

Take this guide into any Chinese restaurant and order by pointing to the Chinese characters next to the images. For more Chinese ordering guides, visit howtoorderchinesefood.com.



铁板牛肉

tie3 ban3
niu2 rou4

With the sizzle of a fajita plate and the flavorings of garlic, onions, and green peppers, "**Skillet Beef**" is always a big hit with Westerners in China.



青椒炒牛肉

qing1
jiao1
chao3
niu2 rou4

Anybody who has ever eaten in a Chinese restaurant outside of China knows the classic staple **Beef with Green Peppers**. It's even better when you eat it in the Middle Kingdom. Just don't order it in a fancy restaurant with your Chinese friends. Beef with Green Peppers is the Chinese societal equivalent of a White Castle hamburger.



土豆炒牛肉

tu3 dou4
chao3
niu2 rou4

Stir-Fried Beef with Potatoes is another mainstay which can be ordered in virtually any Chinese eating establishment.



水煮牛肉

shui3
zhu3 niu2
rou4

Sichuan (Szechwan) province has long been known for its ridiculously spicy cuisine. To experience a rather liberal use of Sichuan's famous hot peppers, try out "**Boiled Water Beef.**" Morsels of beef along with a mixture of vegetables which can include (among other things) bok choy, lettuce, and sprouts are cooked and then served in a big vat of hot oily soup. Those who have an exceptional craving for spice (and a relative lack of concern for caloric intake), have been known to drink the soup.



飘香牛肉

piao1
xiang1
niu2 rou4

Piaoxiang Beef is a Hunan dish, in which small cutlets of beef are cooked with cumin spices in a dry wok. It's not as spicy as "Boiled Water Beef," but packs a punch of its own.



黑
椒
牛
肉

hei1 jiao1
niu4 rou4

For those who like spicy, but are not in the mood for "My mouth is on fire" spicy, try out **Black Pepper Beef**. It usually comes with a token vegetable such as garlic (pictured here) or green peppers.



蚝
油
牛
肉

hao2 you2
niu2 rou4

Beef with Oyster Sauce is another dish which often appears in Chinese cuisine outside of China. Regardless of the name, it does not taste anything like oysters or seafood, and usually comes with green peppers and onions.



土
豆
烧
牛
肉

tu3 dou4
shao1
niu2 rou4

Slow Cooked Beef with Potatoes is another big hit among Westerners in China, although it can be a bit elusive. Look for it in Muslim or Northeastern style restaurants.



孜
然
牛
肉

zi1 ran2
niu2 rou4

Cumin is not a spice commonly used in Chinese cuisine, but if you have a chance, be sure to try **Cumin Beef**. The cumin spice is usually complimented by hot peppers, onions, and cilantro. This dish also often can be ordered with mutton: 孜然羊肉 (zi1 ran2 yang2 rou4)



咖
喱
牛
肉
饭

ga1 li2
niu2 rou4
fan4

Curry Beef with Rice is usually topped with potatoes, carrot shards, and often a green vegetable. This dish is commonly served as a single person meal, rather than as a dish. It makes for a great meal when you are eating alone, or not in the mood for going family style.