

Dear Shanghai,

I want to thank you for changing my life. I will always cherish the memories we have made together. The people I've met, the food I've enjoyed, the experiences I've had and the things I've seen will haunt me forever. Since meeting you, I see the world in a different light.



You were the city of firsts:

- First city to visit in Asia
- First time living outside of the US
- First place I remember being in awe of a skyline
- First time burning my mouth while eating xiaolongbao
- First all-night karaoke session
- First time feeling like I didn't want to live anywhere else

You've pushed me to step outside of my comfort zone, try new things, travel, discover and continuously seek adventure. In this city, nothing seems impossible. You've opened my eyes to another part of the world and shown me what humans are capable of accomplishing. We can be whoever we want to be and that's an inspiring and a beautiful thing.

The breezy, tree-shaded avenues of the FFC, the hustle and bustle of Nanjing Rd, the lively dancing and singing in the streets, the unique culture and of course, the delicious FOOD! I am in love with you for many reasons but most importantly am in love with the people you have introduced me to. There's no doubt that the friends I have made in China will be with me for the rest of my life. Never have I come across people so open, welcoming, generous and kind.

Shanghai - I appreciate all you've shown me and hope I can find more ways to support you in return. You remain in my thoughts and prayers through this challenging time. You will always be my home away from home. I love you, Shanghai. This too shall pass, hang in there.



Caitlin Hotchkiss
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