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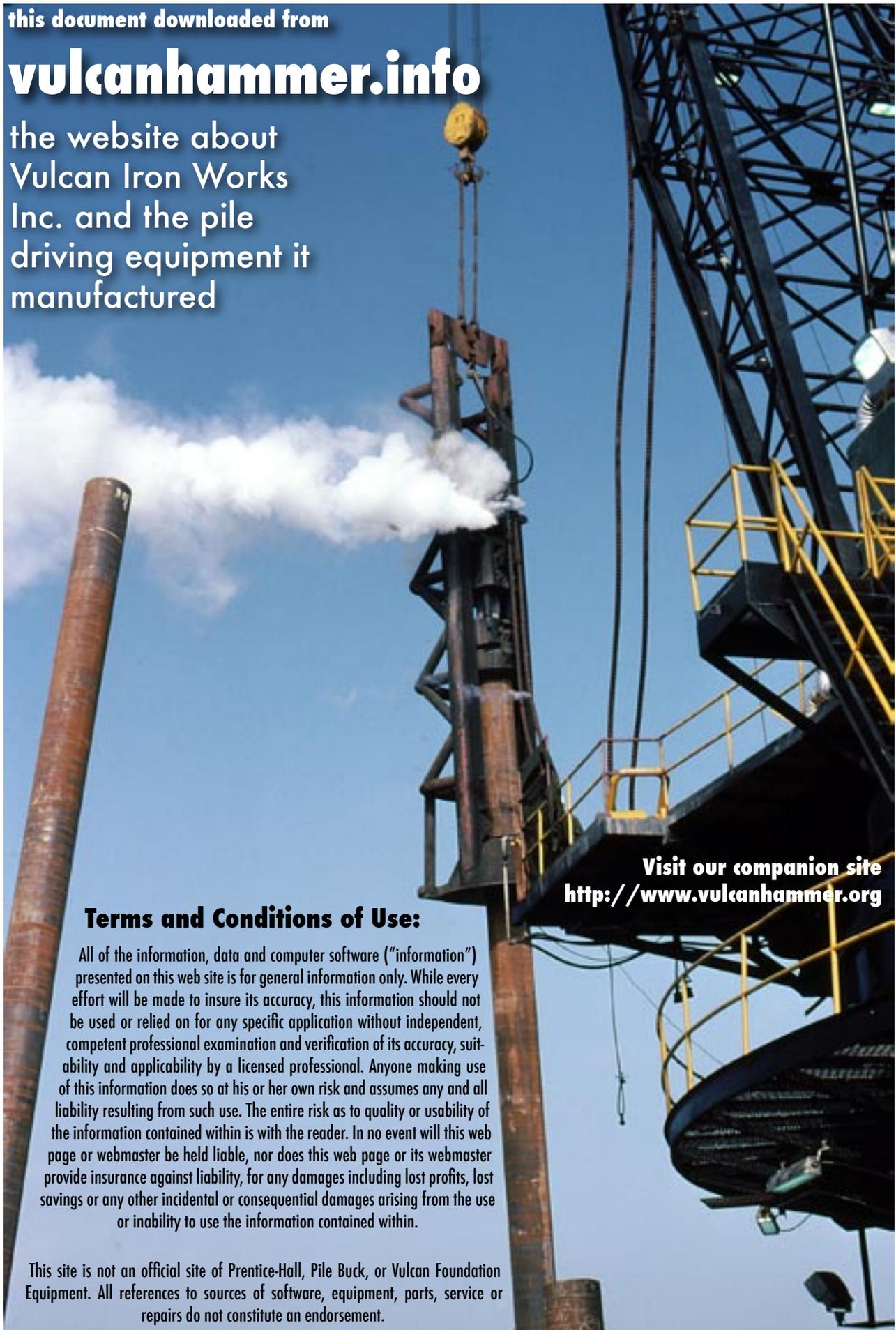
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**Society of Petroleum Engineers  
International Petroleum  
Exhibition and Technical Symposium**

Beijing, China  
16-24 March 1982



**Travel Information**

### HOTEL PACKAGE PRICES

<u>Arrival Date</u>	<u>Departure</u>	<u># Nights</u>	<u>Friendship Hotel</u>	<u>Jianguo</u>
March 7	March 25	18	\$ 524	\$ 902
March 10	March 25	15	485	800
March 12	March 25	13	459	732
March 13	March 25	12	446	698
March 14	March 25	11	433	664
March 16	March 26	10	420	630

\*Extra nights or fewer nights are based on \$13 per person at the Friendship and on \$34 per person at the Jianguo.

(The above hotels are what we expect to use, however, other hotels of a similar quality may be substituted.)

### SAMPLE AIR FARES

We have blocked seats on scheduled flights to insure availability of space and to offer you the advantage of the group inclusive tour fare, which is the lowest fare available. No doubt there will be some changes but the lowest available fare will be used when your tickets are issued.

Sample fares in effect August 15, 1981 to Beijing:

<u>From</u>	<u>Group Fare</u>	<u>APEX</u>	<u>Tourist</u>	<u>Executive</u>	<u>First</u>
West Coast	\$1028	\$1102	\$1468	\$1772	\$2786
Calgary	1200	1274	See Exec	1944	3062
Dallas	1365	1439	1805	2109	3190
Denver	1298	1372	1742	2042	3108
Houston	1412	1486	1852	2156	3248
New Orleans	1456	1530	1896	2200	3298
Oklahoma City	1374	1448	1814	2118	3232
Tulsa	1392	1466	1832	2136	3224

Fares from other cities are available upon request.

## RESTRICTIONS AND DETAILS ON HOTEL AND AIR PRICES

GROUP FARE (GIT) requires a minimum stay of 12 nights with a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together to Beijing, return may be separate. With the stopover in Tokyo you must spend a minimum of 10 nights in Beijing. Cancellation fee of 25% if cancelled 7 days or less prior to departure.

APEX individual fare requires 14 day stay in Beijing and cost \$74 additional. There is no need to use this fare if you travel with a group. Cancellation or changes within 21 days prior to departure results in a 15% penalty charge from the airline.

REGULAR FARES - First Class, Coach, and Executive fares, have no minimum stay restrictions or cancellation charges and provide unlimited stopovers.

### INCLUDED IN PACKAGE PRICE:

1. Hotel Accommodations in either the Friendship Hotel at \$13 per night or the Jianguo Hotel at \$34 per night, on shared room basis. Single rooms are basically nonexistent, but if a few should become available the additional cost will be \$13 per day at the Friendship, and \$34 per day at the Jianguo.
2. Round-trip airport transfers with interpreter.
3. Visa handling and fees.
4. Membership in the Recreation Club at the Friendship Hotel.  
-Open in the evening. Here you may bring your own bottle or purchase beer or soft drinks. Cards, darts, etc. will be available. Open hours will be posted in each hotel.-
6. Hospitality desks at the main hotels and exhibition center for flight reconfirmation and exit and travel permits. These will be manned by representatives of the U.S. and European Travel Agencies plus Chinese interpreters (from the U.S.). They will also assist you with information and other services, including arranging for optional tours.

COST - Hotel package prices are based on current information.

Should they change (up or down) your final bill will be adjusted accordingly.

NOT INCLUDED - Meals, laundry, and other items of a personal nature. Departure tax of 10 Yuan (\$6.50 U.S.) which will be collected at the airport on departure.

## RESERVATIONS AND CANCELLATION CHARGES

RESERVATIONS - A non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person must accompany your completed application and visa forms. Final billing will be done on or about December 1, 1981 and final payment will be due January 15, 1982.

CANCELLATION CHARGES - Commitments to hotel arrangements that were made in China are quite rigid. The amount of the cancellation charge will vary depending on the final charges from Beijing. If cancellation is necessary after booking has been made, you should expect some charges. We cannot give you the amount at this time. The airline policy for cancellations is given above. However, if cancellation is due to illness or death in the immediate family the airline will normally forego the charge if a Doctor's Certificate is presented.

## CHINA

### HEALTH

Smallpox vaccinations are no longer required for entry to China. Visitors coming directly from a cholera-infested area may be asked to show evidence of inoculation or be placed under observation by public health officials. Health requirements could change but if so, you will be notified.

Tourist travel in China is strenuous and may be debilitating to someone in poor health. You would be well advised to have a complete medical checkup before making final travel plans. It is not uncommon for tourists to experience respiratory discomforts. Foreign visitors who become ill in China are provided with the best medical care available in the country. Generally speaking the doctors and nurses are qualified and competent. A First-Aid service will be maintained at the exhibition site for the duration.

Visitors are advised not to drink the tapwater in China. Hotel rooms are almost always supplied with boiled water, which is safe to drink. Water purification tablets might prove useful in other situations.

\*Prescription drugs are generally not available so be sure to bring an ample supply. We suggest that you also bring something for stomach upset and diarrhea.

### CURRENCY

Chinese currency is called renminbi (RMB). The basic unit of RMB is the Yuan, which is worth approximately US \$.65. A Yuan is divided into ten Jiao and a Jiao is divided into 10 Fen. Yuan and Jiao are issued in Notes and Fen in coins.

The import and export of Chinese currency is prohibited, except in the form of renminbi travelers checks, which are available from the Bank of China in Hong Kong. No limit is set on the amount of foreign currency which may be brought into China by travelers; however, such currency must be declared to the customs inspector upon entry.

Foreign currency (cash or travelers checks) may be exchanged for Chinese currency at any office of the Bank of China. Bank branches are located in all the major hotels and in "Friendship Stores". Travelers are advised to keep the exchange receipts to show as evidence when converting Chinese currency back to foreign currency at the time of departure from China. Currency exchange facilities are available at the airport.

### CREDIT CARDS

In general credit cards cannot be used in China for payment of goods. Visa and Mastercard are being accepted at the Bank of China to obtain cash ( a 4% service charge is usually imposed). Negotiations are underway to allow credit cards at various locations; however, it is best to assume that credit cards can not be used.

## CUSTOMS

Foreign visitors are allowed to import 4 bottles of wine/liquor and 600 cigarettes (3 cartons) along with their personal belongings. Watches, radios, cameras, calculators, etc., imported duty free for personal use may not be transferred or sold to others. Gifts and articles carried on behalf of others must be declared to the customs inspector and are subject to duty.

Chinese customs regulations prohibit import or export of the following items:

- (1) Arms, ammunitions, and explosives
- (2) Radio transmitter-receivers, and principal parts
- (3) Chinese currency (RMB)
- (4) Books, films, records, tapes, etc. which are considered "detrimental to China's politics, economy, culture and ethics"
- (5) Poisonous drugs and narcotics
- (6) Infected animals or plant products
- (7) Infected foodstuffs
- (8) Pornographic literature or films

Export of the following is also prohibited:

- (1) Valuable cultural relics and rare books relating to Chinese revolution, history, culture, and art
  - (2) Rare animals, rare plants and their seeds
  - (3) Precious metals and diamonds and articles made from them
- \*Note: Ivory is not allowed into the United States, Britain nor many other Western countries.

## VISA

In addition to a Passport, visitors must hold valid visas issued by the Chinese officials prior to departure. These Visas are available only through the SPE designated Travel Representatives, ie: KENDALL GLOBE LIMITED of London for Europe only and JACKSON TOURS for North America and other countries.

JACKSON TOURS  
P.O. Box 6600  
Tyler, Texas 75711

KENDALL GLOBE LIMITED  
35 Alfred Place  
London, WC1E 7DY

Specific instructions for securing visas will be provided.

## TEMPERATURE AND WHAT TO WEAR

Beijing in March is generally cold, dry and windy. The average temperature in Beijing in March is 40° F (5c), with a high of 74° (23) and a low of 10° (-12). There is an average of 3 days of rain a month.

Wardrobe should be limited to plain sensible clothing. In the spring the weather can change quickly so it is recommended that you plan to wear several layers of clothing. Jeans are acceptable for both men and women. Most important: bring comfortable shoes.

## TIME DIFFERENCES:

Time is the same throughout China and it does not vary during the year. When it is 12 noon in Beijing, the Standard time in different cities of the world is:

Dallas/Houston	10:00 PM (Previous Day)
London	4:00 AM
New York	11:00 PM (Previous Day)
Oslo	4:00 AM
Paris	5:00 AM
Stockholm	4:00 AM
San Francisco	8:00 PM (Previous Day)
Tokyo	1:00 PM

## LANGUAGE

The Chinese written language has endured for thousands of years, and its culture has been based on these picture-like symbols. Each indicates the sound as well as the meaning for an entire word. In 1978, the State Council decreed that all Chinese proper and place names be romanized through a system called Pinyin (literally "spelling") replacing traditional names given by the British linguist, Wade, over a hundred years ago. Therefore the "Wade" Canton, has been replaced with the "Pinyin" Guangzhou, and Peking with Beijing.

Chinese is a difficult language to Westerners and if you don't already speak the language, forget the idea of a crash course. You will be accompanied at most times by a bilingual guide who will interpret for you. Nonetheless, nothing produces understanding and appreciation more than to speak a few simple words of Chinese to show interest and understanding, ie: Hello - "Ni hao" (Ne-haw) or Thank you - "xiexie" (She-she).

## ENTERTAINMENT

Night life as we know it does not exist in China. A Recreation Room will be provided for all attendants at the Friendship Hotel. Here you may bring your own bottle or purchase beer or soft drinks. Cards, darts, etc. will be available.

## WINES & LIQUORS

Scotch and Bourbon is available in Hotel liquor shops .

Chinese brandies are quite good and very inexpensive; Chinese wines range from very sweet to dry wine. China's Tsingtao-beer (Piju) is well liked and readily available. Be advised that the potent Mao Tai Chiew (Mao Tai) is not to be confused with the Caribbean's Mai Tai, as it is strong liquor, not a tropical drink.

## CHINESE CUISINE

The food is mediocre to excellent, and in all cases plentiful. Chopsticks are normally used, but knives and forks are available, if you can ask for them. Food is normally served "family style" at round tables of 10 or more, with successive platters placed in the center. Fish (usually with head and tail attached) and chicken are staples. The sweet and sour pork is usually good and the shrimp and prawns are excellent, although sparsely served. Duck is served in many ways, even sandwiches.

Orange squash (an orange soft drink, similar to the British variety) appears to be the national drink, and is served often. The coffee is very good and the hot Jasmine tea is excellent. Coca Cola is now available in China!

Restaurants in Beijing are varied. Waiters are plentiful and attend to your every need. Remember, tipping is an insult to the Chinese. The Beijing Roast Duck Restaurant is famous (obviously) for its roast duck and its size. It is seven stories high, with floor space of 18,000 sq.ft. and can feed 8,600 people at once. The Beijing Hotel Restaurant consists of two dining rooms, one Chinese, one Western (specializing in English and French food). Their pastries are superb. The Sichuan Restaurant is one of Beijing's most beautiful restaurants, being several buildings joined together by small courtyards. Served here is the spicy food from Sichuan Province, known by Westerners as Szechuan cuisine. The Donglaishun Restaurant located near the Beijing Hotel is known to foreigners as the Mongolian Restaurant. Their specialty is Chinese Islamic cuisine and they serve the best hot-pot in China.

\*Please be advised that restaurants expect to seat the exact number of people for which the reservation was made. If the reservations were made for ten and only eight are present, you will likely be charged for ten.

## SHOPPING

In general stores in China are open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You should retain receipts for all your purchases to facilitate clearing customs upon departure. Pricing structures are set by the state, so prices will not vary by much from store to store. Do not attempt to bargain.

Best known to visitors are the Friendship Stores, open to non-nationals only. These stores offer a wide variety of products as well as those not available in general shops (fine silks and jewelry). Sales personnel speak foreign languages and provide facilities for packing and shipping the items home.

Be sure to visit a General Department Store. This is where the Chinese people shop, and they offer a variety of reasonably priced silks, brocades and other everyday items not for sale in the Friendship stores. A concentration of these stores are on Wang Fu Jing Street on the east side of the Beijing Hotel. Arts and Crafts Department Stores specialize in the sale of traditional Chinese handicrafts, and Antique Stores are plentiful with authenticated antiques and beautiful reproductions. The majority of the shops are located in Lui Li Chang. This area may be reached by taxi, but you must keep it waiting while shopping as they have no taxi stand.

## POSTAL SERVICES

All hotels have postal service desks that sell stamps, envelopes and postcards. Letters and postcards mailed via air mail take five to ten days minimum to get to their destination outside China. Material sent ocean freight, although much cheaper, will take much longer to arrive.

## TELEPHONES, TELEXES, TELEGRAMS

Facilities for international calls as well as telex will be available at the exhibition site in the Communications Center located in Hall 7. When sending a domestic or international cable, or international telex, telegram forms issued by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of China must be used.

You can also place long distance calls from your hotel room. Register the call through the operator or fill out the "long distance call register slip" at the hotel service desk. There are two types of international calls, regular and urgent, with urgent being the most expensive. When you make a call be prepared to pay for it almost immediately, as it will not be charged to your room. Local calls from your hotel room are free.

## TRANSPORTATION TO EXHIBIT CENTER

Show management will provide shuttle bus service between the hotels and the Beijing Exhibition Center. Schedules available on sites. Two way taxi service will be available for build-up, show and dismantling periods.

Please be advised that aside from the above noted two way taxi service and that to the Friendship Store, two way taxi service is seldom available. If you go by taxi to some other destination you must keep the taxi waiting to be assured of a ride home. Chauffeur driven cars are available and may be booked at the hospitality desk.

## ELECTRIC CURRENT

Electric current in China is 220 volts, 50 cycles. Chinese wall sockets accommodate appliances with two round prongs, or three flat prongs. Adaptors and converters are available at the hotel service desk, although it is best to take your own.

Not all adaptor kits contain the appropriate adaptor for Chinese wall sockets, but these can usually be purchased at the Friendship Store.

## LAUNDRY

Laundry service is quick, inexpensive and reliable, and is available daily at the hotels. This should be of assistance in limiting the amount of clothing you will need. Dry cleaning is not available.

## CAMERAS

Bring your camera and plenty of film, as some types of film are not available in China. Film developing is not available.

## MISCELLANEOUS

You would be well advised to bring a book or other reading material (but no girlie magazines). Also, stock up on your personal toilet articles such items as Kleenex, Wash-N-Drys, bandaids, instant coffee and snack foods, as these items are not available.

## DON'Ts

Don't get lost! There are no cruising taxis and few people who speak English.

Don't try to bargain - stores have one price.

Don't be late for meetings or dinner. It is the supreme insult.

Don't tip.

## TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS & REQUIREMENTS TO & WITHIN CHINA

1. For travel to China a visa must be obtained and only the SPE authorized agents can secure your visa. Your SPE travel agent will provide you with the specific information needed and the necessary forms. The application should be filled out as soon as possible but in no case later than 90 days prior to arrival.
2. Visas are issued for travel to specific places within China. If you are to visit Beijing the visa is good only in Beijing.
3. Travel within China: If your visa is for Beijing and you wish to travel to another city after your arrival the following procedures are to be followed:
  - a. Application must be made for a travel permit not less than 72 hours prior to your planned trip. Once this is issued it is then stamped by the public security office and only then train or plane reservations may be made.
  - b. You may then and only then purchase a rail or plane ticket by showing your passport and the travel permit.
  - c. A word of caution There will be personnel at the hospitality desk to assist you however we cannot emphasize enough the complications, and frustrations of trying to make changes once you arrive in China. The train tickets are purchased on a one way basis and you must have your travel permit stamped at the other end before you can stand in line again to purchase the return ticket. Unless you speak Chinese it is virtually impossible to travel outside Beijing without an interpreter.

## Travel Restrictions Cont'

4. Sightseeing in Beijing - Optional sightseeing will be available through the hospitality desk. The approximate price of the more popular trips will be as follows:
  - \* Full-day to the Great Wall and Ming Tombs including lunch  
35 Yuan (approximately \$23 US)
  - \* Half-day City Sightseeing Tour           15 Yuan (approximately \$10 US)
  - \* Half-day Summer Palace Tour           15 Yuan (approximately \$10 US)
  - \* Special cultural shows and dinners available at various prices.
5. Reconfirmation of flights - The hospitality desk will need your air ticket in order to reconfirm your return flight.

## BE A GOOD GUEST

Being aware of and observing the customs of the people in whose land you are an honored guest will make your trip most rewarding. The Chinese are inherently shy and modest, though they often surprise Westerners with their lack of self-consciousness. Other than shaking hands, they refrain from touching - a convention you should respect.

Try to maintain a temperate attitude - you will find that loud requests or a demanding attitude produce the opposite result of what you want. Avoid condescending attitude toward waiters, room attendants and porters - all people in China are considered of equal status.

Punctuality is expected for all activities. There is no such thing as being "fashionably late" in China. Once you have committed yourself to attending an event arranged especially for your group it is considered improper not to attend.

Never refer to the Chinese as "Chinamen" or to their country as "Red China", "Mainland China", or "Communist China". The Chinese refer to their system as "Socialist" rather than "Communist". Taiwan is considered a province and should not be referred to as the "Republic of China". Leadership is traditionally accorded with the highest respect in China; under no circumstances should a slighting remark be made regarding any official, Chinese or otherwise.

Social behavior in China is highly ethical, and the tourist custom of taking towels, ashtrays, etc. from hotels or other places is totally unacceptable. It will cause embarrassment at Customs exit points and may also present problems for guides and room attendants who could be held responsible.

Your journey will be greatly enhanced if you take time to prepare for it. Many books on China are available, and a reading list will be supplied at your request. Thoroughly acquaint yourself with the information available.

## Additional Information on Travel in China During the Early 1980's

As was the case with most companies in the oil and oilfield supply and service business, international travel to unglamorous places was commonplace. But China presented some special challenges in the era when Vulcan was doing business there.

The information furnished by the Society of Petroleum Engineers for their 1982 exhibition is accurate as far as it goes; however, some additional information is in order.

### Hotel Pricing and Quality

China was not a particularly expensive place to travel in at that time. The rate quoted for the Jianguo Hotel is close to what we paid for the Beijing Hotel during our first trip in 1981. Getting a room could be problematic, as the demand soon outstripped the supply with the increase in visits by “foreign devils” trying to do business. The SPE made this simple with block reservations; for our other trips, we relied on Amtech’s connections, and sometimes stayed in borrowed quarters.

With the exception of the Seaman’s Club in Tanggu, the hotels we stayed in were reasonable; in fact, many of the older ones (especially the Friendship Guest House) were pretty decent, especially since the Soviets liked to build hotels with large rooms.

### Visa

China was one of those places where, if you weren’t invited, you didn’t go. The organisation we negotiated with made the invitation; Amtech helped things along with the visa.

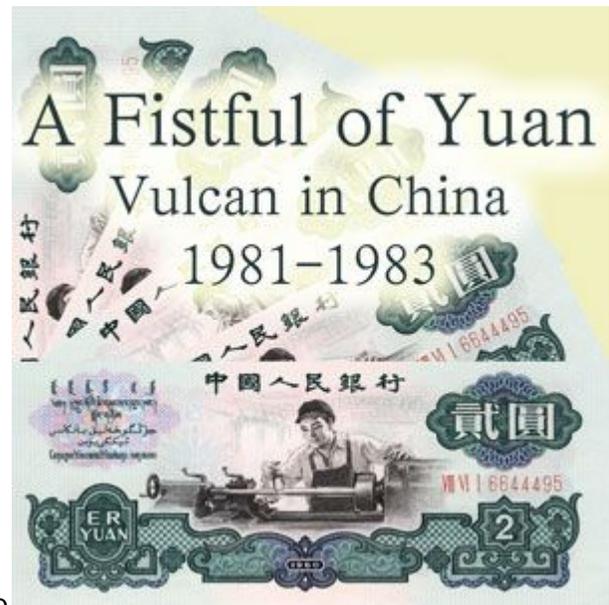
### Currency and Credit Cards

SPE’s admonitions to the traveller didn’t tell the whole story.

The renminbi was a state controlled, non-convertible currency. When foreigners brought “hard currency” to China, they exchanged it for Foreign Exchange Certificates, which were denominated in yuan but were only for use in places such as hotels and Friendship Stores that catered to foreigners. If a foreigner paid for a taxi with Exchange Certificates, he or she were supposed to get them in change, but as frequently as not would get regular renminbi, such as is depicted in the logo. These could not be exchanged back into hard currency. That’s the irony of our series title; if you got stuck with a “fistful of yuan,” i.e., renminbi, you were stuck with it.

The Soviets took an entirely different approach. You exchanged hard currency for roubles, but then you had to account for just about every kopeck you exchanged and spent.

There were no credit cards in China at that time. We dealt with that problem by



purchasing a wad of traveller's cheques before leaving the U.S., which had to pay for everything, including hotel and (if necessary, as was the case during my emergency departure) air fare.

### Food

We experienced some of the best—and worst—Chinese food on our trips to China. As noted, the Beijing Hotel had generally good food, but the help could be surly. My brother and my favourite were the steam rolls, a Northern Chinese speciality. Although the Chinese are most famous for rice, in the north noodles are the staple starch, as I found out when returning from Tanggu on the last trip.

### Communication

For Vulcan personnel, telex was the preferred method of communication. A phone call represented an emergency, and even then it was your emergency, not theirs; you had to make a reservation to place an overseas call, and getting the call through took some time.

For the complete story, visit A Fistful of Yuan: Vulcan in China, 1981-1983 at

<http://www.vulcanhammer.info/china/>