

Blog 15 – Shanghai



How do *you* imagine an enormous city? Tall buildings, numerous amounts of people, cars crawling along the busy road? That is all real and accurate. Last week, I visited Shanghai and I believe we can call that city enormous! New York City has **8,000,000** people, but Shanghai has **23,000,000** residents! During my visit, I was impressed by the immense buildings that stand miles tall, the beautiful of HuangPu river along The Bund, and the local food that have never even landed on the tip of my tongue!

In Shanghai, there are towers and buildings that stand like parents looking over their children. Cars whiz around the clock like their competing in a race. In the shadows between the buildings, people rush impatiently towards their destination. I always feel nervous and small peeking around the street corners. Every time I cross the road my mother always tightens her grip on my hand and I'm not sure whether she's afraid or if she's afraid of me falling over.



Even though I can't exactly imagine myself living in such a busy city, I do enjoy the view of the buildings from a distance and I think the best place to enjoy it is The Bund by the HuangPu River. We went there around sunset. The sun was still up, but barely peeking over the horizon line, it gave off a glow the shade of red-orange that illuminated the whole sky. The river, being a mirror, reflected the image of the buildings and the light of the sky making the moment seem magical. As the sun lowered and the building bright lights lighted the river, it was as if the whole setting was slowly melting into dusk and the whole city was gently drifting asleep.



But The Bund doesn't just give you a scene of the new buildings. On the other side of the HuangPu River, lies an "old version of Shanghai." Back in the early 20th century, a whole different Shanghai on the west side was built. It is an amazing feeling for me seeing The New and The Old facing each other across the river - the scene of 100 years before on one side and 100 years later on the other that really intrigued me.



Every time my family and I visit a city, we always try the city's "local flavor" and their traditional dishes. There is a restaurant in Shanghai that serves buns with a delicious secret recipe hidden beneath the dough. The restaurant's name is NanXiangXiaoLong. That "hidden secret" is the soup made from the meat inside! The waitress comes up to you holding a plump, flat, watery steamed bun with a straw sticking out of the top. I asked: "What is it and how do I eat it?" The waitress replied "It is GuanTangBao, drink first and eat next." You eat it by sucking on the straw to

drink up all the soup inside the dough. The soup was rich in flavor and hot. It almost burned my tongue! Then, you eat the rest just as you eat a normal dumpling (but of course, it has a hole in it). I guarantee you that once you consume your first bun; you'd feel like eating another! =)



GuanTangBao, The Bund and the buildings that reach the sky all gave me a deep impression of Shanghai, a city that makes your jaws drop...