



Business Mission & Cultural Tour of China April 16-24, 2011

Join the Charleston Area Alliance and local business/community leaders for a 9-day, all-inclusive trip to experience the wonders of China. The trip includes:

- Roundtrip international airfare from New York's JFK Airport
- Domestic airfare from Beijing to Shanghai to Hangzhou
- 4- and 5-star hotel accommodations
- 3 full meals each day
- Deluxe bus transportation
- Fluent English-speaking tour guides
- Entrance fees into attractions including the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, Yu Garden, Ming Tombs and many others

Only \$2,399 per person (double occupancy) for Alliance members; cost is \$2,799 per person (double occupancy) for future Alliance members. Single occupancy rate is an additional \$450.

China is the world's 2nd largest economy, and the 8th largest market for West Virginia products and the 3rd largest for U.S. products. Last year state businesses exported more than \$250 million worth of goods and materials to the country, while the U.S. exported a total of \$71 billion.

Preliminary Itinerary

Business Mission

The business mission track is being developed and will include meetings with key representatives of the U.S. Department of Commerce and American Consulate, the American Chamber of Commerce, export specialists and government leaders to learn about doing business in China, facility tours and meetings with U.S. companies doing business there. If you are interested in the business track for this trade mission, please contact the Economic Development staff of the Alliance as soon as possible to help schedule meetings and business events that will be beneficial to your business.

Cultural Tour

A cultural tour track will be offered for those who want to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. This track can also accommodate the spouses or friends of business mission participants. Daily sightseeing tours have been arranged with ample time to enjoy the sights including excursions to the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Tiananmen Square and Palace Museum (known as the Forbidden City), the Linger Garden, Temple of Heaven and other impressive attractions.

The preliminary schedule/agenda is detailed below. The itinerary may change between now and the departure date. Ongoing updates and details of the itinerary will be shared with participants.

Day 1 – April 16: JFK/Beijing

Depart from JFK International Airport for your non-stop flight to Beijing. Your adventure begins as you fly trans-Pacific aboard a wide cabin jetliner. We will cross the International Date Line.

Day 2 – April 17: Beijing

Arrive in Beijing, the capital of China. We will be met by our local tour guide at the airport. Transfer to the hotel after dinner.

Day 3 – April 18: Beijing

All participants will visit Tiananmen Square, the largest square in the world and the Temple of Heaven, built in 1420 A.D. Sightseeing also includes the Palace Museum, also known as the Forbidden City, home of 24 emperors with a total space of 9,999 rooms.

Day 4 – April 19: Beijing

Tour bus excursion to the Great Wall; the 4,000 mile long and 2,000 year old construction. Visit to the Ming Tombs; one of the 13 Ming Emperors' Tombs is fully excavated and open for exploration. Dinner will be the famous roasted duck dinner, similar to the dinner President Nixon experienced with Chairman Mao in the 1970s.

Day 5 – April 20: Beijing/Shanghai/Suzhou

Morning China Eastern flight to Shanghai followed by tour bus ride to Suzhou. Afternoon sightseeing to the centuries-old Linger Garden, Tiger Hill and Hanshan Temple. Visit the National Embroidery Institute to see silk embroidery, an important local craft with 1,000 years of history. Evening dinner show with traditional Chinese music.

Day 6 – April 21: Suzhou/Hangzhou

Morning tour bus journey to Hangzhou. Participants will visit the Economic Development Zone and the centuries-old Lingyin Temple, featuring the 64.3-foot high camphor-wood carved Buddha.

Day 7 – April 22: Hangzhou/Shanghai

Morning boat cruise on West Lake with relaxing stopover at jewel-like pagodas and tea houses. Afternoon tour bus trip to Shanghai.

Day 8 – April 23: Shanghai

Sightseeing includes the Yu Garden, a maze of marvelous pavilions, shops, ponds, rocky works and over-arching trees. Visit to the Bund, a famous waterfront park. Business visit to the Pudong Economic Development Zone.

Day 9 – April 24: Shanghai/Beijing/JFK

Morning flight to Beijing. Afternoon flight will depart for JFK.

Important Information

Registration

Price per person, based on double occupancy, is \$2,399 for Alliance members or \$2,799 for future members. Single occupancy rate is an additional \$450.

A registration form and non-refundable deposit of \$300 per person is required to secure your registration. Full payment of the balance, plus single occupancy rate of \$450 if applicable, is due by December 15, 2010. Payments should be made payable and mailed to Charleston Area Alliance, 1116 Smith St., Charleston, WV 25301.

Our Tour Operator

Citslinc International, Inc., a member of the Charleston Area Alliance, is based in Monterey Park, CA and has nearly 30 years experience in the China tour business. The company specializes in organizing tours for chambers of commerce, helping more than 10,000 people visit China through chamber tours each year.

Final Itinerary

The final itinerary with flight and hotel information will be provided in February 2011, after all ticketing arrangements have been confirmed.

Passport

Your current passport must be valid through September 2011. Securing or updating a passport is the traveler's responsibility.

Chinese Travel Visa

Citslinc International will handle the travel visa application process; a fee of \$155 is required. Your passport, a signed visa application form and two passport photos must be submitted in February; your passport will be returned within 10 working days. This is a standard practice for groups planning international travel.

Travel Insurance

Included with your tour is the Citslinc Post-Departure Plan provided by Travel Insured International. Coverage includes trip delay and personal effect loss, baggage delay, medical expenses while on the trip (payment up front likely to be required); a copy of the plan will be provided to all participants. Your health insurance carrier may also provide coverage while you are traveling out of the country; please check with your agent.

The airline imposes a \$500 cancellation fee after tickets are purchased, if you should need to cancel your trip for any reason. Some registrants acquire trip insurance to cover such a loss.

Waiver Form

All participants will need to sign the Citslinc Waiver Form prior to the trip. Copies will be provided at the travel planning meeting in February.

Departure/Flights

The tour begins from JFK Airport in New York on Saturday, April 16. The plane will be a Boeing 747, and the flight is approximately 13 hours from JFK to Beijing. You will receive your airline tickets prior to the departure date.

Hotels

All accommodations are booked at 4- and 5-star hotels, offering Western facilities with internet service, business center, and hair dryers. It is recommended you bring electrical adapters for other appliances and electronics, including chargers. It's a good idea to keep a hotel business card with name, address, phone number with you, useful if you need to take a taxi or are separated from the group.

Meals

Three full meals daily are included in the tour. Breakfast will be a Western and Eastern buffet at the hotel. Lunch and dinners will be at Chinese restaurants. It is recommended that you drink only bottled water, available at the hotels, from street vendors and on the tour bus.

Tipping

Tips are not included in the trip fee. Total tips for the entire trip are \$25 per person, to be collected in US dollars (cash only) for the tour guides and drivers. No other tipping will be required throughout the journey though, if desired, it is acceptable to tip up to \$3.00 for service.

Daily Schedule

Breakfast is at 7:00 a.m. each morning. Participants will board the tour buses by 8:00 a.m. for the day's tours, usually returning to the hotel after 8:00 p.m. If you are planning on leaving the group for any individual excursions, please inform your tour guide ahead of time.

Bus Tours

You will be assigned the same bus for the entire visit. Tour bus capacity is 50 but usually only 20-25 passengers are assigned per bus to provide more comfort. Your seat on the bus will be "yours" for the day, so you can leave personal items on the bus during tours and meals (please take any valuables with you). There are no bathrooms on the bus but stops are made along the way. Always take advantage of a restroom, especially a Western-style one. Some toilets are only holes in the floor.

Optional tours may be available for an additional charge, usually \$25-\$30. Our tour guide will describe the tours, recommend the best ones, and you will pay the guides in cash (US dollars) if you choose an additional tour.

Weather

The temperature in China for April is similar to our weather in Charleston, average low in the 40's and high in the 60's. It will be cooler at the Great Wall; dressing in layers is recommended.

Attire

Cultural Tour: Casual attire; dress comfortably and in layers. There is no time to change clothes during the day. Jeans are acceptable for all venues. Wear comfortable shoes, several attractions may require a lot of walking.

Business Mission: Suit and tie recommended for business meetings. Casual attire is acceptable for all other parts of the tour.

Medical

Special shots or vaccinations are not required to enter or travel in China. Please be sure to pack your prescription medicines. Alert your tour guide if you have any allergies. Some people get a prescription of antibiotics and anti-diarrhea medicine as a precaution.

Money/Currency

Most stores will accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express. You can exchange US dollars and travelers' checks at most hotels, banks and at the airport, although US dollars are welcome almost everywhere.

It is recommended that you take a supply of small bills for street vendors, who may not have change, and cash for optional tours. ATMs may be scarce in some areas and not always reliable. Contact your bank/credit card company to notify them you may be using your credit card in China.

Shopping

You will be visiting several stores and factories (jade, silk, embroidery, others), but are not obligated to make purchases. If you purchase goods from a street vendor, be prepared to barter – do not pay the initial asking price. Many stores are able to ship purchases to your home.

Cell Phones

Your cell phone may work in China. Please check with your provider about adding international coverage, usually available for 1-month periods; don't forget to cancel the coverage upon returning home. You will need converters for charging electronics.

Travel Planning Meeting

A travel planning meeting will be held in February. At that time, information will be reviewed for travel visa procurement (will require form completion, passport, 2 passport photos and payment of \$155), international flight details and hotel information.

Upcoming Seminar

The Alliance will offer a seminar titled *Traveling in China: What You Need to Know* prior to the trip.

Questions

Please contact Jeri Adkins by calling the Charleston Area Alliance at 304-340-4253 or JAdkins@CharlestonAreaAlliance.org for more information.

China Tour Registration Form

Only \$2,399 per person (double occupancy for Alliance members/
\$2,799 per person (double occupancy) for future Alliance members

Please use a separate registration form for each person traveling.

Full Name (as it appears on your passport):

_____ DOB: _____

Company: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Passport #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Please check track choice: Business _____ Cultural _____

Payment is enclosed for:

\$300 non-refundable deposit: _____ (Balance due by December 15, 2010)

\$2,399 per person for Alliance member: _____ \$450 Single occupancy _____

\$2,799 per person for future member: _____ \$450 Single occupancy _____

Check: Amount \$ _____ (Payable to Charleston Area Alliance)

Credit Card – Type _____ Amount \$ _____

Name on Card _____

Account # _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Mail registration form, copy of passport and payment to:

Jeri Adkins
Charleston Area Alliance
1116 Smith St.
Charleston, WV 25301