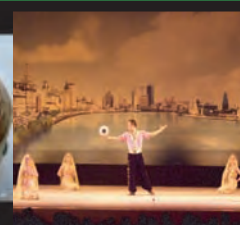


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ProjectsAbroad



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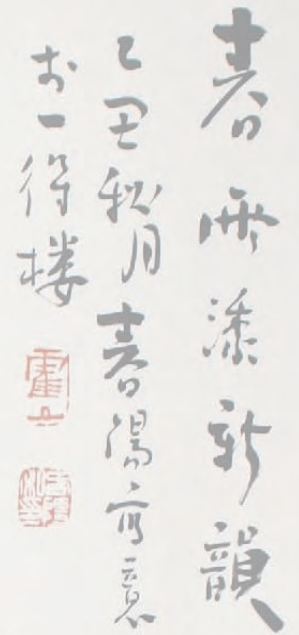
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Projects Abroad China welcomes you!

The summer's heat is slowly but surely winding down and making room for fall's cool temperatures. For those who will be joining us soon we plan to make your stay here in China a remarkable one. We look forward to giving you a sweet taste of China, valuable experience, and the beginning of international friendships from our weekly social events.

In this month's issue, you will read three different articles from three different volunteers, Jes Murray, Ben Sutton, and David Orzoni about their whole experience in China. This month's feature is from our Charity out-reach event for Zi Luo Lan School.

Check out our Facebook group 'Projects Abroad China'. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at DennisBridgeforth@projects-abroad.org.

Charity Activity in Zi Zuo Lan School

Saturday, August 20

Saturday, August 20 we participated in a social outreach at the Zi Luo Lan School. This school is located in the rural area of Shanghai and is an institution for underprivileged kids. Once we arrived at the school, we sat down with the kids in the classroom, waiting for the principal. We got a chance to chat with them, snack with them, and they put on a little show. About a third of students had a harmonica, they stood in front of the class and played some songs, and then other students sung and danced to the tunes.



Meanwhile, a volunteer challenged a student to a game of Ping-Pong, which was postponed until after we got some work done. After the performance the Principal arrived and gave us a brief history about the school and his ideology on education, followed by a tour of the school. I have never seen an institution like that before, some rooms needed a quite a bit of TLC, they lacked things most schools take for granted such as air conditioning. They had areas in the school where the students would learn trades, such as carpentry, hairdresser/barber, masonry; the list goes on and on. The Principal explained that some students lost interest in studying because they move around so much, so as an alternative they learn a trade. He then went on to say that there are usually one of two outcomes, the first is they realize how much work and how difficult it is to do manual labor and they turn back towards the books. The other option is that they are really good with their hands and he encourages them to keep at it.



The mission for the day was to paint a classroom with various pictures and colors to bring the room alive. A volunteer, Michael, drew a super hero on a wall, while other interns and some of the students drew people, flowers, trees, birds, butterflies and kites. After everything was sketched on the wall, the others painted the different items different colors. While most people were busy painting, a few of us went back to the classroom to see the highly anticipated ping-pong battle between our volunteer and a student. They played for a while before it was photo time; everyone enjoyed their time out there, so it was a great trip.



Good Time in Shanghai

Jes Murray

Journalism (3 months)



Shanghai is an incredibly exhilarating city to be living and working in as it seems it is ever evolving with so much to do, see and explore.

I have been interning at a monthly lifestyle magazine which is a really great experience as I have got to know what's going on and what type of things you can do in the city pretty quickly. I have been to lots of events and art exhibition openings which I am particularly interested in and have discovered that there is a very vibrant modern art scene. I really like the area around M50 art district and Taikang Road which is a very chilled out place and has many interesting little boutiques and galleries.

I have been living in an apartment in Jing An with other volunteers and it has been lots of fun getting to know so many different people of different nationalities who all have their own interpretations and experiences. I have very much enjoyed sightseeing at People's Square and Park, the Financial Center, Yuyuan Gardens, The Bund and many other places around Shanghai. I also had the opportunity to go to a migrant school and take part in social outreach work by painting a school room with the kids which was a really good experience to see Shanghai outside of the main city.

I love the food here - I have eaten at many different places and tried all types of cuisine, as well as many varieties of Chinese food including Yunnan, Shanghainese, Cantonese, Xinjiang and Sichuan. My favorite food is dumplings and they have the best in XinTianDi, which a pretty cool place as well and good for shopping.

What I really like most about the city is the combination of older traditions mixed with the new, more cosmopolitan, side of life. It makes it an exciting time to be here.

My life in Shanghai

Ben Sutton

(Law 3 months)

Given the poor state of the graduate job market at home for the last couple of years I decided that I needed something on my CV that would help to set me apart. At the same time I wanted to experience a different culture and see some more of the world whilst doing something exciting and challenging. After a few Google searches I stumbled upon the Projects Abroad website and the Law in China project looked to tick all the boxes, so I booked it straight away.

A short couple of months later I found myself on a plane to Shanghai, fairly nervous but really looking forward to spending three months in China. I arrived in to Pudong Airport and was greeted by Michael, one of the Projects Abroad China staff members, who took me to what would be my home for the next ten weeks. The flat was well located on the other side of the river making it pretty easy to get just about anywhere in the city. It had three decent sized bedrooms and a large living area, although it was a bit of a squeeze when there were six of us sharing it!

After a day of wandering about in a bit of a daze due to jetlag I met Kay the country director and Dennis the assistant country manager, who took me for my first day at my placement. It was a Chinese/Italian intellectual property law firm called HFG. I was introduced to all the firm's employees and was pleasantly surprised that pretty much all of them had at least a basic understanding of English, which was good for me as my Chinese was (and depressingly still is) non-existent!

During my ten weeks with HFG I was given a number of research projects and reports to write on various aspects of Chinese IP Law and the differences between UK and Chinese Law. I also corrected documents that the Chinese employees had written in English and looked into a number of potential trademark infringements in China. Everyone at the firm was really welcoming and friendly and they were also very good at understanding and recognizing that I would want to do a bit of travelling, so they were happy to allow me the occasional long weekend. All in all it was a very rewarding experience and on my last day I was given a letter of recommendation and a really nice Chinese porcelain figure.

Living in Shanghai is really cool once you get used to the constant, sometimes overwhelming, bustling crowds and pretty extreme weather. There are so many amazing places to eat that you could easily go somewhere different every night for ten weeks (although this might get expensive pretty quickly). There is also plenty to see and do, and the benefit of doing a three month project is that you have plenty of time to see everything so you don't feel obliged to rush around every night and weekend trying to cram it all in. This is especially important because often, after a long day, all you really want to do is get some food and chill out with your flatmates.

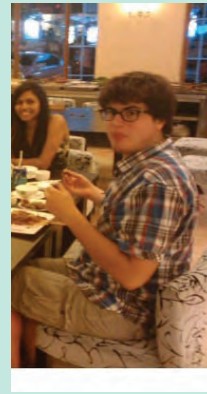
I'm about to head off for my two weeks of travelling. The plan is to head up to Beijing on the new high speed train for a couple of days to see the Forbidden City and the Great Wall, then I'm going to Xi'an which should include a day trip to the Terracotta Warriors before flying down to Guilin and Yangshou to spend some time in the Chinese countryside.

I've had a great time in China and would definitely recommend a trip like this to anyone interested in gaining legal experience abroad.



Bonjour de Chengdu

David Orzoni



Un mois formidable en Chine profonde, dans une ville en pleine effervescence. C'est avec un douloureux pincement au cœur que je quitte ce pays qui ne dort jamais.

Premier jour de stage, arrivée dans un des gratte-ciel flambant neuf du centre d'affaires de Chengdu. Très chaleureusement accueilli, j'ai rapidement dû apprendre les notions fondamentales du droit chinois, afin de travailler sur des dossiers passionnants de droit international (contrat de travail, investissements à capitaux étrangers, propriété intellectuelle). J'ai pu assister à des réunions clients en anglais hautes en couleurs et très instructives. J'ai même eu l'honneur d'aller au tribunal pour une affaire sur laquelle j'avais travaillé. Autant dire que tout cela va faire grande impression à mon retour en France.

J'ai fait des rencontres extraordinaires parmi les autres volontaires, qui venaient des quatre coins du globe : Américains, Anglais, Norvégiens, Suisses, Français, Suédois, Chinois de HongKong etc. Soirées inoubliables, tout en anglais, ou presque...

Outre la découverte du chinois, ce mois a été l'occasion de pratiquer l'anglais, aussi bien de la conversation amicale que l'anglais juridique, économique ou financier.

Et puis la Chine... Les comportements et les visages si différents auxquels on ne s'habitue jamais vraiment, mais très peu de racisme de la part des autochtones. Au contraire, on est toujours surpris de la serviabilité des gens, dès lors qu'on peut échanger trois mots de chinois. Et la vie est si peu chère, un bonheur !

Il est vrai que la nourriture, et surtout le climat, peuvent être hostiles. Mais on peut trouver à n'importe quel coin de rue des petits bouibouis qui vous préparent un délicieux plat de nouilles dans un wok pour quelques cents. Et puis il ne faut pas oublier que l'humidité estivale est bonne pour la peau et les voies respiratoires...

Bref, pour peu que l'on oublie la plupart des codes occidentaux, que l'on ait quelques notions sur l'histoire et la culture de l'Empire du milieu, que l'on se détende avant de traverser prudemment les rues, la vie en Chine est juste trop géniale ! Et paraît-il que tout ne cesse de s'améliorer de jour en jour.

Du coup j'ai tellement hâte de revenir, avec quelques notions supplémentaires de mandarin

Volunteers' Corner



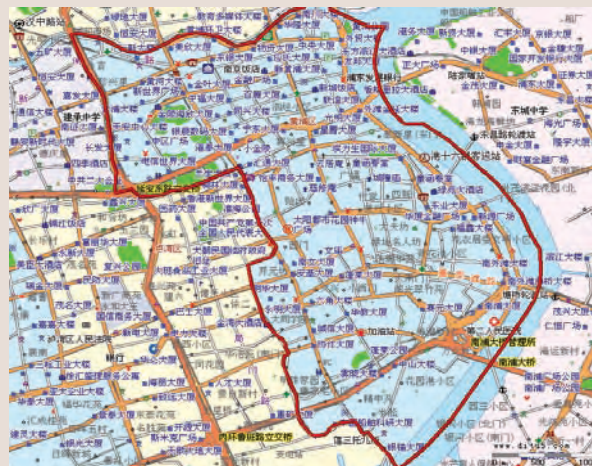
Huangpu District in Shanghai

Historical Evolution

In 1945, Shanghai was divided into 30 districts, and one of them was named as "Huangpu district" for it was closed to Huangpu River. Since liberation of Shanghai, the regional plan has changed many times. From July 1st, 2000, the original Huangpu district and Nanshi district merged into a new Huangpu district, covering an area of 12.49k m².

Physical Geography

Huangpu district is at the center of Shanghai, located at the southwest of the junction of Huangpu River and Suzhou River. Its east and south boundary is Huangpu River, facing Pudong New Area with each other across the river; its west boundary is North Chengdu Rd, West Jinling Rd, Middle Jinling Rd, South Xizang Rd, Zhaozhou Rd, Zhizaoju Rd, Gaoxiong Rd, Jiangbian Rd, border on Jing'an district and Luwan district; its north boundary is Suzhou River, border on Hongkou district. The total area is 12.49 k m², including 11.17 k m² of land area and 1.32 k of waterside area. It belongs to subtropical monsoon climate.



iPhones in Shanghai now, are similar to Starbucks a few years ago in America, just a fashion statement. When the iPhone 4 made its debut in Shanghai it was about 8,000rmb, which means it was double the cost of the original price in America. There has been talk about the new iPhone 5 here, which is predicted to be more than 10,000rmb (1,500USD or 1,000pounds). Can you imagine paying that much for a phone?

Shanghai's current skyline will not be able to compare to how it will look in 2014. The Shanghai Tower, will be the tallest building in China and the second tallest building in the world, following Dubai's monster building. The Shanghai Tower will stand at 2,073ft and have 128 floors. There will be office space, a hotel, retail and entertainment outlets, and observation areas. It will be built in a way that will require them to use fewer construction materials, the curvature of the building will allow it to collect rainwater to be used for the air conditioning and heating systems. To eliminate high traffic, the building will have sky gardens, with a 360 view of the city, various shops, restaurants, bars, and clubs (I'm sure).



Chengdu now has an International airport that allows you to travel to various countries in Asia like Singapore and Korea.

Social Activities In August

DATE	TIME	PLACE	PROGRAMME
Thursday, August 4	7:30pm	Hengshan Lu	Bowling
Saturday , August 13	2pm	Longhua Pagoda and temple	Tour of longhua
Friday, August 19	6:30pm	French Concession	Cottons (Anting lu)
Sunday , August 21	9am	Ziluolan School	Outreach Activity
Thursday, August 25	7:30pm	Huaihai Lu	Hot Pot



Social Media Links

Join our official Facebook Group: Projects Abroad China – The Official Group

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/projectsabroad.china>

Read our monthly newsletters.

<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/volunteer-destinations/china/newsletters-from-china/>

See what is going on with Projects Abroad! Read our Country Blog!

<http://www.mytripblog.org/>
