

REPORT OF LICEO DINI'S TRIP TO CHINA

Our journey started in Chongqing, where we stayed for 10 days. In the morning we used to have breakfast in some cafés near the hotel, and later we usually went to the Campus on foot, which gave us the opportunity to closely see a side of the morning everyday life of Chinese people.

On campus we attended morning classes, during which we practiced and deepened our Chinese language skills.

After that, we ate at one of the numerous canteens, until afternoon classes started.

Afternoon classes were more cultural than morning classes and we were able to experience some artistic sides of the Chinese culture. Some of these lessons, for example, were about Chinese art, tai chi and singing.

At the weekend we travelled around Chongqing, and we also got to go on a night cruise on the Yangtze River.

That Sunday we went to Dazu District, and visited one of the sites of the Dazu Rock Carvings, a story about Buddha completely carved into a mountain.

We spent a couple of days in Chengdu, famous for its protected area which houses the Giant Panda, one of China's symbol animals, and the Red Panda.

We spent the last four days in Beijing and visited some of the most iconic monuments of the nation, such as the Great Wall, Tian'an men Square, the Forbidden City, the Beijing Olympic Stadium and the Summer Palace.

Another side of this amazing experience we can never forget is probably food: it was spicier than we could have ever expected.

Aside of that, it had completely different flavors considering the ones we are all used to, which got us unprepared at first but that we learnt to appreciate and miss eventually.

We also learned a lot about the culture of food, such as manners, or the typical round table, but what really left a mark was the amazing experience with the hotpot. We feel like that was when we really deepened into an aspect that was very local and traditional.

Chinese people are very kind, and we really got the chance to interact with them especially in Chinese, when we didn't in English, which truly helped with our personal improvement.

A fun side of this trip was the locals' reaction to our little army of students: we were about seventy people, and not a lot of Chinese were used to such a sight.

That's why there wasn't a place or a moment when they weren't taking pictures of us, we all felt like celebrities, some of our fellows were even taken pictures of with Chinese toddlers!

We enjoyed every second and every inch of this journey, also because the friends we made and the teachers who shared these moments with us were lovely.

We will always bring this wonderful experience in our hearts, and we would like to thank Liceo Dini, in particular the Principal Prof. Simonetti, Prof. Della Croce, Prof. Rossi and the Confucius Institute that gave us this amazing opportunity.

Benedetta
Chiara
Francesca
Giulia
Giulio

Pietro
Rachele F
Rachele T
Riccardo
Sofia