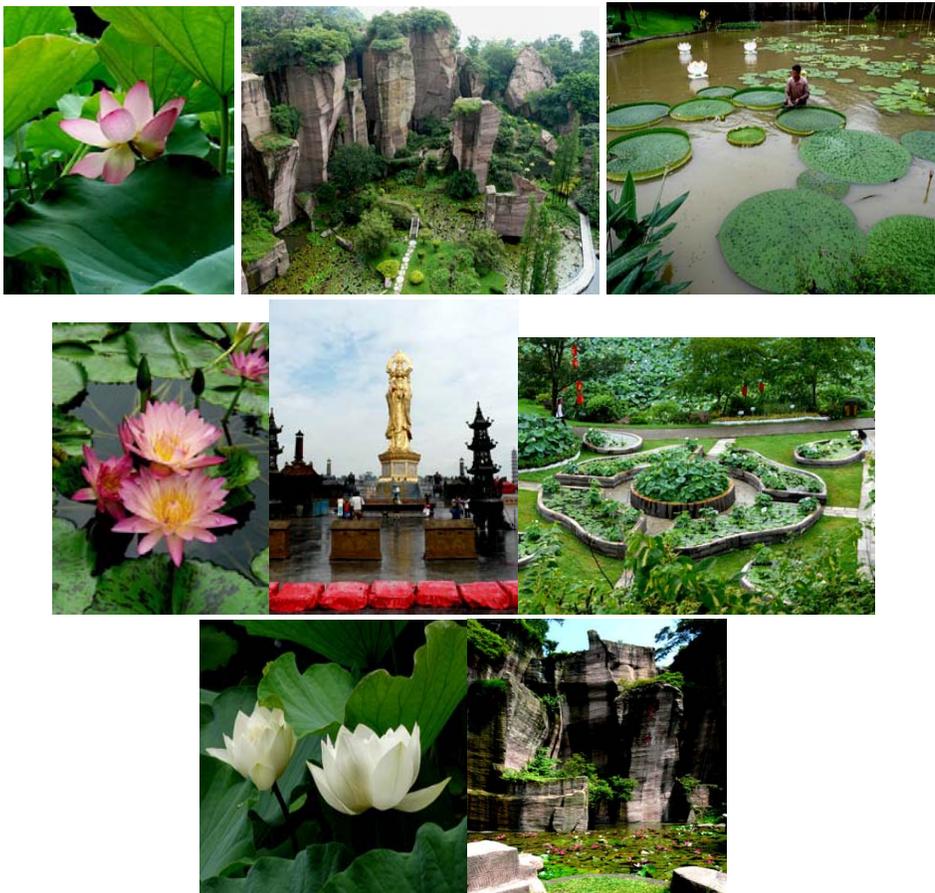


# Eastern China Lotus Field Exploration & Water-Garden Tour By Grant Mitchell and Warner Orozco-Obando July 15-30 2010

Day 1 : Arrive Guanzhou Bai Yun Airport transport to hotel

Day 2 : Day excursion to Lotus Mountain gardens. This garden is about 100 acres and includes many different parts. It overlooks the Pearl River estuary and is built around a 2,000 year old red sandstone quarry. This stone was only for use on the Emperors projects. In the old quarry there are high cliffs and ponds filled with lotus and waterlilies. On the top of the mountain is an old fort which controlled river traffic and a Buddhist complex with pagoda, huge traditional buildings and the biggest gilded bronze Guanyin in the world. There is also a Buddhist vegetarian restaurant.



Day 3 : Visit several gardens and parks in Guangzhou. There are several different parks and gardens to visit with water-plants, orchids and other trees and flowers. *Soft sleeper* train to Fuyang. [Soft sleeper class is a wide berth with 2 upper and 2 lower bunks with a door. The cabin is air-conditioned and there is a western style toilet and washrooms at the end of the carriage. Soft sleeper class is close to the dining car]

Day 4 : Arrive in Fuyang. Afternoon visit to small lotus lake.

Day 5 : Visit an incredible private lotus garden with over 1500 varieties of lotus. Mostly medium sized lotus grown in pots. There are many unique lotus in this private collection and can only be visited on this tour. Afternoon train to Hefei.

Day 6: Visit Hefei lotus park. Check out the large lotus collection in this park setting. Afternoon bus to Pukou.

Day 7 : Tour of the famous Yileen Water-garden. This well known water garden of several acres is incredible. There are hundreds of varieties of lotus as well as waterlilies and other aquatic plants. Yileen is responsible for the creation of many wonderful new hybrids and is a regular prize winner at the annual China Lotus Association convention

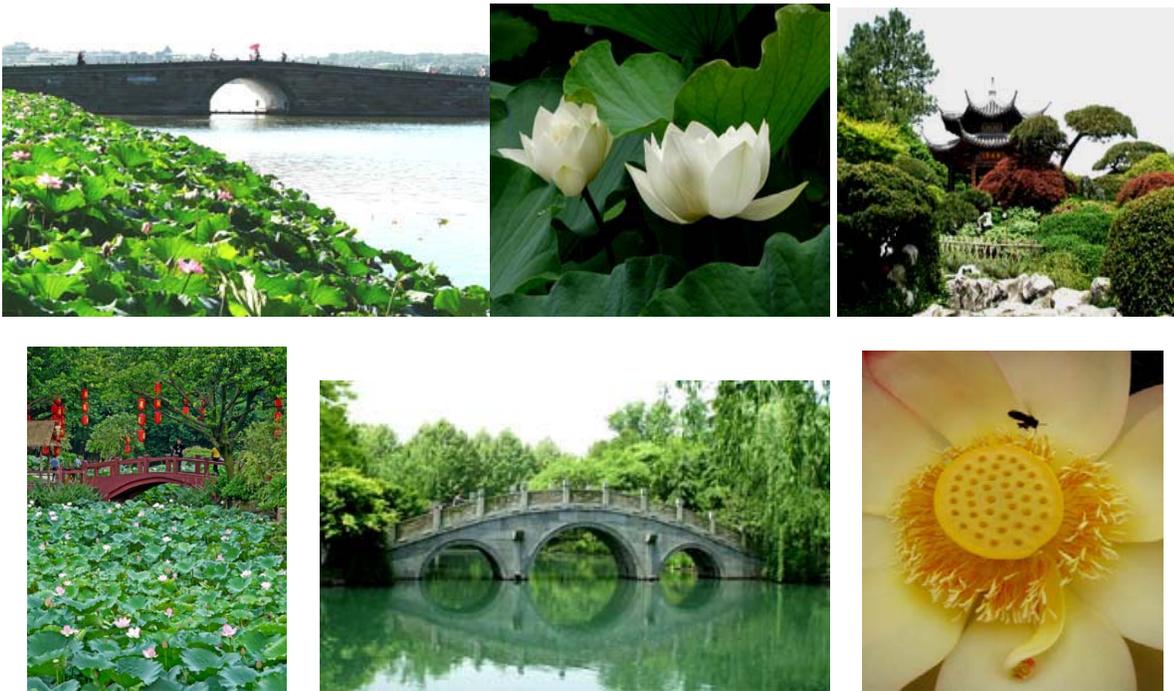


Day 8: Bus to Hangzhou. Afternoon boat trip on the iconic West Lake. West Lake has been a famous beauty spot for hundreds of years. There is a classical Chinese saying...up above you have Heaven and below you have Suzhou and Hangzhou ! Every year the area around the lotus lined West Lake becomes more and more beautiful due to ongoing landscaping by the local government.

Day 9 : Visit the scenic sites of West Lake and Hangzhou Botanical Garden. There are many different parts of the West Lake area with many separate parks joined by a variety of bridges. There are towers, causeways and pagodas along the way. In the evenings locals gather at the lakeside and play traditional instruments and sing and dance as they have done for centuries.

Evening spectacular buffet dinner and variety show.

Day 10 : Stroll around *Lotus Swaying in the Breeze* Park and the ancient Lin Ying Buddhist temple. Quyuan feng he park was originally a brewery but has a history of several hundred years as a park. There are bonsai and several small lakes with different varieties of lotus, waterlily and other waterplants with various bridges and lakeside pavilions, gardens and metasequoia forest.



Lin Ying temple complex is set in a lush forest not far from the lake. It also has a long history and is one of the most famous temples in China. Night sleeper train to Unesco World Heritage Mountain Park

Day 11 : Rest in hotel then ride the cable car to the spectacular Heaven's Gate mountain and Daoist temple and climb the stairs to Heaven's Gate. This cable car ride travels several miles across the farmlands and foothills before a dramatic ascension to the mountain top. The views are incredible and the mountains are covered in a variety of trees, shrubs and other local flora. Another short trip brings you to a large Daoist temple

and the walk back is on a pathway winding around the side of the mountain. On the return journey, a side trip in a bus takes you up a zig zag road to the base of Heaven's Gate. A walk up the stairs takes you to a huge spectacular opening in the mountain.



Day 12: Morning visit to huge private water-garden full of paddy fields full of exquisite lotus & waterlilies. Afternoon excursion to Yellow Dragon cave. This private water-garden was only opened in 2008 but has a fantastic collection of lotus and waterlilies mostly in large paddy fields. Yellow Dragon mountain is a fascinating cave system full of natures wonders. Outside the cave complex are some nice gardens and a collection of working wooden water wheels of various sizes.



Day 13: Cable-car up the Three Thousand Sister mountains and back down cruise along the trails in the ancient valley floor forest. This is a short but exciting trip to the top of a mesa of weathered quartzitic sandstone. A trail winds around the top in native forest of pine, magnolia, rhododendron and other flora giving spectacular view of 3,000 unique mountains and the valleys below. At the bottom is an ancient forest filled valley system to explore. Often monkeys can be seen. *Soft sleeper* train to Guangzhou



Day 14 : Arrive in Guangzhou then a short bus trip to three Waters. Afternoon visit to Three Waters park with a huge brass reclining Buddha, Tibetan temple and Daoist temple complex.

Day 15: Wake up in the Ever-profit Lotus Hotel. Spend the day in the amazing *Lotus World*, the biggest water garden in the universe ! Absolutely astounding! Farewell dinner in the evening.

Day 16: Depart from Guangzhou Bai Yun Airport.

TOUR INCLUDES: local transportation, entrances to the parks and locations, room and most of the meals. Total cost: \$3,500 American dollars (airfare it is not included).

Grant Mitchell – The Lotus Emperor

The tour leader was Grant Mitchell who has twenty five years of travel experience in China, other parts of Asia and the world. He has been a keen gardener all his life and has spent the last eighteen years specializing in growing and hybridizing water-plants notably Sacred Lotus. Grant is a former board member of the International Waterlily & Water-gardening Society, often presents lectures at the China Lotus Association Symposium and is an internationally recognized water-garden/plant photographer who has had numerous articles and photographs about

water-gardening published around the world. Through his vast experience and contacts in China and Asia, Grant shows you the real China and often takes you to places far from the *Tourist Trail*.

Warner Orozco-Obando

A graduate student from the Department of Horticulture at Auburn University, Warner is doing his dissertation, lab and field research on Lotus. Currently, he is developing techniques to determine the potential of the plant to be use on phyto-remediation of pollutants (herbicide, pesticides, and run-off nutrients) growing in constructed wetlands. In addition, he is developing protocols to force ornamental lotus in low tech greenhouses for spring sales; edible lotus as a commercial crop in the southeast, and evaluating double cropping lotus and fish in Alabama. Furthermore, his continues acquiring cultivars and samples of native lotus growing in different parts of the world. A member of the board of directors of the International Water Lilly and Water Garden Society, he and his colleagues at the Auburn Lotus Research Project are developing the International Registrar for the Genus *Nelumbo*.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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