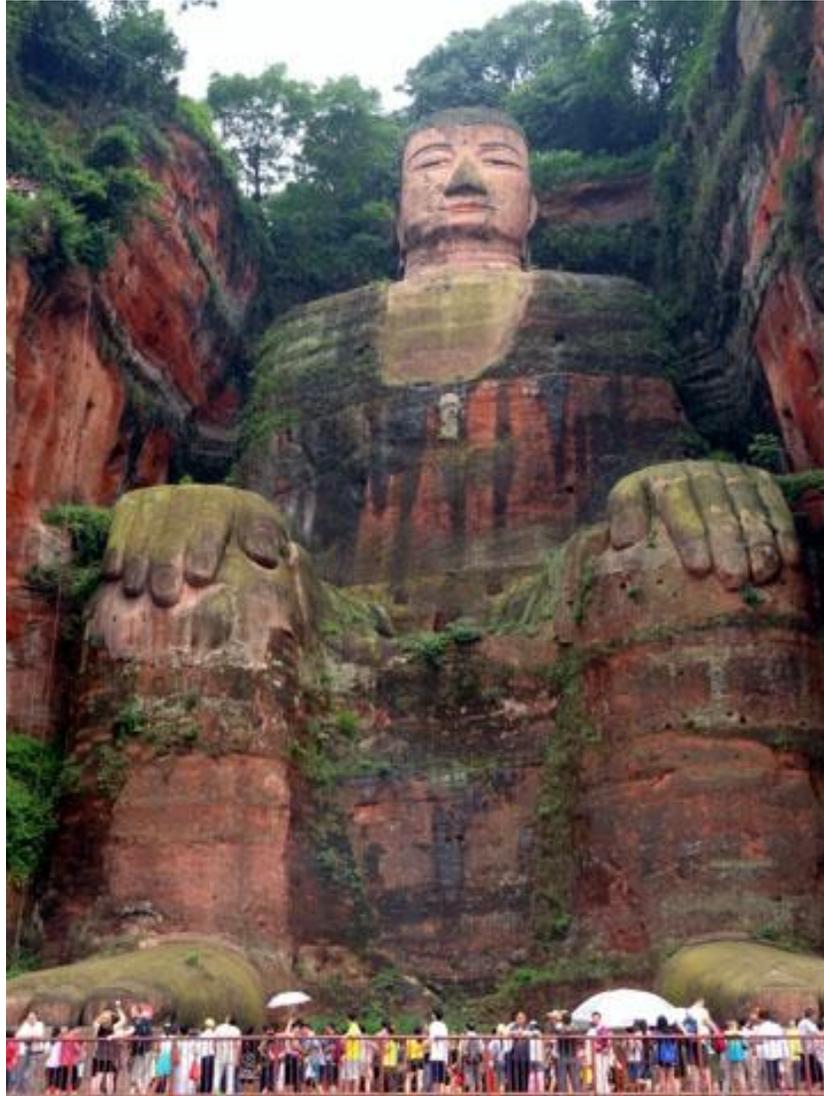


Blog

Week 7 Chengdu Pt 2 ---Le Shan Da Fuo, Qing Cheng Shan, Du Jiang Yan



The second day, early in the morning, our two families set off for Le Shan Da Fuo. (Mountain of the Giant Buddha) It took a very long and bumpy road to get there, but after two hours of being on the car, it was definitely worth it! Let me tell you, that Buddha was just colossal! Only its foot could probably fit 20 people! He was tall, he was happy and he is 1,300 years old. He was there for the safety of the people... The Buddha sits in a mountain, located at the meeting point of three large rivers. At that time, a lot of people whose boats pass by that area get badly hurt, or killed because of the ferocious waves during the raining season. Then there came a monk named Hai Tong. He decided to carve the tallest Buddha in the world to protect the many people who live at the foot of the mountain and the sailors who pass by.

After 90 years of carving the Buddha into the mountain, there still were rising waters, but they only rose to the Buddha's feet. Ever since then, threatening waves never harmed the people again.

We also visited a famous and traditional mountain called Qing Cheng Shan. (青城山) Qing Cheng Shan is one of the places of origin for Taoism. (道教) Climbing this mountain was probably the most tiring exercise I have done. Now I know that my worse enemy is stairs! We were all soaked in sweat, gasping for breath and not to mention extremely tired. But when we got to the top, a feeling of joy and pride filled us up. I thought to myself “I made it to the top of Qing Cheng Shan, I’ve done something I have never done before, I am proud!”



*Tao (Taoism)*

Qing Cheng Shan has many temples. A lot of people went there to burn incense. So Anna, Willow and I decided to pray to the god of the future to protect our friendship, to begin a sworn sisterhood and come back to the exact location ten years afterward. Qing Cheng Shan is quite the traditional, exotic and unique mountain.

We used all the energy that we had reserved in ourselves to visit a two thousand year old life saving structure. Du Jiang Yan. (都江堰) 2000 years ago, there was a river called Min River. It flowed from the mountain springs to sea. Then there came a man named Li Bing. He thought of an idea to build a dam-like structure to separate the river into two parts, one part flows to sea, and the other goes to the farmers of Chengdu to have water to grow crops. So he started piecing together his wonderful idea. After a sad death, his son took over the process of building the dam. 2000 years later the dam STILL stands and serves its purpose. As we were hiking the mountains of Du Jiang Yan, we came across a bridge. That bridge wasn't a typical one; it was literally made of wood, string and nails. It didn't stay put over the rapidly flowing river. Instead it was like a baby's crib in the wind. Swinging back and forth, back and forth. It was an amazing feeling for us three kids, as for my mom, it was a nightmare! Step by step, my dad helped my mom inch her way to the end.

