13 Days • China Summer • 2027

Beijing-Xian-Chengdu-Wuhan-Shanghai

Educational Travel Opportunity for St. Andrew's Upper School Students

June 15 – June 27, 2027 Trip Leaders: Lan Yao & Rachelle Adams

Welcome to China!

In partnership with Severna Park High School, Maryland, embark on an unforgettable journey through five of China's most iconic and dynamic cities—Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Wuhan, and Shanghai. This immersive educational and cultural exchange program offers students a unique opportunity to experience the rich heritage of one of the world's oldest civilizations while exploring the innovation and energy of modern China.

Walk along the legendary Great Wall, explore the magnificent Forbidden City, discover the ancient treasures of Xi'an, meet giant pandas in Chengdu, experience the history and resilience of Wuhan, and witness the vibrant skyline of Shanghai. Along the way, students will visit local schools, connect with Chinese students, participate in hands-on cultural activities, and gain firsthand insight into China's history, traditions, education system, and everyday life.

More than a tour, this transformative experience is designed to broaden perspectives, foster independence, build international friendships, and develop global citizenship. Combining cultural immersion, educational exchange, and unforgettable adventures, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see China beyond the classroom and create memories that will last forever.









Highlights

Trip Itinerary

Day 01: Departure for Beijing

Board your international flight bound for China from your select international gateway.

Day 02 Arrive in Beijing

Upon arrival, you will be greeted by our local tour guide at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Time to rest, relax, and acclimate to your new time zone. The hotel check-in time is after 1500.

(Day 2 – Day 4, Five-star Hotel: Beijing hotel accommodation)

Day 03 Beijing

This morning, visit the **Imperial Forbidden City**, the largest and best-preserved imperial palace constructed in 1420. Visit the **Temple of Heaven**, an Imperial Sacrificial Altar in Beijing, which is the site of imperial sacrifices to Heaven. In the evening, you will enjoy an authentic Peking Duck Banquet for a welcome dinner.

Day 4 Beijing

This morning, you will visit the **Great Wall of China (Juyongguan Pass)**, one of the country's most famous tourist attractions and one of the greatest man-made wonders of the world. It runs about 5,500 miles through 150 different counties. Then, **Beijing Hutongs** are made up of lanes or alleys formed by lines of pre-modern quadrangles (siheyuan). Four-sided dwelling compounds or quadrangles consist of one-story courtyard houses, which make up the old Beijing, and feature typical Chinese residential architecture. Exploring the Hutongs is a challenge for you if you do not know the landscape. You can hop on a rickshaw to ride through the narrow alleys. A local **Hutong family visit** will be specially arranged for you. You can talk with the residents and have lunch there.





You would like to have a glimpse into Beijing's yesterday. After that, drive to Olympic Park and take a photo stop in the **Bird's Nest** and **Water Cube**. The National Stadium was built for the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. Because of its outer structure, like a bird's nest, people give it a nickname----Bird's Nest. The opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics have taken place here. The National Aquatics Centre is also known as "The Water Cube". In the evening, the Water Cube can be lit in different colors.





Day 5 Beijing

Today, you will be visiting a **local school** in Beijing. In the school, students have a chance to interact with the local Chinese students and teachers. A tour of the school will be guided by the students and teachers, and we will also arrange traditional Chinese lessons.

After lunch, take a high-speed train to Xian. Dinner on the train by yourself. Upon arrival in Xi'an, you'll be greeted by our tour guide and experience the vibrant atmosphere of the **Grand Tang Mall.** Then transfer to the hotel.

(Day 5 – Day 6, Five-star Hotel: Xian hotel accommodation)

Day 6 Xian

Visit the **Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses Museum**. In 221 BC, Qin Shi Huang unified China and became the first emperor. When he died, an entire Terra Cotta Army was constructed to be buried along with the emperor. It was uncovered serendipitously in 1974 by farmers and then became one of the century's greatest archaeological discoveries. Dive into history today. Then you will enjoy

Terracotta Warriors D.I.Y., go to the workshop of the Terracotta Warriors factory, where the craftsman will teach you how to make the Terracotta Warriors. This afternoon, you will visit the **ancient City Wall** of Xian, one of the best-preserved city walls in China, and one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world. The evening is also well prepared for you – **a delicious Chinese Dumpling Banquet.** You will **learn how to make dumplings** before dinner.



Day 7 Xian/Chengdu

After breakfast, take a high-speed train to Chengdu. Upon your arrival at Chengdu, our guide will pick you up and pay a visit to **Kuan Zhai Alley** and **Jinli Old Street** to taste local snacks and appreciate the traditional customs and folk culture.



(Day 7 – Day 8, Five-star Hotel: Chengdu hotel accommodation)

Day 8 Chengdu

In the morning, drive to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, an optimal place to see the Giant Panda up close and not behind bars at a zoo. Here, you'll find it is a delightful experience to watch these cute pandas in their large open-air enclosures. Drive back to Chengdu and visit Jinsha Site Museum, which dates to the 12th to 7th century BC (About 2900-3200 yrs ago). Jinsha Site was the capital of the ancient Shu Kingdom; the discovery of it is of great significance for the study of Shu culture, including its origin, development, and decline.




Day 09 Chengdu-Wuhan (flight)

In the morning, transfer to the airport and take a flight to Wuhan. Upon arrival, meet your tour guide. Then visit **Qingchuan Pavilion**, which stands on Yugongji at the eastern foot of Guishan Hill on the north bank of the Yangtze River. Facing the Han River to the north and the Yangtze River to the east. It is one of Wuhan's Three Great Scenic Spots, praised as "First Pavilion of Chu", and is one of the "Three Great Scenic Spots of Wuhan". Then check into the hotel.

(Day 9 – Day 10, Five-star Hotel: Wuhan hotel accommodation)





Day 10 Wuhan

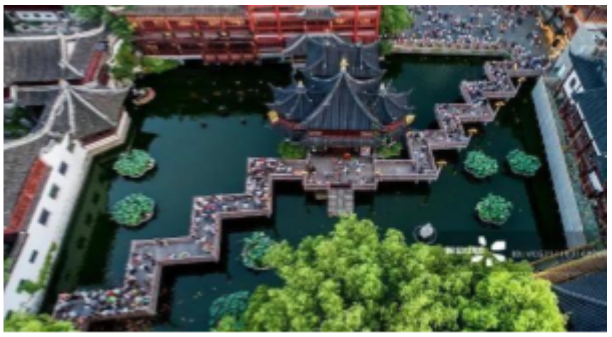
After breakfast, visit the **Yellow Crane Tower**, which stands on the top of **Snake Hill**, right beside the **Yangtze River**. As a landmark of Wuhan, it is one of the Four Great Ancient Towers in China and is known as "the most spectacular scenery under heaven". It is a well-known historic food street in Wuhan, honored as "the No.1 Lane for Hubei Snacks". It is a perfect spot to experience Wuhan's distinctive culture. Then visit the **Hubei Provincial Museum**, a national museum. It boasts a rich collection featuring cultural relics of the ancient Chu State. The Zeng Houyi Chime Bells are its most precious treasure. You can learn about the long history and splendid Chu culture of Hubei. Then you will explore Hubu Alley, located in the heart of Wuhan's Jianghan district, which is a historic pedestrian street that has become synonymous with the city's culinary culture. Known as the "stomach of Wuhan," You can choose your own specialty snacks for dinner.





Day 11 Wuhan-Shanghai

After breakfast, take a high-speed train to Shanghai. The highlights of today's sightseeing tour in Shanghai include the **Yuyuan Garden** and **Shanghai's Old Street**. After dinner, back to the hotel.

(Day 11 – Day 12, Five-star Hotel: Shanghai hotel accommodation)

Day 12 Shanghai

After breakfast, our guide will pick you up and drive to **Zhujiajiao**. Prepare yourself for a step back in time as today's exploration takes you to the ancient water town with its 1,700-year history. While there will be an opportunity to wander, you'll also have the chance to meander through the ancient village in a rowboat if you choose (optional activity). A stark contrast to the contemporary high-rises of central Shanghai, Zhujiajiao Water Town offers an insight into what life was once like. Continue to the colonial-style **Bund**, **Night Cruise on the Huangpu River (optional on your own)**, which is just one of the best ways to have a look at both old and new Shanghai. You'll see the magnificent building skylines on both the historic west side (the Bund) and the modern east side (Pudong). A spectacular view is the two suspension bridges, the Nanpu Bridge and the Yangpu Bridge.



Day 13 Shanghai departure
After breakfast, free to do as you wish on your own, then you will meet your tour guide and be transferred to the airport to board your flight to your next destination. Your fantastic China tour ends.

*TOUR COST FOR THE ABOVE ITINERARY:

Estimated Cost: $5, 300

Final pricing is dependent on enrollment numbers. Payment plans through **Intertrips** will be available. Limited financial aid is available – please contact Carrie Klingenberg (cklinenberg@saes.org) in the St. Andrew's Business Office for more information.

To register:

https://intertrips.com/tour/13-day-china-highlights-bejing-xian-chengdu-wuhan-shanghai/

*TOUR COST INCLUDING:

- ✔ *1 round-trip international.*
- ✔ *Accommodation at a hotel with daily breakfast.*
- ✔ *Transportation by bus with an English-speaking guide on the tours.*
- ✔ *Meals as mentioned on the itinerary.*
- ✔ *Entrance fees according to the itinerary*
- ✔ *3-section high-speed train ticket from Beijing to Xian & Xian to Chengdu & Wuhan-Shanghai second-seat.*
- ✔ *1domestic flight from Chengdu to Wuhan.*
- ✔ *FOC in a twin-sharing room.*

- ✔ *Tips for guides and drivers.*
- ✔ *Water on bus during trip: 2 bottles/day/ person*

*TOUR COST EXCLUDING:

- ✔ *The visa entry fees, except for those pre-required by the client (If any)*
- ✔ *Drinks, meals not mentioned above, international airport tax, optional tours, personal expenses, and any services not mentioned above.*
- ✔ *Personal expenses.*
- ✔ *Tourist insurance.*
- ✔ *All other meals and services that are not mentioned in the program.*

**NOTICE*: *If the average monthly fuel price increases more than 10% from the current price, the submitted rate may be adjusted upon written approval of both Parties.*

*REMARKS:

- ✔ *1. Tour payment accepts checks or wire transfers.*
- ✔ *2. The group will be led by a tour guide who speaks fluent English and is affiliated with Elite Voyages (DBA Intertrips).*
- ✔ *3. Hotel prices are based on a per-person/double occupancy scheme. For single occupancy, if requested, there will be an extra single supplement fee.*

Eligibility & Interest

This opportunity is open to **rising 9th-grade to 12th-grade students:**

- Curious, mature, and open-minded individuals with a demonstrated interest in Chinese culture, global studies, international relations, or cultural exchange are also highly encouraged to participate.
- Respectful and able to contribute positively to a group travel experience

While the program is open to students of all language backgrounds and no prior knowledge of Chinese is required, those who are currently enrolled in Chinese courses at St. Andrew's, have previously studied Chinese*(both in and out of school),* or plan to take Chinese in the future are especially encouraged to apply.

Application Process

Interested students will complete an application. Selection will be based on academic and disciplinary standing, maturity, responsibility, and readiness to represent St. Andrew's as a student ambassador.

Interested?

If your family would like to learn more about this exciting opportunity, please attend an upcoming informational meeting.

- **Thursday, July 9** *Evening Interest Session (Zoom)* 7:00–7:30 PM
  Meeting ID: 963 2714 1369 Passcode: 790554
  https://saes.zoom.us/j/96327141369?pwd=4cpVDRIS4y4EpghTYaZbY7WQRzLIAH.1

- **Friday, September 18** *Back-to-School Interest Session (Zoom)* 7:00–7:30 PM
  Meeting ID: 969 6213 8856 Passcode: 264387
  https://saes.zoom.us/j/96962138856?pwd=xjre6oJPLHatcH3035aVpghfidMcWU.1

Additional trip details, registration information, and application materials will be shared during these sessions.

If you have any questions between now and the Zoom Parent Interest meetings, please reach out to the trip leader, Ms. Yao, at lyao@saes.org. Families interested in learning but can not attend the meeting are encouraged to watch our information session 1 recording on July 9 at 7 p.m., **which will be shared via email later this month.**