A Trip to Huangshan Mountain
(April 15~17, 2017)
The 8th Hui Culture Experience Study Camp for International Students of Anhui Province (Organized by Anhui International Education Association)

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# Table of Contents

Trip Arrangements .................................................................................................................. 3  
Trip Schedule .......................................................................................................................... 4  
1st Day (April 16th) ---- Activities ............................................................................................ 4  
   Afternoon Activity .................................................................................................................. 4  
2nd Day (April 16th) ---- Activities ........................................................................................... 5  
   Afternoon Activity .................................................................................................................. 6  
   Chengkan Village (Ancient Village) ....................................................................................... 6  
   Evening Activity (Melody of Anhui) ..................................................................................... 7  
   Some clicks from Melody of Anhui Show ............................................................................. 7  
3rd Day (April 17th) ---- Activities ........................................................................................... 7  
   Dongtian Bay Scenic Spot in Taiping .................................................................................... 8
I am **Rab Nawaz** from Pakistan, a PhD Scholar in the Department of Information Science and Technology, USTC West Campus. In Pakistan I am affiliated with COMSATS Institute of Information Technology as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Sciences since 2007. I came USTC Hefei last year in August 2016 under CAS-TWAS Scholarship Program. Before arrival to china I have multiple options to travel abroad for my higher study, but I choose and prefer to come to china due to many reasons, and among all the reasons, some are too dominant that is living, working and studying is the same as you do the same in your native homeland and I have experienced all such things here after my arrival. Before coming to china I have visited 8 different countries (Germany, Italy, Indonesia, Malaya, Oman, Thailand, UAE etc) for my study and other research engagements, among all I ranked China No. 1 due to its diverse culture and history and the most important is its caring, sharing, hospitalized and warm welcoming nature of the Chinese people.

USTC has a name and fame both in national and in international race. Right now more than 500 international students coming from around the world are pursuing their higher studies in this prestigious university in china. Along with the student curricular activities, university international office always trying to organize some social and extracurricular activities for international students. Many social events and gatherings for international students throughout the year they are organizing and planning for their social life to learn the long lasting culture and history of this region. I never ever feel suffocation while staying in Hefei away from my homeland. As Pakistan and China are good friends. To me china is our next home.

This time university has planned a three days excursion to Huangshan Mountain scenic area with the financial support of Govt. of Anhui Province for the international students of Anhui Province. More than half a dozen Anhui universities participated in this event. Each university has selected 20 students based on some prior scrutiny. And I am the lucky one among these 20 students got selected for the said trip.

**Trip Arrangements**

As far as the **arrangements** are concerned everything was awesome and superb from the selection phase to traveling to living to meal to tourist guidance etc. Fully funded, well managed and organized trip with full facilitation of travelling and living. All the most famous and the most visited places of
Huangshan are selected for this trip. Along with the natural scenery spots, three ancient villages of that area were also selected for visit.

Trip Schedule

It was a three days (15~17 April, 2017) trip with the following schedule.

| First Day (15-04-2017) | Morning                               | • Arrived in Furong Valley in Taiping  
|                        |                                       | • Lunch  
|                        | Afternoon                              | • Visited Furong Valley  
|                        | Evening                                | • Returned to Xiang Ming Hotel  
|                        |                                       | • Dinner  
| Second Day (16-04-2017) | Morning                               | • Visited Shixinan Ancient village  
|                        |                                       | • Visited XueYuda Tea Museum  
|                        |                                       | • Lunch  
|                        | Afternoon                              | • Visited Chengkan Ancient Village  
|                        | Evening                                | • Dinner  
|                        |                                       | • Watching Show “Melody of Anhui” Singing and Dancing show with modern multimedia aids.  
| Third Day (17-04-2017)  | Morning                               | • Bus tour to Dongtian Bay Scenic spot  
|                        |                                       | • Lunch  
|                        | Afternoon                              | • Returning back to Hefei  
|                        | Evening                                | • Reached Hefei (4:20pm)  

1st Day (April 16th) ----- Activities

We started our journey from west gate of east campus of USTC at 7:00AM to Huangshan with our two teachers Penny and Nancy. Huangshan is 240Km away from Hefei. We reached Huangshan Furong Valley Taiping around 12:30pm and lunch there in the scenic area of the Huangshan Mountain Resort.

Afternoon Activity

In afternoon we visited the Furong Valley in the Yellow Mountain i.e. a mesmerizing and natural scenic spot. The Furong valley is 4 KM deep with various peeks, rocks and a beautiful Lake and a water fall. Basically it’s a wonderland showing the attracting and amazing power of nature. In the Furong valley, small shops of juices, cold drinks, snacks and other energy boasting supplements are available in beautiful huts. Adding one thing more that is also a beautiful forest show of Chinese Gongfu that was really a wonderful and strangful performance shown by Chinese guys.

Here are some pictures that I have taken during the Furong Valley visit.
Around 4pm we gathered in the parking and moved back to Hotel Side. We stayed overnight at Xiang Ming Holiday Hotel situated in the center of the Huangshan City.

2^nd Day (April 16^{th}) ----- Activities
Everyone was informed about the breakfast timing and the movement time from the hotel to scheduled places of visit. We have created a WeChat Group (Huangshan Activity Group) for smooth interactions and announcements.

We started our journey to **Shixinan Ancient Village** which is a small village situated on the bank of the Fengle River. All the buildings in the village with grey tiles and white walls sit along the creek in elegance, mountains and brooks surrounded by a plain area in the mountainous Hizhou area. The village actually completely has shown the living standards of around 1000 years ago. Some of the beautiful snaps that I have taken during my visit are attached below,

After visiting Shixinan (Ancient Village) we moved to **XieYuda Tea Museum**. Where we have also visited the Tea Green House Chamber and learnt about the development history of the branded Maofeng Tea of the Yellow Mountains. How the tea leafs are getting acquainted with the production line of Xieyuda
tea products. We have also attended a combined Tea ceremony and Tea tasting session which gave us a glimpse of the Hui Tea Culture. As you know the Huangshan is famous for green tea, flower tea and other all type of tea in china as well as in the rest of the world. We have done our lunch there in a hotel in front of the Tea museum.

**Afternoon Activity**

In the afternoon the management let us to a beautiful place named **Chengkan Village** (ancient village) situated in Huizhou area. It’s known as the top 1 village and hometown of the wise men. Village showed a lively representation of the ancient Hui-style architecture, where the ancient civilization and the natural environment live in harmony. It is surrounded by mountains and waters. I observed the most authentic, well planned and managed Chinese idyllic life there. Briefing was also given on some special houses of richest merchant of that time. One common and interesting thing that the merchant has five wives and he was living with them in the same house with different apartments for his each family. Especially double story wooden style houses having eye catching scenery.

Before entering to the said village a short briefing was given to all the students by tourism industry officials. Tourists guiders gave an awesome briefing and demonstrating each and every in the ancient village handsomely to participants. Some of the beautiful snapshots taken of **Chengkan Village** are as below,

![Chengkan Village (Ancient Village)](image)

After visiting this place we moved to another beautiful ancient village situated at the bank of the river. We have done our dinner in a very beautiful Chinese restaurant located at the heart of the Huangshan city. Here are some pics of the visited place,
Evening Activity (Melody of Anhui)
In the second day evening after dinner the organizer took all of us to Huangshan Theater near to Xiang Ming Holiday Hotel, where we watched “Melody of Anhui” a grand singing and dancing show based on modern multimedia facilities. This was really amazing and unbelievable performances never ever seen before. It gave us a chance to get a closer look and taste of the magnificent scenery of Yellow Mountain and the profound hui culture.

Some clicks from Melody of Anhui Show

3rd Day (April 17th) ----- Activities
This was the last day of our trip and we all are so worried about leaving this heaven place after living two days over there. However organizer has planned to visit a beautiful place named Dongtian Bay scenic spot in Taiping. It’s a natural spot with natural scenery having beautiful lacks, mountains and rocks and caves. Its mountains that can rival with the renowned “Guillin Mountains”. Water of the Taiping Lake and mysterious underground caves manifest the marvelous creation of the nature. As far as me is concerned I never visited such place before in my life.

Some pics during the visit that I have taken, you may seen below,
Dongtian Bay Scenic Spot in Taiping
After a long walk in the scenic area and within the cave, all the tourists are exhausted and tired with extreme hunger. A beautiful lunch was provided around 12 pm and after that we returned back to Hefei. We reached Hefei at 4:20pm. A beautiful trip ends with health and lot of memories.

“Thanks to International office USTC and Govt. of Anhui”