

A Special Western China Cultural -Photographic Expedition



A Photographic Diary of our “2013 Eastern Tibet Expedition”

April 2013

by Yau-Sun Tong

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Preface

The following images within this “**Photo-diary**” were taken with a little pocket-sized **Leica D-Lux 5** camera.

These **snapshots** are only intended **to capture** and **to document** the **events, our travel routes,** the **joy and fun of our tour members** during this lifetime experience of a fantastic visit to another one of the western China regions; and for our memories.

The little “point-and-shoot” **D-Lux 5** has many limitations in picture taking, little performance in terms of optical quality compared to the famed **Leica R and M** camera systems with slide-films I am so often used to and fond of using; but at the same time it poses a challenge to myself for still trying to create meaningful images with it.

High quality slide-film images taken from this tour are **not** shown in this **photo-diary**.

Some of the goals I am trying to achieve in my photography include:

- *True to the moments in nature and culture;*
- *Natural and candid;*
- *Compositionally challenge and unique;*
- *Meaningful in subjects and topics;*
- *Story telling with good impacts;*
- *Not to disturb and intrude into local human subjects' life.*

Brief intro

Gathered in *Shanghai* at end of March, I led our tour group flew to *Sichuan* province, started the great experience of our **《April 2013 Eastern Tibet Cultural/Photographic Expedition》** which was especially designed for those who were interested in a real cultural experience in some of the most fascinating places for unusual and rich topics of photography and travel.

Some of the most interesting areas and cultural events in *Western China's Tibet Autonomous Region & Qinghai province* were hand-picked to be arranged in this expedition.

The following images in chronological order are intend to share the enjoyments from some of the events and highlights of our journey of this over 16-day tour – another successful one of our ongoing specially arranged **Western China Cultural/Photographic Series Tours.**

My sincere appreciation & many thanks to all participants of this very special tour!

the itinerary we took

(see itinerary indication **red line** on map)

March 30 – April 14, 2013

A 16-day journey through:
"Shanghai entry - Sichuan into Eastern Tibet -
by coach explore eastern Tibet region - along the
YarLung Zangbo River westwards to Lhasa - by train
to Xining of Qinghai - Beijing departure"

Along this exclusive itinerary, attractive
natural sceneries, colorful minorities,
enchanted Tibetan culture, along our
way tasty foods... wonderful experience,
enjoyment & photographic opportunities
not found elsewhere.

Timing is selected for the Peach-
blossom season, and a Qinghai Tu
people annual festival during that time
of year. Comfortable temperatures.



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Shanghai Arrival

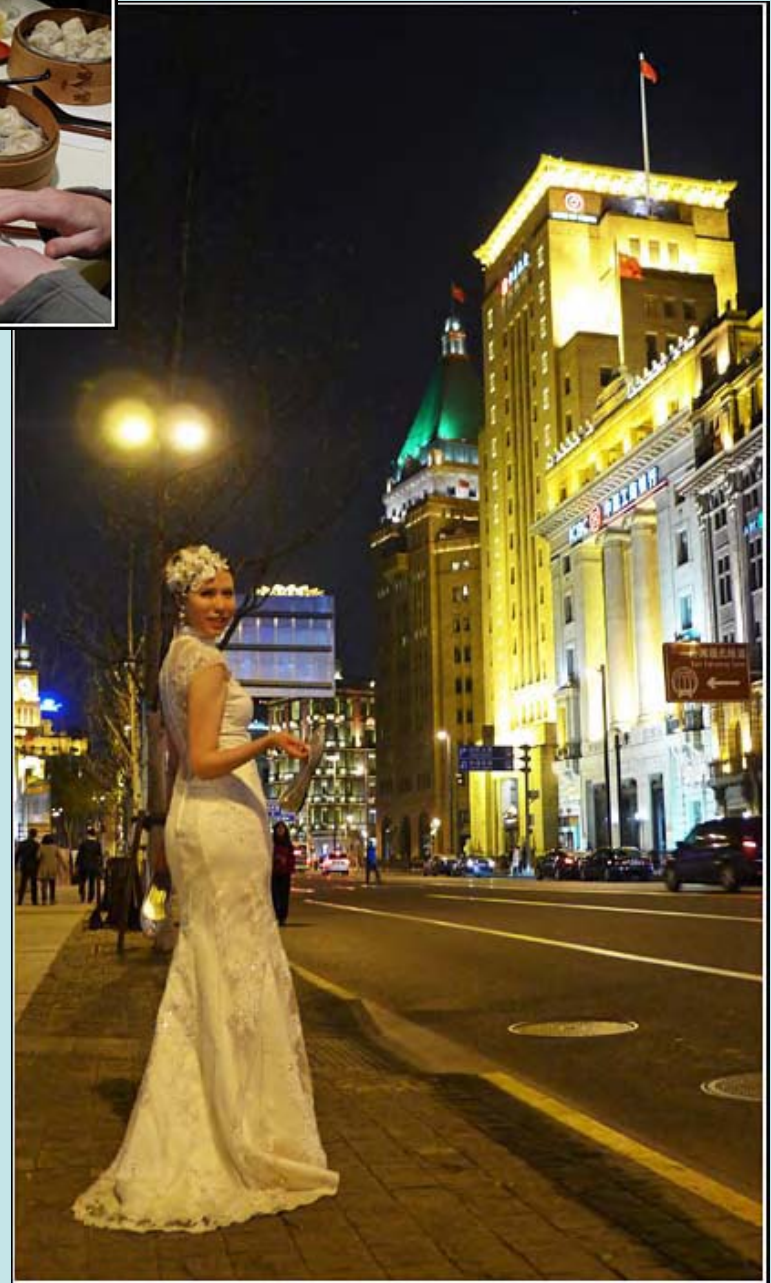
入境上海





Arrived and gathered in Shanghai, we started our journey on March 30th...

A brief resting in our nicely located hotel, trolling around the Bund area, to Nanjing Road for an sneak...
抵达上海...





Fresh morning Taiji, and a wonderfully tasty evening welcoming banquet of Shanghai cuisine... It was a great starting of our China Journey... 怡人舒适的晨运晚宴，我们旅程的良好开始...



Chengdu

*a stay over to prepare our entry to
Tibet Autonomous Region*

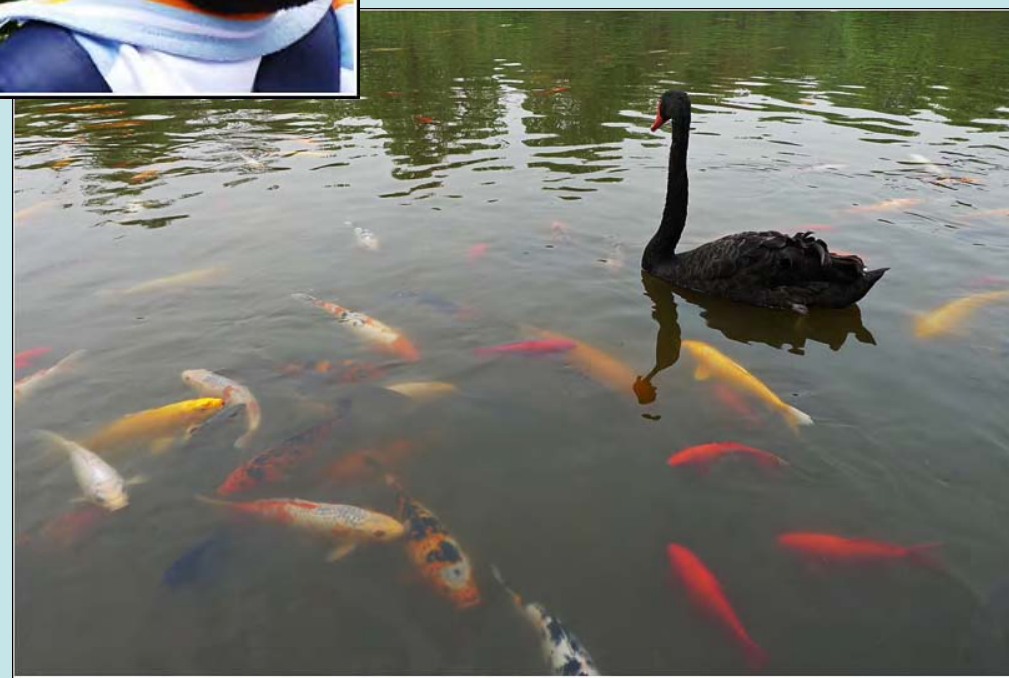
成都短停，准备入藏





Black & the red colourful...

Three kids watch three kids...



hey, it's Peri...



A day visit to the UNESCO site of "SanXingDui" museum nearby Chengdu.

hey, it's Simon...



Since day one, we've been "tortured" daily by varieties of tasty, healthy dishes of all local special styles throughout our itinerary...



Hey, Colin D is looking cool...



Into Tibet

a flight to Nyingchi in eastern Tibet

飞抵藏东林芝





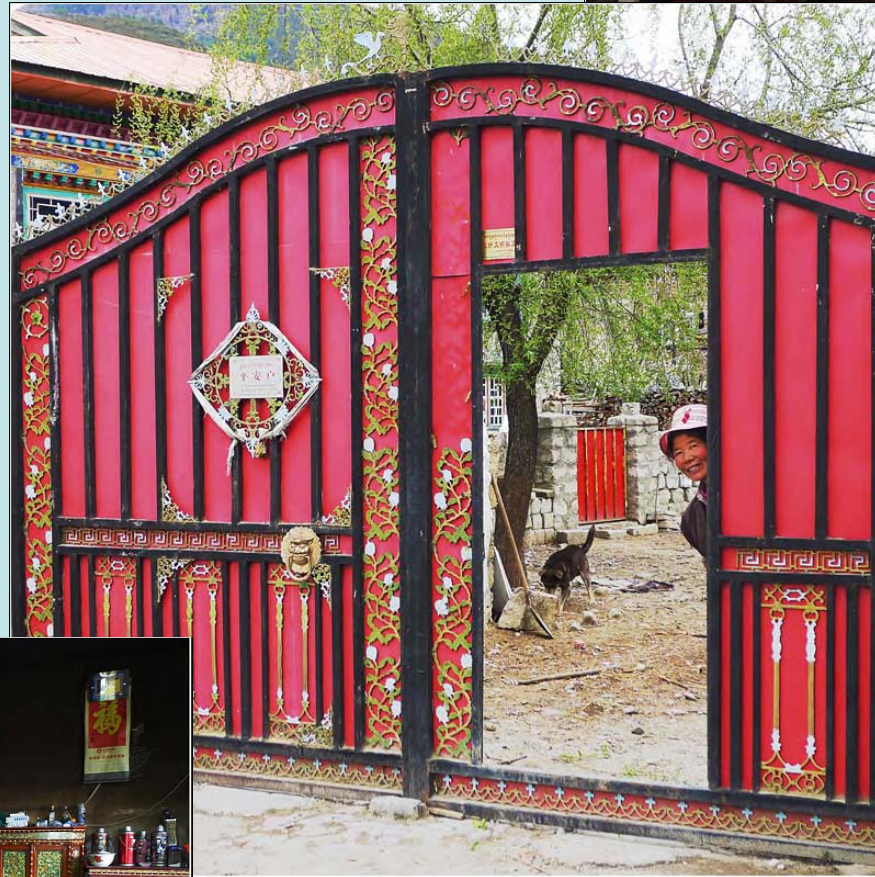
Arrived eastern Tibet region which is seldom traveled by foreigners..., aboard our spacious coach for our Tibet region land travel...



Lower altitude, spring wild peach blooms... make eastern Tibet region a joy to explore this time of a year...



Not only scenery, but importantly – cultural visits, mingle with locals was one of the most interesting & worthy experiences during our journey!



A Tibetan villager's spacious house...
鄉村家訪民居



The famous local "stone-pot" hotpot...



Nyingchi is an important township in eastern Tibet.





The Segrila pass is high at 4,728 meters...

Lulang is known for its great forests...





Under certain weather conditions,
roads in eastern Tibet could be
treacherously difficult...

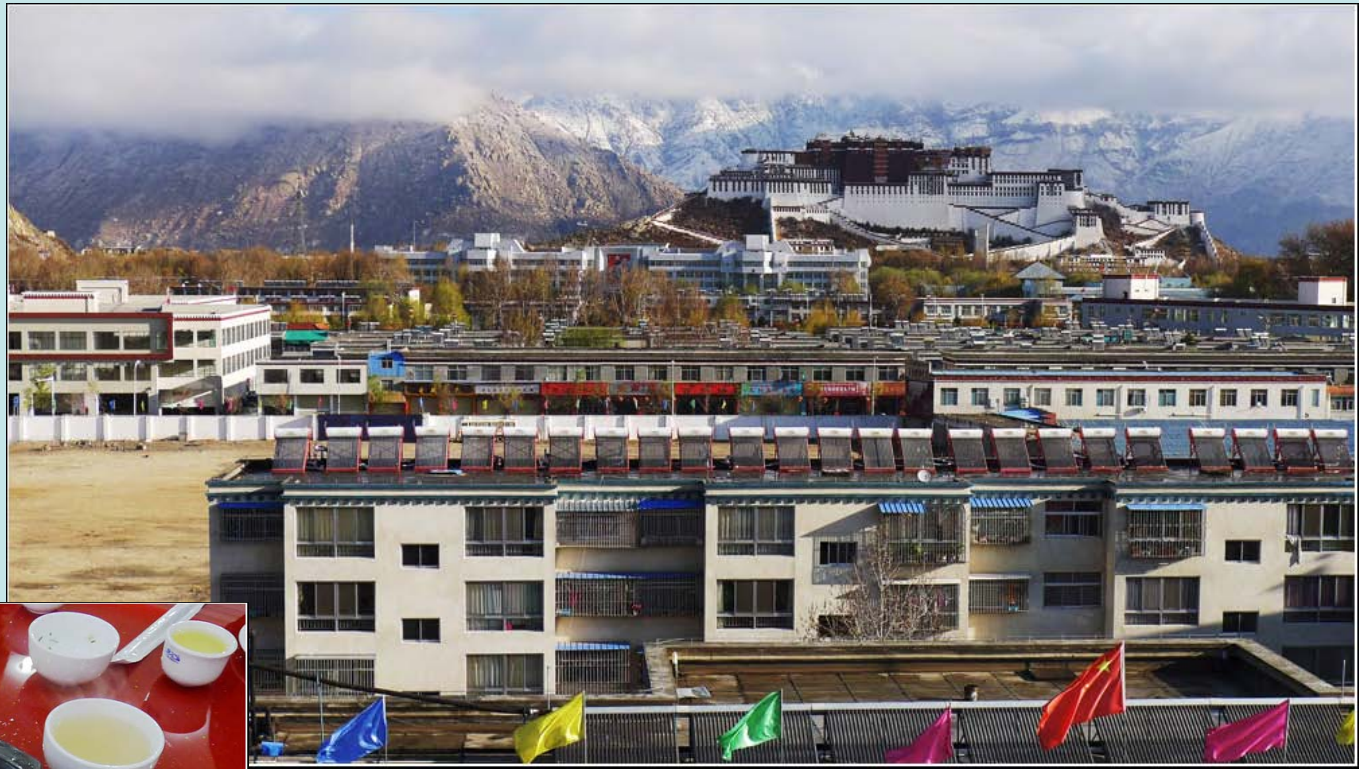


Villages with spring blossoms,
local sacred lake – Basom Tso...





We not only survived but much enjoyed the great view at Mira mountain pass, elevation 5,013 meters...



Arrived Lhasa, good view from our speciously comfortable hotel, with Potala Palace at sight... and of course tasty foods as daily have been...



a Nepalese style lunch...

“爱国 团结 和谐 发展” – “Patriot, Solidarity, Harmony and Development”...



Hey Colin... looks like you need to run faster to beat Lesley...



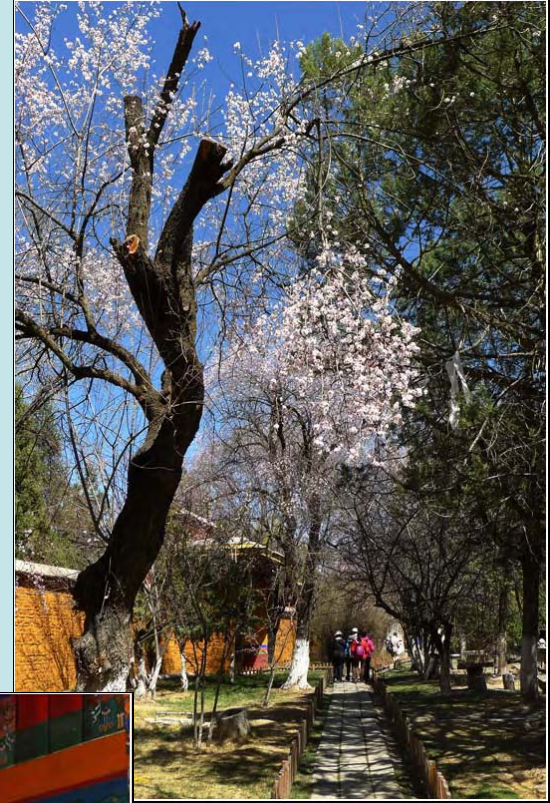
They are from Gyangze, about 250km west of Lhasa...



A day of visits to the Tibet Museum & "Norbulingka Summer Palace" - a part of the UNESCO site...



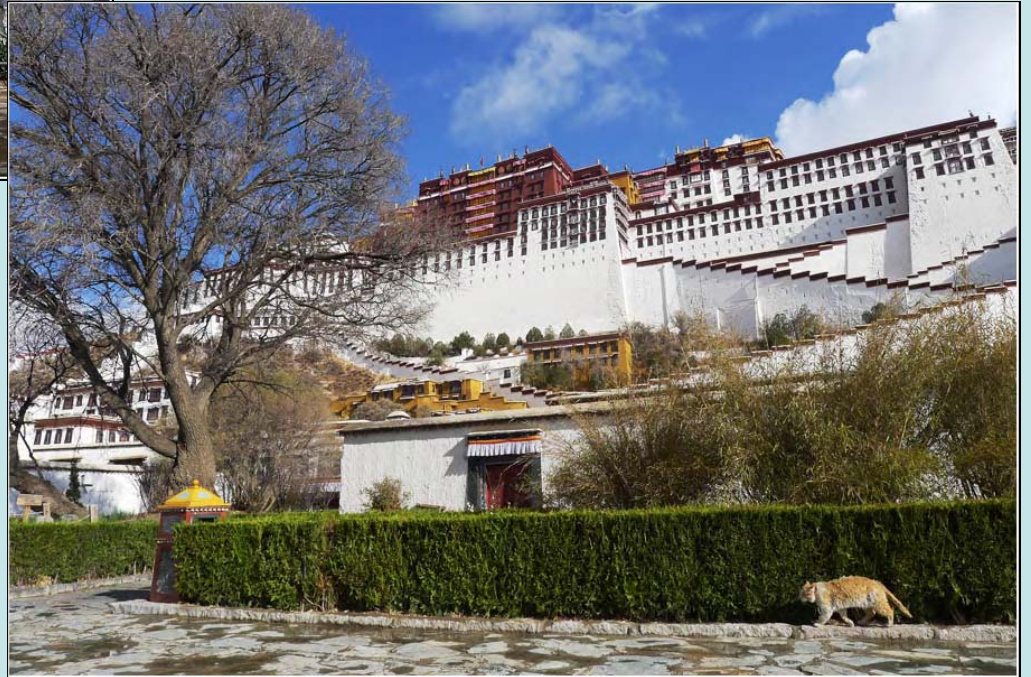
Early April, most part of Canada would still be under siege by the cold winter... while Lhasa is already starting the sunny bloom of spring...



Around the Potala Palace...



Composition is not everything...
but it is a lot of thing...





Jokhang Monastery - a part of UNESCO site...



Another good meal we were having...



An unique retro style restaurant... another night of "torture" with good meal...



Yes, it is the view from our hotel windows,
rooms that specially arranged for our group...



An after supper stroll rendered this snapshot...



Left Lhasa on our way to southern Tibet region for more interesting explorations... along our way stop & visit villages, and ordinary local family houses...





Karyn was definitely brave to seat with six would-be savage pure-bred Tibetan mastiffs...



Hey, who have the right-of-way...



obviously the sheep do...



A village boy...

To us, tasty and healthy are always equal...



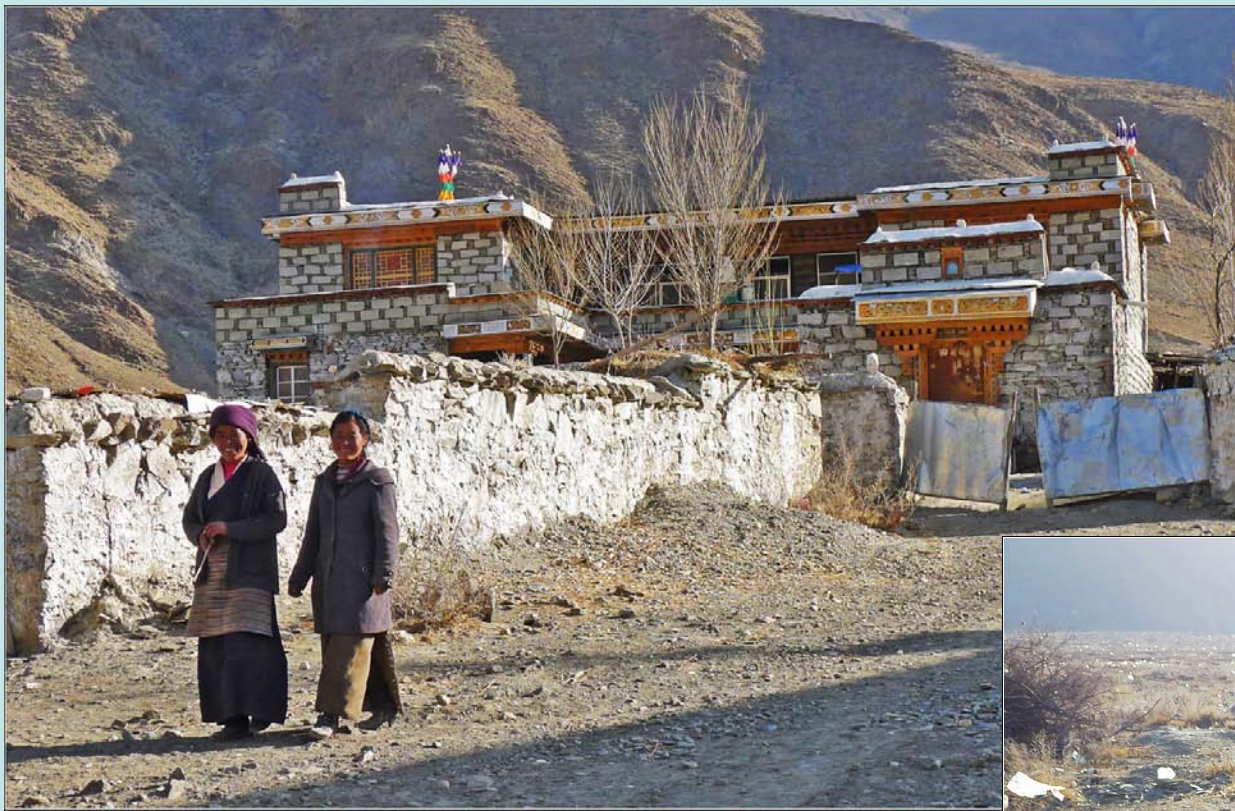


Yumbu-Lha Khang – the “first palace” built in Tibet has an over 2,000 years history...



Hey, with a 20/10 vision, you'll see that's René, Karyn & Jason on the ridge...





Peaceful village morning life...



Good morning villagers...



Arrived southern region in Zedang,
checked into our comfortable hotel...



Today is Peri's birthday, we had a surprise celebration
for her with a fresh bouquet of flowers...

And an elaborate rich lunch in a private room of the
best restaurant locally...

(hey, I think she was weeping...)



Supper time, the delicious
"torture" again continues...





Next day early morning, on route to the ferry to across Yarlung Tsangpo river – the highest altitude river of the world...



Our "captain"...



渡過雅魯藏布江

It was an 1hr. & 45min. ferry-ride to reach the other side to visit the ancient Samye Monastery...





Our ferry finally reached the other riverbank...

And another 30min. transfer by a mini bus ride to the
Samye Monastery - built in the 8th century...



Samye Monastery...





Samye Monastery...





And our lunch inside Samye Monastery was wholesomely healthy and tasty...





Nanciellen was buying fruits as gift to our host to express a very small part of our thanks to their hospitality...

拉萨民居家访

A very pleasant visit to a Tibetan friends of mine Baima & Cailung's home; they are ordinary Lhasa residents...



We received movingly great hospitality from our hostess & host...



Each of us was presented "khata" (Tibetan ceremonial scarf), and a lots of Tibetan style treats...

a wonderfully as well totally natural chats...

it was a worthy real cultural experience for a lasting memory!





This morning we left Lhasa by way of the world's highest altitude railroad to Xining in Qinghai province, a 24 hours train ride with some spectacular sceneries along our way on "top of the world"...



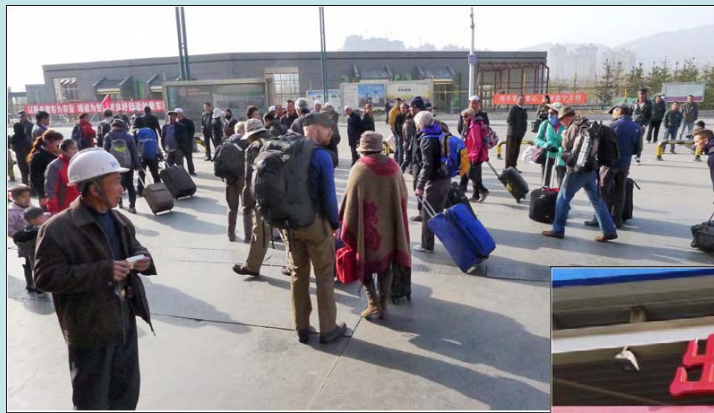
Our group members all have the soft-sleeper cabins, the best on the train... a mother and her baby joined my cabin halfway from Golmud...

Arrived Xining

our Qinghai visit

抵达青海





Our morning arrival in Xining, and walking out of the train station exit gate to our coach that's already waiting for us...



hey, that looks like Simon who's just about walked into this beef-noodle restaurant...

couldn't wait to be "tortured" again...



the first thing was into a famous local restaurant that's specialized in Xining beef noodle... wonderfully delicious... !

An afternoon visit to the Salar Ethnic Minority county proven to be an excellently interesting event...
The Muslin Salar nationality is unique to Qinghai...

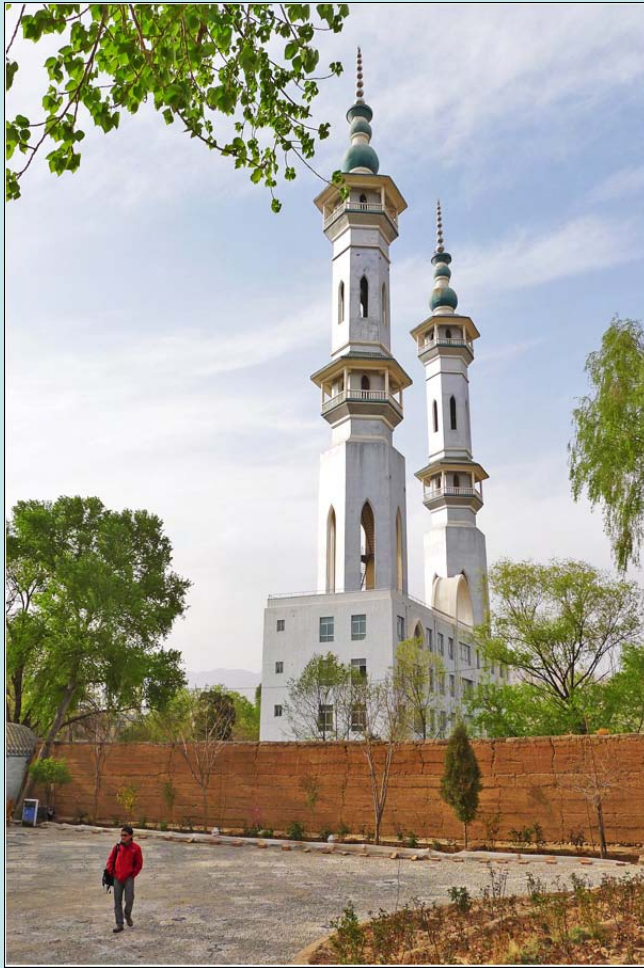


Children everywhere are one of the most interesting photographic subjects...



The area is also famous for it's
unusually tasty lamb dishes...
as well the local special
hand-made noodles...





hey, that looks like our reliable
hard worker Mr. She...

The history of the Islamic Salar nationality could be traced back to Turkmen era many centuries ago from Central Asia...





A street scene in the center of the Xunhua Salar County...



hey, that looks like Felix & Yulanda...



we love to be "tortured" constantly with tastily healthy local cuisines...



Yellow River runs through here, and is lovely clear and clean... not "yellow" at all yet...

(hey Felix, you asked before about what angle I had for this "XunHua Yellow River bridge"... here it is...)



Early in the morning, we set out to attend an unique "Tu Ethnic" minority ritual festival up the north... locals are preparing for this important event...





"Tu" ethnic minority is unique to Qinghai province...
the "Bobo" ritual is colourful yet solemn...





土族波波会 *we often have fantastic photographic opportunities...*



As the day progresses, there are more and more Tu people coming to the event...





the “Bobo” ritual attracts all local Tu people...



And our lunch in the Tu village was a great entertaining to the minds and eyes, as well to the taste buds...



The largest mosque in Qinghai province
- the historical "DongGuan Mosque" ...

西寧東關大寺



and it would not be
complete without another
great tasty local Muslim
style cuisine...

Just after
Friday prayer...



Beijing exit

by flight from Xining to Beijing

北京出境





Arrived from Xining, the last night of our official itinerary, most will leave Beijing next day...

“最後的晚餐”

it is our “the last supper”... knowing that many more of such “last supper” will come again...



It is a famous “Peking Duck” for our farewell banquet...



Along with tons of multiple mouth-watering, stick-to-memory great tasty dishes...



Wouldn't it be nice if we'd be “tortured” daily like what we had been daily during our journey...





The sign outside the park gate is interesting...



Here in this park, the famous Taiji legend Li Hesheng teacher is practicing with students daily...

Few lucky ones in our group followed me visited Teacher Li that morning...

Street scenes could also be interesting for photo snapshots...





Beijing street scene snapshots...



In front of this historical St. Joesph's Cathedral
built at 1655, the younger generation
was in a craze...

While the older generation looked on seems
to be in a daze...

少者疯狂，老者茫然...



One of the real interesting cultures of Beijing is the culture of Hutong (traditional alleyways)...", and it is disappearing fast with "modernization"... 北京胡同小景



*and
the conclusion of our tour... until next time*

Epilog

The snapshots in this Photo-diary are in no way able to represent the richness of culture and nature scenes we've seen, the fun and joy we've experienced during our group's "2013 April Western China Expedition"...

for Yau-Sun Tong's special "Western China Cultural/Photographic Series"
expedition tours for Aug 2013
as well as for Feb, Apr & June 2014

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please visit news page:

<http://photoart.chebucto.org/photonews.html>

Good-bye for now...