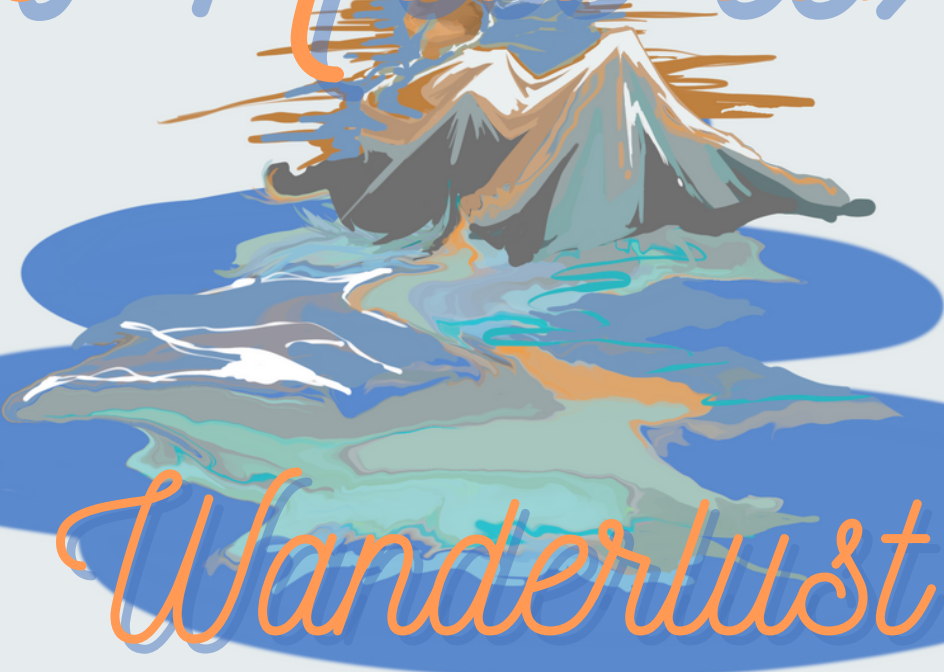


ISSUE 30

NOV 2023



Matrix



Wanderlust



Editor's Note

Greetings, dear readers! In this issue, we artfully embrace the spirit of exploration, inspiration, and wonder, with a resounding call to wander and uncover the world—a sentiment fittingly named "Wanderlust." While some have been able to satisfy their Wanderlust since the easing of border restrictions after the pandemic, we understand that not everyone may have had that opportunity. But no worries! We are here to help!

Our talented contributors have embarked on literary journeys to encapsulate the enchantment of their diverse travelling experiences and perspectives. As you immerse yourself in these pages, you will set forth on a global voyage, delving deep into the human heart. Be it a riveting adventure or an introspective piece, "Wanderlust" serves as your gateway to uncharted horizons. May these stories reignite your innate Wanderlust, awaken your curiosity and serve as a reminder that a world of discovery awaits, both nearby and in distant lands. Enjoy the adventure!



The Spirit of Travel

written by Chloe Yip 4A (15)
designed by Alice Lam 4E (4)

p. 4

Dreamer

written by Charice Lee 5D (7)
designed by Jessie Hung 4B (6)

p. 5

How I Wished

written by Yannes Sze 5D (11)
designed by Eunice Wong 4B (13)

p. 6

Bath Unveiled: A Journey into Timeless Elegance and Ancient Tales

written by Phoebe Chan 4A (1)
designed by Twiggy Lee 4E (5)

p. 7

My Dream Destination: Oxford

written by Jasmine Ching 4B (2)
designed by Pansy Yip 4E (14)

p. 12

Wanderlust: A Great Desire to Travel

p. 15

written by Yana Chan 4C (3)
designed by Kelly Cheung 4E (1)

Journey to Japan

p. 18

written by Jovi Au 4C (18)
designed by Twiggy Lee 4E (5)

A Tour of Cambridge

p. 21

written by Christy Leung 4D (12)
designed by Chloe Ngan 4E (9)

Sabah: an Exotic Paradise

p. 25

written by Kirstie Ng 4E (7)
designed by Wendy Choi 4D (6)

The Spirit of Travel

By Chloe Yip 4A (15)

I'll pack my bags and spread my wings,
Following the tune my wanderlust sings.
Exploring new paths, wherever I please,
I'll hit the road with my spirit at ease.

I'll wander far and wander wide,
With curiosity as my trusted guide.
To lands unknown where my dreams take flight,
Embark on journeys yet to come to light.

In every journey, I'll find a part,
A new piece of me that ignites a brand new start.
Where memories are made and stories unfold,
I'll find myself, and truly I've grown.





Dreamer

By Charice Lee 5D (8)

Locked in a cage,
Same as yesterday.

Miss the sunshine,
Soaked in that magical light.

Miss the sea,
Surrounded by its melody.

Miss the flowers,
Leads me through the struggling hours.

On the plane,
Forget the pain.
Reluctantly awake
I'm still in the cage.

How I Wished Yanna's See 5D(11)

How I wished to stand above clouds and mountains
holding a coffee that fits just right in my hands.

How I'd love to wake up in the Pacific
sailing with dolphins that are so energetic.

How much would I be fulfilled by new tastes on my tastebuds?
Oh Lord, please let me try them all.

How I'd like to experience their cultures
We'll be wrapping our arms around each other's shoulders.

How I'd love to have the money
to book the tickets and start my journey.

How much more would I be smiling?
If only I were no longer doubting...

But how am I supposed to hop onto a new page
if I can't even get enough sleep?



Bath Unveiled: A Journey into Timeless Elegance and Ancient Tales

By Phoebe Chan 4A (1)



Embarking on a trip to Bath is like stepping into a time capsule that transports visitors to a bygone era. Nestled in the picturesque countryside of southwestern England, Bath is a city that exudes elegance, history, and a sense of tranquility. It offers a unique blend of cultural heritage and natural beauty. Now, let me take you on a virtual journey to explore the captivating allure of Bath.

Bath's historical significance dates back thousands of years, with its origins rooted in the Roman Empire. The city owes its name to the ancient Roman baths that were built around natural hot springs. These waters were believed to possess healing properties. Today, the meticulously preserved Roman Baths stand as a testament to the city's rich past. It is a scheduled monument and is considered to be the finest example of Roman architecture in Britain.



Enchanted by its age-old history, I paid a visit to the Roman Baths on the first day. As I stepped into the hall, the ancient sculptures immediately caught my eye. The tops of the walls were decorated with stucco reliefs and Hippocamp mosaics, which were particularly popular back in Ancient Roman. The floors were covered with marble and mosaics. The water in the Great Bath looked green and dirty, but this was because of the presence of minerals and algae in the thermal spring water. (Fun fact: In Roman times, the roof over the bath would have kept the light out and prevented the algae from growing!)

As I put on the audio guide, the history and stories behind every corner of the hall began to unfold. Tales of ancient rituals, facts about bathing practices and details of the architecture were revealed. As I explored further, I noticed that the staff members were dressed in attire reminiscent of the Ancient Roman times. Their flowing robes, ornate jewellery and sandals transported me to another era, as if I had stepped back in time. They recreated the atmosphere of the past and enhanced the authenticity of the bathhouse. It felt as though I were witnessing a glimpse of the Roman era, with its rich cultural traditions and opulent lifestyles.

My tour of the Roman Baths was humbling, reminding me of the ingenuity and craftsmanship of those who came before us. Up till now, I cannot shake the amazement that I hold towards the eternal beauty and enduring allure of the Roman Baths. If you ever get the chance to visit Bath, this should undoubtedly be on your itinerary.



On top of that, Bath has an exquisite display of resplendent Georgian architecture; every turn reveals a story of timeless elegance. As I stood in awe before the magnificent Bath Abbey, I was utterly captivated by its mesmerising Gothic Revival architecture. The tall pointed arches and intricate stone carvings whispered stories of the past. The symmetrical facade and detailed designs left me speechless. Bath Abbey stood as a remarkable example of the city's rich architectural heritage, leaving me completely fascinated by its extraordinary presence.

Beyond its architectural wonders, Bath captivated me with its vibrant cultural scene that caters to a wide range of interests. During the trip, I had the pleasure of exploring the city's numerous museums, art galleries and theatres, which offer a diverse array of cultural experiences. One of my favourite experiences was visiting the Victoria Art Gallery, where I witnessed an impressive collection of artwork spanning various periods and styles. Each brushstroke seemed to tell a story, evoking emotions and inspiring thoughts. The Holburne Museum also left a lasting impression, with its remarkable collection of fine and decorative arts that showcased the creativity of centuries past. And how could I forget the Theatre Royal Bath, a true gem among theatres, in which I was fortunate enough to witness a captivating play, *Machinal*. The exhilarating music and inspiring performance left me in awe. These cultural offerings enriched my trip, allowing me to engage with Bath's artistic and intellectual heritage and creating memories that will stay with me for a lifetime.



The vibrant history and culture of Bath shed light on the lifestyle of the local people. As I settled into a charming coffee shop, cradling a steaming cup of coffee, the city of Bath basked in the warm glow of the setting sun. It was the golden hour, and a soft, ethereal light flooded the streets, casting a magical spell over everything it touched. I gazed out of the café window, watching as people meandered along the sidewalks, gentle and unhurried. There was a placid atmosphere that spread through the air, as if time itself had slowed down in this idyllic city. Sipping my coffee, I became an observer of this serene scene, finding solace in the unhurried rhythm of life. While the sunset painted the city in vibrant hues, I was reminded of the simple joys found in appreciating the slower, more meaningful moments of existence spent capturing the beauty of my surroundings.



The lifestyle in Bath is quite different from that in Hong Kong. As secondary students in Hong Kong, we are constantly living our hectic school lives, where multiple responsibilities and expectations are placed upon us. We are caught in the loop of this fast-paced lifestyle, not leaving any time for ourselves to truly enjoy the dynamism in the air. However, by truly diving into the local lifestyle in Bath, I discovered that people here treasure their “me-time.” After work, they would gather in the city centre under the glow of streetlights. They dance and drink, just to celebrate the fact that their work is finally done. We should learn from the Bathonians: once in a while, we should take a step back from the bustling schedule. We should dance to commend ourselves for completing our daily tasks.

All in all, my trip to Bath is such a fascinating experience for history enthusiasts like myself. A trip to Bath is a voyage into a world of timeless charm and serenity. The city's rich historical heritage, architectural marvels, and vibrant cultural scene create an immersive experience that captivates visitors from near and far. The city's serene atmosphere provides an escape from the fast-paced modern world, allowing us to connect with the past and refresh our spirits. Bath truly embodies the essence of a quintessential English city, offering an unforgettable journey through time. More than this, Bath teaches us the invaluable lesson of slowing down, embracing life's pleasure and cherishing the beauty that surrounds us.




My Dream Destination: Oxford

by Jasmine Ching 4B(02)

Let's think about a question: where do you want to travel to?

If anyone asks me this question, I will promptly say "Oxford" without hesitation. Oxford is a city in England, a country town and the only city of Oxfordshire. The city is home to the University of Oxford and has buildings in every style of English architecture since the late Anglo-Saxon period.



The background is a vibrant, magical illustration. It features a dark blue night sky with several trees whose leaves and branches are illuminated from within, creating a glowing effect. Scattered throughout the scene are numerous small, bright yellow and white lights, some resembling fireflies or magical sparks. In the foreground, a lush green field is filled with various plants, including small pink flowers and blue, glowing, wing-like shapes. A prominent, bright white waterfall flows down the center of the field. The overall atmosphere is enchanting and dreamlike.

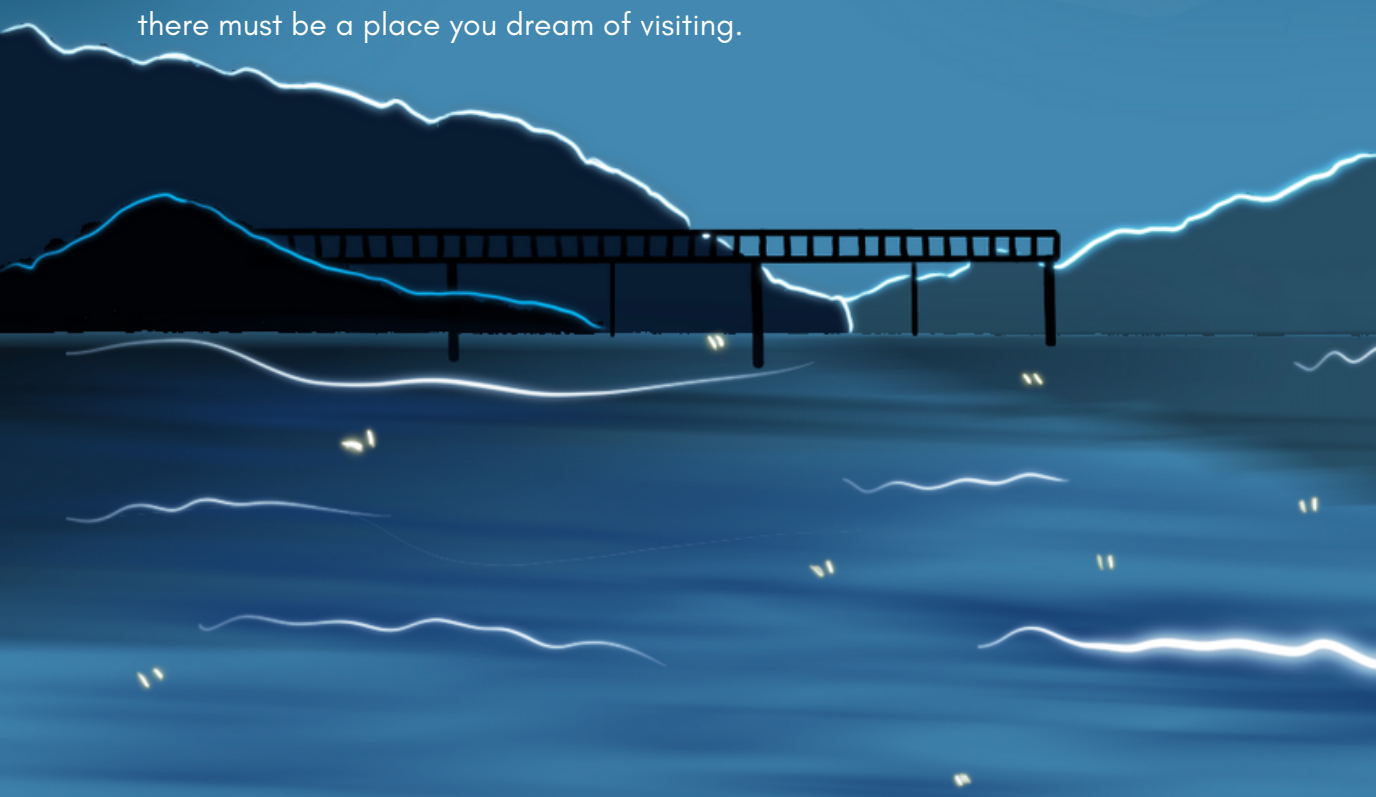
Being a big fan of Harry Potter, the University of Oxford is one of the most enchanting places I can visit. Indeed, the Harry Potter series was filmed there. I wish to explore the hallowed halls, just like Hogwarts' students, and witness places like the Bodleian Library, Christ Church College, and New College, all of which were transformed into the buildings of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the film. Walking around the campus, I would feel like a witch currently studying at Hogwarts.



What also appeals to me about the City of Dreaming Spires is the remarkable architecture there. It is a place of incredible history and intellectual achievement. There are various magnificent buildings, like the Radcliffe Camera, All Souls College, and the Sheldonian Theatre. The mix of ancient and modern styles creates a unique cityscape. If I have the chance to explore it there, I will immerse myself in the city's rich cultural atmosphere by meandering around the picturesque streets.

Additionally, the breathtaking nature attracts me a lot. I have watched many videos of how amazing the countryside is, especially in autumn. Falling leaves are as beautiful as butterflies fluttering in the sunshine. The countryside comes alive with stunning colors of red, orange, and yellow. Besides, the River Thames, known as the "Isis" in Oxford, flows through the city. I will walk along the river, take in the sights, and spend leisure time with my family.

Traveling is not only about broadening your horizons but also helping you relieve stress. Back to my previous question: where do you want to travel to? I believe there must be a place you dream of visiting.



Wanderlust: A Great Desire to Travel

By Yana Chan 4C(3)

You find yourself on a plane, gazing out the window at the plane's wing as it cuts through clouds of pink and blue. You sit back and watch as the sun melts through the sky, tinting everything gold.



Taking a deep, relaxing breath, you settle into the soft cushion of your seat. Your hands rub against your soft sweater, awaiting your destination.



The air is filled with electrifying excitement, and you appreciate every second surrounded by it. You feel yourself moving further and further away from the place you call home, but there is no fear within you. Instead, you embrace the feeling. It is like a hot shower on cold winter nights, like a hug from a long-lost friend, like an escape from the hectic life you lead. You're heading into something new, yet familiar, something that promises exhilaration and relaxation.

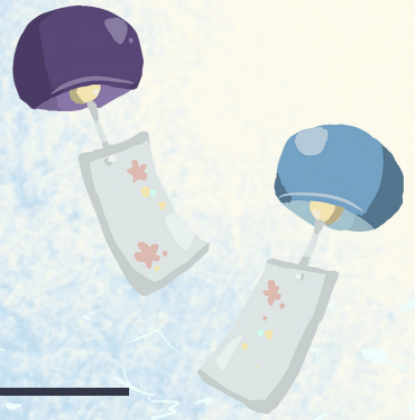




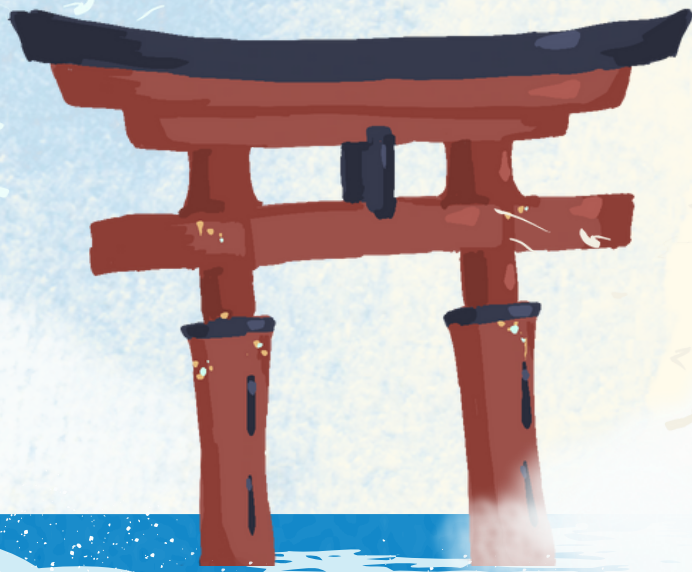
As the plane comes to a descent, the world rumbles in pure excitement. You step off the plane and look around. You feel the ground under your feet, the unfathomably vast blue sky, the crisp air, and you have never felt more alive. The trees are of the colour of spring and the mountains reach towards the stars. Although you are hundreds of kilometers away from home, you have never felt more at home.

Journey to Japan

By Jovi Au 4C(18)



Many people love travelling around the world. However, due to the pandemic, we were stuck in Hong Kong for almost three years. Although the pandemic has subsided, not all of us can travel freely because of the high airfare and remaining travel restrictions. Fortunately, I had two opportunities to satisfy my wanderlust by travelling to Osaka and Tokyo in Japan.



Osaka is well-known as the “Kitchen of Japan” and is one of the best places in Japan to experience traditional Japanese life. It has shorter and more conventional Japanese buildings. There are many small shops along the Dotonbori Market, selling famous mouthwatering street food like *okonomiyaki* and wagyu sushi.

Beyond the urban area, I visited a rural area and lived in a traditional hot spring hotel. The hotel was built with wood and Japanese paper, giving the place an elegant appearance. At night, I enjoyed delicious *kaiseki* cuisine for dinner, which left a lasting impression on me.



In contrast, Tokyo is a modernised capital city in Japan. The most unforgettable spot is the iconic crossing in Shibuya. I will always remember the sight of thousands of people crossing the road within 30 seconds. Then, I climbed to the top of Shibuya Sky, an observation deck where I could see the gorgeous landscape of Shibuya and Shinjuku. In Tokyo, where natural hot springs are absent, I chose to stay in a modern hotel that reflected the city's urban spirit.



In conclusion, my travels to Osaka and Tokyo were a testament to the power of wanderlust. It allowed me to immerse myself in new experiences, taste unfamiliar cuisines and embrace the beauty of Japanese culture. The memories I created will forever ignite my desire to explore the world and satisfy my wanderlust, reminding me that the journey is just as important as the destination itself.





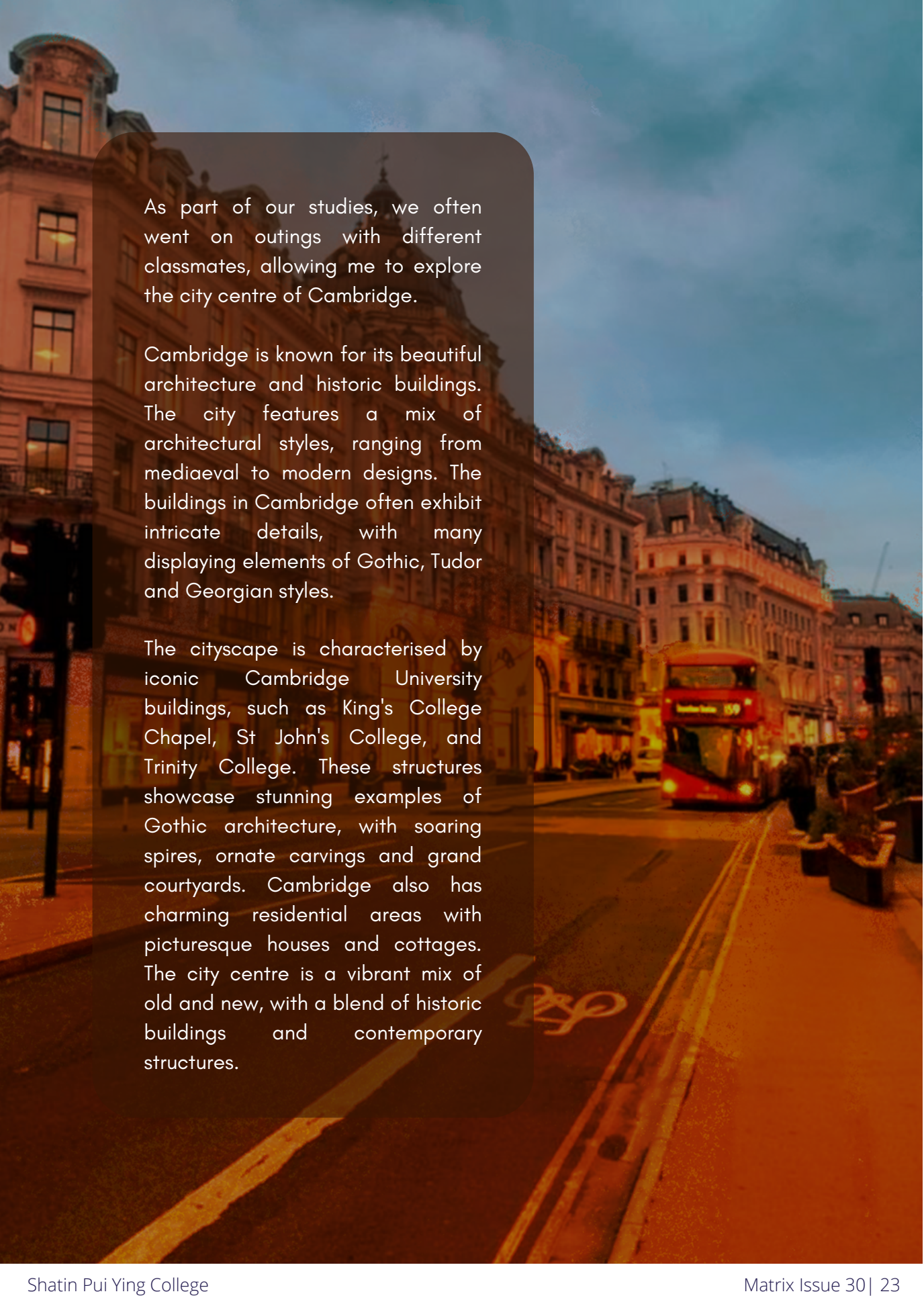
A Tour of Cambridge

by Christy Leung 4D (12)

Wanderlust, the innate desire to explore and discover new places, often seizes the hearts of travellers. In the past few years, the world has witnessed unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic. Among the many aspects of life that were significantly impacted, travel emerged as one of the most affected domains. Despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic, wanderlust remained a powerful force, driving individuals to seek alternative ways to satisfy their cravings for travel. My journey to Cambridge is solid proof that travelling, even in these uncertain times, can still fulfil the desires of many hearts.

I signed up for a language course in Cambridge which lasted for a month. Joining this course was an enriching experience. It gave me an opportunity to make friends from different countries and learn about their cultures. I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with them, exchanging facts about different cultural practices. For instance, we discussed how the European custom of kissing cheeks and hugging when greeting one another is less common outside of the continent. Additionally, I discovered that in the Netherlands, it is impolite to point at others. In turn, I shared some facts about Chinese culture with them as well. We wrote Chinese characters and spoke the language together, which was amusing and meaningful. Interacting with individuals from diverse backgrounds has broadened my perspective and fostered intercultural understanding.

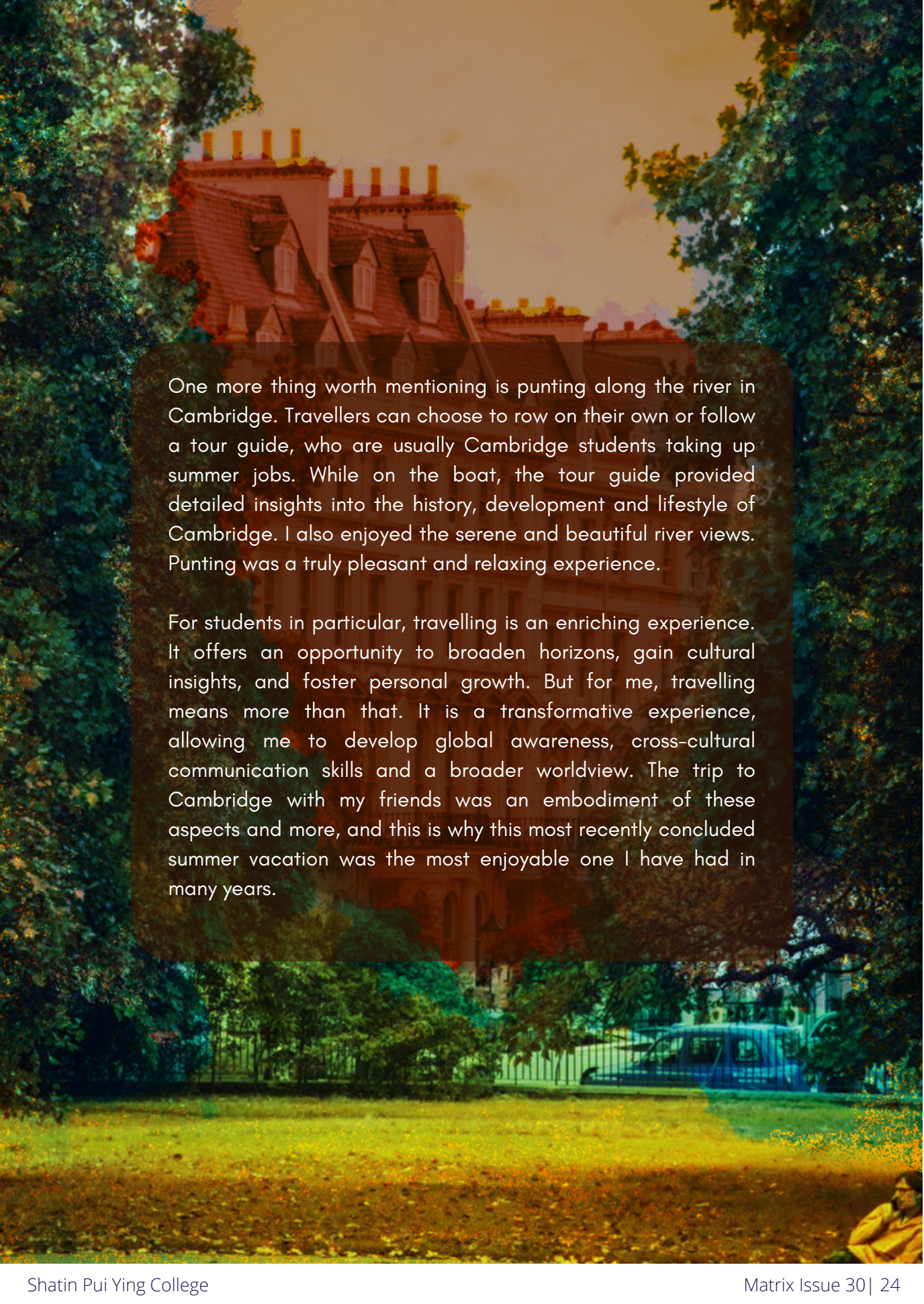


A street scene in Cambridge at dusk. The image shows a row of historic buildings with ornate architectural details. A red double-decker bus is driving on the road. In the foreground, there is a bicycle lane marked with a white bicycle symbol. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting the time is either dawn or dusk. The overall atmosphere is warm and historic.

As part of our studies, we often went on outings with different classmates, allowing me to explore the city centre of Cambridge.

Cambridge is known for its beautiful architecture and historic buildings. The city features a mix of architectural styles, ranging from mediaeval to modern designs. The buildings in Cambridge often exhibit intricate details, with many displaying elements of Gothic, Tudor and Georgian styles.

The cityscape is characterised by iconic Cambridge University buildings, such as King's College Chapel, St John's College, and Trinity College. These structures showcase stunning examples of Gothic architecture, with soaring spires, ornate carvings and grand courtyards. Cambridge also has charming residential areas with picturesque houses and cottages. The city centre is a vibrant mix of old and new, with a blend of historic buildings and contemporary structures.



One more thing worth mentioning is punting along the river in Cambridge. Travellers can choose to row on their own or follow a tour guide, who are usually Cambridge students taking up summer jobs. While on the boat, the tour guide provided detailed insights into the history, development and lifestyle of Cambridge. I also enjoyed the serene and beautiful river views. Punting was a truly pleasant and relaxing experience.

For students in particular, travelling is an enriching experience. It offers an opportunity to broaden horizons, gain cultural insights, and foster personal growth. But for me, travelling means more than that. It is a transformative experience, allowing me to develop global awareness, cross-cultural communication skills and a broader worldview. The trip to Cambridge with my friends was an embodiment of these aspects and more, and this is why this most recently concluded summer vacation was the most enjoyable one I have had in many years.

S a b a h

an exOTIC PARADISE

by Kirstie Ng 4E(07)



Viruses, social distancing, masks... These are the things that have hindered us from travelling and taught us how depressing life can be without the opportunity of a getaway. During those difficult times, did you dream of being able to travel around the world and spend time away from worry and work? If you have, then you should know more about Sabah, a place of exotic beauty.


Let's first talk about what Sabah has to offer. Unlike Hong Kong, it is best known for its lush forests, wildlife habitats, pristine beaches with clear waters and nature reserves. Maybe you can already picture it in your mind: a small beach with a few people chilling and kayaking. And most importantly, a sunny day! That's what Sabah looks like. In addition to its gorgeous scenery, there are lots of activities which give you an adrenaline rush.

Mount Kinabalu is definitely one of the most renowned sights in Sabah. Towering at 4095 metres, it provides a scenic spot with the crystal clear water and sky in the background. Tall enough to be surrounded by thin clouds, people often come to witness the mesmerising view. The coral islands in Sabah are also fascinating. Swimming in the green waters and sunbathing on the beaches are amazing ways to pass the time. Taking a break from the busy and heavy workload and allowing our bodies to take a rest are the best ways to regain energy.





When it comes to exciting outdoor activities, snorkelling would be a perfect way to start off. It would be a waste not to look at the rare marine environment underwater. Immersed in the clear waters, you can easily find colourful fish swimming right next to you! It is so fascinating to float on the water and observe the movements of marine animals for long periods of time. Marine life is truly remarkable.



You won't be able to drive an all-terrain vehicle in Hong Kong. Therefore, driving one up Mount Kinabalu is a pleasant and exciting experience you should not miss. With the speed and wind blowing on your face, you will certainly feel less stressed. With the view of the enormous Mount Kinabalu before you, you would undoubtedly feel soothed and calm.

After the energy-consuming experiences, what do we need? FOOD! In Sabah, you have a large variety of food to choose from. You can have seafood, *bak kut teh* or local desserts. It is truly a food paradise! After the meal, you may want to take a stroll around the night market, where you can find everything you need, like souvenirs and handmade goods. They are cheap, unique and aesthetic at the same time. You may then call it a day by sharing temptingly inexpensive durians with your friends for dessert. YUM!





Contributors:

Phoebe Chan (4A) Christy Leung (4D)
Chloe Yip (4A) Kirstie Ng (4E)
Jasmine Ching (4B) Charice Lee (5D)
Yana Chan (4C) Yannes Sze (5D)
Jovi Au (4C)

Graphic designers *cum* typesetters:

Jessie Hung (4B) Alice Lam (4E)
Eunice Wong (4B) Twiggy Lee (4E)
Wendy Choi (4D) Chloe Ngan (4E)
Kelly Cheung (4E) Pansy Yip (4E)

Editors:

Ms. Cheng Shui Kwan Fronia,
Mr. Chow Yin Hong Carlos

Advisor:

Ms. Wong Siu Yung Helena