

## Trip to Manchuria

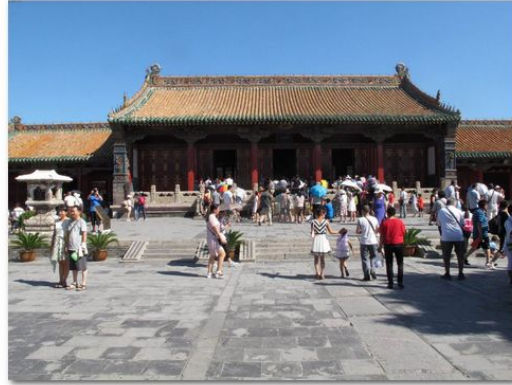
I just got back from 8 days in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, China – the area called Manchuria – northeast corner of China near North Korea and Russia. The Manchurians conquered the Han Chinese Ming Dynasty in 1644, forming the Qing Dynasty. The Manchurian Qing lasted until revolutionaries led by Sun Yat Sen caused the complete collapse of imperial government in China in 1912 (when boy Emperor Pu Yi abdicated). Warlords then ruled China until the republicans gradually gained control – though Manchuria continued to be ruled by warlords until the Japanese invaded in the early 1930s. Finally in 1948 the Communists ousted the republicans, relegating Chiang Kai Shek and his republicans to the island of Taiwan.

The Manchurian people are ethnically different from the Han Chinese who dominate the rest of China (then and today). Their appearance is more like Mongolian. Manchuria is in green below. (I went to Harbin two years ago to the ice and snow festival – 30 degrees below zero!)



**Imperial Palace.** The first three Qing emperors had their capital at Shenyang before moving it to Beijing. In Shenyang they built an Imperial Palace (known as Mukden Palace) patterned after, and second only to, the Ming's Forbidden City in Beijing. It has something like 300 buildings, nearly 1,000,000 square feet of land area. Built 1625. Mukden Palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site A few photos of the Imperial Palace (Mukden):

Mukden Palace - 1625, Shenyang





**Imperial Tombs.** There are three imperial (ie royal) tomb sites (mausoleums) in Shenyang:

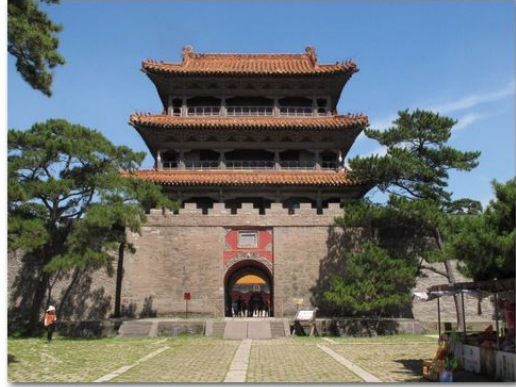
- **The Zhaoling Mausoleum** (right in the heart of Shenyang) is the tomb of Qing Emperor Taizong Huangtaiji and Empress Boerjijite, built in 1634.
- **The Fuling Mausoleum** (about 20km east of Shenyang) belongs to the Qing Emperor Nurhachi and his queen, Xiaoci Gao Yehenala, and was built between 1629 and 1651.
- **The Yongling Mausoleum**, built in 1598, contains the remains of remote ancestors, great grandfather, grandfather, father, uncles and wives of Nurhachi, Emperor Taizu of the Qing Dynasty.

I got to the first two. All are UNESCO World Heritage sites. Some photos below. By the way, the actual grave is the mound of dirt in the fifth picture below.

### Imperial Tombs Zhaoling Mausoleum, 1634, Shenyang



Fuling Imperial Tombs, Early 17th Century, Shenyang





**Warlord Marshal Zhang.** After the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1912, China became somewhat lawless, and areas were ruled by warlords for a variety of reasons, including competing revolutionary factions, foreign intrusions, emergence of Communist Party, civil war between Communist Party and Chiang Kai Shek's Republicans, and opportunistic invasion by Japan. Until the end of WW2, Northeast China was ruled by warlords Zhang Zuolin and his son Zhang Xueliang. For a short time Zhang Sr was proclaimed president of China. In 1914, Marshal Zhang built a mansion that has since been converted into a museum:

Marshal Zhang's Mansion, 1914, Shenyang



**September 18 Incident.** We have all heard of the Nanjing Massacre, in which the Japanese murdered and raped 300,000 Chinese in six weeks in 1937. Less known was the Shenyang massacre, which was an incident in 1931 that the Japanese instigated and then used as an excuse to invade China. Japan immediately occupied the entire northeast China and then marched through much of the eastern half of China. The incident was an explosion on September 18, 1931 at a Japanese run railway line near Shenyang. Japan blamed China, and invaded and occupied and began 14 years of massacre of Chinese people. Today there is a 'holocaust' museum in Shenyang commemorating the September 18 Incident. At the museum I met Lisa and her sister Lily (bottom left below):

### September 18 Museum, Shenyang





**Religious institutions.** Shenyang has many beautiful and historic temples, even a gorgeous Catholic cathedral, and a major mosque. Here is a collage:

### Temples, Church, Mosque, Shenyang



IMG\_3322 Nanguan Catholic Church



IMG\_3325 Nanguan Catholic Church



IMG\_3840 North Pagoda



IMG\_3848 North Pagoda



IMG\_4010 Banruo Temple 1684



IMG\_4061 Banruo Temple 1684



IMG\_4102 Cien Temple 10thC



IMG\_4141 Cien Temple 10thC



## Temples, Church, Mosque, Shenyang



IMG\_4151 Dafo Temple 10thC



IMG\_4172 Dafo Temple 10thC



IMG\_4189 Taiqing Taoist Palace 1633



P8190372 South Mosque



P8190411 Changan Temple



P8190415 Changan Temple



P8200497 Shisheng Huang Temple 17thC



P8200499 Shisheng Huang Temple 17thC



## Temples, Church, Mosque, Shenyang



P8200500 Shisheng Huang Temple 17thC



P8200519 Shisheng Huang Temple 17thC

**Public transport** was good and easy to use if you spoke Chinese. The metro (subway) was easy even with just English. Taxis were about US\$1.50 to \$2.00 almost anywhere in town, US\$10 to the airport. Buses were 1RMB (16 US cents) anywhere. We took taxis and buses daily, metro a few times. Metro subway 2RMB (25 cents). One time we kept hailing taxis with no luck and an (unlicensed) electric tuk-tuk stopped and said US\$1.50 to our hotel. Photos below:

## Transportation in Shenyang



IMG\_3326 Electric Tuk Tuk



IMG\_3330 Electric Tuk Tuk



IMG\_3354 Shenyang Metro



IMG\_3359 Shenyang Metro



IMG\_3599 Taxi



IMG\_4182 City Bus We Took



IMG\_4183 City Bus We Took



P8190380 China Post Box



**Miscellaneous.** And finally here are some miscellaneous photos from Shenyang – except for food and meals, which I will send separately. A few comments:

- The statue of Mao is the largest in the world.
- We stumbled on the Shenyang Barbecue Chefs competition. Koreans love BBQ, and Shenyang is close to the North Korea border. There are reportedly tens of thousands of illegal Korean immigrants in Shenyang – resulting in many Korean BBQ restaurants.
- Hungry Ghost Festival happened to be August 15. This is when the gates of Hell are open briefly, and through offerings people can get their ancestors out of Hell and into a ‘waiting room’ pending their reincarnation. Lots of papers are burned.
- Shenyang is the aircraft manufacturing capital of China, hence an aviation museum.
- The Liaoning Provincial Museum is located 12km out of town in the middle of nowhere, well beyond the metro system. It is very good, but inaccessible. It was recently moved there, most likely to help some Communist Party official unload a ‘white elephant’ property development. The museum was surrounded by many ‘ghost buildings’ – new buildings sitting empty.
- The Finance Museum was outstanding – a real surprise. Could spend many hours there.

## Shenyang Miscellaneous



IMG\_3158 Guess What This Is



IMG\_3274 Shenyang Finance Museum



IMG\_3340 Tower



IMG\_3530 Mao Statue Zhongshan Square



IMG\_3828 Hungry Ghost Festival



IMG\_3901 Aviation Museum



IMG\_3903 F5 Fighter Aviation Museum



IMG\_4239 Liaoning Provincial Museum



## Shenyang Miscellaneous



IMG\_4269 Jade Liaoning Provincial Museum



IMG\_4271 Porcelain Liaoning Provincial Museum



MG\_4270 Porcelain Liaoning Provincial Museum



P8190349 Muslim Market



P8190350 Muslim Market



P8190393 BBQ Championship



P8190439 Communist Factory Mall



P8200548 North Market (Artists Market)