

Aaron Gregory Yee China Trip 2006 Essay

Born and raised by a typical New Zealand upbringing, automatically impeded me from identifying myself from my native culture. Never have I had to learn Chinese nor even communicate the language with my elders. Although I have been blessed and privileged with a great healthy upbringing, at instances I feel I have missed out on a fair ingredient of my life. Being Chinese!!!

The first step onto foreign terrain, the atmosphere was only just tolerable and the sights I witnessed were terribly feral, then I knew my journey going forward had started!!!

Foshan was our first destination, immediate thoughts were slightly negative but in an interesting way. This district city never ceased to amaze me. The living standards and social etiquette began to be realized and accepted. Kung Fu was a grand moment, a sense of satisfaction and pride was taken once we learnt the entire sequence. Presenting it to the locals was another accomplishment in its right, to showcase an indigenous routine learnt by New Zealand Chinese.

Over the duration of the trip, many destinations brought flavour and characteristics, to some extent unbearable. Dirty bloody pubes sheets for example. A stand out for me was Taisan, we first explored the city via a back of a motorcycle that gave us a snapshot of what this city entailed, and the dialect brought a sense of familiarity and closeness as I am of Seyip decent. To cap it all off the experience of a life time was completed, going back to our villages and partaking in traditional events with locals. A memory that will be everlasting.

As the trip went on, solid friendships were established and it gave 24 of us to escape reality for awhile whether it was releasing our inner child of being silly or going out and kareoking countless amount of times. Priceless moments and experiences were endured which made this particular group special and close.

If there is one thing that I have taken away from this trip, it is not the materialistic objects, but rather the intangible possessions such as friendships, self development and fulfillment, and knowing I am now a proud confident established Chinese.

Hey thanks Janet, Kai and the NZCA

THE END