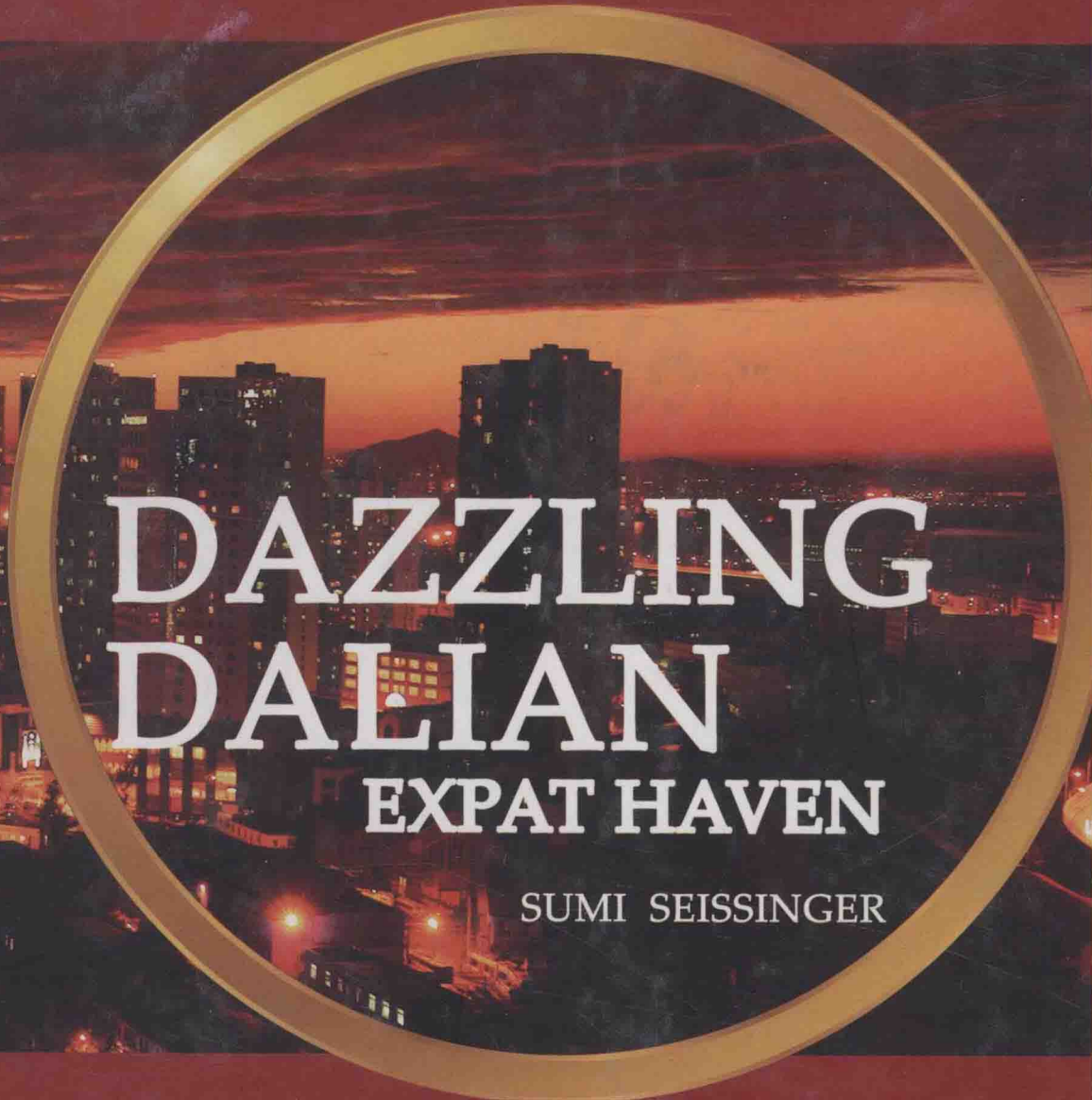


DALIAN TODAY

The *City* Book Volume 1

Fall in love with the City without Borders



DAZZLING  
DALIAN  
EXPAT HAVEN

SUMI SEISSINGER

梦幻大连，外国友人的天堂

苏米·赛辛格/著

 大连出版社  
DALIAN PUBLISHING HOUSE

# Dazzling Dalian Expatriate Haven

SUMI SEISSINGER

梦幻大连，外国友人的天堂  
苏米·赛辛格 著



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The major challenge was transferring this divination to people, who have proved that they have the ability to share visions. Since they are all outstanding in their own way, they did it with enthusiasm and energy. This is my way of honoring them and saying a heartfelt thank you in the different languages that I have adopted as my own.

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## 致谢

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**Xie Xie Dalian, Xie Xie!**



Photo Courtesy: Office of the Dalian Municipal People's Government

写作并不是像大多数人想象的那样是一件可以自己完成的事情，而是一项需要很多人齐心协力才能完成的事业。尤其对一本既要做到语言优美、内容翔实，又要做到制作精良的图书来说更是如此。

我所做的一切其实都基于自己心中的一幅图画，一个梦；我所做的一切只是把心中的这个梦用现实的笔触描绘出来。这个过程中最大的挑战和困难是把这个梦和有识之士分享，让他们一同走上这条追梦之路。每个加入这个梦的人都是优秀的，他们投入了自己全部的精力和热情。在此请允许我用我的方式，用我的语言向他们致以最衷心的感谢。

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今天的一切都来源于过去。因此我不能忘记我那可爱的祖母，我挚爱的母亲和父亲。他们用无私的爱哺育了我，我知道他们不会为我今天所取得的任何一个成就而感到惊奇，因为一切都是拜他们所赐！爱和勇气是我成功的秘诀，而他们是我爱之源！怀着对他们的思念和感激，我会认认真真过好每一天！Nanri (印度语：谢谢)!

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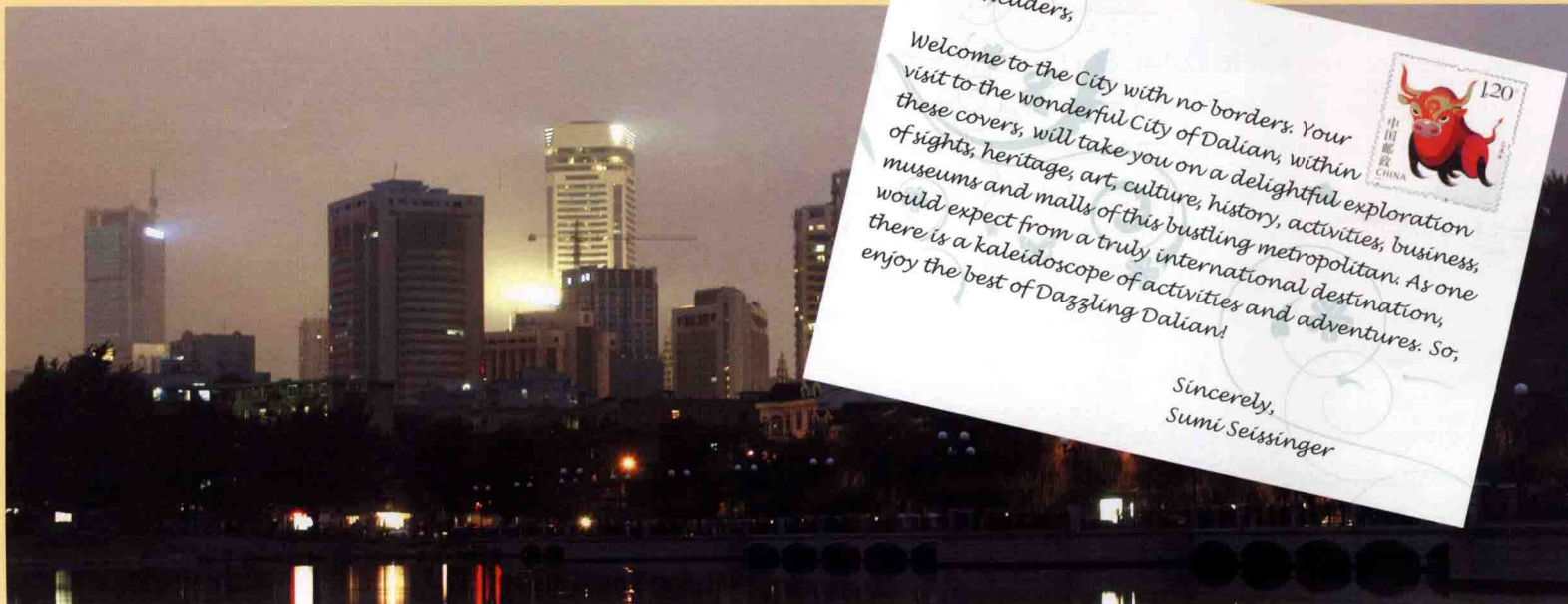
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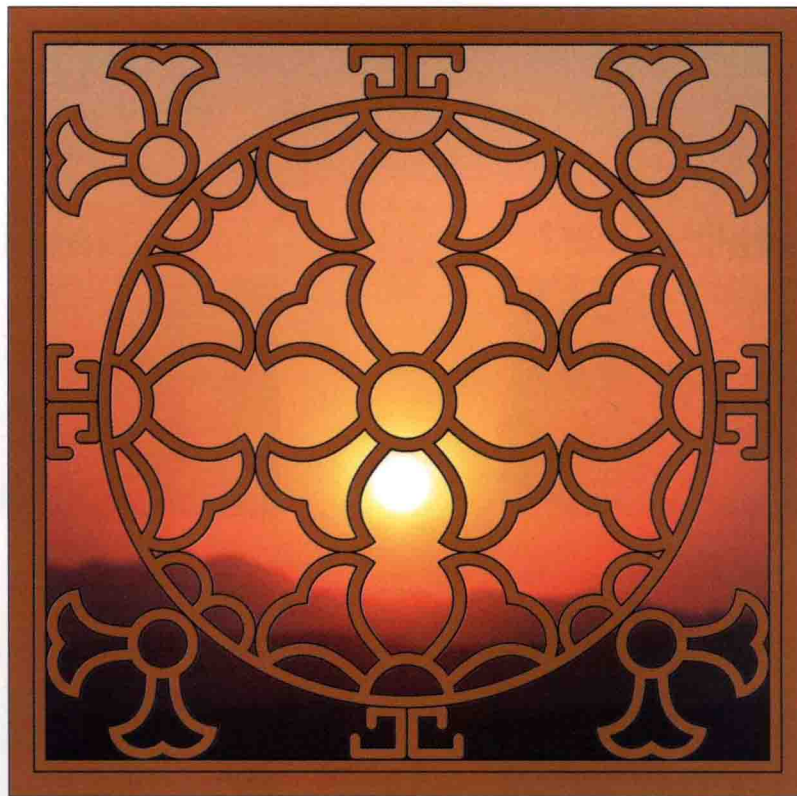
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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the City with no borders. Your visit to the wonderful City of Dalian, within these covers, will take you on a delightful exploration of sights, heritage, art, culture, history, activities, business, museums and malls of this bustling metropolitan. As one would expect from a truly international destination, there is a kaleidoscope of activities and adventures. So, enjoy the best of Dazzling Dalian!



Sincerely,  
Sumi Seissinger



## Chapter 1

# Dalian Uncovered

## CITY OF GOLD

Watching the sun go down in Dalian can be magic; a fleeting moment of dazzle and shine. As the fiery orb hastily dips downwards, the entire city is ablaze. And if for one moment you allow yourself to be distracted by the warm glow of urban happiness, you will miss the spectacle of the red Chinese sun as it splashes down into the water. One minute the waves of the Bohai Sea are on fire, its swell and ebb drenched in amber and gold, and then without warning, dusk steals in and day is done in dazzling Dalian.

Situated between the Golden Pebble beaches and the sloping foothills of the Qianshan Mountain range, this happy-go-lucky Chinese and expatriate community of Dalian presents a mosaic of tall city sky scrapers and red-tiled roofs of the luxury sea side villas, laced with a gracious attitude of warm hospitality, which has earned it the sobriquet

of being the most welcoming of international cities in China. It is ideal for business and leisure, kicking back on beaches, prowling the shops and markets that line the city's bustling streets, and relaxing over a meal in one of many diversely cuisined cafes and restaurants.

Downtown Dalian is distinctive for its mix of Russian and Chinese architecture. Its history is intense but not long. Dalian's history is only a hundred years old. With Tsarist Russia under the rule of Tsar Nicholas the Second, Dalian acquired its first name "Dalny".

In 1903, out of sand, rubble, moss and meticulous planning, rose the beginnings of modern day Dalian; hemmed in by the fabulous, green, emerald mountains and the beautiful, blue, sapphire sea; an interesting twentieth century planned community that continues to grow and



expand every day.

The City experienced Russian culture at first hand as it was handed back and forth between Russian and Chinese governance. 1950 saw the union of Lushun and Dalian to form the city of Luda. Fortunately 1955 also saw the withdrawal of the Soviet army and the name of the city Dalian was finally born. In 1999 Dalian celebrated its centennial year with pomp and gaiety as it experienced the pangs of the birth of an international coastal city.

Close to some of the historic tenement blocks of downtown Dalian are the old-fashioned street markets filled with every imaginable kind of bounty for the bargain hunter. Near the Zhongshan Square, or the Nicholas Square as it was formerly known, is the Russian Street; an interesting mix of color and chaos, with stalls laden with Russian goods and Tsarist memorabilia. Not far from there, as the crow flies, is the Shengli or the Victory Plaza. The Plaza is jam packed with underground shopping, eateries, and hair salons that boggle the mind. Men and women, young and old, fill the thousands of hairdresser stools of the city, having their gleaming dark locks shaped, clipped and trimmed in the perpetual pursuit of style and beauty.

Visit Dalian's waterfront on a Sunday and you're sure to see the tall and beautiful women of Dalian with their beaus strutting through the promenades, in their stiletto heels and their childlike chatter. Lovers

embrace in the quiet shadows of the well kept parks of Dalian. The Laodong or the Labor Park is centrally located providing the city with green relief, and the Xinghai Park boasts of 150,000 square meters of soothing foliage, flora and fauna. The Acacia blooms and flourishes all over the city and fills the air with its sweet and gentle fragrance. In April, not to be outdone, the cherry flowers bloom brilliantly around the Langwantang Reservoir.

Manicured lawns, brilliantly lit fountains and outstanding metal, brass, jade, or stone figurines trapped forever in a pose of grace, sport or splendor, dot the famous squares of Dalian. The Youhao, or the Friendship Square, another legacy of the Tsarist Russian period, commemorates the friendship between China and the then Soviet Union. The gigantic, ever changing, colorful, crystal ball symbolizes the sentiment of imaging Dalian as China's northern pearl. The five diversely colored hands that hold the "pearl" represents the diversity of the five continents.

The ocean and the joys of seaside living surround Dalian on three sides. The Polar Aquarium is home to a magnificent host of polar animals like polar bears, penguins, belugas, and elephant seals. The aquarium also plays host to dolphins and an impressive range of more than 1500 species of fish. Naturally being a seaside city, the cuisine of Dalian is comprised of seafood in every form and fashion. The Abalone, Sea cucumber, Sea slug, and many kinds of rare crustaceans,





tantalize the palates of the gourmands of Dalian. Though the exquisite taste is lost on many an expatriate tongue, seafood in Dalian is fresh and fantastic to say the least.

Tucked away secure and serene at the tip of the Liaodong Peninsula, Dalian is home to a multi-cultural local, ethnic and expat population consisting of a majority of Han, and many minorities like Man, Mongol and Korean, as well as expatriates from Korea, Japan, Russia, and the western world! Dalian boasts of many good universities that attract students from all over China. Dalian seems mostly a city of young people. Fashion is on the minds and slim bodies of the Dalianese. Due to an annual, international event of a fashion gala that brings the fashion world of designers, models and fabric manufacturers to its bright shores, Dalian is also known as the fashion city of China. The influence of this major event is evident in its pretty, well dressed female population. Even an every day expedition to the grocery store involves a party dress, with matching accessories and hair do. A wide range of watering holes, popular night spots, and K TVs keep the night young and the young entertained.

Health and vitality is much sought after in the form of regular visits to



the untold number of massage parlors, health clubs, herbal stores, clinics, Chinese medicine practitioners and tea places. Teas of all sorts are available for simple to life-threatening ailments. Apart from being delicious and health giving, some varieties are also good for losing weight and lifting spirits. Bath houses and spas that can scrub you down to the bone and banish dirt, are also a favorite past-time with the health and beauty conscious people of Dalian.

International hotel brands and well known chain hotels are well represented in Dalian. Well appointed guest rooms, friendly and efficient service, a wide choice of delicious cuisines served in comfortable surroundings and value-for-money prices are the hall mark of these renowned Dalian establishments that make them temporary yet perfect homes away from home.

Business travelers, both the short stays and the long stays, can fill their days with business networking, conferences and meetings with ease and efficiency. Internet connections and all requirements of a business office are freely accessible and available. Resources including office premises, expo centers, secretarial, translation or legal help are all just a phone call away. Most of the successful multi-nationals of the world have cemented their success by having manufacturing facilities and representative offices in Dalian.

Trade flourishes in Dalian, partly due to the largest ice-free port in Northern China. The modern Dalian Port is today a premier destination for ship building. Dalian is fast becoming the Silicon Valley of China. The many software parks with their fascinating green living modules where IT professionals can work, learn and play is proof of Dalian's sincere efforts to bring IT home to Dalian.

Dalian is also a child friendly place. Its nooks and corners are home to young explorers who can kiss dolphins, stroke a crane, nuzzle a sea lion, ride the roller coaster, gawk at tigers, bungee jump, discover natural science, and jump in and out of street cars. Dalian has indeed retained one legacy that is unique to China; the romantic street or trolley cars all exclusively driven by women. Apart from the trolley drivers, there is another section of women in Dalian who take their place as one of the wonders of modern China. The legend of the world renowned mounted women police force and their dexterity in handling the horses, traffic and law and order has gone down in history and adds to the romance of Dalian.

An abundance of natural wonders at the Dalian Museum of Natural History, Bird Forest, The Sun Asia Ocean World and the Forest Zoo, along with manmade recreation at video game parlors, bowling alleys, ski slopes and amusement parks like Discovery Kingdom, are well within city limits and bound to keep inquisitive youngsters out of mischief.





The beauty of Dalian is not always limited to its inner city limits, but flows outward towards the Development zone or Kaifaqu, as well as the Jinshitan area, which is a peaceful suburb that is fast becoming an international city by itself. As the preferred home of multinationals and their families, it is rapidly becoming a green zone, known for its many parks, seaside resorts, country clubs, sailing and hunting clubs, golf courses, and scenic places like the Mt. Daheishan, which is home to many of the temples of Dalian. It also boasts of a colorful splash of night clubs, pubs, restaurants etc, called the Five Color City, where the night life of Dalian thrives until the wee hours of the morning.

Lüshun, situated in the Lüshunkou bay has been the back drop of many years of military activity and is only partly open to foreigners. It is also the ocean gateway to Tianjin and Beijing. Getting there is an interesting ride by train. The well preserved railway station is a lingering memorial to European colonization and is still very much in use. Interesting memorials include Martyrs Cemetery, the Victory Cenotaph, the Mausoleum of Ten Thousand Martyrs and a national museum. The Bingyugou Valley Resort in Zhuanghe is a stone forest in a lesser yet grand style of Guilin and Yunnan. The valley is ancient with primitive trees and karst land formations that are a testament to life in the Ice Age. As every visitor has discovered, there is so much more to Dalian than meets the eye.

Dalian is not on the silk route, but the scenic beauty of "Bin Hai Lu" coastal road stops both locals and tourists alike in their tracks to savor the beauty of nature at its very best. Meandering mountains, covered with beautiful flowering trees on one side and the rugged cliffs overlooking the rippling, shimmering waters is a breath of fresh air for the mind, body and soul. If nature is magnificent, then its poetry is reflected in the people and the culture of Dalian. The city itself is not old, but the grace and rich culture of a five thousand year old civilization is very evident in the lives of the happy people of Dalian. Come and experience it for yourself and fall in love with a city without borders.





## 幻·城

夕阳西下，渔舟唱晚，  
金色的柔波中荡漾着都市即将入夜的幻彩。  
海，帆，梦幻，大连……

世界的东方，渤海湾畔，她张开双臂，迎接世界；

金石滩之岸，千山余脉脚下，她依山而梦，枕涛听海。

她的名字是大连，一座年轻的城市，与海相连，与海相恋。

一个世纪前，一位沙俄设计师，一张“广场之城”的蓝图，一座世界之城屈辱的开始；

半个世纪前，一场侵略战争，一个历史性胜利，一座梦幻之城终回祖国的怀抱！

这座青山碧海环绕的城市，充溢着欧式或日式建筑带来的异域风情，蜿蜒着一条条凝聚着城市原始文化的老街旧巷。看，色彩与叫卖声交织的俄罗斯风情一条街；听，胜利广场地下大大小小各色商铺的吆喝，正打造着都市流行与繁华的新趋势。

这座洋溢着浪漫与温情的城市，见证着爱与幸福的结合。看，那马背上英姿飒爽的女骑警，绽放着纯真的笑容；听，公园里一对对恋人树下的低语，讲述着人间最美的情怀。劳动公园与星海公园正合奏着一支关于绿色和蓝色的交响，那点缀在街头巷尾的槐花与樱花哪能耐得住寂寞，飘飞在城市上空的芬芳是那花之裙舞动的风采。

这个城市的广场收藏着关于时光的故事。当你路过友好广场的时候，不要忘记驻足聆听那颗巨大的水晶球娓娓道来的城市历史，不要忘记那段她用深情描述的名叫“北方明珠”的故事。

这个城市的水里流淌着蔚蓝色的梦想，当你看到企鵝、海象、北极熊，不要忘记这些翻山越海来到这里的蓝色使者，寄托着一座城市对于一个蓝色星球的梦和期待。

这个城市的笑容里饱含着一个大家庭的和睦与温馨，当你看到不同民族、不同肤色、不同语言的朋友在这里其乐融融，亲如一家，请加入他们吧，这里有属于每一个寻梦者的家园。

这是一座属于时尚的城市。当时尚成为一种文化，时尚便融入血液，时尚便不再只是外表。

这是一座属于健康属于活力的城市。当健康与活力成为一种标志，健康与活力便不只是口号。

大黑山上的禅宗香火记录着中国博大精深的文化历史；博物馆里的古玩珍宝静静地雕刻着一座城市的成长变迁……大连属于商人，大连属于游人，属于孩子，属于青春，属于浪漫，属于历史，属于未来，属于你，属于我。

如果你来到了一个叫做大连的城市，不要忘记去滨海路看海；如果你来到了滨海路，不要忘记闭上双眼，听海涛和岩石在时空中缠绵……

如果你还不曾来过一个叫做大连的城市，不要迟疑，这里有你苦苦追寻的大自然的诗篇，有你不曾开启的爱和期待……

### Area

12,374 square kilometers (4,777 square miles), urban area of 2,415 square kilometers (932 square miles)

### Administration

Six districts of Xigang District, Zhongshan District, Shahekou District, Ganjingzi District, Lushunkou District, DDA and Jinzhou; the New City and 3 municipal cities of Wafangdian, Pulandian and Zhuanghe and Changhai County

### Activities

When the Cherry blossom, the Scholar Tree and Azaleas all bloom, then

spring has come to Dalian. April through September are the mild and comfortable months, which welcome to Dalian large number of tourists from China and abroad. Summer is from July to early September, with August being the hottest month. Thousands of people visit the beautiful beaches of Dalian. Mountain climbing, golfing, swimming, trekking, horse riding, sight seeing, target shooting, hunting and sailing are some of the popular activities. Autumn is fishing season. Winter sports include skiing, and winter swimming.

### Airport

The Dalian Zhoushizi International Airport, an important transportation hub is located ten kilometers (6.2 miles) northwest of the city.

# A to Z of Dalian



Thirty international routes connect Dalian to over 30 cities in 14 countries including Vladivostok, Hiroshima, Irkutsk, Osaka, Sendai, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Munich, London, Delhi, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Fukuoka, Khabarovsk, Nagoya, Dubai, Seoul, Toyama, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Paris, Phuket and Sydney. There are regular charter services between Dalian and regions in Southeast Asia, Europe, American and Russia.

In addition, 69 domestic flights leave from the Zhoushuizi International Airport, taking passengers to most of the major Chinese cities including Beijing, Changsha, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Haikou, Kunming, Shenyang, Shanghai, Wuhan, Dunhuang, Nanjing, Qingdao, Shenzhen, Xiamen, Zhuhai, Xian, Chongqing, Fuzhou, Guilin, Hangzhou, Lanzhou, Luoyang, and Tianjin.

### Alternate Transport

**Railway Station:** Dalian Railway Station is centrally located in the bustling commercial center near Qingniwaqiao in downtown Dalian. As the terminal of the Harbin-Dalian Railway (Ha Da Railway), Dalian is well connected to the autobahn networks, which comprehensively cover the northern and eastern parts of China. Trains from the city reach all cities in Dongbei (northeastern China) area and Beijing, Shanghai and Hankou. There are also high speed air-conditioned



## IN FOCUS

Tourist Specials running between Dalian and Beijing, Shenyang, Harbin and Changchun that make travel convenient and comfortable. From Shenyang to Dalian there are two express trains - Liaoning-Shenyang Evening Express and Jinshitan Express.

### Bus Station

There are five long distance bus stations in the city catering to passengers using the two main highways that extend northeast covering the Liaoning Peninsula. One is the Shenyang-Dalian Speedway, which connects the city to Shenyang, the provincial capital city of Liaoning, and runs parallel to the 202 National Highway. The other is the Yellow Sea Speedway, starting from Dalian running along the coast to Dandong, another important city, next to the 201 National Highway. This makes the connections between Dalian and the other four major cities, namely Shenyang, Liaoyang, Dandong, Qinhuangdao, very efficient and convenient.

### Sea Port

The Dalian Port is the third largest in China and has a well-developed water transport network. The passenger port is located at the northern end of the Wuwu Lu. Basic, as well as luxury passenger ships, regularly depart for Yantai, Weihai, Tianjin, Penglai and Qinhuangdao, as well as for Changhai County daily. Ships also sail to Incheon, Korea every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Luxury, international cruise liners also regularly dock at this busy port.

### Getting Around in the City

#### Taxis

Dalian downtown is not a very large area, and the suburbs are all well connected by main roads, so getting around is quite simple. Taxis are a good and convenient choice for visitors. All one has to do is hail a passing cab. The rates start from eight RMB for the first three kilometers and every additional km is charged at 1.8 RMB. Night rates are approximately 30% higher. Taxi drivers in the city are basically polite and friendly and riding in a taxi is considered quite safe at night. Language could be a problem, so make sure you have the name of your destination written in Chinese.

The other mode of transport within the city is the Light Rail that connects the downtown and developing regions and extends further

northward to the Golden Pebble Beach 50 km away from the city center. A single trip costs 8 RMB. The antique red trolleys cruise the downtown area as well as southwestern areas of the city. The public bus transport, with over 150 routes, connects the city efficiently, and enables budget travelers to get around easily. There are also special tourist buses that are marked distinctly and ply from the central bus stop to all tourist attractions.

#### Business Hours

Office hours in Dalian are normally 8:30 AM until 5:30 PM five days a week, with limited business accessibility during the lunch break from



Photo Courtesy: Hotel Grand Mercure Teida Dalian

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. All private and government offices are closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Shops and supermarkets are open between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM/9:00 PM seven days a week. Access to ATMs is available 24/7. Banking hours are normally from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Some banks are not open during the weekend.

#### Climate

Dalian lies in the warm temperate zone with a semi-moist monsoon climate and ocean climate features. The annual average temperature of Dalian is from 8°C to 11°C (from 46°F to 52°F), and it has four distinct seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Influenced by the mild ocean winds from the Bohai Sea and the Yellow Sea, the city has good climate with an annual rainfall of 550 to 1000 millimeters, over 60% of which falls during the summer period.

#### Cuisine

The local cuisine of Dalian is influenced by the Dongbei regional style of cooking. It has a reputation for being big on portions and low on flavors. Fortunately, in Dalian one can find all the flavors of China in its countless restaurants. There are the fancy five-star splendors of eateries, to the normal everyday roadside grills. Dalian being a coastal city naturally is king of the seafood-dining scene, with a great reputation for its fabulous, mouthwatering dishes at some of the most exclusive seafood restaurants. Even the grilled shrimp, squid and fish sticks of roadside bites, are fresh and tantalizing in taste. Dalian also boasts of many foreign restaurants, including the best of the west, to the favorites of Korean and Japanese cuisine. Fast food restaurants like McDonalds, KFC, Subway and Pizza Hut are everywhere.

Dalian is also big on international beverages. One can find enormous varieties of wine and beer from Germany, France, Australia, and USA. There is also a German style International Beer Festival with its own Chinese accent in October, which is popular with both locals and foreigners. There are numerous nightclubs in the city that serve everything from a deluxe whiskey, fine wines, international brands of beer to the Chinese Baiju or the white wine. If you are not particularly into alcohol, there are numerous coffee shops serving Italian and Japanese specialties, including many Starbucks outlets, as well as traditional teahouses serving impeccable Chinese and English tea with pomp and ceremony.

#### Dialing and Postal Code

+86 (China) 411(Dalian), Postal code 116600

#### Description of the City

The bustling city center includes sights that are located in the eastern part of the city. Commercial areas as well as the seat of Government are situated around the historic Zhongshan Square and Renmin Square.



Renmin Lu is Dalian's main street. The northern part of the city is where the DDA (Dalian Economic and Technology Zone) is located. The latest strategic merging of Jinzhou district with the DDA is now known as the New City or New District.

#### Electricity

220 Volts AC 50-60 HZ. Televisions operate on the PAL system. Plug ends differ from European countries and need adaptors.

#### Festivals

Major Festivals include the Fashion Festival, Beer Festival, New Year Fireworks Festival, Lantern Festival, Dalian International Hot Spring Ski Festival, and Ice Festival in Bingyu Valley, which are events that light up the city and make Dalian a city of fashion, fun and festivity.

#### Football & Fashion

Dalian is referred to by many names. One of them is "Oriental Brazil," due to the fact that its residents are mad about soccer or football as it is known in Europe, and the Dalian soccer team is one of the most successful teams in China. The football club and its enthusiastic members, at the Wanda International Hotel are great promoters of the game.

The Dalian Shide Football Club is a successful club in Chinese professional football. The Shide Football Club organizes games, and successfully

runs an amateur as well as a women's football league. Another aspect of the city that will immediately enchant visitors is the well dressed, fashion conscious population of Dalian. The young women of Dalian are known for their above average height, and their fashion sense. On the streets, one finds a daily fashion show, as it is a common sight to see girls dressed in the latest fashion, in their high heels and fashionable accessories.

Much of the influence comes from the International Fashion Festival, held annually in September, when thousands of local and international celebrities converge to the city. Glamorous international models, famous fashion designers, pop stars, textile merchants, and international merchandisers attend this gala fashion event. Year round there is a fashion feast available in the many malls and bazaars of the city, both for high prices as well as bargain buys. Every design company worth its label is present in the shopping centers of Dalian.

#### Geographical Location

Situated on the southern end of the Liaodong Peninsula, in northeast China, Dalian borders the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea.

#### History

Dalian is a young city with a hundred-plus-year-old-history. Though the old name of Dalian appears in ancient Chinese history, it was only

