

Sailing through lights: A Pearl River cruise in Guangzhou

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Online Desk: As the sun dips below the horizon, Guangzhou transforms into a city of lights. The Pearl River, or Zhujiang, which slices through this sprawling metropolis, offers the best seat in the house for an unforgettable nighttime spectacle: a river cruise that showcases the illuminated beauty of the city, with the iconic Canton Tower aglow in the backdrop.

Embarking on the Journey

The journey began at the bustling wharf in the city center, where our team of Bangladeshi journalists gathered to board one of the many boats decked out in vibrant lights. As the cool evening breeze wafted over the river, the boat slipped away from the dock, and the city's bustling sounds faded into a serene silence punctuated only by the gentle lapping of water against the hull.

Canton Tower: A Beacon of Light

The highlight of the cruise is undoubtedly the passage beside the Canton Tower. This 600-meter-tall architectural marvel is not just a feat of engineering but also a canvas for a dazzling light show. As the boat glided along, the tower emitted radiant light sequences that painted the sky in a kaleidoscope of colors. The reflection of these lights on the water's surface created a mesmerizing double spectacle.

A River Lined with Illuminations

But the Canton Tower isn't the only highlight lighting up the night. The cruise offers panoramic views of Guangzhou's skyline, lit by the glow from numerous buildings and bridges. Each structure along the riverbank contributes its own unique burst of color, from the traditional reds and golds to the modern neon blues and greens that outline the sleek, contemporary facades of newer constructions.

The Liede Bridge dazzles with its dynamic light show synchronized to music, making it a floating dance of luminescence. This, combined with the shimmering outlines of other bridges like the Jiangwan and Haiyin, forms a continuous visual symphony that reflects Guangzhou's blend of tradition and modernity.

For those keen on photography, the cruise is a treasure trove of opportunities. The play of light and shadow, along with the city's reflection on the calm waters, makes for stunning compositions. Whether it's capturing the sweeping arc of a brightly lit bridge or the Canton Tower's ever-changing colors, each moment is a photographic masterpiece waiting to happen.

Impressions to Last a Lifetime

The cruise eventually looped back to the wharf, but the journey left a lasting impression. The Pearl River night cruise not only highlights the technological advancements and historical elements of Guangzhou but also provides a peaceful escape from the urban rush.

It's a must-do activity for anyone visiting the city, perfectly combining sightseeing with relaxation. As the lights dimmed and the boat docked, the magic of the cruise lingered, reminding all of us visiting from Dhaka, Bangladesh of Guangzhou's charm that sparkles best under the cover of night.

This trip is part of a media visit to China — from April 18 to 24 — facilitated by the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka.

