

Joe Mun – Some Interesting Photos From China Travels

I bought my first digital camera soon after retirement at the end of 2001, and started to learn about digital photography and image processing. Combined with this newly found hobby, I made extensive travels to China, sometimes month long trips on my own, to visit its UNESCO World Heritage sites.

I covered 30 out of 41 sites by 2010, gradually losing stamina and interest because of the speed of new sites being added each year, they are easier to visit on the internet these days!

I came across many interesting "things" which fascinated me at the time - one of the joys of travel. Here are a few examples.

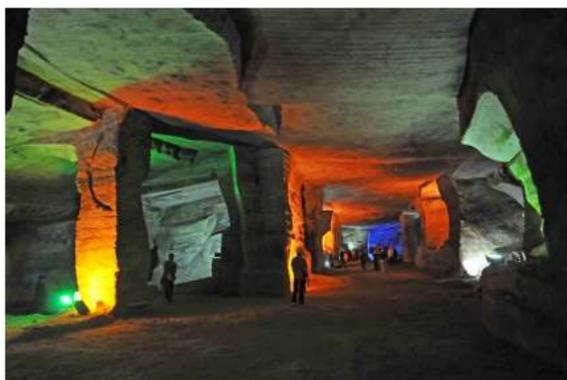
Huangshan Mystery Caves: these caves were discovered in the 1960's by farmers looking for herbs at the foothill of Huangshan (Yellow Mountain), one of five sacred mountains in China.

The caves were man made, with precision tool marks, absolutely huge, several hundred feet deep, up to 60 feet high, many partially submerged in water.

A few caves are open to public out of 36. From stalactite estimates, the caves are over 1700 years old.

The mystery is research to date revealed no information about who, when, why and how these caves were built.

My pictures were taken in 2008.



Winter-worm, Summer-grass: when I first came across it in about 2002, it was like seeing a miniature version of the creature from film Alien.

This amazing creature is found on the hills of Himalayas. It is a caterpillar-like worm about 1.5 inches long, living in the soil in winter.

Some fungus seeds it eats incubate in its gut and sprout out from its mouth to the surface like grass in summer, killing the worm host.

This worm/grass supposes to have magical medicinal properties! They are more expensive than gold by weight.



Stone Art: this is something very Chinese, appreciating the forms, shapes and colours of stones, naturally formed, or revealed by artists. Example shows cross-section of a multi-layered red/white stone, by selectively removing layers to reveal layers underneath of different colours; the artist composes a picture of a rabbit.

More popular pictures are of complex landscapes, trees and mountains, for example, a flowing river.

