Oh, the Places You’ll GLO:
Thoughts, recollections and insights from students traveling abroad.
"In Chile we had the opportunity to visit Universidad Adolfo Ibanez, a business school in the mountains, which would be a beautiful location for studying! Dr. Ariel Casarin gave an amazing lecture on the political and economic environment of Chile, providing great insights useful to any company wanting to do business in the country. It was one of the most engaging lectures I've ever been to."

-Brendan Daily—1st year MBA
Marketing Academy

Maria Helfenberger snapped this photo in Buenos Aires. She is a first-year student at Tippie who also blogs for the school in her free time. Read more about her GLO experience to South America [here](#).
Below: First-year student Mike Kelleher stops to pose for a photo during a tour of a vineyard outside Santiago, Chile. Students heard a presentation on the business side of production and distribution then enjoyed a tour of the facilities and grounds.

Here, Patric Jia, a first-year studying Finance, shows off his photography skills, capturing a moment from a traditional Argentine tango show at one of the most famous local restaurants in Buenos Aires—Monumento a Carlos Gardel.
UAE GLO was an unforgettable experience. Though I visited Dubai a couple of times before, this trip was different and gave me a completely different perspective of Dubai. Starting with the vision of Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai to the commitment of people to fulfil that vision, it was unbelievable. The GLO was a perfect combination of significant learning experience and recreation. We met many good companies like ADNOC, JAFZA, DUBAL, J&J; all of which enriched my experience. Understanding about these businesses and the demographic and geographic perspective of UAE was intriguing. Further, we got the opportunity to meet many senior management people during our visit. We met the entire senior management team at J&J, NAKHIL Developers, ADNOC, Dubai Chamber of Commerce. It was really helpful to understand their vision and where the UAE is headed for the next few decades.

I was thoroughly impressed by the vision of the people of Dubai and the rapid progress they are making towards establishing Dubai as an international business and tourism hotspot. At times, their plans for Dubai are beyond comprehension. Also, during our visit, we visited various places like Spice Souk and Gold Souk, The Grand Mosque of Abu Dhabi, Dubai Museum. All of these enriched our cultural understanding of the people of the Middle East.

I would strongly recommend the Tippie College of Business to have this GLO every year as students would love the visit to UAE, and it is truly an amazing experience!

-Amit Shah
First-year student in Finance

Benjamin Kopp snapped this fantastic desert sunset photo of fellow first-year Dan Bereiter on top of a sand dune during a desert safari.
First-year student Dan Bereiter shared contrasting photos from the trip including spices from the Spice Souk in Dubai (left), a traditional Middle Eastern spice market, and The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque (below) in Abu Dhabi, the largest mosque in the UAE.
6 NIGHTS IN THE UAE

When I enrolled in the Seminar in the International Business class for the UAE GLO trip, I was pretty clueless what I was signing up for. And don’t get me wrong, it was a truly awesome, inspiring, and eye-opening experience. I learned so much, and had so much fun that if I had the chance, I would do it all over again! As expected, we had a class session prior to traveling to UAE (Dubai) where we learned about the modern way of life and business conduct in Dubai. Like many of us living in Western industrialized nations, our world view of any country in the Middle East is typically that of a vast desert where sand blows into your face and your body must be completely covered to prevent excessive sunburn. But like my countrymen in Ghana would often say, “Seeing is believing.”

On Friday, January 9, my friend Kim and I set off for our almost 24-hour journey to the UAE. After a few hours of sleep and still experiencing jetlag, we started our trip with a class session with our professor and some invited panelists to discuss everything about the country, ranging from normal everyday life, to the culture (which is predominantly based on the teachings of Islam), to the conduct of business practices in the region. In the afternoon, we took a tour of the city Dubai, and that was when all the magic started! .... Thank you to the Tippie MBA GLO team who made this awesome trip possible!
Some students enjoying some shawarma at a restaurant during their trip. Photo courtesy of first-year Stuart Hemesath

An end-of-trip picture of the group that visited the UAE on this GLO trip.
I can look back at quite a few different experiences from the Iowa Winterim program “Sustainable Development and Low Cost Housing in Kerala” which have affected me both positively and negatively. I can say without question that I am glad I have had the chance to visit India, meet the people here, and get to see what life is like in the world’s largest democracy. I knew India would be different than other places I had travelled, but even still was surprised at how different it really was.

The course taught me a lot about the culture here, or at least in Kerala for that matter. I have been and continued to be amazed by the niceness of the Indian people, how friendly and agreeable they are without being pushy or overbearing, and how safe I always felt amongst the thousands of people that constantly surrounded me in India’s most densely populated state. I am leaving impressed with the commitment to grass roots development, women’s empowerment and community involvement, education, and rights for the working class and poor that exist here in Kerala, even if that doesn’t represent India as a whole overall.

The groups that we worked with here to learn about Ecotourism and Sustainable, affordable housing have shown me some guiding principles, and the work that they are doing here is quite impressive from a dedication and commitment standpoint. The importance of community involvement and buy in, innovative thinking and decentralized development as an alternative to bureaucratic mandates, is something that I will take away from my 3 weeks here in Kerala.

At the same time there have been some aspects that I have struggled with here as well. While we saw inspiring examples of what can be done here in India with innovative approaches, we also spent much of the time touring buildings and facilities that look nothing like the rest of the state. Every time we entered one of these areas, it felt like we were transported out of Kerala and into an alternative universe that looked nothing like the miles and miles of roadside developments we saw while riding in the bus. From this I still wonder how Kerala can truly promote sustainable development that can be scalable enough to really make an impact. The ideas and concepts we learned in this course were great starting points, but I think the next question is how that can be brought to the next level.
I also learned how much the concept of beauty and cleanliness can vary from culture to culture. Even though we discussed very much differences between India and the US, how perceptions of internal and external cleanliness differ between the two, I still found it hard to ignore the trash and debris that are so prevalent in India. Indians have an amazing ability to focus on internal harmony and cleanliness, and block out the external filth and noise. This is admirable in many ways, but as someone who spends his life attempting to take in the surroundings as much as possible in a holistic view, I found myself very affected by those same dirty surroundings that Indians are so capable of expunging from their minds.

To a degree it's simply a matter of differences in cultural mindset, but I also feel like there is room for improvement that could help better the lives of Indians in more than just aesthetic ways. Cleaner water, better sanitation and not having to walk through and around piles of burning trash all day are certainly things that can lead to a better quality of life for all around.

I recognize though that this is a difficult task in India for cultural, financial, and even simply spatial reasons. I also know that India is changing quickly, and is still in its infancy as a democracy and as an open economy, so the realities of life and expectations here are much different for a 60 year old than a 25 year old. The problem with only visiting a place once however is you only get to see a point in time, and not a line of progress. Change cannot be measured by a single visit, and so right now I can only take in the India that I see today. But this will fuel my desire to return to the country, and to visit more than just Kerala next time in order to see what the people, culture and issues are like in other parts of the country. I used to think 3 weeks was the minimum time required to see India, but that’s not even close. I think for a country so big and varied, you could easily spend 3 months here and only scratch the surface.

I probably won’t ever have 3 months available to truly get to know India that way, but I am glad to know Indians back in the US as well that I can use to continue my education about the country, and to help me understand the pros and cons of Kerala and the development model that we have studied for the past 3 weeks.

Beyond that, I will savor the weeks full of experiences I had here, some positive and some negative, but all important in helping me form a picture of what it means to talk about India the country and Indians the people.
Close your eyes and come take a trip with me. Okay, don’t close your eyes because I need you to keep reading. Let’s just do the trip-taking part.

Imagine a place where a thick layer of grime covers everything you see. Soot coats a sea of uninspired architecture – a concrete jungle flanked by shanty tin storefronts. You make your way through the city on tiptoe, delicately choosing a few sanitary inches to place your feet. When you are lucky enough to find a sidewalk, the cement tiles teeter precariously over a makeshift sewer. An unknown sludge spills onto the streets, and pungent whiffs of feces, trash, and body odor fill your nose. Your eyes begin to burn, and you glance up. Piles of rubbish are ablaze, exploding a can into the air like gunfire.

In front of you, a man stands shoeless. His feet black with dirt, he serves lukewarm, fried street food and opaque, brown water. Every restaurant is a gamble. Is the kitchen clean? Will you get sick? You’re not sure, but you have to eat something. You head to the back to use the soggy bathroom, and when you reach for the toilet paper you find it isn’t there. Instead, you see a plastic bucket and a spigot. It dawns on you why the floor is wet, and you realize what you’re standing in. This is the filthiest place you’ve ever been.

Welcome, my friend, this is India. Would you like to come here? Would you pay $1,800 to arrive?

Now, let’s take another trip. Imagine a place where grinning faces welcome you on every corner. The morning paper tells you of children’s rights movements, women’s empowerment groups, organic agriculture, and sustainable city development. You head to the lobby of your hotel. The elevator doors open and it seems too crowded for you to enter, but smiling eyes meet yours and bobbing heads wave you in. “It’s no problem, join us! Are you from the United States? My daughter is there. It’s so nice to meet you.”

During class you sit shoeless in a cool building in the forest. Halfway through the lecture, a barefoot man enters. Feet just like yours, he serves tender coconut water straight from the shell. “Come, please! We cut these for you! Please, have some.” At each restaurant, fragrant whiffs of spice and curry fill your nose. It’s the best meal you’ve ever eaten, and when you ask for the check it’s just 120 Rupees – the equivalent of two U.S. dollars.

On the weekend you take a houseboat through the backwaters. Sun coats a peaceful sea – alluring rivers flanked by vibrant green rice patties. You hear shouts of “Happy New Year!” and glance up. Passengers on a neighboring boat wave and smile. It dawns on you why people are so content, and you realize where you’re standing. This is the most beautiful place you’ve ever been.

Welcome, my friend, this is also India. Would you like to come here? How much would you pay to know you have arrived?
My trip to India started with an open mind and no expectations, except to learn as much as I could about conservation. I had a very busy fall semester, so I didn’t even have time to get excited and think too much about my upcoming trip to a part of the world where I had never been before. I was not prepared for the life-changing experience I was about to encounter.

It started with a reality check about pollution. Maybe I hadn’t paid enough attention when relatives and friends had talked about India or it could be that I had never confronted it to that extent, but I was shocked by the amount of pollution I found, especially in Delhi and its surrounding areas. This, paired with the amount of street animals, did not make me like India a whole lot. I was starting to wonder what I had gotten myself into. But as the activities for the class started, in particular our visit to Iora Ecological Solutions, and we interacted with more Indian people, my view changed completely. I began to truly understand the culture and the struggles that India faces and why its problems exist. I had a new found admiration for a country that has respect for all living creatures and, even though they have an immense number of people in a finite amount of land, they still manage to dedicate a significant area of their country to wildlife preservation.

During our stay at Ranthambhore Ragh, we were introduced to the world of tiger conservation by Aditya Singh and Salim Ali. Aditya, a world famous wildlife photographer and conservationist, told us about the efforts done by the government and the villages and organizations around the park. While Salim guided us through Ranthambhore National Park and acted as a bridge between us and the park’s flora and fauna. Not only were we able to see the beautiful animal species that live in Ranthambhore, such as the sambar and spotted deer, gazelles, and Indian wild boar, but also visit the people and areas around the park. We were able to get an understanding of the pressures that the human population has on the park and vice versa. We interacted with villagers that have been directly impacted by the conservation efforts and with school children who are starting to understand, through the efforts of organizations like Kids for Tigers, that the work done to conserve the tiger is also of benefit to them and their communities.

The final aspect of the trip that I was not expecting was the connections that I would make with my fellow travelers. The idea of going to a country that I had never visited before with people that I knew nothing about was a little intimidating, to say the least. But it turned out to be one of the best aspects of my trip, I lived one of the best experiences of my life with 22 of the most wonderful people I have ever met.

A first-year student from Wisconsin, Sofia Castillo is studying Supply Chain and Analytics at Tippie and is an officer in the MBA Association (MBAA) student organization.
## University of Iowa GLO Program
### Visit to Argentina and Chile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday January 4th</th>
<th>Monday January 5th</th>
<th>Tuesday January 6th</th>
<th>Wednesday January 7th</th>
<th>Thursday January 8th</th>
<th>Friday January 9th</th>
<th>Saturday January 10th</th>
<th>Sunday January 11th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast at Hotel</strong></td>
<td>Break at Hotel</td>
<td>Breakfast at Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Private Transfer to Hotel</strong></td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Walk distance from hotel</td>
<td>8:15 AM</td>
<td>Bus Departs Hotel</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Bus Departs Hotel</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction to IT services in Argentina</strong></td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Globant</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>3M Argentina</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Private Transfer to Buenos Aires Airport for Group Flight to Santiago</td>
<td>9:00 - 11:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ernst &amp; Young Argentina</strong></td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Briefing</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Check in to Hotel Followed by a Santiago City Tour</td>
<td>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Wine Industry in Chile</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Do Business in Argentina</strong></td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>Ernst &amp; Young Argentina</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome Packs distributed.</strong></td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Buenos Aires Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Free Time for Lunch</strong></td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>YPF</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>YPF</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Santiago Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Site visit and presentation at Tenaris’ Siderca production center.</strong></td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>Company visit and presentation at Tenaris’ Siderca production center, which has an annual capacity of 900,000 tons of steel tubes and delivers within range of products for the energy sector, automotive industry, and agro-industrial applications.</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>Parque Arauco</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>Wine Industry in Chile</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Highlights include: Cerro Santa Lucia, Plaza de Armas &amp; National Cathedral, Municipal Theatre and Presidential Palace (La Moneda).</strong></td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Free Afternoon</strong></td>
<td>8:20 PM</td>
<td>Bus Departs for Tango Show and Dinner</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Special Transfer from Cascadas Las Animas to Santiago Airport</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Special Transfer from Cascadas Las Animas to Santiago Airport</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Free Time for Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Dinner &amp; Tango Show Included at Esquina Carlos Gardel</td>
<td>Confirmed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Free Time for Dinner</strong></td>
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* Final Itinerary.
# Tippie MBA Global Learning Opportunity
## U.A.E. Itinerary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, Jan 10</th>
<th>Sunday, Jan 11</th>
<th>Monday, Jan 12</th>
<th>Tuesday, Jan 13</th>
<th>Wednesday, Jan 14</th>
<th>Thursday, Jan 15</th>
<th>Friday, Jan 16</th>
<th>Saturday, Jan 17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual</td>
<td>Business Casual</td>
<td>Smart Business Casual</td>
<td>Business Casual</td>
<td>Business Casual--Pants</td>
<td>Business Casual</td>
<td>Casual</td>
<td>Casual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrival in Dubai</td>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>Dubai/Abu Dhabi</td>
<td>Abu Dhabi/Dubai</td>
<td>Dubai</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:00am Itinerary review; orientation—Adelaide Conference Room, Podium Level</strong></td>
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<td>9-11am Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>9am-11:30 am Overview of Islamic Banking—Adelaide Conference Room</td>
<td>9-10:30 am Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (JAFZA)</td>
<td>Check-out</td>
<td><strong>Bus Departs Hotel for Airport TBD</strong></td>
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<td>Noon-1pm Buffet lunch with panelists</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
<td>Free Time for Lunch</td>
<td>Free Day / Departure to USA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Arrival at Dubai airport.** | **Transfer #1: arriving on 7:15am Turkish Air** | **Transfer #2: arriving on 9pm Delta or 9:40 United** | 1-5pm Dubai City Tour  
*Burj Al Arab, Jumeirah Mosque, Bastakia, Dubai Museum, Abra water taxi, Gold & Spice Souq* | 1-3pm Dubai Financial Market | 12:30pm Depart for Visit  
1:20 Nakheel Monorail  
2-4pm Nakheel Properties (including boat ride) | 3pm Johnson & Johnson  
PHOTO ID REQUIRED | 1:00pm Depart Abu Dhabi  
2:30pm Arrive hotel, check-in  
3:30 Desert Safari: camel rides, Bedouin village, sand duning, etc. |
| Free Time for Dinner | Free Time for Dinner | Free Time for Dinner | Free Time for Dinner | Free Time for Dinner | Farewell BBQ Dinner in desert (return to hotel ~9:30pm) | End of Program |