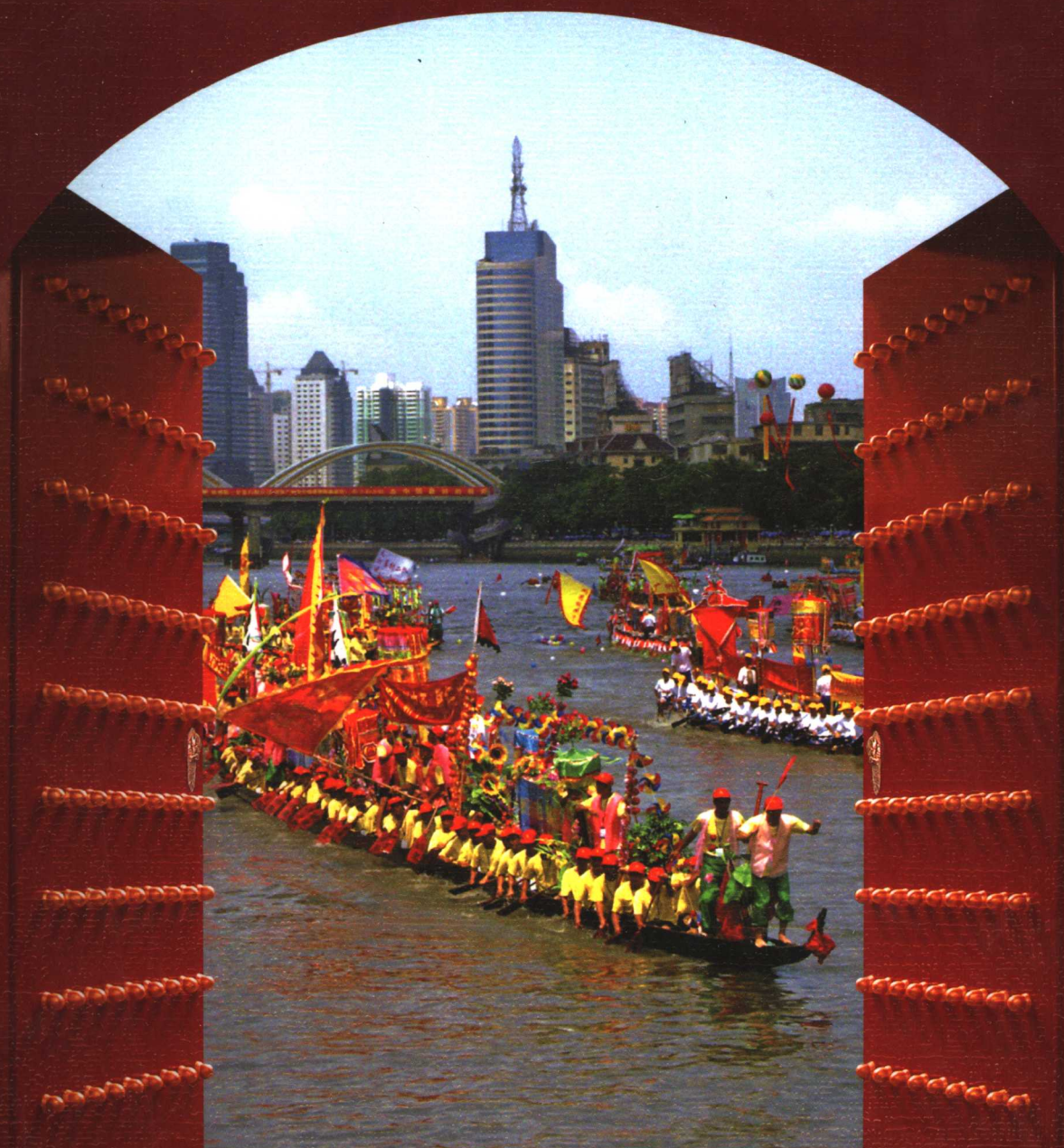


PANORAMIC CHINA

# GUANGDONG

## Forerunner of an Era



FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS



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# Introduction

China has 23 provinces, four municipalities directly under the Central Government, five autonomous regions and two special administrative regions. Due to geographical and topographical differences and climatic variations, each area has its own unique natural scenery. The mountains in the north of the country are rugged and magnificent, the waters in the south are clear and turbulent, the Gobi in the northwest shines brilliantly in the sunlight, the hills in the southeast are often shrouded in floating fog, green waves of sorghum and soybean crops undulate over the vast fields of the northeast, and the mountains in the southwest, with sequestered villages and terraced fields, look tranquil and picturesque.

There are 56 ethnic groups in China. The Han, making up the overwhelming majority of the population, mainly live in the eastern and central parts of the country, while many ethnic groups with smaller populations live in the west. In China, all ethnic groups, regardless of size, are equal and respect each other. Each ethnic group has its own folk customs, religious beliefs and cultural traditions, and most use their own language and script. Regional autonomy is practiced in areas where ethnic minorities live in compact communities. All the ethnic groups call themselves "Chinese." They are courteous and friendly. In the ethnic-minority areas, the quiet environment, quaint buildings, exquisite fashions, unsophisticated folk customs and hospitality of the local people hold a great appeal to visitors from afar.

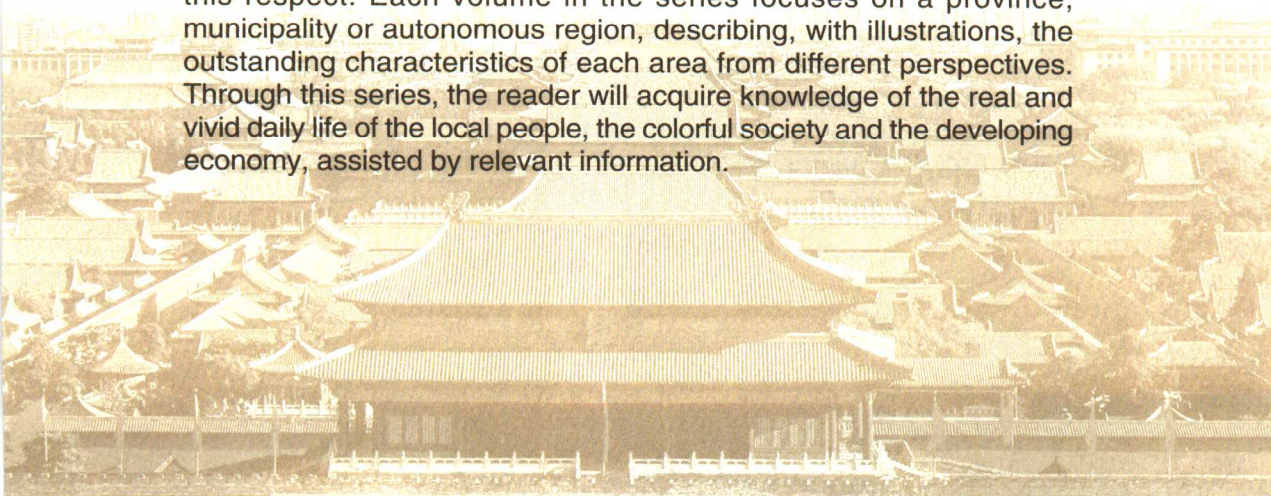
China boasts 5,000 years of recorded civilization and a brilliant culture. The country is home to such world-renowned cultural treasures as the Great Wall, terracotta warriors and horses of the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty, Mogao Grottoes at Dunhuang, and Ming and Qing imperial palaces and mausoleums, and large numbers of ancient architectural masterpieces, including temples, Buddhist pagodas, residential buildings, gardens, bridges, city walls and irrigation works. There are also cultural relics unearthed from ancient sites, including



painted pottery, jade ware, bronze ware, large and ornate tombs and foundations of historical buildings, and many more as yet undiscovered. The museums of China's various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions house thousands of cultural relics and works of art, among which are treasures rare in the world, displaying the long history of China and the splendid Chinese culture from different aspects. The strong, deep-rooted Chinese culture has always influenced the mentality and moral standards of the Chinese people, having developed continually in pace with the civilization. A careful study of today's Peking opera, kunqu opera, shadow plays, calligraphy, painting, paper-cutting, and even the flower-shaped steamed buns on the kitchen range of farmers will reveal elements of traditional Chinese culture as well as replications of the art of the past.

Like other countries of venerable age, China has suffered grievous calamities. During the century and more before the 1950s, the Chinese people made unrelenting struggles for the prosperity of the country, and national independence and liberation. A large number of insightful people and revolutionaries, cherishing all kinds of dreams for a strong China, studied the ways of the West in a quest for prosperity and strength, and borrowed the revolutionary experience of foreign countries. At last, the Communist Party of China, proceeding from the reality of China, and relying on the working people, founded a brand-new country, the People's Republic of China, in 1949. Since then, the Chinese people have made persistent efforts and explorations for the grand revitalization of the Chinese nation. The Chinese people's efforts in the past two decades and more have resulted in outstanding achievements, with rapid social progress, a well-developed economy, and a modern civilization and traditional culture enhancing each other.

It is easy to have a quick look at China's past and present, but it takes time to gain a panoramic knowledge of China. The "Panoramic China" series is meant to assist readers, especially those overseas, in this respect. Each volume in the series focuses on a province, municipality or autonomous region, describing, with illustrations, the outstanding characteristics of each area from different perspectives. Through this series, the reader will acquire knowledge of the real and vivid daily life of the local people, the colorful society and the developing economy, assisted by relevant information.



## Location of Guangdong Province within China



## Administrative Map of Guangdong







“I'm growing up together with the development of the Special Administrative Region.”









"The Spring Festival is the happiest day for young people."



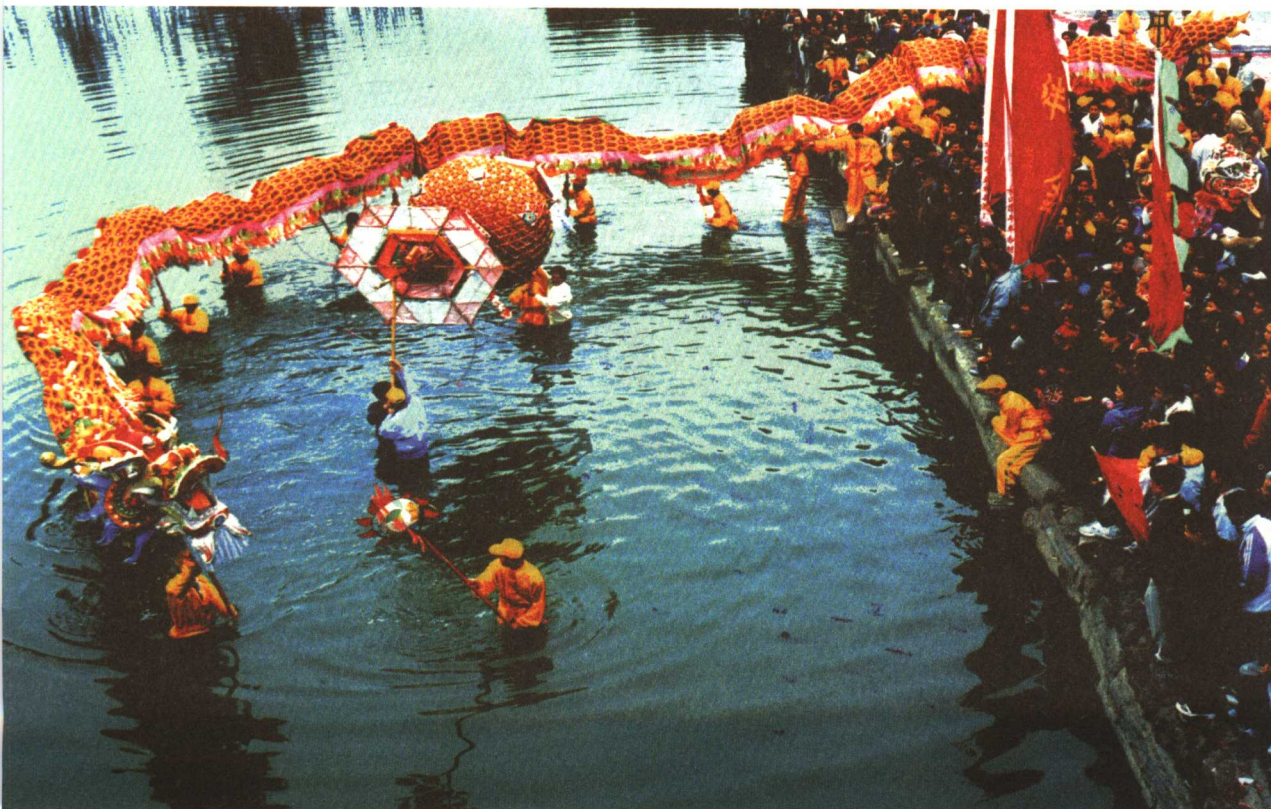




# In the Forefront of China's Economic Development

Guangdong Province, a beautiful and vibrant province in southern China, has the Tropic of Cancer running across her territory and is blessed with a warm subtropical climate, enjoying a lush greenness all year round. Guangdong has long been the wellspring of the process of modernization in China. Today the province still acts as the pioneering force for China to reform and opening up to the outside world. The people of Guangdong are well known for their spirit of daring to blaze new trails and exploring the unknown.

It is said that China's modern history originated in Guangdong. A wealth of historical deposits has been accumulated there, and a great number of famous figures were born in





this fertile province. Among them were Hong Xiuquan, the founder of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom; Sun Yat-sen, the forerunner of China's Democratic Revolution; Rong Hong, the first Chinese to study in the US and sponsor of the first preparatory school for students going abroad; and Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao, leading revolutionaries and enlightenment thinkers in modern Chinese history. And there are also Tang Shaoyi, the first prime minister of the Republic of China; Huang Zunxian, a renowned patriotic poet and diplomat; Lin Weimin, the first chairman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions; Zheng Guanying, a famous thinker, industrialist and author of *Alarmist Talk in a Prosperous Time*; and Tang Guoan, the first president of Tsinghua University. Particularly, in the first two decades of the 20th century Guangdong took a bold lead and made a tremendous leap in economic growth. It gathered the best aspects of both the Chinese and Western cultures, and acted as the forerunner in the spectacular march of China's reformation and its efforts to open up to the outside world.

There is a saying that one should look at Beijing for the millennial China, but one must view Guangdong as the modern China opening to the world. The reason is that Guangdong plays the role of a "window" that shows how China has opened up to the outside world and pioneered the great tidal wave of economic growth in China. It is through this "window" that China took its first glance at the outside world. Similarly, it is through this "window" that the world started to view China. From Guangdong, the window of China, you can feel the strong pulse of Chinese economic devel-

- ▶ President Hu Jintao encourages Guangdong to take the lead in quickening the tempo of development and harmonizing all aspects of development.
- ▶ Premier Wen Jiabao inspects Guangdong Province.
- ▶ Zhang Dejiang, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the provincial Party committee, meets a delegate to the International Consultative Conference on Future Economic Development of Guangdong Province.
- ▶ Huang Huahua, governor of Guangdong, talks to reporters.
- ▶ The dragon jumps out of the sea.







◀ Many overseas business people are attracted to hold trade talks in Guangdong, because the province insists on implementing its policies according to international market rules.

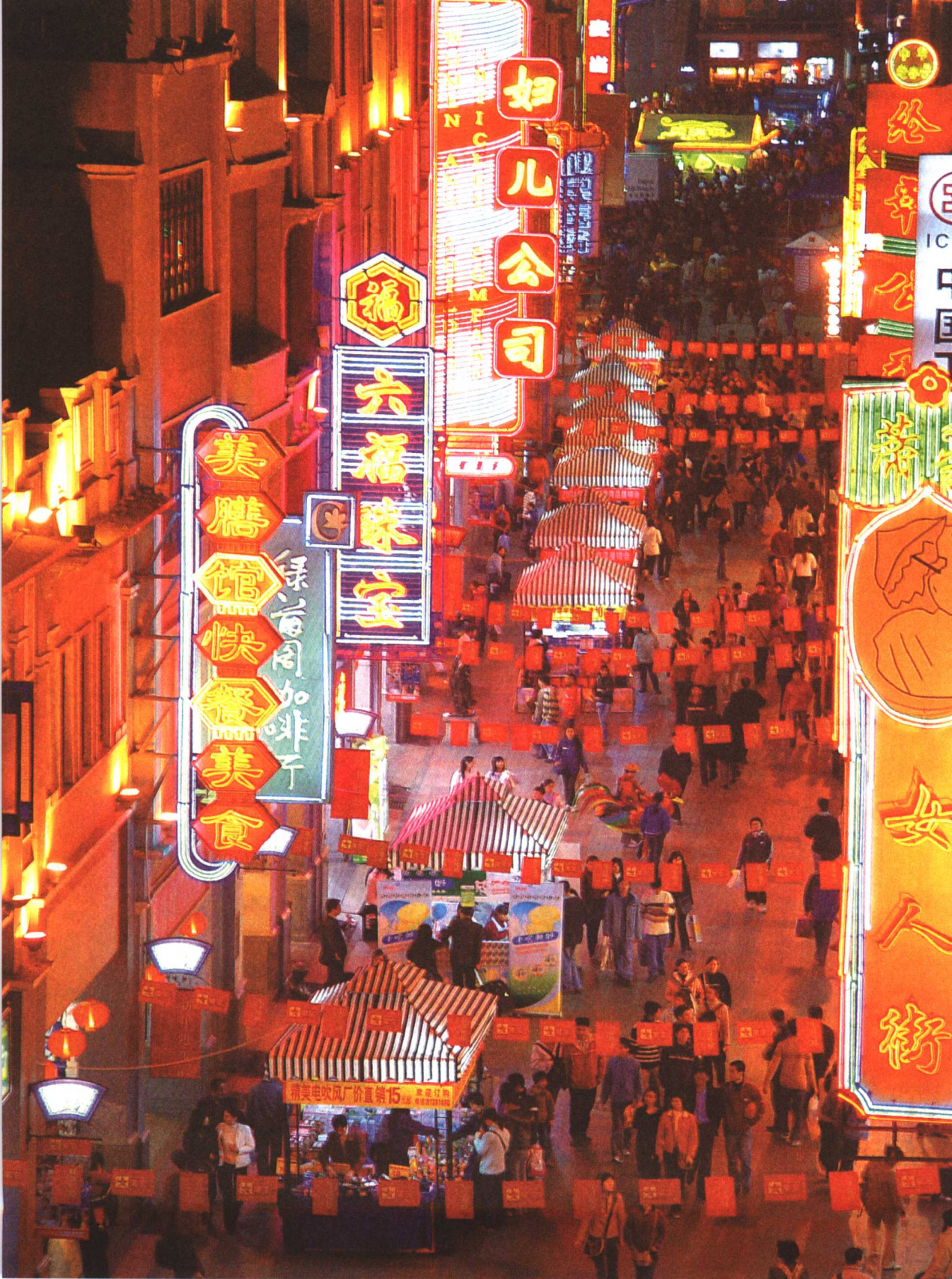
▶ Guangdong which possesses a large population offers lots of treasure opportunities.

opment and sense its vitality.

The following data illustrates Guangdong's importance: Guangdong Province engages in economic and trade exchanges with more than 200 countries and regions around the world, and continues to expand the scope of her foreign trade. By 2003, the total of Guangdong's import/export trade and its foreign exports composed one-third of the total of all thirty-one Chinese provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in the country. From 1979 to 2003, Guangdong assimilated foreign direct investment of US\$14.05 billion, a quarter of the total absorbed by the entire nation. As many as 1,210 Guangdong companies of various kinds are operating abroad, making investments in more than seventy countries and areas, getting involved in a dozen fields and making investments totaling US\$3.1 billion. At the annual Chinese Export Commodities Fair (abbreviated as Guangzhou Fair) held in Guangzhou, capital of the province, tens of thousands of merchants from all over the world arrive to do business. Guangdong has indeed earned its reputation as the foremost province for foreign trade in China.

Guangdong has a permanent population of almost 80 million. The rich and fertile Pearl River Delta attracts talented people from all over China and the rest of the world. As the main plain of Guangdong, the Pearl River Delta seems to be a magic land filled with vitality, youthfulness, and hope, having created an economic miracle known around the world. From 1990 to 2003 the average annual growth of the







provincial economy was 17.8 percent, dramatically higher than the average rate for the whole country.

Located as the southernmost province on the mainland, Guangdong occupies a total area of 178,000 square kilometers, with the Wuling Mountain chain meandering along its northern border, the vast South China Sea lying to the south and the Tropic of Cancer running across its territory. Guangdong has a coastline of 3,368.1 kilometers, with 759 offshore islands (not including Hong Kong and Macao). The Pearl River and its major tributaries Xijiang, Beijiang, Dongjiang, and others all contain plentiful resources of hydroelectricity. The topography of Guangdong is diversified, crisscrossed by mountains, plains and rolling hills.

The climate of Guangdong is the subtropical type, enjoying long summers with hardly any winter days, and with no clear change of seasons. The climate here is warm and moist with luxuriant plants, evergreen trees and flourishing flowers. If you are lucky to arrive in Guangdong during the Spring Festival — the traditional Chinese New Year — you will find yourself in a dazzlingly colorful world, surrounded by rare flowers and precious plants everywhere. That's why the provincial capital Guangzhou is also called the "Flower City." During festivals, the residents here will present fresh flowers to one

| An international beauty contest is held in Guangdong.





another as a token of best wishes. People decorate their homes with brilliant colored flowers to celebrate the occasion. While North China is ice-and-snow bound, Guangdong enjoys a pleasantly warm temperature, with Chinese redbud in full bloom. Many people from outside will also swarm here to take vacations and evade the cold winter.

From the air, the mountains of Guangdong look like huge swimming dragons in luxuriant greenery winding through the land of Guangdong. The Nanling Mountains, also known as the Wuling, act as the watershed of two major water systems in China, the Yangtze River to the north and the Pearl River to the south. The Nanling Mountains lie between northern Guangdong and the two provinces of Hunan and Jiangxi as well as the northeastern part of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, constituting the major hilly land of Guangdong. The four famous mountains in Guangdong are Luofu, Danxia, Dinghu and Xiqiao, their varied and splendid scenery tourists from everywhere.

The long and winding coastline of Guangdong stretches for several thousand kilometers. The province's large islands, blue sea and silver beaches are ideal for water sports.

Guangdong has a large number of historic buildings and architectural masterpieces. The ancient buildings scattered among the three main folk cultures in the province —

| Victory is in sight. Come on!

