

Comments by Caleb Monk on the Rewi Alley Youth Tour, 2017

When I first arrived in China I was skeptical as to what the trip had in store for me and the other six New Zealanders. I was afraid of whether I'd be able to deal with the heat and the bustle of the big cities, but I'm happy to say that China surprised me, scared me, excited me, but most of all, left me wanting more. I've been home from China for three days now, and I can honestly say that I have never had any experience quite like the twelve days I spent travelling through the country. The itinerary was so busy that I'm still processing the whole trip, but China is like a second home for me now, and I am homesick.

There were so many amazing things we got to see and experience while we were in China, and it's hard to choose just one thing that stood out. However, a few things that really took my breath away were:

- Visiting the Bund and seeing the Shanghai skyline light up the evening sky, that is a view that I'll never forget.
- I also really enjoyed visiting the Yellow Crane Tower [*Pagoda*] in the city of Wuhan. We had done so many things in the big cities that it was so refreshing and amazing to witness something traditional, and a beautiful part of Chinese history.
- Seeing the hundreds of Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an was also pretty spectacular, there is so much history there and it's crazy to think that if that Chinese farmer had dug his well maybe one metre out, they might never have found the warriors at all.