



Delve into history of Jingzhou

By Zhu Yan

Changjiang Weekly has been soliciting summer vacation stories, and it is obvious our readers enjoyed a full slate of adventures this summer. This week, we will share one of the trips to Jingzhou by Zhu Yan, a student from Wuhan Foreign Languages School, Grade 12.

The ancient city wall in Jingzhou



The statue of Guan Yu in Jingzhou

I am fascinated by the "Romances of the Three Kingdoms," which tells the story about the three leading heroes Liu Bei, Cao Cao and Sun Quan at a time when the Han dynasty was coming to an end.

Many popular stories in the "Romances of the Three Kingdoms" happened in Jingzhou. Drawn by the historical and cultural atmosphere, I took the high-speed railway from Hankou to Jingzhou in only an hour and thirteen minutes.

Geographically, Jingzhou is of strategic importance. Situated on a bend of the Yangtze River west of Wuhan, it was the capital of the powerful Chu kingdom for over



The ancient city wall in Jingzhou with the moat around

400 years of the long-lived Zhou dynasty.

The ancient city wall of Jingzhou is exemplary in China as architecture militarily functional and aesthetically appealing. It has been destroyed and rebuilt several times throughout its history. With a length of 10.5 kilometers, the existing wall was mainly built in the Ming dynasty, dating back 600 years ago.

The main part of the city wall is well-preserved. Walking on the ancient city wall, the handwriting on the bricks of the city wall baked 500 years ago is still faintly visible. These writings mark the time, place and supervisor of the ancient brick making. In front of the city wall lies the moat which tried to prevent enemies from approaching the city wall or attacks by fire.

Another character in this semi-historical novel that is closely linked with Jingzhou is Guan Yu. He was a strong warrior and a daring general who was loyal to

his rulers. When defending Jingzhou, Guan Yu used his bravery and wisdom to make Cao Cao and Sun Quan think twice about invading Jingzhou. One of the unusual things he did was that he served both his long-time leader and friend Liu Bei and the enemy leader Cao Cao.

But pride was the Achilles heel of Guan Yu, and his continuous victories made him more arrogant and conceited each day. At last, he was trapped by his enemies and killed in Jingzhou.

Gu Yu is like a knight in Western culture who died with glory. After his death, Guan Yu became the embodiment of loyalty, righteous and bravery. His brotherhood pact with Liu Bei and Zhang Fei provides imagery and symbolism for friends to look after each other in times of hardship.

He is still remembered by people in Jingzhou, even after 1,800 years, with the biggest bronze statue of Guan Yu in the world at 48 meters high.

New column for Belt and Road travelers

Changjiang Daily has opened a new column calling for articles on travel in countries along the Belt and Road.

Interested readers can send articles, either in English or Chinese, to 249785623@qq.com. Each month the authors of the best articles will be rewarded with tickets for live shows on the Zhiyin Cruise.

NEW COLUMN

English editors needed

Changjiang Weekly is looking for part-time or full-time English editors. The English editors will work with the Changjiang Weekly staff and assist with editing and proofreading several days each week.

Qualifications:

Native English speakers are preferred. Familiarity with the Chinese language would be an advantage.

Applicants who have a background in journalism, English writing, or editing are preferred.

If you are interested in this position, please submit a resume, cover letter, and writing samples to changjiangweekly@126.com. Please also include a copy of your passport, visa, and degree certificate.

HR will only contact qualified candidates for interviews.

Call for contributions

Changjiang Weekly is looking for contributions from both Chinese and foreign readers. We invite you to submit one of the following types of contributions:

1. Writing Wuhan: Share your articles about your experiences with friends, interesting places and things you've seen in Wuhan.

2. Photographing Wuhan: Share your photos of Wuhan.

3. Drawing Wuhan: Share your sketches of Wuhan.

Please send your photos, drawings, and articles to changjiangweekly@126.com. We will pay RMB 300 for a 700-word article and RMB 50 for one photo.