

NEWS

Signs of change on Chongqing's expat street

A POPULAR expat street in Southwest China's Chongqing went through a makeover of sorts after several racy overhead street signs were removed to make way for more sanitized ones that reflect China.

Foreigners' Street or Yangren Jie, a riverside road in Nan'an district, is renowned for its restaurants, pubs and cafés, some of which are operated by foreigners.

The signs, erected by workers on the street, were not promoting any businesses or products.

One said, "Kick your lover's ass," while another proclaimed, "We are not tempted by beauties, but there are too many beauties."

Some pushed the envelope, "You will have a fantastic night if you put your wife and mistress together" and "Love should be worked out." Another in front of a naked statue that said "Love Land" embarrassed some.

Food festival to feature longest tiramisu



Barista will show you how to make a cup of perfect coffee at scene.

THE longest tiramisu ever done in history will be presented in Guangzhou to kick off Italian Food and Culture Festival on November 29th at Zhujiang New Town.

Organized by China-Italy Chamber of Commerce, the feast features authentic Italian food and beverage, as well as a series of Italian performance and art show. While tasting high quality Italian wine, aromatic espresso, enchanting tiramisu, delicious pizza and pasta, you can also enjoy Italian music, dance show, professional barista performance... what's more, a photo exhibition by Italian artist Mr. Oliviero Belleri, presenting "Chinese people" through his Italian lens will open to the visitors, too.

You can enjoy discount booking the tickets before November 20th. For more information, please go to www.camera.itacina.com.

Hei Norge! -- First Norwegian cultural festival to kick off

TO promote Norway to Guangzhou citizens, the first ever Norwegian cultural festival will be held at Sapphire Art Sapce (Holiday Inn) from November 19 to 22.

Organized by Norwegian Consulate General in Guangzhou established last year, the four-day cultural fest will showcase Norwegian EXPO 2010 pavilion, movies, impressions from the High North, and of course, the most yummy Norwegian seafood! You just can't miss it!

Exploring old Guangzhou

By Valery Garrett



Nanyue King's tomb is one of Valery (R 2) and her group's destination.

WHY do so few Hong Kong expats go to Guangzhou? It's a question I often ask myself. I know some visit on business, but the city never seems to figure on tourist itineraries. So I was especially pleased to be asked to escort a group of twelve from a museum society on a two-day trip in early October. Where to show them the old Canton I know and love? So many choices, so little time.

I decided to limit our short visit to the western district and the once walled city, centrally placed on my 1980s map, but now all but ignored on today's maps since the business district has moved east to Tianhe. After checking in at the White Swan Hotel on a sunny Friday morning, we were all set. Armed with copies of my book, *Heaven is High, the Emperor Far Away*, Old Guangzhou and China Trade were off on a walking tour of Shamian. (The Metro and my own two feet are my favourite way of getting around, but the size of the group meant a coach was the best bet for later.) My first visit to Shamian was in 1975 when I wangled an invitation to the Canton Trade Fair. In those days, the island was occupied by consulates from the Eastern

Block, like Albania and Poland. Today the old mansions form a backdrop for endless wedding photos.

A speedy lunch meant we were on time for our afternoon's visit to Xiguan. This is one of my favourite areas of Guangzhou and the coach took us through old streets with their overhanging qilou to what had been the Western Suburbs of Canton in the 19th century. Here were homes of rich merchants who were not allowed to live inside the walled city where the mandarins, the officials who carried out the emperor's wishes, resided. A wealthy salt merchant, Pan Shichen, lived here in a splendid house and garden, the envy of many and visited by countless westerners who were in awe of his rare animals, summer houses and lakes. The garden was turned into Liwan Park in 1958.

When not strolling round the park, the group searched for treasures in the antique shops lining Fengyuan North Road and explored Liwan Museum, the early Republican home of a Hong Kong bank comprador, and the adjacent Xiguan Folk Museum. Then it was onto the Chen Clan Family Temple with its colourful Shiwan roof ridge sculptures, traditional Chinese garden, and exhibitions of embroidery and other folk arts. Finally there was just time for a visit to the

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Jinlun Silk Guildhall, built in 1725. When Kangwang Road was constructed in 2001, the building lay directly in its path. To preserve this single surviving guildhall, at great cost it was jacked up and moved to the side of the road.

Dinner was taken in the Jade River restaurant at the White Swan Hotel, on the recommendation of a long-time Guangzhou resident and friend who always takes her special guests there. Next day we were away early, through the old Arab quarter around Guanta Road, past the Liurong Pagoda, and onto our first stop, the Zhenhai Tower, a Ming watchtower now housing the Guangzhou Museum. Here we were fortunate to catch the John Thomson exhibition before it travelled on to London. Thomson was a renowned photographer who visited China between 1868 and 1872, forming an invaluable historical record of daily life. Needless to say all available copies of the catalogue were snapped up by the group. Both the Guangzhou Museum and the Zhong Yuan Library Gallery provided a good background to the history of the city especially during the China Trade period in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Down the hill, past the remaining section of the Ming city wall, and out by the restored Great North Gate, to the final

stop of the morning -- the Nanyue King's tomb. This 2000 year old tomb was discovered in 1983, intact and undisturbed by grave robbers. The tomb with the remains of the 15 other occupants, including his four concubines, young musician, and servants, along with the body of the king in his jade suit, and the hundreds of treasures in the adjoining museum kept the group entranced until it was time for lunch at the China Hotel.

Refreshed, we moved onto the last visit of the day, beginning with a peek through the gate leading onto excavation of the palace and gardens of the Nanyue kings. A new museum will be erected, the first stage ready for the Asian Games next November. Then there was just time for a stroll down Beijing Road, past the remains under glass of the street dating back to the Song dynasty, and its ancient gateway, before a quick trip down to the basement of the Metro Mall to the 2000 year old wooden Watergate, discovered during construction of the shopping centre.

No time for all my other favourite spots, across the river, and in Dongshan. Another visit on another day..

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

This page is aimed at offering a culture exchange platform. Foreign visitors and/or expatriates are welcome to share with us your experiences, observations and thoughts while living in China.

Please send all submissions to: joylychan@gmail.com

Upon publishing, we will pay 300 yuan RMB to a 800-word article and 500 yuan RMB to a 1500-word one (before-tax).

You say, I pay

THE expression of Guangzhou city image -- *Ram City of over 2,000 Years, Bright Pearl of South China* -- was unveiled on August 21 after a four-month solicitation.

To learn what this description means to the foreigners living and working in this city or how do they perceive the city in their own way, Guangzhou Morning Post is going to open a new column for your comment. You are welcome to share your opinions through your pen and camera.

Upon publishing, we will pay RMB 150 for a picture and review in 200 words or RMB 200 for a picture and review in 200-300 words. The published articles and photos will later be compiled into an illustrated book.

Anyone who is interested in this topic is welcome to send your words together with your photo(s) to: joylychan@gmail.com.



Brief introduction to the expression of Guangzhou city image

THE newly unveiled expression of Guangzhou city image "Ram City of over 2,000 Years, Bright Pearl of South China" is easy to understand and rich in content. It is a profound reflection of the city's history, present and future; an exact description of its economic, political, cultural and social status; an epitome of all the acclaims including "Ram City", "Five-Ram City", "Spike's City", "Flower City", "Business Capital", "Paradise of Food", and "Southern Gate of China", as well as an expectation of its splendid future.

"Ram City" originates from an ancient and beautiful legend about five celestials riding on five

rams bestowing rice spikes on the people of the city as symbol of prosperity and abundance.

"Over 2,000 years" refers to Guangzhou's long history and splendid culture, which dates back to 2,225 years ago.

"South China" refers to the geographical location of Guangzhou. Located on the coast of the South China Sea and adjacent to Hong Kong and Macao, Guangzhou is called the "Southern Gate of China."

"Bright Pearl" carries with it a profound connotation. Known as the "Paradise of Food", "Flower City", and "Business Capital", Guangzhou has been a shining pearl in south China.