

XIANEASE

SEPTEMBER 2014 Vol. 50



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RESTAURANT REVIEWS
FLYING ELEPHANT PIZZA
飞象披萨

NHA TRANG 越芽庄

BAR REVIEWS
MORPHINE BAR 魔啡酒吧
LOREN PUB BAR 月桂酒吧

PHOTOS OF THE XI'AN SCENE

From the Big City
to the Middle
of Nowhere





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Our mission is to develop students with a readiness to face change through the ability to adapt and create; have a thirst for knowledge which they pursue with competency and a character which values honesty and a spirit of compassion. **xhis offers:**

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If you would like to have a look, have a chat or simply want more information about us, please email, call or simply drop in at your convenience. Everyone is welcome.

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51
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XIANEASE

Web, Print, Events, and More

Volume 50

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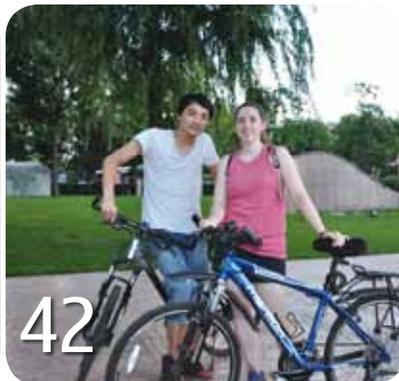
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

WE ARE LOOKING FOR FOLKS TO JOIN THE FAMILY AND HELP THE COMMUNITY!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDITOR

We are looking for an English Language Editor to ensure that our magazine and website are all tippy-top when it comes to language, grammar and standardization. It's only four hours a month so not too taxing. Anyone who is interested contact us at editor@xianease.com and come join the family!

CONTRIBUTORS

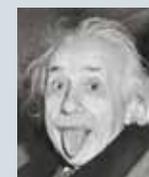
Xianease is about helping folks to discover their Xi'an, to do this we need as many folks as possible to introduce their Xi'an places and experiences with everyone. They can be tips, tricks, places to go or things to see. No matter if you've been here for 10 years or 10 days we want to hear from you! If you're interested in contributing write to contributor@xianease.com

Pub Quiz

The August crowd was out in style with new arrivals and old hands showing up to try their skill and luck against Trivia Master Phil. With the competition running high and the speakers low, folks were straining to answer the hard and soft ball questions thrown at them. In the end **Huey Hefner** beat the crowd and won the three liters of beer. Be sure to come out in September to make new friends, learn new things and quite possibly walk away as the reigning champs!

Date: **Sept 17th**
Time: 9:30pm
Place: The Belgian Bar
南门顺城南路中段69号
#69 shun cheng nan lu

Put your thinking caps on and come on down for some great food and tricky trivia!



XIANEASE TEAM

Discover YOUR Xi'an and join us on Weixin!



SEPT 7/8



Kids mooncake DIY class 儿童冰皮月饼DIY

DIY mooncakes and learn chinese moon festival culture!

Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Location: Bei lin qu jiao da shang chang jie chang chun teng hua yuan dong qu (near Bank of China)

碑林区交大商场街春藤花园东区(靠近中国银行)

Tel: 029-82462642 / 134-68665002

Cost: 70 RMB/kid

SEPT 12



Concert

庙乐队全国巡演西安站

Time: 8:30pm - 10:30pm

Location: Aperture Club
Yin Ma Chi, Ju Hua Yuan, Dong Da Jie.
东大街菊花园饮马池光圈CLUB

TEL: 135-72124398 151-14857819

Tickets: 40-50 RMB

SEPT 13



Cooking party (Cost 30RMB)

Вечеринка "Учимся готовить китайскую кухню"

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중국 요리 파티

Make local dishes and learn Chinese!

Have fun with us!

* Limit of 8 people, Please call in advance to make a reservation

Time: 3:00pm

Location: #174 Yannan 1st Road, Building 1, Room 1101, Hanlinshijia, Yanta District

(Xianease Map G13)

Tel: 132-89373809

Get all the details from www.xachinese.com

SEPT 11-14

Micro Body Language | Body Art Festival • 2014 • Xi'an

2014/9/11 Thursday

Location: Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts

Time: 10:00am - Noon 2:30pm - 5:30pm

2014/9/12 Friday

Add: Xi'an Conservatory of Music & OCAT Xi'an Gallery

Time: 10:00am - 11:30am
2:30pm - 5:30pm 7:30pm - 9:00pm

2014/9/13 Saturday

Location: Xi'an Concert Hall (admission by ticket only)

Time: 7:30pm - 9:45pm

2014/9/14 Sunday

Location: Outdoor

Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Contact: 187-06876479

SEPT 13

Opening Reception with Musical Performances

Time: 2:30pm

Location: Tian Lang Art Gallery: 65 West Second Ring Road Daxing White Leguchi Turntable East 200 meters, Northbound
天朗美术馆: 大兴东路65号西二环白家口转盘向东300米, 路北



SEPT 28



Free Demo Class

How to prepare the HSK level 5 or level 6? Come and learn Chinese with us!

Time: 2:00pm

Location: #174 Yannan 1st Road, Building 1, Room 1101, Hanlinshijia, Yanta District

(Xianease Map G13)

Tel: 132-8937 3809

Get all the details from www.xachinese.com

TANGO EVENTS

Mexico Bar

Wednesday nights

Beginner lesson from 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Intermediate lesson from 8:00pm - 9:00pm

星期三晚上, 7点至8点入门级课程;

8点至9点中级课程。

Muye Cafe

Thursday nights Lesson starts at

7:00pm - 8:30pm with practica after

星期四晚上, 7点至8:30上课时间, 8:30后

练习时间

C'est La Vie Restaurant & Bar

Saturday nights in gaoxin beginner lesson from 8:30pm - 9:30pm and practica after until 10:30pm

星期六晚上, 8:30至9:30入门课程, 9:30至10:30练习时间

丈八一路绿地soho联盟B座二楼塞拉维餐厅

Alley Youth Hostel

Sunday nights from 7:30pm - 10:30pm

Beginner lesson 7:30pm - 8:30pm

星期天晚上, 7:30至10:30

西安市莲湖区庙后街西仓南巷33号



SEPT 5, 12, 19, 26

Toastmasters

Every Friday in September!

Time: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Location: CII Educational International Building - on the 14th floor of the Ling Su Cheng Building (Xiaozhai Parkson's) 38 Chang'an Zhong Lu

Get all the information at: www.xatmc.org



SEPT 13, 15

Hash House Harriers

TWO runs this month!

Saturday September 13th
and Monday September 15th

Time: 4:30pm

Start point/Meeting place:

Kaiyuan Shopping Center next to the Bell Tower

Get all the information at:
www.xianease.com/hhh



SEPT 15

Monday

Ladies Lunch

Time: 12:30pm

Location: At the new restaurant Caprice Diamond Peninsula, Yan'nan 3rd road, Qujiang

Get all the information at:

www.xianease.com/woman



SEPT 17

Wednesday

Belgian Bar and Xianease Monthly Pub Quiz

Beer and Trivia

What more could you ask for?

Time: 9:30pm **Location:** Belgian Bar



SEPT 24

Wednesday

Queen OR King of the Table Pool Tourney

Time: Starting at 8:00pm

Location: Yuan Shun Pool Bunker (Southwest corner of the Shaanxi Stadium -碑林区长安北路14号省体育场)



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029-89344206

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No.23,14 Floor,Chengshi Kong Jian Building, High-tech 3 road.

029-81877160

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南关正街89号柠檬酒店三楼

No.89,3 Floor,Lemon Hotel Xi'an Center Street out of South Gate.

029-85239737



Ultimate Frisbee

Match: 3:00pm - 7:00pm (every Sunday)

Location: Xi'an Jiao Tong University of Finance and Economics(西安交通大学财经学院), just next to the 纬二街(Wei Er Jie) bus stop.

After the match we have dinner and sometimes go out to KTV

For more information contact:

张超 (Chao), at 152-49260715 or 胡纪峰 (Feng) at 153-53552643

If you're shy you could also email me at wuyikai123@qq.com

Restaurant Reviews

Flying Elephant Pizza 飞象披萨

Article By Phil Atkinson



飞象比萨简介

西安飞象比萨致力于做西北最地道的西式超大比萨24英寸(约61cm),我们的口号是:西安最大最地道的西式比萨。独特的装修风格,融入了美国西部奔放,自由的文化元素,以及欧美流行的背景音乐!

我们的美食经营范围

我们做口味极棒的健康比萨,我们用最新鲜高品质原料制成的美食比萨,看似最不经意的抛洒混合,成为入口入心的回味。

我们的美食绝对经典,比如我们自创的火烧牛魔王比萨,经过特有的焰火表演燃烧后的美味,就是我们特色之一。超级飞象比萨、超级垃圾桶比萨、魔鬼尖叫比萨等等.....这就是飞象比萨——一个创造美食的宠儿!!!

另外,我们还有美味的意大利面食和新鲜十足的沙拉、精美的特色小吃等等.....

我们用的面粉是有机面粉,它产自黑龙江肥沃的黑土地上,在中国同行业中它被称为最好的有机面粉

我们使用的马苏里拉奶酪,来自于有着以最干净的天空和最纯净的水而闻名的国家——新西兰

我们自己制作面团,经过冷藏发酵(12小时)纯手工抛制而成。

Pizza in Xi'an usually means either a microwaved glob of dough, ketchup, and wax, or a dusty and lifeless imitation of what should really be an easy classic. Apologists cling to a couple of places here that make passable pizzas, but they hardly compare to the culinary genius that gets delivered to our doors in 30 minutes (or free) back home. Happily, Xi'an's pizza situation has improved with the arrival of Flying Elephant Pizza. I found out about it when everyone started posting photos of big pizzas on WeChat.

This is the first Flying Elephant restaurant to open. The man responsible for making the pizzas is a seasoned pizza veteran from Beijing. The restaurant hasn't been open long, but it's already altered the diets of expats living in Caochangpo and Xiaozhai. Located on the north side of Nan Er Huan, about 200m east of Chang'an Lu, near the Tiyuchang (stadium) metro station, it's easy to get to. It's above the Hanting Hotel, along with many other new restaurants - all of which have touters distributing flyers outside the building. Mention 'pizza' to any of them and you'll be shown where to go. There is plenty of seating, a couple of foosball tables, and high ceilings. Many of their

servers are studying to be interpreters, so there are always a few who speak English. The menu has a standard lineup of pastas and appetizers (cheese sticks, wings, onion rings), but pizza is the big feature.

They have the standard pepperoni, Hawaiian, and meat lover's pizzas, and a few specialties like the Screaming Devil, with salami, olives, spinach, and chilies. They have small (10"), medium (18"), and large (24") pizzas, ranging from 42 RMB for a small cheese & oregano pizza to 218 RMB for the large Super Garbage Pail pizza with everything on it. My wife and son and I can usually stuff ourselves with one medium pizza. I recently fed two families (4 adults & 2 kids) with 2 mediums and a small pizza for just under 300 RMB. We didn't finish the second medium and didn't even touch the small before eating our fill. The large pizzas are massive. More importantly, they're great! I live just a few minute's walk from the restaurant and the pizzas are cheap, so I've been a few times (and had pizzas delivered more than a few times), and I've tried just about all of their pizzas. The bar serves a gin & tonic of respectable size and strength for 15 RMB and the beer selection



includes Corona, Erdinger, and Hoegaarden.

It's important to have a good neighbourhood pizzeria to visit, but it's better when they deliver, this place does.

Recommendation: *The Screaming Devil, DS Meat Lovers, and the F-Elephant*

Pro: *The pizzas are great and unexpectedly big*

Con: *The only pizza with bacon & mushrooms also has corn, potato, and ranch*

Average Price per person /人均消费: **55 RMB**

Address /地址:

2F, Chen Yang Sheng Shi Square, Northeast Corner of Chang'an Lu, South 2nd Ring Road
(南二环东段长安立交东北角晨阳盛世广场二层)

Tel /电话: 029-85261806

Hours /时间: 11:00am - 10:00pm

Phil is a TESOL Trainer and Education Consultant with over 6 years of experience in China. He can be contacted at: philatk.work@gmail.com



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1F, Yamei Tower, No.39 Keji Rd, Gaoxin

营业时间 Business Hours

周日/Sunday to 周四/Thursday 10:00am - 2:00am
周五/Friday to 周六/Saturday 10:00am - 3:00am

Tel : 029-8831 5552

Nha Trang 越芽庄

Article By *Jorge Cartaya and Estibaliz Puerta*



越芽庄简介

越芽庄餐厅是陕西第一家以越南菜为主的东南亚美食餐厅，座落于南二环凯德广场四层，装饰具有浪漫的东南亚风情。其菜品口感清爽顺口，不但色香味兼备，手艺更是细致精巧。我们特聘请原索菲特酒店东南亚料理主厨聂磊先生以及越南西贡名厨阿阮先生等厨师选取南洋地区特有香料，如：柠檬，香茅，薄荷、九层塔以及鱼露等搭配新鲜上等肉类及蔬菜烹饪出口味酸甜，微辣，清淡少油腻，符合现代营养学的异域美食，我们期待您前来体验不一样的东南亚文化！



Located on the fourth floor of the Kaide shopping mall, this cool little place is a hidden gem that is definitely worth a try. Decorated like a beach house, with menus that are carved into wood, Nha Trang certainly stands out. The owner, Richard Sun, went to Vietnam to find the chef, and together with the Vietnamese waiters, they managed to bring something of the tropical country back to Xi'an.

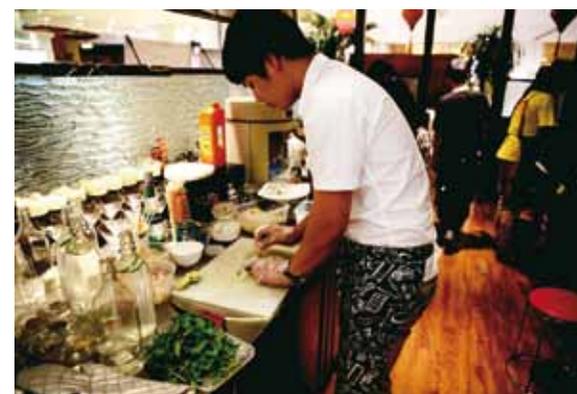
We were fortunate to be treated to many different dishes and beverages, all of which were very diverse, and pretty damn delicious, especially if you're hurting for something other than burgers, pizza or Chinese food. (Yes, laowai's, we mean you.) So, whether you're just looking for a quick meal on the go, or want to sit down and share a nice dinner and drinks with friends, this place can cater to your needs.

For starters, we had chicken and beef satay with a sweet, nutty sauce that reminded us of some Thai flavors we love. We washed them down with a very refreshing Vietnamese iced tea, and got ready to attack some spring rolls. They had three kinds, all delicious, though the shrimp rolls were probably the best ones. We generously dipped them in fish sauce, which personally, we can't get enough of since

we travelled around Southeast Asia.

Next we had vermicelli with shrimp and octopus salad. This also had fish sauce and lemon, but don't hesitate to ask for more of either! The more the better! After that we tried their specialty beef noodle Pho, which is really a full meal for one person. It's a traditional Vietnamese soup, with large strips of hearty beef, juicy meatballs, raw onions, sprouts, optional chili peppers and you guessed it, fish sauce! The fried beef noodles were also a very good option if you aren't into soupy noodles (we totally are!).

Among some other things on the menu were rice dishes and many varieties of noodles including a Vietnamese variety of pad Thai. All of which had very appealing aromas, and made us sad that we couldn't possibly eat any more for how stuffed we were. To finish up we had a Vietnamese style coffee, which drips slowly into through a filter into a cup with a bit of condensed milk in the bottom. You then drink it hot, or pour it into a glass with ice to drink it cooled! We Puerto Ricans are demanding with our coffee but have to admit, we'll be trying to imitate that coffee at home from time to time, because it was really very tasty, and works great as a dessert!



Pro: Nha Trang offers a delicious selection of Vietnamese dishes, which you can sit down to enjoy or devour hastily to carry on with your day

Con: The mall can at times be quite busy and noisy, which is not ideal for some people

Average Price per person /人均消费: **30-80 RMB**

Address /地址: 4F, Kaide Shopping Mail, Second Ring Road (南二环凯德广场4层)

Tel /电话: 029-85567499

Hours /时间: 10:00am - 10:00pm

Jorge & Estibaliz are two Puerto Rican islanders who like nothing more than relaxing and enjoying life. They currently teach ESL and live the dream in Xi'an. You can reach them at reviews@xianease.com

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THE WESTIN
XIAN

西安威斯汀大酒店



Bar Reviews

Morphine Bar 魔啡酒吧

Article By *Tim King*



Morphine is an opioid analgesic drug and the main psychoactive chemical in opium. Medical users will experience pain relief, and recreational users are said to experience euphoria. That's what Wikipedia told me, at least. Sorry to disappoint any friends of the needle, but in this case, Morphine is just a bar near Zhuque Gate. I might have to edit that into Morphine's Wikipedia page later.

Now, I did say "just a bar", but that's not to say there is anything lacking about Morphine. Actually, it seems to me they're doing a lot of things right. It has a warm ambience, with a few nice touches, my favorite being that every beer tower is shaped like the Eiffel Tower. With the exception of a few surprises like that, you'll find other aspects of the bar familiar, like the rotating roster of Chinese cover bands, a super-polite staff, and loads of tiny little glasses for drinking your beer.

The drink menu features a decent spread of cocktails that will likely satisfy any taste, though figuring

out exactly what to get is going to be a challenge for those who can't read Chinese. Thankfully, this problem is mitigated by the fact that at least a couple of bar staff speak an acceptable level of English, so at the very least you should be able to just start shouting drink names in English and someone will probably bring you something (I should mention that doing this got me the best White Russian I've had in Xi'an, and it wasn't even on the menu).

Possible side effects of Morphine include dizziness, impaired motor function and judgment, and eating two bowls of spicy peanuts out of compulsion instead of hunger. I'm not entirely sure if Morphine is habit forming, but judging by the packed barroom and bright atmosphere, I can see how someone could get hooked.

Pros: *At least one Park Qin alumnus is working behind the bar, which steps their mixology game way up; complementary lockers for those of you walking around with a big stupid bag, like I was*

Cros: *It was unintuitive having to pay my tab at the front of the house instead of just slipping my bartender money after each drink; Drinks are a tiny bit expensive, but nothing bank-breaking*

Recommendation: *the Mojito and sitting out on the veranda to enjoy the night*



Average Price per person /人均消费: **40 RMB**

Address /地址:
#6, Tai Yang Miao Men Jie, Zhu Que Gate
(朱雀门里太阳庙门街6号四川会馆向西30米路南)
Tel /电话: 029-87629173
Hours /时间: 10:30pm - 2:00am

Tim King is a American expat and a source of mild anxiety for bar owners around Xi'an. When he's not making out with glasses of whiskey, he spends his time teaching English. Tim can be reached via email at reviews@xianease.com

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ADDRESS

DIAMOND PENINSULA, YANNAN 3RD ROAD
QUIJIANG DISTRICT (WEST OF SOUTH LAKE)
西安市曲江新区雁南三路芙蓉西路11B

WILD GOOSE PAGODA TANG PARADISE



Loren Pub Bar 月桂酒吧

Article By *Tim King*

"Location, location, location." Any realtor will tell you that the key to any property and its success is where it is, and Loren probably has the best lot out of all the myriad bars around the West Wall Park. Situated right next to the grand staircase at the main entrance to the park, it's the first thing most people will see as they enter.

Having spent most of my drinking time in the city tucked in the corner of hole-in-the-wall places near the South Wall, Loren seemed absolutely cavernous when I walked in. I chose a seat at the bar, as it's where I feel most comfortable, and it seemed like as good a place as any to survey the area. Tall tables, an enormous stage, and more chandeliers than the Titanic are just a few of the larger-than-life interior design choices that fill its ample space.

What I hope they improve on then, is what they've chosen as accompaniments to all of this. For starters, that stage would be better filled with a DJ instead of a sad-sounding guy playing piano, and those tall tables ought to be pushed aside to make way for a dance floor. I mentioned all those chandeliers because, at 45 RMB for a bottle of Carlsberg Chill and 200 RMB for a Chivas, they clearly need some cash to support their addiction. The less I say about their bartender's profoundly disconcert-

ing mojito, the better (here's a hint: tropical fruit juice makes up most of its volume).

It's not all bad, for sure. It's clearly a nice place, the wait staff seems incredibly polite and helpful, and my Long Island was plenty strong. What this is a case of then, is mistaken identity. Loren is a nightclub playing at pub, like a toddler trying to ride his Big Wheel into traffic. It all makes sense; the giant space, the super expensive drinks, the bright lights, and the ostentation all signify a place that is supposed to be filled with drunken revelers pretending they can dance until sunrise. That is their unfulfilled destiny and until the day comes that this identity conflict is resolved, Loren will like the Arthurian knight standing guard in the center of their bar: shiny, ornate, and empty.

Pros: *A It's nice and it's easy to find*

Cros: *Expensive drinks, inexperienced bartenders, muddled atmosphere*



Average Price per person /人均消费: **60 RMB**

Address /地址:
#15, Tian Pin Xi An, Huang Cheng Xi Yuan.
(环城西苑天品西岸15号)

Tel /电话: 029-84491983

Hours /时间: 7:00pm - 4:00am

Have a bar, pub or club you'd like us to review for an upcoming issue? Let us know, big or small we review them all!
nightlife@xianease.com



BBQ Buffet Dinner

@ Sheraton Xian Hotel
Gate West Restaurant

CNY **230**/person

17:30-21:30

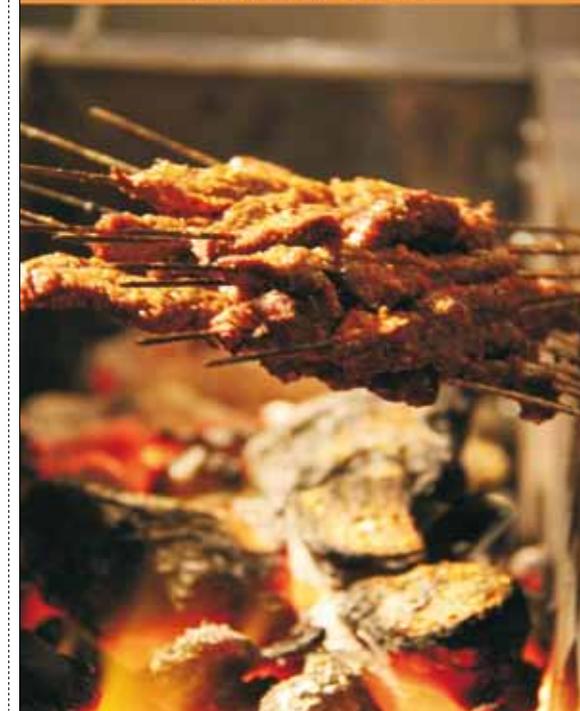
Location: 262 Feng Hao East Road

For information and reservation:

86 29 8426 1888 - 1560



GATE WEST RESTAURANT





TOMATO SALSA ON COUNTRY BREAD CROUTON

番茄面包

Tip/提示:

Squeeze some fresh lemon for an extra fresh taste
可加一些新鲜柠檬汁

Ingredients:

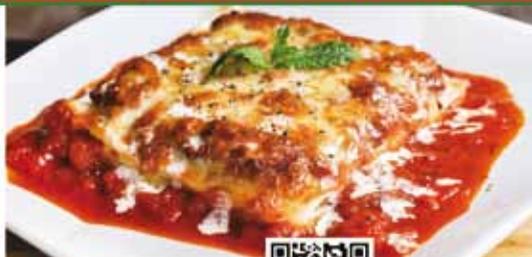
- 3 fresh Roman Vine Tomatoes (新鲜番茄)
- 4 slices of Country Bread (切片面包)
- 3 cloves of Garlic (大蒜)
- 1 sprig of fresh Basil (罗勒叶)
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil (特级初榨橄榄油)
- Salt and Pepper to taste (盐, 胡椒)

PREPARATION 做法:

- 1) Blanch the tomatoes in boiling water for 10 seconds (番茄放入沸水中10秒后取出)
- 2) Cool them down immediately in ice water (立即放入冷水中冷却)
- 3) Peel and seed the tomatoes (番茄去皮)
- 4) Dice the tomatoes (切成小块)
- 5) Season the diced tomatoes with salt, pepper and extra virgin olive oil (用盐, 胡椒, 橄榄油腌制番茄丁)
- 6) Cut the garlic in half, the basil leaves in julienne and add to the tomatoes (切一半的大蒜, 罗勒叶切丝放入番茄丁中)
- 7) While the tomatoes are marinating and releasing their juices toast the bread slices (让番茄丁腌制一段时间, 把切片面包烤好)
- 8) Rub the bread with garlic, generously cover it with the tomato salsa and enjoy a bite of Italy! (面包上先擦一些大蒜再小心的放上番茄丁即可)



SALAD. PASTA. PIZZA. STEAK. DESSERT. WINES



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碑林区交大商场街常春藤花园东区(靠近中国银行)

TEL: 8246 2642 / 134 6866 5002
HOURS: 10:30-21:30 AVERAGE PRICE: 60 RMB

PAN-FRIED SEA BASS WITH DOLCE VITA SIGNATURE "SALMORIGLIO" SAUCE

意式烤鲈鱼



Ingredients:

- 4 fillet of fresh Sea Bass (新鲜鲈鱼鱼片)
- 1 peeled Tomato diced (番茄去皮切丁)
- 1 Lemon (柠檬)
- 1 Orange (橙子)
- 1 chopped clove of Garlic (大蒜切碎)
- 20g Basil (罗勒叶)
- 20g Mint (薄荷)
- 20g Fennel (茴香)
- 10g Thyme (百里香)
- 10g Oregano (牛至)
- 50g Crushed Pistachios (开心果碎)
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil (特级初榨橄榄油)
- Salt and Pepper to taste (盐, 胡椒)



Chef Andrea is from Northern Italy and works in Soflite Legend People's Grand Hotel Xian. With 15 years of cooking experience, Chef offers an authentic Italian cuisine in Dolce Vita Italian restaurant. pgh.kitchen@renminsquare.com

PREPARATION 做法:

- 1) Segment the segments from the orange and the lemon, juice them (把橙子和柠檬瓣取出后捣碎取汁)
- 2) Finely chop the herbs (香草都切碎)
- 3) Mix all the ingredient in a bowl, add the orange and lemon juice (把所有原料倒入碗中加入橙子柠檬汁)
- 4) Season with salt and pepper to taste and add extra virgin olive oil until it become a deep (加入盐, 胡椒, 橄榄油腌制)
- 5) Marinate for two hours (腌制2小时)
- 6) Preheat a pan, adding a little extra virgin olive oil (平底锅烧热倒入少许橄榄油)
- 7) Add the fish, skin side down on low heat (鱼皮面向下放入锅中转至小火)
- 8) Finish cooking the fish on at low fire, do NOT flip, making the skin crispy and leave the flesh moist (小火烹调鱼肉直到鱼皮酥脆切记不要翻面)
- 9) Season the fish with salt and pepper and use our "Salmoriglio" as sauce (放少许盐和胡椒调味, 配上刚才腌制好的酱汁一起食用)

Tip/提示:

For meat dishes add rosemary and sage to the pan to add flavor while grilling.
摆盘时可放上迷迭香和鼠尾草



Article by **XIANEASE**

Featured

Featured

More often than not our lead article is about a particular place to visit, a mountain, park or gallery. While that is all well and good if there is one thing we have discovered it's that a single destination doesn't often create an adventure. As they say, "it is the journey that makes an experience not the ending", and so this month we did a bit of research, stretched our hamstrings and bought bike helmets on what we have decided to call, the Great Southern Xi'an Bike Tour (insert deep echoing voice).

OK OK OK maybe it isn't as grandiose as that but with the ever increasing number of rental bike stands we thought

it'd be nifty to not only inform everyone how to get the bike card but also a fun if albeit long tour from Qujiang to Gaoxin...and back

Keep in mind that this tour can be done with the orange and green rental bike but once you leave Qujiang the return stands are very few and far between. That's not such a big issue but to do the entire route on one of these bikes could leave you a bit saddle sore for a few days after.

You could also buy a bike, there are various bike stores around the city depending on your wants (and price range). Decathlon on the South Second Ring Road has the best quality for price we could find. There is also the second hand bike market on Wenyi Rd just after the fabric market. Though "second hand" is something that should be said with air quotes since an alternative meaning might be "stolen" and while a bike there can be inexpensive it might also come with some sort of moral dilemma.

Another alternative is the electric bike, these bad boys come in all shapes and sizes from tiny and slow mother and child versions to 60kph monsters. The price range starts from 1500 RMB on up with an acceptable mid-range one being about 3000 RMB. As an added bonus most of these come with a license, meaning they are 100% legal. There are several places in the city to buy them but the largest place is Santa Lu in the North East of the city just inside the Second Ring Road by the Jinhua hotel.

For this tour, if you're doing it all at once start about 9:00am and be sure to set aside a full day. You could also break up the itinerary into two pieces - Qujiang one day and Gaoxin another if that's more your speed. Try and do this on a weekday as not only will traffic be lighter but the stops will have fewer people as well. We tried to put together an itinerary where not only will you get to see lots of interesting things but you can do so without breaking the bank.

THE MOST AUTHENTIC VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT IN XI'AN

越式火车特别牛肉粉
VIETNAMESE LOCOMOTIVE SPECIAL
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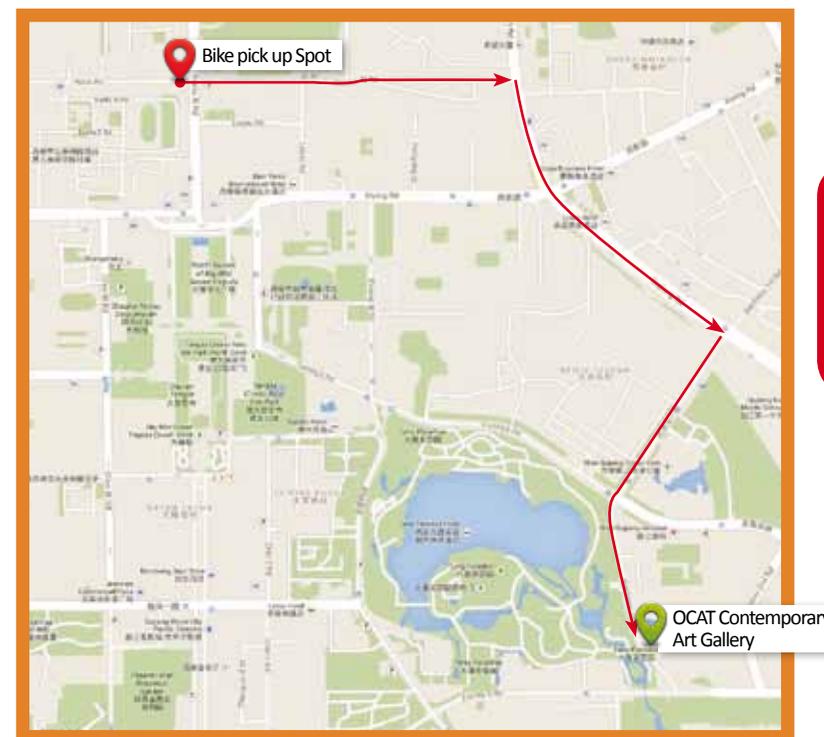
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Address: 4F, Kaido Shopping Mall, Second Ring Road.
地址: 第二城凯道4楼
TEL: 029-85567499

Big Goose Pagoda - OCAT Contemporary Art Gallery

As with most Qujiang things the Big Goose Pagoda is a reference point. Don't let that sour you though we won't be going into the pagoda or even stopping close to it, we are simply using it as a common knowledge reference point. Just North of the pagoda at the North West corner of Yanta Lu and Yucai Lu you'll find an orange and green bike rental stand and the start of our tour.



Once you have your bike put the pagoda to your right and head straight across the intersection on to Houcun Xi Lu, turn right at the HUGE intersection and stay on Qujiang Lu until you come up to the second road on your right (just after the glass entrance to an underpass) Beichitou Yi Lu and turn right. You will pass the Xi'an Aquarium on your left and go straight through the intersection, find your first stop about 250 meters down the road, OCAT Contemporary Art Gallery.

THE OCAT CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

The OCAT Gallery is the only contemporary art gallery in the city that brings artists from all over the world to Xi'an. They actually have a few galleries in China and have several exhibits per year with artist's visits, workshops and interactive installation art. Xi'an is their newest gallery and though not huge in size is a good first stop for the day. Plan on a good 45 minutes to take a look at all the exhibits.



OCAT CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

Address: Beichitou Yi Lu
Hours: Tuesday – Sunday
10:00am - 5:00pm
Cost per person: FREE
Phone: 029-85529730



OCAT Gallery - Monorail Ride - Hot Air Balloon - Qujiang Southern Lake Park

After the quiet and peaceful OCAT gallery jump on the bike and head south, this will be a leisurely peddle around the Southern Lake Park. Traffic should be light just be sure to get onto the road inside the park (go past a toll booth). While bikes aren't allowed on the park paths the road around the park is great away to highlight the park and make a plan to walk the it another day. At the southern end of the park is a big fancy building and the monorail stop, on the west side of the park is the hot air balloon.

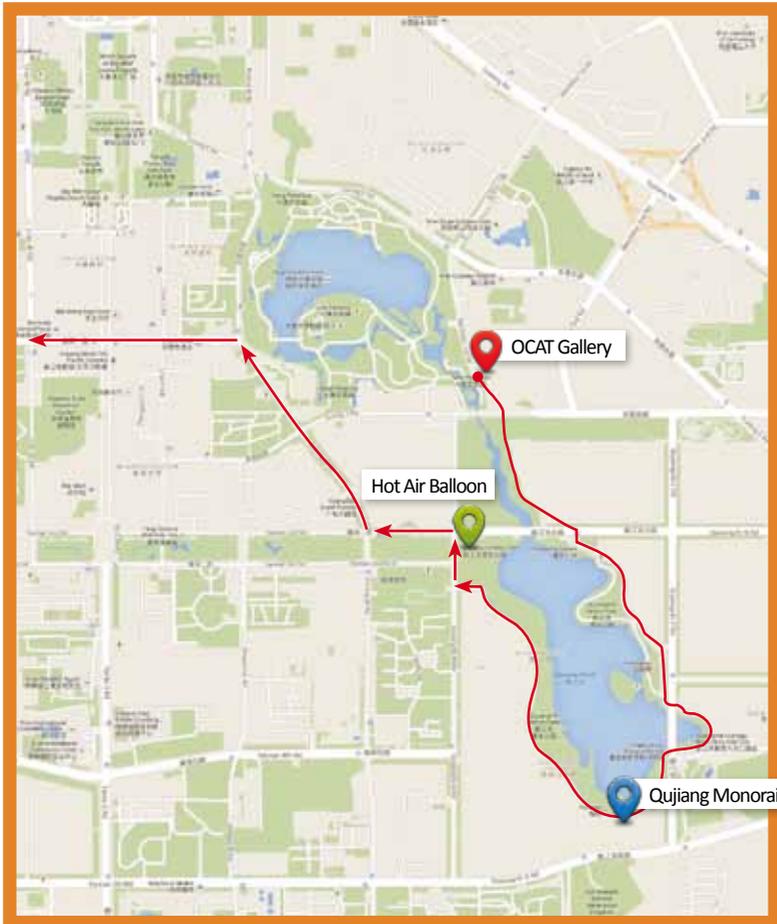
- QUJIANG MONORAIL -

While it wasn't open at the time of writing we were told it was opening in September and so a quick ride around Qujiang might be worth a go...of course we were once told that the monorail would be open in October 2013 so let's see if it will really be open when you read this.



- HOT AIR BALLOON -

Bobbing up and down all day the big white hot air balloon has been a Qujiang fixture for the past few years and though a bit expensive if it's a clear day and you've never been on it, give it a go. The view is pretty cool and you get to see just how many apartment buildings are going up around the area. Keep in mind that if the monorail is open then you might want to decide to do one or the other both might be a little much.



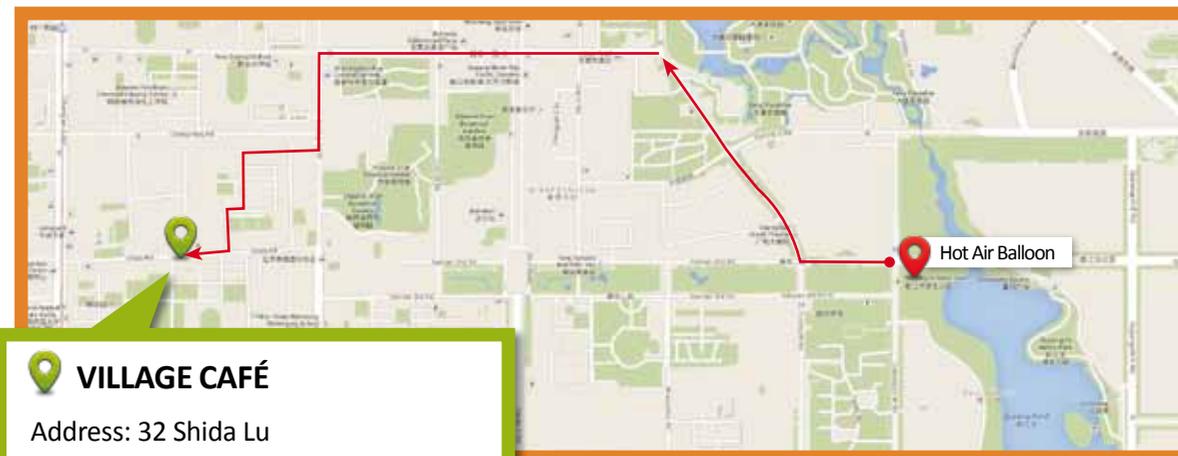
QUJIANG MONORAIL

Frequency: Every 30 Minutes
 Cost per person: RMB 50.00
 Hours: 9:00am – 5:00pm

HOT AIR BALLOON

Address: Qujiang Chi Yizhi Park Square
 Cost per person: RMB 80.00
 Hours: 10:00am — 10:00pm

Qujiang Park - Shida Lu



VILLAGE CAFÉ

Address: 32 Shida Lu
 Opening Hours: 10:00am - 10:00pm

After Qujiang has been circumnavigated it's time to take a break so head over to Shida Lu. Instead of sticking to the main roads and driving against traffic use our dandy little short cut. Take Yunnan 1 Lu to the Cuihua Lu intersection and take a left, head south past Changming Lu and right before you get to the Yunnan 3 Lu intersection look to your right for what looks like a small compound entrance (the entrance has a bit of a steep hill right inside). Head on into the compound and take a left at the first through street then another left at the first street and follow it all the way around until you come to the Waishi West Gate on Shida Lu. Keep in mind that writing it out makes it sound MUCH more complicated than it actually is. Just go inside the compound and peddle around, you'll find the exit easy enough.



A minor side point: If you are peddling on after this we would recommend a stop here as the next leg of the journey is quite a distance away. Pop in grab a quick pick-me-up and get ready for a bit of a peddle. This is also a good place to stop for the day if you are breaking the tour up into two days, after Shida Lu the bike returning places are scarce.

- COFFEE BREAK - VILLAGE CAFÉ

Congratulations you've made it to the tree lined student epicenter known as Shida Lu. On this shady lane you will find any number of restaurants, cafes, shops and stops. While there are quite a few places to grab a cup of coffee one of the oldest places in Xi'an for a Go Juice is Village Café. Once a student zone V Cafe has become popular with just about everyone for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

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Shida Lu - Zhangba Dong Lu - Tangyan Lu - Pico Greenland



Featured

Now that you're perked up mount your trusty steed and head west. At Chang'an Lu use the fly over to get on the West side of the street and head South. Just after the metro stop and before the Metro supercenter you'll come up to Zhangba Lu - take a right and head West.

West is the direction you will be going for a LONG time...all the way to Tangyan Lu. Once you get to Tangyan Lu take a left and follow it through the Jinye Lu intersection for about 120 meters and you'll see the Pico Greenland Exhibition center on your right just next to the big entrance you'll find LeBan Café!

A few things to note on your cross Xi'an trek;

At the Dianzi Zheng Jie intersection the big building on the South East corner is the **Zhuque Wholesale Market**. This market is the largest vegetable and meat market in the city - not a bad place to get your weekly groceries.

❗ **The Taibai Nan Lu Intersection** is under construction with what will someday be a dandy over pass but until it's finished it's a mess so be careful as you cross the road as it seems cars shoot out from every direction.

- LUNCH - LEBAN CAFÉ

Quickly becoming a staple in the Xi'an diet LeBan is a western styled café with pastas, sandwiches and an assortment of fresh baked goodies. They also have one of the best hamburgers in the city so grab a seat either inside or on their patio and take a well-deserved break.



ZHUQUE WHOLESALE MARKET (朱雀批发市场)

Address: Southeast corner of Dianzi Zheng Jie and Zhangba Dong Lu

Opening Hours: 8:00am - 6:00pm

LEBAN CAFÉ

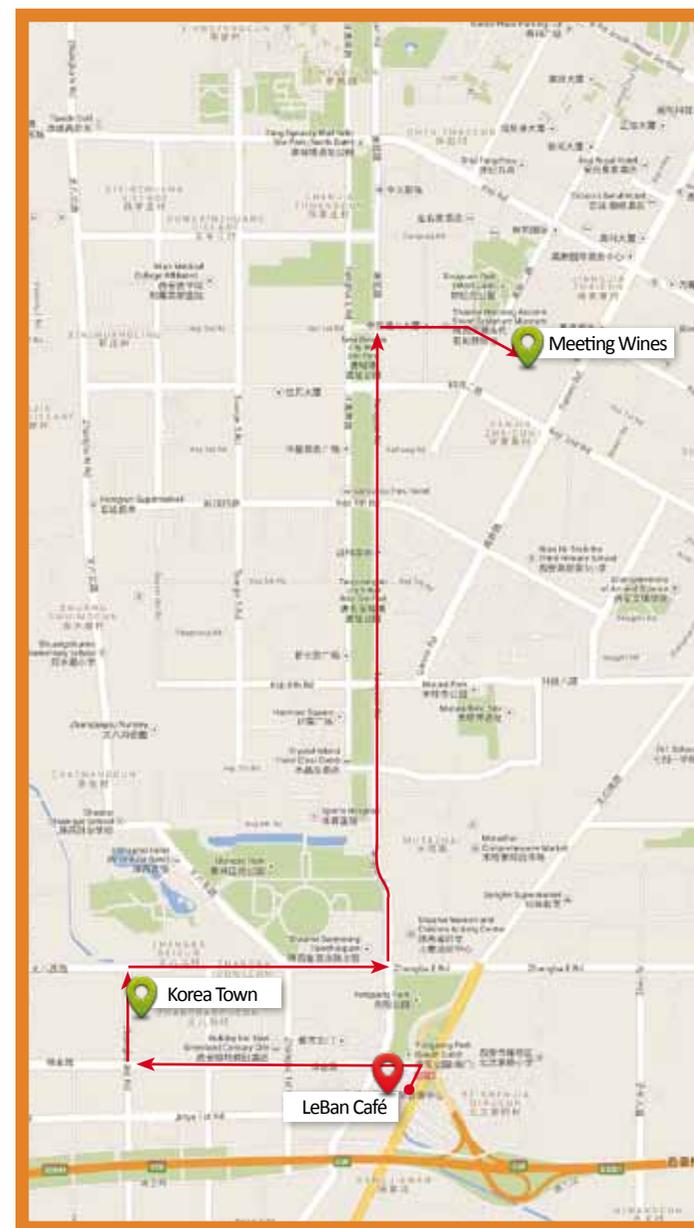
Address: 4 Tangyan Nan Lu

Opening Hours: 9:00am - 11:00pm

Phone: 029-68611082



Pico Greenland - Korea Town - Keji Yi Lu



Featured

MEETING WINES

Address: Gaoxin Yi Lu and Keji Yi Lu intersection

Opening Hours: 9:00am - 9:00pm

Phone: 029-88325883



- MEETING WINES WINE SHOP -

A wine supermarket they have just about every region of wine you can think of with prices starting from RMB 70 you should be able to find a bottle to take with. If they have them in stock and you ask they will give you a few plastic wine glasses with your purchase.



Once you have refueled and recharged the batteries head back the way you came to the first intersection, Jinye Lu and take a left. Follow Jinye Lu past the Holiday Inn and two intersections to Zhangba San Lu, take a right. You are now in Korea Town a great little place to poke around in while shaking off the post-lunch sleepiness. Once you've got your "umph" back head north to Zhangba Xi Lu and take a right, follow that road until you get back to Tangyan Lu and take a left heading North.

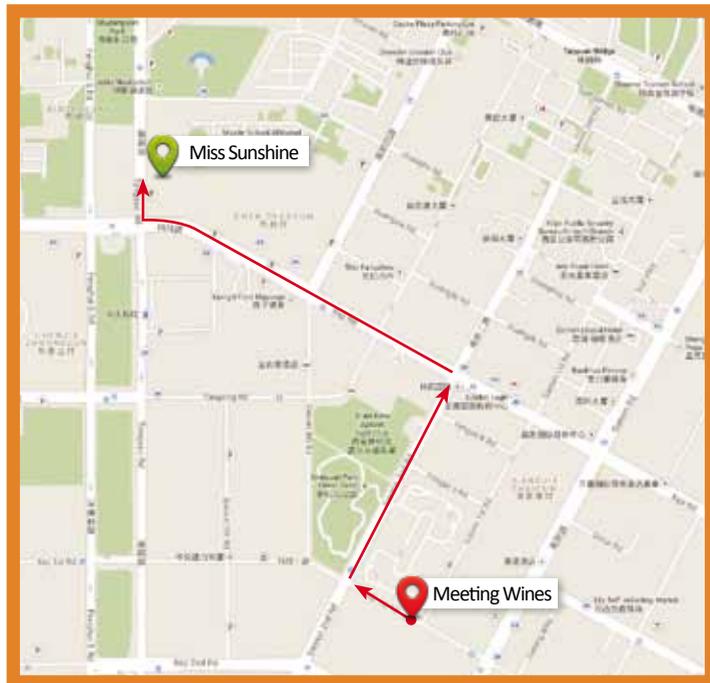
At this intersection on the North West corner is the Xi'an Olympic Park which not only has pretty good green

spaces but also the largest swimming pool in the city.

Once you're on Tangyan Lu head North to Keji Yi Lu and take a right, head past Gaoxin Er Lu and on down almost to Gaoxin Lu. You'll find Meeting Wines on your right. Grab a bottle of wine for the final stop or sit on their patio and enjoy a glass...or four.

Keji Yi Lu – Gaoxin Er Lu - Tangyan Lu – Miss Sunshine Imported Food Stop

Featured



MISS SUNSHINE
 Address: Opposite the Yonghui Supermarket on Tangyan Lu
 Opening Hours: 8:00am - Midnight
 Phone: 029-68620999

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Vera pizza italiana
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真正的意大利比萨
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 西安高新区太白南路5号紫薇尚层东2号楼20107
 No. 5 tai bai nan road, zi wei shang ceng, 2nd. east building, shop no. 20107

第二分店 - 2nd. shop tel./电话 13363990100 11:00-20:00 (Last Order 19:00) closed on sunday 周日休息
 西安高新区科技路西口都市印象街区18栋1层10116
 ke ji road xi kou, no. 18 du shi yin xiang street, ground floor, shop no. 10116

using this voucher BUY 3 PIZZA SLICE GET 1 FOR FREE !!!
 使用此券 买三送一 (1/4 块披萨) !!!
 详细规则请进店咨询, 并不适用于送货, 有效期至 2014/10/06.

Bottle of wine secured in your basket head back to Gaoxin Er Lu and take a right heading up to Keji Lu where you'll take a left heading to Tangyan Lu. Once you're there take a right and go about 75 meters and look to your right. You should be looking at Miss Sunshine Imported Food Stop.

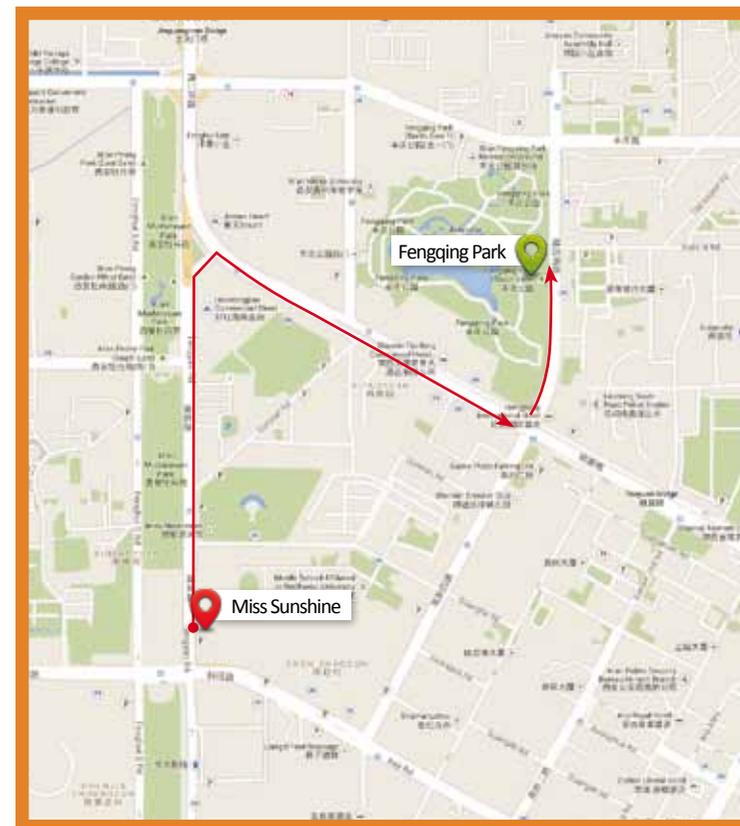
- MISS SUNSHINE -

A small shop specializing in imported goods. Though not huge in selection they have an adequate assortment of goods. Pick up some small nibbles that go well with your wine and stick it in the basket.



Tangyan Lu – Fengqing Park

Featured



FENGQING PARK
 Address: 100m North of the Taoyuan Lu and Fengqing Lu intersection

After the stopping and shopping make your way north on Tangyan Lu to the Second Ring Road and take a right. At the South East corner of the crossing is a huge complex with lots of restaurants and shops. It is home to the only Russian Restaurant in Xi'an called Fuer Jia (伏尔加) not a bad place to check out another day. Travel along the Second Ring Road until you get to the Taoyuan Lu intersection and take a left heading north until you get to the Fengqing Park East gate. There is a bike parking auntie to the right of the entrance so park the bike, grab your purchases and head into the park for your Mini-picnic.

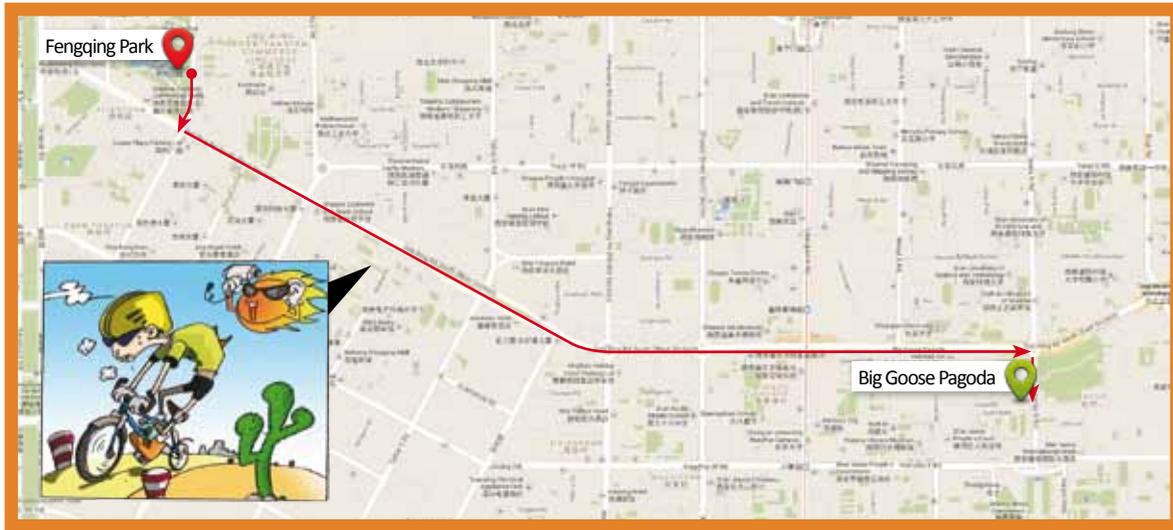


- FENGQING PARK -

One of the "forgotten" parks in the city this place is often overlooked by folks being that it really isn't in a highly walked area. This park is huge with a big lake in the center and lots of shaded seating areas scattered around. Obviously it's busier on the weekends but no matter when you go after a bit of walking you should be able to find a seating area to break out the wine and snacks to enjoy a quiet small picnic in the park.

Feng Qing Park - Big Goose Pagoda

Featured



Once the picnic is over so is the tour...for the most part. All that's left is to jump back on the bike and head south back to the second ring road. Once there take a left and follow the hustling and bustling line of cars all the way to Yanta Bei Lu and take a right, you'll come to the Yucai Lu intersection and there on the North West corner you can return the bike. You don't have to return the bike

to the same spot but we thought it ended the day nicely.

You've made it, a long day and lots of kilometers but not only have you had an adventure you got to know the city a bit better too.

Question or comments about activities around Xi'an contact us at editorial@xianease.com.

How to get the bike card:



How much does bike rental cost?

<1 hour:	Free
1 hour - 2hours:	RMB 1.00
2 hours – 3 hours:	RMB 2.00
Over 3 hours:	RMB 3.00 per hour
24 hours:	RMB 30.00

To be honest it took a bit of searching on how non-Xi'an folks can get the bike card but we called and searched and finally got the answer. The process is actually not that complicated.

Grab your passport and head over to the Bus Card Office at 168 Hanguang Nan Lu at the Southwest corner of Hanguang Nan Lu and Xiaozhai Xi Lu.

Once there tell them you want to sign up for the bike card – Gong Gong Zi Xing Chi (公共自行车), fill out a simple form pay them the RMB 300 security deposit fee and you're all set!

Keep in mind that the bike card is the same red bus/subway card so you can recharge the card at any subway station.

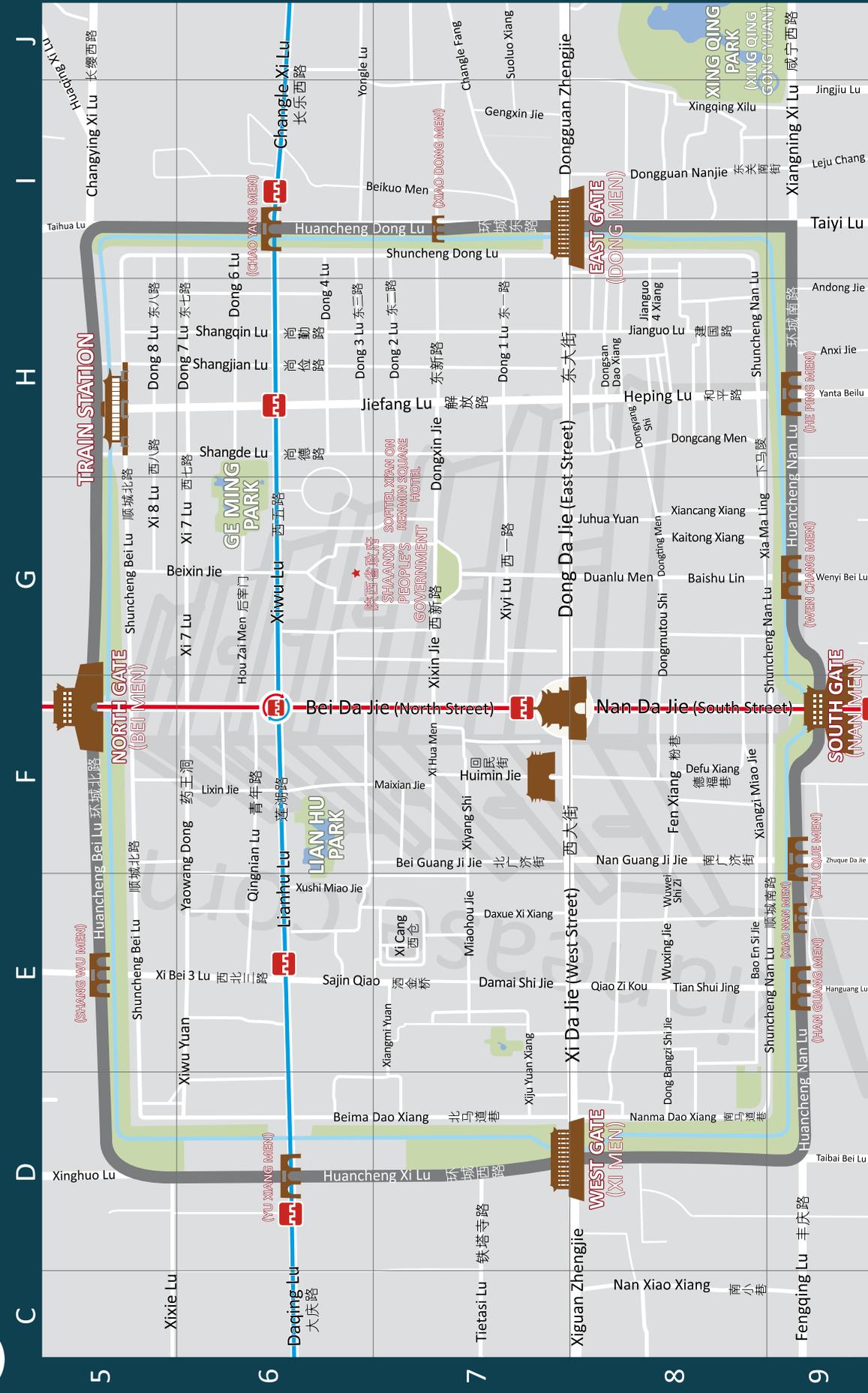
Needed: passport and red bus/subway card (If you don't have the red card they can do that there too!)

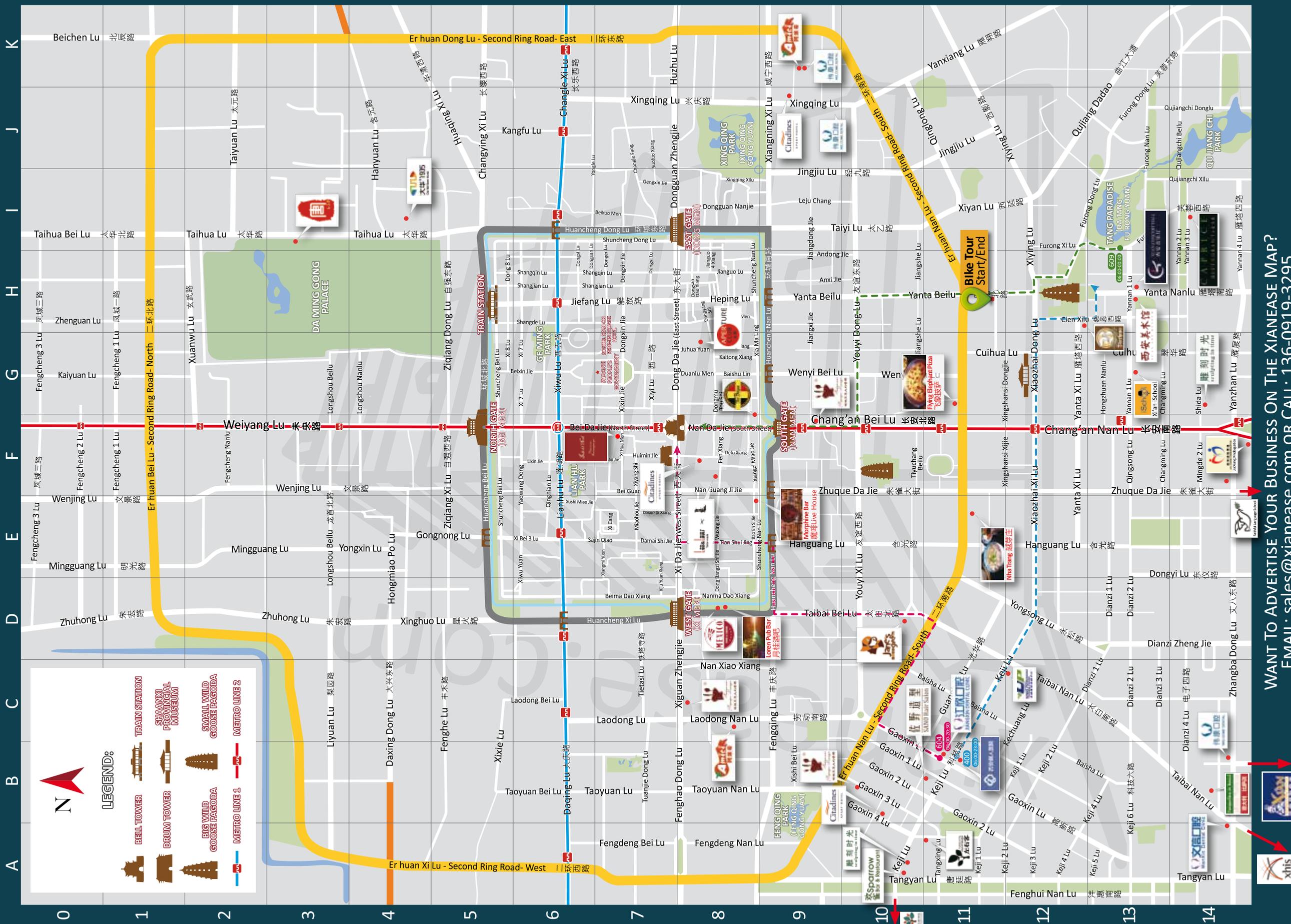
Address: 168 Hanguang Nan Lu (Southwest corner of Hanguang Nan Lu and Jixiang Lu)

Cost: RMB 300 for deposit

Opening Hours:
Weekdays 7:30am – 6:30pm
Weekends 9:00am – 3:00pm

XI'AN DOWNTOWN





LEGEND:

- BELL TOWER
- DRUM TOWER
- BIG WILD GOOSE PAGODA
- SMALL WILD GOOSE PAGODA
- TRAIN STATION
- SHAANXI PROVINCIAL MUSEUM
- METRO LINE 1
- METRO LINE 2

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TOP 5
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2012.9



TOP 5
WINTER FOODS
2012.11



TOP 5
DIY
2013.9



TOP 5
HOT POT
2013.11



TOP 5
BAOZI
2013.1/2



TOP 5
PLAY GROUNDS
2014.1

XI'AN TOP 5

BEST JOBS IN XI'AN

Article by **Julia Bartaux**

Are you tired of complaining about your job and listening to others doing the same? Let me tell you something: having a job that sucks is not fate. Either you didn't realize that you actually are already very lucky or you haven't looked well enough for the job that will put you into this Top 5.

For you, I went around Xi'an to ask who is happy setting up in the morning to go to work. After reading about these people, let's see if the grass really is greener on the other side of the fence.



1 JOB: MMA FIGHTER

(MIXED MARTIAL ARTS)

INTERVIEWEE:
VAUGHN ANDERSON

The passion for fighting found Vaughn by chance in Taiwan in his twenties. Thrilled by pushing his own limits, he grew step by step in the milieu, winning fights and making a name for himself in MMA. From fighter, to coach, to commentator and now as a show organizer, he is also the main subject of a documentary called "The New Masters".



WHY HE LOVES HIS JOB:

- The reward of the crowd being excited about his performance
- Being able to live by following his passion
- Feeling alive
- Pushing his own boundaries

DOWNSIDE:

- There is an age limit to the job. To stay in this world when you are older, you have to take steps backwards.

2 JOB: BREW MASTER

INTERVIEWEE:
JON

Inspired by his high school science class, Jon first produced alcohol at the age of 15. Although he studied finance, his true passion lay in the production of alcohol. He got himself a degree and started brewing in the USA before coming to China. Now, manager of a newly opened brewery "Near Wall bar", he invents recipes, produces the beers and controls the quality. It is more than just a way of getting drunk.



WHY HE LOVES HIS JOB:

- Hating authority, he is now his own boss
- Working in an insane chaos makes his days all different from each other
- It is a healthy mix of science (brewing process) and art (come up with new flavors)

DOWNSIDE:

- It is very physical and sometimes dangerous (hot machinery doesn't tickle)

3

JOB: INSIDER

INTERVIEWEE:
JULIA

Curious about the places you cannot find in travel books, Julia started to work for Insiders in Shanghai before taking over operations from Felix in Xi'an. She explores the countryside by vintage jeep and sidecar to find hidden places and design routes to show travelers who are looking for adventure on one day trips.



WHY SHE LOVES HER JOB:

- Not being stuck in an office five days a week
- Driving cool vehicles in fresh air
- Meeting people from all over the world
- Sharing the places she has discovered and loves

DOWNSIDE:

- She is also in charge of the administration

JOB: PROFESSIONAL SKATEBOARDER & SHOP OWNER

INTERVIEWEE:
XIAO JIAN

Xiao Jian fell in love with skating during primary school, while watching a skate show on TV. Skating seemed very unique with its own code, music and style. Since he opened his skate shop in 2002, he found a work routine. After arriving at the shop, he checks sales made online, reads both local and international news about skateboarding followed by watching some videos. If he is not too exhausted after all this, he goes skating himself.



WHY HE LOVES HIS JOB:

- It doesn't feel like work, No stress at all
- He is free to set his own schedule
- Being innovative at skate boarding is also an art

DOWNSIDE:

- As there is no indoor skate park in Xi'an, he cannot skate during rainy days and very little in winter

4

5

JOB: TATTOO ARTIST

INTERVIEWEE:
WANG CHAO

Being into rock music, Wang Chao got his first tattoo early. After a few more, he felt like doing it himself. Painting, designing and getting requests for designs and tattooing are the major parts of his day. He also opened the Tattoo Bar to have a place for artists and tattoo lovers to gather in the evening.



WHY HE LOVES HIS JOB:

- Tattooing on clients skin is like giving life to a design, every tattoo is like his child
- With the Tattoo Bar, he meets people with the same passion at night
- Bringing Chinese culture into his tattoos
- Winning public respect and recognition

DOWNSIDE:

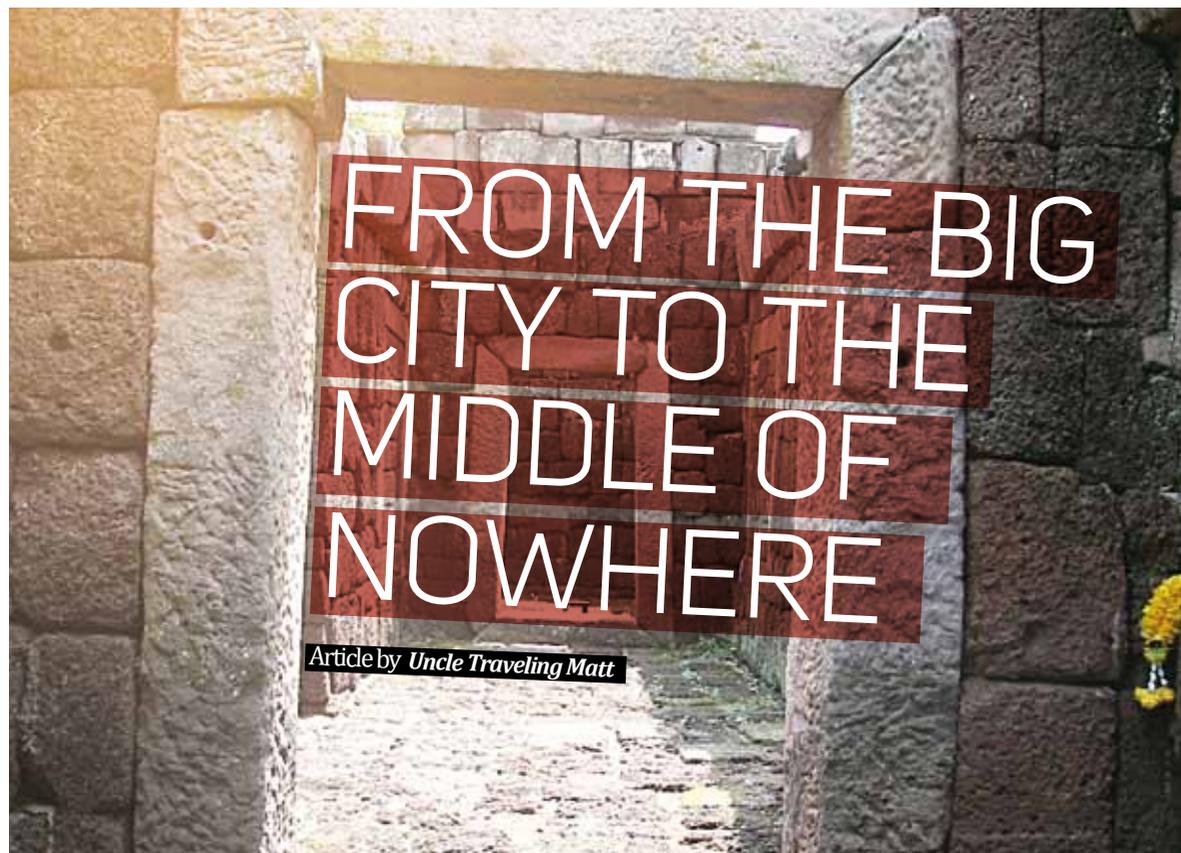
- The tattoo scene has a very low appreciation in Chinese society

Living in China for over 5 years, Julia Bartaux now manages Xi'an Insiders office and is looking for freelancers to drive jeeps and sidecars as guides. If you want to be part of her happy team or just get more info, you can contact her: julia@insidersexperience.com +86 18516130449

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Last I left off I was in Bangkok about to wonder a bit. The very night that I sent off my post to Xianease I met up with a few other travelers and we decided to team up and head out on the town. Let me tell you these guys were HARD CORE! I mean there wasn't a bottle they didn't like and I left them when they decided to go to other, shall we say, 'risque', things. So there I was at about 10pm in the party area of Bangkok, I did what I'm sure many of you would have done...no not that...I sat at a corner bar and watched people, and it was AMAZING! The variety of people, I mean not to sit on this topic too long but I tend to have the fallacy that I can judge people pretty well and yet almost 90% of the people I saw there I would have guessed were good people, and depending on your stance I guess you could say that one can go to a ping-pong ball show and still be a good person...But let's just say it bothered me to see, so at about

11pm I paid my tab and headed back to the hostel thinking, "I have got to get out of this city".

Since I was once again being a lone traveler I did...

The next morning I hopped the first train I could and went north to Phitsanulok, (7 hours) the ticket lady said there was air-con on the train and there very well could have been...but she neglected to tell me that, unfortunately my seat wasn't in the air-con. I mean it wasn't bad the windows were open but every time we stopped at another station (and there was one every 5 feet) it was like sitting in a little silver oven. After 7 hours of sweating I was a sticky little man combined with all the dirt and debris flying into the train stuck to me I was a hot mess (WONDERFUL picture I know). It got so bad that dead bugs would drop in and just stick to my

leg. I have got to get acclimatized to this weather.

The guide book said there was a wonderful huge gold Buddha, well I went and yes I can confirm it's a great big gold Buddha. Worth 7 sweaty hours on a train I'm not so sure about. I mean I could have bought a little gold Buddha and zoomed up REAL close and taken a picture and save myself and my seat mate a long not sweet smelling journey. Needless to say, at this point I was a little sick of Thailand and thought that maybe the best thing I could do would be to push on into Cambodia and leave Thailand to its own vices. I took a bus down to Kohrat to catch a train to the border and somewhere along that journey I starting having a change or heart, maybe I should give Thailand once last chance.

I headed down to Nang Rung to see the



Phanom Rung ruins, which are Khmer and supposed to be a part of the Angkor Wat lineage, I thought "Here goes nothing" and I headed to this TINY town and a guesthouse to arrange my trip to the ruins. Turns out you can hire a car to take you there for like \$100USD, I was having none of that so instead I rented a motorbike. I've owned motorcycles my whole life right up until a few years ago when for a brief period I owned a Yamaha R1 I had it for about 4 months, put 50 whole miles on it and had two "incidents" with it (neither was my fault I contend). The idea of driving myself the 50 some kilometers in Thai traffic should no doubt put you at quite a quandary as to if the heat has boiled my brain...And the answer is YES it has but that's not the point.

The night before I was to head out to the ruins I watched a few 10 year old kids riding around on these little motorbikes and thought, "If they can do it why can't I?" The next morning with the help of the same kids screaming at me in Thai they got me up and riding. It wasn't a fast ride by any means but eventually I made it to the ruins, of course I went in the exact WRONG direction for about 20m before I thought something was wrong. Ever try asking directions to a gas station attendant when all you can say is "Hello" and "Thank You"? Anyway in just under 3 hours I went the 50m plus the additional 20 doing an average speed of I'd say 20PH. Since I started this journey at about 7am I got there before all the tourists showed up and it was SPECTACULAR. The art and buildings are simply amazing and the fact that I had it all to myself for a good portion of the morning made it even better.

...Then two things happened..

First I was sitting by the base of the main lingus (phallus used to represent something in early Buddhism/Hinduism- I'm not kidding on this one) doing a bit of meditating when all of a sudden I hear Jingle Bells. Not actual bells but the tune Jingle Bells coming from a cell phone, I'm a curious one so I look

around and there is a monk digging in his robes to pull out a cell phone playing the ditty.

I had always thought they were naked under the robes but I guess they must have one of those fly fishing vests or something, maybe a bat belt? Anyway I get it he needs pockets, fair enough, but a cell phone?!?! I'm a long way from beggar bowls and vows of poverty. Anyway I was not going to let the 21st century intrude on my meditation so I walked around a bit and found a little room shadowed and cool, and so I sat down on the dampish floor. The earthy smell filled the little room with lush greenery just outside of the opening and soon enough I was centering my mind and quieting my body.

In a tropical setting it is always growing season not just for plants but also for insects. Now I'm not a man who squeals easily, nor do I run away often but when a 9 inch centipede drops onto your pack in front of you and starts crawling toward you, I am not ashamed to say that I did both Not only did I squeal like a 5 year old girl but I threw my pack and ran out of the room in a very animated way. Looking back I realize that it was only 9 inches but at the time it seemed like 20 feet long and was intent on at least touching my leg or something like that...EEEEECCH just thinking about it makes my skin crawl. During my rapid exodus I ran into a huge group of Korean tourists from the day's first tour bus and gave them their first photo op of the day. Not my proudest moment... but not my worst either...

Take care, be strong, and remember... Don't be like me

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AT HOME IN CHINA

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One Hot Afternoon. Part Two

Article by *Carolyn*



A gentle breeze blew over the mountain slope as I followed Lai Yin across the paddy field and alongside a field of corn. We picked our way between cucumber runners which grew across the narrow path and headed for the leafy shade of a pear tree heavy with fruit. While I was certainly in better shape than I'd been a few minutes before, I was still excessively hot. I lay down at once and Lai Yin left to tend her crops.

I gazed over the forested hillsides from my shady view. Up here most of the land remained uncultivated; a few fields of rice paddy and corn threw out a patchwork pattern beneath the trees. The hillside rang with birdsong and the electrical drone of high summer crickets. First one, then a second yellow swallow tail butterfly swooped down to settle on my leg. They paddled their extravagant wings for a moment and dove back into the air, dipping and skitting quickly out of sight. Conical hills rose one beyond another, the valley lifted from the river and fanned generously towards the distant horizon. The hot sun shone down from a cobalt blue sky dotted with small clouds. I closed my eyes and fell asleep.

I woke when Lai Yin returned, arms full of aubergine, chili and cucumber. Sitting beside me using her

scythe as deftly as a little kitchen knife, she pared the skin from a couple of cucumbers and we ate them, sweet, juicy and warm from the afternoon sun. Xiao Pan was weeding in the paddy field, we found him and three of us began our journey back down the hill. He took my shoulder pole and I didn't complain.

There's a type of peppery berry that the Miao soak in corn wine and eat as a condiment. The berry grows on a tree and on our way down Lai Yin spotted one ripe for harvesting. We worked together stripping the branches and cramming the little bunches of tangy, hot pepper balls into the baskets of their shoulder poles. Further down Xiao Pan stopped beside a wild pear tree; the crisp and juicy variety Westerners call the Chinese pear. How we gorged! We were taking a different path down and it was so steep I had to pick my way carefully. Lai Yin and Xiao Pan laughed at my cautious ineptitude, while they descended with little springy steps as gracefully as mountain goats.

A cloud came scudding across the valley bringing heavy rain. We sheltered under a tree while the shower lasted then Lai Yin and Xiao Pan began to collect grass for their water buffalo. I gave myself the job of packing the cut grass into the



shoulder pole baskets. The couple systematically scythed their way down the grassy slope tossing me sheaths of grass bound with grass ties which I stuffed into the baskets cut end down. The baskets filled quickly and looked pleasingly decorative. I called up that I couldn't fit in any more but they continued to scythe and bind and toss more bundles down so I just sat and waited and watched them working together, efficiently and harmoniously. Eventually they clambered down, tossed out all my bundles and replaced them cut end up; ramming them down with their scythes until every last bundle had been accommodated. Now with shoulder pole baskets crammed with vegetables, a small tree's worth of pepper balls, about 30 Chinese pears a piece and all the grass bundles, Lai Yin and Xiao Pan continued down the steep path. Lai Yin said her basket probably weighed about 40 jin, Xiao Pan's 45.

Moving at a steady trot we got back home in an hour and a half. The only time we stopped was to drink from a spring which came gushing from the rocks straight out of the mountain.

'The foreigner has come to help in your fields again', the villagers had called when we'd left the village after lunch. Some help: I'd nearly expired from heat on the way up, and then spent the best part of the afternoon sound asleep. They were still generous enough to thank me for coming!



If you have any questions or comments you can reach Carolyn at carolyn@xianese.com



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XI'AN MEETUP GROUP

Article by *Owen*



“What if it was easy to find others? What if the future had more community? What if the world had a billion new friendships? What if we used the internet to get off the internet? What if every city was a meetup city? What if there’s a meetup everywhere about most everything?” All these are dreams of Meetup. What is Meetup? Meetups are neighbors getting together to learn something, do something, share something.

Meetup was created as a way to help people in online communities connect in the real world and do meaningful things together. It is a great platform to meet with new people and expand your circle of friends. It’s also a great method for people who have similar interests to have a good time together. Over the past 10 years it has evolved into a network of almost 14 million members across 196 coun-

tries, organizing about 400,000 meetups a month.

My Meetup story began in June, 2012 when I arrived in a tiny town (11,0000 population) in Canada. I was upset in the very beginning because I had no friends at all. The Meetup

website popped up one day when I tried to Google public events. It’s something like the proverbial apple hitting my head. I couldn’t help but join in as many groups as I could. Outdoor Adventures, Coffee and Stuff, Day Trips and Travel Lov-



ers Meetup, Backcountry Travel Meetup, The Law of Attraction Focus Group, Creating Community, 20’s and 30’s Social Meetup, Chinese-English Social and Cultural Exchange, and Speed Networking Meetup. You would not believe that such a tiny town had so many people involved with Meetup. To be honest, my original purpose was only to find more opportunities to speak English. After one year I had visited almost all of the natural parks in the region, shared cultures, tried all sorts of adventures like canoeing, camping and spelunking and made more than 300 friends. Meetup gave me a very special and unique experience that I had never had before.

Meetup is simple and anti-advertisement. Event organizers will post event information, participants just need to click YES to make a reservation and show up on time. You can hardly find even a single annoying advertisement on the website.

A couple of months ago I noticed there wasn’t a Meetup group in Xi’an. So I created the Xi’an-Friends-Meetup Group to sprout and grow in this

exciting ancient city. Are you into meeting new friends, doing outdoor activities, coffee & tea socials, backpacking, social networking, hiking, dining out, sports, or other stuff? Whatever your taste, let’s do it! The more folks involved the more fun we will have. We are waiting for you at <http://www.meetup.com/Xian-Friends-Meetup/>. You’ll never know how much fun you could have if you never try.

Want more information?

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Community

Community

LIFE IN TRANSITION

Article by *Marissa Kluger*



Life in Xi'an changes you, for better or worse (like marriage). You expect returning home to be a walk in the park, considering you overcame significant hurdles adjusting to the ebb and flow of Xi'an, finding your place in the scheme of Xi'an expat society. You instead have deer-in-the-headlights sentiments, leaving you to rethink this whole reentry thing.

After four years in Xi'an, I miss a number of things about the food, people, places, and life-style Xi'an has on offer. It has only been a month and a half since I moved back to the US, to the same address, but very little about moving home after living abroad feels the same.

For Xi'an expats, life moves at a slower pace, at least paralleled with life in the United States, and is relatively worry-free in terms of housing, the next meal,

the local watering hole, and income. Life is definitely cushy for expats in Xi'an, whether we are teachers, entrepreneurs, or employees at Chinese or multinational firms. In contrast, my life as it stands now, is filled with far more anxiety, pressure, and stress, mostly due to being in that transitional limbo, and so I miss the self-sustaining and carefree expat life of Xi'an.

As a former teacher at one of the many universities, side jobs were always plentiful. I had copyediting, proofreading, and tutoring opportunities. I worked with students on their undergraduate and graduate theses. My mornings consisted of teaching news writing, intercultural communication, writing courses, new media in addition to the more conventional oral english and listening & speaking classes.

Afternoons were peppered with exploring the area around the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Shida (师大), the TV tower, Mingde Men (明德门), grabbing mi-anpi (面片儿) for dinner near the South Gate, shopping at Xiaozhai (小寨), Kaide Guang Chang (凯德广场) or Vivo City, and biking around the city.

My job meant summers returning home, traveling to Thailand and Laos, venturing to the capital or trying to escape the brutal 40 plus degrees Celsius by hibernating indoors. Winter breaks varied with a three-week tour of nine Chinese cities with my youngest sister, a trip to the capital and escaping winter in Xi'an by taking in Hainan.

Dining out was a regular and inexpensive affair. The variety offered in Xi'an has me salivating: Chinese barbecue, Sichuan, Shaanxi specialties

like yang rou pao mo, liang pi, rou jia mo, hot pot, Chinese and Western fast food, several fairly authentic Italian eateries, upscale Chinese and Western restaurants, Peking duck joints, and noodle shops offering every shape, size, and flavor. I embraced the noodle, and obsessed over the spinach variety and Liangmian (凉面). I loved discovering new places to eat, even if this new place was just a new Shida Lu (师大路) street vendor peddling a more recent obsession: cai jia mo (菜夹馍), Chinese hamburger's sibling. I rarely concerned myself with cooking, and actually, this was something my husband did



Marissa reminisces about Xi'an and muses about life in the US at <http://xiananigans.wordpress.com>



more often, and better, than I.

I got used to bargaining my way through the local vegetable markets surrounding the university's old campus where we lived. I became accustomed to the handful of vendors we'd consistently purchase produce from asking my husband's whereabouts when he did not accompany me. I accepted and grew to like walking everywhere, taking public transportation, and the visits to my husband's hometown. I also managed to bargain my way around most wet markets, grocers, flea-style markets and the like. I liked coming home to inform my husband that I whit-

tled the price down to 20 RMB when the vendor asked for 80. The feeling of navigating the ins and outs of local etiquette became exhilarating. Conversations with taxi drivers and locals as well as with students using Mandarin were equally rewarding.

Learning to appreciate making plans at the last minute, hanging out with students, making friends with people from all corners of the globe, embracing speaking and reading Mandarin (and very limited character writing), and most importantly, the place where I found my significant other all also make me long for Xi'an.

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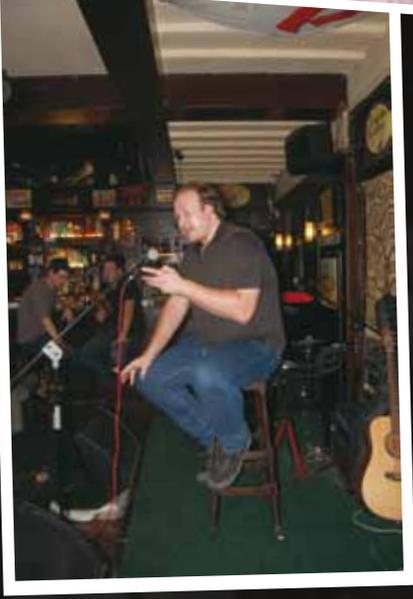


Pub Quiz

BELGIAN BAR AND XIANEASE

The August crowd was out in style with new arrivals and old hands showing up to try their skill and luck against Trivia Master Phil. With the competition running high and the speakers low folks were straining to answer the hard and soft ball questions thrown at them. In the end Huey Hefner beat the crowd and won the three liters of beer.

www.xianease.com



KING OR QUEEN OF THE TABLE POOL TOURNAMENT

This month's Steve Ball contest as affectionally called was a well-attended affair with the upper crust of Xi'an tut-tutting and golf clapping the night though. Starched collars, ruffled dresses and top hats were the order of the day. Think you have what it takes? Well grab your monocle get your footman to bring the carriage around and come give it the old Once Over.

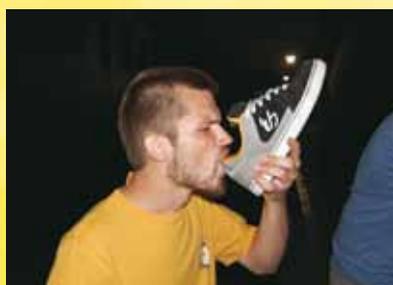




HASH RUN - TEMPLE RUN -

With the rise of the sun came a call to meditation and the purchase of beer. The fearless hare **Foot Fetish** spent the morning marking a trail and chuckling to himself. Quite possible the best trail we have had this year this was an 8Km monster that took us over barriers, through chicken coops, and along the moat. Come and join us at the next one!

www.xianease.com/hhh



TOASTMASTERS JULY - AUGUST

Always a great group the Toastmasters folks are growing and growing now meeting every Friday and special events on the weekends. They are not only one of the fastest growing groups in Xi'an but they are also one of the most welcoming. Be sure to check them out, make some new friends and improve your public speaking.

www.xianease.com/toastmasters



COMMUNITY MARKET

Basically it's a farmers market idea but with less farmers (because we don't know any foreign farmers - yet). It's like this, if you are someone who likes to bake, make sweaters, carve stuff from wood, grow flowers, make sausages or has some things sitting around you'd like to sell we now have a place for you to advertise for free!

Open to all but no companies please, this is only for individuals. Our hope is that once we get enough

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TEA CEREMONY

Beatrix - I would like to offer a tea ceremony for individuals or small groups at my house in English or German. You can try and buy some Chinese tea and accessories. The charge is 30 RMB per person.



I also have to offer some used books, puzzles and board games in German and English language.

Anyone who is interested can contact me to make an appointment at: bea.brunzel@gmail.com

people selling their own items we will then be able to hold an actual monthly Community Market someplace in the city.

I hope we can get some great homemade stuff into the community and bring us all closer together.

SWIMMING POOL CARD

We are leaving and want to sell our swimming pool card that contains about RMB 600.00 (Enough for 23 more visits) we are selling it for RMB 500.00. It is an indoor heated pool inside an apartment complex on Keji Lu in Gaoxin. The card is valid until December 2015.

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Get more Chuck Norris facts at www.chucknorrisfacts.com ... if you dare...

Chuck Norris can skateboard with a bike	Chuck Norris gives poison ivy a rash
Chuck Norris can burn ants with a magnifying glass...at night	Chuck Norris can bypass a voice only recognition machine using sign language
Using a novelty invisible dog leash and collar Chuck Norris won the Westminster Dog Show	Chuck Norris went as himself for Halloween, There were no survivors
Chuck Norris knows the Colonel's 11 secret herbs and spices	Chuck Norris can sneeze with his eyes open
The only time Chuck Norris catches a cold is when he has it in a headlock	Chuck Norris made Mission Impossible possible
Chuck Norris puts Baby in the corner	Chuck Norris' teeth floss themselves
Chuck Norris makes onions cry	If Chuck Norris was a woman - He would still be THE MAN
Chuck Norris' keyboard has no delete key. Chuck Norris never makes a mistake	When Chuck Norris laughs, milk comes out of your nose
Chuck Norris can use less than six characters in his password	The worst part about getting a roundhouse kick to the face from Chuck Norris is not being able to thank him afterwards
Chuck Norris flew boats in the Vietnam War	Chuck Norris' phone never auto corrects him
Chuck can shoot 3 people with a paper gun and 1 bullet	Chuck Norris dug to the moon

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D10 Jane's garden
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Western

F7 Isola del Nord Italian Restaurant
Isola del Nord 意大利餐厅
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西安市西华门凯爱大厦11层
Phone: 029-7201501/87201502
Isola del Nord is one of those places that once you set foot in you realize that you are in for a good meal.
Hours: 11:30 - 15:00 (L.O.14:00)
17:30 - 22:00 (L.O.21:15)

Papaya 帕帕亚
#2-22-24 Yubi Huazhang Building Center Street out of Western Gate.
西关正街御笔华章2-22-24
Phone: 029-89344206

A11 No.23, 14 Floor, Chengshi Kong Jian Building, High-tech 3 road.
高新三路橙仕空间14层F23号
Phone: 029-81877160

F3 No.89 Floor, Lemon Hotel Xi'an Center Street out of South Gate.
南关正街89号柠檬酒店三楼
Phone: 029-85239737

F6 Burger King
汉堡王
地铁二号线北大街站C出口B1层
Phone: 029-87388321
Hours: 08:00-22:00

Subway
赛百味
M12 大雁塔店
Great Tang's All Day Mall, South Square of Big Wild Goose Pagoda.

大唐不夜城新乐汇内, 中国银行旁
Phone: 029-85573669 (Deliver)
Hours: 08:00 -- 22:30

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丰润国际简的花园8楼
American style Club; Garden restaurant
Phone: 029-88856266
Hours: 11:30 -- 23:30

M4 CAPRICE Restaurant + Bar
卡佩斯
11B Diamond Peninsula, Yannan 3rd Road Qujing District (west of south lake)
曲江新区雁南三路芙蓉西路11B
Phone: 029-89136510

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欢雀美式餐厅
C block, wang zuo international city, ke ji road, Gaoxin district.
高新区科技路旺座国际城C座后花园
Phone: 029-88700961
Hours: 10:30 -- 21:30

Hours: 10:00 -- 22:00
Phone: 029-88811888

F3 German beer garden
德国自酿啤酒花园
Opposite of Zhong Tie 20 Ju, Han Yuan Dian, Tai Hua Lu
太华路含元殿中铁二十局斜对面
Phone: 029-86291884
Hours: 17:00 -- 00:00

K9 Amici Restaurant
阿米奇西餐厅
Bei lin qu jiao da shang chang jie chang chun teng hua yuan dong qu (Near Bank of China)
碑林区交大商场街常春藤花园东区(靠近中国银行)
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G10 Amici Pizza
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Hours: 10:00 -- 22:00

Pizza

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17:30 - 22:00 (L.O.21:15)

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Phone: 029-88894573
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高新区科技路西口都市印象街区18栋1层10116
Phone: 133-63990100
Hours: 11:00 -- 21:00

Indian

G9 Redfort
红堡印度餐厅
Redfort-Indian Pavilion, Xi'an Tang West Market, Silk Street, No.118 Laodong South Road
莲湖区劳动南路大唐西市118号丝绸之路风情街红堡印度区
Phone: 029-84113559
15029927722
Hours: 11:00 - 23:00

M12 Delhi Darbar
新德里餐厅
#3 Da Tang tong Yi Fang, Yanta Xi Lu
雁塔西路大唐通易坊东头3号
Phone: 029-85255157
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A13 Inimitable Restaurant
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Phone: 029-88785478
Hours: 11:00-14:00
17:00-21:30

Korean

F3 Tudari
士大力
2F, INTIME Shopping Mall, #48 Xida Jie
西大街48号银泰广场2楼
Phone: 029-87271264
Hours: 11:00 -- 23:00

Chinese

M13 Zen5es
#66 Ci En Road, Qu Jiang New District, Xi'an
中国元素餐厅
曲江新区慈恩路66号
Phone: 029-68938366
Hours: 11:30 -- 14:30
17:30 -- 22:00

Vegetarian

M12 Tianlong Vegetarian
天龙宝严素食馆
#1 Yanta West Road
雁塔西路1号
Phone: 029-85266880
Hours: 11:00 -- 21:00

Hotpot

Hai Di Lao
海底捞

M12 #11, South of Yanta Lu
雁塔路南段11号
Phone: 029-85536971
Hours: 10:30 -- 03:00

B10 3F, Gao Ke Buliding, #1 Gaoxin Si Lu
高新四路1号高科广场3楼
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Hours: 10:30 -- 03:00

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高新路25号新汇大厦1楼
Phone: 029-88256863
Hours: 09:30 -- 23:00

G8 #1 Luo Ma Shi, South of Min Sheng Shopping Mall
骡马市1号民生百货南侧
Phone: 029-87656554
Hours: 09:30 -- 23:00

Shopping

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30 South Street
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Phone: 029-87203000
Hours: 10:00 -- 22:00

Ginwa Shopping Center
世纪金花购物中心
F7 #1 Xida Jie next to the bell tower
西大街1号钟鼓楼广场
Phone: 029-87631708

B11 #55 Keji Lu
科技路55号
Phone: 029-62961099
Hours: 10:00 -- 22:00

Tea Markets

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Email: sales@xianese.com



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长安中路 百汇市场



Sporting Goods

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B10 #18 Gaoxin Lu
高新路18号
K9 South of Er Huan Dong Lu
东二环与咸宁西路交叉十字



Health Goods

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F6 Beida Jie intersection
北大街十字
Phone: 029-87211888



Appliance Centers

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F6 #23 Lian Hu Road
莲湖路23号
Phone: 029-87319196
Hours: 09:30 -- 19:00



Furniture Markets

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Phone: 029-88116666
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Shu Yuan Gate,
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Plant Markets

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Zhu Que Avenue
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门对面



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Email: yushhotel@kvsoon.com
Web: www.qinling-bslv.com

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www.crowneplazaxian.com

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#13 Gaoxin Si Road, Hi-Tech
Zone, Xi'an
西安市高新区高新四路13号
Phone: 029-88437888

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Xi'an
西安馨乐庭兴庆宫服务公寓
#159 Xingqing Road, Beilin
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bei lin qu xing gong nan lu xiang nan 100m
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181-92398715(史老师)

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International Schools

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Email: may.liu@his-xian.com
Website: www.his-xian.com
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Address: Hanova International
Department of Bodi School 188
Yudou Road, Xian

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& Zhang Ba Dong Rd.
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Phone: 181-89189868



Medical



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Hours: 11:00 - 01:30

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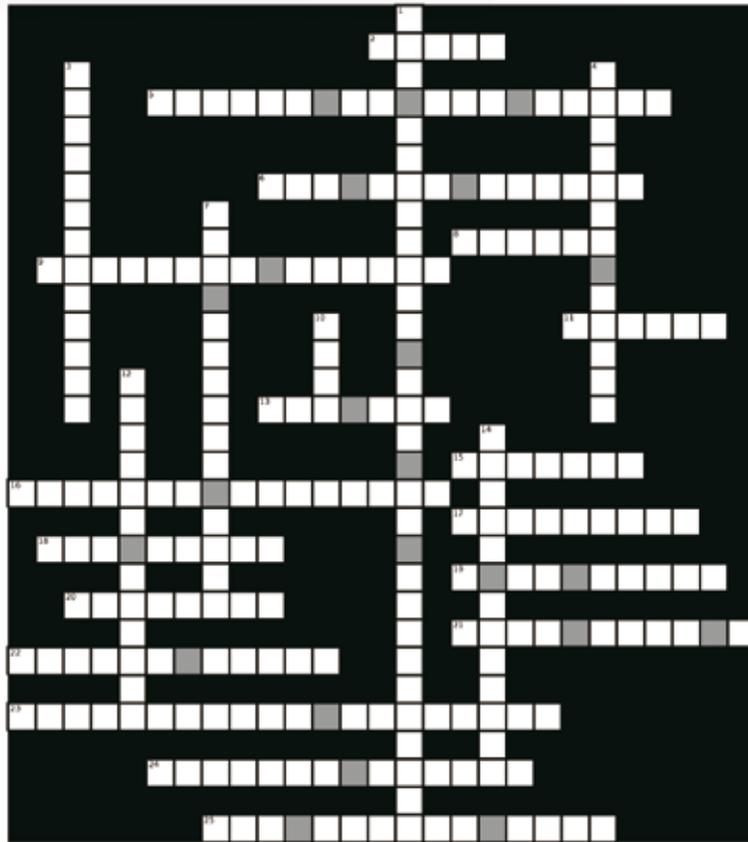
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AUGUST

Pub Quiz Questions

The August crowd was out in style with new arrivals and old hands showing up to try their skill and luck against Trivia Master Phil. With the competition running high and the speakers low folks were straining to answer the hard and soft ball questions thrown at them. In the end **Huey Hefner** beat the crowd with 17 out of 25 correct. See if you could have taken them. Come on out to the next pub quiz on the 17th!

Want the answers? Head over to www.xianease.com/trivia for this month's answers



Across

- Which Egyptian pharaoh is credited with constructing the Great Pyramid of Giza?
- After Vincent Price demanded too much money, actor Barry Clayton was asked to read a bible passage for the opening of which Iron Maiden song?
- Clarissa Dickson Wright and Jennifer Paterson are best known for hosting which television cooking program?
- What country is Brahma beer from?
- Who was Lauren Bacall married to from 1945 until his death in 1957?
- If you're standing on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, what country are you in?
- British actor Tom Hardy has been cast to play which famous film character, first made famous by Mel Gibson?
- What is the surname of Wendy, John, and Michael in the Peter Pan stories?
- Jurassic Park, The 13th Warrior, and The Andromeda Strain were all films adapted from novels by which writer?
- The Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya is connected to which national park in Tanzania?
- What video game producer and programmer created the Civilization and Tycoon video game series?

Down

- In 1975, Leonard Nemo published the first volume of his autobiography, entitled "I am not Spock". Published in 1995, what was his second volume entitled?
- The air we breathe contains mostly which gas?
- Which Pope reigned for only 33 days before his sudden death in 1978?
- Which season of The Simpsons will begin airing at the end of September, 2014?
- What famous atheist wrote the 1995 polemic, The Missionary Position, criticizing the work and character of Mother Teresa?
- What band is best known for its 1980's hits, We're Not Gonna Take It, I Wanna Rock, and Under the Blade?
- Which Disney film includes the songs I Wanna Be Like You and The Bare Necessities?
- What Australian comedy series featured attempts by cast members to hug the Australian Prime Minister while holding a battle ax, a mace, and a chainsaw?
- In which American state is Harvard University located?
- What coffee company's slogan is 'Good to the last drop'?
- Before winning one for his supporting role in Good Will Hunting, Robin Williams was nominated for the Best Actor Oscar for his roles in Good Morning Vietnam, Dead Poet's Society, and which film?
- Touch, Shuffle, Nano, and Classic are all types of what?
- What was the first country to require warning labels on cigarette packaging?
- What is the name of the university in Animal House?



THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL



Isola del Nord 意大利餐厅
西安市西华门1号(北大街)凯爱大厦B座11层

Tel/电话: 029-8720 1501 (1502)
Fax/传真: 029-8720 1901
Lunch: 11:30-15:00 (L.O.14:00)
Dinner: 17:30-22:00 (L.O.21:15)



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