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Introducing some of our contributors, editors & designers

Our Editor-in-chief and Music Critic, Frank Hossack, has been a radio host and producer for the past 35 years, the past 26 of which working in media in China, in the process winning four New York Festivals awards for his work, in the categories Best Top 40 Format, Best Editing, Best Director and Best Culture & The Arts.

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Your Travels in the Digital Realm

See yourself on this page? #nanjingermagazine to be entered in our lucky draw!
Touchdown! Quite a chunk of readers to this issue will be brand new to Nanjing. To them, good choice; you have just landed in one of the most interesting cities on Earth, and, we would argue, the most livable city in China.

The Nanjinger wishes that you find your time in the Middle Kingdom’s southern capital to be a truly rewarding one, while we also hope that you find this publication as useful as it is fun for us to make.

Onto the theme of this month’s issue... Think, for a second, about the people who live on the other side of your hometown. You know, “that” side of town. Do you look up to them, or down on them?

For Nanjingers, it’s, almost universally, the latter. Read how Gulounians believe in their superiority, while the Luihenese are simply resigned to their fate, on pages 10-12.

Then we have our intergalactic guide to the administrative make up of PRC (p14-15), and a jaunt around some of downtown’s more interestingly named streets and alleys (p16-17).

Welcome to “Location” from The Nanjinger.

Ed.
For forty years have I looked back
With fondness fierce, jealousy tinged
At the me that once lived there or there or there;
Peered forward with foam-covered fantasies
Of what might be, where and how I might live next.
But truth be told, the only place that ever mattered
Was Here.

Here where the shadows dwell,
Where thoughts flicker and dance
to the vagaries of my memory’s melodies.
Here where silence permits present beauty to
percolate
Briefly to be sampled and then distilled,
Bottled in my mind for future appreciation.

Here—where the real me resides—
impermanently
Nanjing may be described as a mild and inclusive metropolis, where local people are known for their calm nature. But still waters run deep for this city, where chasms divide the people of Nanjing’s various districts, who have over time become simply unacceptable to each other. With raging heart, they are united by but one belief: that where they live will always be best.

Nanjing’s 11 districts comprise (fearful of reprisal, we list them alphabetically) Gaochun, Gulou, Jiangning, Jianye, Lishui, Liuhe, Pukou, Qinhuai, Qixia, Xuanwu and Yuhuatai, each unique with their own special character and charm. If only it were that simple...
Gulou District

Gulou means “drum tower”, the traditional heart of a Chinese city, often the highest central location where a tower would be built, housing a drum to send messages quickly to the populace. Hence, in the eyes of the people of Gulou District, they are the very centre of the universe. In addition to its excellent location, Gulou is also home to the cultural and administrative centres of Jiangsu Province. In terms of education, Gulou District ranks second to none.

Such is their snobbery, the people of Gulou regard those from Xuanwu, Qinhuai, Jianye and Jiangning as basically their younger brothers. While some of the other districts have little sense of existence for Gulou people, they reserve special scorn for Lishui, which is “only good for strawberries” and Gaochun, as “the other side of the galaxy”.

Xuanwu District

Most of Nanjing’s tourist attractions are in Xuanwu. Visitors exiting Nanjing Railway Station first see the beautiful Xuanwu Lake, needless to say an excellent recommendation. Then there are the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, Ming Palace, Presidential Palace and Jiming Temple, to name but a few. The remains of the ancient capitals of the Six Dynasties are in Xuanwu. As a result, Xuanwu District sees a spike in GDP as soon as the holiday season hits. For Xuanwu people, they are the face of Nanjing.

For Xuanwu people, few other districts are worthy of consideration. Special disdain, however, is reserved for Qixia District next door as basically their back garden. Qinhuai that is simply full of the “disgustingly rich”, Jianye that is “way too young”, Yuhuatai which is merely “full of nothing but programmers” and Jiangning people who obviously have no impression whatsoever of quality.

Qinhuai District

Do you know where the real Nanjing is? It is of course the south of Nanjing, origin of the ancient capital of Jinling. It is here where the culture of Nanjing originated, with its beautiful views, including the Qinhuai River, Confucius Temple and, today, Xinjiekou. Somewhat amusingly, Qinhuai people regard Nanjing’s CBD as, “the #1 commercial district in China”, implying that they are not only not a widely travelled bunch, but also blissfully unaware as to the extent of their country’s borders.

Look at other districts. Admittedly, the scenery in Xuanwu is good, but Gulou is just full of a lot of schools. Yes, Jianye has developed well in recent years, but in Qixia, the traffic is rough, while there are way too many people in Pukou. As for Jiangning, nothing real estate; Liuhe, only good for pig head meat; Gaochun, same but for crabs.

Jianye District

Jianye is the future of Nanjing! In less than ten years, it has transformed from a virtually untouched fishing village into Nanjing’s hottest location, with modern electric trams, high-rise buildings, and companies such as Alibaba and Xiaomi settled therein.

As such, the modern Jianyeite believes next-door Gulou to be very old-fashioned, that unlicensed taxis are everywhere in Pukou, Qixia is dirty and messy, while fluorescent green taxis are Jiangning’s only hallmark. Finally, Liuhe, Lishui and Gaochun provide Jianye people with nothing but an impression of remoteness.
**Yuhuatai District**

Yuhuatai District is the first software industry base in Nanjing, home to well-known enterprises such as Huawei, Zhongxing, Neusoft, Runhe, Zhongdian etc. Therefore, local people are proud to say Yuhuatai is worthy of the title, “Nanjing Silicon Valley”, while also comparing nearby Yuhua E-park and Chuqiao City with the famous Xinjiekou and Aqua City downtown.

Somewhat inevitably, given the aforementioned history, Yuhuatai people believe next-door Jianye to be little more than a waterfront. The Dongshan Goose is likely sole highlight of Jiangning. Xuanwu might as well be called Traffic Congestion District, and as for Gaochun, well, you might as well just leave Jiangsu province altogether.

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**Qixia District**

Nothing makes Qixia people more proud than their educational facilities. Colleges and universities in other districts are incomparable to Xianlin University City. Then there is also the scenery of Qixia, the red maple of Qixia Shan, Mufu Shan and the ebb and flow of Yanziji, all of which are famous among Nanjing people and great spots for visiting.

Moreover, compared with the old city, Qixia is less crowded while the air here is fresher. Housing prices are the cheapest in Nanjing; compared with other districts, it is likely easiest to settle in Qixia.

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**Jiangning District**

In the eyes of Jiangning people, Jiangning’s strength is absolutely not to be underestimated; step by step, the counter-attack from a previously small county has become the most successful development centre in Nanjing. Or so they say...

Yet it remains true that Nanjing Lukou International Airport has its home in Jiangning, and it is without doubt that the district gives a very favourable impression of Nanjing to those arriving by air, together with the beautiful green sceneries of Niushou Shan, Fang Shan and Jiangjun Shan. Jiangning is also Nanjing’s largest district, while the Baijia Lake business district is regarded, by locals at least, as “half Xinjiekou”.

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**Gaochun District**

As the southern gate of Nanjing, Gaochun is also home to China’s first Cittaslow, the international network of cities where living is good. Although they are aware economic development lags behind other districts, Gaochun people are proud of the words used to describe their beautiful and pleasant scenery, together with the yellow rape seed flower that blossoms everywhere during springtime. Folklore also abounds in Gaochun Old Street, Qiqiao Ancient Village, Gucheng Lake, all of which have a long ancient histories.

---

**Lishui District**

Lishui is now called the “Nanjing Back Garden”. In just a few years, the development of Lishui is amazing, with heavyweight projects one by one each year. While Lishui people think of themselves as “the immortals in the mountains”, to others, people will unconsciously think of strawberries and plum blossom, together with places such as Wuxiangshan, Fujiabian and Zhouyuan, that make for great spring and autumn outings.

---

**Liuhe District**

Liuhe is the northern gate of Nanjing and the hometown of the famed Yuhua Stone. It is true that Liuhe people feel forgotten, but they don’t care. For them, it is their cuisine that belongs in pride of place, delicacies such as pig’s head meat, leather belly and “活珠子”, an incubated chicken embryo, Vulgar to some, in the hands of Liuhe people, such are immediately reborn with unique flavour.

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**Pukou District**

Home to Nanjing’s second national park, Lao Shan, Pukou was previously a traditional district well known for beautiful scenic spots. Yet, after the establishment of Jiangbei New Area in 2015, Pukou’s development now keeps pace with rockets. Partially as a result, traffic is abysmal and the metro over crowded. As a result, Pukou people believe they are not now who they were, but they appreciate their high levels of happiness. After all, house prices in Pukou without doubt offer the best price/performance ratio in Nanjing.
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Your Place in the Chinese Scheme of Things

By Frank Hossack

That body appears very briefly at the start of the 1997 movie “Contact”, widely credited as having one of cinema’s best opening sequences; a zoom out from planet Earth to the Big Bang itself that illustrates just how insignificant we are in our creator’s overall plan.

Likewise, China is vast. So much so that, again, we feel as a dot in the cosmos, just one of perhaps slightly less than one and a half billion citizens in a land that theoretically spans five time zones.

Yet, everything has a place and a feeling of belonging. Thankfully, each and every dot in the Middle Kingdom is subjugated to and ever larger hierarchy. From the all-seeing, overarching motherland, right down to the few neighbours that comprise a “Dan Yuan” (单元), we are but one, well-organised community, or ant colony, if you’re having that termed a “Bad China Day”.

With the 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing just last month, and for the purposes of this article, I want you to imagine that the “Xiao Qu” (小区) in which you live in Nanjing as being on the surface of the Moon.
Therein, the compound is administered by the “building management”; we can think of them as NASA. The next compound bordering yours has a different building management responsible, perhaps the European Space Agency, and so on.

It is beyond the scope of the article to delve into the various building managements out there; suffice to say that they exhibit roughly the same degrees of mismanagement, ineptitude, bureaucracy and corruption as the aforementioned agencies that deal with off-world affairs.

So our moon is now populated with all of these many residential compounds, to the extent that the moon itself is classified as a sub district, that together with our neighbouring moons, belong to a planet, or in China, the district of a city.

In a practical, real-world example, Royal Family Gardens (RFG) in Xianlin, is a compound popular with foreigners in Nanjing. RFG’s building management has told The Nanjinger that more than 200 foreign families live therein.

It, together with not-far-away Evian Valley, another hit with the expats, both belong to Xianlin Sub District that forms part of Qixia District in Nanjing. A total of 12 sub districts make up Qixia, with the remaining districts of Nanjing sporting similar numbers.

We can therefore think of the sub districts as moons that orbit the same planet, otherwise known as the city’s districts: moons RFG and Evian Valley as rocky outposts circling planet Qixia, as it were.

Continuing our galactic metaphor, Lishui and Gaochun districts would likely be the Pluto and Eris of our Nanjing solar system, both in terms of their remoteness and that they be the bodies formerly known as counties, until the city’s administrative rearrangement in 2013.

Then there are the two big boys; Jiangning that is Jupiter and Liuhe starring Saturn. For these two are by far and away Nanjing’s two largest districts. Next would come Pukou as Uranus, Xixia played by Neptune, then Jiangye, Qinhuai, Gulou, Xuanwu and Yuhuatai, represented by the four inner, smaller planets that are Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, plus the asteroid belt (sic, and in no particular order).

We might know them as residential compounds, gated communities or simply complexes, but the Xiao Qu is the basic administrative division from which the geographical arrangement of all that comprises the People’s Republic begins.

All of this makes Nanjing the Sun.

Our cosmic breakdown of China’s administrative divisions is nearly complete. While we may have to shy away from the term “globular cluster” for fear of the Astro Physicists debunking our theory, but metaphorically, it has value in our over generalization of the make up of the Milky Way.

With that said, we shall next call the cities that comprise the Yangtze River Delta (pretty much everything between here and Shanghai, and some of the surrounding bits) as a globular cluster. It, together with the many other cities nationwide that constitute out galaxy’s further-flung stars, mean that we can pronounce China as our galaxy that is the Milky Way.

QED.
LIKE MOST CHINESE CITIES, THE MAJOR STREETS OF NANJING ARE NAMED AFTER OTHER CITIES IN CHINA.

As per the debate over culture, identity and symbols in the “politics of place” branch of geography, so it be that Zhongshan Lu be the most important street in any Chinese city (Sun Yat-sen’s Simplified Chinese name is Sun Zhongshan) and that Shanghai Lu in Nanjing is a major thoroughfare but Yangzhou Lu is one stop short of a lane. Yet it is here, within the strokes of the Chinese characters providing these lesser known alleys with their monikers where much more insight into Nanjing’s past is to be found.

GIVEAWAY HISTORIES of NANJING STREETS

颜料坊 Yanliao Fang (Workshop)

The silk industry in Nanjing was developed during the Ming and Qing Dynasties, and the scale of private enterprises engaged therein exceeded that of the government. It is said that silk washed by the waters of the Qinhuai River was the most suitable for weaving “black satin” and “azure satin”. The area around Zhonghua Men in Qinhuai District grew to be a concentration of silk industry since the Eastern Wu Dynasty, where silk workshops could be seen everywhere.

“Yanliao” means “pigment” and the enemy of pigment is moisture. Given that the last thing any self-respecting pigment maker would want is a flooded workshop releasing tides of coloured waters into the city, Yanliao Fang, that no longer exists, was located at Zhonghua Men since it is the highest point in this vicinity of Nanjing.
Rouge Lane

No longer a busy street, in ancient times, young girls from rich families used to go shopping in Rouge Lane for the best-quality rouge powder, together with other various other make-up and jewelry.

Sheepskin Lane

Nanjing has a lot of streets that include the character, “羊” (sheep) and Sheepskin Lane was once the epicentre of sheepskin shops and lamb vendors. Nowadays, those vendors are long gone, having been replaced by a concentration of restaurants with more than 40 delicacies hidden in this alley.

Mingwa Lang

Mingwa Lang, dating back to the early Ming Dynasty, used to be one of the city’s main commercial roads, being a prosperous commercial block. Mingwa refers to the transparent tiles embedded in the windows or ceilings of houses. Made from the translucent shells of oysters or mussels, or even lamb horn, Mingwa Lang was the major marketplace for the colourful glass, also now an eatery street in Xinjiekou.

Gongjian Fang

Have a not-so-close look at the first character above, 弓. Wouldn’t happen to resemble a bow, would it? And so it came to be that the street Gongjian Fang was named on account of the prevalence of bow and arrow workshops in the vicinity. Their location is clearly recorded in the book “Note of Zhengde Jiangning County” from the Ming dynasty; “Arrow Workshop, east to the Iron Workshop, south of Yatou Lane, north of Huolou Lane. Bow’s Workshop is to the west of Iron Workshop, north of Sanshan Street, south of Pigment Workshop”.

Crane Street

A piece of folklore goes thus; a poor and single mother lived alone in this area with her son, relying on weaving brocade to make a living, using materials donated from the owner of a nearby silk shop. Touched by their hard work and kindness, the seven fairies of the sky sent two beautiful cranes down to Earth to fly around their looms. From then on, brocade materials magically appeared on the looms each day. The mother and son no longer needed to borrow materials from the owner, and life became better. Seeing that they produced better brocade, the enraged silk-shop owner forced the mother to tell the truth, whenupon the owner’s greed impelled him to rush into their house in a desperate hunt for the finished silk. Suddenly, a pair of beautiful cranes descended, severely pecking the head of the silk-shop owner and his housekeeper, in the process saving the lives of the mother and son. Ever since, people have called this Crane Street.

Golden Millet Nunnery

It is well known today that “An” (庵) usually refers to a nunnery, but in ancient times it meant a thatched hut, that is, a so-called “nunnery with grass” (结草为庵). Since the Han Dynasty, a number of temples have been built in which Buddhist nuns can live and work, and therefore the word “An” has become synonymous with nunneries.
While museums around the world are banning the use of selfie sticks, a new kind of exhibition space is making them practically a necessity. I’m talking about the so-called “selfie museum.”

Why not “dive into our world of wonder” at 29Rooms in New York full of immersive installations “where YOU are centre stage”, “live the dream” at San Francisco’s Museum of Ice Cream, or “bask in multi-sensory, psychedelic pizza joy” at the Museum of Pizza?

Or if the US is a bit far, there’s eggventuring to be done at the Shanghai Egg House, swinging on giant eggshells or frolicking sunny side up on a bouncy frying pan. Even Nanjing had its own selfie popup earlier this year, Warm Box, where you could bathe in rubber ducks and gallivant through sheets of fluorescent plastic.

If the best bit about art is you, then selfie museums are where it’s at. If however you chime more with the dictionary definition of museum: a building in which objects of historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural interest are stored and exhibited, then you might think otherwise.

So are these highly Instagramable (or Wechat-able) “selfie factories” and “knock-off museums” as they’ve been called, just a load of narcissistic nonsense? Or is there really something we can gain from them?

The art world tends to take a snobbish attitude towards anything popular, meaning selfie museums are quickly dismissed as kitsch. But where do you draw the line when it comes to immersive installation? Yayoi Kusama’s infinity rooms combine hanging lights with mirrors to create kaleidoscopic havens that are, quite frankly, awesome, while James Turrell’s Rain Room pours on everything but the people who walk beneath it. These immersive works, like selfie museums, draw enormous crowds. They get people out. But is a visit to the Colour Factory, Andytopia or Dream House really about the sensations and emotions you feel when knee deep in sprinkles, or are visitors seeking a dopamine rush from clocking up likes on social media?

Egg House, we are told, is a place for “shareable fun time to spend with friends and family”, but founder Xu Biubiu admits that most people are there for photos. “In modern cities”, she says, “Everyone has pressure to get content for social media.”

Selfie museums, and the filtered, virtual experiences they create, are on the whole, short-lived popup affairs. At ¥60 and ¥200 a pop for the Shanghai Egg House, they’re not cheap either. But the market for funky photo spots is huge and museums would be stupid not to ignore that fact completely.
“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

Maimonides
Blue Sky was founded in 2002. It is one of the earliest foreign bars and restaurants in Nanjing. It shares Australia's and western healthy lifestyle and mainstream cultures, and is also a friendly international community and gathering place for Chinese and foreigners' cultures, business and social contacts in Nanjing.
Imagine yourself sitting cross-legged with the master Kongzi (Confucius), outdoors in his garden pavilion, watery sunlight filtering through the trees. After some time, he turns to you and says, “This is ‘The Way’ and it is indisputable”. Now, depending on your knowledge of the Confucian classics, you might be expected to meet him with a look of puzzlement, followed by a pregnant pause, “Ah.....”

Your enigmatic chum and his immediate followers are seen by many as the founders (or perhaps “popularisers” is a better term) of Confucian (Rujia) thought in China beginning around 500 BCE. His teachings in the “Five Classics” (Wujing) comprise the foundation of thought of a diverse group of scholars and sages who promulgated the idea of the “ren”, essentially a way to seek “human-ness” in everyday life.

Confucians sought self-cultivation through acquisition of knowledge, which informed a correct ethical code applicable to life. Through this correct direction and enlightenment of the mind (a finding and following of “The Way” or Dao), ren or complete human-ness regarding others could be reached. The means of reaching such a state, while not open to all, could be achieved through self-discipline and education, principally following the teaching of an older master.

Reverence to the wisdom of age and the practice of following, rather than pursuing a more active individual style of self-development is typical of the structural hierarchies endemic to Confucian thought.

As the master says, “If your desire is for good, the people will be good. The moral character of the ruler is the wind; the moral character of those beneath him is the grass. When the wind blows the grass bends”.

Of central importance to Kongzi’s conception of a human, ethical society, is the idea of filial piety or devotion towards one’s family members. The family’s hierarchical structure mirrors the structured positions that people should occupy in society, with those that have found the path to the true Dao occupying the higher echelons.

A knock on the pavilion door, barely audible above the sound of Kongzi’s heavy breathing. A small impish face pokes through the doorway. Straightening his silk cap, he hurries forth, stumbling in his haste, before skidding on to his knees in front of master Kongzi and stooping immediately into an elaborate kow-tow “Master”, he splutters.

“You can bring the tea, Xunzi”, Kongzi says speaking as though addressing the open window.

“Right away master”, Xunzi hurries out again, giving his companion who has been waiting at the door a sickly leer.
in

a gem of a country on China’s far western border and off the radar for many, we felt like intrepid travellers as we set off for a week to visit Almaty, Kazakhstan, conveniently located on the Silk Road. This we combined with an overnight return train journey to the freshly-renamed capital city Nur Sultan.

Kazakhstan is confident and blossoming country, the ninth largest in the world, at ease with itself and benefitting from its immense oil and mineral reserves.

Enchanting Kazakhstan; Steroids on the Steppe

By Snooze Northcott
Like many of the former-USSR countries in the region, Kazakhstan has seen GDP sky rocket in the last 15 years. A cocky student confided that his county has within its rich soils every item on the Periodic Table save only two. Sadly, my poor science performances at school meant that I missed out on finding out which are the missing couplet.

Since those harsh days before independence from Russia, the recently retired President established a brash new capital in the centre of his country. Formerly known as Astana and renamed only days before our arrival, Nur Sultan is a metropolis on steroids.

Norman Foster’s giant transparent yurt engulfs an animated dinosaur park, a sand encrusted beach in its apex wards off the worst of the extreme weather, while of course we found the ubiquitous shopping centre.

Elsewhere, the somewhat grotesque “Tree of Life” contains a massive golden hand print in its neon branches of their erstwhile leader. Nur Sultan is not for the faint hearted and we were glad to re-board our luxury train to return the country’s social and cultural hub; Almaty.

The highlight on our smart Spanish train, apart of course from the stunning views from our window, was the wholly unexpected Movenpick ice cream, which we lashed with local vodka. To go with it, and providing endless entertainment, the steppe gave us huge flocks of sheep, cattle, wild horses, countless birds of prey, murmurations of starlings in the budding fruit trees along the route and elegant, muscular shepherds on horseback.

Back in leafy Almaty, we were overwhelmed by a pandoras box of unexpected delights. A perfect day trip comprised well-organised and impressive ski slopes in the mountains which provide a sensational backdrop to the city, plus the ravishing 300-metre deep Charyn Gorge, a miniature Grand Canyon but with no one around, perfect blue skies and a cool breeze it was stunning. The towering red sandstone natural sculptures of the latter loomed above us as we trekked along the valley floor with falcons overhead and a turquoise river at its base.

On another day we headed to Tamgaly, where over 4,000 Bronze-Age petroglyphs were discovered in the 1950s, not drawn or painted, but carved and gouged out of the rock; well-preserved etchings of curly horned deer, animated figures hunting, riding and dancing and large gooseberry headed gods.

Back in Almaty, we glammed up for an elegant soiree at the refurbished opera house to see “Giselle”. As we prepared for our departure, the city hosted the closing concert of the city’s 21st Jazz Festival, providing a fitting end to an almost perfect concoction of surprises and enchantment.
Strainer readers may recall, about 3 years ago, reading about a new concept in tea preparation. It was called InWE Tea (因味茶). It exerted on the tea leaf high pressure as well as high heat, much like brewing an espresso. I was excited.

Maybe I was wrong to be too excited. While most of the company’s tea bars do still exist, my prediction that we would all start fracking our tea leaves has been unfulfilled; tea capsule machines have not become mainstream. Except that aluminium tea capsules are appearing.

Xiao Guan Cha’s (小罐茶) aluminium capsules are much larger than Nespresso’s or InWE’s. But they don’t slot into anyone’s machine; a human hand must unpeel the foil lid and shake out the leaves. The packaging employs brushed aluminium because, you know, MacBook. It feels premium.

Actually, aluminium is a pretty green material (Americans at this point will accuse me of wasting letter “i”s every time I write this metal’s name. Please be assured that all these letters are sustainably recycled from old Apple mp3 players). But this Xiao Guan Cha packaging is a design-led indulgence, a tiny pinch of tea leaves rattling around an oversized capsule in a large (VEry beautiful) cardboard/wooden/tin box.

And the tea is just average. Not brilliant. Not terrible. Just average.

Jingdong currently sells their starter pack (20 capsules) for ¥50. That’s about ¥2.2 per cup, because (unlike in the stashed-full website images) each contains only that many leaves. Paying for an individual capsule can cost as much as ¥50.

Twelve varieties of tea feature in their core range, mostly the usual suspects: Maofeng Green (黄山毛峰), Dianhong Red (滇红) etc joined by Raw Puer (生普) and Dongding (冻顶乌龙) oolong.

The brand is the brainchild of Du Guoying (杜国楹), the teacher-turned-entrepreneur who brought us the 8848 mobile phone, a ¥1,499 handset finished in stitched leather and die-cast metal (and all in the best possible taste). It followed on from electronic dictionaries (endorsed by Da Shan), children’s sportswear and an executive tablet. After each of these ventures, the founder has quickly sold on.

Xiao Guan Cha’s TV commercial features Rolls Royces greeting private jets at night. Never has Du’s theme been so clear; this is a “niubi product”.

The website boasts the direct “handmade” role of eight named “Tea Masters”. Apparently, ex-Apple Tim Kobe was hired for the design of Xiao Guan’s stores. Our local shopping mall sells a bespoke box containing two Xiao Guan tea capsules with a pack of Chunghwa (中华) cigarettes. A good pairing.

Xiao Guan Cha is a true “consumption upgrade” product, demanding more from consumers than they ever previously paid, bringing benefits beyond mere flavour.

Perhaps that will help to elevate tea from its Cinderella status as ‘everyday’ and ‘local’. I’m glad that this brand’s range spans real leaves, rather than the usual flowers, candied fruits and emulsifiers.

But there’s a real danger of an “emperor’s new clothes” effect spreading from here. As well as “niubi”, online comments have described this brand as “智商税” a tax on the stupid. And the danger to tea is especially strong if the CEO chooses, as is apparently his wont, to cut and run after making a quick killing.
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Beef Wonton and Guotie as a meal is the standard fare at Li Ji. Guotei with a beef filling, together with boiled beef tendon soup, served with spring onion and for which the skin is fired with rapeseed oil, crispy and chewy. On the other hand, the definitive Guotie should be golden in appearance, crescent-shaped, and crisp on the bottom with its stuffing in clusters.

Li Ji’s recipe secret is hidden in the chefs’ practice of their special cooking skills and the ingredients; all beef selected carefully, tendons inside removed meticulously. Take a bite, and feel the flow of fresh beef in your mouth. No one can resist such a fragrance of fried food.

Such is Li Ji’s reputation that citizens as far away as other districts bother to travel from home just in order to fulfill their appetite. Wan Quan, a retiree who lives in Gulou District, said, “I woke up early this morning just to come and have Guotie here.” He claims that after trying Li Ji’s Guotie, he is no longer interested in other restaurants.

You will be surprised by its affordable price, ¥7.5 for five Guotie, ¥6.5 for Beef Wonton. With these prices, delicious tastes and the associated success, no wonder Li Ji now is establishing itself as a chain all over China. Here in Nanjing though, remains the original, ever since its opening 30 years ago.

Forget about Laomendong, always swarmed with tourists and the prerequisite fakes and inflated prices; Qijiawan is the best choice for the authentic taste that attracts people from far away, just for a bite.

Li Ji Restaurant is located at 1 Dadingxiang 打钉巷1号. Tel: 52257736
A beautiful woman standing next to a car is not necessarily a model. In fact, she is a champion racing driver. Nanjing girl, Yang Jinhan, is the driver in question, and one who is also a dance teacher. She joined the national gymnastics team at the age of 12 and was a runner-up at the world championships.

So how did she open a restaurant? She told The Nanjinger it was because she had always had a literary heart and had always liked the atmosphere of literature and art. She also liked going to bookstores and drinking coffee, and so she opened this Western restaurant on Shanghai Lu.

Fresh Colour is easy to find; there is a car about to dash out from the signage. The car theme continues inside with an overall style that is retro and simple, surrounding the three tables and private room therein.

Culinary credentials are established with the fact that the day shift chef worked previously for the Westin Nanjing, and the night shift chef the Intercontinental Greenland Hotel. Together, they serve up a high standard of grilled steaks, salads, soups, snacks, dessert and drinks.

Good western food in Nanjing is generally very expensive, but Fresh Colour bucks the trend, is good and cheap, and complimented by a very relaxed atmosphere, in which the boss wants guests to be friends.

Recommendations at Fresh Colour include Eggs Benedict, the Classic brunch dish with poached eggs, avocado and bacon with mustard mayonnaise, and Lamb Chops, a serving of four lamb chops with aromatic black-pepper sauce and mashed potatoes.

Then there are the Pumpkin Soup, moderately sweet with a very thick milky fragrance making it more than appetising. Smoked Chicken and Pumpkin Pasta; juicy with healthy vegetables, BBQ Pork Ribs; a new dish of tender BBQ pork ribs with sweet red wine sauce, and Tuna Salad; grilled black-pepper tuna with a lime vinaigrette as a dipping sauce.

Fresh Colour turns into a small bar in the night. In addition to the cocktails on the wine list, guests can have drinks mixed according to their needs and tastes.

Usually less crowded at Lunchtime, it is best to make reservations for dinner, on account of the restaurant’s size.

Fresh Colour is located at 83-6 Shanghai Lu 上海路 83-6 Tel 18905161863
Two students, Tara Thorne and Lucas Shepherd, from The British School of Nanjing, joined 40 others from around the world for a week-long Summit on the rights of the child that included speeches at the UN General Assembly and the High Level Political Forum meetings in New York. The culminating event, a Gala Dinner was a labour of love between UNICEF, Nord Anglia Education and music project, "Sing for Hope".
Mundo Lingo has been held in Nanjing more than 30 times now, with the activity bringing together speakers of Chinese, English, Korean, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Hindi, Arabic and Sign Language, just to name a few, so that they may practice languages and experience different cultures. Mundo Lingo Nanjing runs every Friday evening from 7pm at ZOOMIX on Taiping Nan Lu. Entry is free of charge.
The four most likely scenarios for foreigners to be in Nanjing are participating in an exchange program, studying for a higher degree, looking for a long-term job, or placement from an employer overseas. During the course thereof, the difference in culture and laws can bring about many issues. The Nanjinger urges all to pay attention to the following.

**Should One Rent in Advance?**

With the assistance of the internet, finding a home before departure is not difficult. Even though it is recommended for travellers to speak with landlords and obtain pictures of accommodations before one travels to the new country, one should book a hotel for the first few nights. This way one may see the house with one’s own eyes, and have time to further discuss the lease. The lease should be written in English and specify all utilities included in the rent. Please also be noted that, in China, one shall go through registration formalities with public security organs in places of residence within 24 hours of arrival, as described in Article 39 of the Exit-Entry Administration Law of PRC, otherwise a warning plus a fine is likely to be applied.

**Is One Allowed to Work?**

It is important to check whether one is allowed to work before applying for a job in a foreign country. In most cases, if one enters the country under a tourist visa, one cannot work. For example, foreigners are not allowed to be hired legally in China without a working permit, pursuant to the Circular on the Issuance of the Regulations on the Management of the Employment of Foreigners in China. Besides, those under a student visa are unable to work outside school or be hired as intern without the consent of their school, as regulated in Article 22 of Administrative Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on Entry and Exit of Aliens.

Obtaining the approval from school is not enough, one need apply for the annotation of information such as the place and period for work with the exit and entry administration institution of the public security authority. One should also understand the basic regulations in regards to the maximum permitted working hours, minimum wage and other documents, such as work permit, that grant the right to work in a foreign country. It is especially advisable to be aware of employers who are willing to hire with a tourist visa; it may mean they are looking for someone who would work for a low salary and extra hours.

**Is Travel Insurance a Must?**

Travel insurance is for the purpose of paying expenses due to losses occurring abroad, such as loss of luggage, accident, illness or other risks, depending on the insurance package which was opted. When arriving in an unfamiliar land, especially for first-time travellers, mistakes and losses are very likely to occur. Even though Chinese government does not issued any mandatory regulations requiring foreign tourists to buy travel insurance, be sure to note that in China, the United States and many countries in Europe, medical expenses are often quite expensive. It is therefore recommended to find a reliable insurance company and buy suitable insurance, even if the trip lasts only a few months.

**Should One Pay Tax in China?**

The general principal is if one works in any country, one shall pay personal income tax on the salary earned therein. For example, foreigners living in China for more than 90 days will be required to pay taxes after the new revised Individual Income Tax Law that was implemented in January 1, 2019. Meanwhile, depending on the national regulations and the travel period, one may still have to pay tax for income back home. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to ask for clarification from the tax authorities of both countries, as well as to talk to those with similar experiences, in order to strictly follow the law.

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To assist with journey planning, The Nanjinger’s Metro Map includes first and last train times for every station.

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