

Asha McGrogan, China Travel Diary September 2024, David and Lois Sykes Scholarship

Thank you to David and Lois Sykes for the wonderful opportunity to travel around mainland China in the summer of 2024! I decided to stay for 34 days in 7 different cities, to make the most out of the long-haul flights. I was also able to reunite with my friend Ana, whom I had previously met in Oxford in 2022 whilst she was a visiting student. With Ana I travelled the route Beijing>Xian>Chengdu>Chongqing>Guilin>Shenzhen>Shanghai, with Xian, Chongqing and Guilin being my favourite cities. As a result, I got to spend a lot of my time on the public transport system, which, unexpectedly, became one of my favourite activities in China. As each city we visited, bar Guilin, had a metro, it made transport around the cities incredibly efficient. Highlights of the metro / train system include travelling for two hours on the metro in order to get from the sea to our hotel in Shenzhen, and getting my aerosol deodorant confiscated at the Badaling train station, at one of the sections of the Great Wall of China, and then having to go deodorant-less for 3 days because deodorant was very hard to find.



Part of the reason I wanted to travel to China in the first place was because I wanted to learn first-hand about the folk traditions and folklore of different regions in China. I specifically wanted to go to China in September because it falls over the Mid-Autumn festival this year: originally an agricultural festival (more prevalent in the South) but now celebrated everywhere. I got to learn about and experience some traditions of the Mid-Autumn festival while we were in Chongqing. As well as the Mid-Autumn festival, I got to learn about folk customs of what China refers to as its 'folk' ethnicities, such as Hakka roundhouses and the attire of women of the 'Dong', or Kam minority.



Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to China, and I am very grateful to David and Lois Sykes and University College for providing funding to make this trip possible.

Beijing, 1st – 7th September 2024

Things to do ranked by how much I liked them:

- Wandering Anywhere in old Beijing
- The Great Wall of China!!
- Metro
- 798 Art District
- Summer Palace
- The Cats of Hutongs (saw 15 cats in Liulichang alone)
- Tiananmen Square

Beijing was busy and beautiful because it was so unexpectedly green. I didn't expect a megacity to have so many trees, plants, dogs and cats! The dancing aunties



at night were a favourite. The outside of Ana's building in the evening became a communal area – playground, dog park, dance class, etc. We met lots of sweet dogs. My first meal in



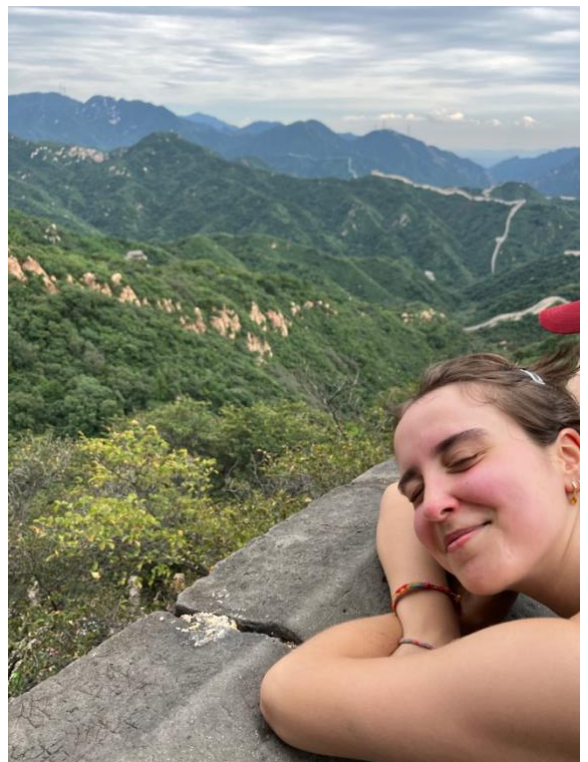
Beijing was hotpot, and I got to try lotus root for the first time. Aside from my jet-lag induced nausea, I really liked this meal. Other favourite foods I ate in Beijing included around 10 egg tarts, a jianbing: folded egg pancake with radish, chilli and pickles, and 4 chive and egg buns eaten at once. At first I only bought one, and the vendor looked at me a little strangely, then as I walked around Liulichang hutong and ate the first one, decided I needed 3 more and one for Ana, and quickly returned to the vendor. Hutongs are alleys or residential areas – traditional courtyard residences, and an important cultural feature of Beijing.

On my first full day in Beijing we went to the Summer Palace, which was incredibly large and beautiful, with a ginormous lake.

My second day we went to the 798 Art District, where we saw two exhibitions: 'Is Small Still Beautiful?' by Shen Yuan and Huang Yong Ping on surveillance, imagination, and walls, and one by Lawrence Weiner on scale, language, and typography. In the first exhibition they also were showing a documentary on Huang Yong Ping's 1998 exhibition 'One Man, Nine Animals', which was a sculptural exhibit on nine mythical beasts. One was the Nine Tailed Fox, which is first mentioned in Chinese mythology in the Classic of Mountains and Seas, where it is both described as a 'man-eater', shapeshifter, and an auspicious omen.

On Wednesday, Ana was at work, so I decided to go to Tiananmen and the surrounding gardens, and found that the design of the tickets were beautiful for the gardens, and that many people choose to dress up in traditional outfits to take professional photos – Ana mentioned that it this is seen as a good luck practice to have these photos for many people. In the gardens I also came across a very friendly cat. Unfortunately, I was unable to get a ticket to Tiananmen Square itself, as you need to book online and in advance on WeChat, and all the tickets for the following days were sold out. After this I travelled on the metro to a hutong in Dongcheng to meet Ana for dinner and had some noodles in a broth, and then met another cat who belonged to one of the bars in the hutong.

On Friday we planned to go to The Great Wall of China, which I was really looking forward to as it was my second Wonder of The World. We decided to go to the Badaling section of the wall, which is the most popular section with Chinese tourists, and to do the 'hero hike' which, according to the information guide lady, was meant to be rewarded





with a secret prize at the final tower, but in reality was just the regular path. There was no secret prize, although you could buy yourself a medal at any point of the hike and also on the ground floor. The Great Wall was so green, and there are cat colonies who live there, probably doing the hero's hike multiple times a day. When we got back to Ana's apartment, her shower had flooded and there were worms on her floor. We had to use the plunger on her shower.

Beijing is a really interesting place and I'd love to go back, not least to do the things I missed – Tiananmen Square – but also because of all the unexpectedly green spaces. I didn't expect the sense of community, encountered mostly around Ana's apartment block, in the dancing aunts and the dogs, mostly.

Xian, 7th – 12th September 2024

Things to do ranked by how much I liked them:

- Dancing with old people of the Muslim communities in the evening, where they dance every night and are very welcoming to people who want to try to dance but are not very good at dancing.
- Biang Biang noodles
- The Dog belonging to the hotel we stayed at
- Beilin calligraphy steles
- Metro
- Giant Wild Goose Pagoda
- Paper Cutting District
- Terracotta Warriors
- Guanyin temple (1500 year old ginkgo tree) ((didn't get to enter as no foreigners allowed))

Arriving in Xian it was already very hot, like a wall of heat. The first night we ate biang biang noodles, which the restaurant very kindly made vegetarian. This was something that a lot of the food vendors and restaurants were able to do if we asked, which meant that I was able to try a lot of new foods. I especially liked all the different pickles that were often provided as free sides, like pickled pink radishes and pickled green beans.

My first full day in Xian I went to see the Terracotta Warriors, which I thought was very busy with tour groups, and again





baking hot under the sun. I was surprised at how well preserved the warriors were, and I didn't know that there would also be terracotta horses! I overheard one of the English-speaking tour guides saying that the archaeological work is continuous for the site, and that they are still currently excavating. There was a section of the museum where you could see this ongoing work.

The Terracotta army was a product of the Qin dynasty, formally established in 221BC. One of the information panels read: *'The earliest record of the Qin people comes from the mythological legend of "a girl named Xiu eating a bird egg" in*

historical books.' I thought it was interesting that the museum saw this mythological origin as an important part of Qin history, but with little elaboration. This made me wonder if this story and similar mythologies are common cultural knowledge in China.

That evening I met Ana for dinner in the Muslim quarter. Xian has a large Muslim population, whose cultural practices we saw in the daily evening dancing in the city centre, as well as in the food being sold in the quarter. We had spiced potatoes, persimmon cakes – a Mid-Autumn festival tradition – and cold vegetarian peanut / sesame noodles, at what was apparently one of the best noodle shops in the area. There were lots of sweet cats running around as well.

On Monday we visited the Beilin Calligraphy Steles, which were made from around 600-1600AD.



The calligraphy was beautiful and I learnt that there are different schools: grass, water, wind, etc. My favourite so far is grass. There are even bird and worm schools! There were prints of the steles made in the 1930s and 40s. Like the Terracotta warriors, all the steles were stamped by the artisan who made them, apparently required by law for accountability. It means that we know the names of who made them and carved them, thousands of years on. Outside was a man making rubbings of some of the steles with red ink. After the steles we walked around



and Ana found an artist making pet portraits, and commissioned one of her favourite cat Meme (pronounced mimi).

Visited the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda – part of the Silk Road – with lots of ringing bells hanging from the roof. There are sutras here from India stored for safekeeping. They were brought by the 7th century Buddhist scholar Xuanzang.

In the evening we danced with the uncles and aunts in the city centre. There were two special guest dancers, a man and a woman, who had lovely outfits and were amazing dancers. When we got back to the hotel, the dog belonging to the owner was there. He likes to fit in the foyer all the time. Sometimes in the day he sits at the entrance and waits for people to come in and pet him.

On Tuesday we were meant to go to the Guanyin temple to the south of the city, which was a 1500 year old ginkgo tree, but unfortunately, I was not allowed in as I was visibly a foreigner, to upkeep the religious sanctity of certain temples and spaces. Ana was able to go in, and enjoyed the temple, including the temple cats and the famed tree. I got to see some lovely photos and a video of it afterwards, the leaves moving, all green.

Chengdu, 12th – 16th September 2024

Things to do ranked by how much I liked them:

- Chengdu Museum
- Sichuan Opera
- Dragon fruit
- Wuhou Shrine
- Luodai Ancient Town
- Jinli Old Street
- Chengdu Research Place of Giant Panda Breeding
- Humidity ☹️



Arriving in Chengdu, we first got dinner at Jinli Old Street. We got some spiced potatoes and noodles – Ana had a regional speciality dish of sweet noodles. In the evening, we watched a Sichuan Opera. The Venue was ornate and beautiful, and the opera was small, segmented stories and performances stitched together by a narrating host. My favourite segment was the shadow puppetry.

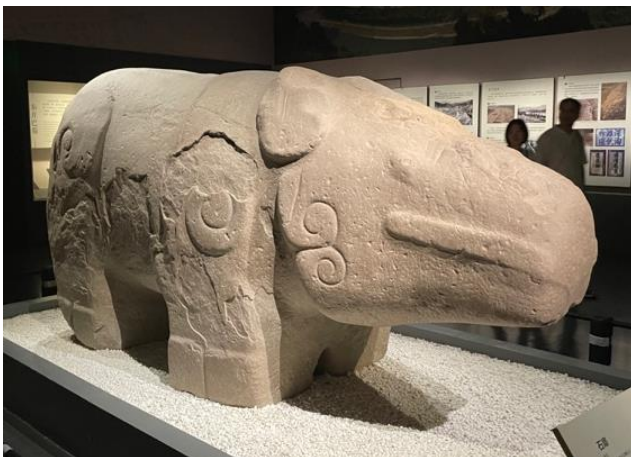
The next day we went to the Research Base of Panda Breeding. Unfortunately, pandas do not thrive in hot weather, so they were all

inside, asleep. I empathised with them on this, but it meant we mostly saw some very sweet red pandas, who on the contrary were very energetic. We noticed that Chengdu really leans into the panda marketing – especially in the aptly named metro station ‘Panda Avenue’.



After having some really good bread for breakfast in the Tibetan quarter, where our hostel was located, we visited the Chengdu Museum the next day. The museum contained a lot of Han Dynasty artefacts, and lots of the statues and figures were fashioned after specific animals to ‘exorcise evil spirits’ or give protection. One such is the giant rhinoceros pictured here, to protect against water spirits.

Another day we visited the Wuhou Shrine which has a lot of information on the Three Kingdoms period. Ana especially wanted to go as she is very into the Three Sworn Brothers. After that we went to Luodai Ancient Town which is famous for its Hakka roundhouse. This



is a historical type of Hakka residence where everyone would live in close community in the same building. I tried tanghulu for the first time. The roundhouse had rooms designated as information points about the Hakka people historically in the area. The museum characterised the Hakka people as ‘creative’ and entrepreneurial for settling the Bashu area; “If the trees move, they will die. But if people move, they will live” quotes one of the information panels in the Hakka roundhouse.

One of the days in Chengdu we had a hotpot dinner where you cook your own food in a cooking pot built into the table. We had enough leftovers for a whole new meal after that. I would like to come back to Chengdu in the winter I think, or any colder month, as I couldn’t really take the humidity. I really loved the panda marketing though, much to Ana’s disappointment, who thought it a little overkill. Panda Avenue is now my favourite metro station ever.



Chongqing, 16th– 19th September 2024

Things to do ranked by how much I liked them:

- Mid-Autumn Festival night-time picnic
- Noodles
- Bridges over the River
- Bunker tunnels
- Luohan Temple
- Hongya Cave
- Spicy Food (mala flavour profile)
- Three Gorges Museum

Before we even got to Chongqing, we missed our first train. Then, I briefly lost my passport, and we missed our second train. After Ana very kindly found my passport at the information desk where someone had handed it in, we were able to take the third train to Chongqing, 4 hours later than planned. By the time we got into the city, it was the evening, so we walked to get dinner at a Thai restaurant. The walk itself was lovely, across and then along the river. We got to see the lights turn on for night-time, all at once, suddenly so bright. Down below us on a lower level, under the bridge, a group of aunties were practising Tai Chi. We got to walk back across the bridge after dinner – it was nearly the full moon.



On the next day –17th September—we first got noodles at a shop right next to the hotel. This was my favourite meal of the whole trip, and we got the same noodles the very next day because they were so good. They are pictured here: thick, flat, and wide hand-pulled noodles in a tomato broth with vegetables, tofu, and a tiny egg.

After this meal we went to the Three Gorges Museum. I had planned to go to the actual Three Gorges, but hadn't realised that it would take 5 hours to get there. The museum had a holographic projection of the Three Gorges and its formation, however, so nearly the same thing. The museum states that the Yangtze River is a

symbolic meeting of “Ba-Shu and Jing-Chu cultures, with their integration and synergy. The melodious and rhythmical Ba and Chu folk songs [are] high pitched and peaceful, unique and mystic.” It is interesting that these folk cultures are tied here to peace and mysticism.

For lunch the day after we got Chongqing Noodles – wheat noodles in a very spicy broth. I particularly liked the pink pickled radishes that were available with the noodles here. The spicy broth along with the very humid and hot atmosphere (40 degrees Celsius on this particular day) made for a very sweaty



lunch. Following the noodles we went to an art museum, which was showcasing student art. We spent a lot of time here in the air-conditioning. Afterwards we visited Luohan Temple, which feels so well hidden in the towering buildings and winding floors of Chongqing. It was first established during the Song Dynasty. There is a special room (Arhat Hall) in this complex with 524 statues of specific Buddhist disciples, as well as a large Guanyin statue.

In the evening we went to get dinner at a noodle shop in one of Chongqing's underground bomb shelter tunnels, repurposed now for hotpot restaurants, tea shops, etc. Leaving the tunnels, we went to Hongyadong folk custom scenic area, which was apparently part of the inspiration for the inn in Studio Ghibli's *Spirited Away*. There are many floors to the complex, and it has a distinctly neon look to it. There were buskers inside, and Ana



convinced one of them to sing Beyond's 'Hei Fun Nei', and then sang along with them. We walked back to the hotel after, along a different level on the riverside. The lights of the buildings glowed in the water.

For Mid-Autumn Festival, we decided to have a picnic at night on the bridge over the river with mooncakes (traditional Mid-Autumn Festival food), fruit, and c100s (a vitamin drink). I tried a mooncake for the first time and we moon-watched for a while. It was very quiet on the bridge at night, and the sky was mostly clear. Ana said that Mid-Autumn is about reunions. Usually, families can get together and carve citrus lanterns. I was glad to spend Mid-Autumn with Ana that day in Chongqing.

Guilin, 19th – 23rd September 2024

Things to do ranked by how much I liked them:

- Hostel cats: Lucky and Lulu
- Longji Rice Terraces
- Rice Noodles
- Day trip to Yangshuo
- Elephant Trunk Hill
- Guilin Museum
- Sun and Moon Pagodas

I was immediately bitten on the face by a mosquito. As soon as we left the train, we saw the hills that surround Guilin. We took a bus into Guilin city, which reminded Ana of Dongguan. Arriving at the hostel, we were excited to find that the family who owns it have two cats: Lucky (pictured here) and Lulu, Lucky's mother. Lucky is very friendly and vocal and loves to be pet, and Lulu is less interested in people but loves to sleep all day. That evening we got dinner at a homestyle buffet restaurant around the





corner. Rice, boiled / steamed vegetables, eggs and tofu. Ana ate century eggs each time we went here. My favourite was the spinach dish.

Our first full day in Guilin we went to Guilin Museum after having regional specialty rice noodles for lunch. The museum was nice but super empty – perhaps because we had come on a weekday? Although the region seems to get lots of tourists, the city itself less so. We realised later that most of the attractions of Guilin were the natural landscapes of the surrounding area. A lot of the museums we had been to previously, including this one, had specific sections for ‘folk’ or ethnic minority groups. Guilin Museum had a section on the attire of the ‘Dong’ or Kam minority. The panel highlighted the intricate

embroidery work on these clothes. One information panel on silver jewellery read: *‘Traditionally, silver ornaments are believed to be capable of exorcising evil spirits or spreading auspicious wishes.’*

That afternoon we visited the Sun and Moon Pagodas, and Elephant Trunk Hill, which really did look like an elephant.

The next day was the Longji Rice terraces. We had both woken up sick that day, so I slept the whole 3 hour journey. Taking the cable car up to the rice terrace viewing spot, the terraces were so green. It was an unexpectedly overcast day, and for the first time in weeks I was actually cold! We thought that it was just the beginning of the terraces starting to turn yellow, so there was a faint gradient of colour, green>yellow. The view was so beautiful. Ana said that it was better than The Great Wall of China, but I think that the Great Wall of China is slightly better, tourist-destination-wise, though the rice terraces are a close second.



We took the train to Yangshuo the day after to see the river and the famous mountains. Ana bought some passionfruit pulp to share and it was really good. We took a boat cruise to see the river as we thought it would be the best option, but in the end it was more of a photo opportunity for large tourist groups so we didn’t get to really see much of the river itself. After the boat cruise we decided to do a bamboo raft cruise to try and see more of the river. This was much better as it was a very small group. We saw

the famous hills which are featured on the 20 yuan note and I was happily surprised to discover that I had a spare note. We also saw the Nine Horse Hill that Zhou Enlai named and tried to find the nine horses: I could only find three. We got rice noodles in Yangshuo as well, and Ana especially liked the broth – afterwards she proclaimed herself a ‘broth-truther’. It was a lovely time on the river; it was so green and calm. When we returned to the city we went to the same restaurant for dinner with the rice and side dishes.

I would like to go back to Guilin to spend more time in the countryside, and not have to travel back and forth from the city every day. This is something to bear in mind in the future. I would also definitely return to Guilin for Lucky the cat.



Shenzhen, 23rd – 28th September 2024

Things to do ranked by how much I liked them:

- See the Sea
- Swim in the Sea
- Eat Vegetarian Dim Sum (technically in Guangzhou, on a day trip)
- Day trip to Guangzhou
- Breakfast Noodles!

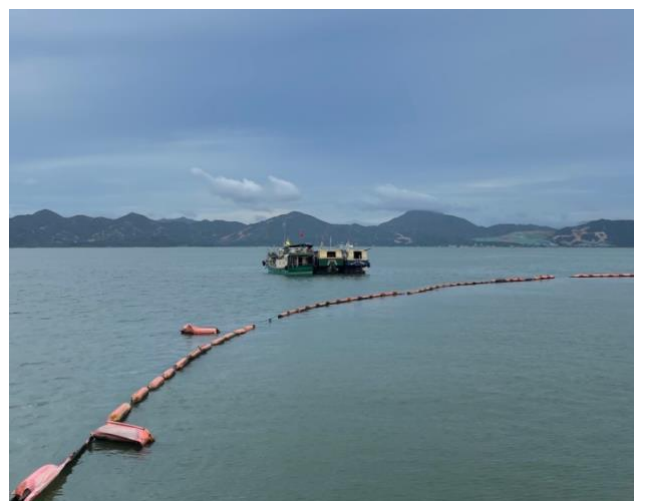


We took the train to Shenzhen quite late in the afternoon, and got rice noodles with mushrooms for dinner. Our first full day we went to the sea. It was very green-blue and calm and wide, and you could see Hong Kong from across the water.

At Seaworld – which is the area we were in, we also went to the 1979 art gallery, and saw an exhibition on the sea / coast and Cantonese farmers and fishers, called ‘Shadow of Coastline’, curated by Liang Qing and Liu Zhicheng. There was this sculpture pictured here of the

sea goddess Nuwa on the coast.

The next day we went to the financial district to have a look at the skyscrapers, and I had biang biang noodles for dinner.



On one of the days in Shenzhen we decided to go to Guangzhou for a daytrip, as it is a short journey by train. We found a vegetarian dim sum restaurant to go to, as I had never had dim sum before and really wanted to try it. In the end the food was amazing and we had enough leftovers for dinner. My favourite dish was the green beans. After dim sum, we went to the Chen ancestral family hall, as Ana is a Chen.

The building is used for the Guangdong Folk Art Museum. The hall was built during the Qing Dynasty by the 72 Chen clans for Chen students studying for their imperial exams.

Afterwards we walked along the Pearl River, which was all lit up for the night. It was a beautiful walk, and the river was peaceful.

Another day in Shenzhen we went to go swim in the sea. I hadn't realised that you need to pay to swim and access the beach, and that there were designated access points either. The sea was very warm to swim in, and we stayed there until it was dark, then took a two hour metro back to the hotel.



Overall, I liked Shenzhen. Seeing the sea was lovely and beautiful. Originally, we had planned on going to Dongguan to see Ana's family, but in the end as we were still slightly sick from illness caught in Guilin, we decided to not see her family as some of them are elderly. Instead, we did a day trip to Guangzhou. Ana very kindly showed me around some parts of Shenzhen that she knows well –the sea—but we both got to explore Guangzhou for the first time, and see the Chen Clan Ancestral Hall, and have delicious vegetarian dim sum.



Shanghai, 28th September – 4th October 2024

Things to do ranked by how much I liked them:

- City God temple, jade buddha temple
- m50 art district
- Jazz bar
- The Bund
- Pudong art gallery



Our first full day in Shanghai we went to the m50 art district. We had first tried the Museum of Modern Art, but unfortunately it was closed. So, we tried the art district and saw an exhibition about cyborg femininities in the island6 art space by the Liu Dao art collective. Afterwards we walked around, saw some cats. We got to see the Bund here in the daytime.

Next day, we got noodles and went to YuYuan tourist area, and planned to go to the Yu Gardens the next day. The architecture was beautiful, and the buildings were lit up red and gold for the evening. Walking through Gucheng park, we made our way to Shanghai Old Street as online it seemed to be a spot for street art. However when we arrived it was largely empty, and most of the walls were blank, save a few. We thought that perhaps the artwork got covered over, or that the street was being prepped for new work. Afterwards we went to the river in the evening, to see all the lights, and all the lit up buildings along the Bund.

Ana mentioned that the propaganda museum was excellent, so we visited that the following day. They had posters from across time, so it was interesting to see how the art styles and subject matter evolved. I got some postcards of

my favourite ones. Afterwards we got vegetarian wontons which were filled with egg and spinach and were delicious. That evening we went to Heyday Jazz Bar and then walked around the Changning district.



The day after, on the 2nd of October, we went to the Pudong Art Museum. There we saw an exhibition by Cao Fei entitled 'Tidal Flux', which was a survey of all her work, spanning three decades, focusing on Time, Technology, and the Body. Across the building they had also set up the exhibition of the sculptural work of El Anatsui, 'After the Red Moon', which concerned the histories of migration of goods and people, and the transatlantic slave trade.



On our final full day in Shanghai, we went to Yu Gardens to visit the City God temple, but as it was still the national holiday, the temple was completely packed. Fortunately, the rest of Yu Gardens were slightly less busy and I saw some White Crested Ducks for the first time, who live in one of the ponds at the gardens. I also got to have a scallion pancake, a famous food in Shanghai, and later we had scallion oil noodles, egg drop soup, spinach and zha jiang mian. All of the food was very, very good – here in Shanghai, and in the rest of the places I visited.

All in all, I have really loved visiting China and I am very thankful to David and Lois Sykes and University College for making this trip a reality for me this summer. Thank you very much! I look forward to returning to China.

Logistics Advice for Travel in China

1. Certain passport holders do not need to apply for a visa if their trip is a certain number of days or less. As an Irish passport holder, if my trip had been 14 days or less, I wouldn't have needed to get a visa. Unfortunately, my trip was longer. You can either travel to Manchester or London to do this, but you must have booked all the flights in and out of the country, as well as have proof of this and all your accommodation in China to get a visa. The online process pre-appointment was tedious, but the actual visit to the Chinese Visa Centre in London was very efficient and I got my visa and my passport back within 3 days. If you have more than one passport you are meant to submit them all at the visa centre.
2. As I was being hosted by a friend for my stay in Beijing, I had to have an Invitation Letter from her with all the details of the stay written in. The template for this can be found on the Chinese Visa Centre website. They will only accept letters using this template.
3. If you are staying in a hotel or hostel, they should be registering your stay with the local authorities and police, though if you are doing a homestay or being hosted by someone, you will need to register yourself online with the local authorities and police within 24 hours of your arrival, or go in person to register.
4. Use Trip.com to make all flight, train, and hotel bookings. It links everything to your passport, and the price of hotels is usually cheaper than other Western sites. With Trip.com you can use your non-Chinese bank account. If you speak Chinese and have a Chinese ID you may be able to use CTrip.com, or booking things through WeChat, but you need a Chinese bank account to make bookings on those sites. Do not use Mytrip.com, as they will not always book flights under your passport number which is a nightmare to sort out.

5. Set up Alipay and link your non-Chinese bank card before you arrive, as it needs a working mobile number to authenticate. With Alipay you can travel on most public transport without a card or cash, and there is usually no or a very small conversion fee.
6. Monzo current account to connect to Alipay, as it has no international conversion fees and lets you know what each transaction is in the current exchange rate.
7. Nomad to get a Chinese e-sim, which was cheaper than roaming with my UK carrier, and gave me good data across all the cities I visited. However, it will not give you a Chinese phone number. On this e-sim you don't need a VPN, but if you plan to ever connect to Wi-Fi you will need a VPN to access western sites, so I used LetsVPN. Download your VPN before landing.
8. In most big cities you visit, there is no need to carry or use cash, as most payment is done via mobile banking apps like Alipay or WeChat. Having a small amount as insurance is probably a good idea, though.
9. If you want to communicate with people online you should probably set up a WeChat account, even if you don't use it to pay for things. You can also do this before you arrive to avoid roaming fees, as it needs a mobile number to authenticate, and also you need someone with a WeChat to invite you.
10. At all Chinese metro stations, you must go through x-ray and water-checking points at each entry to the metro station and train station. You are allowed bottled drinks but not aerosol sprays over a certain volume, and you may have some things confiscated if you bring the wrong things on.
11. Given that train tickets are linked to your passport, and you cannot take a train without it, as well as entry to many tourist destinations, it is very important to triple check that you always have your passport with you. I should know, as I briefly lost my passport in Chengdu and missed my train because of it.
12. If you are taking a train you need to arrive at least 30 minutes before your train is due to leave, as a lot of the big city train stations are very big – reminiscent of airports.
13. Also, if you are travelling on a foreign passport, it likely will not scan through the automatic checkpoints at tourist destinations, train stations and airports. You need to find a security or gate attendant to do it manually.
14. Apple maps works as a navigation tool in China, even if not all the functions are as good. Google maps will show you where you are but will not guide you somewhere.
15. If you bring your student ID, you will be able to get cheaper tickets to many of the tourist destinations.