

03.21-Retirement

Retirement

China's Florida

People used to retire where they lived and worked. That is beginning to change
May 26th 2016 | SANYA

THE **cheongsam** modelling **contest** starts at 7pm; at 8pm it is group dances in the style of **ethnic** Uighurs from China's far west, and of fan-waving north-easterners from provinces **adjoining** Russia and North Korea. Participants and **spectators** alike are **pensioners**: retired miners, teachers and industrial workers. They sit in the evening cool, **gossiping** and **applauding**. A man in a Hawaiian shirt keeps the beat with **castanets**. Fei Liyue, a former construction manager, says that he and his relatives come every evening. He is 3,200km (2,000 miles) from his home in the **bleak** oil city of Daqing.

Vocab

- cheongsam** n. 旗袍 a straight, close-fitting silk dress with a high neck and slit skirt, worn by Chinese and Indonesian women
- contest** n. a competition in which people try to win sth 比赛；竞赛
e.g. to enter/ win/ lose a contest 参加/赢得竞赛；竞赛失败
e.g. **beauty contest** a competition to choose the most beautiful from a group of women 选美比赛
- ethnic** adj. connected with or belonging to a nation, race or people that shares a cultural tradition 民族的；种族的
e.g. **ethnic groups/ communities** 族群；种族社区
- adjoin** v. to be next to or joined to sth 紧挨；邻接；毗连
e.g. We waited in an **adjoining** office. 我们在旁边的办公室里等候。
- spectator** n. (尤指体育比赛的)观众 A **spectator** is someone who watches something, especially a sporting event.
e.g. Thirty thousand **spectators** watched the final game. 3 万名观众观看了决赛。
- pensioner** n. 领取养老金（或退休金、抚恤金）的人 A **pensioner** is someone who receives a pension, especially a pension paid by the state to retired people.
- gossip** n. a conversation about other people and their private lives 张家长，李家短；闲聊
e.g. I love a good gossip. 我喜欢闲聊天。
- applaud** v. to show your approval of sb/ sth by clapping your hands 鼓掌
- castanets** n. 响板(一种西班牙乐器) **Castanets** are a Spanish musical instrument consisting of two small round pieces of wood or plastic held together by a cord. You hold the castanets in your hand and knock the pieces together with your fingers.
- bleak** adj. (地方) 凄清的，荒凉的，萧瑟的 If you describe a place as **bleak**, you mean that it looks cold, empty, and unattractive.

Almost everyone is, like Mr Fei, from the **rust belt** of the north-east, a region that is gripped in winter by an Arctic chill. But the scene here is by the beach in the

subtropical city of Sanya in Hainan, an island province as far south from their native region as it is possible to go without leaving the country (see map). **Palm fronds** and **bougainvillea** rustle in the **breeze**. Bikini-clad tourists dash by. The crowds of elderly visitors (some are pictured) are something new in Sanya. They may **herald** a profound social change.

Vocab

1. **rust** n. 锈;铁锈 **Rust** is a brown substance that forms on iron or steel, for example when it comes into contact with water.
2. **belt** n. an area with particular characteristics or where a particular group of people live 地带 ; 地区
e.g. the country's **corn/ industrial belt** 这个国家的产粮区/工业区
3. **rust belt** n. 衰退地区, 铁锈地带 (指美国等已陷入经济困境的老工业区) In the United States and some other countries, **the Rust Belt** is a region which used to have a lot of manufacturing industry, but whose economy is now in difficulty.
4. **subtropical** adj. (地区)副热带的, 亚热带的 **Sub-tropical** places have a climate that is warm and wet, and are often near tropical regions.
5. **palm** n. 棕榈树 A **palm** or a **palm tree** is a tree that grows in hot countries. It has long leaves growing at the top, and no branches.
6. **frond** n. a long leaf of some plants or trees, especially **PALMS** or **FERNS** . Fronds are often divided into parts along the edge. (尤指棕榈类或蕨类的) 叶 ; 蕨叶
7. **bougainvillea** n. 九重葛, 叶子花, 三角花 (一种开红色或紫色花的攀缘植物, 主要生长于热带国家) **Bougainvillea** is a climbing plant that has thin, red or purple flowers and grows mainly in hot countries.
8. **rustle** v. (使)发出沙沙声;(使)沙沙作响 When something thin and dry **rustles** or when you **rustle** it, it makes soft sounds as it moves.
e.g. The leaves **rustled** in the wind...树叶在风中沙沙作响。
9. **breeze** n. a light wind 微风 ; 和风
e.g. The flowers were gently swaying **in the breeze**.花儿在微风中轻轻舞动。
10. **herald** v. to be a sign that sth is going to happen 是 (某事) 的前兆 ; 预示
e.g. These talks could herald a new era of peace. 这些谈判可能预示着新的和平时代的来临。

Sentence

But the scene here is by the beach in the subtropical city of Sanya in Hainan, an island province as far south from their native region as it is possible to go without leaving the country.

主干: here is by the beach.

an island province... 修饰 sanya

as far south from their native region 从他们家乡过来的最南方

as it is possible to go without leaving the country. 又一个 as, 这里和前面的 as 一样, 组成了 as far...as

Chinese people used to live, work, retire and die where they were born. The country's **filial** traditions reflect this: children are supposed to look after their parents. The **bureaucracy** enforces it: everyone has a hukou (household registration) which provides subsidised health and education, almost always in a person's place of birth.

Vocab

1. **filial** *adj.* 子女的;孝顺的 You can use **filial** to describe the duties, feelings, or relationships which exist between a son or daughter and his or her parents.

2. **bureaucracy** *n.* 官僚制度 A **bureaucracy** is an administrative system operated by a large number of officials.

Sentence

children **are supposed to** look after their parents. (按计划或期望)应当, 应该, 须 If you say that something **is supposed to** happen, you mean that it is planned or expected. Sometimes this use suggests that the thing does not really happen in this way.

Thanks to the migration of workers, however, 260m people, about one-fifth of the population, now live somewhere other than their birthplace. In the past five years, the pattern of retirement has also begun to change. Increasing numbers spend some or all of their **pensionable** years away from where they used to work. Neither filial tradition nor the hukou system have proved strong enough to prevent this.

Vocab

1. **pensionable** *adj.* 有权领取养老金 (或退休金、抚恤金) 的 **Pensionable** means relating to someone's right to receive a pension.

Sentence

Neither filial tradition nor the hukou system have proved strong enough to prevent this.

主干: ...have proved...

这里 have proved strong enough to prevent this 较难理解, 前面是否定(neither...nor...) 即表示, 两者都不够强壮去反对这个趋势(this), 说明这个趋势是势不可挡的

In the 1950s and 1960s Americans **flocked** from cold industrial cities, such as New York and Chicago, to subtropical Florida. Now Chinese people are moving from the industrial **heartland** of Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning (the three north-eastern provinces) to Hainan. And just as movement to America's **sunbelt** helped transform a **backward** region, so the same thing could happen in China.

Vocab

1. **flock** *v.* to go or gather together somewhere in large numbers 群集; 聚集; 蜂拥

e.g. Thousands of people **flocked** to the beach this weekend. 这个周末有好几千人蜂拥到了海滩。

2. **heartland** *n.* the central part of a country or an area (国家或地区的) 腹地, 中心区域

3. **sunbelt** *n.* the southern and south-western parts of the US that are warm for most of the year 阳光地带 (美国南部和西南部地区, 全年大部份时间气候温暖)

4. **backward** *adj.* having made less progress than normal; developing slowly 落后的; 进步缓慢的

e.g. She's not **backward in coming forward** (= she's not shy). 她勇敢地站出来。

Sentence

And just as movement to America's sunbelt helped transform a backward region, so the same thing could happen in China.

主干: America's sunbelt helped transform a backward region

这里意思是: 正如(just as) 移到美国阳光地带帮助了落后地区的转变, 所以相同的事情可能发生在中国。

Fifty years ago Sanya was a small fishing village. Ye Yaer, who was born there in

1961, survived on **discarded** ends of **sugar cane** and did not get a pair of shoes until he was 12. Every day his mother walked 25km to the nearest market town, carrying those of her children too young to walk as well as 20 kilos of fish to sell. Now Mr Ye is a successful fish-**dealer** whose business extends across southern China; Sanya is full of five-star resorts. And as happened in Florida, a retirement business is being built on the back of Hainan's tourism.

Vocab

1. **discard** v. ~ sb/ sth (as sth) to get rid of sth that you no longer want or need 丢弃；抛弃
2. **sugar cane** n. a tall tropical plant with thick stems from which sugar is made 甘蔗
3. **dealer** n. a person whose business is buying and selling a particular product 交易商；贸易商

According to Sanya's government, 400,000-500,000 pensioners head to the city each year, perhaps half of them from the north-east. That compares with the city's total population (those resident for six months or longer) of 749,000. The **incomers** are not the new rich. Huang Cheng of Sanya University says one-third of the sun-seeking pensioners have a monthly income of 2,000-3,000 yuan (\$305-460), about the average for a working person. A quarter receive only 1,000-2,000 yuan a month. Most come for six months and return to the north-east in summer. "It's too hot here then," says Mr Fei, the oil-city man, though he admits he is thinking of **settling** in Sanya full-time. Rather like Florida's "**snowbirds**", many rent an apartment just for the winter.

Vocab

1. **head** v. 朝着（某一地点）行进（美国英语中亦作 **are headed**） If you **are heading** for a particular place, you are going towards that place. In American English, you can also say that you **are headed** for a particular place.
e.g. He **headed** for the bus stop...他朝着公共汽车站走去。
2. **incomer** n. 移民;新来者 An **incomer** is someone who has recently come to live in a particular place or area.
3. **snowbird** n. a northerner who moves to a warmer Southern state in the winter 冬季搬到温暖的南方居住的北方人
4. **settling** 定居

Sentence

400,000-500,000 pensioners head to the city each year, perhaps half of them from the north-east.

主干: pensioners head to the city 其中这里的 head 作动词, 有 go 的意思 朝着（某一地点）行进

Fewer than 100,000 migrant pensioners live on the island year round, thinks Mr Huang. But there are signs that more are settling. Half of those he interviewed said they had bought property in Sanya. The number staying **permanently** started to soar in 2010 when the city's retirement boom began. Hua Hong Investments, a local property company, is about to open the city's first American-style residential care home, with medical services, an indoor golf driving-range and **calligraphy** classes.

Vocab

1. **permanently** adv. 永久地, 长期不变地
2. **calligraphy** n. 书法; 书法作品; 笔迹 **Calligraphy** is beautiful and artistic handwriting.
e.g. Her **calligraphy** was the clearest I'd ever seen. 她的书法是我见过的字迹最工整的。

Sentence

Hua Hong Investments, a local property company, is about to open the city's first American-style residential care home, with medical services, an indoor golf driving-range and calligraphy classes.

句子长, 主干清: Hua Hong Investments is about to open the city's first American-style residential care home.

a local property company 是对 Investments 的说明

with medical services, an indoor golf driving-range and calligraphy classes. 这里 with 后面都是对这个 residential care home 的说明

The winter pensioners are "awesome", enthuses Wu Qifa, a farmer in Danzhou, a village on the edge of Sanya, who rents out rooms to them. "We couldn't survive without them." The village pharmacy is unusually well stocked with heart medicines, blood-pressure pills and pain relief for knee and **hip joints**.

Vocab

1. **enthuse** v. ~ (about/ over sth/ sb) to talk in an enthusiastic and excited way about sth 充满热情地说; 热烈地讲

e.g. 'It's a wonderful idea,' he enthused. "这真是个绝妙的主意。"他充满热情地说。

2. **rent out** v. 出租; 租给 If you **rent** something **to** someone, you let them have it and use it in exchange for a sum of money which they pay you regularly.

Rent out means the same as **rent**. **rent out** 同 **rent**

e.g. He **rented out** his house while he worked abroad...他在国外工作期间把自己的房子租了出去。

3. **hip joint** n. the joint that connects the leg to the body, at the top of the thigh bone 髋关节

Sentence

The winter pensioners are "awesome", enthuses Wu Qifa, a farmer in Danzhou, a village on the edge of Sanya, who rents out rooms to them.

这个主干也很简单: enthuses Wu Qifa.

The winter pensioners are "awesome" 是说话的内容

a farmer in Danzhou 是对 Wu Qifa 的说明

a village on the edge of Sanya 是对 Danzhou 的说明

who rents out rooms to them 这里的从句的先行词是 Wu Qifa

可见, 要把一个人描述清楚, 各种同位语插入语乱入效果就很好了, 最后再来一个非限定性定语从句, 来作结尾

Li Wen, from Heilongjiang, followed the seniors down to Sanya and opened a restaurant there offering north-eastern cuisine. It has been doing a **roaring trade**, he says, though this year business has **slackened**, reflecting an economic slowdown in the north-east. Thanks to tourism and the retirees, Sanya's economy grew more than tenfold between 2000 and 2013, almost twice as fast as the country as a whole.

Vocab

1. **roaring trade** adj. **do a 'roaring trade (in sth)** (*informal*) to sell a lot of sth very quickly 生意兴隆；销出大量（某物）

做成一笔大买卖；售出大批货物；生意兴隆 If someone **does a roaring trade** in a type of goods, they sell a lot of them.

e.g. Salesmen of unofficial souvenirs have also been doing a **roaring trade**. 出售非官方纪念品的推销员的生意也很红火。

2. **slacken** v. to gradually become, or to make sth become, slower, less active, etc. （使）放慢，减缓，萧条

Sentence

Thanks to tourism and the retirees, Sanya's economy grew more than tenfold between 2000 and 2013, almost twice as fast as the country as a whole.

主干：Sanya's economy grew more than tenfold

这里 Thanks to 可以换成 Due to, 或者 Because of

But with so many moving in, problems are **inevitable**. Medical services—poor at the best of times—are **overwhelmed** in winter. Doctors among the retired visitors have been **drafted** in to help. Everyone complains about traffic. In winter the price of vegetables typically doubles, and that of seafood triples, says Mr Huang. In summer most pensioners go home, hurting firms that cater to them.

Vocab

1. **inevitable** adj. **=unavoidable** that you cannot avoid or prevent 不可避免的；不能防止的
e.g. It was **inevitable** that there would be job losses. 裁员已是不可避免的事。

2. **overwhelm** v. to be so bad or so great that a person cannot deal with it; to give too much of a thing to a person 压垮；使应接不暇

e.g. We were overwhelmed by requests for information. 问讯使我们应接不暇。

3. **draft** v. to choose people and send them somewhere for a special task 选派；抽调

e.g. Extra police are being drafted in to control the crowds. 现正在另外抽调警察去控制人群。

Sentence

In summer most pensioners go home, hurting firms that cater to them.

这里三个动词或者动词作动名词, go home, hurting firms, cater to them

pensioners go home 伤害了(hurting firms) 提供服务给(cater to them)的人们(pensioners)

Not surprisingly, given the pressure on public services, relations between locals and the newcomers are “sensitive”, say volunteers at the Sanya Association for Resettling Retirees. “I would as soon **befriend** an Iraqi as a north-easterner,” **fumes** one Sanya resident. It did not help when in 2014 Li Boqing, a deputy mayor who is himself from the north-east, said that: “If immigrants left the city, Sanya would become a ghost town **overnight**.”

Vocab

1. **befriend** v. 和（尤指孤独者或离乡人）交朋友；把...当朋友 If you **befriend** someone, especially someone who is lonely or far from home, you make friends with them.

e.g. On the aeroplane I was **befriended** by a delightful German woman. 在飞机上，一位讨人喜欢的德国女士对我就像朋友一样。

2. **fume** v. ~ (at/ over/ about sb/ sth) to be very angry about sth （对...）大为生气，十分恼

火

e.g. She sat in the car, silently fuming at the traffic jam. 她坐在汽车里，心中对交通堵塞感到十分恼火。

3. deputy mayor 副市长

4. overnight adv. suddenly or quickly 突然；一夜之间；旋即

e.g. Don't expect it to improve overnight. 不要指望这事一下子就改善了。

Sentence

a deputy mayor who is himself from the north-east

这里 who is himself 的用法表示 a deputy mayor 他自己来自 the north-east

The city government, however, does not want its hospitals and roads **clogged up**, and so is trying to control the **flood** of incomers. One method is requiring that new apartments be 80 square metres or larger. Typically, pensioners rent spaces far smaller than that. There are other factors that may curb the **influx**. Huang Huang of the China Tourism Academy in Beijing says that those in early retirement (which usually begins at the age of 60 for men, 55 for female civil servants and 50 for other women) will normally be well enough to seek a cleaner, warmer environment away from their children. As they become less active, however, many will migrate back to be near their families. At the last stage, when they need frequent medical assistance, they will probably enter old-age institutions. It is unclear whether the government will build these in big population centres or in places like Sanya.

Vocab

1. clog v. ~ (up) (with sth) | ~ sth (up) (with sth) to block sth or to become blocked (使) 阻塞，堵塞

e.g. The narrow streets were clogged with traffic. 狭窄的街道上交通堵塞。

2. flood n. ~ (of sth) a very large number of things or people that appear at the same time 大批，大量 (的人或事物)

e.g. a flood of refugees 难民潮

e.g. The child was in floods of tears (= crying a lot). 小孩哭得泪人儿似的。

3. influx n. 流入；涌进 An influx of people or things into a place is their arrival there in large numbers.

e.g. a massive/ sudden influx of visitors 游客的大量/突然涌入

Sentence

It is unclear whether the government will build these in big population centres or in places like Sanya.

强调句，强调不清楚的是什么...

其中 or in places like Sanya 表示类似三亚这样的地方

Pensioners themselves are looking **beyond** Sanya's overcrowded streets. Some are moving to villages along the coast, or hill towns in Yunnan, a subtropical province on the mainland. In Guangxi province, bordering on Yunnan, the village of Bama attracts those keen to learn the secret of longevity—it is said to have an unusually large population of centenarians.

Vocab

1. beyond 介词 除了...；除...之外 You use **beyond** to introduce an exception to what you are saying.

2. **keen** *adj.* =eager ~ (to do sth) | ~ (that...) | ~ (on doing sth) wanting to do sth or wanting sth to happen very much 渴望；热切；热衷于

3. **centenarian** *n.* 百岁老人 A **centenarian** is someone who is a hundred years old or older.

Sentence

In Guangxi province, bordering on Yunnan, the village of Bama attracts those keen to learn the secret of longevity—it is said to have an unusually large population of centenarians.

主干：the village of Bama **attracts** those keen to learn the secret of longevity

In Guangxi province, bordering on Yunnan 都是对 the village 的解释

—it is said to have an unusually large population of centenarians. 其实破折号和普通的同位语没有太大区别，这里可以直接改成逗号

China has about 220m people over 60. If they prove as mobile as American **retirees** (1.1% of whom move from one state to another each year), that would mean over **2m pensioners upping sticks** annually, potentially making a huge difference to the economies and social structures of their destinations. To judge by the experience of Sanya, few places are ready for it.

Vocab

1. **retiree** *n.* 退休人员; 退休者 A **retiree** is a retired person.

e.g. retirees who have completely different expectations of what later life might bring. 对未来生活有着完全不同的期待的退休人员

2. **up sticks** [*Brit. informal*] go to live elsewhere [英, 非正式] 迁居别处

Sentence

1. 2m pensioners upping sticks annually

这里有个idioms: **upping sticks** 意思见上面 vocab, 表示有超过2m 的退休人员每年移居别处。

2. To judge by the experience of Sanya, few places are ready for it.

这里不定式做主语，意思为：判断的依据是三亚的经验（即，从三亚的经验来看）很少有地方做好了这个准备

Retirement

退休生活

China's Florida

中国的“阳光之州”

People used to retire where they lived and worked. That is beginning to change 过去，人们在退休后会在以前工作和生活的地方养老，这一情况正发生改变。

THE cheongsam modelling contest starts at 7pm; at 8pm it is group dances in the style of ethnic Uighurs from China's far west, and of fan-waving north-easterners from provinces adjoining Russia and North Korea. Participants and spectators alike are pensioners: retired miners, teachers and industrial workers. They sit in the evening cool, gossiping and applauding. A man in a Hawaiian shirt keeps the beat with castanets. Fei Liyue, a former construction manager, says that he and his relatives come every evening. He is 3,200km (2,000 miles) from his home in the bleak oil city of Daqing.

晚7点到8点举行旗袍模特大赛，8点以后表演的是来自中国遥远西部的维吾尔族舞和与俄罗斯、朝鲜接壤的中国东北的秧歌。这些活动的参与者和观众一样都是退休人士：退休的矿

工、教师和工厂工人。晚风习习，他们坐在一起闲话家常、热烈鼓掌，一个身穿夏威夷热带风情衬衫的男子随着节拍打着响板。费里月（音译），退休前是一个建筑经理，他说他每晚都会跟亲戚到这里来。他的家乡远在3200公里（合2000英里）外阴冷的石油城市——大庆。

Almost everyone is, like Mr Fei, from the rust belt of the north-east, a region that is gripped in winter by an Arctic chill. But the scene here is by the beach in the subtropical city of Sanya in Hainan, an island province as far south from their native region as it is possible to go without leaving the country. Palm fronds and bougainvillea rustle in the breeze. Bikini-clad tourists dash by. The crowds of elderly visitors are something new in Sanya. They may herald a profound social change.

这里的人大多跟老费一样，来自东北的老工业区，那里的冬天西伯利亚寒流肆虐。与此相对呈现在眼前的景象，却是亚热带城市海南三亚的海岸风光，海南岛是他们不用出国且从他们家乡南下所能到达的最远的温暖地带。棕榈树和九重葛在微风中沙沙作响，身穿比基尼的游客跑过海滩。中老年游客是三亚的新兴事物，他们的出现也许预示着一场深刻的社会变革。

Chinese people used to live, work, retire and die where they were born. The country's filial traditions reflect this: children are supposed to look after their parents. The bureaucracy enforces it: everyone has a hukou (household registration) which provides subsidised health and education, almost always in a person's place of birth.

中国人过去的的生活是这样的，从生到死，都生活在一个地方。中国的孝道传统就反映了这个事实：儿女有义务赡养父母。政府也极力推行：每个人都有一个户口（家庭登记本），政府根据户口为人们提供医疗和教育补助，而户口一般都在出生地。

Thanks to the migration of workers, however, 260m people, about one-fifth of the population, now live somewhere other than their birthplace. In the past five years, the pattern of retirement has also begun to change. Increasing numbers spend some or all of their pensionable years away from where they used to work. Neither filial tradition nor the hukou system have proved strong enough to prevent this.

然而，多亏了外来务工人员的存在，目前有2.6亿人（约占人口总数的五分之一）生活在远离家乡的地方。在过去的五年里，退休的模式也已经开始发生转变。越来越多的人在退休后选择离开工作了大半辈子的地方到别处度过部分或者整个的晚年生活。不管是孝道文化还是户口政策都阻挡不了这种趋势。

In the 1950s and 1960s Americans flocked from cold industrial cities, such as New York and Chicago, to subtropical Florida. Now Chinese people are moving from the industrial heartland of Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning (the three north-eastern provinces) to Hainan. And just as movement to America's Sunbelt helped transform a backward region, so the same thing could happen in China.

上世纪五六十年代，美国人纷纷从冷冰冰的工业城市纽约和芝加哥等地搬到亚热带的佛罗里达。如今的中国人也正从工业腹地黑龙江、吉林和辽宁（东三省）来到海南。正如美国向阳光带的进发推动了一个落后地区的发展，同样的事情也可以在中国上演。

Fifty years ago Sanya was a small fishing village. Ye Yaer, who was born there in 1961, survived on discarded ends of sugar cane and did not get a pair of shoes until he was 12. Every day his mother walked 25km to the nearest market town, carrying those of her children too young to walk as well as 20 kilos of fish to sell. Now Mr Ye is a successful fish-dealer whose business extends across southern China; Sanya is full of five-star resorts. And as happened in Florida, a retirement business is being built on the back of Hainan's tourism.

50年前，三亚还是一个小渔村。叶亚尔（音译），生于1961年，曾以吃被丢弃的甘蔗根为生，他到12岁之前都不知道鞋子长什么样。每天，叶母要背着还不会走路的孩子和20公斤鱼，走上25公里去最近的市镇卖鱼。而如今，叶先生已然是个成功的渔业商了，他的生意遍布中国南部。另外三亚也已经遍地都是五星级的旅游景区。与此同时，和佛罗里达一样，海南的退休商业正在旅游业的基础上如火如荼地展开。

According to Sanya's government, 400,000-500,000 pensioners head to the city each year, perhaps half of them from the north-east. That compares with the city's total population (those resident for six months or longer) of 749,000. The incomers are not the new rich. Huang Cheng of Sanya University says one-third of the sun-seeking pensioners have a monthly income of 2,000-3,000 yuan (\$305-460), about the average for a working person. A quarter receive only 1,000-2,000 yuan a month. Most come for six months and return to the north-east in summer. "It's too hot here then," says Mr Fei, the oil-city man, though he admits he is thinking of settling in Sanya full-time. Rather like Florida's "snowbirds", many rent an apartment just for the winter.

根据三亚政府的数据，每年来三亚的退休人士有40到50万，其中约有一半的人来自东北地区。相比之下，三亚的总人口（居住时间在6个月及以上的人）却只有74.9万。并不是暴发户，三亚大学的黄成说道，追寻阳光而来的退休人士的月收入大概是2,000到3,000元（合305-460美元），约为一个工人的月平均收入水平。而这其中又有四分之一的人每个月只有1,000到2,000元的收入，大部分人来三亚待上半年然后来年夏天又回到东北。油城大庆来的费先生就抱怨这里太热了，尽管他承认他正在考虑定居三亚。与佛罗里达的“候鸟”们一样，很多人到三亚来只是想租间公寓过个冬。

Fewer than 100,000 migrant pensioners live on the island year round, thinks Mr Huang. But there are signs that more are settling. Half of those he interviewed said they had bought property in Sanya. The number staying permanently started to soar in 2010 when the city's retirement boom began. Hua Hong Investments, a local property company, is about to open the city's first American-style residential care home, with medical services, an indoor golf driving-range and calligraphy classes.

黄先生认为，全年生活在海南的退休移民人士不超过10万。但也有迹象表明正有更多的人选择定居。他采访过的人里面有一半说他们已经在三亚购置了房产。这个长期稳定的数字从2010年的退休潮到来后，开始爆发式增长，华宏（音译）投资公司（一家当地资产公司），正着手开放城市首个美式居家护理中心，该中心将提供医疗服务、室内高尔夫场地以及书法课程。

The winter pensioners are "awesome", enthuses Wu Qifa, a farmer in Danzhou, a village on the edge of Sanya, who rents out rooms to them. "We couldn't survive without them."

The village pharmacy is unusually well stocked with heart medicines, blood-pressure pills and pain relief for knee and hip joints.

热情的吴齐芳（音译）是儋州的一个农民，他将自己位于三亚远郊山村里的房子出租给退休人士。他认为，有退休人士来过冬“太好了”。他们为我们带来了生计。村里的卫生室的心脏病药、降压药和膝盖及髋关节去疼药都储备得异常充足。

Li Wen, from Heilongjiang, followed the seniors down to Sanya and opened a restaurant there offering north-eastern cuisine. It has been doing a roaring trade, he says, though this year business has slackened, reflecting an economic slowdown in the north-east. Thanks to tourism and the retirees, Sanya's economy grew more than tenfold between 2000 and 2013, almost twice as fast as the country as a whole.

来自黑龙江的李文（音译），跟着这些老人来到三亚，开了一家东北菜馆。据他说，尽管今年生意不好做，但他家餐馆一直生意红火，相比较下，东北的经济正在下滑。多亏了旅游业的发展和退休的老人们，三亚的经济在2000年到2013年增长了十倍多，几乎是全国经济增速的两倍。

But with so many moving in, problems are inevitable. Medical services—poor at the best of times—are overwhelmed in winter. Doctors among the retired visitors have been drafted in to help. Everyone complains about traffic. In winter the price of vegetables typically doubles, and that of seafood triples, says Mr Huang. In summer most pensioners go home, hurting firms that cater to them.

但随着人口的大量涌入，问题不可避免地出现了。在最好情况下都算匮乏的医疗服务在冬季几乎瘫痪。在退休人士中，曾经当过医生的都被拉去应急。谈到交通，人们也是叫苦不迭。“一到冬天，蔬菜的价格是之前的两倍，海鲜则是原来价格的三倍。”黄先生说。到了夏天，大多数退休人士会回到自己的家乡，这对为其提供接待服务的公司是个巨大打击。

Not surprisingly, given the pressure on public services, relations between locals and the newcomers are “sensitive”, say volunteers at the Sanya Association for Resettling Retirees. “I would as soon befriend an Iraqi as a north-easterner,” fumes one Sanya resident. It did not help when in 2014 Li Boqing, a deputy mayor who is himself from the north-east, said that: “If immigrants left the city, Sanya would become a ghost town overnight.”

“鉴于三亚公用设施承受的压力状况，当地人和这些新住民关系紧张也就不足为奇了”，三亚退休人员重新安置协会的志愿者这样说道。一位当地居民气呼呼地说到：“我对待伊拉克人都可能比对待东北人好。”2014年三亚的副市长李柏青就来自东北，他说，“如果这些移民走了，那么三亚一夜之间就是一座鬼城。”这种说法对于缓解关系紧张毫无帮助。

The city government, however, does not want its hospitals and roads clogged up, and so is trying to control the flood of incomers. One method is requiring that new apartments be 80 square metres or larger. Typically, pensioners rent spaces far smaller than that. There are other factors that may curb the influx. Huang Huang of the China Tourism Academy in Beijing says that those in early retirement (which usually begins at the age of 60 for men, 55 for female civil servants and 50 for other women) will normally be well enough to seek

a cleaner, warmer environment away from their children. As they become less active, however, many will migrate back to be near their families. At the last stage, when they need frequent medical assistance, they will probably enter old-age institutions. It is unclear whether the government will build these in big population centres or in places like Sanya.

然而，当地政府并不想看到医院人满为患、道路水泄不通的情景。因此，当地政府正竭力控制外来人口数量。他们采取的一个措施是，要求新建公寓面积不得小于80平米。退休人员租住的面积通常远远小于此面积。还有其他一些方式可以控制人口。中国旅游学院的黄黄（音译）说，那些提前退休的人（男60岁，公务员女性55岁，其他岗位女性50岁）基本上都有能力找一个虽然远离子女，但环境更好，气候更适宜的地方养老。当他们变得行动不便后，许多人会搬回到离家更近的地方去。最后当这些人需要频繁的医疗护理的时候，他们很可能会去养老机构。政府是否会在类似三亚等地或人口聚集中心建立养老机构还未可知。

Pensioners themselves are looking beyond Sanya's overcrowded streets. Some are moving to villages along the coast, or hill towns in Yunnan, a subtropical province on the mainland. In Guangxi province, bordering on Yunnan, the village of Bama attracts those keen to learn the secret of longevity—it is said to have an unusually large population of centenarians.

退休人士自己也在寻找远离三亚熙攘街道的地方。他们中有部分人搬到了海边的村庄，或者云南省（位于中国大陆亚热带地区）的山城。在广西（与云南省交界）有个巴马村吸引了大批想要一探长寿秘诀的人们，据说是因为巴马村的百岁人口出奇之多。

China has about 220m people over 60. If they prove as mobile as American retirees (1.1% of whom move from one state to another each year), that would mean over 2m pensioners upping sticks annually, potentially making a huge difference to the economies and social structures of their destinations. To judge by the experience of Sanya, few places are ready for it.

中国60岁以上的人大概有2.2亿左右。若他们真如美国退休人员一般易于流动（每年有1.1%的人要从一个州搬到另一个州）那就意味着每年有超过200万的退休者举家搬迁，这会给搬迁目的地的经济和社会结构带来巨大的影响。从三亚的经验来看，几乎没有地方做好了应对此类情况的准备。