

Blog 19 – Hong Kong Impression



Hong Kong was leased by Britain in 1898 for 99 years. On July 1st 1997, Hong Kong was returned to China. During these 99 years, Great Britain had affected Hong Kong in many different ways. One of them is the driving habit. In Hong Kong, taking the taxi is very confusing for me, because the taxi driver drives on the *right* side of the car. When I see the driver minding his own business driving the car, I always think the driver is the passenger and the car is skipping down the road on its own! It scared me half to death the first time I noticed that, but then I realized that the “passenger” was steering a wheel. 😊

Another thing is many schools are still using English as their primary language. If you are lost and need directions in Hong Kong, go ahead and use English! Believe it or not, many people are more comfortable with English than Mandarin. Hong Kong’s double cultural identity has transformed herself as a Western-Asian.



During our stay, our “tour guide” was my cousin, whom is really familiar with Hong Kong. He went to college and graduate school there and has stayed in Hong Kong for 6 years! He led us from shopping mall to business plaza, from packed, noisy street to quiet mountain trail, from little food stall to “hot” local bistro. In the end, I felt like my legs were stuffed with 100 kg weights. On the last day of our trip, my legs refused to stand, walk or move... I just wanted to find somewhere to sit down to give my legs a rest. In the end, my parents left my cousin and me at the movie theatre.



We sat down, put on the 3D glasses and peacefully enjoyed the movie: Wreck It Ralph. During the movie, I sure noticed the difference, there was no one chatting loudly or answering the cell phones and there were no empty cups and popcorn buckets left on the floor. Not only in the movie theatre, but also in other public areas, I have noticed that a lot of Hong Kong residents are very polite. In subways stations, people stand on the right side of the escalator, leaving the left side for those who are in a rush; on busy intersections, cars patiently wait for pedestrians to cross the street without beeping the car horns. Hong Kong is very close to mainland China and I hope Hong Kong residents’ good habits can gradually affect the residents of China.