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Editor's Note

JUNE 2020

Greetings, dear readers.

This month's cover story is a fun one, where we introduce 10 individuals who are living in China and making an impact. The common thread: All of them were either born overseas or their parents were foreign-born. Admittedly, coming up with a subtitle for this issue was tricky, as several of the people featured on this list are foreign-born, naturalized PRC citizens, meaning the use of the word 'foreigner' was not appropriate. Likewise, one of the individuals, Isabel Crook, was born in Chengdu, which rendered the term 'foreign-born' also inappropriate. We also considered 'non-Chinese' to describe our influencers, but that is also problematic. In the end, we settled on 'internationals' and I think it applies to all of the dynamic and diverse people we profiled, who trace their roots to various places around the globe. You can check out this month's cover story on pages 40-51.

Paul French returns to the hallowed pages of *That's* this month to talk about his new book (page 12) and, in our travel section, we hear from Zoe Stephenson, a Beijing-based expat who has been stranded in Tonga for months amid the ongoing pandemic (page 30).

Of course, there is so much more, but I'll let you discover the rest of it on your own!

Until next month,



Matthew 'Rusty' Bossons
Editor-in-Chief

that's
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Hourly updates on news, current affairs and general weirdness from around the Greater Bay Area and China.

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THE NATION

Strangers on the Praia

The Shanghai Jews who Moved on to Macao, p12



Popeyes Arrives
P10



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HAPPY PLACES

China Reveals 100 Happiest Tourist Attractions

By Ned Kelly

When is The Happiest Place on Earth not The Happiest Place on Earth (and not even The Happiest Place in China)? When it is ranked by the happiness index for tourist attractions, jointly released at the end of April by the China Tourist Attractions Association and a research institution under the OCT Group, a leading theme park developer and operator in the country.

Based on online comments from tourists who had visited some 1,181 attractions in 2019, The Palace Museum – located in the Forbidden City in Beijing – ranked first, followed by Shanghai Disney Resort and Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, respectively.

A couple of notable omissions from the top 10 are the Terracotta Army in Xi'an, which came in at 11th,

and the Great Wall of China, which was nowhere to be seen on this list. Controversial. As is the inclusion of so many destinations that feature wild animals in captivity.

The report noted that, with attractions across the country closing due to the coronavirus outbreak, China's tourism sector can expect a slump in income of about 30% this year. Tourism got a bit of a boost last month, with the May Day holiday witnessing a travel turnout that surpassed the 80-plus million trips forecasted by Chinese travel company Trip.com. Unfortunately, trip numbers fell by more than 40% compared to last year's 195 million domestic trips.

Fingers crossed the tourism industry sees needed gains during this month's Dragon Boat Festival.

Top 10 Happiest Tourist Attractions

1. The Palace Museum, Beijing
2. Shanghai Disneyland, Shanghai
3. Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, Chengdu
4. Hong Kong Disneyland, Hong Kong
5. Chimelong Safari Park, Guangzhou
6. Chimelong Ocean Kingdom, Zhuhai
7. Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park, Shanghai
8. Shanghai Wild Animal Park, Shanghai
9. Presidential Palace, Nanjing
10. Summer Palace, Beijing

To see the full list in Chinese, scan the QR code.



THE BUZZ

RANDOM NUMBER

904 MILLION

... that's how many internet users China had as of March of this year, according to a new report on China's internet development, as cited by Xinhua.

The number of internet users, commonly referred to as netizens, is up 75 million from the end of 2018, and now accounts for nearly 20% of internet users around the globe. According to internetworldstats.com, China has more netizens than Africa and North America combined.

The report also notes that China's internet penetration is up to 64.5%, almost a 10% increase since the end of 2017. (Internet penetration refers to the portion of a population that can access the internet.) China's penetration rate still lags behind Europe (87.2%) and North America (94.6%).

A major reason for the country's steady increase in internet penetration is in part due to the high accessibility of smartphones – 99.3% of people who access the internet in China use their mobile phone.

With Chinese mobile phone vendors like Huawei, Xiaomi, Vivo and Oppo offering affordable phone models, folks in China's rural regions have greater access to smartphones. In 2018, a study showed that 92.9% of families living in the countryside own mobile phones.



DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

Popeyes

Shanghai is now home to China's first-ever Popeyes location. The popular Louisiana-style fried chicken joint officially opened its doors on the 15th of last month on the corner of Huaihai Lu and Chengdu Lu.

For non-Yanks, founded in 1972 in New Orleans, Popeyes is "the second-largest quick-service [read: fast food] chicken restaurant group, measured by number of units, after KFC." You might remember America absolutely losing their shtick over a chicken sandwich last summer, resulting in somebody being stabbed to death for one in Maryland. Yup, stabbed to death over a chicken sandwich. A Popeyes chicken sandwich, no less. We can only assume that they are extremely yummy.

Popeyes has big plans to become China's most popular fried chicken joint, aiming to open 1,500 restaurants in the PRC over the next 10 years. They still have a way to go to rule the China roost though; KFC currently has a whopping 6,300 branches in over 1,300 cities across the country.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"I thought it was news from 1920. Hangzhou Metro should not only apologize to this lady, but should apologize to the whole society for the adverse effects"

So wrote one Weibo user after a subway security guard in Hangzhou refused to allow a woman wearing a long, spaghetti-strap dress onto the metro. Only after putting on a friend's shirt was she allowed to enter. The woman wrote about her experience on Douban, which was met with pages of comments. Many commenters were bewildered, asking which station that the incident took place and assuring the woman that it must be the staff's personal problem.

The head of the subway station later justified the security guard's actions as 'looking out for the woman's best interests.' The rationale from the manager was, "the temperature difference between the inside and outside of the station is large, and I am afraid that she will catch a cold." An employee told Cover News that Hangzhou Metro's rules only state that bare feet and nudity are not allowed, and make no mention of bare shoulders. The employee also didn't address whether the security guard would face any type of repercussion.

MANDARIN MUMBLES

'Pet' Names

猫奴
māo nú
cat person

猫:māo, cat
奴:nú, slave

A: 我上个月买了房子,现在是房奴了。
Wǒ shànggèyuè mǎi le
fángzi, xiànzài shì fángnú le。
I bought a house last month so I am
a mortgage slave now.

B: 我上个月买了一只猫,现在是猫奴了。
Wǒ shànggèyuè mǎi le yī zhī
māo, xiànzài shì māonú le。
I bought a cat last month so I am a
cat slave now.

狗奴
gǒu nú
dog person

狗:gǒu, dog
奴:nú, slave

A: 明晚去吃火锅吗?
míngwǎn qù chī huǒguō ma?
Shall we have hotpot tomorrow
night?

B: 不去,我想在家陪我的狗。
bú qù, wǒ xiǎng zài jiā péi wǒ de
gǒu。
No, I want to stay at home and
be with my dog.

A: 狗奴。
gǒu nú。
Dog slave.



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STRANGERS ON THE PRAIA

The Shanghai Jews who Moved on to Macao

By Paul French

S*trangers on the Praia* is a project that began by accident. It has evolved from a short story into a podcast (that got nominated for a New York Radio Festival award) and now to a short book. It continues to grow and expand. Who knows where it will end?

It all began in a Hong Kong library looking at the late autumn and early winter of 1941 shipping records between Shanghai and Macao. I can't even remember now why I was looking at those records. Perhaps I was just interested in who was coming and who was going in and out of Shanghai in those dangerous days?

In 1941, the International Settlement of Shanghai was surrounded by Japanese troops; France had fallen to the Nazis in the previous year and pro-Vichy officials were running the French Concession, actively hunting down any Free Frenchmen sympathetic to General de Gaulle. I was interested in those men and women – Shanghai's Free French. But they are another story. This is the story that found me...

In among the passenger lists were names that

intrigued me: Reuben, Lefko, Ruckenstein, Kohn, Rosenblum. Jewish, obviously. I tracked them back. They listed their nationality as German and Austrian – even though neither of those countries would have renewed their passports in 1941 due to their anti-Semitism. These people were effectively stateless.

Their last known addresses they had provided the steamship company also intrigued me: Seward Road, Yoochow Road, Wayside, Tong Shan Road, Ward Road, Kung Ping Road, Muirhead Road. All roads, their names now changed, that form the blocks of the old Jewish ghetto in Tilanqiao.

I searched for more names: Fabritsky, Chaimowitz, Spielmann, Kahn, Herzberg, Berger, Levy, Silberstein, Sachs, Weiss. Occasionally a Pole or a Czech citizen in with the Germans and Austrians. Chaou Foong Road, Dent Road, Chusan Road, Lay Road. More ghetto roads, more ghetto addresses.

Eventually I counted nearly a hundred Jewish names; a hundred Shanghai addresses, all Hongkou. Over two-thirds were women; no children, none married, the oldest just 28. What was going on?



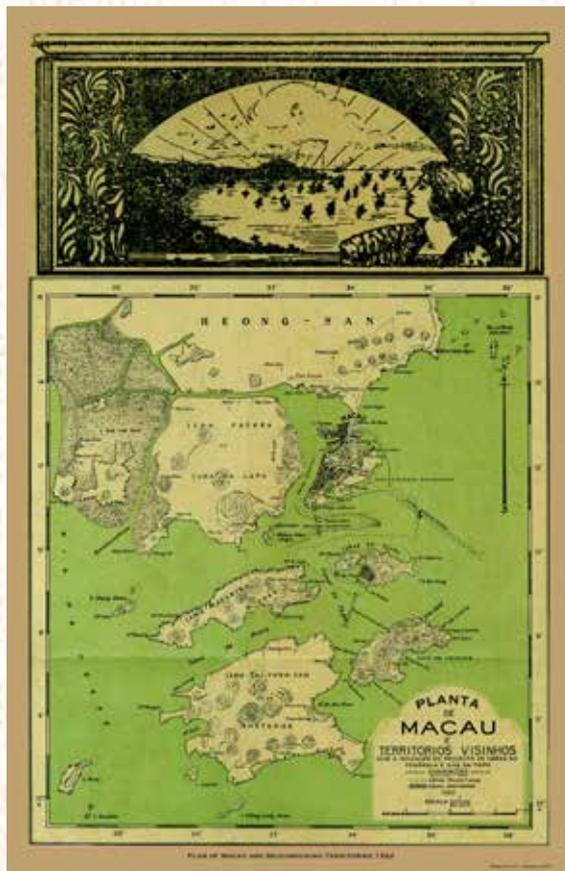
Over 20,000 Jewish refugees from Europe came to Shanghai between 1933 and 1941 to escape fascism. They mostly hunkered down in Hongkou, most in the tight-knit streets and *linong* of Tilanqiao, in the shadow of the giant Ward Road Jail – the ‘Shanghai Bastille.’ It was a strange, alien world; jobs scarce, money tight, food in short supply and always the question, would the Japanese hand them over to the Nazis?

Hopefully that story is now well known.

Strangers on the Praia is the far less well-known tale of the 300 young Jewish refugees – at the very most, overwhelmingly from Shanghai, who moved on, looking for a route back to Europe and maybe to sanctuary in Portugal, Great Britain or onwards to the United States.

The Shanghai numbers were bolstered by Jewish refugees from Tianjin and other Chinese cities, and those forced to flee Hong Kong before the colony’s final fall to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941. More came from the small Jewish refugee community in Manila, which the Japanese had invaded on December 8, just 10 hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

They clustered in cramped hotel rooms and small lodging houses in Macao – the Portuguese colony some called the ‘Casablanca of the Orient.’ I traced the son of one young woman who made the journey – from Berlin to Shanghai to Macao, and eventually to Britain where she married and lived a long life. He said that when his mother talked of Macao she used only one word to describe what the place meant to her in WW2 – ‘Hope.’





Shanghai was a safe haven for the Jewish refugees, but a tough one. Many younger refugees found a life confined largely in Hongkou, with arguing and nagging parents, little money or social life, constraining. It's understandable. Put yourself in their place – you're in your late teens, early 20s; you're living in a cramped cold water flat with your parents, maybe your grandparents, annoying younger brothers and sisters.

There's not much to be had in the way of education, work, cash or fun. There are shortages of everything. Along with everyone else you have no idea how long these wars will last – the war in Europe against Hitler; the war in the East against Japan. You hear rumors of what is happening to the Jews of continental Europe – there are Nazis in Shanghai and they are friends with the Japanese.

What will happen to you? How long will Shanghai remain a sanctuary? Perhaps it's best to strike out, keep moving, try for a neutral port and from there

perhaps a boat to Portugal, or Australia, America, Britain; other, more permanent sanctuaries.

For many the decision was made horrifically easier for them with the tuberculosis outbreak of 1941. In a city of deteriorating conditions, food shortages, limited medical supplies and where clean water was far from universal, tuberculosis sped through the narrow lanes, alleys and tenements of Shanghai north of the Suzhou Creek. In Tilanqiao, hospitals were soon overwhelmed.

As with most epidemics it claimed the old and the weak, the immuno-compromised and the poor. The Chevra Kadisha, the Jewish burial charity, worked daily to deal with the dead. Elderly Jews succumbed in large numbers and ended their long flight from fascism at the Jewish cemetery on Baikal Road in Yangpu. Many of those who opted for Macao were recently orphaned by the Shanghai tuberculosis epidemic. They had no family left to stay for.



Macao was Portuguese and accepted refugees. For many home became the Aurora Portuguesa hotel on the Rua do Campo in the old town of Macao, near Senado Square. It had been a small pension with a popular billiard hall attached for young Portuguese men clerking in Macao. It swiftly became a hostel for young, overwhelmingly Jewish and female refugees coming from China. They crammed in half a dozen to a single room.

The rumors had not been true. Due to the wartime disruption of the shipping lanes – the naval battles, the U-Boat patrols – there were no ships for Lisbon from Macao. Rather than a possible escape route, a gateway to freedom, Macao was a massive dead end, a cul-de-sac. When all of Shanghai fell to the Japanese after Pearl Harbor, and Hong Kong just weeks later, there was nowhere to go.

Macao was truly the Casablanca of the Orient – Nazi officers drank with Japanese military intelligence officers at the Bela Vista Hotel. The British maintained a consulate which, by the start of 1942, was known as 'The Lone Flag' – the only British consulate between India and Australia. It was willing to issue transit visas good for Great Britain, its dominions and territories. But there were no boats.

So the refugees were stuck. Jobs were few and far between; they didn't have the language skills anyway – Portuguese, Cantonese, Macanese Patuá. They were forced to eek out their stashes of *patacas*, engage in a little *mercado negro*, black marketeering, dealing or finding jobs in bars or dancehalls.

But *Strangers on the Praia* is not just the story of moving from one dead end in Shanghai to another full stop in Macao. There was, for a few, the ability to resist; to play a role on the fight against the Japanese and the Axis; to strike back. There are stories of escapes – at first from occupied Hong Kong, by British Intelligence officers and soldiers, to Macao. Midnight flits by fishing boats and sampans from Aberdeen and Stanley to Macao’s Praia.

Once in Macao, there was a possibility to move on, to get to Free China, to rejoin the fight. There was a route – to the tiny and almost totally forgotten French ‘leased territory’ of Guangzhouwan with its small port at Fort Bayard, now called Zhanjiang. A forgotten backwater of France’s Far Eastern possessions on the border of China and French Indo-China. A ferry ride of a day or so from Macao, north of Hainan Island.

The clandestine British Army Aid Group (BAAG) in Macao arranged passage for escaped men to Guangzhouwan and Free China guerrillas would escort them across China to the Free Zones of Guilin, Kunming and up to the wartime capital of Chongqing. From there British or American planes flew across the Himalayas – ‘the hump’ – to India and from there a new possible route to safety.

Those men needed ‘wives’; women to accompany them and allay suspicion. Both with forged passports, visas, identity cards and vaccination certificates courtesy of the British Consulate. They became neutral Spaniards, Portuguese, Irish. The young Jewish refugees, mostly female, single, wanting to move on, wanting to resist and play a part, agreed.

We have records of them bravely adopting new identities, putting on hastily bought, cheap wedding rings, standing before Vichy



French customs officials in Fort Bayard arm-in-arm and smiling with men they had met only hours before and looking like newlywed neutrals off to work in the Sumatran oil fields or the French held cities of Hanoi and Saigon.

It worked. Many got out. They made it to Guilin or Kunming. They got US Air Force Transport flights to Calcutta. From there they eventually got ships to Britain and often from there on to Canada or Australia. They made it to a more permanent safety. But for a short while, in that Portuguese colony of Macao in the South China Sea, they had been *Strangers on the Praia*. Their names keep on coming: Cohen, Weinbaum, Montefiore, Schlagman, Krebs, Frieser...

Paul French’s *Strangers on the Praia: A Tale of Refugees and Resistance in Wartime Macao* is available from Blacksmith Books with free shipping to China from the publisher in Hong Kong – scan the QR code to order a copy now.





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ARTS & LIFE

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City Snapshot
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Art From Afar
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JOSH HUPPER

Babyghost Founder Who is Making the Cut

Interview by Ned Kelly

Fashion designer, label founder, skateboarder, tattoo enthusiast and – most recently – reality TV star, Josh Hupper founded Babyghost with Qiaoran Huang in 2010 after a stint with Diane von Furstenberg and her creative director Nathan Jenden. Most recently he was a contestant on Amazon Prime's global fashion competition show *Making the Cut*. We caught up with him to learn about his inspirations.



Tell us about your skateboarding.

Skating is what led me to become a designer. I started skating in 1994 and the period between then and 1999 was kind of amazing in terms of the evolution of what being a skater meant. Professional skateboarders like Chad Muska weren't just building companies, but designing shoes. I think the first sketches I ever made of clothing were of skate shoes. At the time the only real access that kids had to fashion in my native Midwest was at stores like Gap and Abercrombie & Fitch. Skating offered so much more in terms of clothing and style options. Moreover, the style at that time still wasn't mainstream so it was a way of dressing that not necessarily anyone understood apart from other skateboarders. I loved that.

How did Babyghost come about?

I met Qiaoran Huang through a mutual friend who was having a birthday at a loft in Brooklyn. About six months later, I would end up going to work in London on a show for Nathan Jenden, who she just so happened to be assisting at the time. I think we started talking about founding a label someday the night after that show over coffee. A year later, Nathan Jenden closed the label and left for Shanghai, and when he did we were faced with either looking for new design posts or making a shot at our own thing. We founded BABYGHOST a few months later.

How would you describe the label?

Babyghost gives high fashion access to women who feel that that they are the early adaptors of something huge.

Our clothing is almost exclusively sold on Tmall. Qiaoran is such a visionary in this respect and I take no credit insofar as that's concerned. When she began telling me about Taobao and what she saw as the future of our industry I had no real point of reference. She had gotten the idea when she was studying at Donghua and seen the hundreds of delivery boxes each day waiting for her fellow students at the gate. She wanted something that would make women feel just as fashionable as high end labels, with the same richness and storytelling, but with a price that wasn't pretentious. I loved that.

What was the *Making the Cut* experience like?

It was brilliant. The opportunity came at a time when I was looking for something new to flex on. We shot in New York a little and then flew to Paris. Our studio was about 15 minutes from one of the best skate parks on the planet at Place de la Republique. The other designers were fun. Everyone from the crew to the producers and especially the judges were extremely professional. I loved every minute of it.

So, why did you self-evict from the show?

Why did I 'self-evict from the show'? Okay, those are your words. I would say that my story arc was unique in that when faced with the possibility of my friend also being eliminated, I took responsibility for what the judges were mostly dissatisfied with. The shapes and patterns were gorgeous and almost entirely done by the

designer I was paired with, but the print mixing hadn't landed with the judging panel and that was on me.

So, rather than argue a point, I took the L hoping that my dude would be able to stay in the competition. Are you not entertained? It was awesome, and I think that though all of us were supposed to be competing, we ended up bonding really close, which gave the show a sincerity that I'm not sure has ever really happened before in that genre. I wouldn't say I self-evicted, I would say I followed my heart and had some of the most fun of my entire career.

What were Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn like? And Naomi Campbell?

Tim, Heidi, Joseph, Carine, Nicole and especially Naomi are some of the most talented people I've ever had the pleasure of working with. They were super professional and extremely nice. I miss them and look forward to seeing each of them again in the future.

What's next for Babyghost?

So damn much I can barely sleep at night. I'm actually spending even more time at the office than I did when we founded the label. Our team has grown so much over the past year and the window we are in at the moment is pretty significant. We turned 10 years old last month and it's beginning to look like this next decade is going to exceed even our wildest hopes and dreams.

For more on Babyghost scan the QR code



STYLE RADAR

OVERHEARD

"I like Zhou Dongyu's interpretation very much. In the past, Victoria's Secret gave me a feeling of vulgar porn..."

So commented one Weibo user under the hashtag #周冬雨代言维密# which translates to 'Zhou Dongyu endorses Victoria's Secret.' At the end of April, Victoria's Secret unveiled three new spokesmodels via their official Weibo account. In the past, only models were used to represent the brand; however, this time popular actresses Zhou Dongyu and Yang Mi were recruited, alongside veteran supermodel He Sui. The switch-up has been positively received, with users flooding the comment section with screenshots of their purchases. The brand's new campaign urged women to "redefine sexiness." Some users were confused by the new direction, commenting "Victoria has no secrets" and "Suddenly [it feels] not sexy anymore." Whatever may be the case, Victoria's Secret's shift in messaging may be a good strategy for the Chinese market after the cancellation of their annual fashion show and reports of declining profits in recent years.



COVET

Hare Jordan

If you've been watching *The Last Dance* on Netflix, you might be inspired to pick up the fun new Air Jordan 6s (RMB1,399). This new Bugs Bunny-inspired colorway is dubbed the 'Hare' and features a grey and white top with pops of fluorescent colorful details. One of the coolest parts is the tiny orange and green buckle that dangles in the middle of the shoe. Nike states, the "design inspiration for the citrus-colored lace buckle is drawn from the rabbit's beloved carrot." The whole family can even get in on the matching fun with sizes available for children and toddlers.



> Scan the QR code to shop.



UNDER THE LENS

Bad Press for Shandong Ruiyi

Earlier this year, Shandong Ruiyi, a company touted as the next 'LVMH of China,' was caught in a cycle of bad press after three years of aggressive mergers and acquisitions. After purchasing Lycra in 2019 for USD2 billion, the company was soon flooded with debt – RMB34.1 billion to be exact, as of June 2019. In December, debt rating agency Moody's then downgraded the corporation's rating to CCC+, which was another troublesome indicator. Then in March, the textile conglomerate failed to close its purchase of Swiss luxury brand Bally amid COVID-19 troubles. The company's chairman Qiu Yafu finally spoke to *Vogue Business* and stated that they do not wish to be China's next LVMH, but instead are focusing on providing "strategic support, such as initiating partnerships with Chinese e-commerce players JD and Secoo." He added that the company is not looking to interfere with their acquired brands' daily operations nor creative direction.



CITY SNAPSHOT

@jiiiaan

Jianhua Chen is a 26-year-old Berlin-based photographer studying in Shanghai. He loves street and architecture photography and “always aims to give each photo a little twist, a message or a story.”

This particular image was taken in Suzhou while he was wandering around the city. He tells us, “the lady in the picture was sitting in her private courtyard in one of these rather old shacks, washing clothes. She then saw us taking photos of her house and the waterscape so she approached us in a super friendly manner and told us about the history of the house and the things she has experienced. She then asked me to take a picture of her and I gladly did. Lovely lady!”

> Check out more of his work at @jiiiaan on Instagram



Kempinski Hotel Beijing's Paulaner Bräuhaus Launches New Spring and Summer Menu

Paulaner Bräuhaus unveiled an overhauled spring and summer menu in May, with more than 40 new dishes. Fresh salads, more family-style platters and modern twists on traditional German food are just the beginning, as guests can also expect classic dishes from throughout northern and southern Bavaria in the new menu. One of the chef's recommendations is the Lachs-Butterspätzle, which consists of pan-fried noodles covered in cream sauce enriched with capers and smoked salmon.

Beer is incorporated in many of the dishes and is proof of a new concept that sees beer not only as an end product but an important ingredient that can provide both familiar and surprising tastes.

For over 27 years, Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center's Paulaner Bräuhaus has served up Beijing's award-winning Bavarian cuisine and freshly brewed Paulaner beer. “This is the largest menu adjustment in the past five years at Paulaner Bräuhaus,” said Brice Péan, the hotel's managing director. “We continually innovate the classics. I believe with the creative seasonings and more photogenic and modern plating, Paulaner will bring a refreshing experience to all our guests.”

As a bonus, the menu also features an array of vegetarian-friendly dishes so that dinners of all stripes can enjoy a lovely night out.

> 1/F, Kempinski Hotel, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, by Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
朝阳区亮马桥路50号凯宾斯基饭店1层 (6465 3388, 6410 4257)



SURF'S UP

Nine Items to Get You Beach Ready

Compiled by Phoebe Kut

The sun is shining, sweat is trickling and it's time to find a body of water – be it a pool, beach or river – to cool off. Here are some items to get you prepped:



Oysho

RMB399
Scan the QR code to purchase.



Oysho

Gingham bikini top:
RMB249
Bikini briefs:
RMB169
Scan the QR code to purchase.



Off-White

RMB1,909
Scan the QR code to purchase.



North Face

RMB198
Scan the QR code to purchase.





Kate Wood

The Little Fish balsa wood short surfboard. (Dimensions: 6'0 x 3/4 x 2"1/2)
RMB10,800
Please call 158 2122 2733 for purchasing inquiries.



Moschino

RMB1,065
Scan the QR code to purchase.



Loho

RMB399
Scan with the Taobao app to purchase.



Loop Swim

RMB450
Search 'Loop Swim' on WeChat Mini Programs to purchase.



Ahlem

RMB2,655
Scan the QR code to purchase.



Art From Afar

Six Best Chinese Exhibitions to View from Your Couch

By Phoebe Kut and Doris Kee

If you're still wary about congregating in public areas or simply just want to save money, many major exhibitions have moved online for spectators. Support the arts and check out some of the coolest exhibitions happening right now across China via the web.

Shanghai Jiushi Art Museum 久事美术馆

Exhibition: *An Ode to the Time-Honored Architecture*

Location: Shanghai

Housed in the iconic Bund 27, on the sixth floor of a modern Renaissance-style building is the Shanghai Jiushi Art Museum. The museum is a comparatively new addition to Shanghai's art scene, and exhibitions usually revolve around the historical changes of the Bund and Shanghai's unique *haipai* culture. Scan the QR code below to virtually 'walk' through *An Ode to the Time-Honored Architecture* which features paintings of heritage buildings in modern Shanghai. The exhibit is in English and Chinese.



Scan the QR code to view.



Palace Museum 故宫博物院

Location: Beijing

Voted 'The Happiest Place in China' by the China Tourist Attractions Association in 2019, the Palace Museum, built in the 15th century, is the epitome of traditional Chinese architecture. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus outbreak, its doors were closed to visitors for three months, but are finally now open with limitations. Instead, enjoy a virtual panoramic tour of the palace and skip the lines, crowds and achy soles. Browse all the buildings of the Palace Museum, including the Hall of Supreme Harmony (Taihe Dian), the Hall of the Mental Cultivation (Yangxin Dian) and over 400,000 digitized imperial artifacts while soothing music plays in the background.

Scan the QR code to view.



Design Society 设计互联

Exhibition: *40 Years of Humanizing Technology*

Location: Shenzhen

Just 50 years ago, researchers created the very first computer network. Today, more than 4.5 billion people are connected to the internet, every day. In this group exhibition, designed by the Central Academy of Fine Arts Beijing (CAFA), Design Society and Ars Electronica, artists explore the influence of digitization on thought, decision-making, industry, governing



M Woods 木木美术馆

Exhibition: *Art Is Still Here: A Hypothetical Show for a Closed Museum* and more
Location: Beijing

Not only is M Woods hosting their own online exhibition via Weibo, WeChat and Instagram, but also inside one of the most popular video games at the moment: *Animal Crossing*. If you're part of the *Animal Crossing* community already, you can view a plethora of works from past exhibitions of artists such as David Hockney, Lu Yang, Nicolas Party and Andy Warhol, among others. If you're looking to explore the themes of ecology, nature, extinction, isolation and kinship, then *Art Is Still Here: A Hypothetical Show for a Closed Museum* will be right up your alley, and viewable as a series of videos on M Woods' social accounts.

Scan the QR code to view.

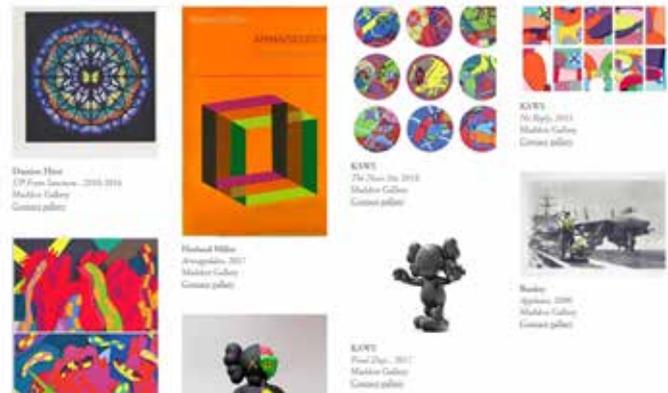


Art Central 中环海滨

Location: Hong Kong

Some have dubbed *Art Central* as the 'less stuffy' version of the famed *Art Basel*. Here, you can find leading contemporary artists alongside established names from the art world. Unfortunately, like most exhibitions this year, the 2020 edition of *Art Central* was canceled among fears of the coronavirus pandemic. Not to fret, though, you can still catch many artworks online. Pieces from popular contemporary artists such as ex-Disney illustrator KAWS and Willy Verginer are available online. Also on display are Peter Yuill's pieces featuring deeply complex geometric abstraction. They represent his exploration of the philosophical and existential desire to understand the meaning of existence through mathematical and geometric purity. When viewing, sink in to admire his meditative connection to each piece.

Scan the QR code to view.



Guangdong Museum 广东省博物馆

Exhibition: *Buddha's Light of Wei and Tang Dynasties: The Essence of Cultural Relics from Longmen Grottoes*
Location: Guangzhou

The Longmen Grottoes are some of the finest examples of Chinese Buddhist art. Housing tens of thousands of statues of Shakyamuni Buddha and his disciples, they are located 12 kilometers south of present-day Luoyang in Henan province.

In 2000, the site was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List as an "outstanding manifestation of human artistic creativity," for its encapsulation of the cultural sophistication of the Tang and Wei dynasties. In this exhibition, 85 pieces are displayed along with stone-carved paintings and 3D printed models. If you fancy seeing these artifacts in person, the exhibit is free of charge and showing at the Guangdong Museum until August.



Visit the Mini Program 博物馆 (Bowuguan) and search 广东省博物馆 (guangdongshì bowuguan) to view.

infrastructure and invention. If you are a fan of *Westworld*, be sure to check out this exhibit, which asks what it means to be a 'digital citizen' in a world heavily influenced by computation.

Visit the Mini Program 博物馆 (Bowuguan) and search 设计互联 (sheji hulian) to view.

TRAVEL

Hot Spot
Cocos Islands, p27



UnTour Food Tours
P28



Paradise Lost
P30

BRAM VAN OOIJEN

Founder of Cycle Canton

Interview by Matthew Bossons

Guangzhou is by no means China's most popular tourist city, lacking the name recognition and big-ticket attractions found in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. That said, Guangzhou offers a treasure trove of hidden gems for those adventurous enough to track them down.

In an effort to help visitors and curious locals in Guangzhou to explore beneath the surface of the metropolis, Bram van Ooijen launched Cycle Canton in 2013. The bike-based tourist experience company aims to help curious people discover Guangzhou's fascinating history, culture and architecture.

Give us some background on how you came up with the idea for Cycle Canton?

I would often ride around town for fun, exploring areas of the city I hadn't been to. I would find hidden markets, historic buildings, temples, galleries, you name it, and locals would share their stories with me. I developed a network of safe, fun and interesting routes away from the main roads, and invited friends to come along. At one point a friend and I decided to open this up to expats and visitors, and show them the 'real Guangzhou.' Few people venture out into the old neighborhoods, where you find the soul of the city. In 2013 we developed routes, compiled stories from interviews with locals, books and articles, lots of online research and personal experiences. We then set up a company, got our online presence sorted, and got it going.

In the age of Mobikes and other shared-bike companies, do you use your own bicycles or rely on shared bikes?

We have used shared bikes in the past, picking and testing the best ones available, but we now operate with our own bikes – the classic Chinese Fenghuang (Phoenix) bike, the kind that Katie Melua refers to when she sings about '9 million



bicycles in Beijing.' We retrofitted everything to make them comfortable and safe to ride. A comfy seat, sturdy brakes, better pedals, new wheels, a kickstand and much more. We have retained the classic look though. The old-fashioned bell is still my favorite part. You get a lot of attention from the locals, most of whom owned one in the past. We're bringing back memories of their youth!

What have been the main challenges in operating a tour company in Guangzhou?

One challenge has been to find a place to park our bikes without committing to RMB5,000 per month in rent. We now cooperate with Happy Monk, where we park our bikes and start the tours, so we both benefit.

The major challenge now is increasing the number of guests. Just over half of our guests are visitors to the city, tourists or people on business. Unfortunately, Guangzhou does not have a Forbidden City or Great Wall, so it's not high on the list of places to go in China. So, while selling our tours, we also need to sell the city of Guangzhou. But it's an amazing city, where the old neighborhoods are still mostly retained and you can get a real feel of the traditional China. It's also a city that shaped again and again the fate of the country: foreign trade, the Opium War, the start of the Republic of China, the rise of communism, and the start of economic Reform and Opening-up policy. These all started right here in Guangzhou – and I don't need to tell you about the food and the climate. There's so much here, but people abroad, including myself when I first visited 14 years ago, just don't know. And it's actually quite safe to cycle because

of its old car-free neighborhoods, greenways, parks and riverside promenade.

Who is the most famous person to join one of your tours?

Oh wow, there were quite a few. We've had ministers, governors and mayors from many countries. It's funny how you see these people on TV, and when you meet them on the ground, they're always very down-to-earth, engaging and interested in the city and culture. These people are usually bored with receptions and meetings, and just want to get a real feel for the city.

I'm a big-time soccer fan, and we've hosted quite a few professional football players. And one of the top soccer referees in the world, who insisted on getting a haircut on the street during the tour. The hairdresser turned out to be an apprentice, so it was free of charge.

We've also had an Olympic gold medal winning BMX biker, CEOs of major companies and the London Philharmonic Orchestra – who detailed how classical musicians actually live a secret rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

But really, I just as much enjoy our 'ordinary' guests. One guest once brought a Bluetooth speaker along and took the local aunties in People's Park dancing to reggaeton. We have the chance to meet people from all over the world and from all walks of life. We share our stories, but they share theirs too. It's great fun and an enormous privilege to run our tours.

To learn more about Cycle Canton visit cyclecanton.com. Get in touch at info@cyclecanton.com or 156 2640 6926

ITCHY FEET

ROLLER COASTER

Shanghai Disneyland Reopens

Shanghai Disneyland theme park reopened to the public on May 11, with tickets going on sale on their official online channels and official travel partners at 8am on May 8. As expected, a limited number of tickets are available each day (and on-site sales are not available) while social distancing has been applied in queues, restaurants and on rides.

The now-familiar presentation of a green QR code, temperature checks and mandatory face masks are all in play. You also need to present a Chinese ID card, original passport or valid travel document on entry, with photos or printed copies not accepted.

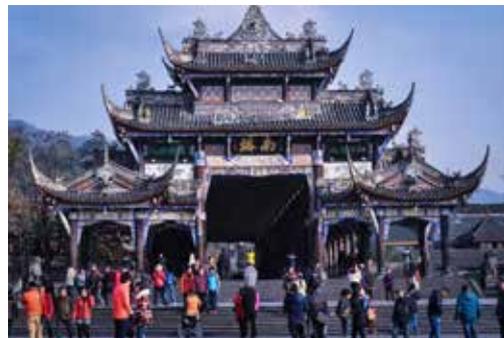
Children's play areas and theater shows remain closed for now, and while parades have also been put on hold, a special Disney character procession – 'Mickey and Friends Express,' which sounds suspiciously similar, in a legal loophole kind of way – will take place several times daily. Interaction and photos with characters is a no-no, though.

Nighttime spectaculars are also cancelled for now, but the Enchanted Storybook Castle will come to life with light and music at dusk each day with Evening Magical Moments. Guests can check the availability of attractions and entertainment through the resort's official website and app.



MILE HIGH

May Day Travel Slump



While many turned down the opportunity to travel over the May Day holiday, others simply couldn't resist. Data published by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism shows that 115 million domestic trips were made over the five-day holiday this year, totaling RMB47.6 billion on tourism-related expenditures. The travel turnout surpassed the 80 plus million trips forecasted by Chinese travel company Trip.com prior to the holiday, but fell by more than 40% compared to last year's 195 million domestic trips. Spending was also down by an alarming 60%, or RMB70 billion, compared to the 2019 May Day holiday – which was only four days long. To offset expected losses in tourism revenue, at least 68 cities issued coupons to boost consumption, according to Chinese news outlet Jiemian. The ministry noted that provinces around the country implemented measures for 'intelligent travel' (智慧旅游), namely applying mobile technology to track guest capacity at popular tourist sites to avoid large crowd gatherings. The next public holiday to gauge how much China's domestic tourism industry is recovering is Dragon Boat Festival, which takes place from June 25 to June 27.

HOSPITALITY HIGHLIGHT

Raytour Hotel Longjia

Nothing soothes the soul quite like a relaxing soak in a pool of hot, natural mineral water. The hot spring experience is a great way to unwind, particularly when the pool is conveniently located in the privacy of your own hotel room. If this sounds like your idea of heaven on earth, then we're excited to introduce you to the Raytour Hotel Longjia, located in Zhangzhou, Fujian province.

Part of the Longjia Eco Hot Springs Resort, a AAA national tourism attraction, Raytour Hotel Longjia is a boutique hot spring hotel that resembles a soaring eagle, making use of classic southern Fujian architecture. Perfect for meetings, wedding banquets, recreation and leisure, the hotel contains 260 rooms, all equipped with a private pool that is accessible around the clock for guests to soak in the steamy water of the local hot springs.

Additionally, each room comes with all the amenities you can expect to find in a boutique hotel, with quality bedding and brightly colored linens that create a pleasant and relaxing atmosphere.

The water at Longjia hot springs flows at 75 degrees Celsius, and is rich in sodium, magnesium, potassium, iron, copper, lithium, radon and metasilicic acid, among other minerals and trace elements with beneficial properties.



HOT SPOT

Cocos Islands



Let's be honest, the chances you'll be taking an overseas vacation any time soon are limited, but at some point, in the future, you will be able to venture out into the world again and explore. With that in mind, we wanted to feature a very off-the-beaten-path destination this month: Cocos Islands.

Situated 1,000 kilometers off the coast of Java, Indonesia, Cocos Islands are a small chain of islands that are governed as a territory of Australia. As a result of the archipelago's remote location, getting there can be a bit tricky, and will likely require a flight through the city of Perth, in West Australia. For the intrepid, though, the sparsely populated islands offer numerous rewards.

Divers can expect unsoiled dive sites bursting with marine life, from colorful corals and fish to sharks and dolphins. Adrenaline junkies can hop on a surfboard to rip uncrowded, baby-blue waves.

Land lovers can expect warm hospitality, stunning beaches and a unique culture that blends elements of both European and Malay cultures. Due to the islands' sizable Malay population, visitors can also expect some truly delicious food.



Images by Rik Soderlund

UnTour Food Tours

Being Stuck in China Never Tasted So Good

You may have joined UnTour Food Tours for a moveable feast through the *hutong* of Beijing or *nongtang* of Shanghai. They may have spiced up your life in Chengdu. Or you may know them as the host of the annual foodie holiday World Jianbing Day on April 30. Or this may be the first time you've ever heard the name; in which case, it is high time you became acquainted.

Over the past decade, UnTour Food Tours has shown off the country's best culinary delights to thousands of happy tourists, and recently the passionate food lovers are adding even more experiences designed especially for local expats to their roster of food-focused tours. So, you can now take advantage of being stuck in China, and get stuck into some of the country's best eats (and drinks) with them. UnTour Chief Eating Officer Jamie Barys gives us a quick introduction.



SHANGHAI

For Those in Need of a Tipple



The Shanghai Speakeasy & Cocktail Tour

Looking to explore Shanghai's saucier side with a drink (or four)? UnTour Food Tours launched the Shanghai Speakeasy & Cocktail Tour in May 2020, because who doesn't need a drink right now, eh. Thirsty guests kick things off with a cocktail mixing class by a pro bartender in a hidden gin bar, then settle in for another round of cocktails while slurping some of the city's best strands from a hole-in-the-wall noodle shop that is famous among those in the know (their dumplings are also great). Next up, guests slip through secret entrances to explore not one, but two of Shanghai's best speakeasies and grab a Taiwanese treat along the way. Featuring four cocktails, three snacks, two speakeasies and one mixology class, this tipsy private tour will have the whole crew raising a glass.

Price: RMB700 per person – minimum six guests (adults only)

Time: 5pm (four hours)

Where: Near Changshu Road Metro

Shanghai Beer & Bites

The Shanghai Beer & Bites Tour has also been upgraded for the expat market. This intoxicating tour combines everyone's two favorite things – excellent craft beer and delicious local dishes – with a stroll through the former French Concession. Along the route, guests sample nine Chinese craft beers at three locations, learn about the brewing process during a brewery tour, explore Shanghai's boozy history, and find their new favorite dumpling and noodle shops. This tour is all about showcasing the diversity of craft beer in the Middle Kingdom, so expect lots of taste testing to compare unique ingredients, styles and flavor profiles.

Price: RMB600 per person – minimum six guests (adults only)

Time: 3pm (three and a half hours)

Where: Near South Shaanxi Road Metro



For Budding Chefs



Jianbing Cooking Class

Originally set up for World Jianbing Day in 2020, this private cooking class has become popular with *jianbing*-obsessives, as well as those planning to return to their home countries who worry they may never have their favorite street food snack again. This Chinese breakfast of champions is a favorite on breakfast tours in both Beijing and Shanghai, and guests will learn how to whip them up in no time with UnTour's tried-and-tested recipe and tips. UnTour provides a few fun upgrades so that guests can put their own spin on their *jianbing* (think Doritos replacing crispy wonton cracker – you'd be surprised). They also sell a DIY Jianbing Making Kit, complete with a mix of four hard-to-source flours required to make the crispy pancake, a *jianbing* griddle, and the famous *jianbing* blanket.

Price: RMB390 per person – minimum six guests (kids/adults)

Time: Private tour is available throughout the day

Where: Near Zhaojiabang Road Metro



Shanghai Hands-On Dumpling Delights

There's no better way to learn about China's 5,000 years of culinary history than getting hands-on. A combination food tour and cooking class, this tour focuses on the delicious regional varieties of dumplings. Guests will learn about medicinal history of the O.G. boiled dumpling (*jiaozi*), slurp the soup out of *xiaolongbao*, discover the military might behind steamed buns (*baozi*) and so much more. And that's all before tucking into a cooking class with a professional Chinese chef. Guests will learn to pleat and fold dim sum favorites crystal shrimp dumplings (*har gow*), before steaming them fresh. UnTour also provides a detailed recipe so guests can show off their new dumpling-making skills back at home.

Price: RMB590 (adults, 13 years old and up), RMB440 (kids, ages 6-12)

Time: 10am (three hours)

Where: Near Jiashan Road Metro

BEIJING

For Curious Explorers

Beijing Hutong Breakfast Tour

Love wandering Beijing's *hutong* alleyways? This breakfast tour goes deep into some of the oldest in Dongcheng district to sample the most authentic and delicious snacks. With UnTour's trusted guides by their side, guests discover delicious breakfast treats that are only available in the morning; the early bird gets the good stuff in Beijing. Over the course of three hours, guests eat their way through the capital, try new foods and gain an appreciation for the artisans making these handmade treats.

Price: RMB460 (adults, 13 years old and up), RMB335 (kids, ages 6-12)

Time: 9am (three hours)

Where: Near Yonghegong Metro



For Those Seeking the Real Beijing

Old Beijing Dinner Tour

Beijing's dinnertime cuisine is so much more than the crowded tourist markets featuring bugs and mystery meat on sticks. UnTour's guests go off the beaten path to explore delicious, local dishes shoulder-to-shoulder with Beijingers in a traditional *hutong* neighborhood. From *chuanr* to jarred yogurt to boutique rice wine, Beijing's snack scene is unrivaled. On this tour, guests learn to cook their lamb like a Mongolian warrior preparing for battle during the Yuan Dynasty, and UnTour gives guests the recipe to recreate this great group meal when they're back home. And for those who haven't tried a donkey burger yet, now's your chance – it's so much better than you think.

Price: RMB540 (adults, 13 years old and up), RMB400 (kids, ages 6-12)

Time: 7pm (three hours)

Where: Near Beixinqiao Metro



CHENGDU

For Spice Lovers

Chengdu Classics Food Tour



If you love a tongue tingle, there's arguably no better place to go in China than the capital of Sichuan. UNESCO's first city of gastronomy in Asia (sorry Tokyo!), Chengdu serves up some of the best local snacks – including sweetwater noodles and spicy wontons – in the country. On this tour, guests discover why locals go crazy for classic dishes like *guokui* and rabbit's head. Once everyone's taste buds are buzzing with the famed Sichuan peppercorns, guests get to snack their way through a market where they learn about local ingredients, food sources and the role that fast-disappearing markets play in the community. The tour ends with a family-style meal fueled with local beer and spirits.

Price: RMB490 (adults, 13 years old and up), RMB370 (kids, ages 6-12)

Time: 4.30pm (four hours)

Where: Near Wenshu Temple Metro

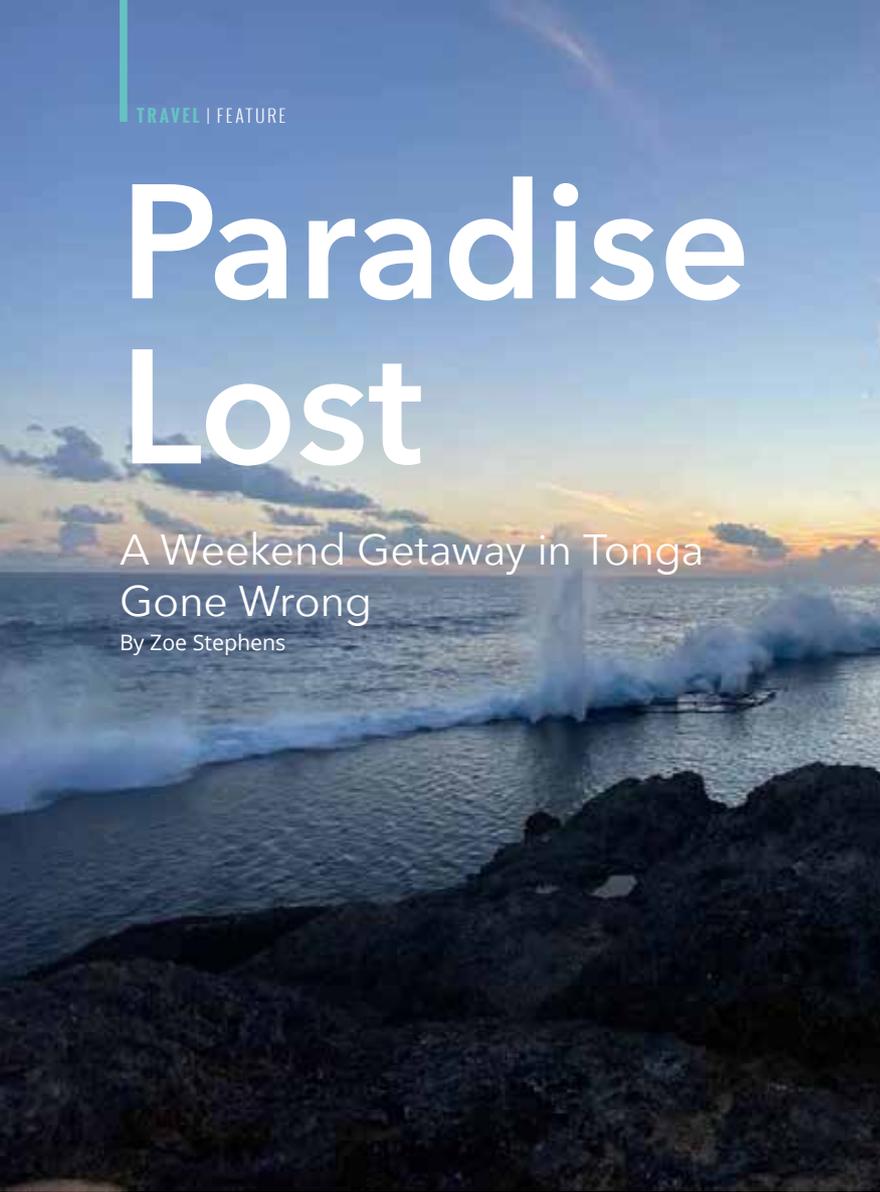
For more information email info@untour-foodtours.com, visit the UnTour website at untourfoodtours.com or by scanning the QR code:



Paradise Lost

A Weekend Getaway in Tonga Gone Wrong

By Zoe Stephens



It's hard to believe that we're nearly halfway through the year, and even harder to recall everything that has transpired since the clock struck midnight on January 1. This is especially true for me, as my diary was recently transported away during a massive cyclone.

Back in mid-January, I left my home in Beijing to participate in a two-week language course in South Korea. This decision has led to a string of unexpected circumstances that has landed me on a small island chain in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, in the Polynesian state and archipelago of Tonga.

Never heard of Tonga? Don't worry, neither had I before I arrived here. That was part of the nation's allure: It is remote, lesser-known and not overcrowded – the perfect weekend getaway. But I'm getting ahead of myself, so let's go back to the beginning and explore how my two-week educational trip to South Korea turned into a six-month ordeal (and it's not over yet, folks) as a 'doubly-stuck' person in the middle of the ocean.

First, a bit of background on me: I'm an expat from the UK working in tourism in the DPRK (North Korea) with Koryo Tours, a company based in Beijing. On January 19, I left China for the aforementioned trip to Seoul. Since I'd be staying in the same place for two weeks and wouldn't be moving around too much, I packed up my belongings in a massive suitcase. The large luggage was essential, as I needed space for all of my winter clothes.

Before I left, I had dinner with a Japanese friend living in Hong Kong. He asked me why no one in Beijing was wearing masks. To be honest, I hadn't noticed much of a change in the number of people wearing masks, so I asked him why he thought that, and he started to talk about 'corona.' At this point, I still only associated the name with the beer brand.

Once outside China, things began to escalate quite quickly. During my 14-day stint in Seoul, two friends from Beijing came separately and visited me, and we watched in awe as the number of people infected with the novel coronavirus – as it was then known – continued to rise in China and around the globe. We discussed going back and being potentially locked inside China, or staying outside the country and risk being locked out.

Both of my friends returned to Beijing, but I decided to stick it out for another week in Seoul and continue working remotely. I didn't realize then that this was the last time I'd see either of these friends – or any friends at all, for that matter – for many months.

As the epidemic situation continued to worsen and escalate, I decided to move my planned holiday to Fiji from March to February and boarded a plane for the tropics. I intended to stay in Fiji for two weeks, but as the quarantine situation in Beijing evolved from suggested home quarantine to mandatory quarantine at home and in government facilities, my trip was prolonged using some vacation days at work and by promising to work remotely while away.

During my time in Fiji, I spent a lot of time traveling, as there had been no reported cases in the South

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I watched houses get washed away by the storm-fueled torrents of water and the entire downstairs of my home-away-from-home washed away

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Pacific. I visited Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, and as I was moving, I followed the daily updates about COVID-19's spread around the world. It felt distant, though, as life in the Pacific was carrying on as usual.

Around the start of March, things began to calm down in China and it looked as if I would soon be returning to a Beijing that was similar to how I had left it. On March 11, though, the World Health Organization declared the disease outbreak a pandemic, with the UK, US and European nations seeing a troubling increase of cases. All around me, everyone was talking about it, panicking, gossiping, spreading fake news and wild speculations.

This is what brought me to Tonga, a remote island where I could relax for the weekend away from the panicking masses. The plan was to leave Thursday, come back on Sunday and be ready for the workweek on Monday back in Fiji. I left my big suitcase with my unnecessary belongings (it was -15 degrees Celsius when I left South Korea) at a hostel in Fiji and left for Tonga with just a small backpack.

Unfortunately, as soon as I touched down in Tonga, Fiji reported its first coronavirus cases. Fiji being the gateway to many Pacific island nations, I knew this meant the end of the laidback 'island living' I had become accustomed to. I tried to leave Tonga on the Friday and go to New Zealand, but the flight was for New Zealand nationals only. I tried to board a flight to Fiji on Saturday, but that flight was for Fiji nationals only. This was the last international commercial flight out of Tonga. Fast-forward two months, and I'm still here. Albeit unwillingly and with a few less belongings.

The locals in Tonga were not friendly at first, but I don't blame them: Fiji had just confirmed its first four cases, and I was a foreigner who had just arrived from Fiji. Hotels, hostels and restaurants were all shutting down and Tonga was preparing for a 14-day lockdown.

I found a long-term place to live with four other foreigners that is located far from town and next to the sea. After stocking up on essential goods, I settled into the stranded life and accepted the fact that I'd be stuck in Tonga for a while.

This acceptance became easier when China closed its borders to the outside world on March 28 to avoid a second wave of COVID-19 cases domestically. I was both locked in and locked out.

During my two-week lockdown in Tonga, people could only go out for essential shopping, there was also an 8pm curfew and groups of 20 or more were not allowed. Social distancing measures were put in place. No one wore masks, not even the Chinese shop



owners here, but there was hardly anyone on the street anyway.

Checkpoints were placed between villages and passing through one required a very good reason. On a 35-minute drive you could easily hit seven or more checkpoints. They registered your name, where you were coming from and where you were going.

After the lockdown ended, Tonga officially became a coronavirus-free country: It had tested four patients who were all negative, and no flights were coming in or out of the country. The local Tongan people started to become less weary of foreigners and were much more friendly and happy to speak to me – although I do still feel nervous coughing in a public place, and I'm conscious that some people do keep their distance.

Coronavirus quickly became an afterthought in Tonga, but not because the country had been declared virus-free. Three days before the lockdown was lifted in early April, Cyclone Harold, a category 5 cyclone, hit Tonga. It combined with the biggest tide of the year and resulted in devastation throughout the country, especially along the coast and on smaller islands. From the balcony of the house I'd rented, I watched houses get washed away by the storm-fueled torrents of water and the entire downstairs of my home-away-from-home washed away. The cooker was washed up onto the stairs, the doors torn open and all of my stuff was gone. Luckily, I had brought my laptop upstairs the night before by chance. Luckier yet, the waves didn't hit 20 minutes earlier when I was downstairs.

As more luck would have it, I found a new place to stay that same day. A house nearby needed a house sitter. That's where I am now, writing this story with four dogs lying around me on a patio that overlooks the sea and the devastation that sprawls across the white-sand beaches.

It's been a couple of weeks since the lockdown was lifted and I moved into my new place. Life seems to slowly be returning to normal. There are domestic flights and ships to the different islands, and neighboring New Zealand and Australia are talking about starting flights from mid-June. Maybe I'll be able to leave then and eventually make it back to China – although, I know the country I call home will likely be a very different place when I return.

Zoe Stephens works with Koryo Tours in Beijing. You can follow her adventures on Instagram (@zoediscover), or on YouTube by scanning the QR code.



ANDREAS SCHATZSCHNEIDER

The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin Executive Chef on His Culinary Inspirations and Global Cuisines

Chef Andreas Schatzschneider discovered his passion for cooking at a young age. At 14, he started working at a small restaurant in Germany, and after stints in Dubai, Mexico, Austria, Canada and the US, he's now in Tianjin. We caught up with the award-winning executive chef to discuss his professional journey and take a peek into new developments at The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin.

How did you end up in the kitchen?

I started cooking very early, when I was a little boy with my grandmother. I spent a lot of time with her, which helped foster my passion for cooking. She cooked everything fresh and with a lot of love. When I was 14, I started to work in a little family-owned restaurant in the suburbs of Berlin and at that restaurant I learned all of the basics. I'm still loving my job to this day.

Your career has taken you all over the world. What inspires your concepts?

Every country has its own special dishes and unique culture. There are two countries that have inspired me the most: Mexico and China. Both are very rich in their food culture and they are also very proud of their cuisines. I worked in Mexico for eight years, and it really influenced me flavor-wise. I like a lot of citrus, chili and spice. In China, there's also an abundance of chili, especially in Sichuan cuisine.

Who are your culinary inspirations?

Everyone who has the love and passion for cooking inspires me. I really enjoy being around people like that, especially at The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin. Two chefs have really influenced me. The most notable is Rainer Zinggrebe, culinary vice president at Marriott International Luxury Brands. He used to be my executive chef, and I learned a lot from him. He taught me how to manage different cultures. The other chef is Paul Urchs. He's a three-star Michelin chef, so he taught me about fine dining.

What is your cooking philosophy?

My philosophy is quite simple, actually. It's all about the taste. You have to taste the dishes to make sure the seasoning is perfect. I always love it when people try the food and discover it's delicious. So my cooking philosophy is focused on taste and making people happy.

How has The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin changed since you started work?

We created many new concepts, especially at ZEST and our all-day dining restaurants. At ZEST, each culinary station is a cooking showcase creating visual experiences and freshly prepared dishes. Several signature dishes are presented to guests at the table, creating storytelling and a relaxing, refined dining experience.

Why should non in-house guests dine at The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin?

In these times, excellent service and health are important. Everyone is safe here and the food is the best on the market. We're really taking care of everything. It's not only the ambience that's really excellent, it's also the amazing service.

What German specialties have you served in Tianjin?

One of the specialties we served on Mother's Day was authentic poached meatballs and handmade sausages. Our guests really enjoyed that. I like to bring authentic cooking from home, always with The Ritz-Carlton's signature style. The presentation and quality are key. We also started our new chacuterie,

with some beautiful Italian cold cuts and nice salami, which is very popular in Germany.

What is your dream ingredient?

The most important ingredients are love and passion. I always tell my culinary team: 'Don't forget the most important ingredient: the love and the passion.'

What brings you the most joy in this role?

My passion is developing young talent. When I see someone start their journey as a cook, it's great to see them progress and finally become a great chef. That gives me a lot of pleasure, and to see our guests smile.



MAXI LOVE

Enjoy an Online Art Exhibition by Bvlgari Hotel Beijing

During these uncertain times, there's no doubt we could all use a splash of color and creativity in our lives, and the fine folks over at Bvlgari Hotel Beijing seemingly couldn't agree more. Starting last month on the 16th, the luxurious hospitality hot spot launched its *Maxi Love* online art exhibition, which features outstanding pieces designed and created by multiple celebrated artists.

Organized to give people the chance to reconnect with art after the recent pause, the exhibition combines a sense of warmth, positive energy and the varied power of love, and is spread out over three different spaces: 'Living Room,' 'Dining Room' and 'Bedroom.' *Maxi Love* has also been curated to ensure that the artworks inside the hotel are perfectly complimented by the scenery outside the hotel, in much the same way that Bvlgari Hotel Beijing balances and fuses art and nature.

Maxi Love is the brainchild of senior curator Nina Jin and director and curator Zhang Lexing of Lexing Art, who have utilized digital services from *Condé Nast Traveler* and *Harper's Bazaar's* online exhibition program to connect with art lovers across China and the world. Additionally, the project received an added boost due to the participation of two celebrities, actress Sienna Li and anchor Andy Chen.

So, what can you expect from this professional online exhibition? For starters, the famous 'Hawa Beirut Screen' by artist Richard Yasmine will be featured, along with the spectacular 'Aircraft' sculpture by Ma Han and a selection of Xu Hang's paintings, which all demonstrate an understanding of hope and strength. Pieces from Yang Kai, Bu Hua, Matteo Cibic and Iranian artist Reza Shafahi, among others, will also be featured.

There are two ways to enjoy the exhibit, which runs until June 15. To explore *Maxi Love* online, check out the *Harper's Bazaar* app or website, or add the official WeChat account for *Condé Nast Traveler*, which has launched an exclusive online guide platform. If you live in Beijing and just can't resist checking out the exhibition in person, then you'll be happy to know that on-site guided tours are available. All tours will be done one-on-one with a personal guide, and its mandatory for all visitors to wear a mask. Additionally, a reservation made at least 24 hours in advance is required to visit the exhibit.

For more information and inquiries, please call 010 8555 8555. To visit Bvlgari Hotels and Resorts official website, head over to bulgarihotels.com



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ALAN BEEBE

President of AmCham China

Interview by Ryan Gandolfo

Chinese culture and language have a special way of drawing one's interest, as Alan Beebe could tell you. After completing a one-year internship with IBM in Taiwan, he attended Yale and began studying all things Chinese in graduate school.

Originally from Nebraska in the US Midwest, Beebe felt at home in China when he first moved to the Chinese mainland in 2002. And with 15 years of experience helping foreign and Chinese clients while with IBM and other tech enterprises, he puts all his business experience to good use as President of AmCham China.

In May, we reached out to Alan to hear his thoughts on the business outlook for member companies in China and the 'China +1' strategy.

Given this turbulent two-year stretch with the ongoing US-China trade dispute and COVID-19 pandemic, member services offered at AmCham China would appear to be at a premium. What are your thoughts?

The tougher things are, the more you need to share, get smart on the issues and learn from others. AmCham China's member companies – both large and small – are facing unprecedented challenges, which have led to record levels of engagement with our members. Companies have learned to appreciate our incredible value for money by fully leveraging all the Chamber has to offer.

Why do you think the global narratives of companies planning to leave China differ from survey results by AmCham China, which suggest companies won't leave the country in the near future?

Our surveys show that companies are not packing up and leaving China; for example, over 70% of respondents say they have no plans yet to relocate production and supply chain operations or sourcing outside of China due to COVID-19. That's not to say we're China cheerleaders – our reports are entirely objective and there are plenty of negative trends we're seeing – but we stick to the data and facts, rather than get carried away by more emotional narratives. We're proud of the fact that AmCham China is an unparal-



leled source for credible, on-the-ground information. So, stay rational and critical – and come to us if you want to separate reality from hype!

Companies have been reassessing their supply chain strategies for the last several years, and in certain industries that means diversifying away from China or even expanding operations in the US given the current climate. In our annual China Business Climate Survey Report, 21% of surveyed members reported a drop in revenue in 2019, compared with only 7% in 2017, and the proportion of members describing their financial performance as 'profitable' has dropped from 73% in 2017 to 61% in 2019 – the lowest percentage in almost two decades. But despite the financial pressures, including trade tensions and the COVID-19 outbreak, most of the reasons why companies came to China in the first place still hold true today. Growth may be slowing, but most companies are still profitable. China is a historic market opportunity, and companies will continue to invest.

Would you briefly explain the China +1 strategy and why more companies may adopt this strategy?

The China +1 strategy is a way to diversify supply chains and operations by adding a new location, typically in Asia. Many Western companies have adopted this in recent years to control costs, and mitigate against rising wages, supply chain issues, tariffs and so on. So while companies show a commitment to

stay the course in China – often pivoting away from an export-led model to more of an 'in China, for China' strategy, where goods and services are produced in China for Chinese consumers – we expect to see more companies adopting the China +1 strategy. This is a way to diversify their risks and control costs, while still tapping into China's market opportunities.

What do you view as the best possible outcome for member companies once the pandemic has subsided and US-China trade talks pick up again?

In terms of COVID-19, the best outcome is that companies can fully resume operations by perhaps the end of June. From our third flash survey on the impact of the pandemic, conducted in April, 42% of respondents said they had already resumed normal operations, while 33% said they expected to return to normal by the end of the summer.

As for the trade talks, we hope China and the US stay fully committed to the Phase One deal, and we are helping our member companies take advantage of the USD200 billion in purchasing commitments included in the scope of this agreement. Beyond that, there are still plenty of tough issues remaining for Phase Two negotiations – especially in technology – that need to be addressed to reorient the bilateral relationship on a more sustainable, balanced economic footing.

This interview has been edited for brevity.

TAKE STOCK

TAP THAT APP

Anjuke

Searching for a rental apartment is arguably the least favorite task for people who live in China. For starters, some have to deal with a language barrier between landlords and agents while nonnationals will at times be flat-out rejected from renting out certain flats. (We write from firsthand experience...)

It seems the best strategy for apartment hunting is to put your eggs in several baskets, one of which should be Anjuke. Although by no means the quintessential tool to finding your next humble abode, this online real estate platform allows you to search for rental listings in cities across the PRC. When a spot catches your eye, simply send a message to the agent or landlord to setup a time to visit. If you're tired of renting and want to go all-in on a home of your own, the app also lists apartments for sale.

Founded in January 2007, Anjuke has been an influential player in the Chinese real estate market, with more than 66 million unique visitors to Anjuke-operated websites per month, according to Crunchbase. The company was acquired by 58.com in a cash deal for USD267 million in 2015.

While Anjuke provides you with a relatively easy option to finding your next living space, it certainly has its flaws. We've learned at times that apartments are already rented out after meeting with the agent, who then shows lesser-attractive housing options. So, try not to get your hopes up if you find a place you really like.

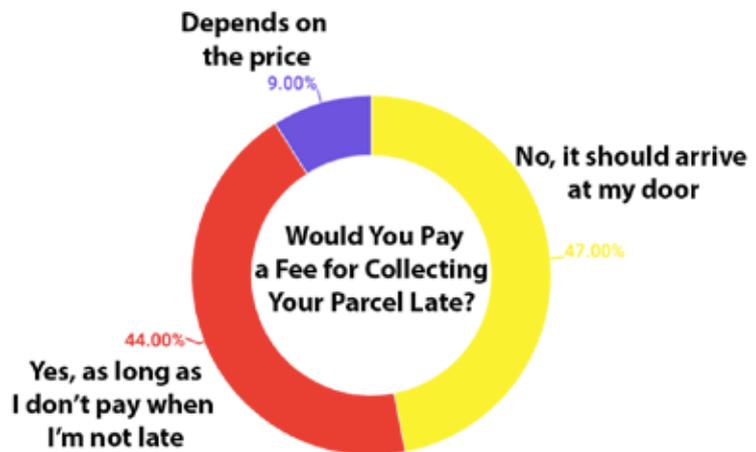
> Anjuke (安居客) is available on iOS and Android.



CHART ATTACK

Locker Losses

Chinese self-service package pick-up stations have started administering fees of RMB0.5 and up for people who collect their *kuaidi* late. A recent policy by Hive Box, a Shenzhen-based self-service parcel machine operator, has caused pushback in some neighborhoods around China. A survey conducted by Caijing.com found that nearly half of respondents would not accept paying a late fee for packages – agreeing that parcels should be taken to the buyer's door. Meanwhile, 44% said they'd fork over the cash and 9% said it depends on the fee amount.



INSPECT-A-GADGET

Flying Spinner

Every now and then, we find ourselves looking for some light, dumb fun in an attempt to entertain. FlyNova's flying spinner checks the box – sort of.

Billed as a kind of mini drone, the flying spinner is a simple toy to distract you from your work. All you need to do is turn it on and spin, then it will automatically pick up speed and you can throw across the room, office or outside and it will return like a boomerang (most of the time). It also lights up for when you're playing with it in darker settings.

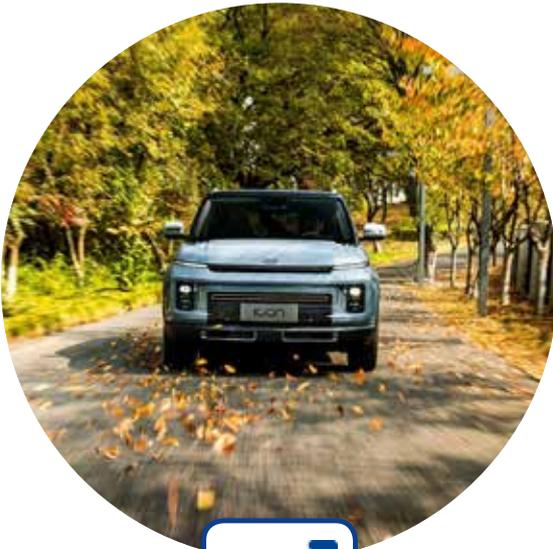
While it's advertised as a good way to decompress, we'd argue there are so many better ways to relax than by playing with this gadget. For starters, the flying spinner is quite loud once you turn it on and begin throwing it around. It can also be a bit difficult to catch since it's constantly spinning, but don't worry, your fingers should be fine.

We see this toy as a gag gift for your friend who works at home or dislikes their colleagues. So, if you want to upset Alice from sales with a loud buzzing sound, this will do the trick.

> FlyNova Flying Spinner is available on Taobao.



HIGHS AND LOWS



Highs

- China's auto sales grew 4.4% in April, marking the first sales increase in 21 months. The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers attributed the rise in sales to increased demand for commercial vehicles along with government cash subsidies to spur more car purchases.
- 81% of advertisers in China feel things are "back to normal," according to a survey by the World Federation of Advertisers. The survey looked at executives from 24 multinational corporations, with 82% of advertisers saying they invested more in tech and tools to maintain a stable working relationship with partners.
- Labor Day holiday statistics provided by ride-share giant Didi showed the capital city of Urumqi in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region saw a 571% increase in daily rides compared to a normal week. The city with the second largest increase was Zhongwei, Ningxia, with a 367% spike in daily rides.
- Alibaba cofounder Jack Ma topped this year's list of the 500 richest Chinese people, reportedly earning RMB9.13 million per hour. Not bad, for a former English teacher from Hangzhou.



Lows

- Reports surfaced last month that Apple is planning to shift as much as 20% of production capacity from the Middle Kingdom to neighboring India. The US government has floated the idea of subsidizing moving costs for US companies to leave the PRC, while Japan has earmarked USD2.33 billion to subsidize Japanese companies' relocation costs from China.
- An experiment by research center Citizen Lab showed that foreign WeChat accounts are subject to surveillance, which could be used to build a database to censor China-registered accounts. A spokesperson from Tencent told CNBC that "all content shared among international users of WeChat is private," following the report.

New Money

Can China's E-RMB Attain Digital Dominance?

By Ryan Gandolfo

On the evening of April 14, screenshots of a beta app showing an e-wallet for China's new government-backed digital currency were leaked online, effectively setting off a frenzy of speculation both in China and abroad about the future of currency.

It seems only fitting for China to be one of the first countries to launch their own digital currency. After all, they lead the world in digital transactions, accounting for 44% of the global digital payments total transaction value, according to Statista. China's 'cashless' revolution has been well-documented over the past five years, and a new digital currency is another step in the inevitable paper currency phase-out.

But aside from advancing the transition from physical to digital wallets, what else will this currency provide and what might it accomplish in the decades to come?

E-RMB

Since 2014, the People's Bank of China (PBoC), the nation's central bank, has pioneered the research behind this new digital tender, and in January 2017, established the Digital Currency Research Institute (DCRI) in Shenzhen to turn these plans into reality.

Essentially an electronic version of the renminbi, China's Digital Currency Electronic Payment (DCEP) will be used in much the same way we handle banknotes – making payments, withdrawals and deposits – except that these functions will be performed using a digital wallet app. One of its primary functions is said to be the replacement of MO (money supply).

DCEP is being tested in four Chinese cities – Suzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu and Xiong'an – in the early trial period. Although no official date for a nationwide rollout has been announced, there is speculation that it could be soon.

The move to digital cash makes sense on multiple levels, with commonly cited benefits including reduced costs related to issuing and circulating paper money as well as more 'hygienic transactions.' (The PBoC disposed of old banknotes at the start of the pandemic to curb the spread of the coronavirus.)

DCEP has several key differences from popular cryptocurrencies like bitcoin and ethereum. For starters, it's a centralized legal tender created and sanctioned by the Chinese government, so China will have full control over the currency's circulation, and therefore it cannot be mined like other cryptocurrencies. It will be powered by blockchain technology, however the PBoC will have access to currency movement and transaction data. The digital yuan is expected to help prevent illegal activities such as money laundering, counterfeiting, illegal financing and tax evasion.

DCEP will be available for transactions offline, and won't require a bank account to access funds – benefiting the roughly 20% of adults in China without a bank account, according to 2018 data from the World Bank. In addition, it must be accepted by merchants who take digital payments from other third-party platforms, or risk losing their business license.

The digital currency is also expected to have a big impact on monetary policy. At the China Finance 40 Forum in October 2019, Huang Qifan, vice president of the China International Economic Exchange Center, said that DCEP "can achieve real-time collection of data related to money creation, bookkeeping, etc., providing useful reference for the provision of money and the implementation of monetary policies."

Rising Competition?

In addition to digital currency testing via the four big Chinese banks, Alipay and WeChat Pay are also expected to distribute the currency in the future. On Chinese media, some have speculated what type of impact DCEP will have on the mobile payment duopoly, which accounted for 94% of Chinese mobile payments in the third quarter of 2019, according to data from iResearch. Despite DCEP having glaring differences from the mobile payment providers, the digital wallet screenshots posted in April show a scan-to-pay feature much like we currently use with Alipay and WeChat Pay.

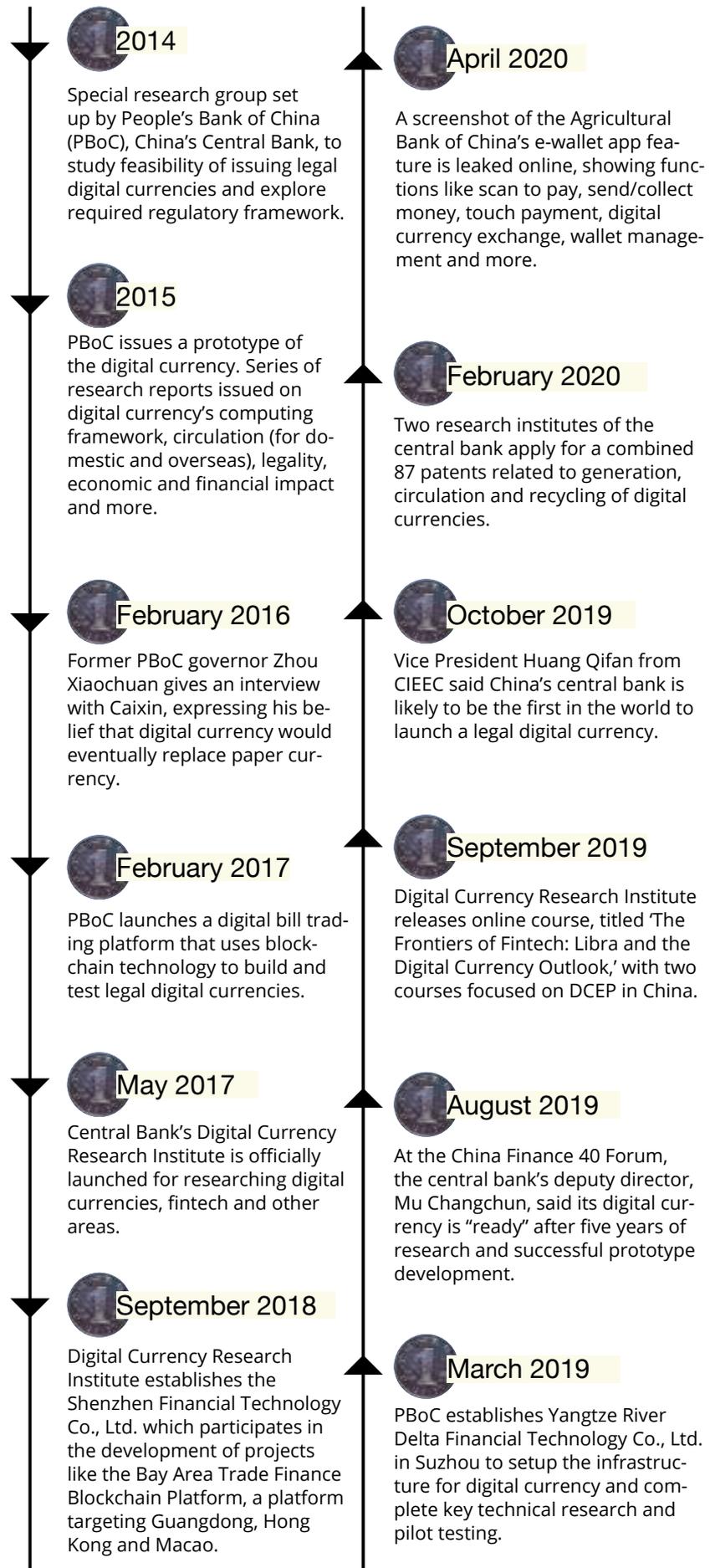
Peng Wensheng, chief economist with Everbright Securities, believes the new currency may compete with existing e-payment tools once DCEP is fully launched. "If businesses do not need to pay any fee for using the digital currency, it will take some of the market share of Alipay and WeChat Pay. In the future, digital money issued by the central bank is likely to compete and compliment the private sector's electronic payment platforms," said Peng, as cited by state-run newspaper *China Daily*. Others view this incoming age of digital currencies as another shake-up for payment firms. "The payment industry is an ancient industry. Merchants have always needed payment service providers, and the transformation of third-party payments has been a focus in recent years. The introduction of more value-added services and the transformation of merchants' digital operations are new opportunities in this industry," mobile payment industry analyst Mu Chu told Time Finance in early May.

However, once DCEP is officially launched, it will still take time to see how the digital currency integrates with current payment systems. During its pilot program, the digital yuan is being used to pay half of government workers' travel subsidies. Foreign consumer brands like Starbucks and McDonald's, as well as Ant Financial, Tencent and local restaurants and retail stores, are reportedly participating in some capacity during the testing phase.

A Modern World Currency

Industry experts have speculated that China's digital currency development really ramped up after Facebook announced plans for its own digital currency, Libra, in June 2019. *China Daily* reported in September of last year that "Libra's designing scheme might have sparked new ideas among Chinese financial regulators."

DCEP Timeline



Li Lihui, a former Bank of China president who is now involved with blockchain research at the National Internet Finance Association of China, held a webinar in early May titled 'Digital Currency: Possible Restructuring of the Global Monetary System' (数字货币: 可能重构全球货币体系), discussing the developments of both digital currencies. During the talk, Li expressed that Libra has likely made a lot of progress since its White Paper was released last year. "If Libra was just a draft in 2019, now it probably looks more like a legitimate blueprint," Li said, also noting it has the "potential to fundamentally restructure the global monetary system."

But what about DCEP? Similar to how finance and blockchain experts like Li have expressed the possibility Libra might disrupt the monetary system, others have pointed out the potential impact that digital yuan can make.

According to Boxmining editor Michael Gu, "the issuance of DCEP is conducive to promoting the internationalization of the RMB and reshaping the current cross-border payment system." Currently, the US has a stronghold on cross-border payment and banking systems, with CHIPS (Clearing House Interbank Payments System) being a US company and internationally backed SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) previously caught sending data to the US. During the Bund Financial Summit in Shanghai last year, Huang Qifan echoed similar sentiments, saying, "Prior to the launch of the RMB Cross-Border Payment System (CIPS), RMB cross-border liquidation was highly dependent on the US SWIFT system and CHIPS. However, there are certain risks associated with a high degree of reliance on SWIFT and CHIPS systems," including outdated and inefficient infrastructure.

But so far, China's intentions with DCEP have not been made entirely clear. One of the few takeaways from reports in state media is that China's digital yuan will "showcase to the rest of the world what a genuine digital currency looks like." The world has now been put on notice.



TRAILBLAZ

Meet the Internationals Shaking Things Up
in the Middle Kingdom





ZERS

W

While many who live in China are familiar with influential Chinese figures, less folks know about the class of individuals originally from abroad who've come to China and made their mark. For this month's cover story, we pull back the curtain on a group of role models who've had a defining impact in various fields – from anthropology and sports to business and healthcare. Although each unique in what they bring to the table, all have one mutual redeeming quality – a passion for the Middle Kingdom.

These 10 individuals have found both success and hardship in China, and their stories breed inspiration and dreams of new beginnings. In addition to the successes the people we've profiled this month have accomplished while living in China, they all show that home isn't always where you're born or where your parents hail from, but where you decide to be.





Isabel Crook

Chinese Medal of Friendship Recipient

By Matthew Bossons

Editor's note: While it is standard practice to refer to a subject by their family name from the second mention onwards, we will refer to Isabel Crook and her family members by their first names throughout this article due to the number of Crooks mentioned in the story.

Isabel Crook has lived a truly incredible life. Born in Chengdu, Sichuan in December of 1915, Isabel witnessed some of the biggest events of the 20th century through a Chinese lens, from the first civil war after the fall of the Qing Dynasty and the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (Second Sino-Japanese War) to the Second Civil War leading to the founding of the People's Republic of China. She also experienced the Cultural Revolution, China's Reform and Opening-up in the 1980s and the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Isabel's parents, Homer and Muriel Brown, were Canadian and arrived in China in 1912 as Methodist missionaries. They left in 1942, although their daughter would remain and continues to call the country home to this very day. The 104-year-old has lived 87 years of her life in China, with the remainder spent overseas, including six years in the UK and the duration of her post-secondary education in Canada, where she attained her BA and MA at the University of Toronto.

In the early 1940s, Isabel met committed British communist David Crook and the two were married in 1942. Their life journey together would continue until David's death in 2000 at the age of 90.

Formally trained as an anthropologist, Isabel is keenly interested in China's ethnic minority groups, particularly the Yi (previously known as the Lolo) and the Jiarong Tibetan. She is also passionate about rural development. "Isabel enrolled in a PhD program at London School of Economics while David was studying at School of Oriental and African Studies. Her thesis was to be 'Rural Reconstruction,' based on her two-year anthropological research done in Xinglongchang in Bishan county, now part of Chongqing in 1940-1942," Michael Crook, Isabel's son, tells *That's* via email. "When Isabel learned the Chinese communists were launching a land reform program in 1947, she got permission to change her thesis to be a comparison of rural reform under the KMT and Communist Party of China (CPC), and headed out to the communist-controlled areas to do field work and collect material."

Her husband joined her on this adventure into CPC-liberated areas and the couple would jointly produce three books on China's communist rebirth: *Ten Mile Inn*, *Revolution in a Chinese Village*, *Ten Mile Inn – Mass movement in a Chinese Village* and *First Years of Yangyi*

Commune.

In 1948, on the eve of her return to the UK to finish her PhD, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the CPC asked Isabel and David to stay and teach at the Central Foreign Affairs School (now Beijing Foreign Studies University). There, the couple taught English and other humanities subjects, and Isabel would remain employed there until her retirement in 1979. She then returned to her anthropological studies and wrote two more books.

Despite her parents' religious affiliation, Crook is not religious and instead took an interest in advancing socialist causes. "Isabel joined the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) in London in 1942, and did union organizing and recruiting for the CPGB," writes Michael. Within China, Isabel participated in 'party life' with members of the CPC from 1947 onwards and in various political movements. She was appointed as an advisor by the Ministry of Education, offering advice on education and social issues, particularly related to rural areas.

Despite the highs, there were lows: During the chaos of the Cultural Revolution, David was wrongly imprisoned for five years for 'spying,' and Isabel spent three years in detainment. This experience did not dim their love for China, the Chinese people or the revolution, though, and the Crook family decided to continue living in the PRC despite speculation they may relocate to England.

In a nod to Isabel's accomplishments and contributions to New China, Chinese President Xi Jinping awarded Isabel the Chinese Medal of Friendship in 2019. The honor sees her join the ranks of other distinguished recipients, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, First Secretary Raúl Modesto Castro Ruz and Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand.

These days, despite her advanced age, Isabel is still incredibly active, going out multiple times a day despite living on the third floor of a building that does not have an elevator. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, her regular routines have been negatively impacted.

"Due to the epidemic, the weekly discussion group – supper with foreign friends – has been suspended since January, [this is] something she misses a lot," Michael tells us.

Considering the trials and tribulations Isabel has tackled during her lifetime, we imagine she is weathering the current global storm with the same determination and adventurous spirit that has kept her in China all these years.

Fuchsia Dunlop

Chef and Food Writer

By Phoebe Kut

Fuchsia Dunlop's love affair with China began with a backpacking trip around the country in 1992. She returned home to England smitten with the culture and, like many others who become fascinated with the country, decided to dive deeper by enrolling in evening Chinese lessons. Fast forward 28 years and Dunlop is known in the West as one of the most knowledgeable and authoritative figures on Sichuan cuisine.

Dunlop is a critically acclaimed chef and food writer who specializes in Chinese cuisine, specifically from the province of Sichuan. The passion that was sparked in 1992 has fueled a career spanning decades and resulted in multiple award-winning books.

Her story starts in Oxford, England. If you told a 20-something-year-old Dunlop she'd be a writer, she claims she wouldn't have believed it. However, she had always held a keen interest in food and cooking. She describes her "very unusual gastronomic upbringing for a girl growing up in England in the 1970s" to *That's*. Her mother was an English teacher, who often invited foreign students to live in her home or come over for dinner – and thus Dunlop's palate was introduced to a myriad of cuisines, including Japanese, Turkish, Spanish, Italian, Lebanese, Iranian and Sudanese. She also enjoyed joining in the action in the kitchen, lending a helping hand with food preparation, cooking and tasting.

Recipes from her mother's foreign friends were incorporated into her own cooking, and she credits this early exposure to international cuisines as a vital experience in her evolution as a chef. Dunlop acknowledges that her mother was "the most important influence" on her palate.

Following her first trip to Chengdu, Dunlop returned to China in 1994 after winning a British Council scholarship to study at Sichuan University. She decided on Sichuan for two reasons: it was and remains a region rich in cultural history, as it borders Tibet and other minority areas, and it is home to a delicious cuisine.

Although she was originally enrolled to study ethnic minorities, she found herself swept up in daily gastronomic discoveries. Dunlop remarks that in Chengdu, "I quickly realized that I was more interested in learning about the local food than anything else – and that was the beginning of my

food-writing career."

She was invited to become the first foreign student at the Sichuan Institute of Higher Cuisine. During that period of her life, Dunlop lived in China for a year and a half before returning to England. Nevertheless, she's been coming and going between her home in the UK and China ever since.

Dunlop's initial goal with writing was to promote understanding and appreciation of Chinese food among English-speaking foreigners. During the late '80s and '90s, regional Chinese cuisine had not become as widespread as it is today. Sure, Cantonese and 'Szechuan' cuisine had begun to infiltrate Western consciousness, but as we all know, China is a vast country comprised of countless cuisines.

Her first cookbook, *Sichuan Cookery* was released in 2001 and established her as "the English-writing authority on Sichuanese cuisine," as summed up by Susan Jung from *South China Morning Post*.

Although her intended audience were English-speaking foreigners, many Chinese people, whether born in China or overseas, have gravitated towards her books. Where *Sichuan Cookery* stands out is in its ability to break down elements of Chinese cooking that even Chinese cooks or diners take for granted. Just last year, almost 20 years after *Sichuan Cookery's* release, Dunlop published an updated cookbook titled *The Food of Sichuan*, packed with 70 new recipes from the region.

During the coronavirus pandemic, Dunlop has been under lockdown in London. She spends most of her time at home reading, writing and cooking, but hasn't been able to do any public events, such as the Melbourne Food Festival or the British Library Food Season.

However, she has still found a way to connect to audiences through social media, answering any questions they might have. While some might be baking bread or whipping up Dalgona coffee, Dunlop was touched to see how many people are cooking from her books at home during the lockdown. She has been surprised, yet at the same time delighted, to see "Quite a lot of people in India now seem to be cooking from my Sichuan cookbook!"



Ai Kesen

Footballer for Team Dragon

By Ned Kelly



Born Elkeson de Oliveira Cardoso in Maranhão in Brazil, but reborn in China as Ai Kesen (艾克森), the 30-year-old striker made history last September when he became the first person without any known Chinese ancestry to play for China's national football team. He marked his debut with two goals against the Maldives in a World Cup qualifier.

The unlikely journey began on Christmas Eve 2012, when Guangzhou Evergrande announced they had signed Elkeson from Brazilian side Botafogo for the princely sum of USD6.3 million. He wasted no time making

his mark, topping the goal scorer charts with 24 goals in his first season, helping Guangzhou to the Chinese Super League title.

As if that wasn't enough, he scored a further six goals in the AFC Champions League, including a goal in each of the legs of the Champions League Final against FC Seoul, as Guangzhou were crowned champions of Asia for the first time. In a sign of things to come, Ai Kesen – as he was now known by worshiping fans – draped himself in the China flag as he celebrated the victory.

Fast forward to 2019, and five Chinese Super League wins, two AFC Champions League wins and well over 100 goals later, and it was safe to say Ai Kesen had achieved legend status in China. He was also now eligible for naturalization having lived in the country for five years consecutively. And with football success, including hosting and even winning the World Cup – a stated ambition of President Xi Jinping, and with Team Dragon struggling in qualification for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, a change in selection policy was approved by the powers that be.

Ai Kesen jumped at the chance to blaze a trail. "I want a new challenge," he said on social media. "I want to see where my limits are. I am very happy in China; it is my home. I want to say to the world: I have officially started

a new journey – I'm Chinese! I want to return the love of the Chinese people over these seven years. I hope to get your support, as always. I accepted this challenge without hesitation."

He was not, however, the first naturalized player to represent the national team. That honor went to London-born, Arsenal academy product Nico Yennaris, now known as Li Ke, who made his debut last June. The Beijing Guo'an defensive midfielder was naturalized courtesy of his mother's Chinese heritage.

The pair is set to be the vanguard of a new generation of non-Chinese born players, as the country attempts to make it to a first World Cup since its sole appearance in 2002. Aloisio joined Ai Kesen in China coach Li Tie's latest squad for a training camp last month, while Goulart, Alan and Fernando are reportedly close to call-ups.

All were born in Brazil. All are contracted to CSL champions Guangzhou Evergrande, as is former England youth defender Tyias Browning, who could also represent China this year. Guangzhou are managed by Italian World Cup winning captain Fabio Cannavaro. The objective is clear.

"China attaches importance to football as much as European and American countries. In terms of investment, it is only comparable to the English Premier League.

Football is growing in China and the Chinese team has no reason not to enter the World Cup," said Ai Kesen, who followed up his two goals against the Maldives with another against Guam, again in a World Cup qualifier.

"With so many players taking Chinese nationality, everyone has the same goal and wants to play in the World Cup," he concludes. "After all, as a football player, participating in the World Cup is the dream of a lifetime."



While there is no shortage of foreign editors sprinkled throughout the ranks of Chinese publications and media companies, thoughtful and articulate political columnists are a far rarer breed.

Since moving from the US to Beijing two and a half years ago, Ian Goodrum has built an avid following, thanks largely to his insightful columns in *China Daily* and *People's World* covering geopolitical issues and current events.

The well-spoken 30-year-old originally hails from Brazoria, Texas, a county located roughly an hour south of Houston on the Gulf Coast. From a young age, Goodrum was aware of the economic disparities between different communities in his county. In his college years, he majored in English and took to devouring the texts of the great communist thinkers of the 19th and 20th centuries – including revolutionary and founding father of the People's Republic of China Mao Zedong.

"China was a place that I had always been interested in," says Goodrum. "In college, I was reading Marx, Lenin, Engels and Mao, and Mao was one of the writers that really struck me the most in terms of what I had experienced and what I knew about the way the world works."

Upon graduating from college, Goodrum jumped into the world of American media, working as a column and feature writer, as well as an occasional reporter. But in a turn of events that is all too familiar to people working in media, he was laid off just before the 2016 election.

"It's hard enough finding a job in journalism anyway, but it's even harder when you are looking at the same time as 300-plus other people with varying levels of experience and backgrounds," Goodrum tells us. "I was getting some responses, but nothing was super forthcoming, so the thought came to me that I should start looking outside of the country."

His job search eventually landed him with English-language newspaper and digital media company *China Daily* in Beijing. While the job offer from *China Daily* was the chief motivator for the overseas move, Goodrum says that he was interested in coming to China to learn more about the media landscape here versus what he had experienced in the US. He did have some reservations, though.

As a Leftist, Goodrum admits he was skeptical of modern China's revolutionary credentials, although he says that these misgivings quickly dissipated after researching into modern China's policies and governance. They were further dispelled after arriving in the country.

"Getting to go to some of these villages where the poverty alleviation campaigns are in full swing, where there are new houses being built, where people are getting public services – many of them for the first time, these actions are being taken by the government. This solidified my turnaround and solidified my support [for China's government]," says Goodrum.

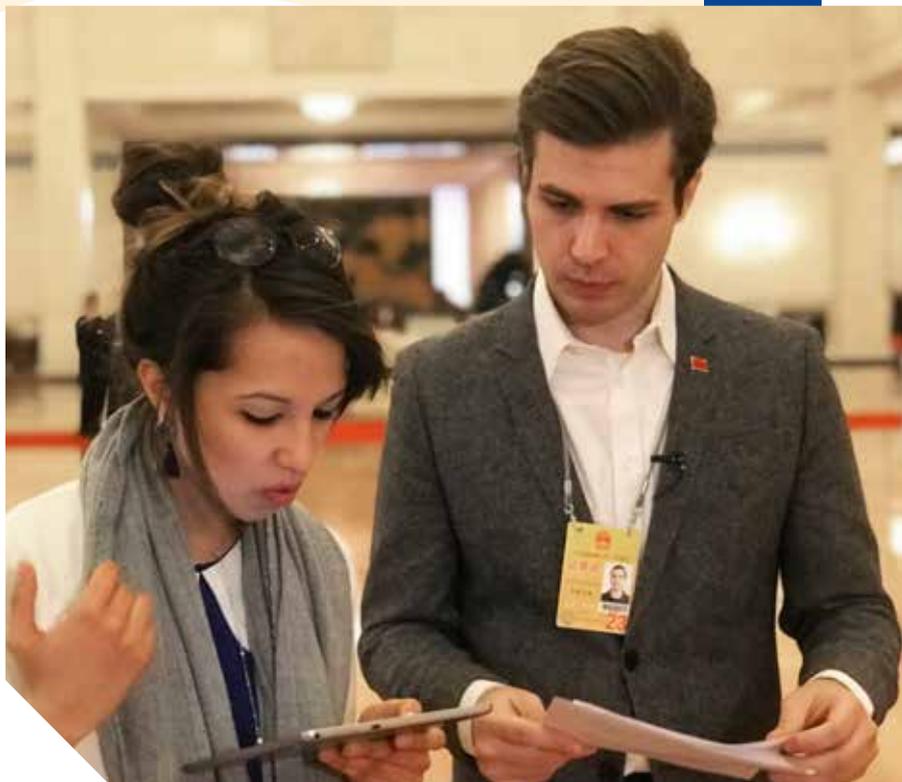
The Texan's day-to-day job sees him working as an editor, although he regularly releases columns tackling diverse topics for an international audience, from the US-China trade war and last year's NBA scandal to Karl Marx's legacy and the Two Sessions.

While Goodrum tells *That's* that he enjoys total autonomy in choosing his topics, he does note that much

Ian Goodrum

China Daily Editor and Columnist

By Matthew Bossons



of his time has been spent responding to anti-China rhetoric and misinformation in Western media and political circles. This has become a full-time job in recent years, and even more so over the past several months, with American officials regularly referring to COVID-19 as the 'China Virus' and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's baseless assertion that the disease originated in a Chinese lab.

"I got here right before the anti-China machine really got kicked into high gear, so most of my work has been responding to what is being said about China in the West. When you decide to not abide by a lot of these [anti-China] narratives, you find yourself on the back foot a lot of the time and you are responding and defending rather than being proactive and creating," says Goodrum.

His dedication to providing an inside look at Chinese politics for domestic and international audiences has earned him a considerable following. Since arriving in China, his Twitter following has grown from roughly 1,000 followers to more than 25,000. He's also been featured on prominent podcasts and given lectures on his experiences in China and his thoughts on China's quickly evolving role on the global stage.

With no plans to leave China in the near future, expect big things from Mr. Goodrum in the years to come.

Harry 'Hazza' Harding

TV and Radio Presenter of Guangdong
Radio and Television

Harry Harding's China story is a testament to taking advantage of the opportunities presented to you. Born in Queensland, Australia, Harding (known by most as Hazza) was first introduced to China after bypassing a program to hike in the Australian bush in order to go on a school trip to Beijing.

"Hiking in the bush or hiking on the Great Wall, which one are you going to choose?" he says, recalling that early experience from his Guangzhou apartment. However, the capital city tour didn't necessarily spark his interest in the country north of Down Under. No, that moment occurred after Harding discovered a Jay Chou album.

Without the Chinese skills to understand Chou's beloved ballads, Harding managed to substitute his math courses for Chinese in Year 11, which led to a major in Applied Linguistics and dual minor in Mandarin and Korean at Griffith University.

By this time, Harding had started creating videos singing Chinese cover songs and sharing them on Chinese social media sites. "When I was in Australia, one of my videos went viral and it made the news. It received millions of hits online. Even Chinese people in Australia would come up to me and say, 'Are you that guy that sings Chinese songs?'" Harding recalls with a chuckle.

Eventually, his cover song viral hits led him back to China in early 2011, with a woman contacting Harding about potential opportunities in the capital city. After the airline lost his luggage when he arrived in Beijing during the dead of winter, he decided to travel to 'warmer' pastures and ended up in Guangzhou. From there, he would go on to meet someone from GRT (formerly called GDTV) and start a new career in Chinese radio and television.

Harding has, for the most part, worked as a TV presenter and radio host for GRT throughout his career. "I feel like here, in China, it's not every day you would turn on the TV and see an Australian," Harding tells us, while pointing out that there are a lot of misunderstandings between Australians and Chinese people. As the chapter president of the Australia China Young Professionals Initiative in Guangzhou, Harding has the ability to help others learn and appreciate both worlds by organizing meetups. "It's about connecting the

community," he says.

His work in Chinese media has been exemplary, having received the China News Award in 2017 for a program looking at how technology made in Guangdong province was being applied in Australia. Viewed as one of the most prestigious journalism awards in the PRC, Harding is the first Australian to receive the honor.

In addition to news reporting, he has put in time on various talk shows, including *China Chats* and *FaceTime*, as well as a program called *Little Ma Big Ha* which goes in-depth on cultural differences between China and the West.

While highly regarded for his work in media, Harding's entertainment career has been equally impressive. He was named the 'Most Popular Internet Celebrity' in 2011 by video-sharing platform 56.com for his masterful covers of Jay Chou classics. Having graduated from covering Chinese songs, Harding released several of his own singles, including debut song 'Let Go,' which hit number one on the Guangzhou New Music Charts.

When looking back at some defining life-changing moments, Harding shares two that stand out. "I was a supporting act at a concert with JJ Lin in Guangzhou, with an audience of 60,000 people," he says, mentioning that he later got to meet JJ Lin and G.E.M. "That was like a life-changing moment because I've always had stage fright and I got over it on that night."

The other moment he references is saying yes to that first job at the TV station in Guangzhou. "There were still so many unanswered questions at the time, but if I said no then my life would have gone in a totally different direction."

Throughout his career in China, Harding has been able to have a positive impact within the Chinese and international communities. As for advice he'd give nonnationals living in the Middle Kingdom, he says to go with the flow: "If every time you come up against a challenge and treat it like it's the end of the world, you're going to have such a depressing time. There's 1.4 billion people here and they all manage, so why can't you?" Harding expresses, "You can't change other people, the only thing you can change is your input in those interactions. Honestly, there are no other ways you can go about living in China."



Roberta Lipson

CEO of New Frontier Health

By Phoebe Kut

Call it fortune or call it foresight, Roberta Lipson dialed into China's potential for opportunity early on. She first moved to Beijing from New York shortly after China's Cultural Revolution. Since her move from the bright lights of the Big Apple, she has firmly established herself within the Chinese business community as the CEO of New Frontier Health, which owns United Family Healthcare (UFH), a private healthcare operator in China worth USD1.4 billion.

Lipson reveals to *That's* that she had been drawn to China from an early age. In university, she majored in Chinese history and after graduation was determined "to do anything" to make her way to China. However, as US-China relations were still in a fledgling stage, there were few jobs available at the time.

She decided to follow her passion for healthcare and soon landed a job at a pharmaceutical company in the US, putting her dream of moving to China on a temporary hold. Nevertheless, she remained resolute that she would grasp the first suitable opportunity to work in China when it came along. That opportunity came in 1979.

When she arrived in Beijing, the healthcare market was more or less removed from the outside world. Lipson was quick to recognize that US-manufactured medical equipment could considerably raise the standard of healthcare in the country.

On her first job in China, Lipson managed a business importing medical equipment. "We were bringing tools to doctors which they wouldn't have access to otherwise," she tells us. Following that pivotal experience, Lipson cofounded her first company, Chindex International, with colleague Elyse Beth Silverberg in 1982.

In the '80s, through becoming familiar with the inner workings of hospitals by supplying equipment to them, Lipson saw a gap in the market for international-standard hospitals and practices. Her realization coincided in a timely manner with a rapidly growing Beijing expat community that craved similar healthcare standards to those at home. In addition, after accompanying a friend to a Chinese maternity hospital and witnessing the stark difference in care between Chinese and Western hospitals, she recalls feeling that it was unfair for Chinese women "to have the happiest moment of their lifetime delivered in such an unsatisfactory way." Thus, the concept of UFH was born, along with a vision to be a premium healthcare provider and one of China's largest private operators.

Presently, UFH has established hospitals and clinics in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Qingdao and Bo'ao, while another hospital is currently under construction in Shenzhen. Lipson describes how the Chinese patient base at UFH has grown from 40% in 2010 to 74% this year, vindicating UFH's model in the Chinese market. Furthermore, UFH prides itself on being an international, multicultural and diverse environment, exemplified by a workforce that is over 70% female.

Since the opening of UFH in 1997, the hospital has pioneered the concept of high-quality private healthcare in China. Of UFH's accomplishments, one of Lipson's most gratifying experiences has been changing the perspective on childbirth – from one of dread and uncertainty into an empowering experience. She notes, "it should be a celebration with your family around, and [one] should have [the option of] pain control to make it a safe and positive experience." During the early '90s, very few hospitals offered women epidurals to manage the pain of childbirth, making the experience that much more challenging.

Upon reflecting on her time in China, Lipson tells us the three things of which she is proudest. The first is building a hospital brand that has not only been financially successful, but has also helped changed how healthcare can and should be provided in China. The second is UFH's ongoing foundation work, which has provided free healthcare for orphans, people outside of the social safety net and those with serious medical conditions. Lastly, she is proud of the foundation's leadership efforts when it comes to cervical cancer and HPV screening.

Despite all of Lipson's business ventures, she still finds time to remain connected to her Jewish faith. Lipson cofounded Kehillat Beijing shortly upon arrival to the city, which to this day serves as a place of gathering and community for many of Beijing's Jewish population.

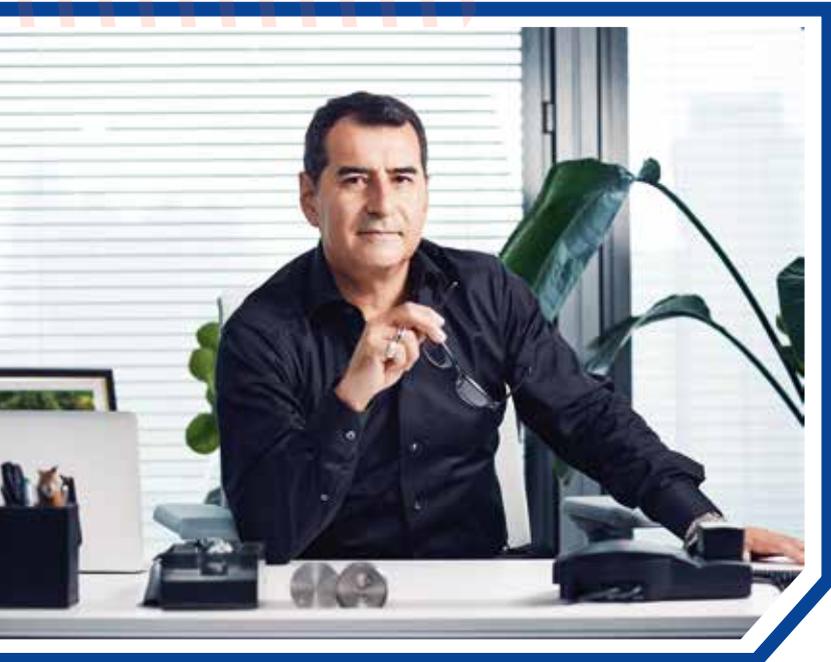
With three (now grown) children all raised in China, Lipson reflects, "I would say China is one of the best places in the world to raise a family." She explains, "Chinese people love children and there's great maternity leave benefits for mothers and in some cases paternity benefits. In addition, UFH is a place where you can have one of the best birthing experiences and where childcare is still fairly affordable for professionals in China. Even if you don't have a relative looking after your child, there are still wonderful people to help raise the family."



Michael Luevano

Tournament Director of the Rolex Shanghai Masters

By Ned Kelly



When it comes to organizing major international sporting events in China, Michael Luevano is the man. Tournament director of the Rolex Shanghai Masters, he also oversees the F1 Chinese Grand Prix, equestrian Global Champions Tour and annual AFL game. Oh, and he's put on Shanghai shows for Elton John, Eric Clapton and the Rolling Stones for good measure.

A South California native, Luevano started out as a tennis pro, playing in "tournaments that were so poorly run that I was confident I could do better organizing the events myself." In 1987, he met his business partner of over three decades, Charles Smith, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where Luevano's day job was as a teaching pro for Peter Burwash International.

"Ironically, there were two Peter Burwash pros working in Hong Kong that had also started a sports marketing and event management company like Charles and I had in Puerto Rico. Those two guys owned the ATP Tour event in Oahu, Hawaii and contacted us to see if we had interest in operating the event," says Luevano. "Hawaii definitely intrigued us, so we packed our bags and moved there to run the one and only Hawaii Open in 1994."

The tournament was "a complete financial disaster," but that didn't prevent an offer for their next opportunity, and Luevano found himself on a plane to the Far East and the next chapter of his life. He became tournament director of the Salem Open in Hong Kong for the next four years, one of 30 events Luevano did each year for a wide variety of sports, from table tennis to badminton, volleyball to tennis. His first trip to Shanghai came in 1995.

"At the time there were no Western sports marketing companies based on the Chinese mainland. Most were in Hong Kong; you flew into the mainland, worked the event and

then flew out. That experience helped me understand how to navigate the mainland, and by the time I finished my contract with the Hong Kong entity, I was ready to move to Shanghai," Luevano tells us.

In 1998, Luevano and Smith landed the contract for what was to become the Heineken Open, where they brought in a big name that made a difference. "One of the shrewdest strategic decisions we made at the outset was to do a three-year deal with Michael Chang," Luevano recounts. "He was unique in that he was of Chinese heritage and a bona fide superstar as the No. 2 player in the world. It certainly worked to our advantage that he ended up winning that first Heineken Open."

The growth and success of the Heineken Open – now the Rolex Shanghai Masters – led them to another major prize in the sporting world. "We became involved in F1 in 2006, and the race has steadily flourished. For the last four years, the race, which is now staged in one of the venues we own, has sold out, and is considered a premier race on the international F1 calendar."

As vice president and executive director for the international division at Shanghai Juss Event Management, Co., Inc., Luevano added equestrian and Aussie Rules events to the company portfolio, while they now own the Shanghai Sharks basketball franchise. And then there's rock 'n' roll.

"When I'm not wearing my sports marketing suit and tie, I'm also a musician. I've played the drums since I was an early teen and have been in multiple bands, so I've always driven the music side of our business," says Luevano. "Working with major acts like the Rolling Stones and Sir Elton John were probably the most stressful times in our entire careers. They checked all our boxes, especially the Rolling Stones. They were an iconic, best-in-class group."

All of which earned Luevano the Silver Magnolia Award, given out to foreigners who've made an impact on the city, in 2005, and then Shanghai's highest honor, the Golden Magnolia Award, in 2015. "Charles has also received the same two awards in different years. What the award really did for us was solidify that Shanghai is our home and we're truly, truly proud to be honored by our city."

Now in the first year of another 10-year contract with Juss, Luevano will be making big things happen in Shanghai through much of his 60s. "I believe the future holds great things. I do have another dream that I'll tell you about. I'd love to do an air show in Shanghai."

With Michael Luevano, the sky's the limit.



Mamahuhu

The Comedy Skit Video Troupe Everyone Knows

By Matthew Bossons

The team behind comedy troupe Mamahuhu are unquestionably among China's most celebrated entertainers. From their hallowed ranks a number of seriously talented expatriate comedians and entertainers got their starts, including American Zach 'Donnie Does' Etkind, who now works for Barstool Sports, and Australian Andy Curtain, a Hong Kong-based comedian who has a Comedy Central special coming out later this year.

For the uninitiated, Mamahuhu releases regular videos that highlight cultural differences between Shanghainese people and their expatriate neighbors through comedic skits. The group, which was originally comprised of Alessio Avezzano, Matt McGill, Johnny Tian and Kay Wang, got their start filming lackluster pranks and 'social experiments' with TMD back in 2014.

"At the time, that company were keen on us making 'social experiments' until I convinced them to allow us to give sketches and shorts a try," Mamahuhu's director and cinematographer Avezzano tells *That's* via email. "The channel blew up after that. Later that year, I would leave the company to go solo and wouldn't be given the channel back until two years later when TMD was no more."

Since making a comeback in 2017, the creative minds behind Mamahuhu have released a string of wildly popular videos, including 'The Last Man in Shanghai,' the 'Laowai Park' series and the hilarious fake commercial 'The Ayi From Work Diet.'

"We've been really fortunate to have had this great little



comedy bubble made up of talented writers and comedians. Most [video ideas] come from daily observations that are then greatly exaggerated; cultural differences of course have played a huge part as well," writes Avezzano. "If the idea makes us laugh, that's usually enough."

Due to the transient nature of expat life, the core members of the group have changed over the years. In addition to Avezzano, the current team includes expats Matt McGill, Andy Curtain, Adam Hamilton and Mohammed Magdi, as well as Chinese citizens Dawn Wong and Norah Yang, among others.

One thing that hasn't changed, though, is the time and commitment required to produce each and every Mamahuhu video. Additionally, filming on Shanghai's noise-plagued streets have also proved to be an obstacle.

"Time and budget have always been the biggest challenges [and] filming on the street, working around noise pollution," says Avezzano, "I swear there's a guy with a drill that shows up at every shoot no matter where we are."

As a result of the troupe's creative comedy skits, they've amassed a considerable online following, with over 194,000 subscribers on YouTube and over 54,000 followers on Facebook.

"Our viewers have grown globally over the years, YouTube being our biggest audience and perhaps WeChat second," Avezzano tells us, adding "We've all grown into better filmmakers and storytellers as a result of the channel and we hope to push our skills beyond short-form content in the future."

And moving beyond short videos appears to be very much in the cards, with the team set to soon release a 30-minute video called 'Scarlett, Shanghai & Me,' in addition to pitching TV series and film ideas based on the Mamahuhu channel.



Stephon Marbury

Head Coach of Beijing Royal Fighters

By Ryan Gandolfo

Stephon Marbury has lived his best life in China, moving to the Middle Kingdom in 2010 to play in the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) following an abrupt end to his career in the NBA. Over the past decade, the star point guard nicknamed 'Starbury' has felt the love of a nation, brought the first-ever basketball championship (and then two more) to Beijing and truly immersed himself in the local culture. He's also become an icon and role model for millions of young Chinese ballers.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Marbury played for two CBA teams – the Shanxi Dragons and Foshan Dralions – prior to his start with the Beijing Ducks. In his first season with the Ducks, he averaged 25 points per game and eventually led them to a championship over then seven-time champion Guangdong Southern Tigers. Following the championship season, Marbury credited his success to Chinese culture, saying it was one "filled with love, compassion and care." Marbury went on to win two more championships with the Ducks and

eventually finished his career with the Beijing Fly Dragons in 2018. As a way to immortalize Marbury, a life-size statue of the star player was built in Beijing. He also has his own

museum dedicated to his basketball career and a musical (*I Am Marbury*) and movie (*My Other Home*) based on his story in China.

To sum up Marbury's impact on the Beijing Ducks, here's what one Beijinger told *That's* during the CBA finals in 2015: "Lao Ma [Stephon Marbury] is definitely the backbone of the whole team. The other players – as well as all fans of the Ducks – appreciate and speak highly of his vital role in the team ... the team has been so positively influenced by Lao Ma. In victory or defeat, he never gives up and keeps fighting until the last second."

Although he has no shortage of supporters, fanatics from opposing teams are less inspired by Marbury's play, like Shanghai Sharks super fan Zach Etkind (aka 'Donnie Does' aka 'The Shark Knight'). "Once he steps in the 'Shark Tank,' all bridges collapse," Etkind said of Marbury playing against his favorite team on one of his popular vlogs.

Marbury has consistently shown an admiration for China and its people. In an exclusive interview with Bleacher Report in 2015, he said, "Nothing can compare to my experience in China. My situation is fortunate because I actually love it there and I love it because of the people. For what they did to me, I'm forever invested into that country. Living there has been great for me and great for my life." So great, in fact, that Marbury became a permanent resident of China in 2016, becoming the first foreign player to receive China's rare 'green card' in the CBA's history. He took to Weibo to express his gratitude, writing, "It's a true honor to be part of the capital of China."

After retiring in 2018, Marbury made the transition to coaching, and he presently serves as the head coach of the Beijing Royal Fighters.

He remains an influential member of communities in Beijing and his home state. During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Marbury was working with a Chinese company to sell 10 million masks to Brooklyn at cost – at a time when masks were increasingly difficult to acquire. It echoes what Marbury is so often about – helping out those in need.

While he's certainly made himself a lot of money playing the game of basketball and developing his brand into a moneymaker, he's also the same guy who sold a solid, stylish basketball sneaker at a low cost so people could afford it. It speaks volumes for his desire to do good, and an attribute many here in China have likely become acquainted with and respect as well.



Dr. Allan Zeman

Chairman of Lan Kwai Fong Group

By Ryan Gandolfo

We know of very few people as devoted to their city as Dr. Allan Zeman. Known as Mr. Lan Kwai Fong for his role in developing one of the liveliest entertainment districts in Hong Kong, Zeman has encapsulated the invigorating entrepreneurial spirit of Hong Kong since he first arrived in the '70s.

Born in Germany post-World War II and raised in Canada, Zeman's early life was disrupted with the passing of his father when he was 7 years old.

"We didn't come from a wealthy family, but I guess I was always a risk-taker, a calculated risk-taker," he tells us over a video call, sporting his classic look – an open neck shirt with an upturned collar – from a meeting room in Hong Kong.

Zeman left school and joined the fashion industry at 16, and started his own business at the age of 19. "I always thought if someone else can do it then why can't I?"

His first company, called Jump for Charlie, earned USD1 million in profit in its first year, with the young entrepreneur making sourcing trips Hong Kong, which he refers to as the "factory of the world" during those days. He eventually decided to move to Hong Kong in 1975, in part due to the much lower 15% corporate tax rate at the time. But Hong Kong's lure extended far beyond financial gains.

"Hong Kong was a place you can have a dream at night and the next day make it a reality," Zeman says about his early days living in the city. He would go on to start a successful trading company, Colby Trading Group, opening 35 offices around the world, including an early outpost in Changsha, Hunan province. "The reason I went to Hunan was that it was the birthplace of Chairman Mao and at that time, as a young kid, I figured it was kind of the office of China," Zeman recalls, noting how the electricity would go off in the nighttime so they'd play ping pong by candlelight. "I learned very quickly about doing business in China, and my experience at such an early stage was amazing. I love China, and even at that time the people were very innocent, very open to new ideas and they hadn't seen many foreigners in those years."

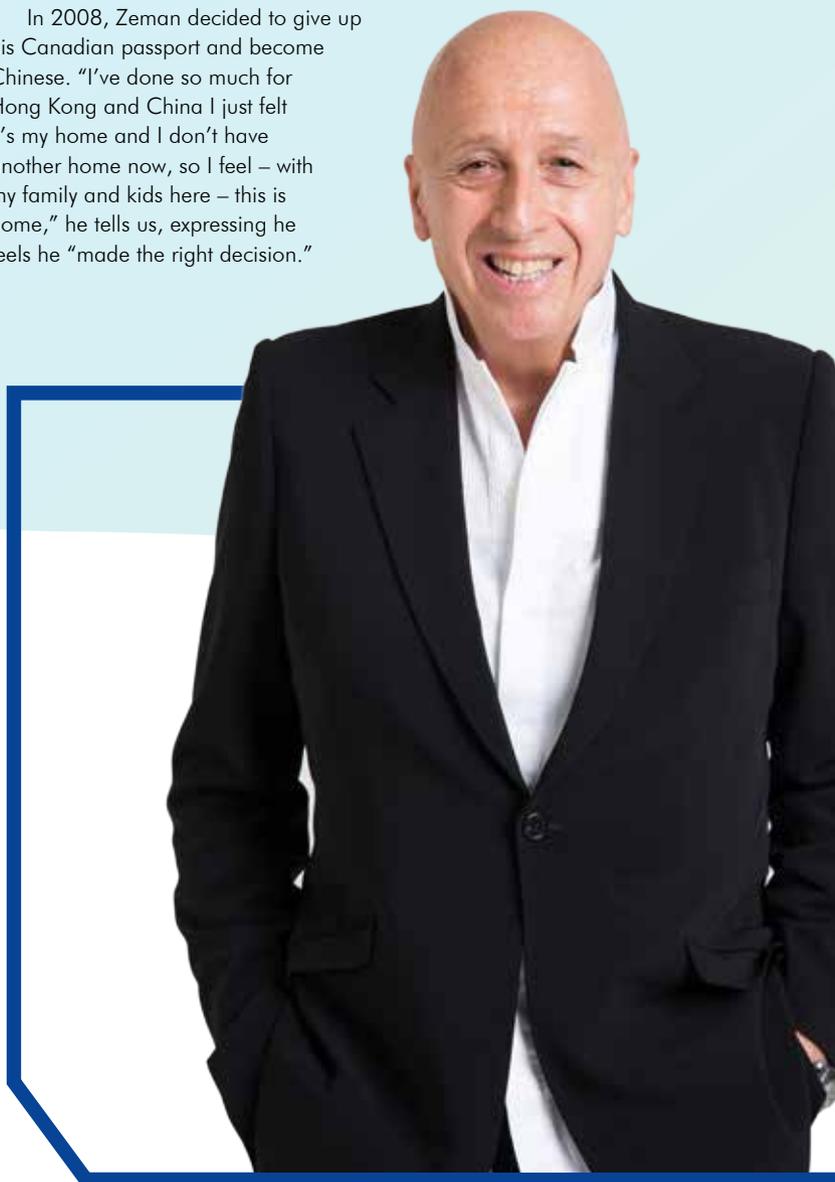
Zeman and longtime partner and friend Bruce Rockowitz would later go on to sell Colby Trading Group to competitor Li & Fung for HKD2.2 billion in 2000.

Zeman's portfolio of businesses expanded greatly in the '80s and '90s, many of which started in Lan Kwai Fong. Under his stewardship, the area in Central became a nightlife hotspot – a concept that Zeman has exported to Chinese mainland cities like Shanghai and Chengdu. In 2003, Zeman was appointed chairman of amusement park Ocean Park by former Chief Executive of Hong Kong Tung Chee-Hwa. He would go on to have a significant role in rejuvenating and redeveloping the park over his 11-year tenure, and effectively thwarted the big opening of Hong Kong Disneyland in 2005. "I beat Disney, which no one has ever done in the world and *Forbes* magazine

dubbed me as 'Mouse Killer,' and so it was a big loss of face for Disney ... that name has stuck with me."

As chairman of Lan Kwai Fong Holdings, Zeman continues to influence various industries both in China and Asia at large. But his contributions in the political sphere, where he sits on different committees for government and is an advisor to Chief Executive Carrie Lam, are unique. "I feel that I'm kind of a bridge between the Western and Eastern worlds, especially with China. If there are things they want to understand, or they are not sure about something going on, I get calls and try to help them understand," he tells us.

In 2008, Zeman decided to give up his Canadian passport and become Chinese. "I've done so much for Hong Kong and China I just felt it's my home and I don't have another home now, so I feel – with my family and kids here – this is home," he tells us, expressing he feels he "made the right decision."



FAMILY

Eco Home

Make Your Own Veggie Garden, p55



Social-Distancing Hats
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Counting Sheep
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MATT EDDY

Owner of SportsWorld and SwimLand

Interview by Ned Kelly



A Gold Coast native, Australian Matt Eddy spent time in the Air Force and worked in real estate before turning his passion for sport into his profession, moving to Shanghai to coach. Ten years on and he is the owner of SportsWorld and newly-launched SwimLand. We caught up with him to talk about life-saving skills and surviving coronavirus.

How did SwimLand come about?

I came to Shanghai in 2011 working as a sports teacher with predominately expat kids. After learning to speak Chinese, I wanted to take the experience I had gained and offer our programs to local students as well. So, we developed a team of both foreign and local teachers that are passionate about imparting their knowledge to kids.

There is also something uniquely rewarding about teaching a skill to kids that not only unlocks the world of aquatic activities – beyond just swimming – but is also a skill that could potentially save their life. So we launched SwimLand, our dedicated swim brand, at the beginning of this year, which didn't turn out to be great timing.

Indeed. How has the COVID-19 crisis affected your business?

This year has certainly been my biggest professional challenge and the most difficult time our business has faced. We also know it's not yet over, even with the slow easing of restrictions. That said, the whole team has been really encouraged by the support that we have received from our families, most of whom have been able to stick with us for programs that were already paid for until we are able to deliver them. As a small business, this patience has had an immensely positive impact on our ability to survive.

How do you think it will change the way you do things moving forward?

In our industry, there will always be a high

level of face-to-face and physical interaction required, so in that sense it's difficult to see the fundamentals changing as a result of this pandemic. However, some of the changes forced upon us will likely end up being adopted long term, like using technology and video in interacting with families and answering questions for those first interested in our programs. We have also been doing risk assessments on how we can reduce physical contact in programs, particularly in the younger ages for swimming, where this has traditionally been a necessary part of teaching.

What classes give coaches the most satisfaction?

For SwimLand, our entry-level classes, which we call our 'Courage' program, are always really popular. This is where we take non-swimmers and build the foundations for confidence and independence in the water; fundamental for future technique development. Our approach in the early stages is really focused on building a love of the water, which is why we often have young swimmers who may have had negative experiences in the water find our program. We also have summer programs when the children are on holidays which are a lot of fun.

What would you say to parents about the importance of sports for kids?

There are so many studies that show the benefits of physical activities for students, whether it is physical and mental well being, improved academic performance or

the numerous pathways that sport can offer young adults as they enter university and working life. One of the biggest benefits of starting children in sports activities at a younger age is we know that children who enjoy physical activity, through gaining competence and confidence, are more likely to continue being active into their adult life.

To find out more about SportsWorld and SwimLand, follow their official WeChat and send a message to them with your details so they can get in touch.



LIVING ROOM

DAD'S BOOK LIST

Book recommendations from *That's* editor-in-chief and 'girl dad' Matthew Bossons.

Ages 8+

Deltora Quest

By Emily Rodda

This book combines all eight novels from Emily Rodda's *Deltora Quest* series into one collection. Follow the adventures of Lief, Barda and Jasmine as they journey to collect seven magical gems to save the kingdom from the wicked Shadow Lord, who is plotting to invade Deltora and enslave its citizens. The world-building, dialogue, plot twists and dark tone make this an enjoyable story for teens as well.



Ages 12+

Silverwing

By Kenneth Oppel

This captivating book will have young readers glued to every page, eagerly following the adventure of Shade, a young bat who gets separated from his colony during the dangerous migration to Hibernaculum. As he tries to find his family and make it to the colony's winter refuge, he encounters new friends and terrifying foes, including a huge, carnivorous vampire bat. Will Shade succeed in reaching Hibernaculum? Pick up a copy of *Silverwing* to find out.



BREAKING BITE

Home Cooking

Cashew chicken is one of those dishes found in many American Chinese restaurants, but you're not going to find it in a Chinese restaurant in China. That's not to say it isn't delicious or that it isn't Chinese food, it's just that in China people prefer to use sesame seeds or peanuts in savory dishes, not cashews. So, if you're American (or not) and you've got a craving for a healthy, meat-free version of this classic (American) Chinese dish, then 'Veggie Mama' Lindsey Fine's recipe is a must-try. Not only are cashews delicious and a great source of protein but it's totally possible to find them in China. In some cases, you can even get them at your local market. And to make this dish even more protein packed, Fine uses tofu as the main ingredient. Her recipe is delicious, flavorful and super easy to prepare. Serve it alongside brown rice or quinoa and add some steamed veggies for a perfect weeknight meal. Scan the QR code to get the recipe!



CLASS CLOWN

Social-Distancing Hats

Students at an elementary school in China's Zhejiang province were spotted wearing 'one-meter hats' in order to practice social distancing in the classroom. The creative project was the perfect way to kick off the first day of the new semester at Yangzheng Primary School in Hangzhou. Following three months of lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students in Years 1 to 3 were finally able to return to campus on April 26, according to local media reports.

The school's headmaster, surnamed Hong, told the press that the DIY quarantine hats were a fun way to help classmates keep a safe distance between one another. "We encourage our students to wear the hats to stay at least one meter away from each other," said Hong.

Teachers assigned the project ahead of time, allowing students to make the hats together with their parents at home. Students used balloons, cardboard and other colorful decorating materials to design their cute creations.



ECO HOME

Veggie Garden

Building a home garden is an incredibly rewarding experience, and it's a task that can be undertaken with relatively little investment. Soil is cheap, planter boxes are cheap or can be made out of old Tupperware, buckets or crates and seeds are cheap or even free. Plus, virtually all the supplies you'll need can be purchased at your local Aeon or online. Of course, you can also visit a nursery or garden center if you live near one.

Our editorial team in Guangzhou has had incredible success with their garden project over the past six months, growing cherry tomatoes, green and purple kale, peppers, bok choy, strawberries and even mini-pumpkins. With the exception of the pumpkins, which require considerable space and soil, the other vegetables mentioned above can be easily grown on a small patio or balcony, provide they receive direct sunlight.

In addition to providing you with fresh veggies and reducing your reliance on markets and grocery stores during the warmer months of the year, starting a veggie garden – big or small – is a great opportunity for parents to teach their kids about food security.

> Garden supplies, including planter boxes, seeds and soil, can be purchased at Aeon and other large supermarkets, as well as online.



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AD

Counting Sheep?

Six Signs You Suffer from Insomnia

By Dr. Sharon Yu

Given the added stress and pressure many are facing due to COVID-19, we decided to focus our attention this month on a very important topic: sleep. We love it and always want more of it, but for people experiencing difficult times, sleeping can turn into quite a chore.

Insomnia refers to insufficient sleep quality and quantity due to difficulties falling asleep, maintaining sleep or waking up too early. It is one of the most common symptoms for which adults seek medical advice. Insomnia is often a persistent or recurrent condition, with exacerbations connected to medical, psychiatric and psychosocial stressors.

Evaluation of insomnia is systematic and complex work, and includes identifying the nature and severity of a sleeping problem. Identifying contributing factors and comorbidities is important to successfully treating insomnia.

In recent years, there are more and more people suffering from sleep-related issues. Most of them are wondering how to assess their sleeping condition and when they should seek help from a medical professional. In our daily life, quality sleep can be characterized by the following criteria:

1. Easy to fall sleep within 10-15 minutes.
2. Sleep deeply with long, full breaths.
3. Difficult to wake up when sleeping.
4. Seldom get up from bed during the night, with no dreams, or dreams that are quickly forgotten after waking up.
5. Get up quickly in the morning, instead of staying in bed.
6. Keep a good spirit, clear mind and high efficiency in the daytime.

If you are having trouble sleeping, please compare your situation with the criteria above. Go and consult your family physician as needed.



Dr. Sharon Yu practices family medicine at Shanghai's Yosemite Clinic & Hospital. Established by a team of experienced doctors and managed through a seamless process, Yosemite Clinic & Hospital provides international-standard (JCI Standard), high-quality healthcare to both local and international communities.

RELEVANT AND READY: XJTLU LEARNING MALL

A Catalyst to Creating the Skilled Leaders of Tomorrow



China's history of disruptive innovation is arguably as old as gunpowder or the creation of the compass, but in a land renowned for such examples of inventiveness how do you educate others to be innovative in the 21st century?

Imagine students in a state-of-the-art classroom in China wearing virtual reality (VR) headsets, gesturing in the air as they work on a design while their fellow classmates in Abu Dhabi, London and Ireland all do the same, led by one instructor in real time as they collaborate on a project from around the world.

This is just one vision for the new XJTLU Learning Mall (XJTLU-LM), a seeding ground for future thinkers and industry leaders, which Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University in Suzhou launched in May.

The launch included a livestreamed ceremony, round table discussions and the signing of memorandums of understanding with partners including Alibaba Cloud and McGraw-Hill, spelling out the collaborative nature of the forward-looking enterprise.

As a unique type of innovation center, XJTLU-LM is the first online-on-site learning ecosystem to provide English-language educational experiences in China through a diverse range of content providers both within China and overseas. The learning hub will also include Chinese and bilingual Chinese-English content.

"It will challenge the conventional norms for learning engagement," says Professor Youmin Xi, executive president of XJTLU.

Following the academic rigor and rote learning skills expected of students to achieve their *gaokao*, the opportunity to spark more creative and collaborative thinking as facilitated by XJTLU-LM will provide opportunities to prepare students further for the international workplace they will graduate into – and shape for themselves.

"The XJTLU Learning Mall will provide premier resources for lifelong learners, including skills for the industry leaders of tomorrow as they prepare to meet the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, with its emphasis on new technology, artificial intelligence and robotics," explains Dr. Bill Boland, director of the XJTLU Learning Mall.

"Someone might initially visit the XJTLU Learning Mall platform for a business course, but then decide to sign up for English and career-specific industry skills courses as well. Providers will benefit from a collaborative platform since they

can gain customers who previously might not have been aware of their offerings.

"An alliance of innovation leads to stronger ideas and stronger products and this is what will really make the XJTLU Learning Mall standout."

Those who have an online, on-site or combination 'store front' in this unique learning hub will not be limited to those with educational offerings. Innovators, inventors and researchers will also have spaces, enabling the cross-seeding of ideas to generate unique educational products. This will create opportunities for students to connect with mentors in startup companies and find internship, job and career opportunities and information.

"Participants will be able to pool their resources, leverage their strengths, and mitigate their weaknesses in a collaborative effort," Dr. Boland explains.

"For example, an entrepreneurial boot camp held in an on-site space in the XJTLU Learning Mall might tap into the first-hand experiences of an entrepreneur in China with a hybrid space and an inventor in Germany with an online space."

The XJTLU Learning Mall platform is expected to be operational later in 2020. Its main physical facility, to be located on the XJTLU Entrepreneur College (Taicang) campus, will be completed in approximately 24 months. Initial users will be XJTLU students, faculty, parents and alumni, and then users will expand to Jiangsu province, across China and the wider world.

"Universities deserve their continued existence only if they maximize their value, not just for university students, but also for graduates and the wider community. Combining the best aspects of on-site education and technology – as we are in the XJTLU Learning Mall – is how we maximize that value," Professor Xi says.



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BEIJING



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SHANGHAI

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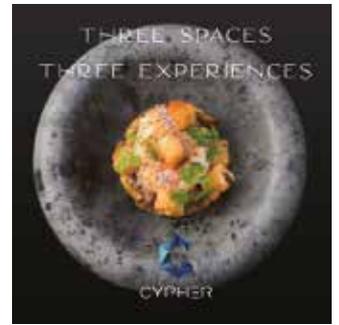
served in individual portions rather than family style. Cathay Building, Jin Jiang Hotel, 59 Maoming Nan Lu, by Changle Lu (6445 1717) 11am-2:30pm; 6-10:30pm 茂名南路59号锦江饭店北楼底层, 近长乐路

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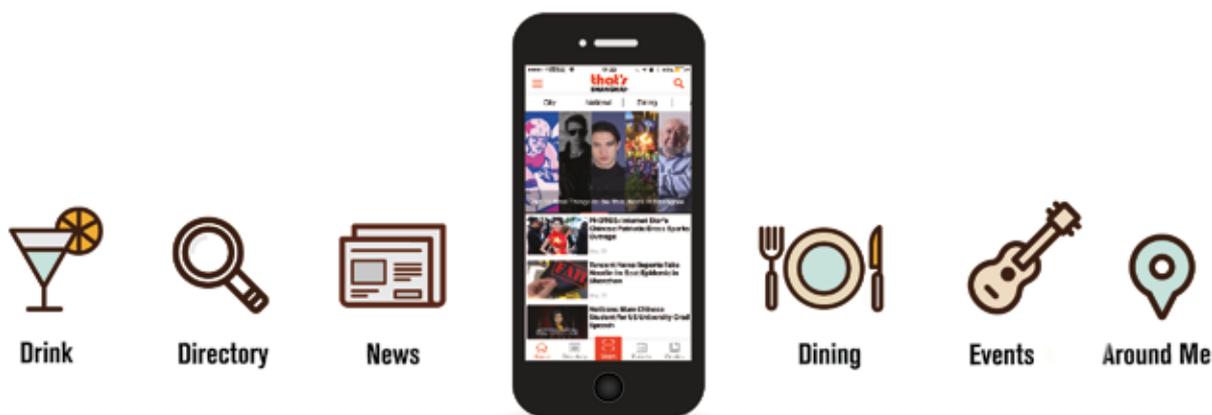
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HOTEL NEWS

BEIJING



11,000 Viewers Tune in for Chinese Cultural Livestream Hosted by the Regent Beijing

Regent Beijing and Secoo recently held a successful livestreaming event, highlighting the importance of Chinese culture and gaining over 11,000 followers. The unique event took place at East of Forbidden City Afternoon Tea, with three special hosts sharing deep knowledge on the subject, including Executive Chef Lito Song and Pastry Sous Chef Paul Chang.



Mr. Vito Romeo Appointed Managing Director at Rosewood Beijing

With more than 30 years of prestigious experience in the industry, the Bocuse and Cornell graduate brings his passion and prowess to the team at Rosewood Beijing. He boasts an impressive career that includes Michelin stars, luxurious hotel brands and working relationships with famous chefs like Alain Ducasse and Joel Robuchon.



An Unexpected Moment at InterContinental Beijing Sanlitun

Every year, the InterContinental Beijing Sanlitun surprises loyal guests to demonstrate their hospitality and appreciation. This year was extra special for one mother-daughter duo, who were treated to a lavish dinner of T-bone steak and champagne at CHAR bar & grill. The surprise meal was to celebrate the duo's first time dining out in three months!

SHANGHAI



Greystar Launches Upscale Rental Housing Community Brand LIV'N

The community-focused projects around China will offer modern and sophisticated rental properties that aim to provide residents with diverse and plentiful amenities that reflect the cultural diversity of the occupants while creating an intimate connection with the cosmopolitan atmosphere of China's top-tier cities. LIV'N 833, the first of the LIV'N residences, will soon be launched in Shanghai.



Meliá Hotels International Opens Boutique Hotel Near Shanghai Disneyland

The Meliá Shanghai Parkside is the closest non-Disney hotel to the popular theme park. Away from the bustle of the city, it is home to a majestic garden and provides guests with a peaceful, rejuvenating atmosphere.



Health Conscious Menu Unveiled for Weekday Lunch at the Illustrious Waldorf Astoria

With health at the forefront of everyone's mind, the new menu's high-protein and vegetable-centric cuisine is perfect for fitness enthusiasts and anyone else with a beating heart. Energize your body and mind with the delicious, guilt-free offerings at the Grand Brasserie from Monday to Friday. Make your mindful selections from the wellness counter and choose a freshly cooked entree or low-sugar dessert for RMB198, or have it all with tea and coffee for RMB298.

GUANGZHOU



Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou Welcomes New Executive Pastry Chef Danny Lin

Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou is excited to welcome Danny Lin to the team. Chef Lin, one of China's most renowned and talented pastry chefs, started his career in 1982, and has held senior positions at leading properties of luxury hotel brands. With more than three decades of experience in pastry creation, he is best-known for his creative combination of Chinese and Western culinary cultures and his ability to craft innovative pastries from seasonal ingredients.



Antonio De Luca, Head Bartender of Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou Launches Marco Polo Night at Tian Bar

Antonio De Luca, head bartender of the renowned Tian Bar, has announced a special Marco Polo Night every Friday evening. Born in Amantea, a small town in southern Italy, Antonio studied mixology in Milano at Campari Academy and honed his studies in the United Kingdom.



By The Pond at the LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou Offers Wedding Package

Say your vows in the exquisitely decorated By The Pond with the 'My Beloved Proposal' package, which costs RMB1,314 per person. This affordable and elegant promotion includes a wedding ring 'ritual,' a set menu featuring Chinese, Western and Japanese specialties plus a photography service.



Chef de Cuisine Patrick Benedetti Debuts New a La Carte Menu at Caffe Mondo

Chef Patrick Benedetti brings more than two decades of global experience in the culinary arts to Italian restaurant Caffe Mondo at the Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou. Born in the historical city of Florence, known for its rich culture, famous wines and cuisine, Patrick knew as a young boy that his passion for food and cooking would be his calling. The new menu, which includes some of Chef Patrick's favorite dishes, officially debuted last month.

SHENZHEN



Wonderland Afternoon Tea at The Lounge at JW Marriott Bao'an

Get immersed in a truly unique afternoon tea experience at The Lounge. Paying tribute to Chinese poems, the afternoon tea set is a scrumptious pairing of art and pastries that's priced at RMB398 for two. Also included are two specialty drinks and tea or coffee.



Weekend Dinner Buffet at Xili Kitchen of Sheraton Shenzhen Nanshan

From May 8, the guest-favorite dinner buffet at Xili Kitchen at Sheraton Shenzhen Nanshan is back! Every Friday and Saturday evening plus holidays, the chef will carefully prepare fresh seafood, sumptuous delicacies like *Fotiaoqiang* (Buddha Jumps Over the Wall), lobster soup with rice, beggar's chicken and cheesecake. A delightful dining experience awaits.

SCHOOL NEWS

BEIJING



Beijing International Bilingual Academy into WYEF Championship

During the epidemic, a group of Beijing International Bilingual Academy (BIBA) juniors competed with players from various international schools and completed a splendid ASDAN Business Simulation using their sharp business acumen and strong English presentation skills. During the May Day holiday, the BIBA team successfully advanced to the World Youth Economic Forum Championship, which is to be held in the summer, by winning third place in the junior high school group.

GUANGZHOU



Guangzhou Nanfang International School Reopens for Students

Last month, Guangzhou Nanfang International School (GNIS) reopened for on-site learning for secondary students. The school's students are already very accustomed to the new protocols for social distancing, which are in place to ensure everyone's health and safety. GNIS is so proud of the way that they have adapted to new circumstances both throughout online learning and now that they are back in class. They have shown that they are truly IB students who are prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

SHENZHEN

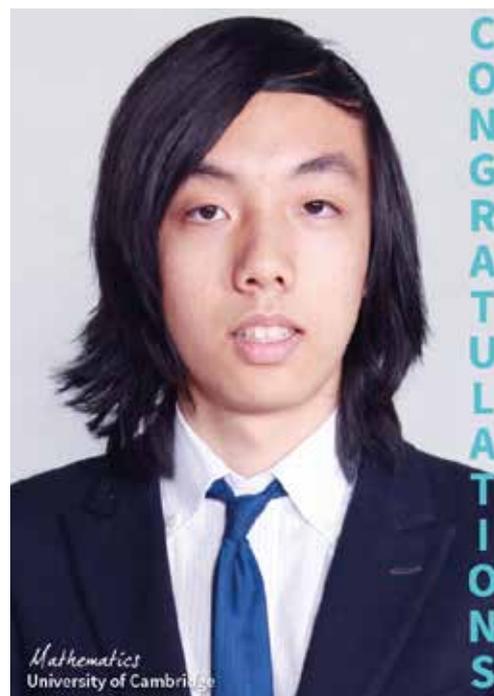


Teachers and Students Return to Merchiston International School

On May 18, all students in Years 1-3 returned to Merchiston, marking the resumption of a normal teaching schedule. As the first British boarding international school in Shenzhen, 92% of Merchiston's teachers are foreigners, and most of them are British nationals. The resumption of classes at Merchiston benefited from the measures taken by teachers and students as well as excellent epidemic prevention work. Ms. Sonia Buchan, director of admissions, communications and marketing, has stated that from juniors to seniors, the school has fully resumed classes.

Students at British School of Guangzhou Receive Great Offers

The British School of Guangzhou (BSG) graduating class of 2020 has received a record number of offers from the world's highest-ranking universities. Among the 100-plus opportunities, notable institutions include the University College London, Parsons School of Design and the University of Cambridge, with subjects ranging from mathematics and engineering to design and law.



SHANGHAI



Britannica Welcomes Back Students

Britannica International School, Shanghai is now open to certain year groups. As part of its commitment to provide the best of British education, Britannica is now providing a blended program of in-school teaching and online learning. Students in specific year groups have returned to school and are enjoying in-class learning, while students awaiting confirmation of a return date have continued their studies through state-of-the-art e-learning.



2020 Graduates at WISS College Accepted at Top Universities

WISS 2020 graduates were accepted to top-ranked universities all around the world. The 31 WISS graduates from the Class of 2020 received offers from more than 50 universities. They will be attending top universities in more than eight countries in various subjects and fields, including economics, computer science, engineering, music, lighting design and many more.



Bringing the Glorious Dulwich Pudong Choir and Orchestra Online

Over the past few months, educators have been working hard to deliver the Dulwich Difference, even in an online learning environment. Core to Dulwich education is a holistic and experiential learning experience; this continues to be the school's focus, no matter the learning context. Case in point: Mr. Tim Parker, head of instrumental music tuition at Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong, brought the beloved school choir, orchestra and staff team together in beautiful symphony to perform the song 'Glorious.'



Horoscopes

Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in China.

By Naomi Lounsbury



Gemini
5.22~6.21

Summer is officially here! Which means those beach trips and dips at the local swim spots are in the cards. Just remember to apply ample sunscreen, because global warming is real and the sun is menacing. So, unless you wish to end up in the dermatology ward at your local hospital, lather it on.



Cancer
6.22~7.22

Don't let the work grind get you down. You aren't quite satisfied with the status quo, but you aren't sure how to fix it. When you discover the problem, it's likely you will have achieved self-actualization. In the meantime, go enjoy hot pot with friends and have a couple drinks – after all, hot pot is where the heart is.



Leo
7.23~8.23

You've been eyeing that yogurt in your fridge, but don't eat it. It's been in there for weeks. Also, think about cleaning the fridge – there's no reason you should have produce from February taking up space.



Virgo
8.24~9.23

Throughout June, you'll get support from corners you never expected: Your community *ayi* might bring you a treat or one of your Chinese colleagues will show you an office hack that will save you countless hours of work. Just remember to pay it forward.



Libra
9.24~10.23

It's important to pick your battles. We know that injustices make you angry and you really want to argue with someone about them, but no one likes a social justice warrior – not even other SJWs. We recommend keeping more thoughts private instead of airing them out online.



Scorpio
10.24~11.22

Your entire apartment smells of a strange pee-like odor and you have no pets. Invite a Taurus over for lunch and maybe they can help you discover the culprit. Otherwise, consider moving to a newer, less smelly dwelling.



Sagittarius
11.23~12.21

Your motto for this month is 'only one more month' as social distancing becomes an eternal concept. As someone who thrives on receiving attention from others, it's been half a year so far and you are surprised you haven't died from neglect. Like they say, Facetime is a lifeline.



Capricorn
12.22~1.20

China is open for domestic travel, but you're still skeptical. If you leave your home city will you be able to come back? If you do come back, will the color of your Suikang change for the worse? What extra hoops will nonnationals have to jump through? Nobody seems to know for sure.



Aquarius
1.21~2.19

Your bad habit of trolling people will start to negatively impact your life this month. Yes, we know people are dumb sometimes, but you don't always have to harp on their lacking intelligence. Consider finding a new method to de-stress that doesn't involve slashing people's self-confidence.



Pisces
2.20~3.20

Try out a new bar this month because your go-to watering hole is just not doing it for you anymore. Find a place that's keeping it cool and simple – any venue with air conditioning and a killer happy-hour deal will suffice.



Aries
3.21~4.20

You realize your desire for travel has increased greatly when you start obsessively reading *Lonely Planet* guides instead of going out. It's gotten so bad that even Russia in the winter is starting to sound enticing. Don't worry, restrictions are loosening at least in China and a *Duanwujie* trip to Fenghuang might be just what you needed.



Taurus
4.21~5.21

The *waimai* guy always goes to the wrong address, and you're not sure why. This is the month you 'address' the problem and get your food within a reasonable time frame. Or better yet, start meal prepping because who doesn't love steamed broccoli?

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