

Every visit to China is an eye-opening experience for me. No matter what I look at, old or new, I find something new.

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Old Beijing

I was told to look for old Beijing in Shishahai that is just outside the Forbidden City. To be honest, I'd rather see some Chinese tea houses than those noisy bars on its two sides with flashing green and red lights. But the whole China is rushing forward, and who would want to look backward...









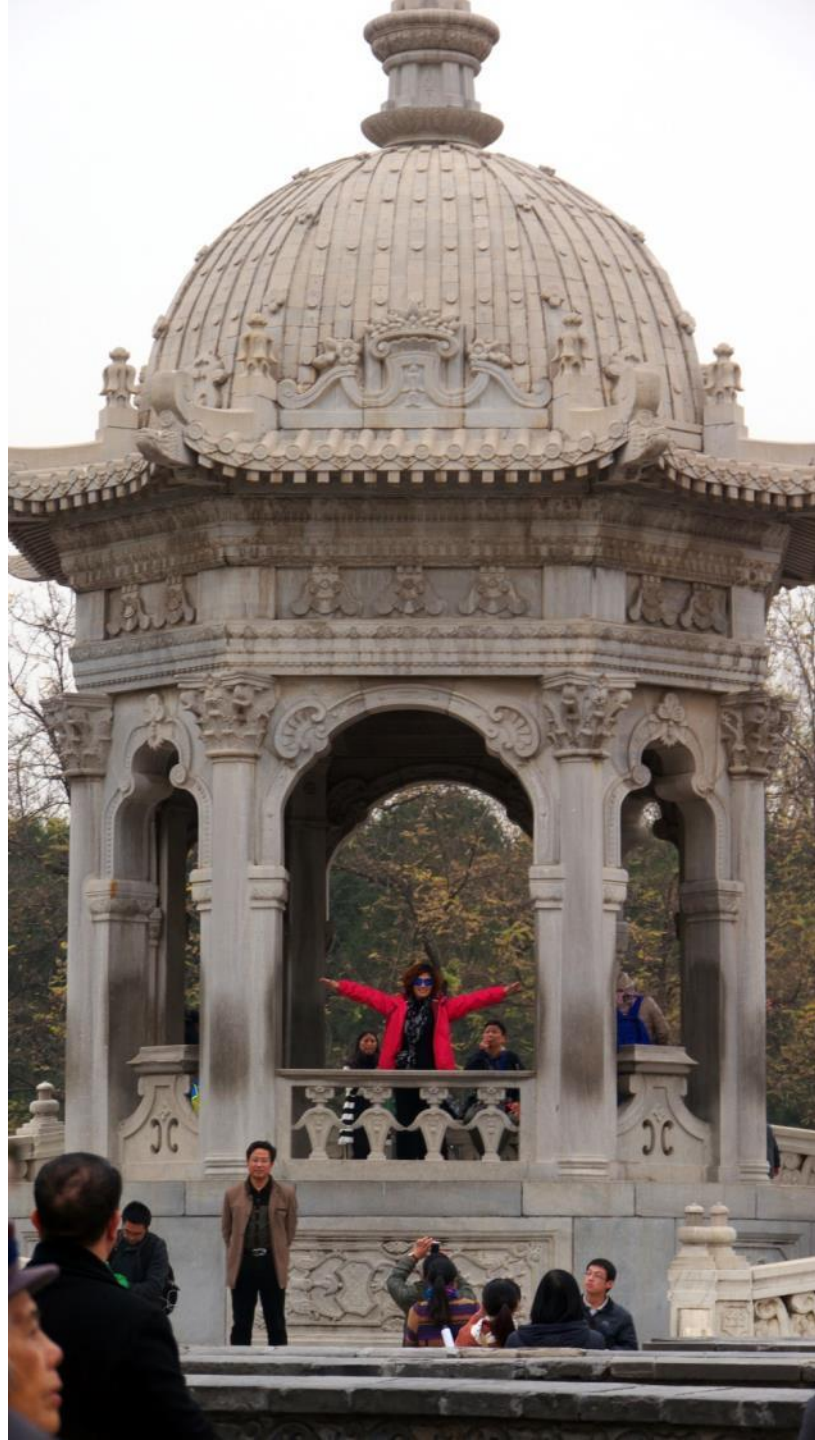


Yuanmingyuan Garden

In my memories Yuanmingyuan Garden was only a few broken stones. My classmates and I used to visit it on Mid Autumn night when we were attending Beijing University because it was close by. I only remember those stones looked sad and cold under a full moon. A stroll on a Sunday afternoon 25 years since my last visit, however, left me a completely different impression. Following its paths that branch off here and there, I often got lost in its gardens within gardens and was swept away by its scale and complexity. The Chinese emperors copied all the interesting buildings across the country in one garden. They even built an European styled stone gazebo, and one had to go through a maze to get there! They had a different place in the garden for each festival or occasion. Then I realized that the emperors did not designed and build Yuanmingyuan to just enjoy a luxury life but to escape boredom. Perhaps what people fear most is to be bored.







One area of Yuanmingyuan: how it was like.

