



**Good morning. Welcome to our Tour of China!**

**My name is Bill Jepson and I will be your tour guide through China today. I am a retired teacher at Hopkins and Eden Prairie high schools where I taught world history, geography, and advanced placement comparative politics. Each course included many days of teaching about China which is one of my favorite subjects.**

**China Tour group at the Forbidden City with our EF Tour Guides**



**For many years I taught at Prairie Center Alternative school with at-risk students who had trouble learning by lectures and tests.**

**So I started a travel program offering Experiential Learning for them.**

**After a number of tours of Europe I lead a tour in 2007 with 12 students to three incredible cities in China.**

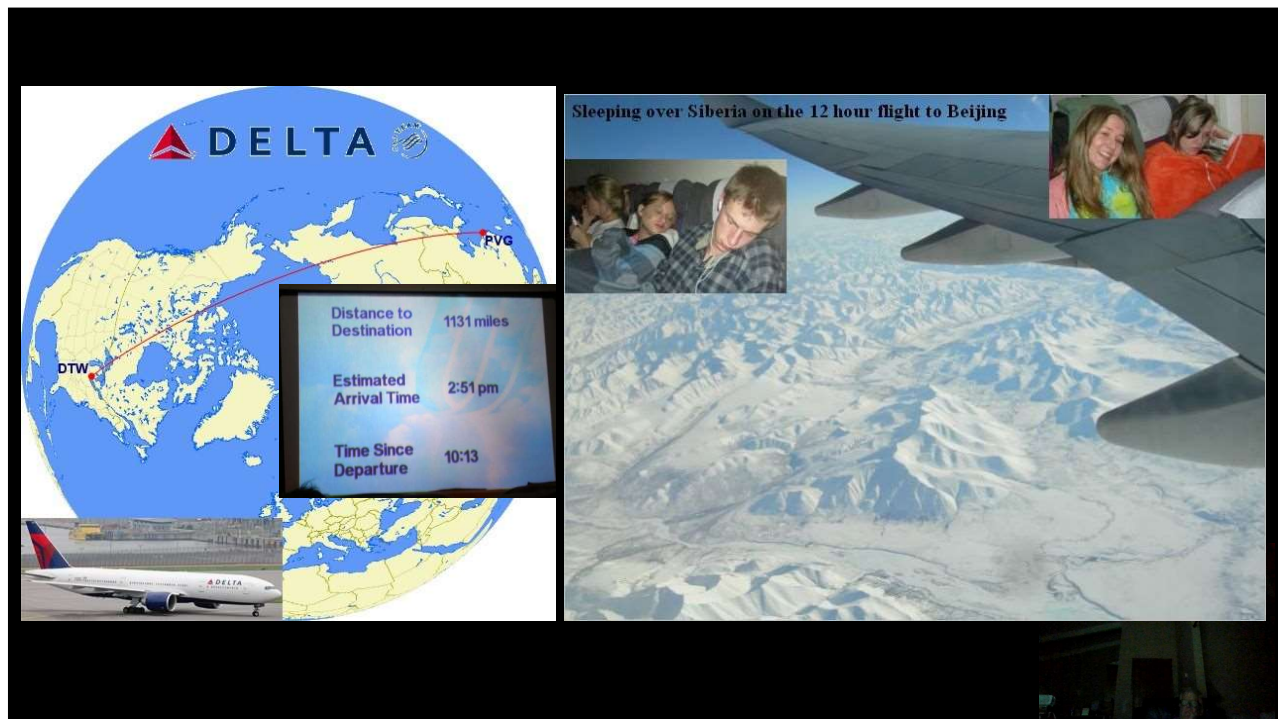
**We had a bilingual guide with EF Tours**

**If you recruit 6 students at about \$3000 each the teacher goes for free!**



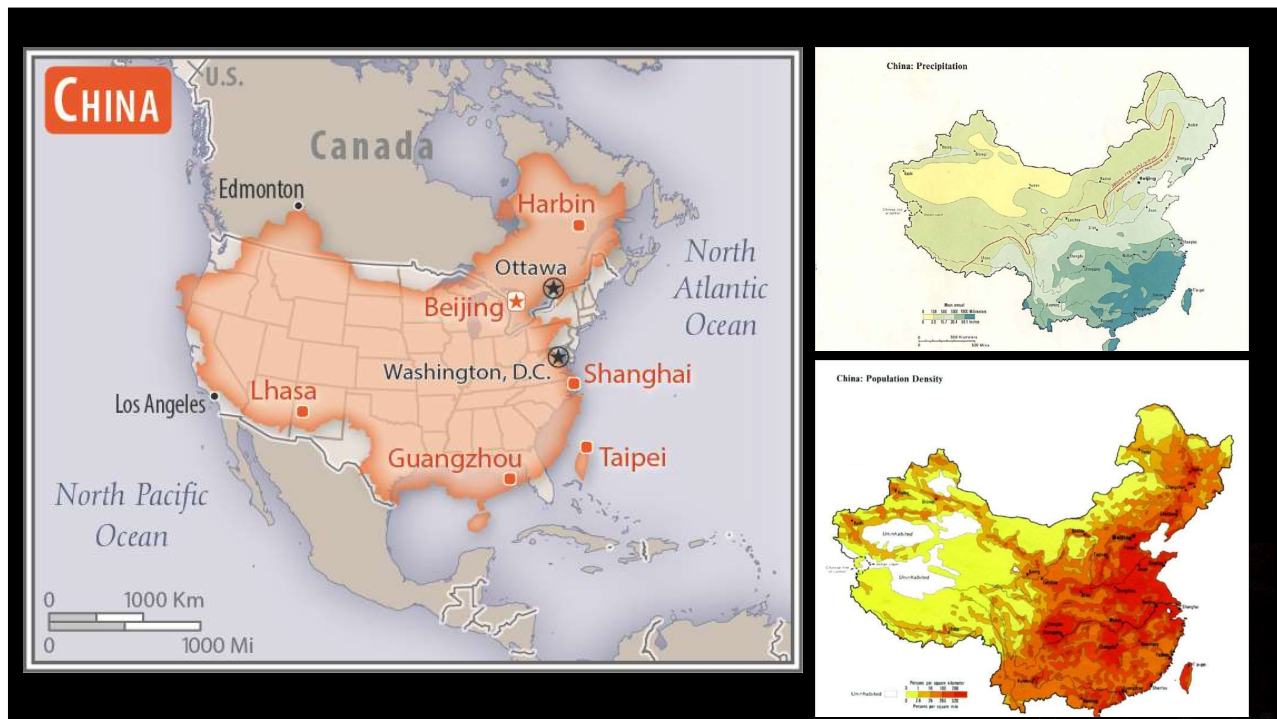
China is an amazing country which has 4000 years of written history and the largest population of any country on Earth. It will play a large part in our lives as it continues to expand it's economy in the coming years.

Our tour will last for 9 days as we fly from Beijing to Xian to Shanghai. It's about the same distance as flying from Minneapolis to Denver to Nashville.



The flight to China takes about 12 hours which seems like a lot but we can watch a couple movies, and sleep a lot.





**China is about the same size as the United States 3.6 and 3.5 million square miles respectively.**

**But The Himalaya Mountains in the western half of the country are so high and dry that it makes that area almost uninhabitable.**

**As you can see on this precipitation map.**

**Most of the population lives in the 2 huge valleys of the Yellow and the Yangtse Rivers that flow east out of the mountains.**

**China's population is with 1.3 billion people or 1/5 of the almost 8 billion people on earth.**

**How many people are in the USA?**

**332 million one fourth of China.**

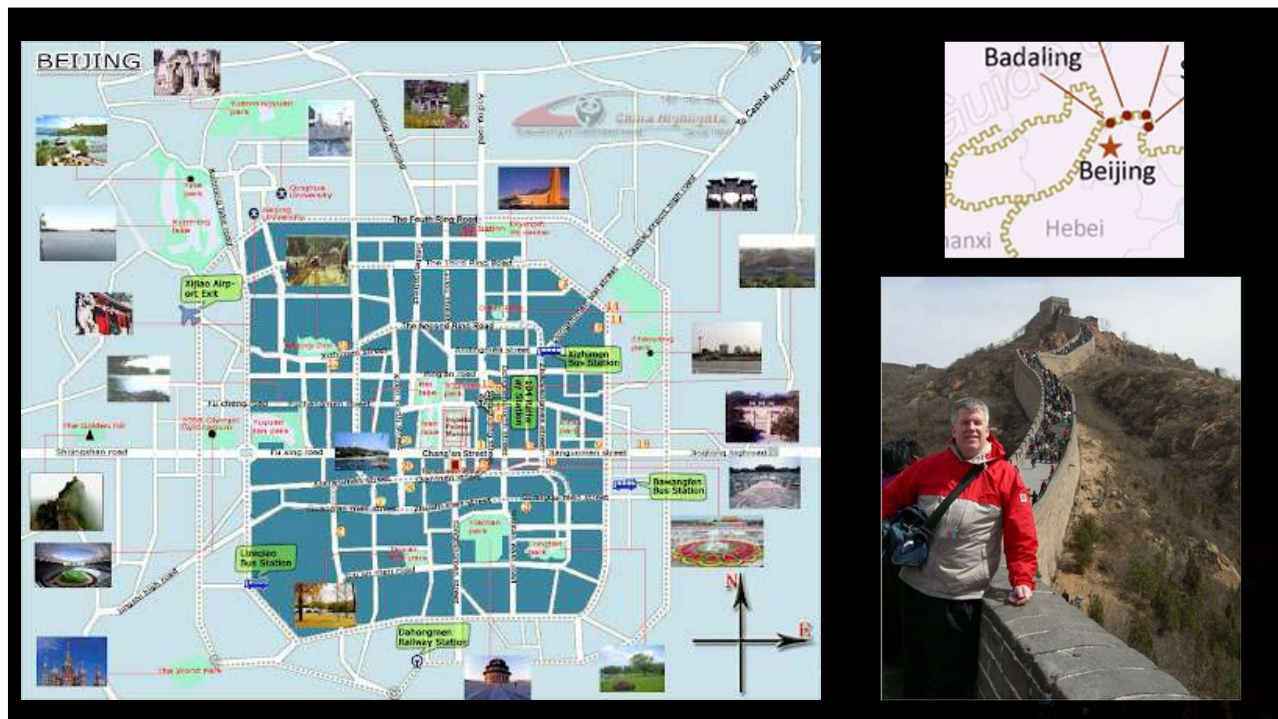
**So imagine four times the population of the US and they all live East of the Mississippi River.**



The first thing you notice after landing is the crowds everywhere.  
But you'll have a bilingual guide to get you through customs and on the bus.

The traffic jams at rush hour slowed us down and we took over an hour to get to the hotel.

Here is the DAFANG hotel where we will be staying for 3 nights in Beijing. Very nice and clean with good service.



Here is a map of the Capitol City of Beijing (In the Colonial past it was called Peking) Beijing now has 21 million people in it, 6 times the twin cities!

Our hotel is in the middle by the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square which we'll visit later.

This morning we will climb the Great Wall! We will take a bus about an hour north to visit the Wall at Badaling.

# The Great Wall



**The Great Wall is almost 4000 miles long. It is a Chinese fortification built from the 220 BC to the 1600s A.D. to protect the Chinese from raiders on horseback with bows and arrows, attacking from the north.**

**It was started by the first emperor Shi Huang Di. who united China and gave it it's name.**

**But much of what we see now was built during the Ming Dynasty in the 1400s to protect against the Mongols.**





**The great wall is the world's largest man-made structure stretching between the foothills of the Himalayas and the East China Sea.**

**It is the same distance roughly as from Kansas to New York which takes 18 hours to drive at 60 miles an hour!**

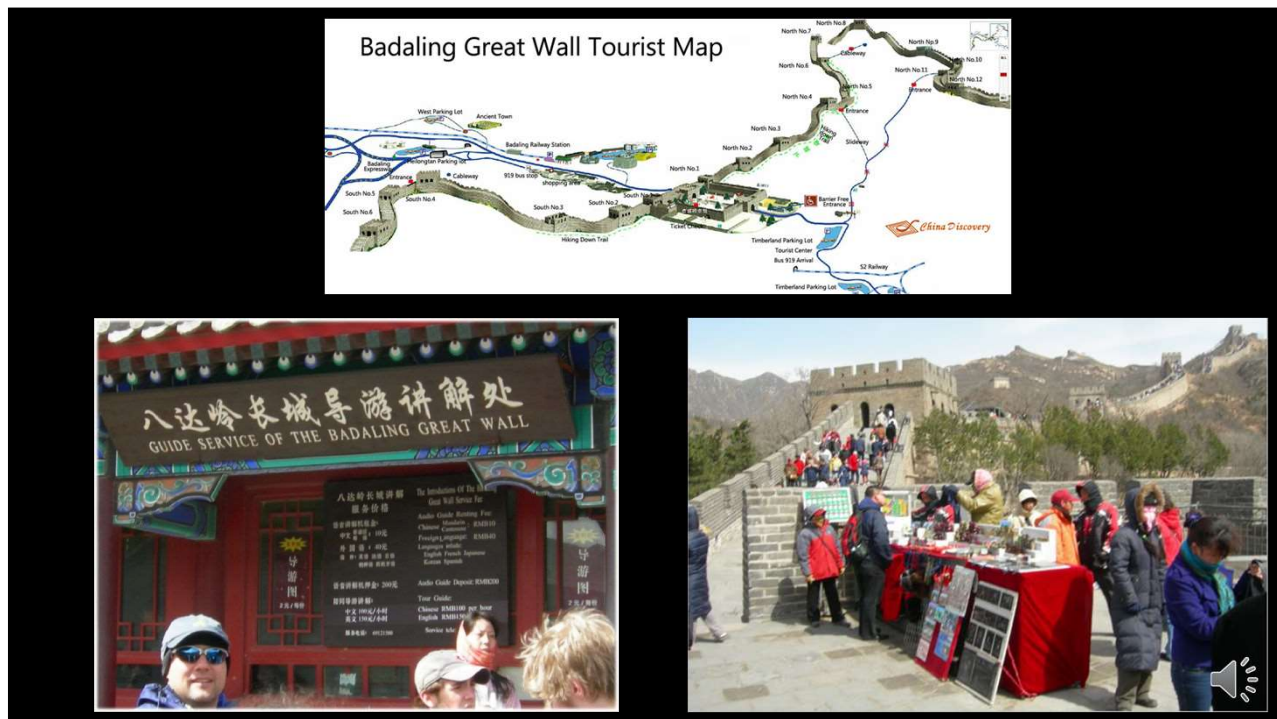
**But it's much longer than that because it's 4,000 miles are not in a straight line. And SF CA to NYC is 3,000 miles**



**Here is our group after we got off the bus at Badaling and saw it for the first time.**

**The Great Wall attracts about 10 million visitors each year.**

**With our Timberwolf puppy for a mascot.**



Here is the ticket office as you can see the tickets cost 40 CNY Chinese Yuan. Which is about \$6.4.

1 Yuan equals .16 cents

10 Yuan equals \$1.60

100 Yuan equals \$16

150 Yuan equals \$24 which you can hire a guide in English for.

On this map you can see we climbed up to the right towards the east.

Here are some souvenir vendors.



**Every 500 yards? Is a guard tower where they would late signal fires to transfer a message from one end of the wall hundreds of miles to the other end.**

**Here we go through the first guard tower and take pictures through the windows.**

**The guards used to live in the towers but they are empty now.**



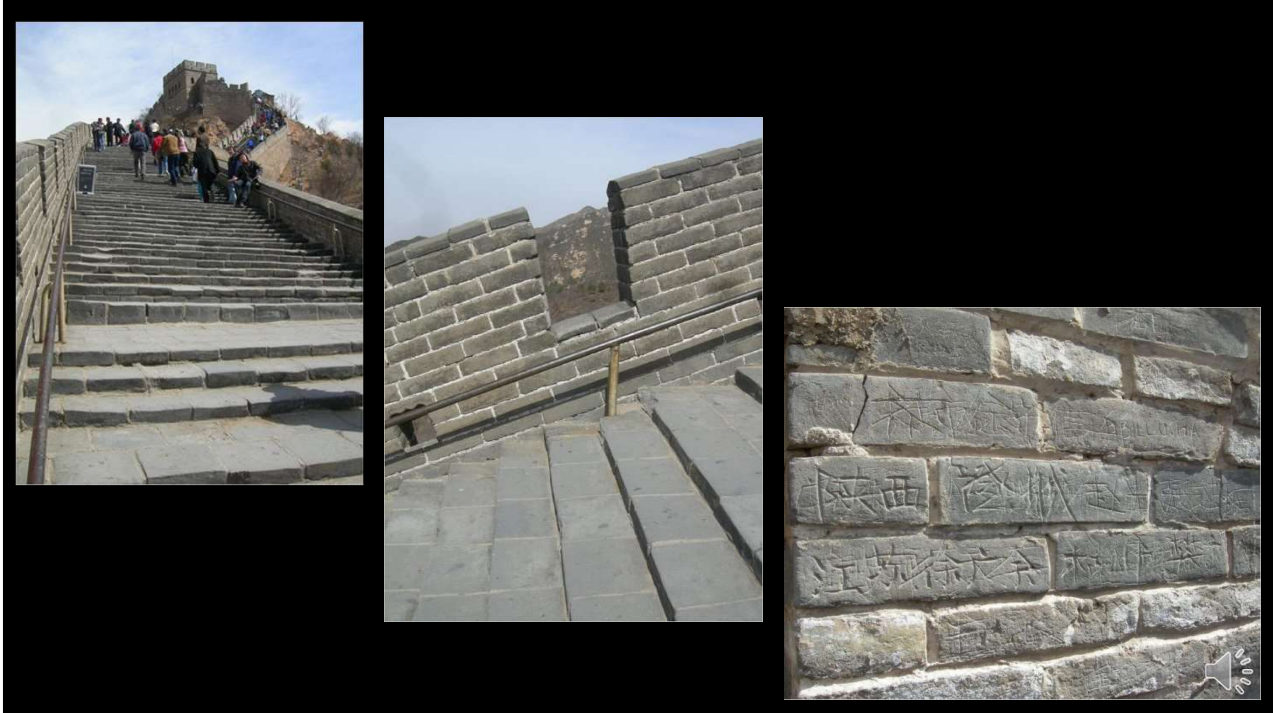


**As we climb a little higher, we look back at this breathtaking view and can see our buses, and the wall continuing along the ridge forever.**

**Notice that it wasn't built along the flat plains, which would have been much easier.**

**The really incredible fact is that it was built along the mountain ridges for thousands of miles, to take advantage of the natural steep slopes to shoot down on their enemies.**

**As we climb the very steep steps you can see gaps in the wall, called crenellations, they are only on one side.**



**Most of it is 50 feet high and 30 feet wide, enough for two horsemen to ride fast along the top of it.**

Which side do you think that is?

The side facing south towards Beijing?

Or the side facing north towards Mongolia? Why? So they can shoot arrows and rocks down on the attackers.

**Here you can see some of the graffiti carved into the bricks which is hundreds of years old**



**This is where many famous people including US presidents from Nixon to Bush to Obama have visited**

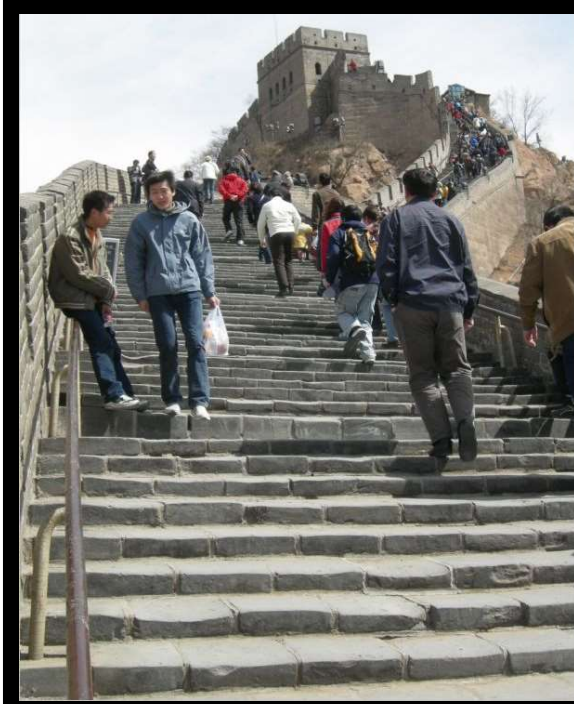
**Here you can see the sign for the upcoming Beijing Olympics which were held in the summer of 2008  
we were there in March 2007.**



There was a famous video at the time with a guy dancing in front of all of the famous sites in the world.

Paul and I and our students had to do that too. **So that we could always say that once, I danced on the Great Wall.**





**You can see here how steep it gets and yours truly was puffing pretty hard after going through two or three towers.**

# Mandarin Chinese language

Basic Chinese Vocabulary Words		
Hello	你好	Nǐ hǎo
Goodbye	再见	Zàijiàn
Yes	是	Shì
No	没有	Méiyǒu
Please	请	Qǐng
Thank You	谢谢您	Xièxiè nín
Welcome	欢迎	Huānyíng
Excuse Me	对不起	Duìbùqǐ
Sorry	遗憾	Yíhàn
Where?	在哪里?	Zài nǎlǐ?
When?	什么时候?	Shénme shíhòu?
How?	怎么样?	Zěnmeyàng?
Who?	是谁?	Shì shuí?
Which?	哪一个?	Nǎ yīgè?



MANDARIN CHINESE		NUMBERS 1-10 IN CHINESE		Woodward
1	一 (yī)	6	六 (liù)	
2	二 (èr)	7	七 (qī)	
3	三 (sān)	8	八 (bā)	
4	四 (sì)	9	九 (jiǔ)	
5	五 (wǔ)	10	十 (shí)	



It's quite the culture shock when you land in China and you first see all the signs in Mandarin Chinese and you hear everyone speaking It.

Chinese has 20,000 characters instead of 26 letters. Each character can represent a word or a phrase and a subtle difference in the sound of each spoken character may have a completely different meaning. So that makes it difficult to learn.

**My 25-year-old nephew speaks it fluently because he started in kindergarten. But at our age it's difficult. But we did our best to learn the basics.**

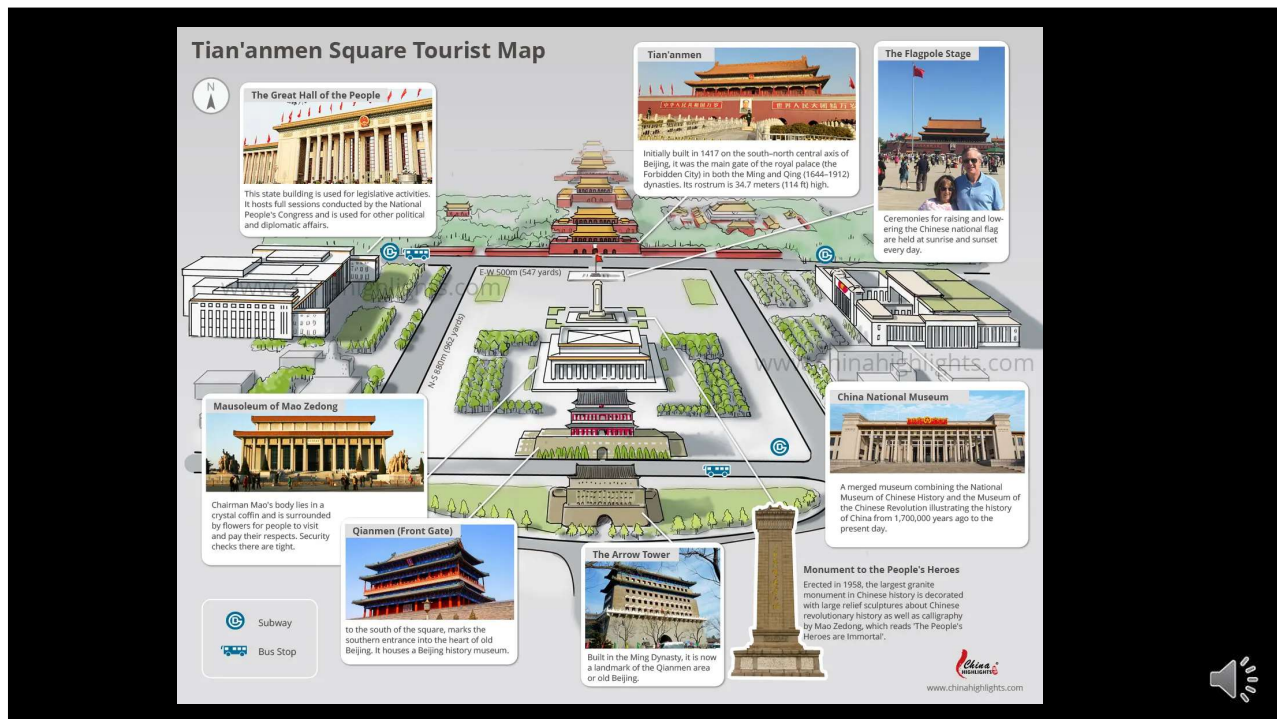
**Like please and thank you which are. Qing and Xie Xie (shing and shay shay nee) And the numbers.**



**The next day we took a bus not far from our hotel in Beijing to Tiananmen Square, the largest public square on earth at 109 acres.**

**This is the Qianmin or Front Gate.**

**Notice the Chinese Guard watching us.**



**It is surrounded by all the political buildings of modern China**

**The Congress building or Great Hall of the People which is the communist party headquarters.**

**The Mauseleum of Mao Tse Tung**

**And the Chinese National Museum**





Outside are statues commemorating the Peoples Communist Revolution of the 1950s and 60s.

**The Great Hall of the People** is the site of the China National People's Congress

The Monument to the People's Heroes which Mao Tse Tung had built in the 1950s

With another soldier standing guard.



**Here is where we took our group photo, you can see the photographer here and all the thousands of people walking around.**

# The Forbidden City



**The Forbidden City, also known as the Palace Museum**

**It was once the Chinese imperial palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368 - 1911).**

**It's the largest, best-preserved ancient timber-built palace complex in the world. Surrounded by a moat.**



**As we enter the tunnel gate to the Forbidden City we see the awesome portrait of Mao Tse Tung above us.**

**Mao Tse Tung was Premier (Emperor) of China from 1949 to 1974 when he died**  
**Mao is still revered today for bringing China together as a Communist Nation.**  
Even though he made huge mistakes along the way such as the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and the Great Leap Forward in the 1950s.

After Mao, Deng Xiaoping took over and modernized China economically until he died in 1997.

**Today Xi Jinping is the Communist Party's General Secretary**  
**Xi has often been described as an authoritarian leader** citing an increase of **ensorship** and mass **surveillance**, a **deterioration in human rights** and the removal of **term limits** for his leadership.



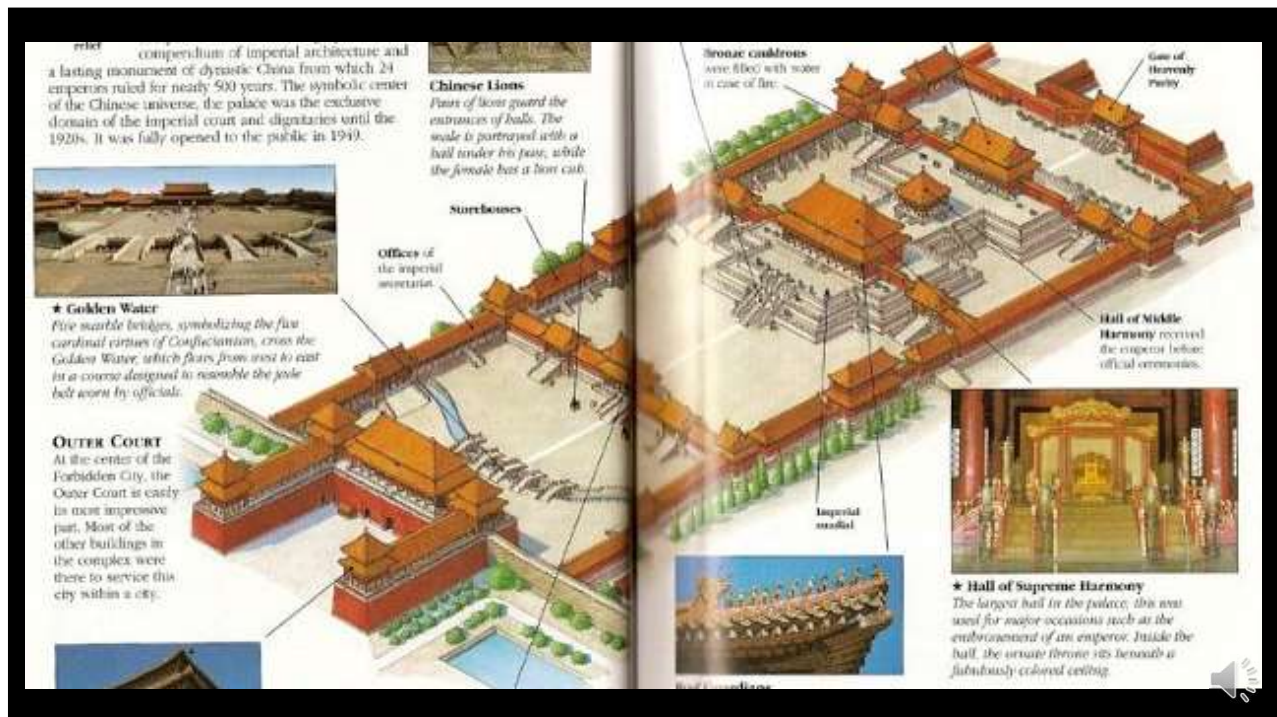


**As we went enter the gate we see on the balcony in the distance, a woman who dresses up daily as a Ming Dynasty Empress.**



**After the Last Emperor of China left the palace in 1911, it later became a museum open to the public in 1925.**

**Since then, the Forbidden City is no longer 'forbidden', and now ordinary people are able to take a virtual trip in time to see the secrets and luxury of imperial life.**



Here is an illustration of the Forbidden City showing where we walked through the gate to the Emperors Throne in the Hall of Supreme Harmony

Constructed by 1420 it was home to 24 emperors and their families and acted as the center of ancient Chinese government for 500 years



**Here we continue on through the Gate of Supreme Harmony**





Here is the throne of the last emperor of China in the Hall of Supreme Harmony.

And a poster for the academy award winning movie Last Emperor filmed here about his life becoming Emperor at 3 years old.

This is a scene from the movie which shows what it looked like with the Emperor speaking to his subjects.

It won nine Oscars in 1987 (including the Best Picture Oscar).



**These golden lions symbolize good luck and strength.**

**One is on the left, the male; yang and holds a ball.**

**The other is on the right, the female: yin who plays with a baby lion.**



**As we were walking around I noticed a smiling Chinese man looking at me as he drew something on a porcelain plate.**

**My students were laughing as they watched him too. When he was done he showed me his portrait of me and asked my name and he wrote it in Chinese.**

**He asked for \$4 in CNY and I gave him \$8 for the souvenir plate.**



**Chinese currency the Yuan or CNY**

**1 Yuan = 16 cents**

**6.4 Yuan per dollar x 4 = 25 yuan for the plate, I gave him 50 yuan.**

**Conversion rates US Dollar /**

**Chinese Yuan10    USD64.39350**

**CNY20    USD 128.78700**

**CNY50    USD 321.96750**

**CNY100    USD 643.93500**

Renminbi: An Overview. Chinese money, however, comes by two names: the Yuan (CNY) and the people's renminbi (RMB). ... The distinction is subtle: while renminbi is the official currency of China where it acts as a medium of exchange, the yuan is the unit of account of the country's economic and financial system





# The Summer Palace



Next we'll enter the Summer Palace, the stunning meditation park for the Emperors,

and walk along the shores of Kumming Lake to the Buddhist Temple on top of Longevity Hill.

As seen here in the distance on our misty day, with 3 of my students.

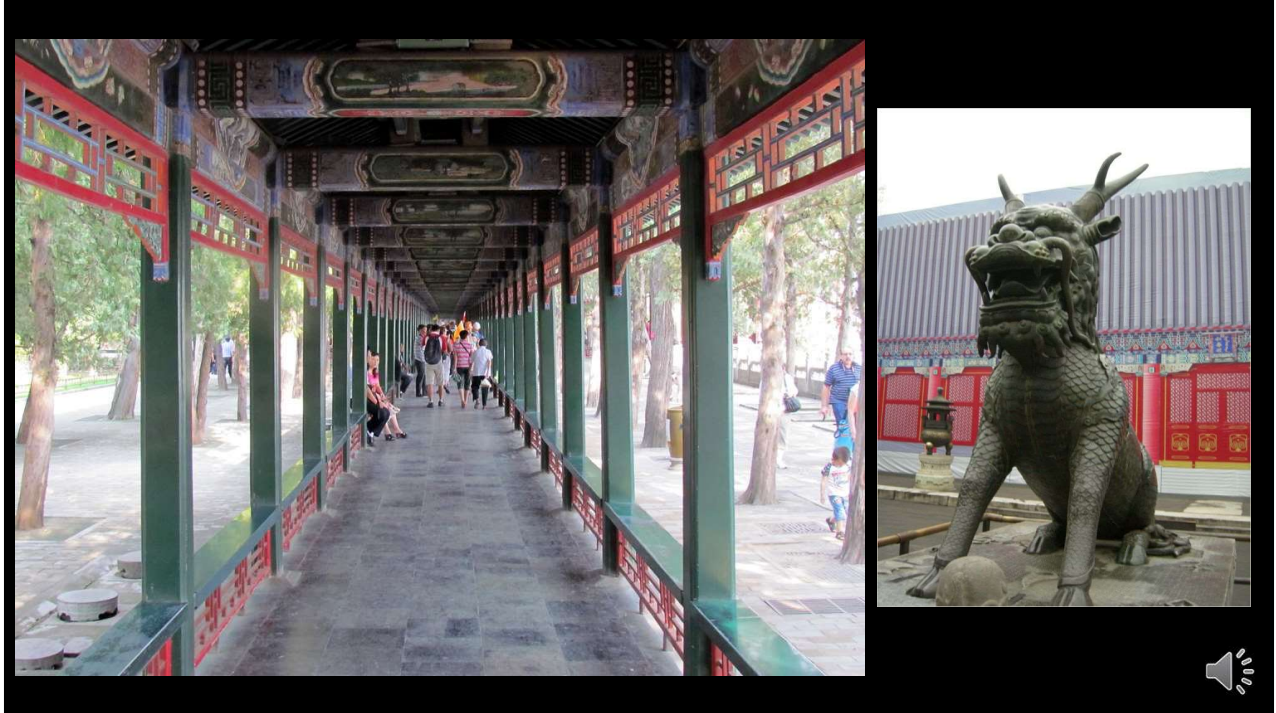


It is a very peaceful place, especially this day with a light rain and fog. Here is a idyllic pavilion on and island with willow trees.

Here is my Taoist photo of the bridge in the mist.

Here is the beautiful 17 arch bridge spanning across the lake, made of stone which with it's Taoist design in harmony with nature. **It was built in the 1700s**

If we had more time we could take the paddle boats around the Lake



**Along the shore we walked forever down this long corridor with thousands of colorful paintings along the ceiling and rafters.**

**A ferocious dragon sculpture in bronze**

Bill Jepson and Paul Bennett – Summer Palace Marble Boat, Beijing



**At the end of the corridor is the Marble Boat that was rebuilt in 1893 on order of Empress Dowager Cixi, mother Pu Yi the last Emperor.**

**It is really made out of wood but was painted to imitate marble. Pretend paddlewheels on each side of the boat make it look like a western paddle steamer**



## 2008 Summer Olympics preparations



Since the Beijing Summer Olympics were coming up in the next year 2008, there were promotional signs everywhere, including the Great Wall

And we drove by the spectacular Birds Nest, the main National ceremonial stadium which was under construction downtown.

The stadium sat as many as 91,000 spectators during the Olympics.

It is located right next to the Beijing National Aquatics Center. Which is called the water cube.



Summer Olympics in China 2008



Winter Olympics in China 2022



## Riding Rickshas thru the Hutangs



**The Hutong tour will provide you with a chance to mingle with the local residents.**

**We each choose a partner to ride in a Rickshaw, a 3 wheeled bicycle driven by one man.**





Each driver pumps hard on the wheels to get some momentum and takes us thru the narrow old streets in single file

In Beijing, hutongs are alleys formed by walls of traditional courtyard residences

In the Ming Dynasty (early 15th century), the center was the [Forbidden City](#), surrounded in concentric.

Citizens of higher social status were permitted to live closer to the center of the circles



Here is our Beijing guide as we had a lot of fun riding around the busy area, with different kinds of music playing in clubs and shops. Some of it western, but most of it was eastern Chinese.



**At this corner we stopped for awhile to watch the hubub. There were very few western tourists around so it was a very wonderful and surreal experience for us that we will never forget.**



**We made our way to the home of a Chinese couple who cook authentic Chinese meals for tourists.**

**We were able to experience their cozy living quarters which they've lived for many years.**

**It consisted of only 3 rooms: the kitchen/dining/living room, bedroom, and bathroom.**

**They were very friendly and the food was delicious.**





Here are some scenes of bicyclists everywhere, because it is still expensive to afford a car and gas for it.  
30 years ago there were 100 million less cars so the pollution has gotten very bad since then.



**While stopped in a traffic I took pictures of this ice cream vendor dressed up in a strange clown costume with his electric moped with a freezer on back.**



Everywhere we saw these covered motorized tricycles, driving around with beautiful metallic decorations and lights on them. Some were taxis for two tourists in the back I think.

## Temple of Heaven Park



**The Temple of Heaven is a complex of Taoist buildings situated in southeastern Beijing.**

**The Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties visited the complex annually when they prayed to Heaven for good harvests.**

**It is regarded as a Taoist temple with it's design following the rhythms of nature.**

**The temple complex was constructed in the 1400s during the Ming Dynasty.**





**It is a World Heritage Site and was described as "a masterpiece of architecture and landscape design.  
Here is the beautifully decorated interior.**

**The Imperial Vault of Heaven is a single-gabled circular building  
It is surrounded by a smooth circular wall, the Echo Wall, that can  
transmit sounds over large distances.**



**Here are some of the manual laborers that were working around the area.**

**A street sweeper with a straw broom.**

**And an inspector writing down the flaws in the stone-masons work.**

### A Tai Chi Exercise Lesson



**Taiji demonstration video**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBvF6r6DOvc&t=7s>**

**A favorite activity was the Tai Chi exercise lesson from the grand master in Temple of Heaven park. We had a little trouble mimicking his movements at first but once he turned around and faced the same way as us, it was easier to follow him in unison.**

**He only spoke Chinese, so our guide tried to translate his instructions. We had Chinese music to go along with it, so it was a very immersive cultural experience.**



The Tai Chi Master shows us his moves





**It seemed like all of the older Chinese people were enjoying the Sunday morning in the Temple of Heaven Park.**

**There were paddle ball players and joggers.**

**And this musician playing a gourd pipe.**



**And lots of dancers. Some were taking western rock n roll classes with an Elvis Presley record.**

**The teacher was very serious as he told his 20 female students exactly how to properly dance American rock and roll style.**

**So he was not too pleased when his class was distracted by my students who of course started dancing to the Elvis record.  
in authentic R and R style.**

**These are women exercising by making patterns in the air with colorful ribbons**

## Shops – Jade and Pearls



Part of the program is always to have an educational shopping stop at local artisans' stores.

Today we will visit a Jade carving shop.

Here is an artisan carving a jade ball within a ball, within a ball. Incredibly difficult to carve them through the holes so that the 3 balls inside are detached.





**We'll also visit a pearl factory where we'll see a demonstration of how they harvest a dozen pearls from each oyster and then create beautiful pearl necklaces out of them. Here is my partner buying one for his wife, for a very reasonable price.**





**We are now ready to explore Xian after a 2.5 hour flight from Beijing (like a flight to Denver)**

**First we will climb up the Wild Goose Pagoda built in the 600s AD, it was for many centuries, the tallest building in the world.**

## The Wild Goose Pagoda



### The Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Originally built in 652AD in the Tang Dynasty, it functioned to collect Buddhist relics and statues that were taken from India **along the Silk Road to Xian.**

A masterpiece of Buddhist construction. Built of brick, its structure is very sturdy to last 14 centuries.



**Here is a Buddhist Monk and a woman praying at the alter of Buddha with lit incense.**

**Here is a Buddhist carved ivory statue**

**All the monks were startled and believed that Bodhisattva showed his spirit to order them to be more pious. They established a pagoda where a wild goose fell out of the sky and stopped eating meat. Hence it got the name 'Big Wild Goose Pagoda'**




**There are many priceless buddhist relics brought from India inside.**





**The view from the very top of the Wild Goose Pagoda.  
Here is Xian the Ancient Capitol of China with 7million people.**

**And the Pagoda lit up every night.**

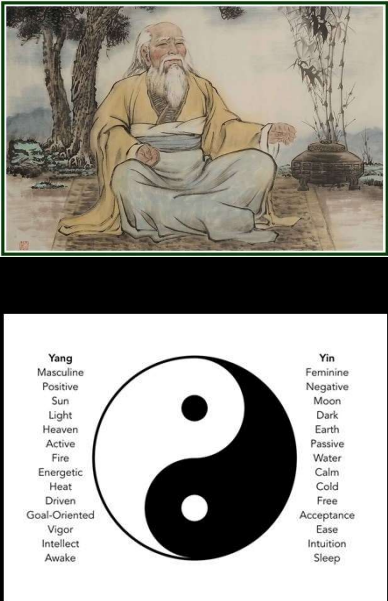


Confucius was a philosopher whose pithy epigrams became China's handbook on government and its code of personal morality.

**He who live in glass house,  
should not throw stones**

**Journey of thousand miles,  
begins with one step**


Confucius



Yang  
Masculine  
Positive  
Sun  
Light  
Heaven  
Active  
Fire  
Energetic  
Heat  
Driven  
Goal-Oriented  
Vigor  
Intellect  
Awake

Yin  
Feminine  
Negative  
Moon  
Dark  
Earth  
Passive  
Water  
Calm  
Cold  
Free  
Acceptance  
Ease  
Intuition  
Sleep

Laozi



Buddha

**There were 3 great philosophers who still play an important role in Chinese culture and who had world-wide influence. :**

**Confucius, Laozi, and Buddha All 3 lived around 500BC**

**Confucius – Respect elders, ancestors, order in society**

**He who live in glass house, should not throw stones**

**Journey of thousand miles, begins with one step**

**Laozi – become one with the rhythms of nature, Yin Yang, paradox opposites flowing back and forth. Follow intuition.**

**Night and day, winter-summer, man – woman, fire - water**

**Most Chinese today are Buddhists which they adopted from India on silk road, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> century AD**

**Follow Boddhisavtas to Nirvana. Vegetarian (Leshan Buddha Statue carved out of a mountain)**

Laozi is traditionally regarded as the author of the [\*Tao Te Ching\*](#) (*Daodejing*), though the identity of its author(s) or compiler(s) has been debated throughout

history.<sup>[44][45]</sup> It is one of the most significant treatises in Chinese [cosmogony](#). As with most other ancient [Chinese philosophers](#), Laozi often explains his ideas by way of paradox, analogy, appropriation of ancient sayings, repetition, symmetry, rhyme, and rhythm. In fact, the whole book can be read as an analogy – the ruler is the awareness, or self, in meditation and the myriad creatures or empire is the experience of the body, senses and desires.

# The Terracotta Soldiers



**Terracotta Warriors, made of fired clay, each one unique, buried for the Emperors afterlife over 2000 years ago.**

**3,000 soldiers have been reconstructed so far out of an estimated 8,000 more yet to be recovered.**





**This is the biggest Pit , No. 1, in the Terracotta Museum and the main force of the whole army. which has 36 columns warriors with (584 ft) long. 50 battle chariots and 4000 infantrymen, stand in a good order**

**The army is a masterpieces of realism and comprised of different branches of the armed force, chariots, horses as well as their weapons**



**There are four pits dug with an estimated 130 chariots, 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses but most of them are still buried in the pits when the roofs caved in over the centuries.**

**Here you can see a charioteer with his 4 horses leading the troops in the afterlife.**



**The biggest Pit, #1 is housed in a huge hippodrome since the 1980s.**

**Here are some of the reconstructed horses that were pulling a wooden chariot which has long since disintegrated over the centuries.**

**And you can see one soldier they're still working on lying on the floor, or else he just died.**



## Who found the Terracotta Warriors?

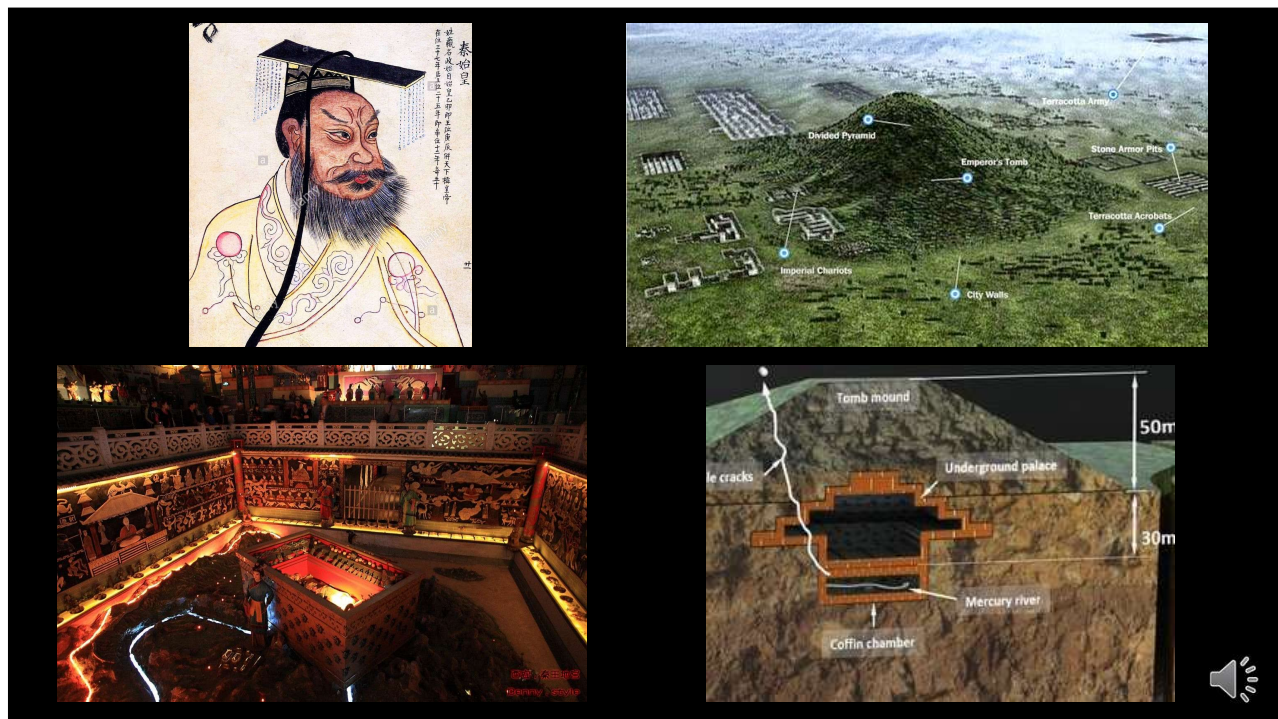
**In March of 1974, a team made up of 9 local peasants began to drill a well (25 mi) east of Xi'an,**

**A few days later, when the farmer Yang Zhifa was working in the well, his hoe stuck something hard.**

**Digging a little deeper, he found a pottery god figurine.**



**Here he is hiding with his fan because he thought I might flash him with my camera, He's going blind from flashes all day I was told. is best-known because he was interviewed by Bill Clinton in 1998 during Bill's visit to the Terracotta Army.**



The Terracotta warriors surround the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, who died in 210 BCE, after conquering six warring states to create the first unified nation of China, later China was named after him.

The emperor's mausoleum has not been opened due to preservation concerns and the possibility of booby traps, but ancient writings indicate it was "filled with models of palaces, pavilions and offices."

When he died, Qin Shi Huang was buried in the most opulent tomb complex ever constructed in China

His tomb is also thought to be encircled with rivers of liquid mercury, which the ancient Chinese believed could bestow immortality.

This is probably how he died, by ingesting mercury because he wanted to live forever and it killed him by the age of 39.



**As you walk around the pit you get a closer look at the different clothes and faces and hairstyles for each soldier you see how unique and detailed they each are.**

**These masterpieces on the right are each unique with slightly different clothes, hair, and faces.**

**And you can see the pieces that had to be glued together to reconstruct this horse.**



**Of the 8000 soldiers they haven't been able to find identical twin copies yet. Every face and body is different**

**Here are the preservation teams working on the soldiers as they are excavated from the site.**

**Since 2009, more terracotta warriors with colorful embellishments have been discovered**





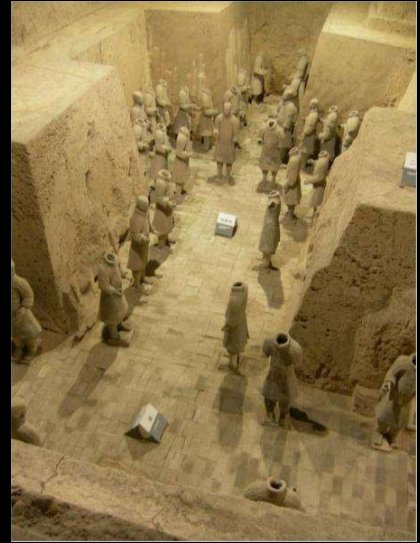
In the museum are the bronze armaments that were dug up, including arrows, crossbows, swords, axes etc. Most of the wood of bows and arrows were decomposed as with this famous archer.

### **Kneeling Archer**

It is one kind of armored infantryman. The pose of both hands evidences that he held one crossbow originally.

Altogether 160 kneeling archers were found in Pit2.

Pit 2, consists of various types of troops, including cavalryman, archer, chariots and infantry



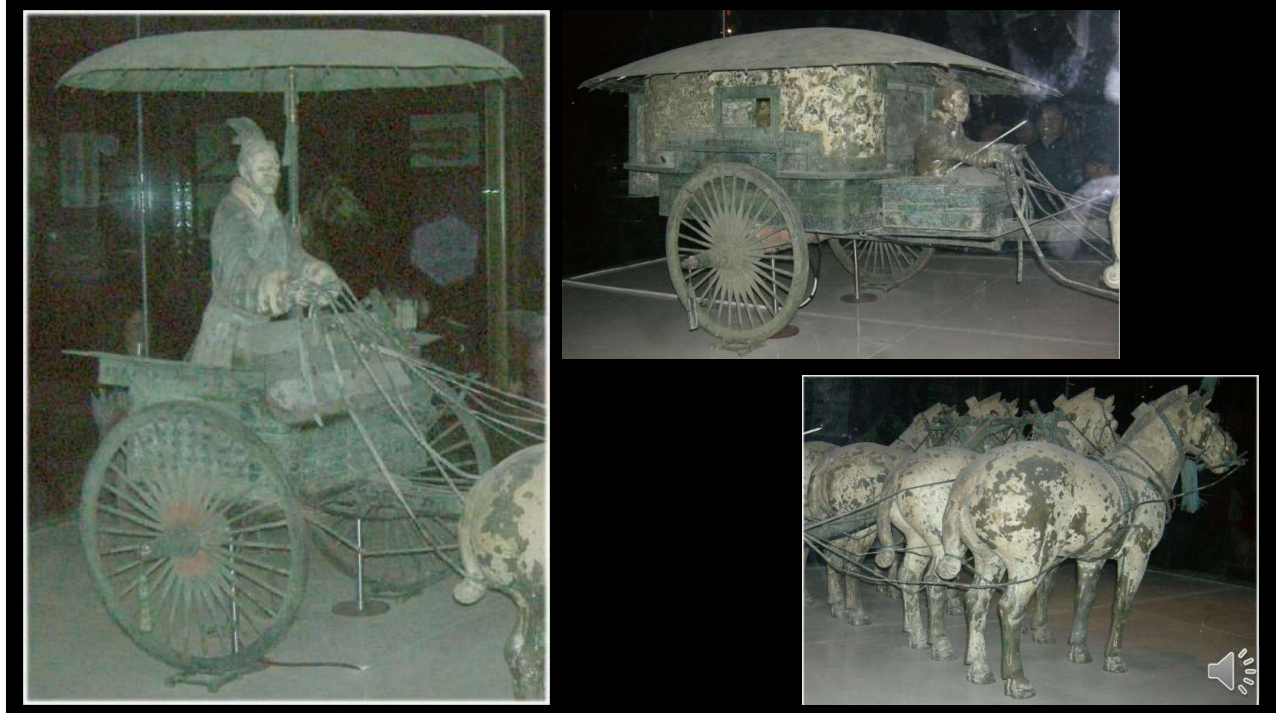
**Pit No.3: is the smallest pit, Pit 3, with high-ranking officers and a war chariot. It is the command post of the army.**

**Figurines in Pit 3 are standing face to face with a passageway between them. They are the guards of the command post. These strong guards all wear heavy armors with vivid facial expressions.**



**Bronze Chariots and Horses :** These two bronze chariots and horse is the masterpiece of bronze ware, represented high bronze-casting, mechanic and joining technology during the Qin Dynasty.

The main attraction in the museum are the two bronze chariots and horses. They are a masterpiece of bronze ware, biggest in the world though they are half scale replicas.



**One of the two has a charioteer under an umbrella. The other has a carriage compartment for the royal passenger.**

**Unearthed in December 1980 near the Emperor Qin Shihuang's mausoleum. they were in many broken pieces, and it took five years to restore them both.**

**These were encased in the large wooden coffins for over two thousand years without any corrosion**

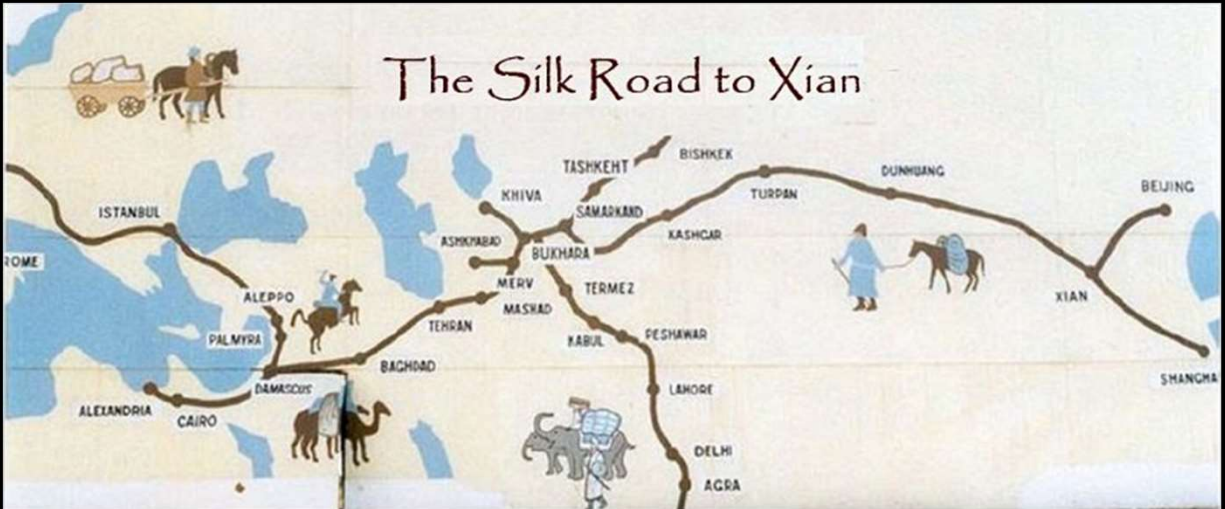




Take a look at these things

What is common about them all?

They are all Chinese Inventions:  
 Paper, Printing with movable type, Porcelain  
 Silk, Tea, Compass, and Gunpowder.



Xian was once the ancient capitol of China at the end of the Silk Road: the trade route thousands of miles all the way from Europe.  
and in the center of the city is the ancient rectangular city wall dating to the Ming Dynasty in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

It brought gunpowder, silk and porcelain to Europe. And it brought Buddhism and later Marco Polo to China among many other things.



**Xi'an City Wall, also known as the Fortifications of Xi'an, is the most complete city wall that has survived in China, as well as being one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world.**

**The wall is 60 feet thick and 40 feet high with many buildings of traditional Chinese architecture upon it.**

**It is very well preserved and here it has modern traffic vehicles rushing through the tunnels and bridges in it.**



**It actually goes for 8 miles in a big rectangular circle. Which took a small group of us over an hour to go completely around.**





**The fun thing to do is to ride bikes along the top of the wall.**

**In 2007 our bikes were pretty rickety on the worn stone blocks of the roadway on top.**

**But I see now they rent nice fat tire trek bikes.**

## Xian street scenes



Let's look at some street scenes in Xian. Crazy traffic everywhere.

Here is my favorite, a red 3 wheeled open taxi with a mom and her son and her boxes being delivered somewhere.



**Here are some mattresses being delivered by a 3 wheeled bicycle.**



**Many of them were home-made 3-wheel bicycles with little skinny tires piled ridiculously high with floor tiling maybe?**





**This guy carrying vegetables on his bike is escaping the police... Just kidding.**

**Here are some Chinese traffic cops who ride around in these open golf carts everywhere.**



**An old school 2 wheeled hand cart and a bicycle bamboo delivery**

**Chinese buses are really strange with their rear view mirrors looking like antennae on a giant yellow insect. Painted bright yellow or pink with Mandarin characters all over them.**



Often we would see crowds of men playing some gambling game of cards or Go perhaps.

One guy looked up as this woman walked by on her Iphone.

And this line of manual laborers, resting with their sledgehammers after a long days work, waiting for the bus home.

And I'm not sure what these people are looking at under the bridge.



**The people in Xian seemed really cheerful on a spring day as they waved to the Americans on the bus.**





Here is how we ate meals in China, always served on a Lazy Susan with many delicious dishes to enjoy, such as Mock duck, Sweet and Sour Chicken, Mandarin fish, meatballs and noodles, boiled vegetables always with rice.

I always encouraged the students to practice eating with Chinese chopsticks.



Here are some examples of Beijing and Shanghai (Jiangsu) cuisine



Of course after a week of nonstop Chinese food the teenagers went nuts in Shanghai when we went to Nanjing Road where all the US fast food franchises are

they could get a chicken meal or big Mac for about 20 CNY Yuan which is about \$3.50

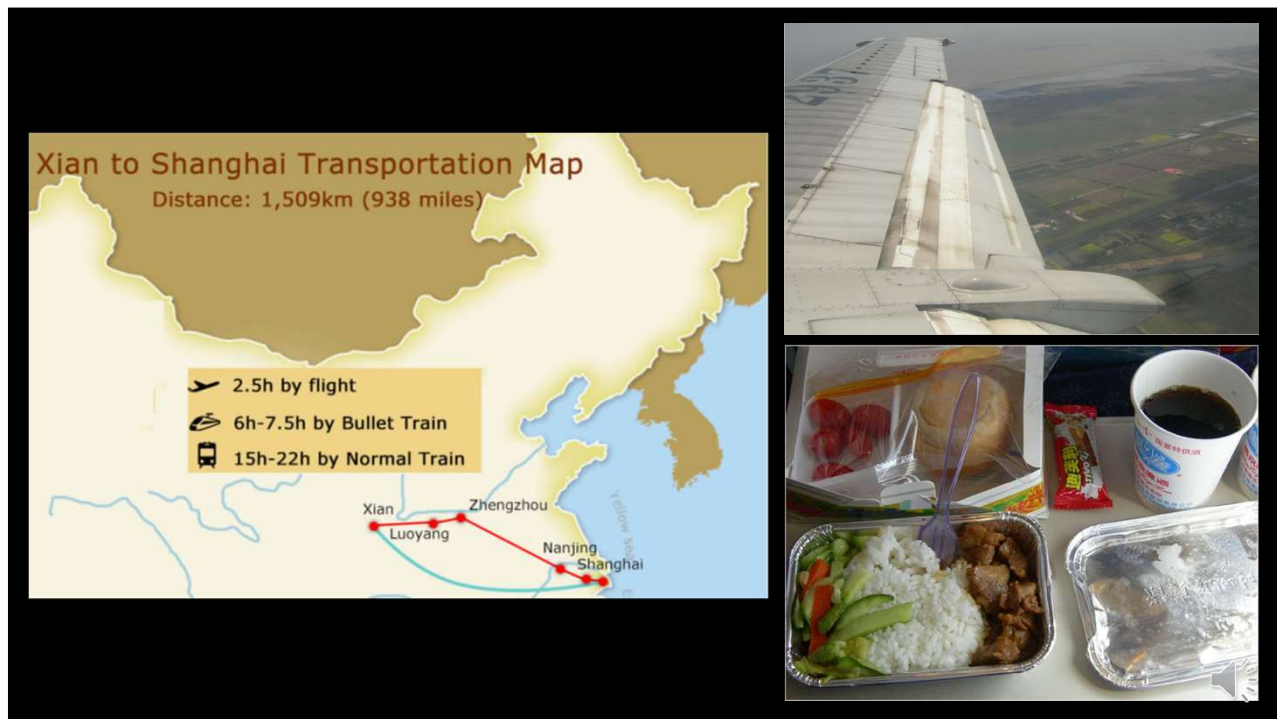


And KFC Kentucky Fried Chickens were all over where we drove.

They were really excited to get a Dairy Queen flurry for dessert.

This cute little boy loved Ronald MacDonald too.





On the 7<sup>th</sup> morning we fly to Shanghai for 2.5 hours. Here is our lunch



We are now in China's largest city with 24 million people. 4 million more than New York City.

The difference being the population of Minnesota.

Located in the central portion of the Chinese coast, Shanghai sits along the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of the mighty Yangtze River

# Shanghai

## Financial Center of China



**Shanghai, is the country's biggest city and a global financial hub.**

**On the Huangpu River which flows into the Yangtse, rises the Pudong district's futuristic skyline, including Shanghai Tower and the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, with distinctive pink spheres.**

**All of these were built since the 1980s.**

**Here is my photo in 2007 with only Jin Mao Tower. And to show you how fast Shanghai is growing:**



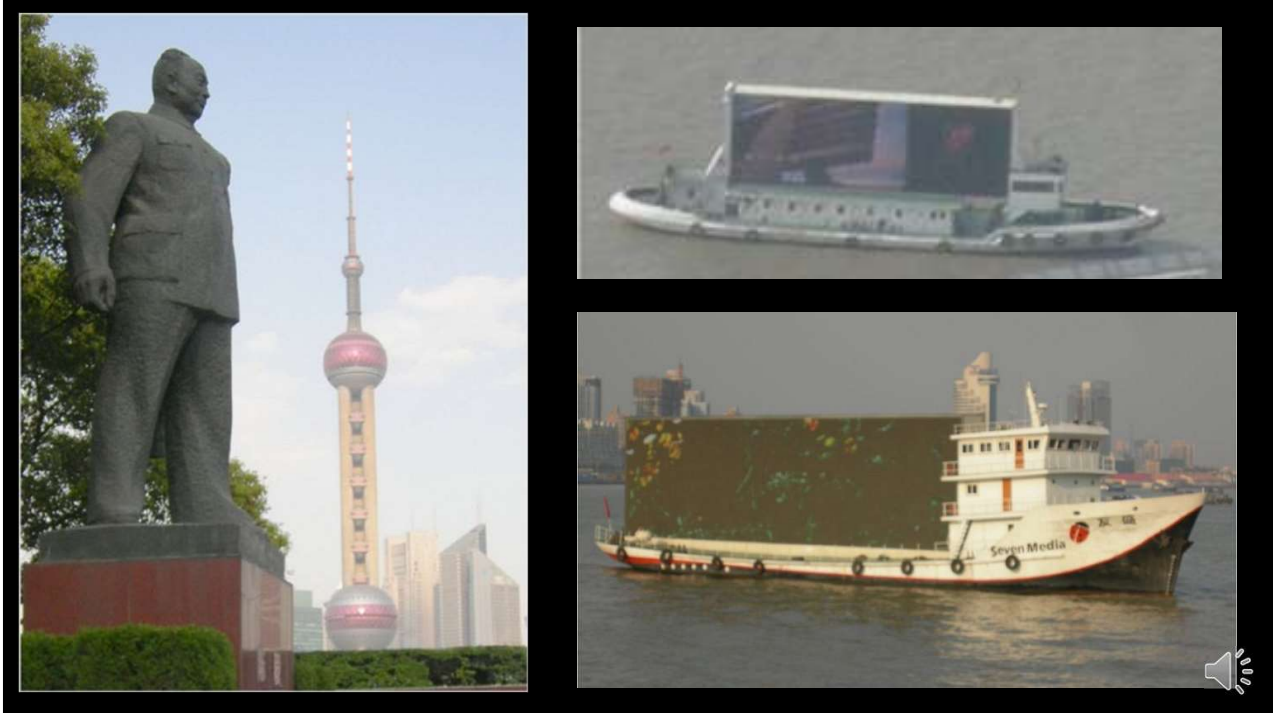
The Bund is the waterfront area and a protected historical district with **grand old buildings built in the European architectural styles**

Today it is teeming with tens of thousands of Chinese and foreign tourists

From the 1860s to the 1930s, it was the rich and powerful center of the foreign colonizers, France and England,

Shanghai, operated as a legally protected treaty port due to the British navy ships and cannons utilizing gunpowder that ironically the Chinese invented.





**Here is a statue to Mao Tse Tung on the waterfront of the Bund. One wonders what he would think has happened to the Communist Ideal that he demanded of China; to shun education and wealth and to work in the farms and factories as a peasant,**

**He looks now across the Huangpu River at the worlds largest Capitalistic Financial Center in Chinas largest city.**

**One of the most unique things we saw was the Video Advertisement boats that kept passing back and forth with video ads playing constantly.**



**Here are some of the amazing different skyscrapers with very unique architectural styles, all competing for attention it seems.**

**Radisson Hotel – 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left**

**Jin Mao Tower**



**Huangpu River is not only the mother river of Shanghai and is full of boats delivering goods from overseas.**

**Today we will go up to the top of the Jin Mao Tower built in 1994. At 88 stories it was the tallest in China in 2007 but was quickly being overtaken by the Shanghai Financial Center Tower next door which reached 101 stories in 2009 as you see here.**

**It takes only 45 seconds to reach the top where we'll look down on this view of the River traffic**

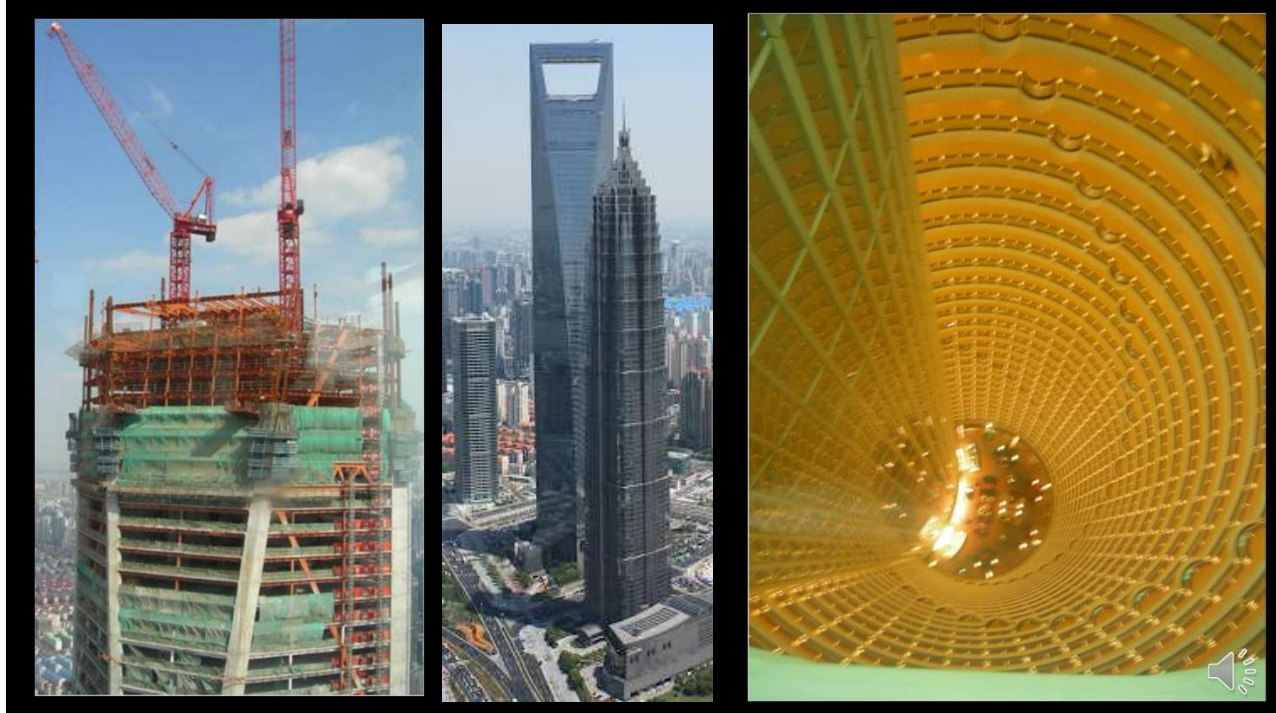


**The view from the top of the Jin Mao Tower, and,  
The view of Jin Mao from across the river.**

**See the video advertising boat here again?**

**Do these building look slightly familiar? Tom Cruise fans?**





**Shanghai World Financial Center Completed in 2008 was under construction in my shot from the top of Jin Mao. It has 101 stories. Empire State Building has 102**

**And here is the view from the top down the Hyatt Regency atrium that runs down the center of Jin Mao.**



Jin Mao Tower now is shadowed by the [Shanghai World Financial Center](#) with 101 stories which is the tallest in China.

**And also the Shanghai Tower with 128 stories.**

**Now they have a Skywalk where you are safely strapped up before you daringly hang over the end for pictures.  
Skywalk Ticket Price CNY 388 or 62 dollars**

## Shanghai Street scenes



Here are some more interesting street scenes of the average Chinese people going about their days in the busiest and most densely populated city in China.

You can see the female traffic cop in green.





**And a woman cutting onions on the street with a huge cleaver.**





**Delivering a whole lot of Styrofoam on a 3 wheel bike? It's probably pretty light.**



Yep, we were staring at these two also



**Delivering 16 foot bamboo on a bicycle?**



**Delivering cardboard and**

**Selling pineapples**





**Eggplants or Rutabagas, maybe?**

**two proud store owners with a foreign athlete helping them sell ice cream maybe in this ad?**



**This smiling little old lady was selling counterfeit Rolex watches. Despite my warning my student bought one for \$5. It broke the next day. But she was so cute.**



**Here we are not being able to resist buying bootleg DVDs of American movies for \$1 each.**

**Like The Departed, 3 months before it's release in the USA. I bought 10 movies.**

**They worked but often had the audience laughing in Chinese, or someone walking in front of the cameraman.**

Neighborhood Market –  
with live eels!



**LIVE EELS!**





The crabs and shrimp were alive too, to prove how fresh they were.

And some chopped carp



## Acupuncture Clinic



In Shanghai we went to one of the tens of thousands of Acupuncture clinics with it's official signs on the entrance wall.



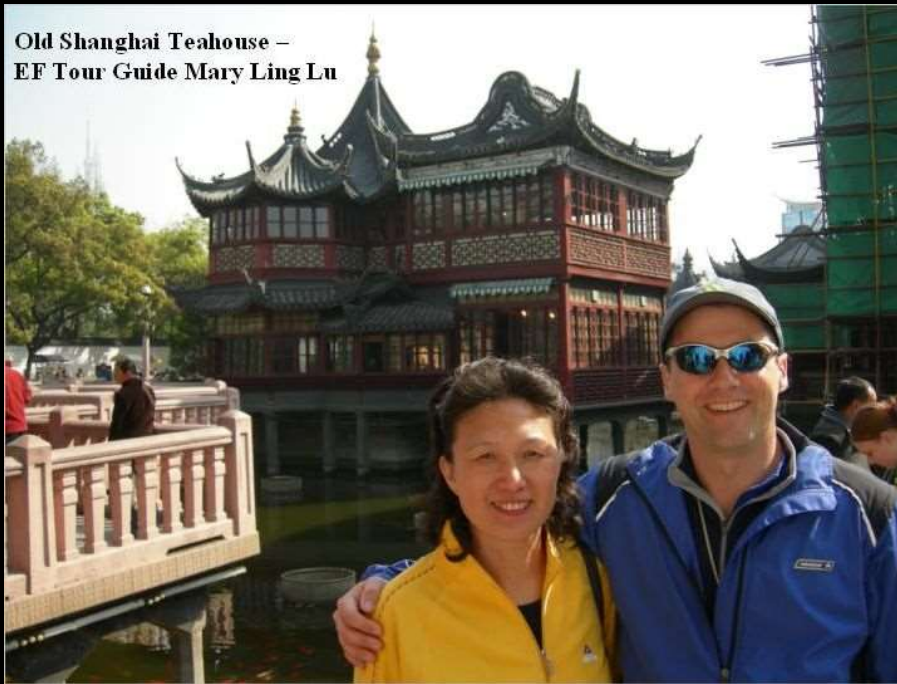
**This man is being treated for a mild stroke and a leg ailment with needles in his knees,  
That are connected to wires so that they can add extra stimulation with an electrical current thru the needles.**



Inside we watched as this man was treated for a headache with three needles in his arm and his knee. He seemed very calm as they put the 3 inch needles in him on the exact point according to their training that will kill the pain.



Old Shanghai Teahouse –  
EF Tour Guide Mary Ling Lu



TOUR INFORMATION	
Apr. 4	
TOUR 56084 CHK	DAYS 8
Morning	8:30 Leave Hotel Yu Yuan Garden Jade Buddha Temple (if time permits)
Lunch	
Afternoon	1:30 Chinese Acupuncture Nanjing Road (if time permits) Huangpu River Cruise
Evening	8:00 Departure to Airport, Back to USA
TOUR DIRECTOR	

Now we head over to the Old God Temple area of Shanghai

And the famous 600 year old Teahouse from the 1400s Ming Dynasty

with our EF Tour Leader Mary Ling Lu who posts our itinerary every morning:

Next, the Yuyuan Garden and the Jade Buddha Temple



**This is the Red Dragon man dressed in his magnificent silk red jacket embroidered with gold dragons.  
And he wears his traditional Ming Dynasty silk black hat framing his deeply tanned face and huge pointed goatee.**

**Every day he wheels his cart out into the park to watch the dancers and earn tips from the tourists.**



Red Dragon man wearing a traditional red silk coat with a dragon in gold colored embroidery..

He had a perfect black silk hat a huge pointed goatee and very dark tan.

He rolls into the park every day to get tips from the tourists like me taking photos.





**He watches as the couples dance in the bamboo garden park on a sunny spring day listening to traditional Chinese music.**

**Young and old enjoy the park, like this little girl colorfully dressed.**

**Grandparents take care of the one child while their parents work.  
The one child policy was abolished in 2015, so that couples can have 2 children,  
Because it is more desirable to have a boy (because of carrying on their namesake),  
That policy since the 1980s caused a 120 boys to 100 girls birth disparity.**

**But they prevented having 100s of millions more mouths to feed... the equivalent of the population of the United States.**

## Yu Yuan Gardens



**This morning we will wander through the wonderful YuYuan Gardens an excellent model of classical Chinese gardening architecture**

**It was built during the reign of Ming Emperor in the 1500s over about 5 acres making it the largest of Shanghai's ancient gardens**

**The Garden is famous for a number of architectural marvels and precious carved relics showing the best of China's tradition of art.**



**Here is the covered bridge over the goldfish pond by the teahouse with rosewood carved pergolas and rock gardens.**

**The garden has six areas, each with its own style.**



Throughout the gardens are round doorways and sweepers with straw brooms.





**There are pavilions with amazing, centuries old wooden carved dragons.**



**You can appreciate the Chinese red rosewood carvings and intricate woodwork**

## The Jade Buddha Temple



**The Jade Buddha Temple is one of the most famous Buddhist shrines in the city. Although many people come to worship each day and burn incense at this very holy and active shrine, visitors are welcome.**



**The White Jade Buddhas were brought here from Burma in 1882. One is seated while the other is in the recumbent position symbolizing the Buddha's attainment of enlightenment or nirvana.**

**The Recumbent Buddha lying on the right side with the right hand supporting the head and the left hand placing on the left leg, this shape is called the 'lucky repose'.**

**There are many other ancient paintings and Buddhist scriptures distributed in the different halls here..**





**Buddhist monks are everywhere in the Temple grounds. This day they were preparing little paper bags for the Worshippers to light on fire with incense and pray as the ashes float up to the heavens.**

**One monk was on his cell phone.**



Here are my favorite large wood carved Heavenly Kings.

# Nanjing Road



**Nanjing Road is considered to be the 'No. 1 commercial street in China', which has been a landmark for this city for a long time.**

**Along its 4 miles you will find over 600 shops that on average are visited by 2 million people each day. (Twice our state fair)**





**And pink trains to haul people around from place to place like at the MN state fair**





The neon signs in Chinese, lined the busiest shopping street in the world, like Times Square, with every kind of shop you can imagine.

A luxury chopstick store with 4 smiling saleswomen to help you choose the ultimate chopstick set.



**And just when you thought you saw it all...here is the happy roller skating fan man!**



**My students were having the time of there life here shopping on Nanjing Street and randomly gave me the perfect pose.**

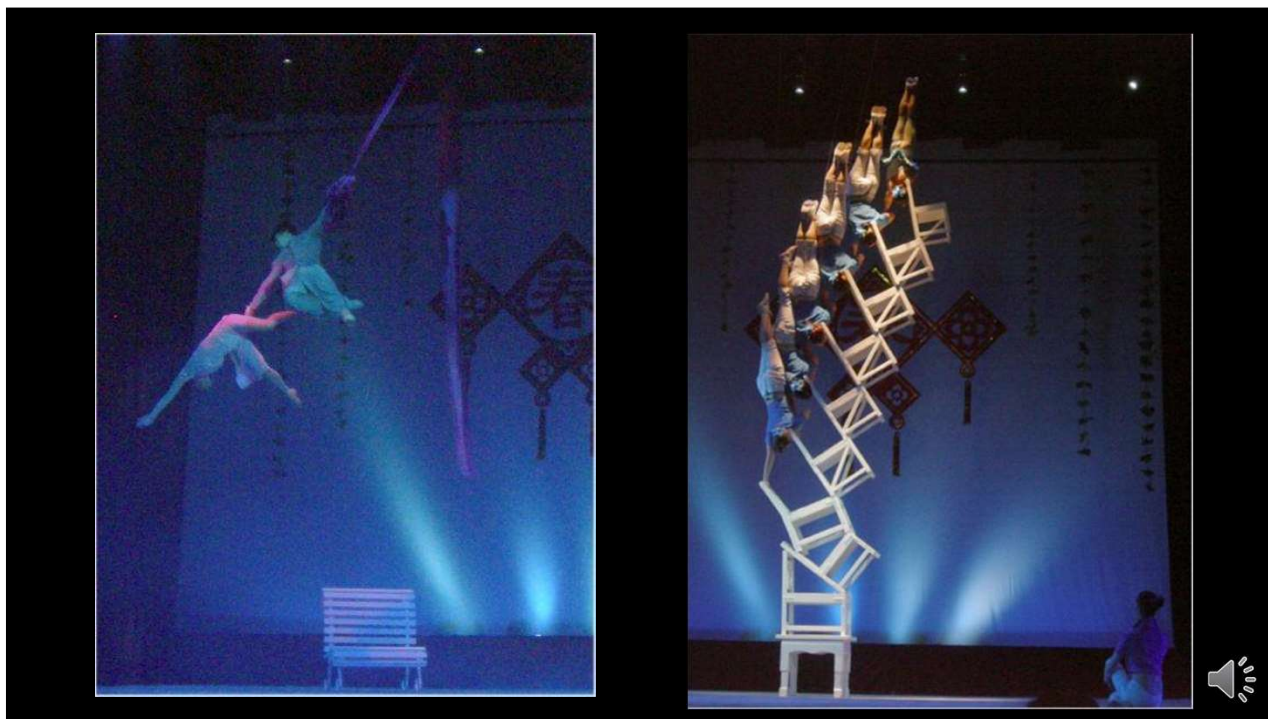


# The Shanghai Acrobats

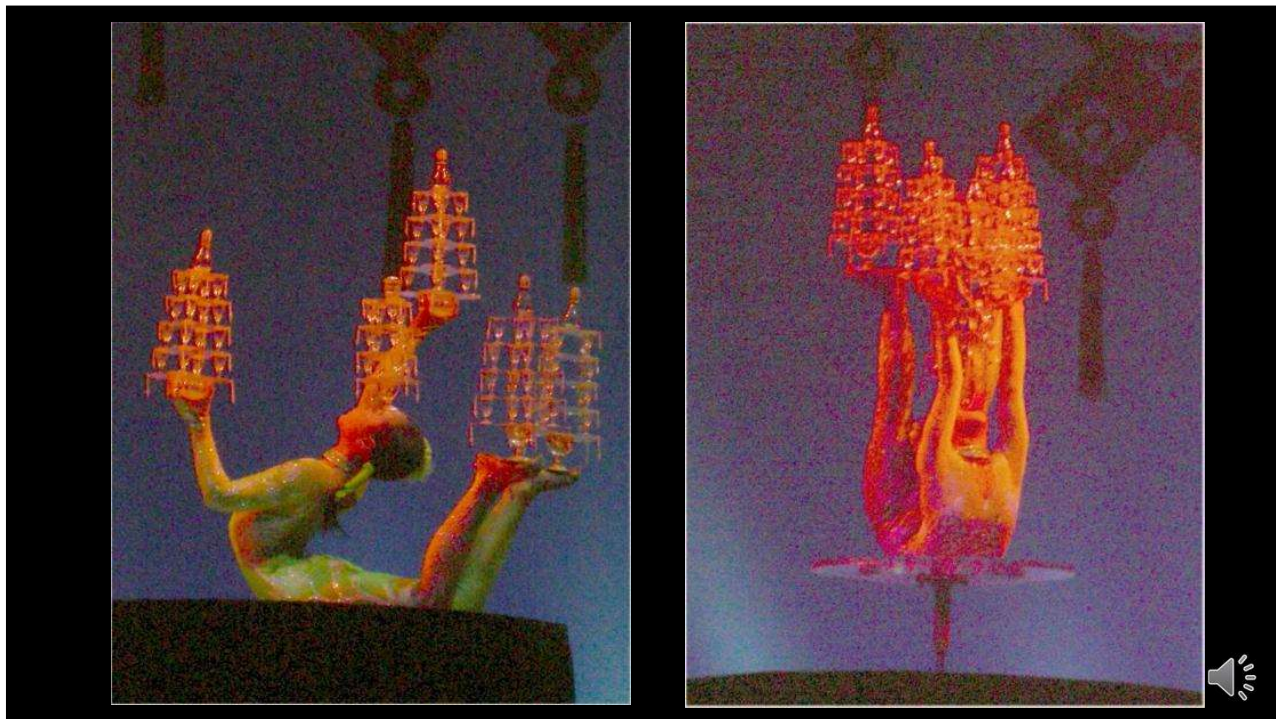


On our last night in Shanghai we will see the incredible famous acrobats





Talented acrobats swing together on ropes and balance on stacked chairs.



**An incredible balancing act with 5 stacks of full champagne glasses as she bends her back.**



**Out of a thousand people in the audience they picked my student with the Twins baseball cap to be the comedy foil for the Blind folded knife throwing act.**

**They fool him into thinking he really had knives thrown at him while he was blindfolded and held down, and the last one popped the balloon between his legs.**

## Shanghai Evening River Cruise



The cruise lasts an hour on one of these boats that hold a couple hundred passengers as you slowly cruise up and down the river.

Price: around 150 yuan (≈US\$22) for sightseeing only, without dinner

Cruise route: Shiliupu Wharf near the Bund – Shanghai Tower – Shanghai World Financial Center – Jin Mao Tower – Oriental Pearl TV Tower – Yangpu Bridge – Waibaidu Bridge – Monument to the People's Heroes – Peace Hotel – Customs House – back to the wharf





**And for those of you who still have energy on your last night in China we will go on a mind-blowing River Cruise past the lit up skyscrapers along the Huangpu River.**



**First we cruise along the east or Pudong district side dominated by the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and the tallest buildings in China:**

**The Jin Mao tower that we went to the top of yesterday,**

**and the newer Shanghai Tower and Shanghai World Financial Center**



It was like watching a 50 story high television set. Here with a kitty playing with a ball.



**Goodbye to China!**

**Time for our long 12 hour flight tomorrow morning at 7AM!**

**Thank you. Any questions?**