

你好上海!!!
(Hello Shanghai!!!)



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To enhance our experience in China, and maybe even make a contact that would lead to employment, SYSU took the CIMBAs to Shanghai for the week. Shanghai is like China's New York in that it is the financial center for the country. It is a very modern city, with most of its construction occurring the past 30 years. Great effort has been placed at keeping the city very clean, something one notices as soon as they leave the airport.

The flight into Shanghai arrived at about 5:30. We quickly grabbed our bags, waited out turn in the taxi line, and then separated. Caleb and Chris had weekend plans with previously known friends, and Brad and I went in search of a hostel and to make our own adventure for the weekend. The rest of the group planned on coming on Monday morning.

The taxi took us to the Captain's Hostel, just off the Bund. We were to stay here only one night because a large group had rented the entire hostel for Saturday and Sunday. Hostels in China offer the best rates, are oriented to a younger

crowd, and are still comparable to a clean two-star hotel, so they work perfectly for college students.

Our room had some of the best views of Shanghai possible. These photos of Shanghai were taken from the window by the room door and from the back window of the room showing the magnificent night skyline of the city from the Bund side of the river. In the foreground are the grand old buildings that remain in this part of the city, built in the early 20th century and surviving communism and the new construction due to their architectural magnificence and luck. Across the river are the dozens of high rises, including two of the tallest buildings in the world climbing into the clouds. The Pearl Tower, (top picture with the spheres) is one of Shanghai's most famous landmarks.



After dropping off our bags, Brad and I went in search of some local food. We traveled to a street known for an abundance of restaurants near Nanjing Lu. We walked up and down the street checking out all of our options. Several seafood restaurants lured customers by showing their varieties of fresh fish, seen in the next photo. We were walking past one of these as they were beginning to clean up the fish displays. As we looked at the exotic fish, an employee accidently poured out the water from the bin all over my feet. It was really gross to have that water running between my toes!



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We eventually settled upon a hot-pot restaurant that was packed with locals. Our logic was that if this is were all the locals are eating, then it must be pretty good. Even though it the time was approaching 9 and most restaurants were beginning to shut down, this one was still the bringing in large groups of patrons. We grabbed a seat towards the back. We were given a menu from which to choose the ingredients for our hot-pot. I was into the roast beef, tofu, carrots and dumplings. Brad gave it the rest of the veggies and mushrooms. A few minutes later the hot-pot arrived, with burning coals in the middle of a pot of boiling water. Then the ingredients began to be delivered, which we placed into the pot. Essentially, dinner was creating our own soup throughout the course of meal.



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Dinner was just as good as we hoped it would be. The meats cooked in the broth were incredible, and by the end, the broth had become a wonderful soup. The dumplings coming out were also a highlight.

Following dinner, we wandered around the area to see the sights and lights. Chris called and invited us to the restaurant he was at. We started in that direction, and eventually walked the distance of a 20 kuai taxi drive in search of this restaurant. After an hour of without success, the time was too late and we were too tired. As we got into the taxi, we got a text from Chris that they were leaving anyways.

Back at the hotel we noticed this sign, giving us hope that if nothing else career wise works out in China, we can at least work as English editors.

