



THE
FRIED NOODLE
[CHINA HORIZONS NEWSLETTER]

ISSUE
16



Heather Wilson livin' it up in Yangshuo



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what makes China...China

KERI STEVENS



There are many things that could be seen as struggles in China. I've struggled with getting used to the many, many smells of China, most if not all of which are very unpleasant. I've struggled with eating Chinese food. Only Chinese food. Everyday. Traffic and transportation differences can present a few struggles, like not dying while in transit. Being so far away from family and friends can be a struggle. Being completely packed on a crowded bus, having absolutely no "private bubble" or "this is my space" area, being gawked at, and realizing the baby next to you isn't wearing a diaper, like most babies in China, can all be struggles. Having your liaison call and say in a few minutes they'd like you to teach a class or give a speech (though it's the first time you've ever heard about it) can be a struggle. Not speaking the language can be a struggle, especially after waiting in line at the train station for hours only to have the attendant shake her head at the paper your liaison wrote in Chinese. Having to use the bathroom really, really bad – enough that you are more than willing to use a squatter – can be a struggle when you walk into the public toilet to find a no-stalls trench to do your business in.

These cultural differences of social customs and courtesies can be seen as a struggle, and a lot of time I do think they are challenging and inefficient and annoying. But I realize these differences are why I am here! These struggles are what make China China! And for that, sometimes it is easier to just laugh, take a picture and go with it.





Nanjing



Tosh, Abby, and I went to Nanjing for the October holiday. It was so much fun! We went to the Hongshan Zoo, the Nanjing Massacre Museum, and to Xuanwu Lake. We tried mocktails, fed giraffes, got lost many times, ate sugar zodiac animals, and even made a new Chinese friend named Fred!

-Aubrey Lamoreaux



-Gracie Velasquez



Nanjing continued



I met up with Laura Brown and Natalie Jackson for a week in Nanjing. We visited Nanjing City Wall, Hall of Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, and Xuanwu Lake, enjoyed a river cruise on the Qinhuai River, met 3 foreigners with whom we spent the majority of our trip, and much more.

Most memorable moment: Laura blindfolded me and Natalie one night and took us to a "surprise location." After being blindfolded we walked up many stairs while holding onto Laura. After 30 minutes of her trying to guide us up a maze of stairs, she took our blindfolds off and we stood at the base of a pagoda set on a hill with the city of Nanjing below us. The skyline was breathtaking. By far the best moment of the trip.

-Mitchell Watson



CHINESE CORNER

COLORS



Huáng sè 黄色

Lán sè 蓝色

Jú sè 橙色

Kāfēi sè 咖啡色

Hóng sè 红色

Zǐ sè 紫色

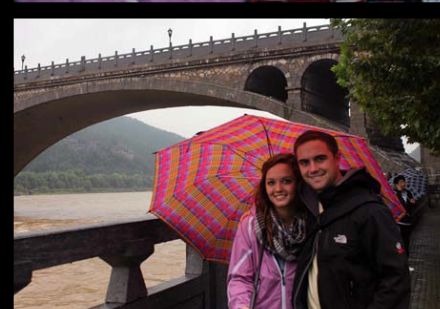
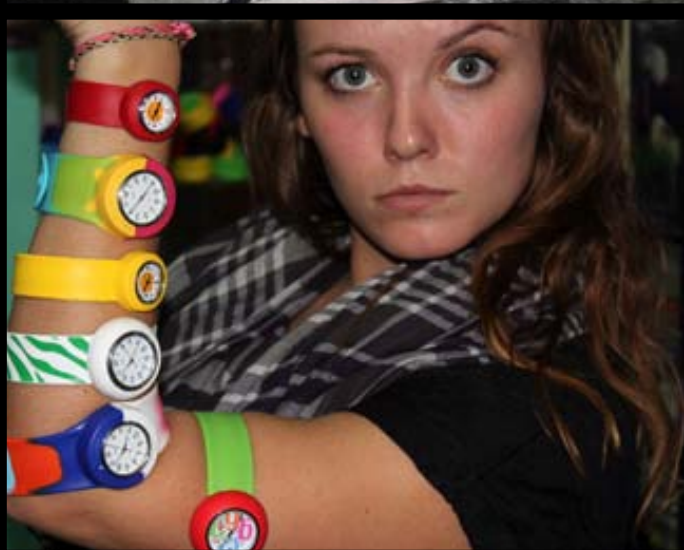
Lǜ sè 绿色

Hēi sè 黑色

Huī sè 灰色

Bái sè 白色





Hong Kong

My first impressions of Hong Kong were: 1. For Real, the border crossing looked identical to Jurassic Park. Wild! 2. I'm in one of the gnarliest and most world-renowned cities ever; you only see this in movies! & 3. I'm going to make this trip one I'll remember for the rest of my life, hopefully even grandchildren-story-worthy!! FaceBook, Twitter, and every other website you can ever think of is available here because it's not technically China, so I'm proxy-free for the week; which is an awesome relief. Oh, and Christian Bale jumped out of a building in the filming of Batman the Dark Knight here; Stellar!

-Lucas Ehly

Alyse, Callie, and I all went to Hong Kong over the break and it was awesome! We attended a branch activity at the ocean, went to Disney Land, visited Victoria Peak, and did some shopping. A memorable moment would be walking around for three hours trying to find the bus that would take us to Stanley so we could shop.

-Madilyn Smith

Taren and I were two of the lucky few from the China Horizons group who only got 90 day visas, so we "had" to take a mandatory trip out of the country to get them renewed. Destination: Hong Kong! We were able to spend the majority of our October holiday in this amazing city. We saw the view from the top of Victoria Peak, visited the big Buddha in the mountains of Lantau, went shopping at the markets in Mong Kok, visited the LDS temple, and feasted on HK's world-famous pastries until we couldn't eat any more! Hong Kong is truly an incredible city. One minute you find yourself on a winding road in jungle mountains, with a view overlooking the beautiful beach and ocean. The next minute, you are in the middle of the city surrounded by skyscrapers, double-decker buses, and people of every nationality. Yet another minute goes by and you are back in China, walking through the street markets packed with vendors selling cheap knock-off clothes, crazy fruits and vegetables, and parts of animals that you would never have dreamed of eating. WE LOVE HONG KONG!

-Erica Mehl





Guilin and Yangshuo

Aimee and I traveled to Guilin and Yangshuo for Festival Week. As for what we did...it would take a lengthy novel to explain in detail our many adventures, but I will say that one of my all-time favorite things I have done in China thus far was when we spent a day hiking along the Li River. I'll be honest, the day wasn't all chocolates and bunny rabbits. Our rough start included an overpriced "bamboo" (ie spray-painted PVC pipe) raft to get to the trail head and then somehow attracting a Chinese stalker lady who (it would appear) wanted to walk less than 2 feet behind us for our entire day hike. Not happening. Anyway, after a short trail run, that problem was no more and it dawned on us where exactly we were hiking...Let's just say breath-taking mountains, gorgeous river views, hiking for hours on end through remote riverside villages, with water buffalo crossing our path occasionally...needless to say, the only word that comes anywhere close to describing the trek is--freaking epic. Ok, that's 2 words, but whatever. No wonder the Chinese put a picture from this hike on their 20 yuan bill! I think I died from an excess of beautiful-scenery intake... If anyone is considering going to Guilin or Yangshuo, here's my recommendation: stop considering and do it!

-Heather Wilson

MAN! How do you pick just one adventure in this crazy place called China? Heather and I took a 26-hour train ride down to a place where the landscape is full of those stereotypical Chinese mountains that pop out of nowhere and go straight up. Naturally, we had to climb one, right? Scaling up what can only be described as a sheer cliff, we pushed our rising fear down as we climbed higher up. A dizzying drop fell below my heels with nothing but my toes and fingers supporting me. Finally we pulled ourselves up to the uncomfortably small top and shakily stood up to a stunning panorama. A full 360 degree display of Guilin from the very pinnacle of a mountain is not something that everyone gets to see, and we had the kingliest of seats. I stood there, too awed to think anything except, "I LOVE my life!"

-Aimee Johnson





Mountain adventures



Three words: mountains of China. It was a trip to remember, especially since it consisted of looking at waterfalls upside down, bamboo forests, repelling (and a girl named Shae'la getting her hair stuck in the rope), getting lost for 14 hours, swimming in reservoirs, being lead by a goat herder, riding in a cattle car, and sleeping in the clouds. It was a dream that consisted of mud slides, techno, and lots of peanuts, with a touch of Dora the Explorer because our trip was described as going through the mountain and over the bridge to get to grandma's house. Then to top it all off, we got a \$4 hair washing that included a massage. My adventurous spirit was satisfied that week.

-Anna Haynes





CHINESE CORNER

FAMILY



Phrases

我家有 __#__ 个人. (List family, eldest to youngest) 和我.

(Wǒ jiā yǒu __#__ gè rén. (List family, eldest to youngest) hé wǒ.)

I have __#__ people in my family. (List oldest to youngest) and me.

我是结婚了. (wǒ shì jiéhūn le.)

I am married.

Vocabulary Words

- Family - 家庭 (jiāting)
- Father - 爸爸 (bàba)
- Mother - 妈妈 (māma)
- Elder Brother - 哥哥 (gēge)
- Elder Sister - 姐姐 (jiějie)
- Younger Brother - 弟弟 (dìdi)
- Younger Sister - 妹妹 (mèimèi)
- Siblings - 兄弟姐妹 (xiōngdìjiěmèi)
- Child - 孩子 (háizi)
- Wife - 老婆 (lǎopó)
- Husband - 老公 (lǎogōng)
- Girlfriend - 女朋友 (nǚpéngyou)
- Boyfriend - 男朋友 (nánpéngyou)



party crashers

Marie and I were asked to sing at a wedding, the DAY before the wedding. So we were planning on singing it by ourselves with just my ukulele, but when the time came to perform, they had a piano version of the song that they blasted over the speakers. We had no idea what to do so we just improvised the whole thing and had a blast! Marie and I also saw a Chinese Dragon on National Day while driving with some friends. So we got out of the car and followed the dragon into someone's house that we don't know, took a picture with the dragon, and walked back out. It turns out it was some guys birthday, and we pretty much crashed the party!

-Mekena Morgan



