



## Experiencing China 2018 -- A Service-Learning Trip to the People's Republic of China

The 2018 Experiencing China summer trip (HS) organized by the Confucius Classrooms at U-Prep consists of two parts: **1)** providing volunteer service (hosting a one-week English summer camp for local Chinese students); and **2)** tour around cities in eastern China. This handout presents information regarding some concrete issues of this trip.

**WHAT:** This is an 18-day service-learning trip to the People's Republic of China for U-Prep HS students.

**WHERE:** Beijing, Dezhou, Wuqiao, Jinan, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Wuzhen, Suzhou, Shanghai of China

**WHEN:** June 18 – July 6, 2018 (tentative)

**WHO:** This trip is open to U-Prep high school students. Parents are welcome to go. Number of student participants: 15

**WHY:** Confucius Classroom at U-Prep has sponsored seven summer culture trips in the past ten years that had sent more than 200 students and parents to more than 20 cities in over half of China's 32 provinces. We hope the China trip 2018 will **1)** take students to step out of the country and see the world, **2)** provide a volunteer service opportunity to serve, which will benefit not only the personal growth of our students, but also their college applications in the future, and **3)** allow the Chinese language students to practice their language skills and to further enhance their culture awareness in the authentic language and cultural environment. All of these will in turn help achieve at least one of the SLO's (Student Learning Outcomes) of U-Prep: to enable our students to become **A Positive Member of a Diverse Society -- Able to demonstrate compassion and empathy throughout the community, both locally and globally.**

**COST:** This trip is subsidized by the Confucius Classroom at U-Prep. The cost on the part of each participant is estimated to be approximately \$1,890 (assuming the international airfare at the time of ticket purchasing is under \$1,000). This includes round-trip international airfare, all (between-city and within-city) transportation in China, 3 meals a day, and lodgings for the 2.5 weeks. The only out-of-pocket costs while in China would be souvenirs, snacks, laundry, bottled water for meals, and tips to tourist guides, etc. Additional foreseeable expenses on each participant include passports, visas to China, possible immunizations, and optional travel insurance.

**INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT:** The trip officially begins at the international airport on the day of departure and ends on the day of arrival at the same airport in the U.S. The group will be taking the same flight from San Francisco or San Jose to Beijing, China, and back. Once in China, the group will be traveling with high-speed train between cities and by bus for local tour.

**TRIP PREPARATION:** Before the trip, we'll keep in touch with parents through emails, updating them on any new development in the preparation process, providing help with issues like international air ticket purchase and visa applications. In addition, two parent information meetings are planned. The first meeting (where trip info is introduced and a sign-up takes place with certain amount of non-refundable deposit expected for the purpose of air ticket purchase). The second meeting will be held in May of 2018 (where logistics of the trip will be discussed before final departure).

**QUESTIONS:** Any questions on the trip can be directed to Dr. Cheng at [bcheng@suhsd.net](mailto:bcheng@suhsd.net).

## **Experiencing China 2018 -- A Service-Learning Trip to the People's Republic of China**

### **Day 0      California, U.S → Beijing, China**

Arrive at San Francisco or San Jose airport and take a flight to Beijing.

### **Day 1      Beijing**

Direct flights take about 12 hours. If there is a layover, add 2-3 hours. Flights from the U.S. normally arrives in Beijing in the afternoon. Depending on the actual time, we may stay overnight in Beijing or take a bullet train to Dezhou and stay with host families for the night.

### **Day 2      Dezhou, Shandong**

American Culture Summer Camp opens. In the morning, brief welcome ceremony, students do self-introductions and assign groups.

#### **Theme of the Day: Shopping & Dining out**

- American families & shopping

- Types/levels of stores in America, etc.
- Making a shopping list

In the afternoon, role play before a real shopping trip.

- Pick a grocery store (compare with Chinese stores);
- Transportation: How to get there? Go to a gas station? (Compare the differences between gas stations in U.S. and China [price, service...])
- Payment: Compare the various means of payment in China and US. (Credit card, check and cash, mobile payment...)
- Go to a grocery store, simulate a real shopping trip

In the evening,

- introduce typical American foods
- Introduce American breakfast
- Restaurant English
- Go to a restaurant, practice restaurant English

### **Day 3          Dezhou, Shandong**

#### **Theme of the Day: American Movies & Music**

In the morning:

- Enjoy an American movie (pause, explain, play & discuss)
- Introduce different types of American music
- Famous musicians
- Learn a currently popular American song

In the afternoon

- Go and see a real movie in a Chinese movie theater. Practice all the vocabularies related to the movie theater trip (getting there, purchasing tickets (at the window, online...etc.)

In the evening

- American style Dance Party

### **Day 4          Dezhou, Shandong**

#### **Theme of the Day: American Colleges & Miscellaneous culture topics**

In the morning,

- Life at U.S. high school
- U.S. Colleges (UC & CSU systems in particular)
- How to get into a U.S. college

- American history
- U.S. holidays
- U.S. currency
- Introduction to California
- September 11 and its impact
- U.S. Elections (esp. presidential election, electoral college, etc.)
- Republican or Democrat?

In the afternoon,

- American Thanksgiving & Christmas
- Social habits and values on Time, space, work, money and relationships...
- The Pledge of Allegiance
- Symbolic meanings behind colors and numbers
- Body language & gestures
- Religions in the U.S.
- U.S. political structure (federal and state governments, legislatures and courts)
- American idioms

In the evening,

- American Culture Q & A -- A round-table discussion

## **Day 5        Dezhou, Shandong**

### **Theme of the Day: American Geography, sports & Games**

In the morning,

- Culture Talk: Independence Day (Story-telling and role play: What happened on Jul 4th, 1776.)
- Draw a huge map of America, marking state capital, famous cities, sports teams, famous universities (Ivy Leagues...)

In the afternoon,

- Fun American games & sports:
- Introduction to the sports & games that played in the U.S

In the evening,

- China-U.S basketball match

## **Day 6        Dezhou, Shandong**

### **Theme of the Day: Tourism English – Excursions to local scenic spots**

- Practice English related to traveling

### **Day 7            Dezhou → WuQiao, Shandong**

- Visit WuQiao, Acrobatic Hometown of China

### **Days 8-9            Dezhou, Shandong → Nanjing, Jiangsu**

Leave Dezhou by bullet train for Nanjing, Jiangsu. **Visit Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, Confucius Temple, and Qinhuai River.**

Nanjing is the capital city of Jiangsu Province, the second largest city in Eastern China just after Shanghai. "Nanjing" literally means "Southern Capital" in contrast to "Beijing" (the northern Capital). Nanjing is recognized as one of the four ancient capitals in China with 2,500 years' city construction history and 500 years' capital history. Nanjing has a prominent place in Chinese history and culture especially being Capital of the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1421) and Capital of the Republic (1927-1937; 1946 -1949). Apart from being a historical city with splendid culture, Nanjing is bestowed with beautiful landscape, picturesque mountains, winding rivers and the massive Yangtze River. In the recent years, the city has been greatly revamped and widened, and its pleasant plane trees give shade in summer and offer the city a leafy environment.

### **Day 10            Nanjing, Jiangsu → Hangzhou, Zhejiang**

Head to Hangzhou, Zhejiang, after breakfast. **Cruise on West Lake.** Measuring 3.2 kilometers (2 miles) in length, 2.8 kilometers (1.7 miles) in width, and 2.3 meters (7.5 feet) in average depth, the West Lake spreads itself in an area totaling 6.5 square kilometers (2.5 square miles). Embraced by mountains on three sides, the West Lake knits itself into the North Inner Lake, the Yuehu Lake, the West Inner Lake, the South Lake and the West Outer Lake by the fabric of the Bai Causeway, the Su Causeway and the Yang Causeway. Between the North Inner Lake and the West Outer Lake lies the largest natural island called the Solitary Hill. In addition, three man-made islands stand in the West Outer Lake: the Lesser Paradise Island, the Mid-lake Pavilion, and the Ruangong Islet; and two famous pagodas by the lake: the Leifeng Pagoda to the south and the Baochu Pagoda to the north. Nowadays, West Lake is one of the top ten scenic areas in China, getting listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2011. It is famous for the romantic legends and intoxicating scenery.

## Day 11

## Hangzhou, Zhejiang

**Visit Xixi National Wetland Park.** Situated in the western part of Hangzhou, less than 5km (3 miles) from West Lake, Xixi National Wetland Park is a rare urban wetland. With rich ecological resources, simple natural landscape and profound culture, it is known as one of the Three "Xi's" along with Xihu (West Lake) and Xiling (the Seal Engravers' Society). It is the first and only wetland park in China combining urban life, farming and culture. Xixi National Wetland Park has not only broad open views, but also a variety of water views. Warm and humid, the area enjoys a comfortable climate featuring abundant precipitation and four distinct seasons.

## Day 12

## Hangzhou, Zhejiang; Wuzhen, Zhejiang

**Visit Xizha of Wuzhen Water Town.** As one of the top six ancient towns in the southern region of the Yangtze River, Wuzhen Water Town preserves the ancient appearance well and oozes charm of the water town itself. In this small town, stone bridges are seen everywhere. Small boats with black awnings are floating on the murmuring rivers. Whether wandering along the riverside or strolling in the lanes paved with blue flagstones, you will be deeply impressed by the picturesque scenery and slow lifestyle.

A crisscrossing river divides the whole Wuzhen Water Town into four scenic sections. In Xizha, one may be amazed at the extraordinary scene of Bridge in Bridge created by two ancient bridges. There are also other interesting hot spots in Xizha, such as the Xuchang Sauce and Pickle Workshop, a shop selling sauce and pickles produced using traditional techniques, Zhaoming Academy, Temple of General Wu (a heroic general who died there in a battle), and Matchmaker's Temple.

## Day 13

## Suzhou, Jiangsu; Shanghai

Leave Wuzhen for Suzhou, Jiangsu. The beautiful waterside City of Suzhou in Jiangsu Province in South China is most famous for its elegant classical gardens. Among these, the **Humble Administrator's Garden**, covering about 52,000 sq. meters (12.85 acres), is the largest and most renowned. Due to its unique designs and ethereal beauty, the garden has garnered many special honors. It is listed as a World Cultural Heritage site and has also been designated as one of the Cultural Relics of National Importance under the Protection of the State as well as a Special Tourist Attraction of China. Along with the Summer Palace in Beijing, the Mountain

Resort of Chengde in Hebei Province and the Lingering Garden in Suzhou, it is considered as one of China's four most famous gardens. No other classic garden in the country has been honored more than this one.

**Visit Hanshan Temple.** A Buddhism temple, Hanshan Temple was originally constructed during the Liang Dynasty (502-557) and was repaired several times in the following dynasties. Now, covering an area of about three acres, it presents the architectural style of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). In 1995, a five-story Buddhism pagoda as high as 138 feet (about 42 meters) was erected called Puming Pagoda, which then became the symbolic building of the temple. Being one of the most famous temples in Chinese history, Hanshan Temple often boasts about its bell rings. Every year on New Year's Eve, the bell is tolled for 108 times to pray for the happiness and safety of the coming New Year. After the ceremony, visitors can write their New Year wishes on the prayer wall and enjoy a fantastic show. This festival attracts thousands of tourists both at home and abroad.

Leave for Shanghai. **Visit Shanghai Oriental Pearl TV Tower.** With a height of 468 meters, the Tower is **the 4th highest in Asia** and the 6th highest tower in the world. Built with eleven steel spheres in various sizes hanging from the blue sky to the green grassland, the body of the tower creates an admirable image, which is described in an ancient Chinese verse as: large and small pearls dropping on a plate of jade. The Tower has **3 main sightseeing floors** where tourists could enjoy the city view from different heights. Tourists can visit these parts together or separately. The basement houses the Shanghai Municipal History Museum. The Oriental Pearl Science Fantasy World is located in the 1st sphere. A revolving restaurant is 267 meters off the ground, making it the 2nd highest dining area in Asia.

## **Day 14      Shanghai**

**Visit The Bund**, which is also called Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu (East Zhongshan 1st Road), is a famous waterfront and regarded as the symbol of Shanghai for hundreds of years. It is on the west bank of Huangpu River from the Waibaidu Bridge to Nanpu Bridge and winds 1500 meters (0.93 mile) in length. The most famous and attractive sight which is at the west side of the Bund are the 26 various buildings of different architectural styles including Gothic, Baroque, Romanesque, Classicism and the Renaissance. The 1,700-meters (1,859 yards) long flood-control wall, known as 'the lovers' wall', located on the side of Huangpu River from Huangpu Park to Xinkai River and once was the most romantic corner in Shanghai in the last century. After renovation, the monotone concrete buildings that lovers

leaned against in the past have been improved into hollowed-out railings full of romantic atmosphere. Standing by the railings, visitors can have a 'snap-shot' view of the scenery of Pudong Area and Huangpu River.

**Nanjing Pedestrian Street** is China's premier shopping street. Today the 3.4-mile-long street is a must-see metropolitan destination attracting thousands of fashion-seeking shoppers from all over the world. Over 600 businesses on the road offer countless famous brands, superior quality, and new fashions. KFC, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, and other world-famous food vendors line both sides of the street. Upscale stores include Tiffany, Mont Blanc, and Dunhill. In addition, approximately a hundred traditional stores and specialty shops still provide choice silk goods, jade, embroidery, wool, and clocks. Open-air bars, abstract sculptures, and lingering sounds from street musicians enhance evening strolls. A trackless sightseeing train provides a comfortable tour of the night-transformed pedestrian street. Flashing neon signs illuminate the magnificent buildings and spangle the night skyline of this lively city.

#### **Day 15      Shanghai → Beijing**

After breakfast our guide will brief the group before we head out for **Tian'AnMen Square**, the world's largest public square, which is closely linked to Mao Zedong, and the **Forbidden City**, from which the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties governed for over 500 years. Later we'll visit the **Temple of Heaven**, where the Emperors prayed for good harvests and rain, or gave thanks for the harvest. Enjoy a spectacular **Chinese Acrobatic performance** in the evening.

#### **Day 16      Beijing**

Leave town for the drive (a bit under two hours) to **the Great Wall**, which stretches for over 6000 km, and was originally built to protect China from the barbarians. We can walk and climb at your own pace, or enjoy spectacular views from the cable car. In the afternoon, visit the **Summer Palace**.

#### **Day 17      Beijing**

Attend a Chinese Ancient Culture Class

#### **Day 18      Beijing → California**

Fly back to California, U.S.