



Hi!

I am back in Yunnan province, this time to do research. It's an extension of the fieldwork I was doing in my undergraduate program, but of course, the Fulbright research is much more intense than the program I was in before.

This is Cuihu, Green Lake. It's near a few of the universities, and is a really cool place to hang out. It's easy to get lost in, and there's always some activity going on.

Before I do that though, I am hanging out in the city for a month, brushing up on my proposal, taking some Chinese, etc. I'm trying not to hang out with too many people from home. For the last few weeks, I've actually gone for 6-7 days at a time without interacting face-to-face with an American.



This is my "family." The second from left is my guma - my grandmother's best friend's daughter. Her husband is to her right, and their son is on the other end. His wife is next to him and their younger daughter is there, as well. I feel really fortunate to have some "family" in this city.



I enjoyed hanging out with family friends for the moon festival. We ate at 5:30, and the tradition is to eat mooncakes and some sort of large nut afterwards. It was really relaxing.

Before the Chinese moon festival (mid-autumn festival), mooncakes were being sold everywhere. The day (this year it was on the 6th) is an occasion for families to get together, watch the moon, have a reunion.



I felt a craving for choudoufu—a sort of stinky tofu.





People watching.

Left: a woman who sold us some street food.

Right: a little girl with her father and a bowl of noodles.



I'll be based in Shaxi village, near Jianchuan, in Dali prefecture. It's actually a rather cushy village compared to others; the hostel I plan on staying in actually has an eco-toilet—thank goodness for that!

I'm looking forward to getting away from the city, though. Enjoy the pictures!

—Julie
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