From 3 to 17 August 2026, I had the opportunity to take part in the Chinese Bridge Summer Camp and travel to Beijing, Suzhou and Kunming. The programme combined language and culture classes with visits to important cultural sites and gave us the chance to experience China in a much more direct way.

One of my personal highlights was the tea course. During the class, we learned more about Chinese tea culture, took part in a traditional tea ceremony and had the opportunity to try many different kinds of tea. I especially enjoyed that the course was very practical and interactive. Instead of only learning about tea in theory, we could experience an important part of Chinese culture ourselves.

Another highlight was the calligraphy course. It was very interesting to try Chinese calligraphy and to see how much concentration and precision it requires. Since I am learning Chinese, I particularly liked experiencing Chinese characters from a completely different perspective. It made me appreciate even more how closely language, art and culture are connected.

Visiting the Great Wall was of course one of the most memorable moments of the Summer Camp. Seeing such a famous place in person was very impressive. The Forbidden City was another highlight for me. Even though it was extremely hot that day, it was fascinating to walk through such an important historical site and experience it in person.

I also really enjoyed talking with our guide during the trip. These conversations were a great opportunity to ask questions, learn more about everyday life and hear perspectives that you do not necessarily get from a course or a sightseeing programme.

Another aspect that impressed me was how convenient many parts of everyday life in China were. Paying with mobile apps was very easy and made daily life in shops, restaurants and other places very comfortable. The high-speed railway system was also particularly impressive. Travelling by high-speed train from Beijing to Suzhou and later from Kunming to Guangzhou showed me how efficiently even very long distances can be covered.

I was especially happy that we had the chance to visit several cities that are located very far apart from each other. This made the trip particularly interesting because we could experience very different places within a relatively short period of time and get a better impression of how diverse China is.

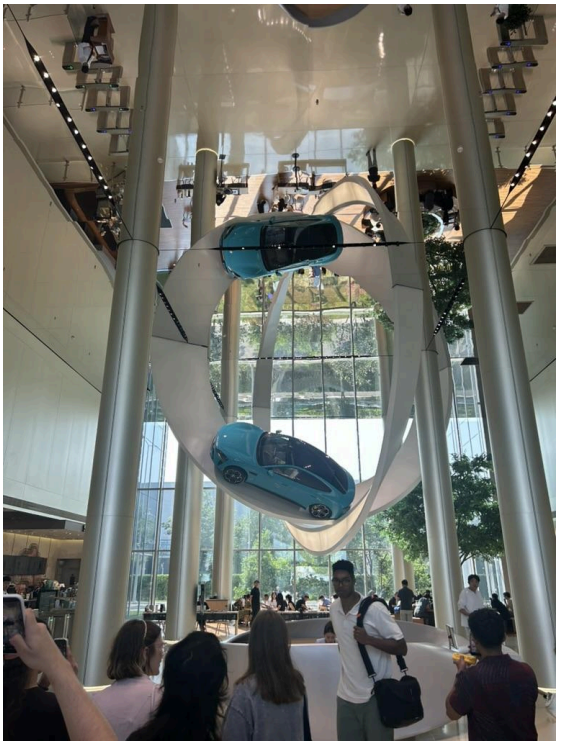
I also really enjoyed the food during the trip. As a vegan, I was very happy that there were always tasty vegan options available. This made it easy for me to enjoy the different meals and was another very positive part of the experience.

Overall, I am very grateful that I was given the opportunity to participate in the Summer Camp. I really appreciate being able to take part and I know that such an experience is not something to be taken for granted. The trip gave me many new impressions, helped me understand China better and motivated me even more to continue learning Chinese and discovering more of the country in the future.






RENMIN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA
ALMA MATER
Chinese Bridge Camp
Institute at the University of Leipzig



Unforgettable Impressions: My Summer Camp 2026 Experience in China

Participating in this summer camp was one of the most enriching experiences of my life. The trip far exceeded my expectations, giving me a deep appreciation for China's culture, history, and daily life.

The program was exceptionally well-organized with a perfect balance between guided visits and free time. Having the independence to explore on my own was essential: it pushed me out of my comfort zone, allowed me to practice speaking Chinese with locals, and offered an authentic glimpse into everyday life.





Beijing left a lasting impression on me. Walking along the Great Wall made history come alive, while visiting the Forbidden City showed the impressive grandeur of China's imperial past. Beyond these iconic landmarks, I loved exploring the historic Hutongs. The lively mix of traditional courtyard architecture, local crafts, and street food made it a true highlight.



Visiting Suzhou, famous for its classical gardens and canals, felt like stepping into a traditional water-town painting. Later, traveling to Kunming introduced us to lush landscapes, a pleasant climate, and rich local ethnic traditions.

Food was a highlight every single day. I discovered how diverse Chinese regional cuisine truly is, enjoying everything from Peking Duck in Beijing to local specialties in Suzhou and Kunming. Sharing meals at round revolving tables brought our group and hosts closer together.

This Summer Camp gave me far more than just language practice. It allowed me to grow as a person, gain independence, and form lasting memories. Today, China is no longer just a subject I study at university—it is connected to real faces, personal conversations, and unforgettable places. I am deeply grateful to the organizers and sponsors for this opportunity, which has inspired me to pursue my Chinese studies with even greater passion.

Köthen, 25 September 2026

China Summer Camp 2026
Personal Experience Report

Before travelling to China this summer, the country was already connected to many of my personal, academic and professional interests. I first studied Chinese several years ago in my home country, Mexico, and since then I have remained deeply interested in its language, history and culture. As a language enthusiast and now a Master's student in Software Localization in Germany, the Summer Camp gave me the opportunity to turn this long-standing interest into a real, first-hand experience.

During the programme, we discovered Beijing, Suzhou and Kunming, three cities that showed us remarkably different sides of China. Beijing fascinated me with its combination of history and modern life, Suzhou with its gardens, canals and traditional architecture, and Kunming with its landscapes and regional culture. Beijing became particularly special to me and remains one of my favourite memories of the journey.

However, some of the moments I remember most are the everyday encounters. I was surprised by how friendly, welcoming and curious people were. Many wanted to take pictures with us, and even simple interactions became memorable. Hearing "你的汉语很好!" after saying only a few sentences in Chinese was always amusing, but also very motivating. Actually using some of the Chinese I had studied years ago made me realise how much I would like to continue learning the language.

Food was another highlight. Coming from Mexico and now living in Germany, I particularly enjoyed the importance of strong and spicy flavours in Chinese cuisine. Spicy food is something I often miss from home, so discovering it in China felt unexpectedly familiar. Sichuan pepper was genuinely life-changing! Its unique flavour and numbing sensation were unlike anything I had experienced before. Food and tea became another wonderful way of discovering Chinese culture.

The Summer Camp transformed China from a long-standing interest into something much more personal. I now associate it with cicadas in summer, bustling streets, temples and gardens, wonderful food, conversations across languages and, above all, the kindness of the people I met.

The experience also gave me a new perspective on my professional future. As I approach the final stages of my Master's degree and the beginning of my career, I hope to combine my background in localization and languages with Chinese and the intercultural experience gained during this programme. I would especially like to work in an environment connecting China, Germany and Europe.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to the Confucius Institute Leipzig and Renmin University of China for making this opportunity possible. I would especially like to thank Lena Thölke and Mr. Shi, our guide, for their dedication, kindness and attentive support throughout the journey, as well as everyone involved in the programme. They made this experience truly memorable.

For me, the Summer Camp was both the culmination of a long-standing interest and the beginning of a new chapter. I returned to Germany with wonderful memories, a deeper understanding of China and renewed motivation to make China and the Chinese language part of my future professional life.



Me at the Center for Language Education and Cooperation in Beijing.



Some of my fellow Summer Camp participants and me at the Great Wall of China.



The calligraphy workshop was one of the highlights of the Summer Camp.



The group dinners were a wonderful opportunity to spend time together and get to know the other Summer Camp participants.

My Summer Camp Experience in China

Taking part in the two-week summer camp in China was a special experience that gave me a new perspective on the country, its culture, and its people. Organised by the Confucius Institute in Leipzig and made possible through the support of Chinese sponsors, the programme took us to Beijing, Kunming, and Suzhou. It combined cultural excursions with university visits and offered many opportunities to discover a country that was new to me.

One of my personal highlights was visiting the Forbidden City in Beijing. Walking through this historic place and seeing its impressive architecture was an unforgettable experience. It made Chinese history feel much more tangible than learning about it through books or pictures. For me, this visit was one of the most memorable moments of the entire trip.

I also particularly enjoyed getting to know the Chinese universities. Since the summer camp was part of a cooperation between universities, these visits were an important part of our programme. As a student, I found it interesting to discover university environments in another country and gain an impression of student life there. These experiences added an academic dimension to our journey and made the exchange especially meaningful to me.

Beyond the organised activities, visiting local markets was another highlight. They gave me a different impression of China and a chance to experience everyday life more closely. Exploring these places and getting to know local people helped me connect with the country beyond its famous sights. The people I encountered left a particularly positive impression on me because of their politeness. These personal encounters were just as valuable to me as the excursions.

What stayed with me most was discovering how different Chinese culture is from my own and how much I enjoyed learning about it. The trip encouraged me to approach unfamiliar places and customs with curiosity. It also showed me how beautiful China is and sparked a greater interest in exploring other parts of Asia. I can now imagine returning to China in the future, perhaps even spending a longer period there, because its culture and people made such a strong impression on me.

Today, I associate China with fascinating cultural heritage, memorable encounters, and a wish to discover more. I am grateful to the Confucius Institute in Leipzig, the participating universities, and the Chinese sponsors for making this experience possible. These two weeks gave me wonderful memories and a lasting motivation to continue learning about China.

Travel Report

During the summer trip organized by the Confucius Institute, I had the opportunity to get to know China and experienced a wonderful journey that I will never forget. Every day, we saw and did so much, and the two weeks were filled with so many highlights that were all special in their own way.

In Kunming, we walked through busy streets with the craziest and most diverse selection of food I have ever seen, only to end up in a local restaurant run by members of local ethnic groups. There, we enjoyed great shows and delicious food. We also climbed the Great Wall and were able to admire the wonderful landscape of China high up in the mountains.

I particularly enjoyed the Film Museum, simply because I am very interested in films and am also trying to learn more about Chinese cinema. It was fascinating to see how huge the world of Chinese film still is for me, with "classics" on display that I had never heard of before. The historical development of Chinese cinema also caught my interest.

The Chinese gardens were also beautiful, especially the one in Suzhou. It rained lightly that day, which created a wonderful atmosphere, with the drizzle falling on the rooftops, trees, and ponds. Another highlight was the architecture of the different cities in China. The white walls and black roofs in Suzhou, the yellow buildings of Beijing from the 1990s, and the modern architectural structures that can be found everywhere all gave the cities their own character. Every walk was an experience. Everything was clean and beautiful, and the people were friendly and interested.

We ate dinner together every evening, which is something I already miss very much. Sharing food and spending time together as a group was a highlight every single evening. We were always able to try new and delicious food. Talking about everything we had experienced during the day in the evening made the experiences even more meaningful and connected them with everyone's positive reactions. Everyone had something interesting to share, and together we were able to bring all of our different highlights together and get excited about them.

I now associate China with a great feeling of life, efficiency, and cleanliness. We were able to spark curiosity and interest and, through that, also get into conversations with local Chinese people. These conversations were also very important for my overall impression of China. Things work, there are wonderful traditions and a rich culture, and I will try to come back whenever I get the chance to see even more.

The Forbidden City was an absolute highlight for me because I already knew its imagery from films and television. Actually being there in person was simply amazing.

For me, Kunming was the most beautiful city and one big highlight in itself. We were given some free time and agreed on a meeting point. We then walked to the meeting point on a skywalk, passing over parks and streets, until we reached a famous artists' street. With its yellow walls and interesting shops, it created an atmosphere that I had never experienced

before. The pleasant weather also contributed to the experience, and the general feeling of Kunming really impressed me.

The trip was a great way to get a general feeling for China and a better idea of how the country works. Since this trip took us from north to south, I want my next journey to go from east to west. And I know that it will be wonderful again!

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for this wonderful experience. Thank you!

2026 China Summer Camp report

The summer camp was an unforgettable experience and an excellent first introduction to China! The rich, diverse program allowed us to gain a better understanding of both ancient and modern aspects of Chinese life and culture.

I especially enjoyed the cultural workshops. The calligraphy class and the tea ceremony were two of my favorite experiences, both because of what we learned there and the very friendly, enthusiastic instructors. I also loved our trip to the Great Wall. It was fascinating to see such an impressive historical artifact in such good condition. Another highlight was the visit to the China Exploratorium, which provided a very fun but still insightful glimpse into different aspects of Chinese culture and history. I also really liked the two tour guides that showed us the Forbidden City and the Humble Administrator's Garden. What they shared so enthusiastically about history, culture, architecture, language, and more really deepened my understanding and appreciation of those aspects. I wish we would have gotten a little more of this background knowledge at other sites we visited as well.

While the travel day from Suzhou to Kunming was very exhausting, I am also glad that we got to experience three cities, each one special in its own way. The order in which we visited them was also ideal: starting with the vibrant capital of Beijing that had such diverse neighborhoods (from the traditional 胡同 to alternative places like 798 and the very modern 望京 subdistrict where our hotel was), then Suzhou with its charming canals and impressive silk embroidery, and lastly Kunming, the least touristic of the three, with beautiful mountain views and an abundance of wild mushrooms. It was there that we walked through a night market for the first time—a totally shocking experience (not in a bad way, just because it was so unfamiliar), but really the point where I thought "Now that's China."

What really surprised me was the amount of green spaces in the cities. The parks (and many public places in general) were so well maintained. Walking along the 亮马河 or driving by the 太湖湿地公园 (unfortunately it was closed due to previous floods) almost made you forget that you were in a city with millions of inhabitants. I was also very pleasantly surprised by the availability of free public restrooms, as well as water fountains (especially the ones with hot water) in public places.

Another thing I looked forward to and was amazed by basically every day was the food! Thanks to cooking with Chinese friends in Germany and by learning with books and videos, I had already developed a great appreciation for the Chinese cuisine, but getting to experience it every day for those two weeks was incredible. As a vegan, the group meals usually meant rice with different vegetables for me, but even those were so deliciously prepared. What I usually liked the most were 土豆丝 and some sort of eggplant dish. The breakfast buffets at all our hotels were amazing too and I became a big fan of salty 豆腐脑 with 油条. Ever since coming back from the trip to China, I've been cooking more Chinese dishes myself (although the taste can't quite compare to what we had there).

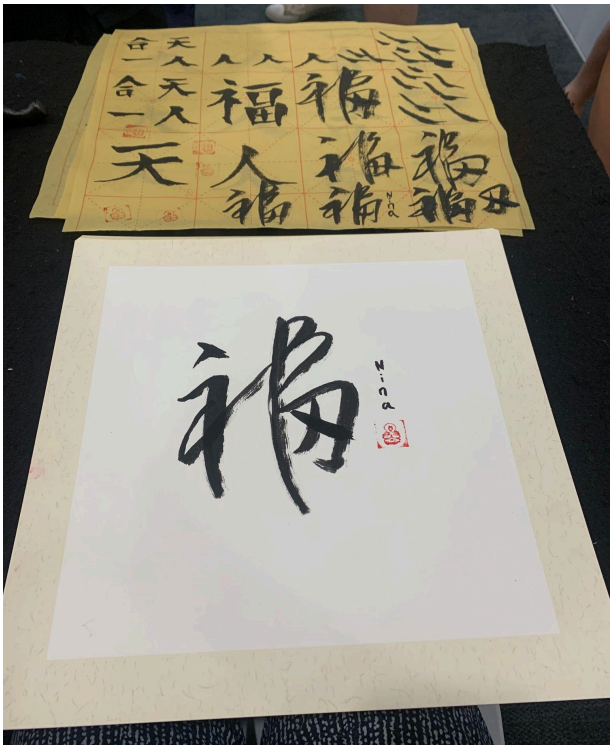
While I did have some opportunities for practicing my Chinese (for example at the super market, shops, or street carts in our free time), overall I was hoping for a bit

more exposure to the language within the program. There were a few exceptions such as the calligraphy workshop which was done bilingually, but the rest was primarily in English. It's understandable why it was that way though, since most participants had a rather beginner level of Chinese so they would have had difficulties. The contact with local students was unfortunately also limited because it was summer break.

Overall, the summer camp has reinforced my understanding of China as a place that combines modern development with a rich culture and traditions in a really unique way. I certainly plan to go there again, perhaps for an exchange semester.

I thank all the organizers and sponsors who made this experience possible for us!







Summer Camp 2026 in China: Experience Report

Confucius Institute Leipzig | Beijing, Suzhou, Kunming | 4 to 17 August 2026

In August 2026 I took part in the Summer Camp organized by the Confucius Institute Leipzig, a two-week program that took our group through Beijing, Suzhou and Kunming. Alongside university and company visits, the camp combined workshops on traditional crafts with plenty of opportunities to experience everyday life in China, and it left me with a much richer picture of the country than I had before.

My first hours in Beijing already set the tone for the whole trip. Leaving the airport by taxi, I was struck by the sheer scale of the city. An enormous ring road carries the traffic around the center, and almost every car on it seemed to be electric, something the color-coded license plates made obvious even before I noticed how quiet the traffic actually was. That same evening our whole group shared a spicy, garlic-heavy meal that immediately challenged my chopstick skills, and by the end of the trip eating rice with chopsticks had become second nature.

Among the many activities, visiting the Xiaomi factory stood out the most. Taking a ride in the SU7, which accelerates faster than anything I had experienced before, and then walking through a production line where 91 percent of the steps are automated, gave me a real sense of how fast China’s technology industry is moving. The Beijing Film Museum and a traditional dinner around a rotating table, with dumplings, glazed eggplant and countless other dishes, were equally memorable, and a quiet drink on the 84th floor of one of the city’s tallest towers offered an unforgettable view over the skyline.

A few days later, the program continued in Suzhou, a city that felt very different from Beijing right away. Visiting the university's Suzhou campus and walking through the Zhuo Zheng Garden showed a much quieter, more classical side of China, while our visits to companies in the local AI sector proved just how much cutting-edge research is happening far beyond the capital. A workshop on traditional Suzhou silk embroidery was a particular highlight, since it took real patience and a steady hand just to place a few stitches, and it gave me a lot of respect for the craftsmanship behind it.

The final stop, Kunming, brought yet another change of pace. Between a visit to the Kunming Metallurgy College, the ethnological museum on campus and an excursion to Lake Dian Chi, I got a much better sense of the biodiversity and ethnic diversity of Yunnan province than I ever had from reading about it. Wandering through Kunming's old town on one of the last evenings, with its lanterns and street food stalls, felt like a fitting way to close out the trip, and it is one of the images of China that has stayed with me the most.

My favorite dish of the whole camp was a simple but perfectly balanced combination of tofu and pork in soy sauce, and Chinese cuisine turned out to be far more varied and regional than I had expected. What surprised me most, though, was how naturally cutting-edge technology and centuries-old traditions sit side by side in daily life. Since coming home, China is no longer an abstract idea to me. Between the ultramodern skyline of Beijing and the university visits, workshops and excursions that followed in Suzhou and Kunming, the program showed me many different sides of the country, and I now associate it above all with the warmth of the people I met, the food we shared and a wish to return and see even more of it.







My Summer Camp Experience in China



Before going to China, I could hardly imagine that in such a short time I would be able to experience so many completely different things. During the Summer Camp, we travelled across China and visited four very different cities: Beijing, Suzhou, Kunming and, for a short time, Guangzhou. In just a few days, I walked on the Great Wall, explored the Forbidden City, took part in a Chinese calligraphy course, experienced a traditional tea ceremony and even visited the Xiaomi Museum. The programme was incredibly full, but I think this is exactly what made the experience so special and unforgettable.



It was amazing to finally see places that I had previously only known from pictures. One of my biggest highlights was visiting the garden in the Forbidden City. What stood out to me was the way Chinese focus on keeping nature in its natural form. Plants, trees, ponds and the natural landscape are carefully combined without making the surroundings feel artificial. It felt like nature was not being changed, but carefully integrated into the surroundings. Learning about Feng Shui and the importance of harmony between people and nature was also fascinating.



Something that really surprised me was how green China was. Before the trip, I think I had a rather stereotypical image of China as a country full of concrete, skyscrapers and huge cities. Of course, I saw many modern buildings, but I also saw plants and flowers everywhere. There were flower pots in front of houses, trees along the streets and many beautiful parks. Since I really like plants, this was one of the things I enjoyed most.



Another important part of the Summer Camp was meeting new people. I had many interesting conversations and made a lot of new friends. Even after the camp, we still keep in touch through WeChat. I think these personal encounters were just as important as all the places we visited, because they gave me a chance to experience China not only as a tourist, but also through the people who live there.



After this trip, I see China in a completely different way. It is no longer just a country I had learned about at school, but a place connected with many personal memories, new friendships and unforgettable moments. The Summer Camp gave me the chance to experience a new culture, meet people from a different background and discover places I had never imagined visiting. I am very grateful for this opportunity, and I know that I will remember this trip for a long time.

Cultural Trip Report



When I got back from China, a friend who had gone to Beijing a year earlier called me right away. His first question sounded more like a statement: "China is a before and after, isn't it? For me it was like putting a period at the end of a sentence and starting a new one."

Now, writing about my trip, I couldn't agree more. China was incredible. Although I recognize almost none of the characters, the language stopped feeling so distant after a few days. Not because I understood more, but because the locals made an effort to bring us closer to it.

Suzhou struck me as a fantastic city. I would love to go back and even live there for a while. I like that it's close to Shanghai without being as overwhelming as a big cosmopolitan city, and its traditional center and gardens felt like something out of a dream. Our guide told us that, unlike European gardens, Chinese gardens aim to imitate nature. The paths wind and twist, huge rocks stand in for mountains, and small streams of water could pass for rivers. It's like a giant forest somehow packed into a few hundred meters.

The visit to the lake in Suzhou will stay with me, and of course the incredible opportunity to see the Great Wall of China. So will the calligraphy class, where I felt like a child learning to write, except a child would probably have done better on the first try. I enjoyed it, and I am very grateful to have experienced China this way. I also want to highlight the places we would never have been able to visit without the cooperation between RUC and Leipzig University,

as well as the Confucius Institute. One of them was a business complex where they showed us how the companies work from the inside. As a political scientist, I find it impressive how much China has achieved in such a relatively short time. Its industrial development is enormous.

So yes. All that's left to write is what I told my friend: "China was a before and after in my life, so much so that I can't imagine myself now without that experience. It becomes part of who you are, doesn't it?

Experience Report

Summer Camp China 2026 – Confucius Institute Leipzig

From August 3 to August 17, 2026, I had the opportunity to take part in the Summer Camp organized by the Confucius Institute Leipzig, travelling through China for two weeks together with 19 fellow students from Saxon universities – from Beijing via Suzhou to Kunming. Looking back, it was one of the most impressive experiences I have ever had, and I am very grateful to have been part of it.

One of the first and most memorable moments was the visit to the Xiaomi superfactory in Beijing, where vehicles are manufactured – a fascinating glimpse into the innovative strength of Chinese companies that exceeded my expectations. Equally impressive were the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, but also the smaller, personal moments such as the calligraphy workshop and the traditional tea tasting, where we actively became part of Chinese culture. In Suzhou, I was particularly moved by the visit to Xiuaniang, where we learned about the centuries-old history of silk production, while the Humble Administrator Garden, with its calm atmosphere, formed a strong contrast to the bustling energy of Beijing. In Kunming, the exchange with Chinese students at Kunming Metallurgy College was one of the most memorable encounters of the entire trip – this direct, personal contact taught me more about everyday life in China than any sightseeing spot could.

As for food, we got to try the local cuisine almost everywhere we went, and it varied wonderfully from place to place. My personal favorite was definitely the original Peking duck at the Beixiaguan restaurant – a taste experience I won't forget anytime soon.

What surprised me most was how warmly and respectfully we were treated as Germans, both in Chinese business settings and in everyday life, even though communication in English was often barely possible. Thanks to modern translation apps, however, communication was never really a problem, which showed me how deeply technology is woven into everyday life in China. I was also struck by the contrast between the shiny, modern appearance of the cities from the outside and the somewhat worn condition of many buildings on the inside.

After this trip, I now associate China above all with tremendous economic dynamism combined with a deeply rooted, hospitable culture. I experienced the country as a rising region of the future that left a lasting impression on me, both professionally and personally, and I am already looking forward to visiting China again someday.

I would like to sincerely thank the Confucius Institute Leipzig for organizing this unforgettable Summer Camp and for giving me the opportunity to get to know China in this way.

MY SUMMER CAMP IN CHINA

Beijing • Suzhou • Kunming

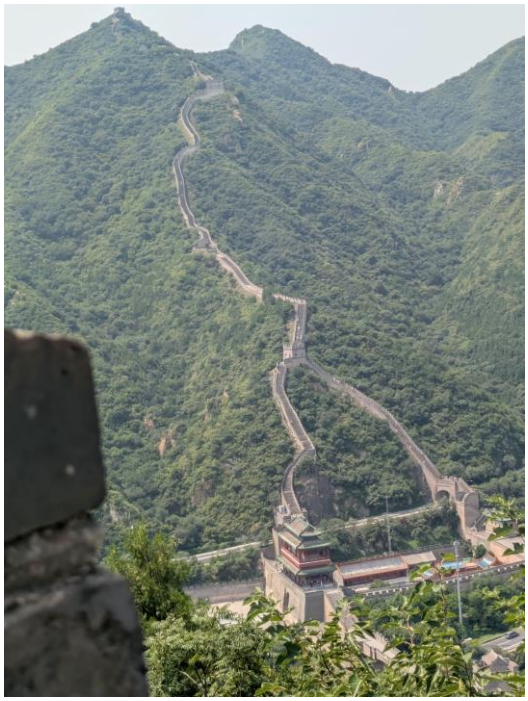
A Journey Through Three Very Different Sides of China

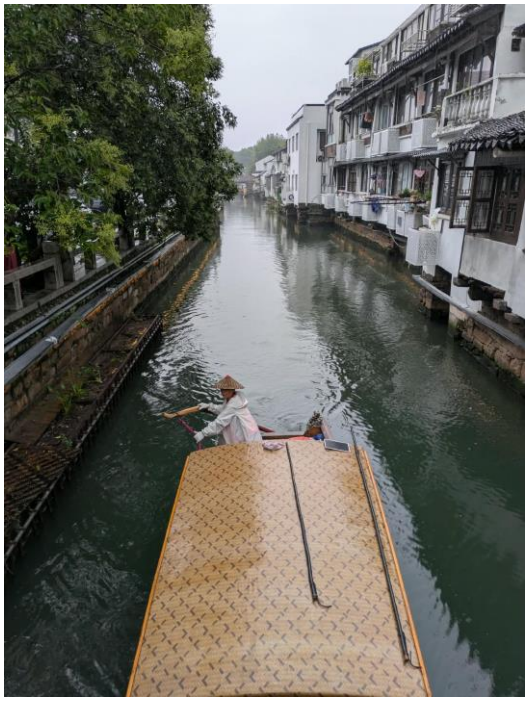
My Summer Camp in China was an experience that I will remember for a long time. During the trip, I had the opportunity to visit Beijing, Suzhou and Kunming. Although all three cities are part of the same country, each of them gave me a very different impression of China. Travelling between these places allowed me to experience not only famous sights, but also everyday life, food, culture and the friendliness of the people I met along the way.

One of my highlights was definitely Beijing. The city felt enormous and full of energy, and I was especially impressed by the combination of modern life and Chinese history. Visiting historical places and walking through the city gave me a much better feeling for the scale and history of China than I could have gained from pictures or lectures. At the same time, I enjoyed discovering smaller streets, local shops and restaurants and simply observing everyday life around me.

Suzhou was a very different experience. I particularly enjoyed the traditional atmosphere, the canals and the quieter pace of the city. It was interesting to see how traditional architecture and gardens exist alongside a modern urban environment. For me, Suzhou showed a side of China that I had not expected before the trip and became one of the places I associate most strongly with Chinese culture.

Kunming was another highlight because of its different atmosphere and surroundings. The city felt more relaxed, and the landscape and local culture made the experience feel very different from Beijing and Suzhou. Travelling through these three cities made me realize how diverse China is and how difficult it is to describe the country based on only one place.





The Great Wall (Beijing) and a canal boat ride in Suzhou

Another unforgettable part of the trip was the food. My personal favourite became Peking duck, or kǎoyā (烤鸭). I really enjoyed trying it in China because the dish felt completely different when experienced in its original cultural context. In general, trying new dishes and eating together was an important part of the trip and gave me many opportunities to experience Chinese culture in a very direct way.

What surprised me most was how modern, large and well-connected many parts of China are. At the same time, traditional culture is still very visible in daily life. The contrast between modern cities, historical places, traditional food and local customs made the trip especially interesting. I also appreciated the encounters with local people and the opportunity to communicate across cultural and language differences.

After this Summer Camp, China is no longer just a country I know from pictures, news or university. I now connect China with the cities of Beijing, Suzhou and Kunming, with new friendships and conversations, with Chinese food and tea, and

with the many different impressions I collected during the journey. The trip gave me a much more personal understanding of the country and made me curious to return to China in the future.



The Forbidden City, Beijing

Meine persönlichen Highlights des Sommercamps 2026 in China

Das Sommercamp 2026 in China war für mich eine ganz besondere Erfahrung, bei der ich unglaublich viele neue Eindrücke sammeln konnte. Während der Reise gab es so viele Highlights, dass es mir schwerfällt, nur einzelne davon hervorzuheben. Besonders beeindruckt haben mich die chinesische Kultur, das Essen, die unterschiedlichen Städte und Sehenswürdigkeiten sowie die Begegnungen mit den Menschen vor Ort.

Ein großes Highlight war für mich definitiv das chinesische Essen. Fast jeden Tag hatten wir die Möglichkeit, neue Gerichte auszuprobieren und verschiedene Restaurants und Bistros zu besuchen. Die chinesische Küche unterscheidet sich teilweise sehr stark von dem Essen, das wir aus Europa kennen. Gerade das hat mich besonders fasziniert. Ich fand es spannend, mich auf unbekannte Gerichte einzulassen und neue Geschmäcker kennenzulernen. Durch die vielen unterschiedlichen Restaurants konnten wir außerdem verschiedene regionale Küchen entdecken. Mein persönliches Lieblingsessen wurde während der Reise die Peking-Ente. Sie hat mir hervorragend geschmeckt und war für mich eines der kulinarischen Highlights der gesamten Reise.

Ein weiteres besonderes Erlebnis war der Besuch eines Nachtmarktes in Kunming. Dieser Abend hat sich stark von unseren anderen Aktivitäten unterschieden und uns noch einmal eine ganz andere Seite Chinas gezeigt. Auf dem Markt konnte man viele außergewöhnliche Lebensmittel und Gerichte entdecken, darunter beispielsweise Insekten, Krokodilfleisch und Haifleisch. Auch wenn ich nicht alles davon probieren wollte, war es sehr interessant, diese für uns ungewöhnlichen Speisen zu sehen. Die Straßen waren voller Menschen, überall gab es kleine Stände, Gerüche und Geräusche. Dadurch wirkte der Markt auf mich besonders lebendig und authentisch.

Zu den beeindruckendsten Momenten der gesamten Reise gehörte für mich der Besuch der Chinesischen Mauer. Ein Bauwerk, das man zuvor nur aus Bildern, Filmen oder dem Unterricht kannte, plötzlich mit eigenen Augen zu sehen, war ein unglaubliches Gefühl. Wir konnten selbst einige hundert Meter auf der Mauer zurücklegen und dabei die beeindruckende Landschaft genießen. Erst vor Ort wurde mir wirklich bewusst, wie gewaltig dieses Bauwerk ist und welche historische Bedeutung es hat.

Auch die Besichtigung der Verbotenen Stadt in Peking war ein besonderes Erlebnis. Obwohl es an diesem Tag sehr heiß war, war die Tour unglaublich interessant. Unser Guide konnte uns viele Informationen über die Geschichte und Bedeutung der einzelnen Gebäude vermitteln. Dadurch war es nicht einfach nur eine Besichtigung, sondern wir bekamen einen viel besseren Einblick in die chinesische Geschichte und Kultur.

Allgemein waren unsere Guides ein wichtiger Teil der Reise. Besonders unser Guide, der uns während eines großen Teils des Sommercamps begleitet hat, hat mit seiner positiven und fröhlichen Art sehr zur guten Stimmung beigetragen. Er hat uns viel über das Land, die Kultur und das alltägliche Leben in China erzählt und war jederzeit offen für unsere Fragen. Seine Begeisterung war ansteckend und hat viele Erlebnisse für mich noch interessanter gemacht.

Sehr positiv fand ich außerdem die Organisation des Sommercamps und die große Anzahl an Aktivitäten. Fast jeden Tag konnten wir etwas Neues erleben und kennenlernen. Besonders interessant war für mich auch die Besichtigung der Partneruniversität. Dort konnten wir

sehen, wie sich das Leben und Studieren an einer chinesischen Universität von einer deutschen Universität unterscheidet. Es war faszinierend, diese Unterschiede direkt vor Ort zu erleben und zu merken, dass das Studentenleben in China in einigen Bereichen ganz anders organisiert ist als bei uns.

Auch die Auswahl der Städte hat mir sehr gut gefallen. Mit Peking, Suzhou, Kunming und Guangzhou konnten wir sehr unterschiedliche Seiten Chinas kennenlernen. Besonders Suzhou hat mir gefallen, da die Stadt für mich viel Ruhe und Natur ausgestrahlt hat. Peking war dagegen durch seine enorme Größe, die vielen Menschen und die Mischung aus historischen Orten und moderner Großstadt sehr beeindruckend. Kunming empfand ich wiederum als besonders authentisch und anders als die anderen Städte. Gerade diese Unterschiede zwischen den einzelnen Orten haben die Reise so abwechslungsreich gemacht. In Guangzhou endete schließlich das gemeinsame Programm und es bestand die Möglichkeit, individuell weiterzureisen.

Nach dem Sommercamp verbinde ich China vor allem mit Modernität, Vielfalt und Individualität. Vor der Reise hatte ich natürlich bereits eine gewisse Vorstellung von China, aber das Land selbst zu erleben, hat mir noch einmal eine völlig neue Perspektive gegeben. Besonders beeindruckt hat mich der Kontrast zwischen jahrtausendealter Geschichte und hochmodernen Großstädten. Auch die Menschen, denen wir während unserer Reise begegnet sind, habe ich als sehr freundlich und offen erlebt.

Insgesamt war das Sommercamp 2026 für mich eine unvergessliche Erfahrung. Ich konnte nicht nur viele beeindruckende Orte sehen, sondern auch eine neue Kultur kennenlernen, neue Gerichte ausprobieren und zahlreiche Erfahrungen sammeln. Die Kombination aus Kultur, Geschichte, Universität, Essen und gemeinsamen Aktivitäten hat die Reise für mich besonders gemacht. Ich werde mich sicherlich noch sehr lange an diese Zeit und die vielen besonderen Momente in China erinnern.

24.09.2026

Summer Bridge Camp China 2026

The Summer Bridge Camp was an unforgettable experience, filled with many memories and opportunities for me to learn about and immerse myself in China's culture.

In Beijing, I was particularly surprised by how green the city is, with lots of trees, parks and public bikes throughout the city. Another thing that stood out to me was the large number of electric cars being used, which is why I also found our visit to Xiaomi cars very interesting, especially the tour through the manufacturing hall and the test drive.

One of my personal highlights in Beijing were the visits to the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. It was very impressive to see China's ancient monuments firsthand and learn about their history. I also liked the modern districts of Beijing, such as the 798 Art District, which felt very vibrant and trendy. I found many unique souvenirs made by local craftsmen there. I also enjoyed the cultural experiences, such as the calligraphy class and the tea ceremony class, where we could actively participate and learn more about the Chinese culture.

Another interesting experience was our short stop at the Olympic Stadium, where the team at a robotics stand gave us a demonstration of their robot and told us about the Robotic Olympics. In general, I was really impressed by how robots are already being used in everyday life, for example in restaurants, shopping malls and hotels.

When it comes to food, my favourite dishes were the regional specialities we tried. In Beijing, I particularly liked the hand-pulled noodles and the Beijing duck. My personal favourites of the Jiangsu cuisine in Suzhou were Dōngpōròu and Sōngshǔ guìyú.

I also enjoyed our visit to Suzhou because the relaxing atmosphere in the city was a contrast to Beijing. I especially liked the walk at Jinji Lake and visiting the Administrator's Garden with its different lotus flowers. Another highlight in Suzhou was the tour of the silk shop, where we learned a lot about Suzhou's ancient history and the traditional craft of silk production.

In Kunming, my personal highlight was the local market next to our hotel, where I saw many exotic foods and fruits. Although some foods, such as the roasted scorpions, were too exotic for my taste, it was still interesting to see the local specialities. Another special experience was eating at the Yunnan restaurant, where we had the opportunity to listen to traditional singing and watch traditional dancing.

Looking back on the trip, I can say that I miss Chinese food, especially the roasted and sautéed vegetables, as well as the chinese custom of sharing meals together. Overall, the trip left me with many new impressions and lasting memories of the Chinese culture, technology, food, and hospitality. I definitely want to visit China again and explore even more regions and parts of its culture.





