

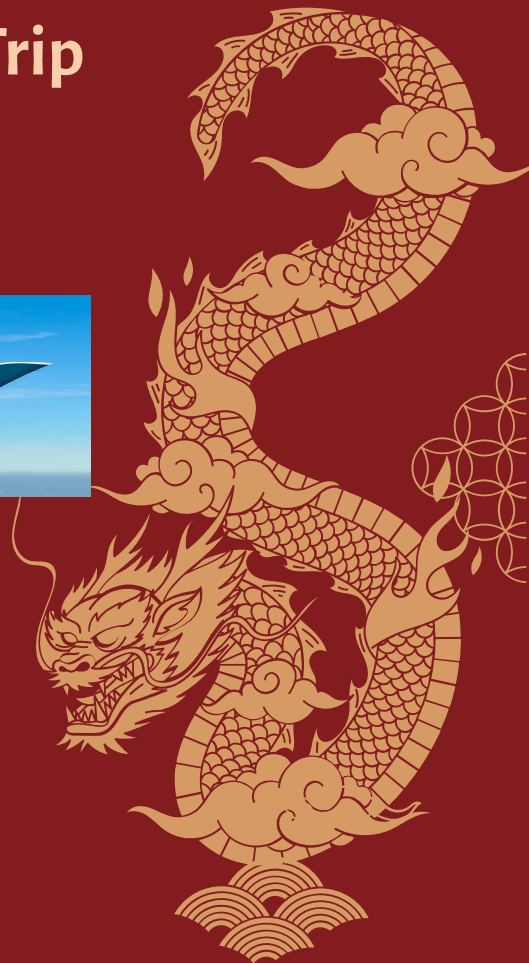
Waunakee Community High School China Trip

June 14th - June 29th

Presented by:

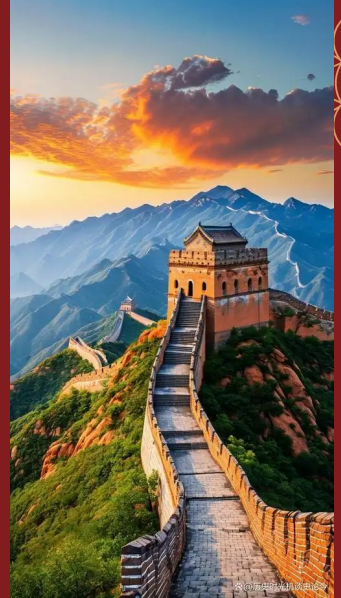


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Our Mission: Why China?

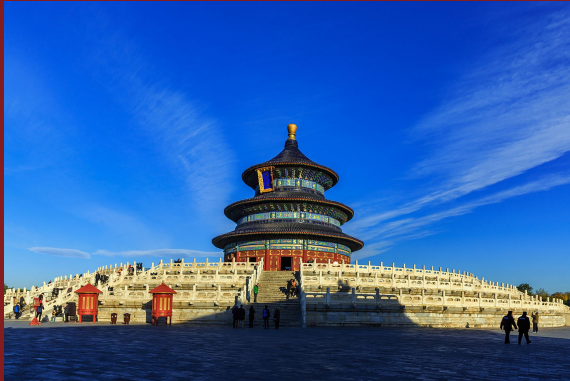
I traveled to China to learn more about its culture and try new foods with my friends. It was an exciting opportunity and I was happy that I could go to China and experience the street markets and museums.



Our Path Through the Middle Kingdom

Beijing

We spent 9 days in Beijing, the Imperial Capital.



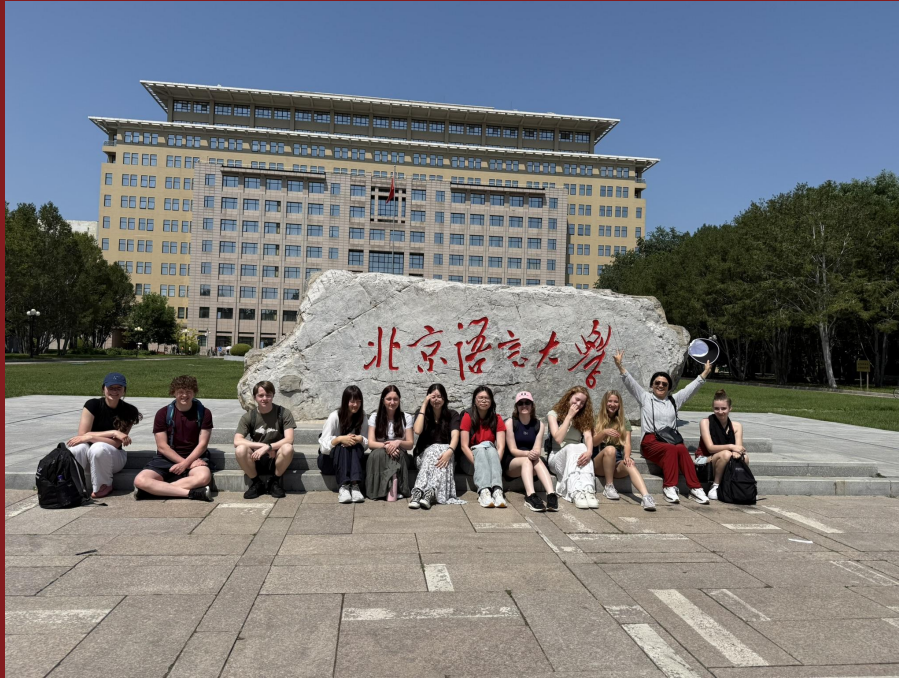
Xi'an

From Beijing, we took a high-speed train to Xi'an, the Ancient Crossroads, and stayed there for 4 days.



Beijing: The Imperial Heart

Beijing Language University



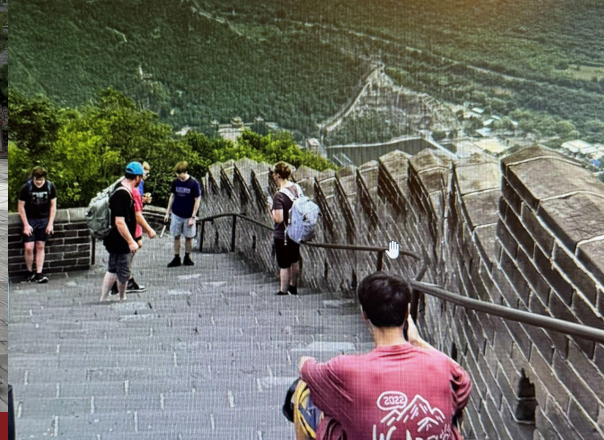
Beijing Language University, which we were in conjunction with, is the only international university founded by the People's Republic of China named after "language". The university is often called "Little United Nations" in China because of its very large number of international students from various countries.



Beijing: The Imperial Heart

The Great Wall

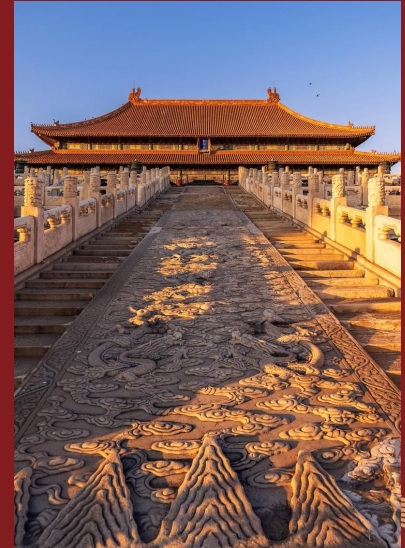
The first walls date to the 7th century BC; these were joined together in the Qin dynasty. Successive dynasties expanded the wall system; the best-known sections were built by the Ming dynasty (1368–1644). The great Wall is the biggest man-made structure in the world. It was tiring to walk up, but we liked the views.



Beijing: The Imperial Heart

Forbidden City

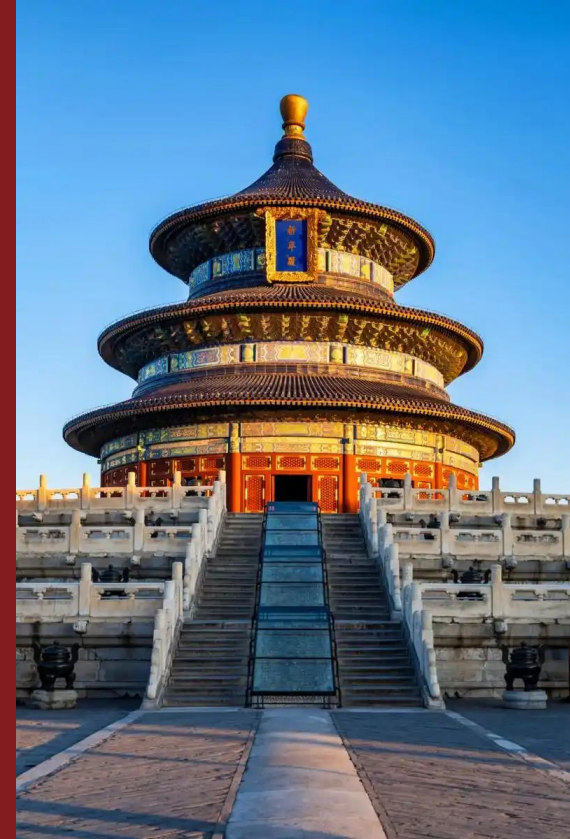
The Forbidden City is the imperial palace complex in the center of the Imperial City in Beijing, China. It was the residence of 24 Ming and Qing dynasty Emperors, and the center of political power in China for over 500 years from 1420 to 1924. The palace is now administered by the Palace Museum as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Forbidden City is the largest preserved royal palace complex in the world.



Beijing: The Imperial Heart

The Temple of Heaven

The Temple of Heaven is the largest and most representative existing masterpiece among China's ancient sacrificial buildings. It is a masterpiece of traditional Chinese architecture renowned for its intricate design, which famously uses **no metal nails** in its primary structures



Beijing: The Imperial Heart

Tiananmen Square

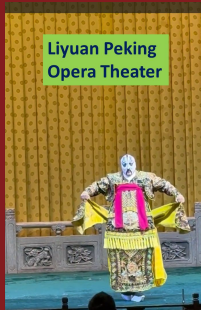
Tian'anmen Square, the world's biggest plaza, is a major cultural and political hub in Beijing, known for its immense scale and historical significance, and can accommodate up to one million people for major gatherings and national ceremonies.



Beijing: The Imperial Heart

Liyuan Peking Opera Theater

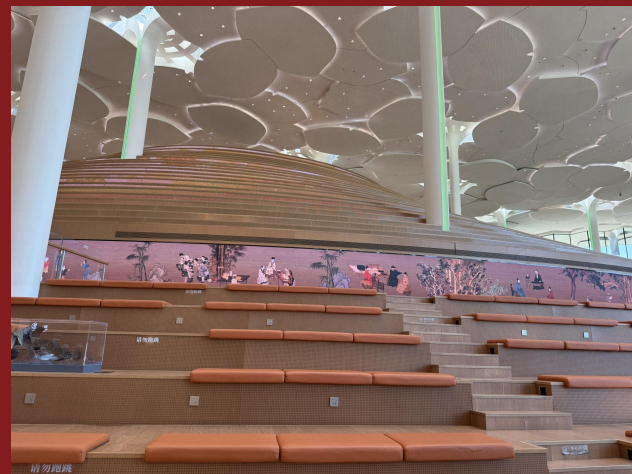
Peking opera is a traditional Chinese performance art that combines vocal performance, singing, dancing, and martial arts. It originated in Beijing and is characterized by its distinctive style, elaborate costumes, and symbolic, colorful facial makeup that identifies characters' personalities. It continues to be a significant part of China's cultural heritage.



Beijing: The Imperial Heart

Beijing City Library — the Most Modern and Largest Library in the World

The Beijing Library officially opened to the public in December 2023. The library's appeal spans generations, serving users from a sprightly 93-year-old reader to a curious toddler.



A Taste of Tradition



Tea Ceremony

The tea ceremony was one of our favorite part of the trip. We drank different teas such as ginseng oolong tea and jasmine tea.



Xi'an: Echoes of the First Emperor



Xi'an is a large city and capital of Shaanxi Province in central China. Once known as Chang'an (Eternal Peace), it marks the **Silk Road's** eastern end and was home to the Zhou, Qin, Han and Tang dynasties' ruling houses.

We took the **high-speed train** from Beijing to Xi'an and the entire journey (1,200 km) only took **five hours**, which needed **15 hours** by the ordinary train.



Xi'an: Echoes of the First Emperor



Terracotta Army

The Terracotta Army is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China. It is a form of funerary art buried with the emperor in 210–209 BCE with the purpose of protecting him in his afterlife. It was really cool to see the intricacy of the warriors' faces.

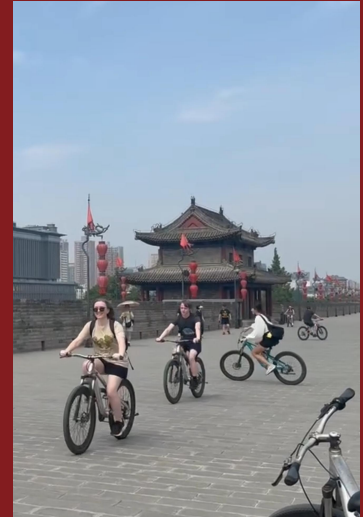
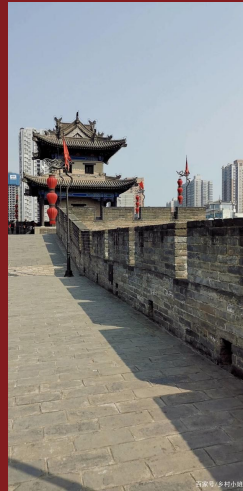




Xi'an: Echoes of the First Emperor

Ancient City Wall

The Xi'an City Wall is a well-preserved ancient fortification in China, originally built during the Ming dynasty starting in 1370 to protect the city. It is the oldest, largest, and best-preserved of China's ancient city walls, stretching 13.7 kilometers (8.5 miles) and reaching 12 meters (40 feet) in height. It was fun to bike on the wall with friends and have the opportunity to visit this landmark.





Xi'an: Echoes of the First Emperor

Xi'an Great Tang Everbright City

Distinctive from other historical sites or museums, Grand Tang Dynasty Ever Bright City, with no reservation or ticket fees required, takes you through time and space and back to the flourishing Tang Dynasty (唐朝) by changeable live-action landscape and diverse night activities. Going through this amazing street is like coming across a time tunnel, where a thousand years of prosperous Tang Dynasty with inclusive spirit reappears between the turns of light and shadow.





Xi'an: Echoes of the First Emperor

A Chinese Calligraphy Class

Chinese calligraphy is an ancient art form focusing on the expressive and aesthetic qualities of written Chinese characters, created using a brush, ink, inkstone, and paper—known as the "Four Treasures of the Study". It emphasizes character structure, the balance of strokes and spaces, and the expression of the calligrapher's spirit, similar to a disciplined meditation.



Our Culinary Experiences

Beijing: Peking Roast Duck



A famous Chinese dish from Beijing known for its thin, crispy skin and tender meat. It is traditionally served with thin pancakes, scallions, cucumber, and a sweet bean or hoisin sauce.



The Xi'an writing brush pastry (Mao Bi Su)

is an innovative, light, and flaky pastry designed to look exactly like a Chinese calligraphy brush. It has no filling itself and is typically dipped into sweet, fruity, jam-like sauces before eating.



Homemade Buns and Zongzi by Mrs. Zhu's sisters.



Biangbiang Noodle

A famous street food from Xi'an, characterized by their wide, flat, hand-pulled, and chewy texture.



Roujiamo

Chinese hamburger, a popular Chinese street food from Xi'an



Beijing Zhajiangmian

a popular Chinese noodle dish featuring thick wheat noodles topped with a savory, fried sauce made from fermented soybean paste and ground meat (traditionally pork). It is often served with fresh, crunchy vegetable toppings like cucumber, carrots, and bean sprouts,



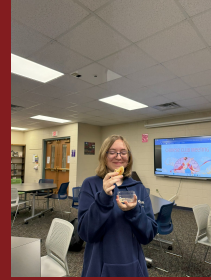
What We Learned

- It was amazing to see large monuments such as the Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors.
- It was interesting to see the blend of modern and ancient buildings.
- Language barriers didn't prevent us from having fun and communicating with others on the trip.
- I've become more independent and adaptable to different cultures.



Chinese Club

Presented by **Annika Lee**, the president of the club



Thank you! Questions?



