China Suitcase Seminar

Dynasties of Power: Past and Present

April 5 to 21, 2011

a program of the stanford alumni association
We affectionately refer to our China Suitcase Seminar as “China 101.” It is fast-paced and designed to be an overview of a complex and immense country. This trip continues to be one of our most popular and for good reason: we have crafted a mix of the highlights of China combined with cultural experiences and local contacts perfected through years of Stanford expertise and connections. In the midst of a thriving national economy, China has successfully created harmony between its ancient treasures and the glittering skylines of its metropolitan cities, making the nation an extraordinary and unforgettable destination for travelers.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

TAKE in the views during a three-night cruise on the scenic Yangtze River, culminating in an exploration of the magnificent Three Gorges Dam.

BE AMAZED by the vast army of terra cotta warriors at Xian, considered by many to be China’s most important archaeological find.

TRAVEL south to Guilin, where fantastic sugarloaf mountains rising from flat plains near the Li River have inspired poets and painters for centuries.
Itinerary

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 & 6
DEPART U.S. / BEIJING, CHINA
Depart the U.S. on flights bound for Beijing, crossing the international date line and arriving in Beijing on Wednesday. Enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure. GRAND HYATT HOTEL

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, APRIL 7 TO 9
BEIJING
During our three full days in China’s capital city, visit the Forbidden City and the Imperial Palace of omnipotent Chinese emperors. Walk through Tiananmen Square, which is flanked by the Great Hall of the People, the Museum of Chinese History and the Gate of Heavenly Peace. Visit the Temple of Heaven. Take a drive to the wondrous Great Wall. Enjoy a hutong tour by pedicab and feast on a special Beijing duck dinner after our welcome reception. GRAND HYATT HOTEL (B,L–4/7; B,L,D–4/8; B,L–4/9)

SUNDAY, APRIL 10
BEIJING / XIAN
Fly to Xian, one of the only cities in China with a totally intact ancient city wall, and view its South gate as we enter the city. Walk through the old district and see the Great Mosque and the Chinese garden surrounding it. SOFITEL RENMIN SQUARE XIAN (B,L,D)

MONDAY, APRIL 11
XIAN
Xian served as the capital during the reign of Qin Shi Huang Di, the first emperor of China. The legendary life-size, terra cotta army, China’s most breathtaking archaeological find, was created to protect his tomb. Discovered in 1974, it is only part of the treasure trove, much of which remains hidden beneath the low hills outside Xian. SOFITEL RENMIN SQUARE XIAN (B,L)

TUESDAY, APRIL 12
XIAN / GUILIN
This morning visit the Yangling Tomb Museum, which opened in 1999 and features recent archaeological discoveries from the Han dynasty. In 2006 an incredible extension to the site was opened where we can now view the underground excavation trenches. Later, fly to Guilin to view the fantastic sugarloaf mountains rising from the flat plain near the Li River that have inspired poets and painters for centuries. SHERATON GUILIN (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
GUILIN
Spend a full day exploring the scenic countryside. Enjoy a cruise down the Li River and, as we pass limestone pinnacles, rice paddies and bamboo groves, watch village life unfold along the banks of the river. SHERATON GUILIN (B,L)

THURSDAY, APRIL 14
GUILIN / CHONGQING / YANGTZE RIVER
Fly to Chongqing located at the junction of the Jialing and Yangtze rivers. Now China’s largest municipality with a population of 35 million people, Chongqing was the World War II headquarters of the Nationalist Government under Chiang Kai Shek. Sightseeing here may include the Stilwell Museum and the newly opened Three Gorges Museum. This evening transfer to our riverboat for a three-night cruise on the Yangtze River. VICTORIA KATARINA (B,L,D)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 15 & 16
YANGTZE RIVER CRUISING
During our cruise experience the magnificent Three Gorges. Sail into Qutang...
Gorge with its steep cliff faces; through Wu Gorge, the longest and most-scenic gorge including Goddess Peak; and finally to the currents of Xiling Gorge.

VICTORIA KATARINA (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

YANGTZE RIVER / YICHANG / SUZHOU

This morning take an excursion to the Three Gorges Dam, the largest engineering project in history. Re-board the ship and continue cruising to Yichang where we disembark for our flight to Shanghai. From Shanghai travel by coach to Suzhou, the center of China’s silk industry. SHERATON SUZHOU HOTEL (B,L,D)

MONDAY, APRIL 18

SUZHOU

Our stay begins with a visit to the Master of Nets Garden, famous for its elaborate rock sculpture, and a silk spinning factory. Stop at the Humble Administrators Garden, one of many UNESCO World Heritage sites in Suzhou. SHERATON SUZHOU HOTEL (B,L)

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

SUZHOU / SHANGHAI

Board a coach for our return drive to Shanghai. Visit the city’s Yu gardens and stroll along the Bund, a popular place for early-morning exercise or evening walks. Tonight enjoy a magical performance by the Shanghai Acrobats. HYATT ON THE BUND (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

SHANGHAI

This morning tour the Shanghai Museum with its 30 centuries of art treasures. Enjoy a free afternoon before our farewell reception and dinner. HYATT ON THE BUND (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

SHANGHAI / U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the Shanghai airport for flights to the U.S., crossing the international date line en route and arriving home the same day. (B)

What to Expect

We consider this Seminar to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and very busy. Daily excursions involve two to five miles of walking, often on uneven terrain, and including stairs without handrails, high thresholds and cobbled paths. You will have to handle your own luggage at airport customs points where porters are not permitted. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Post-trip Extension to Taipei

APRIL 21 TO 24, 2011

In Taipei, tour the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial, Presidential Palace and Lung Shan Temple. Take a day-trip to Taroko Gorge, and end the trip with a visit to the weekend flower market and the National Palace Museum. Additional details will be sent with confirmation.
Information

DATES
April 5 to 21, 2011 (17 days)

SIZE
This Seminar is limited to 45 participants

COST*
$7,595 per person, double occupancy
$9,345 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person

INCLUDED
12 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 3-night cruise aboard the Victoria Katarina riverboat • 15 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 8 dinners • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions • Bottled water on excursions • Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and riverboat crew for all group activities • Visa fees • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary, including internal flights within China • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines from San Francisco to Beijing and from Shanghai to San Francisco is approximately $1,248 as of June 2010 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for the China Suitcase Seminar. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Stanford alumni may become Annual ($75) or Life ($495) Members. Stanford parents, faculty, staff, interns, residents and fellows may become Installment Members ($90 down, $115/year for four years) or Life Members ($495). Nonalumni may become Life Affiliates (one-time fee, $650). Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit www.stanfordalumni.org/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2010 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.
THOMAS S. MULLANEY received his PhD in history in 2006 from Columbia University, and in the same year joined the faculty of Stanford University as assistant professor of modern Chinese history. He is the author of Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China. This book charts the history of China’s 1954 Ethnic Classification project (minzu shibie). He is also principal editor of Critical Han Studies: Understanding the Largest Ethnic Group on Earth, a pathbreaking volume that examines China’s majority ethnonational group. He is currently writing the first-ever global history of the Chinese typewriter, one of the most significant and misunderstood technological innovations of the 19th and 20th centuries. He will share his knowledge of Chinese history with travelers on this program.

Faculty Leader

“We learned so much about China from the faculty, guides and special contacts. This was one of the best trips we have taken.”

NANCY FINKEN, ’56
CHINA SUITCASE SEMINAR, 2007
“I experienced a trip of a lifetime. It was well-organized and expertly planned and exceeded my expectations in every way.”

ANNA YAMAGUCHI, CHINA SUITCASE SEMINAR, 2007