



GOING GLOBAL

UCLA Education Abroad Program



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Observing British Courage Firsthand

By Allison Mistica

I had always hated British stoicism. I found the lack of emotion to be cold and jarring, only broken by an occasional Briton calling me “love” or “dah-ling”. But after the London bombings on July 7, 2005, I found a new appreciation for British culture and its essentialness in this sometimes maddening and confusing world.

I remember waking up on the morning of the 7th to find a hastily written note taped to my apartment’s door. It read, “Don’t go into Central London! There have been several bombings!” By the time I turned on the news around 10:30 am London time, the four bombs had already been detonated on the Underground and a bus had just exploded near Russell Square tube station. I panicked and called my friend Emily who works near Russell Square. Work was suspended for the day but she and her colleagues needed to stay in the office until further notice from the London Metropolitan Police. I was so happy to know she was okay but upset that there was nothing more I could do.



Only a couple of hours later, the buses resumed service in Central London. At first, I felt upset and thought, “How could the London authorities even think to run the buses at a time like this?” But in true British fashion, Londoners ultimately decided that life needed to go on.

I remember watching Tony Blair’s speech and listening to him say that Londoners could not stop their way of life because then the terrorists would win. On that day, I reflected on the Prime Minister’s words. But I felt terrified. The last thing I wanted to do was to ride a bus or tube carriage. Yet it was

my last week in London before flying home to California and I decided the best thing I could do for London was to enjoy the city despite its tragedy.

I celebrated my birthday on July 11th and left London on July 15th. Maybe I did not make many friends among the British, but on my 21st birthday they gave me the gift of bravery. And despite my literally explosive end to my year in London, I would never let terrorism frighten me or any other student from studying abroad.

“I found a new appreciation for British culture and its essentialness in this sometimes maddening and confusing world.”

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The Legends of Budapest

By: Jessica Johnson

Although Hungary has rapidly westernized in the years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the country has still retained much of its historic appeal. One of my favorite parts of getting to know its capital city, when I studied there last fall was learning the background stories of some of Budapest's colorful, sometimes creepy landmarks; my favorites appear below:



The Hand of St. Stephen:

When Stephen I, the first Hungarian king, died in 1028, he was canonized and his mummified right arm was made a holy relic. After being left in the care of Croatian monks, the arm was commandeered to Austria by the Habsburg dynasty, bombed during World War II, and finally returned to Budapest by a U.S. Army Chaplain. The preservation of the hand is viewed as nothing short of a miracle and believers and tourists alike can still visit the relic today in The Chapel of the Holy Right Hand, located within St. Stephen's Basilica.



The Chain Bridge: Budapest is the combination of two cities, Buda and Pest, which are separated by the Danube but joined by a series of beautiful bridges. The most impressive of these is the Chain Bridge, a feat of engineering and design complete with two huge stone lions guarding each end, constructed by the Englishman Adam Clark in 1849. According to popular legend, Clark was so proud of his bridge that at its unveiling he challenged anyone to find an imperfection in his design and vowed to jump from the bridge into the Danube if one existed. A small boy pointed out to Clark that the four roaring lions had mistakenly been carved without tongues and, true to his word, the Englishman jumped.



St Gellért Hill: This Buda hill which borders the river Danube is named after Bishop Gellért, whom St. Stephen invited to Budapest in the eleventh century to help convert pagan Hungarians to Christianity. In the wake of Stephen's death, however, Gellért met his untimely death when he was thrown off the hill in a sealed barrel full of nails. Gellért was later made Budapest's patron saint and today a monument to him stands upon the same hill.



The Statue of Harry Hill

Bandholtz- Near the beautiful U.S. Embassy in Budapest, there is a statue of a U.S. Army General standing proudly with a riding crop held behind his back. The inscription on the front reads, "I simply carried out the instructions of my Government, as I understood them, as an officer and a gentleman of the United States Army." The statue is of Harry Hill Bandholtz and the act which he is referring to took place on the night of October 5, 1919 when Bandholtz, who was on a diplomatic assignment to Budapest, singlehandedly protected the treasures within the Hungarian National Museum from looting Romanian soldiers armed with only a riding crop.

"Although Hungary has rapidly westernized in the years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the country has still retained much of its historic appeal."

Five Reasons Why You Should Go to Hong Kong

By: Tina Tan

Thinking about studying abroad? Don't know where you want to go? Here's my suggestion: Hong Kong! The small area of Hong Kong Island and the New Territories is packed with things to see, do, and eat. If you have even a slight interest in going to Hong Kong, whether it is for school or for vacation, read on for the top five reasons you should go to Hong Kong!

1. The Food: From their fancy floating boat restaurant to the fresh seafood of Sai Kung district to the street vendors of Mong Kok, there is always good food to eat. I love going to dim sum restaurants to eat the usual shrimp dumplings, pork dumplings, and barbecue pork bun. Feel like snake? You can eat it at Sham Shui Po. Sai Kung is the place to go for seafood lovers. You can pick out live seafood and have them cook it the way you like it on the spot. Also in Sai Kung, on summer nights, you can go rent boats and catch cuttlefish.

2. The Transportation:

Hong Kong has a very elaborate transportation system. You can get anywhere in the city using the Octopus card, which can be used as electronic cash to pay fares for trains, buses, and ferries. You can even use them to pay for groceries at supermarkets and at 7-Eleven! There's no need to drive in Hong Kong—Through public transportation, you can go anywhere.



3. The Outlying Islands:

There are 236 islands that surround the Hong Kong area. If you get tired of the city life, you can always take a boat out to one of the nearby islands to explore and get some fresh air. You can eat a vegetarian meal at the Po Lin Monastery on Lantau Island near the infamous Big Buddha or take a boat tour out to the Hong Kong coast in search of dolphins from the Tai O fishing village. With the vast number of outlying islands, you are bound to be busy exploring.



4. The Shopping: At almost every major train station, there is a mall attached to it. Everywhere you go, there are things to buy. At the popular tourist attraction Mong Kok, there are areas designated for merchandise. There is Goldfish Street, Flower Street, and Yuen Po Street Bird Garden. There is a Ladies' (Night) Market that stretches a few blocks with street merchandise such as clothes, underwear, and jewelry. There is also a "Mens' Street" in Yau Ma Tei's Temple Street, where a variety of electronics and other goods are sold. In case you want your fortune told, there are also fortune tellers who congregate here. What makes shopping even better in Hong Kong is that there is no tax!

5. The Tourist Attractions:

One of my favorites is Victoria Peak. There's an amazing view of all the high rises on Hong Kong Island as well as the Kowloon Peninsula. In Tsim Sha Tsui, you can go to the Avenue of Stars, which is similar to our Hollywood Walk of Fame. SoHo is very a very popular and trendy shopping spot. On the weekends, you can barely move through the crowd. Lastly, there Disneyland, the newest attraction in Hong Kong!

While the above list is just the beginning of what the city has to offer, I hope I have convinced you that Hong Kong is *the* place to be. As a cosmopolitan city, the activities are endless! Go out and explore!

"If you get tired of the city life, you can always take a boat out to one of the nearby islands to explore and get some fresh air."

What Are You Waiting For?

By: Tina Talebi

After my experience abroad, I have tried to get all my friends to study somewhere that they will love. During my mission of trying to convert my friends to Education Abroad I stumbled upon someone who was completely unwilling to study anywhere outside of California, Gisa Louner. I decided to interview her.

The goal in mind was to observe Gisa and use her as a resource to encourage other people to go abroad. I

have noticed that some people I have talked to are hesitant to study abroad because of some initial insecurities; indeed, the top two reasons why Gisa worried about going abroad were safety and money. She was also worried about two things in regards to security: safety in dormitories and urban surroundings. From my experience abroad, colleges are there to make you feel safe and at home. The security is very similar to that at UCLA's dorms. At host universities, security measures are taken such as door codes

to get into residential buildings, keys and security guards.

In regards to urban surrounding, we all live and go to school in LA. My area was very rural, but when I traveled into cities, your basic common sense goes pretty far. Don't talk to sketchy people and hang out in groups if you are going to be out late. If finances are tight, do not be too worried. I was able to budget really well while studying in England, one of the most expensive countries in the world, and there are workshops to attend that will help budget

your money if you are on financial aid.

If you really want to go abroad you can make anything work. I was hesitant at first to leave my friends and wondered if I would graduate on time, if I had the money, would I be safe... The list can go on and on, but studying abroad is worth working through every insecurity you may have about living in another country. Give it a chance and I guarantee you will not regret it. When I told Gisa that her concerns were reasonable could be taken care of, she was more at ease. And you should be too!

Shincheon Streets

By: Linda Yu

Do you sometimes find yourself sitting alone on the couch with a bag of chips on a Friday night? Well you'll never find yourself on that sofa again if you study abroad in Korea at the Yonsei University! Shinchon is located between the three most prestigious universities in Korea (Yonsei, Ewha, and Sogang) making it the "hang-out" area for happy, carefree college students. The streets overflow with restaurants, bars, movie theatres, and stores to explore. You will always have a place to go no matter what.

During the day, the streets are crowded with students rushing to campus. The restaurants are packed with students waiting for their inexpensive, but mouthwatering meals or patbingsoo (shaved ice) dessert, which is a "must-have" especially during the hot summer days. Students are also found in coffee shops where they take a break be-



tween classes or shopping (the area even has a Starbucks). Shinchon is also known for the aisles of clothes shops, which contain stylish and economical clothes suitable for college students.

At night, the busy streets of Shinchon switch to an exciting nightlife environment where many Western-style bars and restaurants cater to the large numbers of foreign students. The bars and restaurants are not the

only places to go at night; karaoke, late night movies at movie theatres, and clubs are always filled with students eager to explore the exciting lifestyle in Korea. Studying abroad in Korea was a great experience but the streets of Shinchon were what made my adventure even more memorable.

"At night, the busy streets of Shinchon switch to an exciting nightlife environment where many Western-style bars and restaurants cater to the large numbers of foreign students."

Berlin – Capturing the Essence of Germany

By: Scott Krause

As a German, I am often asked on which one city to visit in Germany. My immediate answer is Berlin. I'm sure some Germans would disagree with me – very vocally. And most of these voices would come from Munich, the Bavarian capital. Munich calls itself “Weltstadt mit Herz” [metropolis with heart], but I believe that Berlin is the true heart of Germany. With 3.5 million inhabitants, Berlin is a metropolis of its own right and the nation's capital. These factors together with the inescapable shadows of its dramatic history make Berlin key to understand Germany, past and present and a must-see for anyone interested in visiting Germany.

The British playwright Michael Frayn rightly called Berlin “a giant ocean liner somehow stranded in sandy wastes of the Mark Brandenburg”. If you take the ICE high-speed train to Berlin, you will understand. Once the train leaves Hanover en route to Berlin it crosses the now defunct border into the former German Democratic Republic. As it speeds at 160 mph through barren lands and meager forests with no village in sight, you will think there is nothing in sight. Suddenly, the scraggly forests give way to houses. No suburban cookie cutter houses here but three story urban homes. All of a sudden the train makes its way onto elevated tracks over busy streets and through crammed urban blocks. Only minutes later you are lost in the brand new Central Station,

a blend of sparkling glass facades and a construction site. Workers are everywhere, hectically scrambling to finish construction in time for this summer's World Cup.



As your eyes wander south over the roofs of Berlin, you will see a sea of glass and cranes, and the Reichstag, the German Capitol, with its famous new glass dome. Here you have already learned the first lesson: Berlin is an incredible dynamic city, constantly reinventing itself.

From the Reichstag, you only have to walk 300 yards along the Tiergarten, Berlin's Central Park, to get to the famous Brandenburg Gate which spans majestically over “Unter den Linden”, Berlin's Broadway. If you want to walk through the Brandenburg Gate, you will walk over a line of cobble stones inset in the street that you are crossing. This is what makes Berlin unique. This is history. These cobble stones mark the course of the Berlin wall. Only 16 years ago you most likely would have been shot for crossing these stones by East German border guards. You wouldn't have been simply walking through the Brandenburg Gate, but “illegally” attempting to cross the Iron Curtain! Suddenly

history comes alive as you stand on the square in front of the Brandenburg Gate.

As you pass the Brandenburg Gate and walk down “Unter den Linden” deeper into the former “East”, you walk past stately buildings with very different architectural styles reflecting their respective builders: Prussian kings, Nazis, Communists, and the present Federal Republic. Berlin is German history in a nutshell and serves as a harsh reminder of how far people are willing to go for their ideology: two successive totalitarian regimes oppressed and killed people here and gave orders to do so elsewhere.

In 2005, Berlin stands in stark contrast to its haunting past. It is not a museum, but a bubbling, and at times self-contradicting city. With almost 15% of its population comprised of foreigners from 185 different countries, here diversity is ensured. The nightlife is similarly huge, diverse, and brash – second to none in Germany. You could spend months discovering new venues without ever missing Munich's Oktoberfest.

Comparing Munich to Berlin is like comparing Austin to New York City. Sure, Austin is nice, but putting local pride aside, even Texans have to admit that New York is in an entirely different league. Same should go for Bavarians. But would you take every word of a beer indulging guy clad in awkward leather shorts at face value anyway?

“Suddenly history comes alive as you stand on the square in front of the Brandenburg Gate.”

Shanghai: A Pearl in the Orient

By: Ricky Chiu

I spent this past summer studying abroad in Shanghai. It was an awesome and eye-opening experience. Shanghai, as you may know, is a port city in China. The city has also undergone rapid development to be one of the financial capitals of the world. Shanghai can now be regarded on the same levels as New York and San Francisco. There is also a diverse international in-



fluence. Companies such as Ikea, Walmart, McDonald's, Starbucks, Carrefour, Volvo, General Motors and Lane Bryant have already established a presence here. During the summer, the first Burger King even opened up during my stay here. If you do plan to visit China in the near future, this would be the place to go. The adjustment to living in Shanghai is rather simple since many restaurants and businesses cater to the international customer. You would only need a limited ability in speaking Chinese to get around. However, having a mastering of the Chinese language would allow one to bargain better with street vendors, which can be a unique and in-

teresting experience at the same time.

There are also plenty of things to do in this city. Shanghai is also known for its nightlife and you can visit a different bar/club every night of the week. Unlike the night life here in the United States, the cost of drinks and cover in China is much cheaper. But if one goes out often and parties hard, the costs can add up. There are also karaoke bars, shopping, sightseeing, museums, movie theaters, and typical types of entertainment you find here.

However, there is one thing you can get in Shanghai which you can not get here in the United States. This would be the delicious and inexpensive Chinese food. In China, the cost of a ten-course meal often goes for less than US\$50, and rarely over \$100. A meal of the same magnitude would cost US\$300-400 here in the United States. There is also the diverse selection of foods that you can choose from. In Shanghai alone, there are a variety of restaurants that each have their own distinct flavor, depending on which province the food originates from. There is Sichuan food which is usually hot, sweet, and sour. Shanghainese food is often much sweeter and not as spicy. Guangdong cuisine

emphasizes seafood, and unique, mixed flavorings. Then there is Beijing food with their emphasis on the Peking duck delicacy and hot pots. The fact is that there are many types of food that one can choose from while in Shanghai. If you are studying abroad in Shanghai, you are bound to find a type of food to your liking. If not, one can always choose from the many international restaurants here.

If I have not already persuaded you to go to Shanghai for the food and the entertainment, then you must go for the cultural experience. I had the opportunity to visit several other cities in China. Each city has its own uniqueness and history. Shanghai is a very fast paced city. Because it is the financial capital of China, the highest number of Chinese millionaires does business here. It is also quickly becoming much more modernized, although certain amenities are not available yet. You may encounter the occasional squat toilets and poor sanitation. The city is also known for its fashion industry. Shanghai is easily one of the most fashionable cities in China. You can walk around and see many people wear the newest and trendiest fashions.

I hope that the above information helps you choose to go to Shanghai. It is truly a unique and exciting place. I like being in a place while it is transforming and that's one reason I decided to go to Shanghai. What I got out of my experience was more than I imagined. Shanghai is truly a pearl in the orient.

"Shanghai can now be regarded on the same levels as New York and San Francisco."

Reflections of Siena

By: Wendy Leung

A picturesque medieval city sitting above a hill. The Torre di Mangia (tower) standing tall in the heart of the city.

The gothic black and white décor of the Siena Duomo. In the distant background, the beautiful greenery of rolling hills. A picture from a medieval story

book has come to life right before your eyes. Can Italy really be this serene and beautiful?

I have just described to you the view that I woke up to every morning while I studied abroad. Siena is Tuscany at its best. When you think about Italy, cobblestones, exquisite gothic architecture, and rolling hills come to mind; this is all that Siena embodies. It has been six months since I have been back in Los Angeles and I can't help but compare everything to Siena. The hike up Bruinwalk is nothing compared to my hike up those cobblestone streets. Even Diddy Reese doesn't taste as sweet as it used to-- I'd much rather be eating a gelato in the historical town square, (Piazza Del Campo) where I'm surrounded by a vibrant

nightlife of people engaged in intellectual conversation and sipping wine.

This is the life I left behind and although I would do any-



thing to back in Siena, I have come to the realization that I'm back at UCLA. I'm sure all of you who have returned home from studying abroad are nostalgic as well; however, there is a way for your journey to continue. You can channel your withdrawal into energy and share your experience with prospective study abroad students.

This past quarter I signed up for Education 142, a course titled "Reflections of Education Abroad Program Study." My friends were tired of me talking about Italy and I thought that this was a great way to interact with other students who could relate to how I was feeling. This course has enabled me to counsel prospective students and encourage them to expand their education beyond the boundaries of UCLA.

Overall, I had a great experience throughout the quarter and I was able to not only reach out to others but also learn from my classmates through hearing their abroad experiences.

I now have a heightened interest in studying in another country this summer. I definitely recommend this course to any of you who have returned from your amazing journeys abroad.

My time abroad in Siena was one of the most incredible experiences of my life. I can tell you that I am no longer the same person. Having to live in a foreign country and navigate around Europe has helped me grow both intellectually and emotionally. Going abroad exposed me to many wonderful things that I could not have learned from any textbook. I will be forever grateful for all the memories and the everlasting friendships that have been made. Being able to immerse myself in another country and culture has definitely been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my college career. Therefore, I can not think of any better thing to do but to share my passion and counsel and encourage students study abroad as well.

"Siena is Tuscany at its best."

It's not too late to study abroad! Here are the remaining deadlines for the 2006-2007 academic year. Contact your EAP office today!

COUNTRY/Program	Deadline	COUNTRY/Program	Deadline
AUSTRALIA/Spring 2007 & Year	5/12/06	*KOREA/Spring 2007	5/19/06
*BRAZIL/Rio Spring and Year	5/8/06	*MEXICO/Spring 2007	5/8/06
CANADA/Spring	5/1/06	NETHERLANDS/Fall and Year	2/17/06
*CHINA/Spring	5/26/06	NETHERLANDS/Spring 2007	5/19/06
*COSTA RICA/San Jose Semester & Year	5/8/06	NEW ZEALAND Spring 2007 & Year	5/19/06
DENMARK/Spring	5/26/06	RUSSIA/Fall	2/16/06
*FRANCE /Spring	5/12/06	*SINGAPORE/Spring 2007	6/16/06
GERMANY/BEST Fall and Year	2/17/06	SOUTH AFRICA/Spring 2007 and Year	5/19/06
GERMANY/BEST Spring 2007	6/9/06	SPAIN/Spring 2007	5/19/06
GERMANY/ Goettingen & Potsdam Spring 2007	10/13/06	*THAILAND/Fall and Year	2/24/06
HONG KONG/Spring 2007	5/26/06	*THAILAND/Spring plus Summer	5/26/06
HUNGARY/Fall & Year + Hungary/Czech Rep.Spr	2/16/06	TURKEY/Fall and Year	2/16/06
HUNGARY/Spring 2007	6/9/06	TURKEY/Spring 2007	5/26/06
*ITALY/Spring 2007	5/8/06	UNITED KINGDOM/Spring 2007	5/12/06
JAPAN/Doshisha, Tsuru, ICU, Meiji Gakuin Spring 07	5/19/06	*VIETNAM Fall	2/24/06

Asterisks indicate that the program requires student attend a workshop.

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How to Find Yummy Food in China

What better way to experience culture than to experience their food? I believe eating is more than a time to refuel one's body. It is a time for exploration of the senses. The following are a few guidelines to experiencing the edible culture of China:

The first rule of eating in China is try everything! If not a whole bite, then at least a little lick-- you really don't know if it's good until you have tried it. Don't avoid eating something because you don't know what it is. I ex-

perienced some of the most delicious things just by sampling what smelled good. I had tantalizing BBQ yak skewers prepared in the outdoors when I was traveling though the countryside, roasted duck throat at a hoity-toity shanghai café, and pig-skin when eating dim sum in Hong Kong.

The second rule is accept that it's ok to forget about the nutrition pyramid and health code standards you are familiar with in the states. It's rather strange; as much of an enthusiast I am about clean kitchen spaces and restaurants with pristine, blue, A grades displayed on their windows, I was more lenient in my cuisine choices while I was abroad. In China, some of the best food is sold from street carts, exotic fresh fruit included.

The third rule is

more a tip especially for those who have a weak stomach or like to be cautious: bring along a small bottle of Pepto Bismol. At the start of each day in your new home abroad take a shot of the bright pink stuff until it's gone. It will help your stomach adjust to the new food.

The fourth rule is do not fear if you can't read the menu or say what you want. For me, attempting to read the menu was always an adventure in a local Chinese cuisine restaurant. I learned that, if all else fails, there is nothing wrong with walking around tables of patrons to see what looks good and pointing with a smile to say "I want that!"

And with that I bid you happy eating!



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