



Education in China *(Tentative Itinerary)*

A private tour designed by Michael Searson in conjunction with EF Customized Tours

Requested departure date: Thursday, March 12, 2009

(Dates and itinerary below are subject to change. Required date flexibility of 2 days on either side of requested departure date)

Day 1 Thursday, March 12, 2009

Board your overnight flight to Beijing!

Day 2 Friday, March 13, 2009

Arrival in Beijing

Touch down in Beijing! Recall that it was in this city that Chairman Mao proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949. Meet your bilingual Tour Director who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Overnight in Beijing

Day 3 Saturday, March 14, 2009

Guided sightseeing of Beijing

An expert local guide introduces you to the Chinese capital, a treasure chest of imperial monuments. This ancient city first received its modern name when it became the capital for the second time in Chinese history in 1402 ("Beijing" means "Northern Capital"). See **Tiananmen Square** (the Gate of Heavenly Peace), the largest public square in the world. Visit the **Forbidden City** (Gugong), once accessible only to the Emperor. Get a close-up look at the golden-roofed Imperial Palace, one of the world's greatest architectural achievements. Hundreds of thousands of workers labored on the construction of this palatial complex during the Ming Dynasty (1403-1424). It was later removed during the 18th century (Qing Dynasty). Although situated in the very heart of Beijing, the Forbidden City is surrounded by both a moat and a protective wall. The emperors who once resided here often spent their entire lives within the complex - it was not until 1949 that a "commoner" set foot inside the area.

Summer Palace

Formerly a summer palace for feudal Emperors, the Summer Palace is a magnificent example of China's classical garden architecture. The Palace grounds were originally divided into three sections, one for court activities, one for imperial residence and one for sight-seeing. The Long Corridor, the Paiyun (Cloud-Dispelling) Hall, the Temple of Buddhist Virtue, the Marble Boat, the Xiequ (Harmonious -Interest) Garden, the Zhichun (Spring-Heralding) Pavilion, and the Seventeen-Arch Bridge are the palace's main attractions.

Tian'anmen Square

Located in the heart of the capital, Tian'anmen Square is commonly known as the Gate of Heavenly Peace and commands the entrance to the Imperial Palace. The central square consists of several important monuments and buildings, including the Great Hall of the People, Memorial Hall of Chairman Mao Zedong, The Museum of Revolution, and the Museum of Natural History.

The Forbidden City

From Tian'anmen Square, walk to entrance of The Imperial Palace, also known as the Forbidden City. This is truly a city within a city, a maze of palaces built between 1417 and 1420 as the residence of the emperor. Named The Forbidden City because the entire palace compound was off limits to the public for 500 years, this is the largest and best-preserved cluster of ancient buildings in China. The Palace is so large (720,000 square meters, 800 buildings, 9,000 rooms) that a permanent restoration squad moves around repainting and repairing. The complex was opened to the public in 1949.

Visit to a Tea House

You'll better understand the importance of tea in Chinese culture when you visit a tea house. Not only for refreshment, Chinese tea holds a place in medicine, art and even literature. Inhale the earthy aromas and experience the culture and custom surrounding this ancient pastime as you are served a traditional tea.

Overnight in Beijing

Day 4 Sunday, March 15, 2009

Excursion to Badaling section of the Great Wall of China

Travel north to Badaling to view one of the wonders of the world: the Great Wall of China. Its construction began in the 5th century B.C. as a defense against the Mongols: 300,000 people (many of whom are buried in the wall) labored on it over several centuries. The wall extends across mountains and valleys for more than 3,000 miles-perhaps only a tenth of its former length!

Hutong Tour in a Rickshaw

Explore the city with a rickshaw ride through the lanes of Old Beijing. Follow the Hutong, which were built around the Forbidden City during the Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties, as you see where both the aristocrats and others lived during these ancient times. You will stop at the Drum Tower, which was built in 1272 during the Yuan Dynasty and Prince Gong's Mansion. Built in 1777-1787, it was home to one of Emperor Qianlong's favorite ministers.

Optional Kung Fu Show

Prepare to be amazed as you take in this dance spectacular. A mixture of kung fu, dance and acrobatics, this show combines ornate costumes, vibrant set design and gravity-defying kung fu moves sure to impress you.

Overnight in Beijing

Day 5 Monday, March 16, 2009

Visit to a Local High School (except during Chinese holidays and exam time)

Meet with local students and discover life in a Chinese high school. Compare and contrast China's education system to the United States' system when you talk with students and teachers.

Peking Duck Dinner

Tonight you will be treated to the sumptuous dish that northern China is famous for: Peking duck! During this special feast, learn about the ritual preparation and savory side dishes that accompany this regional specialty.

Overnight in Beijing

Day 6 Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Flight to Xi'an

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Xi'an, one of China's most extraordinary cities. Xi'an was once the largest city in the world and the capital of 11 dynasties.

Visit to the Shaanxi Provincial Historical Museum

See artifacts from the Han and Tang dynasties at the Shaanxi Provincial Museum, which was built on the site of a former Confucian temple.

Visit to the Museum of the Terra-Cotta Army

Visit the intriguing Museum of the Terra-Cotta Army, which exhibits the amazing collection of figures discovered by peasants digging for water in 1974. The army's 8,099 painstakingly modeled, life-size warriors and horses—of which no two are alike—were sculpted to protect the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, founder of the Qin Dynasty (221–206 B.C.) and the first ruler to unify China.

IMAX Theater

On the 3-D IMAX screen, view a fascinating film depicting the excavation process of the Terra-Cotta Army.

Overnight in Xi'an

Day 7 Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Flight to Shanghai

Fly to Shanghai, China's largest and most cosmopolitan city. Shanghai (meaning "up from the sea") has been an important port for centuries. China's Communist Party—and later the Cultural Revolution—originated in Shanghai.

Transfer to Hangzhou

Transfer by bus from Shanghai to Hangzhou.

Walk along West Lake

Walk along the famed West Lake. People watch and visit shops and eateries at your leisure.

Overnight in Hangzhou

Day 8 Thursday, March 19, 2009

Visit Educational Sites

Prearranged trips to one or more of the following educational sites: elementary or high schools, Meet with officials from at least one university, Meetings and discussions with Provincial and Municipal education leaders.

Optional Visit to Tea Plantation

Visit a local tea plantation to learn about and sample Longing Tea, considered one of the best Green Teas in the world.

Overnight in Hangzhou

Day 9 Friday, March 20, 2009

Visit Educational Sites

Continued visits and meetings as above.

LingYin Temple

Consider one of the ten best Buddhist temples in China, LingYin is set along the beautiful West Lake. Literally translated as the Temple of the Soul's Retreat, this temple was founded in 328AD, and retains carvings in rock monasteries from its earliest days.

Return to Shanghai

Travel by bus back to Shanghai, where you'll spend the final two days of your tour.

Overnight in Shanghai

Day 10 Saturday, March 21, 2009
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Guided sightseeing of Shanghai

Start getting to know Shanghai with a visit to the **Jade Buddha Temple**. The extraordinary Buddhas are each sculpted from a piece of white jade and were brought from Burma by a Chinese monk in the last century. One portrays Buddha experiencing Enlightenment, the other his transcendence into Nirvana. Continue on to the glorious **Yu Yuan Garden**, a showplace of classical Chinese landscaping dating back to 1537. As you walk along its winding paths past goldfish ponds and pavilions, note that the Chinese consider gardening a complex art form in which the challenge is to construct an entire world in miniature using minerals, plants and animals in a limited space.

Visit to the Bund (walking along an iconic Shanghai street)

Walk along the Bund, once considered the "Wall Street of the East." Enjoy beautiful views of the city as you walk along the landscaped promenade overlooking the water.

Jin-Mao Building; entrance to take elevators to top

Visit the Jin Mao Building, an 88-story skyscraper in the Pudong district. The building, whose name means "Golden Prosperity", contains both offices and the Shanghai Grand Hyatt hotel. As of 2005, it was the tallest building in China and the seventh tallest tower in world.

Nanjing Road

Spend time admiring the crafts and delicacies in the interesting shops that line colorful Nanjing Road.

Overnight in Shanghai

Day 11 Sunday, March 22, 2009

Attend a lecture at a local university

Visit with college students at a local university and attend a lecture about China's higher education system

Visit a foreign language training center

Discover the daily operations of a foreign language training center.

Overnight in Shanghai

Day 12 Monday, March 23, 2009

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your tour director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary subject to change.

