Perspectives in Hospitality Management HMGT1101

Cornelio Encarnacion

Final Project

Prof. Lina Romasanta

**-Chinatown**

**A little history…**

Chinatown is home to one of the city's most interesting museums, the Museum of Chinese in America, and a modern dance troupe, Chen Dance Center. You could say that both derive their creative energy from the same mixture of East and West that makes Chinatown so special.

With anti-Chinese violence mounting in the West, Chinese immigrants arrived in significant numbers in the New York area in the late 1870's. Discrimination forced immigrants into low-status service jobs in restaurants and hand laundries.

On Mott Street, a small Chinese grocery store, Wo Kee, opened, and workers patronized the shop. More businesses catering specifically to the needs of Chinese opened, such as barbershops, herbal shops, and general stores like Quong Yuen Shing at 32 Mott. A Chinese community began to take root.

The Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 prohibited laborers and their families from entering America and immigrants already in the country from obtaining citizenships.

The absence of women and children turned the community into a ""bachelor society."" It was the first and only racially based legislation in U.S. history. The Exclusion Act was repealed 60 years later in 1943 when China and the U.S. became allies in World War II.

It was out of limited opportunities that some merchants began to encourage tourism in Chinatown. If they could not get jobs outside of Chinatown, why not bring outsiders into the community?

Chinatown, therefore, not only served as the center of immigrant social, cultural, and recreational activity, but also in this manner, the segregated ghetto, became a tourist attraction.

Often overlooked, Chinatown is the site of a rich history that not only tells the story of the Chinese-American experience, but also that of early Irish, Jewish and Italian immigrants. Today, remnants of the neighborhood's European-American ancestry stand side-by-side with more recent Asian-inspired landmarks.

**Attractions**

-The Museum of Chinese in America offers walking tours of Chinatown. Advance registration required. T: 212-619-4785.

-Renaissance Tours is a Chinatown-based organization that arranges customized group tours for dining, shopping, historical walking tours and a variety of special experiences including health, beauty and fitness; tea ceremonies; jewelry design; culinary programs; arts & antiques; martial arts; Chinatown history and culture and more. Guides in any language and transportation can be arranged. Call May Kuang at 212.964.2386 or may@renaissancetours.org.

-The Enthusiastic Gourmet offers food tours in Chinatown New York City. Explore unique food shops; taste Asian delicacies; and learn about the community through its many culinary delights. These walking tours last about 2 1/2 hours. For more information, call 646-209-4724.

-Big Onion walking tours operates spring through fall and offers a wide variety of neighborhood tours. Sites visited on Chinatown New York City excursions include the Kimlau Memorial and the Museum of Chinese in America. T: 212-439-1090.

**Hotels near Chinatown:**

Holiday Inn Downtown

138 Lafayette Street

Phone: (212) 966-8898

Hotel Mulberry

52 Mulberry Street

Phone: (866) 539-0036

Hampton Inn

320 Pearl Street

Phone: (212) 571-4400

Best Western Seaport Inn

33-Peck Slip

Phone: (212) 766-6600

Cosmopolitan Hotel

95 West Broadway

Phone: (212) 566-1900

East Village Bed and Coffee

110 Avenue C

Phone: (212) 533-4175

Embassy Suites Hotel New York City

102 North End Avenue

Phone: (212) 945-0100

Fulton Plaza

106 Fulton Street

Phone: (212) 835-8600

Holiday Inn - Wall Street District

15 Gold Street

Phone: (212) 232-7700

Best Western Bowery Hanbee

231 Grand Street

Phone: 866.221.2102

References:

<http://www.ny.com/articles/chinatown.html>

<http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/chineseamerican>

<http://www.chinainstitute.org>