

## 3A TRAVEL STORIES

### **Li Hua Boa**

#### **Luo Fu Mountain**

Luo Fu Mountain is one of the most famous mountains in China. It has another name: Dong-Jiao Shan. It is in Bo-Luo, Guangdong. There are actually more than one hundred mountains. The highest mountain is Fe Yun Feng. It is 1,290 meters high. It has more than nine hundred waterfalls and eighteen caves. Maybe you can enjoy the natural spa and rafting. It also produces famous white flower oil medicine.

I remember we went there one time. I stood under the mountain and couldn't see the top of the mountain. I only saw clouds surrounding the mountain peaks. It's spring the whole year there. I could see a lot of flowers and I tried many kinds of fruit. Under the mountain, I could take a boat around the lake or I could play golf.

If you have kids you can take your kids on the bumper cars, ride horses, or play in the water. If you have religious beliefs, there are many temples to visit. Huashou Si is the most famous temple. It is 1,200 years old.

If you are looking for excitement, you can take a cable car. You will get scared when you're sitting 50 meters in the sky with nothing to protect you. It's just a rope hanging over you, and you can feel the wind blowing around you. It's empty under your feet, and when you look down, you can see the cliffs, big stones, waterfalls, and trees. You think, "What's happening? This isn't safe!" Rafting is also exciting there.

If you want to go on vacation or are looking for excitement, you can try Luo Fu Mountain.

### **Crystal Chen**

#### **Kaiping**

One day in 2006, we didn't have class, so we five classmates decided to go to Kaiping. We took the bus at 8:00 am from Taishan. We were very excited. We talked and laughed on the way.

The first place we visited was Liangjin Shan. That is a nice place where you can worship and draw lots. We got our fortunes told. We felt happy. A man used our names to make a poem. We were amazed.

After Liangjin Shan, we visited the Yingshi Cheng. A lot of movies and TV shows were shot there. There were some old buildings. When we arrived there, we visited one of the buildings. The building was decorated like a Republic of China-era hotel. It was interesting. Around the Yingshi Cheng, there were a lot of people selling snacks. For example, sesame candy, ginger candy, beef jerky, and pork. Those are traditional snacks in Kaiping.

The last place we went was Kaiping Li Yuan. Before it was a private garden for the man who was a Chinese-American. It covers an area of about 19,600 square meters. It has a collection of traditional gardening and western architecture. It is a relatively complete combination of Chinese and western gardens in China. It can be divided into three parts: the villa area, the big garden area, and the flower garden. That was a nice place.

It was a wonderful day. We walked, saw, talked, and laughed the whole day.

### **Sissy Chen**

#### **Meizhou Island**

Meizhou Island is a place in Putian, Fujian, China. I went to Meizhou Island when I was a student in high school. Our class visited there for a spring trip. I remember Meizhou Island because I saw a picture that my old classmate had sent to me.

My classmates visited two places on Meizhou Island. One was the Mazhu Temple, the other was the Gold Beach. The Mazhu Temple is a memorial to Mazhu. Mazhu was a lady who protected people who went to sea. If you go to the Mazhu Temple you can see a statue of the Mazhu. Most people take a picture with the statue. It was a poor place when I visited there, because I saw many children around my classmates and me. They just wanted to collect cans when we drank sodas. But I think the people might be better off now.

We also visited the Gold Beach. It is one of most popular places in Fujian. The view is very beautiful. The sand looks like gold, so it is named Gold Beach. The beach is very clean. At the Gold Beach, you can find shells. If you can't find shells you like, you can also buy shells from people who live there.

I have some good advice if you want to visit Meizhou Island. Spring is the best time to visit there. But you should bring sun screen to protect your skin because the weather is hotter than other places in the spring. I also hope I can visit Meizhou Island again!

## **Song Song Chen**

### **Trip**

Tokyo is a quiet place. You can see landscapes everywhere. There are many trees and flowers along the roads. My friends and I went there when it was spring. The weather was super nice! We always woke up at 6:30, so we could hear the voice of the crows.

In Tokyo there are many temples. They are all big buildings.

Mount Fuji is a must-see in Japan. It is one of the most famous mountains in the world. It is one of the biggest mountains in the world, too. There are clouds around the waist of Fuji, and you can't see the top because the top is covered by the clouds. The tour guide told us that the best time to see the whole face of Fuji was in the morning, between 6 am and 7 am. So we woke up at 4:30 then drove more than one hour to get there. You can't live close to Fuji. That is dangerous.

The country also is a shopping heaven. But the prices are more expensive than in China—even more expensive than in the U.S. They mostly sell make-up and appliances. The most popular are cookers and insulation cups.

The main thing is the toilets. They are clean and advanced.

## **Vincy Chen**

### **Travel to Toronto**

I went to Toronto in July 2014. I went there with my older son and my friends. Our first stop was Niagara Falls. When the bus drove close to the bridge, I heard a loud sound from Niagara Falls. The bridge is between the U.S. and Canada. When the bus crossed the bridge, I saw Niagara Falls. It was amazing. A lot of water fell down on the lake at the same time. At that moment, I felt the power of Nature.

We passed Niagara City, then we went to Toronto. We took a two-hour boat trip around Lake Ontario. Lake Ontario is a beautiful lake, and the water is blue. I had never seen such a beautiful lake in New York.

When we finished the boat trip, we went to Toronto Tower. That is the tallest building in Toronto. There are 447 meters of metal staircase built in the Tower, and there are 1,776 steps. It is the world's highest metal ladder, but these steps are used for emergency use. There is a glass floor at the top of the Tower. Standing on the glass floor looking down, the people looked like ants, and the cars were the size of my son's toys. If you are scared of heights, don't look down. I looked out of the window at the top of the Tower, and I saw whole City of Toronto. I saw the houses, I saw the boats on Lake Ontario, I saw a small airport near Lake Ontario. I felt that everything was like the city of my son's Lego toys.

After we left the Tower, we went to the Chinatown to eat. We ate Chinese food. The Toronto Chinatown was similar to New York's, but smaller.

The next day, we went to the Thousand Island Lake. The Thousand Island Lake is between the U.S and Canada. It is a scenic spot with 1,865 small islands which belong to the U.S. and Canada. We took a boat trip around the Thousand Island Lake, and ate breakfast in the boat. Many islands had beautiful houses. After we finished the Thousand Island Lake boat trip, we came back to New York.

## **Xiu Zhen Chen**

### **New York City**

In the summer of 2006, my husband, my daughter, and I decided to visit New York City. We took the bus from Minnesota, and we passed many cities, including Chicago. After two days, we arrived at New York's Port Authority, and my friend took us to her house.

The next morning, we took the N train to Chinatown with my friend, and we ate breakfast at her sister's restaurant. After that we took the Staten Island Ferry. This is a free ferry, and it goes past the Statue of Liberty. We enjoyed taking the big ferry, then we took another ferry back.

After that, we walked for two minutes, and we took another ferry to Governors Island. Each adult only paid two dollars, and children were free. We brought some food there. We could sit on the ground and eat. We borrowed free bicycles to ride around the island, and my daughter could play on the island.

After a few days, we went to Times Square and Central Park. We could take the train everywhere.

New York City is very convenient, and the food here is delicious. My daughter said she would like to live in New York, so we decided to stay here.

**Xiao Feng Dong**  
**I Went to Washington, D.C.**

In the spring of 2011, my mother took me, my sister, and my brother on a three-day trip to Washington D.C. along with her friend and her friend's children in a tour group. We took a tour bus to Washington at noon. After lunch, my mother and her friend were chatting together. My sister, my brother, and the other children were playing games together. I didn't get motion sickness immediately. It started after about half an hour and after an hour, I threw up. I felt better after I threw up, though.

We arrived at Washington after a four-hour ride. The first place we went was the Capitol. Many tourists took pictures and listened to the tour guides. As it was getting late, we went to the hotel to get some rest, but I couldn't go to sleep. I was very excited and I wasn't used to the bed I was using in the hotel.

The next day, we set off bright and early. First, we went to the Wax Museum where we saw a copy of the presidential podium, the Oval Office, and some wax figures of the president and Cabinet. The guide told us who the people were and what the place was.

After lunch, the guide took us to a cave. The upper floor was a big mall. We went into the cave using an elevator. The cave was dark and the path was uneven.

On the last day of the tour, we went to a large park to see cherry blossoms. The cherry trees were very beautiful. In the afternoon, we returned to New York. This was my first trip in the United States.

**Yueh Hong Hsia**  
**Taipei**

Taipei is the capital of Taiwan. It is a modern city. Transportation is very convenient. It is like New York: you can take the train or bus and there are many yellow taxis there.

Taipei has a large night market which has varied food that they sell on the street. The Taipei night market's famous food is the oyster omelet. This is seafood with eggs and flour mixed together. If you want to eat it you have to wait because usually there are many people waiting. You can drink pearl milk tea too. My favorite is hot herbal jelly. Inside there are peanuts and pearls, but only in the winter season you can have this soup.

If you have a few people going to the night market with you, I suggest sharing food with them because there are many, many foods you'll want to eat. You can try a little bit of everything.

One Taipei landmark is the First President Memorial. This is a famous symbol. The nation's flag is raised there every morning, and there is a huge courtyard in front of the memorial. Another is Sun Zhong Shan Park. We call Sun Zhong Shan the founding father of the Republic of China.

Now there is a skyscraper called Taipei 101. It has 101 floors, and it is also the Taipei international financial center.

The weather in Taipei is mostly hot and humid. Only one month is a little cold. People are very kind there.

**Esther Li**  
**Visiting Washington**

I went to Washington D.C. in 2016, before Christmas day with my sons and my husband. My son drove us from New York and it took about five hours.

When we arrived in Washington, my sons were excited, especially my younger son, because he was very interested in history. He has a good memory. When he was a child, he could remember all 108 characters from the book *Shui Hu Zhuan*. He visited the Washington Monument, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the National Air and Space Museum, the Jefferson Memorial, the U.S. Treasury, and the Supreme Court. He visited all the tourist sites. When he visited the museums, he saw everything in detail and enjoyed himself.

But my husband and I were very bored and tired. We were always taking care of their things, such as clothes and bags. We visited all the tourist sites in three days. Every day after visiting I went to the hotel to sleep. But my sons still talked about what they had seen and bothered me while I slept.

I think I will go there again. It will be more interesting than before. Since I learned about America history, now I know why my sons had a lot of energy and were so interested. In fact, Washington is a very clean place. There are many famous neoclassical buildings and historic sites. If you live in or visit the United States, you have to go to Washington and visit all the tourist sites. Don't miss this place!

**Elaine Liang**  
**Orlando**

I traveled to Orlando in 2014. I went there with my daughter, my sister, and her friends. I took a plane with my sister, and her friends took a bus from Miami to join us. We stayed there for five days. It was my first time in Orlando. It was so exciting.

The first day when we got off the plane, the travel agency drove us to the hotel. On the second day we visited Universal Studios, and we spent the whole day in the theme park. I saw many new things. The next day we went to another theme park. We visited a different theme park every day. But we weren't busy; we could enjoy our trip and relax.

I visited Universal Studios, Animal World, Hollywood Studios, Epcot, and Seaworld. Every theme park had famous things to see. In my opinion, if you have enough time you should visit all the theme parks.

Orlando is in Florida, so the weather is hot. I think the winter time is the best time to go there, but don't go on holidays because there will be a lot of visitors and crowds, and you'll waste a lot of time in line.

On the last day I went to outlets. There are a lot of big outlets and they are cheap. If you go to Orlando you must go there. There are a lot of brands, and you can buy famous brands cheaper than in New York.

On this trip my regret was I didn't visit the Magic Kingdom. I think it is the most popular theme park. I have to plan to go there again. Anyway, I had a great trip and it was awesome.

**Dan Lin**  
**Fun Trip**

Three years ago, my friends, my sister, and I went to Thailand. Because at that time the weather in China was very cold, but in Thailand it was summer time. So we decided to go to Thailand.

We went by plane for two hours and arrived in Thailand. When we arrived, the tour guide told us, "We will go to a chocolate factory." We were very excited. We had never seen how to make chocolate. When we got to the chocolate factory, it was a surprise to us. We didn't see any chocolate. We saw a small village with many small buildings, and a small river running through the village. If you stood in a tower, you could see the whole village. It was beautiful: water, flowers, sunshine, and nice weather. It was wonderful.

We also visited the royal temple, royal village, and market on the water. If you go there, you can go shopping, and if you have any questions you can ask the salespeople. They can speak Cantonese, Mandarin, and English. We didn't have any language problems.

**Jing Xiong Mei**  
**Guangzhou City**

Guangzhou is a big city in China, and it has a long history. It is a center of Ling Nang culture. Guangzhou was an important seaport in China a long time ago. It connected China to the world. This city combines eastern and western culture. There are a lot of western-style buildings. This is a big characteristic there. During the Revolution, there was a lot of fighting in Guangzhou, so there are a lot of memorials and museums you can visit.

The first time I visited Guangzhou was in 1999. I lived there for a few years. I studied and worked there. It's like my second hometown. I prefer this city because of the food. Food is another characteristic of Guangzhou. There are a lot of specialty dishes. I liked to go to different famous restaurants with friends and co-workers.

Guangzhou has a place I really like to go visit. I like strolling along the Zhuzhang River at night. It has a nice night scene.

I suggest you visit Guangzhou if you want to understand Guangdong culture.

**Xiu Kui Ng**  
**Los Angeles**

I went to Los Angeles with my family. It took about six hours to fly there. Before the plane landed, I looked outside from the window. A blue sky with flying white clouds. When I looked down, I saw many houses. It looked like many small boxes and green trees on the ground. Very beautiful.

In Los Angeles, my cousin drove us to many famous places. We went to Disneyland, Movie City, and Hollywood. We had a lot of fun at Disneyland. We visited the place where the actors work, and we also went to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, where we saw many famous actors' hands copied in the street. Many visitors were there, and some of them put their hands on the stars' handprints. That made them proud and it was fun.

Far away on the mountain, there were big letters: HOLLYWOOD. When we went up to the top of the mountain, we could see the beautiful city sights. It was a nice day. The sun was shining, the wind was mild, and the air was fresh. I felt so comfortable.

We stayed in Los Angeles for about one week. This is a good place to live if you can drive, because the public transportation is not convenient. Most people drive a car to work or to go shopping, so in this city every family has a car.

## **Ya Si Qiu**

### **The Biggest Park in New York**

I'm a new New Yorker, so in this city everything is interesting to me. New York is a wonderful city. There are many people who come from different countries. It has four seasons. In the spring you can see flowers everywhere, and in the summer it has several beaches where you can go to swim and enjoy the sunshine. I think the fall is the best season in the city. Many leaves change their color. Some are yellow, some are red, some are still green. In the fall you can see a colorful city. In the winter everything, everywhere is covered by snow. It becomes a white world. I was excited when I saw it snowing for the first time.

In this city there are a lot of styles of churches and parks that were designed by famous designers you can visit, like St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. John the Divine Church, and Central Park. But the most impressive is Central Park. It's like a pool table in the center of the city.

I went there in the fall. I took the B train and got off at the 59<sup>th</sup> Street station. It was a sunny morning. I walked in the park, and I saw a lake like a mirror with some swans and ducks swimming in it. Wow! It was beautiful. I took some pictures of it, then I kept walking. I saw some yellow leaves on the trees. I didn't know what the tree's names were, but I thought it was beautiful. I'd never seen this kind of tree before I came to New York. And then I saw a big field. It was still green in the fall. It looked like a big rug. Some people were lying on the ground, some were having a picnic, some played with their pets. They looked like they were really enjoying this season.

I spent about three hours at the park, but it was too big to walk around all of it. I will go there again in a different season. It's really beautiful!

## **Julia Song**

### **Traveling to Western Europe**

I went to Western Europe last July. I went with my friend Ahua, and we were part of a big tour group. There was a total of 53 people and we traveled to six countries in nine days.

First, we went to Milan, Italy. We visited the Milan Cathedral, La Scala Opera House, and we went shopping in Milan. I bought a wallet. I think it was cheaper than in New York.

Next we went to Switzerland. Bern is the capital of Switzerland and also a World Heritage Site. We visited the Rose Garden in the old city and went to Chillon Castle. It was very great and beautiful.

After that we went to Germany, and we visited the Rhine River for photo-taking and had dinner high-lighted by German pig legs. It was delicious.

Then we went to France. We went to the famous Louvre Museum to appreciate the immortal painting Mona Lisa and we went to Montmartre hill, the Eiffel Tower, and Arc De Triomphe. I took lots of pictures.

Next we went to the Netherlands. We went to the wooden shoe factory and viewed windmills, then we proceeded to Amsterdam for a canal cruise in a boat with a glass roof. It was very fun!

Last, we went to Belgium. It had stunning architecture with cobblestone streets.

I was very tired because we were too busy every day. The time of day was longer than the time of sightseeing. If you go to Europe, you have to go to France.

## **Valikhan Tuleshov**

### **A Trip to Paris**

In 1994, my wife and I were in Paris for the first time. Paris is the capital of France. This city has a long history, many interesting places, and cultural things.

My wife was pregnant, so we walked slowly. We had seven days to know why Paris is such a great city. My wife wanted to visit the Louvre, Versailles, and the Eiffel Tower. It was a good time to rest and enjoy ourselves.

Every day we woke up early, had breakfast, and went outside. It was summer, July, and we were excited by the nature, streets, and architecture around us. We visited Museum D'Orsey, the House of Invalids, the Louvre, and Versailles, of course. We were excited when we visited the Eiffel Tower. We looked around and saw everything. We looked at Notre Dame de Paris.

Of course, we went to stores. In Paris there are many famous places like Champs-Elysees, Montmartre, and the Sorbonne. There is the Centre of Georges Pompidou and seven bridges. If you don't know, Paris has two different parts: the Right and Left Banks.

My wife was very happy when we went to Versailles. We saw the picture of Mona Lisa and the sculpture of David.

Before we went back to our hometown, we visited a famous restaurant, Grant Café, where we ate seafood and drank white wine.

On the last day we were full of feeling about Paris. People were very polite and we were too.

After this trip we wanted to visit London, Rome, and Barcelona. But before we could travel to these cities, we had a baby. It was a happy memory from 1994.

## **Sunmi Wei**

### **The Wonderful Trip**

I went to Hong Kong in 2012. I went there with my friends. We expected it to be a short trip.

I woke up at 6 am, then I took a bus to the Ports Exit and Enter of Hong Kong. We met there on time. Quickly we passed from Shenzhen to Hong Kong. I took out the map of Hong Kong and searched the way. In my memory everything was cheap and convenient in Hong Kong. But in fact it wasn't. If I took the subway, the price was very expensive, about \$25 per trip. Luckily, I found another choice and we bought three round trip tickets. I thought the ticket was very good because it cost \$89 and I could use it to go everywhere in a day.

First, we took the bus to Yuan Lang, where there were many delicious foods like the shrimp wontons at Ping's Restaurant. It was a small restaurant and the price was cheap, about \$10 a bowl. I'd never eaten shrimp wontons before and they were fresh and the size was bigger than at other restaurants. I remember the taste even now. Yuan Lang had a lot of local snacks, such as shao mai and curry fish balls.

After we finished breakfast, we took the subway to Tian Tan Buddha. When we arrived there, we were excited. If you want to, you must climb 268 steps to reach the giant bronze statue. We did it. Next to the Buddha sits Po Lin Monastery, where we had a vegetarian meal for free.

After taking a short break on a bus, we arrived at Victoria Peak. We boarded the Peak Tram, and after an eight-minute climb up Victoria Peak, we were rewarded with a fantastic view. Hong Kong Peak Tower has an observation platform with 360-degree panoramic views. We had enough energy to take a one-hour stroll around the Peak.

Last, we went shopping in Mong Kok. Mong Kok is one of the most popular districts in Hong Kong. Sai Yeung Choi Street is a very long and wide pedestrian walkway in Mong Kok on which many shops, malls, and restaurants are situated. We were able to find almost anything we wanted, such as beautiful clothing, skin care products, lovely cosmetics, jewelry, and lots of great street food stalls.

It was time to leave Hong Kong. We were tired but happy. We loved Hong Kong. I hope to visit Hong Kong again.

## **Anna Wu**

### **Visiting the Capital**

I like to travel. Since coming to the United States, I'd never taken a trip, except to upstate New York and Massachusetts. So last summer my husband and I joined a tour group to visit Washington, D.C.

In the morning we woke up early and then with other tour group members we took a bus to Washington, D.C. We drove for about six hours. Midway we took a half-hour rest, and then we went to Washington, D.C.

When we arrived at the capital, I felt happy and excited to see the capital for the first time. We went to the Capitol Building. In the Capitol Building we had a guide with us. After about half an hour we finished and then we took some pictures. Then we continued to our next stop to visit the White House. We looked at it from outside, and then we took a hurried and cursory glance at the U.S. Treasury, the Pentagon, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the Newseum. The guide told us the capital had more museums.

We spent an interesting two days in Washington, D.C. However, we want to visit the capital again.