



BEIJING

SHANGHAI

TRIP 2011

中国游记

STRAND ORIENTAL TAKEOUT

**BEIJING
SHANGHAI**

TRIP 2011

STRAND ORIENTAL TAKEOUT

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SPECIAL THANKS

SPONSORSHIP

RANDOM SHOTS

Assalamu'alaikum and Sincere Greetings to all,

It gives me great pleasure that the UTM Students are responding positively to the UTM Global Outreach Programme. In relation to that, I am happy that the Architecture Students have successfully organised a study trip to China, which is emerging as one of the rapidly growing economies in the region.

The Global Outreach Programme is part of the university's initiative to encourage UTM Students to gain exposure and experience through study visits and exchange programme abroad. The aim is to prepare UTM Students to become global ready graduates equipped with a global perspective, and ready to ride the challenge of an increasingly competitive global environment.

I am pleased to know that a part from visiting the capital city, Beijing, the study group has also visited the Shanghai Exposition, which showcases advanced and innovative ideas and technology development. I am confident that the experience gained from the visit had been rewarding and enriching. Let this be the beginning of more explorative venture in the future.

Thank you.

PROF. DATO' IR. DR. ZAINI UJANG

Vice Chancellor,

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Assalammu'alaikum and Greetings,

The drive and motivation of the final year architectural students in making the study tour to Beijing, China a reality is a remarkable achievement. These 37 students have managed to synergize their teamwork and communication skills to make this trip a success. This is in line with the university's aspiration to encourage students to be confident, independent and proactive in preparation to become marketable and global ready graduates.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all the sponsors who have generously contributed in this venture and to make it possible.

It is a hope that this enriching experience will be an inspiration to other students for their future undertakings especially in uplifting the university's name in producing confident and qualified graduates.

Best regards,

ASSOC. PROF. DR. ABDULLAH SANI AHMAD
 Head of Department,
 Department of Architecture,
 Faculty of Built Environment,
 Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Assalammu'alaikum and Greetings to all,

Firstly I like to thank and congratulate the University for creating such a beneficial and excellent program for the students aiming in exposing them globally.

The program will definitely expose the students and enable them to experience a different culture climate and human behavior and its influence towards the architecture of a place.

This 9-Days experience is incomparable to the formal lectures in the campus and it was a hands-on experience for the students to witness how the human behavior, culture, religion and political change actually influence the architecture and development of a city. In China, Architecture is the embodiment and means of communicating the nations aspirations, and given that the government of China is the single biggest client body for the built environment in the country. This can be seen from the existence of the Great Wall of China and now during the modern time, through the existence of Pearl Tower, CCTV building and many more.

Beijing-shanghai GOP is no doubt an enriching learning experience and a rewarding journey which will inspire innovative and creative minds of the students.

Lastly I would like to thank everyone involved , Jabatan Senibina, Fakulti Alam Bina and the students for their continuous support and for making this trip and Beijing-Shanghai Global Outreach Program possible and meaningful.

Thank You.

AR. SAMSI AH BINTI ABDULLAH
 Programme Coordinator / Lecturer,
 Department of Architecture,
 Faculty of Built Environment,
 Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Assalammu'alaikum and Greetings,

It is my greatest gratitude to be given the opportunity as a student from University Technology Malaysia to not just participate, but also to lead the whole Global Outreach Program to go abroad and experience not only the architecture but also in culture and lifestyle. I am thankful to be given a chance to witness other parts of the world.

As part of the Global Outreach Program, we have chosen Beijing-Shanghai as our preferred destination to explore and learn; however, all these could not be achieved successfully without the dedication and perseverance of the team members itself.

My heartiest gratitude goes to Ar. Samsiah Binti Abdullah, as our lecturer in charged who has helped us in getting the program in order. Without her, there is no way we; as students; were allowed to go abroad without any supervision. She also made sure that all paperwork were being delivered on time and managed the faculty and administrative agendas.

Nevertheless, my right hand men; Hazrina Binti Haja Bava Mohdin and Muhd Muizzudin Muslim who gave their full support in managing the program and in providing relevant information and everything that is needed in organizing this educational trip. Apart from that, I would like to thank those who were involved in contributing their effortful helping hand, thank you to Siti Ayunni Binti Muhamad Nazri, Asmaa' Binti Kamal, Ang Chiou Yann and Rabi'atul 'Adawiyah Binti Mohamed Sharif for you unending support. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have helped in making this trip a success, although there are several hurdles and bumps before, during and after the trip, we have proven ourselves that we are one and as one, we can achieve the best!

KHAIRIL HALIM B. MOHAMAD
 Director,
 Global Outreach Program,
 Beijing-Shanghai 2010/2011.

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MOHD MUIZZUDIN BIN MUSLIM

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ANG CHIOU YANN, CHEE HUI SAN

TOUR MANAGING UNIT

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MOHD NASHRIQ BIN OTHMAN

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FARHANA BINTI MOHD RAZIF

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MOHD HAFIZUDDIN BIN ABD RAHMAN

MOHD HASRULNIZAM BIN HASSAN

ABDUL AZIM BIN AHMAD RUPAAI

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NOORSHARLINA BINTI RAMZAH

MOHAMAD ALIF B. MOHD UMAR

MUHAMMAD SIDDIQ BIN MOHD ZIN

SITI NURFARAHIN BINTI HAMDAN

NIK NADIA AISHAH BINTI NIK AB RASIK

NOOR ATIQA H BINTI MD DIN

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ANIS HAFINAS BT ABDUL HAMID

NORHAIDA BINTI HAMDAN

NUR SYAFIQAH BINTI AHMAD ISMANI

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NOR SYAKIRAH BT MOHD SHAMSUDIN

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ANIS HAFINAS BT ABDUL HAMID

SECRETARY

NORHAIDA BINTI HAMDAN

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ASMAA' BINTI KAMAL

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SITI AYUNNI BINTI MUHAMAD NAZRI
MOHAMAD ALIF B. MOHD UMAR
MOHD NASHRIQ BIN OTHMAN
MUHD ASHROF BIN YUSOF
ABDUL AZIM BIN AHMAD RUPAAI



THOUGHT AND PERCEPTION



HAZRINA BINTI HAJA BAVA MOHIDIN

"...The 9 days full of captivating scenery, architectural advancement as well as their diversity in culture and heritage really astounded me and somehow, these fascinations truly stunned us all..."

ANIS HAFINAS BINTI ABDUL HAMID

"...Beijing in 1 word - UNIQUE. Shanghai in 1 word - MODERN. Both of them comprise a very well traditional Chinese culture yet reflects the new image of China..."



SITI NOORULHUDA BT ROSLI

"...I just love Chinese food ,while you in China, it is better to be deprived of tea for three days, than foods for one!..."

SAFRAA NURJANNAH BT ABDUL JABBAR

"...Amazed by the enthusiasm of the Chinese I have seen throughout the whole journey, especially by the erection of Great Wall, Forbidden City and Summer Palace, which altogether had defined Chinese architecture in its early days and motivated by their spirit of teamwork and their cunning ways of working to enhance their economics and politics..."



NOOR ATIQA BINTI MD DIN

"...Beijing got many historical landmarks injected with a modern touch. While shanghai is a lively modern city that still preserved its old element. Both are unique and one of the kind..."

MUHAMAD HANIF BIN OTHMAN

"...Different environment and culture help to learn about life and survival. Being a part of the environment was a great experience..."



MOHD HASRULNIZAM B HASSAN

One thing I love to explore in Beijing is their socio-culture scene, can see that most of local people love to socialize.... 2nd thing is Beijing cycling scene..too many bicycles and even they have their own special bicycle lane, 3rd thing is their cutest 'hutong' or traditional housing.. made of bare facing brick without cement plaster and courtyard arrangement style.. uniquely Beijing, I like!

YUVEELAI BUNJARIDH A/P NOP

"...Astonishing greatness of food. Amazing wonders of the world's greatest architecture. and, not to forget, a place to spend every cents! yes, indeed! China amazed me! And, i had conquered them although just partially. 9 days had given me a new perspective about a different life far away from home..."



ANG CHIOU YANN

"...Weather shock: First time experiencing winter and loving it! Piercing cold wind which able to numb up our bare fingers within 5 seconds - that was how -2°C degree felt like.

MOHD HAFIZUDDIN
ABD RAHMAN



"...Stunned by the scenery of great buildings, traditional and contemporary. Truly one of the most unique place in the world where the culture and human socialization is totally different seen from any part in Malaysia. I was amazed by the erection of the Great Wall, and the superiority of the Forbidden city, This what makes Beijing, Beijing..."

Culture shock: Winter fashion which we can only see in Korean drama ou TV, and we were walking down the street wearing scarves, beanies, muffles, gloves and boots too!

SHERIL AIDA BINTI AHMAD ASERI



"...Throughout the trip, I experienced different culture, food, behavior, weather and most probably the view of their country from my own perspectives. The catchy part was the buildings range from old to modern style. That shows how well their country modernized...."

NUR SYAFIQAH BINTI AHMAD ISMANI

"...Both Beijing and Shanghai thrive. Shanghai is certainly more polished, cosmopolitan and has a city-feel to it while Beijing is more massive, organic and historical..."



NORHAIDA BINTI HAMDAN

"...Beijing is famous for great buyers making this place a shopaholic and bargains hunter's delight while Shanghai is more than what we have expected..."



MUHAMMAD SIDDIQ BIN MOHD ZIN

"...Amazed by the cities themselves as they are able to accommodate 23 million citizens in Beijing and 18 million in Shanghai, it's like a whole country inside each city. From the technological wonders and soaring skyscrapers of the CCTV, magnificent structures of the Bird's Nest Stadium, The Water Cube to the breath taking scenic views of the Great Wall Of China, The Forbidden City and the Summer Palace, China has it all. Now I can see and understand how a truly developed country really is...."





MOHD NASHRIQ BIN OTHMAN

"...Beijing has a fantastic blend of historical tourism sites and modern 21st century technology and lifestyle. From the world famous Great Wall of China, Forbidden City Palace, and Ming Tombs to Beijing's West Railway Station and China Central Television Tower - Beijing has it all and much more. Truly a must-see holiday destination...."

ASMAA' BINTI KAMAL

"...I like to travel, and one of the great place I've been is China..."



MUHD ASHROF BIN YUSOF

"...Yeah, I like the 9 days trip to Beijing and Shanghai, discovery of experiencing first hand of winter, their culture, architectures and politics made me shocked and shaken. This trip was an excellent way of learning and the experiences gained leave a lasting impact in my life..."

MOHD MUIZZUDIN BIN MUSLIM

"...Perception towards Beijing and Shanghai is all about their lifestyle and culture very havoc and hectic but in term of modernization and architectural there were superb impressive and proud to inspire for enhancing our spirit to aim our vision respectively..."



NIK NADIA AISHAH BINTI NIK AB RASIK

"...I have always believed that the easiest way to experience the culture of a country is through this 3 aspect which is architecture, food and shopping!..."

CHEE HUI SAN

"...The weather; too cold outside, too warm inside, too dry outside and inside. The people; they are ready to help and very friendly, old folks are active in socializing and involve themselves in activity such as dancing and tai-chi. The culture. The bargain part was the most hilarious. The architecture, stunning architecture with meaningful details and decoration..."



NUR HAFILAH BINTI HASHIM

"...Hujan eras di negeri orang, bujan batu di negeri sendiri, lebih baik negeri sendiri" -In the middle of the great traditional architecture which being appreciated, Beijing and Shanghai are comprises of the bad tempered, physic, and cheater's hawkers who lied for their own sake, the aggressive street's beggars, and also the arrogant local community..."

RABI'ATUL 'ADAWTYAH BINTI MOHAMED SHARIF

"...As an observer I find it that people live within their heritage and culture strongly up until today, just like us here in Malaysia no matter where in the world they are from. So and so, I am lucky indeed to be a part of this field trip group! Awesome experience..."



FARHANA BINTI MOHD RAZIF

"...The interesting features about Beijing-Shanghai are the cold winter breeze, fascinating landscape and extremely bargainable shopping!..."



SITI AYUNNI BINTI MUHAMAD NAZRI

"...China is great!! but if in the future I need to go there, I think I really need to learn mandarin before go there..I like the buildings in Beijing..brave! cute! and they create element of surprise..I also like Shanghai.. new environment..urban city.. but Malaysia still the best for me..yeah!! 1 Malaysia..."



MOHD MANSUR SYAH BIN ABD HASHIM

"...China is really fascinating place to visit with the combination of unique culture, distinctive lifestyle and wonderful architecture history..."

ABDUL AZIM BIN AHMAD RUPAAI

"...Prophet Muhammad once quoted. "Go in quest of knowledge even unto China"..so this trip seems to explain it all..China is pretty much different compared to where we come from..to be here is just awesome..and personally made me think the greatness of the Almighty..."



NORSAFAWATI BT SOFYAN

"...Natural and beautiful river scenery in China can be seen even in the middle of the modern city..."

KHAIRIL HALIM BIN MOHAMAD

"...Beijing & Shanghai are both as great as one of the wonders of the world; The Great Wall of China. This is one destination not to be missed!!"





MOHD FADZLY BIN SARIP

"...China is all about maintaining their culture, architecture, lifestyle, natural surrounding and CALCULATOR."

NOR SYAKIRAH BT MOHD SHAMSUDIN

Beijing and Shanghai is a great masterpiece. The construction of Chinese architecture are perfect and beautiful buildings, as well as providing inspiration for many modern constructions. It is so cool!! I love it!! .."



MOHAMAD ALIF B. MOHD UMAR

"...First n foremost I would like 2 say "I had a great time with my friends in China."

MOHD ALIF NOOR HAFEEZ B. ABD RAZAK

"...6 days in Beijing and 2 days in Shanghai really makes me very very excited to say that it is so AMAZING GUYS."



KHAIROOL ALZAT B. AHMAD JAMAL

"...Being in China is an amazing experience to me, the breathtaking ambience, the wonderful cuisine, the culture all combined to purest perfectness..fulamakarak."

SITI NURFARAHIN BINTI HAMDAN

"...10 days in Beijing makes me feel grateful & proud with our own country as Malaysian people are much much more polite, kind and well-behave as compared to people in Beijing. It's undeniable that the scenery, the building and the weather that I've experienced there are somehow nice and admirable too."



NOORSHARLINA BINTI RAMZAH

"...The whole journey was like a mission of finding the 'old' China in the 'new' china. And all that have been made easy as I walked passed those variety of man made buildings of past and present, appreciating God's beautiful creation of China's natural environment during winter and also through observing the unique colorful cultures of both heavily populated cities..."

After all the hectic preparation of paperworks for nearly 3 months, a trip that we had been long forward to has finally been realized. Everyone was very excited – couldn't wait to experience how cold -2°C degree was.

With the piercing wind which able to numb up our bare hands within 5 seconds - that was how cold the winter in Beijing was. But we adapted to it easily and there we enjoyed our very first winter and late Christmas, for 9 days, in the country of the origins of the Chinese.

As for the culture shock, it was not familiar to us about the left-sided driver's seat in vehicles. And was being amazed by the winter clothing which we can only be seen in Korean dramas on TV – we were wearing boots, furry jackets, gloves, scarves by then too! Hearing so much speaking that end with the sound of Rs was a little insecure, not to mention the Chinese characters that nearly all of us can't understand; China, is indeed, a total different world to us Malaysians.

Being an old civilization that aged for about 4000 years, China has a lot of interesting stories and mysteries behind its history, which mostly can only be embraced by the visitors through the architecture and monuments left by the time. Of course, this includes the Great Wall of China as one of the Seven Wonders in the world; the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace.

This booklet is published to record every piece of bits we encountered and experienced during the 7-day trip in Beijing and 2 day-trip in Shanghai.

Here we would like to thank our university, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, for providing the Global Outreach Program, such a great opportunity for us to visit such a wonderful country and learnt so much from it. Not to forget all the HEP, HEA and staffs from faculty for approving our paperworks, for making this trip coming true.



JOURNEY

旅程

BEIJING

TO

SHANGHAI

THE BEIJING - SHANGHAI JOURNEY



DAY 1 : 31st DEC 2010 (FRIDAY)

4 a.m. - Gather at LCCT airport
6 a.m. - Departed to Tianjin Airport by flight
2.35 p.m. - Arrived at Tianjin
5 p.m. - Acrobatic performance and later check in hotel

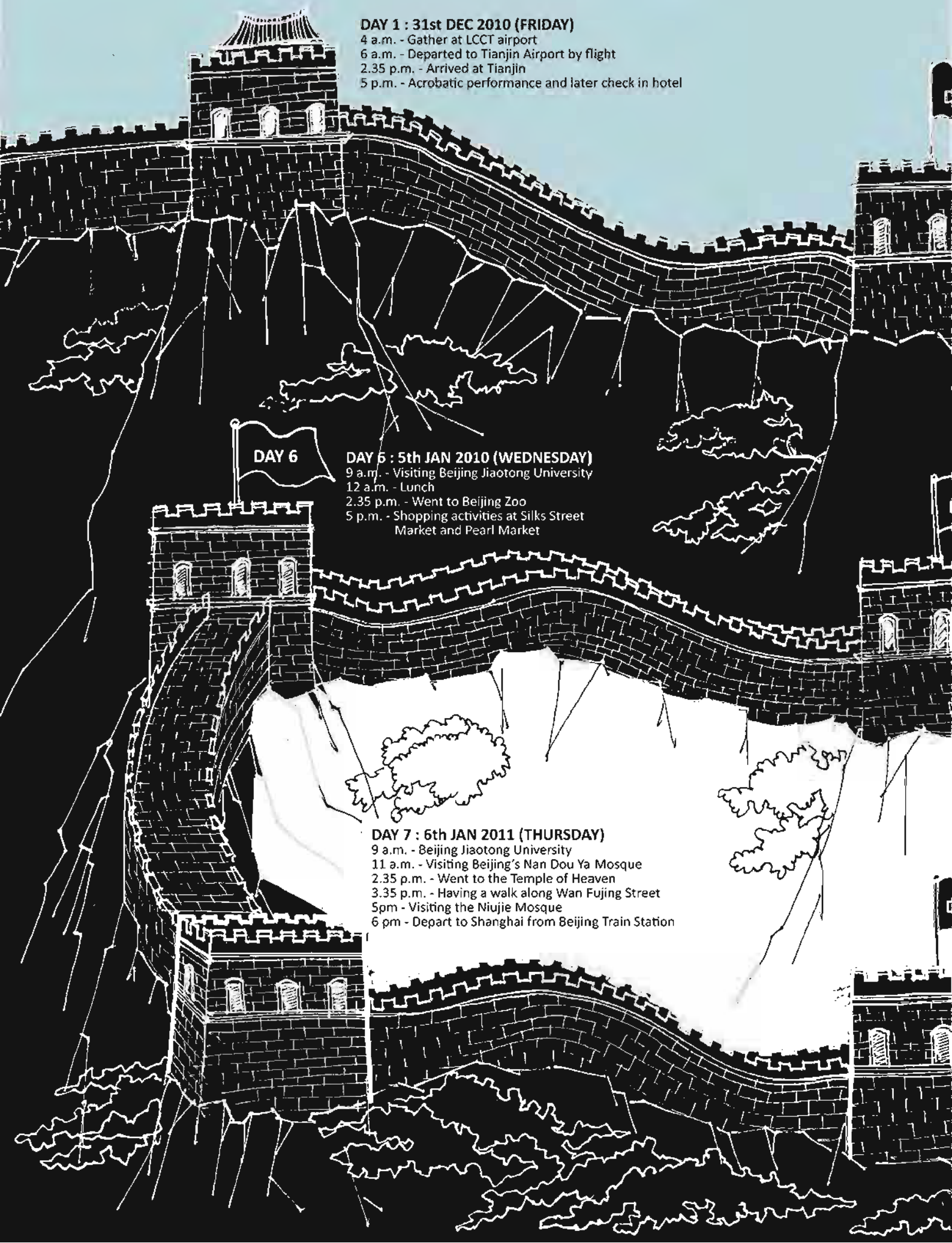
DAY 6

DAY 5 : 5th JAN 2010 (WEDNESDAY)

9 a.m. - Visiting Beijing Jiaotong University
12 a.m. - Lunch
2.35 p.m. - Went to Beijing Zoo
5 p.m. - Shopping activities at Silks Street Market and Pearl Market

DAY 7 : 6th JAN 2011 (THURSDAY)

9 a.m. - Beijing Jiaotong University
11 a.m. - Visiting Beijing's Nan Dou Ya Mosque
2.35 p.m. - Went to the Temple of Heaven
3.35 p.m. - Having a walk along Wan Fujing Street
5pm - Visiting the Niujie Mosque
6 pm - Depart to Shanghai from Beijing Train Station



DAY 2 : 1st JAN 2011 (SATURDAY)

- 9 a.m. - Visiting the Jade Gallery
- 2 p.m. - Experience the Great Wall of China
- 4.30 p.m. - Visiting the traditional medicine factory
- 5 p.m. - Dinner and back to hotel

DAY 2

DAY 3 : 2nd JAN 2011 (SUNDAY)

- 9 a.m. - Visiting the Tian'men Square
- 10 a.m. - Entering the Forbidden City
- 2.35 p.m. - Visiting the Summer Palace
- 5 p.m. - Visting the Tea Shop

DAY 4 : 3rd JAN 2011 (MONDAY)

- 9 a.m. - Visiting the Dizhen Silk House
- 11 a.m. - Olympic Stadium
- 2.35 p.m. - Herbal and Reflexology Centre
- 4 p.m. - Visiting the Sunny Gold Streer Market

DAY 5 : 4th JAN 2011 (TUESDAY)

- 9 a.m. - Went for skiing at the Ski Resort
- 6 a.m. - Visiting the Hard Rock Cafe
- 2.35 p.m. - Went to Xui Shui Market

DAY 5

DAY 9 : 8th JAN 2011 (SATURDAY)

- 4 a.m. - Visiting Xin Tian Di (Coffee Street)
- 6 a.m. - Qipulu Road
- 2.35 p.m. - Sightseeing at Qibao Ancient Town
- 5 p.m. - Visiting the Hangzhou West Lake
- 8 p.m - Departing back to Malaysia!

DAY 8 : 7TH JAN 2011 (FRIDAY)

- 11 a.m. - Arrived in Shanghai
- 12 a.m. - Visiting the Nanjing Road and Bund Street
- 2 p.m. - Ascending the Oriental Pearl Tower
- 3 p.m. - Visiting the Shanghai Urban Development Museum
- 4 pm - Walk along Yuyuan Street
- 5 pm - Check in Mandarin Hotel, Shanghai

DAY 8





THE DEPARTURE (KL - BEIJING)

[30 DEC 2010] Students gather at FAB bus stop to depart to LCCT (Low Cost Carrier Terminal).

[31 Dec 2010] We arrive at LCCT.

Next, travel briefing by our tour agent, Haji Nasir. He reminded on what to be cautious of during and after the flight, no liquid more than 100ml in hand luggage, prepare winter coat and gloves as soon as arriving in China, and fill in arrival form.



The highway scenery of Tianjin.



Every bottom of the trees were covered in white paint to prevent ants from climbing up the trees and destroying the fruits during summer.

After seven the hours flight, we arrived safely at Tianjin International Airport. We were greeted by Michael, our tour guide in Beijing that can speak Malay fluently. The first time stepping out into -2 degree celcius freezing weather was a new experience for all of us.

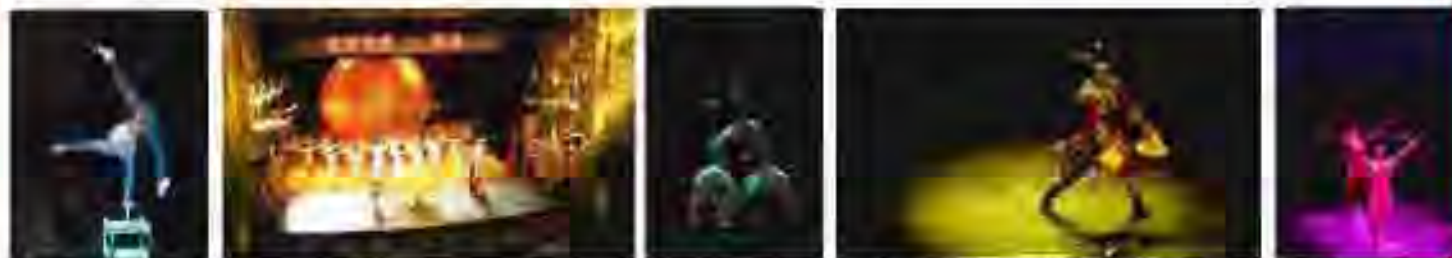
The first interesting view of Tianjin was the trees, somehow very different from the trees in Malaysia. The fruit trees also have interesting features where at every one meter of its trunk is covered in white paint to prevent ants from climbing up the trees and destroying the fruits. We continued our journey with a 2 hour bus ride to Beijing.

CHAO YANG THEATER



Dancing Acrobatic Princesses

All 39 of us arrived at Beijing City, and we headed straight to Beijing ChaoYang Theater to watch the famous Beijing Acrobatics Show. This theatre was built in 1984 and was chosen as one of the best Chinese cultural centers in 2001. The show lasted for 1 hour filled with excitement and thrilling performances such as acrobatic clowns, a man that can juggle up to 7 balls, and 6 motorcyclists doing a synchronized routine in a huge metal ball, and flexible acrobatic balancing act.



Variety of Acrobatic Performances at Beijing ChaoYang Theater

Then, we had our first feast on Chinese food at Muslim Chinese restaurant in Beijing. The food was great with 7 side dishes and Chinese Tea as our drink.

Lastly, we arrived at our place of stay in Beijing; Majesty Hotel. We were divided into pairs and given the rooms for the night's rest.



The Dark King



JADE HOUSE

The second day of the trip, before we started our journey, we had our breakfast in the hotel that we stayed. After that, we were brought to one of the government jade stores. China was very popular with the production of unique jade stones.

View at Jade House



Besides, Chinese people also believe that jade stone has some kind of abilities and power to cure certain diseases. In adding to this dimension, it was scientifically proven that jade stone could help in blood circulation. Furthermore jade stone was also related to the Feng Shui tradition of Chinese people. here, we have also learned how to differentiate between true and fake jade.

Interior of Jade House





CHINA CLOISSONNE FACTORY



China Cloisonne

After the jade store, we visited the traditional Cloisonné factory. Here, we were brought to one of the rooms and were briefed on the production of the Chinese Cloisonné. Cloisonné is a unique art of Chinese fired-enamelware that originated in Beijing during the Yuan Dynasty (1271 - 1368). Nevertheless, Cloisonné was popularized during XuanDe period (1426 - 1435) which coincides with the reign Ming Dynasty emperor, also known as the "Jingtai" emperor. The emperor has improved the color process and created the bright blue Cloisonné which is known as "Jingtai Blue". Furthermore, during Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911),



The process

Beside we also had an opportunity to witness ourselves the production of Cloisonné. Next we were ushered to the factory shopping area which displayed readymade Chinese Cloisonné comprises various shapes, sizes, design and colors to be sold. Apart from that, in the factory there were also exhibition area, restaurant which located on the third floor and also prayer room for Muslim's. Since we had arrived in the afternoon, we had our lunch and performed our prayer in the factory before proceeding with our journey.

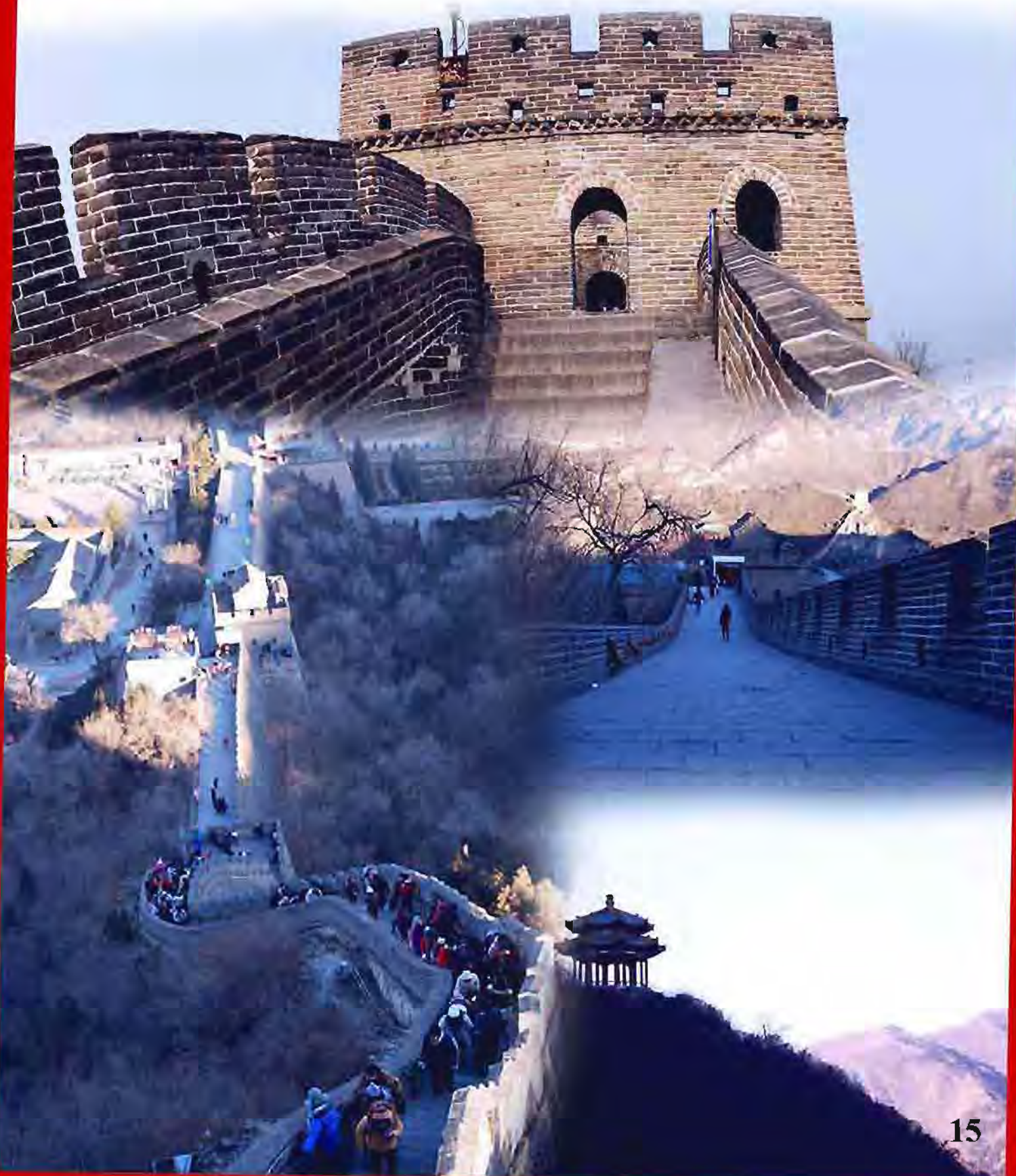


Cloisonné has improved and reached its artistic summit. Colors were more delicate, filigrees more flexible and fluent, and scope was enlarged beyond the sacrifice-process wares into snuff bottles, folding screens, incense burners, tables, chairs, chopsticks, and bowls.





THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA



The Great Wall of China situated at the north part of China. The Great Wall of China is the world longest human-made structure ever built. Known to Chinese as the “long wall of ten thousand li”, it is estimated to be around 5500 miles long. The earliest part of the wall was ordered by Emperor Qin Shi Huang about 2000 years ago. Previously, individual states had built their own wall defenses; nonetheless, under the rule of Qin Shi Huang, the emperor had successfully unified parts of China and it was him who sought to connect the individual wall of different states to provide defenses against northern invaders such as the Mongols.



View at Badaling

Different materials were used to build The Great Wall over centuries. The earliest wall was largely made of compacted earth surrounded by local stone as to keep costs down and to continue the construction quickly. After Qin Dynasty, the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 BC) had continued build the Great Wall and the materials used was largely made of brick. The Great Wall of China was constructed by laborers comprising soldiers, common people and criminals. It is estimated that up to one million people had died during the construction of The Great wall. It is discovered by archeologists many human bodies buried under sections of the wall.

Brick and stone used at The Great Wall





View of the clustered padlocks

As we climbed The Great Wall, we have come across clustered padlocks with various sizes and shapes which were locked along a long steel chain on some parts of the wall. It was based on the ancient Chinese Custom that couples who fastening a lock to the chain and throwing away the key can guarantee their love for eternity.



Action!!!



Some of us have succeeded arriving at the forth watch tower. Although we were exhausted, still, we were mesmerized and hypnotized by the scenery and amazing view from the towers.





TIAN'AN MEN SQUARE

[02 JAN 2011]

After breakfast we moved to Tian'an Men Square that is largest city square in the world and it is bordering on Chairman Mao Zedong's mausoleum & Great Hall of people. We were given a few moments to capture photographs before moving on to Forbidden City which is located next to the square.



Taking photo at the Tian'an Men Square.



Tian'an Men was the entrance to the Imperial City, within which the Forbidden City was located. Tian'anmen is located to the north of Tiananmen Square, across the street from the plaza from Chang'an Avenue.

The Tian'an Men Square was designed and built in 1651, and has since enlarged four times its original size in the 1950s. The Tian'an Men Gate to the Forbidden City was built in 1415 during the Ming Dynasty. Towards the demise of the Ming Dynasty, heavy fighting between Li Zicheng and the early Qing emperors damaged (or perhaps destroyed) the gate.



The Forbidden City as depicted in a traditional Ming Dynasty decoration.

After that we moved on to Forbidden City which was the emperor's residence in China that took more than 1000 years to complete.

The Forbidden City was the Chinese imperial palace from the Ming Dynasty till the end of the Qing Dynasty. It is located in the middle of Beijing, China, and now houses the Palace Museum.

Built in 1406 to 1420, the complex consists of 980 buildings with 8,707 bays of rooms and covers 720,000 m² (7,800,000 sq ft).



The Tian'an Men Square in closer view.

The Forbidden City is the world's largest surviving palace complex which is about 178 acres. It is a rectangle 961 meters (3,153 ft) from north to south and 753 meters (2,470 ft) from east to west. It consists of 980 surviving buildings with 8,707 bays of rooms. The Forbidden City was designed to be the centre of the ancient, walled city of Beijing. It is enclosed in a larger, walled area called the Imperial City.



The picture above shown panoramic of The Hall of Supreme Harmony.

FORBIDDEN CITY

The design of the Forbidden City, from its overall layout to the smallest detail, was meticulously planned to reflect philosophical and religious principles, and above all to symbolize the majesty of imperial power.

The layout of buildings follows ancient customs laid down in the Classic of Rites. Thus, ancestral temples are in front of the palace. Storage areas are placed in the front part of the palace complex, and residences in the back



The Palace of Heavenly Purity is a double-eaved building, and set on a single-level white marble platform. It is connected to the Gate of Heavenly Purity to its south by a raised walkway;



The Meridian Gate, front entrance to the Forbidden City, with two protruding wings

The Forbidden City is surrounded by a 7.9 meters (26 ft) high city wall and a six-meter deep, 52 meters (171 ft) wide moat. The walls are 8.62 meters (28.3 ft) wide at the base, tapering to 6.66 meters (21.9 ft) at the top. These walls served as both defensive walls and retaining walls for the palace. They were constructed with a rammed earth core, and surfaced with three layers of specially baked bricks on both sides, with the interstices filled with mortar.

SUMMER PALACE (YIHEYUAN)



Sunset at the summer palace

After we had our lunch, we continued our journey to the Summer Palace. We reached there at about 3 in the evening and given a 2 hours time for sight-seeing and picture-taking around the area. Since it is already in the evening, we got the opportunity to watch the sunset in such a beautiful scenery of the frozen lake. The Summer Palace is situated 15 kilometers from central Beijing.



Bridge that connect to the palace

The Summer Palace has a history of over 850 years which existed here since 1150. It started out life as the Garden of Clear Ripples in 1750. Artisans reproduced the garden architecture styles of various palaces in China. Kunming Lake was created by extending an existing body of water to imitate the West Lake in Hangzhou.



Animal sculpture along the bridge

As its name implies, the Summer Palace was used as a summer residence by China's imperial rulers - as a retreat from the main imperial palace now known as the Palace Museum (or 'Forbidden City') - a pleasure ground in the countryside, yet near to the city. The Summer Palace is virtually a museum of traditional Chinese garden that uses rocks, plants, pavilions, ponds, cobble paths and other garden styles to create a poetic effect between different scenes. When we strolled around the Summer Palace, we noticed the area changing gradually.



In front of the summer palace.



Rock scenery near the palace.



Some local people walk on the frozen

TEA SHOP



Many well-known people also come to this shop

Before we ended our journey on the 3rd day, we went to the tea shop to learn more about the famous Chinese tea. Tea is the second biggest export product of China. Tea is also the most consumed beverage in China, whenever we went for dinner and lunch, the restaurant will serve tea besides plain water. There are four main types of tea which are white, green, oolong (wu long), and black. We also learn about the right way to drink our tea, different types of tea has different ways of drinking. White tea is the most famous tea and probably the most powerful of all the types



Some equipment to make tea for our tea testing.



Many types of tea



Tea's preparation



DIZHEN CHINESE SILK HOUSE

[03 Jan 2011] We reached the Dizhen Chinese Silk House as early as 8.30 am. Upon arrival, a short briefing on the history of Silk were given by the manager. According to Chinese legend, Lady Hsi-Ling-Shih, wife of the mythical Yellow Emperor Hwangdi, taught her people sericulture (Silk Knowledge) as early as 5000 years ago. She is credited with the introduction of silkworm rearing and the invention of the loom.

A tour was also conducted afterwards to show the process of Silk making and description on some of the unique end products.



The group listening attentively to the brief given by the Manager.



A heaven of original Silk products in the factory at an affordable price.

The tour have exposed us to many great things that came from such a small silkworm. The silkworm's cocoon finished up as a beautifully painted silk fabric that can be used for clothes, silk comforters and bedsheet set.

The silkworm itself can be eaten as Chinese believes that it brings health benefits and tastes equally nice, and as for the silkworm's waste, the poops, the Chinese have discovered a way to turned them into a poop pillow. The poop pillow helps improve health as it has the power of cooling a human body to prevent migrain and other ailments caused by excess heat in the body.



THE OLYMPICS



Briefing given by one of the staff of the Beijing Olympic Sponsor Shop.

The next destination was the Olympic Green. The Olympic Green is the Olympic Park of Beijing for the 2008 Summer Olympics. The first stop was an Olympic Sponsor Shop. The premise is owned by a Malaysian, Steven Tam. Upon our visit he was generous enough to give us a briefing not only on the shop but a brief summary of Beijing and how life is over here. After the short brief, we had a chance to browse through his shop and received special price offers on the merchandise sold.



A visit to the Olympic Green

Done with a visit at the Great Wall a few days back, now it's time for one of China's modern marvels - The Bird's Nest Stadium. The stadium was completed on 28th of June 2008 in time for the Olympic games that year. Swiss architect firm; Herzog De Meuron was responsible for the design which originated from the study of Chinese ceramics, implemented steel beams in order to hide supports for the retractable roof, giving the stadium the appearance of a "Bird's nest", hence the name given.



Group photo at the Bird's Nest Stadium.

Located next to the Bird's Nest Stadium is the Beijing National Aquatics Center, also known as the 'Water Cube'. The name was given so as the facade design, resembles water cubes. The building uses the largest ETFE clad structure in the world, that allows more light and heat penetration than traditional glass, resulting in a 30% decrease in energy costs. The building's original purpose is to host swimming competitions during the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The 'Water Cube' was then transformed into a water theme park as a solution to increase usability of the building after the Olympic games had ended.



Infront of the main entrance of the 'Water Cube'



Structural wonders of the Bird's Nest and The Water Cube.

During our visit to these two magnificent structures, we were able to witness in real life what we have been seeing only in pictures and videos ever since. These two unique creations of mankind really inspired the mind creatively and innovatively hence showed how far the architectural scene that China has gone through.



HERBAL AND REFLEXOLOGY CENTRE



Herbal water foot massaging session.

After a long walk and sight seeing of Beijing Great Olympic stadiums, then it was time for the group to have their tired feet relaxed in warm herbal water and enjoyed a free foot massage at Beijing's Herbal and Reflexology Centre. Arrived at 3.00 pm, the group was first given a brief by an Indonesian spokesperson on the Tibetan herbal and medical knowledge. He explained about the nerve and body system, health problems and the discoveries of medicine and health treatment by the Tibet people.

Then it was time to enjoy a free foot massage by the workers. The herbal water was produced by soaking a herbal tea bag into the warm water. The foot massage combined with the herbal water gives soothing feeling thus making some of us felt sleepy during the foot masaging session.

The group was also entertained by a few Tibet traditional doctors who gave free medical advices based on their skills of analyzing the lines of our hand palms. They also suggested some medicines for us to improve our health.

Participants falling asleep due to the soothing experience of the foot massage.



A Tibet traditional doctor giving health advices to one of the participants in the group.

SUNNY GOLD STREET MARKET

The last place of the 4th day, finally, a first visit to a real China market. The market was a medium size double storey market called Sunny Gold Market. The concept of the market is similar to our local Pasar Seni, but differs in architectural style as it emphasizes more on the modern Chinese building. It is an indoor market, crowded with small shops and narrow lanes.



A visit to the Sunny Gold Street Market

The group arrived at 5.00pm and was given only 1 hour to shop at this small market located near Lido Holiday Inn Hotel in Chaoyang District.



The variety of goods at extremely cheap prices

Sunny Gold Street Market has most of the goods available in Beijing's larger markets. It is very convenient and less crowded by people as most of them opt for the bigger picture.

A wide variety of goods are sold here such as souvenirs, books, handbags, accessories and other things at bargained prices.

A common Chinese rule when buying goods in a market is, once you bargain, bargain hard and know your prices. Some of the shop owners can be a little over enthusiastic for visitors to visit their shops and might grab visitors by the arm and pull them into their shops.



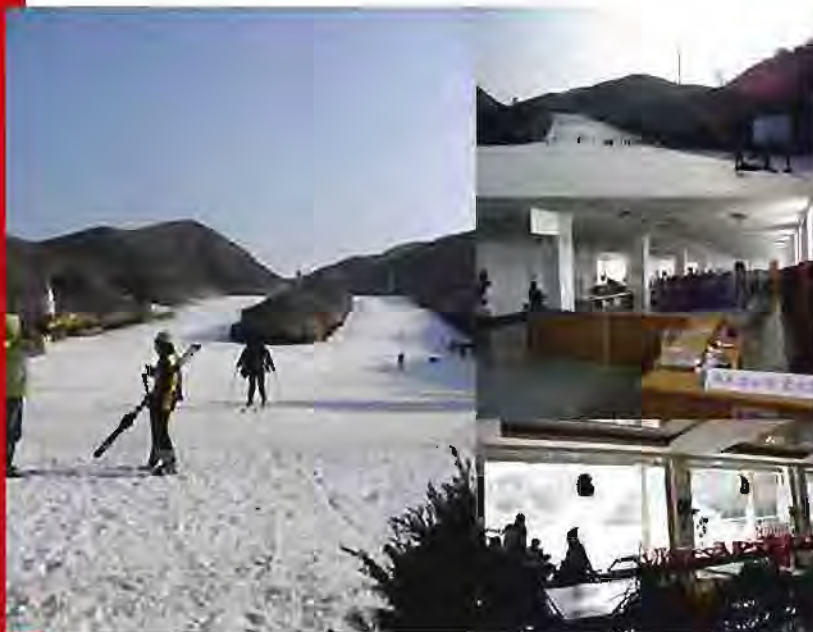


SHIJINGLONG SKI RESORT

[04 Jan 2011] Our 5th day in Beijing started with enjoyable activities which was playing ski. Located in Zhangshanying Town, Yanqing County, the Shijinglong Ski Resort is about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Beijing. The 35-hectare (86.5-mile) resort is the largest and most well-appointed one in the greater Beijing area. The resort was built in 1999 and can accommodate over 5,000 guests. Located near scenic Longqing Gorge, Shijinglong's diverse terrain offers an ideal venue for both novice and veteran skiers.



Entrance of the Shijinglong Ski Resort



Skiing area for the beginner

The resort has seven ski runs of varying degrees of difficulty ranging from expert to amateur. The most challenging slope is over 1,000 meters (1,093.6 yards) long. With a maximum slope of thirty degrees, it has a pitch of 300 meters (1,080 feet). The mid-level run has a maximum slope of twenty-eight degrees. The junior ski run for beginners is over 3,000 meters (3,280 yards) long with an average slope of ten degrees. In addition, there is a separate snowboarding park available. Over forty skilled instructors are available to guests and a fully staffed ski school has been established. In addition to snowboarding and skiing, the resort offers sleigh rides, ice skating, curling and snowmobiling.



HARD ROCK CAFE BEIJING



Main Entrance of Hard Rock Cafe Beijing

After an exciting and memorable ski experiences, the tour continued with a short visit to the most popular cafe around the world; Hard Rock Cafe Beijing. This cafe is located at Landmark Towers No.8 North Dongsanhuan Road Chaoyang District, Beijing. This is the place where people gather especially at night with their friends. Socializing while listening to music performed can reduce people's tension after working hard all day.



Interior of Hard Rock Cafe Beijing

The unique criteria of this place was the giant replica of guitar built in front of the cafe and the hot wheels car on the top of the flat roof. People can see the place from far and know they have already arrived at the Hard Rock Cafe Beijing. The sculpture also works as a focal point to the place where people can remember easily how to go to other buildings around the cafe by recognizing the guitar sculpture location.



Scenery of Hard Rock Cafe Beijing

XIU SHUI MARKET(SILK STREET)

After the short visit to Hard Rock Cafe Beijing, the tour continued to the Xiu Shui Market and known as the Silk Street Market by the tourist. The Xiu Shui market reopened for business in its shiny new 5 storey shopping mall on March 19th 2005 (or thereabouts) replacing the infamous original outdoor Xiu Shui market. In doing so, it has become the inner city's one stop tourist shopping paradise. It's name is now written in English across the entrance as simply "Silk Street".



The night view of Xiu Shui Market



The scenery inside the Xiu Shui Market

Apart from the almost real-looking designer wear which was present at the old market, you can now enjoy shopping for a wealth of traditional Chinese knick knacks to bring home for your family. If you don't have too much time for shopping in Beijing, this could be the only place you need to visit. This game tells that if you are a good bargainer, you can get the price better than in your own country. The joyful day with playing ski and shopping ends here and continued with the joint-venture activities with Beijing Jiaotong University on the next day.







第6天

Day 6

中国游记

BEIJING ZOO

Our next destination was Beijing Zoo, which is located beside the Jiaotong University.

The Beijing Zoo site is comprised of 16 different exhibition areas and halls. Covering an area of around 10,000 square meters (2.5 acres) One of the most popular spots is the Panda Hall.



Panda



The series of pictures taken during the visit.



Map of Beijing Zoo

The inside of the hall replicates the style of traditional Chinese gardens and is shaped in the pattern of a Tai Chi diagram. Beijing Zoo has a long and productive history with giant pandas. It was the first to breed giant pandas successfully (1963).

In addition to its public education role, Beijing Zoo is also a famous center of zoological research and conservation, including a number of breeding programs.

SILK STREET AND PEARL MARKET



Inside the silk market

Our next destination was silk market, Actually called Silk Street, it is an enclosed shopping area setup like a bazaar. Extensive, and very entertaining. The location is known as a shopping haven that offers various goods including electronic appliances, souvenirs, food, fabrics and jewelry where they were placed with its own section.



Various shops with different product

This six-story market is overwhelmingly touristy, it is filled with everything imaginable. According to reports, one million tourists worldwide visit Silk Street and Pearl Market during each holiday season.



Various goods offered here



第七天

day 7

中国游记

NAN DOU YA MOSQUE



Entrance of the Nan Dou Ya Mosque

Beijing Nan Dou Ya Qing Zhen Si located at the Nan Dou Ban Hutong off the Chaoyangmen Nei Street. Eventually this mosque received more than 20,000 visitors a year with majority of whom were Malaysians. Built in the Qing Dynasty (1796-1890), the mosque is known as Nan Dou Ya Qing Zhen Si to the locals, serving the Hui community in the area which now has a population of over 3,000 people or 800 households.



Courtyard of the Nan Dou Ya Mosque that creates nice enclosure and scenery

From the exterior, passers-by see only the Chinese words written on the wall of the mosque introducing some halal food but visitors walking into the entrance area will see the five daily prayers time written in both Chinese and Arabic posted on the wall next to the office. At the courtyard, visitors surrounded by the courtyard chambers comprising the main prayer hall that can see also modern high-rise apartments. It was like the past meeting the present, as if taking us through time.



Interior of the prayer hall riches with Chinese and Arabic calligraphy.

TEMPLE OF HEAVEN

The Temple of Heaven located in the southern part of Beijing. It is China's largest existing complex of ancient sacrificial buildings. Occupying an area of 273 hectares, it is three times the area of the Forbidden City. The complex was visited by the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties to perform annual ceremonies of prayer to Heaven for good harvest. It is regarded as a Taoist temple, although Chinese Heaven worship, especially by the reigning monarch of the day, predates Taoism.



The Altar of Prayer for Good Harvest



Panoramas in the Temple of Heaven

It was built in 1420 for emperors to worship Heaven. The principle buildings include the Altar of Prayer for Good Harvest, Imperial Vault of Heaven and Circular Mound Altar. The Altar of Prayer for Good Harvest is 38 meters in height and 30 meters in diameter, stands on a rounded foundation built with three levels of marble stones. This towering hall has a triple-eave roof under a three-story cone-shaped glaze-tile roof in blue colour crowned with a gilded knob. A circular wall of polished bricks known as the Echo Wall encloses the Imperial Vault of Heaven. The Circular Mound Altar, at the south of the Imperial Vault of Heaven, is where the emperors prayed to Heaven. At the centre lies a large stone called the Stone of Heaven that echoes when a visitor speaks loudly while standing on the stone.

WANGFUJING STREET



Buildings along the Wangfujing Street

Wángfǔjǐng located in Dongcheng District, Beijing, is one of the Chinese capital's most famous shopping streets. Much of the road is off-limits to cars and other motor vehicles, and it is not rare to see the entire street full of people. Since the middle of the Ming Dynasty there have been commercial activities in this place. In the Qing Dynasty, ten aristocratic estates and princess residence were built here, soon after when a well full of sweet water was discovered, thereby giving the street its name "Wang Fu" (princely residence), "Jing" (well).



Scenery of Wangfujing Street

There are various type of architectural design of the building along the Wangfujing Street such as oriental design, modern design and Romanisque structure. These various architectural design create a different atmosphere when we walk along the Wangfujing road. It was a prosperous business street with modern and fashion trends. This road was the last joyful activities in Beijing before visiting the oldest mosque in Beijing, Niujie Mosque for pray.



Buildings along the Wangfujing Street

NIUJIE MOSQUE

The last venue we visited before transferred to Beijing Railway Station was Niujie Mosque. The Niujie Mosque also known as Cow Street Mosque is the oldest mosque in Beijing, China. It was first built in 996 and was reconstructed as well as enlarged under the Qing Emperor Kangxi (1622-1722). The Mosque is located in Beijing's Xuanwu District, the spiritual centre for the 10,000 Muslims living in the vicinity and it is the biggest and oldest one in Beijing. Niujie in Xuanwu District, where the mosque is located, is the largest area inhabited by Muslims in Beijing.



Old Entrance to Niujie Mosque in Men's wuduk area

The mosque is a mixture of Islamic and Chinese cultures. From the outside, its architecture shows traditional Chinese influence while the inside has mostly Islamic decorations. The mosque, built out of timber, is home to some important cultural relics and tablets such as the upright tablet of an emperor's decree proclaimed in 1694 during the Qing Dynasty. The local Muslim community was forbidden from constructing the mosque in a style other than traditional Chinese architecture with the exception that the use of Arabic calligraphy was allowed.



The ornaments of the Niujie Mosque



BELJING RAILWAY STATION



Entrance of Beijing Railway Station

Located at Maojiawan Hutong, Dongcheng District, Beijing Railway Station is an important hub of the national railway transportation. It covers an area of 25 hectares. It was initially built in 1901 during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Shortly after the birth of New China, this station had been enlarged, in 1959 becoming the biggest passenger transport station of those days. The building was impressively grand, with a combination of rich traditional and modern styles in its architecture. It was considered as one of the ten great constructions in the capital during the 1950s.



Activities and scenery in the station

Being there in a couple of hours makes us feel the crowdedness of that station. Huge numbers of passengers can be seen as we arrived at the entrance of the building. There were people gathered in front of Beijing Railway Station for trains, and some were just hanging out with the nice night scenery. There were also small hawker stalls that sold snacks and small souvenir from Beijing. Inside of the building shows the how important this station is for all Chinese people. The space was full with people that using trains services.



The crowdedness of Beijing Railway Station with people waiting for their train



SHANGHAI NORTH RAILWAY STATION

[07 JAN 2011] By train from Beijing (T103) for 12 hours in a 3 levels of bed provided us with a new experience. We got acquainted with the local residents who also boarded the train and shared experiences with each other. Our breakfast was just instant noodles and biscuits that we brought from Malaysia. We arrived in Shanghai North railway station (Shanghai Xintiandi) at 11.00 am. Before exiting through a door on the south-west, we had pictures taken together with our UTM banner. Outside the train station, we were greeted by our escort from Malaysia, Haji Nasir, and our tour guide, Yvonne who was very fluent in English.



Us in the train to Shanghai

Then we walked to the bus with our luggages filled with things that we bought from Beijing. In the bus, our tour guide talked about the history of Shanghai and the functions of the city as a business district. The city comprises of 18 million people, and during the Shanghai Expo last year, the area was filled with tourists that reached up to 60 million people. Our first destination in Shanghai was Restaurant Hong Chang Xing where we had our lunch. Like usual, we were served with halal food known as Xin Jiang. Before we had lunch, we performed our prayers first in an enclosed prayer room in the restaurant due to the lack of worshipping places such as mosques or even a minaret.



Lunch time!! At Restaurant Hong Chang Xing

NANJING ROAD AND THE BUND SIGHTSEEING AVENUE



View of Nanjing road

After lunch, we walked to Nanjing Road where we saw the hustle bustle of the city and the cultural patterns of local residents in the area of business and workplaces. Unlike Beijing, Shanghai was warmer and more comfortable to walk around. There were no frozen rivers and lakes like in Beijing. Shanghai also seemed to have more green leafy plants. Besides that, the situation in Shanghai felt more safe and secure.



Then we were taken to the Shanghai Expo site. It is located on The Bund Sightseeing Avenue and near the Huang Pu River. This river separates the old and new areas of Shanghai city. As we went on with our journey towards the end of the area, it is clearly shown that the architectural style along Nanjing road is greatly influenced ancient architecture style while across the Huang Pu River seemed to have something more modern and massived. Here we fully utilised the time we had to take photos together and enjoyed the pleasant environment as well as studying the architecture style of the surrounding area



The view of new area of Pudong from The Bund sightseeing avenue

THE ORIENTAL PEARL TOWER AND SHANGHAI URBAN DEVELOPMENT HISTORY MUSEUM

The next location was Shanghai Oriental Pearl Radio and TV Tower which was located in the Pudong New Area. We went to New Area of Pudong across the Huang Pu River through an underground tunnel by bus. The Oriental Pearl Tower is 468 meter which is the Highest TV tower in Asia and the third in the world. The Oriental Pearl Tower consisting of three main spheres with 360 degree views of the surroundings. In Oriental Pearl Tower, we were brought up to the height of 263 meters for a 360 degrees city sightseeing from the tower.



View of Oriental Pearl Tower



Sightseeing floor



Entrance of Shanghai Urban Development History Museum.

From that level, we were able to witness the rapidness of the development of Shanghai city that was mainly filled with skyscrapers. Later we were taken to the other sightseeing floor at an altitude of 259 meters. At this floor, it was more exciting because we were allowed to stand and take pictures on a transparent floor with the view of Shanghai city underneath us. Then we went to the Shanghai Urban Development History Museum which is located in the lobby of this building. It consisted of six Halls filled with transportations exhibitions, an overview of the old city, the landscape architecture of Shanghai at the beginning of the 20th century, the metropolis introduced with foreign architecture, trace of old Shanghai and architectural exhibitions.

YUYUAN MARKET AND ATLANTIC RESTAURANT



Night scene at Yuyuan Market

Later that night, we were brought by bus to the Yuyuan market. There, we were given time to shop. The environment of Yuyuan market was more quiet than in Beijing and the price offered was slightly lower. After 1 hour 30 minutes we gathered in front of a Starbucks shop and walk together to the bus. The Yuyuan market was filled with outstanding and grandly decorated oriental buildings especially seen at night.

Here in the market, we witnessed architectural style that reflects China not only in terms of design, but also in its planning and space arrangement. There was a lake that fascinated us as it is beautifully decorated with lights and water lilies.



After tired of walking and shopping all day, we had dinner at Atlantic restaurant. As usual, halal Xin Jiang food with a various dishes were served. After dinner, we were brought to the Mandarin Hotel to call it the night in the beautiful Shanghai city.



At lobby Hotel Mandarin



XIN TIAN DI (COFFEE STREET)

[08 JAN 2010] The final day of our trip started with a visit to Xin Tian Di, an affluent shopping, eating and entertainment district in Shanghai. It composed of an area of reconstituted traditional shikumen (stone gate) houses on narrow alleys; some adjoining houses which now serves as book stores, cafe, restaurant and shopping malls.

Xin Tian Di means “new heaven and earth” and is considered one of the first lifestyle centers in China.



Rows of cafe can be see at one of the walkway.



The multiple surrounding views of Xin Tian Di



The fountain located at the center of Xin Tian Di.

According to our tourist guide, this government owned place was built by some foreign architect about 100 to 200 years ago. Originally it was a residential area for the rich local people and foreigners. Now it has become a commercial area since 20 years ago where it is also one of tourist attraction place in Shanghai.



A closer look to its Shikumen Architecture.

As we all know, big cities or metropolises of the world all have their representative buildings which reflect the local history and culture, and which also become renowned tourist attractions. Xin Tian Di was established with this phenomenon in mind.

The result was to endow Shikumen building with new commercial value by changing its function of residence, changing old blocks into a new world full of life.

Xin Tian Di is unique because of its concept of construction. It retains the antique walls, tiles and exterior of the Shikumen housing of old Shanghai.

On the other hand, its interior embodies a totally different world of international gallery, bars and cafes, boutiques or theme restaurants. When walking into this place, we'll get the taste of both Shanghai in the 1920's and the sonic moden lifestyle of urbanites of the 21st century.



Views of Xin Tian Di from the main roads.

QIPULU ROAD

Next, at about 10am we went to our second place to visit for today, the Qipu Road. It is known as the whole sale district of Shanghai.

Like the shopping places we went in Beijing, Qipu Road is famous for its clothes, shoes, accessories, bags, swimwear, jewelry which are all very affordable. There are three shopping malls, on each corner of an intersection of Qipu Road, each with about four to five storeys of shops, all filled with trendy and fashionable made-in-China stuff.



View of two shopping malls at Qipu Road.



The views of Qipu shopping malls and activities around it.



Our tourist guide giving a brief info about Qipu Road in front one of the shopping malls.

Surprisingly, the price of the stuff here is pretty much lower than in Beijing. There are some dissatisfaction in the air because many of us had spent most of the money in Beijing. However, the shopping spree still continues with less-extreme bargaining session, thanks to the experience we gained in Beijing.

QIBAO ANCIENT TOWN



Entrance view of the Qibao ancient town.

Located about 18km from Shanghai City, Qibao ancient town is a spiritual sanctuary, free from traffic, pollution, noise which plague most of the modern cities we live. This old town is 2 square kilometers in size and is crossed by two strips of water. Surrounding the water is a variety of well preserved ancient Chinese houses, shops and restaurants.

Qibao means "Seven Treasures" in Chinese and the town got its name from a legend that referred to seven treasures in this area.



Views of along the river and the river cruise service.

Being the only ancient Chinese town in Shanghai, this old town started development in the Song Dynasty of China and was at its best in the Ming and Qing Dynasty.

The stone roads and long narrow lanes that are worn over time at Qibao date all the way back to the Song Dynasty while the traditional Chinese architectural specialties such as pavilions, terraces and towers came from Ming and Qing Dynasty.



The stone roads date all back to Song Dynasty.

At the heart of Qibao ancient town is an old street that is said to best resemble the streets of old Shanghai. The streets has been restored to its original look which is consisted of two sections, southern and western lesser streets.

The southern part filled with traditional restaurants serving various tasty snacks is a paradise for gourmets. Old shops selling art crafts, antiques and calligraphy works occupy the western part. Here visiors will find the Qibao pharmaceutical stores, a thousand year old shop, some fine tea houses and shadow play opera theatres.



View of shophouses row and tower.



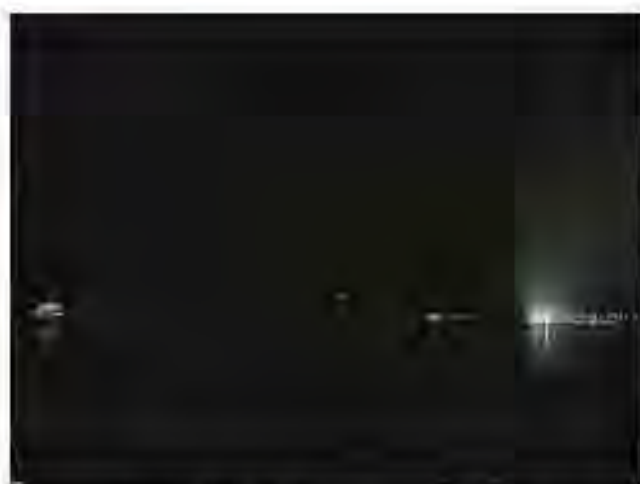
The Pu Hui Taang river at Qibao.

The river running across the town is called Pu Hui Taang river, which brings the tranquil water town charm over this old town.

This area somehow at a glance reminded us about Malacca. The river, the waterfronts, the old chinese shophouses and the activities there seems to have some physical resemblance with Malacca.



HANGZHOU WEST LAKE



View of the lake surrounded by mountain.

This is the last place to visit in our awesome 9 days trip. When we arrived here it is already 8pm. This Hangzhou West Lake is located in the western area of Hangzhou City Center. It is surrounded by mountains on three sides, with an area of around 6.5 square kilometers.

The lake is divided by Gu Shan, Bai, Su and Yanggong Causeways into five areas. Thus, the basic layout is "one hill, two causeways, three islands and five lakes."



The surrounding views and activities around the lake.

West Lake is not only famous for its picturesque landscape, it is also associated with many scholars, national heroes and revolutionary martyrs, thus embracing many aspects of Chinese culture and history.

In addition, many ancient buildings, stone caves and engraved tablets in surrounding areas are among the most cherished national treasures of China, with significant artistic value.



The waterfront by the lake.



HOME SWEET HOME (HANGZHOU - KL)

[09 JAN 2010] The last subject in our itinerary was the departure of the group from the Hang Zhou Airport to the Kuala Lumpur LCCT. After a long queue at the 'check-in' lane, and passed the China immigration, all of us headed to the flight's door eagerly. From everybody's face expression, we can tell how much all of us missed Malaysia. In about 30 minutes of waiting, the door opened, and everyone took their own seats.



Hangzhou Airport.



Everyone was very happy to go back home.

The flights took us about 5 hours on the air. Most of us were asleep all the way to the destination and some, playing cards until they turned off the lights. Even though the flight was not that smooth, we safely arrived at Kuala Lumpur LCCT at 4.30am.

At the arrival, some of us went back to their homes, and the rest waited for the UTM bus that taking them back to Johor Bharu. At 6am, the bus arrived and departed minutes later. The group finally arrived at the FAB bus stop at 11am. Due to exhaustion, the entire group got back to their room simultaneously for a rest and dream of the good memories of 9days in China.



学分

CREDITS



31 DEC 2010 - 8 JAN 2011

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