



I-20 Magazine

Travel Issue

Advanced Writing Class

*Center for English Language and
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Top Ten Apps To Travel Better

Ming Li, China

It is well-known that the smartphone is a very important part of our life. If we use smartphones, we know the app is the most important feature.

You can install every app that you want online. There are a lot of different types of apps, some of which are very useful for our daily lives.

A lot of people like to travel. Which apps can make our travel better? Here I will introduce you 10 apps that I think are very useful for our travels.



1. Expedia

This is a really useful app when we buy air tickets. When you open this app you will see a lot of deals for tickets and hotels. It will always provide some deals for you. And you also can use this app to find someone to pick you up from the airport or your home.



This one is really good for reserving hotels. Wherever you are, you can use this app to help you to find a hotel. You can use this app to find the nearest, cheapest or most comfortable one. It will always provide the best deal.



3. Smart Traveler

When we travel to another country, there are things we don't know of that country. This app will provide useful information, including important local laws, information on medical services, and safety and security advice. It will also provide current travel alerts and warnings from the local area you are traveling in. And you can connect with the U.S. embassy to help you deal with things like a lost passport or other emergencies. But this app is only for Americans.



4. WiFi Map

We need WiFi every day. When we go to some other country, our destination our network might not be available, but we need to connect with our family and friends. So we can use this app to connect to some free Wi-Fi spots. When you open this app, you will see a map with a lot of spots you can connect to free. Then you can connect with your family and friends.



5. Yelp

In China, we think "eating" is the most important thing in our lives. Because if we can't

eat very well, we will not have energy to do other things. If you use this app you can find anything that you want to eat. Also you can find the most popular food in any city. It will provide a lot of types of restaurants like Chinese, Thai, or American. It also provides the price. When the restaurants pop up, it will give you the average price. If you have this app, you will never be hungry when you travel.



6. Google Maps

We use this app a lot in our normal life. This one is really good, when we travel we might not know how to get somewhere. If we use this one, we will never get lost; we can go anywhere we want. Another helpful things are that if you don't have internet, you can download the map in this app.



7. XE currency

As we all know, we use different types of money in different countries. But the money is not equal. Like if we go to China's mall and we see clothes, it might cost 668 CNY. But we don't know how much it will cost in dollars. So we just use this app to help us convert. Then we will know how much it costs in dollars.



8. Google Translate

When we go to another country, they might not speak English, but if we can only speak English what can we do? We just use Google Translate to help us translate. Google Translate has 104 languages. If you want to say something in different languages, you just type in English, then it will convert to another language. It is awesome!



9. Turo

When you travel, if you don't want to take the bus or subway you need Turo. Turo is an app to help rent a car for a short time. I believe a lot of people prefer to drive a car when they go to the other city, because taking the bus and subway is very stressful. Turo will always give coupons and deals. You can use this app in the whole US.



10. Airbnb

When you go to another city or country, you don't want to live in a hotel. You want to live like home. Airbnb is an app for short-term rentals. We can use this app to find a house to rent for a week. The houses on Airbnb are very beautiful. If you don't want to go to the hotel, just login in Airbnb to find your temporary home!

Group Travel v. Personal Travel *Ae Kyoung Yang, South Korea*

Mark Twain said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness."

Travel is needed for many reasons, for instance, resting, sightseeing, experiencing, making friends, eating special foods, or just for having fun. Also travel gives us so many things, such as freedom, realization, happiness, confidence, memories, and so on.

Actually, I love travel, so I usually try to decide where to go and plan the trip before vacation. Especially when I decide how to travel, I always agonize on two things, group travel or personal travel. Which one do you prefer?

Group travel refers to going with more than two people. Here it means group package tour. You could choose any travel package through Internet sites, pamphlets, commercials, or a travel agency.

Here are the good things of group travel: It is safer than personal travel, since the tour guide gives you information about how to be careful in advance. You can walk around with many companions, so you are protected from any dangers. You always have someone who explores with you, so you feel less lonely.

Also, you can learn from other travelers, since they have different backgrounds, experiences, and different perspectives even though they see the same famous sights. You can exchange impressions and opinions with others during the tour.

In addition, if you get sick, other people can take care of you. Furthermore, the travel price might be cheaper in groups.

Discounts for traveling are possible when a travel agency makes a reservation at an air company in groups because there are group seats and regular seats on airplanes, and group seats are cheaper. This rule also applies to restaurants.

Moreover, you can enjoy your destination without any effort, as a travel agency provides a

schedule that consists of sightseeing, activities, shopping, and dining.

If you want to travel, but you don't have time to get information about where to go and to book plane tickets, hotels, rent-a-car, and restaurants, you can choose group travel.

However, group travel doesn't provide freedom because you have to follow a schedule. In addition, if you don't show up on time, you may inconvenience other tourists. Of course, you can take a rest in the hotel room or go to other places after telling the tour guide, yet you might feel unsatisfied or spend more money.

Personal travel means that you travel with someone who is close to you, such as family members, friends, or co-workers. And it includes traveling alone.

What are the good things of personal travel? You can go to the places you prefer whenever you want, so it makes you feel more free and satisfied. If you travel alone, you don't need to care about anyone and argue about where to go and eat and sleep. All decisions are yours.

On the other hand, you need to plan the schedule, transportation, hotel, and place to eat. It will take a long time to plan the best route and reserve everything. It can make you tired and exhausted before leaving. Also you may be nervous because you have to check and solve everything by yourself.

Although you have more opportunities to speak other languages by communicating with people who you meet, if you can't speak the other language, it is hard to travel comfortably



and easily. In addition, you don't have a guide who can help you as well as recommend useful tips about the place where you travel. So you must rely on asking other tourists or searching on tour applications, such as Google, Yelp, and so on. Furthermore, the cost of the trip might be more expensive than group traveling, and you might be exposed to danger like crime, for example, kidnapping, and pickpocketing.

In my opinion, even though group travel is cheaper, safer, and convenient, I prefer personal travel. I have taken lots of trips through group package tours. By the time I finished my travel, I felt unsatisfied because I couldn't look around the place where I wanted to go. The given time was too short to look around slowly and take pictures, whereas shopping time was too long and boring. Besides, I couldn't remember the name of the famous places and foods.

I had a much different experience with personal travel. My first trip traveling independently was to Macao on the south coast of China. I read a travel guidebook and it was really useful. I have never forgotten everything I did and saw. Traveling by myself was very exciting and fun. This trip is still vivid in my memory.

In conclusion, both group travel and personal travel have positive and negative sides. It is hard to say which one is better. You should choose a travel type according to your situation.

If you don't have time to plan, or your travel place has many risks, group travel might be appropriate. Whereas, if you feel uncomfortable being with unknown people, as well as following a planned time-chart, you should choose personal travel.

Executing a successful and fabulous trip depends on your attitude. If you have an open-mind and passion, you can enjoy your travel wherever and with whomever.



The Biggest Airplane *Pavlo Vichar, Ukraine*

There is one cargo aircraft that is not designed for people to travel. It is the biggest operational aircraft in the world, and there is only one in existence.

At the same time, it has significant impact on tourism because people come to the viewing area at the airport when the aircraft arrives or departs. For example, about 20,000 people came to watch its arrival in Perth, Australia on May 15, 2016. It is called An-225 Mriya, which means "dream" in Ukrainian.

Why is the plane interesting for people? There are three things that make the airplane so special and unique: its history, dimensions, and functions.

The airplane was designed and produced at Kyiv

mechanical factory in Ukraine under the guidance of Victor Tolmachev from 1984 to 1988. The first flight was on December 21, 1988 during the Cold War between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

The An-225 was created for a narrow range of unique transportation assignments at the time. For example, it was designed to transport the space shuttle "Buran" on its back from the production site to the launch area.

There were plans to build several more airplanes, but the USSR collapsed and the factory could not produce more. Moreover, in 1994, the engines were removed from the plane. In 2000 when the demand of the market for the An-225 became obvious, the plane was fixed and

modernized. Since 2001, the aircraft has been making successful attempts to transport big cargo from one place to another.

The aircraft also has impressive dimensions which cannot go unnoticed. The An-225 is powered by six turbofan engines instead of the regular four. It is the longest and the heaviest airplane that has ever been built with a length of 84 m (275 ft. 7 in.) and a weight of 285,000 kg (628,317

lb.) without cargo and fuel. The capacity of the plane is 1,300 cubic meters of usable cargo area, which is big enough to hold 50 cars. The cargo area measures 43 meters long, 6.4 meters wide and 4.4 meters tall. The airplane can carry up to 250 tons of cargo, compared with 140 tons for the Boeing 747-800 and 65 tons for the Airbus 330.

In addition, the An 225 has a few distinct functions which make the plane





outstanding and unique. The tail of the fuselage is divided in two parts, which enables the airplane to carry any kind of aerodynamic cargo up to 250 tons on the top of the plane. Another kind of cargo, for instance containers, can cause obstacles for controlling the aircraft.

Furthermore, the power of the engines enables the plane to lift a space shuttle to the sky and send it to space. That advantage saves costs of fuel up to 12 times. Cargo is loaded via the massive front door, which hinges open so that a ramp may extend out. As a result, the plane can load very long and heavy cargo.

In conclusion, the dimensions and functions of the An-225 Mriya make it special and unique. The aircraft represents the power of human thought and ideas. It makes me feel proud that just a few countries can produce big airplanes, and one of them is Ukraine. However, based on many Russian articles that I have read, authors have been trying to argue that the plane is not related to Ukraine. One of the pieces of evidence for this argument is that Ukraine was part of the USSR, therefore the airplane relates more to Russia rather than to Ukraine.

As a Ukrainian, I am so proud that the biggest airplane was designed and produced in my country almost 30 years ago. People from all over the world can see the plane if it arrives in their countries. If you know that the An-225 is coming to an airport close to your home, go see it!



DRUM TOWER STREET, BEIJING

Anhua Xu, China

Have you been bored in Beijing? Are you tired of the Great Wall and Forbidden City? Look no further than the Hollywood hills of Beijing, Drum Tower Street, which is in Dongcheng district. This historic part of Beijing has activities and sights for people of all ages and interests, from its modern roads to ancient drum towers. In the past,

"On the edges of the lake there are vendors who sell traditional toys and Beijingers yogurt, making the lake an exciting place for young people and children wanting some fun."

drum towers were used for time service, to let people know the time.

Drum Tower Street, one of my favorite places in central Beijing, is not a single road, but a day full of adventure.

There are many bicycle paths for afternoon rides, as well as roads for those who love to drive their cars. The tree-lined streets will keep you cool during the summer and the hanging lights from the building above keep the night bright. As you prepare to spend the day, be sure to bring lots of money as there are many traditional restaurants and high-end retail shops for all your food and

gift desires.

There are many different kinds of restaurants along the street. On this street there is the most famous Peking duck house in all of Beijing, as well as delicious street foods like crunchy candied hawthorn. There are many opportunities to shop on the street. Popular shops include traditional bakeries and candy stores. There are many kinds of delicious cakes and candies, along with red beans, green beans, and sesame. Very popular modern stores include traditional themed ice cream places like Haagen-Dazs and a cute coffee shop like Starbucks.

This street does not only have food stores, it also has cosmetic stores, all of which are traditional Chinese products. Not only is the packaging very vintage, but also useful. Every purchase there is a great gift for your female friends or family member.

While many would be attracted to the food of Drum Tower Street, there are also many opportunities for sightseeing nearby. Shi Cha Hai is the street famous people live on. People who live there include Mei Lanfang, the most famous Peking opera

artist in modern Chinese theater, as well as Song Qingling, often called “the mother of modern China,” who is the second wife of Sun Yat-sen, one of the leaders of the 1911 revolution that established the Republic of China.

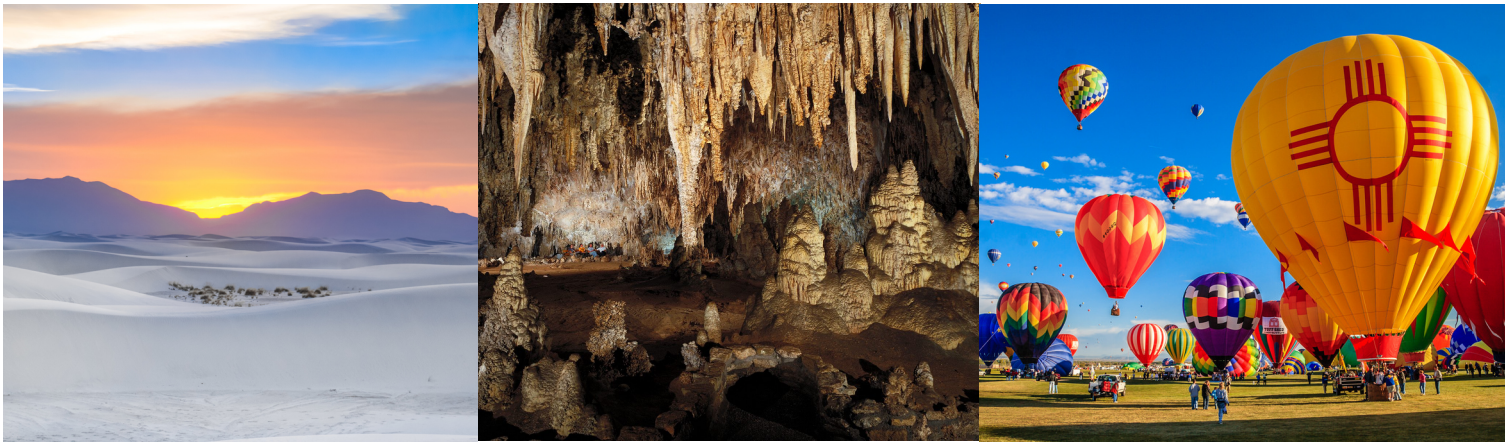
While some may want to spend all day looking at the homes of famous people, there are also three lakes that are home to many beautiful stone bridges. There is a front lake, a middle lake, and a back lake, where you can row boats, but cannot swim. There are many wil-

low trees and parks that surround the lakes where you can see lots of ducks. On the edges of the lake there are vendors who sell traditional toys and traditional Beijngese yogurt, making the lake an exciting place for young people and children wanting some fun.

A visit to Drum Tower Street will allow you to see the culture of Beijing. The many attractive features and experiences create a day full of adventure that will be the highlight of anyone’s trip to the city of Beijing.



One of the three lakes near Drum Tower Street.



L to R: White Sands, Carlsbad Caverns, and the International Balloon Fiesta

THREE PLACES YOU HAVE TO GO IN NEW MEXICO

Wei Tang, China

New Mexico state is in the south part of America. It is not the most famous state in the U.S. However, if you come to New Mexico, you will be surprised by this amazing place.

In New Mexico, people are nice and friendly. They are very welcoming to people who are from other places. Also, the culture is very diversified--Indian culture, American culture, and many different cultures from international people. For me, when I first came here, I was attracted by scenic spots. There are three places you must see, if you are planning to visit New Mexico, otherwise you will regret it.

The first place is White Sands National Monument, which is near Alamogordo and 280 miles away from the biggest city, Albuquerque.

White Sands National Monument is covered by white gypsum. It is very magical to see the dunes in summer because it looks like snow, and makes me feel it is winter. You can also see wildlife in this area such as lizards, wood rats, and soaptree yuccas.

What I most like about White Sands National Monument is the sunset, which is spectacular. I highly recommend that you sit on the sand dunes and view the sunset.

The second place is Carlsbad Caverns National Park, which is in the southeast of New Mexico, pretty near to Texas. The deepest cavern, which has four chambers, is 830 feet underground. You can take an elevator to see them. My advice is to walk to the deepest cavern. When you want to go back to the ground, you can take the elevator because the view of the trail is also amazing.

The caverns are colorful and beautiful. There is a special show in the evening where bats will fill the sky. Around 6 p.m., millions of bats fly out of the cave. It is incredible.

Finally, if you come to New Mexico in October, you shouldn't miss the International Balloon Fiesta. Every year, the world's biggest balloon festival is held in Albuquerque. People around the world come to Albuquerque to join the festival. During

this time, thousands of balloons lift off from the balloon park. Albuquerque's sky will be painted by balloons.

I haven't gone to the International Balloon Fiesta yet, but I won't miss this year. I cannot imagine how fantastic it is when thousands of balloons are in the sky at the same time.

New Mexico looks quiet and normal, but it has the magic power that makes everybody love this place. Some people don't want to go back to where they came from after they visit New Mexico.

Also I will miss the desert and dry climate when I get back to China, even though I loved the rain and trees. New Mexico had made an indelible impression on me, because of the wonderful views and events, like White Sands Monument, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, and the most spectacular International Balloon Fiesta.

*Korean chicken soup
ordered with the help of a
dictionary*

HOW TO VISIT A COUNTRY WITHOUT SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE

Xuemei Wang, China

I had never been to any other country before June 3rd this year, when I went to South Korea for a trip with my mother. Though I worked in a Korean transnational corporation, I had learned little Korean and that was not enough for independent travel. So I had to prepare for this travel before going there. Based on this experience, I will share some advice with you about how to travel a country without knowing the language.

First of all, I recommend that you participate in a tour group which has two days' free time. The agency could give you some excellent package deals if you ask. It is not an easy thing to talk with reception by second language, not to mention that there



are some small hotels' reception that cannot speak English. A good guide will send you to the hotel and give you a map of locations that highlights the beautiful high points. My mother chose the international traveling agency. It was advantageous that our guides told us their opinions about traveling in Seoul. And one of our guide who was from Korea sent us to the hotel and gave us the key to our room so that we could enjoy our first day by ourselves.

However, on the second day, we had to follow the schedule and spent all day on different kinds of duty-free stores which we didn't like. If you really do not want a guide to lead you to visit every attraction, you had better choose the group which only provides accommodations and air tickets.

Secondly, it is necessary to have an electronic dictionary and wi-fi when you want to have a dinner with your friends. As we all know, almost every restaurant uses their own language to write its menu, which means that we cannot understand its contents and cannot order our meal.

Having an electronic dictionary may help you resolve this problem. Maybe some restaurants have pictures of dishes, yet the food stands do not. Many important words should be checked before you go to start your visit.

When we stayed in Seoul, our tour guide recommended a chicken soup restaurant. It was near the Gyeongbokgung, which is the most famous palace in Korea. The menu in this restaurant was full of Korean and there were no pictures on it. After visiting Gyeongbokgung, my mother and I checked

the menu by our dictionary in this restaurant and ordered our soup successfully. We tasted two kinds of delicious soup with rice.

Remembering some signs is useful in Asia, as different symbols are easy to distinguish. If you are traveling to other country, you could copy words and ask locals, and they will be happy to show you the way. So it is important to check the words by dictionary.

Finally, you should learn some simple sentences or locations' name to help you travel the country, just like, "Thank you," or "Please give me this one." You don't have to know how to spell these sentences, but you can imitate their pronunciation in your first language. They should understand you, even though your pronunciation is not standard. Meanwhile, if someone helps you, and you say, "thank you" with their language, they will be glad. In addition, don't forget to ask your friends to remember some sentences. Two brains are better than one.

In conclusion, traveling to another country is not easy, but it is an exciting thing to experience. Both my mother and I enjoyed different kinds of Korean food every day, like traditional food and Korean barbecue. When we wanted to buy a souvenir in traditional museum or ask how to go to Lotte building without knowing their language, we felt a little nervous and embarrassed. But that was an unforgettable memory for our all life.



DIFFERENT CULTURES, DIFFERENT MUSIC

Grace Cui, China

Every country has their kind of music that is their symbol, like protest music, the music that people use to protest the government with singing, and they do not need to worry about what the government will do to them. For example, because America is a country of freedom, protest music with rap, hip hop, or rock became a very important part of the American history. That is just like other different kinds of music in other cultures. People develop their special kind of music which is based on their culture. It is very interesting when people find out that little connection to the culture that is hidden in the song.

Korea is a famous country for K-pop. If you notice, you will find that this country is used to having a group of singers sing together as one. Korea has a trainee system. Teenagers who look good, or sing and dance or rap very well, will be discovered by the manager. If they have a dream to be a star, they will go to the company to ask to be a trainee. They will have two or even more years to be trained on how to sing, dance, keep their body healthy and sexy, and also keep looking good together as a group, and then they will start their shiny star life. Because of this trainee system, all the teenager stars can sing very well and dance very well at the same time. They will show their very powerful dance as a neat group. This system is what just Korea group idols will do to be a star.

Japan is a famous country for animation. The whole system of animation developed a lot of fans in lots of different countries. For example, they have virtual idols that are from animation, like Hatsune Miku, the first electronic virtual idol that can sing whatever people want her to sing. She is actually from a program, but people gave her an image, then she began to sing and dance, and even play concerts to her fans. Even what she does at the concert is made by the program, but it still makes her an idol that can connect to her fans like others.

Not only does Japan have electronic virtual idols, but it also has virtual idols or groups that are from animation. Like HTT from animation K-ON! and μ 's from the animation Lovelive!. Actually, μ 's is a virtual group that was made into animation so people would know them better and love them. They even have an album just like real idols or singers do in the real world. This is what only Japan can do the best.

China is a country with a thousand years of history and a lot of minorities. From 5,000 years of history and also the Chinese traditional poem, we have a special type of music we call Chinese style. This type of music will not use the scale Fa and La; only Do, Re, Mi, So, Ti. This is what Chinese used to use in songs in the past. We will use a lot of Chinese traditional instruments with the western instruments. The lyrics in the song will also be like the poem in the past. Only China with this special culture can make this type of music.

America, as I said in the beginning, is a country full of freedom. People can sing exactly what they want in their song, which makes their rock, rap, and hip-hop a lot different from that of other countries. It doesn't mean that other countries do not do a good job on rock or rap, but only in America, can people sing exactly what they want in their song. That is because America is the country that everyone believes in freedom. People even sing protest songs to the government, and they don't need to worry that they will be arrested. So people can listen to protest music from different periods to know exactly what the society was like at that period. This also can only happen in America.

Even in the same country, different places have their special local music from their history, like a symbol of their society in the past. It will be very interesting for people to go visit a city and listen to the local music to feel the texture of the history.



CHOOSING YOUR MODE OF TRAVEL

Jiaru Wei, China

Travel is a very interesting thing because we always can find some interesting story or some interesting knowledge. We learn many things from travel and we can see many surprises that we have never seen. Although travel is the same, we need to have different behaviors ready for the trip. Different countries have different cultures. I think different countries need different styles to go. Just like, when you go to Africa or to the U.S., you have different ways to travel. Different people have different styles to travel.

Travel has many styles. First, people just go there to look at some culture or some famous place. This is what most people choose to have, and it is also the most basic travel style in the world.

Secondly, the people want to understand a culture and live there a long time. This travel style is most free and expensive. They choose the best hotel, best weather, best environment.

Thirdly, people travel for business, the expenses are supported by their company. They don't have a choice on the place or time, but they have a good environment.

The other is to learn and feel Nature and study plants. Some people have already know this place or have learned some about the culture there, and then go to this place to travel and study more.

For example, last year I went to Korea and Thailand. I went to Korea just for shopping, because Korea's makeup is very famous, and to eat some delicious food. Korea has many beautiful girls, but I think all of them look very similar. But when I went to Thailand, I saw many famous places and learned many different cultures. I knew something about Thailand history and their king. I learned some customs about Thailand, such as when we go to the hotel, we need to say, "Hello, I'm come in." So when we meet different countries, we have different styles.

There are many different styles, but all of this you should choose by yourself according to your interest. Like me, I like Thailand's culture and Korea's makeup products. These are different things that I am interested in, so I choose different ways to travel.



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GOING JAPANESE IN ALBUQUERQUE

by Mika Hashimoto, Japan

It's not too much to say that Japanese food is one of the most popular international cuisines in the United States. There are approximately 9,000 Japanese restaurants in the U.S., and the number has increased 2.5 times in the last 10 years. Although not many people are aware of it, the dishes served at Japanese restaurants here are usually far removed from what Japanese people eat in Japan.

The main reason is probably the owners or the chefs are immigrants from Asian countries like China, Korea, and Vietnam. Less than 10% of Japanese restaurants are owned by Japanese diaspora, meaning in 90% of the Japanese restaurants, the dishes are cooked by those who don't know Japanese culture and don't have basic Japanese cooking knowledge. Good Japanese cooking is subtle and takes a long time to master. Sushi chefs in particular are highly trained.

The second reason is that the dishes served in the United States are Americanized forms of Japanese food, or a fusion of Japanese and Western. The Japanese food and especially *Washoku* have the meaning of traditional Japanese cuisine. The California roll born in the 60s in Los Angeles is a good example. The California roll substitutes avocado for *toro* (fatty tuna) and makes the roll "inside-out." Traditionally sushi rolls are wrapped with *nori* on the outside, but Americans did not like seeing and chewing the *nori* on the outside of the roll. In addition, Japanese food now means



Ramen from Naruto

not only the traditional Japanese cuisine, but also the dishes which were fused with different cultures in relatively recent years: *teppanyaki*, *teriyaki*, *curry rice*, *katsu-don*, *ramen* and so on.

I'm afraid to say it's very difficult to enjoy the real traditional Japanese cuisine in Albuquerque. Let me note that *Washoku* was added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in December 2013. The Japanese government defined *Washoku* as a social practice based on an essential spirit of the Japanese: "respect for nature." It contributes to healthy life and strengthens familial and community ties. *Washoku* requires various fresh ingredients and the use of their natural tastes. It emphasizes well-balanced and healthy diets, beauty of nature in the presentation, and connecting to annual events.

Now, I will introduce two Japanese restaurants in Albuquerque that I will critique based on my Japanese heritage.

Naruto is located at 2110 Central Ave. and has already become very popular since its opening last December 2015. Naruto serves *tonkotsu* (pork broth) ramen, sake (Japanese rice wine) and small *tsumami* (appetizer that goes well with sake). The Japanese owner also owns the well known sushi restaurant "Shohko Cafe" in Santa Fe, which is the oldest sushi restaurant in New Mexico. Ken and Sachiko are from Japan so they know the culture and how to prepare ramen. They stick to the authentic form of *tonkotsu* Ramen not compromising the taste by supplying chicken or gluten free noodles. Even if the client asks for a different ingredient, they will not change it. I recommend everyone to order a plate of *gyoza* and beer to accompany the ramen. Then you are a

real Japanese! In Japan, it is typical to go have drinks with your colleagues ending the night with a final bowl of ramen. The *tonkotsu* ramen served here reminded me of those days I used to spend drinking with my friends.

There is a new restaurant in town that just opened this October. Mogu Mogu (meaning Nom nom in Japanese) is a local café (4001 Masthead St NE) born in the Japanese Family kitchen. The concept is to make authentic meals simple, fresh, and fast. The food served here is all familiar home-style food with a unique twist. It is like a Japanese Chipotle that provides options you can choose from: "Bowl It, Bun It, or Roll It." You can choose a rice

"Dishes served in the U.S. are Americanized forms of Japanese food, or a fusion of Japanese and Western."

bowl, a bun sandwich, or a sushi roll. You choose the meat and vegetables to add. It's a must-try if you are looking for something convenient, healthy and fun! I also recommend trying the *maccha* (green tea) roll cake or *azuki* roll cake for dessert. They won't make you regret eating too much as the cake is not only tasty but light.

According to my Japanese friends, there are other nice authentic Japanese restaurants in town such as: Nagomi, Magokoro Japanese, and Aya's New Asian Cuisine.

I hope you will try some of these restaurants so you can notice the difference between the authentic Japanese restaurant and the American Japanese restaurant.



Pork and eggplant sandwich from Mogumogu



Venezuelan Expats in Albuquerque

Edsay Vasquez, Venezuela

Venezuela is a country that offers a wide and delicious range of dining options that appeal to visitors and natives throughout the national territory. The protagonists of the Venezuelan cuisine have mixed features, coming from centuries of interaction of different cultures that make up our country.

The most representative dishes of the Venezuelan food are evidence of this process of miscegenation, from *la arepa* and *la hallaca*, to *el pabellón criollo*. With the departure of thousands of Venezuelans from the country, the culture of our land has spread around the world. The food, our food, has been the great ambassador of Venezuela in the other countries of the world. Nevertheless, it is currently astounding to think that there is not a Venezuelan restaurant in Albuquerque.

Currently, there is a great Venezuelan colony in Albuquerque that through the years has kept the tradition to get together every month to enjoy cooking and sharing typical dishes. The search of the ingredients for the preparation of the dishes has become a fascinating routine and enthusiasm for Venezuelans who live in Albuquerque.

Most ingredients are easily found in the city, as a result of the great influence of immigrants from Mexico, Central America and South America. However, there are two main ingredients in the Venezuelan gastronomy that represents the genuine taste of our land. These are, *ají dulce* (little sweet pepper) and *queso blanco* (white cheese). These complements, which we do not have in Albuquerque, are the

unique ingredients that makes us feel like we are tasting delicious dishes in our hometown.

The Venezuelan Organization in the World (*VenMundo*) was born on March 11, 2011 with the intention to join to the large number of Venezuelans abroad, to exchange information, and keep the link with the country through simple activities. Five years ago, the best link emerged from the creation of the World Day of the Arepa by this organization. It is held annually on the second Sunday in September.

Therefore, among all Venezuelans dishes, we could mention, the one which has universal acclaim and causes more homesickness within our expatriates is the *arepa*, perhaps because of the simplicity of its preparation, or its versatility when filling. The *arepa* and its main ingredient, pre-cooked corn flour, concentrates the greatest effort to fill the void or kill the homesickness of those who emigrated. For this reason, Venezuelans in Albuquerque are no exception in this annual celebration to keep alive that connection and to feel that the distance is shortened.

One of my best wishes as Venezuelan abroad is that we will continue being ambassadors of our country offering our delicious dishes, and keeping and sharing other good traditions. Currently, as a new inhabitant of Albuquerque, I feel very proud to belong and enjoy this great colony of Venezuela in this warmer city. Additionally, it is time to think about the tremendous opportunity to open a Venezuelan restaurant in Albuquerque.

CODA

VIETNAMESE DELI AND T

BANH MI CODA

Dung Dac Tien Nguyen, Vietnam

Have you ever tried Vietnamese sandwich which is known as *banh mi*? If you try it, you will spell W, O, W, "WOW." According to the shortlist in U.S. Journal, one of the top 10 best sandwiches in the world is Vietnamese sandwiches, because they are so delicious, high quality, and appreciated by millions of people. It is totally easy when you find a Vietnamese restaurant in Albuquerque to try Vietnamese sandwiches. I highly recommend you to choose Banh Mi Coda where you meet all your needs, like very reasonable prices, friendly employees, and especially perfect sandwiches.

Banh Mi Coda is located in the area near Talin Market, which is at the intersection of Louisiana and Central Avenue. The space inside Coda bakery looks like a sandwich, in that it has a small path between two sides. On the left side, there is a colorful menu on the wall which displays many kind of delicious sandwiches. In addition, they sell some yummy food like shrimp spring rolls, snacks, and Vietnamese traditional cake. After you choose whatever you really want to eat, you pay and go to the right side where there are a few tables for waiting. While you are waiting for your dishes, you will enjoy the warm space with the yellow light and the soft music that makes customer feel so comfortable.

Why is Banh Mi Coda so famous? Because the food is high in taste and quality, and low in cost. The taste and quality is expressed in the super fresh and delicious ingredients. Unlike the normal thick bread offered by the companies, Coda's 12-inch baguettes are crispy and warm on the outside. And the Coda Combo, which includes jambon, head ham, Vietnamese ham, BBQ pork, and house-made pate, is an excellent introduction. The two secret-powers that create the uniqueness of Banh Mi Coda are Vietnamese hams and house-made pate. Pate is a pork and liver spread. At Banh Mi Coda, after they researched carefully, they made pate super soft and each piece of liver is milled and



Bahn Mi Coda at 230
Louisiana Blvd SE

fused to make customers attracted by its shiny and red-pink surface. The fat isn't too fatty and tastes delicious.

In addition, all Vietnamese hams here are so special because the ratio of meat and fat are really perfect. Although they are hams, you feel the sweet spices and cinnamon in each piece of sandwich. One more point for Banh Mi Coda is pickled carrot, cucumber, cilantro, sliced chilly, and Vietnamese mayonnaise, which is a feature of this restaurant.

Therefore, this variety and combination creates the unique fame and difference from other competitive restaurants and attracts a lot of customers. The price of this sandwich is only \$5.95.

Besides the main food, Banh Mi Coda also serve some yummy food and snacks like spring rolls, beverages, and other traditional Vietnamese

food.

And so, what are you waiting for? With reasonable prices, friendly service, and especially delicious sandwiches, why don't you come and enjoy these famous sandwiches at Banh mi Coda. Don't miss this valuable chance!

VIET TASTE REVIEW

Nhu Hoang, Vietnam

Pho is traditional dish of Vietnam cuisine and can be considered one of the typical foods to express Vietnam's culture. Pho has attractive magic to all generations of Vietnamese because of the deliciousness and nutrition in it. That is a reason why nowadays not only Vietnamese, but also a lot of international people in the

world really like to eat pho. However, not everyone knows the secret things to make this excellent food because it needs a chef who has "good hands" and professional skills. Therefore, in this article, I would like to recommend Viet Taste restaurant which is famous for pho and where the chefs have long experience cooking pho.

There are a variety of ingredients in pho, but the three main things are noodles, soup, and beef, which is the most popular meat people choose. Therefore, there are many kind of prices for the bowl of pho. A waiter will offer you different kinds of beef like: rare, medium, or well done, and the cost is seven dollars. If you ask to add more special ingredients into the bowl like eggs, chicken or meatballs, and so on, they will charge you extra from one to three dollars. During the period of time you are waiting, the waiter will set up the table with a chopstick, a fork, a spoon, and a glass of water for each person. After the pho is served, you may add sauces, pepper, lemon, and vegetables. What are you waiting for! Enjoy it.

At Viet Taste restaurant, while you are enjoying pho, you are also living and immersed in the Vietnamese life and culture. For instance, there are several pictures on the wall expressing natural space, traditional clothes *Ao Dai*, and the motorcycles running around old town. Besides, you can also enjoy Vietnamese soft country and classical music.

All these factors, from the unique decoration of Viet Taste restaurant, to the soft beef, hot delicious soup, and pure white noodles inside the bowl of pho, as well as the friendly service with the motto "The customer is a





Ricas Gorditas Vale , 3311 Coors Blvd SW

Mexican Food v. New Mexican Food

Veronica Burciaga, Mexico

Have you ever tried Mexican food? Perhaps you have, but what about New Mexican food? You might ask yourself what the difference between Mexican and New Mexican food is, and they may be similar, but they are not the same. The differences between both styles of food include those in ingredients and seasoning.

Mexico and New Mexico have different characteristics and a few differences in culture. New Mexican food is influenced by North Mexican and Pueblo Indian food. One of the great characteristics that the New Mexican food has is that they use roasted green chile in many of their dishes. In New Mexico, both green and red chile are usually served with typical Mexican dishes such as those with beans, rice, tortillas, enchiladas, burritos, tamales, cheese, etc.

Generally, black beans are mostly used in New Mexican cuisine. Such New Mexican plates include Pueblo Indian food like fry bread, Navajo tacos, sopapillas, and enchiladas. These dishes are popular because New Mexican food has been adopted by Mexicans who are living in U.S. using the ingredients that are more accessible to them.

While Mexican and New Mexican food cuisine share many dishes such as enchiladas, tortillas, tamales, and guacamole, they also have a big variety of seasoning with common flavors like cumin and chile. The dishes could be different according to the region of the country. Even though Mexican and New Mexican cuisine continue to evolve from native foods with corn, beans, peppers and other condiments,

they still possess the most basic ingredients.

Despite all of the similarities previously stated, both cuisines differ greatly in different aspects. The most common dishes in traditional Mexican cuisine are mole, *barbacoa*, *birria*, *gorditas*, *carnitas*, *menudo*, and tacos. People look for fresh ingredients like avocado, cilantro, tomato, and onion, yet the strongest ingredient in this cuisine is the chile. It is used most of the time to give the food a spicy flavor. Chile can be found in different species like jalapeño, serrano, de arbol, padilla, and poblano, while in New Mexican cuisine we can find jalapeño, New Mexican chile, Sandia hot, and Big Jim. Another major difference between the two is the types of cheese used. Mexican cuisine uses white cheese such as *asadero*, *queso Oaxaca*, *queso panel* or *queso Chihuahua*. On the other hand, New Mexican cuisine mostly uses yellow cheese.

Mexican food also includes seafood and a lot of meat, such as chicken, pork, and beef which are generally fresher than in New Mexican food. Mexican cuisine includes some common flavors like garlic, onion, oregano, cumin and chile. All of these condiments are used to give good flavor to the food.

Even though there are a lot of differences between culture, food, and location, there are many similarities that tie both cuisines together. Both styles of cooking are based off of native traditions established more than 20 years ago. Each cuisine is unique in its flavoring, seeing as how different condiments are added in accordance to the location of the dish. *(continued on last page)*



Bandeja paisa (beans, beef—ground or steak—, rice, plantain, chorizo sausage, avocado, egg, arepa and pork rinds).



AJIACO: COLOMBIA IN ABQ

Laudy Manrique , Colombia

Colombia, as a Latin American country, is famous for its cultural and gastronomic diversity. Also Colombian food is distinguished in all the world because of its unique homemade flavor and taste. There are so many famous Colombian food plates like *bandeja paisa*, *ajiaco*, empanadas, coconut rice with fried fish, etc.

Since these meals have so much flavor, they have become famous around the globe, and this is why in many parts of the world such as Albuquerque, New Mexico we can find Colombian food restaurants.

But if you are not Colombian, how do you know if the taste of these restaurants is really original and authentic? This is why I, as a Colombian, set the task of going to this restaurant and assessing the originality of the food's flavor. Now you, as a foreigner or American living in Albuquerque, can know where to find the unique flavor that distinguishes and makes Colombian food so famous.

In Albuquerque there is a Colombian restaurant called Ajiaco Colombian Bistro, located at 3216 Silver Ave SE, only open on Tuesday through Saturday.

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I went to this restaurant, and I was so impressed because the appetizers, principal plates, desserts, even the juice, are 100% Colombian. You can enjoy every bite of these delicious plates and feel confident that the flavor of these plates is the same as that of Colombia.

Besides, they have a very nice decoration, with so many things that you only can see in Colombia, like *sombreros vueltiao* (a type of hat), *chivas* (an authentic and traditional type of car), the bags where Colombian peasants pack our famous coffee beans, pictures of the principal cities of Colombia, etc.

All of these, the food , the decoration, the kind service and the Colombian music you hear at Ajiaco, send you to Colombia, the country of coffee, kind people, and beautiful women.

The background of the page features three bamboo steamers. The top steamer contains three white dumplings with yellow fillings, resting on green leaves. The bottom-left steamer contains green leafy vegetables and a portion of a light-colored, textured food item. The bottom-right steamer contains green leafy vegetables. The steamers are arranged in a triangular pattern, creating a sense of depth and focus on traditional Chinese cuisine.

CHINESE V. AMERICAN FOOD CULTURE

Zhen Yu, Tibet

What people like to eat depends on the environment and custom. There are two main different kinds of food, which are Chinese food and western food.

First of all, the method of making Chinese food is different from Western-style food. In Western-style cookbooks, the amount of ingredients such as the flour, sugar, butter etc. are specifically indicated in grams, spoons, or cups. As an example, some cookbooks show us the size of the eggs needed.

Making Western-style food is easy, as long as you cook according to the cookbook manual. However, it is not an easy thing to make fine Chinese food, even if you have bought the cookbook. The Chinese cookbook will not tell you the amount of grams and ingredients that you need, for example salt; it just tells you appropriate amounts of salt. Why? The taste of people who live in different places is different in China. There is a folk adage in China: "South sweet, north salty, east hot, and west sour." So, a good cook relies on experience and skill when cooking in China.

Second, the atmosphere of Chinese food is different from Western-style food, while having a meal. The atmosphere of Western-style food is particular about scenery. Good restaurants are generally built on a beautiful mountaintop, park, or a revolving dining-room of the city center high building. So Western-style food is "Eat the scenery," but not, "Eat taste".

The atmosphere of Chinese food is particular about taste and participation. Chinese food conquers the world with taste. There is a folk adage in China: "If I want to conquer your heart, I will conquer your stomach first." Everybody sits around the table while eating Chinese food, and everybody is eating the dish from the same plate. The hospitable host will also serve the dish into your bowl; it is so friendly. The friendship between person and person is deeper after a meal.

Third, the way that Chinese and westerners praise food is different. The former will generally say, "Your dish is cooked very excellently, and has caught up with the level of the restaurant," but the latter, will say it is just like homemade.

In conclusion, Chinese food and western food are different types of food in the cooking method, atmosphere and praise. Albuquerque has some nice Chinese restaurants I would like to recommend: Budai Restaurant, Pacific Paradise, and Chopsticks Chinese Cuisine.

Continued from page 20

king," make the customer feel so comfortable and satisfied. The restaurant is open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m, Monday to Saturday, so there is both lunch and dinner.

The noodle dish pho, which is a habit and pleasure of the Vietnamese, is delicious and nutritious. It demonstrates the sophistication, as well as creativity, of the Vietnamese people in culinary arts. There is nothing more wonderful than eating a bowl of noodles that is tasty and hot in the cold winter days with your family. So let's go to Viet Taste restaurant!

Continued from page 21

How interested are you in Mexican food now? There are plenty of Mexican restaurants present around the UNM campus but one of the most unique, traditional, and flavorful is a gorditas restaurant, Ricas Gorditas Vale. This is a fast, friendly place with incredible service and great taste in food. They include many traditional Mexican dishes that are not very common in New Mexican restaurants such as their famous gorditas, a must-have for new customers!

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