ASIADDAILY AROUND GUANGZHOU

ATTRACTIONS



Guangzhou Orchid Garden

兰圃公园

The Orchid Garden, located near the Yuexiu Park metro stop (exit B), is small, but surprisingly rewarding. Rebuilt in 1957, this quite little garden boasts 200 different species of orchids and has won numerous awards for its design. Its paths are surrounded by tropical plants and trees, all of which are labeled for those who are interested in botany. If you don't want to do any stair climbing or long walks around a park, this is probably the place for you. It also allows visitors to take part in a tea ceremony. Go late in the afternoon and enjoy the light sifting through the trees.

Address: 901 Jiefang Bei Lu, Yuexiu

Tel: (020) 86678330/86678299

Guangzhou Liuhua Lake Park

流花湖公园

One of the most beautiful spots in Guangzhou is Liuhua Lake Park. Just a short walk from the Yuexiu Park metro stop, this massive park encircles Liuhua Lake. The lake, the city's largest artificial lake, was originally created for the purposes of water conservation and flood control, but now the grounds of the park have been renovated to attract the public to this scenic spot. It is split into three major areas, the first being the sightseeing and resting area. This is a wonderful place to have a picnic or go for a walk or run along the edge of the lake, and is particularly beautiful in the evening when the sun is setting.

Hours: 6 am-10 pm Address: 100 Liuhua Lu **Tel:** (020) 86662196 Admission free

Xiqiao Mountain 西樵山

Just past Foshan, to the west of Guangzhou, lies an aged extinct volcano, part of 72 peaks that make up Xiqiao Mountain. Boasting cliffs, valleys, ravines, pools and waterfalls, the mountain also holds cultural sites full of relics from the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. It is one of the most famous mountains in Guangdong.

Transportation: Take Guangzhou-Xiqiaoshan bus at Guangzhou Coach Terminal or Fangcun Coach Terminal. It should take about 1 ½ hours.

Tickets: 50 yuan

Lianhua (Lotus) Mountain

莲花山

Lianhua Mountain, in eastern Panyu, is actually a series of hills, the tallest one being more than 100 meters high. Once used as a navigational mark and even as a quarry, Lianhua is not known so much for hours of hiking, as for its unique scenery. Lianhua's natural beauty includes stone towers, cliffs and, at the right time of year, an abundance of spring flowers. Its man-made sites include a golden bodhisattva, a Ming

Dynasty tower, and, of course, the quarries, which date back perhaps 2,000 years. A lotus festival and peach blossom festival are held there every year.

Transportation: Take Metro Line 2 to Shiqi station. Take Shiqiao-Lianhuashan bus to Lianhua's small terminal. The bus ride takes about 15 minutes

Tickets: 40 yuan (half-price or free for

RESTAURANTS

Ci Sheng 慈生素食菜馆

Ci Sheng Restaurant looks a bit like a guest house from the outside - just a small wooden entry. A decorative pastry case is the only evidence that the narrow staircase in the back leads to an eatery. For most of the day, a lady stands outside to welcome guests; she will help you if you're not sure you've got the right place. Upstairs, Ci Sheng is a simple, unfussy restaurant decorated with statues of Buddha. Dishes on the large menu range in price from eight to 46 yuan, and include soups, mock meats, all sorts of vegetables and a few traditional Chinese side dishes such as cucumber and lotus root.

Address: 76 Jinghui Lu, Yuexiu district Tel: (020) 81072970/ 81072976



Shui Yun Tian 水云天素食馆

Quirkily decorated, this place offers a comprehensive line of fake meat. Its signature dish is mock fish, fried tofu and steak on iron – the vegetarian version of the classic tie ban niu rou. Shui Yun Tian is vegan as well as vegetarian, meaning no eggs or dairy products, which makes the drinks list interesting. You can eat decently for about 30 yuan, then stock up on vegetarian snacks at the stall at the front.

Hours: 10 am-10 pm Address: 38-42 Jinghui Lu, Yuexiu dis-

Tel: (020) 61270777

WHAT'S ON

Blessing Asia - The Russian Song & Dance Ensemble

"祝福亚运",俄罗斯舞蹈歌舞团

To celebrate the Asian Games, more than 2,000 performance artists from about 20 countries will visit the city, treating Guangzhou residents to a jam-packed month of wonderful performances

The Russian Song & Dance Ensemble is now in town to bring the splendid song and dance culture of Russia to the city. Featuring professional dancers trained at some of Russia's top dance schools, their performance not only features Russian elements, but also

incorporates a diverse range of dance styles from Spanish to Gypsy and samba to Arabic dance.

When: 2:30 pm, 8 pm, Nov 13-14; 8 pm.

Address: Guangzhou Baiyun Internation-al Convention Center, 1039-1046 Baiyun Dadao Nan, Baiyun district Tel: (020) 88800888

Floating Forest - A Co-exhibition of German and Swiss artists

漂浮的森林

Swiss artist Leonie Hunn and German artist Frank Gerlitzki are displaying their paintings and sculptures at Guangzhou's EMG Art Center. The combination brings new light to the stage, and makes this exhibition a distinguished and unique show.

When: until Nov 22 Address: EMG Art Center, C5, Redtory, 128 Yuan Cun Si Heng Lu, Tianhe district Tel: (020) 85574417

Made in Guangdong by Italians

广东的意大利制造

Admission free

Spot Art Gallery will host an exhibition named Made in Guangdong by Italians from Oct 11 to Dec 3, introducing a group of famous Italian companies present in Guangdong. The gallery is run by the Consulate General of Italy in Guangzhou and this exhibition aims to offer local citizens an insight into the activities, history and products produced by companies such as Vibram, Somacis and Meta System.

When: 9 am-6 pm, until Dec 3 (closed on public holidays)

Address: Spot Art Gallery, 14/F Interna-tional Finance Place (IFP), 8 Huaxia Lu, Pearl River New City Tel: (020)38396225-171

Admission free

NIGHTLIFE

C: union Guangzhou 喜窝

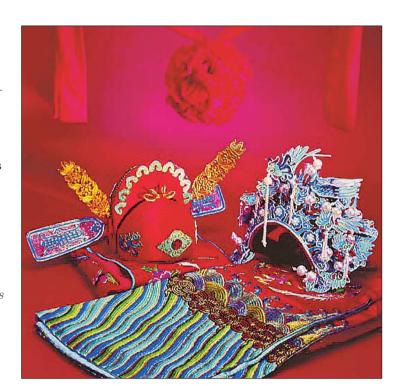
Tucked away behind a thick line of trees at the back of Tianyi Plaza on Shuiyin Lu, C:union is a rare gem in Guangzhou's live music scene. The venue itself is low-key and its popularity has primarily been achieved through word of mouth.

Run by a musician from Yunnan province, C:union attracts customers from all walks of life. Some of the biggest acts in the country play here; as do many international acts passing through town. Besides being a magnet for the most talented musicians and bands far and wide, much of C:union's appeal lies in its laid-back, easy-going atmosphere, largely created through its simple interior decor and "livingroom-like" vibes. There's little room for pretentiousness as it's clear that most loyal followers here come for the venue's top-class music performances and friendly atmosphere. Drinks are reasonably priced at about 30 yuan for cocktails and bottles of Erdinger and Beamish are available for 40 yuan. Besides the live acts, customers can also entertain themselves by playing table soccer or darts.

Address: 1/F, Tianyi Plaza, 115 Shuiyin Lu, Yuexiu district **Tel:** (020) 87047357

Tutu union T凸空间

The newest edition to Guangzhou's live music scene, Tutu union is located



EDITOR'S PICK >> DRESS LIKE AN EMPEROR

Ever wanted to try on a Chinese emperor's robe? Would you like to dress up as a traditional Chinese bride and have your photo taken? Or are you looking for things such as masks, swords and Chinese knots to improve the fengshui of your house?

If the answer is yes, you should pay a visit to Renmin Nan Lu (人 民南路) in the western old town of Guangzhou, the "cradle" of traditional Chinese and opera costumes.

Zhuangyuan Fang Costume Workshop (状元坊戏服厂) is one of the oldest costume makers in the city. It has been the costume provider for many famous films, dramas and TV series. The shop's manager, Dong Huilan, is a veteran embroidery master, whose works have won national prizes. Nowadays, the shop sells not only traditional Chinese costumes but also fashionable evening dresses.

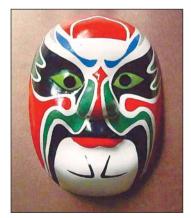
The Huitao Costume Co Ltd (汇涛戏装有限公司) is another place worth visiting. Young though it is, Huitao has become one of the leaders in the costume industry. It is frequented by local Yueju Opera fans, artists and foreign tourists, some of whom are avid collectors. In keeping pace with the Internet age, Huitao initiated its online business recently.

(Huitao.gz35.net/11/ht/.)

There are a number of other costume providers offering both ready-for-sale, machine-made pieces and elaborate hand-made ones. Made-to-order service is available in these shops.

Some things not to miss include dragon robes, exquisite phoenix crowns, illustrating masks, Chinese knots and embroidered shoes.

within the Sculpture Park amid its beautiful natural surroundings. Spread over two storeys, the venue occupies a total space of 1,600 square meters and boasts a top-class sound system and live recording system. With its international standard equipment and generous space, Tutu plans on becoming the main professional exchange platform in South China for artists and musicians, while giving Guangzhou music fans the opportunity to enjoy a



musical experience akin to large-scale concerts halls.

Tutu has already attracted international acts like Vialka and popular Chinese bands Hanggai and IZ band. Expect to see many more top-class acts and music events here in the coming months. Also look out for the rotating art exhibits hanging from the walls.

Address: Inside Sculpture Park, 545 Xiatang Xi Lu, Yuexiu district **Tel:** (020) 36597623