

Tentative Itinerary:
“Doing Business in China and Contemporary Chinese Culture”

Day 1

Arrival in Beijing and transfer to the Hotel
Orientation Meeting
PM Free

Day 2 Beijing

AM Visit to Jingshan and enjoy morning Taichi-Head to a local park and limber up for the day in the traditional Chinese style. An experienced practitioner will lead you in a gentle series of stretching exercises.

Brief stop at **Tiananmen Square and Mao’s Mausoleum**, the largest public square in the world before spending several hours exploring the vast corridors and courtyards of the Forbidden City, one of China's premiere historical. The complex consists of 980 buildings with 8,707 bays of rooms, and with the help of our expert guide you will be awed and enchanted by stories of imperial extravagance and political intrigue that go back more than 600 years.

After lunch, we will visit **Shichahai Sports School** and have an exchange with the students.

For dinner we will celebrate your arrival in Beijing with a feast of northern China's most famous dish. You’ll learn about the ritual preparation and savory side dishes that go so well with the regional specialty. With its long history, Quanjude roast duck enjoys a high reputation among domestic and overseas consumers for the peculiar roast technique and outstanding quality

Day 3 Beijing

AM Exploring by bicycle the city's original hutong residences, admiring their charming architecture while catching glimpses of local home-life. Meeting with a leading local non-government organization and discuss about their efforts to preserve hutong culture in the face of the capital's drive to modernization. Visit to a local Knot Knitting community development project.

We will stop at a teahouse for a rest, and we will be met by a **representative of the China Development Brief**, an independent publication established in 1996 to report on aid to China, highlighting the work of international and Chinese NGOs. Here he will give us an overview of the challenges facing the NGOs sector here in China.

PM Facilitate discussion by professor
Dinner on your own

Day 4 Beijing: Great Wall

AM Visit **Green Earth Volunteers** an NGO founded in 1996 whose mission is to encourage people to “enter nature, get to know nature and make friends with nature”. The members of Green Earth Volunteers include reporters, scientists, government officials, and executives from businesses, teachers, students, and retired people who are concerned about the earth. GEV now has over 30,000 members.

PM Excursion to the **Great Wall of China**

Day 5 Beijing: Summer Palace and 798 Art Factory

AM Visit the Summer Palace, located in the Western Hills of Beijing. One of the most important figures of 19th century China was the Empress Dowager Ci Xi, who ruled

China behind the scenes for almost half a century, built the famous Summer Palace and its magnificent gardens

PM 798 Art Factory

Eve Cooking class our hotel instead of local family. Learn some skills in the Chinese kitchen and taste the delicious results as you immerse yourself in the local culture.

Day 6 Beijing/Xi'an

AM Temple of Heaven Park

Visit this huge outdoor park, chock full of Ming and Qing Dynasty relics where emperors once prayed for a good harvest, making offerings of grain, silk and animals. Constructed during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), it is a masterpiece of Chinese architecture. The highlight of the Temple of Heaven is the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, built without a single nail.

If time permits after lunch we head to the office of Global Village, where we explore the environmental side effects of China's modernization. It is well known that China is facing enormous environmental problems. Among the 10 most polluted cities world, seven are in China. China is also the second largest producer of carbon dioxide emissions, right after the United States. Founded in 1996 as one of the first NGOs in China, Global Village of Beijing (GVB) is a non-government, non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education and civil society strengthening. GVB's environmental campaigns focus on the promotion of sustainable development and a green life-style. Its main functions include the production of environmental television programs and other publications, the organization of journalist trainings, the development of green communities, the organization of public events and forums and several other projects in the field of sustainable development and consumption.

Overnight Train to Xi'an

Day 7 Xi'an

A licensed local guide will present the city of Xi'an, where Marco Polo once explored during his famous expedition. Xi'an was located at the east end of the Silk Road, the legendary traveler's route. See the 7th-century Big Wild Goose Pagoda, built on order of the monk who brought Buddhism to China, as well as the 118-foot-high Bell Tower.

Bicycle ride on the city wall

Day 8 Xi'an, Rural Visit

Day excursion to visit a rural school in the outskirts of Xi'an

Eve Mid tour discussion circle

Day 9 Xian

The highlight of the day is the Museum of the Terra Cotta Warriors. One of the country's most beloved sights, it has more than 8,000 life-size figurines to be admired.

Later in the afternoon we will go to the IMAX Theater and watch a giant 3-D film about the excavation of the Terra Cotta Warriors.

Local Xi'an dumpling dinner, famous for its great variety. During dinner, a representative of the Green Mother's of the Environment will join us. Shaanxi province has long been plagued with drought and soil erosion. This local NGO mobilizes local women to help halt further degradation of the local environment. In the past five years, some 14,982 women from all walks of life from 35 counties in the province have joined in the "Green Mothers" project. The project has several programs under its control to encourage local rural women to build clean methane pits or vegetable greenhouses or plant trees in the desert and barren Loess Plateau areas.

Day 10 Shanghai

After checking into our hotel we will engage in an all day city tour and visit:

- Silk Factory- To see the processing of silk thread from the cocoon of a silk worm.
- Jin Mao Tower-Enjoy the spectacular views from China's tallest building, the fifth tallest in the world.
- Shanghai Museum-Located in the center of Shanghai in People's Square, Shanghai Museum is a large museum of ancient Chinese art.
- The People's Square- The People's Square is located on the People's Avenue, the crossing road of South Xizang Road and Fuzhou Road. It ranks an important place in the Central Business Area of Shanghai.

PM Dinner and Discussion with Specialist on China's Changing Role in the International Political Economy.

Day 11 Shanghai/Hangzhou

AM Chenghuangmiao Ancient Street and Yu Garden

PM Shanghai to Hangzhou (2 hrs by bus), Hangzhou city tour

Day 12 Hangzhou

Cruise on the West Lake, Lingyin Temple, Six harmonies Temple and Meijiawu Tea Garden

Day 13 Hangzhou/Wu Water Town/Hangzhou

Day excursion to the Ancient Water Town of Wu

Eve Free for local cultural events

Day 14 Hangzhou/Shanghai

AM Return to Shanghai

PM If time permits in the afternoon, we head to the office of Roots and Shoots Shanghai. Roots & Shoots is a program that focuses on helping young people find concrete ways to make the world a better place by caring for the environment and for animals and for other people. Roots & Shoots is empowerment through environmental education. It offers a forum to bring young people together (within their school environment), providing the opportunity to explore and understand their connection to the environment, nature, and community, and to make a difference by taking action in their own unique way. If there is time, we can stop by the French Concession, one of Shanghai's most famous areas.

Wrap-up evaluation meeting and farewell dinner and cultural activity or Acrobatics show to witness a thrilling performance by talented traditional Chinese acrobats.

Day 15 Shanghai/USA

AM Program TBA (depending upon departure times to USA)

Check out of Hotel and Depart for USA