

CHINA 2015

My experience at the Summer Bridge Camp

Getting on the trip

- I had applied the year before
- I badgered Mrs Tosh at least once a week in January
- I got lucky!

Who I went with

There was a total of 103 people on the trip. I didn't know anyone else... There were 5 students from Edinburgh plus a teacher. We had two meetings before we left, so I got to know everyone from the Edinburgh Hub a little bit.

Rough itinerary

→travel - this took 24 hours. We stopped off in Dubai

→spent 2 days in Beijing - sightseeing

→10 days in Tianjin

- a typical day would consist of kung fu in the morning, followed by lessons (one Mandarin class every day plus culture classes such as chinese knotting and calligraphy) and then free time in the evening
- we spent one day doing an exchange with Tianjin no1 High School, where we got to learn about the Chinese teaching methods, as well as getting to spend an afternoon with a student in his/her home

→another 2 days in Beijing (sightseeing again)

We visited lots of amazing places...



Museums and Temples



The Great Wall of China



...And we met Nicola Sturgeon (and her husband)



As well as seeing all these amazing places (and meeting politicians), I had an incredible experience getting to know people - both Scottish and Chinese!



Highlights

- The Great Wall of China (this was definitely my favourite tourist destination)
- Picking up a lot of skills - not only learning some basic Mandarin, but also interpersonal skills and (of course) kung fu moves!

The people I met while on this trip really made it the best experience. This includes my Scottish peers, the Chinese locals and Nicola Sturgeon!

Challenges

→the food

→getting used to a completely new environment

→restricted free time

→having my phone pickpocketed

Top tips

- food - if you have any sort of dietary requirement look into bringing food with you (or learn how to say what you can't eat in Chinese)
- download a VPN before you go to China
- leave space in your suitcase for souvenirs