



EXPERIENCE CHINA 2011

SVC Study and Service Tour





Experience China!

Join us in August 2011 as we journey to China on the adventure of a lifetime!

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Skagit Valley College provides a drug-free environment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and employment.

TOUR OVERVIEW

- Visit China's capital, **Beijing**, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall.
- Stay in student dorms on the campus of Beijing Foreign Studies University, hear lectures from prominent professors about Chinese life and culture, and interact in casual settings with Chinese students and faculty.
- Travel to the ancient capital of **Xi'an**, home of the Terracotta Warriors, one of the archaeological wonders of the world.
- Visit "the real China" in the rural mountain villages of **Sichuan** province - live and work among local villagers as we pitch in to help them develop their community, agricultural and business resources.
- College credit and K-12 teacher clock hours may be available.

Tour Leader

This study tour is sponsored by Skagit Valley College and led by faculty member Ted Maloney, SVC's exchange professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University in 2005-07. He led the College's successful 2009 and 2010 study/service tours to China. Ted has taught at SVC since 1988, and currently teaches courses in paralegal studies and international relations. Contact Ted at 360-416-7774 or ted.maloney@skagit.edu.

Eligible Participants

This tour is open to SVC students, faculty, staff and community members. People with experience in agriculture and business are especially encouraged to apply.

Primary Purpose – Global Service

The primary focus of this tour is to journey as a team to the remote villages of Sichuan province to work with our partner, a non-governmental organization (NGO) helping to alleviate poverty through relief effort and sustainable community and economic development. In this way, we hope team members will gain a better understanding of life and culture in a developing country, respect for the people who live and work there, and an appreciation for the value of engaging in long-term, mutually beneficial relations between communities in developed and developing nations. We will also use our time in China to learn more about its amazing history and culture through visits to its modern capital, Beijing, and its ancient capital, Xi'an.

Selection of Participants

This tour is not suitable for everyone. For a significant portion of the trip we will be living in rugged rural areas (with minimal facilities) seldom visited by foreigners, and at the invitation of an aid organization that depends on maintaining local good will to do its important work. As a result, space is limited, and **final selection of participants will be made by tour leader Ted Maloney and SVC Global Partnerships Director Carl Young, in their sole discretion.** Although we would wish that everyone who wants to go would be able to, we cannot guarantee that will happen. If you are interested in joining the tour, you must submit an application form (in this packet) and may be interviewed prior to selection.

Application Deadline (\$300 deposit): March 28, 2011 First Payment (\$1350) Due: April 15, 2011
Selection notification: April 1, 2011 Final Payment (\$1350) Due: May 13, 2011

TRIP ITINERARY

DAY	DATE	ACTIVITIES (Details or order subject to change)
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1	8/15	SVC Mount Vernon campus to SeaTac Airport
2	8/16	Arrive Beijing Capital Airport Bus/taxi to Beijing Foreign Studies University Check into International Student Dorms, Dinner, Rest
3	8/17	Breakfast Tour of Campus; Lectures Lunch with BFSU Faculty & Students Visit migrant worker community Dinner Visit local park/free time; return to BFSU campus
4	8/18	Breakfast (on own) Bus or taxi to Beihai Park; walk through <i>hutong</i> ; Forbidden City (aka Palace Museum) & Tiananmen Square Lunch – Peking Duck restaurant Temple of Heaven; Shopping/free time; return to BFSU campus Dinner (on own)
5	8/19	Breakfast (on own) Tour Great Wall Lunch (on own) Return to Beijing Dinner at Dumpling Restaurant Return to BFSU campus To train station for trip to Xi'an
6	8/20	Arrive Xi'an Breakfast (on own) Taxi/bus to hotel; Check in hotel Lunch (on own) Historical Museum in Xi'an Visit Big Wild Goose Pagoda Dinner (group – traditional local cuisine) Evening life in park; return to hotel
7	8/21	Breakfast at hotel Full day trip to Terra Cotta Warriors Museum (lunch included) Return to Xi'an – visit architectural residence of Ming Dynasty & Muslim Street Dinner (on own); free time Overnight at hotel

DAY	DATE	ACTIVITIES (Details or order subject to change)
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8	8/22	Breakfast at hotel; depart to airport Arrive Chengdu by air – visit ERC offices; orientation for volunteer work Lunch Check-in - Sim's Cozy Garden Hostel Dinner (Sichuan hotpot); Free time
9-12	8/23-27	Breakfast at Sim's (on own) Depart to villages Work, eat, live in villages (meals included)
13	8/28	Return to Chengdu from villages Dinner (on own) Overnight at Sim's Cozy Garden Hostel
14	8/29	Travel to Emei Shan Buddhist Mountain Overnight at Emei Shan
15	8/30	Return to Chengdu Visit Sanxingdui Museum
16	8/31	Flight to Beijing Overnight in Beijing near airport
17	9/1	To airport; Depart Beijing to Seattle Arrive Seattle

TRIP COST

ESTIMATED PRICE: \$3000 (USD) including international airfare

Every effort has been made to keep this trip as affordable as possible, especially for students. There will be no 4 or 5 Star hotels, but accommodations in the cities will meet acceptable standards of safety and cleanliness.

Package includes: Round-trip transport from SVC Mount Vernon campus to SeaTac airport, round trip air fare, domestic travel in China, admission fees and guides, accommodations and ground transportation, some meals, and medical evacuation insurance.

PLUS: \$100-200 for personal expenses

Participants should expect to bring another \$100-200 for some meals, personal expenses and a few souvenirs. Those wanting to purchase a lot of souvenirs should plan for a larger personal budget.

NOT INCLUDED in the price:

- Visa and passport application fees
- Travel Protection Insurance (Go to www.travelguard.com for insurance information)
- Other personal expenses
- Some meals, personal items and souvenirs.

Passport: A valid passport is required and is the responsibility of the participant. Passport must be valid for at least six months from the date of departure on August 15, 2011. For more information on obtaining a passport, visit www.travel.state.gov. Passport and visa photos can be taken at American Automobile Association (AAA), Costco, and other locations. It takes about 6-8 weeks to process a passport application without paying additional (expedited) fees. You must have your passport by our first workshop on May 20, 2011.

CANCELLATION FEES: A refund may be available subject to finding someone to replace you, and exclusive of airline ticket costs and penalties imposed by our multiple vendors.

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Due to the physical demands of portions of this trip, a statement from your medical doctor confirming you are healthy enough may be required. If you have any health conditions, check with your doctor. Make sure you have enough medication before you leave. You will not find a western pharmacy or medications in China.

You may need certain vaccinations before traveling to Asia, especially since we will be in rural area. Contact Skagit County Health Department (or another medical source) early in case you need a series of shots. Recommended website for medical information: www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia

IMPORTANT DATES

2011

March 28	Application and Deposit Due (\$300 deposit, non-refundable if selected)
April 15	First Payment Due (\$1350) Passport, visa application/fee, additional passport photos ready for submission to visa agent
May 13	Final Payment Due (\$1350)

REQUIRED Pre-Departure Workshops:

May 20	Pre-Departure Workshop #1 (Time and location TBD) Passports and visas returned; Releases, room assignments, cultural information
June 17	Pre-Departure Workshop #2 (Time and location TBD) Survival Chinese phrases, effective packing, departure tips, etc.

August 15	Depart from Mount Vernon campus for SeaTac and flight to Beijing
September 1	Arrive SeaTac from Beijing, return to Mount Vernon campus

APPLICATION¹

This completed application form must be received no later than March 28, at the Cashier's Office of Skagit Valley College, 2405 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, along with your deposit of \$300. If you are not selected for the trip, the deposit will be refunded. If you are selected, it is non-refundable. Payment can be made by cash, check, money order, VISA or MasterCard]

NAME _____

DATE _____

I am (check one): SVC Student SVC Faculty SVC Staff/Admin
 Other (occupation: _____)

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Reasons why I want to go on this trip are: (use back of form or additional page if needed)

Prior international travel experience: (use back of form or additional page if needed)

I understand that this trip will at times be physically demanding – walking or climbing for long periods, lifting and carrying heavy objects, living, working and traveling under harsh conditions (heat, primitive toilets, unimproved roads, sub-standard vehicles, non-Western food and conveniences), and that I am medically and physically capable of fully participating under these conditions. I have read the “Program Information” and I understand the terms and conditions of payment, workshop participation, passport, visa and other requirements stated therein, and I agree to abide by them if selected.

Signature

¹ Because of limited space for the trip, and special requirements for participants, a selection process will be used to determine who is accepted to participate in this tour. Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance. A personal interview may be required before selection. Verification by a physician of physical capability for the trip may be required.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

BEIJING



One of China's Key Universities, directly under the State Education Ministry, **Beijing Foreign Studies University** (commonly known as Bei Wai) is China's most prestigious school for the study of Language. With courses in over 30 different foreign languages, most of the diplomats and foreign relations officials are graduates of this Chinese Georgetown. Bei Wai has nearly 1,000 students from around the world studying Chinese each year, as well as 4,500 Chinese students of foreign languages, offering many opportunities for language and cultural exchange. Bei Wai is Skagit Valley College's faculty exchange partner.

More than other sections of the city, **Beijing's hutong** have been the primary target of the city's ambitious modernization plans and are being razed at an astonishing rate. For residents, it is a mixed blessing. In many cases, the neighborhoods desperately need upgrading with even basic plumbing, but in the process of redevelopment, many longtime residents are being forcibly evicted and moved to the outskirts of the city -- often without fair compensation. The *hutong* also represent a significant piece of China's cultural history.

The Forbidden City situated exactly in the heart of Beijing was home to 24 emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The construction of the grand palace started in the fourth year of Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty (1406) and ended in 1420. In ancient times, the emperors claimed to be the son of heaven and therefore their supreme power was conferred upon them from heaven. Their residence on earth was built as a replica of the Purple Palace where the God lived in Heaven. Such a divine place was forbidden to the ordinary people and it is why the Forbidden City is so called.

The Great Wall of China was built mainly to protect the Chinese Empire from the Mongolians and other invaders. It was first built in the 7th century B.C. when China was still divided into many small states. The construction of the Great wall had never ceased for nearly all the Chinese feudal dynasties. The Great Wall of China extends 4,000 miles westward: from the China Sea town of [Shanhaiguan](#) to Gansu province. The majestic Great Wall was built with wisdom, dedication, blood, sweat and tears. It has been estimated that somewhere in the range of 2 to 3 million Chinese died as part of the centuries-long project of building the wall.

XI'AN

Ancient Chinese capital. Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province, served as the capital of China for 12 dynasties spanning more than 1,000 years. Xi'an, therefore, has a great number of precious relics and historical sites. More than 4,000 historical sites and tombs have been excavated and over 120,000 historical relics remain unearthed. Xi'an was the starting point of the Ancient Silk Road that extended

from Asia to Europe and played an important role in cultural exchange between the East and West in ancient times.

Terra Cotta Warriors Archaeological Dig and Museum - In 1974, farmers digging a well about 1500 meters east of Emperor Qin's tomb uncovered one of the greatest archaeological sites in the world. The first discovered site of the Terracotta Army was named Vault One. In 1976, the other two vaults were uncovered 20-25 meters from Vault One, and were named Vault Two and Vault Three respectively. Excavation of the underground vaults of earth and timber revealed thousands of life - sized Terracotta soldiers in battle formation - a whole army which would accompany its emperor into immortality.

SICHUAN

Sichuan mountain villages – Our NGO partner, based in Chengdu, has been working with village leaders and farmers in the villages of Sichuan's mountain region ever since the 2008 8.0 magnitude earthquake. We will be guided to those villages and spend 5 days living and working among locals helping them improve agricultural production and other projects directly supportive of community and economic development, and learning about their culture on a very personal level.

Emei Shan in Sichuan province, is one of four Buddhist sacred mountains of China. At 3,099m, Mt. Emei is more than 1,000m higher than the other three Buddhist sacred mountains.

Emei Shan is a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring many temples and monasteries, natural wonders and breathtaking scenery. The slopes incorporate several different climates and much wildlife, especially birds and trees. Some of the trees are more than 1,000 years old.

Sanxingdui Museum, outside of Chengdu, houses an amazing collection of artifacts from the Kingdom of the ancient and mysterious Shu people of over 4,000 years ago.