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CSC Shanghai goes rappelling, spelunking

by Jocelyn Eikenburg

GB, B5

The great American writer Henry David Thoreau once said, "Most men lead lives of quiet desperation." In defiance of these words, Client Service Center (CSC) Shanghai indulged in a weekend of rappelling and spelunking in the unspoilt hills of Mt. Jilong in Zhejiang province last July.

It was a test of strength from the very beginning. Once they arrived at the foot of the hills, the team members gathered their belongings and hiked their way up to the base camp in the heat of the day. Undaunted by the glaring sun, they actually enjoyed trekking through the emerald hillside, marveling at the beautiful rice terraces and charming rural homes.



The Shanghai Client Service Center team triumphantly conquers Mt. Jilong in Zhejiang province.

After a nourishing lunch to recharge their energies, the adventurers were ready to face their first challenge: the wall. There it stood, in the splendor of the afternoon sunshine—a massive karst limestone wall that was easily seven stories high. Scaling the rock was just half of the trial. The real challenge was being able to lean back into nothingness while attached to the rope by a mere metal clasp, and letting faith take over. Everyone eagerly stepped up to the test; some even scaled the wall twice.

The hungry and exhausted mountaineers then enjoyed an evening feast of barbecued meats, tofu and vegetables, washed down with a great amount of beer. For dessert, they passed around large slices of juicy watermelon, and roasted marshmallows over the campfire.

With their stomachs filled and their spirits lifted, everyone gathered around the bonfire for games, songs and ghost stories. The



With their stomachs filled and their spirits lifted, everyone gathered around the bonfire for games, songs and ghost stories. The outdoor regale concluded with a marvelous fireworks display, and then it was finally time to turn in for the night.

The next morning, hungry for more adventure, the teammates went spelunking in one of the hillside caves. The cool, dank air and the chilling spring waters were a welcome relief from the furnace-like heat outside. The spelunkers were delighted to encounter wild bats, cave moths and rats as they trekked deeper and deeper into the cave, leaping over slippery gaps and creeping below impressive stalactite formations.

After emerging from the cave, the team enjoyed yet another memorable repast before finally heading down. Spirits were at an all-time high on the trip home, where new and better challenges await the newly recharged CSC Shanghai team members.

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### About the author

**Jocelyn Eikenburg**, one of the Copywriters at Shanghai CSC, spends her free time writing stories, reading, learning Chinese, practicing yoga and cooking "extreme" vegetarian dishes.

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