

LEOH Trip Asiatown

February 14, 2022





Sometimes, “the best laid plans of mice and men”
and LEOH trip leaders just do not work out!

Numerous unforeseen circumstances forced trip leader Ann Fairchild to
revise the trip agenda several times; yet the trip was still a success!

Thank you, Ann!





From our earlier zoom presentation on Asiatown (plus a bit of information from Wikipedia), we learned the following:

In the mid-1800's, extreme economic hardship in China, plus the promise of a better life in the U.S., primarily in California (associated with the Gold Rush), resulted in many Chinese immigrating there for work in the mines.

Violence broke out between white miners and immigrants, much of it racially motivated. New taxes aimed at foreigners, plus the inability to seek justice in court (Chinese, African Americans, and Native Americans were not allowed to testify in court) made it essentially impossible to seek justice against the ongoing violence.

By 1870, Chinese miners had paid \$5 million to California via the imposed Foreign Miners Tax, as crime and violence against them continued.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 suspended the immigration of skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers for 10 years.

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 abolished immigrant quota laws that had promoted immigration from Northwestern Europe while limiting immigration of ethnicities from other countries.

The focus shifted to acquiring skilled laborers and to reunification of immigrant families.

Initially, about 500 Chinese lived and worked in the Houston area, primarily running restaurant and grocery businesses. Houston's Asiatown (formerly known as Chinatown) actually began in what is now known as the EaDo section of the city.

By the 1970's, Chinatown in EaDo became the central commercial district for Chinese and other Asian newcomers.

As Houston's Asian population and businesses grew, so did the need for a much larger area; hence the shift beginning in the 1990's to the current location around Beltway 8 and Bellaire Blvd.

Asiatown is comprised of many residents of AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) origin, which encompass Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Korean, and Middle Eastern cultures.



We began our Asiatown excursion with a dim sum lunch at *Ocean Palace*.

Dim sum is traditionally a brunch consisting of a large variety of small Chinese dishes, accompanied by tea. Most modern dim sum dishes originated from Cantonese cuisine. We enjoyed sampling the many dishes, as well as sipping two varieties of hot tea, Chrysanthemum and Jasmine.







Following lunch, we explored the large mall, including the food market.

So many unique items to choose from!

Purchased items spotted that made their way back to Houston included a box of jasmine tea, incense, a large bag of fortune cookies, wine, and more...

Some enjoyed a brief rest in the sun while waiting for the bus to arrive for departure. (The mall pond turtles seemed to have the same idea.)

One last stop – *Dairy Queen* for a sweet treat on our return trip.

