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Walking in the Steps of the Emperors: Exploring Beijing's Forbidden City and Surrounding Hutong Neighborhoods

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Exploring Beijing's Forbidden City and Surrounding
Hutong Neighborhoods

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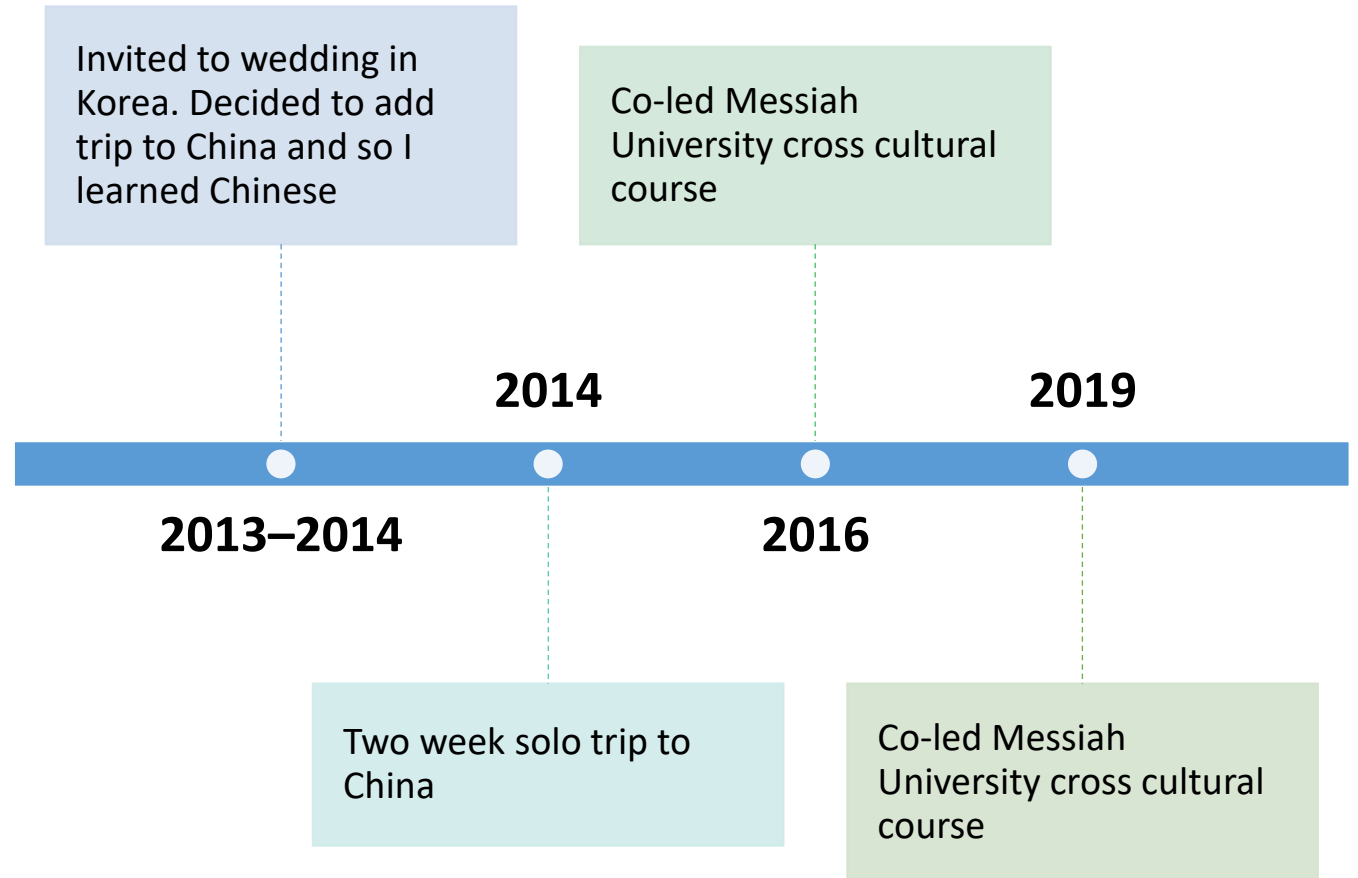




你们好.我叫
Beth

Nimen hao.
Wo jiao Beth

Travel to China



Today's Presentation

Explore the 'tourist' section of Beijing, the Forbidden City

Explore the 'residential' section of Beijing, the hutongs surrounding Forbidden City

Consider modern implications of hutong communities

Explore these ideas using Chinese characters, photographs, anecdotes and video

Start with buildings but end with people!



中国

Zhōngguó



Forbidden City

Largest palace complex in the world

Constructed in early 1400s with more than one million workers

Housed Chinese emperor and family
from 1420 to 1924



dà
大





A photograph of a traditional Chinese garden. In the foreground, a large, intricately carved stone pillar stands on a base. The pillar is decorated with relief carvings of dragons and other mythical creatures. To the left, a large, semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the image. Inside this circle, the Chinese character '小' (xiǎo) is written in a large, black, sans-serif font. The background shows a dirt path leading through lush green plants and trees towards a traditional Chinese building with a tiled roof. Several people are visible near the building, some looking at displays. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

xiǎo
小



Hutongs: A Bird's Eye View

Ancient neighborhoods





Endless alleyways



家
jiā





Stories from the Hutong

Challenges: Modernization and Destruction

Start a capture



Popular

Latest

The Atlantic

GLOBAL

Razing History: The Tragic Story of a Beijing Neighborhood's Destruction

JONATHAN KAIMAN FEBRUARY 9, 2012



Conclusion

- China is a paradox
 - Walls vs open
 - Capitalistic vs communistic
 - Friendliness of people vs government restrictions and oppression

- Where does this leave me as a visitor who appreciates my experiences in China?





是
shì

Wise Words

*“China country, America
country, no boundary.
We all [people].”*

-
Librarian, National Library of China

