

Objective

By 2050, the United Nations forecasts 66% of the world's population will live in cities. As a direct result, our cities will grow larger, and urban wildlife will need to adapt to the rapid and constant changes in urban densities, terrains, territories, and changing attitudes towards animal co-habitation.

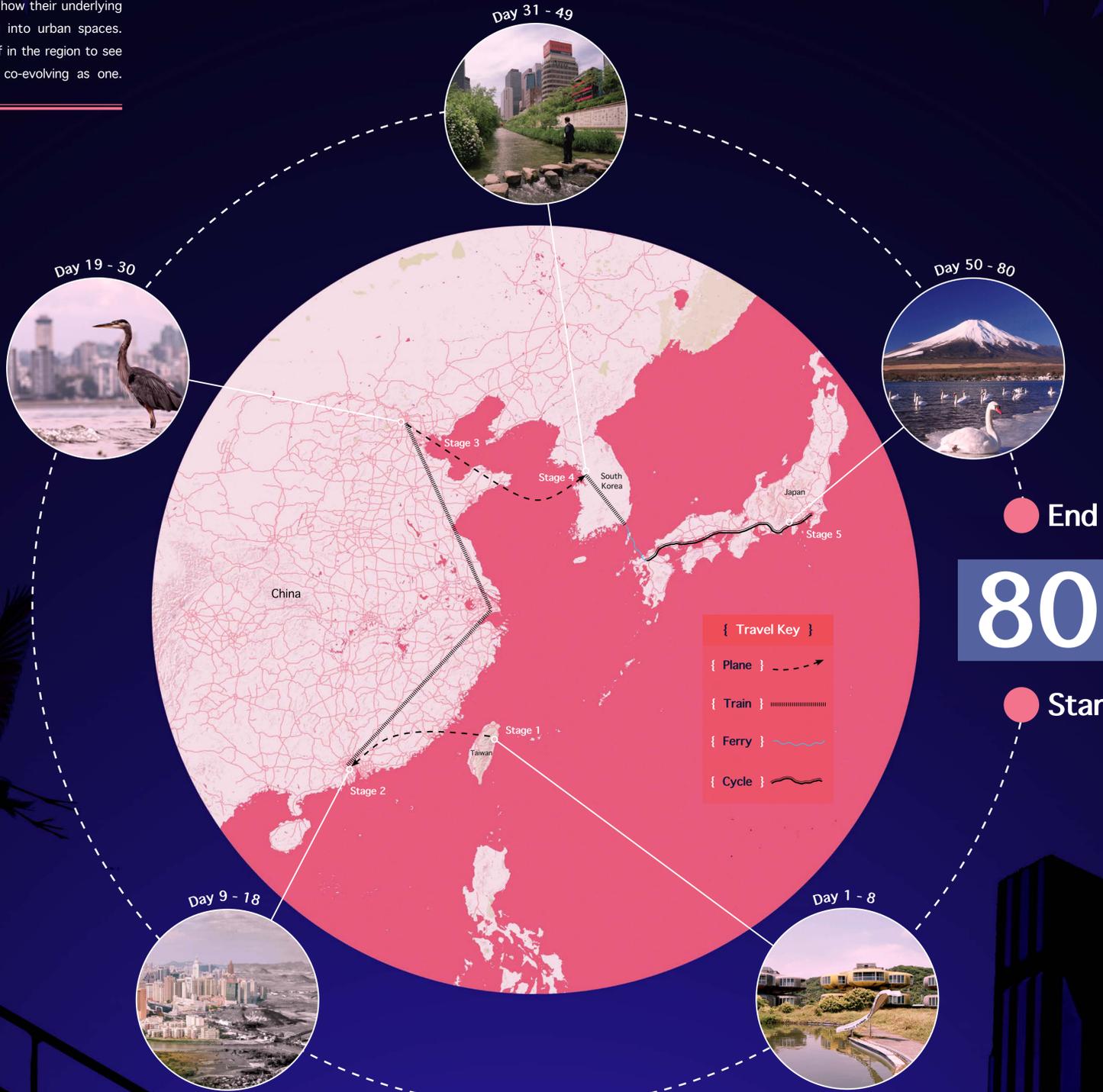
With the explosive rise of mega-cities in the far east of Asia; my aim is to explore how the region is re-establishing a balanced relationship with nature, and how local residents support new urban ecologies with the aid of technology.

I am fascinated by eastern culture, and I hope to learn more about the traditional philosophies behind Chinese gardens; and how their underlying principles can be introduced into urban spaces. I hope to fully immerse myself in the region to see how nature and culture are co-evolving as one.



East of Eden

Nature in Eastern Mega-Cities



80 Day travel project

End
Start

Stage 1

Location:
Sanzhi Pod City, Taiwan

Mission:
The abandoned 'Sanzhi Pod City' in Taiwan, was due for demolition in 2008, when workers discovered that five new species of Orchid Mantis were living in the vacant pods. I aim to visit the site to examine the local conditions, and speak to local ecologists about how animals can cohabit in our urban spaces.

Stage 2

Location:
Pearl River Delta, China

Mission:
The Pearl River Delta is now one of the most densely populated regions in the world. I aim to explore the mega-cities that surround the estuary; visiting local gardens and parks to uncover the hidden wilderness that still thrives within this new concrete jungle.

Stage 3

Location:
Guangzhou + Shanghai + Beijing, China

Mission:
I will explore the three largest mega-cities in China; comparing their green infrastructures, urban wildlife, and local attitudes towards the natural world. I will also visit ancient Chinese gardens (which were seen as microcosms of the natural world); to investigate how their design methodologies can be applied to our contemporary urban plans.

Stage 4

Location:
Seoul + Busan, South Korea

Mission:
Seoul is on course to be one of the greenest cities in the world. I aim to investigate the green infrastructure that has been built, and explore how design and technology can positively shape our urban wildlife. I will then travel to Busan to compare the local traditions and nature in South Korea.

Stage 5

Location:
Cycling South Japan

Mission:
I will cycle 750 miles over 30 days, capturing the changes in Japan's urban and rural wildlife on film. By cycling from Fukuoka to Tokyo, I hope to gain a unique insight into the changing landscapes of Japan - as I pass through meadows, forests, villages, and cities.

7 Methods of Investigation

- Sketching urban spaces and green infrastructures
- Video Diary, tracking my cycle tour through the south of Japan
- Atmospheric reports of areas where I find urban wildlife
- Meeting local residents
- Visits to national parks, gardens, museums, and exhibitions
- Daily journal to review my research and findings
- Photographs of the urban environments and wildlife