



The winter drags on in Zhejiang, but Guangdong province is already getting a dose of spring sunshine and feeling the warm spring breeze of the spring. As the saying goes, 天高皇帝远, 'The sky is high and the emperor is far away'. It's not just the climate that distinguishes Guangdong from the Northern provinces, Guangdong is known for a more laissez-faire way of life. The people don't bother with politics. Instead, they dive head-first into business, and they do it well.

THE HOME OF CHINA'S BILLIONAIRES

Journeying to the cosmopolitan centre of China's international trade

By Olivia Rowenman (additional photos by James Dart and Jessica Litten)

Guangdong province boasts the highest GDP in all of China. According to the Hun-run Research Institute, Guangdong is home to most of China's billionaires. It has been the centre of China's international trade for centuries. Trade links from Guangdong's ports date back to the 16th century. Economic opportunities have made the province, especially Guangzhou, a prime destination for China's "floating population" of rural migrants. The proud and ancient Cantonese culture remains strong, but arrivals from all over China enrich the province with diverse cultures and cuisines.