

## China-US Culture Exchange Tour

**Dates:** August 2nd, 2024 - August 11th, 2024 (10 days)

**Locations:** Lang Fang, Tianjin, Beijing

### What's Included (Provided Expenses):

- **Flight Reimbursement:** We will reimburse you \$1,000 towards your flight costs.
- **Accommodation:** Relax and enjoy your experience! All hotel stays during your time in China are covered on this tour.
- **Meals:** Savor the flavors of China! We'll provide all food and drinks throughout the tour program in China.
- **Transportation:** Enjoy seamless travel! All in-country transportation expenses are covered during your time in China on this tour.

### What You'll Need to Cover (Required Personal Expenses):

- **Remaining Flight Cost:** We'll reimburse \$1,000, but you'll be responsible for any remaining flight costs after the stipend.
- **Visa Application Fee:** A separate fee of \$140 is required for your Chinese visa application.
- **Travel Insurance:** Travel insurance is mandatory for participation. Prices vary depending on your chosen plan.

### Additional Expenses (Optional Personal Expenses):

- **Shopping & Souvenirs:** Bring back mementos and gifts! This category covers personal spending money for shopping and souvenirs.

### Important Deadline:

- **Application Commitment Deadline: May 1st, 2024**

**Please note:** Due to visa processing timelines and coordinating flights and hotels, we have a firm commitment deadline of May 1st. This ensures enough time to secure visas and finalize travel arrangements for all participants. Please fill out this [form](https://forms.gle/67M7KjErmV3oiY9C6) to declare your commitment to the program: <https://forms.gle/67M7KjErmV3oiY9C6>

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### Introduction:

The China-US Culture Exchange Tour invites you to embark on a transformative journey into the heart of Chinese culture. Organized by the Langfang Municipal Government (Langfang, Hebei Province, China) and funded by the Langfang University Alumni Foundation, a registered

nonprofit organization, this program offers a unique opportunity for US students to experience China firsthand. This immersive program goes beyond the typical tourist experience, delving deep into the vibrant cities of Langfang, Tianjin, and Beijing. Students will have the chance to explore iconic landmarks like the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City, but also discover hidden gems and local neighborhoods. The Langfang University Alumni Foundation, with its strong ties to the region, plays a vital role in facilitating authentic cultural interactions. Students will have the chance to connect with residents, university students, and cultural experts, fostering friendships and gaining a deeper understanding of Chinese traditions, history, and way of life. This exchange program is more than just sightseeing; it's a chance to broaden perspectives, build lasting connections, and create unforgettable memories that will bridge the gap between US and Chinese cultures.

### **Destination Introductions:**

#### **Lang Fang (廊坊市) -**

Nestled between the bustling capital of Beijing and the dynamic port city of Tianjin, Langfang offers a captivating glimpse into modern China. This city of 5.6 million thrives on a unique blend of rich cultural heritage and cutting-edge advancements. While awe-inspiring landmarks like the Grand Epoch City draw visitors, Langfang also boasts serene nature parks and hidden treasures like the art of willow-knitting handicrafts and rejuvenating geothermal hot springs. Langfang promises an experience that goes beyond the typical tourist itinerary, offering a chance to delve into the city's distinctive character and the spirit of contemporary China.

#### **Tianjin (天津市) -**

Tianjin, a bustling metropolis on China's eastern coast, seamlessly blends its rich history with modern innovation. This powerhouse port city, boasting a population of 15.6 million, is a vibrant hub where the past and future collide. Immerse yourself in culture-rich landmarks like the iconic Tianta Tower, a symbol of the city's progress. For a touch of whimsy, explore the visually stunning Tianjin Binhai Library, a haven for bookworms and a favorite on social media. Tianjin's commitment to international exchange is evident at its renowned university focused on foreign languages and cultural studies. And when hunger strikes, delve into the city's culinary scene, where world-famous delicacies like Goubuli Buns tantalize your taste buds. Tianjin offers an unforgettable experience, where history whispers from ancient structures and innovation pulsates through the modern streets.

#### **Beijing (北京市) -**

Immerse yourself in the heart of China at Beijing, a majestic metropolis teeming with 22.1 million people. This dynamic capital city boasts iconic landmarks that ignite the imagination. Marvel at the Great Wall's serpentine grandeur, a testament to China's rich history. Explore the Forbidden City's opulent palaces, once the seat of imperial power. Seek tranquility within the serene gardens of the Summer Palace. But Beijing's magic extends far beyond these renowned attractions. Venture into the labyrinthine alleyways, where hidden gems unfold. Savor delectable cuisine at traditional eateries and discover historical treasures tucked away from the tourist throngs. Beijing's vibrant art scene pulsates with creativity, offering a glimpse into the soul of the

city. And for a dose of cuteness, don't miss the national treasures – the giant pandas at the Beijing Zoo. Beijing promises an unforgettable journey, where ancient history collides with modern energy, and cultural experiences linger long after your visit.

### **Activities and Excursions:**

Immerse yourself in China's rich history and vibrant culture with these exciting activities and excursions:

- **Walk the Great Wall of China:** Experience China's most iconic landmark firsthand. Gain a historical overview of this awe-inspiring structure and marvel at its architectural wonder.
- **Explore Imperial Splendor:** Explore China's imperial past with tours of the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace. These vast ensembles of palaces, gardens, and lakes offer a comprehensive look at Chinese history.
- **Step Back in Time at DaShiLa:** Wander through Beijing's DaShiLa Walking Business Street, a traditional hutong (alleyway) lined with historical businesses dating back to 1420.
- **Meet the National Treasures:** Enjoy a fun interaction with the giant pandas and other fascinating animals at the Beijing Zoo.
- **Tianjin Delights:** Immerse yourself in Tianjin's unique character. Explore the historic embassies area, indulge in local specialties on the food and culture street, and discover the vibrant Tianjin YiShiFengQing Street.
- **Tianjin by Night:** Embark on a captivating night boat tour along the scenic Haihe River and marvel at the city illuminated against the night sky. Take a ride on the iconic Eye of Tianjin Ferris Wheel for breathtaking panoramic views.
- **Langfang's Cultural Gems:** Visit the Langfang Silk Road Center and the Global Arts and Culture Center, both showcasing the city's rich artistic heritage. Unwind and enjoy a variety of captivating performances at Langfang's unique theatrical garden.
- **A Grand Spectacle:** Stroll through the Grand Epoch City, a remarkable reproduction of Beijing palace structures from the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Immerse yourself in the grandeur of this architectural marvel.

Beyond these excursions, experience the energy of Chinese culture and nightlife with fun, leisure activities like karaoke and shopping. The China-US Culture Exchange Tour promises an unforgettable journey!

### **Destination Photos:**



Global Arts and Culture Center, Lang Fang



The Eye of Tianjin and The Haihe River, Tianjin





The Great Wall of China, Beijing



The Forbidden City, Beijing

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **1. What is the China-US Culture Exchange Tour?**

The China-US Culture Exchange Tour is a program designed to bridge the gap between China and the United States! This unique experience fosters cultural understanding and exchange between participants from both countries. Immerse yourself in the rich cultural heritage and vibrant contemporary life of China during this exciting tour.

### **2. Who can participate?**

The tour welcomes anyone from high school to college with a passion for exploring cultural exchange! Whether you're curious about similarities or fascinated by differences, this tour is for you.

### **3. What activities are included?**

The itinerary boasts a diverse range of activities designed to fully immerse you in Chinese culture. Expect visits to historical landmarks, museums, and art galleries. Engage in cultural performances, workshops, and interactive sessions with local communities. There might even be language exchanges, culinary experiences, and outdoor adventures! The final confirmed itinerary will be sent out after registration closes and before departure.

### **4. How long is the tour?**

The China-US Culture Exchange Tour is an immersive 10-day experience.

### **5. What are the benefits of participating?**

This tour offers a wealth of benefits! Gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture, build lifelong friendships and professional connections, broaden your perspective, enhance your crosscultural communication skills, and create unforgettable memories that will last a lifetime.

### **6. Are there experienced guides?**

Absolutely! The tour is led by experienced guides and facilitators who are experts in Chinese culture. They'll provide guidance, support, and insights throughout your journey, ensuring a smooth and enriching experience for everyone.

### **7. How can I prepare for the tour?**

Preparation is key! Before embarking on this adventure, familiarize yourself with Chinese culture, history, and customs. Pack appropriately for the climate and planned activities. Don't forget to obtain any necessary travel documents and vaccinations. Most importantly, come with an open mind and a respectful attitude towards different cultural perspectives. **International travel insurance is mandatory for participation.**

## **8. What level of Mandarin is required?**

No Mandarin knowledge is required! We'll have an English-speaking interpreter accompanying the group for the entire itinerary. For those interested in practicing their Chinese, there will be plenty of opportunities throughout the tour.

## **9. Meeting Up and Departing**

The organizer will arrange pick-up at the Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) on the first day (August 2nd) and drop-off on the last day (August 11th).

## **10. How do I sign up?**

Information on signing up for the China-US Culture Exchange Tour, including registration procedures, fees, and deadlines, can be found at the beginning of this document. You'll likely need to complete an application form and submit any required documents or payments to secure your spot.

## **11. How can I get a Chinese Visa?**

The visa application process involves an online form <https://cova.mfa.gov.cn> and an in-person visit to a Chinese Visa Office to finalize the application.

## **12. Booking Flights**

You are responsible for booking your own flights to and from the Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK). While you can choose your departure date from the US, ensure your arrival is on August 2nd for the Welcome Ceremony and airport pick-up.

### **USA Local Contact:**

Ms. Susan Chen

Phone: 1- 910- 232-1940

Email: [asgachina@gmail.com](mailto:asgachina@gmail.com)