

My Feng Shui Journey in Hong Kong & China

Carol Ramsden - Feng Shui Qi

My Feng Shui journey of 3 wonderful weeks in Hong Kong & China incorporated Jodi's Feng Shui Study Tour, a few days in Shanghai to explore myself, Stephen Skinners course and finished up at the IFSC Convention.



First stop was HONG KONG where we visited the Daoist Wong Tai Sin Temple built in 1921, dedicated to Chinese religions including Buddhism and Confucianism. We paid our respects to local deities and explored this fascinating temple of Hong Kong.

We discussed the Feng Shui settings including the Lion Rock Hill, a famous hill in Hong Kong, located behind the temple. It was clear to see how the environmental features supported this temple. Interestingly, the temple has also undergone a major renovation to change it to a Period 8 building with a double facing chart 8-8.

Many people go to the temple to have their fortunes told. Some of us visited the local Fortune Tellers building and saw them practicing at the site. I was lucky enough to have my fortune told for a small fee.

We observed the Feng Shui of their individual booths and discussed why some were busier than others.

Next we visited the Chi Lin Nunnery, a Tang Dynasty style Buddhist Temple, being the largest timber complex in the world and built in traditional, balanced seven-hall design.

We observed the Feng Shui of the Chi Lin Complex facing south west (kun) being ideal for a nunnery and sitting at the base of the mountain with the front overlooking the sea.



It was lovely to see some green space nestled in amongst the towering high rises of Hong Kong.

We all enjoyed the serenity of beautiful Nan Lian Gardens and the Golden Pagoda.



Our group visited a local client in Hong Kong for a Feng Shui consultation on his warehouse/art/creative business. We had a brainstorming session on the premises which was very interesting listening to everyone's input.





In the evening we took the Ferry across the harbour to see Hong Kong harbour at night and the lightshow.

Looking at Hong Kong Island from the mainland side of Victoria Harbour we could see how mountains and water were embracing it to give the central area such favourable Feng Shui. Hong Kong island being located in the belly of the dragon.



We explored the fascinating and famous Hong Kong Financial District where the HSBC and Bank of China buildings are located for an in depth discussion on how they were built using Feng Shui principles and why The HSBC is probably the most famous of all Feng Shui designed buildings in Hong Kong. It was great to explore it from all angles in real life and see how the ground floor is open on both sides to allow the WS8 to enter from the rear.



Most of the other buildings surrounding the Bank of China are clearly wood shaped. Wood feeds the fire therefore they are supporting the Bank of China building.



We took the cable car up The Victoria Peak to discuss Hong Kong from a birds eye view & observe the many Feng Shui sites and see Hong Kong's Nine Dragons.



Next we caught the train across the border into China **SHENZHEN, Guangdong Province**. A quick overnight stop to do some shopping at the local Luo Ho Shopping "copy" markets, where we all bought up big !

Early morning we caught the bullet train from Shenzhen to Guilin. We were instructed by Jodi not to sleep, but to checkout the landforms and observe the mountains, gravesites and temples along the way. Just observing their locations and the types of mountains chosen for their positions taught us a lot about Feng Shui in China.



We arrived to the wondrous Guilin landscape where we saw the surrounding landscape from the train.

GUILIN, Guangxi Province is a city in southern China known for its dramatic landscape of limestone karst. At its centre are 2 lakes, Cedar and Banyan, remaining from the Tang Dynasty moat that once surrounded the city.

The highlight of the entire trip for me was a 4hr boat journey down Guilin's famous River Li (Guilin to Yangshou).

Along the way we saw the magnificent mountains of this famous location. We studied the forms of the mountains and why villages were located on certain mountains and what were the implications

etc. Every bend of the river gave you a different scene to look at, the scenery was absolutely magnificent.

The Li River is truly an amazing place, very special indeed. I have only come across a few places like this in the world where I actually felt very privileged to be there.



Whilst in Guilin we were lucky to have another local Feng Shui Audit on a Travel Agent Company in Guilin. This audit was interesting as he ran his business from a majority residential tower.

We ended the river cruise at **YANGSHOU** where we wandered through the local handicrafts market and shopped at famous West Street, with the glorious mountains as a backdrop. Yangshou is well known for its cultural ambience and unique cultural wares.

The next site we visited was the Ming tombs of Prince Jing Jiang, the largest tomb complex in China, where the landforms were very auspicious and supported the site extremely well.



The mausoleums are set amidst lush pine trees and surrounded by mountains and hills. The tombs are located at the foot of Yao Mountain and eleven generations of Jingjiang royalty are buried here in more than 300 tombs during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644).

A babbling stream runs gently through them from left to right passing through the front. All of this indicates excellent feng shui, which also decided where the Ming Tombs in Beijing were located.

The site was circled by an oblong-shaped wall, which divides the complex into the outer garden and the inner palace. Over 300 tombs scatter around the 4-hectare (10-acre) site.

A sacred way in the outer garden leads to the inner palace. Along the way lined stone statues of animals and government officials, which were believed to guard the tombs. In the inner palace lay the tombs themselves.

The Mausoleum of Princes Zhuangjian is the only one open to the public. Some valuable relics excavated from his tomb, including a vase and some silver and gold articles, are now displayed in the Altar Palace.





Next we visited the Mansion of Prince Jingjiang, (it is now a university and tourist attraction.)

We climbed up Solitary Beauty Peak which is located inside the Mansion compound to get an even better view of Guilin.

Again, seeing the landforms were amazing and clarified why this auspicious site was chosen for the burials of the kings.

HANGZHOU, Zhejiang Province Located along the south east coast of China at the southern tip of the Grand Canal and 150km from Shanghai. Hangzhou is a famous historical city and is known as "Paradise on Earth" with its picturesque landscape. When Hangzhou was the capital city in the Southern Song Dynasty it was one of the largest cities in the world back then.

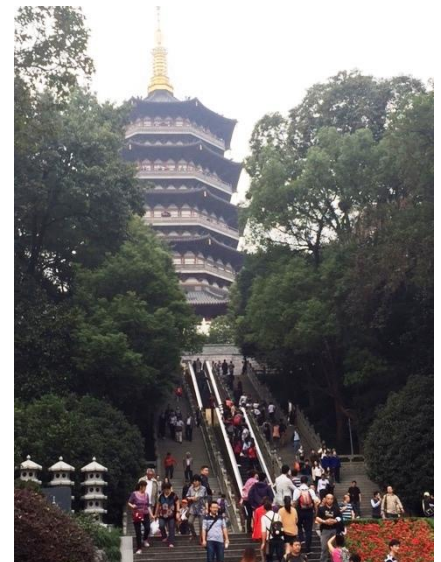


We were fortunate to be in Hangzhou when the famous Osmanthus was in bloom, you could smell the sweet scent everywhere, it was lovely.

We took a buggy ride around the famous West Lake, saw the many pagodas, causeways, bridges etc along the way.

We stopped at Leifeng Pagoda , a five storey, octagonal tower located on Sunset Hill south of West lake in Hangzhou. The original purpose of the pagoda was to house Buddha's relics.

We climbed to the top to see the spectacular scenery and sunset and listened to the famous legend about the "White Snake" and learnt more on Hangzhou history : home to famous master Shen Zu Reng who lived in 19thC. This bird's eye view enabled us to observe the Feng Shui land forms of Hangzhou.



We visited the Ba Gua field a famous spot in Hangzhou with great Feng Shui significance showing the 8 diagrams of yin and yang. It is also the location of the ruins of the local King's palace lying at the foot of the Phoenix Mountain.

We travelled to the headquarters of Alibaba.com and discussed the Feng Shui of the buildings/business to see why it is China's most successful e-commerce company.

Alibaba.com certainly seem to have followed Feng Shui principles and are preparing for Period 9 as we speak.



We visited the famous Dragon Well Longjing Tea Plantation, where we learnt about the process of tea making from picking to packaging and we went into the fields tea picking, which was fun. Followed by a delicious cup of fine green tea.

We discussed the local landforms to see why this valley is so famous and why the Tea Plantation successfully produces the finest green tea in China.



We enjoyed a lovely lunch at Crowne Plaza, Xanadu Resort on the swan lake, where the views were beautiful once again. After lunch "Jodi's Boot Camp" group climbed up to the top of the mountain to visit the local temple.

On the way down we met an old fortune teller with his feng shui calculations scribbled down, we asked if he would share his Feng Shui knowledge of the temple and surrounding areas. For a small fee he agreed and our guide translated for us.

He said the temple was built in this location because it needed mountain at the back (north) for the tortoise, water in the front (south) for the phoenix, mountain on the left (west) for white tiger and water on the right (east) for the dragon .

He explained that the animals were placed like this to reflect the actual land forms in China, being mountains in the north and west, the sea is in the east and the warm sun in the south. He also mentioned that the site should ideally have water coming from the tiger side passing through the front to the dragon side where it exits. This also represents the landforms of China as the rivers flow from the mountains in the west towards the sea in the east.

He was very interesting indeed and made Feng Shui sound so simple.





We visited the Lingyin Temple and Feilai Feng Grotto a special place of Buddhist significance.

The ancient temples are a masterpiece of Chinese architecture.

We also visited Qinghefang Ancient St and South Song Imperial St for some good shopping in a beautifully decorated street in traditional Chinese style.

This ancient street has been recorded in the travel notes of Marco Polo. I managed to get some hand painted scrolls made here which are lovely and very personal.

Then we boarded the bullet train from Hangzhou to Shanghai.



SHANGHAI is the largest Chinese city by population and the largest city proper by population in the world. It is one of the four direct-controlled municipalities of the People's Republic of China, with a population of more than 27 million. It is a global financial centre, and a transport hub with the world's busiest container port. Located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China, Shanghai sits on the south edge of the mouth of the Yangtze in the middle portion of the Chinese coast.

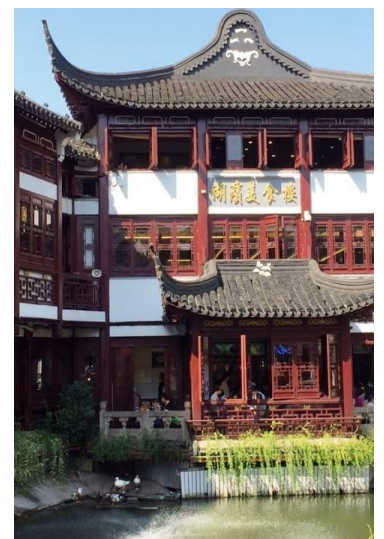


Our first stop in Shanghai was to Yu Yuan Gardens and the Old Shanghai shopping precinct was another highlight of the trip. This area consists of the famous classical garden in southern China spread over 5 acres in Suzhou style and is divided into 6 sections. Complete with temples, rebuilt ming and qing dynasty buildings together with 9 cornered zig zag bridge, mid lake pavilion and lotus pond. Every time you turn a corner you have a beautiful but very different landscape scene.

We were lucky enough to have a third local Feng Shui Consultation to do on our tour, this time for a Shanghai medical supplies company. We sat in the boardroom and discussed the Feng Shui of the business, again was very interesting as we discussed the forms and the building facing etc.



The Shanghai Museum building designed in the shape of an ancient bronze cooking vessel called a "Ding".





We ventured to the Xintiandi district which is composed of an area of reconstituted traditional mid-19th century shikumen ("stone gate") houses on narrow alleys, some adjoining houses which now serve as book stores, cafes and restaurants, and shopping malls.

Shikumen is the symbolic architecture style of Shanghai features a wood structure and brick walls. The Lanes between buildings are called "Longtang" in Shanghai and such lanes spread all over Shanghai City.

Xintiandi has an active nightlife on weekdays as well as weekends. It is considered one of the first lifestyle centers in China. – famous restaurant and club street



The Hop on Hop Off - Open top bus tour of Shanghai is another must, there are 4 different routes all of which cover all the major buildings and places of interest.

The Bund River cruise in Shanghai is fantastic as it enables you to get an uninterrupted eye view of all the buildings on the old and the new side of the Bund.

We had lots of fun bargaining at the "Copy: markets and Nanjing Road shopping mall and the French quarter.



Another highlight on my journey was the "Advanced Flying Stars" course with Grand Master Dr Stephen Skinner which was very informative indeed, followed by the launch of his new book.

I highly recommend this book to any serious Feng Shui enthusiast, it is one of the most comprehensive books on Flying Stars I have read.



The final part of my journey was attending the IFSC 12th Annual International Feng Shui Convention - Shanghai, China. The convention was very well organised with lots of international Master/speakers, packed full of feng shui related topics over the 2 days.

“Chinese Metaphysics East to West” was the emphasis this year being on practical application and how Chinese metaphysics has been a positive influence on the rest of the world with case studies from various countries.

Finished off with a Gala Dinner and Karaoke teams from every country including Australia.

All in all I had a wonderful experience in China, gained a wealth of Feng Shui knowledge, made lots of new Feng Shui friends and returned home much richer in knowledge and spirit.

Carol Ramsden

Senior Feng Shui Practitioner – FSRC



Feng Shui Qi

Ph: 0412 380 516

Email: carol@fengshuiqi.net

Web: www.fengshuiqi.net

