Karaköl

Travel group
Age: 22 to 23 years
Number of participants: 2
Education: Bachelor Environmental Sciences & Bachelor History and Political Sciences

Expectations for the trip
The trip was made because I was allowed to do an exchange semester in Hong Kong and did not want to travel at least one way by plane. Therefore, the primary function was to get to our destination on time. At the same time, we also wanted to learn a lot, discover new things and enjoy ourselves. The return journey was 5 months later by plane.

Personal added value of the trip
The train journey gave us the opportunity to experience diversity. The transitions between different cultures and landscapes were much smoother due to the slow movement on the ground than if we had simply flown to a distant country. It was especially important to allow enough time so that spontaneous extensions were possible if we particularly liked a place or got to know people. Something wonderful about this trip was the communication with hands, feet and Google translator with people on trains, buses and shared taxis who wondered about us.

Impact of the trip on the environment and people
When considering getting to Hong Kong without a plane, the environmental impact was a strong motivator. However, we have to admit that travelling such long distances by other means of transport also leaves a big CO₂ footprint. So we put our need to discover other countries above environmental protection. However, we believe that our way of travelling has a socially sustainable component. Since we used local transport and also stayed in private guesthouses, we did not support big airlines and hotel chains, but smaller ambientes. We also made sure to follow the rules of conduct of the respective companies, for example in terms of clothing style.

Changes through Shape Your Trip: Unfortunately, nothing could be changed afterwards. However, I would take more time next time, because thanks to the calculation of MyClimate I now see that train journeys also cause huge CO₂ emissions.

Motivation for participation
Our trip has already taken place. But I'm taking part because I think it's a great idea to create a pool of ideas with travel suggestions that are as sustainable as possible.