

CHINA INFORMATION PACKET

NOTE FROM THE GOLETA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CITSLINC INTERNATIONAL

Thank you for your interest in our trip to China in March 2010. You will visit memorable sites, both ancient and modern, and enjoy a multitude of unforgettable experiences. Of professional interest, you will also learn a great deal about how the Chinese business system operates. As you consider whether to travel along with other business people or just as the regular tourists like yourself, please do not hesitate to ask questions.

We recommend that you do some "homework" to help with your decision. Read a few travel guides. Do some research on the Internet. We are convinced that this will be one of the most unique trips you will have the opportunity to make. Please do not wait too long to decide whether to accompany us, as space is limited.

We feel that this tour is an exceptional value. The cost is \$1,999 (per person, based on double-occupancy, and includes your round trip international airfare, Chinese domestic airfare, 5-star or 4-star hotel accommodation, deluxe tour bus, a knowledgeable English-speaking tour guide in each city, three full meals every day, fees for all tour attractions, airport taxes and air fuel surcharge. A single room in all will cost an additional \$450 and an upgrade to business class on the round trip international flight is \$5,000. A non-refundable registration fee of \$200 per person is required and due at the time you register. This will be deducted from your total tour fare, the balance of which will be due on or before December 15th.

Securing or updating a passport is your responsibility, and you may also take care of the required visa yourself. However, if you wish us to handle the visa application, you will need to provide us with your passport, a signed visa application form, two passport photos and \$145 before December 15th.

Citslinc has 29 years of experience in the China tour business. Whether you have questions on tipping or taxis, luggage or lunches, customs or rest rooms, we will prepare you well for your adventure.

China is a modern country, so you need not feel as though you are preparing to travel back in time, to a less sophisticated society. In many instances, the country is not "behind" so much as "different."

Though you will be treated to sumptuous regional foods, you may forgo the chopsticks and grab a Big Mac or a plate of KFC wings. To the dismay of some traditionalists, you may also partake of a genuine Starbucks latte.

We hope you will join us!

Attached:

FAQs from the Orientation Meeting

Itinerary

Shopping in China

Optional Tours

Visa Application

FAQs from the China Trip Orientation Meeting

What is the cost and what does it include?

The trip cost is \$1999 based on double occupancy and covers your airfare, hotel accommodations, three meals/day, in-country travel, English-speaking guides and entrance fees into tourist attractions. The only additional expenses are a \$25 tip for the tour guide and the cost of obtaining your Chinese Visa (\$145). Souvenirs, additional food/drinks, and optional tours are not included.

I will be traveling alone. Is there an additional cost?

The single room supplement is an additional \$450. If you are willing to share a room with another traveler, you do not need to pay this fee.

Can I bring my children?

Use your best judgment. The flight can be long and there are several road trips (2+ hours) and in country flights. If you feel your child will be able to enjoy these conditions, we'd love to have them along.

Can I travel first class on the plane?

Yes. There is a \$4500 supplement for a business class upgrade.

What do I need to do to register?

A non-refundable deposit of \$200 should be made as soon as possible. Full payment is due by December 15.

What do I need to travel?

A current passport (make sure that it expires after April 2010) and a Chinese visa.

How do I obtain a Chinese visa?

We can handle that for you for a fee of \$145. (Visa application is attached.) We will need your passport and 2 passport sized photos to process the visas. (A Chinese visa is simply a stamp on your passport.) We will process them as a group in January. On the attached application, you only need to complete 1.1, 1.10, 1.14 and 4.1-4.5. Citilinc will process the rest.

Am I able to make changes after December 31st?

Yes, but at a cost. The airline charges \$500 for changes after 12/31 and the non-refundable deposit of \$200 will not be returned to you.

What should I expect to receive from the Chamber after January?

During the first week of February, you will receive your ticket, your final itinerary with all of the optional tours, departure information, nametag and two luggage tags.

What are the optional tours?

These are excursions that you can take while in China depending on your interests. The fees for these is payable while in country. Payment is made in cash to the tour guide. No reservation is necessary.

Logistics

When does the adventure begin?

All participants should plan to meet at the designated spot in Goleta (Chamber will determine drop off location) on March 21st at 8:30 p.m. You will then be shuttled to Los Angeles International Airport where you catch an early morning flight. The trips dates are March 22-30th and you includes your shuttle to/from LAX from Goleta.

What happens at LAX?

You will check-in with the help of the Citslinc personnel.

How much luggage can I bring?

At this time, you can bring two bags that weigh less than 70 lbs. combined to check-in and two carry-ons (one that is a purse). You are certainly free to bring less luggage.

How long is the flight?

It is a 12-hour non-stop flight to China from LAX. We strongly recommend that you try to sleep on the airplane as a full day of activities is planned for your first day in country.

Are any meals provided on the flight?

Yes, you will receive two meals.

What will happen once I arrive in China?

The Citslinc representative will meet you after you get through customs and provide all the necessary support with hotel and tour check in.

In Country

What happens if I have an emergency while I'm in China?

Citslinc will provide you with an emergency cell phone number to help if you are lost or have any other difficulties.

What are the hotels like?

All hotels are 4 and 5 star hotels. Citslinc staff will help you with all hotel check in/out.

How much walking is there during the trip?

On the first day you will walk three miles through Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. This is the longest walk of the trip. Other sites offer a chance to rest or meet the rest of the group back at the starting point if you are fatigued. If you are concerned, please bring a walking stick with a seat so that you can take breaks.

Is it safe?

Traveling to China is like traveling to any other area. Be smart. Be observant. Travel in groups. We recommend that no less than three people take a taxi together if you decide to do an activity not on the official agenda.

Is the water safe to drink?

We don't drink the tap water, but water is readily available from the tour bus driver at an inexpensive price all day.

How much money should I bring? Are dollars accepted?

At a minimum, you need \$25 USD as the one tip for your tour guide during the whole trip. We recommend that you bring \$400-\$500/person in small bills - \$1, \$5, \$20 – for souvenirs, water bottles, etc. Do not bring \$50 or \$100 bills and do not bring bills that are ripped or written on. The only places you cannot use USD are in Starbucks at the Beijing airport and in Chinatown.

Are credit cards accepted?

Yes. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are all accepted most places. Discover cards are NOT accepted. Always contact your credit card company/bank prior to travel to let them know that you will be traveling internationally.

What type of food is provided?

Breakfasts are typical hotel breakfast buffets at 4 & 5 star hotels. Lunch and dinner consists of traditional Chinese food served family style. One glass of soda/water is included. Additional beverages can be purchased.

Is there a vegetarian option?

Yes.

What if there is not enough food for the table?

Just let your host know and additional food will be provided at no extra cost.

Is there Diet Coke in China?

No.

Is it safe to eat the food sold on the street?

Not recommended.

What if I get tired of Chinese food?

There are lots of American fast-food chain restaurants that are easily accessible.

Can I skip the day's activities?

Yes, just let your group leader know.

Notes on the tour guides.

Two tour guides are provided for each leg of the trip. They are all college graduates who speak very good English and are extremely knowledgeable.

What should I wear?

We recommend dressing in layers so that you are always comfortable. Bring informal clothes and a sweater/jacket. Jeans and tennis shoes are appropriate for all of the events during the trip.

What voltage is the electricity?

The electricity in China is 220 volts and an adapter is required to operate any electric device with 110 volts.

Do I need special immunizations?

No, but it's always good to check with your physician before you travel and have he/she prescribe a general antibiotic/anti-diarrhea medicine.

What else?

You don't need to bring a hair dryer (provided in all hotels).
Bring some toilet paper, as it is not always available.

ITINERARY

Day 1 3/22 Los Angeles/Beijing

Board a convenient charter bus one night before the departure day, and travel to Los Angeles International Airport for an early morning flight CA984 by 1:40am to Beijing. Your adventure begins as you fly trans-Pacific aboard a wide cabin jetliner. Cross the International Dateline.

Day 2 3/23 Beijing (Telecom Hotel/5-Star, 6 Shifangyuan Ave., Tel: 86-10-63901166)

Arrive in Beijing, the Capital of China at 6:30am. Your local tour guide at the airport will meet you. Transfer to the hotel. Visit the Tiananmen Square, the largest square in the world, and the Temple of Heaven, built in 1420 A.D., where the emperors prayed to the heaven for a good harvest.

Day 3 3/24 Beijing

Sightseeing includes the Palace Museum, also known as the Forbidden City, home of 24 emperors with a total space of 9,999 rooms, and the Summer Palace, known for many significance such as the Long Corridor with painted gallery, Kunming Lake and Longevity Hill, Seventeen- Arch Bridge and Marble Boat.

Day 4 3/25 Beijing

Tour bus excursion to the Great Wall, the 4,000- mile long and 2,000 years old construction is said to be the only man-made structure visible by naked eye from the moon. Visit to the Ming Tombs, one of 13 Ming Emperors' Tombs is fully excavated and open for exploration. Roasted Beijing Duck Dinner.

Day 5 3/26 Beijing/Shanghai/Suzhou(Yadu Aster Hotel/4-Star, 156 Sanxiang Rd., Tel: 86-512-)

Morning Air China flight CA1501 8:40am/10:35am to Shanghai, then take the tour bus trip to Suzhou. Afternoon sightseeing to the centuries old Lingerig Garden, Tiger Hill and Hanshan Temple. Visit to the National Embroidery Institute to see silk embroidery, an important local craft with 1,000 years history. Evening Dinner Show of the traditional Chinese Music.

Day 6 3/27 Suzhou/Hangzhou(Howard Johnson Hotel/5-Star, 288 Genshan West Rd., Tel: 86-571-86767888)

Morning tour bus journey to Hangzhou. Visit to Economic Development Zone. Visit to the centuries old Lingyin Temple, with the main feature of the 64.3 ft-high camphor-wood carved Buddha.

Day 7 3/28 Hangzhou/Shanghai(Guangdong Hotel/5-Star, 328 Yixian Rd., Tel: 86-21-51171888)

Morning boat cruise on West Lake with relaxing stopover at jewel-like pagodas and tea houses. Afternoon tour bus trip to Shanghai.

Day 8 3/29 Shanghai

Sightseeing includes the Yu Garden, a maze of marvelous pavilions, ponds, rocky works and over arching trees. Visit to the Bund, a famous waterfront park. Business visit to the Pudong economic development zone.

Day 9 3/30 Shanghai/Los Angeles

You may spend your final hours in China on your own in the morning. Afternoon flight CA1520 12:35pm/2:25pm to Beijing, connected by the flight CA983 will depart in the evening by 8:15pm for Los Angeles where you will arrive at 4:15pm on the same day and return to your Chamber parking via bus.

OPTIONAL TOURS

1. Hutong Tour in Beijing (USD35/pp)

Hutong is a traditional living area for ordinary Beijing citizens, the history of which dates back to 1000 years ago. Hundreds of thousands of houses of traditional architecture style are densely flanked on both sides of narrow and zigzag streets in which people have been living a peaceful and traditional life there through many generations. Tourists will first get on a traditional rickshaw, two for each, for a Hutong tour, riding through those narrow streets tracing the historical life of an oriental country. Afterwards, tourists will visit local families interviewing their life and cooking Chinese dumplings with the family members. During lunchtime, tourists will be served with delicious Chinese domestic dishes and the dumpling tourists make. During the two hours Hutong tour tourists will learn a lot of China's modern life and its people. It is another highlight after the Great Wall.

2. Peking Opera (USD20/pp, USD40/pp for VIP seat)

Peking Opera is the masterpiece of China's traditional culture and art and it is born in Beijing. Until today it is more than three hundreds years old. The Opera lasts an hour and thirty minutes, covering several different plays, of which some are full of fighting and some traditional singing and dancing. The show is beautiful for its colorful costumes, impressive facial designs and staging style of oriental culture.

3. Boat Ride on Grand Canal in Suzhou (USD25/pp)

Grand Canal is a pure artificial object completed 1300 years ago by Chinese people. It starts from Beijing and ends up in Hangzhou with a total length of more than 1,000 miles. During the 50 minutes boat ride on it, tourists may enjoy the view of both modern and old life of Suzhou.

4. Evening Cruise on Huangpu River (USD25/pp)

The cruise will absolutely build in every one an unforgettable impression of Grand Shanghai! The evening view of Shanghai from the cruise is gorgeous, charming and unbeatable.

5. ERA-Intersection of Time-by Cirque du Soleil (USD35/pp)

As a multimillion-dollar stunning acrobatic extravaganza, the first of its kind in China, ERA is a multimedia odyssey whose inspiration is a direct result of the combination of traditional Chinese acrobatic arts and modern technology. Just like Shanghai, ERA evolves through a constant collision between the past and future. ERA is a love story, yet it is also a contemplation across the millennia, a fascination with that other dimension man has yet to conquer: time. ERA's acrobats are on a quest to find that tenuous point of balance, the intersection between X, Y and Z. Not only will the audience be amazed by the acrobats' control and precision, they will be enchanted by the world that is created through the use of multimedia, technology, lighting and sound effects, elaborate costumes, original live music and a lot more. As such, ERA can remain universal, without language or cultural barriers. A thousand-year-old gesture is worth a thousand emotions, a thousand images, a thousand words. Allow us to feed your imagination and bring your dreams back to the present.

6. Shanghai Maglev Train (one way ticket USD15/pp, round trip USD25/pp)

Shanghai maglev train, the first commercial rail line of its type in the world, links Metro Line 2 at Longyang Road with the Pudong International Airport by a train traveling at top speed of 431 kilometers per-hour which is much faster than the Bullet Train in Japan. Shanghai Maglev Train takes only 7 minutes and 20 seconds to cover 30 kilometer trip, which currently takes 30 to 40 minutes. Invested with a total amount of 10 billion yuan, it took 2.5 years to complete. Powered by electromagnetism, when running it is suspended in air, about 10 millimeters above the track on a magnetic cushion. It brings a speed revolution to the world in ground transportation, and riding on the train will be an exciting experience for you!

7. The Legend of Kung Fu (USD25/pp)

The Legend of Kung Fu is the a production which combines the elements of kung fu, storytelling, acrobatics, modern dance, and original music to celebrate the philosophy and skill of martial arts. The show tells the story of a young boy, Chun Yi (the pure one), who in order to pursue spiritual and physical harmony is apprenticed as a monk to learn kung fu. Along the way he overcomes obstacles, is distracted and tempted, but ultimately achieves the designation of master who will enlighten the younger generations. Invited by Canada's most experienced cultural brokers, John Crompton of Great World Artists, 'Chun Yi: The Legend of Kung Fu' had its first North America tour from August 2005 to January 2006. During the time, it played 150 performances in Vancouver, Toronto, Reno and other North American cities and won enormous audience admiration.

SHOPPING WITH FAMOUS CHINESE ARTS & CRAFTS

Beijing

- **Jade Factory:** China is rich in its jade resource , therefore jade and its cultural impact to Chinese people and later on to Asians has been historical. Tourists will get a chance to visit Beijing Jade Carving Factory which so far is the biggest jade collection in China. Tourists will find Hundreds of thousands of precious jade, jadeites and handmade jade carvings, the raw material of which come from Northeast and Silk road area of China.
- **Pearl Farm:** The Pearl shop in Beijing has been exhibiting a rich variety of home produced sea pearls and fresh water pearls due to both the historical reason and the modern market . Among them, the king and queen size pearls are really of precious quality. The type of Pearl Powder on sale was first contributed to Qing Dynasty Royal Family as a cosmetic, and they can be found here too.
- **Ming and Qing Dynasty Furniture:** It is an Ancient Furniture Fair. Apart from the antique furniture, there are also a lot of newly made furniture of Ming and Qing Dynasty style to be found in the fair. Shipment is available.
- **Cloisonne Factory:** Born in Beijing 300 years ago, cloisonne is the kind of handmade arts and crafts article used a great deal by royal family and rich families in the past. Now it is popular to every body. Tourists will take a chance to visit the workshop seeing how the beautiful articles been made with their own eyes. The gorgeous design, hand-made workmanship and tremendous types make cloisonne articles really attractive to both domestic and overseas tourists.

Suzhou

- **Suzhou Embroidery Institute:** It is a state owned handicraft research institute. Among the products, the hand-made double-sided embroidery articles of vivid pets and flowers are really gorgeous.
- **Suzhou Silk Factory:** The factory produces one fifth of the country's silk products. The beautifully designed silk clothes and its model show of the factory make it an real attraction to tourists. Besides, the silk quilts of different sizes are specially produced for sale here.

Hangzhou

- **Hangzhou Dragon Well Tea Farm:** The Dragon Well Tea planted in this village was once contributed to Chinese Royal Family only. It is a famous brand of Tea in China. Through viewing the Tea Farm and the tea lecture given by the local farmer, tourists will find the stay both enjoyable and healthy

Shanghai

- **Shanghai Carpet Mill:** Super quality silk tapestries of all kinds and sizes are produced in Shanghai Carpet Factory. The hand-made silk tapestries of 400 to 600 knots per square inch are precious merchandise.