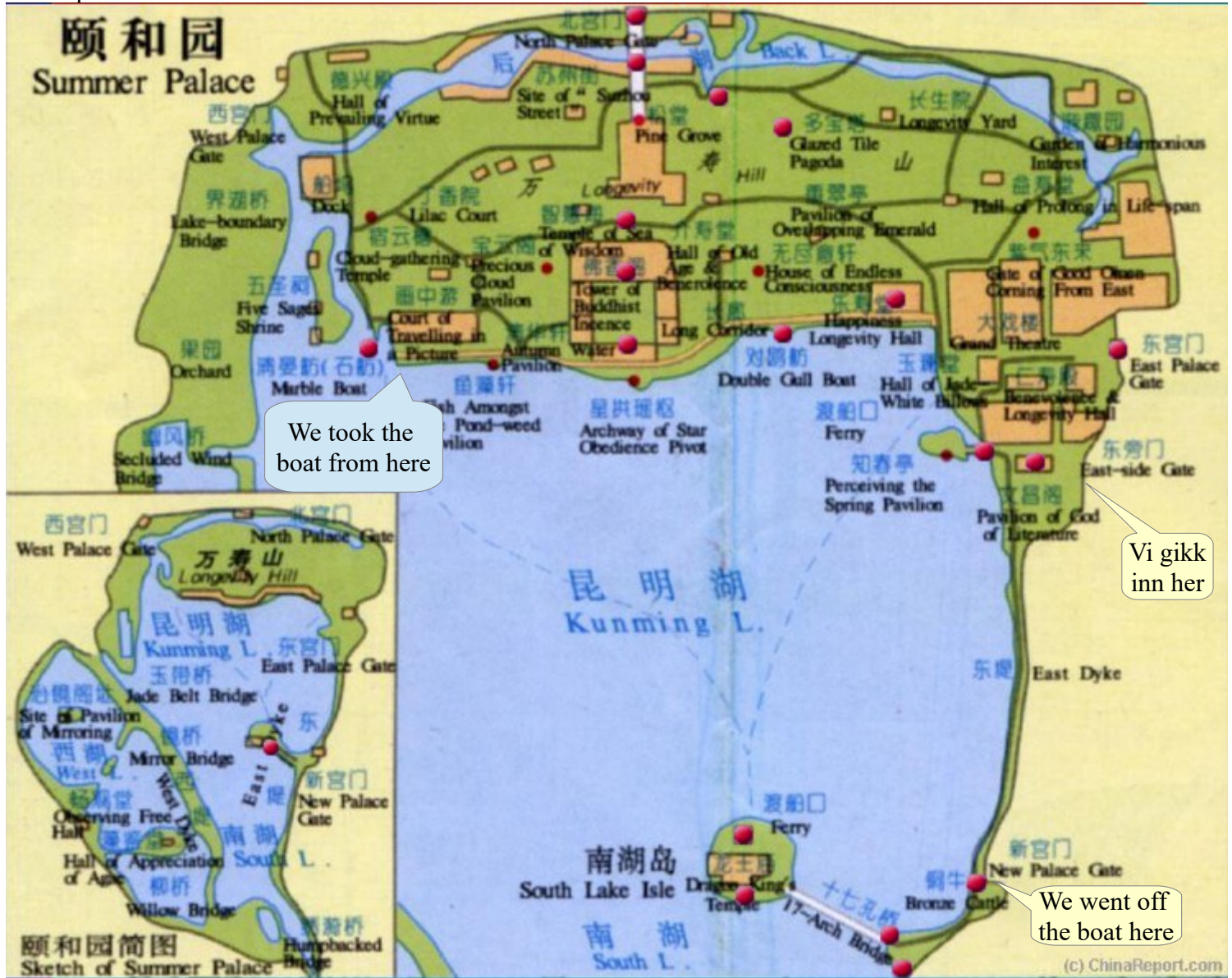


The 4th day in China, we went to the Summer Palace. This is a large area located northwest of downtown Beijing. The map of the area looks like this:



The [Summer Palace Link](#) consists of many palaces, gardens and other architectural structures in antique style. Far back in 1153, the imperial court moved here in the humid and hot summer months. The Summer Palace was built in 1740. The artificial lake Kunming is lying in the middle. It was closed in 1908, but in 1924 it was opened again, and made available to the public. To begin with, the entrance fee so high that only wealthy people could afford a visit. In December 1998, the Summer Palace was listed on [UNESCO's World Heritage List](#).



First we had to get through the morning traffic.



Here we are at the entrance.



The lions are guarding the entrance.



We are ready to enter.



Through the turnstiles.



Inside the gate, there are more fantasy beasts.



Stones belong in a Chinese park.

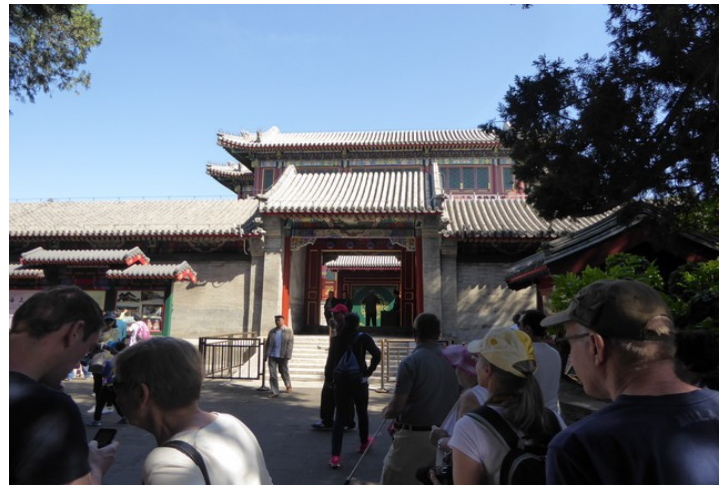


More fantasy beasts.

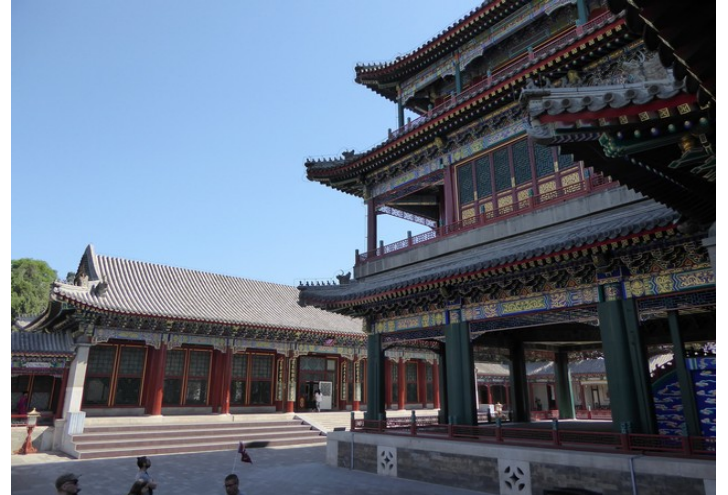




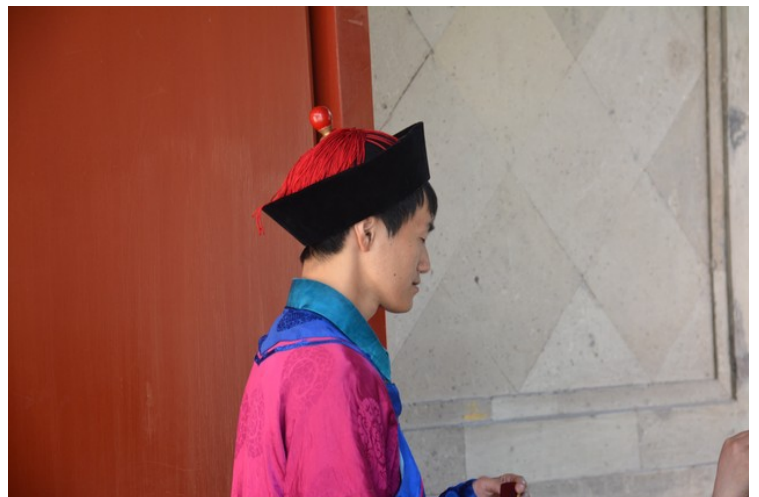
Our guide.



More temples.



Some details.





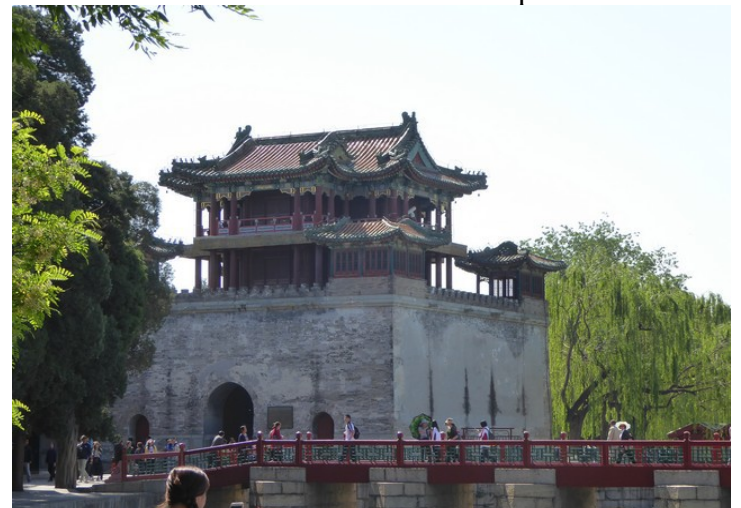
This guy is practicing writing good looking letters.



A little gymnastics.



Views to the Buddhist temple.



A pavilion.

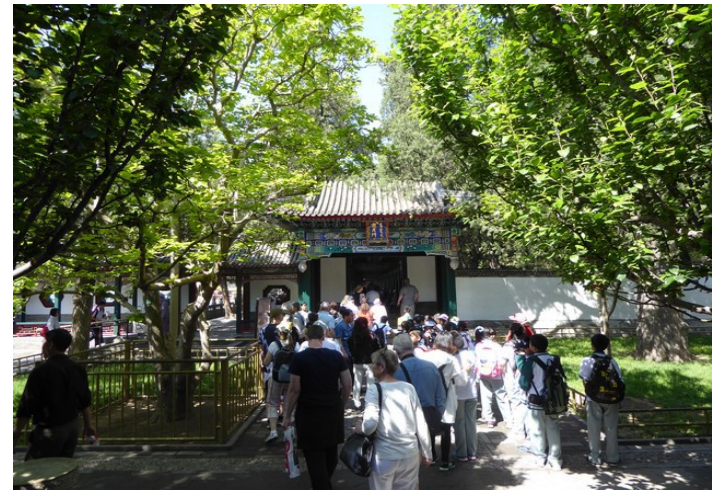
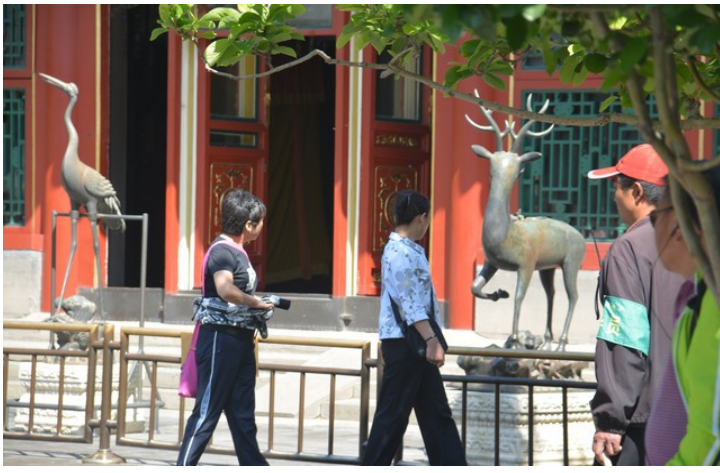


Boats for rent.



The Buddhist temple.





Here we come to the long corridor that runs along the north side of the lake.

The corridor is 727 meters long.



It is decorated with 14,000 images.



There is a bridge over to the island on the right. There are 17 arches in the bridge.



An old tree.



Up in the slope there was a large group singing.





We are moving on.



A «ferry», which crosses the lake.



More boats.



[The marble boat.](#)



More boats.



We went by this boat.





Then some picture when we cross the lake.





Then we came to the end station.



Going ashore again.



Here we left the area and went back to the bus.



It is the first time I've seen such a traffic sign.



Plaza Hotel just besides the stadium.



This is [Beijing National Stadium](#), which was opened to the Olympics in 2008. It is also called bird's nest.



There is not much traffic on the road at midday.

Here was going to have lunch.



After lunch we are going to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. On the way there we drove past the old railway station.