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FRIED NOODLE
[CHINA HORIZONS NEWSLETTER]

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13



The Group at the Summer Palace!!!

ARRIVAL TOUR

On August 20th the Fall 2011 China Horizons teachers embarked on the fantastic Beijing "Arrival Tour". This fall the teachers who chose to participate in the arrival tour enjoyed 7 days in Beijing.

Continued Below



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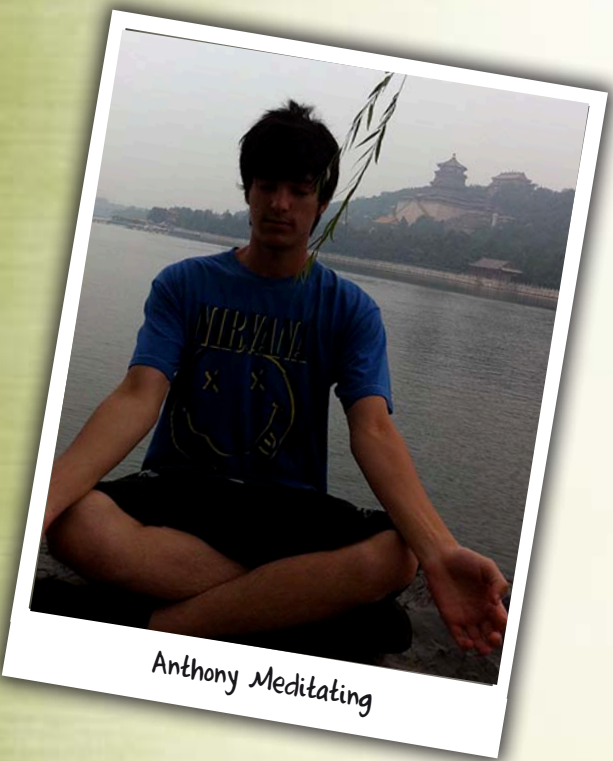
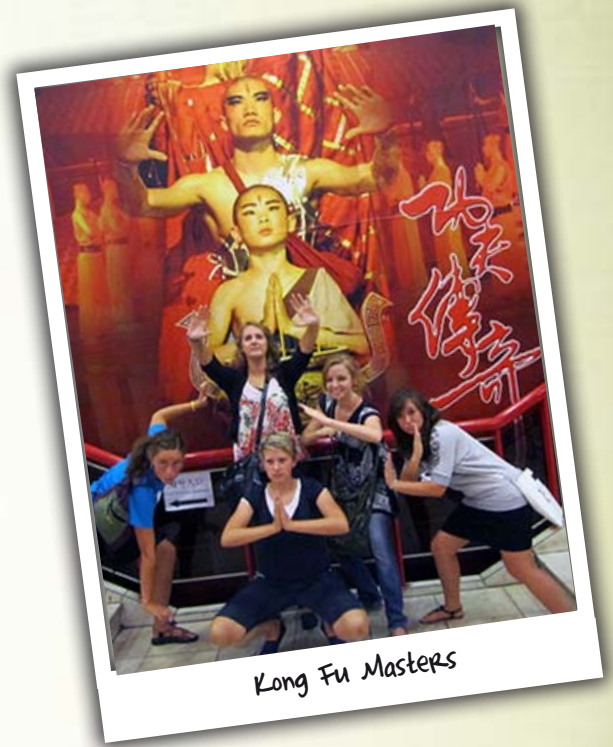


The group flew into Beijing and hit the road running! Over the course of a week the group was able to:

- Watch an acrobats show
- Go to church in Beijing
- Hike the Great Wall of China
- Walk through the Forbidden City
- Take in the grandeur of Tiananmen Square
- See the Olympic Venues
- Visit the Summer Palace
- Strolled through the Ming Tombs
- View a kong fu show
- Visit a jade and pearl factory
- Shop at some intense markets filled with hard bargaining and great knock-off products.

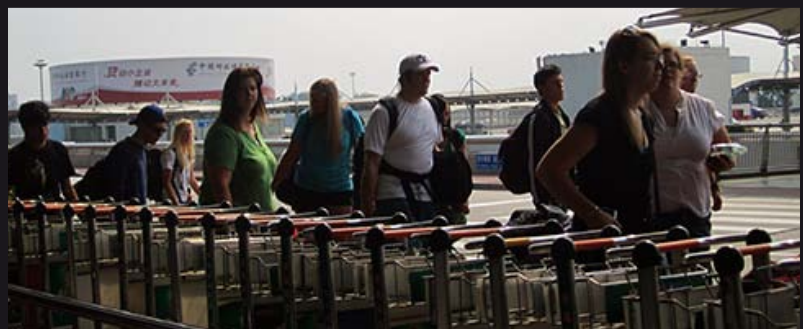
After that the group had two 8-hour days of intense teacher training by Gail Chou, Adam Pitt, and Karla Pitt.

The Arrival Tour was extremely busy, and most teachers probably needed a vacation after their vacation, but all in all it was a huge success. Hopefully it will be an experience the teachers will never forget!





the FLIGHT over

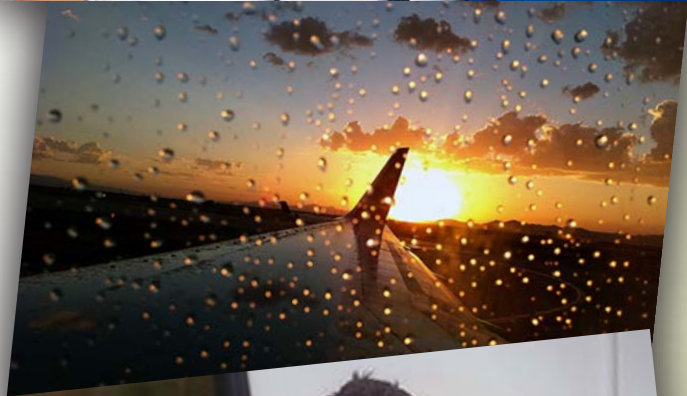




AMERICAS to CHINA

Look out the small airplane window and see only thick air swirling from the ankles to the bald heads of the mountains. My heart jumps because for the first time in about 6 months I have to ask myself in a silent panic, “What in the world am I doing!?” It’s too late to back out now, as we descend into the smog. A film comes on. It’s time for some “in flight stretches.” Air China is special. Earlier in the flight during the safety demonstration they even remind passengers to remove their high heels before exiting the aircraft during an emergency. I am still distracted by the overwhelming realization of where I am as the wheels bounce off the tarmac. It surprises me how quickly I sail through customs, but the biggest surprise is yet to come. I round a corner to enter the baggage claim area and I am in...New York City? It’s the New York Stock Exchange! No. They’re all Chinese, but everyone is yelling and the crowds are encroaching on my ability to breathe. Men are waving and holding up signs. Some of them are in English, but I don’t think they say my name on it. I keep swimming through the chaos of luggage carts until I find a place I won’t get stepped on. Everyone seems to know what they’re doing and where they’re going but me. A new panic barely sets in when I happen to zone in on one person who seems to be searching for someone. He’s holding a sign with...with my name? Yes. I wave. He waves back. I walk toward him, silently taking back every doubt in my mind about being here because somehow I can tell the worst of the traveling stress is over.

-Caitlin Adamz - Zibo, Shandong







first DINNER in CHINA

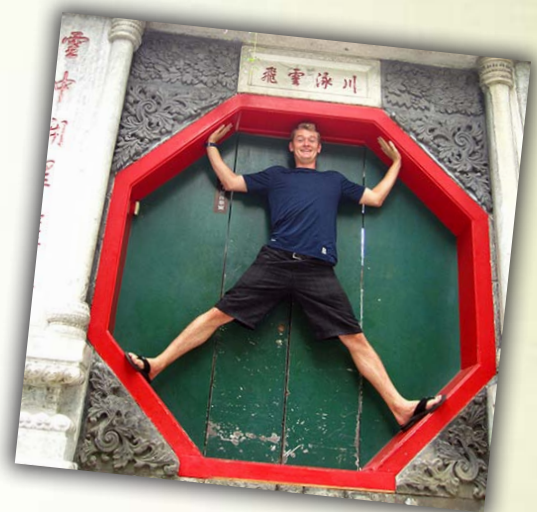


First Impressions of China

When I first came to China these were a few of my first thoughts:

- Do kids really poo anywhere?
- I am going to need to learn how to swim through people.
- Is the sky ever blue here?
- Dang, stuff is super cheap.
- Less than a dollar for pork dumplings?

Lance Stevens - Xinxiang, Henan



I looked out the window of the plane through the thick smog and saw many blue squares. POOLS!! I had no idea that China was such a resort country...

Good thing I brought my swimsuit!!! We flew closer... Breaking through layers of smog... the blue, plush, pools quickly transformed into blue, tin roofs. Dusty, smelly, humid air. Not a pool in sight. Somehow my excitement levels didn't change!

Bring it on!!

Paige Slade - Luoyang, Henan

My first impression of China includes a ton of misunderstandings and side shops. However, things are not always what they seem in China. I walked into a shoe shop and started to notice they all looked used and some were missing the laces. A thrift shop I thought? As the locals began to laugh I realized I was in a shoe cleaning shop. . . .”oh those dumb Americans.”

Shae'la Stautmeister - Wenling, Zhejiang





the GREAT WALL of CHINA







Tobogganing



is so simple!



First Impressions of China



Stepping off the plane to the Beijing International Airport was super surreal. I was entering a foreign country where I'd be teaching English for the next four months.

Luke Ehly - Wenling, Zhejiang

I'm intrigued by the Chinese characters on buildings and signs. The driving and traffic is absolutely insane. You have to give major credit to the taxi and bus drivers because they're pros at their job!

Nicole Galbraith - Yangzhong, Jiangsu



My initial reaction to arriving in China was 'Where have I been all my life?!' because it felt so natural and comfortable, and it still does.

Grant Adamz - Zibo, Shandong





Tiananmen Square





Favorite Part of Arrival Tour

I would have to say my favorite part is the way people commute. Whether they are walking, cycling, or driving they just know when to pause or to go. If you are able to experience this it is interesting to do so from the view of a bus. This it is how I think riding the night bus in Harry Potter would be like.

Haley VanMeeteren - Nanjing, Jiangsu



My favorite part of the Arrival tour was the Silk Market. I have never experienced people grabbing me and yelling at me to buy their product. It was a little intense at first, but the second and third time I starting getting the hang of it. You have to know how to handle the sellers and know to just ignore most of them. Do not give in to them. They try to make you feel bad for not buying their product. Just walk away. I have noticed that I can be very mean and rude to them because they can make me so mad. Such a good experience and it's fun to bargain and make them mad also.

Erin Rogerson - Nanjing, Jiangsu



My favorite part of the arrival tour was actually getting lost in Beijing looking for a noodle shop with my friends. Oh, and the Silk Market.

Blake Oakey - Wenling, Zhejiang





Julia Anderson's BEIJING



My ultimate favorite part of the Beijing tour was the street dancing on Walking Street! They had about 300 people in this cathedral square doing the same line dance over and over again to music. A bunch of us jumped in and learned the dance while getting lots of strange looks from the people around us. They kept encouraging us to go up the steps to the higher ground where they had dancers leading the people. We jumped up on the stage and instantly felt like super stars! They cheered loudly and took pictures like crazy! We worked up a sweat jumping and

dancing around! As we left, they all wanted to touch us and take our picture. It was so much fun to participate in some of their culture and have a bit of a celebrity moment. It was definitely the highlight of my Beijing tour :)

-Julia Anderson - Yangzhong, Jiangsu





Night Market



TEACHER TRAINING

We invited Gail Chou back for the VERY successful China Horizons Teacher Training. Gail is a long-time educator in both the US and China. Gail has been living in Luoyang, Henan, China for the last six years. She teaches at the Luoyang #2 Foreign Language School and has a deep and genuine love for the Chinese people and especially for her students. She is not only a teacher at Luoyang #2 but also a basketball coach/fan/referee! She spearheaded the institution of the first Luoyang #2 girl's city league team.

The 16 hours of training consisted of intense, interactive, and insightful activities to help teachers better understand the



Teacher Trainer, Gail Chou

Chinese classroom environment and gain a more substantial idea of what kinds of lessons could be used in the classroom. She modeled her class management and discipline methods by implementing them during the training period. This found a few teachers on the floor doing push-ups or singing "I'm a Little Tea Pot" in front of the class. Though a full two days of training is not usually at the top of most teachers "To Do List" while in China, the time was well spent and greatly benefited the teachers as they left to apply what they learned in their own schools. Gail had a goal to send the teachers away with at least 10 complete lesson plans, though many were said to have left with even more!

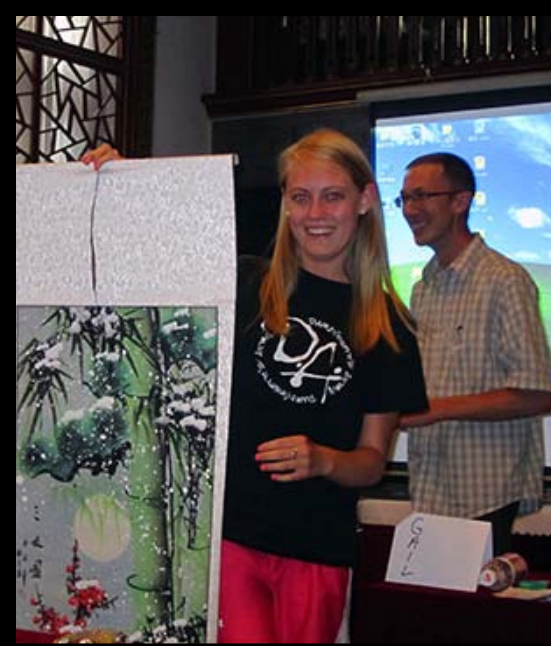


at the kindergarten with Kara Pitt



Enjoying some teacher training





Teacher Training



CHINESE CORNER

NUMBERS



0 零 Líng	1 一 Yī	2 二 Èr	3 三 Sān	4 四 Sì	5 五 Wǔ	6 六 Liù
	7 七 Qī	8 八 Bā	9 九 Jiǔ	10 十 Shí	100 百 Bǎi	

For Teens

EXAMPLES

- shí sì (14)
十四
- shí yī (11)
十一
- shí qī (17)
十七

For 20, 30, etc.

EXAMPLES

- sān shí (30)
三十
- wǔ shí (50)
五十
- bā shí (80)
八十

For 100's

EXAMPLES

- yī bǎi (100)
一百
- sì bǎi (400)
四百
- liù bǎi (600)
六百





Summer Palace



CHURCH in BEIJING

I was excited to attend church in Beijing and curious to find out who else would be attending; since there is no proselyting to Chinese nationals I didn't know who to expect. It was a bit of a journey to actually find the branch since Spencer took us to see a bunch of different subway stations, but when we finally arrived at the right place all I could think of was—AMERICANS!

I have never been so happy to see so many white people. Our group had walked in late and there were absolutely no seats left so a few of us got to sit up on the stand. Sitting there listening to the talks that were given that day, I was so thankful to be in a room with so many other members of our church and to know that no matter where in the world we are, the gospel is always the same; God loves his children in America just as much as he does his children in China.

-Lisa Garrard - Yangzhou, Jiangsu



Gracie, Erica, Taren & Lisa on Tiananmen Square



Erica, Taren, Lisa, Nicole, Gracie & Christian at the Summer Palace



Taren, Erica, Gracie, Haley & Lisa with a horse





Ming Tombs



Favorite Part of Arrival Tour



My favorite part of the arrival tour was definitely hiking the Great Wall. I remember I took about ten steps up and I wasn't sure if I could complete it but after what seemed like hours I finally made it!! It was the most rewarding experience!!

Gracie Velasquez - Yangzhou, Jiangsu



The Great Wall was my all-time favorite part of the arrival tour. The sheer excitement of finally arriving at the very well known Wall filled me with a long-lasting rush of energy. Jacob, Julia and I nearly sprinted to the 20th tower, minus the last stretch of the 85-degree-angled, never-ending stairs. Let's just say we definitely didn't sprint up those... Running the wall brought to life all of my senses to the very fullest. All of the sights and sounds were unforgettable. An adventure to remember.

Christian Storrs - Zibo, Shandong



My favorite part of the arrival tour was experiencing China with new friends and making the transition to my new life here less scary and stressful.

Mekena Morgan - Yangzhong, Jiangsu





Forbidden City



There is always someone...



“I would highly discourage bringing a pillow” -Spencer



“Do not mount the animals!” -Jacob





Saying GOODBYE



