



Chinese Culture Conversations  
Preview Clip 11: Chinese Food You Have to Try

Chris: 好，那大家如果来中国的话想在外面吃饭，有没有什么必点的菜或者你推荐的菜，除了这个火锅我们刚才说的火锅以外。

Chris: Hǎo, nà dàjiā rúguǒ lái zhōngguó dehuà xiǎng zài wàimiàn chīfàn, yǒu méiyǒu shé me bì diǎn de cài huòzhě nǐ tuījiàn de cài, chūle zhège huǒguō wǒmen gāngcái shuō de huǒguō yǐwài.

Chris: OK. So if you come to China and want to eat out, is there any dishes that you must order, or dishes that you recommend, apart from hot pot, which we've talked about already?

Becca: 我觉得如果是你来北京那你肯定要试一试北京的烤鸭，然后北京有很多非常适合外国人口味的，因为我有外国朋友，我也经常跟他们推荐。我知道很多外国朋友在中国点菜的话，会有一些你们的禁忌，比如说不喜欢吃内脏，或者是这个整条的鱼、整只的虾，螃蟹这种带着眼睛、带着刺的带着骨头的可能大家都不是特别喜欢，所以我就建议大家点像宫保鸡丁、京酱肉丝、还有鱼香肉丝这些，口味带一点酸甜，然后这个肉都是准备的比较精细的这一类的菜肴。北京烤鸭你也一定要尝试一下。如果你去了四川，那就有更多的美食了，除了火锅之外，你还可以尝试四川的串串香，还可以.....

Becca: Wǒ juéde rúguǒ shì nǐ lái běijīng nà nǐ kěndìng yào shì yī shì běijīng de kǎoyā, ránhòu běijīng yǒu hěnduō fēichángshìhé wàiguó rén kǒuwèi de, yīnwèi wǒ yǒu hěnduō wàiguó péngyǒu, wǒ yě jīngcháng gēn tāmen tuījiàn. Wǒ zhīdào hěnduō wàiguó péngyǒu zài zhōngguó diǎn cài dehuà, huì yǒu yīxiē nǐmen de jìnjì, bǐrú shuō bu xǐhuān chī nèizàng, huòzhě shì zhège zhěng tiáo de yú, zhěng zhī de xiā, pángxiè zhè zhǒng dài zhuó yǎnjīng, dài zhe cì de dài zhe gǔtōu de kěnéng dàjiā dōu bùshì tèbié xǐhuān, suǒyǐ wǒ jiù jiànyì dàjiā diǎn xiàng gōng bǎo jī dīng, jīng jiàng ròu sī, hái yǒu yú xiāng ròu sī zhèxiē, kǒuwèi dài yīdiǎn suān tián, ránhòu zhège ròu

dōu shì zhǔnbèi de bǐjiào jīngxì de zhè yī lèi de cài yáo. Běijīng kǎoyā nǐ yě yīdìng yào chángshì yīxià. Rúguǒ nǐ qùle sìchuān, nà jiù yǒu gèng duō dì měishíle, chule huǒguō zhī wài, nǐ hái kěyǐ cháng shì sìchuān de chuànchuànxiāng, hái kěyǐ.....

Becca: I think if you come to Beijing you should definitely try Beijing Roast Duck, and there are also many dishes are adapted to foreigners' tastes, because I have many foreign friends and I often recommend these dishes to them. I know that if many foreign friends order dishes in China, they have food that they don't eat, for example they don't like eating internal organs, or whole fish, whole shrimp or crabs, which have the eyes, small bones or large bones. You might not particularly like to eat these things, so I recommend that you order dishes like kung pao chicken, shredded pork with sweet bean paste, shredded pork with garlic sauce and so on, which have a sweet and sour taste, and the meat is prepared precisely. You have to try Beijing Roast Duck. If you go to Sichuan, there will be more delicious foods to try. As well as hot pot, you can try chuanchuanxiang (ingredients on skewers in a pot of boiling soup), and also...

Chris: 也是很辣的。

Chris: Yěshì hěn là de.

Chris: That's also very spicy.

Becca: 也是很辣的，串在一串一串的竹签子上的。然后你也可以尝一尝中国的烧烤。

Becca: Yěshì hěn là de, chuàn zài yī chuàn yī chuàn de zhú qiānzi shàng de. Ránhòu nǐ yě kěyǐ cháng yī cháng zhōngguó de shāokǎo.

Becca: Yes it is also very spicy. The foods are skewered on sticks of bamboo. You can also try Chinese barbecue.

Chris: 我也很喜欢吃烧烤，我们出去吃饭的时候。

Chris: Wǒ yěshì hěn xǐhuān chī shāokǎo, wǒmen chūqù chīfàn de shíhòu.

Chris: I also like to eat barbecue, when we go out to eat.

Becca: 另外还有就是中国的水饺，中国的主食里面，你也一定要品尝一下不同馅儿的中国水饺。

Becca: Lìngwài hái yǒu jiùshì zhōngguó de shuǐjiǎo, zhōngguó de zhǔshí lǐmiàn, nǐ yě yīdìng yào pǐncháng yīxià bùtóng xiàn de zhōngguó shuǐjiǎo.

Becca: There are also Chinese dumplings, one of China's staple foods. You've got to try Chinese dumplings with different fillings.

Chris: 水饺、包子。

Chris: Shuǐjiǎo, bāozi.

Chris: Boiled dumplings and steamed buns with fillings.

Becca: 各种各样的饼。

Becca: Gè zhǒng gè yàng de bǐng.

Becca: And there are all kinds of pastries.

Chris: 还有饼，各种各样的都有，你说了我都开始流口水了，开始觉得有点饿了。那么我们如果在外面吃饭谁来买单，比如说如果一个外国人来中国的话，你应该主动去买单吗？还是别人都会请你吃饭吗？还是要AA制？

Chris: Hái yǒu bǐng, gè zhǒng gè yàng de dōu yǒu, nǐ shuōle wǒ dū kāishǐ liú kǒushuǐle, kāishǐ juéde yǒudiǎn èle. Nàme wǒmen rúguǒ zài wàimiàn chīfàn shéi lái mǎidān, bǐrú shuō rúguǒ yīgè wàiguó rén lái zhōngguó dehuà, nǐ yīnggāi zhǔdòng qù mǎidān ma? Háishì biérén dūhuì qǐng nǐ chīfàn ma? Háishì yào AA zhì?

Chris: There are various types of pastries. Just talking about it, you're making my mouth water, I'm starting to feel a bit hungry. So who is supposed to pay the bill if we go out for dinner, for example if a foreigner is coming to China, who is supposed to pay the bill? Will other people always treat you? Or do you split the bill?

Becca: 这方面你应该比较有经验，我相信如果你跟你的中国朋友去吃饭，中国朋友肯定会请你吃饭的，是不是这样？

Becca: Zhè fāngmiàn nǐ yīnggāi bǐjiào yǒu jīngyàn, wǒ xiāngxìn rúguǒ nǐ gēn nǐ de zhōngguó péngyǒu qù chīfàn, zhōngguó péngyǒu kěndìng huì qǐng nǐ chīfàn de, shì bùshì zhèyàng?

Becca: I believe you have experience of this. If you have a meal with your Chinese friends, they will definitely treat you, right?

Chris: 但是我有的时候会觉得挺尴尬的，如果每次都是别人请你吃饭，过了几次，你可能会觉得有点不好意思，或者不想让别人一直请你吃。所以有的时候外国人是吧，就算是来中国是客人，是不是也可以主动表示想结账买单的意识。

Chris: Dànshì wǒ yǒu de shíhòu huì juéde tǐng gāngà de, rúguǒ měi cì dōu shì biérén qǐng nǐ chīfàn, guòle jǐ cì, nǐ kěnéng huì juéde yǒudiǎn bù hǎoyìsi, huòzhě bùxiǎng ràng biérén yīzhí qǐng nǐ chī. Suǒyǐ yǒu de shíhòu wàiguó rén shì bùshì, jiùsuàn shì lái zhōngguó shì kèrén, shì bùshì yě kěyǐ zhǔdòng biǎoshì xiǎng jiézhàng mǎidān de yìshí.

Chris: But sometimes I will feel awkward/embarrassed if other people treat me every time. After a few times, you may feel a bit uncomfortable, or you don't want other people to treat you. So sometimes should foreigners, even they are guests in China, be proactive and express their intention to pay the bill?

Becca: 对。因为是这样的，中国人比较讲究面子，如果大家一起吃了一顿饭，证明我们关系非常好，是吧？然后我们都一起吃饭了，但是我们在买单的时候，结账的时候这顿饭我们却还要 split the bill，每个人来出十块钱，这顿饭可能本身也没有多少钱，你比如说我们两个人吃一顿饭一百块钱，我们两个人关系这么好，然后我们每个人还要出 50 块钱，然后来买这个饭，好像就有一点体现我们之间关系疏远了，是不是这样的？

Becca: Duì. Yīn wéi shì zhèyàng de, zhōngguó rén bǐjiào jiǎngjiù miànzi, rúguǒ dàjiā yì qǐ chīle yī dùn fàn, zhèngmíng wǒmen guānxì fēicháng hǎo, shì ba? Ránhòu wǒmen dōu yīqǐ chīfànle, dànshì wǒmen zài mǎidān de

shíhòu, jiézhàng de shíhòu zhè dùn fàn wǒmen què hái yào split the bill, měi gèrén lái chū shí kuài qián, zhè dùn fàn kěnéng běnshēn yě méiyǒu duōshǎo qián, nǐ bǐrú shuō wǒmen liǎng gèrén chī yī dùn fàn yībǎi kuài qián, wǒmen liǎng gèrén guānxì zhème hǎo, ránhòu wǒmen měi gèrén hái yào chū 50 kuài qián, ránhòu lái mǎi zhège fàn, hǎoxiàng jiù yǒu yīdiǎn tǐxiàn wǒmen zhī jiān guānxì shūyuǎnle, shì bùshì zhèyàng de?

Becca: Yes. It's like this, Chinese people really want to have 'face'. If everybody is sitting together having it meal, it proves that we are very close, right? And we have eaten together. But if when it's time to pay the bill, we still split the bill, we pay ten yuan per person, the meal itself is not very expensive. For example us two have a meal costing 100 yuan, and we are good friends, then each of us has to pay 50 yuan to pay for the food, it may give the expression that we are very distant, don't you think?

Chris: 有点感觉你很小气了。

Chris: Yǒudiǎn gǎnjué nǐ hěn xiǎoqìle.

Chris: Or it could feel like you are very stingy.

Becca: 就会显得很没面子。比如说，一般男士会请女士，一般主人会请客人，或者是有什么喜事的人、要感谢对方的人，他会主动提出来去请对方。

Becca: Jiù huì xiǎndé hěn méi miànzi. Bǐrú shuō, yībān nánshì huì qǐng nǚshì, yībān zhǔrén huì qǐng kèrén, huòzhě shì yǒu shé me xǐshì de rén, yào gǎnxiè duìfāng de rén, tā huì zhǔdòng tí chūlái qù qǐng duìfāng.

Becca: Yeah, you would feel you have lost face. For example, generally men are supposed to treat women and hosts treat guests. If someone has a happy event or wants to thank the other person, he/she will take the initiative to treat them.

Chris: 那么如果是朋友之间，比如说第一次我先请你，然后你第二次你请我。

Chris: Nàme rúguǒ shì péngyǒu zhī jiān, bǐrú shuō dì yī cì wǒ xiān qǐng nǐ, ránhòu nǐ dì èr cì nǐ qǐng wǒ.

Chris: And if it is between friends, for example the first time I treat you, then you treat me the second time?

Becca: 没错，朋友之间我们是会这样的，并不是说你请了我，我就心安理得地接受了你的这份好意，而是我会一直记得，你上次请我吃饭了，那下一次我们在一起吃饭的时候，我就会主动提出来，这次我来买单。其实大家还是有一个礼尚往来相互的照应，最终还是要达到一种平衡。

Becca: Méi cuò, péngyǒu zhī jiān wǒmen shì huì zhèyàng de, bìng bùshì shuō nǐ qǐng le wǒ, wǒ jiù xīn'ānlǐ dé de jiēshòu le nǐ de zhè fèn hǎoyì, ér shì wǒ huì yīzhí jì dé, nǐ shàng cì qǐng wǒ chīfàn le, nà xià yīcì wǒmen zài yīqǐ chīfàn de shíhòu, wǒ jiù huì zhǔdòng tí chū lái, zhè cì wǒ lái mǎidān. Qíshí dàjiā háishì yǒu yīgè lǐshàngwǎnglái xiānghù de zhàoyìng, zuìzhōng háishì yào dá dào yī zhǒng pínghéng.

Becca: That's right, that's what you do between friends. It's not that you treat me, and I accept it calmly, but that I will remember that you treated me last time, so the next time we eat together, I will take the initiative and say that I will pay this time. In fact, it is just a form of 'courtesy demands reciprocity', ultimately you have to keep the balance.

Chris: 行，那我请你吃饭，你想吃什么？

Chris: Xíng, nà wǒ qǐng nǐ chīfàn, nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?

Chris: Okay, then let me treat you to a meal. What would you like to eat?

Becca: 那我们现在去看看点点什么吧。

Becca: Nà wǒmen xiànzài qù kàn kàn diǎndiǎn shénme ba

Becca: Let's go and see what we can order now.

Chris: 行，好的。

Chris: Xíng, hǎo de。

Chris: Ok.