

# XIANEASE

JAN/FEB 2015 Vol. 54



## 发现西安



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# CREATIVITY IN THE CITY

### RESTAURANT REVIEWS

La Seine- Wine & Cuisine  
塞纳河葡萄酒主题餐厅

Ganges Indian Restaurant  
恒河印度餐厅

A Day at the Gran Melia  
盛美利亚

Jia Ri Kao Ba  
假日烤吧

### BAR REVIEWS

Ginkgo 银杏

Faces Bar

Power Up 增能量

Gelin Town 格林小镇

### Air Mask Review

INTERVIEW WITH  
CARRIE VARJAVANDI

### AT HOME IN ENGLAND

### PHOTOS OF THE XI'AN SCENE





XI'AN HI-TECH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

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- Development of our students into tomorrow's global citizens

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and a happy new year



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**XIANEASE**  
Web, Print, Events, and More

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JAN / FEB 2015

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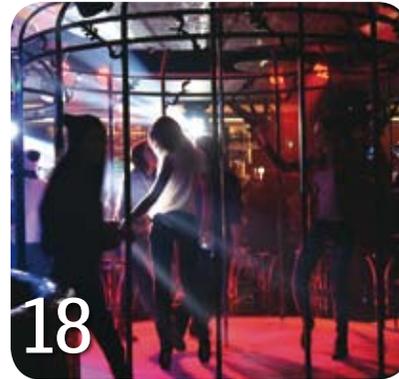
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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

All,

Is anyone else surprised that it's already 2015?

I mean I seriously am blown away. Where in the heck did 2014 go? Every year about this time I usually take a deep breath, flex my invisible suspenders (the US kind NOT the UK kind) and give a big grandiose sigh and ponder everything I'll do in the upcoming 12 months – that's 365 days or 8760 hours. Will I travel, study, begin new friendships or finally start that book I've always wanted to write? The year ahead unfolds before me like a surreal landscape with events, holidays, plans, hopes and dreams. It appears to be a vast gulf of time which I can swim in at my leisure attaining my goals at any time.

Yet in reality, I don't come out of my winter coma until about February, just in time for Chinese New Year which leads into Spring, getting me ready for Summer which warmly belches on until the cooler autumn which only makes me look forward to the holiday season putting me right back in the place I started from-a year older and head spinning from where the year has gone, only to once again start planning on what I'll do with all that time next year.

This time I think I'm going to try something different, a bit more organized and linear, though admittedly a bit more constraining. I'm going to power up the old computer and make a spreadsheet for my goals and plans for the next 525,600 minutes. I'm a big list guy, I've got lists for daily, monthly and quarterly ideas about the magazine. I have all my personal finances (as small as they are) in a dandy little spreadsheet, my Google calendar is filled to the brim with upcoming appointments, important dates and birthdays galore...yet when it comes to my life plan I get all disorganized.

I guess I have a fear that if I set a firm plan for my yearly, five year and ten year life I would invariably I fall short since I would probably set for myself the perfect version of me; but when it comes to reality I am far from a perfect version. Hell, some days I'm not even a good second-rate knock off version.

Living by the seat of my pants also introduced passions, dreams and excitement into my life by not living with the strict confinements of a concrete plan. But there is a catch (when isn't there?): going too extreme will leave you awash with ideas, going whichever way the wind blows and more often than not treading water which gets you nowhere and only makes you tired – which is where I find myself as the final minutes of 2014 wind down and 2015 slips into being.

I guess the right idea is to plan but don't over plan, to have your head in the clouds but your feet on the ground. Concrete is good for buildings but it's terrible to plan with. So here's to looking at the next twelve months in a loosely systematic way, to accomplish the dream I have but not to strangle creativity.

Sincerely,

Patrick Antony

Editor-in-Chief

Discover YOUR Xi'an - Let us help

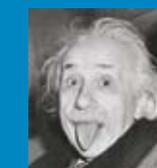
Patrick.antony@xianease.com



Discover YOUR Xi'an  
and join us on Weixin!

## PUB QUIZ – January 21st and February 25th

If you weren't there you missed a BIG night, with Trivia Master Phil spouting off 1990's trivia like it was a Pulp Fiction giveaway at an MC Hammer concert. With the theme in full swing the 90's generation team *Slow Children at Play* broke away from the pack wearing their high hipped jeans and high-top sneakers. This is the third month in a row with a new winning team, meaning that these days anyone can win – so grab yourself a few like-minded friends, head on down to the Belgian Bar and maybe emerge to an adulation from your peers and free free free beer!



Time: 9:30pm

Place: The Belgian Bar

南门顺城南路中段69号  
#69 shun cheng nan lu

January

21

Wednesday

February

25

Wednesday

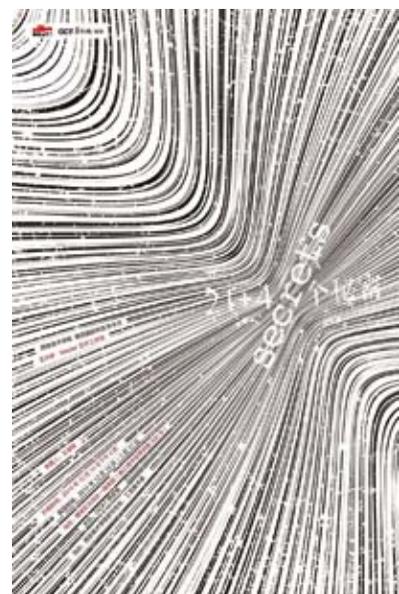
## JAN 7-17

**Concert**  
"21+4 Secrets"  
21+4个秘密

Time: 10:00am-5:00pm

**Location:**  
OCAT, South of Bei Chi Tou 1 Lu, Yanta District.  
雁塔区北池头一路南段 OCT当代艺术中心西安馆二层展厅

Tickets: Free



## JAN 8-13

**Concert**  
The Imperial Ice Stars  
- Swan Lake  
英国皇家冰上芭蕾舞团  
《天鹅湖》

Time: 7:30pm  
**Location:** Xi'an Concert Hall  
曲江新区雁南一路  
Tel: 400-611-9169



## MOVIE NIGHTS

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

**Location:**  
**Lao Mei Cafe (老美咖啡)**  
Inside Wenchao Gate to the right 6 Xiamaling Lu (文昌门里下马陵六号)

**Movie Start Time:**  
7:30pm



## JAN 9

**Free demo class**

How to prepare the TSC ?!  
How to prepare the HSK ?!  
Exam Focus  
Exam Tips  
Come and learn Chinese with us!

Time: 2:00pm

**Location:** #174 Yannan 1st Road, Building 1, Room 605, Hanlinshijia, Yanta District  
**Tel:** 186-2907-4010 / 153-0292-7680



## JAN 30

**FREE VODKA SHOT!**

Time:  
9:30pm - 10:30pm get a free vodka shot

**Location:** Left and Right Bar  
Basement, Rong Shu Ge Cheng, outside of the South Gate  
南门外榕树歌城负一楼  
**Tel:** 150-9128-5160



## FEB 8

**Cooking party (Cost 30RMB)**

Вечеринка "Учимся готовить китайскую кухню"  
パーティーで中華料理を学ぶ  
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 605, Hanlinshijia, Yanta District  
**Tel:** 186-2907-4010 / 153-0292-7680



## TANGO EVENTS

**Mexico Bar (墨西哥餐吧)**

Address: No.21, Tian Pin Xi An Bar Street  
Inside of Huan Cheng Xi Yuan Park (天品西岸酒吧街21号)

The 2nd and 4th Wednesday night of every month (每月第二和第四个周三晚上)  
Beginner lesson from 7:00pm-8:00pm (7点至8点入门级课程)  
Intermediate lesson from 8:00pm-9:00pm (8点至9点中级课程)

**C'est La Vie Restaurant & Bar (塞拉维)**

Address: B-2F Lu Di SOHO Lian Meng, Zhang Ba Yi Lu (丈八一路绿地soho联盟B座二楼塞拉维餐厅)

The 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday night of the month (每月第一, 第三和第五个周六晚上)  
Beginner lesson from 8:30pm - 9:30pm and practice until 10:30pm (8:30至9:30入门课程, 9:30至10:30练习时间)

**Lao Mei Café (老美咖啡)**

Address: Inside Wenchao Gate to the right 6 Xiamaling Lu (文昌门里下马陵六号)

The 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month (每月第二和第四个周六晚上)

Lesson from 7:00pm - 8:30pm, with practice after (7点至8:30上课时间, 8:30后练习时间)



## FEB 24

**Concert**  
畅游世界经典名曲音乐会

Time: 7:30pm  
**Location:** Xi'an Concert Hall  
曲江新区雁南一路  
**Tel:** 400-611-9169



## QUEEN OR KING OF THE TABLE POOL TOURNEY

January 28th  
February 18th

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)



Wednesday

## TOMASTMASTERS

Jan 9, 16, 23, 30  
Feb 6, 13, 27 (except Feb 20th)

Every Friday in January and February!

Time: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

**Location:** Hengzhi Education 10th Floor of the SAGA (Saige) Shopping Mall, Classroom 1 - Chang'an Middle Rd

Get all the information at: [www.xatmc.org](http://www.xatmc.org)



Friday

## 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](mailto:wuyikai123@qq.com)



Sunday

## PUB QUIZ

January 21st  
February 25th

Beer and Trivia  
What more could you ask for?

Time: 9:30pm

**Location:** Belgian Bar

Wednesday

XIANEASE  
发现西安



## HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

January

Dates: Saturday Jan 17<sup>th</sup>  
and Monday Jan 26<sup>th</sup>

Time: Both are at 3:00pm

**Start point/Meeting place:**

Inside the West side of the City Wall North Gate

February

Dates: Saturday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday Feb 16<sup>th</sup>

Time: Both are at 3:00pm

**Start point/Meeting place:**

Outside the North side of the East Gate

Get all the information at:  
[www.xianease.com/hhh](http://www.xianease.com/hhh)

For all the info scan the QR code



Saturday, Monday

## URBAN SKETCHERS: XI'AN

3rd Sunday of every month at 3pm

Do you like art, exploring new places around the city, and meeting new people? Whether you're a professional artist or haven't drawn since you were a child, come join us to give sketching a try. All you need is some paper and a pencil/pen.

January 18th

**Meeting place:**  
Meet at the Pacific Coffee  
at the Bell Tower at 3:00pm.

February:

None - see you guys in March!

Contact Naomi for details: [naomi.trego@gmail.com](mailto:naomi.trego@gmail.com)



Sunday

# Restaurant Reviews



## La Seine - Wine & Cuisine 赛纳河葡萄酒 主题餐厅

Article By *Becca* and *Wayner Edens*

To find authentic western restaurants in Xi'an is often a challenge, so to stumble across this French gem was an absolute delight. The newest La Seine has been open for 2 months and is situated on the corner of Tangyan and Keji Road in the Goaxin district. As with its counterpart restaurant near Bell Tower, La Seine's romantic French atmosphere heeds a wonderful casual dining experience with all the true feel of stepping into a little piece of France.

Our first impression of the external wall, which is filled with French quotes painted on a cream background instantly set the vibe of something a little bit different to the norm of the Xi'an fine dining experience. Walking through the door we were stunned by the plethora of French, Italian, Spanish, Chilean, South African and Australian wines, racked from wall to ceiling. The ground floor also houses a popular Tep-panyaki restaurant to the left and a French inspired bakery, serving coffee, delicious pastries and bread to the right. La Seine is tucked up on the second floor and although there is no lift, the experience of climbing the double sided staircase, which is like a modern art gallery in itself, certainly makes up for that and gets you in the artisan mood.

The restaurant itself is beautifully and tastefully decorated in subtle wood tones with a stunning white grand piano nestled in the corner. There are several different areas with their own unique feel including tied drapes that can be released to create a private, romantic booth. The welcome from the superbly trained staff, especially Lewis, was a true testament to what La Seine is trying to achieve with regards to a unique and authentic western dining experience. Our table was set in an area of individual booths with red, white and blue table runners and fresh red rose petals scattered on the tables and of course a delightfully chic candlestick.

After being presented with a choice of wines, the Head Chef, Chuck, introduced himself as a highly experienced Michelin 3 star trained chef having worked in high end restaurants in Singapore and Australia. All of this can be clearly seen from the sophisticated menu. Chuck explained

to Wayne and I that his passion is his food and wants to bring an affordable fine dining restaurant serving excellent yet well priced dishes. He also very proudly boasts of the fact that everything served is home made. He regularly visits his guests at their tables which was lovely to see. The menu itself caters to the Chinese and Western palates in an exquisite French fusion.

Our Petit Start was a spread of home-made bread with a light duck foie gras pate topped with a hazelnut and sugar crumble and a board of cured salmon delicately topped with horseradish cream and a five spice vinaigrette. Following the second and third course of traditional French onion soup and a beautiful home-made cured bacon caesar salad, which was the 'pièce de résistance'. Both our main courses were an aesthetic delight. The duck confit with roasted garlic cep mushrooms and seared foie gras along with the perfectly cooked Wagyu Australian ribeye steak with crispy sliced garlic, mayonnaise and beef jus. The whole culinary extravaganza was finished off with a mouth watering eight texture chocolate mousse and crepe au chocolate with vanilla ice cream...très bon!

The prices for a main course range from 68 yuan for the golden pork grenobloise to a whopping 1000 yuan for the Boston Lobster. The extensive menu also includes French favourites like pate de champagne, escargot, beef consommé and scallops. The presentation of all the dishes are very deliberate but not over the top and the portion sizes are more than satisfactory and as a self confessed 'foodie', I was in food heaven!

Simply put, La Seine is a high quality restaurant with a reflective price tag. Not a once a week place, but certainly for those special occasions and somewhere to bring the people you want to impress. But you certainly get what you pay for in regards to quality, ambience and impeccable service.

**Pro:** A wonderful change to the normal dining experience. Amazing menu and choice of wine in a beautiful environment. Membership with a free bottle of wine is available

**Con:** The prices, although definitely reflective of the quality may out price some, so save it for a special occasion as it is well worth it. Wine measures are only 50ml



Average Price per person  
/人均消费:

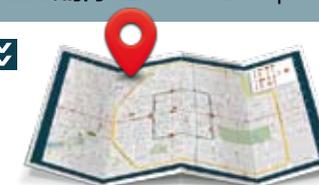
**60-250 RMB**

**Address /地址:**

200m North of Northeast Corner of Keji Road and Tangyan Road. (高新区科技路与唐延路十字东北角向北200米)

**Tel /电话:** 029-8956 6688

**Hours /时间:** 10:00am-10:00pm



Becca has been an English Teacher here in Xi'an for a year and a half. A self confessed foodie she is always on the look out for great new places to sit, relax and eat! For any questions email Becca at [rkctaurus73@gmail.com](mailto:rkctaurus73@gmail.com)

## GANGES INDIAN RESTAURANT

Beijing's award-winning Indian restaurant

**Now in Xi'an!**

Find us in the Happy Mall Food Court,  
right by the Big Wild Goose Pagoda.

**Find your favourite Indian food**

When it comes to the vast variety of Indian food, Ganges has it all covered.

**Free samosas all January & February!**

Dine-in at our new restaurant in Xi'an,  
and enjoy a round of samosas. on us!



Ganges Xi'an—A5-3 Happy Mall Food Court, near the south gate of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. 大雁塔南广场·新乐江A5-3



**Xi'an Landline** (029) 8931-8440  
**Xi'an Mobile** 177-9228-5586

**Plus five restaurants in Beijing**  
[www.ganges-restaurant.com](http://www.ganges-restaurant.com)

## Ganges Indian Restaurant 恒河印度餐厅

Article By **Yanzi** and **Steven Calvi**

**W**inter has come. It's the time for comfort, for good food and warmth. So Steven and I went to the Big Goose Pagoda to have some good food and enjoy watching the Christmas shopping crowd during the holiday season. Life always surprises you, in the center square of the food area just south of the pagoda we found a newly opened Indian restaurant called Ganges and decided to go in to warm up from the cold. The restaurant is very cozy: with low-key decorations giving the place a very accessible feel and various colorful wall hangings it feels like the kind of place that doesn't care who you are as long as you're there to enjoy good food.

The atmosphere is matched by the staff, we were warmly welcomed by the manager Sapkota from Nepal who was kind and helpful in introducing their menu and specialties. There was so much to choose, from starters and soups to about a million curries and desserts, we had no idea where to start! Sapkota recommended we try the Lamb Rogan Josh, a Northern Indian lamb curry that is very spicy and one of Ganges' signature dishes. It also happened to be a dish that both Steve and I really like.

Shortly after we ordered, our dishes started popping out of the kitchen. It was an array of colors, smells and tastes. An amazing and hearty Hot and Sour Soup that warmed us up from the chill outside; a Chicken Tikka, barbecued to perfection and so tender it was melting in our mouths, of course the lovely Lamb Rogan Josh which was exactly how we like it, perfectly cooked and seasoned. We got slightly carried away and also ordered Butter Chicken and Mutter Paneer with the always faithful Garlic Naan.

The taste was everything we expected and more with all the spices being imported from India and the Chef himself also Indian, it's no wonder that the taste is about as authentic as you will find outside of India. Seeing that we obviously enjoy Indian food the manager brought us some mango Lassi and Indian ice cream for dessert. It's the attention to detail in the cooking, the friendliness of the staff and relaxed atmosphere combined to make this a great little place.

**Pro:** *Lovely food, great taste and excellent new option, Bobo loved the Lassi and this is definitely the best mango yoghurt we have ever had – so don't miss it*

**Con:** *It's newly opened and not very easy to find*

### 恒河印度餐厅

很多人知道并喜欢美味的印度咖喱的味道，它是最负盛名的印度食物。但是如果你不喜欢吃咖喱怎么办？是否还有不那么辣的其他类型的印度餐？答案是“当然，毫无疑问！”印度菜使用多种不同的香料，从而创造了令人称奇的食物风味—清凉薄荷，香干藏红花和桂皮，孜然，还有很多特别的香料，它们并不“热”辣。恒河印度餐厅拥有一支印度食品专家团队。我们在北京有五家店，现在我们来到了西安，我们列出了一个菜单，涵盖了在西安所有可供选择的印度菜品。如果你不喜欢吃辣味咖喱，有很多其他的菜式可以尝试—这里列举了一些我们的最爱。

烤肉和蔬菜：烤鸡 烤大虾 杂锦印度烧烤 烤土豆。  
香米料理菜式：咖喱羊肉饭 克什米尔炒饭 印度黄饭。  
汤：羊肉汤 蘑菇汤  
饼：蒜泥烤饼 水果烤饼 奶酪烤饼。



Average Price per person  
/人均消费:

**60-250 RMB**

#### Address /地址:

Happy Mall Food Court. East of South Square of Big Wild Goose Pagoda Yanta Distric.  
(雁塔区雁塔南路大雁塔南广场东南角, (新乐汇美食广场北门内))

Tel /电话: 029-8931 8440 177-9228-5586

Hours /时间: 10:00am-10:00pm



Steven has been in China for 4 years and is from the UK; Yanzi is from Xi'an. They are both English teachers during the day and fight crime on weekends to make ends meet they sometimes sell horse meat.





**Sheraton**  
Xian  
HOTEL  
西安喜来登大酒店

# 新年 新气象

New Year with New Beginning  
新年主题自助晚餐  
New Year Themed Dinner Buffet

中式烧腊档  
Cantonese Siu Mei  
陕西特色蒸碗系列  
Shaanxi Style Snack

人民币CNY 230元/位pax  
2015年1月至2月  
January to February, 2015

电话/Tel: 86 29 84261888-1560  
262 Feng Hao East Road, Xian, P.R. China  
中国陕西西安市洋镐东路262号





## A Day at the Gran Melia 盛美利亚

Article By Naomi and Javier



The Gran Melia is located near Tang Paradise in the southeast part of town. It's a five-star hotel – one of the finest in Xi'an. A friend of us recommended that we check it out so we did. The hotel is fully stocked with a cigar bar, lobby bar, all-day dining restaurant, a Chinese restaurant, an exclusive Spanish restaurant and a spa. The Gran Melia just opened in October so it's probably one of the nicest facilities available in town. As soon as we entered, we were immediately greeted by several staff. The lobby area is beautiful, huge and decorated for the seasons. It's a great place to relax while you wait.

We had the opportunity to visit Duo, the Spanish restaurant. It's a very upscale place with an open kitchen, a bar, a small stage with live music, and cozy lighting. The restaurant has multilingual staff that quickly takes care of all your needs and demands. As soon as we sat down, the head chef from Spain, Abel, came out of the kitchen to greet us. We got to enjoy the set lunch. It includes a starter and a main course. For starters, you can choose beef Carpaccio on tomato coulis with a touch of foie or Mediterranean fishermen's soup. For the main course, you can choose baby squid creamy rice with green asparagus and shitake mushrooms or a sole filet with fine herbs. We tried both pairs and the highlight might have been the fish filet or the rice dish. They were both super delicious. After we finished the dinner, Abel came out to ask how it was and say goodbye. Everyone was so kind and the service was impeccable.

As for that spa, it includes spa services Such as facial and body treatments as well as massage, and facial and body treatments. They have single and double treatment rooms (for one or two people). The treatment rooms have massage beds, hot tubs and showers. They offer Indian traditional massages and Chinese traditional massages. They also have a big swimming pool and a well-equipped fitness room. The fitness room includes treadmills, stationery bikes, weight machines and a yoga room. You can do yoga on your own or hire an instructor. All the facilities are brand new and the service is amazing so you should definitely check it out.

**Pros:** A great place to escape to have a European vacation in Xi'an. It's possibly the best place to relax in Xi'an

**Cons:** Expensive. The Gran Melia mostly hosts upscale visitors

The Gran Melia is definitely a five-star experience. The facilities are brand new, the service is more than excellent and the restaurants are unique to Xi'an.

### 盛美利亚难忘的美食SPA之旅

作为西安首家纯正的西班牙餐厅，笼罩在紫色氛围中的DÚO西班牙主题餐厅，正如西班牙的热情一样婆娑迷离，媚惑着让人想一探究竟。优雅别致的餐厅设计，搭配弗朗明戈爵士乐，营造出浪漫惬意的氛围，让人不禁沉醉其中。餐厅的主厨是拥有米其林餐厅工作经验的西班牙人，在这里可以品味 Tapas、海鲜烩饭等一系列正宗的西班牙大餐。互动式开放厨房更是带来独特的视觉美食体验。

在西班牙餐厅享受过美食后，你可以来到酒店的怡水疗体验独特的SPA护理。这里是放松身心的一片绿洲，怡水疗时尚的设计，豪华的西班牙酒店精心挑选的香薰及多种不同的水疗设施，营造国际化的放松理念，让你体验身、心、灵的协调统一。技艺精湛的理疗师利用当地的特色与经典传统相结合的治疗方法迅速让你解除疲劳，怡养身心。尊享奢华的私人专属理疗养生，特别独家推出印度传统能量按摩及水疗、芳香疗法、足部按摩、面部护肤等一系列项目令人怦然舒爽。



Average Price per person  
/人均消费:

**118-148 RMB**

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**Tel /电话:** 029-6821 6666

**Hours /时间:** 11:30am - 2:00pm 5:30pm - 10:00pm



Javier Munguia and Naomi Trego are partners in non-criminal activity traveling the world teaching English. You can reach them at [teacher.trego@gmail.com](mailto:teacher.trego@gmail.com)

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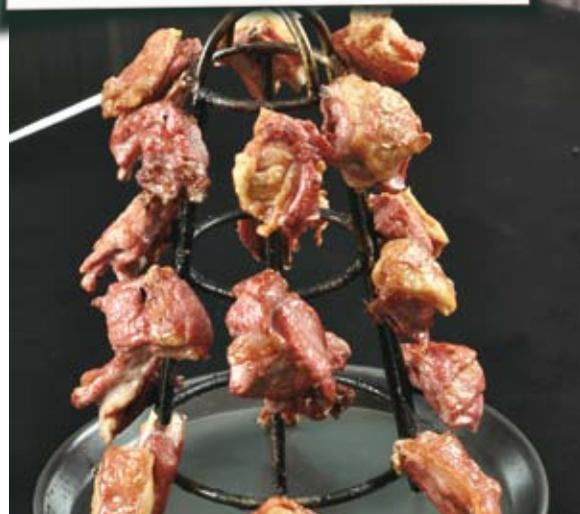
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# Jia Ri Kao Ba 假日烤吧

Article By **Inda** and **Johan**



**G**ood news for kaorou (BBQ) lovers in Xi'an! Don't let cold temperatures stop you from enjoying a sumptuous grilled lunch, dinner or late night snack. Try Jiari Kaorou: a Shaanxi based Kaorou restaurant with 5 branches around the city. While you may find one closer to your home, we went to the Wang Ting Guo Ji building location; at the crossroads of Gaoxin Lu and Keji Si Lu.

Upon entering the restaurant, you will be greeted by not only energetic and friendly waiters, but also a clean and unique interior design. With 2 floors and a total of 24 tables, the restaurant equally provides comfort, cleanliness and tasty healthy dishes at a good price; As soon as you're in, you'll find a combination of safari-animal-painted walls, vivid colours, pebble mosaics and shipping containers they use as room partitions. The atmosphere is very eclectic and warm.

Since they opened the branch near our home, we've thoroughly enjoyed many lunches and dinners there. But this time was special since we were accompanied by the manager from the headquarters, 任景坤, who was spoiling us with a variety of their specialities. So, we will be reviewing dishes from this special dinner combined with other meals we've had.

After checking the menu (they're in English with photos), we had some friendly talk with the friendly and humorous manager. This restaurant has a total of 15 branches in 6 China cities. Established in 2003, their food selections represent styles from different provinces; from Sichuan to Shaanxi to Xinjiang. As we were talking, the dishes came one by one; there was no long wait before the first dish was rolled out.

## Non-vegetarian

The first dish that came was one of their specialities called: Cao Yu Xiang La Wei (fish hot pot) 草鱼香辣味. I usually avoid fish with bones, but this one really pleased my taste buds. I asked for medium spicy (wei la) it came perfectly seasoned with a hint of sweet and sour. It also came with a selection of fresh veggies and a variety of noodles and tofu that you can add to the spicy water. The manager said it is special because the cooking method was done by a top Sichuan chef.

After that, came some other dishes including another speci-

ality, 吊炉烤牛排 (Diao Lu Kao Niu Pai) which is basically Xinjiang grilled beef steak. They'll give you plastic gloves to eat with. I had to struggle a bit when chewing (it'd be perfect if they could make the meat more tender), yet the strong flavor of honey and black pepper made the taste divine!

I often go there for their grilled lamb/beef, and they're always fresh. It is best eaten with steamed rice and some grilled veggies - my fave choice is cucumber as I find it really neutralizes the saltiness from the meat. They have loads of non-vegetarian kaorou options. If you're like myself, a fan of combo spicy and honey sweet, you may want to try their chicken wings. They're quite addictive!

For seafood selections, they let me try 烤生蚝 (kǎo shēngháo) which is baked oysters. Garlic and seafood are best friends, but I have found that some places put excessive amounts of garlic in their baked oysters which makes it taste bitter instead of improving the flavour. Theirs was exceptional!

## Vegetarian

While they have plenty for meat lovers, they also have a huge selection for those who are vegetarians. Two of our favourite dishes from them are 烤豆腐卷 (kǎo dòufu juǎn) or grilled tofu roll and 烤豆腐干 (kǎo dòufu gān) or grilled tofu. These two are great to eat anytime. My husband enjoyed more of those than me since he doesn't eat meat anymore; he never gets bored of those two kinds of tofu after almost 10 years in China.

Roasted eggplant is a rather eye-catching selection for vegetarians and meat eaters alike when browsing the menu, and their 烤全茄 (kǎo quán qié) or whole roasted eggplant is a must-try! The vegetable is very tender and the skin is skillfully roasted. The richness of the taste had us licking the plate: We don't usually eat the skin part of roasted eggplant dishes from other places, but this place was certainly the exception.

Another surprisingly mouth-watering one for us was their 锡纸烧粉丝 (xízhǐ shāo fēnsī) which is basically grilled rice noodles wrapped in tinfoil. We're not nuts about noodles, but we fell for this one. It is dynamite and ignore smoky, savoury and slightly sweet flavour melts in your mouth. We'll definitely be getting that one again!

Like any other kaorou place, if you prefer bread over rice, they have many kinds of bread selections including spicy 烤馒头片 (kǎo mántou piàn) or grilled dry bread coated with Xinjiang kaorou oil mixed with ingredients. Even though it is a bit dry outside, the inside texture is fresh and quite fluffy.

They have a wide selection of green veggies which can be grilled in tinfoil or added to hot pots. To mention a few, there is: tinfoil broccoli, tinfoil mixed veggies, tinfoil mushrooms, mushroom kaorou, and long green bean kaorou.

## Recommendation

**Non-vegetarian: BBQ Chicken wings, BBQ Clamshell (Kao heng Hao), BBQ Lamb (Yangrou Kaorou), Fish hot pot (Cao Yu Xiang La Wei).**

**Vegetarian: BBQ Rice noodle (Xizhi Shao Fen Si), BBQ Eggplant (Kao Quan Qie), BBQ Dou fu (Kao dou fu Juan), BBQ Dou fu gan (Kao dou fu gan).**

**Pro: Very affordable price, loads of meat and veggie selections, uses electric grills which is healthier and worry-free (from carcinogenic and PM 2.5 effects); open until 3am – great after a night of clubbing!**

**Con: No outdoor area – which is always nice during the summer**

**Recommendation: The owner's creative no-menu**

**Discount card: If you take photo of their dishes and immediately share on your Wechat, then you can get membership (white color) card for free. Or, you can just buy the card for 28 yuan. The card entitles you with 8% discount each time dining in.**

## 假日烤吧

千知假日烤吧成立于2003年，总部设于陕西神木。迄今为止，在神木、榆林、靖边、府谷、延安、西安地区共开设了15家分店。经过十余年的发展，千知假日烤吧品牌在陕北乃至整个陕西都有了一定的知名度，于2012年12月被评为陕西省著名商标，2013年3月成为中国烹饪协会会员单位。

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Average Price per person  
/人均消费:

**2-100 RMB**

### Address /地址:

Gaoxin Qu Gaoxin Lu Wang Ting Guo Ji.  
(高新区高新路望庭国际)

Tel /电话: 029-8938 9377

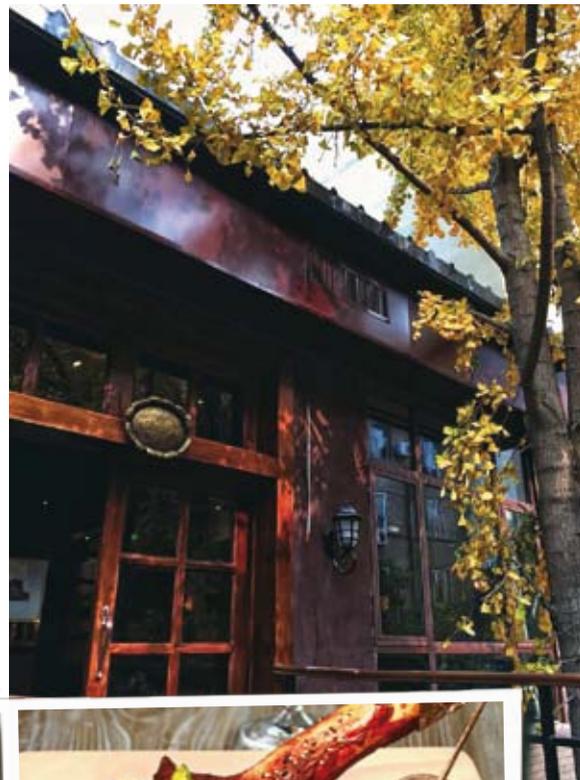
Hours /时间: 11:30am-3:00am



Johan is a teacher from Canada but spends most of his time in writing and recording an album. Inda is from Indonesia and into art and writing. They have been living and experiencing China for the past 6 years. They can be reached at: aktifistri@gmail.com / johanpitkanen@gmail.com.

# Bar Reviews

Articles By *Jack Marshall* and *Tracy*



## Ginkgo 银杏

Recently I have been finding it impossible to get some peace and quiet in this big city of ours. That is, until, per suggestion from a co-worker, I wandered into the “res” at the Xi’an Architectural University. “That’s strange.” I heard myself think! Tucked away through an arch and up some stairs, I found Ginkgo.

Known as a living fossil, the Ginkgo tree was the inspiration for this great restaurant. You’ll find these trees scattered throughout the university casting their ancient shadow. First impression: liss. I felt instantly relaxed and welcome. I was greeted by the manager, Della. I took off my coat and sat back to admire. Warm and peaceful would best describe the décor and layout. I ordered my favorite Belgium beer and flipped open the impressive menu.

Smoked chicken and avocado salad, imported T-bone steak, prawn and asparagus risotto...and the list goes on. Naturally I went for the T-bone, and was not disappointed. Staying true to its name sake, Ginkgo offers all the food we are used to in its own unique way. Also worth mentioning is the “micro bakery” producing delicious croissants and buns. Every bite - in a word - delicious, and at competitive prices. In the summertime you can enjoy drinks with friends or a quick lunch out in the garden. The kitchen is open from 10am – 8:30pm weekdays, 10am – 9pm weekends.

I finished my beer to the sounds of a professor rustling papers around, coffee in one hand, pen in the other. On my way out I caught a glimpse of the Christmas menu: talk about bells and whistles the set menu was perfect (by the time this comes out, my friends and I would have had our Christmas party here, and boy, what a spread). They also cater for birthday parties etc.

As the sounds of the city engulfed me, I thought back to something the manager told me, “it’s my little hiding spot.” That’s exactly what Ginkgo is, a place to get away from it all, a place to enjoy great food, a place to relax...finally.

**Pros:** *The menu and how unique each dish is. The service is amazing*

**Cons:** *It’s a little tricky to find*



Average Price per person/人均消费:

**Drinks: 35RMB Food: 50RMB**

**Address /地址:**

Xi’an Architecture University (South Campus), Jian She East Road. (碑林区建设路东段西安建筑科技大学南院)

**Tel /电话:** 029-8220 5043

**Hours /时间:** 10:00am - 9:30pm



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# [ Faces Bar ]

One cold night while walking around the south square of Da Yan Ta I walked past this great looking bar called Faces. True to its name, from the outside it looked like every other bar on the street, however, much like the different faces we all wear each day, it's what lies behind that face that counts.

Upon walking in Faces bar reveals its fun side. From the foosball and sand shuffle board tables to the cages for dancers and the oxygen pumping out the walls, this place is awesome! With a club vibe Faces opens at 9pm and keeps partying throughout the night.

I found a spot in one of the booths and was greeted by a foreign waiter, electronic menu in hand. The Italian chef cooks up burgers and pizzas etc. The drinks menu was great; the usual favorites were there from Belgium Beers to rum & coke at really low prices. The cocktail menu is two pages long and has some drinks I'm not used to seeing in Xi'an, like Vodka and fizzy Red Bull.

Before I could order, the manager walked over and handed me a 'Faces cocktail', delicious! We went on a quick tour of the place. Firstly, the bathrooms looked like they belong in a five star hotel. With oxygen air freshener pumping out the walls to a vanity table and bench, I was amazed by the sophistication of it all. Free pool, foosball and shuffle board tables add to the 'bar' feel. Just then the dancers came out.

With, what seemed to be, a flip of a switch, Faces transformed into a night club. The cages in the center of the bar filled with professional dancers, a few tables were shuffled aside and the party began. Peeling back the layers I found that the bar was opened as a place for the owner and friends to party. Sawada, a manager at Faces, said "wherever, whatever, Faces is your home, just chill."

A great night out at faces can be had any night of the week as each night has specials, as well as a men's night (it's about time). All and all, Faces is a place for us all to remove our day to day face and just unwind.

**Pro:** The prices are really low and the drinks are not watered down. The atmosphere as well as the English speaking waiters makes Faces stands out from the rest. Dancers, live music, unique bathrooms and the list goes on

**Con:** Waiting for 9pm when the doors open, haha



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

**Address /地址:**  
Bar Street, Happy Mall Court, East of South Square of Big Wild Goose Pagoda. (大雁塔南广场新乐汇酒吧街中段)  
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**Hours /时间:** 8:00pm - 6:00am



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# Power Up 增能量

"It's just a few blocks, we can walk it!" I told a friend as we braved the cold and headed west on Keji Road. 45 minutes later we arrived, frost bitten and hungry. At first, it looked to be a nice café, but Power Up had more to offer...so much more.

Power Up has been open for 4 months and is constantly evolving. Taking inspiration from the Wright Brothers passion and perseverance, innovation is the order of the day. Be it your western style DIY BBQ or a fruit wood smoked steak, this place has everything. We ordered some Hot chocolate and thawed out in comfort.

I flipped open the menu and fell in love. Each page offers different cuts of Australian steak, lamb chops, sushi, pastas, soups and much more. With four Chefs each dedicated to their specific specialty, the beef chef had my attention. We had the oxtail soup, tuna mushroom soup, Australian fillet steak and a Caesar salad. What a meal, while Conroux couldn't stop raving about the soups I tucked into the steak and wow...just wow.

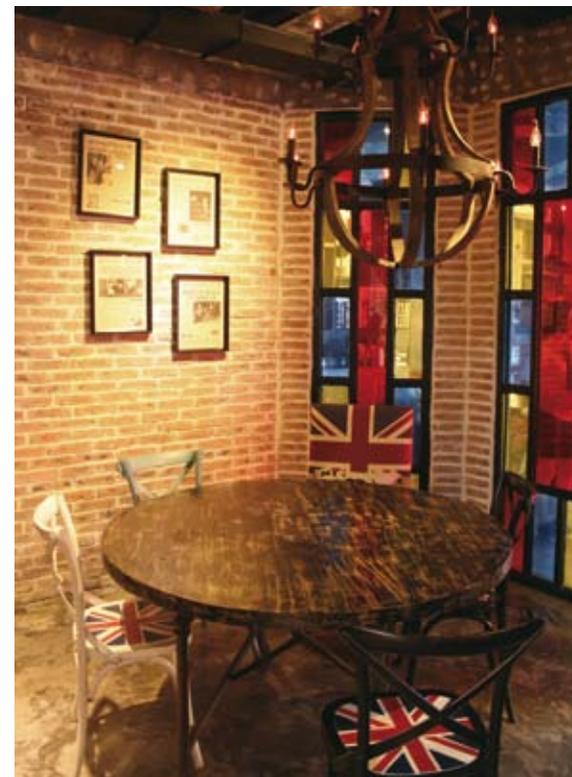
Jim and Helen, the owners, joined us after our meal and took us on a tour of the second floor. VIP rooms, each meticulously styled down to the last detail, transport you to the UK. From the Union Jack curtains to the hanging top hat chandelier, this magical little restaurant/bar has its décor inspired by its owner's travels. These rooms serve as the perfect place to have a business function or birthday party.

Helen put it perfectly as she walked us out, "it's not just about money and business, it's about memories, and Jim and I want to share some with our customers." Power Up is exactly what Xi'an needs; a place for everyone. I can't wait for spring time to check out the tea garden and the Western BBQ area.

"More than anything else the sensation is one of perfect peace mingled with an excitement that strains every nerve to the utmost, if you can conceive of such a combination." Wilbur Wright.

**Pro:** The unique atmosphere and attention to detail make enjoying the delicious food easy. The popular #14 bus stops right outside the front door. The fruit wood smoked steaks

**Con:** None I can think of



Average Price per person /人均消费: **100 RMB**

**Address /地址:** Building 26, #259, Keji Road. (科技路259号26幢)  
**Tel /电话:** 029-8851 0505  
**Hours /时间:** 10:00am - 10:30pm



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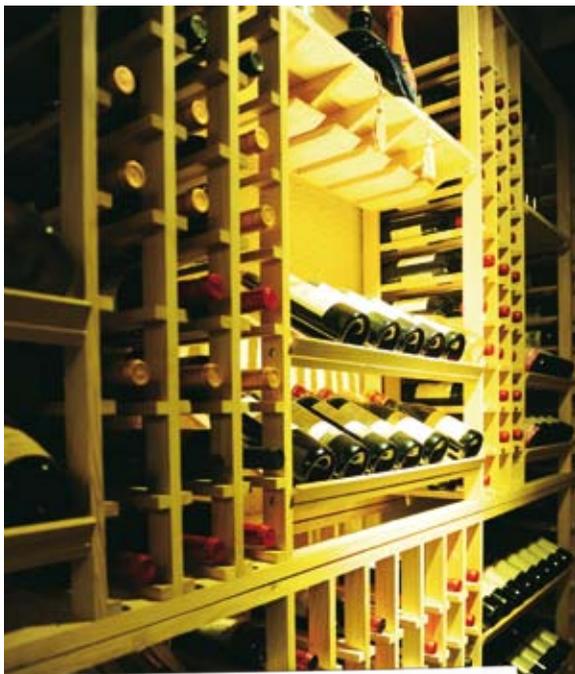
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029-85239737



## Gelin Town 格林小镇

**X**i'an in the winter and shopping share similar spots low down on my list of favorite things. This being said, I found myself standing outside Lotus, just off Keji road, in the freezing cold with a thirst a small ocean would struggle to quench. That's when I saw this great looking place just a few meters down the road.

Gelin Town has been open since November and yet it feels like an instant classic. At first I thought it was just a little restaurant. However, through the restaurant the real Gelin Town emerges. A few tables and couches, live music stage and a small but well equipped bar all add to the ambience that makes this pub/restaurant a great find. I ordered a Guinness and looked through the menu.

Ah, the menu. Gelin Town boasts an amazing selection of food. While the usual pub dishes such as burgers and pizzas are available, you will find T-bone steak, German sausage risotto and many more. Naturally I ordered the fillet steak and sipped on my beer. The menu has separate prices for members and non-members, however getting a membership is easy and well worth the discount on meals and drinks. Just then the chef arrived to ask me how I like my steak. His culinary skills shining through with every bite of the fillet that melted in my mouth.

Open from 11am until 2am, pop in to grab a quick lunch or swing by around 9:30 for the live music (some of the best live singers I've heard in Xi'an). Great food and music only bested by the drink selection. With competitive prices and a few unique Beers I've only seen here, Gelin Town is quickly becoming my first choice in watering hole.

A few beers later I left, and while the icy winds were still blowing and my shopping bags felt heavy in hand, I was glad to have found Gelin Town

**Pro:** With great live music and affordable food and drinks, this bar should be atop everyone's "favorite list". The service was amazing

**Con:** None that I experienced



Average Price per person/人均消费:

**Drinks: 45RMB Food: 50RMB**

**Address /地址:**  
Block E, Wangzuo International, #1, Tangyan Road.  
(唐延路1号 旺座国际E座)

**Tel /电话:** 029-8177 5856  
**Hours /时间:** 10:00am - 3:00am



Jack Marshall is from Durban in South Africa, he's been teaching in Xi'an for the past year and a half. He loves finding new places so if you know a place let him know at [nightlife@xianease.com](mailto:nightlife@xianease.com)



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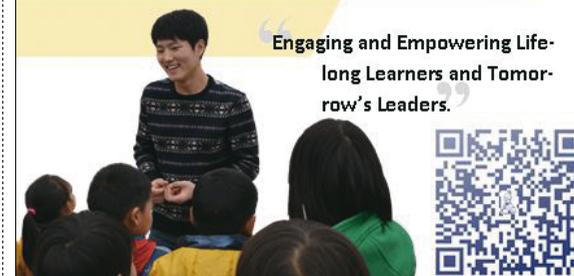
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## Modena Traditional Tortellini

### 摩德纳传统饺子

#### ↓ INGREDIENTS 用料:

- 100g Mortadella (意式肉肠)
- 100g Parma Ham (帕尔马火腿)
- 100g Pork Loin (猪里脊肉)
- 40g Parmesan Cheese (帕尔马干酪)
- Nutmeg (肉豆蔻)

#### ↓ PREPARATION 做法:

- 1) Prepare the Pasta dough with 10 eggs very kilogram of 00 flour and rest it in the fridge for one hour  
(10个鸡蛋于00号免费混合揉成面团放置冰箱1小时)
- 2) Trim the tenderloin and chop it thinly together with the Parma ham and the mortadella  
(将猪里脊肉切碎和帕尔马火腿, 意式肉肠搅拌成馅)
- 3) Add the grated parmesan cheese and season with the nutmeg  
(加入磨碎的帕尔马干酪, 用肉豆蔻调味)
- 4) Roll the pasta dough until 1 mm thickness and starting with a square shape fold in triangle first and close around your finger  
(将面团揉至1毫米厚度, 切成方形加入馅料后再对折成三角捏紧)
- 5) Cook the tortellini in salted boiling water  
(沸水中放盐煮饺子)
- 6) The most traditional way to enjoy the tortellini is in a chicken consommé, but they are also consumed with Bolognese sauce  
(最传统的做法是把饺子放入鸡汤里, 当然你也可以搭配肉酱享用)

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13022852080

## Milan Style Tiramisu

### 米兰提拉米苏



#### ↓ INGREDIENTS 用料:

- 1 Panettone (吐司)
- 250g Mascarpone Cheese (马斯卡彭奶酪)
- 100g White Sugar (白糖)
- 50g Cognac (科涅克白兰地)

#### ↓ PREPARATION 做法:

- 1) Whip the eggs with the sugar, add the mascarpone and stir slowly from down to up  
(搅打鸡蛋和糖, 加入马斯卡彭奶酪从下往上慢慢搅拌)
- 2) Add the cognac and rest the cream in fridge for half hour  
(加入科涅克白兰地, 然后放入冰箱半小时)
- 3) Slice the panettone and layer with the cream  
(吐司切片涂抹好酱)
- 4) Garnish with cocoa powder  
(撒上可可粉)



Chef Andrea is from Northern Italy and works in Sofitel Legend People's Grand Hotel Xi'an. With 15 years of cooking experience, Chef offers an authentic Italian cuisine in Dolce Vita Italian restaurant. [pgh.kitchen@renminsquare.com](mailto:pgh.kitchen@renminsquare.com)

# CREATIVITY IN THE CITY

Article by *Naomi Trego*

Featured

Featured

## ROBIN MIAO WANG

China



1 My art ranges from editorial illustrations, fashion illustrations, food, portraits to travel journals. I practice Chinese painting and calligraphy, too.

2 I'm here in Xi'an to study traditional Chinese culture. I quit my job as an auditor several years ago. Since then I've spent some time travelling, teaching and doing illustration work for magazines, websites and companies.

3 There are times when I'm busy with work and have little time to make art, but I still find inspiration in the world around me. Then there are times when I have much free time but I find myself without inspiration. If you have a busy lifestyle, then sketching is a quick and easy way to incorporate creativity into your daily life.

4 Xi'an is certainly not the most happening place for creative arts. It's much less exciting and creative than Beijing and Shanghai in many ways. But the historical features, the natural scenery and the traditional cultural atmosphere here have cultivated and nourished me as a person.

5 I will continue with my illustration work. One wish I have is to find the right master to follow to study Chinese traditional painting.

**Recommendation:** If you are interested in Chinese traditional painting, there are some fantastic artists here in Xi'an. One of them has been creating art on the mountain for 20 years. His studio/gallery is on Cui Hua Mountain, called Fan Zhou Gallery.

**W**ork or school has brought most of us to Xi'an but outside of that many in our community have found ways to follow their dreams. Here are five creative people who are pursuing their art here in Xi'an. I hope you'll find their stories an encouragement to pursue your passion this new era.

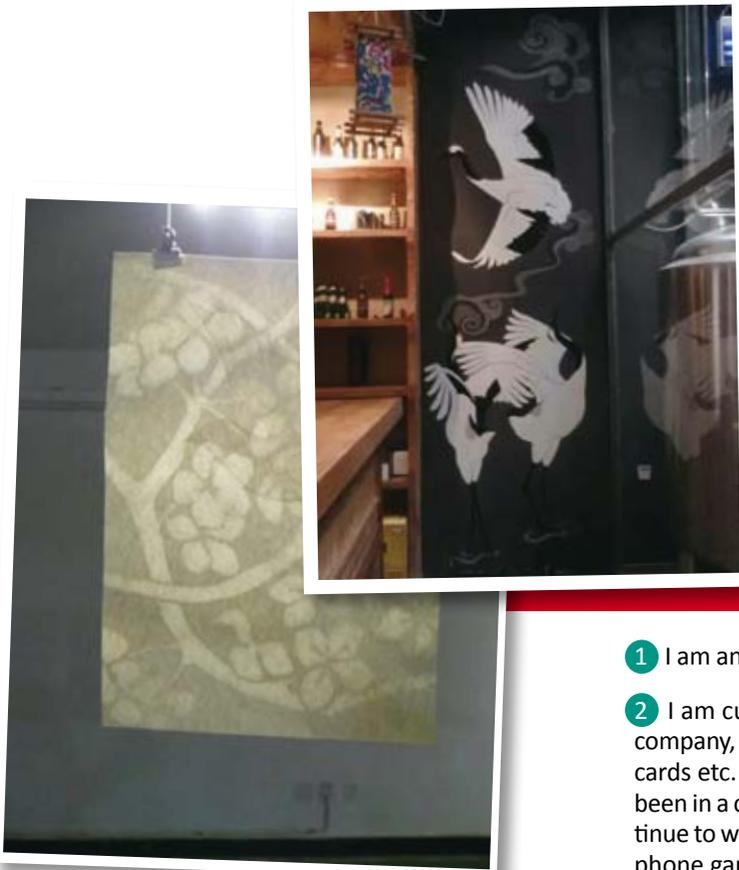
### The Questions We Asked:

- 1 What creative arts are you involved in?
- 2 What are you doing here in Xi'an?
- 3 How do you find balance?
- 4 Has living in Xi'an affected your art?
- 5 What are your hopes for the future?



Featured

Featured



## CHARLOTTE

England

- 1 I am an artist/designer/illustrator.
- 2 I am currently working for a small graphic design company, mostly designing logos, brochures, business cards etc. I also paint murals in Near Wall bar. I have been in a couple of group art exhibitions here and continue to work on my own artwork. I also design mobile phone games although I have yet to get any of them programmed.
- 3 The majority of my time is spent being creative. There is no real distinction between life/work for me. I currently spend most of my day painting murals in the bar, but I do also work from home on other projects. My studio apartment is TINY and when I am preparing for an exhibition the entire room becomes a bomb site of bits of card and stencils and canvases and for the last exhibition leaves and branches too. I had half a park in there...life gets quite chaotic for a few weeks.
- 4 I have always been interested in patterns including the nature patterns on blue and white Chinese porcelain which seems so ubiquitous to England that I often forget it is actually Chinese. Since moving to China a lot of my personal work explores the impact of pollution on wildlife. As a country girl I particularly noticed the lack of wild birds when I first moved here (not including songbirds in cages), although this year I have seen many more birds which makes me happy.
- 5 I never have a plan for the future.

**Recommendation:** I would like to recommend the underpasses on Nan Da Jie as a good source of art and design inspiration. They often have artwork and photographs by Chinese artist on display.



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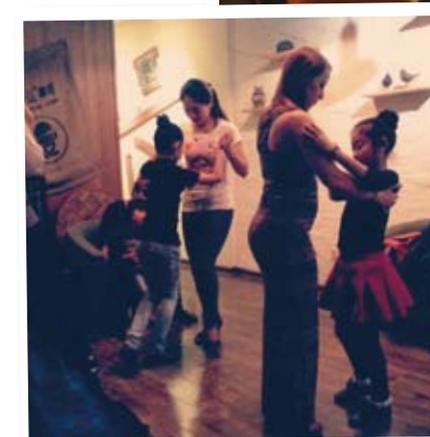
## JADE & NICK

England



- 1 Here in Xi'an Nick and I have together begun to build an Argentine Tango community. 4 nights a week we give classes and hold practices all over the city. Other than Tango Nick is involved in visual arts, his passion is oil painting.
- 2 Nick and I both started in Xi'an teaching English. Through this job we have had the opportunity to share our arts. We have not only taught about the history and passion behind Tango, but actually our community formed out of our English training centers. This last spring we began giving Tango classes as social classes and our community spread from here. These days Nick is still teaching English and creating his own art, I'm continuing my Chinese language study and we teach Tango together in the evenings.
- 3 When we first came to Xi'an we found there was no Tango community, we could only dance by ourselves at home. So when the opportunity came to build a community of our own we found any way possible to build it into our lives. We both work or study during the day and dance/teach Tango at night.
- 4 Tango is a very new thing in China, many people actually aren't sure exactly what it is. Our Tango lives have changed drastically in Xi'an. We came from cities where we could dance Tango everyday several times a day, to a city that has little prior knowledge of the dance. So these days instead of simply dancing ourselves we are focusing on building up other dancers and creating a passionate community. For myself, due to having many female students, I've had to focus much more on learning the role of a leader instead of a follower.
- 5 Right now we are focusing on building this community in Xi'an. Our goal is for this city to be an international Tango destination. We hope that when we finally leave Xi'an in the future we will leave behind a self sustainable and passionate community. Having this opportunity to see people fall in love with Tango for the first time is a dream come true.

**Recommendation:** Though our focus in Xi'an is Tango, Nick and I love all forms of dance. Every Friday and Saturday night Xi'an's Salsa and Bachata communities hold a dance party together at Mexico. It's amazing to see Chinese communities fully embrace the freedom and creativity of social dancing. I highly recommend going and checking it out.



Featured

Featured



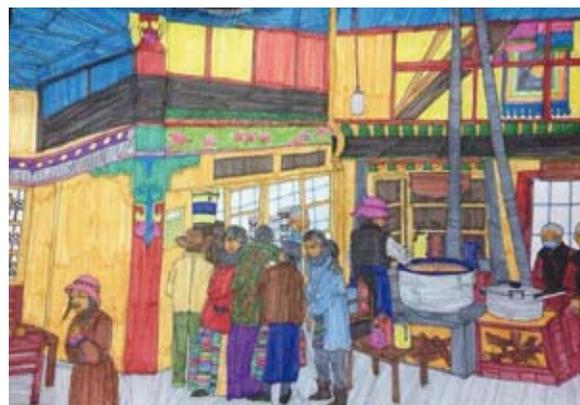
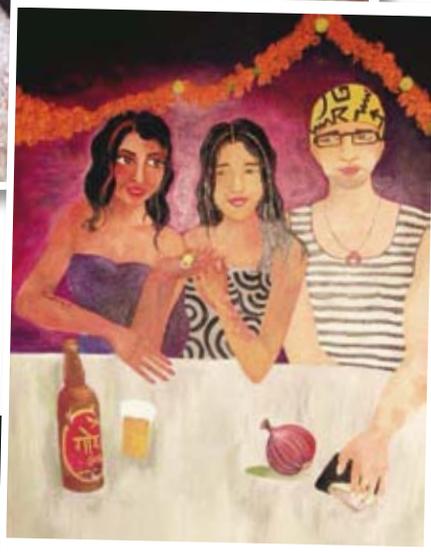
# ROXY

China



- 1 Painting/textile art
- 2 After four years of studying and working experience in the UK, I came back to China in the beginning of 2014. I have had different jobs in the past, some related to art and design, some completely not. I recently quit my job as a bar promoter to pursue what I am really passionate about---art. Now besides being an artist I also design furniture and help people with home-decor ideas.
- 3 I don't need to balance life and work. It's been said that if you love what you do, you don't need to work for the rest of your life! I have always been artistic and creative. To keep my creativity going, I am trying to travel as much as possible. All my art and designs are based on my life and travel experiences. I just came back from my trip to Nepal and totally fell in love with the country.
- 4 I'd been living in Xian for 8 years before I went to the UK. Most of my close friends are here. It's for sure that Xi'an means a lot to me and gave me lots of inspiration in the past and will still have influence in my future. I spent lots of time travelling in the past and will still do in the future. I am always on the go. But every time I come back to china I will be landing in Xi'an 'cause I spent most of the time of my life here and I love the city so much.
- 5 Keep traveling and keep putting my passion on the canvas.

**Recommendation:** Get up around 7am and wonder around in a big local market. Seeing all the fresh fruit, veggies and meat, surrounded by real Xianese is the most artistic thing in Xi'an.



# TIM

USA



- 1 I'm a musician, a bassist specifically. I started in the States but have had the bulk of my modest music career here in China.
- 2 I'm a teacher.
- 3 It's difficult to balance my work life and my creative pursuits. My job is 40 hours a week so my rehearsal and gig time is squeezed into my one or two free days per week.
- 4 Being a musician in China is a strange beast. Back home we had a fairly well-developed alternative community. In China, it's hard to find the time and personnel for a band. We have a lot of foreign bassists in town, but few guitarists and drummers. We're open to Chinese band members but the two sides rarely meet making those connections hard. It's hard to know where to look sometimes and the language and culture barrier can be a huge factor.

There are less than a half dozen alternative music spaces that serve as live houses in the city. Aside from Vice Versa, the average Xi'an bar is woefully unequipped for anything besides a pair of guys playing Neil Diamond covers on acoustic guitars.

Because most of us foreigners have day jobs with inconvenient (and often conflicting) schedules, we don't get the practice time to polish up and get bigger shows. That keeps us in separate bubbles.

There's a huge vacuum in alternative music in Xi'an that is very easy to fill if you can find the outlet (and those outlets definitely exist). This void affords you the opportunity to be unpolished (and we were definitely unpolished), but to do things on your terms, blast out a 20-minute set and let your energy carry the rest. It's intimate; it's infectious. People respond to it even if they're not a punk, or a hipster.

- 5 My hope is to foster a bigger, more inclusive music community. I want to scare more foreign musicians out of hiding. China is a great place to start a band if you have the time and desire. The spaces are there, waiting to be filled by passionate people making the art they want to make. I want more people to think of music as something they can make themselves, not as the domain

of superstars in stadiums and giant theaters.

**Recommendation:** Those of us in the alternative community hope to bridge the gap between musicians of different cultures and build something greater than either side could ever build on their own. I dream of a day where we have a number of alternative bands, from both culture[s]. (Contact Tim through reviews@xianease.com if you are interested in getting involved.)

An art teacher by training, Naomi spends her weekdays in Xi'an singing ABC 123 and her weekends building an art community. Contact her at [naomi.trego@gmail.com](mailto:naomi.trego@gmail.com).

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# 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, makes sweaters, carves stuff from wood, grows flowers, makes sausages or has some things sitting around you'd like to sell we now have a monthly dedicated page for you to advertise your stuff for free!

It's open to anyone and everyone, but no companies please, this is only for individuals. Our hope is that once we get enough 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.

## NEED A TAXI TO THE AIRPORT?

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or Xiao Mu (Chinese) 15191688611



## AUSTRALIA/NZ LAWYER

Do you need a passport application or other documents witnessed or certified as a true copy?

Bart Janowski lives in Xi'an and is an Australian and New Zealand lawyer, holding a current practicing certificate (P0024385, State of Victoria).

You can contact him on [bartx@sent.com](mailto:bartx@sent.com) to make an appointment and he can witness your forms or certify your documents as a FREE service. Please note, he is not a notary public and does not provide notarial services.

## KRISTEN'S HOMEMADE BAKERY

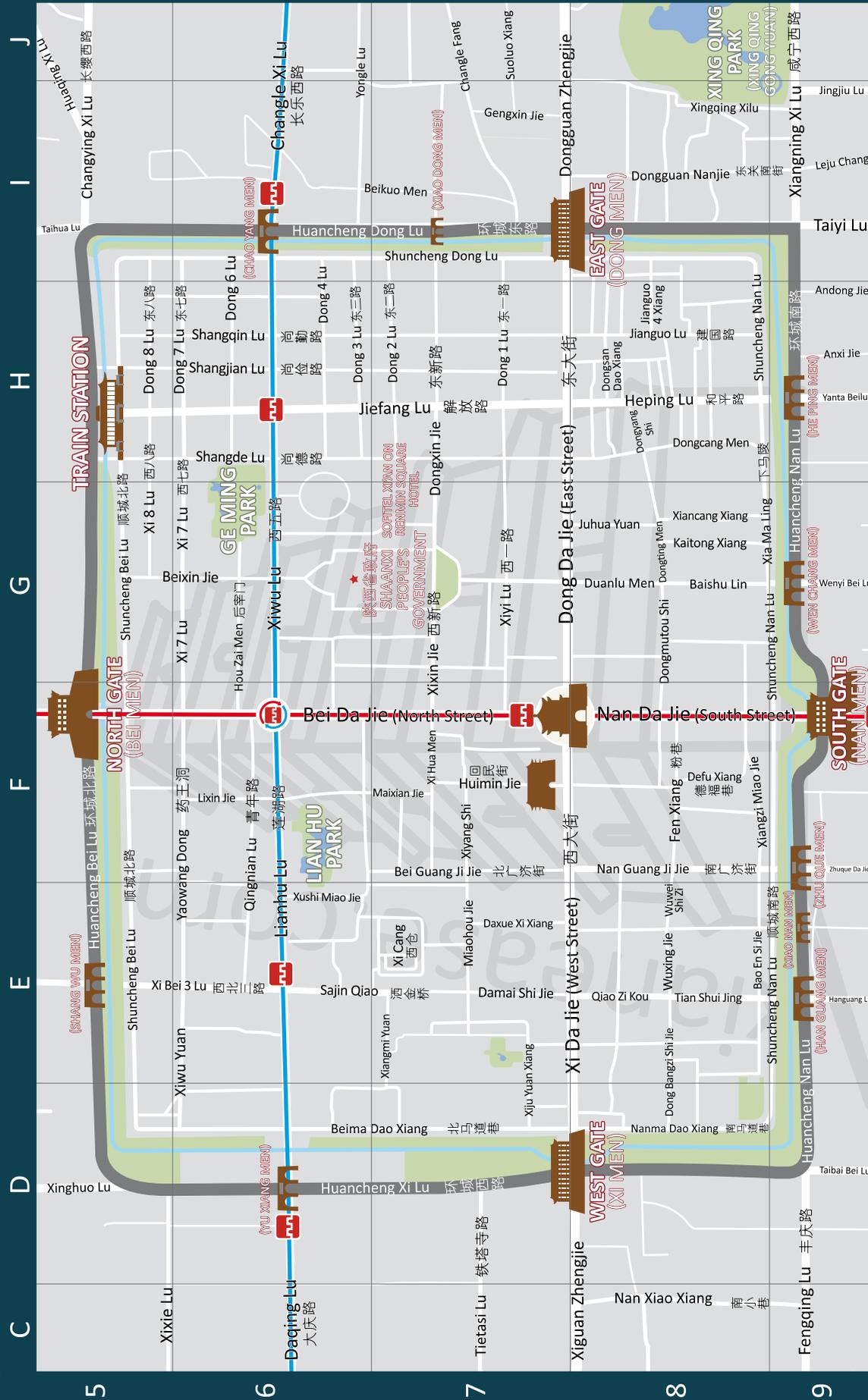
I'm not a professional but I love to bake!

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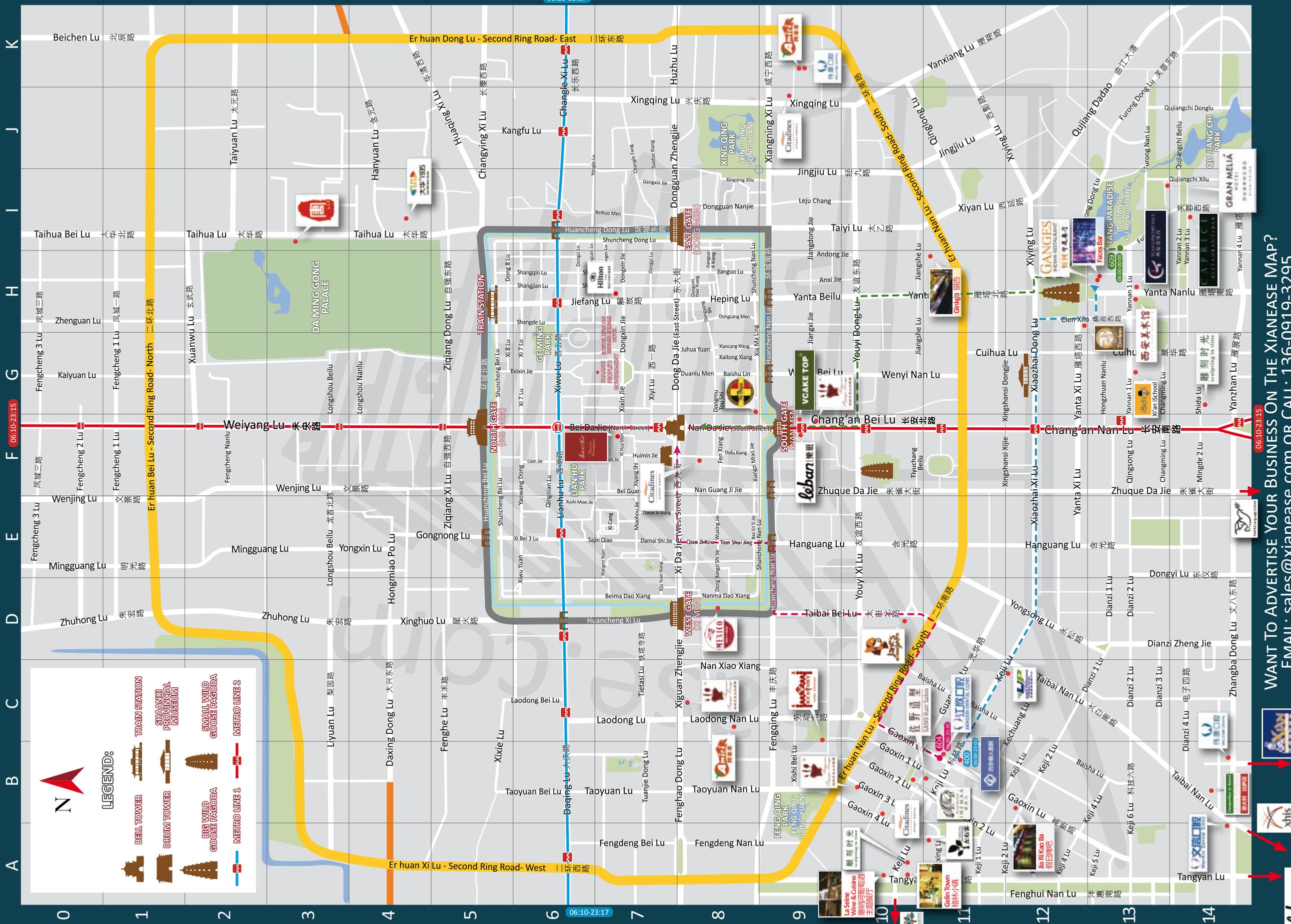
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# XI'AN DOWNTOWN



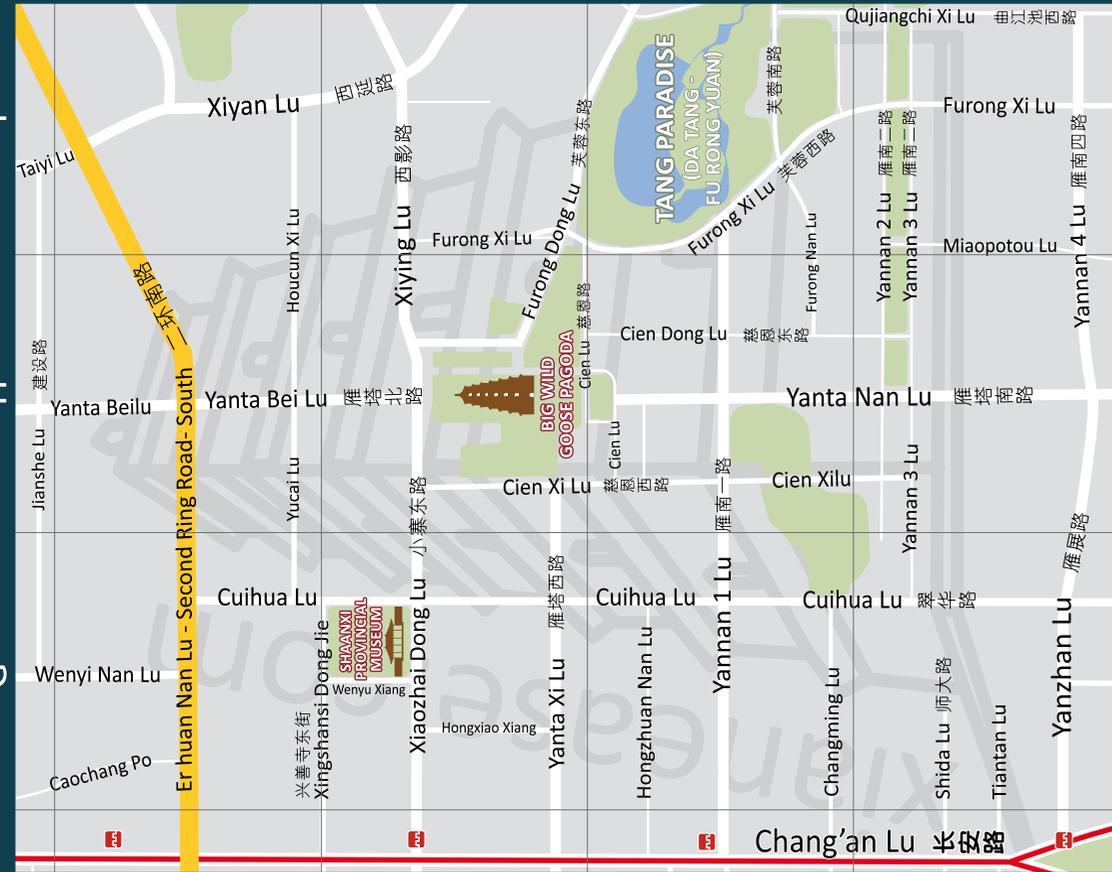
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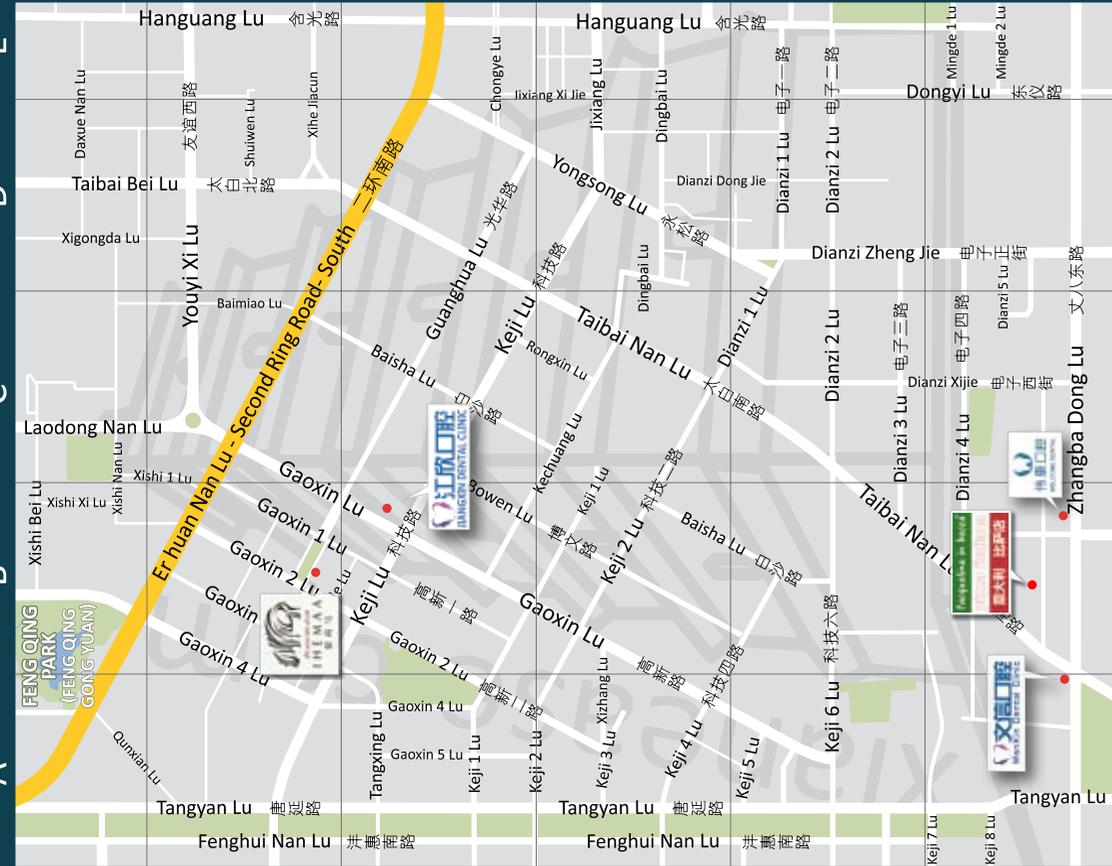
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# Hanova announces authorisation as an IB World School!

We are absolutely delighted to inform our entire community that we have been successfully authorised by the International Baccalaureate to deliver the Diploma Programme to our students in our new status as an IB World School for the Diploma Programme. More information will follow in upcoming issues.



**Holiday Wishes from everyone at Hanova!**  
A big thank you to all those who supported Hanova's lovely holiday events. We wish all of you and your loved ones a Safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**Staff Changes**  
Owing to the development of the school and continued determination to deliver high quality programmes, we will have 4 new teachers joining us near the start of next semester.



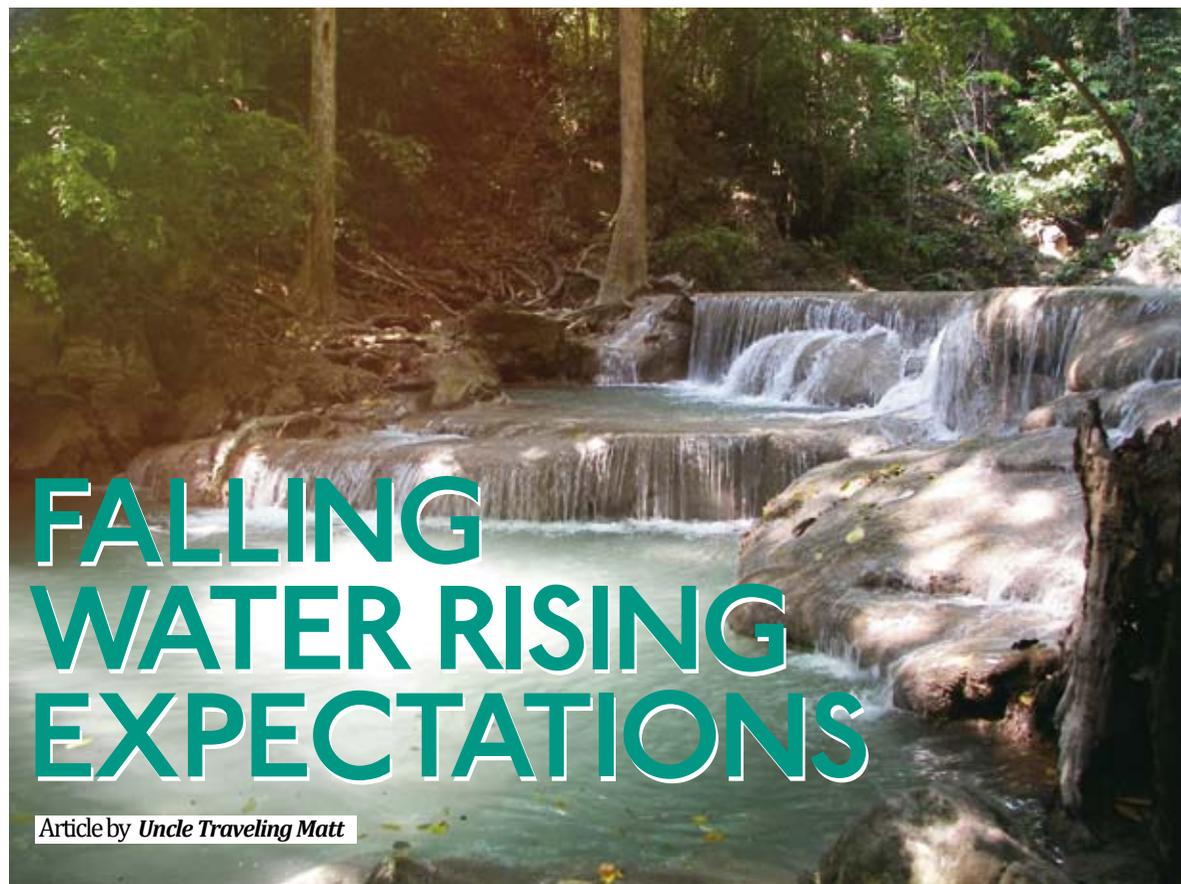
**Year 5 Harry Potter Play**  
Year 5 performed Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone to the primary students and parents. The students showed impressive quality of acting and good problem solving skills as they performed.



See more photos at [www.his-xian.com](http://www.his-xian.com)

**Contact Us**  
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Xi'an, Shaanxi 710077  
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Call us: +86 (0) 29-88693780  
Email us: [info@his-xian.com](mailto:info@his-xian.com)





# FALLING WATER RISING EXPECTATIONS

Article by *Uncle Traveling Matt*

Last time I wrote (November I believe) I had just arrived to the Erawan waterfalls...beautiful doesn't even begin to describe them, there are 7 levels and it is quite a hike to the top one but it is worth it. The only problem was the plethora of Banana spiders perched over the trail...ecccchhhh. So after the long hot hike I was ready to swim in the waterfalls and it is allowed of course so I found a secluded spot stripped down to my shorts and dove in. The guide book says that the nibbling fish make for entertaining times while swimming and I think that maybe in the larger pools where there are more people that could be true but diving alone into a smaller pool was a bit like the movie Piranha. I mean these little fish swarmed me, nibbling on my legs and feet like I was an all-day buffet (really I guess I was). It didn't hurt really but it was just too much and I jumped out of the water about as fast as I jumped in and headed to a larger pool with more people.

After my swim, which really was amazing, I decided to head over to Hell Fire Pass (a further 30 KM away from the falls but hey I was this far why turn back now). This pass was the place where many of the Australian and English POWs died cutting away hills of rock for the Japanese railroad using little more than hand chisels and buckets...tragedy in rock is all I can describe it as. On the trip home it started raining of course, not hard like



the last time just enough to make the roads wet and the cars spit water. Still I had about 96KM to get home in the spitting rain and about halfway there my right eye started to sting. "Hmmm that's odd" I thought once I finally made it back to the guest house everyone was staring at my eye like I was a freak...yes my friends I had contracted my first off South East Asian disease (but not my last), the old red eye a condition where your eye is red swollen and painful, with a side effect of others staring at you. It must be a common ailment around these parts because the guest house treated me with some leaves and a tea like drink that cleared it all up in two days.

My time there was done but before I left I met an Australian man of about 50 who had recently quite his high level job sold most of his things and moved to Thailand to teach and live a life of far poorer means but far richer existence. He had made peace with his family and coming to Thailand he had made peace with himself, I wish that someday I am able to find such peace and contentment, I wish that someday we all do.

The next day I left for Ko Chang back out east to cross into Cambodia and do a little diving. Far from being the desolate island I thought, Ko Chang would be it was a Disneyland meets Hippyland where dreadlocks and hippybags were the standard. Needless to say I fit in like a roundpeg. The people there were all about hating the West, capitalism, the government, their parents...pretty much anyone or thing that allowed them to be there. They reveled in how unique they all were and how free they were, then went to eat a western breakfast, drink western beer, and go to the internet to ask for more money from Mommy and Daddy...I try to hold no ill will towards people anymore but to be honest I found it difficult being there and left only one day after I arrived.

With that I hopped a bus to the border and I am now in Cambodia, Phnom Penh actually. Let me tell you about the roads here...WOW I mean in parts they are paved and in reasonable condition but a vast majority were mud clay that would do most SUV's in rather quickly. There are four water crossings from Thailand to here and not a bridge insight. So you have to wait for about 45 mins to 2 hours for the ferry ride over each river. This truly is a wild place and more of what I have been searching for. Taking little under 9 hours to travel from the border town to the capitol it was a passing scene of greenery and wooden shacks with cows, pigs, chickens, and water buffalo, I felt glad to be away from Thailand though I can now see, through the Australians eyes how one could get lost there and never come out.

*Uncle Traveling Matt*



# AT HOME IN ENGLAND

## BUILDING OUR DREAMS

Article by *Carolyn*

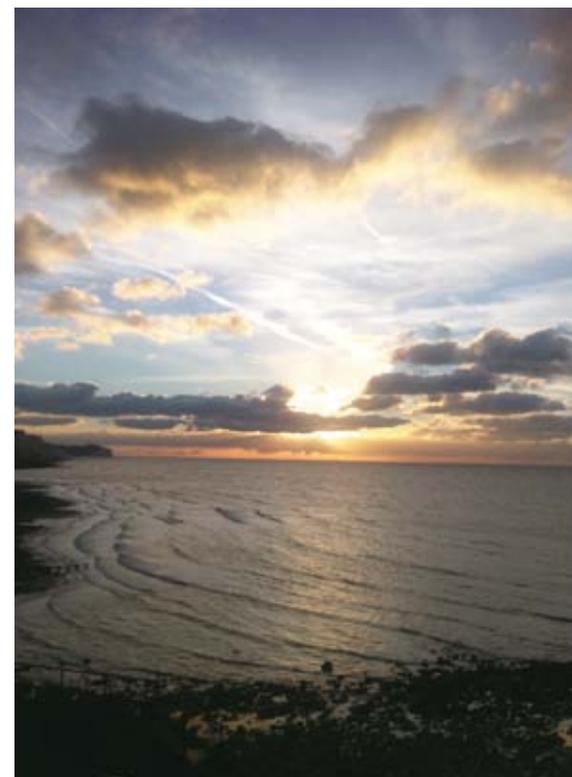


I'm writing to you in bed by candlelight from the hut in my garden. My daughter Li Chen, currently playing some infernal game on her telephone, is in her own bed also in the hut. We've been sleeping out here since we came back from China in August. Our new kitten has a rabbit's foot in her mouth and is haring round the room chased by the new puppy. The tide is in and waves

are breaking on the sea wall 10 metres below the hut. The surge and splash of spray is punctuated now and again by a deeper sound like a growl or a roar which takes place when a larger roller pounds the wall sending a reverberation through the cliff and up the legs of my bed. This a vigorous tide but nothing remarkable, nowhere near a storm.

There were plenty of storms last winter, so many the sea broke right through the western flank of our sea defenses and carried off 400 square metres of my neighbours' garden. We're semidetached unfortunately. I was still in Xi'an when it happened but nothing could have been done at the time anyway. When spring came a contractor was consulted and by late summer trucks were rolling down our track delivering tons of large rocks which have now been placed carefully behind a strong new wall of oak planking.

I found life in Xi'an somewhat relaxing and certainly considerably cheaper than here. When visitors come to the cottage they adopt a blissful smile walk straight to the edge of the cliff and declare, 'Ahh to live here would be to live with no worries at all, this is paradise you know that don't you!' I don't spoil the moment by mentioning rock bills, I simply return the smile. Input from me is not needed anyway; they're deep in their own world of thought. The extravagant beauty of the landscape juxtaposed with the romance and audacity of having a house



in such a precarious position is a poem itself.

But the reality is this kind of life doesn't suit everyone. It doesn't even suit my neighbours. All five of them have normal homes and only dip in and out of our life on the edge.

The cottages were built in 1818 by the Navy on behalf of Customs and Excise to combat the smuggling that was going on in the Haven. It's here the River Cuckmere meets the sea and if you follow the river upstream a few miles you'll come to the medieval village of Alfriston which is full of secret trapdoors and underground passages built to hide smugglers and their untaxed British wool, French silks and gin. It's said that one night here at the Haven in the 1700's there were 200 men, customs and smugglers, battling it out on the beach. When I bought the cottage 25 years ago the customs men at the nearby port of Newhaven presented me with an excellent pair of binoculars so I might keep an eye on things. But apart from a few fishing boats who started netting the mouth of the river to catch spawning sea trout a decade back, I've seen nothing illegal. Perhaps I should be on the lookout for illegal immigrants but it seems to me they run from such troubled lives and have such difficult journeys I'd be more inclined to go down with tea and blankets if they did land. It's the waves and the seabirds on the waves that I like to look at.

I'd better go to sleep now. In two days' time my mother is coming to stay for Christmas and the house is a terrible tumble, we must get the furniture back in and the fires roaring before she arrives. Every time she rings she asks if

we have moved back into the cottage yet, 'I'd have such a terrible time getting down the garden steps to go to the toilet in the middle of the night', she says. I did suggest she could go on the grass outside the hut. "Pee on the grass, I'm not doing that I'm nearly 88 years old, besides I'd be seen from the beach!" Not at night mother and not in the wind and rain and driving sea spray I might have answered but didn't of course. This will be the first time she's ventured down since we've been back so I must get things right. "Li Chen please stop playing that computer game you've got a ton of firewood to saw up in the morning."



If you have any questions or comments you can reach Carolyn at [carolyn@xianease.com](mailto:carolyn@xianease.com)

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# ORIENTAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT AND SELF-CULTIVATION

Article by *Darcy*

of oriental flower arrangement, the first is the line, shape and form and the second is artistic intention. These are what we take into consideration when creating a piece and are what we look for when observing a piece.

Oriental flower arrangement emphasises creating a beautiful artistic conception just like in Chinese painting. There are two ways of expressing a concept. You can either first use the materials you have to hand and use them to express something; or come up with a theme first and then go and select your materials accordingly.

The lines should be natural and convey movement and flexibility. Although it is man-made it needs to appear to be natural. Stiffness, rigidity and artificialness should be avoided. The work should be fluid and imbued with life, giving observers a feeling of strolling amidst natural scenery.

Density is very important for this and clustered areas should be balanced with spacious areas. Just like in Chinese painting you have to find the right balance between form and formless to create a harmonious rhythm. We can also call this the interaction of Yin and Yang (阴阳).

**Can you tell me about this piece?**

This work is fitting with the cur-

was being transported into a distant dynasty. Her work had me gazing into scenes of natural beauty, those which we don't often encounter amongst city apartment blocks. It was like a miniature garden inhabiting a corner of the room. And so I decided to share my discoveries with you.

**Can you tell me about oriental flower arrangement?**

There are two main characteristics



rent season. Now we are entering the colder part of Winter and it is the time of heavy snowfall. Here I chose some branches with plum-blossom-like flowers. It's just like falling snow in the morning and the plum blossoms are persevering through the harsh weather. Plum blossoms grow in Winter and in traditional Chinese culture symbolize strength and purity.

**So what is the difference between arranging flowers at home and oriental flower arrangement?**

Oriental flower arrangement has a theme. Then there is the Tao (道) of flower arrangement. Tao is often translated as the way or path. In Chinese philosophy it is used to refer to the path to enlightenment.

Life has frustrations flower arrangement is a way to quiet one's heart

in a busy world. Focusing on creating beauty and freeing oneself from concerns one is able to purify and quiet their heart. This results in a renewed sense of joy and satisfaction.

With time you can go from practising on outer appearances to finding inner peace and harmony. This will then in turn naturally manifest itself outwardly as gentleness, softness and kindness. This is a way to cultivate your heart.

There are five things we pursue in this art:

静 Serenity and stillness

雅 Elegance

美 Beauty

真 Truth and sincerity

和 Harmony and peace

The highest level of this art is to



realize that oneness with all, in Chinese it is called '天人合一'. The 'way' to this realization is contained within the art itself. So if you are interested in learning you must first find a teacher and be willing to dedicate time and energy. Then as time goes on you will be sure to blossom.

Darcy Littler teaches at a university here in Xi'an. He came to Xi'an to study traditional Chinese culture. You can read his articles and find out about upcoming cultural events on his Wechat group:

**bamboogrovestudio**



Read More Here

Ahang Wei (Yuki) teaches oriental flower arrangement here in Xi'an. I paid her a visit to find out about her art form. She became interested in flower arrangement after she discovered a book about Japanese flower arrangement being sold by a street vendor. This inspired her to pursue the art, following a teacher in Shanghai for several years. She embodies the elegance of her art form. Seeing her dressed in silk and pouring tea in a gentle manner I felt as though I

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# KITTY'S CORNER

## PART 4: YOUR STORY ARC

Article by *Benjamin Greuter*



Throughout this series, we've discussed various facets of writing, from the will to pursue writing as a craft, to the overcoming of writer's block, and we've even considered the content; that is, we've looked closely at what it is that we write, and why we do it. The conclusions to each of these self-studies are not solidified, however, because people change. You will change, over the months, years, or decades and your writing will follow suit. As we change, answers to questions such as 'why do we write,' and 'what do we write,' may often take new forms. As mentioned in Part Two, literature is an ancient conversation, and one that is still going today. Today's topics, books, plays, poems, songs, journals and stories have changed undeniably since the beginning of written language, but what is truly fascinating are those aspects of writing that haven't changed at all. The story arc of literature, if you will, is a telling tale of humanity, the human condition as it expresses itself in words. And each of us, throughout our lives as writers,

has his or her own tale to tell.

Writing regularly is of course a tremendous part of developing your craft, and keeping your skills sharp. But there is another significance to it that may even surpass our craft; our writing, from our first love poem in middle school to our final ode to the grave, perpetuates our story, one long arc no more accurately viewable than through the lens of our writing. Those of you with a journal or a growing collection of poems, or even piles and piles of under developed story-outlines, are actually compiling your story arc, the expression of your life in writing. Below I have some excerpts from Kitty's poems, in the order which she wrote them, that show a telling tale to how she's grown and developed both as a writer, and as a person:

*Relax.  
Wait a sec.....  
Time for somethin' new.  
Get ready for it.....  
Go! After a rest*

*it is time to fight again.*

*...  
You can reach new heights  
Fight for it! Try stepping towards  
a new level every day!<sup>1</sup>*

*...what goes down must come up  
like my teeth chewing this gum...<sup>2</sup>*

*He said that being what you are is  
living your life correctly.<sup>3</sup>*

*Another knock  
came at the door.  
A dog, two cats, a pushy white  
chicken, and  
the first star to come out at  
night*

*...  
I'll let you in  
on a little secret.....  
He buried the gold, I will take  
away.<sup>4</sup>*

*"I can't fly."  
Seemed a distant paradise  
where the branch of an olive tree  
shone even more brilliantly in the  
dark.<sup>5</sup>*

*Look at what's left.  
A tired smile,  
resting on it are weary memories.*

*...  
In the dark.  
Creators still create when they can  
although under feeble light.  
There is always a way.<sup>6</sup>*

*As the unknown is uncovered,  
what danger shall lie beneath its  
heavy mist, ghostly coat?<sup>7</sup>*

*Autumn winds  
Angel wings*

*Brings to life*

*...  
In the thinking wind  
Nature will send  
A message by  
A butterfly.<sup>8</sup>*

- <sup>1</sup> from *Just a Break After a Fight*, Kitty
- <sup>2</sup> from *Go Fly a Kite*, Kitty
- <sup>3</sup> from *Dummy Profile*, Kitty
- <sup>4</sup> From *Vida*, Kitty
- <sup>5</sup> From *Night*, Kitty
- <sup>6</sup> From *Find the Way in the Dark*, Kitty
- <sup>7</sup> From *Stray*, Kitty
- <sup>8</sup> From *In the Wind*, Kitty

What do we notice about Kitty's progression, besides more concise writing and more skillful craft? She has a knack for realism, for humor, and a sensitivity to the 'message' within each poem. At first she seemed to just be writing advice, or jokingly trying to motivate her readers, but in the end she found herself drawn more and more to nature. We can see that since nature is what motivates her and inspires her, she is discovering a way to use nature in her writing to motivate others the same way! Its profound. And this is only the progression of a young girl throughout no more than a year! Imagine what a life time of poetry might prove!

By writing consistently, and keeping our writing, no matter how bad it is, we can even begin to understand ourselves more deeply.

My favorite professor and advisor, Robin Metz (Knox College Creative



Writing Department chair and designer of the highly influential Creative Writing Bachelors program) said to me during my last visit to the college, "Ben, you need to make a movie of your life!" I asked him why I would ever do that, and although he truly thinks it would be spectacular, what's more important is compiling all my writing since high school, or earlier if I had it. 'Don't ever get rid of them or lose them', he'd said. "One day, even those poems from high school that you find embarrassing will be so endeared to you, looking back on them and understanding with a profound scope just who you are, where you came from, and where you are still." People who understand themselves in terms of their entire lives are truly in control of who they are and what they do, and often they achieve a much deeper level of peace than anyone else could ever hope.

In honor of Professor Metz' advice, I read through many older writings that I'd long since overlooked and pushed to the dustier folders of my computer's seven-year-old memory banks, and recollected the various stages I'd gone through in my life since I'd left home after high school. I was then inspired to write a new poem, and it's with that poem that I'd like to conclude this article. Curiously, as I recalled the past, especially my childhood on the farm, I realized many daring 'jumps of faith' as I tried to find new, better places. I compare this to baby spiders, who after hatching sometimes climb onto one long strand of web then let the wind float them away to unknown places, a

behavior called ballooning, or kiting. Interestingly enough, I used to hate those little things, since on the open farm they were difficult to avoid, every day it seemed two or three of those webs would catch in your hair or on your face, and you'd have to do a little dance as you desperately wiped it away in disgust... Anyway, as you read on, please consider for yourself the value that might be in looking back over your life, remembering all those distant memories, even the difficult ones, in hopes of reaching a deeper understanding of everything you've been through, and who it is that you've become. Then, as this fresh, new, self-aware person, I urge you: write!

*Imagine, Try,*

*the spider-child breeze drifting free  
and high,  
pebble and branch bound but wanting,  
its bounty  
the sky and the crisp drying sun. Tiny  
and full,  
mulling over space and time, and  
never thought  
it would mime the nimbi, not yet ready  
to rain; little  
does it know...*

*And what have I to show for floating  
to and fro  
like leaves a'gust or sand in the  
ocean's tow,  
hoping hard that it's the hand of God  
and not a Nietzschean nature whim-  
ming over  
and again, needless blood shod,  
hanging on, a shout resounding long  
over  
a sea of doubt.  
As much a slave as I am free, little me,  
does he know?*

If you'd like to discuss your work with someone for critique or advice, please feel free to email me at [thescop\\_x@yahoo.com](mailto:thescop_x@yahoo.com), or send me a wechat message at [benji9012](https://www.wechat.com/p/benji9012).

# INTERVIEW WITH CARRIE VARJAVANDI



## 1. TELL THE READERS SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF

In Scotland, I worked mostly in arts education, in schools and in communities, and regularly exhibited my work (mainly textiles). When my husband, Farhad, retired in 2010, it opened up the possibility of us doing something more useful with our lives. We both longed to serve in China, so we made a plan to move there. Our son, Adam, was already in Xi'an, (his gap year was turning into a gap decade) having moved to China in 2003 when he was seventeen.

Soon after we arrived in January 2011, Adam introduced me to some artists working in the textile district, and I was able to display a new work (The Peace Tree) at the 90 Minutes Live Art Show in the Vegetable market there. Farhad and I went to Chinese classes, we both got some work teach-

ing English, but I gradually moved into my own area of expertise, art. For a year I taught at the Hanova International School, which was an amazing experience. I left Xi'an in May 2014 to return to Scotland to attend to some business there.

## 2. WHAT DO YOU EXPECT OF YOUR ART SHOW?



I hope that more people will get a chance to see my work, and that this may lead to further interesting collaborations in the future. All the paintings are for sale, and naturally I will be pleased if people enjoy looking at my work so much that they want to own it.

## 3. WHY IS THE SHOW IN THE XI'AN RED GALLERY?

I was very excited to be invited to show my work in the RED Gallery. This came about through contact between my daughter in law, RongRong, and the Gallery Director, Vida. I feel very honoured to be the featured artist at this inaugural exhibition of the RED Gallery.



## 4. WHICH ART PIECE DO YOU LIKE THE MOST IN THE SHOW? WHY?

That's a bit like asking me which of my children is my favourite! The Still Life with the teddy bear, perhaps. It represents some of the items I acquired while staying in Xi'an. The non-Chinese eye, a cast of a Michelangelo sculpture, gives a surreal and quirky touch to the otherwise familiar objects.

## 5. WHAT DO YOU MISS THE MOST AFTER YOU LEFT XI'AN?

I started writing a very long list of all the things I miss, but the main thing I miss is the Chinese people. The helpfulness, kindness and utter honesty we experienced – and taxi drivers are on top of the list. No vanity, no conceit, simple hearted and pure, the Chinese people themselves are what I miss most about China. Now I feel homesick for Xi'an!



RED Gallery is a contemporary art gallery located on Level 2 of De Fu Lou (access through the café). In addition to art events, the gallery has a permanent collection of North American and European antiques and curiosities. Open to the public on 7 days except Wed & Sun between 10 AM to 5 PM.

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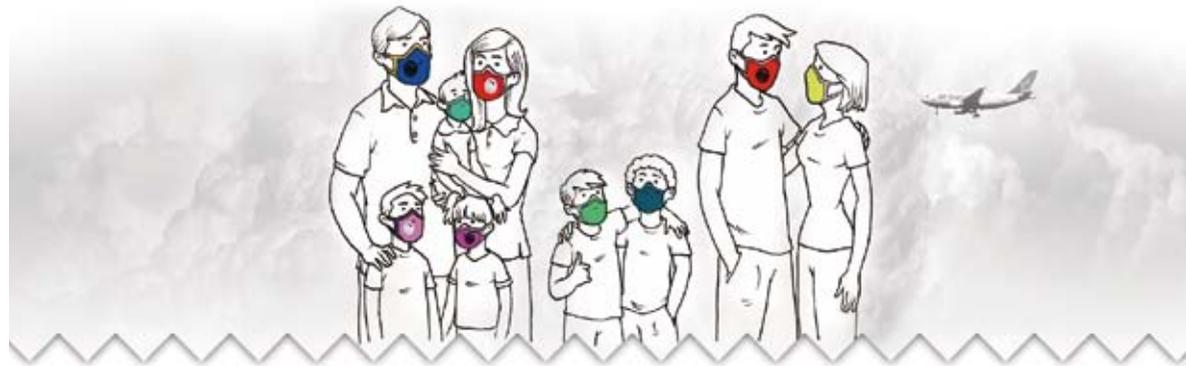


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# AIR MASK REVIEW

Article by *Alycia Darilek*

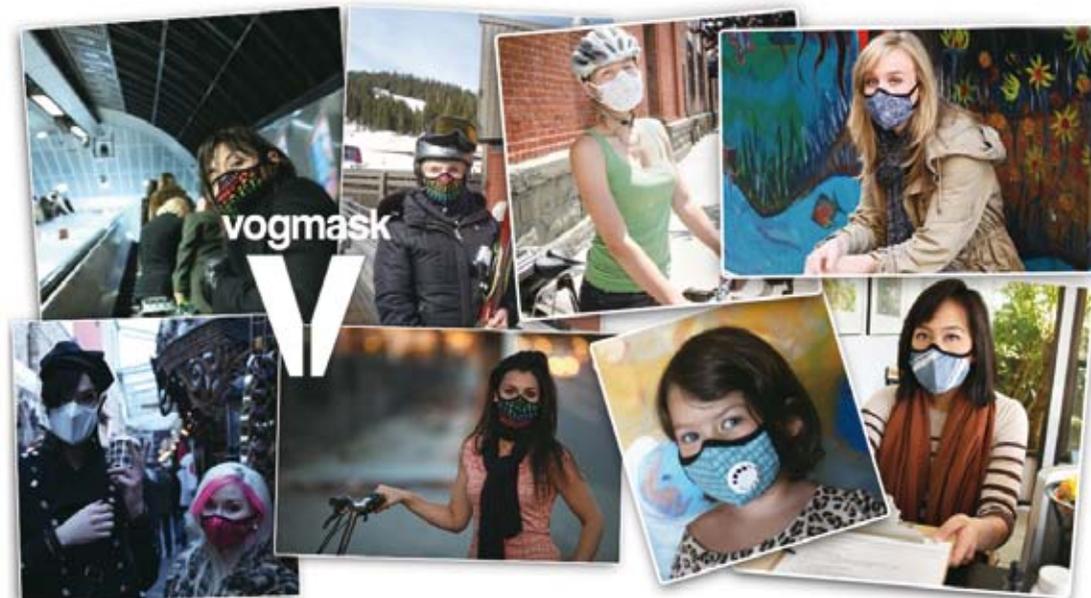
As a mother raising children in Xi'an, one of my primary concerns is air quality and the effect that the smog is having on my family's health. We are aware of the scary statistics about the negative health effects of long term exposure to unclean air. Last year, after researching the various options, my husband decided to purchase Vogmasks for our daughters. The main factors he looked at were the fit (in reading the information available we realized that any gaps around the edges of the mask would render it useless) and the size of particles the mask would filter. An added

bonus for me was seeing that the Vogmask would also filter bacteria and viruses and the range of color options to choose from.

When the masks arrived, I was skeptical...could I actually convince my children to wear them? But, largely in part to the fact they think the masks are "pretty," they are usually excited to wear them (they are usually the ones reminding me we need to wear them as we head out the door)! The masks themselves hook over the ear with a soft elastic strap that ensures a firm but comfortable seal. There is a metal clip embedded inside

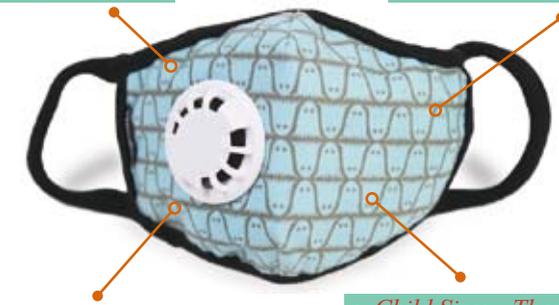
the part of the strap that goes over the nose which can be adjusted to make sure that there are no gaps for dirty air to infiltrate. My children have no problems putting the mask on and taking them off by themselves.

I am equally happy with my own Vogmask. We all have the slightly more expensive valve/carbon layer edition. The valve helps moisture to escape, while it doesn't let all of the moisture out it is a significant improvement on the disposable masks that tend to get wet quickly. It also filters bad smells which can be a real help in certain parts of the



## THE MAJOR PLUS POINTS TO THESE MASKS ARE:

- They look good!
- Filters 99.9% of pm2.5 particles
- Long life span - 200+ hours. Even though they are more expensive in the first place their longer life makes the comparatively cost effective.
- Child Sizes - These are the only decent pm 2.5 masks that we have seen that have child sizes. Putting large sized masks on children is pointless as most of the air they will breath will have come into the mask via that gaps in the side.



city! Overall it is much softer and more comfortable than the disposable ones I have used before and is far better looking.

The one drawback is the price, at RMB 180.00 for the standard edition and RMB 225.00 for the valve/carbon layer edition they are not cheap. However they do have a significantly longer usage life than most of the other masks other there (approx. 200 hours).

A year later I would say I am still really pleased with the masks. Although pricey, we look at it as an investment in our children's health and feel the quality justifies the amount paid.



Input the code **XIANEASEVOG** into the Jinkou website and get a 10% discount until the end of January!

Alycia Darilek has lived in Xi'an for five years. Her husband Landon owns Baibei, an agricultural consulting company. They have two daughters aged four and six.

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# DINNER PARTY AND SENTENCE BETTING

Article by *Stuart Allen*

Many of you reading this right now will be an English teacher living and working here in Xi'an. If you are one of the thousands of English teachers here in Xi'an, then I hope you'll find these two activities useful for your classes. They are both easy to organize and need no special planning; perfect for busy teachers!

## THE DINNER PARTY

Tell your class that this weekend you are having a dinner party. There will be good food, good music and good company.

Explain to your students that you have invited five very, very, very special guests to the party and ask your students to guess who they might be. Get some answers from them about who they think your guests are and write their ideas on the board.

After you have got a few ideas, reveal your list of five special guests to your students. Here are my five, you can choose any you like:



**BRUCE LEE**



**HELEN KELLER**



**NOSTRADAMUS**



**NEIL ARMSTRONG**



**KEITH LEMON**

Make sure that your five are well known and have some no longer living. Tell your students why you have chosen your 5.

Now tell your students to make their own list of five people for their own dinner party. They can be alive or dead, but can't include their own friends or family, who will be coming anyway.

After they have made their list, have each student tell everyone who was on their list and why they were chosen.

This is a quick, easy and fun speaking activity which requires no special preparation.

## SENTENCE BETTING



'Sentence Betting' is a fun ESL classroom activity that students are sure to enjoy. The basic premise of the game involves students reading sentences written in English on the whiteboard/blackboard and betting fake money on whether they think it's a correct sentence or not.

Split your class into teams of around 3 or 4 students and hand out an even amount of fake money to each team, monopoly money works well, or you can print some off from the internet. You can keep track of their totals on the whiteboard/blackboard without needing fake money but it makes the activity a lot more fun if they have something physical to hold and work with.

Give each team a piece of paper and write the first sentence on the whiteboard/blackboard. Here are a few examples (remembering to omit the correct/incorrect part):

**Correct:** I want to buy a new computer.

**Incorrect:** Yesterday I will go to the library.

**Correct:** I love playing basketball after school.

**Incorrect:** You're photo is beautiful.

Give them around a minute to discuss the sentence in their groups before asking them to make their bets on the piece of paper you gave them. Let the students know that if they're unsure about a sentence

then they should probably bet less money.

It's also a good idea to make the maximum bet half of what they currently have so they can't lose all their money. For example, if you gave each team \$10000 then the maximum bet would be \$5000.

Collect the pieces of paper and then write on the board how much each group has betted and whether they think the sentence you have written on the board is incorrect or has no problems with spelling, punctuation or grammar. Hand out the winnings/collect the losses equal to how much they bet.

Play as many rounds as you like, get each team to count their winnings at the end and see which team finishes with the most money.

You might like to keep track of this on the whiteboard/blackboard as the game progresses so all teams know how much money they have.



If you are an English teacher in Xi'an, why not join the ESL in China group on WeChat? You can join by scanning the code



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# Interesting Facts

1. If you are over 16 there is a 60% chance that you have already met the person you will one day marry
2. The U.S. government set beer next to an atomic bomb blast to see if it was still drinkable. Even during a nuclear war, beer is still safe
3. Many psychologists link selfies to narcissism, mental illness and addiction – those who use Selfie sticks even more so
4. Dogs tilt their heads when something piques their interest and they want to hear better
5. Cracking your knuckles does not hurt your bones or cause arthritis, the sound you hear is just gas bubbles bursting
6. Men who kiss their wives before leaving for work get into fewer car accidents
7. Blue-eyed people tend to have a higher alcohol tolerance than those with darker eyes
8. Studies show that cuddling before bed helps to brain to relax - This reduces the process of overthinking, making it easier to fall asleep
9. Studies show that sandwiches actually taste better when other people make them for you - When we make food, we get desensitized to the smell
10. Being hairy has been linked to having higher intelligence
11. Benjamin Franklin wasn't trusted to write the Declaration of Independence. His peers feared he would include a joke in it
12. Humor is associated with intelligence and honesty - This is why women tend to be more attracted to men with a sense of humor
13. The type of music you listen to can change the way you think
14. The total weight of all the ants on earth is about the same as the total weight of all the humans on earth
15. There is a spider in Brazil whose bite causes an erection that lasts almost 24 hours
16. Google's founders were willing to sell to Excite for under \$1 million in 1999—but Excite turned them down
17. There was a third Apple founder. Ronald Wayne sold his 10% stake for \$800 in 1976
18. The famous Aaron Burr "Got Milk?" ad from 1993 was directed by Michael Bay
19. According to Amazon, the most highlighted Kindle books are the Bible, the Steve Jobs biography, and The Hunger Games
20. A California woman once tried to sue the makers of Cap'n Crunch because Crunch Berries contained "no berries of any kind"
21. Wilford Brimley was Howard Hughes's bodyguard
22. During WWI, German measles were called "liberty measles" and dachshunds became "liberty hounds"
23. In a 2008 survey, 58% of British teens thought Sherlock Holmes was a real guy, while 20% thought Winston Churchill was not
24. At one point in the 1990s, 50% of all CDs produced worldwide were for AOL
25. Toy companies failed to duplicate the success of Theodore Roosevelt's teddy bear with William Taft's "Billy Possum"
26. Nutella was invented during WWII, when an Italian pastry maker mixed hazelnuts into chocolate to extend his chocolate ration
27. In response to The Lorax, the forest products industry published Truax to teach kids the importance of logging
28. Tsutomu Yamaguchi was in Hiroshima for work when the first A-bomb hit, made it home to Nagasaki for the second, and lived to be 93
29. A British man changed his name to Tim Ppppppppp-price to make it harder for telemarketers to pronounce
30. J.P. Morgan once offered \$100,000 to anyone who could figure out why his face was so red. No one solved the mystery
31. Prairie dogs say hello with kisses
32. In the mid-1960s, Slumber Party Barbie came with a book called "How to Lose Weight." One of the tips was "Don't eat"
33. A 2009 search for the Loch Ness Monster came up empty. Scientists did find over 100,000 golf balls
34. After OutKast sang "Shake it like a Polaroid picture," Polaroid released a statement that said, "Shaking or waving can actually damage the image"
35. New Mexico State's first graduating class in 1893 had only one student—and he was shot and killed before graduation
36. In Spain, Mr. Clean is known as Don Limpio

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## KING OR QUEEN OF THE TABLE POOL TOURNAMENT



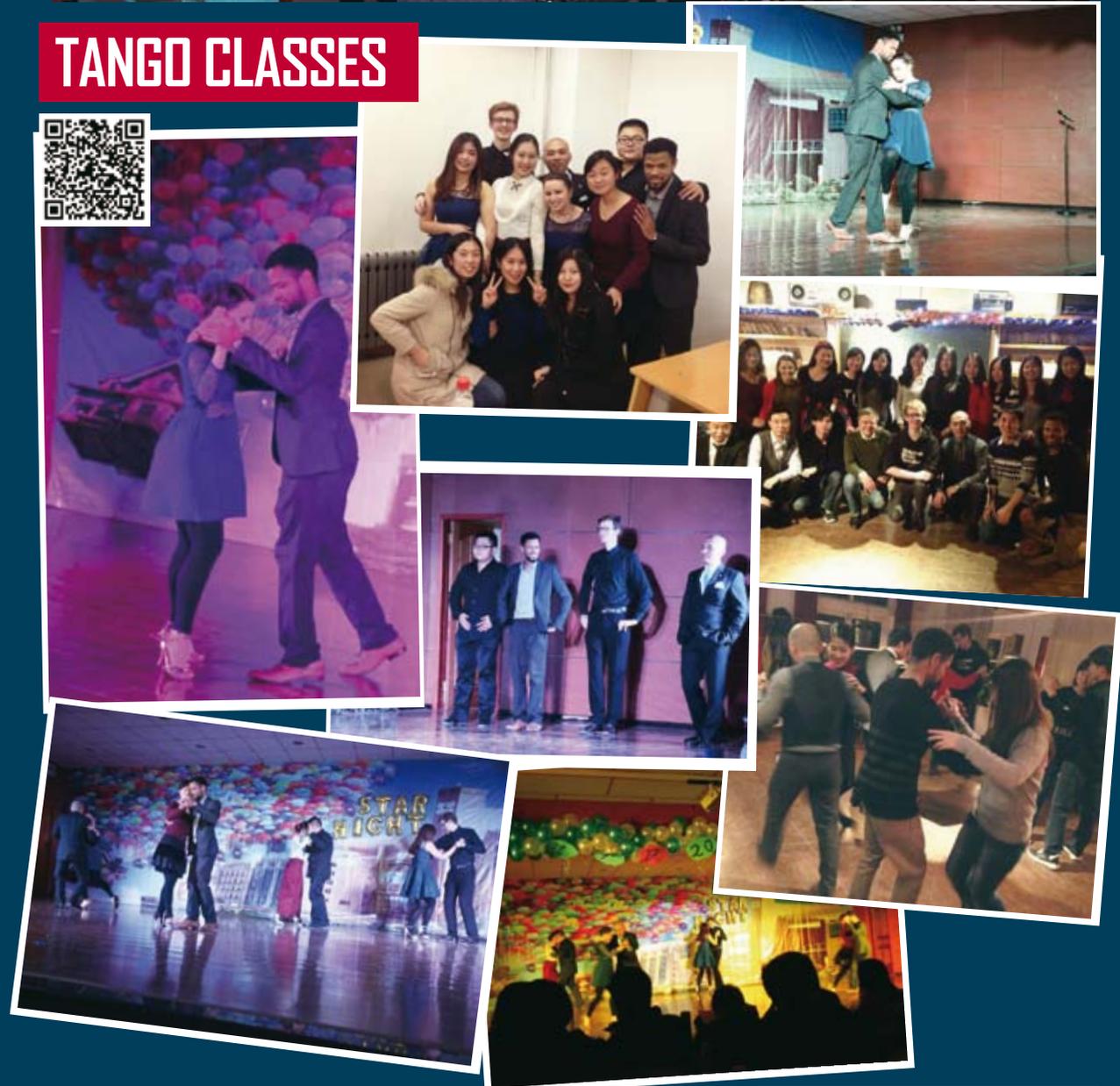
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大唐不夜城新乐汇内, 中国银行旁  
Phone: 029-8557 3669 (Deliver)  
Hours: 8:00am - 10:30pm

**D10 Jane's garden**

简的花园  
8th Floor of the Feng Run International Bld. 50m from the Northwest Corner of Tai Bai Lu and the 2nd Ring Rd Intersection, near Vivo City.  
太白路立交西北角向北50米丰润国际公寓8楼  
American style Club; Garden restaurant  
Phone: 029-8885 6266  
Hours: 11:30am - 11:30pm

**H4 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: 029-8913 6510

**Leban 乐班**

NO.4 Tang Yan South Road, High-tech Zone.  
唐延南路4号 绿地笔克国际会展中心 乐班餐厅  
Phone: 029-6861 1082

Hours: 8:00am - 11:00pm

**F9** G/F Block B, Chang'an Metropolis center, No.88 Nanguan Zheng Street Beilin Disbriect  
碑林区南关正街88号长安国际广场B座G层  
Phone: 029-8765 1617  
Hours: 9:00am - 11:00pm

**B3 German beer garden**

德国白酿啤酒花园  
Opposite of Zhong Tie 20 Ju, Han Yuan Dian, Tai Hua Lu  
太华路合元殿中铁二十局斜对面  
Phone: 029-862 91884  
Hours: 5:00pm - Midnight

**K9 Amici Restau 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)  
Amici is a place where kids make their own traditional Italian pizza and many other funs.  
Phone: 029-8246 2642  
134-6866-5002  
Hours: 10:30am - 9:30pm

**G10 Amici Pizza 阿米奇披萨**

Lian hu qu xi shao men min

hang xiao qu nei (Near Min Hang Kindergarten)  
莲湖区西稍门民航小区内 (民航幼儿园对面)  
Phone: 029-8870 0961  
Hours: 10:30am - 9:30pm

**H11 Nha Trang 越芽庄**

4F, Kaide Shopping Mail, Second Ring Road  
南二环凯德广场4层  
Phone: 029-8556 7499  
Hours: 10:00am - 10:00pm



Pizza

**F7 Isola del Nord Italian Restaurant**

Isola del Nord 意大利餐厅  
11F, K.I.Tower, #1 of Xihuamen  
西安市西华门凯爱大厦11层  
Phone: 029-87201501/87201502  
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: 11:30am-3:00pm (L.O. 2:00pm)  
5:30pm-10:00pm (L.O. 9:15pm)

**L'accolina in bocca**

阿果里纳  
**B14** #5 Tai Bai Nan Road, zi wei shang ceng, 2nd, east building, shop no.20107  
高新区太白南路5号紫薇尚层东2号楼20107  
Phone: 029-8889 4573  
Hours: 11:00am - 8:00pm (Sunday off)

Ke Ji road xi kou, no.18 du shi yin xiang street, ground floor, shop no.10116  
高新区科技路西口都市印象街区18栋1层10116  
Phone: 133-6399-0100  
Hours: 11:00am - 9:00pm



Indian

**H13 Ganges Indian Restaurant**

恒河印度餐厅西安雁塔店  
Happy mall food court. East of south square of big wild goose pagoda Yanta distric  
雁塔区雁塔南路大雁塔南广场东南角, (新乐汇美食广场北门内)  
Phone: 029-8931 8440  
177-9228-5586  
Hours: 10:00am - 10:00pm

**H12 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: 029-8525 5157  
Very popular restaurant serving authentic Indian dishes. Great food, a nice atmosphere and reasonable prices make this a favourite.  
Hours: 10:30am - 11:00pm

**G9 Redfort**

红堡印度餐厅  
First and only Indian culture restaurant in China.  
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: 029-8411 3559  
150-2992-7722  
Hours: 11:00am - 11:00pm



Japanese

**A13**

**Inimitable Restaurant 旺角创意餐厅**  
Japanese cuisine; BBQ; Dessert.  
科技五路旺座现代城C座 Block C, wangzuo xiandai-cheng, ke ji 5 lu, Gaoxin.  
Phone: 029-8878 5478  
Hours: 11:00am - 2:00pm  
5:00pm - 9:30pm



Korean

**F8 Tudari 土大力**  
2F, INTIME Shopping Mall, #48 Xida Jie  
西大街48号银泰广场2楼  
Phone: 029-8727 1264  
Hours: 11:00am - 11:00pm



Chinese

**H13 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: 029-6893 8366  
Hours: 11:30am - 2:30pm  
5:30pm - 10:00pm



Vegetarian

**H12 Tianlong Vegetarian**  
天龙宝严素食馆

**Yellow River Soup Kitchen**  
黄河慈善厨房  
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QQ 35248368, 29288004, 96750160  
The Catholic Church, No 17 Wu Xing St., (15 mins walk from Bell Tower), 陕西省西安市, 五星街天主教堂17号, 黄河慈善厨房 (高钟楼步行15分钟)

#1 Yanta West Road  
雁塔西路1号  
Phone: 029-8526 6880  
Hours: 11:00am - 9:00pm



Hotpot

**Hai Di Lao 海底捞**  
**H12** #11, South of Yanta Lu  
雁塔路南段11号  
Phone: 029-8553 6971  
Hours: 10:30am - 3:00am

**B10** 3F, Gao Ke Buliding, #1 Gaoxin Si Lu  
高新四路1号高科广场3楼  
Phone: 029-8836 1337  
Hours: 10:30am - 3:00am



Dessert

**F9 Vcake**  
2F, Ginwa Time Square, out of South Gate  
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Phone: 400-029-9797  
Email Order: [vcake\\_cn@163.com](mailto:vcake_cn@163.com)  
Order Online: [www.vcake.cn](http://www.vcake.cn)

**Shopping**  
**Foreign Goods**  
**H13 Metro 麦德龙超市**  
#86 Chan'an Road, 50 meters to the TV Tower  
长安南路86号, 临近电视塔  
Western Supermarket located next to the TV tower in the South of Xi'an. This is one of the best places in Xi'an to purchase imported food such as cheese, beer, wine, meats and those hard to find ingredients.



Shopping Centers

**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: 029-8763 1708

**B11** #55 Keji Lu  
科技路55号  
Phone: 029-6296 1099  
Hours: 10:00am - 10:00pm



**Tea Markets**

**Ren He Tea Market**  
人和茶叶市场  
#101 Chang Le Zhong Road  
长乐中路101号



**Clothing Markets**

**Bai Hui Market**  
百汇市场  
Bai Hui Market, Chang'an  
Central Road  
长安中路 百汇市场



**Sporting Goods**

**Five Ring Outlets**  
五环工厂店  
**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**

**Lao Bai Xing Medicine Store**  
老百姓大药房

**B3** Beida Jie intersection  
北大街十字  
Phone: 029-8721 1888



**Appliance Centers**

**Suning Home Appliance**  
苏宁电器

**B3** #23 Lian Hu Road  
莲湖路23号  
Phone: 029-8731 9196  
Hours: 9:30am - 7:00pm



**Furniture Markets**

**Da Ming Gong Furniture Center**  
大明宫建材家具城  
#180 Tai Hua Bei Road  
太华北路180号  
Phone: 029-8811 6666  
Hours: 9:30am - 6:00pm



**Antique Markets**

**B17** Ba Xian An Antique Market  
八仙庵古玩市场

Ba Xian An, An Ren Fang,  
Bei Lin District  
新城区安仁坊八仙庵



**Book Shops**

**B3** Shu Yuan Gate  
书院门  
Shu Yuan Gate,  
南门里书院门

**B67** Belltower Bookstore  
钟楼新华书店  
#337 East Avenue  
东大街377号  
Phone: 029-8721 6194



**Plant Markets**

**B10** Yanta Flower Market  
小雁塔苗圃市场  
Zhu Que Avenue  
朱雀大街, 西安体育学院后  
门对面



**Health and Fitness**

**B10** Citadines Xingqing Palace  
Xi'an  
西安馨乐庭兴庆宫服务公寓  
#159 Xingqing Road, Beilin  
District, Xi'an

**B10** Megafit Fitness Center  
美格菲  
#3 Gao Xin Lu 高新路3号  
Phone: 029-8823 6688  
Providing top quality equip-  
ment, with international stand-  
ards of management.



**Hotel**

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Huangjiawan Road, Foping  
County town, Hanzhong  
汉中市佛坪县黄家湾路  
Phone: 0916-299 5288  
Email: yushelodge@kvssoon.com  
Web: www.qinling-bslv.com

**B13** GRAN MELIA Xi'an  
西安盛美利亚酒店  
The First Spanish Hotel In  
Qujiang New District.  
No.1666 Qujiang West Road,  
Qu Jiang New District, Xi'an  
曲江新区曲江池西路1666号  
Phone: 029- 6821 6666  
Book on line at grannmelia.cn

**B13** The Westin Xian  
西安威斯汀大酒店

#66 Ci En Road, Qu Jiang New  
District, Xi'an  
曲江新区慈恩路66号  
Phone: 029-6568 6568  
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沣镐东路 262 号  
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Fitness Centre.

**Citadines**  
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服务公寓  
**B3** Citadines Central Xi'an  
西安馨乐庭城中服务公寓  
#36 Zhubashi, Beilin District,  
西安市碑林区竹笆市36号  
Phone: 029-8576 1188

**B10** Citadines Gaoxin Xi'an  
西安馨乐庭高新服务公寓  
#13 Gaoxin Si Road, Hi-Tech  
Zone, Xi'an  
西安市高新区高新四路13号  
Phone: 029-8843 7888

**B9** Citadines Xingqing Palace  
Xi'an  
西安馨乐庭兴庆宫服务公寓  
#159 Xingqing Road, Beilin  
District, Xi'an

西安市碑林区兴庆路159号  
Phone: 029-8338 0588  
**Hilton Xi'an**  
西安万达希尔顿酒店  
#199 Dongxin Street, Xincheng  
District, Xi'an  
新城区东大街199号  
Phone: 029- 8738 8888  
Email: xian.info@hilton.com



**Spas**

**B10** Real Love Spa  
真爱年华洗浴广场  
#38, middle of Zhuque Street.  
朱雀大街中段38号  
Phone: 029-8840 1234



**Education**



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www.faithchina.com

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Chang'an Xi'an  
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度假村东二街96号  
Phone: 029-8925 8933  
181-9239-8715 (王老师)



**International Schools**

**Xi'an International School**  
西安国际学校  
#5 Zi Wu Da Dao, Yan Ta Qu  
雁塔区子午大道5号  
Phone: 029-8533 5014  
www.xianinternationalschool.  
com  
For more information contact: re-  
ception@xianinternationalschool.  
com or call 029-8533 5014

**Xi'an Hanova International School**  
西安汉诺威国际学校  
Office phone: 029-8869 3780  
Email: may.liu@his-xian.com  
Website: www.his-xian.com  
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Website: www.xhisid.com  
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of Xi'an Hi-Tech Development  
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西安市高新区新型工业园



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**K9** 伟康口腔 (交大商场)  
Shops of East Chang Chun Teng  
Community, Jiaoda Shopping  
Street, Beilin District (50m  
Southward from West Gate of  
Jiaoda San Cun Community)  
碑林区交大商场街常春藤东区  
商铺(交大三村西门十字向南  
50m 路西)  
Phone: 029-8326 5649  
133-1929-9518

**B14** 伟康口腔 (裕昌太阳城)  
Shops 7-10105 of Sunshine City  
Community, Zhang Ba East  
Road No 124, Yanta District  
雁塔区丈八东路124号裕昌太阳  
城7-10105商铺  
Phone: 029-6566 8383  
139-9192-4213

**B9** 皓雅口腔 (交大东南门)  
100 Meters Southward from  
Southeast Gate of Jiaotong Uni-  
versity, Xingqing South Road,  
Beilin District  
碑林区兴庆南路交大东南门南  
侧100米路西  
Phone: 029-8266 6262  
181-9262-6706

**B11** Gao Xin Jiangxin  
dental clinic  
高新江欣口腔  
100 meters north of intersection  
of Gaoxin Rd and Keji Rd  
高新路科技路十字北100米  
路东  
Phone: 186-2928-2797

**B11** Gao Xin Wenxin  
dental clinic  
高新文信口腔  
North west corner of Tai Bai Rd  
& Zhang Ba Dong Rd.  
太白路丈八东路十字西北角  
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Stage of East Chang Chun Teng Community, Jiaoda Shopping Street, Beilin District (50m Southward from West Gate of Jiaoda San Cun Community)  
皓雅口腔 (交大东南门店) 地址: 碑林区兴庆南路交大东南门南侧100米  
100 Meters Southward from Southeast Gate of Jiaotong University, Xingqing South Road, Beilin District  
伟康口腔 (裕昌太阳城店) 地址: 雁塔区丈八东路124号裕昌太阳城7-10105商铺  
Shops 7-10105 of Sunshine City Community, Zhang Ba East Road No 124, Yanta District

tors and staff.  
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186-9180-8758

Email: twp01@163.com  
#30 Ke Ji Rd (east of the Ke Ji  
Rd and Gao Xin Rd intersection)  
Inside Liren Hospital  
高新区科技路30号

**Xi'an Gaoxin Hospital**  
西安高新医院  
#16 Tuanjie Nanlu,  
Gaoxin district  
高新区团结南路16号  
Phone: 029-8833 0116  
www.gxyy.net

**B7** Shaanxi Traditional  
Chinese Medicine Hospital  
陕西中医医院  
#2 Xi Hua Men, North Street  
Phone: 029-881  
2800



**Medical**



**Massage**

**B3** Jing ya xuan  
静雅轩足浴保健  
#18, Xiang Zi Miao Jie, West  
side of South Gate  
碑林区南门里湘子庙街18号  
Phone: 029-8726 5200  
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# DECEMBER

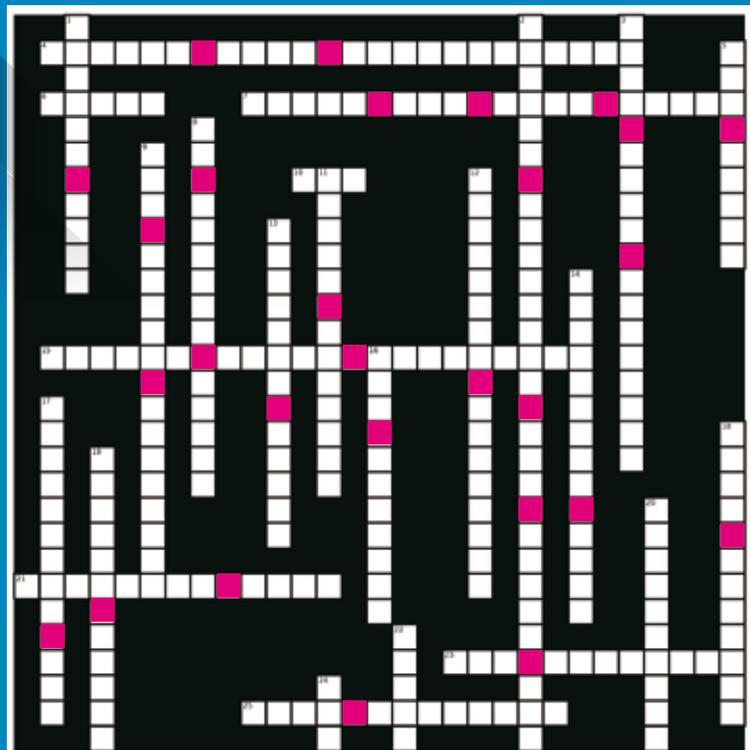
## Pub Quiz Questions

If you weren't there you missed a BIG night, with Trivia Master Phil spouting off 1990's trivia like it was a Pulp Fiction giveaway at an MC Hammer concert. With the theme in full swing the 90's generation team **Slow Children at Play** broke away from the pack wearing their high hipped jeans and high top sneakers. This is the third month in a row with a new winning team, meaning that these days anyone can win – so grab yourself a few likeminded friends, head on down to the Belgian Bar and maybe emerge to an adulation from your peers and free freefree beer!

Want the answers? Head over to [www.xianease.com/trivia](http://www.xianease.com/trivia) for this month's answers

### Across

- The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade evolved into what organization in 1995?
- The first mobile game to be available on a mobile phone was Tetris for the Hagenuk MT-2000. Three years later, what game did Nokia launch on for their phones?
- In the October 3, 1992, episode of Saturday Night Live, what did Sinead O'Connor say to the audience immediately after tearing up a picture of Pope John Paul II on live television?
- In 1994, what company released the Simon Personal Communicator, the first mobile phone to include a touch screen and be able to receive faxes, emails, and pages?
- After nearly 20 years in development, what was finally lifted into orbit in 1990 by the space shuttle Discovery, and then had to wait three years to be repaired?



- Until it was surpassed by Titanic in 1997, what 1993 film held the record as the highest grossing film?
- Following the death of Kurt Cobain in 1994, Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl founded what successful band?
- What was the name of the second passenger who died in the August, 1997, car crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales?

### Down

- The 1992 LA Riots erupted after four police officers were acquitted of beating what black motorist?
- Filmed on their honeymoon in 1998, what famous couple released one of the earliest internet celebrity sex tapes?
- In a recent survey in New Zealand, what 1994 film was voted the best New Zealand film of all time?
- Released in 1995, what was the first feature-

- length computer-animated film?
- Running from 1990 to 1994, what sketch comedy TV series launched the careers of Jim Carrey, Jamie Foxx, Damon Wayans, and Jennifer Lopez?
- What 1995 film was advertised with the phrase, "Who is Keyser Soze"?
- In 1993, which Russian president ordered the military to shell the Russian parliament building?
- Originally featured in the film Dangerous Minds, what 1995 Coolio song became one of the best-selling singles of all time?
- What Israeli Prime Minister was assassinated at a peace rally in Tel Aviv on November 4, 1995?
- Which 1992 film features characters Mr. White, Mr. Orange, Mr. Blonde, Mr. Pink, and Nice Guy Eddie?
- What English electronic band is best known for their 1997 album, The Fat of the Land, featuring the songs Firestarter and

- Smack My Bitch Up?
- What rapper was killed in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles on March 9, 1997?
- Released in 1997, what was the best-selling game for the Playstation, with nearly 11 million units sold?
- Not counting Whitney Houston for The Bodyguard soundtrack, what artist released the best-selling album of the 1990s?
- Created by Bandai, what handheld 'digital pet' sold over 70 million units worldwide after launching in November, 1996?
- Born on July 5, 1996, what name was given to the first cloned mammal, a female domestic sheep?
- How many NBA championship titles did the Chicago Bulls win during the 1990s?



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