

FEBRUARY 2014

Yangshuo Now

The Lantern Festival

Do It Yourself: Rice Balls

What is install for you in 2014

Have A Laugh With Fei Hua

Maps, Recommendations, Info & More ...

www.yangshuo-now.com

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Yangshuo Park at night. One of the many lanterns that are lit up every night during the holiday season.

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FROM THE EDITOR

We're over the hump, days are getting longer again and they're crisp and clear ones in Yangshuo now. It's definitely time to leave the smog-filled northern cities and head for the beautiful south.

With Chinese New Year preparing to spring upon us, in this issue we focus on the Lantern Festival (which brings to an end the New Year celebrations). We have the chance to create our own lanterns, look at traditions relating to the festival and learn how to make glutinous rice balls. There's also an indispensable guide to what the New Year has in store for you and what to do about it. There's also all the regular useful information, including upcoming festivals and events, with a detailed look at the Yangshuo Noodle Harvesting Extravaganza.

So grab a beer and a handful of sticky balls, snuggle up and read on.



FOR ADVERTISING
advertising@yangshuo-now.com



This year's main lantern celebrating the year of the horse

ONLINE
Website

www.yangshuo-now.com

Email

welcome@yangshuo-now.com

The Lantern Festival - 14 Feb, 2014

Falling on the 15th day of the 1st lunar month, the Lantern Festival is so named because the most important activity during the night is looking at Chinese lanterns. It is also a time for admiring the bright full moon, and family reunion.

Usually everyone eats 元宵 Yuánxiāo (sticky rice balls stuffed with different fillings) on that day and so it is also called the Yuan Xiao Festival.

Various traditional customs and activities associated with the Lantern Festival have developed over the past 2 000 years. These include: watching lanterns and fireworks: guessing lantern riddles, performing folk dances, and eating Yuánxiāo.

Watching Lanterns

The hanging of lanterns is believed to have begun during the Han Dynasty (206BC - 220AD), when Buddhism flourished in China. In order to popularise Buddhism, one of the emperors gave an order to light lanterns in the imperial palace to worship and show respect for Buddha on the 15th day of the 1st lunar month.

Later lighting lanterns became a tradition for Chinese people and today, when the festival comes, red lanterns can be seen in streets, houses and shops. In Yangshuo Park, lanterns of various shapes and sizes usually attract many visitors.

Walking around Yangshuo Park with kids is a great activity



This year's Lantern Festival fireworks display are currently set for 10pm on the 14th of February 2014.

By the way, Happy Valentine's day

The Lantern Festival (continued)

Guessing Lantern Riddles

During the Song Dynasty (960 – 1279AD) guessing riddles became part of the Lantern Festival.

People usually write riddles on pieces of paper, then paste them on colourful lanterns. If a visitor can guess an answer to a riddle, he can remove the paper to let organisers verify the answer. Gifts are presented to the people who get the right answers.



Folk Dances

Derived from the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280), the lion dance is a traditional art that adds excitement to any celebration. One actor manipulates a small lion made of quilts which is meant to resemble a real lion, whilst a much larger lion is manipulated by two people (one controlling the head and the other, the rest of the body). Under the guidance of a director, the lions jump, dance and perform difficult acts such as walking on stilts.



Yangshuo's Li River Retreat

Winner
2014 Best Value hotel
In Yangshuo
Tripadvisor

Stay in one of China's most stunning locations.
Relax and enjoy the best of Yangshuo.
visit www.li-river-retreat.com

A vertical promotional banner for 'Yangshuo's Li River Retreat'. It features a collage of photos: a group of people sitting at a table outdoors, a view of a river and mountains, and a hotel room. A yellow starburst contains the text 'Winner 2014 Best Value hotel In Yangshuo Tripadvisor'. A QR code is located on the right side. At the bottom, a dark box contains the text 'Stay in one of China's most stunning locations. Relax and enjoy the best of Yangshuo. visit www.li-river-retreat.com'.

2014 – What lies in store for you...

Rat 1960 / 1972 / 1984

A challenging year for you, but it is your nature to love a challenge. You could face financial troubles if you spend too freely. Our advice: pretend you need to use the bathroom when it's your turn to buy a round.

Ox 1961 / 1973 / 1985

A tough year for you. Things may take an unfavourable turn due to your disturbed psyche. Too much work pressure will push you to take a shortcut, with harmful results. Our advice: some sort of sedative.



Tiger 1962 / 1974 / 1986

Yay! You will be quite lucky this year. Workplace changes are possible which may stress you out, but the change is for your good. Our advice: enjoy the sense of joy that comes with being better off than others.

Rabbit 1963 / 1975 / 1987

Oops, a tough year for you. However, your high energy levels & intelligence should help you through it. Our advice: create a balance between your professional and personal life by drinking plenty of beer.

Dragon 1964 / 1976 / 1988

A boring year for you. It is a good one, but static, with no ups & downs. Many may like this, but not the Dragon – you'll feel lifeless & dull. Our advice: plan plenty of parties & outings to spice things up.

Snake 1965 / 1977 / 1989

Good news: A year full of excitement lies ahead. Things will become quite active & favourable in the workplace & financially rewarding. Our advice: go your hardest, years like this don't come along every day.

Horse 1966 / 1978 / 1990

An exciting year ahead. New tasks will keep you active & success will follow you. Multitasking will showcase your skills. Our advice: you're better than others, don't forget to gloat & let them all know.

Sheep 1967 / 1979 / 1991

A lucky year for you with many favourable opportunities. Colleagues will stand by you & you will get fair results for all your hard work. Our advice: start ass-kissing now and a promotion could be in store.

Monkey 1968 / 1980 / 1992

This will be a year full of mixed results. You are hard working but hasty decision making may give you a tough time. Our advice: ponder any idea thoroughly over a gin & tonic before making decisions.

Rooster 1969 / 1981 / 1993

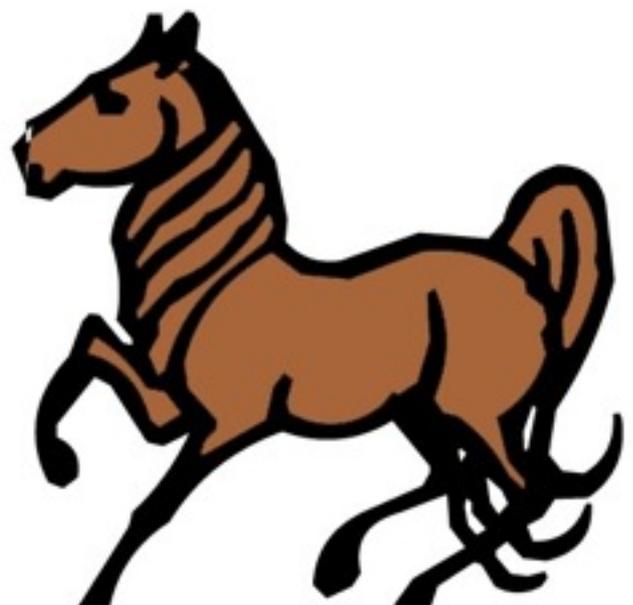
The year will give you mixed results. You may face some basic changes in the workplace, which seem uncomfortable in the beginning. Our advice: learn to adapt quickly to everything – double standards will help.

Dog 1970 / 1982 / 1994

You are going to spend time pondering your life. A change in job is likely, with positive results which will bring out your hidden skills. Our advice: you always knew you were better than everyone else, enjoy.

Pig 1971 / 1983 / 1995

The entire year is favourable for business. Despite the competition, you will fare well. Your love life will stay smooth only if you forget your past. Our advice: don't phone your Ex late at night when drunk.



Make Your Own Chinese Lanterns

Here is a fun activity that your kids will love.

All you need is some A4 sheets of coloured paper, some double sided sticky tape and a pair of scissors. Red is the traditional colour for lanterns in China but feel free to pick the colours that you and your kids like the best.



Step 1

Cut a narrow strip from one edge of the sheet of paper. place this strip aside as it will later be used as the handle for the lantern.

Step 2

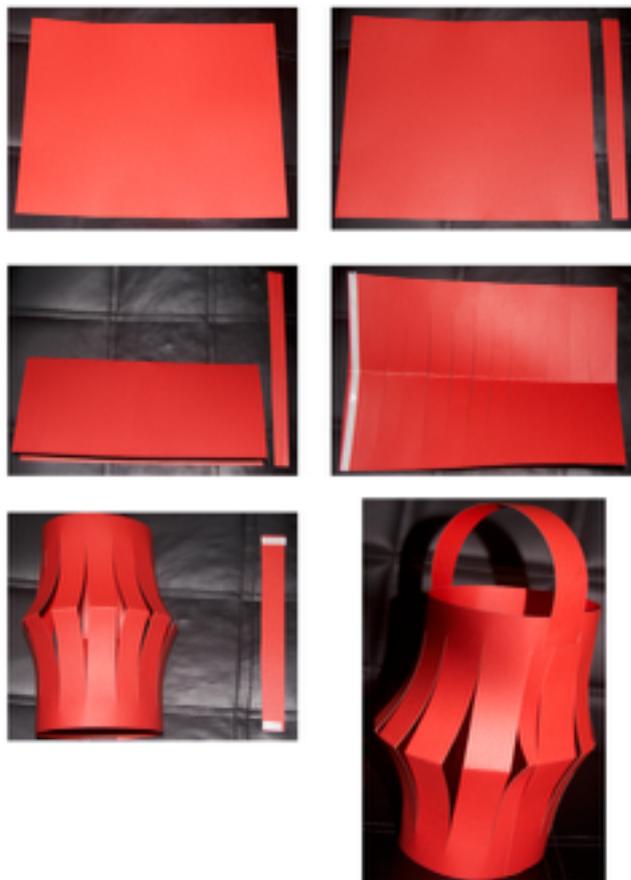
Fold the sheet into half its size and then make a series of cuts along the fold line. Do not cut all the way to the end, instead leave about an inch from the end.

Step 3

Unfold the sheet and place a strip of the double sided sticky tape on one edge of the paper. Bring the opposite edge of the sheet over to the double sided sticky tape and press hard for a few seconds. The lantern now has its shape.

Step 4

With the thin strip of paper from step one, place two short strips of double sided sticky tape on each end. Stick the 'handle' on top of the lantern.



Happy Holidays!



Local Flavour

Glutinous Rice Balls in Soup

Tāngyuán (汤圆), a homophone of and frequent metaphor for family-union (团圆; tuányuán) is a Chinese dish made from glutinous rice flour. The flour is mixed with a small amount of water to form balls and is then cooked and served in sweet boiling water. Tāngyuán can be either small or large, and filled or unfilled. Here is our recipe for black sesame paste filled Tāngyuán.

Ingredients

Filling

6 tablespoons black sesame powder, toasted

3 tablespoons vegetable oil or butter

3 tablespoons cane sugar

Dough

1 cup glutinous rice flour

1/2 cup water

1/2 teaspoon vegetable oil

Soup

Water

4 pieces of fresh ginger

Brown sugar to taste

This is a favourite for all the family after their large meal. Many families try to see who can eat the most rice balls.



Cooking Method

Filling

Mix the sesame powder with the oil and the cane sugar. Stir it well until you have a thick paste.

Dough

Mix the rice flour, oil and water together. You need to knead the dough until it becomes soft but not to the point where it becomes sticky.

Leave the dough in a covered bowl for 15 minutes.

Roll the dough into a long strip and cut into 16 even sections.

The Balls

Roll a section into a ball then press it flat into the palm. In a circular motion using the thumbs and forefinger expand and press open the ends of the circle. Cupping the dough, place 1/2 a teaspoon of the sesame mix in the middle, close it and roll into a ball. Dust with rice powder and set aside. Repeat until all 16 are done. (These can be frozen for up to a month)

Fill a wok with some water and bring it to a boil. Turn the heat down so it is simmering. Add the balls to the water and cook them until they float to the surface.

The Soup

Once all the balls are cooked, place them in a pot of cold water. Return to the wok with the hot water and add the fresh ginger and as much brown sugar as you like.

Allow the sugar to dissolve in the boiling water. Cook for another 2 minutes then turn off the heat.

To Serve

Pour a spoonful of the sweet soup into each bowl and add 3 sesame balls. Serve warm.

This local recipe was brought to you by the

Cloud 9 Cooking School

With two locations. One at Cloud 9 restaurant in Yangshuo's West Street and the other location at the Snow Lion Resort.

You can learn how to cook this dish and many more!

Prices of the classes depend on the dishes you want to prepare.

Contact Details

Phone (Linda) : +86 135 0783 8851

Learning the lingo

The main language spoken in Yangshuo is their own version of Mandarin which the locals call Yangshuo Hua. Most of the words are very similar to Mandarin so this is the best language to learn before coming here.

阳朔



日	日	日	日	日
夕	月	月	月	月
山	山	山	山	山
水	水	水	水	水
雨	雨	雨	雨	雨
木	木	木	木	木
禾	禾	禾	禾	禾

Lantern Festival Chinese

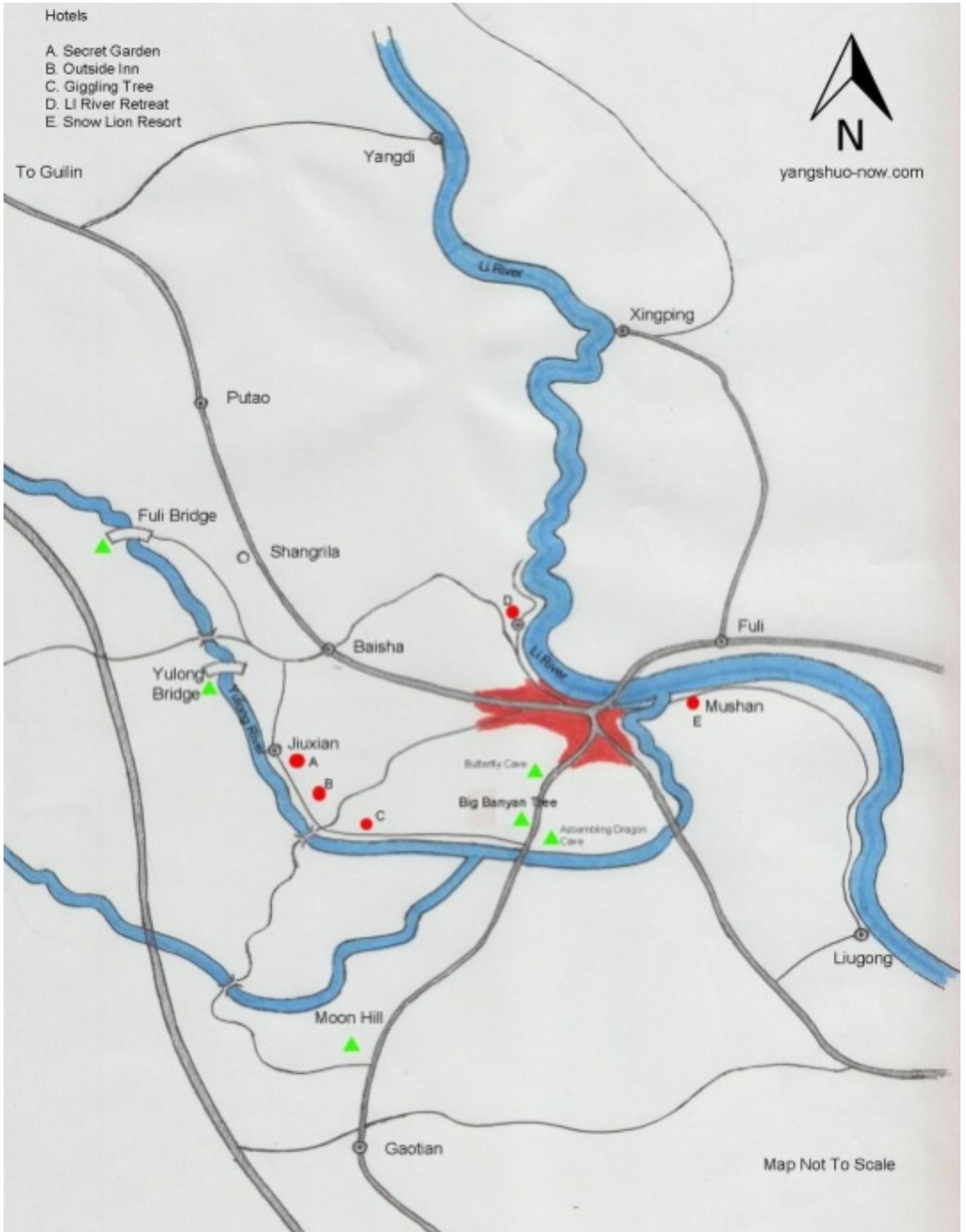
Lantern Festival	元宵节	Yuán xiāo jié
Lantern	灯笼	Dēng lóng
Riddle Solving	猜灯谜	Cāi dēng mí
Eat Tangyuan	吃汤元	Chī tāngyuán
Admire Lanterns	赏花灯	Shǎng huā dēng
Yangshuo Park	阳朔公园	Yángshuò gōngyuán
Horse	马	Mǎ
Sheep	羊	Yáng
Monkey	猴子	Hóuzi
Rooster	公鸡	Gōngjī
Dog	狗	Gǒu
Pig	猪	Zhū
Rat	鼠	Shǔ
Ox	牛	Niú
Tiger	虎	Hǔ
Rabbit	兔子	Tùzi
Dragon	龙	Lóng
Snake	蛇	Shé

More Chinese

Bottoms up	干杯	Gānbēi
Cheers	捧杯	Pèngbēi
It's delicious	很好吃	Hěnhǎochī
Beer	啤酒	Píjiǔ
Rice Wine	米酒	Mǐjiǔ
I Am Full	我吃饱了	Wǒchībǎole
I Am Drunk	我和最了	Wǒhēzuile
Spicy	辣的	Làde
I Like To Eat	我喜欢吃	Wǒ xǐhuan chī
Bamboo Rat	竹鼠	Zhú shǔ
Dog Meat	狗肉	Gǒuròu
Cat Meat	猫肉	Māo ròu
Intestines	肠子	Chángzi
Bones	骨头	Gǔtou
I Do Not Like To Eat	我不喜欢吃	Wǒ bu xǐhuan chī
Green vegetables	青菜	Qīngcài



Yangshuo County Map



How to survive a Chinese Banquette



Going to a Chinese Banquet?

At this time of the year, most of us will end up at one or more banquets with family, friends and work colleagues.

Are you worried about the food being served? Afraid you'll be eating dog or intestines? Not sure if you can handle the chicken bones or the fatty pork? No need to worry about the food though, your worries lie somewhere else.

At a Chinese banquet normally you sit at a round table with about ten people. There is a revolving glass plateau in the middle where dishes are placed on. You can easily just take food from the dishes you trust. There will be more than ten. You just need to be patient; the unusual food will arrive first, because these are the more expensive dishes, which need to be shown off. Tofu, egg and veggies will all arrive towards the end of the meal.

So the food is easy to deal with. The real issue with banquettes is the alcohol. It seems to be all or nothing.

Normally the tables will be divided in drinking tables and non-drinking, which in practice means that the men sit

together drinking and the women and children at the other tables. (Female foreigners will be sat at with the men.)

In contrast with the eating, the drinking is not relaxed at all. Before every sip you have, you need to cheer with just the one person but more likely with the whole table together. You might just get away with a small sip, but most likely you will be forced to bottom up (干杯! Gānbēi).

It is considered good hospitality in China to get guests totally drunk, so your hosts might take turns in cheering with you. High ranking officials often bring a subordinate to do the drinking for them. This will put even more pressure on you. I have been at dinners where people brought a written excuse letter from their doctor to escape the alcohol. Needless to say that as a foreigner you are the guest of honour and not even a letter from the King will help you.



How to survive a Chinese Banquette

(continued)

To make things worse, at banquettes they serve 白酒 Bájǐǔ, deceptively translated as rice wine. It is a vile spirit that has an oily taste, burns your throat and cramps your stomach. My original approach was to down the glass as quickly as possible, but it gets refilled instantly.

There are two possible escape routes. One is to firmly stick to beer from the start of the dinner. This way you will not enter the “Bájǐǔ drinking battle”. Your host will show disappointment, but he might feel like you are giving him face by recognising his superior drinking qualities.

The other escape route is before it's too late indicate that you are full. You do this by having a bowl of rice; it is the finishing of the meal. When finished eating in China you normally leave the table or at least slide your chair back a meter or so. When you finished eating you won't have to drink.

I personally never really manage to escape; I politely cheers with everyone and pray to be the last man standing.



Enjoy the holidays!!!

Footnote

In the Guilin/Yangshuo region, the Bájǐǔ of choice is the local 三花酒 Sān huā jiǔ or three flowers 'wine'. It comes in flavours of 38° or 53°.

As they say in your TV adverts:-

Drink Responsibly

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Ask Yangshuo Now

This edition's question is from Mary-Ann de Saint Germain.

Dear Yangshuo Now,

This summer I will travel to China, but I am really worried about MSG, because it is used a lot in Chinese food.

Dear Mary-Ann,

Don't worry about MSG. It is not only used in Chinese food, it is found in many foods in the West as well. Did you know that MSG occurs in many foods naturally? Parmesan cheeses have a high natural content as do meats, dried tomatoes, mushrooms. Even breast milk contains naturally occurring glutamate.



Since nobody likes to eat anything that sounds like a chemical formula, monosodium glutamate, the food companies have come up with different names: like Vetsin, Yeast extract, flavour enhancer and E621.



MSG was discovered in Japan in 1904 by a chemist. He was curious as to why some of his wife's dishes had a different taste that was not sweet, salty, sour and bitter. He narrowed it down to the broth his wife was making from Kombu, which is a heavy kelp or seaweed. He isolated the essential component to what we now call glutamate. He added salt to it and renamed it mono sodium glutamate or MSG. It was first produced commercially by his Japanese company Ajinomoto (which means 'essence of taste') and they still are the largest producer in the world. It took some time before it really caught on in the Chinese kitchen, because Japanese products were not very popular in China.

The powder turned out to be good substitute for meat based broth, so it became especially popular in vegetarian dishes. It was eventually transported to the West by returning soldiers from WWII. The Campbell soup company was (and is) a heavy user. Crips, soups, microwave meals, you name it, it all contains it. MSG is the fast route to great taste.

So if you don't have problems with it at home, you should be fine here in China too.

If you do have a preference for eating dishes without any added MSG added, then just let the staff at each restaurant know that you do not want any MSG. (Bùyào wèijīng 不要味精).

Mary-Ann have a great holiday in China and enjoy all the wonderful foods.
Yangshuo Now team.



Recommendations

Hotels

When deciding in which hotel to stay, the first criteria should be where the hotel is located - in the town of Yangshuo or out in the countryside.

The hotels in Yangshuo generally get more exposure to street noise as well as some music and crowds for the restaurants, bars and nightclubs.

If you stay in the town, you have opportunities to go shopping and have only a short walk to find places to eat.

The hotels in the countryside offer quiet stays and some of them have spectacular views. They are closer to the sites that you will most likely visit and you can walk around the villages that are nearby. Some of these are restored old buildings where you can experience the past but in comfort.

These hotels are a better choice if you want to get away from the crowds and have a getaway while still experiencing rural China right up close. If you need to go into town then you can easily get a car to drive you.

Hotels in Yangshuo

Magnolia Hotel	7th Heaven
Rosewood Inn	Climbers Inn
Morning Sun	Showbiz Inn

Hotels in the countryside

Secret Garden	Li River Retreat
Giggling Tree	Snow Lion Resort
Tea Cozy	Village Retreat



Restaurants

Yangshuo has a diverse range of restaurants. There are restaurants that just serve Chinese food, or a mix of Chinese and Western food. The following is a list of our favourite establishments.

Cloud 9

This restaurant serves only Chinese food. They specialize in Sichuan style dishes whilst also doing excellent local dishes. This is a great choice if you are after a banquet with a few friends and you can share a number of dishes.

Pure Lotus Vegetarian

A more upmarket restaurant with excellent vegetarian food. It is worth visiting the restaurant just for its design.

Kali Mirch Indian

An Indian only restaurant that serves top notch Indian dishes. They have their own tandoor oven which makes great naan's and roasted chicken dishes. This restaurant is great if you want something completely different.

Mixed Dishes Restaurants

If you are looking for a mix a Chinese and Western dishes such as sweet and sour pork and a pizza, there a large number of places catering for you. Try one of these:

The Alley, Mimosa, 7th Heaven, Kelly's or Riley's.

Very Local Restaurants

We love eating at any of the 'hole in the wall' places. Try the local rice noodles which are filling and very cheap.



Yangshuo Map

Restaurants and Bars

1. Cloud 9
2. Riley's
3. 7th Heaven
4. Lucy's
5. Mimosa
6. Kelly's
7. Kalli Mirch Indian
8. Cafe China
9. Pure Lotus Vegetarian
10. Local Noodles
11. The Alley

Hotels

- A. Morning Sun
- B. Rosewood Inn
- C. Magnolia Hotel
- D. Climber's Inn
- E. Showbiz Inn

Other

- F. Dr. Lily LI (Medical)



Map Not To Scale

Useful Information

Phone Numbers

Police: 110

Ambulance: 120

Post Office

28 Pantao Lu (across the road from West Street)

Open from 9am till 9.30pm.

Money Exchange

Bank Of China has 2 branches, one on West Street (next to KFC) and one on Pantao Lu next to the local market.

Open from 9am till 5pm.

ATMs

There are several ATMs in Yangshuo. You can find them on West Street, Pantao Lu and Diecui Lu. These take most foreign cards.

Internet

Most hotels and cafes offer free Wi-fi. Some places will also have desktop computers for free. However, few will have any printing or scanning equipment. The better hotels will have these services.

There are internet bars around Yangshuo. Prices start from 5 Yuan per hour. Bring some ID with you as you will need to register before being allocated a computer.

Medical Services

The main hospital in Yangshuo is on Chengzhong Lu and does provide good health care. If you have travel insurance then they like to use as much of their equipment as possible to raise the total bill.

For something a bit different, you could try Dr. Lili. She is the person some of us go to visit when we need a proper therapeutic massage. She is also a specialist on Chinese medicine and acupuncture. She has an excellent command of English and knows Western medicine practices and treatments.

Visa Extensions

For general tourist Visa extensions, you need to first go to the Yangshuo PSB. Here you need to produce copies of your passport and current visa as well as passport photo. You need to fill out an application form and get a letter of approval from the Yangshuo PSB. You then take all of this to the PSB in Guilin. Visa extensions now take between one and two weeks.

Make sure that you have a valid passport and Visa whilst travelling in China. You can be fined and hotels are not allowed to take you in without valid documentation.

Bus Station

Yangshuo now has two small bus stations.

There are regular bus services to Guilin, Nanning, Guangzhou and Shenzhen as well as number of local buses going to the nearby towns including Fuli, Xingping, Baisha, Jinbao (for the Yulong bridge), Gaotian (for Moon Hill) and Yangdi.

Train Station and Airport

Yangshuo does not have it's own train station or airport. Both of these are in Guilin.

If you are arriving into Guilin's train station, we recommend walking up to Guilin's bus station and taking an express bus (22 Yuan) or having your hotel in Yangshuo send a car to pick you up.

If you are arriving by plane, and want to use public transport, you will need to take the airport bus into Guilin (20 Yuan) and then take a taxi (9 Yuan) or walk to the bus station to get an express bus to Yangshuo. The other option is to have your hotel in Yangshuo send a car to pick you up at the airport.

Shopping

If you are planning to do any shopping on West Street then be prepared to haggle, a starting price of 300 Yuan may be lowered to as little as 30 Yuan. The trick is to look disinterested and poor.

Crime And Warnings

Yangshuo is generally a very safe place to visit. There have been pickpockets operate in the very busy times around West Street and markets such as Fuli.

In China, as in any country in the world, tourists are often seen as easy game by petty thieves. Whilst China is a very safe country it is always better to take proper care of your valuables.

There have been a few crimes reported lately. These are:

- Cameras and other valuables stolen from the riverbanks whilst tourists are swimming.
- Wallets or mobile phones lifted by pickpockets in crowded markets.
- Girl travellers robbed whilst out cycling.

Please take care when in these situations...

If you are travelling into the countryside on a bike, then make sure that the basket on your bike is locked when carrying your day bag. Some people on motorbikes have snatched bags from these baskets in the past.

Festival Checker

Here are a few of the upcoming festivals within China

Chinese Ground Hog Day

The official start of the spring in Hong Kong is celebrated with the beating up of paper tigers, as symbols of our troubles and enemies. Canal street in Wan Chai is the place to go to beat the hell out of your paper enemies. Traditionally you write your enemies' name on the paper tiger and have an older lady beat the crap out of it. Enemies can be your boss, your husband's mistress or anyone else you dislike. We still have no idea why it is called Groundhog Day. 6th of March.



Woman's Day

March the 8th is International Woman's Day. In China the holiday is an important day to show respect and appreciation to all the woman. On this day you will see many ladies having a day off work and travelling in large groups to tourist spots all over the country.

Arbor Day

March the 12th is the day set aside for tree planting all over China. Every adult should plant at least three trees or help in the tree planting process. For most locals it is seen as a duty to the community but it also makes everyone feel part of the community.



Chingming Grave Sweeping

This year Chingming falls on the 5th of April. Families will be leaving the cities and travelling back to their home towns to pay respects to their ancestors. Its actually a fun day out for most as they get to see relatives and friends from their villages which they have not seen for a long time. After all the firecrackers, fake money burning, chicken sacrifices, its off to have a large banquet and try out the chicken soup and some local Baijiu.

Buddha's Birthday

This festival is celebrated in Hong Kong and is an official holiday there. The date falls on the 8th day of the 4th lunar month of the Chinese Lunar Calendar. This year it will be celebrated on the 6th of May. The biggest celebration will be held at the Po Lin Monastery on Lantau Island, home of the Big Buddha. One feature of this festival is the symbolic suffering one has to endure by eating special green cookies which are extremely bitter and therefore not very nice.



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International Womans Day

International Women's Day in China is known as 三八妇女节 (Sānbā fùnǚ jié: literally, 3/8 women's holiday) or 三八 (Sānbā: 3/8) for short.

Many working women receive the day off. However, while it's ok to call the holiday 'san ba', don't call a Chinese woman that. The phrase is an insult implying the woman is prone to gossip, that she is dull-minded and crass or more coarsely can be used to mean 'bitch'.

The origins of the insult are thought to be towards the end of the Qing Dynasty and unrelated to International Women's day but just an unfortunate coincidence that the insult has roughly the same pronunciation as the day.)



Winter in Yangshuo

Weather: What to expect (previous years monthly averages) from <http://www.wunderground.com>

Jan 2013	Max	Avg	Min	Jan 2012	Max	Avg	Min
Avg	17 °C	09 °C	00 °C	Avg	10 °C	06 °C	02 °C
Feb 2013	Max	Avg	Min	Feb 2012	Max	Avg	Min
Avg	14 °C	12 °C	09 °C	Avg	09 °C	07 °C	06 °C
Mar 2013	Max	Avg	Min	Mar 2012	Max	Avg	Min
Avg	22 °C	17 °C	13 °C	Avg	16 °C	13 °C	11 °C



Fei Hua's Column

The Noodle Harvest



It's January and that means it's time for the annual Yangshuo noodle harvest. Due to the ever increasing popularity of the event Yangshuo Now will once again host a noodle harvesting extravaganza.

If you have a few days to spare in Yangshuo and would like to take part in the noodle harvest please contact a member of the Yangshuo Now team. Please be warned that we harvest only wild noodles as we believe that these have a much better taste than the cultivated ones which are largely used to make instant noodles.

Since wild noodle bushes are notoriously prickly, we recommend you bring your own gloves and protective clothing. If you don't have your own noodle clippers, don't be alarmed, as these can be provided for you.

This year we are hoping for a return to normality after last year's event was plagued by controversy. Things finally came to a head with the expulsion of several competitors who were found to be sneaking pre-harvested noodles down their trouser legs.

Last year's event set a record for the biggest noodle ever harvested. But the field is wide open this year as three time defending Spanish noodle champ - Fideos Gordisimos – has withdrawn due to a repetitive strain injury in his noodle harvesting hand.

Prizes this year include a jar of noodle sauce, tinned meatballs and a hanglider.



Kali Mirch Indian Restaurant (Advertisement)



Yangshuo's Finest Indian Restaurant

- All Our Spices Are Imported From India
- Indian Chefs
- Authentic Tandoor Oven
- Homemade Paneer And Yogurt
- Great Vegetarian Dishes
- Mutton And Chicken Curries



Spice Up Your Yangshuo Experience

Location:

We are located a short walk from West Street

Ph: 13737396451 (English/中文)

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Transportation Changes

New Bus Stations

Firstly, Yangshuo now has two new bus stations, with the original bus station in the centre of Yangshuo now closed. One is at the northern entrance to Yangshuo and the other is at the southern end of town on the road to Moon Hill. Calling these bus stations new is a bit of an exaggeration. They seem to be mere temporary ones until a better plan is implemented. The main Yangshuo bypass will be closed for the next year due to works on a tunnel, therefore no buses and trucks are allowed into the town centre. Long distance buses and trucks are being diverted onto the expressway.

Buses to and from Guilin 桂林, Nanning 南宁, Yangdi 杨堤, and Jinbao 金宝 (for the Yulong Bridge) leave from the new North bus station. Buses to and from Gaotian 高田 (for Moon Hill), Xingping 兴坪, Guangzhou 广州, Shenzhen 深圳, Lipu 荔浦, and Pingle 平乐 leave from the new South bus station.

Yangshuo also has a small but efficient 'city' bus network. Buses 1, 5, 13, 16 leave from the North bus station and go past West Street. Buses 5 and 16 also go to the South bus station. The cost of all these buses is 1 Yuan and you need the exact fare as no change is given on the bus.

Guilin's High Speed Trains

Guilin has now joined China's impressive high speed train network.

Currently we have a daily day train to and from Beijing and two daily trains to and from Changsha in Hunan Province.

Train Schedule

Beijing to Guilin (Train G529)

This train departs Beijing West at 7:46am and arrives into Guilin at 6:18pm, leaving plenty of time to get to Yangshuo in the evening.

Guilin to Beijing (Train G530)

This train departs at 12:15pm reaching Beijing West at 10:51pm, a total of 10 hours and 36 minutes. The regular overnight trains between Guilin and Beijing take over 24 hours.

First Class costs 1539 Yuan
Second Class costs 962 Yuan

The second class ticket offers a considerable saving compared to flights, especially if you have to include the cost of transportation to an airport and all the extra charges and taxes associated with flights.



The biggest cities this train stops at are, Hengyang, Changsha, Wuhan, Zhengzhou (East) and Shijiazhuang. You could change trains at any of these stations allowing you to reach other main cities in China.

A good example is, if you are coming from Guangzhou, you could take train G1128 departing Guangzhou at 12:35, arriving into Hengyang East at 14:34 then take train G537 departing Hengyang East at 15:13, arriving into Guilin at 17:40.

Nanning To Guilin

This route has also seen an upgrade in services. Regular high speed trains take just over 2 hours for this trip instead of the usual 6 hours. We expect that the bus service on this route will lose many customers to the trains, which are even cheaper than the buses.

Coming Soon- Guangzhou To Guilin

Coming very soon are the trains from Guangzhou to Guilin. These are scheduled to be operational this year and will cut travelling times from the current 12 hours overnight to around 3 hours.



Selling Trinkets



Latest News

Here is a look at what has been happening in and around Yangshuo

The PSB Office Has Moved

The PSB office is now located in a large building with many other government departments. The building is located next to the new North bus station.

The Alley Bar Is Now Just The Alley

The Alley Bar has changed from being mostly a bar to now being mostly a restaurant. Their dishes are largely Western and are amongst the best in the town. They make their own pesto sauce and they also make their own pasta.



Yangshuo Park Upgrade

Major work is being carried out on Yangshuo Park's canals. When this new work is completed in 2014, Yangshuo Park will be a great place to relax – especially with kids.

Guilin/Longsheng Bus Station Location

Buses from Guilin to Longsheng and Sanjiang now leave from the Qintan bus station (琴弹汽车客运站), next to the liquan beer factory on Heishan Road (黑山路).

Road Closure

The main bypass road in Yangshuo will be closed for the entire year of 2014. This is due to major upgrade work to the tunnel on this road. To prevent traffic going through the middle of Yangshuo, trucks need to use the expressway, long distance buses go into one of Yangshuo's two new bus stations and then back onto the expressway, and local buses terminate at one of the bus stations and are not allowed into the town. If you need to go through town to get to one of the bus stations, then allow a few extra minutes. To get between the bus station and the centre you can catch the 1 Yuan 'electric buses' or a taxi.

Visa Changes

From september 1, 2013, new visa rules have been established. There are 16 different types of visa now. For first time visitors to China there may be little changes. For people who visit frequently or foreigners living here with their (Chinese) families different documents may be needed. Check www.visaforchina.org it is the official website for visa information for visitors to China for many countries.



West Street Parades On The Day of The Lantern Festival



