

China: Mandarin Service Adventure

Learn the language and culture of this complex and rapidly changing country.



Highlights

- Experience the contrasts between rural and urban China
- Engage local people from all walks of life to learn first-hand about real life in China
- 20 hours of Mandarin instruction
- 30 hours of community service
- Hike the Great Wall of China
- Visit the Forbidden City
- Learn Chinese cooking, calligraphy and kung fu
- Shopping at the Pearl Market
- Immerse yourself in Beijing life
- Learn about China's approach to international relations from local experts
- Hear the perspective of US businesses working in China
- Opportunity to exchange ideas with Chinese high school students

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, we'll live in a semi-rural district on the edges of Beijing so you experience authentic Chinese living and can compare rural and urban lifestyles. We'll spend one weekend touring places of cultural significance in Beijing and one weekend in Shanghai, the major commercial center of China. Along the way, you'll meet a range of people from farmers to executives who will give you diverse perspectives on China.

Community Service

While China's economy is booming, there are still many social issues to be confronted. You'll have a chance to teach conversational English to children of migrant farmers in the city and learn about the plight of rural farmers to come to the city looking for a better life. We'll also volunteer at an orphanage and you'll see the side effects of the one child policy. Volunteering is a great way to provide a valuable service and to interact with regular Chinese people.

Hands-on Learning

Students will participate in cultural workshops such as Chinese cooking, kung fu, calligraphy as well as Mandarin language classes. Mandarin classes are divided by ability – so, whether you have never taken a class or are already conversant, we have a class for you. In addition to the classroom work, our staff will support you as you practice your Mandarin with the local people at the community service projects. We'll also have a mix of guest speakers who will talk about the economy, international relations and recent Chinese history.

Adventure

On the weekend we will travel to the Great Wall of China and hike along its historic paths, we'll also discover the marvels in Beijing such as Tiananmen Square, the 798 Arts District, the Olympic greens, The Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, and the Summer Palace.

Lodging

Students live together in the GLA Home-Base, a small hotel reserved for GLA students that is located in a semi-rural area on the outskirts of Beijing. This unique location allows students to straddle two realities in China – the rural and the urban. Students live under the supervision of GLA staff and are provided healthy meals and unlimited clean drinking water.

Tuition

Tuition includes all in-country expenses including lodging at GLA Home Base, 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.

2012 Program Info

Duration: 21 days

Tuition: \$4,595

Max. group size: 30 students

Community service hours: 30

Location: Fangshan District of Beijing, weekends in Beijing City

Program Dates

July 1 – July 21, 2012

July 24 – August 13, 2012

Program Schedule

***Disclaimer: Actual order of activities will vary by program session.** The day by day itinerary detailed below is typical for what you can expect to experience, but not set in stone as work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather. This itinerary is designed to give you an example of what a day to day schedule would look like and provides a clear idea of the program experience. It may be changed during the summer as staff see fit and on the ground circumstances and opportunities change our course. China will challenge you as students are expected to work hard and really be present for all that we do.*

Day 1-6: 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 Home-Base and GLA.

We'll spend the morning s volunteering at a school for children of migrant workers. In the afternoon we'll engage in cultural activities or Mandarin class. Evenings will bring guest speakers who will share with us their perspectives on issues in contemporary China.

Day 7, 8, 9: If This weekend we explore Beijing and the Great Wall of China. In Beijing, we'll visit 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 head to the Summer Palace; this palace built by the empress is incredibly beautiful. We will take a dragon boat across the lake. And we end the evening with a performance by the Chinese acrobats.

Days 10-13: We'll spend the mornings volunteering at a local orphanage and learn first-hand about some of the issues that don't make the news including the effects of the One Child Policy. We'll return to the Home Base some afternoons for Mandarin class and other afternoons we'll do crash courses on kung fu, Tai Chi and Chinese calligraphy. In the evenings, we'll go out for dinner at local restaurants and get a chance to use our Mandarin skills to converse with local people.

Days 14, 15, 16: We'll spend the weekend in Shanghai, the commercial center of China. We'll take the old overnight train to Shanghai and spend the weekend visiting the important cultural sites. 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 be able to lose ourselves in the sights, sounds and smells in one of the most populous cities in the world.

Days 17-20: We spend the last few days in China diving deeper into understanding Chinese international relations, with a specific focus on Chinese-American relations. We'll have a chance to speak with leaders at all levels of society – and even Chinese high school students – in order to see the world through their eyes. We'll also visit some Chinese non-profit organizations working to create positive change at the grassroots level. On our last night together, we'll enjoy a traditional Chinese banquet as our farewell celebration.

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

seventeen

BALTIMORE TIMES ONLINE

The Boston Globe

