

8天惠安，泉州，贵阳及厦门旅游记

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As the shore of Singapore inexorably inched away, a surge of adrenaline coursed through my brain. This was because my next destination would be a place that is so vast, Singapore is but a puny island next to it... A place where man and nature merge harmoniously... A place surrounded by magic and mystique... but most importantly, a place I have yet set my foot upon -- China. Though still developing, China houses some of the best creations of Mother Nature. This very reason makes China a magnet to me.

After 4 hours of flight, I found myself embraced in the welcoming arms of Xiamen. The modern city bore a striking resemblance to Singapore. Though impressively developed, Xiamen was nevertheless surrounded by an endless stretch of mountain ranges and sparkling green terrain. It seemed to be the masterpiece of an extremely profound artist. My first step out into the cool, breezy environment of Xiamen marked the start of an eight-day journey that would be a lifetime memory.

The Hui Ann Association of Singapore had organized this particular trip back to Huian for us to visit our relatives as well as to acquire a deeper understanding of our ancestral grounds. Our trip also consisted of visits to places like Guiyang and Xiamen.

Though worn out by fatigue after a long flight, I was completely engrossed in the wonderful scenery as our coach sped down the freeway towards Huian. Majestic mountains loomed over lush greenery and the rich, fertile soil of China. However, the poverty farmers faced was apparent in the simple houses they resided in and the primitive methods of farming

at the outskirts of the bustling city.

Throughout our three days' stay in Huian, we were treated with such hospitality from members of the county that we felt like royalty. This was due to the massive support and fundings from our Association that aided in paving Huian's path to modernization. Our group paid visits to public facilities that were erected over the recent years. The schools there left me with the deepest impressions, for though they were not as spacious as ours, the studying environment was equally comfortable. Hospitals were also built with

sufficient wards and supplied with enough medication to cater to the vast Huian population. Such insights into the developments on the soil of our forebears proved to be truly enriching.

Our following destination was a trip to Quanzhou. There, we were treated with an equally warm reception by the Secretary-

General, Mr. Liu Dezhang and company. Never did I expect that our visit would be broadcasted on air as well as published in the local papers. We were introduced to various temples that were so huge and elaborately constructed, they clearly showed the people's undying faith in Buddhism and Taoism. We were also transported into ancient China when given a tour of the Quanzhou historical museum.

We then went to Guiyang where two places left me with deep impressions. First, was our trip to the Miao tribe, where the warm and enthusiastic Miao performers put up a really great performance of tribal dances and songs with much participation from us. The next was the visit to the impressive Hua Guo Shu waterfall, the world's third largest. The scenery there was truly magnificent. The three days at Guiyang were indeed fruitfully spent.



Xiamen was our final destination. The view of the modern city and clean streets would surely make one revise his opinions about China being underdeveloped. For shopperholics, Xiamen would prove to be irresistible. Shops can be found along almost all streets no matter how remote. The variety of the mouth-watering food there was limitless, and at the prices, it would truly be a sin not to over-eat. However, the one thing that frightened me was the atrocious traffic system. Vehicles seemed to come from all directions with no proper order. I was really impressed by the driving skills of the drivers there!

Time seemed to be very merciless to have had ended our trip so soon. I was still indulging myself in the delicacies and savouring the sights that China provided. It was a real shame to leave such a magical country, and I sorely yearn for the next visit.

