

Excerpts from students' reflections on the China tour:

*"Although I won't be moving to China, I really enjoyed the trip and have lots of amazing memories to look back on. The first week there was a big culture shock as we were getting used to the different way people act in China, but we were soon able to experience the trip in a positive light. One of my favourite parts of the trip was walking the Great Wall and tobogganing down where men stood beside you either telling you to slow down as you were about to fall out the side of the slide or hurry up because you were about to get rammed in the bum from the people riding behind. Our group got a bit of both. Not only were the sites amazing but the food, even though pretty much everyone can agree that we got a bit sick of it, was delicious. Some of my highlights being; Peking Duck, which is thin slices of crispy duck wrapped in a crepe with cucumber and carrot, and Hot Pot where, not only is it a meal, it's an activity where you use an already boiled soup to cook thin slices of meat and vegetables and accompany this with rice or noodles. It was quite reminiscent of times when we had to use tranjeers on school camps but in this situation, we were allowed to sit on a chair rather than kneeling on one knee in case of the slight chance of creating a fire which was much more comfortable. In conclusion China was great and I can't wait for the day when I can travel back and see all the people and places that we saw once more." - Paige Warrington*

*"In China, I learnt that the culture was very different than Australia. Even the toilets were very different. Our first sister school was alright, but we didn't really spend much time there the buddy time was really cool though and I had a lot of fun sightseeing with Paige, our buddies and their families. At lunch they gave us duck which we didn't really want but that's okay because later on they bought us the best bubble tea that I will now be craving forever, and I won't be able to get it again. The second school was a lot more fun because we all hung out as a group and got a lot of new, we-chat friends. We had more time to socialise because lunch was so long, and I feel like we made better friends with the students there. I really enjoyed the whole experience because it was something that I wouldn't do if the school didn't have this trip. I'm glad I took the opportunity to go because we were able to have different experiences than we would anywhere else, like going on the chair lift up to the great wall and tobogganing down. My other favourite part was shopping because bargaining was really fun and every time, I got a good deal I was really happy. Now at home I can look really rich with all of the fake Gucci, Louis Vuitton and Chanel I bought. If there was another chance I would definitely go back because it was so much fun and I want to do it all again." - Brianna Pilgrim*

*"The China Tour was an experience that I will never forget. From the interesting culture to the friendly people everything was a new experience. We made new friends and learnt interesting facts about the Chinese culture. We tried new foods and had a lot of memorable moments. I am glad that we were given this opportunity and will remember it for the rest of my life".*

*"The China Tour was a very culturally inspiring and memorable trip. The Chinese culture taught us new things about the country and its people our sister school students made us feel very welcome. We spoke to other Pedare students who we thought we'd never learn the names of. We made new friends who some of us will cherish forever. China's different and interesting foods shocked, surprised and excited us. It was a trip to cherish forever."*

*"I can honestly say I had the best time of my life; it was my first time going overseas so I was a bit nervous, especially going through customs. My favourite place we went to was definitely Shanghai, it was more modern and had more sites to see than Beijing and Jinan. I loved the Pearl Tower, going on the glass floor actually didn't scare me at all. I also loved walking around at night, seeing all the colours of the buildings, it was truly amazing. I also loved the sister schools, both my buddies were really friendly, only one of them could speak good English! I would definitely go back to China, I want my family to see the sites and attractions, this China trip is definitely going to stay with me for the rest of my life."*