



EXPERIENCE CHINA 2014

Study and Service Tour

PROGRAM INFORMATION



August 23-September 9, 2014



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 **Yunnan** province - live and work among local ethnic minority villagers, learn about their unique culture, and assist a local NGO working on art and music projects with village children to help reinforce pride in their culture for their own success and for the sustainability of their community.
- College credit is available (but course not required): *Cultural Interactions in an Interdependent World*, International Studies 202 (5 credits), Skagit Valley College (www.skagit.edu)

Tour Leader

This study tour is sponsored by Skagit Valley College and led by Ted Maloney, long-time faculty member in law and international studies. Ted was SVC's exchange professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University in 2005-07, and led the College's four previous study/service tours to China. He currently serves as the College's director of global initiatives and recruiting liaison to China. Contact Ted at 360-416-7774 or ted.maloney@skagit.edu.



Eligible Participants

This tour is open to any students, faculty, staff and community members, 16 years and older.

Primary Purpose – Global Service

The primary focus of this tour is to journey as a team to the remote villages of Yunnan province to work with a partner organization devoted to helping village communities by empowering minority children through culture, art and music. Activities may range from washing windows to harvesting vegetables to teaching children basic academic skills. 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

WARNING! This tour is not suitable for everyone. This is a fast-paced trip with significant time spent living in rugged rural areas (with minimal or no western-style facilities) seldom visited by foreigners, and at the invitation of an 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 based on an assessment of an applicant's cultural sensitivity and ability to endure the rigors of a physically and mentally demanding journey.** 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 (download at www.skagit.edu/chinatrip) and you may be interviewed prior to selection.

TRIP COST

\$3200 (USD) per person, double occupancy, including international airfare (minimum 10 people – international airfare is estimated at \$1200; unforeseen price increases could affect total trip cost). 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. In rural areas living conditions will be more rustic.

INCLUDED: Round-trip transport from SVC's Mount Vernon campus to SeaTac airport, round trip air fare US-China, domestic travel in China, admission fees and guides, accommodations and ground transportation, some meals, and medical evacuation insurance. Travelers age 60 and over must pay an additional insurance surcharge.

NOT INCLUDED: Visa and passport application fees; Travel Cancellation and Protection Insurance (Go to www.travelguard.com for insurance information); some meals, personal items and souvenirs. Participants should expect to bring at least another \$150-200 for some meals, personal expenses and a few souvenirs. **Those wanting to purchase many souvenirs for gifts should plan for a larger personal budget.**

Passport: A valid passport is required and is the responsibility of the participant. Passport must be valid for at least six months after the date of departure on August 23, 2014, and have blank pages. For more information on obtaining a passport, visit www.travel.state.gov.

CANCELLATIONS: Once you are accepted for the trip, the \$300 deposit is not refundable. Other sums may be refunded only to the extent allowed by vendors (agents, air carriers, tour guides, etc.) and when not needed by the program to avoid cancellation of the entire trip. If the minimum of 10 travelers is not met, the trip will be canceled and all deposits and payments refunded, except amounts forfeited due to vendor policies.

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 areas. Contact your local 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

April 1	Application Deadline (\$300 deposit) (Download application at www.skagit.edu/chinatrip)
April 8	Selection notification
April 15	First Payment Due (\$1450)
May 15	Final Payment Due (\$1450)
May 24	Pre-Departure Workshop #1* (Time and location TBD)
July 26	Pre-Departure Workshop #2* (Time and location TBD)
August 23	Depart by van from SVC Mount Vernon campus for SeaTac and flight to Beijing
September 9	Arrive SeaTac from Beijing, return by van to SVC Mount Vernon campus

*Attendance at BOTH workshops is MANDATORY.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

BEIJING



One of China's top universities, **Beijing Foreign Studies University** (commonly known as Bei Wai) is China's most prestigious school for the study of language. The rapidly disappearing *hutong*, with their bustling alleyways and courtyard homes, represent a significant piece of Beijing's character and cultural history. The **Forbidden City** situated exactly in the heart of Beijing was home to 24 emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. **The Great Wall of China** was built mainly to protect the Chinese Empire from the Mongolians and other invaders. The Great Wall of China extends 4,000 miles westward from the China Sea to Gansu province.

XI'AN



Ancient Capital Xi'an, served as the capital of China for 12 dynasties spanning more than 1,000 years and was the starting point of the Ancient Silk Road that extended from Asia to Europe. **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. 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.

YUNNAN



Yunnan has the most ethnic minorities in China, which make up about 1/3 of the province's population. Of China's 55 ethnic minorities, the province is home to 51 and 25 of them exceed populations of 5,000. The province also boasts beautiful and spectacular natural scenery with changing topographies throughout the region. We will volunteer in the remote villages of the **Jingpo minority** alongside Prop Roots, an organization devoted to "empowering Jingpo children with their own culture, their own creativity." Projects will include basic domestic chores at the community center and games and learning activities with children.