

MY TURN

■ Wayne Chan



On the fourth day, there was Chinese food

I'm writing this column while on a Royal Princess cruise ship making our way around New Zealand and on to Australia. It's a beautiful cruise so far and all of the crew members have been incredibly nice and willing to make our trip a pleasant one.

But to tell you the truth, I was originally a little apprehensive about the trip. Why? The food.

In all honesty, the food has been terrific ... and more than plentiful. It wasn't the quality of the food I was worried about, it was the variety, or lack thereof.

To be specific, I was worried I wouldn't be able to find a decent Chinese meal during our 21 days at sea. On trips like these, I tend to experience withdrawal symptoms if I don't get some soy sauce or sesame oil into my body at least every three days.

And it's not like there isn't a lot of variety on board. You name it, they've got it. Fish tacos? Perfecto. Italian? Abbondante! Even sushi? Hai! But look for a steamed dumpling or anything kung pao? Nothing.

I was aware of this going in. I knew there wouldn't be any Chinese food available on this cruise.

Lucky for me, I planned ahead.

Before the cruise, we stayed in Auckland, New Zealand. New Zealand and Australia are so much closer to Asia

than we are in the U.S., so I didn't think it would be an issue finding Chinese food. And boy, was I right.

We soon discovered that right in the heart of Auckland, there's Dominion Road, which is just row after row of Chinese restaurants. Chinese barbeque, hot pot, dim sum, seafood — whatever your heart (and stomach) desires.

Of the three nights we stayed in Auckland, we had Chinese food for three of our meals. I wasn't even the one insisting on it. Apparently in our group, I was not alone in going through MSG withdrawal syndrome.

We ate more than we really should have. Peking Duck, crab, steamed fish, dim sum. You name it, we ate it. It was like we were camels, but instead of storing water in our humps, our humps (or bellies) were filled with noodles and dumplings. I'm not sure the human body really works like that, but after four days on the cruise, I was perfectly fine eating another croissant, pizza, or a burger and fries. It was almost a welcome change of pace compared to the abundance of Chinese food we'd been eating.

And I had an opportunity to try a few new things, too! It turns out I love crumpets! I also like meat pies! Not so crazy about muesli, though.

You may ask, did I make it through our time at sea without any Chinese food? I'd thought that through as well. With a bit of research, I discovered that at our stop in Sydney, there was a Din Tai Fung dumpling restaurant right around the corner. Am I an experienced traveller or what?

I may need to talk to my therapist about this. Maybe he can meet me at a dumpling house.

Humor writer Wayne Chan lives in the San Diego area; cartoonist Wayne Chan is based in the Bay Area.



SO LONG, STUMPY. *The Washington Monument is visible as visitors photograph a cherry tree affectionately nicknamed "Stumpy" as cherry trees enter peak bloom in Washington, D.C., on March 19, 2024. Many of the cherry trees are experiencing their last peak bloom before being removed for a renovation project that will rebuild seawalls around the Tidal Basin and West Potomac Park. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)*

More than 100 iconic cherry trees in Washington are being cut down. So long, Stumpy.

By Ashraf Khalil
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The sun is setting on Stumpy, the gnarled old cherry tree that has become a social media phenom. This year's cherry blossom festivities in Washington will be the last for Stumpy and more than 100 other cherry trees that will be cut down as part of a multiyear restoration of their Tidal Basin home.

Starting in early summer, crews will begin working to replace the crumbling seawall around the Tidal Basin, the area around the Jefferson Memorial with the highest concentration of cherry trees. The work has been long overdue, as the deterioration, combined with rising sea levels, has resulted in Potomac waters regularly surging over the barriers.

The twice-daily floods at high tide not only cover some of the pedestrian paths, they also regularly soak some of the

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Health care resources for you

Get help with appointments, getting coverage, mobile showers and more



APRIL 1
Mobile Showers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

APRIL 2
Jean's Place *(for residents only)*
1:30-3:30 p.m.
18 NE 11th Ave, Portland

APRIL 4
Hacienda CDC *(for residents only)*
9:30-11 a.m.
6735 NE Killingsworth St, Portland

Equitable Giving Circle
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
4212 NE Prescott St, Portland

Mobile Showers
12-2 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

APRIL 8
Clark Center *(for residents only)*
9-10:30 a.m.
1437 SE MLK Blvd, Portland
Doreen's Place *(for residents only)*
12-2:30 p.m.
610 NW Broadway St, Portland

APRIL 9
Union Gospel Mission
2-3 p.m.
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland

APRIL 15
Mobile Showers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

APRIL 18
Hacienda CDC *(for residents only)*
9:30-11 a.m.
6735 NE Killingsworth St, Portland

Mobile Showers
12-2 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

APRIL 22
Doreen's Place *(for residents only)*
12-2:30 p.m.
610 NW Broadway St, Portland

APRIL 23
Union Gospel Mission
2-3 p.m.
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland

APRIL 29
Mobile Showers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

MAY 2
Hacienda CDC *(for residents only)*
9:30-11 a.m.
6735 NE Killingsworth St, Portland

Equitable Giving Circle
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
4212 NE Prescott St, Portland

Mobile Showers
12-2 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

MAY 6
Doreen's Place *(for residents only)*
12-2:30 p.m.
610 NW Broadway St, Portland

MAY 7
Jean's Place *(for residents only)*
1:30-3:30 p.m.
18 NE 11th Ave, Portland
Union Gospel Mission
2-3 p.m.
3 NW 3rd Ave, Portland

MAY 13
Clark Center *(for residents only)*
9-10:30 a.m.
1437 SE MLK Blvd, Portland
Mobile Showers
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland

MAY 16
Hacienda CDC *(for residents only)*
9:30-11 a.m.
6735 NE Killingsworth St, Portland
Mobile Showers
12-2 p.m.
4244 SE 91st Ave, Portland



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