

## Travel in Chinese - Lesson 28 - Houhai Bar

1. 雪梅：小李，这是什么桥？
2. 同事：雪梅，你说的是远处的那座桥吗？那是银锭桥。
3. 雪梅：“银锭桥”，这是很有名的桥吧，名字很熟。
4. 同事：当然了，这桥还是北京一景儿呢。它是前海和后海的分界线。
5. 雪梅：后海就是什刹海吧？
6. 同事：对。你看这个饭馆，是北京有名的烤肉馆，下次我请你到这儿尝尝他们的烤肉。
7. 雪梅：太好了，不过我们还是先去酒吧吧。
8. 同事：好啊。
9. 雪梅：这儿是不是原来的居民区？
10. 同事：对，这儿是原来的居民区，那边的民居和胡同还保持着原来的样子，有好多人都去那边参观呢。
11. 雪梅：这里的酒吧也是住在这里的人开的吗？
12. 同事：只有几家是，大部分都不是。
13. 雪梅：我发现后海的气氛很独特，生活气息很浓。
14. 同事：其实后海一带以前是以四合院闻名的，酒吧是近几年才兴起的。
15. 雪梅：这里自然风景好，又有浓厚的文化气息，是个开酒吧的好地方。
16. 同事：这里的酒吧，文化味儿都比较足。
17. 雪梅：那我们快找一家去看看。这里的酒吧真不少。
18. 同事：是啊，雪梅，我们就去这一家吧。这儿的装潢既古老又现代，很有自己的风格。我们在二楼可以边喝酒边看风景。
19. 雪梅：我相信这酒吧的主人一定很有品位。
20. 同事：可不是吗，听说是搞艺术的。
21. 雪梅：怪不得呢！
22. （在酒吧里）（进门）（吧台）同事：咱们先买酒，一会儿上去喝。好，雪梅，你要点儿什么？
23. 雪梅：你呢，想喝点儿什么呢？
24. 同事：我要杯啤酒吧。
25. 雪梅：我和你一样，我也来一杯啤酒。
26. 同事：（对服务员）两杯啤酒，您帮忙送到楼上去。
27. 服务员：好的，没问题。
28. （二楼）雪梅：这儿真不错，让人心情舒畅，感觉好极了！
29. 同事：嗯，的确是个休闲的好地方。
30. 雪梅：那我们坐那边。
31. 同事：好。
32. 同事：雪梅，走了这么半天，累了吧？
33. 雪梅：真是累坏了。
34. 服务员：你们俩问的啤酒。
35. 同事：谢谢你。
36. 服务员：不客气。

37. 雪梅：谢谢！
38. 服务员：请慢用。
39. 同事：雪梅，你看，这里的风景不错吧。
40. 雪梅：我觉得这里的夏天特别美。
41. 同事：冬天也不错啊！水面结成了冰，一片银白。
42. 雪梅：是吗，那应该另有一番景色。
43. 同事：没错，我们冬天一定再来一次。
44. 雪梅：好，好，我还准备到这儿采访呢。
45. 同事：哎，这个创意不错，别忘了这里面还有我的功劳呢。

## Translation

1. Xue Mei: What's the name of that bridge?
2. Colleague: Xue Mei, are you talking about the bridge in the distance?, That's "Yin Ding Bridge".
3. Xue Mei: "Yin Ding Bridge". This must be a famous bridge. The name rings a bell.
4. Colleague: Of course. This bridge is part of the scenery in Beijing. It is also the boundary between Qianhai and Houhai.
5. Xue Mei: Houhai is also called Shichahai, right?
6. Colleague: Yes. See the restaurant! This is one of Beijing's most famous barbeque restaurants. You should come here when you get a chance.
7. Xue Mei: Great, but let's go to the bar first.
8. OK!
9. Xue Mei: Is this a residential area?
10. Colleague: Yes. They've kept the hutongs and residences here just like in the old days. Some people come here just to see them.
11. Xue Mei: Are the bars here run by the local residents as well?
12. Colleague: Some of them are run by the residents, but most of them are not.
13. Xue Mei: Houhai has a very special ambience. It has a strong feeling of real life.
14. Colleague: In fact the area of Houhai was famous for its Siheyuan before. The bars at Houhai have only sprung up and become popular in the past couple of years.
15. Xue Mei: The natural scenery is beautiful, plus there's a strong cultural ambience. It's really a great place for the bar business.
16. Colleague: The bars here all have a cultural ambience.
17. Xue Mei: Let's find one and go in. There are so many bars here.
18. Colleague: How about this one? The furnishings are very special, and you can enjoy the view from upstairs.
19. Xue Mei: I think the bar owners have good taste.
20. Colleague: Sure, I hear they are artists.
21. Xue Mei: No wonder!
22. Colleague: We can order drinks first and have them upstairs. What would you like to drink?
23. Xue Mei: And you, what would you like?
24. Colleague: I'd like a beer.
25. Xue Mei: I'll have the same as you, a beer.
26. Colleague: Two beers, Would you please take us upstairs?
27. Waiter: ok, no problem.
28. Xue Mei: This is really nice and very relaxing. I feel great.
29. Colleague: It's a great place to relax.
30. Xue Mei: Shall we sit there?
31. Colleague: ok.
32. Colleague: Xuemei, you must be tired after a long walk.
33. Xuemei: Yes, I'm so tired.
34. Waiter: Here is your beer.

35. Colleague: Thank you!
36. Waiter: You are welcome.
37. Xuemei: Thank you!
38. Waiter: Please enjoy.
39. Colleague: Xuemei, the scenery here is very beautiful, isn't it?
40. Xuemei: It's very pretty, especially in winter.
41. Colleague: I think winter must be beautiful, too! The lake frozen over, all silvery white.
42. Xuemei: Yes, it should be nice, too.
43. Colleague: Great! We'll come here again in winter.
44. Xue Mei: I plan to come here for an interview.
45. Colleague: That's a good idea. Don't forget to give me credit for bringing you here!

### Bookmarks

#### 1) 怪不得 no wonder

(例) 怪不得昨天他没去长城，原来他病了。

No wonder he didn't go to the Great Wall yesterday; he was sick after all.

(例) 粥里放了糖，怪不得这么甜呢。

They put sugar in the porridge; no wonder it's so sweet.

#### 2) 倒 indicate something unexpected

(例) 我倒是很想跟你一起去，就是没有时间。

I would really like to go with you. It's just that I don't have the time.

(例) 这双鞋价钱倒是不贵，就是颜色不太好。

This pair of shoes really isn't expensive. It's just that the colour is not very nice.

### Sign Posts

#### Houhai

To see the small alleyways of old Beijing you should take one of the 胡同 tours. Nowadays, the best way to see the 胡同 is to take a bicycle or pedicab tour in the Houhai area. These tours are often advertised in hotels and tourist magazines.

Some of the best preserved 胡同 are around the Houhai area. This is an area north of the old Forbidden City, and was home to nobility and high officials in imperial China. Around Houhai are long, thin lakes, almost like canals. These are largely man-made.

Many parts of old Beijing have been redeveloped with wide avenues and modern architecture, but some traditional neighbourhoods like Houhai are now being protected. One of the nicest things about these old areas is that 生活气息很浓 they have a very down-to-earth feeling of being lived in, they are in a sense "homey".

Almost hidden in this area you will find 钟楼 the Bell Tower and 鼓楼 the Drum Tower. In imperial times, these were used to mark the time and to call officials to important meetings. Your hutong tour may also take you to Prince Gong's Palace. This was the home of the father of the last emperor. (The father was related to the royal family, but did not serve himself as emperor.) This is probably the best preserved courtyard house 四合院 in Beijing, and is worth seeing.

### Substitution and Extension

#### 1) 既...又...both this, and that

(例) 中国菜，既好吃又便宜。

Chinese food is not only tasty; it's also inexpensive.