

## Blog 26 University of Cambridge

During our trip, we also visited University of Cambridge. It's 50 miles north of London. We stayed at a family hotel for one night and it was quite enjoyable. The hotel was a typical 3-story house that you would see in the northern part of the US. Our room had one king-size bed and two twin beds and was decorated with fancy Victorian style furniture. We were all amazed by the room's size and its uniqueness. I think this family hotel is just about the same as the 5 star hotel near my grandma's house in Beijing! I definitely underestimated the quality of the room! I guess I shouldn't be prejudice the next time we go to a family hotel! When it came time for us to leave, I realized one night didn't seem enough for me. :)



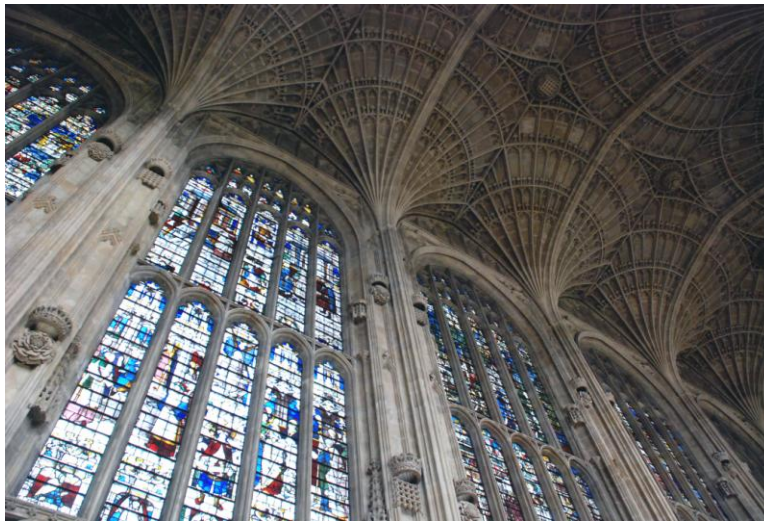
University of Cambridge has 31 colleges and occupies a central location within the city of Cambridge. My dad was fascinated by its history and dragged me along with the whole family up to Cambridge to see the scenes recommended by the tour book. First, we visited St. John's College. The college was pretty impressive. Some buildings are extremely old and were built in the 15th century! The evenly proportioned brickwork, the beautiful vividly colored stained glass and the heavy chocolate brown wooden doors are all the finest examples of Cambridge's traditional architecture. All of the scenes were the puzzle pieces that made up the whole picture of St. John's College. What was special about the college to me is the fact that in that college, there's this hallway that was the location of many scenes in the Harry Potter movies! The Harry Potter director chose that college's hallway because of how unique the structure was with the detailed arc ceiling and also because the hallway really fit into the Harry Potter theme. I took a couple pictures in that hallway with a book in my hands, looking like I was holding my textbooks, coming out of class! The book I held was my dad's Chinese tour book for London. :)



In the center of a shopping plaza, there's a local flea market that carries a lot of produce, souvenirs and baked goods. It grabbed our attention, especially my grandma's. She lingered down the many booths in each aisle and happily bought a British scarf, a Cambridge shirt, a loaf of sourdough bread and a big chunk of home made cheddar cheese. And finally, she stopped at the fresh fruit booth and pointed at the juicy red raspberries. "Whatever that is... I'd like to have 2 cartons of those chubby little cuties!" My mom had to Google it on Google Translate to find the proper Chinese name for it. I guess it's not that popular in China! Besides that, my mom also bought 4 apples and 4 ginormous oranges. I guess we were all too thirsty and too hungry to realize that someone ought to carry them. In the end, they ended up on my dad's shoulders.



Next to the flea market is King's College which was built by King Henry the 6th in 1441. The most attractive part of this college is the chapel. It took 90 years of hard work to finish the whole chapel. It not only serves as an active house of worship, but also as a significant site for tourists. There are 12 grand windows on each side of the chapel and they are covered with rainbow colored stain-glass. The sunlight shining through made colorful shadows on the brick floor. I was told that these windows are some of the finest in the world from their era. While we were learning the chapel's history and examining its architecture details, no one noticed that my mom accidentally left her purse somewhere when taking a picture. We walked into the crisp green field and leisurely wandered around campus. We were just about to settle down for a snack when suddenly grandma realized that my mom wasn't holding her purse! Sweat trickled down my mom's foreheads and her face turned from red to white! My mom and I rushed back into the chapel like lightning and nervously searched everywhere. Eventually, we found my mom's blue bag hidden under a bench. We were so relieved that our hearts almost skipped a beat! My mom anxiously checked inside and showed me all our passports. I'm not sure about all of the other stuff in her purse, like the money, credit cards and phone, but we definitely wouldn't be able to leave London timely without our passports. Before leaving the chapel, we all held our hands together and thanked god for watching over us.



At the end of the day, our whole family sat in a small cafe on the corner of a narrow street eating chicken wraps and ginormous oranges. We stuffed the fruits in our stomach and the memories deep into our brains.