

A Heritage Journey

(Trip to Hong Kong, Wuhan and Kaohsiung)

Thomas Wu, January, 2019

After more than 50 years in the U.S. and at age 78, a journey back to my homeland China is long overdue. My father came from a farming family, he attended a military academy founded by Chiang Kai-shek, Chiang led the Chinese Nationalist Government from 1928 until his death in 1975. My mother was from a family of merchants, her father operated an opium bar which was legal at the time in China. After communist Chinese won the civil war, my family escaped mainland China in 1949. I grew up in Taiwan. During my school years Taiwan's educational system had major impact on all students, we had entrance examinations at every level, starting at junior high through college; examination results, but not their family background determined the fate of the students. I came to U.S. in order to continue study of chemistry in graduate programs. As a chemist, I had research and teaching duties, after a total of 35 years in higher education as a professor and held several other jobs, I retired in 2008. At this juncture of my life I enjoy travel and managing an apartment complex. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and make contribution to American communities, and make a comfortable living here, my love for my homeland China is ever lasting.



These Canada geese stay in our community year around and year after year, I wonder if they ever made trips back to Canada.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong was a British colony which consists of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula, a parcel of Chinese mainland called New Territories, and several nearby small islands. Hong Kong was leased to Great Britain for ninety nine years after China lost the Opium War in 1842 and signed several humiliating treaties. A deep sea harbor on the mouth of Pearl River, Hong Kong thrived under British administration, it was returned to China in 1997 and is now a Special District. My parents and I stayed in a refugee camp in Hong Kong for several years when we first escaped the mainland. As a young boy, I was infected with cholera and almost died if not for the effective and humanitarian assistance of a British hospital.



Inside and outside of a temple where gods of military and administration are worshiped.



Escalater that goes to a restaurant on mountain top and view of concrete jungle from the restaurant.

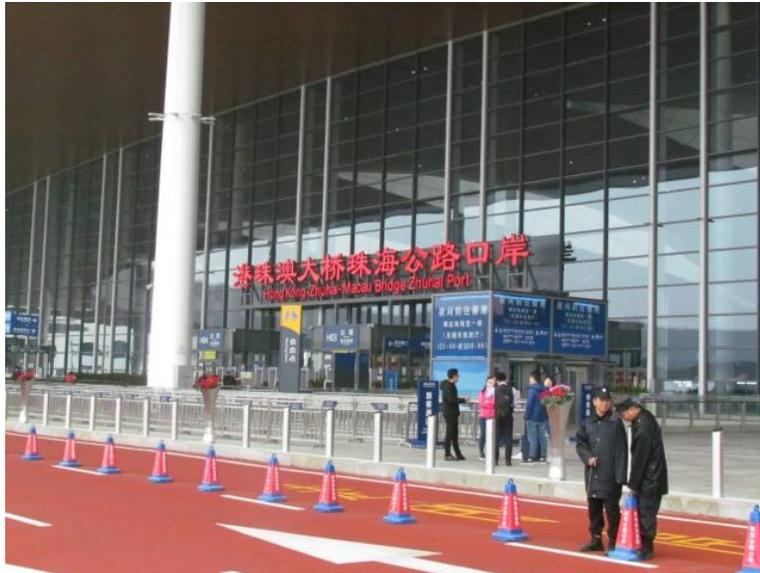


Statue of a Red Guard in a hotel lobby



More than 40 relatives attended Stephen Lee's wedding

Hong Kong- Zhuhai-Macau Bridge



A road system that connects Hong Kong Island to the mainland, a bridge-tunnel system that cross the mouth of Pearl River and links harbors on the western and eastern shores of the river. Cargo ships, trucks and trains are making connections to harbors of the Pearl River. The bridge has greatly expanded regional reaches of these harbor cities.

High Speed Train



Average train speed 300 km/hour (200 miles/hour), Hong Kong to Wuhan takes 4.5 hours, to Beijing , 7 hours.



High Speed Train Station in Hong Kong

Wuhan

A historical city, Wuhan is the provincial capital and twice served as Nation's capital briefly under different circumstances in 1927 and 1937. Wuhan sits in central plain of China and has been an important shipping port of the Yangtze River, the largest river in China. Modern day Wuhan is well connected to other cities through roads, high speed rails, air traffics and waterways, it has truly become a major transportation hub.



Old district of Wuhan showing a hotel and a nearby seafood restaurant with a rack of salted and dried meat on the sidewalk.



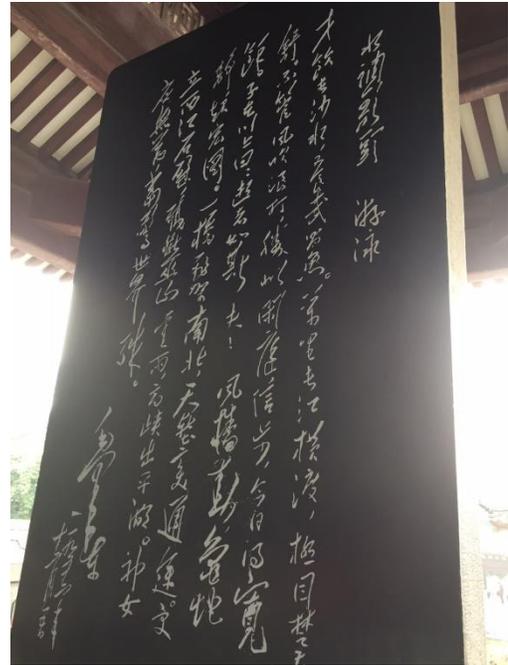
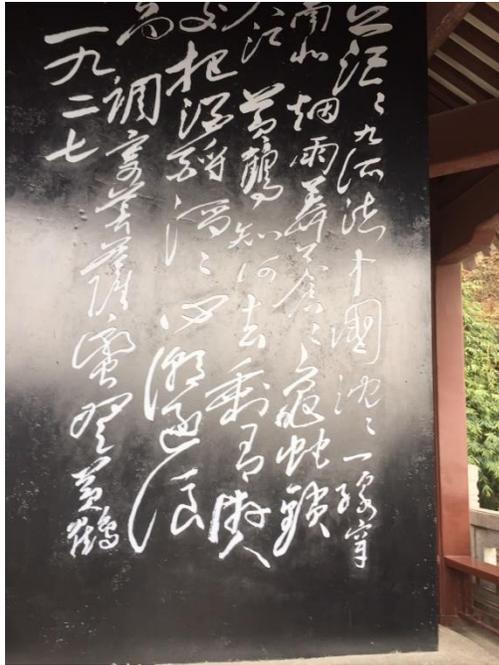
View from our hotel room which shows a mixture of midrise and high rise buildings and busy traffic patterns. Much more work are needed to further develop oldtown area.

Yellow Crane Tower





A park with many pagodas , pavillions and gardens where scholars sat and discussed their writings, a park volunteer showed us various sections of the park and explained two poems of Mao Zedong.



Left is a poem written in the Spring of 1927, at a low point in Mao Zedong's life. Mao described river flows and imagined a rail road that crosses over the big barrier of the river. He sensed a severe defeat coming and did not know where the future holds, he swore by pouring wine on earth and stated that he is more resolved to succeed. At right is a poem written by Mao in 1956 when he swam across the Yangze River, he enjoyed clear river water and local fish. To see the completion of the first Yangze River bridge that connects north and south of China, he felt the calm of the mountains and their controlling function of river waters. During this happy and proud time, he said, he dreamed that some day a big dam will be built that will result in the formation of a calm lake. It would be an astonishing change of the landscape but goddess above mountains in the sky would be fine to see the change.

Hubei Provincial Museum

The most famous exhibition in this museum is a collection of various items unearthed from the tomb of a member of a royal family from some 2500 years ago.



Shown here are items made of Bronze, such as cooking utensils, wine vessels, a refrigerator to chill wines and armory for soldiers, also shown is a lacquered wooden suitcase with diagram of constellation.



A large set of bronze bells which are played by several musicians to perform a rite-and-music culture which can be compared to symphony orchestra performance. Musicians use long sticks to hit bells, aided with drums and other instruments.

Uprising Hall of the 1911 Revolution

A memorial museum where flag of the uprising army is shown, statue of Sun Yet-sung who was the leader of the revolution stands in front of the building. The successful uprising resulted in the formation of Hubei provincial revolution army and eventually led to a republic nation and abolished feudal political system that existed in China for more than 2000 years. The big event occurred on October 10, 1911, known as the Double Ten day or the National Day of the Republic of China.





Headquarter of provincial Hubei army of the revolution

Zhongshan Park

A city park to commemorate Dr. Sen Yet-sun, the park has a hall where historic ceremony was held to accept surrender of a Japanese commander in central district of China.



East Lake Green Center

East Lake Green center is an urban park with a big lake and beautiful landscapes.



Ancient Lute Pavilion

About 2000 years ago, a famous musician who played lute, he found someone who can genuinely appreciate his music and they became good friends. Unfortunately his friend died, the musician stopped playing lute because he could not find anyone else to take place of his friend.



Wuhan University

A campus with more than 50,000 students, Wuhan University is beautiful in its picturesque scenery with cherry blossom in spring and plum blossom in winter. The natural landscape is complemented with pavilion shaped student dormitories and a campus version of Forbidden City.



The Qingchuan Pavilion

A civil engineer in ancient times, Da Yu traveled many places in China. Da Yu surveyed and managed important river systems, he worked so diligently that he did not make a stop even though he passed his home three times.



The Gude Temple



Guanyin with thousand hands and gods of Buddhism

Additional Local Restaurants and Wall Writings



Writings of an emperor in a temple and a modern day sign that says “ Chinese dream is to make China great again”.

Kaohsiung

Kaohsiung is a special municipality of Taiwan, a seaport and industrial center with a population of 2.8 million. The city recently elected a new mayor, who pledged to boost tourism and increase export of agricultural and fishery products to China.





Shown here is a section of I-river or River of Love near main tourists area where bridges, wheel of love and night markets can be seen, the area is looked upon by a dragonfish statue. Lobby of a nearby hotel is also shown.

ChinPao San

A cemetery in a mountain to the north of Taipei, the complex includes burrial sites and towers of Christian and Buddhism religions.

