

## Ben Ross' Blog

A Midwesterner ON the Middle Kingdom...and North America

### 10.20.08

### To Fuqing and Back...我的中国老家

Posted in [Fujian](#), [Travel Log \(Asia\)](#) at 7:44 pm by Benjamin Ross

For those of you who have followed my blog since its inception, you probably remember when I lived in Fuzhou. In posts, I often cite that I lived in Fuzhou for 3 years, but this is not completely accurate. In fact, my first 15 months in the Middle Kingdom were spent in a town called Fuqing, a county-level city (县级市) under the jurisdiction of Fuzhou, but an hour outside of the city proper. This past summer, I spent 6 days in Fuzhou which included two day-trips back to Fuqing. Here are some pictures I took to give you a little taste of my adopted Chinese 老家.



In terms of size and city layout, Fuqing is very typical Chinese city, containing a population of several hundred thousand people cramped into an area which can be traversed by bicycle in about twenty minutes.



My original reasons for going to China were to experience a foreign culture (and learn its language) in a developing country, and do so by being completely isolated from my own. When I first arrived in Fuqing in March of 2004, I did not see another white person for my first three months. Today still, the sight of a foreigner is uncommon on the streets of Fuqing, and bound to draw attention.



Fuqing is dissected by the 龙江 (Dragon River) and several bridges connect the old downtown (background) to the new downtown and surrounding areas. The building seen here is the 天河酒店 (tian1 he2 jiu2 dian4), a hotel/restaurant/KTV which is the tallest building in town.



Up until about 2005, this is what most of Fuqing's housing stock looked like, rows and rows and rows of the infamous bathroom tile style buildings.



This is the infamous ICBC branch which formerly had [frozen my assets](#). For all the flack I give ICBC, the one thing they are good is managing to open a branch in every single imaginable stretch of civilization across the Middle Kingdom. I've never looked this up, but I would not be surprised if ICBC had more branches than any other bank in the world.



At the center of Fuqing is 街心公园 (jie1 xin1 gong1 yuan2), which translates romantically into English as “Street Center Park.” As is the case of central parks/squares in many small Chinese cities, 街心公园 serves as a community center for many of the locals, especially the elderly. When weather conditions are favorable, crowds gather in the park to play card games or Chinese chess, smack around a shuttlecock, sell items ranging from remote-control cars to kitchen utensils, or just chat and enjoy the sun shade. It’s the place to go to have your shoes shined, bust out the megaphone and promote your new product or service to the masses, or simply to catch up on the latest gossip and people-watch. 街心公园 will always bear a special significance to me as my de facto Chinese classroom. For the better part of 15 months, I would spend 3 or 4 afternoons per week hanging out in the park and conversing with the locals. The beauty of this arrangement was its symbiosis. Most elderly Fuqingers can probably count on one hand the number of Westerners they have encountered throughout the course of their entire lives. Chances are, even if they have *seen* Westerners, they had never had the opportunity (nor the ability) to *communicate* with them. Therefore, the sight of me chatting with a random local would often draw a small crowd to eavesdrop on our conversation. Before I knew it, I would often be surrounded by a mob of Chinese senior citizens, eager to ask me all sorts of personal questions about my job, my salary, George W. Bush, how many Chinese women I had slept with, etc.

Under normal conditions, this would have been quite an annoying situation. But since my main goal was practicing the language, and their main goal was drawing as much information out of Whitey McForeigner as possible, it was the perfect match. To this day, I can still objectively point to afternoons at 街心公园 as my most valuable Chinese language training. And as a side note, I usually didn’t respond to the sexual inquiries.



smack dab in the middle of the downtown. It's on the second floor of one of Fuqing's most expensive pieces of commercial real estate. McDonald's is one of Fuqing's hipper establishments, especially for youth, and a common spot for dates and social gatherings.



No introduction to Fuqing would be complete without a thorough disclosure of the 福清光饼 (fu2 qing1 guang1 bing3). While there are countless bread creations across the Middle Kingdom referred to as 光饼, Fuqing's 光饼 are distinct in their hardness...typically not a quality sought after in bread.



In and of themselves 光饼 are nothing to write home about. However, it's what is put inside them that make them so unique, and mouthwateringly delicious. Jokingly referred to as the 福清汉堡包 (Fuqing hamburger), the 光饼夹 (guang1 bing3 jia1) is a sandwich created by slicing the 光饼 in half, and filling it with marinated pork and tofu. Hot sauce is optional, and highly recommended by yours truly. The 光饼夹 is possibly the tastiest street food concoction I have ever encountered anywhere in the Middle Kingdom. This is a distinction I do not throw around casually.



光饼夹 cost only 1 RMB each (approx 15 cents USD), and they can ONLY be bought in Fuqing. There are vendors in Fuzhou who sell what they claim to be Fuqing 光饼夹, but in fact they are the 光饼夹 from another town called Jian'ou, and are completely different from (and disappointingly inferior to) the Fuqing ones. To find the real 光饼夹, simply go to 街心公园, and look for elderly countryside women seated near over-shoulder baskets with the 光饼 in one, the pork/tofu/spice goodness in the other (see picture above). Unless it is raining (or an Olympic Opening Ceremony is taking place on Chines soil) they will always be there.



Fuqing is only 15 miles from the Taiwan Strait, and thus its topography is full of small rivers, creeks, and canals. The coast near Fuqing has bountiful stone deposits, and thus nearly all buildings (like these pictured above) are constructed from stone or concrete.



One benefit of living in [Southern China as opposed to the North](#) is that air pollution is much less severe. To be fair, I took these pictures on a day which was extraordinarily clear for Fuqing. Even so, on an average day in any town of Fujian, the air quality would be much, much cleaner than an average day in say, Henan or Hebei.



An additional benefit of living in a small town (this goes for North and South) is that cost of living is cheap...dirt cheap! Cab fare to anywhere within Fuqing city limits is 6 RMB (approx 90 cents USD). It was 5 RMB when I lived there. And due to Fuqing's dearth of nightlife and quality dining, it is virtually impossible to spend much money, even if you tried. That is, unless you are one of the locals who wear Japanese designer clothes and live in luxurious 6 story mansions. Due to its [large contingent of residents working in kitchens of Chinese restaurants abroad](#), and to a somewhat lesser extent, the recent boom in Fujian's export market, Fuqing's people have amassed enormous amounts of personal wealth over the past two decades.



The funny thing about Fuqing however is that after taking a

city itself is not nearly as wealthy as the people whom it governs. This is quite apparent by examining the public infrastructure, especially in contrast to the private homes which it supports.



Back when I lived in Fuqing, it's most heinous eyesore was probably the Dragon River itself. With its stench of feces, endless flow of trash, layer of industrial oil floating on the surface, and complete lack of fish or any other living aquatic creatures, I had never seen a more polluted body of water in my life before.



However, since the time I left, a massive cleanup effort has been undertaken by the city government, and the Dragon River is actually starting to look like...well...a river again!



In addition, much of the infrastructure around the river is being replaced as well. That tall structure in the background



Another one of Fuqing's older structures (although not nearly as old as the pagoda) is the Min Opera House which like most of Fuqing, also sits on the bank of the Dragon River. At the Opera House are regular live performances of 闽剧 (Fujian Opera). The performances are all done in the local dialect with a flashing sign off to the side of the stage displaying subtitles in Chinese characters. Even if you can't understand what is said, it is still worth stepping in for a few minutes to check out a performance. You can usually hear them from across the river as well.



Throughout the time I lived in Fuqing the downtown area was always the center of daily life and commerce.



However, during the time I lived in Fuzhou (05-07), the Fuqing city government began rapidly developing an entirely new downtown on the other side of the Dragon River, to the west of the old one.



If there is one thing that China can do better than anyone, it's rapidly throw up new buildings. This patch of real estate went from farmland to high-rise mega-commercial development in a period of less than 12 months. It was also given the Chinglishly hilarious official English name "Long Wang Great Town," translated from 龙旺名城.



Sites like Long Wang Great Town were nowhere to be seen in Fuqing when I first arrived. Keep in mind, that was only four years ago. My recent trip back to Fuqing underscored the fact that you don't have to live in China very long before you begin to notice drastic changes in the landscape and architecture of familiar areas. Contrast that to the neighborhood where I grew up in Overland Park, KS, which looks virtually identical now as to how it looked when I my family moved there in 1985.

freshman year, she cried at the first sight of downtown. But for me, this is exactly why I loved Fuqing. There was nothing whatsoever which would have attracted anyone to travel there without reason. To me it was a beautifully intact Chinese city, completely spared from the effects of tourism and large-scale Western influence, the perfect spot to begin my journey through the Middle Kingdom.

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## 44 Comments »

1. Tex said,

October 20, 2008 at [10:49 pm](#)

where do I sign up? After my year in Wenzhou I'm headed for the country—gonna eat me alot of peaches.

2. [maxiewawa](#) said,

October 20, 2008 at [11:04 pm](#)

I'm looking forward to the Ben Ross tour of FuJian, where we get to visit all the sites you mention in your blog!

3. Fish Jiang said,

October 20, 2008 at [11:37 pm](#)

To me it was home, which I hated, loved, being sicked and tired of, missed and being far far away from.

4. Jiang said,

October 21, 2008 at [12:20 am](#)

Glad to see those pictures. I worked there for about half a year in 2003 when Maria studied in the university. To me, Fuqing is a little dirty, ugly, boring, and that the people are a little rude.

5. [swiss james](#) said,

October 21, 2008 at [3:43 am](#)

Great post, but you couldn't pay me to live there!

6. Ray in Toronto, Canada said,

October 21, 2008 at [10:53 am](#)

Excellent overview on the changes that have occurred in lower tier Chinese cities. Your descriptions of Fuqing remind me of my wife's former home city, Zhanjiang, also in the south, almost adjacent to Hainan island. While my first reaction was to compare it unfavourably with Shanghai or Guangzhou, the city sort of grows on you and it is not hard to get used to the cheap seafood and housing. I did not notice that the locals there were rude as you described. Rather, I found it more typical to be treated with friendly curiosity such as I received from some university students working in a department store. They came up to me to practice English and said I was the first foreigner to come into the store! I'll be visiting again next February after about 2 years since my last visit and it will be interesting to see if there have been as many changes as you have described in Fuqing.

7. [Benjamin Ross](#) said,

October 21, 2008 at [1:40 pm](#)

@ Ray in Toronto, Canada

I have traveled to many small towns in different regions of China, and must say that the demeanor of Fuqing residents is quite unique, and by no means an accurate representative generalization of Chinese small town folk. Also, as foreigners the way we are treated by Chinese people is typically completely different from how that same Chinese person would react to another Chinese, especially a stranger. Thus, we often gain inaccurate perspectives on Chinese behavior based on their treatment of us, as laowai.

As a point of clarification, I also want to underscore that it was not me who was describing the Fuqing people as rude, but rather my Chinese acquaintances. I try to avoid using blatantly ethnocentric statements like that...especially in a public forum.

8. todd wesselhoeft said,

October 21, 2008 at [4:24 pm](#)

Great post. I miss that place and the 光饼夹 is the best stret food in China. You're right though that is not something to be thrown around lightly.

October 21, 2008 at [11:26 pm](#)

Dude,

I took some bad pills last night and could sleep at all. Google Reader recommended your blog and I ended up reading it from beginning to end. You have some crazy stories! Love that shit about the androgynous small brother who thought his job was too tough, and the pile of shit some dude took around your apartment. Shit!

You belong in China. Go back and write more stories!

10. Jiang said,

October 22, 2008 at [3:57 am](#)

Think twice about Fuqing. Yeah, as a Chinese who used to work there for half a year, my first impression of Fuqing is its dirtiness and ugliness. The impression is because of the dirty Dragon River, the dirty and crowded streets, the chaotic traffic and the big dump site near your university's gate. When I visited Maria, I passed by the dump site and really hated it. And about the rudeness of Fuqing people, I think I can feel it because I am a Chinese from other town, kind of migrant worker. But no town is kind to migrant worker in China. Actually, my landlord, a local woman, and some of my local co-workers treated me well.

Though some bad impressions of Fuqing, I have much more sweet memories with Maria there. We spent weekends in my room. We queued up for 盖邑扁食 and visited some boutiques on 向高街. Those shops sold some Japanese designed garments, which are not be found in Xiamen, a much bigger city now we live. Anyways, Fuqing is a little unique town.

11. [Jason](#) said,

October 22, 2008 at [12:45 pm](#)

For about half a year I spent a few days every week in a small 'no mickey d's' town here in Jiangsu. They actually had one...but no one went there so it shut down. Pretty small place. In all my time there I never once saw another foreigner. So yeah, free-time? Chinese immersion for sure.

It was surrounded by terrible chemical plants and so the environment was crap, but the people were alright. I gotta say one of my favorite places I've ever been in China was a small town in northern Jiangxi. The people were just so damn friendly. It was bizarre, yet so awesome.

There's just a certain charm about small towns that make them enjoyable in a way big cities can never be. Maybe worldwide?

12. [Benjamin Ross](#) said,

October 22, 2008 at [3:13 pm](#)

@Jason

The Micky D's actually shut down? That's wild! I've never heard of a Chinese McDonald's actually going out of business. Maybe mobbed by so many customers that they had to close down and remodel, but to go out of business? Wow!

I think you're right about small towns. Wherever you go in the world, people in small towns seem to have a charm to them that gets lost in the shuffle of the big city. We get that a lot here in the Midwest too, even in Chicago, which is by no means a small town. When people come to visit from the East Coast, they often ask me why everybody here is so nice and friendly...then go right back into their diatribe about how the Midwest sucks.

Where were you in Jiangxi? I swung through Jingdezhen, Yingtang, Nanchang, and Wuyuan back in 2006, great province for laowai isolation. Excellent spicy food too, some of the best in China.

@Jiang

什么是盖邑扁食？

13. Willaim Younger said,

October 22, 2008 at [4:05 pm](#)

I just pooped some Crab Rangoon!

14. [Jason](#) said,

October 23, 2008 at [2:32 am](#)

@ Ben,

Yep, they actually shut down. The town is Taixing 泰兴 in 泰州 county, Jiangsu. They had one Mickey Ds when I first starting going there and when I shut down I asked around. The only thing I ever heard was 'nobody went there'. I guess they were all KFC loyalists...

In Jiangxi, the place I was talking about was in fact, 婺源 wuyuan.

I was traveling with some visiting friends from the states. I'm not sure if that place is always like that, but we had a blast with the locals almost every night. Lots of smiles.

Although, we did all of our traveling between villages via motorcab so I may be a bit biased. 😊 Missed the blossoming flower-season though.

Ben,盖邑扁食是福清的一家小吃店, 在福清市区, 离街心公园不太远。盖邑是它的店名, 扁食也就是馄饨 (wonton), 但他们卖的扁食里面的馅有点特别, 味道不错。他们还卖茶叶蛋, 光饼什么的。那家店不大, 但生意非常好, 可能你有去过。

16. [Benjamin Ross](#) said,

October 23, 2008 at [7:41 am](#)

@ Jiang

ahh...is 扁食 the same thing as 扁肉? Is it those ones which are really stinky but taste really good? I think Maria took me there once. Although to be honest, I think I prefer the 沙县扁肉. By the way, to anybody who is curious who she often alluded to Maria is, she was one of my students in Fuqing. Jiang is her boyfriend...hope I'm not revealing too much personal info here.

17. Jeremy Yeh said,

October 23, 2008 at [8:13 am](#)

福清宏路(honglu town,fuqing)国道旁的滑蜆汤(slippery razor clam soup)很好吃!

18. [Matt Schiavenza](#) said,

October 24, 2008 at [5:40 am](#)

Great post Ben- one of your best, especially the last two paragraphs. I think that all foreigners, at one time or another, are well-served by living in towns like Fuqing (or Lianyungang, where I spent my first year in China). In Kunming, I recently met a foreigner who complained that the burritos at Salvadors, a unique coffee house here, weren't "authentic" enough. That same person remarked that she couldn't imagine living in Yuxi, a prosperous and nice town a bit south from here because there weren't enough Western provisions.

I love living in Kunming, but newbies I think deny themselves the experience of actually living in China and among Chinese people. Which is, as they all will say, the reason they came here in the first place.

19. ouyang said,

October 24, 2008 at [8:03 pm](#)

One nice spot a couple of miles outside of Fuqing is the mountain above the Dragon River dam. The water in the reservoir looks clean there, and a cable car will take you up to a Buddhist temple.

There is a tremendous amount of litter in some parts of Fuqing, which is partly due to a lack of garbage cans. It's also due to the habits of the Fuqing ren. On certain roads it's common to see pedestrians tossing garbage on the sidewalks. I sometimes saw shop owners empty heaps of trash on the street right outside of their small shops.

I think you can see from one of the photos that vegetables are grown along some banks of the Dragon River. Large cows (they look like water buffalo) also graze there. I remember that someone told me a papermill was responsible for a lot of the pollution in that river.

Other than the pollution, I thought Fuqing was an OK place to live. I have some good memories from there, and it's nice to see these photos. I was also glad to read that Da Sen came through for you Ben.

20. Song Wukong said,

October 27, 2008 at [7:55 am](#)

Love your style, love your perspective, love your post!

Keep up the good work...

21. [Benjamin Ross](#) said,

October 27, 2008 at [8:48 am](#)

@ Ouyang

I think the nice spot you are referring to is 石竹山 (shi2 zhu2 shan1), the main "scenic spot" in Fuqing. Great place to spend an afternoon. Also, by any chance do either you or Jiang have a picture of the famous "dump site" (as James poignantly refers to it) in front of the school? I looked, but could not find a picture in my collection.

For those who haven't seen it, which I am assuming is most of you, near the front gate of the Fujian Normal University Fuqing Branch (where Ouyang and I were the only foreign teachers in '04-'05), was a single, standard sized garbage can. In the immediate environs were also about ten restaurants, each of which used that single trash can for all of their waste. The trash was collected every evening, but usually by lunchtime, it was already overflowing with food scraps and disposable chopsticks. Typically by about 7 pm every evening, there was a fly-infested mountain of garbage surrounding the entrance to the school. I have never seen anything quite like it anywhere else in China...kind of reminded me of the Trash Heap from Fraggles Rock.

Ben, thanks a lot for updating so many photos about my hometown. I haven't been back for more than two years. I miss everybody and everything there. I can't believe you can even write chinese. By the way, Fujian Normal University Fuqing Branch is only 10-minute-walk from my house.

23. [Another Ben R. from KC who lived in China \(now in Vietnam\)](#) said,

October 28, 2008 at [5:01 am](#)

This was a good post, but I have no interest in living small town China. I thought even the big cities were boring in China.

24. Jake said,

October 28, 2008 at [9:52 am](#)

I am kinda admire your patient and observation now.

25. Paul Shaffery said,

October 28, 2008 at [1:33 pm](#)

Hi Ben.

Loved your blog, it's particularly interesting for me as I have just moved to Fuqing! I have been here for the last two months, mainly staying at a small village 20 minutes from the centre called Yuxi but myself and my girlfriend (who is from Fuqing) have just got an apartment close to the agogo KTV place. We move in on saturday 1st November.

It would be good to get in touch and maybe even meet up. I know exactly what you mean about White McForeigners here, up until last week I had met none, then I met an American and German guy in a bar!

Be good to hear from you!

Paul

26. [edjusted](#) said,

November 2, 2008 at [3:26 pm](#)

Great post! Yeah, there really is something about dirty decrepit small town...or big cities for that matter. I first visited Beijing in the late 80's and it's nothing like it is now: the Mao uniforms were in fashion, huge piles of cabbage was on every street corner, and there just seemed to be a depressing grayness around the city. It's always interesting to see how things have changed, especially in small towns.

27. FuQing people said,

April 4, 2009 at [1:05 am](#)

I'm from Singapore and i belongs to Fuqing dialect group.  
I just want to say thanks for the pictures.

28. Chen Qi Rong said,

June 27, 2009 at [10:14 am](#)

My grandpa was from Fuqing. He left it for Semarang in Indonesia about a century ago. I hope someday I can go to Fuqing and reminisce a family history...

29. Scott HUMM said,

September 4, 2009 at [4:49 am](#)

I just started teaching in Fuqing yesterday! I'm only going to be living there for 2 days each week. The rest of the time I will be in Fuzhou. I work at the Fujian Xinmin School, which is near Long Wang. (which is where my apartment is!)

If anybody would like to meet up with me while I'm in Fuqing (Wed - Friday) please email me:

[onetouch1@hotmail.com](mailto:onetouch1@hotmail.com)

Thanks!

Scott.

30. Terry said,

September 11, 2009 at [7:14 pm](#)

the window. on the ground, i saw 4-5 people calmly walking away with their ladder and disappeared in the dark. that morning and for the next few days, i could hardly sleep and at every single noise, i would look at the window. it was a terrible experience. i cant imagine what would have happened if i were sleeping. my gf told me that during the festive season, lots of ppl from other province come to the major cities to look for jobs (or victims). sorry for the long post, but i had to share this. till now, i cannot forget this day and i will surely remember it for quite a long time. btw i will b visiting fuqing again next week for about 3 weeks.

31. joepisker said,

September 15, 2009 at [5:25 am](#)

My wife is from Fuqing as I have spent 2 to 3 weeks in her home town over 6 trips from 9/07 2/08, 7/08, 10/08,3/09 and my current trip 09/09. I do agree the center town street food is excellent so is count coffee and Jazzzy Pizza. Since my wife speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese I have the perfect guide to this City. I have always been greeted here with open arms and good conversation with the 5% of Fuqing who do speak English. The people in my opinion are nice and will help you if they can. The city is beginning to change to a newer style of Eastern Culture. The one thing I found to do here that is fun is KTV, Full Body Massage and Shopping with little cash and coming home with alot of good stuff. I do not not recommend to any US citizen to get married here as I did because the USCIS won't believe your marriage is Bona Fide due to their poor inability of researching what is real and what is fake. That is why I have been to Fuqing 6 times in 2 years because my marriage is real! All in all Fuqing is a nice place to visit but I would not want to live here.

32. honeywhiska said,

November 16, 2009 at [12:49 am](#)

do you know much about fujian.

AA

33. JJ said,

November 28, 2009 at [4:11 am](#)

Hey Ben, just stumbled onto this blog today. Haven't read much yet but you are spot on in this entry. I am a Kentuckian currently living in Fuqing and have been for nearly 3 years. Looking forward to reading the rest of your blog. People are always asking about where I am at and now I can simply point them towards your blog.

34. JJ said,

November 28, 2009 at [4:15 am](#)

Actually, now that I think about it, I may know a few your students.

35. Scott Humm said,

November 29, 2009 at [11:35 am](#)

Hey JJ. I am staying in Fuqing every Wednesday and Thursday teaching at Xinmin School in the big Haoyouduo shopping centre. It would be great to meet up with some fellow Laowai in the city, as I've yet to meet any, and my students don't want to be my friends! Haha!

Let me know if you're free ever on a Wednesday night, my email is [smhummm@gmail.com](mailto:smhummm@gmail.com).

Scott (from the UK)

36. Benjamin Ross said,

November 29, 2009 at [2:36 pm](#)

@JJ and Scott

Wow, 2 Fuqing laowai reading my blog. I'm flattered. When I lived there in 04-05, there were only 2 laowai in the whole town, other than a compound of middle aged men from Pittsburgh who worked at the glass factory. Most of them were afraid to venture too far from their compound, so the only place I'd ever run into them was McDonald's. And Haoyouduo...when I got there, it was surrounded by fields with cattle grazing on them. Have fun in my old town.

37. andy said,

December 10, 2009 at [9:24 pm](#)

Hi Ben,

Great post! I am a guy from Fuqing. Last month I went back to China and found that Fuqing has changed a lot since 2007 when I moved to AU.

38. mason said,

January 29, 2010 at [1:12 am](#)

March 11, 2010 at [11:45 pm](#)

It's amazing to read your story in Fuqing. I'm from Indonesia. I would like to go to Fuqing someday .

40. Tracy said,

June 14, 2010 at [9:40 am](#)

Hi Ben,

How r u? I was your student in 2003. I was from class 02 Tourism English, Fuqing Branch, Fujian Normal University.

I'm working in Zhejiang now. I work for a international trading company. Some of my customers are from US, say Chicago, Panora, Iowa. There're so many laowai here, and quite a lot of them speak very fluent Chinese, but very few guys can read and write Chinese. So you're very great, cause you can read Chinese.

Hope everything is going on well. Good Luck.

41. Henry Liem said,

September 17, 2010 at [11:14 am](#)

Very interesting. My dad and grandpa's hometown. (or village 20-30 years ago 😊)

read the comments about fuqing (was there '99, '04-'05 for world fuqing celebration) felt so warm and close at heart. would love to go there again one of these days.

I am Indonesian. thumbs up for the blog.

42. Jimmy said,

September 20, 2010 at [1:08 am](#)

Hello,

My grandparents are originally from Fuqing, and I really want to learn this dialect, from very basic sentences, so I can chat with my grandpa and be familiar with his dialect. I know some basic Chinese, can you teach me some basic phrases in Fuqing dialect pronunciation ?

or is there a book or resource for foreigner to learn this dialect ?

Thank you,  
JL

43. [Benjamin Ross](#) said,

September 20, 2010 at [7:52 am](#)

@JL

I don't speak the Fuqing dialect, only Mandarin, so I can't help you on that. Like any Chinese dialect, the pronunciation is the most important part, so you can't learn it from a book. You need a living, breathing, talking speaker of the language, which is easier than you might think to find, on account of the immense Fuzhou/Fuqing diaspora around the world. Good luck.

44. Lin said,

October 12, 2010 at [8:44 am](#)

I'm feeling very lucky I happened to see your blog~

I'm a Fuqing now I 'm study in Japan for master degree.

Very interesting~ Hope that when I come back to Fuqing how about we having a meet~~~ Fuqing laowai. I want to know you and listen the old Fuqing people's lives oversea~

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- [November 2010](#)
- [September 2010](#)
- [August 2010](#)
- [July 2010](#)
- [June 2010](#)
- [May 2010](#)
- [April 2010](#)
- [March 2010](#)
- [February 2010](#)
- [January 2010](#)
- [December 2009](#)
- [November 2009](#)
- [October 2009](#)
- [August 2009](#)
- [July 2009](#)
- [June 2009](#)
- [May 2009](#)
- [April 2009](#)
- [March 2009](#)
- [February 2009](#)
- [January 2009](#)
- [December 2008](#)
- [November 2008](#)
- [October 2008](#)
- [September 2008](#)
- [August 2008](#)
- [July 2008](#)
- [June 2008](#)
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- [April 2008](#)
- [March 2008](#)
- [February 2008](#)
- [January 2008](#)
- [December 2007](#)
- [November 2007](#)
- [October 2007](#)
- [September 2007](#)
- [August 2007](#)
- [July 2007](#)
- [June 2007](#)
- [May 2007](#)
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- [March 2007](#)
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- [Travel Log \(N. America\)](#)
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## • Blogroll

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- [China Expat](#)
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- [China Law Blog](#)
- [Chinatown Stories](#)
- [Chris Waugh](#)
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- [Danwei](#)
- [Direct Buy Franchising](#)
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- [Hao Hao Report](#)
- [How To Order Chinese Food Dot Com](#)
- [Managing in 中国](#)
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- [The Humanaught](#)

## • Meta

- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [Wordpress](#)

## • Twitter Updates

- 7 episodes into 我的青春谁做主. This show is setting new highs for stupidity and bad production. [2595 days ago](#)
- Quebec City photo essay is finally up. <http://tinyurl.com/27xj434> [2608 days ago](#)
- Turkey, by my count, is the one animal that is eaten in the US, but not eaten in China. [2631 days ago](#)
- And finally, continuing travel log from Canada trip this summer. Latest entry: Montreal <http://tinyurl.com/2vhxt59> [2639 days ago](#)

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