 5 2019	2019 Earth Pig Year	February 4, 2019
2020	January, 25 2020	2020 Metal Rat Year	February 4, 2020



THE RESTLESS RAT

January 31, 1900 to February 18, 1901 (metal)

February 18, 1912 to February 5, 1913 (water)

February 5, 1924 to January 23, 1925 (wood)

January 24, 1936 to February 10, 1937 (fire)

February 10, 1948 to January 28, 1949 (earth)

January 28, 1960 to February 14, 1961 (metal)

February 15, 1972 to February 2, 1973 (water)

February 2, 1984 to February 19, 1985 (wood)

February 19, 1996 to February 6, 1997 (fire)

February 07, 2008 to January 25, 2009

Rat people are charming in nature, they are charismatic, intelligent and quick witted. These people love to be in large groups, they are fun loving and sociable, and they value friendships. They have long memories, and never forget. Rat people are well respected and well liked, it takes time to get to know them properly. They love to take risks. Gambling comes easy to them, but they are also fairly thrifty. The Rat is quick-witted. Most rats get more accomplished in 24 hours than the rest of us do in as many days. They are confident and usually have good instinct. Stubborn as they are, they prefer to live by their own rules rather others. It won't be an easy task to work with Rat people. Why? Simply because they are also 100% perfectionists.

Rat people are born under the sign of charm and aggressiveness. They are expressive and can be talkative sometimes. They like to go to parties and spend quite sometimes chatting with their friends. Although the Rat can be quiet sometime, it is rare to catch a Rat sitting quietly. Rat people usually have more ac-

quaintances than real friends and they revere and cherish those close to them. Once you become their real friends, they will treat you as their family. Rats are self-contained and keep problems to themselves. And even though they can be talkative sometimes, they never confide in anyone.

They are very organized and talented; perhaps that is why the Rat makes a good businessman or politician. Unfortunately, as soon as the Rat earns money, he spends it. Maybe that explains why the Rat is so careful when he lends money to others. If you ever borrow money from the Rat, don't be surprised by the high interests. The Rat is not romantic, but he is sensual and loving. Rat people could be hard to see through at first glance, because they are also very protective, but even though they are not easy, they are worth it - ask anyone who has a Rat for a lover, parent, child or friend. They are very loyal and devoted to their families.

Lucky Numbers

1,4,5,10,11,14,41,45,51 and 54

THE HARD WORKING OX

February 19, 1901 to February 7, 1902 (metal)

February 6, 1913 to January 25, 1914 (water)

January 24, 1925 to February 12, 1926 (wood)

February 11, 1937 to January 30, 1938 (fire)

January 29, 1949 to February 16, 1950 (earth)

February 15, 1961 to February 4, 1962 (metal)

February 3, 1973 to January 22, 1974 (water)

February 20, 1985 to February 8, 1986 (wood)

February 7, 1997 to January 27, 1998 (fire)

January 26, 2009 to February 13, 2010

Stable, sensible, solid, determined, strong and tenacious, these people have integrity and strength of purpose and are reliable and true to the end. Ox people are hard-working and persistent, they can stick at a task longer and go at it harder than anybody. They believe in themselves and tend to classify almost everything into two basic categories, bad and good. They hold up their high standards as a model and severely judge those who don't aspire to maintain these same ideals.

Probably because of their calm approach to life, they tend to live to a ripe old age. Oxen make good managers, because of their need for routineness and method, as well as their materialism. Ox people are not social or party animals, they tend to be quiet when in a party. Although they appear to be tranquil, the fact is that Oxens are ponderous but impulsive when angry. They are capable of fearsome rages; therefore, it is better not to cross an Oxen.

Ox people are observant; they have remarkable memories and are good at reporting on absolutely everything they observe. In the home, the Ox is a great guy to have around. In business, the

Ox can succeed in the arts, a contracting business, or an estate, thanks to their creative nature. And since an Ox is intelligent and good with his hands, he can be a good surgeon as well.

Ox people are hard-working and persistent, they can stick at a task longer and go at it harder than anybody. They believe in themselves and tend to classify almost everything into two basic categories, bad and good. They hold up their high standards as a model and severely judge those who don't aspire to maintain these same ideals. Ox people are not social or party animals, they tend to be quiet when in a party. Although they appear to be tranquil, the fact is that Oxens are ponderous but impulsive when angry. They are capable of fearsome rages; therefore, it is better not to cross an Ox.

Ox people are stubborn and dogmatic, they believe in their decision and will never regret. They are also very close to their families. Disappointedly, Oxens often find that those who are close to them fail to understand them. Nevertheless, they are patient and caring and that makes the Oxen the best friend you can ever have. Oxens are very responsible and loyal. Ox people are seldom jealous. But they will be jealous of their rights; and the fidelity of a husband or a wife is one of their rights. They are very family-oriented, conservative and faithful.

Lucky Numbers

1,3,5,12,15,33,35,51 and 53

THE POWERFUL TIGER

February 8, 1902 to January 28, 1903 (water)

January 26, 1914 to February 13, 1915 (wood)

February 13, 1926 to February 1, 1927 (fire)

January 31, 1938 to February 18, 1939 (earth)

February 17, 1950 to February 5, 1951 (metal)

February 5, 1962 to January 24, 1963 (water)

January 23, 1974 to February 10, 1975 (wood)

February 9, 1986 to January 28, 1987 (fire)

January 28, 1998 to February 15, 1999 (earth)

February 14, 2010 to February 02, 2011

Born leader is the key word for the Tigers. They are always in the lead and are most likely the ones to cry out “Let’s go!” Forceful, compulsive, brave, lucky, magnetic, unrestrained, intense, moody, aggressive and ferocious, these people are direct, outspoken and straightforward. Although they are warm hearted and generous, making an enemy of a Tiger is not recommended. They won’t be pushed around under any circumstances. They can be very rebellious. They hate injustice.

Tiger people are difficult to resist, for they are magnetic characters and their natural air of authority confers a certain prestige on them. They are tempestuous yet calm, warm-hearted yet fearsome, courageous in the face of danger yet yielding and soft in mysterious, unexpected places.

Some tigers are full of ego, which is only matched by their showy sense of dress and behavior. They certainly know how to make themselves noticed.

Because Tigers are urgent people and always in a hurry to get things done right, they usually choose to operate alone. Tigers

like to work; they are hard working and dynamic. If you assign a task to a Tiger, the job will be undertaken and accomplished with enthusiasm and efficiency. Tigers make money, but they are not directly interested in money. Still, the Tiger needs not worry about money: just when he fears the money is gone, more seems to show up.

Tigers hate to be restrained. They must be free to wander and investigate. Any rules must be theirs, and not made by others. Proud and brave, they fear nothing and nobody, and will happily enter into situations that other fewer mortals would avoid. They love to take risks. They can also be very hotheaded. They dislike conventional things.

Sometimes this impulsive streak can lead the tiger to regret his or her actions. Jumping in with both feet often causes the tiger problems in later life.

Once a tiger has made a decision, he or she will hold fast to it. They will stick to their beliefs no matter what came through.

Female tigers are also brilliant hostesses. Neat, tidy, looking totally in control and calm, this is the woman who seems to have everything in control.

Lucky Numbers
4,5,7,9,13,34,44,45 and 54

THE DELICATE RABBIT

January 29, 1903 to February 15, 1904 (water)

February 14, 1915 to February 2, 1916 (wood)

February 2, 1927 to January 22, 1928 (fire)

February 19, 1939 to February 7, 1940 (earth)

February 1951 to January 26 1952 (metal)

January 25, 1967 to February 12, 1964 (water)

February 11, 1975 to January 30, 1976 (wood)

January 29, 1987 to February 16, 1988 (fire)

February 16, 1999 to February 4, 2000 (earth)

February 03, 2011 - January 22, 2012

The rabbit person is sociable, kind, compassionate and humble, and most probably artistic or at least creative in some way. The rabbit is one of the most delicate animals among all 12 animals. Rabbits are usually kind and sweet and of course, popular people. Nobody ignores them, for they are good company and know how to make the best of themselves.

Rabbits are sensitive souls, rather mercurial, with the gift of foresight and intuition, and are born to live rich and fortunate lives. Traditionally this is also the fertility symbol of animal signs, and it is said that the rabbit is also the symbol of immortality.

A rabbit's home is always a beautiful one because Rabbit people are famous for their artistic sense and good taste. They are also usually well dressed. Go check out your Rabbit friend's closet, I bet you will find many expensive and beautiful clothings there.

But even though they are popular and loved by their friends and family, rabbit people are also pessimistic. They are conservative and insecure, and that explains why most of them don't like changes.

They like traditional things. Anything new, including new people, can make them a little nervous. Rabbits are the people you can always turn for understanding, and others will be drawn to them for this reason. Rabbit people are very discreet, and won't tell anybody something told to them in confidence.

Rabbits expect and adore good food, and a trip to any eating joint with a rabbit is likely to prove an expensive night or afternoon out. They also love to shop, especially for personal and expensive clothes. They will keep working towards their goal irrespective of any hurdles, despite the fact that they hate complications. They may dislike travel, but if planning to go abroad they will read up about their destination beforehand, and they want to see all the places, art galleries and cultural centers once they get there.

Lucky Numbers

1,3,5,9,15,19 and 35

THE DIVINE DRAGON

February 16, 1904 to February 3, 1905 (wood)

February 3, 1916 to January 22, 1947 (fire)

January 23, 1928 to February 9, 1929 (earth)

February 8, 1940 to January 26, 1941 (metal)

January 27, 1952 to February 13, 1953 (water)

February 13, 1964 to February 1, 1965 (wood)

January 31, 1976 to February 17, 1977 (fire)

February 17, 1988 to February 5, 1989 (earth)

2000

January 23, 2012 - February 09, 2013

Dragons are adaptable, yet quite volatile, especially when given orders, as they dislike being told what to do. They are magnetic personalities, and command attention, even if you dislike them.

As the noble animal symbol that represents the Chinese emperors, Dragons are born leaders and masters of ceremonies. And because of this, every Chinese parent is hoping to have a Dragon child. Dragon people get things started and keep them moving. They are feisty and gifted with power and luck. Most people look up to the Dragon.

Dragons are also aggressive and determined, going after what they want is their second nature. And due to their hunger for power, Dragons are not well suited to growing old. The prospect of losing power, the helpless feeling of youthful strength ebbing away is unbearable to them.

Dragons are honest people, and sometimes they don't think of what they are saying and how it will be taken by other people. If they think they have hurt someone, they are full of remorse

at their tactlessness. If a dragon promises something, her or she means it, and he or she expect others to be likewise. For this reason they are sometimes too trusting.

The Dragon knows innately how to exert authority yet be gentle with his slaves. Dragons are terrible snobs. Although money is not always the object, they are slavishly impressed by wealth, prestige, rank and splendor.

Once they have made up their mind on something (or someone) they will stick to their chosen path, even if it seems totally stupid to do so.

Dragons are no nonsense people, irrespective of gender, and they do not like to admit that they are wrong. Dragon people do not suffer fools gladly, and it shows in their faces when they dislike someone.

Their energy level, which is quite high, will often run in fits and starts. They are fast people, with nothing in between, and they have problems working to a schedule. As a result they sometimes leave things unfinished.

The home will always be important to the dragon, although often only as a base from which to travel, and they are very protective of their families. They like to spend money especially on their homes.

Lucky Numbers

3,4,5,6,15,21,34,35,36 and 45.

THE DIALOGISTIC SNAKE

February 4, 1905 to January 24, 1906 (wood)

January 23, 1917 to February 10, 1918 (fire)

February 10, 1929 to January 29, 1930 (earth)

January 27, 1941 to February 14, 1942 (metal)

February 14, 1953 to February 2, 1954 (water)

February 2, 1965 to January 20, 1966 (wood)

February 18, 1977 to February 6, 1978 (fire)

February 1989 to January 26 1990 (earth)

2001

February 10 2013 - January 30 2014

Snakes have always been the seducers of human beings. If you know the story of “The White Snake”, you will understand what I mean. In reality, Snake people are born charming and popular. Snakes are spotlight magnets, and they will not be ignored. The Snake is a nice oversexed normal human being. Determined to follow through anything he undertakes to the bitter end, the Snake detests being left in the air. He makes his decisions quickly and firmly.

These people seem to know a lot about many subjects, but are really very reserved, naive and easily shocked. Well read, and with a retentive memory for many subjects, snake people will have an ingrained love for books. Wise and discreet, they make good friend. They are elegant, direct yet subtle, and prudent.

The Chinese consider snakes to be guardians of buried treasure, and as such they have always been considered good omens and symbols of wisdom and cleverness.

They often make the best of situations by their active, adaptable and forceful nature, although they are often likely to be self-

ish and a little lazy, especially the female snake. They are prepared to wait for opportunities rather than try to create them.

Snake people rely heavily on first impressions, on their own feelings, on their sympathies, rather than on facts, on the advice and opinions on others. He seems to have a kind of sixth sense in this way.

Snakes are a bit tight when it comes to lending money, though his sympathy for others often leads him to offer help. The fatal flaw in his character is, in fact, a tendency to exaggerate - in helping friends as with everything else. If he does somebody a favor, he becomes possessive towards them in an odd way. Another big flaw in a Snake’s character is that, they are capable of biggie lies. White lies, true lies, whatever they call them, though they don’t lie often, they do lie when they feel they can get away from it.

In money matters, the Snake has good luck: he doesn’t have to worry - he’ll always be able to lay his hand on money when he needs it. Generally, Snakes are careful but generous with friends and family. The Snake should stick to careers that won’t involve him in any risk - even the risk of working too hard, for to tell the truth, the Snake is a bit lazy. In love, the Snake male is romantic and charming.

Lucky Numbers

1,2,4,6,13,24,42 and 46

THE PRODUCTIVE HORSE

January 25, 1906 to February 12, 1907 (fire)

February 11, 1918 to January 31, 1919 (earth)

January 30, 1930 to February 16, 1931 (metal)

February 15, 1942 to February 4, 1943 (water)

February 3, 1954 to January 23, 1955 (wood)

January 21, 1966 to February 8, 1967 (fire)

February 7, 1978 to January 27, 1979 (earth)

January 27, 1990 to February 14, 1991 (metal)

2002

January 31 2014 - February 18 2015

These sporty people, who love travel and movement, are sociable, good-looking, healthy, extrovert, energetic and smart. The key word for these people is, style: they have loads of it. Horse people are active and energetic. They have got plenty of sex appeal and know how to dress. Horses love to be in the crowd, maybe that is why they can usually be seen in such occasions like concerts, theaters, meetings, sporting occasions, and of course, parties. The horse is very quick-witted and is right in there with you before you have had the chance to finish what you are saying: he's on to the thought in your mind even before you've expressed it. In general, the Horse is gifted. But in truth he is really more cunning than intelligent - and he knows that. That is probably why; most of the horse people lack confidence.

Young horses are difficult to tame, as they feel obliged to express themselves in their own way at every opportunity. Most horses are, irrespective of age, easily distracted and lacking in focus at times, and become easily bored.

Horses often feel they are right on every issue, and will fight tooth and nail before giving up their freedom. In China, female horses are said to become bossy wives. Chinese believe that because horses are born to race or travel, all Horse people invariably leave home young. The Horse despises being pressured to act for the good of the group or made to feel guilty. No matter how integrated he seems to be, a Horse's inner self remains powerfully rebellious. Although they have boundless energy and ambition, Horses have a hard time belonging.

The Horse is a worker, adepts at handling money and a good financier. But unfortunately, he is also famous for suddenly losing interest on something. In his relationship with the opposite sex, the Horse is weak. He will give up everything for love. Being born a Horse, there are many contradictions in his character. Horses are proud yet sweet natured, arrogant yet oddly modest in their approach to love, envious but tolerant, conceited yet humble.

Horses seem to know what is going to be said before the other person opens their mouth. They will often sum up what you intend to say a whole lot better than you would have done. Horse people are good at putting together a brilliant party, with a wide variety of different people, different foods and drinks, and a good cross section of music. They get bored with things being the same all the time, and go out of their way to create variety.

Lucky Numbers

1,3,4,8,13,14,41 and 43

THE GENTLE GOAT

February 13, 1907 to February 1, 1908 (fire)

February 1, 1919 to February 19, 1920 (earth)

February 17, 1931 to February 5, 1932 (metal)

February 5, 1943 to January 24, 1944 (water)

January 24, 1955 to February 11, 1956 (wood)

February 9, 1967 to January 29, 1968 (fire)

January 28, 1979 to February 15, 1980 (earth)

February 15, 1991 to February 3, 1992 (metal)

2003

February 19 2015 - February 07 2016

Goat people are sensitive, anxious; the goat is another sign that does not know the meaning of quitting. These are the survivors amongst us; despite the fact, they often feel like giving up when the going gets tough. Goats are enduring creatures, determined and fastidious. Goat people are likely to be well mannered and exude good taste. Respectful towards elders and those in authority, the goat person is unlikely to rock the boat.

Goat people are elegant, charming, artistic, gifted and fond of nature. People born under this sign are also the most creative ones. They are also very delicate, their good manners and charms always bring many admirers and friends.

Goats are insecure. They need to feel loved and protected. They are easily drawn into complex predicaments. This being so, they usually shy from confrontation, pull back when faced with heavy decision-making and blatantly refuse to take an unpopular stand in a conflict.

For goat people family relations matter and they will do all within their power to keep these alive. Even when they leave

home, they will maintain strong links with the family. They can be quite nostalgic and will keep things emotional memories.

Goat people are dreamers, sometimes; they are pessimistic, hesitant and over-anxious worriers! They can be lazy sometimes. If Goats had the chance to choose, they would definitely choose to marry a wealthy person and sit back for the rest of the lives. In addition, they are obsessed with their appearance. That plays an enormous part in their sense of personal stability. If they do not look their best, they may be afraid to go out the door to pick up the Sunday papers.

They like to please, and sometimes cook several meals at once in an attempt to make sure that everybody gets what they want to eat. However, do not criticize the result, because goats cannot stand criticism, and you will be never invited again.

To some people the goat may appear shy, but this is because they live in fear of upsetting others. They cannot stand the thought of being an embarrassment to himself or herself or anybody else. They have a brilliant sense of humor but often keep it hidden. In an argument, the goat person will say nothing at all. In a crisis, the goat will be practical person who will fetch help rather than provide it.

Goat people are very romantic sensitive, sweet and darling. In relationships, they can sometimes be a little bit bossy and lazy, but with their gentle and caring nature, it will be hard to resist Goat people.

Lucky Numbers
3,4,5,12,34,45 and 54

MERRY MONKEY

February 2, 1908 to January 21, 1909 (earth)

February 20, 1920 to February 7, 1921 (metal)

February 6, 1932 to January 25, 1933 (water)

January 25, 1944 to February 12, 1945 (wood)

February 12, 1956 to January 30, 1957 (fire)

January 30, 1968 to February 16, 1969 (earth)

February 16, 1980 to February 4, 1981 (metal)

February 4, 1992 to January 22, 1993 (water)

2004

February 08 2016 - January 27 2017

Monkey people are intelligent, obstinate, and quick-tempered, easily frustrated. These are active agile and busy people. They seem to be able to talk themselves out of any difficult situations with ease. Men will try to manipulate because of job motivations, whilst women often manipulate for more emotional or personal reasons.

The monkey people are fun and loving persons who are always cheerful and energetic. They are very clever. Give a monkey a boring book to read and he will turn it into a musical. Better yet, he will invite everyone to see it free! That is how talented, creative and generous monkeys usually are.

You can never win a war of words with a monkey: he is too clever. However, you can win him round by treating him to a meal with a few drinks thrown in. The monkey likes to over indulge and he loves flattery.

If you go to a party, you will find Monkeys at the center of attention. Their charm and humor is the key to their popularity. Sociable and diplomatic as they may appear, they can be deceptive sometimes - they hide their opinions of others beneath their

friendliness. However, they do not hide their emotion. You can probably tell how a monkey is feeling from miles away - he wants everyone to know how happy or depressed he is.

The monkey often has little time for the opinions of the others. Their own opinions change with the wind, whilst their optimism remains constant. Any job, which demands versatility and offers constant stimulation, will interest the monkey. They often like traveling, or needing to change jobs or move house on a regular basis.

Monkey people are very good at problem solving. Wherever you are, whoever you may be, if you have a problem pick up the phone and dial a Monkey. Monkeys know how to listen closely and work out solutions at the same time. And because of Monkeys' curiosity, they usually have a great thirst for knowledge. Still they have few scruples - they can be unreasonable sometimes, and they have the ability to persuade themselves and everyone around them to believe that they are doing the right things.

Some say monkeys are self-centered, some say they are opportunistic, some say they are guileful, but monkeys couldn't care less - because they are also indifferent.

The monkey has a good chance of becoming famous or well known. Whatever he does, his charm and luck will make him successful. As friends, Monkeys are both loyal, devoted, as lovers, they can be passionate, and yet flighty - they can fall easily in love but will get tired of the relationship and look for another.

Lucky Numbers

3,4,5,7,16,23,34,45 and 54

THE ENTHUSIASTIC ROOSTER

January 22, 1909 to February 9, 1910 (earth)

February 8, 1921 to January 27, 1922 (metal)

January 26, 1933 to February 13, 1934 (water)

February 13, 1945 to February 1, 1946 (wood)

January 31, 1957 to February 17, 1958 (fire)

February 17, 1969 to February 5, 1970 (earth)

February 5, 1981 to January 24, 1982 (metal)

January 23, 1993 to February 9, 1994 (water)

2005

January 28 2017 - February 18 2018

Rooster people are very observant. And most of the time, they are very accurate and precise with their observation. Perhaps, you can say that Roosters have a very keen “sixth-sense”. With Roosters, what you see is exactly what you get. There are no hidden depths to the Rooster’s character: he is neither complicated nor profound; rather, he is very forthright and straightforward. The rooster likes to be noticed and flattered. He might dress a little flashily with this in mind, but in his heart, he is completely conservative. Roosters always appear attractive and beautifully turned out. They are sociable and love to receive attention.

Unbelievably, it is not an easy task to fool the Rooster. His mind is cautious and skeptical, with this perceptive gift; Roosters make excellent troubleshooters, detectives, doctors, nurses and psychiatrists. Roosters are always up, out and doing. You rarely see a relaxed rooster that sits quietly in the living room, doing nothing. They are also multitalented, and can become accomplished in many different ways.

All Roosters are extremely conscious about clothing and appearance. They may appear conservative but are obsessed with

their look - they can spend hours standing in front of the mirrors and will not even wink when they spend Rs.5000 for a dress. That does not mean they do not care about money, in fact, they love to compare prices and even if the bargain is only few paisa or few rupees cheaper, they will be satisfied.

Though sharp, practical and resourceful, the Rooster also likes to dream. And because he likes to dream, he will be disappointed the loved one, for the reality will never match up to the dreams he would like to share with her. Although he really is sincere about those dreams. Rooster makes great hosts and adores entertaining. The main virtue in the Rooster character is loyalty: they make devoted friends. They always keep their promises and are always true to their word. When Roosters love and admire someone, they will even catch the moon just to keep them happy.

*Lucky Numbers**1,5,6,12,15,16,24 and 51*

THE DUTIFUL DOG

February 10, 1910 to January 29, 1911 (metal)

January 28, 1922 to February 15, 1923 (water)

February 14, 1934 to February 3, 1935 (wood)

February 2, 1946 to January 21, 1947 (fire)

February 18, 1958 to February 7, 1959 (earth)

February 6, 1970 to January 26, 1971 (metal)

January 25, 1982 to February 12, 1983 (water)

February 10, 1994 to January 30, 1995 (wood)

January 29, 2006 to February 17, 2007

Dog people are honest, faithful and sincere. They respect tradition and value honor, and enjoy helping people. The Dog is righteous, and always is the first to speak out against injustice. He is not good at socializing with friends, and rarely shines in company, but he is intelligent, caring and a good listener.

Loyal, faithful and honest, he has the most profound sense of duty. You can count on him and he will never let you down. In addition, as a good listener, the Dog is very reliable in keeping secrets for others. He simply does not like to gossip. The Dog is an agreeable companion - when he is in a good mood. But when panic strikes, he can turn nasty, and bark till he is tired. He can be judgmental, defensive and fussy if you rub him the wrong way, but as long as you know how to pet and massage him, the Dog makes absolutely the best and honorable companion on earth.

Dogs are born old and get younger as they age. They take everything very serious. You may hear the Dog complains a lot about street lamps, about traffic, or about weather, but as he gets older, the less he takes his own criticisms seriously.

The loyal Dog makes a splendid captain of industry, a priest,

an educator, a critic, or a doctor. However, whatever his career, it will have in him a spokesman whose ideals will be profound and often original. When the fear becomes reality, Dogs go a little crazy. The Dog enters a relationship where he is the giver and the partner is the taker. He is usually very generous and loyal, and in love, he is honest and straightforward. Nevertheless, he will have romantic problems all his life - it is his own fault, really: he leads himself by his emotional instability and his eternal anxiety. He is a worrier.

Lucky Numbers

1,4,5,9,10,14,19,28,30,41,45 and 54

THE CHIVALROUS PIG

January 30, 1911 to February 127, 1912 (metal)

February 16, 1923 to February 4, 1924 (water)

February 4, 1935 to January 23, 1936 (wood)

January 22, 1947 to February 9, 1948 (fire)

February 8, 1959 to January 27, 1960 (earth)

January 27, 1971 to February 14, 1972 (metal)

February 13, 1983 to February 1, 1984 (water)

January 31, 1994 to February 18, 1996 (wood)

February 18, 2007 -

Pigs are models of sincerity, purity, tolerance, and honor. When you first meet them, Pigs seem too good to be true. They are careful and caring, obliging and chivalrous. Put your trust in him, he will not let you down and he will never try to. The Pigs simply want to do everything right. Pigs are the people everyone admires most. Make a list of the Pigs in your life: aren't they the nicest, most loving and scrupulously caring people around?

Pigs are born to give, to yield and to serve. Frankly speaking, most people take advantage of this Pig nature. Also, not only are Pigs easy to fool, they like it that excessively. No matter how old they get, Pig people still only see and believe that all men/women are basically good. Pig people constantly sacrifice their own happiness and comfort for the sake of somebody else.

The Pig is a splendid companion. If you have a lifetime Pig friend, do not think that your worries are over. Pigs are loyal, faithful and giving - only as long as they approve of you. In order to keep your lifetime Piggy friend, remember, and never try to force your opinions on a Pig - A Pig rarely asks for help and cannot graciously accept it. The Pig does not say much - but when

he does decide to speak, suddenly, nothing can stop him until he runs out of subjects. Like the Monkey, the Pig is intellectual - a character with a great thirst for knowledge.

Some people claim that Pigs are snobbish. Manners, breeding and good taste are of enormous importance to them. In fact, pigs are aesthetic. Pigs are born with an excellent nose for style in everything. Food is another of Piggy's little sins. Pigs adore food, and after-dinner chocolates. The Pig often over-eats, but he eats with good taste. In relationship, Pig people are sensitive, sweet but naive, and caring. They are romantic and certainly are the marriage-type. But on the other hand, Pigs are also possessive, jealous and exclusive.

Lucky Numbers

1,3,4,5,8,16,18,34,41 and 48

CHINESE ELEMENTS



There are five elements: Earth, Fire, Metal, Wood, Water

In Chinese astrology these elements also effect the characters.

土 EARTH

People born under the Earth element are logical, methodical and of a serious disposition. They have intuitive and deductive abilities. They are intelligent and know how to channelize their resources for the best possible results. Due to these very qualities, they make good planners and administrators. They have the ability to optimize the use of resources and are wise and prudent in financial matters. People of the Earth element like to keep things in perspective. They are conservative by nature. Their most glaring and common fault is that they are almost too governed by their own self-interests. They also lack imagination. They could do well to become more adventurous in life. Nevertheless, Earth people will impress others with their sound reasoning, reliability, discipline and steadiness.

火 FIRE

People born in the years of the Fire element are natural born-leaders. They are confident and sure about their decisions. They also possess a more aggressive and positive approach towards life than other natives of their particular sign do. These individuals love adventure and innovation. They like to explore new areas and like to try anything, which is new. They attract others by way of their brilliance and warmth. They possess gift of speech and quick action, the people ruled by the Fire element will try to dominate others with their originality and clever thinking. They could do well to be sympathetic to the views of others before taking action. The more Fire people try to achieve their goals by force, the more they will encounter obstacles. People of this element must keep a check on their emotions. Their ambitions and forcefulness may make them selfish and make them inconsiderate and impatient when they do not get what they want. It would be good for Fire persons to cultivate patience and compassion to curb their impulsive tendencies.

金 METAL

The people born under the influence of metal element pursue their goals with a confidence and determination that usually sets them apart from the other common individuals. They are unflinching in their efforts to achieve their objectives and are least bothered by any setbacks, failures or hardships. People ruled by the Metal element are unreasonable, inflexible and stubborn at times. They are self-reliant and solve their own and others problems easily. They hate any type of interference in their life. People under this element have certain electricity about them. They have strong impulses, which will be felt by the people around them. They also have the necessary inner strength and energy levels to

achieve the changes they wish to have in their lives. Their strong inborn monetary instincts will suitably support their liking for luxury and power.

木 TAHTA

Those born in the years donated by the Wood element have high morals and great confidence. They appreciate the things, which they possess and generally do not run after the things, which they cannot have. They have multiple interests and generally, they make very good friends. Their thought process is systematic and they possess very good execution skills. These people like to diversify in different areas. They believe in growth. They are not selfish. They believe in team effort. They have faith in their abilities. Their main shortcoming is that they tend to take on more than they can handle. They must learn to work within their limits. These natives usually look for the easiest way out. They tend to depend too much on others for support. To be effective, they must be more persuasive and assertive.

水 WATER

People born under the Water element have good skills in having personal relations and persuasion. They are very good communicators. They have the in built ability to influence the thought process of the other people around them. Water born individuals have flexibility in their thought process and have excellent intuition. They can spot things, which others find difficult. They have born flair for organizing and making use of capabilities of others to their own use. Water born individuals will always look for the easy way out. They can be inconstant. For being effective, they should try to be more persuasive.

CHINESE CUISINE



In Chinese cuisine food is served as a visual illusion. There are eight very important cuisines.

▼ Lu (Shangdong) Cuisine

Origin: Two local cuisines named Ji'an and Jiaodong.

Characteristics: Scallion and garlic is used abundantly for the appetite.

Specialties: Fried shrimp, mussel stew and fried fresh water.

▼ Chuan (Sichuan) Cuisine

Origin: Two local cuisines Chengdu and Chongqing.

Characteristics: Different spices and sauces.

Specialties: Fried chicken with peanuts. Boiled bear paw, sour and sweet pig stew, sweet and peppered crab stew.

▼ Su (Jiangsu) Cuisine

Origin: Three local cuisines named Yangzhou, Suzhou and Nanjing.

Characteristics: Boiling and steaming are most common methods. Given special care not to lose the original taste of soup.

Specialties: Noodle made from flour of soyabean with chicken soup, neat's foot gristle dish, pastry made from crab flour.

▼ Zhe (Zhejiang) Cuisine

Origin: Three local cuisines from Hangzhou, Ningbo and Shaoxing. The most famous local cuisine is the Hangzhou cuisine.

Characteristics: Delicious, soft, fatless.

Specialties: Longjing shrimp, fried chicken and Xihu fish with vinegar.

▼ Yue (Guangdong) Cuisine

Origin: Three local cuisines from Guangzhou, Chaozhou and Dongjiang. Guangzhou is the most famous.

Characteristics: Frying, boiling and steaming mostly. Tastes delicious, light and crispy.

Specialties: Snake dish, fried piglet, melon soup and sour and sweet fried pig meat.

▼ Xiang (Hunan) Cuisine

Characteristics: Spicy, with vinegar, different peppers. Special attention is given to dishes with vinegar and peppers.

Specialties: Sweet lotus, stewed fish with soyabean.

▼ Min (Fujian) Cuisine

Origin: Local cuisines like Fuzhou, Quanzhou and Xiamen are gathered together. Fuzhou cuisine is the main source of Fujian cuisine.

Characteristics: Sea fishes are mostly used. Special attention is given to the color and taste of the dish, with use of sugar, pep-

per and salt.

Specialties: Kar çiçekli tavuk yemeği, altın uzun ömür yemeği, portakal sulu jiaji balığı yemeği, Taiji karidesi ve balık kızartması.

▼ Hui (Anhui) Cuisine

Origin: The cuisines of the South Anhui, Yanze River and Huai river are collected together. The southern cuisine of Anhui is the real origin of Anhui cuisine.

Characteristics: Gammon and sugar is used. Boiling is frequently used and special attention is given to the cooking temperature.

Specialties: Gourd and duck dishes.

CHOPSTICKS

For thousands of years Chinese people used chopsticks. Before forks and knives were invented at Europe, chopsticks were being used.

Chinese cuisine does not include big sized meats in their dishes because the chopstick culture prevents them from eating big slices. In China food is mostly prepared as slices, and this helps using the chopsticks.

Chopsticks make the food to be eaten more slowly than fork use, it is accepted as a better digestion than fork use too. Maybe the chopstick was invented in order to eat with easily digestible pieces of food. Chopsticks come with many styles. Children have their own chopsticks. Most chopsticks are made of wood or bamboo but there are chopsticks made from ivory, silver, plastic or jade. For daily use, wood, bamboo, or ivory must be preferred. In

most restaurants you may find chopsticks for one time use.

CHOPSTICK ETIQUETTE

It's not good manner to wave the chopsticks over the food.

Never use chopsticks to pull a dish to yourself or to push away from you. Use your hands.

Chopsticks must be leaved on their resting place, which is a small piece of wood or they must be leaved to the side of the bowl or plate.

It's not good behavior to dig the food on a plate, you must reach and get the piece you want.

Never use the chopsticks as toothpicks.

Also never lick or suck your chopsticks.

Chopsticks must not be put vertically in to the rice in a bowl, because it looks like the incense sticks prepared for the dead.

HOW TO USE CHOPSTICKS



Two things are very important to remember in order to use the chopsticks in a good manner. First thing is that the two lower and wider ends must be even, which means that one

chopstick cannot bulge over the other. And secondly, the two chopsticks must be linear, in the same plane.

To use the chopsticks, place the first chopstick which is placed lower, between the base of your thumb and index finger and let

its lower end lay below the ring finger. This makes the chopstick to stay fixed.

Hold the first chopstick between the tips of your index and middle fingers, place its upper half against the base of your index finger, and use the tip of your thumb to keep it in place.

Move the upper chopstick with your index and middle fingers and pick up your piece of food. It must always be remembered that while the upper stick moves, the lower stick stays fixed.

Chopstick using is not as hard as it seems, with a little practice you may use it as if you were born Chinese.

DINNER INVITATIONS

As Chinese are a social people, they love to eat outside and you will receive many invitations from your Chinese friends. This is thought as a way of showing respect to the guest. It does not matter if you are a client or a friend of the client or just somebody, if they think it is good to make friends with you, they invite you to share their food or to share food with you.

The best and most profitable meetings take place at dinners. Gathered around a table, people become more sincere and friendly. You may talk whatever you want at a dinner in China.

There are two types of restaurants in China: the first type is western, where tables are scattered in a saloon. The other type is restaurants with private rooms. These rooms mostly have a round table for about 8-12 people. The most important person has the leading place which is most away from the door; and the person with the lowest statue or the youngest member of the group sits near the door.

The best food must be served to the most important member

of the group. Strange as it may seem, food like chicken head or duck head should not point at the guests. A big bowl of soup is placed in the middle of the table.

It's important to consume all the food in your plate because if you don't this means that you did not like the food. And if you have eaten fish, take out the skeleton of the fish after eating one side of it; because it is believed that a fish turned upside down resembles a boat turned upside down.

Rice is the most important food in China. Its history reaches back many centuries. Some people consume more than two bowls of rice at each meal. In the southern China, you can't have a meal without rice. But in northern China, people prefer wheat and corn breads to rice.

If you are foreign to China, it comes as a surprise to be able to see the food that you order. Special plates are served to show you what you will eat under a certain name. This is very helpful for foreigners. Menus in many countries mostly do not contain pictures of food, so by this way, you may be certain of what you will eat.

A popular saying like "Chinese people eat everything with four feet, except for tables" is not true, and may seem offensive, but it gives an idea about Chinese food culture. In China nearly everything may be a food: From dog to snake, from frog to turtles. Even crocodiles. The Guangdong province is especially known for its strange food culture. They can eat anything there. Guangdong people is accepted as eating weird food even by the Chinese themselves.

If you are not competent in Chinese food culture, you'd better order your food by seeing it yourself. This is the truth that I found out after many bad experiences of wrong orders.

Once I had been invited to a sea food restaurant. I looked at the menu and ordered fish, because I thought that fish must be

fish everywhere. Then "the fish" came right in front of me, but as soon as they placed the plate to the table, I realized that nothing on earth could force me to eat this "thing." The plate contained a deep sea fish with a stone hard meat, a scallop, a huge shell – all sliced and served over raw ice. I could not eat it. And my host paid something like 300 dollars for that food. So it's better to see and be sure of the food that you will eat in a Chinese restaurant.

It's not necessary to eat everything that comes to your table. You may talk about and ask about your food without hesitation; Chinese people like to talk about food in details. But it's always important to ask before eating the food. Once I had a very delicious soup and after consuming all of it, I asked "What is this soup made from?" They said "A bird." I asked again. "Which bird?" And they said: "Just a daw!" I immediately pushed the plate away.

Some other time, I was eating eel but it felt a little harder than usual, so I asked why was the eel muscular this time. They said that it was not eel, it was a snake. It seems like that there is no difference, but there is.

Also if you order duck, they will bring you the skin, not the meat. Once I ordered duck and they served me just the skin with some fatty parts. As I asked the waiter about the meat, he said that for that price they serve the skin. So you have to say that you want the meat. The Beijing Duck may be a good choice, it is served with sliced pieces and jam, vegetable and thin bread. You make a roll with the duck, bread, jam and vegetable. Eating with hand may be better.

But in Guangdong area, they serve the duck in a different way; you can see many restaurants on the street with hanging ducks on the shelves. Personally I love that Guangdong style duck, because the meat is very juicy and tasty, and with the plum jam it is just delicious.

The Chinese food culture is very different from Western food culture. Chinese people order food abundantly just to show that they give value to their guests. The table must be filled with food; the guest must feed the eyes before the stomach. And it is very important to say good things about the food to your Chinese hosts. You must thank them for their hospitality and nice food offered and served to you.

In a friendly meeting, usually you see people saluting each other for another drink. “Cheers!” in China is “Ganbei!” And it’s ordinary to say “ganbei!” for about ten times during a dinner. It’s better to finish your glass after a “ganbei”, but it’s not imperative in the case of soft drinks like water or wine. But if your Chinese friend says “ganbei,” then you have to show your respect and say back “ganbei.” Sometimes people like to stand up and finish their glasses after saying “ganbei”. But if you are not much of a drinker, you may hit your glass to the table, and say “ganbei”; this is acceptable.

Usually you may take away the food which is left over. The waiter brings plastic bags and wraps the food, so you can take it with you. Even soup may be wrapped up like this. In China it is normal, and in a way it is good to do this.

In China eating can always be an adventure; you have to try it, never shy from it. You can see unbelievable kinds of food in a Chinese kitchen. Once I saw that my workers were eating something like a soup with kidney slices in it. I asked them which animal’s kidney was it and they said that it is not kidney but dried pork blood! Another time, we went to the food market and as I was wandering around, most of the food they were selling there was deeply alien to me. Then I saw the head of an animal, it was like a sheep head but it was not a sheep head. They told me that it was a dog head, cooked and ready to eat! It’s hard to forget that head!

HOUSE INVITATIONS

If you are invited to a house for dinner, do not forget to take fruits, drinks or chocolates with you. Your hosts will be very glad to get any of these gifts. But never give them clocks as gift. Clock means “to attend a funeral” and it is not a good gift in China.

Before entering a house, you must check if there are slippers to wear or not; if you see slippers at the hall, you must change your shoes with slippers.

After you find a place to sit, they will probably serve you green tea. Mostly they do not ask you if you prefer a drink, because it is ancient tradition to offer the guest tea.

When you are invited to the table to eat, usually nobody introduces you with the other guests. It is very normal and there is no need to be shy. But it is important to order even number of food. An ancient proverb says: *Two dishes are for guests, three dishes are for turtles.*

Try to share the food in a polite and equal manner, as it is not good to eat the whole food. Chinese like to share the food. If you finish your plate they will serve you more food, because it is not polite to send the guests without full stomachs. If you have eaten enough, then you better leave some food on your plate to let them understand that you are full.

Usually people talk loudly while eating. Don’t be surprised. It is a sign that the food is delicious. Westerners might like silence at the table, but Chinese people like to talk while eating.

The soup is served at the end of the meal. Then a fruit plate comes as a dessert.

CHINESE TEA

The tea is a centuries old Chinese invention. Today people think as if the tea is a natural product, but they forget that it was unknown before the Chinese began drinking tea many many centuries ago.

In Chinese the tea is called “Cha.” This word has travelled across nations and the words for tea in Turkish, Russian or Japanese are all variations of “cha,” because these countries were importing leaves of tea from northern China. But western countries such as Spain, Germany and England adapted the word in the forms like “te, tee, and tea”, because they were importing from southern China and there “cha” was called “te”.

Nowadays it is a scientific fact that the Chinese tea is good for cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, high cholesterol levels, infections, cardiovascular disease and impaired immune function. Tea is like a medicine for the human body. It has hundreds of variations. Fermented and natural teas are should be the main choices. Green tea is made from natural leaves, black tea is made from fermented leaves. In China fermented teas such as “Oolong Tea” is also popular. In Chinese, they call green tea “Lv Cha” and regular tea “hong cha”. Hong means red and is used because of the red color of the tea.

In China it’s always tea: everywhere, everyone drink tea all the time. Hot water systems are used to make quick teas and in many companies free hot water is always served in order to supply the staff tea all day. In the restaurants tea is served free of charge. In the rural areas, peasants use thermoses and they also drink tea for the whole working day. Most office staff use their own tea cups which have locking system to keep the tea warm; people carry these in their bags and it’s very normal in China.

In order to make a good tea, first take a punch of green tea and wash it with hot water; then put the tea in a glass and fill the glass with hot water. Wait for about five minutes and you will see the leaves sinking down. Now you may drink your tea. You can add hot water and drink until you feel a sour taste and the leaves have been tasteless.

In the restaurants the waiters add water to your tea as they see that your cup is a little empty. You have to say “goule!” which means “enough!” to stop them. It’s strange that in Taiwan they won’t stop even after you say “goule”; there you have to tap the table two times with your fingers, and then they understand that you have had enough of tea.

In many offices they will bring you tea even if you have visited them just to ask trivia. It is a kind of respect shown to anybody entering their home or office. And you have to drink even some of the tea they offer to you to show your respect to them. It is unpolite to leave without tasting the tea. Chinese people like to hear good things about the tea they make, so you can tell them that the tea has a nice smell or tastes good. They will be very happy to hear that from you.

Chinese tea has many kinds. It may be good to know some details about them. The basic categories are *green tea* (non-oxidised), *oolong tea* (semi-oxidised) and *tea* (fully oxidised). Chinese people mostly like green and oolong tea. They are all prepared with natural leaves and hot water, and no sugar is added.

PUERH TEA:



The name comes from Puer county at Yunan Province. The tea leaves are preserved and can be more than 50 years old. It has a very strong odor and taste, it's not good for a start because of its heavy taste.

▼ Tie Guan Yin or Ti Kuan Yin Tea:

A special tea from Anxi Province and Taiwan. It belongs to a subcategory of oolong tea. It has a very strong taste and it is also known as "Iron Goddess" tea. Tie Guan Yin has very high quality tea leaves. It has a golden-brown color and its leaves have a twisted shape. This tea has a heavy roasted aroma, sharp roasted taste and a long lasting strong sweet aftertaste.

▼ Oolong / Wulong Tea:

The word "oolong" means "dragon" in Chinese and this tea is one of the most famous teas in Southern China. Also in Taiwan it is widely consumed. Oolong tea has many variations on the market.

▼ Long Jin Tea:

It is coming from Hangzhou area. It is very aromatic. Longjing Tea is one of China's best teas. The tea is cultivated in the Longjing Mountain area of Hangzhou, west of Shanghai. The flat and smooth tea leaves resemble pine needles with a yellow to dark green color and the tea made from these leaves have a color ranging from light to dark green, a fragrant odor and a refreshing taste.

DRINKING

Chinese like to drink, and it is important to accompany your Chinese business partner or your friend. They love to show how much they can drink and not get drunk. Mostly they really can drink bottles of wine or beer and do not get drunk.

In many countries it is not acceptable to get drunk and behave funny, but in China this is mostly tolerated. For a Chinese friend, if you get drunk with him, this means that you trust him. It's not necessary to get drunk in purpose, but you may feel comfortable while drinking and Chinese people really give big value to this. As I don't use alcohol, I did not have the chance to get drunk with my Chinese friends. But I know they would be happy to see me get drunk.

▼ Tsingtao Beer (Ching Dao Beer)

Qingdao had been a German colony between 1898-1922. Germans used the city as a base during the First World War, so in about twenty years many Germans lived there and about 4000 German soldiers were installed. Tsingtai brewery was opened in 1903. At that time it was only for Germans and Chinese people were not familiar to beer, later it became one of the most popular drinks of Chinese people. After the revolution Tsingtai Beer brand was supported by the new government and thus became a world famous beer brand.



SMOKING



Chunghwa Cigarette: This cigarette is produced at Shanghai Cigarette Factory and it is prestigious for Chinese people to smoke it. It may be a way of showing their wealth. At the business meetings that you make in China, it is much possible that they will offer Chunghwa cigarette to you. One pack is about 45 RMB which is around 6 \$. According to Chinese standards this is a very expensive product, and still is one of the most important prestige items in China. Normal price of the cigarettes are as low as 2 RMB, so you can imagine the big difference between Chunghwa and normal cigarettes. Some other cigarettes, more expensive than the Chunghwa are making their place on the market and I have seen some new brands which costs around 200 RMB per pack (around 25 \$ per box). My favorite cheap cigarette is *Da Qian Men*. I can tell you that it tastes just like the expensive cigarettes on the market, so do not let the price fool you.

- To offer, actually “to throw” a cigarette to everyone at the table is a very normal thing in China. Usually the host takes out his pack, takes cigarettes one by one and throws to everyone around him as everyone accepts the cigarettes cheerfully and they

all enjoy smoking. Even if you do not smoke, still they will offer you a cigarette by throwing it to you, and it is best to catch it and put it on the table, even if you don't smoke. As with everything else in China accepting is better than refusing.

This strange cigarette culture reveals itself in very strange ways. Once I was visiting a factory and the manager of the factory offered me a Chunghwa, but I refused and took out my cheap Chinese cigarette from my pocket. Then we all laughed at this funny situation. The manager found it very strange, because he was offering Chunghwa to show his respect to his client but I, as a foreigner, found it comfortable with the cheapest cigarette. Anyway, the next day the secretary of the company told me that she would give me a special discount on some items. I asked the reason for this, because I had already confirmed the prices, the day before. She gave me a very gentle answer: "Because you smoke the poor people's cigarette and you do not show off with your wealth to us, this means you are a good person so I will do my best and give you discount on the prices."

- Usually when they offer you a Chunghwa cigarette, they shout "CHONGHWA! NUMBER ONE!" This is a kind of slogan for Chunghwa cigarette. Most Chinese men who can't speak English can successfully say this slogan in English very well...

HYGIENE

Hygiene is still a big problem in many places. Especially in the country, the problem is huge. You often see people spitting on the streets and taxi drivers will not hesitate to open their window and spit in a very careless manner. You may be surprised to see people who you would not dreamed of doing such as thing carelessly spitting. Nevertheless, this behavior is slowly fading away nowadays. The Chinese government has implemented strict rules to solve the problem.

TOILET CULTURE

In Middle Eastern and Muslim countries, people usually use water for cleaning at the toilet. If you are used to that culture, I suggest you to carry your water supply with you because Chinese people use only toilet papers. In some areas you can even find only newspaper sheets for use in toilet.

The Chinese toilet system is different from many countries. Most toilets are old and they have no separating wall inside them. People use the toilets completely without privacy. Of course in newer buildings, they have the standard toilets now, but if you go to a company, a factory in the suburban areas, you may still have to use the old style toilets. Separate man and woman compartments exist in every toilet.

You have to carry your own toilet tissue to use in the toilets, because everyone carries tissue when they go to toilets. But sometimes you may find papers for cleaning near the water closets. Of course, house toilets are very hygienic, not to be comparable with the public toilets.

A strange thing is that children wear a special pants, up to age four. This pants is open between the legs. In China children are accepted as pure and clean, so they can make their toilet needs anytime and anywhere. They can just open their legs and urinate or you will often see a parent placing a newspaper on the floor and letting the baby enjoy the toilet need. Then they take that paper to the dustbins.

TOURISM

▼ Airport And Arrival

When you arrive to China for the first time (I assume that it will be by plane), you will go through the visa procedures first. You have to fill an Arrival Card and while leaving the country you will also have to fill a Departure Card just like in every other country.

After you get your luggage, it's necessary to show your luggage sticker to the security staff. It is a good thing that they check all the luggage, so the travelers won't make any mistake on their luggage. They check the number of your sticker with the number at your luggage. It may come as strange, but I really enjoy that strict security checks as I am always afraid of getting a wrong luggage by mistake.

After you take the luggage and exit from the final security, you will reach the exit area. There you will see many people and cabs waiting to take you to the hotels, offering you places to stay etc. If you do not have a hotel reservation yet, I suggest you to go to the hotel reservation counter directly. There you can see the details and pictures of the hotels in the town and this helps you to have a better idea of where to stay. Usually the people who offer you hotels receive some commission from the hotels they offer, so generally they don't care if you stay in a good or bad hotel, you

have to be careful about this.

For the taxis in the airport, you have two options; wait at the taxi row for some time or use an illegal taxi. Both is available in most cities. Of course the best thing to do is to use legal taxis. But in airports the taxis will always ask a fixed price from you instead of starting the taximeter. The best is to cut the prices they offer you. Sometimes 50% of what they give is workable. You can also wait for the crowd to leave the airport and then you can get the best rates from the waiting taxis too. Bargaining in China is a must in most cases.

10 years ago planes were sometimes too bad. Some of them were too old. Once we took a plane which smelt terrible. We asked the stewardess why it smells so heavy; she told us they had carried animal cargo before us so it smelt that heavy
Thank God that nowadays they have improved a lot and they have mostly new planes for transportation.

In 1991, we went to Shanghai for the first time and there was only one airport there, Hongqiao Airport. As soon as we arrived, as we went looking for a taxi, beggars surrounded us and began asking for money. It was a very strange position as we did not know what we should do. We saw Chinese people shouting at them and we started shouting at them too, so that they would leave us free.
Now they have solved the beggar problem in most areas. I do not see these kinds of problems anymore.

Do not give any money to any beggar in the streets. If you do this mistake, you should be ready to see many others running to you, asking for money too. The best thing to do is not to give them anything and if they don't leave you then shout at them or call the police, and then they will leave you.

▼ Hotels



Hotels have both Chinese and English names. You must know the Chinese name of your hotel or to make it easier you can carry your hotel's address card with you every time you go outside. Most of the time if you tell the driver to take you to Holiday Inn Hotel they will look at you weirdly.

All hotels have two names: English and Chinese versions. For example: New Asia Hotel, Guangzhou has the Chinese name (read as: Guang Zhou Xin Ya Da Jiao Dian). Both names may be used but you'd better have the Chinese name written with you. Most hotels have address cards at their front desks to be used for taxis.

Most hotels say they give free breakfast, but do not think that they give a western style continental breakfast. In China the hotels generally serve Chinese breakfast which is made with rice soup, meats, sausages, cooked vegetables, soya sauce, boiled eggs and so on; probably you won't enjoy these as a foreigner or a

newcomer. You have to ask the hotel if they serve continental breakfast or not when you make your reservation.

Internet is generally free of charge during the stay and you can also ask for ethernet cable from the hotel, if you have not brought a cable with you. Many hotels nowadays put computers in the rooms for the guests who do not have laptops with them.

▼ Taxis and Roads



Most of the taxi drivers in China do not speak English, so it is very important to have the Chinese address for the place you are going to. You must ask your friends or the hotel staff to write down the places you will visit in Chinese, so that you may show it to the taxi driver. If you are going to The World Trade Centre and ask the driver to take you to the "World Trade Centre" in English, he will probably not understand where you want to go.

In China, like in some European countries, cars travel on the left side of the road. About ten years ago you would see bicycles everywhere. On the streets there were special bicycle roads and bicycle parking areas. Nowadays they are disappearing as cars get cheaper. However, in suburban areas people still generally use bicycles.

Chinese traffic may be a real chaos in many big cities. Most drivers don't care much for the rules and you can always expect someone to violate the rule and pull in front of you. You can see a truck going slowly on the right (opposite to continental Europe,

the fastest lane is the rightmost lane) lane and the fast cars passing it from the left. You can also hear lots of car honks on the roads.

Roads were in a terrible condition in the past. Now in every part of the country you can see highways which connect the cities to each other. Highways have improved a lot as the car users have accelerated.

In 2007, the highway charges were very expensive compared with daily life in China. For example from Wenzhou to Yiwu city (around 300 km) a ordinary car driver has to pay 130 RMB which is nearly 20\$. Normal worker salaries are around 100\$.

During a time in 1990's, one day I woke up with a terrible car horn. It lasted many minutes and it was getting louder and louder. As I looked out the window I saw that a driver was honking to a pedestrian in front of his car. The funny thing is that the pedestrian was not giving any attention to the sound and kept on walking slowly on the street. I thought that in another country, this would have led to a bloody fight, but not here; the pedestrian behaved like he did not hear anything.

Once in Shanghai, I was trying to go to some place. I took a taxi and gave the driver the address card of the place I was going to. The driver began laughing deliriously. I could not understand why he was laughing. Then he pointed at the building in front of the taxi. The place I was trying to go to was the next building to my hotel ☺

BARGAINING

Unlike many countries, in China bargaining is the standard of daily life. While shopping you can always, comfortably bargain on the prices. Most people find it hard to bargain but the difference between the bargain price and the first price offered is so huge that you would not believe your ears when you hear it.

Especially at the touristic areas or at the cities where fairs are organized, plenty of tourists are coming to China and they know nothing about the domestic prices for the products; for them many products can be very cheap on first sight, but in fact these prices can be unbelievably much higher than the prices of the domestic market. It may be good to be in control all the time.

Once we were visiting the Canton Fair and we went out shopping. My friend saw a bag and wanted to buy it. The first price we took was 500 RMB (around 65 \$) and the final price after a long session of bargaining was 150 RMB.

I suggest you first offer 20% of the prices they tell you in the beginning! You can think that this is insane. In a way this is true: most sellers behave like that they are insane. For a start they give very high prices. So you have to cut their big prices from the start by giving them just 20% of their price. This will make them come to their senses. Then of course they will discount directly another price, do not confirm it, and again offer another price. If they say “no! no!” then you can say “goodbye” to them and start walking away. At that point everything is revealed. If the seller is really thinking about selling you the item, he will shout and call you back. Go back and increase your price a little bit and say that this is the final offer. Insist until you feel that this is really their the best price for you and I suggest you to check at least 4 or 5 different shops until you find the lowest prices. Get the best

price from one and go and offer a lower price to the other shop. That is the key to a good business. (Please do not forget to send my commission to my account after earning a lot of money from your shopping in China ☺)

MONEY

“Ren Min Bi” or RMB is the name given to Chinese money. “Renminbi” means “The People’s Currency”. Yuan name is also used in daily life to mention renminbi.

Chinese banknotes have some special qualities to be told here. As there are 56 cultures in China, to show respect to each of them, on the banknotes the local languages are used. You can see it over every paper money. I think it is a very nice way of showing the respect to these cultures.



In the 1990's, in China there were two kinds of banknotes. Tourist banknotes and People's banknotes. The tourists had to exchange their foreign money in the banks, but you could always find someone in front of the bank who offered a higher price for your foreign money than the bank.

These tourist moneys were used for importing products from abroad to China. That was the reason why the price on the street was higher than the price at the banks. Later the Chinese government stopped this system and nowadays they use one type of banknote for all sorts of trade.



PHONE CARDS:

When you arrive to China, one of the first things you must do is to buy a domestic phone card. Instead of paying lots of roaming charges to your original phone company, why not use the cheap domestic services?

But it is important to know something about the phone cards before getting them:

- Ask if the phone number can be used in all China or only at the city you are in.
- If you don't add credits to your phone within 6 months the phone number will be cancelled.
- If you want to use GPRS or other services, you must apply for them from the service centre number written on the application envelope.

PLACES OF INTEREST

The Great Wall.

长城

(Chang Cheng)



The Great Wall is the world's longest building that man has made; its length is approximately 6,400 km. The Chinese started building this magnificent monument in 7th Century BC and the construction lasted for about 200 years. It was built against invasions of Northern Xiongnu tribes which are also known as the Huns.² Until the 16th century AD, the Great Wall was rebuilt, restored and renovated many times. The wall has many secrets and beautiful passages, most were made during the Qin Dynasty.

Qin Dynasty is also known for a very famous story known as

² Huns were one of the Turkish tribes in Central Asia. Still in China, today, Xinjiang people speak Turkish as their mother tongue.

“Meng Jiang Nv cries for Great Wall.”

According to the story, Emperor Shihuang had commanded all his men to rebuild the Great Wall. This order became a disaster for the families. Many people died from heavy work and were separated from their families. Meng Jiang Nv was one of the women who had not seen her husband for many years and she missed him so much. One day she decided to go and see him, but she learned that he had died a long time ago. When she found out about this she began to cry and sang an elegy that complained about the Emperor’s cruelty. As she was crying a miracle happened and many parts of The Great Wall cracked, shattered and fell down.

Anshan.

This is the chief iron and steel factory in China; a grand complex of steelworks, rolling mills, and iron mines which means a lot for the whole economy.

Burma Road.

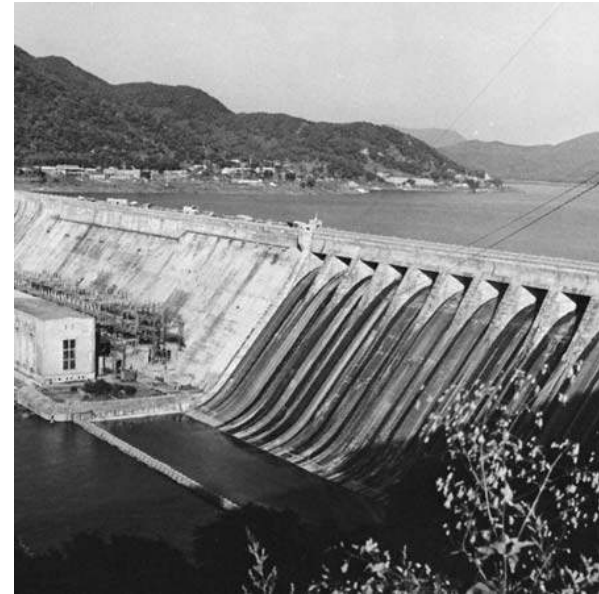
This was a vital supply route during World War II; it is 717 miles (1,154 kilometers) long, extending north-south high ranges from Lashio, Myanmar to Kunming.

Chinese Eastern Railroad.

This railroad was built by the Soviet Union and it extends across Manchuria (now the Northeast) to Vladivostok and Luda.

Fengman Dam.

This is one of the largest hydroelectric power stations of China which is located at the head of the Songhua Jiang reservoir.



Fushun.

One of the world’s largest open pit coal mines which produces more than 22,000,000 tons (20,000,000 metric tons) annually; it is also the site of steel mills, chemicals, and oil refinery complex.

The Gobi.


One of the world’s famous and largest deserts.

Grand Canal.


This canal links Beijing and Hangzhou and is 1,056-mile (1,700-kilometer) long; for many years it was used for north-south transport. It was constructed during the Sui Dynasty (AD 581 to 618).

 **Hainan.**

A large tropical island in the South China Sea (Nan Hai) which produces sugarcane, pineapples, grapefruit, coffee and rice.

 **Huang He (Yellow River).**

The second longest river in China with a length of 2,900 miles (4,700 kilometers).

 **Koko Nor (Qinghai Hu).**

China's largest mountain lake in Nan Shan mountains; its surface area averages 5,200 square kilometers.

 **Lhasa.**

Tibet's capital which is located high in the Tibetan Himalayas.

 **Marco Polo Bridge.**

An ancient bridge over the Yongding He river. Sino-Japanese War had began here on July 7, 1937.

 **Mount Everest.**

World's most famous mountain with the highest peak. It's on the Tibet-Nepal border and has a height of 29,028 feet (8,848 meters).

 **Qufu.**

Confucius was born in this city and places like Temple of Confucius, Confucius' Tomb and residence of Confucius's descendants may be found here.

 **Tai Shan.**

In the ancient times this mountain was worshipped as a deity.

I reaches up to 8,064 feet (2,458 meters) in Shandong Province; there are temples and monuments on this mountain.

 **Xi'an.**

This is the place where one of the most strange artworks have been discovered. More than 7,500 life-size terra-cotta warrior figures were excavated at the excavation site of the tomb of Emperor Ch'in Shih Huang Ti, who had died 210 BC.

 **Yangtze River.**

This is the longest river in Asia with a 3,400 miles (5,500 kilometers) length.

 **Yan'an.**

After the famous Long March in December 1936, the revolutionary army established its headquarter in this city. You may visit the Museum of the Revolution and Mao Zedong's house here.

 **Zhoukoudianzhen.**

This is the site where the Peking Man (about 400,000 BC) was discovered in 1923.

CHINA'S 49 PLACES OF ULTIMATE ATTRACTIONS³

Not everyone has the chance to travel the globe. Factors such as economy and time gradually reduce our epic-like dream of voyaging around the world to a mirage that only sparks feelings of frustration and helplessness.

1. The tallest saltwater lake:

Namtso Lake in Northwest (NW) China's Tibet Autonomous Region



With an altitude of 4,700 meters (m) and an area of 1,940 square kilometers (km), Namtso Lake, China's tallest saltwater lake, is a sacred lake to Tibetans, attracting many

disciples to pilgrim from far and near. The lake, like a huge pearl mirror embedded into the north Tibetan steppe, reflects the belief and pursuit of the Tibetans for many generations. Besides, the natural scenery is breathtaking, attracting flocks of photographers to catch its beauty each year.

3 This part has been taken from chinaculture.org

Best way to explore and special tips: To walk around the lake on foot is the best way to explore, while the best time to travel to the lake is from May to October. From the fifth to the sixth month in the Tibetan calendar, the disciples of Tibetan Buddhism will pilgrim to the lake.

2. The biggest desert:

Takla Makan Desert in NW China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region



With an area of 330,000 square km, Takla Makan Desert, China's largest desert, was once dubbed "Sea of Death" by western explorers 100 years ago, which is also the literal meaning of term Takla Makan in the local Uygur language.

The boundless expansion and the awe-inspiring desert landscape have always been an irresistible attraction, luring tourists from across the world to trek through it. The desolated sand, or the solemn and stirring poplars fighting

to live inspire meditation on the significance of life.

Best way to explore and special tips: It is best to explore behind the wheel. Yet no matter how travelers plan to travel to the desert, professional equipments are necessary.

3. The top of the world: **Mount Everest**



Not many introductions are needed for Mount Everest. You do not necessarily climb the world's tallest peak to enjoy it, because it is an extraordinary experience to just stand in front of it.

Best way to explore and special tips: The Ascent of Mount Everest is an ultimate dream for many professional adventurers

and climbers, but for amateurs, to just walk around it is also very good sport. The best periods to admire the mountain are from April to June and from September to October. Professional physical strength training is necessary before climbing.

4. The largest fall: **Huangguoshu Fall in Southwest (SW) China's Guizhou Province**



The 74-meter tall Huangguoshu Fall, which is China's largest fall, boasts abundant water throughout the year. Although the water's wildness does not mask its delicacy and elegance, its great momentum overwhelms everyone who has been to the fall. Rainbows are often seen on the fall, leading the visitors to a

dreamlike world. The karst landscape nearby is also another tourist attraction.

Best Way to explore and special tips: To swim beneath the fall is exhilarating, and the best time for tourists is from May to October.

5. The largest settlement for wild Manchurian Tigers: **Changbai Mountain in Northeast (NE) China's Jilin Province**

It is a totally a different experience to enjoy wild Manchurian Tigers from watching the barred creatures in zoos. Changbai Mountain is also known for its almost intact virgin forest; the occasional wild Manchurian Tiger sighting adds further glamour to the mountain.

Best Way to explore and special tips: To look for and photograph the wild Manchurian Tiger is very engaging. Remember, however, that safety always come first.

6. The largest distribution of loess landscape: **Loess Plateau of North (N) China's Shaanxi Province**

The Loess Plateau, the world's largest distribution of loess which occupies an area of about 540,000 square km, starts from the east Qilian Mountain in the west, links Taihang Mountain in the east, borders Qinling Mountain in the south and reaches the Great Wall in the north. The plateau's unique cultural landscape highlights the place as a sample of how human beings survive the environment.

Best Way to explore and special tips: To drift along the Huanghe River is the ideal way of exploring the river. The best season to travel is from March to October. Due to extreme water shortage in some places, please try to conserve water while traveling.

7. The place with the most frequent thunderstorms:

Danxian County beneath the Five-Finger Mountain of South (S) China's Hainan Province

Annually, average 131 days of thunderstorms strike Chengguan Village, Danxian County of Hainan Province, and the place thus got the alias as “City of Thunders”. The thunderstorms, often causing hails or tornados, are extremely destructive. The place is suitable for adventurers to do scientific researches, and has also become a Mecca for many enthusiasts.

Best Way to explore and special tips: Just relax and experience the spectacular natural phenomenon. However, visitors should be extremely cautious of the obvious dangers.

8. The only river that flows into the Arctic Ocean:

Ertix River of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

Originating from the Altai Mountain, the Ertix River finally runs into the Arctic Ocean via Russia. The river, which is 546 km long in China, holds an abundant amount of water, only second to Yili River in Xinjiang. The section of the river in Beitui is encircled with thick poplar forests. The lower reaches abound with mires and swamps, forming quite a unique scene in the barren and remote steppe.

Best way to explore and special tips: Drifting and fishing are

perfect ways to spend the time in this place, which is best to tour from July to October.

9. The only residence of esculent swifts:

Dazhou Island Natural Reserve of Hainan Province

Dazhou Island Natural Reserve is located in the southeast of Wanning County, Hainan Province. The island is composed of two parts: the southern hill, which occupies 270 hectares and rises 289 meters above the sea level; and the smaller northern hill, which is 150 hectares and is 136 meters above the sea. Natural crevices, caves and thick vegetation on the mountainous southern hill all provide a paradise for esculent swifts.

Best way to explore and special tips: Venture to the caves and enjoy the island's special fauna and flora, but please remember to respect the animals and plants on the island.

10. The largest natural reserve:

The Arjin Mountain National Natural Reserve of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

The Arjin Mountain is nestled in the southeast part of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The reserve is endowed with very diverse topographies. Glaciers, snow caps, lava landscapes, and plateau lakes can all be found here. Rarely visited by people, the reserve has maintained a well-preserved natural ecological system. Hordes of wild yaks, Tibetan donkeys and antelopes can be found from time to time.

Best way to explore and special tips: Driving across the reserve is the most convenient way of exploring. The reserve's cold cli-

mate deters most common travelers; the best time to go is during the summer from June to August.

11. The railway with the highest altitude: **the Qinhai-Tibet railway**

The Qinhai-Tibet railway, which is yet to be completed, starts from Xining, the capital of NW China's Qinghai Province in the east, and reaches Lhasa, the capital of Tibet Autonomous Region in the south. Spanning 2047 km long, this railway still under construction also has the highest altitude in China. It is not hard to realize the dream tour of traveling across the remote Qinghai-Tibet plateau.

Best way to explore and special tips: To travel by train up to Lhasa is best but be fully prepared for adverse altitude reactions.

12. The vastest grassland: **Inner Mongolian Steppe**

Even common scenes like clouds spotted in the azure, cattle, sheep, and the smoking chimneys above the Mongolian tents never fail to inspire the feeling of purity that comes with a closer link to nature. Roasted mutton, milk tea, pastorals, and simple and kind people with their Hada (a piece of silk used as a welcoming gift) have provided a haven for those who are tired of the hectic industrial society.

Best way to explore and special tips: Go horseback riding across the steppe. The best season to travel is summer, but no matter what season, travelers should pay attention to the rites and the taboos of the local people.

13. The coldest in China: **Mohe County of NE China's Heilongjiang Province**

Mohe's average annual temperature is 4 degrees Celsius below zero, with the coldest being 52.3 degrees Celsius below zero. Minus 30 to 40 degrees is common in the wintertime. All the statistics prove Mohe as the coldest place in China. The unique aurora and polar day phenomena also distinguish the place from anywhere else in China.

Best way to explore and special tips: Try taking a horse-driven sledge. The best time to travel is from summer to autumn, but if you do travel during winter, remember: It is vital to protect yourself from the cold.

14. The lowest lake: **the Aiding Lake in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region**

The Aiding Lake is 155 meters below sea level -- the second-lowest place in the world after the Dead Sea. The lake's bottom is flat with shallow waters. The lakebed is 40 km long from east to west and 8 km wide from north to south. The water is only 1 meter deep at its deepest point. The lake now occupies a much smaller area than before, with bitter salt water remaining only in the western part. The water's mineral content is as high as 200 grams per liter, with much niter and salt collecting at the lake's bottom as a result of many years of strong evaporation.

Best way to explore and special tips: Walk on the sand beach barefooted. The tourism season is from July to September, which is also the harvest time of famous Xinjiang fruits.

15. The deepest canyon:
the Brahmaputra Canyon

Best way to explore and special tips: Walking is the only way to enter the canyon. Travelers are suggested to avoid winter and the rainy season. The cultural scene of the Menba Ethnic Group should not be missed.

16. The largest tropical forest:
Xishuangbanna of SW China's Yunnan Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Go cross-country orienteering. The best time for traveling is from October to June next year. Protection against mosquitoes and other insects as well as protection against the strong sunshine should be emphasized.

17. The largest archipelago:
Zhoushan Islands of East (E) China's Zhejiang Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Definitely swim in the ocean. The best time for traveling is from June to October. Seafood is also a necessity besides enjoying the scenery.

18. The longest inland river:
Tarim River in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

Best way to explore and special tips: Just drift down the river, but a word of warning: Professional training and equipments are needed before drifting. The best season to travel is summer.

19. The snow mountain that has never been conquered:
Meili Mountain of Yunnan Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Go mountain climbing but remember that it is essential to prevent altitude sickness.

20. The longest rift zone caused by earthquake:
The Fuyu earthquake fault zone of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

Best way to explore and special tips: Explore on foot. The best time for traveling is at the junction of summer and autumn.

21. The place with most abundant sunbeam:
Lenghu area of Qinghai Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Walk across over the region, but be sure to take precautions against the sun's radiation.

22. The only peak above 8,000 meters
**totally within Chinese territory:
 Mount Shisha Pangma of Tibet Autonomous Region**

Among all the mountains taller than 8,000 meters in the world, Mount Shisha Pangma is the only peak that totally rests within Chinese territory. Located in Nielamu County, the peak consists of three sections. The ice towers, 5,000 to 5,800 meters above the sea level in between the different sections of the peak, span thousands of meters, forming a dreamlike ice forest.

Best way to explore and special tips: Climbing is the way to

go and the best seasons to ascent the mountains are spring and autumn.

23. The world's highest and biggest rural wetland:
Lhalu Wetland of Tibet Autonomous Region

The Lhalu Wetland is located on the north of Lhasa, capital of Tibet Autonomous Region. Since it was built into a natural reserve under the region's protection in 1995, the wetland's area has increased by 50,000 square meters. About 7,500 more trees have been planted, attracting once vanished birds like black-neck cranes back to the region. Local people vividly call the wetland as a "natural oxygen bar" for the ancient city of Lhasa.

Best way to explore and special tips: Do some bird watching but please disturb the wetland as little as possible.

24. The steepest cable car:
Victoria Peak in SE China's Hong Kong

To enjoy the "Oriental Pearl", the first choice is the Victoria Peak, which provides a panoramic view of Hong Kong. Cable cars leading to the peak began operating in 1888. The total length is only 1.4 km, but the cable car is extremely steep.

Best way to explore and special tips: Take the cable car. Dusk is the best time to take the cars, because of the magnificent panoramic night view of Hong Kong. The cable car runs until 1:00AM.

25. The longest alpine skiing run:
The ski run of Yabuli International Ski Resort of Heilongjiang Province

A cluster of mountains encircles the ski resort. The place, which was the venue for the Third Northeast Asian Games, now is the training base for the nation's skiing athletes. The Yabuli ski run is the best Chinese one in the terms of length and slope.

Best way to explore and special tips: Go skiing, although precautions should be taken against the unusual coldness. Yabuli's annual average temperature is only 1 degree Celsius, with the lowest of -44.

26. The largest wonder formed by calcium carbonate sinter:
Baishui Terrace in Zhongdian County of Yunnan Province

With an altitude of 2,380 meters, the tableland is approximately 100 km from the county seat, occupying an area of about 30,000 square meters. Being the largest of its kind in China, the place also boasts attractive natural sceneries.

Best way to explore and special tips: Go hiking. The annual average temperature is 11.4 degrees Celsius. The annual precipitation is 652.6 millimeters (mm), and the number in August could reach 1,907mm

27. The wildest tide:
Qiantang River Bore of Zhejiang Province

The bore festival on the 18th of the eighth month in the Chi-

nese lunar calendar has always attracted visitors from far and near. The most violent tides, which can mount eight to nine meters tall, gives the tide the reputation as the “No. 1 Tide in China”. It has become a time-honored custom to watch the tide in Haining, with a rich legacy of poems and writings by literati throughout Chinese history.

Best way to explore and special tips: Watch the bore in Haining. The 18th of the eighth month in Chinese lunar calendar is the best day to enjoy the natural wonder.

28. The most zigzagging coastline:
The offshore region of E China’s Fujian Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Drive along the coastline, but avoid the typhoon season from June to August.

29. The largest clustered caves:
Zhijin Caves Scenery Spot of Guizhou Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Venture into the caves. Excessive tourists may flow into the region on the weeklong holidays in May and October, which may affect the caves’ adventurous quality.

30. The place of the most hot springs:
Rehai in Tengchong County of Yunnan Province

Encircled by steep precipices, Rehai is located one km on the

west of Tengchong County. In addition to its hot springs, the place also boasts spectacular natural scenery and an ancient temple.

Best way to explore and special tips: Climb the volcanoes. Take care and choose the right time to bathe in the hot spring.

31. The highest natural wetland:
Yushu of Qinghai Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Go horseback riding in the summer, which is the best season for traveling

32. The biggest natural reserve for pandas:
Wolong Natural Reserve of SW China’s Sichuan Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Look for the wild pandas. The International Panda Festival is held annually in September in Abazhou of the Wolong Reserve.

33. The last hunting tribe:
Aoluguya Ewenki Village in Genhe City of Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region

Best way to explore and special tips: Go hunting with the villagers. The temperature there can fall as low as minus 49 degrees Celsius, so please take precautions against the cold weather in winter.

34. The largest national forest park:

Thousand Islets Lake of Zhejiang Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Go cruising on the lake; the best traveling season is from September to November.

35. The only natural reserve of coral reef:

Sanya Coral Reef of Hainan Province

The Sanya Coral Reef Natural Reserve is located on the southwest of Sanya City. The reserve occupies a total area of more than 40 square km. With more than 80 different kinds of corals living under the water, the region also abounds with various fishes, shrimps and other sea creatures. The seawater in the reserve is almost transparent. Diving into it, one feels like he or she has entered a fairytale world.

Best way to explore and special tips: Go diving. Take precautions against the sun radiation and pay attention to the protection of corals.

36. The largest cluster of Tiankengs:

Leye Tiankengs in Baise County of S China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Leye County, located 460 km from Nanning, capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, boasts the world largest clustered distribution of magnificent and broad Tiankengs (a type of karsts). Among them the Dashiwei Tiankeng, which is 613 meters deep and whose volume is 80 million cubic meters, is generally viewed as the best in the world for its concentration,

vastness and uniqueness. The primitive forest at the bottom of Dashiwei Tiankeng is the largest of its kind around the world, occupying an area of 96,000 square meters.

The Leye Tiankengs, spanning an area of 50,000 square meters and which look like an underground palace, also boast many rare animals and plants, which offer invaluable resources for scientific research and exploration. The forest at the foot of Dashiwei Tiankeng is inhabited by more than 1,000 varieties of plants, including many rare and precious species, and animals such as blindfish, crabs, shrimp and flying squirrels.

Best way to explore and special tips: Venture into the caves, but professional training and equipments are needed before venturing. Also, the experience may be a bit claustrophobic.

37. The tallest building:

Jinmao Tower of E China's Shanghai Municipality

The 88-storied Jinmao Tower, which is 420.5 meters tall, is a symbolic construction in Shanghai. The building dynamically incorporates modernity with tradition in its design. Its location in the busiest district of the metropolis also contributes to its glamour.

Best Way to explore and special tips: Parachute from the top floor; however, parachuting is an extremely dangerous sport.

38. The place with most frequent hails:

Naqu of Tibetan Autonomous Region

Hails visit Naqu County of Tibetan Autonomous Region 35 days every year, making Naqu the place hit with the most hail.

Naqu, literally meaning “black river”, is located on the north part of Tibet. The average altitude is above 4,500 meters. Straddled by two mountains on the east and west, Naqu is also a place that the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau must cross over. The unique Qiang culture, spectacular natural scenery and unique customs all contribute to its lure.

Best way to explore and special tips: Horse racing is ideal; the best season for tourism is from May to October.

39. The largest reserve for bird protection:

Zhalong Natural Reserve in Qiqiha'er of Heilongjiang Province

Occupying 40,000 square km, Zhalong Natural Reserve is famous for its crane birds. Six of the 15 kinds of cranes in the world can be found in the reserve. There are also more than 500 precious re-crowned cranes, accounting for a quarter of the world's total.

Best way to explore and special tips: Definitely crane-watching on the wetland is a must. The best months for tourists are April, May, August and September.

40. The largest inland salt lake:

Qinghai Lake of Qinghai Province

Located in the northeast of Qinghai Province, the Qinghai Lake occupies 4,635 square kilometers. Being the largest inland salt lake, its periphery is 360 plus km. The surrounding mountains, livestock, and especially the Bird Island all help form a grand and spectacular scene.

Home for more than 100,000 birds of 20 plus different kinds, Bird Island is also known as Xiaoxi Hill or Egg Island because birds' eggs can be found almost anywhere. From east to west, the island is 1,500 meters long and its slope is not very steep.

Best way to explore and special tips: Just simply walk around the lake to enjoy the scenery. The best time to tour to is from May to September. From mid-October the lake begins to freeze.

41. The largest glacier:

Yinsugaiti Glacier of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

Best way to explore and special tips: Go mountaineering. However, the weather of Qiaogeli Peak is abominable. The best time to ascent or just tour is from July to October.

42. The largest clinkstone zone:

Fengsheng Village of Banan District in SW China's Chongqing

Best way to explore and special tips: Walk across the region and hit the stones to hear their iron-like rings. There are two kinds of clinkstones in the region: One contains sand inside the stones and the other holds water inside.

43. The largest and wide distributed natural poplar forest:

Tarim Basin of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

Best way to explore and special tips: Walk across the region, but put on enough suntan oil beforehand.

44. The active volcano with the earliest record:

**Haotian Temple in Datong of
N China's Shanxi Province**

Best way to explore and special tips: Engage in archeological studies, as the traces of volcanic activities are still obvious today.

45. The place with most rainy days:

Mount Emei of Sichuan Province

Best way to explore and special tips: Climb the mountain. Each season of Mount Emei is characterized with its specific unique charm, and is suitable for tourism.

46. The longest canal:

The Beijing-Hangzhou Canal

Best way to explore and special tips: Just drift along the canal. Unfortunately, many sections of the canal are not as well preserved as before.

47. The youngest volcanic island:

**Weizhou Island of Guangxi Zhuang
Autonomous Region**

The Weizhou Island is located in the North Bay of Beihai City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The island is a result of submarine volcanic eruption and diastrophism (forming of geological features through deformation). Formed 2,000 to 3,000

years ago, the island is the youngest of its kind in China.

The typical tropical maritime climate contributes to the indistinctive seasons, making weather very pleasant in both summer and winter. In the rainy days, the whole island is shrouded in mists, reproducing the scene of a modern Garden of Eden. The unique topography has given the island the reputation of being a “Natural Geological Museum”, attracting many geological enthusiasts every year.

Best way to explore and special tips: Do some water-skiing, which can be done in every season except winter. The place itself is suitable for traveling year round.

48. The largest icefall:

Hailuoguo Icefall of Sichuan Province



The Hailuoguo is situated in the Luding County, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province. The place is famous for its modern glacier, icefall and hot spring. The Hailuoguo Glacier is 15 km long, with its tale stretching into the virgin forests 2,850 meters above the sea level; it is also the lowest among all the glaciers in the world on the same latitude.

The icefall, being 500 to 1,000 meters wide and 1,080 meters tall, is the largest ever found in China. There are three springs in Hailuoguo, with the water temperature 50 to 80 degrees Celsius.

More than 70 square km of virgin forest is also located in the region. The vertically distributed vegetations, and glacier together with the springs form a unique natural wonder in the region.

Best way to explore and special tips: Climb the glacier. However, please note that this is a dangerous sport; professional training is necessary beforehand. The entire region is suitable for traveling all year round, while winter is the best season to enjoy the glacier.

49. The deepest crater lake:

Heavenly Pool in Changbai Mountain of Jilin Province

The Heavenly Pool in Changbai Mountain, which is 373 meters deep, is the deepest crater lake in China. The pool, enclosed by 16 peaks around it, is a must-go when visiting the Changbai Mountain. On the north side of the pool there is a spectacular 68-meter fall. Clusters of springs are scattered in an area of more than 1,000 square meters on the north of the fall. The Changbai Mountain monster, which is said to be in the Heavenly Pool, adds mystery to the natural wonder.

Best way to explore and special tips: The temperature of the lake is only 7 degrees Celsius even in the summertime, thus giving visitors the chance to go “winter swimming” even in summer. The best time for traveling is from June to September. The Changbai Mountain cold noodles should not be missed.

CHINESE BUSINESS CULTURE

There is a saying in China: “Client is god! If you give the client his/her order, if you make the client make profit from you, then the client will show you deep respect.”

Let us see some interesting facts about the business life:

- **Keep your promise:** In Chinese culture it is very important to keep your promise. If you do not keep your promise then you “lose your face”. There are many situations in which it is not acceptable not to keep your promise.
- The expression such as “to keep your face” is widely used in China in the business life. For example, if you have placed an order to a factory, you can ask the boss to give promise to you for keeping his words and tell him not to “lose his face” to you and fulfill the quality he promised. Sometimes this small talk is much more valuable than a business contract made over signatures.
- Chinese people don’t like to say “No” at business; generally you will hear them saying “Yes!” when you tell something to them. And they can still say yes, even if they do not understand you. So you must ask them insistently in order to make sure if they really understand you. This attitude of politeness is good for the soul, but it gets bad in business. If you do not want to receive some other thing than you ordered, I suggest you to check what they have understood from your request and ask them to summarize your order clearly.
- Gestures like nodding the head while talking does not mean that they understand you completely, it is just a sign of showing respect and listening.
- When you are exchanging your business cards, stand up, hold your business card with both hands and give your business partner your card with a respectful gesture. They will do the same. Never give your cards in a western style, giving something with one hand is accepted as a humiliating gesture.
- Chinese people love to smile, so do not hesitate to smile.

Of course, it is still disrespectful to smile at occasions such as funerals.

- Chinese women do not use perfumes as western ladies. It is not accepted as a good thing, especially for married women. So do not give perfume as a present to your Chinese friends, because they generally do not use it in their daily life.
- Avoid touching a Chinese woman while talking.
- You can bring gifts from your own country to give to your Chinese friends on your visits; but do not forget that China exports many of the world's products, so your gift better be a regional and an original one.
- Things like sweets, fruits, tea, wine, chocolates are accepted as gifts.
- Strange though it may seem, apple means death and pear means separation in Chinese culture, so never send apples or pears to someone at the hospital. Also chrysanthemum is accepted as the flower of death.
- If your friends have a new baby, you can bring them small golden jewelry. In the gold market or department stores they sell special birthday gold for baby celebrations.
- Best gifts for weddings are peanuts, dates, longan and lotus seeds. They mean long life and having many children. Do not take clocks as gifts to weddings too as they symbolize death.
- When you are giving or accepting gifts, always use both hands.
- Chinese people love to show their richness and worthiness. When you see that they have a new car or some other expensive things, it would be gentle to praise it. They love to hear that, like everyone on the planet, but more.
- Even if you are a clever and a very experienced business-

man, I suggest you to think of yourself as inexperienced and not very wise in China. Because the possibility that there could be much wiser and experienced people in China is very high. Just think of the population living there 😊 Within a population of 1.3 billion, the chances are surely high.

- Unlike Western culture, in Chinese business culture you see that they respect and value their clients very much; most meetings occur as invitations to dinners. It is not important to place an order or make a business deal, they show respect just because that you are a human.
- Sometimes a big factory may be a good choice to cooperate safely, but their costs are generally much higher than small factories. If you need low prices you better go to small or new factories, but it is also a big gamble on your business life. You can win or lose. So the law is: If you need safe business, you will choose big factories. But you may always take the risk.
- Try to visit factories in place, you will probably find many new ideas when you visit a factory. Most factories do not only produce one product. Sometimes you can see that the shoe shiners and oil pastels are created within just one factory.
- The factory owners are named with a “Zong” after their surnames. So Mr. Tao will be called as Tao Zong. You can call them in this way to make them honored.
- If they invite you to dinner, try to join them. The best way to completely understand each other and to come to an agreement will be at these meetings. Chinese people love to share their ideas with you about business.
- Generally secretaries are much more important for you than their bosses. Most bosses do not speak English, so

the translators are your only way to reach the boss in a correct way. If the translator is not very well equipped and if he or she can not express your ideas clearly, he will give wrong impression to the boss and you may lose the big chances easily by that wrong communication. So be careful to choose a good translator. It's best to be friends with the translating staff and the secretaries to make good business. As I say, they replace your tongue while talking with their boss.

- In China to show respect to the children is very important. As a foreigner, never feel shy to love and caress the children. Give them small toys or gifts. I suggest you to carry simple things with you to give to the children you meet, their parents will be happier than the children.
- Never trust the delivery dates they tell you. Most of the time, you will have delays on your shipments.
- They do not work in stock base in China so be reminded that the production begins when you give the orders and sometimes it takes about two months to prepare an order.
- If the factory gets or thinks that it will get more profit from another client, it will directly put you to the waiting list and prepare another client's order. If you want your shipment to be prepared on time, try to make the company get a share of the profit a little earlier.

BASIC CHINESE

Ni Hao: You can use it when you meet anyone. It is also used to say “How are you?” “How do you do?” “Hello.”

Hao: Good

Xie Xie: Thank you (read as Shiah Shiah)

Bu yong Xie: You are welcome, no need to thank

Ni Hao Ma?: How are you? (Ma is used as question mark)

Wo: I, me

Ni: You

Ta: He/She/It

Women: We

Nimen: You (plural)

Nin: You (polite way)

Tamen: They (If we add –men to the singular it becomes plural.)

Peng You: Friend

Qu: To go (read as Chu)

Lai: To come

Wo lai le: I came

Wo De Peng You: My friend

Ni De: Your

Ni qu le: You went (“le” is added to mention past. Something is finished.)

Jintian: Today

Mingtian: Tomorrow

Shang Wu: Morning

Shia Wu: Afternoon

Kan: To see

Ke yi: Possible, can be, OK

Wo ai ni: I love you

Yao: To want

Wo yao qu ... : I want to go to ...

Mai: To buy, to sell (these meanings are produced with very small pronunciation differences, you need to study with Chinese friends to be able to give the correct sound)

Ta yao mai... : He wants to buy...

Shi: Is, are

Wo shi John: I am John

Wo jiao ...: My name is ...

Wo bu dong: I did not understand (- bu is used to give a negative meaning.)

Dui bu qi: Excuse me, sorry

Ren: Person

Ta shi Shanghai Ren: He is from Shanghai

Gui: Expensive

Tai Gui: Very expensive

Pianyi: Cheap

Xuexi: To study (read as Shuay Shi)

Piaoliang: Beautiful

Ni hen piaoliang xiaojie: You are a very beautiful girl

Qing: Please

Gei: To Give

Fa Piao : Invoice

Fei Ji Chang: Airport

Ce Suo: Toilet

Maidan: Bill (you can hear the Chinese people trying to pay the bill at restaurants and asking the *xiaojie* to give them the bill saying “*maidan! maidan!*”)

Fu Wu Yuan: Waitress. (It is better to use this word in restaurants, because *xiaoJie* is also used for prostitutes. Still in most restaurants people call the waitress as *xiaojie*.)

Qing gei wo maidang: Please give me the bill

Zai Naer: Where? (read as Nah-er)

Ta zai Naer: Where is he?

Suey, sui: Water

Jiodian: Hotel

Ta Ma De: This word is written shortly as TMD and means something like “Wow!”

Chifan: Food

Rou: Meat

Niu Rou: Cow meat

Niu Nai: Milk

Zhu Rou: Pork (For Muslims and Jews: when you go to a restaurant, you can tell them “Bu zhu rou!” which means “No pork!” They will understand you.)

Ya Zi: Duck

Bei jing Ya Zi: Beijing Duck

Ji: Chicken

Yang: Sheep

Yu: Fish

Hai: Sea

Shang: Up

Shang Hai: Upper Sea (Shanghai City)

Bei: North

Nan: South

Dong: East

Xi: West

Hong: Red

Hei:

Huang: Yellow

Lan: Blue

Lu: Green

Bai: White

Se: Color

Bai se: White color

NUMBERS:⁴

Yi: One

Er: Two

San: Three

Si: Four (also read as Szi)

Wu: Five

Liu: Six (Six is the lucky number in China)

Qi: Seven (read as Chi)

Ba: Eight (Eight is the lucky number in China. They like to use it everywhere.)

Jiu: Nine

Shi: Ten (also read as Shr)

Shi Yi: Eleven

Shi Er: Twelve

Er Shi: Twenty

San Shi: Thirty

Yi Bai: Hundred

Wu Bai Qi Shi: Five Hundred Seventy

Ba Bai Jiu Shi Wu : Eight Hundred Ninety Five

Qian: Thousand

Wan: Ten Thousand

NUMBERS IN SIGN LANGUAGE



⁴ Chinese use an extra digit compared to western countries. Besides the digit for thousands, they have a digit for “ten thousand”. This helps to talk about big numbers. For example, 5 million is told in Chinese as 500x10.000 (Wu Bai Wan) and 60000 is 60x10.000 (Liu Shi Wan).

DAYS:

Xing Qi Yi: Monday
 Xing Qi Er: Tuesday
 Xing Qi San: Wednesday
 Xing Qi Si: Thursday
 Xing Qi Wu: Friday
 Xing Qi Liu: Saturday
 Xing Qi Ri: Sunday

MONTHS:

Yi Yue: January
 Er Yue: February
 San Yue: March
 Si Yue: April
 Wu Yue: May
 Liu Yue: June
 Qi Yue: July
 Ba Yue: August
 Jiu Yue: September
 Shi Yue: October
 Shi Yi Yue: November
 Shi Er Yue: December

ACUPUNCTURE



Acupuncture is a treatment based on Traditional Chinese Medicine, a system of healing that dates back thousands of years. At the core of Traditional Chinese Medicine is the notion that a type of life force, or energy, known as qi flows through energy pathways (meridians) in the body. Each meridian corresponds to one organ, or group of organs, that governs particular bodily functions. Achieving the proper flow of qi is thought to create health and wellness. Qi maintains the dynamic balance of yin and yang, which are complementary opposites. According to Traditional Chinese Medicine, everything in nature has both yin and yang. An imbalance of qi (too much, too little, or blocked flow) causes disease. To restore balance to the qi, an acupuncturist inserts needles at points along the meridians. These acupuncture points are places where the energy pathway is close to the surface of the skin.

The earliest recorded use of acupuncture dates from 200 BC. However the scientists think the acupuncture has been used 4000 years ago after they found stone needles at China.

Knowledge of acupuncture spread from China along Arab trade routes towards the West.

Today at China, more than 2000 hospitals give acupuncture treatment service.

JADE

Chinese began to know and use jade in the early Neolithic Age. Many jade wares dating back to 4,000 to 6,000 years ago have been found in different places. Until the Shang and Zhou dynasties, jade wares had been developed into tools, weapons, daily utensils, accessories and ritual utensils. As commodity exchange boomed, jade was bestowed with currency function. For thousands of years till now, jade was and is a symbol of love and virtue as well as a status symbol.

Ancient Chinese believed jade the essence of Heaven and the Earth, so they carved jade into birds and beasts and worshiped as totems. Then witchcraft soon applied jade as percussion instrument since it sounded pleasing to the ear and traveled far. After people knew musical scales, jade became musical instrument. The ancients seemingly tended to associate jade with heroes who made great contributions, for Emperor Yan, God of Farming and Emperor Huang who united China first.

Jade was also the symbol of power. In the ancient time, only aristocrats could own jade wares. The imperial seal of the Qin dynasty, the first feudal society in China, was made of jade. The seal was later hunted by seigneurs to prove they were the real Heav- enly Sons.

Furthermore, more noble attributes were given to jade, making it a standard of morality. Confucius even concluded jade had 11 virtues, namely benevolence, fidelity, polite etiquette, wisdom

and sincerity. Hence, it was not only a decoration but also a symbol of ethics and norms.

In the ancient times, Yu, Chinese character meaning jade, was the same with Wang (king). The three horizontal strokes stringed by a central vertical stroke represent Heaven, the Earth and mankind respectively. Hence yu, is always used in Chinese to call something precious and jade had always been treasured in China as the royal gemstone.

Chinese people believed jade had supernatural power. Using jade wares and jade ornaments could resist invasion of evil influence and avoid evil apparitions and secure safety and auspiciousness.

You can see jadeware everywhere at China and people love to wear jade bracelets, earrings, necklaces made from jade.

The most famous jade stone comes from Urumqi and it is white color. Today in China, most of the jade stones are imported from Myanmar and Australia. These jades are softer degree and easy to engrave.



ABACUS



Abacus consists of a wooden frame with 13 sticks (some may have less) stretched vertically between the top and bottom, a wooden bar runs horizontally in the frame, two third of the way up the sticks. Two beads are strung on each stick above the horizontal bar and five beads below. The two beads represent five units each and the lower beads, single units of the order represented by the column.

When I visited Shanghai for the first time in 1991, nearly all the shops had abacus' and all calculations were made with this instrument. Still in some shops you can see cashiers using abacus'. It is amazing to watch them use it so well.

FENG SHUI

Feng Shui is basically regarding the environment and orientation of our daily life. The most popular periods were in Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618 to 907) and Song Dynasty (A.D. 960 to 1280). The well known Masters of the time were Young, Tsui, Lui and Lai.

Living in harmony and a comfortable environment with nature are classified as good Feng Shui. It is not superstition or magic but highly sophisticated **calculations** that were accumulated over years of experience in the past. It can help to reduce unfortunate impact or negative scenario and also helps to improve or enhance opportunity of fortune, health and comfort.

There is a Chinese saying: "One Life, two Luck, three Feng Shui".

一命，二運，三風水。

Life: The accumulation of credits from previous life(s).

Luck: Coincides with the moment we are born and the changing star position
year by year.

Feng Shui: Harmony with nature, and is placed after Life and Luck.

SHAO LIN TEMPLE AND KUNG FU

Shao Lin Temple is situated in Song Shan, Honan Province. It was first built in A.D. 495. In the 6th century an Indian monk, Bodhidharma taught the Shao Lin monks static meditation called Chan or Zen, breathing techniques and exercises. This marked the birth of Kung Fu in the Shao Lin Temple.



External and Internal Kung Fu

The monks in Shao Lin Temple start training in the external form of Kung Fu and gradually learn the internal form.

External form strengthens one's physical body but cannot protect fully from severe injury if one does not know the way to use internal chi (energy).

Internal form concentrates on the channeling of chi around the 14 meridian paths in the body. Internal Chi can be employed

to counter an opponent's force by exercising Chi Kung, even though one does not know Kung Fu.

Five Animals Form

The instruction of "Lo Han 18 Hands" was passed down by Bodhidharma, which was later modified by Pa Yu Fung to "Lo Han 128 Hands". This marked the birth of the 5 animals forms known as Dragon, Tiger, Leopard, Snake and Crane.



Dragon Form

It concentrates on internal breathing by exercising the diaphragm without employing any external force.



Tiger Form

This form strengthens the bone structure, particularly the waist, back and legs. If the bone structure is not strong enough, then the Chi cannot be applied with full force.



Leopard Form

This form resembles the swift jumping movement of the animal which requires a strong waist; practicing this form will improve the waist strength.



Snake Form

This form improves the Chi by practicing the control of breathing.

The form may look gentle from outside but the force produced can be deadly.



Crane Form

This form strengthens the energy level and lengthens life.

TAI CHI

The most popular theory ascribes the origin of Tai Chi to the Taoist priest Zhang San Feng who lived towards the end of the Song Dynasty in the 13th century. It is believed that after completing his training in the Shao Lin Temple, Zhang San Feng one day witnessed a fight between a snake and a crane, this led him to modify the hard Shao Lin Kung Fu into a much softer style which later developed into Tai Chi.

Tai Chi Chuan, or Taijiquan in Romanized Chinese, is an ancient Chinese physical art, deeply rooted in Chinese Philosophy and Taoist Wisdom.

The main practice in Tai Chi is the form itself, which is a series of movements executed slowly and smoothly in a relaxed and yet

focused manner. The form has been referred to as poetry in motion and as moving meditation.

PAPER CUTTING

Delicate Chinese Paper Cutting is an art form which is created by hand cutting with a pair of scissors to achieve sophisticated pictures and design with greater intricacy than machines can produce.



POTTERY

Shi Wan is situated in Fo Shan, Guang Dong Province in China, where the red-clay and sand are pre-dominant. Since Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618 - 907), pottery industry was the major industry in this area, producing tableware pottery and figurines in large quantities.

They are famous for their painstaking craftsmanship of the sculptures, with the vivid temperament in their facial expression showing various human emotions, and the physical structure of the muscles & positions. Also the creases and folds of the garments, which are so close to reality that they have to be seen to be believed.

The renowned potters stamp their signature on their artwork and have become highly collectable items.



CLOISONNE

Cloisonné is an ancient metalworking technique. It is a multi-step enamel process used to produce jewelry, vases, and other decorative items.

Cloisonné ware was introduced to China during the Yuan Dynasty 1280 to 1368 and is also called “Copper-body and Wire-inlaid Enamel”.

The Art became popular during the Ching Tai epoch of the Ming Dynasty (A.D. 1450-1457). This technique became so popular and the “Blue” color was the major color used, hence the traditional name of “CHINGTAI BLUE” was established.

The Art is still a thriving industry in China, with the artists’ exquisite workmanship producing many decorative items such as clock cases, eggs, bowls and vases.



CHINESE POEMS

Here I give you some examples of famous Chinese poems:

1. 静夜思

Jing Ye Si(李白 **Li Bai**)

床前明月光

Chuang qian ming yue guang

疑是地上霜

Yi shi di shang shuang

举头望明月

Ju tou wang ming yue

低头思故乡

Di tou si gu xiang

Thoughts on a tranquil night

Li Bai

Before my bed a pool of light,

Is it hoarfrost upon the ground?

Eyes raised, I see the moon so bright,

Head bent, in homesickness I'm drowned

2. 游子吟

You Zi Yin(孟郊 **Meng Jiao**)

慈母手中线，游子身上衣

Ci mu shou zhong xian, you zi shenshang yi

临行密密缝，意恐迟迟归

Lin xing mi mi feng, Yi kong chi chi gui

谁言寸草心，报得三春晖

Shui yan cun cao xin, bao de san chun hui

Song of a Roamer

Meng jiao

Loving mother hand hold thread,

Roaming son body wear clothes,

Before leave thickly thickly sew

Think afraid lately lately return

Who say inch grass mind,

Repay back three spring sunshine

3. 长恨歌

Chang Hen Ge(白居易 **Bai juyi**)

在天愿作比翼鸟

Zai tian yuan zuo bi yi niao

在地愿为连理枝

Zai di yuan wei lian li zhi

天长地久有时尽

Tian chang di jiu you shi jin

此恨绵绵无绝期

Ci hen mian mian wu jue qi

The everlasting longing

Bai juyi

On high, we'd be two birds flying wing to wing

On earth, two trees with branches twined

from spring to spring.

The boundless sky and endless earth may pass away,

But this vow unfulfilled will be regretted for aye.

4. 无题

Wu Ti(李商隐 **Li Shangyin**)

Li Shangyin

相见时难别易难

Xiang jian shi nan bie yi nan

东风无力百花残

Dong feng wu li bai hua can

春蚕到死丝方尽

Chun can dao si si fang jin

蜡炬成灰泪始干

La ju cheng hui lei shi gan

The one unnamed

Li Shangyin

Its difficult for us to meet and hard to part

The east wind is too weak to revive flowers dead

Spring silkworm till its death spins silk from love-sick heart

A candle but when burned out has no tears to shed

5. 锄禾

Chu He(李绅 **Li Shen**)

锄禾日当午

Chu he ri dang wu

汗滴禾下土

Han di he xia tu

谁知盘中餐

Shui zhi pan zhong can

粒粒皆辛苦

Li li jie xin ku

Weeding

Li Shen

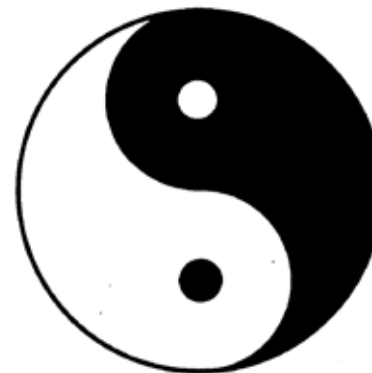
Farmers hoe weeds at blazing noon

And drops of sweat rain into soil

Who knows each grain on the plate

Is the laborers' toil and moil?

YIN & YANG



In Chinese philosophy, yin and yang represent the two primal cosmic forces in the universe. Yin (moon) is the receptive, passive, cold female force. Yang (sun) is masculine- force, movement, heat. The Yin Yang symbol represents the idealised balance of the forces and the equilibrium in the universe.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CHINA:

- ❑ 24 percent of the world speaks Chinese.
- ❑ In China there are over 200 different languages and regional dialects.
- ❑ In the period between 1990 to 2005, Chinese export to the United States increased 1600 percent. This means 16 times more exports in only 16 years.
- ❑ Chinese Emperor Shi Huang-Ti built a network of 270 palaces which were linked by tunnels, and as he was afraid of assassination, he slept in a different palace each night.
- ❑ Fingerprint was used in China as early as 700 A.D.
- ❑ China is the fourth largest country in the world with a surface area of 9,596,960 kilometer squares.
- ❑ Shanghai and Beijing are two of the largest and most populous cities in the world.
- ❑ Khubililai or Kublai Khan issued Silk Notes as currency. In ancient times there was also a jade currency.
- ❑ Acupuncture, the technique of treating illnesses with inserting sharp thin needles in various pressure spots, was discovered over 5000 years ago in China.
- ❑ The Chinese calendar is based on the Lunar Cycle. It is the oldest known calendar, originating from 2600 BC. It has twelve Zodiac signs. A complete cycle would take 60 years to complete.
- ❑ There is a myth that says that The Great Wall is visible from the outer space; but this is not true, because the wall is too thin. It is just a myth.

CHINESE INVENTIONS:

- ❑ Chinese invented the gunpowder; they began using gun powders at cannons after the 11th century.
- ❑ Fireworks are created by Chinese, also first rockets were used by them.
- ❑ Embroidery is invented by Chinese. It is used since 11th century BC.
- ❑ Porcelain and ceramics were invented by Chinese.
- ❑ Seismoscope which is used to detect earthquakes, was invented by a Chinese philosopher named Chang Heng in 132 A.D.
- ❑ The oldest calculator, Abacus was invented by Chinese.
- ❑ Kites were invented by Chinese.
- ❑ Paper was first invented in China in 105 AD. It was a closely guarded secret and didn't reach Europe until the 8th century.
- ❑ Paper currency was first introduced by the Chinese in the 800 BC.
- ❑ Compass was found by Chinese. After the compass, the ships could go further and they began finding new lands overseas. The oldest compass is told to be used by Chinese at 200 BC.
- ❑ Spaghetti was the “noodles” of Chinese people and it was brought to Italy by Marco Polo. Today, in China noodle is the national food.
- ❑ Chuko Liang of China is considered to be the inventor of the wheelbarrow.
- ❑ “Gou Gu Ding Li” theory at geometry (Pythagorism theory), was first mentioned at mathematic book named “Zhou Bi Suan Jing” which has been written at 200 BC
- ❑ Negative and positive numbers were first mentioned at “Jiu

Zhang Suan Shu” book written at 1st century and addition and subtractions were done there.

- ❑ On 13th century the mathematicians were working on 10 digit unknown equations. (At Europe, on 16th Century 3 digit unknown equations could be done)

CHINESE PROVERBS:

- ❑ Behind every able man, there are always other able men.
- ❑ If you have not the strength, don't carry heavy loads. If your words are worthless, don't give advice.
- ❑ The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man be perfected without trials.
- ❑ Men grow old, pearls grow yellow, and there is no cure for this.
- ❑ The woman who tells her age is either too young to have anything to lose or too old to have anything to gain.
- ❑ If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.
- ❑ Of all the alternatives, running away is the best.
- ❑ If you have never done anything evil, you should not be worrying about devils.
- ❑ He who sacrifices his conscience to ambition is like someone who burns a picture to obtain the ashes.
- ❑ He who cannot come to an agreement with his enemies is controlled by them.
- ❑ You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair.
- ❑ Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.
- ❑ A wise man makes his own decisions, an ignorant man follows

the public opinion.

- ❑ A great fortune depends on luck, a small one on diligence.
- ❑ Who is not satisfied with himself will grow; who is not sure of his own correctness will learn many things.
- ❑ Deep doubts, deep wisdom; small doubts, small wisdom.
- ❑ To believe in one's dreams is like spending the whole life asleep.
- ❑ Heaven has given you a soul and Earth will give you a grave.
- ❑ If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. But if you teach a man how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.
- ❑ In a broken nest there are few whole eggs.
- ❑ Parents who are afraid to put their foot down usually have children who step on their toes.
- ❑ A diamond with a flaw is better than a common stone that is perfect.
- ❑ A great fortune depends on luck, a small one on diligence.
- ❑ To attract good fortune, spend a new penny on an old friend, share an old pleasure with a new friend and lift up the heart of a true friend by writing his name on the wings of a dragon.
- ❑ If you must play, decide upon three things from the start: the rules of the game, the stakes, and the quitting time.
- ❑ The gem cannot be polished without friction, not a man perfected without trials.
- ❑ Habits are like cobwebs at first; they become cables at last.
- ❑ A thorn defends the rose, harming only those who would steal the blossom.
- ❑ If I keep a green bough in my heart, then the singing bird will come.
- ❑ Heaven has a road, but no one travels it; Hell has no gate but men will dig to get there.
- ❑ Look for a thing until you find it and you'll not lose your labor.

- ❑ He who treads softly goes far.
- ❑ A single conversation with a wise man is worth a month's study of books.
- ❑ To forgive is better to tolerate.
- ❑ The one who pursues revenge should dig two graves.
- ❑ If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed.
- ❑ I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.
- ❑ Do not anxiously hope for that which is not yet come; do not vainly regret what is already past.
- ❑ If you are making a plan for one year, plant rice. If you are making a plan for ten years, then plant trees. If you are making a plan for 100 years, then educate the whole mankind.
- ❑ The journey is the reward.
- ❑ In the midst of great joy, do not promise anyone anything. In the midst of great anger, do not answer any letter.
- ❑ One joy scatters a hundred grieves.
- ❑ He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.
- ❑ Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.
- ❑ Man who waits for roast duck to fly into mouth must wait very, very long time.
- ❑ Medicine can only cure curable diseases, but not always.
- ❑ The palest ink is better than the best memory.
- ❑ A hundred men may make an encampment, but it takes a woman to make a home.
- ❑ Beauty is the wisdom of women. Wisdom is the beauty of men.
- ❑ Going beyond is as bad as falling short.
- ❑ The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their right names.

- ❑ Patience is power; with time and patience the mulberry leaf becomes silk.
- ❑ Pleasure for one hour is a bottle of wine. Pleasure for one year is a marriage; but pleasure for a lifetime is a garden.
- ❑ To quarrel is like to cut water with a sword.
- ❑ If you must play, decide upon three things at the start: the rules of the game, the stakes, and the quitting time.
- ❑ Forethought is easy, repentance hard.
- ❑ Respect for ones parents is the highest duty of civil life.
- ❑ Insanity is doing the same thing in the same way and expecting a different outcome.
- ❑ He who is not satisfied with himself will grow; he who is not sure of his own correctness will learn many things.
- ❑ If a man fools me once, shame on him. If he fools me twice, shame on me.
- ❑ A truly great man never puts away the simplicity of a child.
- ❑ Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.
- ❑ Small ills are the fountains of most of our groans. Men trip not on mountains, they stumble on stones.
- ❑ A clever person turns great troubles into little ones and little ones into none at all.
- ❑ To be uncertain is to be uncomfortable, but to be certain is to be ridiculous.
- ❑ If you don't want anyone to know it, don't do it.
- ❑ The greatest conqueror is the one who overcomes the enemy without a blow.
- ❑ He who could foresee affairs three days in advance would be rich for thousands of years.
- ❑ One step at a time is good walking.
- ❑ With true friends . . . even water which is shared is sweet enough.
- ❑ Great souls have wills; feeble ones have only wishes.

STRANGE ANECDOTES

A CHILDREN SONG

別 生 氣

bie sheng qi

Don't get angry

小 姐 小 姐 別 生 氣，

xiao jie xiao jie bie sheng qi

Little girl, little girl, don't get angry

明 天 帶 你 去 看 戲，

ming tian dai ni qu kan xi,

Tomorrow we'll go to see a movie.

我 坐 椅 子 你 坐 地，

wo zuo yi zi ni zuo di,

I'll sit on the chair, you on the floor.

我 吃 香 蕉 你 吃 皮。

wo chi xiang jiao ni chi pi。

I'll eat the banana, you the peel.

Once we entered a taxi in Guangzhou city. The driver had an excellent knowledge of English of just 3 sentences. These sentences were: “Halloo!” “How ayyooooo!” “I lav yooooo!”

He says hello, he asks how you are and then he loves you. This was the loveliest driver that I have ever seen.



I was in Taipei, it was late afternoon. We wanted to have dinner, so we took a taxi. The driver was a very old guy with glasses like the bottom of a bottle in his face. We gave him the address card of the restaurant.

The driver held the card closer to his face, but he couldn't read it; then he opened the reading light on top and tried again but still he couldn't read it. Then he took his cigarette lighter from his pocket and lighted up and took the card closer to his eyes to read, but again he could not read. Wow!!! Then the card caught fire from the lighter and the card started burning. The driver nearly to burned his fingers and he put out the fire quickly with a panic reaction on his face.

Then as we all had a good laugh at this funny situation, the driver stopped the car and kicked us out from the taxi. We were astonished.



I was having dinner with my Chinese friends in a small restaurant; a woman came over to me and said “I am sorry to disturb” as she asked to my friends something in Chinese. She had asked from them whether I could teach English in their hospital,

because the doctors in that hospital needed practical English for daily use and they asked me to do it 😊 I thanked her, but said that I could not be the teacher they needed because I was a businessman.



Once it was the Canton Fair time in Guangzhou and most of the hotels are fully booked. I had reserved our hotel in Liu Hua Hotel near fair ground. The normal price was 40 USD for that hotel, but as it was the fair season I paid 250 USD for one night. The funny thing was not the price I paid, but my room. It was a suite room but it looked like a mad house more than a suite. At the time of fair the prices are 5 times higher than normal prices.



I had a very important business meeting at Shanghai. I prepared to wear business clothes but my luggage had not arrived to Shanghai so I had to wait for the next day to get my luggage. Then I went to the meeting with my daily clothes. It was not good but it is not very important to wear business suit at the business meetings. Chinese people like to wear comfortable clothes in business life.



I took a taxi to reach to my destination address. Gave the namecard to the driver for the address. He looked at the address and began laughing. He just mentioned me the next building, I should go to next building to my hotel 😊

Conclusion

I tried to give you a little vision of Chinese culture with this small book. I hope that you can use all these information in your daily life and travel to China.

You can find many interesting details on internet too. Besides historical and scientific facts, always search for personal experiences, because these experiences are very valuable. I tried to give you a clear image of the culture and I hope it will be useful and you will enjoy it in your life.



ABOUT ME

I was born in Elazig city at Turkey on 1970 and have been living at Istanbul since 1986.

I visit China and most Far-Eastern countries since 1991 because of my business. I am owner and partner to some companies at Turkey and China as Baylar, Baysan (on Turkey) , Hiwe (on China).

I can speak English, German, Arabic and Chinese.

I have been married since 1993 and have 2 sons and a daughter.

You can contact and write me about your ideas, questions, thoughts etc about this book and business help in China:

ali@baylar.com

alibaylar@hotmail.com

mail@seyyahamca.com

ALİ BAYLAR
İstanbul, March 2007

FOTOĞRAFLAR:



Bicycles



Student army with bicycles



China and bicycles



Chicken legs are very popular food



A typical chinese food at a restaurant



Snake skin



Insects are also delicious food for some chinese people



Seafood



Twins



Ningbo



Yiwu City



Ningbo



Yiwu



Tea Mountain



Snooker is a popular game



Frog Leg



Mahjiang game is played mostly everywhere



Everywhere is red



Everything from the sea is edible in China



Guangzhou



Goose meat is wonderful in South China



Chestnut



A restaurant at Shanghai



Xinjiang food is getting popular allover China



Advertiseents in Hong Kong



Snake



Chestnut



Guangzhou restaurants serve crocodile meat



Turtle soup



My luxurious dream car



Motorcycles are taking over the place from bicycles

Your rich and personal travel guide to discover China.

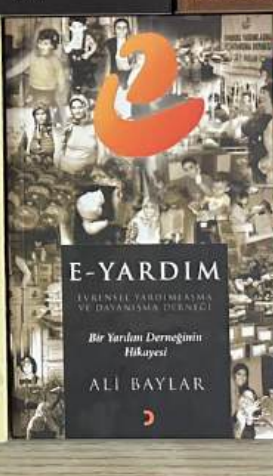
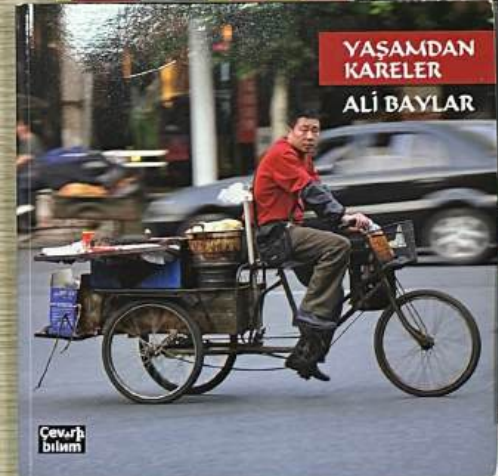
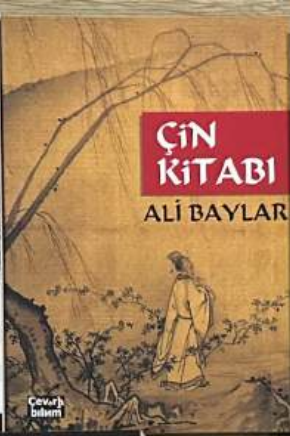
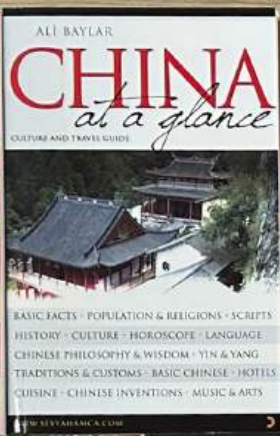
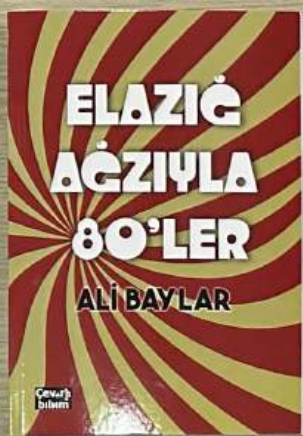
In this small but comprehensive handbook Ali Baylar takes you on a journey through beautiful China. Besides giving you practical information about how to work, live or travel in China, the author also uses his own experiences to give you a broader and more personal panorama of this ancient and colorful culture. Written by a businessman who has worked in China since 1991.

This book has something for everyone interested in China.

alibaylar@baylar.com

alibaylar@hotmail.com

wechat: abaylar



ALİ BAYLAR

CHINA

at a glance

CULTURE AND TRAVEL GUIDE



BASIC FACTS • POPULATION & RELIGIONS • SCRIPTS
HISTORY • CULTURE • HOROSCOPE • LANGUAGE
CHINESE PHILOSOPHY & WISDOM • YIN & YANG
TRADITIONS & CUSTOMS • BASIC CHINESE • HOTELS
CUISINE • CHINESE INVENTIONS • MUSIC & ARTS

WWW.SEYYAHAMCA.COM

CHINA

at a glance

CULTURE AND TRAVEL GUIDE

*Your rich and personal travel guide
to discover China.*

In this small but comprehensive handbook Ali Baylar takes you on a journey through beautiful China. Besides giving you practical information about how to work, live or travel in China, the author also uses his own experiences to give you a broader and more personal panorama of this ancient and colorful culture. Written by a businessman who has worked in China for over 20 years this book has something for everyone interested in China.



ISBN 978-605-5638-02-5



9 786055 618025



For online order: www.NETKIDAR.com