

Traveling to the other side of the world was something I dreamed about, but I never expected to do it. Going to Vietnam and China was a wonderful experience that I will always treasure. The professors and students I traveled with truly made the trip unique, and I am glad we experienced the trip together.

The 16-hour plane ride to Hong Kong, then two-hour flight to Vietnam were long trips, but the end goal was very worth it. Vietnam was an amazing country with a culture unlike one I had ever experienced. The food in itself was delicious, though I do not think I had ever eaten so many vegetables in my life. I appreciated the French influences I saw in Vietnam also, especially in the food.

Two of my favorite points of the trip happened in Vietnam. One of the highlights was swimming in the Mae Kong River Delta when we stayed with a host family. The other was swimming in Halong Bay in northern Vietnam. Even though being in northern and southern Vietnam felt like being in separate countries, I enjoyed all aspects of the place.



Just crossing the border into China was a completely different world. It was crowded, and we were definitely a little out of place. The cities were big and beautiful, but they did not compare to the southern Chinese countryside, which looked like book illustrations coming to life. My third favorite moment of the trip was visiting the rice terraces in the hills of southern China.

We ended our trip in Hong Kong. It was nice to finally be able to communicate easily with people again, and Hong Kong was also beautiful. I knew Hong Kong was small, but it seemed bigger in person. I didn't know any history about Hong Kong, so learning about that was very interesting. The 16-hour plane ride home was long, but I would do it again in a heartbeat.