



This past weekend, the CIMBAs were invited to the Salon of Nomads luncheon in Foshan, the “World’s Ceramic Culture Holy Land”. If your toilet says “Made in China”, it was likely crafted in this city.

This road trip, about an hour away from Guangzhou, was my first trip within mainland China. We traveled to a community park, focused on ceramic arts designed around a large lake. Several of the pieces of art were eye catchers simply because of their oddity. For instance, a huge wall / fountain had been constructed out of toilets with water trickling down from bowl to bowl, as seen in this photograph. The wall was about 25 ft tall and about 100 ft long.

The luncheon was a Chamber of Commerce luncheon of sorts, in which several expats had been invited to gather for Western themed food, an art display, and board games, and of course, the hopes that business contacts could be made.

The hosts of the event included several energetic undergrad English majors who were very enthusiastic to talk to us or get us involved in the board games. I spent my time playing a game called 123 Games, which is a checkers like game in which I would try to push my opponents balls off the board. The strategy of the game was fun. I won two of the three times that I played. The photo above shows me in action during the first game.



For entertainment, a live band played top 40 songs from the past few decades, and a couple of dance routines also added to the spectacle. This photo shows a martial arts routine performed by a group of young men. After showing several acrobatic moves, the show concluded with a swords display that was fascinating to watch.



Another one of the fun parts of the day was a boat ride around in a traditional boat to get a closer view of the insect orchestra floating in the center. This oddity was one of the grandest pieces of ceramic art at the park, as it was complete with a cricket conductor and a full orchestra of other grasshopper lick insects. It was fitting that we spotted a real grasshopper on the boat.



