My church group organized a weekend trip to Ningbo for the church members in Shanghai. Most of the Wash U group went on an organized trip (courtesy of the SSDPP department) to Chongming Island, so I went to Ningbo without my usual friends. However, I met another student at Fudan named Maya and we basically were inseparable the entire weekend. I’m pretty sure the trip was subsidized for students since we only had to pay 250 RMB for transportation, food, and the hotel. A huge thank you to the organizers who made this trip possible!

Maya originally is from Mongolia, and had lived in California for a few years before coming to Fudan. We woke up at 5:30AM and took the metro to the meeting point together. We quickly became good friends.

Lunch

This restaurant was known for its authentic Ningbo cuisine.

I’m not quite sure what’s specific to Ningbo cuisine aside from the fact there were a lot of dishes that contained shrimp. Everything tasted good!
After lunch, we went to the Colorful Valley which was a gorgeous area with rivers, bamboos, and trees. Maya and I both love to take pictures, so we basically had our own photo shoot while everyone else walked ahead. We were really lucky the weather was perfect that day. Here are some photos for you guys to enjoy!

The Colorful Valley
We found an ice cream store :)  

One of the students was a good photographer and was kind enough to let me showcase his photos. PC: Louis Philippe 

PC: Louis Philippe 

PC: Louis Philippe  

PC: Louis Philippe 

PC: Louis Philippe
We had dinner with the group at our hotel.

The food was delicious :)

Meeting

After dinner we had a group meeting where we sang hymns and where people shared their spiritual experiences, with some recounting how they became Christians. At one point, I was asked to speak, and I happily agreed. Since most of the people did not know much English, one of the members translated for me.

The room Maya and I stayed at was really nice!

...really nice :)
The next day we went to an old town called 明鹤古镇 (Minghe Gu Zhen).

Group photo! There were over 100 people who came.

Maya and I also got to know four students from France. Louis (the photographer) is on the very left with his girlfriend Nathalie. All four of them studied at Tongji University.

Nathalie, me, and Maya

PC: Louis Philippe

PC: Louis Philippe

PC: Louis Philippe
We got to see "Tien Wang Dian" which means "Emperor's Temple".

Within the town, there were vendors selling a variety of locally made food and snacks.

Red bean filled pastry!
After visiting Minghe Gu Zhen, we headed back to Shanghai. It was truly a memorable trip!

I didn't dedicate a page to food in the last blog, so I'll make up for it now :)

We went to an up-scale restaurant called Din Tai Fung. This shrimp and pork wonton with spicy sauce dish goes really well with their fried rice.

Din Tai Fung specializes in xiaolongbao (juicy dumplings, commonly with pork filling).

For a couple of days each month, there is a pop-up market on the way to Da Xue Lu that sells pies, candy, trinkets and other souvenirs. The theme for this month was Halloween.

This Taiwanese restaurant on Da Xue Lu was pretty good.

After a Chinese exam, our teachers usually treat us to lunch. This time they took us to a Mexican restaurant on Da Xue Lu.

For those who craved Western food, there was a popular stand near our dorms called Dou that sold pizza, burritos, and salads.
Until Next Time!

The following week, the Wash U crew took a week-long organized trip to the beautiful province of Yunnan. We traveled to three different cities within five days! Near the end of the week, five of us broke away from the rest of the group and flew to Chiangmai, Thailand to experience their lantern festival. But that’s for next time!

See you in Yunnan!

谢谢阅读
Thanks for reading!