



various things, depending on the context in which it is said. In the morning, it may mean to have breakfast. The typical breakfast in Guangzhou is "yi zhong liang jian" which means a bowl of rice with spare ribs and two snacks. While taken in the context of an evening affair, it may mean to get together with family members or treat business partners for dinner.

Almost every hotel and restaurant offers tea and snacks. There are several hotels and restaurants, such as the White Swan Hotel Guangzhou, the Panxi Restaurant and the Guangzhou Restaurant, are famous for the tea and snacks.

Cantonese Opera



Cantonese (Yue) Opera

With a history of over 300 years, Cantonese Opera is one of the major local operas rooted in Guangdong,



Cantonese Opera

Hong Kong and Macau. Cantonese Opera in Guangdong came into being on the basis of local aboriginal theatre combined with vocal melody from other regions and folk singing and storytelling skills. Present day Cantonese opera centers on Bangzi and Erhuang tunes (Two of major Chinese opera tunes)

supplemented with local Ballads and rich varieties of local vocal system. People in Guangzhou sometimes get together to play instruments and sing in parks and communities. Cantonese Opera originated from lyric sing without music accompaniment. In nearly one hundred years, it developed gradually and incorporates other operas of divergent nature.

In the past century, Cantonese Operatic Song develops over time; it absorbs elements from various sources and makes continuous innovations. For example, it uses tunes of xipi and erhuang music from Cantonese Opera, Cantonese Opera dragon boat songs, nanyin (a form of theatrical song), yueou (a kind of Cantonese love song) and wooden fish songs, Cantonese music, minors and instrumental music.

Soup

Soup is the most important part of

Guangdong cooking, which is famous for its excellent resource and unique flavor. Sometimes it takes half or even a day to cook the soup. So if you want to try the local cuisines of Guangzhou, never miss the soups.

Cantonese

If you haven't been to Guangzhou before, you might be puzzled when you hear "um gai" which means "thank you" or "excuse me" and is frequently used in Guangzhou. When asking for help, you can say "da rao sai" which means "sorry for troubling you so much" and "thanks". These expressions will be helpful in Guangzhou, so just learn several.

Cantonese Opera





Festivals

Besides the Chinese traditional festivals such as Spring Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival, people in Guangzhou celebrate the local "big eight festivals" every year. They are Flower Fair and Lantern Festival in the Spring Festival, Boluo Dan Temple Fair in the second lunar month, Dragon Boat Festival on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, Lotus Festival in Panyu, Litchi Festival in Conghua and Zengcheng, Double Ninth Festival and Guangzhou International Food Festival. What's more, two Chrysanthemum Shows are held

Guangzhou in spring

separately in spring and autumn, and Lantern Show is held during Mid-Autumn Festival annually.

Flower Fair

Time: From 27th to 30th of the twelfth lunar month

The Flower Fair is also called *ye hua shi* (Flower Fair in the evening) and *nian xiao hua shi* (Flower Fair around the new year). During the festival, fresh flowers, fruits and special purchases for the Spring Festival are sold in the *hua jie* (street of flowers) in ancient China. Nowadays, the Flower Fair are held separately in the main streets of the eight districts three days before the New Year's Eve, such as the West Lake Road and Jiaoyu Road in Yuexiu District, the East Huanan Road in Dongshan District, the North Liwan Road in Liwan District and the West Jiangnan Road in Haizhu District, etc. At the same



Flower Fair

time, Flower Fairs and Chrysanthemum Shows are put on in Yuexiu Park, Guangzhou Culture Park, Martyrs' Park, Lihua Lake Park, Liwan Lake Park and other big parks in Guangzhou. The Flower Fair ends at about 2:00 a.m. on the first day of the lunar New Year.

Lantern Festival

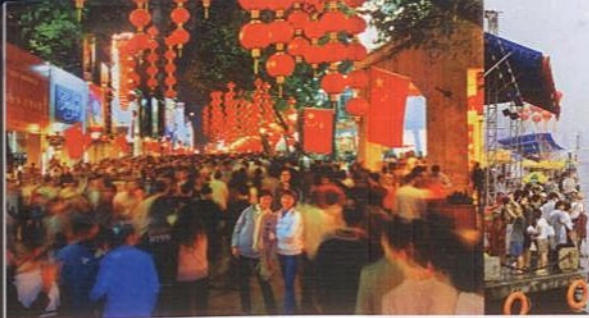
Time: In the first lunar month

Yuan xiao jie (Lantern Festival) is a Chi-

nese traditional festival which is held on the fifteenth evening of the first lunar month. *Yuan xiao* is a kind of sweet dumplings made of glutinous rice flour. *Yuan xiao deng hui* is a show in which lanterns and various color lights are exhibited and sold during the Spring Festival. Lantern shows from Zigong of Sichuan and Datong of Shanxi are usually put on in Yuexiu Park,

Flower Fair on Xihu Road, Yuexiu District





Lantern Festival

Guangzhou Culture Park and Martyrs' Park.

Boluo Dan Temple Fair

Time: From the eleventh to the thirteenth in the second lunar month

An event to celebrate the birthday of "Nanhai Shen" - God of South Sea, Boluo Dan is one of Guangzhou's most important traditional customs with a history of over 1,000 years and the biggest traditional temple fair around Guangzhou and Pearl River Delta. In the Boluo Dan Temple Fair, the handmade paper chickens, named "Boluo chickens" are the popular handicrafts. Every year, many people come to the Temple of God of South Sea in Huangpu to pray for blessing, do shopping or sightseeing.

Dragon Boat Festival

Time: Around the fifth of the fifth lunar month

During this festival, there are always Dragon Boat Competitions among the

towns and countries near Guangzhou. Since recent years, the magnificent Guangzhou International Dragon Boat Tournament is held in the Pearl River between Haizhu Bridge and People's Bridge.

Guangzhou International Travel Fair

Initiated in 1993, Guangzhou International Travel Fair is one of the key complex and large-scale international travel fairs in China. Nowadays, it has grown into an important platform for tourism industry in exchange, presentations and marketing. Moreover, it has exerted extensive influence upon the tourism industry and related industries at home and abroad. It has been reputed by domestic and foreign customers for one of the most important significant annual international travel exhibitions in the Asian-Pacific Region. In brief, the fair provides the best venue for people from tourism industry to find the latest market information and seek for business opportunities.

Guangzhou International Travel Fair



Guangzhou International Dragon Boat Tournament

Litchi Festival

July is the season for litchi to turn ripe amid the cicada singing when Zengcheng and Conghua are busy celebrating its harvest. Annual litchi festival, held respectively, features the appreciation of this unique southern China fruit as well as other activities like song and dance performance, sports, fine art and photo exhibitions, book fair, commodities fair and business negotiations.

Guangzhou International Food Festival

"Eating in Guangzhou" is a unique flag of catering trade, a cultural phenomenon attracting worldwide attention and more



Litchis

Guangzhou International Travel Fair

