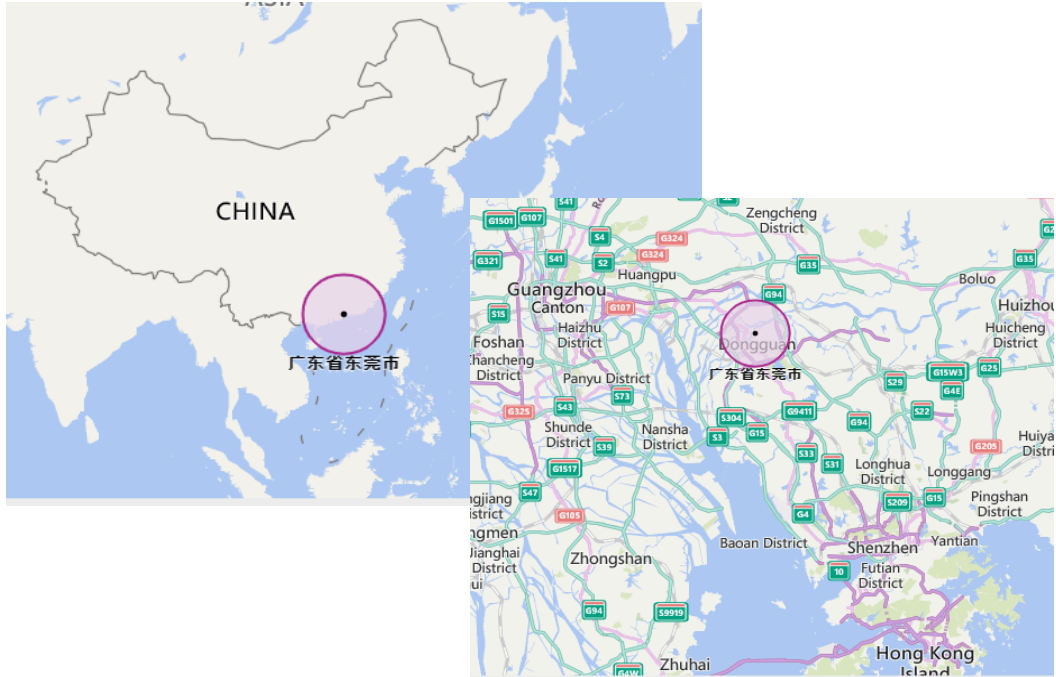


# Teaching PE, China

James Baker, *Engineering*

For 3 weeks I taught P.E. at Richard Foreign Language School in Dongguan, China. Dongguan is a small city in China, near to larger cities Guangzhou and Shenzhen – which is on the border with Hong Kong.



I heard about this opportunity through the agency gotoco who have a partnership with the school. Dongguan Foreign Language schools is made up of 3 campuses, which are like boarding schools. I worked and lived on Richwood, with about 25 other foreign teachers. We lived on the top floor of the 15-floor tower block with the students living on the other floors. Also on the campus was a High School, a Primary School, canteen, sports hall, basketball courts and 2 football pitches. The dormitory accommodation and all meals were provided to us by the school.



We arrived at the school late on Thursday, 27/06/2019, so we just settled in our rooms, preparing for a busy weekend ahead. On the Friday and Saturday, we had training on how to teach English and what Chinese classrooms and students are like, so we knew what to expect and the differences between a Chinese school and British schools. I was assigned to teach P.E. for the next 3 weeks to primary school children. There were about 30 classes in the primary school across all grades with an age range of 5 – 11 and I taught each class twice.



At first, the classes were very difficult as there was a huge language barrier and I wasn't used to all the equipment available to me. But after the first few lessons, I knew what the students expected and wanted to do so I taught them games and sports techniques whilst making the classes competitive and enjoyable. It was a great and rewarding experience that I will never forget. The Summer Camp also included a lot of activities and field trips. We attended all these extra activities helping the teachers and participating with the students. This included a cinema trip, a camp over in a jungle, a football match and a water fight.





After the 3 weeks of teaching, gotoco arranged a 5-day trip for us and the foreign teachers at the other 2 schools at a town in the countryside called Yangshuo. In the day we would cycle or hike round the beautiful scenery, exploring caves and waterfalls. The town was very busy with many restaurants, bars and clubs, so there was a lot to do day and night.

