

chengdoo

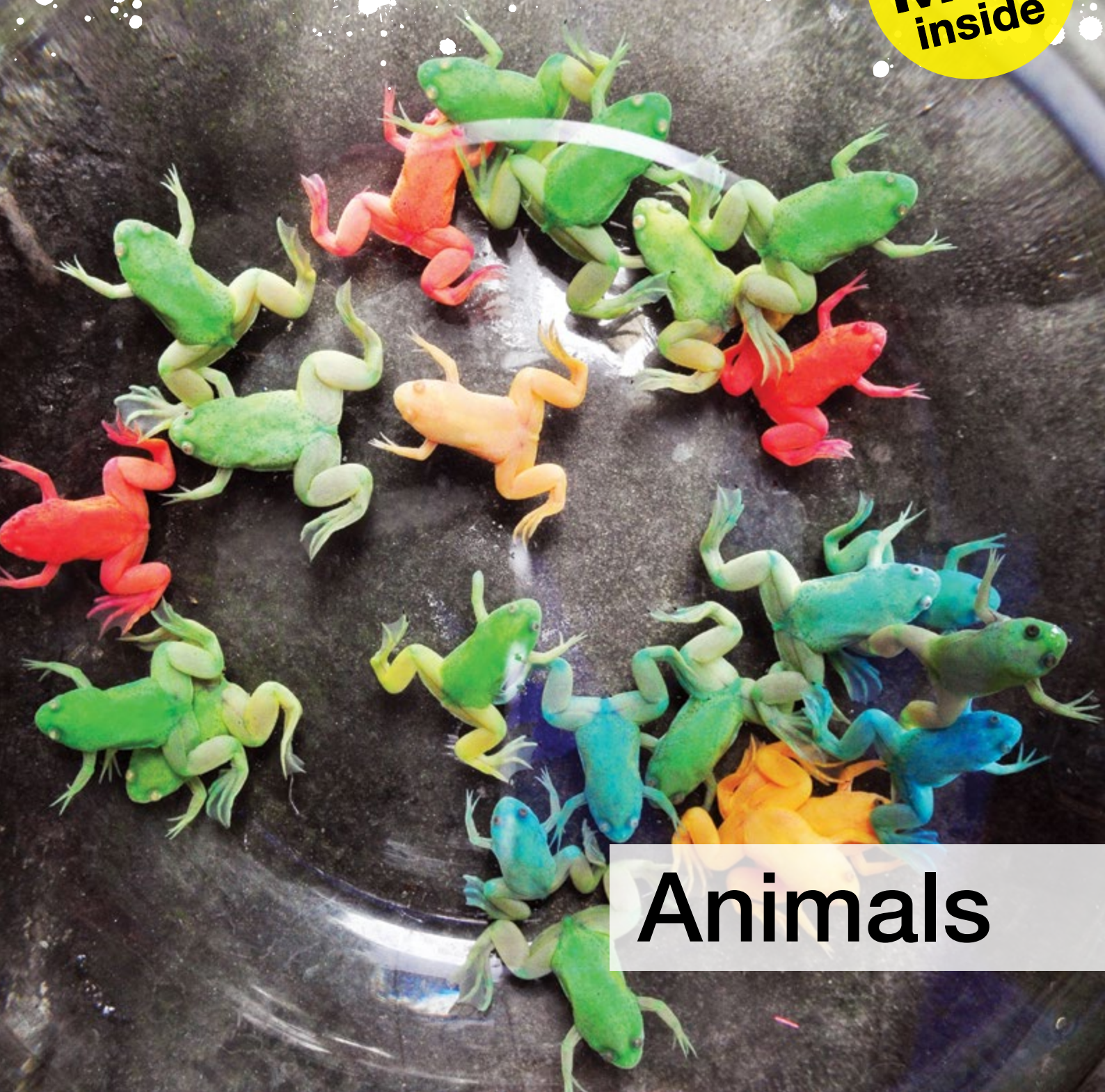
CITYLIFE

065

M/J 2013

TAKE
FREE

**CITY
MAP**
inside



Animals

MIU

Sucremuse.Chengdu.China
Entertorise Management CO.Ltd

MIU Club

Chengdu's premier lounge and dining facility

Featuring

Head chef from a Michelin-starred Spanish restaurant
China's premier jazz musician Ren Yuqing from Shanghai
Asia's No. 2 mixologist Jin Zhonglei from Shanghai
and a live band playing the world's most popular songs

15:00~Teatime, Folk\Lounge\Country

18:00~Dinner Time,

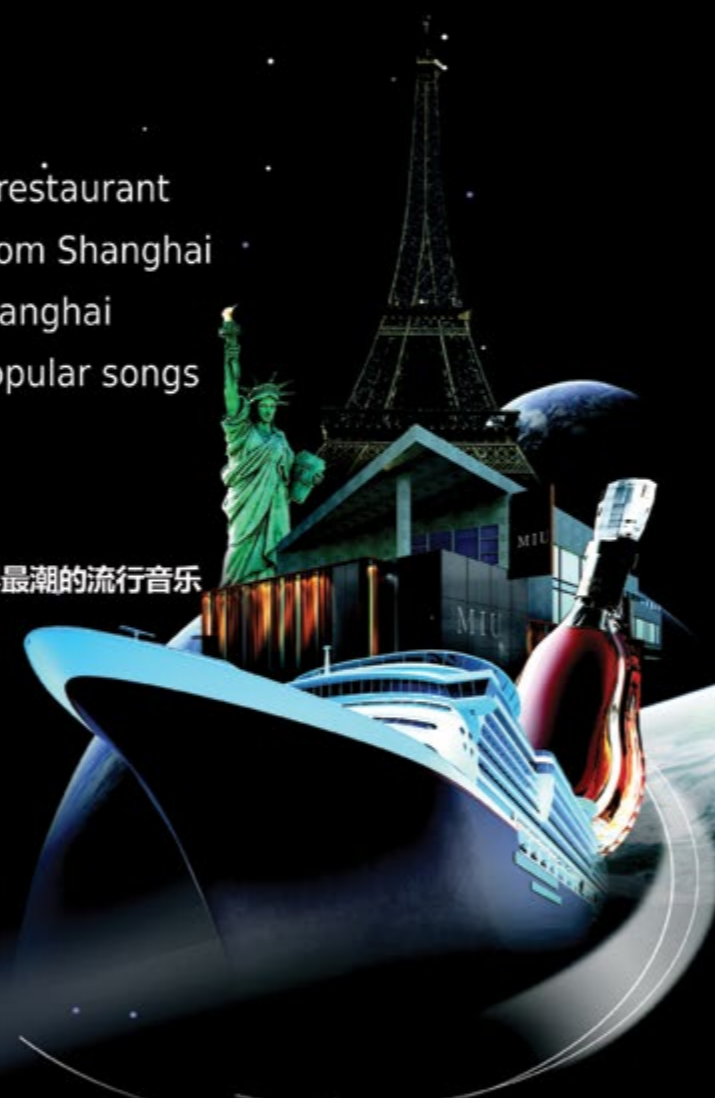
19:00~Happy hour, lounge\Jazz\Country

21:00~Club Time, 中国最好的Live Band\以及来自世界最潮的流行音乐

来自西班牙的米其林星级大师艾华路
担纲MIU俱乐部的出品主厨,
为热爱美食的各界国际友人
烙上热情的西班牙之名:火腿、鱼子酱、甜品.....

来自上海有中国爵士第一人之称的任宇清先生
担纲MIU俱乐部的音乐总监,
精心为喜爱爵士乐的朋友
奉上最精彩的轻节奏之旅,乐享下午时光;

亚洲第二的调酒大师金众磊先生
担纲MIU俱乐部联合出品人,
工作之余的朋友聚会
调制一杯美味的鸡尾酒,
在夜晚到来之前
畅饮一杯来自世界的成都味道,
定不负这美好时光;



—MIU俱乐部—

娱乐界的帆船酒店

中国·成都·锦江区·兰桂坊106-107 Lan Kwai Fong, Jinjiang Zone, Chengdu 微博在线: @缪俱乐部

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CHENGDOO citylife is published 12 times per year.
We welcome unsolicited contributions.

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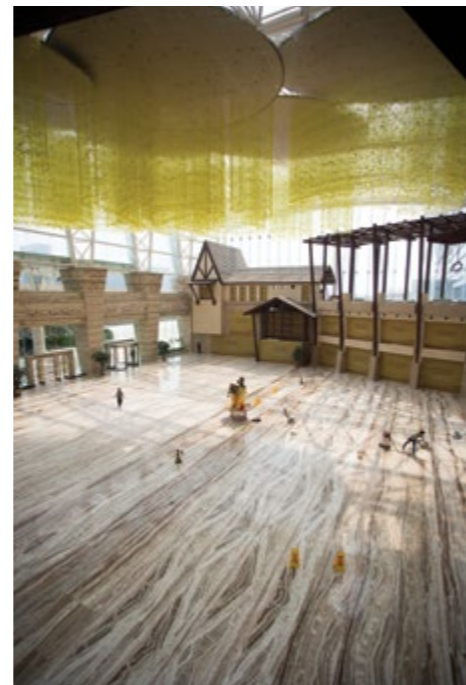
www.Chengdoo-Magazine.com
back issues available for download

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Chengdu New Century Global Center

Photos by Dan Sandoval



After three years of construction the Chengdu Global Center is nearing completion, and a soft opening date has been announced—June 28, to coincide with the opening of Metro Line 1's Ocean Park Station (海洋公园站).

As planned the plaza in front of the of the nearly 500-meter-long building features a musical fountain, but there is no sign of construction of the originally announced Art Center designed by renowned architect Zaha Hadid.

With a dedicated indoor area of 1.76 million square meters on five floors, the Global Center is the world's largest standalone structure. A fair share of that space will be used for offices, but the building will also be home to southwest China's largest shopping and entertainment mall, featuring a 14-screen IMAX Cineplex and an ice-skating rink large enough to hold international skating and ice-hockey competitions.

"The One of Everything" is the slogan of the mall that seems to be equally applicable to the stated food offerings, which promise all kinds of international and Chinese cuisines—so far, confirmed restaurants include the Tex-Mex chain Chichi, the Singaporean bistro Ya Kun, and the South Korean café chain Hollys Coffee.

In the central part of the building is a 250,000 ocean park with a 400-meter-long indoor "beach," replete with the world's biggest LED screen in the background.

New Century Global Center Mall Web site
www.xsjhqmall.com





Photos by Michal Pachniewski

Zoos in China generally don't maintain a very positive image in the Western media. Travel guidebooks have long trashed the conditions in which animals are kept, and a rash of news stories in Western press from this year focus on sensational stories of animal abuse and harassment in zoos around China—including stories of visitors pelting lions with snowballs, crocodiles dying after being hit by litter thrown at them, a tiger being beaten by trainers, and, oddly, an ostrich being bit to death by a man. Reactions to these incidents by Internet users, both foreign and domestic, are often outspoken and outraged.

It was thus with some trepidation we visited the Chengdu Zoo, which claims to be China's fourth-largest after Beijing's, Shanghai's, and Guangzhou's. Much of the zoo's menagerie reads like a child's book of animals: one elephant, one rhinoceros, one hippopotamus, one lion, a bear or two. Two giraffes. The animals are kept in confined spaces, some outdoor and some indoor, and many of the animals are housed in prison-cell-like concrete cages with a streaky glass front for visitors to look through and a single back door through which feed is delivered. Some of the larger mammals, such as the various panthers, in such solitary confinement, pace around restlessly while less scrupulous visitors tap on the glass to provoke a reaction from the animals.

While the reptile and amphibian—and even more so, the fish—displays are nothing short of total disasters (tiny tanks blackened with what appears to be decades of algae), and even the national treasure, the giant panda, lives in an unlined concrete box, the Chengdu Zoo does boast some diamonds in the rough. The tiger collection, for instance, is impressive and



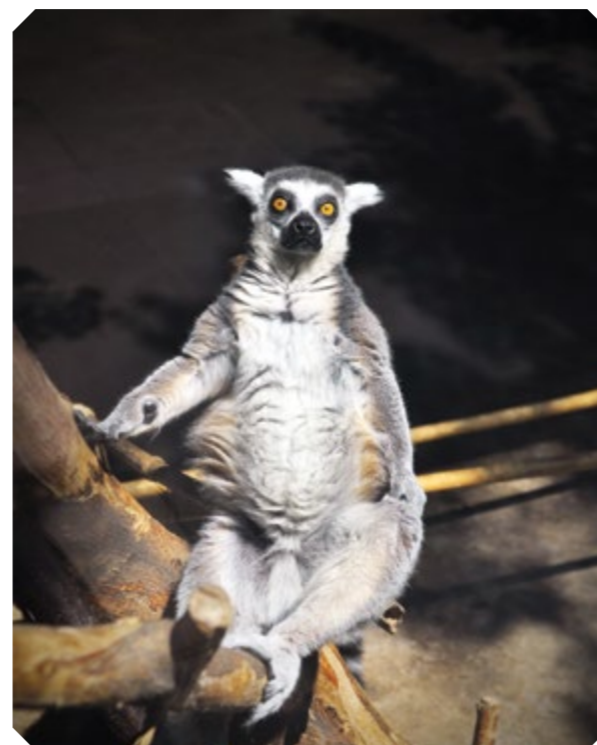
includes two white Bengal tigers, large Siberian tigers, and the critically endangered South China tiger. However, the best display in terms of comprehensiveness and apparent comfort of the animals is found in the primates section, which features, among others, mandrills, baboons, lemurs, macaques, langurs, and the stars of the zoo, a group of Sichuan golden snub-nosed monkeys. Many of these cages are open at the top, however, and some visitors ignore the blatant signage instructing visitors not to throw food and flotsam into the cages.

The back of the zoo holds an aviary, a lake where numerous birds congregate, and small ponds for penguins and pelicans. Near this is the "Children's Zoo"—essentially a petting zoo with many friendly goats (including some newborns), a cow, and a pig. A vendor also offers photo opportunities with visitors' choice of a pony, a Bactrian camel, a parrot, or a peacock. A small amusement park on the grounds holds several fairground-style rides.

The Chengdu Zoo has been at its current location since 1976. Initially opened in October 1953 as the Chengdu Baihuatan Zoo, it was the region's first display of exotic mammals, including snow leopards. At the time of its first opening, the zoo housed 114 animals covering 34 species. Today the zoo houses 3,000 animals representing 300 species.

The zoo is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Entrance is RMB20 for adults; children 1.3 meters and below enter for free.

成都动物园
昭觉寺南路234号
234 Zhaojuesi Nan Lu
Tel. 83516953
www.cdzoo.com.cn



Pet Market Central

Photos by Michal Pachniewski



Just a five-minute walk from central Chengdu's corporate city life is a quiet pet market on Xinkai Jie (新开街). The 250m stretch of shops offers a limited variety of birds, freshwater fish, water flowers, aquariums, and a handful of saltwater fish varieties. "Designer" pets, like chemically dyed neon frogs and parrot fish with lasered-on "tattoos" of Chinese characters and other designs, are also for sale here, although the miniature turtles in sealed key chains seem to have fallen out of popularity.

At the southern tip of Xinkai Jie there are several bonsai shops that stretch over to the next street, Nanfu Jie (南街). The main market is here, in a two-story building that houses more pet fish and flower and plant shops in its back yard. Most shops inside on the first floor specialize in turtles, but some stalls have more exotic or unusual pets on sale: a mini squid, snails, and small mammals like small pigs, squirrels, and minks. You can also find geckos, lizards, crocodiles, snakes scorpions, tarantulas, and complementary food like worms or bags of rat embryos. On the second floor, most shops sell cats, but a few shops sell all sorts of chinchilla, ferrets, hamsters, mice, rats, rabbits, and large parrots. Although Chengdu is known to be a breeding base for dogs, only a few places here sell puppies. For more variety you'd have to travel to the markets outside Chengdu as most large dog breeds are banned in the city.

Xinkai Jie Pet Market

新开街宠物市场

The main market building is at 18 Xinkai Jie (CHENGDOO map grid E5). Take Metro Line 1 to the Jinjiang Hotel (锦江宾馆) exit C1. Head south and then turn east on Yandao Jie (盐道街). It's the second left turn.



Qingshi Qiao Market

meet your meat ... and veggies

Photos by Michal Pachniewski



Going for a Qingshiqiao adventure? Bring your dirtiest closed-toe shoes and cuffed pants, or pull them up to your chest like Urkel, because this market is always wet and dirty. Laid out on two floors of a large building along the central section of Qingshiqiao Jie, the market expands to the first floor of glitzy-from-the-front Fortune City's gritty back.

Qingshiqiao is a sanctuary for chefs and bored food lovers alike who are out for seafood or rare food items that are otherwise hard to find fresh, including whatever living creature is legally on the menus of Chengdu's specialty restaurants. Others go for huge blocks of cheese and whole (or chunks of whole) salmon. On the second floor are dry foods, including bulk imported food. The shops that face the street sell saltwater fish, shrimps, turtles, fish, lobster, crabs, clams, snails, and crocodiles; indoor shops sell frogs and snakes, jellyfish, insects and their larvae, various dried fish, sea cucumbers, sea stars, seahorses, and frozen meat like game, but there are also fresh bamboo rats, ducks, pigeons, and even camel toes. The back yard offers rare varieties of mushroom and fungi in addition to the regular lineup of meat and fresh vegetables.

It pays to show up early in the morning when the fresh food arrives, as harder-to-find items are sold off by noon. For freshwater fish, there is a bigger and better market off Metro Line 2 (Huwangling station/惠王陵站).

Qingshi Qiao Market

青石桥市场

Smack in the middle of the Jinjiang Hotel (锦江宾馆) station of Metro Line 1, the Chunxi Lu station (春熙路) of Metro Line 2, and the interchange station Tianfu Square (天府广场).



Mega Bites

with dandoval

The taste of rat last issue only whetted our appetite for the new, the different, the other. We'd heard that some of the restaurants in the Tibetan quarter of Wuhouci had yak penis on their menu. After a day of walking around in the cold with no luck finding it, we settled for raw yak meat and tongue.

Photos and commentary by Dan Sandoval



sea cucumber, jellyfish heads, and frog legs

Prince Restaurant, part of an impressive culinary empire that stretches all over China, occupies the entire south wing of the fifth floor of Fortune City. We were seated in the back of the restaurant on a U-shaped kickback couch arranged next to the open kitchen, where we flipped through the thick menu, which might be better described as a bilingual illustrated encyclopedia of edible things including various preparations of prohibitively expensive shark's fin and bird's nest.

Construction noise started coming from the kitchen just before our food arrived, and this special touch to the ambience endured throughout the rest of our meal. When the sea cucumber in abalone sauce (鲍汁扣辽参) was served,

Dan stared skeptically at the Pikachu-like character. We cut the slippery beast in two, and, fumbling, Dan immediately dropped his thumb-sized half on the tablecloth. After some chopstick slapstick he finally managed to take a bite: "Ew. It's like eating a ghost—a mix of cartilage and jelly. You know it's there, but it feels like nothing. But the taste is really bad."

"To be fair, it's a brainless animal that mainly feeds on algae and other sea creatures' waste. Maybe all you have to do is to take a bigger bite."

After all these years, Dandoval still listens to us—and consequently spit the remnants of the slimy thumb out two seconds later. "One of the worst things I've tried in my life." (From Dan, that's saying something.)

After a supposed palate-clearing swig of Coke, Dan was ready for the next dish: the jellyfish heads in vinegar (醋香蜇头). "Not bad." Dan chewed indulgently, comparing the texture and taste of the jellyfish to silver mu'er. "It has a wobbly texture that goes hand in hand

with the crunchy cucumber slices. And somehow despite its spiciness it's a pleasant and chilling dish that cools you down in the summer heat."

When the spicy Sichuanese frog legs arrived, we were back in Sichuanese waters: "That mala kicks in, but it's much more fragrant than usual." Indeed, it was a more sophisticated tingle than the typical extreme mala knock out. Dan's mood lightened up with every dish, and he was most pleased with the kungpao chicken at the end, which tastes refined, with a perfect balance of spiciness and even a touch of sweetness to the perfectly done, big, juicy dices of chicken.

Mai Dan

Apart from the RMB128 sea cucumber, we cleaned up all the dishes. We weren't charged for the second bowl of rice that arrived late, but somehow ended up paying RMB10 each for two glasses of room-temperature water. The portions were all on the small side, and at RMB345 for four dishes for two people, it was no free—or even cheap—lunch.

Verdict

Unless you're buying into Chinese esotericism, the fresh sea cucumber is a dish you won't regret having not crossed off your bucket list, and if it's just about the (unfounded, by the way) claims to its aphrodisiacal effects, you can get dry sea cucumber much cheaper at the markets. On the upside, none of the dishes were oily or fatty, and overall a lot of care seems to go in the food preparation of even the standard dishes.

Overall, Prince Kitchen is centrally located with comfy seating and marked-up prices that can be justified if you're in a spendy mood with an experimental appetite. Just make sure to order a tasty safety net to fall back on.

Prince Kitchen

6 Daye Lu, Fortune City 5F
大业路6号财富中心5楼
Tel. 86700922 cd-princekitchen.com



Journey to the West: Metro Line 2 West Extension

Photos by Dan Sandoval



Jinzhou Lu 金周路站

For the average Chengdu resident it probably was not the most urgent traffic project, but for the moment the west extension of Metro Line 2 to Xipu is the last major change to Chengdu's public transport infrastructure until the end of 2014 when the east extension of Line 2 adds six stations and runs to Longquan.

The west extension will add six new stations and 8.7 km to Line 2. With the exception of the Xipu station, the area surrounding the extension is currently undergoing a rapid transformation from a suburb with light manufacturing to a residential area with some commercial spots and lots of educational projects.

The official opening of the west extension is scheduled for June 8, the same day as the opening of the Line 1 Ocean Park station under the Global Center. Line 2 operating hours will be expanded slightly to accommodate the longer line length. From the westernmost station, a ride to Chadianzi should take 16

minutes and to Tianfu Square 35 minutes. The maximum fare (for rides traveling across more than eight stations) will also rise to RMB6.

Yingbin Dadao Station 迎宾大道站

East of this station is a five-star hotel that is usually off the radar of the general public: the Jinniu Hotel (金牛宾馆) has hosted pretty much every leader and high-ranking official of the People's Republic, including Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, and more recent leaders like Hu Jintao and Zhang Zemin, as well as foreign presidents and monarchs—Kim Il Sung, Sihanouk and George Bush.

Of more general interest is the hotel-adjacent Sichuan Garden Art Museum (四川易园园林艺术博物馆), China's first private garden art museum. With its elegant garden architecture, waters and bridges, it's a popular spot for wedding photography and urban-nature seekers. Free entrance.

Opposite the entrance to the Jinniu Hotel is one of two of the 18th-century Tuqiao Mosques—this is the "Lower" mosque (土桥清真下寺). After being damaged during the Cultural Revolution both mosques underwent renovation.

South of the station is a wall of construction: huge residential and shopping complexes. Similar plans are underway for the northern side of the station,

Jinke Bei Lu Station 金科北路站

Go east to have a look the second of the aforementioned mosques, the "Upper" Tuqiao Mosque (土桥清真上寺).

Jinzhou Lu 金周路站

The only place of potential interest here is a restaurant that is also a wedding hotspot, Sisu Tianyuan.

Baicao Lu Station 百草路站

West of the station lies the former West China Intangible Cultural Heritage National Park (now replaced by the new International Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition in the West of Chengdu). Along the way lies the Guosheng sports club and golf course. North of the station is a campus of the renowned private Chengdu Foreign Languages School. To the south is the current location of the Chengdu International School.

Tianhe Lu Station 天河路站 (原西区站)

The beginning of the more urban Xipu with quiet neighborhood and proper residential areas, but not much else.

Xipu Station 犀浦站

Xipu is a little town with a long history that is mentioned several times in Du Fu's and other poets' verses, but today you won't see much architecture that dates back more than a couple decades. Numerous colleges and



Jinke Bei Lu Station 金科北路站



Tianhe Lu Station 天河路站



Yingbin Dadao Station 迎宾大道

satellite campuses of Chengdu's universities are scattered around, and the University of Traditional Chinese Medicine runs a 5,000 sqm museum documenting the history of traditional Chinese and Western medicine in China. Apart from an old pharmacy, some of the precious relics on display are the Tang dynasty toothbrush and Song dynasty toothpaste.

Another yet smaller Xipu museum is the Museum of Original Culture (四川原道文化博物馆), a private collection of 10,000 Taoist artifacts jammed into a 300 sqm space. Unfortunately, it's usually closed to the public. Also closed off to the public is the old Wonders of the World park, but China trash aficionados will be able to sneak in. A bit farther away is a small golf course at the Boya Sport Club.

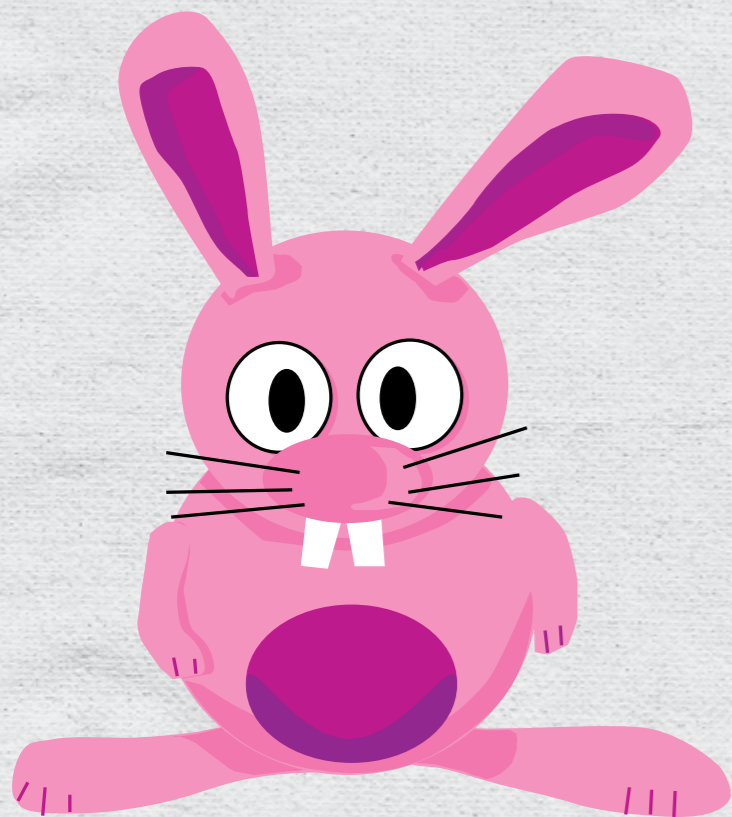
The station itself is the first of many that is on the ground level, providing means for at-level transfer to the CRH bullet train system (current destinations of interest are Dujiangyan and Qingchengshan). Once two more lines of the inter-city network have been built, transfer options will also include Pengzhou and Lidui Park.

The station is also adjacent to highway G317, which goes all the way into the heart of Tibet.



Baicao Lu Station 百草路站

Answer the Question



Lost Memories

"I can't remember four or five hours from that night, but I took pictures. I was with two French guys and I drank me and one other guy drank one bottle of whiskey and one bottle of baijiu, the cheapest we could find. I must have been pretty drunk but the pictures were pretty clear. (My camera was hanging from my belt—that's why I didn't lose it.) I have a picture of one of the guys standing on top of a taxi hood pissing. There were pictures with people I don't know and in places I usually don't go to. It was probably a Wednesday night or something. I think one of them got naked in the McDonald's and stood on the counter."

Bass in Your Face

"When Chengdu had only the Reggae Bar, and the Shamrock had just opened, it was really boring, so my friends and I decided we would make the first rave in the city. We did some location scouting, and finally my American friend found out that we could rent the basement of the provincial gymnasium. It was huge, more than 1,000 sqm and with a very high ceiling. It was perfect for what we wanted to do. We made a deal with the management there, organized sound equipment, lights, half a dozen DJs, and some guys to sell five kuai. We printed thousands of fliers, and then the management decided that they should let the local police know about the event. Initially the police gave us an OK, but two days before it was supposed to happen, we got a call from the Wuhouci police station. They asked us to go there, so we did. They asked us to show our passports, and then they said we couldn't do the event at all because we were foreigners and we needed special permission and licenses to do the event, and it was around the time of the *gaokao*. So we were all disappointed, but then I pointed out that we wouldn't be able to cancel it because we had already distributed thousands of fliers and done lots of promotion, and there would be hundreds of people there at the gate, disappointed, and that could cause more mafan than just holding the event."

On the night of the rave, there were 150 people already waiting outside when we got there to set up the sound and lights. But first we had to wait for the seniors who regularly used the space to finish their dancing session. In the meanwhile, more and more people were gathering outside. So while we were still setting up, the police forced us to start letting people in. One of the guys blew up the main amplifier just as we were about to start. But somehow we managed to get everything together, all the attendees paid their 10 kuai entrance fee, and the party started—and then immediately after, the police asked us to stop the event again. We bribed them with cigarettes, which worked for a while, but eventually our luck ran out and we had to agree to stop the event at 1 am. But the other organizers weren't happy and wanted to keep going—let the police come in and arrest everyone. The stadium was surrounded with police ready to go in—it didn't matter what we wanted, anyway; the management, acting on police orders, would just shut off the power at 1. So we played by the rules, and in the end, around 400 people came. Lots of people I know ended up hooking up that night, and one couple even got married eventually—and have been together since."

G

Going Too Far

"It started one night when I invited some of my friends for dinner. It wasn't even a weekend, but they came with beer and vodka. We had dinner and watched a movie, and although I hadn't planned to go out that night, the alcohol in my system guided me to Carol's by the River, where we bought two bottles of tequila and started taking shots. (Before this, I had promised my friend Lynn to take care of her and her friend since it was her first night partying with us.) We finished the two bottles and headed down to Kehua Bei Lu, ran into people we knew, and drank some more. My judgment was pretty impaired by that point and when I met a friend of a friend who was celebrating his birthday, I agreed to go to CC with him and his friends. The fake whiskey kept coming in that terrible whisky/tea mix, and we kept drinking it because it didn't really taste like alcohol. By this time all the friends I'd had dinner with were gone, and I don't remember anything after this. However, I was told the next day that the following ensued: On the dance floor, I ended up dancing with a Chinese girl. Later on she drove me in her car to her home—in another city. When we arrived, I went to the bathroom and locked the door. After that, I went to the bedroom and locked the door there, too, leaving her to sleep on the living room couch. In the meanwhile, Lynn and her friend had gone back to my house to sleep, but because I wasn't there, they ended up sleeping on the stairs. When I woke up the next afternoon, I felt terrible and then realized I wasn't in my house. I found my belongings and went to the living room. The girl whose house it was said, 'Finally, you're up!' and told me what had happened, adding, 'You kept locking doors wherever you go; did you think I was going to rape you?' Then she asked me if I knew where I was. 'No,' I said, looking out the window, and not believing her when she said we weren't in Chengdu. The beautiful weather should have been a clue. Feeling like an ass for what I did to my friends, I rushed down to get a cab home. 'Yulin Bei Jie,' I said, but none of the drivers seem to understand. Finally, I said 'Chengdu,' and they all started laughing. One agreed to take me home—when we got there, the meter said 280. I had a terrible headache but an awesome memory and an epic night."



Party animals edition!



The Unintentional Partier

"Just months after I had arrived in China, at the end of a late Friday meeting, my boss decided to pull out a bottle of baijiu and start passing bowls of baijiu around to the employees in the meeting room. Not being familiar with the game, I emptied one bowl, and then was surprised to learn I had to keep going. We drank and drank, with guys periodically going to the restroom. Suddenly I realized I was going to vomit, so I made a beeline to the bathroom. When I spotted the puke on the carpet, I realized those guys hadn't been going to relieve their bladders after all. I made a quick escape after that, ditching my bicycle in the office parking lot and flagging down a taxi. I wasn't done barfing, so being courteous, I rolled down the window and hung my head out. When we arrived at my apartment, the driver came out to inspect the damage and saw the vomit running down the side of the door. He was not happy. In my drunken state, I was thinking, *Well, geez, at least I didn't do it in the backseat.* Instead I just shouted 'duibuqi!' half a dozen times, stuffed the money into his hand, and ran up the stairs to my bed."

Thanks to BimboComplex, invisible, BoOoM, and backloop for their contributions.



China might not be noted for its wildlife these days, but Sichuan still offers a handful of places and ways to see animals beyond the zoo variety.

Bird Watching
If going down to your local park early in the morning to be among the senior citizens and their caged birds doesn't cut it for you, you could go on a more adventurous bird-watching journey with the Chengdu Bird Watching Society, a nearly decade-old organization that boasts more than 300 members. The group promotes bird watching as an activity and industry and works to protect birds and their habitats through research and education. Some members of this group are also heavily involved with China Bird Tour (www.chinabirdtour.com), which offers bird-watching tours around China in English.

Additionally, long-term Sichuan-based couple Sid and Meggie Francis offer extensive information on regional bird watching via their Web site at <http://sichuanbirding.cloudaccess.net> as well as via posts on the bird watching forum www.birdforum.net.

Chengdu Bird Watching Society
13 Yulin Nan Lu 4-3-7
Tel. 87761106 www.scbirds.org.cn
zaxixio@yahoo.com.cn or cdlbs@scbirds.org.cn

Marine Mammals
The Chengdu Haichang Polar Ocean World 40,000-square-meter park is the only marine mammal park and oceanarium in west China include a dolphin plaza, polar bears, sea lions, walruses, penguins, seals, sea turtles, sharks, and an underwater world. Performances include the seal show in the Happy Theater and the half-hour dolphin and whale show.

Chengdu Haichang Polar Ocean World
2037 Tianfu Dadao, Huayang
成都海昌极地海洋世界 华阳镇天府大道南段2037号
Tel. 66588888
www.cd-polar.com/en
The park is open daily, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. General admission: RMB130; seniors



over the age of 60 (with ID), kids up to 1.5 meters, and those with disabilities: RMB70; children under 1.2 meters: free when accompanied by adult (1 child per paying adult).

Insects
China's Rare Insect Museum houses Asia's largest butterfly collection—700 species, covering a reported 95 percent of China's known species, are represented. Most of the 20,000 total insects on display were donated by museum head Zhao Li, who has spent the last two decades collecting rare insects, including various beetles, insects that closely resemble branches and leaves, and enormous and intricately patterned butterflies. As is often the case, signage leaves something to be desired, and not all species are labeled.

Qingcheng Shan Rare Insect Museum
成都华希昆虫博物馆
都江堰市青城山青城大道青城山游客中心
Tel. 87288991
<http://asia-insect.com>
Take the bullet train to Qingcheng Shan (approx. 45 minutes/RMB15). From the Qingcheng Shan station, walk along the tourist path for approximately 1 km until you reach the Qingcheng Shan Tourist Center, near the main entrance to the mountain and the Howard Johnson Hotel. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 5 p.m. and entrance is free.



As a result of historical migrations and Malaysia's geographical advantage, Malaysia's culinary style is a mixture of Malays, Chinese, Indians, Thais and Arabian cuisines - to name a few. This resulted in a symphony of flavours, making Malaysian cuisines highly exotic albeit a touch underrated as compared to some of its neighbouring counterparts.

This June, Chef Zulkifli Wahab from "Resorts World Genting" will bring you the most authentic Malaysian cuisine right here to the **"Seasons" Restaurant.**



Lunch: RMB 148+15% service charge
Dinner: RMB 228+15% service charge

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Mandarin Made Easier

fun with chinese idioms

By Lucy Wang



Chéngyǔ (成语) are a type of traditional Chinese idiomatic expressions, usually consisting of four characters. In isolation and without explanation, Chinese idioms are often unintelligible. Thus, when students in China learn idioms as part of the classical curriculum, they also need to study the context from which the idiom was born. Oftentimes, idioms are intimately linked with the myth, story, or historical fact from which they were derived. Also, they do not follow the usual grammatical structure and syntax of modern Mandarin; instead they are highly compact.

Chengyu are widely used in classical Chinese, and many of them are still common in vernacular Chinese writing and in the spoken language today. There are abundant idioms related to animals. Here are 12 of them—you may also notice that they happen to feature the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac.



鼠 (shǔ) **rat**
鼠目寸光 (shǔmù cùn guāng)
Lit., “Rats can only see an inch of light.” This is a metaphor for figurative short-sightedness.

牛 (niú) **ox, cattle**
对牛弹琴 (duì niú tán qín)
Lit., “playing the zither for a cow.” Because a cow wouldn’t appreciate the subtleties of the music, this chengyu implies that something is a waste of time or effort. For instance, 跟他讲道理就是在对牛弹琴 (gēn tā jiǎng dàolǐ jiù shì zài duì niú tánqín)—trying to talk sense into him is just a waste of time.



虎 (hǔ) **tiger**
骑虎难下 (qí hǔ nán xià)
Lit., “He who rides the tiger will find it hard to dismount.” This idiom refers to getting oneself into a dangerous position or serious dilemma with no way to get out.

兔 (tù) **rabbit, hare**
守株待兔 (shǒu zhū dài tù)
This idiom refers to waiting around hoping for success, similar to the sentiment behind “no pain, no gain.” During the Warring States period, many people depended on their crops for a living. One day, a farmer found a hare that had died after running so quickly that it bumped into a tree-stump that it hadn’t seen. The farmer thus decided to sit near the stump, waiting for another hare, instead of farming to make a living. Eventually, the farmer starved to death. Today, a common expression is 没人能靠守株待兔取得成功 (méirén néng kào shǒu zhū dài tù qǔdé chénggōng)—Nobody succeeds by watching the tree-stump for hares.

龙 (lóng) **dragon**
叶公好龙 (yègōnghàolóng)
Lord Ye loved dragons so much that he decorated everything he owned with dragons, including the walls of his house. One day, a heavenly dragon descended from the heavens to see this homage itself. The dragon poked its head into the window, peering at Lord Ye and dragging its tail down the hall. Upon seeing the dragon, Lord Ye felt so scared that he ran away as fast as he could. Therefore, people concluded that Lord Ye was not fond of dragons at all. What he professed to love was what he actually feared most. Thus this idiom means to profess love for what one really fears, or what one does belies one’s commitments.

蛇 (shé) **snake**
画蛇添足 (huàshétiānzú)
Lit., to paint a snake with feet. Adding feet to a painting of a snake is superfluous, and this idiom refers to being superfluous and redundant.

马 (mǎ) **horse**
老马识途 (lǎomǎshítú)
An old horse knows the way—this idiom suggests that an old hand “knows the ropes.”



羊 (yáng) **sheep**
挂羊头卖狗肉 (guà yáng tóu mài gǒu ròu)
To sell dog meat and call it a sheep’s head; this idiom can be applied to businesses that deceive customers by selling inferior goods while claiming that they are top quality.

猴与鸡 (hòu) **monkey** and (jī) **chicken**
杀鸡儆猴 (shā jī jǐng hòu)
Killing a chicken to teach a monkey a lesson—this idiom refers to making an example of somebody.

狗 (gǒu) **dog**
狐朋狗友 (hú péng gǒu yǒu)
Foxes and dogs for friends. Comparing a person to a fox or a dog isn’t a compliment, and this idiom refers to dubious friends or associates.

猪 (zhū) **pig**
人怕出名猪怕壮 (rén pà chū míng zhū pà zhuàng)
A man dreads fame as a pig dreads being fat. The fattest pigs are the first to be butchered, so no pig wants to be fat. Likewise, there’s always a price to pay for fame, and therefore, in keeping with Chinese tradition, some people prefer to maintain a low profile.

Animal Behavior

when it’s time to take the cat to the vet

By Matthew Wood



Because he is strictly an indoor cat, I never worried about my cat requiring the attention of a vet. But that changed over the Spring Festival holiday, when the arrival of a non-spayed female cat in our apartment—and the animal behavior that ensued—motivated me to take him to the animal doctor.

Rescued on my behalf by the mother of one of my students, Mi Hou Tao came to live with me at the end of the Chinese New Year holiday in 2012. At that time, he was a terrified kitten with some minor battle wounds from the rough outdoors. He would frequently hide under the kitchen cupboards or behind the TV stand.

Today, Mi Hou Tao is still a scaredy cat. He is no longer scared of me, but he is not fond of new people. When he is not hiding, he is sleeping under my blankets or on a chair, sunbathing, chasing flies or playing with the bell dangling from a string in the doorway. But Mi Hou Tao wasn’t so shy around the newly arrived female cat.

That cat, A Mi, was one I was looking after for a friend temporarily. After I explained the situation, A Mi’s owner agreed to the surgery to prevent a litter of kittens now and in the future. Another friend had recommended a service run by volunteers that aims to help take care of stray cats in Chengdu and other cities around China. These volunteers trap

stray cats, spay or neuter them, and release them where they were found. Through Huai Ren Animal Hospital, the organization also offers discounts on spaying/neutering of adopted stray cats. As a stray, A-mi was eligible for the discounted surgery. I phoned the organization, and a volunteer was able to help me fill out the paperwork for the discount and deliver it to the vet’s office. Once that was taken care of, I made an appointment, and when the time arrived, I put A-mi in my kitty carrier and brought her to the vet. The staff at the Huai Ren Animal Hospital performed the surgery and even made A-mi a fancy outfit to protect her wound. With the discount, the spaying cost less than RMB300 (the normal fee is between RMB300 and 500), and I left a satisfied customer.

A week or two later, I made an appointment with the Yangguang Jinsha Animal Hospital for Mi Hou Tao. I chose this hospital because I may want to bring my cat to Canada in the future, and this animal hospital is headed by a Canadian veterinarian and was recommended for pet-export services. The veterinarian performed the surgery on Mi Hou Tao, gave him a check-up, stuck him with some vaccinations and provided me with de-worming pills to administer when he recovered from the surgery. Not all of this was necessary, and I was able to choose what I wanted and didn’t want of the recommended treatments—I ended up choosing them all, and the total bill for this experience was approximately RMB1,300. (The much higher price for Mi Hou Tao’s visit

reflects the vaccination and de-worming, and non-discounted rate. At present, the TNR discount is only offered at the Huai Ren Animal Hospital.)

If you would like to take your pet to see the vet, I would recommend either of these animal hospitals. Both have the standard vet fees chart posted in their hospitals and provided adequate service. If you are interested in adopting a stray cat or have adopted a stray cat and you would like to have it spayed or neutered, you can contact the TNR volunteers before you visit the Huai Ren Animal Hospital. They are also looking for volunteers to help out during their TNR events as well as good homes for the kitties.

TNR Volunteers
Si Ye (Chinese) 15608082277
Jerry (English) 15608083377
www.petmsn.com

Chengdu Huai Ren Veterinarian
106 Guangfu Lu, Shuangnan
成都市怀仁宠物医院双楠店
双楠小区广福路106号
Tel. 85063235
www.cd-pet.cn

Chengdu Yangguang Jinsha Veterinarian
10 Tongshan Qiao Heng Jie No. 18
成都市阳光金沙动物医院
同善桥横街10号附18号
Tel. 87330508
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