Asia Concierge

THE ART OF TRAVEL DESIGN



THE CULTURAL COMPANION

CHINA

BOOKS, FILMS AND SERIES TO ENJOY BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

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CHINA

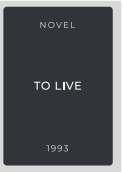
THE CULTURAL COMPANION

BOOKS, FILMS AND SERIES TO ENJOY BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Few countries reward a little preparation as richly as China. Our selection moves from family sagas and prize-winning science fiction to gentle travel writing along the Yangtze and the Great Wall, giving you a sense of the history, the people and the food that shape every journey through the Middle Kingdom.

TO READ

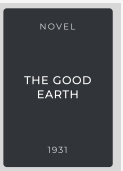
FICTION



To Live · Yu Hua · 1993

A moving, often darkly funny novel following one family's fortunes through decades of upheaval in 20th-century China.

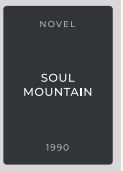
UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



The Good Earth · Pearl S. Buck · 1931

The Pulitzer-winning classic of a farmer's rise and the land he loves, set in pre-revolutionary rural China.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Soul Mountain · Gao Xingjian · 1990

A Nobel laureate's lyrical journey through the remote landscapes and folklore of southwest China.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



The Three-Body Problem · Liu Cixin · 2008

The award-winning science-fiction novel that begins during the Cultural Revolution and spans the stars.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Red Sorghum · Mo Yan · 1986

A vivid family saga set in rural Shandong, by the Nobel Prize-winning author.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

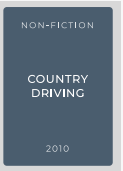
NON-FICTION



Wild Swans · Jung Chang · 1991

Three generations of women, a grandmother, mother and daughter, tell the story of China across the 20th century.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Country Driving · Peter Hessler · 2010

A road trip along the Great Wall and through a fast-changing China, from villages to new factory towns.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Shark's Fin and Sichuan Pepper · Fuchsia Dunlop · 2008

A British cook's delicious memoir of learning to cook, and eat, in China.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



River Town · Peter Hessler · 2001

Two years teaching English in a Yangtze River town, told with humour and great warmth.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS



Factory Girls · Leslie T. Chang · 2008

An intimate portrait of young migrant women building new lives in China's booming factory cities.

UK AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS
USA AMAZON · APPLE BOOKS

TO WATCH

FILMS & SERIES



The Last Emperor · Bernardo Bertolucci · 1987

The Oscar-winning epic of Puyi, China's last emperor, partly filmed inside Beijing's Forbidden City.

UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA HBO MAX · APPLE TV



Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon · Ang Lee · 2000

The Oscar-winning martial-arts romance, with breathtaking scenes in China's bamboo forests and deserts.

UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



Hero · Zhang Yimou · 2002

A visually spectacular martial-arts epic set in ancient China.

UK AMAZON
USA AMAZON



The Farewell · Lulu Wang · 2019

A warm, funny family drama set in Changchun, as relatives gather around a much-loved grandmother.

UK PRIME VIDEO · APPLE TV
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



Empire of the Sun · Steven Spielberg · 1987

Spielberg's epic about a British boy caught up in wartime Shanghai.

UK SKY GO · APPLE TV
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON



The Painted Veil · John Curran · 2006

Edward Norton and Naomi Watts in a 1920s love story set in rural China, filmed among the karst hills of Guangxi.

UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA APPLE TV · AMAZON

DOCUMENTARIES & TRAVEL SERIES



Wild China · BBC · 2008

A natural history series from the Himalaya to the tropical south, covering wildlife, landscapes and people.

UK APPLE TV · AMAZON
USA PRIME VIDEO · APPLE TV



Up the Yangtze · Yung Chang · 2007

Life aboard a Yangtze River cruise ship as the Three Gorges Dam transforms the landscape.

UK *Not currently available*
USA APPLE TV



Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown · CNN · 2016

Includes Bourdain's fiery Sichuan episode with chef Eric Ripert.

UK PRIME VIDEO · AMAZON
USA HBO MAX · APPLE TV



Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure · ITV · 2018

Joanna Lumley follows the ancient Silk Road on a journey that ends in China.

UK SKY GO · APPLE TV
USA *Not currently available*

YOUTUBE CHANNELS TO FOLLOW



Blondie in China · @BlondieinChina

Amy from Australia travels and eats her way around China.

WATCH YOUTUBE



Strictly Dumpling · @StrictlyDumpling

Mike Chen's food channel, with many videos from across China.

WATCH YOUTUBE



Chinese Cooking Demystified · @ChineseCookingDemystified

Authentic Chinese home cooking, explained region by region.

WATCH YOUTUBE



Mark Wiens · @MarkWiens

Bangkok-based food vlogger, famous for his joyful street-food videos across Asia.

WATCH YOUTUBE

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THE ART OF TRAVEL DESIGN

WE KNOW ASIA INTIMATELY.

ASIA KNOWS US.

VIETNAM · CAMBODIA · LAOS · THAILAND
INDONESIA · SINGAPORE · JAPAN · CHINA

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