



LOOKING FOR FUN STUFF TO DO? SPICE UP YOUR ITINERARY THIS MONTH WITH A BIT OF THE FANCY AND THE BIZARRE

**HO CHI MINH CITY**

**RIDE AN OSTRICH!**

A horse? Too common. But an ostrich? Why not count yourself as one of the few people who can claim to have ridden this large creature? Find them in Vuon Xoai (Mango Garden) in Dong Nai province, more than a one-hour bus ride away from Ho Chi Minh City. *Mango Garden Resort, 15 Dang Tat Street, Tan Dinh Ward, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, tel: +84 (8) 3848 3836, +84 (9) 3726 2757, www.vuonxoai.vn*

**SHANGHAI**

**LIVE THE HIGH LIFE**

Prepare dimsum with one of the city's best chefs, hire a jet, or discover what it's like to live like a monk for a day. Looking for a truly far-out experience? Luxury Concierge China can see to it for you. The company offers bespoke packages and guided tours, hotel recommendations and bookings. *Suite 403, Dynasty Business Centre, 457 Wulumuqi Bei Lu, Shanghai, www.luxuryconciiergechina.com*

**SINGAPORE**

**WATCH THE FIRST CIRCUS THEATRE PREMIERE**

*Voyage de la Vie (Journey of Life)* is filled with circus acts, fantastic stunts and costumes that are the brainchild of Mark Fisher, who is known for the world tour sets of The Rolling Stones and U2, and the ceremonies of the Torino 2006 and Beijing 2008 Olympics. At Festive Grand, Resorts World Sentosa from June 17, 2010. [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg) and [www.rwsentosa.com](http://www.rwsentosa.com)



This editor knows how to sniff out a sale

**BARGAIN HUNTING?**

Let *Real Living* magazine's editor-in-chief Rachelle F Medina steer you in the right direction.

● **Furniture** "I'm a big fan of high-low when it comes to décor. I'd get basic or generic pieces from mall shops and depots like SM, Crossings, Dimensione and IKEA, then buy handcrafted accessories from specialty stores like Firma, A11 and LRI. Or I scour the second-hand outlets in Evangelista."

● **Gifts** "Whenever I travel, I hit the museum shops and stock up on small gift items. I know most of the pieces are unique and can't be found elsewhere. I look for artist-designed notebooks, planners, puzzles, games, metal or cloth bookmarks, or art books."

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**PACQUIAO'S FAVORITE**  
Don't be surprised if the folks at Rancho Grill tell you they serve food for champions because they do. This popular General Santos City resto serves a dish that's the reputed favorite of Manny Pacquiao: Rancho Baby Back Ribs — grilled pork ribs smothered in a sweet, tangy barbecue sauce — they say, puts the Welterweight King of the Ring in an intense food fightin' mood. Other menu standouts include the seafood platter and the classic Visayan pochero. Dine al fresco in ranch-meets-city environs. Warning: servings are huge! *Rancho Grill, National Highway, tel: +63 (83) 555 53-9298.*



Chomp on the Champ's fave!

LESTER V. LEDESMA

TEXT BY DANREB C. MEJIA, JING LEJANO AND LESTER V. LEDESMA





smile



Guangzhou

**Country code:** +86  
**Currency:** China Renminbi (RMB1 = PHP 6.71/US\$0.146)

**TRIVIA** Guangzhou, also known as Canton, was one of the first cities to welcome outsiders, when the country opened in 1978. Currently, the city is preparing for the 16th Asian Games at year's end.

**TOUCHDOWN** From Guangzhou Baiyun International airport, a taxi to the city center costs RMB150 and takes an hour. The airport express bus costs about RMB20.

**BY DAY** Do as the locals do, and have dimsum in the morning, the specialty in Guangzhou. Go to the wholesale markets near Guangzhou Railway Station and Beijing Road for shopping.

**BY NIGHT** Make a trip to the Pearl River, and take the Pearl River cruise. End the night with partying in the pubs along Pearl River such as Baby Face, Soho and Xi Xi.

**SLEEP** The Garden Hotel is a local platinum five-star hotel right in the center of the city, and guaranteed to deliver premiere service and luxury. [www.thegardenhotel.com.cn](http://www.thegardenhotel.com.cn)



**LOCAL LIFE**  
Jason Lim  
sales manager

**Best breakfast**

Dimsum at Guangzhou Restaurant. Established in 1935, it has nine outlets in the city

**Best night out**

Go to Shamian to see the European buildings built by the French and the English

**Best dinner**

Bing Sheng Restaurant for Cantonese food. There are four outlets in the city

**Best buys**

TianHe Computer City — all sorts of gadgets including laptops and pin-hole cameras

**Best souvenirs**

All sorts of small gifts and presents at Yi De Road, Wan Ning Mall

**Must-do experience**

Select and bargain for your seafood dinner at the HuangSha Seafood Wholesale Market

**Must learn...**

Say "Tai gui le" meaning "Too expensive" whenever you bargain for prices

**Insider tip**

Be careful of your wallet and money, as pickpockets are common in Guangzhou



Shanghai

**Country code:** +86  
**Currency:** China Yuan Renminbi (RMB1 = PHP6.71/US\$0.146)

**TRIVIA** Shanghai's Lupu Bridge is the world's longest arched bridge. Tourists can make their way to the very top of the bridge and get an incredible panoramic view of the city.

**TOUCHDOWN** From the Pudong International Airport, the Maglev train gets you from the airport to Longyuan station at 431km/hour in seven minutes. [www.shanghaiairport.com](http://www.shanghaiairport.com)

**BY DAY** See the Bund and the French Concession for architecture, the Old Town, the Urban Planning Museum, Moganshan Lu for Chinese art and Xintiandi for dimsum.

**BY NIGHT** ERA Shanghai is one of the best ongoing shows in the city, combining acrobatics with sounds and lights. Dine at Lost Heaven, a popular Yunnanese place.

**SLEEP** Treat yourself to a stay at the Shanghai Park Hyatt, the world's highest hotel, as it's on the 79-93rd floors of the World Financial Center. [shanghai.park.hyatt.com](http://shanghai.park.hyatt.com)



**LOCAL LIFE**  
Jonathan L Hasson  
co-director  
Luxury Concierge China

**Best breakfast**

Have eggs, chocolate bread, espresso, and grapefruit juice at most hotel cafés

**Best night out**

Bar Rouge delivers a great experience that is very memorable

**Best dinner**

Franck's in the former French Concession for French cuisine. The service is impeccable

**Best buys**

Qipu Lu for some great deals on clothes, or Ting for some cool furniture

**Best souvenirs**

Mao memorabilia or old cigarette posters at Dongtai Lu Antiques Market

**Must-do experience**

A half-day architecture walk of the French Concession with Spencer Dodington

**Must learn...**

"Zewei" ("goodbye"), "shayanu" ("thank you") and "vataka" ("never mind")

**Insider tip**

Visit Art Salon, a charming Shanghaiese restaurant in the French Concession

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THEN & NOW

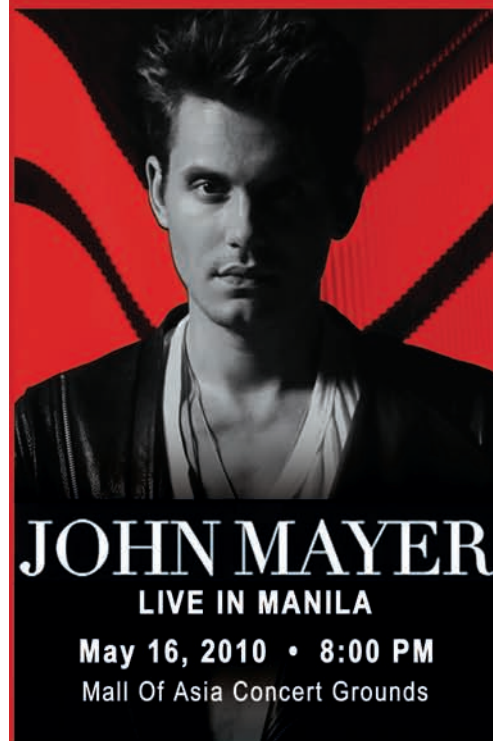
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JOHN MAYER

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The Shanghai World Expo Music Festival kicks off on May 1

