

*A Special Western China Cultural - Photographic Expedition*



**A Photographic Diary of our “2012 Chinese New Year Season Expedition”**

*Jan 25 - Feb 10, 2012*

*by Yau-Sun Tong*

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# Preface

The following images within this “**Photo-diary**” were taken with a little pocket-sized **Leica D-Lux 5** camera.

These **snapshots** are only intended **to capture** and **to document** the **events, our travel routes, the joy and fun of our tour members** during this lifetime experience of a fantastic visit to another one of the western China regions; and for our memories.

The little “point-and-shoot” **D-Lux 5** has many limitations in picture taking, little performance in terms of optical quality compared to the famed **Leica R and M** camera systems with slide-films I am so often used to and fond of using; but at the same time it poses a challenge to myself for still trying to create meaningful images with it.

High quality slide-film images taken from this tour are **not** shown in this **photo-diary**.

Some of the goals I am trying to achieve in my photography include:

- *True to the moments in nature and culture;*
- *Natural and candid;*
- *Compositionally challenge and unique;*
- *Meaningful in subjects and topics;*
- *Story telling with good impacts;*
- *Not to disturb and intrude into local human subjects’ life.*

## Brief intro

Gathered in *Shanghai*, I led our tour group flew to the sunshine southwestern *YunNan* province, started the great experience of our **《2012 Chinese New Year Season Cultural/Photographic Expedition》** which was especially designed for those who were interested in a real cultural experience in some of the most fascinating places for unusual and rich topics of photography and travel.

Some of the very interesting areas & cultural events in southwest & northern *YunNan province*, and northern *Shaanxi province* were hand-picked to be arranged in this expedition.

The following images in chronological order are intend to share the enjoyments from some of the events and highlights of our journey of this 18-day tour – another successful one of our ongoing specially arranged **Western China Cultural/Photographic Series Tours.**

My sincere appreciation & many thanks to all participants of this very special tour!

## *the itinerary we took*

(see itinerary indication **red line** on map)



**Jan 25 – Feb 10, 2012**

A 16-day journey through:  
"Shanghai entry - Southwestern YunNan,  
Northern YunNan, Northern Shaanxi  
- Beijing departure"

**Along** this exclusive itinerary,  
attractive natural sceneries,  
colorful & enchanting minorities  
cultures, daily tasty foods...  
wonderful experience & enjoyment  
with plenty photographic opportunities  
not found elsewhere.

**Timing** was selected during the festivity of Chinese New Season...

*For a taste of our previous journeys:*  
<http://photoart.chebucto.org/gallery5.htm>

2012年正月雲南、陝北“加拿大文化摄影访華考察团”摄影日志

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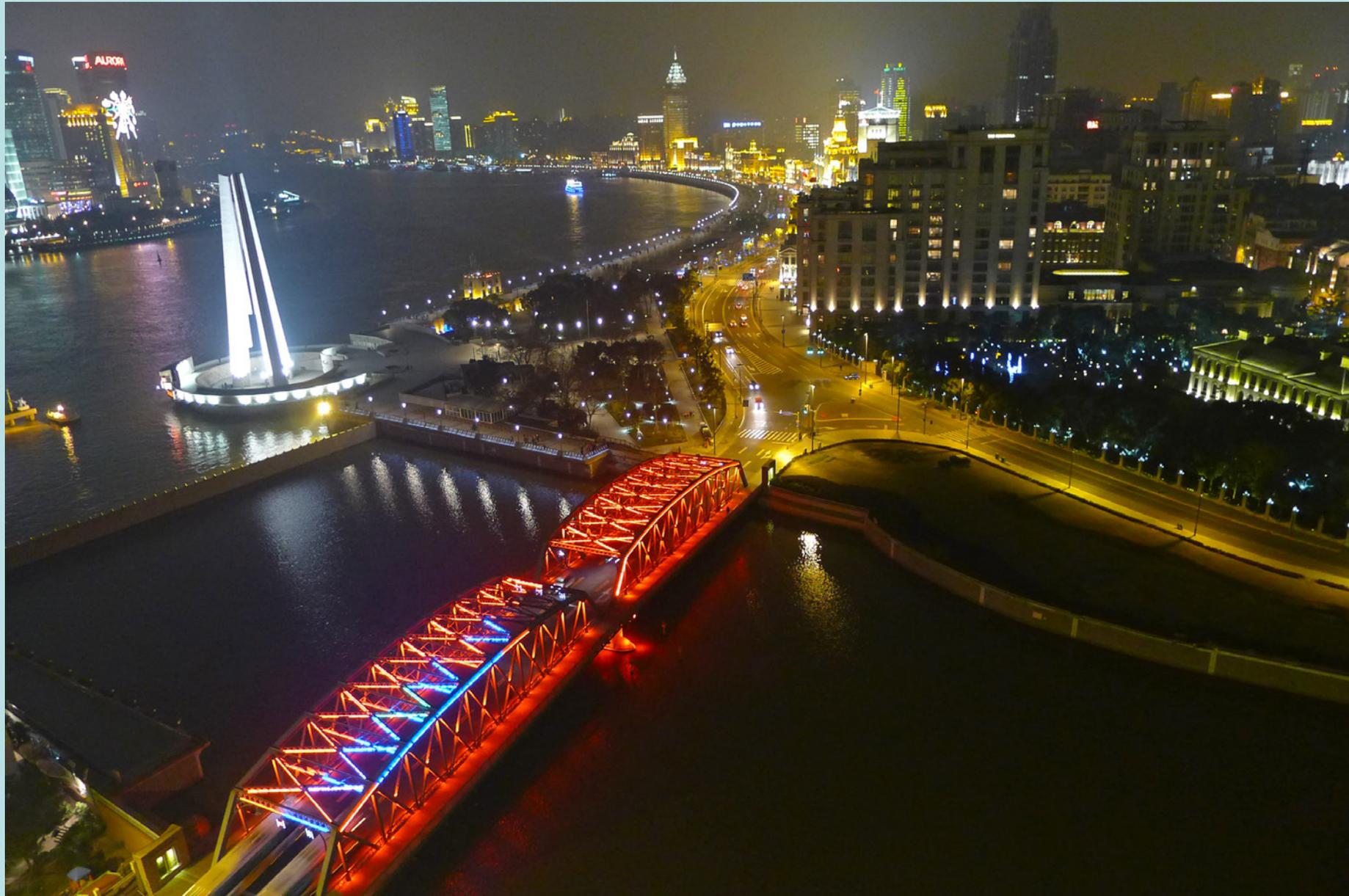
The following point-and-shoot snapshots are chronologically classified into the following categories:

- *Brief into* (4)
- *Itinerary map* (5)
- *Shanghai arrival* (7 - 17)
- *Into Yunnan province* (18 - 48)
- *The Yunnan region* (49 - 61)
- *Arrived northern Shaanxi province* (64 - 76)
- *Beijing exit* (77 - 80)
- *Summary* (81)
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*Enjoy...*

# Shanghai Arrival 入境上海

從我們下榻的五星酒店眺望外灘...  
View from our 5-star hotel window...



Arrived and gathered in Shanghai,  
we started our journey on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>.

Resting in our nicely located 5-star  
hotel, trolling around the Bund area,  
and other attractions... tasty foods...  
Shanghai museum & visiting to  
ordinary citizen's homes...

抵达上海...





### 水鄉漫步...

A fresh morning visit to a nearby water-township, and deliciously tasty local specialties...

It was a great feel of starting of our yet another China journey...

我们旅程的良好开始...









Luring local eateries...





Look at that lazy doggy, we'd know sunshine is welcome in the January chill of Shanghai...

Martin always draws local girls wanting to have pictures taken together... 😊





Water township is charming and relaxing...



The outdoor theater in this township is certainly a favorite local people's hangout place...



During the entire journey that we had to endure freshly healthy, tasty & variety of dishes three times daily... 😊



We had a brief but meaningful Shanghai passing by, followed with our main journey...

# *YunNan* 飛抵瑞麗

*a flight from Shanghai to the very  
southwestern corner of YunNan*



A subtropical region of China, with unique culture and nature...









Here the “next door” country is Burma... as seen here those few Burmese just through the crossing into China’s Ruili ... As Martin looks on in the background...





Steve is participating into the local Jingpo people's ritual dancing...



Since day-one into China, we've been "tortured" daily by varieties of freshly tasty, healthy dishes of all local special styles throughout our itinerary...





## 滇西訪騰沖

Along western Yunnan region, we arrived the beautiful TengChong...





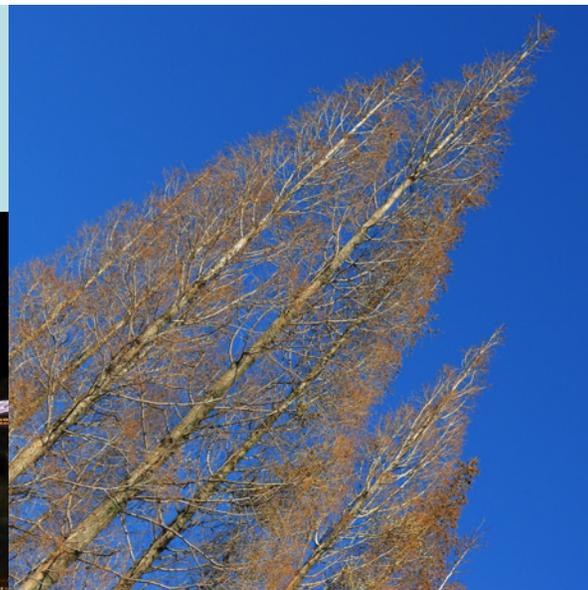
History, culture, nature & tasty cuisines...  
There are lots to visit and enjoy in TengChong...





The countryside dining is relaxingly enjoyable...

經大理抵雲南楚雄地區  
Via Dali to ChuXiong region  
of Yunnan ...







## 滇西巍山訪彝族

We arrived WeiShan  
Yi Autonomous County...







The ancient Weishan township is interesting...





Our ChuXiong city overnight was relaxing and enjoyable...





滇中楚雄訪彝鄉

ChuXiong Yi people's villages...





Gang up with the local Yi people...



彝族畢摩請吃飯 meal time... the Yi Shaman (standing) invited us to his village for a unforgettable welcoming lunch...





The foods, and most impressively – the Shaman and his Yi girls singing, the genuine hospitality giving us were wonderfully beautiful...

They really have great voices, so much fun... :  
<https://vimeo.com/113177177> &  
<https://vimeo.com/36914568>





滇東瀘西村寨...

Traveled to Luxi county  
in eastern Yunnan...









Arrived Mile for a wonderful 5-star resort stay... with terribly relaxing massages, and mouth-watering healthy dishes...

彌勒鄉間純正五星酒店之享受...







紅土地滇東北景致多... another important segment in our journey –  
the “Red-earth” region in northeast Yunnan...



“農家樂” 鄉間民宅特色濃郁...

Our B&B country inn owner's young son warmly receiving us...  
our rooms are delightfully decorated with local country flavor...





The owner freshly preparing the chicken for our dinner...



The owner's young son showed us what's around the village...



The sun starts to set...





Villagers are still working at sunset...



Next morning, up early for the lighting...



Alluring for the early raisers...

Again... girls like have pictures taken with Martin... 😊





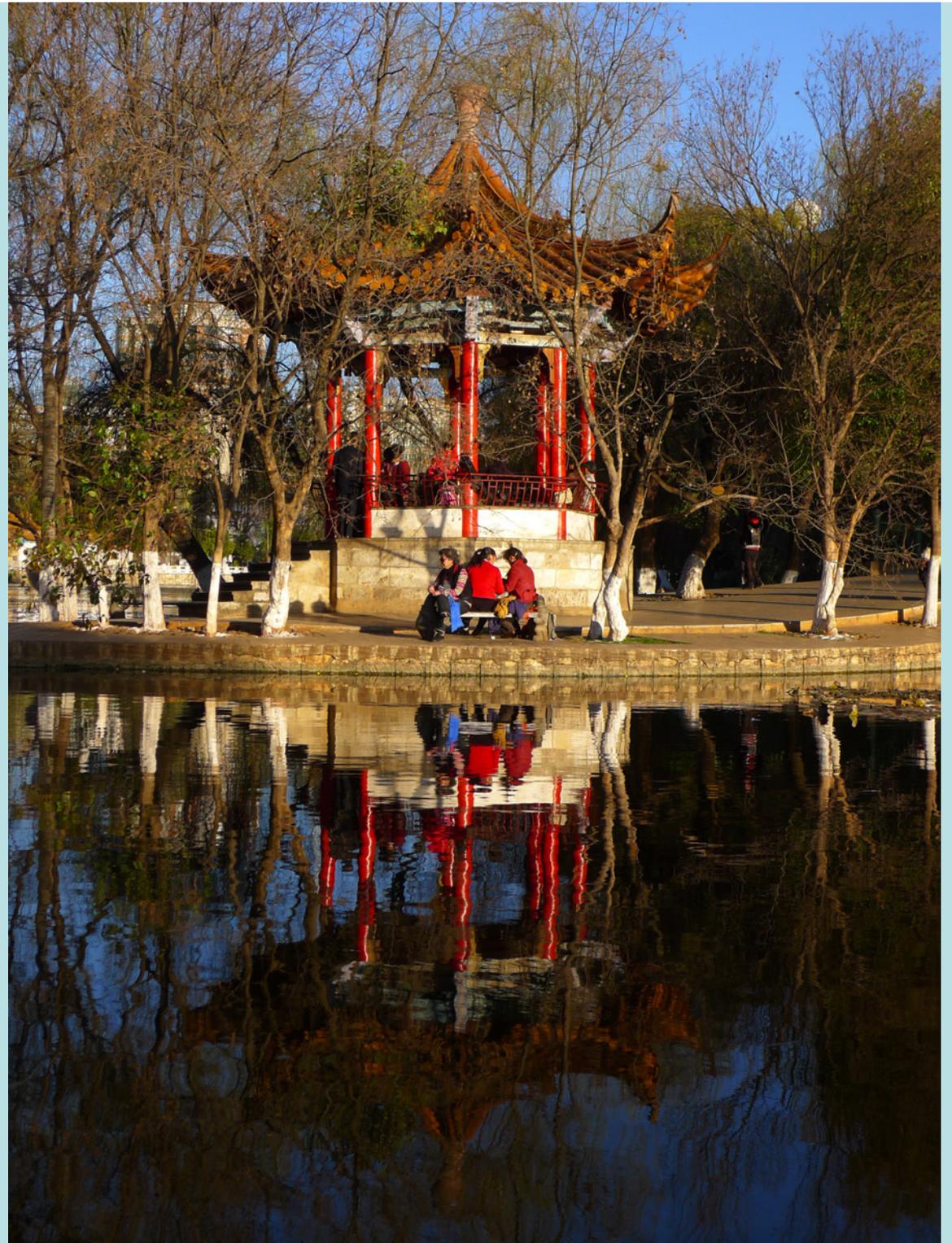


遠近交織之大地樂曲... lines of melody far & near...

## *Arrive KunMing*

抵達昆明飛陝北

From Kunming - the capital city of Yunnan in southwest China, we flew to Xian - the capital city of Shaanxi in northwest China...





春城二月花满目...

Kunming in February, all flowers are blooming...



Arrived Shaanxi and by coach  
on route north to the famous  
old "revolutionary era red-city"  
- YanAn region...

抵達陝北地區...





Enjoyment of good meals  
is essential...





The famous Yellow-river HuKou waterfalls...  
it has its own charm in the frozen winter scene...

Look, that's Daniel rushing over for the donkey shoot...

Hey that tiny figure at far is Daniel again... 黃河壺口瀑布之冬景...





Here in YanAn city, although is the famous new-year Grand Yang-ge festival each year held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, but it is actually few inland Chinese ever able to come here to attend... our group was the only foreigners there during this festival...; fesinating... great for cultural photography...

出名的正月十五延安大秧歌...

The whole region was in festivity...





我們加拿大文化攝影訪華團是唯一  
來延安過大年的西方人士...

This happy press reporter was eager  
to interview our members, since it  
was the only foreigner group came  
to YanAn for this festival...

Lesley, Ella, Christine & Steve  
looked happy too... ☺



The famous local AnSai drumming-dancing... 陕北著名的安塞腰鼓...



Foods are wholesome too...



家訪陝北著名剪紙藝術家...

We visited one of the famous local artists,  
her paper-cuttings were elaborately beautiful...

(next page: a group photo in front of her cave-dwelling)

下一页：在她家窑洞门前之合影





家和事顺福星照

春满人间

富贵吉祥好运来

春满延州万物荣





Inside a cave-dwelling... 一个充满陕北气息的窑洞内景...

A view from the  
back window of  
our Beijing hotel...

After the last good  
meal in YanAn, we  
flew to Beijing for  
our international  
home return  
flights...



*Beijing exit*  
*by flight from YanAn to Beijing*

从延安飛抵北京出境

再訪著名太極拳家李和生老師...



Here in this park, the famous Taiji legend Li Hesheng teacher is practicing with students daily...

Few lucky ones in our group followed me visited Teacher Li that morning...





It is a wonderful park for local folks...



A day of museum visits before the departure flight - a view from the National Museum...

見縫插針抓緊離境前在北京的時間參觀些博物館；中國國家博物館外眺一景...

In summary... See what some of us have to say about this journey:

*As a traveler, you're always in danger of seeing things that are not indicative of local culture but rather a layer of manufactured tourist traps. This tour didn't do this and instead tested our boundaries of adaptability by giving us a true, unique and rare taste of many local cultures. From the food to the people, from the cultural exchanges to the little shopping you'll endure, expect a local experience all the way. You are not a tourist here. You are an explorer.*

**- Ella, Nova Scotia**

*Our cultural/photographic expedition to Southwest and Northwest China was altogether a wonderful experience. We were treated to a diverse and well planned itinerary, featuring delicious local cuisine, exposure to many minority peoples and cultures, and unmatched photographic opportunities. All in all the tour delivered a high-quality experience which no commercially oriented tour can possibly match. Looking forward to the next time!*

**- Tim, Ontario**

*Throughout the expedition we encountered cultural experiences that were lively, unique and educational; regional meals that were delicious (& enormous); skilled drivers and local guides that were knowledgeable, organized and courteous; and, photographic opportunities (both planned and spontaneous) that were highly varied and provided participants with a wide range of situations and subjects to capture. I had a fun time, learned a lot about photography, met terrific people, and, got to experience a unique part of China.... WOW!...Would I do it again?.....ABSOLUTELY!!!!*

**- Lesley, Manitoba**

*The 2012 Chinese New Year Expedition, like the two previous ones we have joined, took us to places which would be hard, and in some cases impossible, for an individual traveller to access. Normal commercial tours would not even attempt such a coverage. Dinner with the Yi Tiger Dancers and being toasted with their overproof 'wine' will be a highlight to add to the 'Top of the World' train ride to Lhasa and crashing a Tajik wedding in Tashkurgan which, to us, were the highlights from the previous trips. The transport, as usual, was roomy and comfortable, the local guides knowledgeable. Another excellent trip.*

**- Martin and Myrtle, British Columbia**

# Epilog

The snapshots in this Photo-diary are in no way able to represent the richness of culture and nature scenes we've seen, the fun and joy we've experienced during our group's "2012 Chinese New Year Season Expedition" ...

for Yau-Sun Tong's special "Western China Cultural/Photographic Series"  
expeditions

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please visit news page:

<http://photoart.chebucto.org/photonews.html>

and to have a glimpse of our other previous unique expeditions:

<http://photoart.chebucto.org/gallery5.htm>

*Good-bye for now...*