Exploration of Shanghai

By: Matt Ellis

The view from my hotel balcony on my first day in Shanghai. I was staying on the 30th floor. The construction continued day and night, my entire time in Shanghai.
An incredible sunset in Shanghai. Even at night the city was busy and bright. Some of the skyscrapers had building lights that danced at certain hours before night fall.
The streets of Shanghai at night. There are no words to describe the feeling of being around so many people, it was simply staggering.
Everybody has to take a picture before eating. My first meal in Shanghai consisted of soup dumplings and rice. My fellow interns had to order for me since I could neither speak nor read Chinese when living in China (not my best idea).
Me out at a consumer expo being a perfect example of professionalism. Part of my work was sometimes going out to these expos with a coworker and trying to sell water filters or at least drum up interest. (Not pictured: a thermometer indicating it was 96 degrees Fahrenheit and the fact that we were outside)
Unbeknownst to me, I was in China during the rainy season, so days like this were common, but they always provided a welcome break from the heat. Umbrellas are recommended though.
The absurdly tall Shanghai tower, standing at 2073 feet. Most days I couldn’t see the top of the tower due to clouds covering the top. I would have liked to go to the top, but tickets were 150 RMB and the line was two hours long, so I went to get noodles instead.
Bullfrog meat, hot peppers, and noodles. Incredibly delicious, but ridiculously spicy. The flavor is definitely worth the pain though. I ate this dish at least once a week. Now if only I could find the recipe and a place that sells frog meat.
My fellow KU interns making pork dumplings (center) and sticky rice balls (right) with a friend we made in Shanghai. We were making dumplings for about 3 hours, but they turned out really well and we had leftovers for days.
So many people.
On one of our days off we interns went to People’s Park to relax on the grass, play Frisbee with the locals, and get away from the urban sprawl. It was an excellent day.
I had a moment of weakness for something familiar. Don’t judge me.
Just a random Salvador Dali statue in the middle of Shanghai.
The Shanghai art museum, originally built for the 2010 Shanghai expo. Now it is home to some of China's best artwork. And it's free admission!
My coworkers and I on my last day. Emily (Left) worked as a secretary and Rambo (Right) worked as a technician. Great people made my job much better.
Goodbye China!