

Partner Summer School Programme – Sichuan University 2017

By Noor Yasmin Mokhtari.



I want to start off by thanking the volunteers and Sichuan University for making our trip to Chengdu a memorable experience.

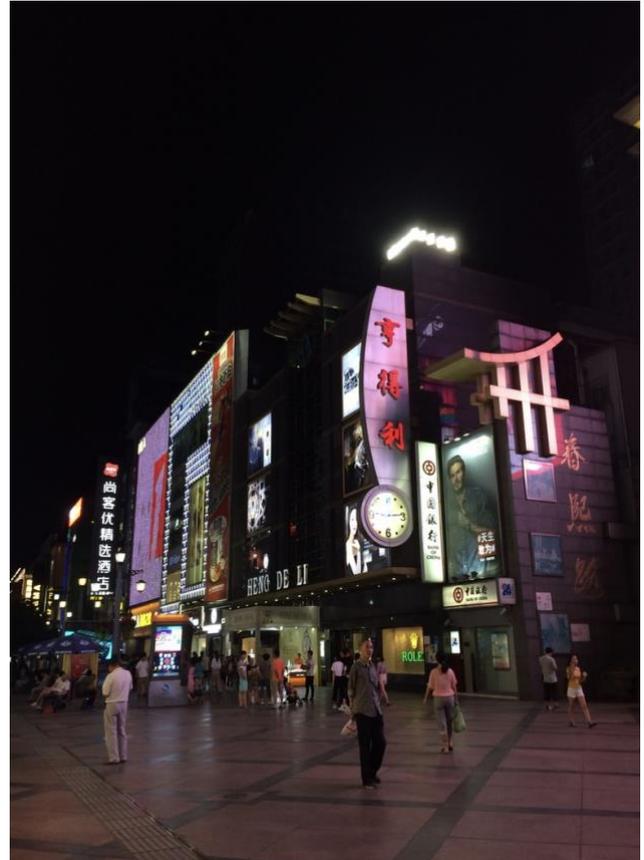
After almost travelling for twenty hours, it felt surreal to be off the plane and in the squatting toilets of Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport. Quite frankly, I wasn't sure what to expect once I walked out the airport's main exit doors. However, it's safe to say that Chengdu has plenty of astonishing places to explore.

The trip to, the largest and tallest stone statue in the world was by far my favourite experience during my two week stay in Chengdu. From our hotel location, the drive to the Giant Buddha of Leshan was approximately about two to three hours long. Once we arrived at the location,

we climbed up what felt like a million steps. It was quickly apparent that the location that day was extremely popular amongst Chinese tourists, as there was an overwhelmingly long queue. After waiting for hours, we quickly realised that the wait was worth it. The mountain Buddha was surrounded by calm flowing rivers and overlooked the busy city of Leshan.



Giant Buddha of Leshan



Chunxi Road

There were plenty of optional classes taking place on the campus of Sichuan University, by lecturers from all over the world including Harvard University. The classes usually started at 8 am and finished by midday although, this meant that rest of the day was for exploring the city. As the modern metro system of Chengdu was tremendously straight-forward to use, it was a lot easier to find myself strolling around pedestrianised shopping streets such as Chunxi Road. As well as the joyful experience of discovering independent bakeries and stores, it was

also pleasing to find Tibetan, Kazakh and Uzbek restaurants. Not only did I meet and talk to many Chengdu residents, I was also able to learn more about many diverse ethnic groups living in the province of Sichuan.



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