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Beijing Through Eyes Of The World



What does Beijing look like in the foreign eyes? Why does it attract the world? The World Photographers Focusing on Beijing event gave an answer.

48 foreigners from 25 countries and 22 from China gathered together for one common theme: **Beijing-History, Culture, People**. They started their journey in this city where history and fashion met. With their cameras, they tried to find out the magic of Beijing.

From the Great Wall to Chang'an Avenue, from hutongs to newly built skyscrapers, the photographers made selections every day. A total 3,500 best shots will be collected eventually by the organizers-Beijing Foreign Cultural Exchanges Service Center. The event represents a municipal milestone-the first time such talented photographers have been invited to shoot the city.

The Cultural Center will stage an exhibition and publish a photo album for the Beijing 2000 Sixth Summit Conference of Major Cities of the World in September.

Now let us meet six photographers and share their experiences.

Steve Benbow United Kingdom



It's late in the evening. I am still recovering from malaria. I have not slept for more than six hours in the last four days, but still I am hungry for this fantastic city.

Time is short and the weather has not been kind, and for the first 24 hours here I found myself chasing my tail because there are so many fab things to photograph.

But I have a huge smile on my face especially since being offered the most amazing hospitality by a kite maker in Chaoyang Park, who virtually adopted me as his son.

Roll on the next few days-I am starving.

I have engaged in photography for more than 20 years. I am keen on advertising photography, airlines, cars, whatever, and I have my own studio in Sydney.

This is my first time in China. What I want to do is to sit in a quiet place or wonder around the streets, watching what's going on, what the real life is. It is amazing. I would like to go to Xi'an if possible. I want to review the terracotta army there.

I like to travel around different places and see different cultures, to know people's daily life. I think people are the same all over the world, although they talk in different languages and behave in different ways. But in essence, they are always similar. If you treat people in the way you want to be treated yourself, then you get the right response.

Geoffrey Stanley Brown Australia



Fawzan Husain India

This is my first time in Beijing. Before coming, I tried the Internet, and got to know more about China. There was so much information about China that I have to narrow down my choice to Beijing only. I am happy I can concentrate on Beijing.

Beijing is way ahead of Bombay in terms of discipline. For example, I went to shoot the Beijing Railway Station, and I found very few trains are late. One train was six or seven minutes late and a pretty voice kept

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announcing the thing. So far I have seen all the best parts of Beijing. As a journalist, I also want to see the other side of Beijing. I like Beijing a lot because it's a very well planned city, which is missing back home. I think we can learn a few things here as far as administration of the city is concerned.

When I got here, I was astonished with its progress, people's civilization and education, the streets, buildings; everything here impressed me very much. From the information I know, I think China is a very populated country. I know it has to meet many problems like population, traffic jams and maybe poverty, but I haven't seen any of that. I've been involved in photography for 30 years, and I am especially interested in documenting. I take pictures as a document for future people. After arriving in the city, I have done a lot of walking. I cannot sleep very well. I wake up deep in the night, get up and write down my experience. It is fantastic. I feel I don't have time. There is not enough time for a man like me to really know Beijing. I feel very frustrated, because I came here and I am going to leave here knowing nothing.

Rui Faquini
Brazil



Angelica Kampfer
Austria



I want to take photos of people's normal life, the kindergarten, the hospital and the hutong. I want to see what they are doing. Beijing now is such a modern city, which I did not expect. Big shopping centers are everywhere, just like in America or Europe. I have traveled around the world. Europe is my favorite place to live, and it is my way of life. But for the people, here in China, they are very curious, friendly and they are so good to be with. I like Chinese food. I tried Peking duck in France. I have known a Chinese friend for 15 years. She always told me a lot of things about China. Before I came here, I could only depend on my imagination. For me, everything is new.

I have a special feeling for Beijing. I first came here in 1978 when China first opened its door to the world. I organized the Singapore Photographers Association to take a nine-day trip in Beijing. This time I hope I can take photos of Beijing's new look, and I will show the world the new development of Beijing through my photos. I have been to the Forbidden City four times. Each time I found new angles for photos. A photographer sometimes has to go to the same place several times to produce a good photography work. The organizing committee managed many good places I can't visit with a tourist group, and I will seize these chances. I hope I can do some creative work with a new mood, expressing my new feelings through my work. Of course, the quality of the work will partly depend on the opportunity, the favorable location and friendly people.

Tan Lip Seng
Singapore



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