Customs and traditions had been formed in China during thousands years, where today there is the traditional system of values, one of the main aspects of which is the etiquette. Chinese culture began to take shape back in the 3 millennium BC. Over time, many of the traditions have been lost, but most survived and came to the present day. Moreover, the traditions of China are very diverse, as a part of the country consists of different nations and nationalities



We should remember some rules of public conduct in order to don`t offend local community and don`t feel like a stranger in this country. It has long been accepted in Chine greet each bow. The deep and nature of the bow depended on the status of the one who greeted.

Modern Chinese people today simply nod their heads, but if they want to show respect, they may bow.

When Chinese make the acquaintance they usually say «你女子» (nǐ hǎo) and they present to people, who were alongside with them.

-By way of presents we shouldn't present pair of scissors, knifes and other cutting items as it means breaking-off of relations for them. Also we shouldn't present straw sandals, flowers, watch and handkerchief because all of this things symbolizes death. If you receive present, you should look it only at home.

-If you visit China, you should learn to use their traditional devices as they don't use forks.

Rice is the most popular product in China.



The tea ceremony



The tea ceremony has a special place in the life of the Chinese people. Tea-drinking is not just the use of the drink foe them. It is way to achieve inner harmony and bliss. In the Chinese language the word "tea" means "the wisest of all plants" and the action itself sounds like "Gong Fu Cha". The Chinese drink different kind of tears and it depends on season. In summer it is green tea, spring – rose tea, autumn – young green and in winter it is tart black tea.



Besides, the Chinese pick out some kinds of tea-drinking for special circumstance:
Tea-drinking as a mark of respect
Tea-drinking as an occasion for family meeting
Tea-drinking as a way to ask pardon
Wedding tea-drinking

Nowadays a red color is present on the Chinese wedding. It symbolize love, wealth and prosperity.



Traditionally, the vast population celebrate grandly the following holidays:

Chinese New Year

On the first day of the Chinese calendar (the Spring Festival) celebrates the beginning of year.



New Year is the longest and the most important celebration in the Chinese (lunar) calendar. Festivals and celebrations are lasted 15 days.

Lantern Festival.

It is considered the end of the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year). It is celebrated in the 15th day of the 1st lunar month. According to custom, people hang out multicolored lights of different sizes on the streets and in the parks. The winter solstice.

It is celebrated in the 22nd or 23rd of December. In ancient China it was believed that male force of nature woke up and gave rise to a new cycle, when the days were long and the nights short.

All Souls` Day.

Also it is called as the Feast Day of pure light or souls. On this day people visit the graves of their ancestors and national heroes. They put in order gravestones, lay flowers on a grave. More than that, they burn "sacrificial money" of paper as a token of honour the memory of <u>deceased</u>.