

Dear Peter Sir,

I was lucky enough to have been chosen to represent Canada at IACE in Hong Kong for 2009. For the Royal Canadian Air Cadets IACE is one of the most prestigious summer camps you can attend. I worked very hard this past cadet year and prepared for my interview for weeks. When I heard that I was selected to go to Hong Kong I was so excited! Before this trip I had never travelled outside of North America.

I was a little nervous prior to the trip because I wasn't sure if I would be able to fit in with the new culture. When I arrived in Hong Kong I realized I had nothing to worry about. All of the people, especially the local escort cadets were extremely friendly and helpful. From the very first to the very last day they helped with showing us around the city, teaching us Cantonese phrases, making sure we knew what was in the food on the table and taught us about the culture.

The blend of western culture and Asian culture in Hong Kong was a little strange at first, but it was also very neat. I liked everything we got to see and do. Some of the highlights of the tours we did were: Flying in the helicopter at GFS, seeing pandas, Ocean Park, visiting the great Buddha, Ladies Street, Stanley Market, The Peak, dim sum tasting, squadron visit with BBQ, learning to write our names in Cantonese, Chinese hot pot supper, museum of history and the cable car ride. Each tour we did taught us about a different aspect for Hong Kong and provided new information and it never got boring.

I have met many lifelong friends from Hong Kong, China, the UK, USA, France, the Netherlands, Turkey, Australia and Israel. Not only did I learn so much about Hong Kong, but I also learned a lot about each of these countries as well. I hope I will also be able to visit them one day.

IACE is a wonderful program which allows young people to experience things that the ordinary person would not get to. We were also able to see things that might have been difficult to see if we were to travel to Hong Kong on our own.

Thank you for a great time, from Canada! ☺

-Jessica Biggs  
*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*