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The Xi'an cultural tour is an eye-opening experience. I have had deeper understanding of Xi'an's history as the capital of different dynasties, its cultural heritages, climate and dining culture.

The most impressive and longed-for attraction is the Terracotta Army under the earth. Although there are only three vaults which exhibit different soldiers, chariots and horses, each of the warriors has unique facial features, clothing and hairstyles. It is quite astonishing that people could build such an enormous and magnificent afterlife army over 2200 years ago. The tomb complex has been a cogent evidence which shows the mighty power and glory of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang. After thousands of years, most of the figures still remain unearthed and the tour guide told us that the mausoleum could be fully unveiled after 100 years. Recently, concubines and many other figures have been found in other pits so I am really looking forward to visiting the "eighth wonder of the world" again.

Besides, it is uplifting to see the integrity of many ancient sites in Xi'an. For example the Bell Tower of Xi'an inside the hustle and bustle which is one of the landmarks enclosed in the Xi'an City Wall. In the daytime, the tower is simple, calm and solemn. At night, it becomes stunning and charming with lights running along its edges and catches everyone's flashlights. The Great Mosque of Xi'an is another shocking construction to me as it is a building of external religion which exactly complies to the Chinese construction style instead of the Islamic one. It has been well-conserved since the Tang Dynasty and let us know that the cultural exchange at that time was really frequent and prosperous. It is also an interesting cultural shock to see the Arabic's carved on the plaques hanging on top of the gateway.

Talking about the dining culture, it is totally a whole new experience to savour the local food here. As the weather is cold and freezing here, the foods tend to be oily and taste stronger. It is surprising that local people like to eat a variety of cold dishes like some spicy pickled vegetables and sweet glutinous rice even when it is frozen out there. In Huimin Street, you can smell the pleasant aroma of barbecued mutton and beef and see the huge red date in many stalls. This is the first time that I meet the Hui people in China and most of them are men with the white turbans on their head. A special local food is the Pita Bread soaked in lamb or beef soup. I am not fond of it but I think it is a must-try in Xi'an.

Moreover, we have the precious opportunity to visit the plane industry in the Yanliang district. We have gained brief knowledge of the components, function and operation of planes and the opportunity to take a look at the manufacturing process in the industrial plant. The visit let me discover the prominence of Xi'an's aircraft industry in the world as some of the planes of well-known airlines were manufactured here. We also grabbed the chance to have a close contact with military aircraft which is on longer used now.

After all, the four-day tour has equipped with a lot of knowledge of Chinese history and culture. Yet, it has also exposed my shortcomings and deficiencies in knowledge outside my academic curriculum beside of my studied subjects. Xi'an has been the capital of the ancient dynasty for a long time and it is rich in local or even external cultural heritages. The few days were not enough for us to explore all the precious cultural treasure there. Therefore, I hope I can have more understanding of the Xi'an's history before I visit there again in the future.