

FRIENDSHIP FORCE CULTURAL EXCHANGE TO CHINA



Five members of Friendship Force Sunshine Coast enjoyed a very interesting cultural exchange in China between the 2 – 15 September joining FF members from the Queanbeyan – Canberra, Blue Mountains and Adelaide Friendship Force clubs.

Shanghai: Our first stop on this exciting cultural exchange was Shanghai (visiting The Bund, Old Chinese Quarter, Yu Garden, Market area, Shanghai Museum and Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Hall). In the evening we went to see the Chinese acrobats, what a fantastic show.

In Suzhou we visited a selection of Suzhou's best gardens, a silk and embroidery factory and The Lingering Garden, which dates back to the Ming Dynasty.

Nanjing where we had the opportunity to stay for one night with a Chinese family.

Xian where we visited the Old City Walls, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Muslim Quarter and Great Mosque and finally the spectacular Terracotta Warriors, photographs do not do it justice.



Beijing: Our final few days were spent in Beijing, the first day we experienced the majestic splendour of The Great Wall of China that night had the chance to feast on Beijing's famous roast duck for dinner.

The following day we set off early to take in the spectacle of Tiananmen Square with an estimated 100,000 people queuing to see Chairman Mao's Mausoleum the Gate of Heavenly Peace and the Forbidden City.

We took a rickshaw drive through Hutongs which are alleys formed by lines of siheyuan, traditional courtyard

and had a family visit finishing off the day at The Drum Tower.

On the 15th September we transfer to the airport for Shanghai and homebound flight.