

China: Mandarin Service Adventure

Learn the language and culture of this rapidly changing country.



Highlights

- 30 hours of Mandarin instruction
- Weekend in Shanghai - business capital of China
- Hiking the Great Wall of China
- Visiting the Forbidden City
- Learning Chinese cooking and calligraphy
- Shopping at the Pearl Market
- Immerse yourself in Beijing life
- Exploring both rural and urban China

China: Mandarin Service Adventure

China has quickly become one of the most important countries on the global stage. What happens in China affects people all over the world - from environmental issues to political relations and global commerce. Learning Mandarin, one of the principle languages of China, is key to truly understanding this fascinating country. This program allows you to develop your language skills while also connecting directly with the Chinese people and learning about their rich and vibrant culture.

On this program you'll spend two weeks in Beijing, a weekend in Shanghai, a day at the Great Wall, and one week in a rural area called Mentougou.

Community Service

You will engage in community service only during the second and third week of the program. During those weeks, for approximately two hours each morning, you will teach conversational English to students. This is a great way to provide a valuable service and to interact with regular Chinese people. In the Mentougou District you will volunteer on local farms, working in the fields plowing and harvesting. Here you will learn how the rural population maintains their traditional way of life and how they are coping with the vast changes caused by modernization and industrialization. Through interaction with farmers and students, you will make new friends and learn the Chinese perspective on world issues.



Hands-on Learning

The primary focus of this program is to enable Mandarin language acquisition. On the first day students will take a placement exam to determine their Mandarin level: Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced. Each week day for the first two weeks students will take language course based on their level. The program has also been designed to provide a theoretical overview of what's happening in China today through a mix of sessions on culture, economy, and traditional art.

Adventure

During the first weekend, we'll take an overnight high-speed train to Shanghai - the exciting, bustling business center of China. We'll spend the weekend exploring this high-tech city. The following weekend we will venture to the Great Wall of China. During the week, we'll discover the marvels in Beijing such as Tiananmen Square, the 798 Arts District, the Olympic greens, The Forbidden City, The Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace and various other temples and palaces of cultural significance.

Lodging

During the first two weeks in Beijing, you will stay on the GLA Home Base, which is a floor of a dormitory building located near the campus of Beijing Language and Culture University located in the Haidian District. You'll live in a dorm room with 2-3 other students and will have a private bathroom and shower. In the rural area, we'll stay at a local guest house and again dorm with other students.

Tuition

Tuition includes all in-country expenses including lodging at GLA Home Base, high-speed train to Shanghai, hotel in Shanghai, entrance to the Great Wall, meals, all ground transportation, all activities and entrance fees, tips, community service materials, all excursions, Mandarin classes, backup medical insurance, and experienced program leaders.

Tuition does not include the following: international airfare, Chinese tourist visa, souvenirs, snacks, laundry, phone calls, medical expenses or internet access at local internet cafés.

Quick Facts

Program Details

- Duration: 21 days
- Tuition: \$4,395
- Max. Group Size: 24 students
- Community Service Hours: 20
- Location: Beijing & Mentougou
- Arrival Airport: Beijing (PEK)

2011 Dates

- July 17 - August 6, 2011
- Sunday to Saturday



Program Schedule

Disclaimer: Actual order of activities may vary from this schedule.

Day 1: Sunday - You arrive in Beijing at the Beijing Capital International Airport where you will be met by GLA staff member and be transported to the campus where you'll meet other students and staff and receive a brief introduction to Beijing, the campus and GLA.

Day 2: Monday - Students will begin their first week by taking a Mandarin placement exam to be divided up by prior language ability. In the afternoon, we'll begin classes with a two-hour session. In the evening, we'll go out to a local restaurant to start learning about Chinese cuisine!

Day 3: Tuesday - In the morning we'll head out to explore the area of Beijing directly around our campus. As the strong sun comes out, we'll head indoors for Mandarin class. In the evening, we'll hear from a guest speaker who will give us an overview of the socio-political issues happening in contemporary China.



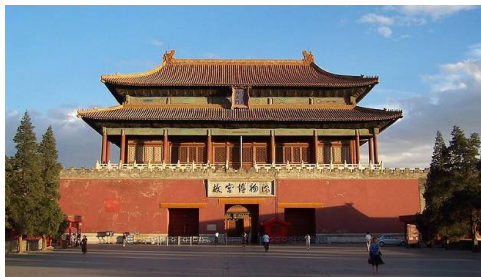
Day 4: Wednesday - Today we will visit the Museum of Urban planning to understand the populated city layout and understand how the country and city are adapting to large migrations of people from the countryside. The afternoon will be spent in Mandarin class, and the evening we'll learn to play *mah jong*, Chinese chess.

Day 5: Thursday - This morning we'll visit a Chinese non-profit organization that's working to combat some of the social issues facing many Chinese people. We'll learn first-hand about some of the issues that don't make the news. We'll return to the campus for an afternoon of Mandarin class. That evening, we'll go out to the shopping district and get a chance to use our Mandarin skills to converse with local shopkeepers.

Day 6: Friday - After a full day of Mandarin classes and cultural activities, we'll catch the overnight high speed train to Shanghai. The train itself is a unique experience; it has a dining car and sleeper cars that fit four people per room.

Day 7: Saturday: We'll arrive in Shanghai in the morning, and have the day to go exploring. This city is a tourist destination renowned for its historical landmarks such as the Bund and City God Temple, and its modern and ever-expanding Pudong skyline including the Oriental Pearl Tower. Today, Shanghai is the largest centre of commerce and finance in mainland China, and has been described as the "showpiece" of the world's fastest-growing major economy. We'll cap off the night with a walk along the riverfront Bund and some karaoke.

Day 8: Sunday: This morning we'll walk along the bustling shopping district of Nanjing Road and lose ourselves in the sights, sounds and smells of the most populous city in the world. In the afternoon, we'll catch the train back to Beijing to arrive at night back to our Home Base. This evening we'll meet the GLA students who are arriving for the two-week History Meets Globalization program. They'll join us for the next two weeks.



Day 9: Monday - After breakfast, we head out into Beijing to discover the Temple of Heaven, the historic Taoist temple where prayers and offering were given to ensure a good harvest. We also meet the Chinese students with whom we'll practice conversational English with. After dinner, a speaker will address your questions about China and discuss Western perceptions of China.

Day 10: Tuesday - If you get into tai chi, you can join the people at the local park before breakfast. Today we explore the Forbidden City and the Imperial

Palace of ancient and recent history. From here we stop at the historic Tiananmen Square where we will reflect on the Chinese concept of democracy and the reform movement. In the afternoon, we'll have our Mandarin classes and then volunteer teaching English before dinner. In the evening, we'll have a speaker talk to us about recent Chinese history.

Day 11: Wednesday - After Mandarin class, we will head to the Summer Palace; this palace built by the empress is incredibly beautiful. We will take a dragon boat across the lake. After lunch, we continue with Mandarin classes and then English tutoring. After dining at a local restaurant, we will spend the evening shopping at the well known Pearl Market. Here students can pick up souvenirs and "knock off" designer goods.

Day 12: Thursday - Today is a cultural bonanza! This morning we'll take part in two hands-on workshops: Chinese cooking and Chinese calligraphy. In the afternoon, we'll have our Mandarin classes and then volunteer teaching English before dinner. After dinner we will attend an Acrobat Show, to see how this type of performance art is influenced by Chinese culture.

Day 13: Friday - After a class on Chinese culture and economy, we will have lunch locally and then depart for the Hutongs and Hou Hai area. This rich historic area is best known for its Chinese lanterns and is one of the only historic sites still standing after the Cultural Revolution. In the afternoon, we'll have a short class on Chinese martial arts before we do our volunteer work. In the evening, we'll have a speaker on Chinese international relations.

Day 14: Saturday - Today students will have the opportunity to spend the entire day exploring the Great Wall. One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Great Wall was built between the 5th and 16th centuries with the purpose of securing China's northern border from invading barbarians. At nearly 40 ft high and over 5,000 miles long the Great Wall is the only man-made structure visible from space. Once returning to the city we will have dinner and then engage in leadership and team building activities.

Day 15: Sunday - Today we make the transition from urban living to rural living. Upon arrival to our Home Base in the Mentougou Region we'll explore the new surroundings before jumping into service work the following day.

Day 16: Monday - Students will begin their community service, teaching English to Chinese students and working at a local peasant farm. Students will plow fields and harvest crops all in an effort to better understand the daily lives of local people.

Day 17: Tuesday - Service work will resume in the morning with farming and English teaching. Before dinner we will go on a hike to view the rural mountainous region. In the evening, we will have a guest speaker from the local village come to discuss the challenges of rural life.

Day 18: Wednesday - We will continue our service work farming and teaching. That afternoon, we'll split up into smaller groups to go visit local families. We will be welcomed into people's homes so that we can see how people live in the countryside. Many students will have the opportunity to speak with Chinese and hear stories of the past under Chairman Mao, as well as understand how Chinese youth are growing up in modern China. Back at the GLA Home Base, we will share our family experiences with each other and journal about the differences between our lives and local life in China.

Day 19: Thursday - After community service we will return to our Home Base for lunch and then participate in a dumpling cooking class. After dinner, we will meet with our group to read an article on globalization in China and then discuss it in relation to our experiences.

Day 20: Friday - We will have our last full day of community service today and bid farewell to our local students and farmers. We will pack our belongings and make our trek back to urban life. We will resettle into our Home Base in Beijing and then head to the Silk Market for another shopping spree. Afterward, we will get ready for our final banquet and farewell dinner.

Day 21: Saturday - Students will eat breakfast and have a chance to do some last minute shopping in Beijing before heading to the airport for their journey home.

About Global Leadership Adventures

Global Leadership Adventures, established in 2004, is the premier international community service-learning program for high school students. Students come back transformed.

GLA is unique because of its focus on leadership development and first-hand learning about global issues. Students learn first hand from social pioneers around the world who are creating positive social change in their communities.

Students are taught to use their heart, as well as their head, to become agents of positive change across borders.

GLA has been featured in:

The New York Times

The Boston Globe

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BALTIMORE TIMES ONLINE