

2018 Orphanage Volunteer Trip to China **June 22, 2018 – July 1, 2018**

Who Should Make This Journey?

This program is ideal for families with adopted Chinese children ages 10 and up. Adopting your child was a long and complicated process, filled with many nameless and faceless players. But the people you will meet on this trip will no longer merely be anonymous orphanage representatives who care for your child and finished the paperwork all those years ago. They will become your friends. This trip will strengthen respect for foster moms, nannies and orphanage staff members, and you'll be proud of their dedication, commitment and love for our children.

Highlights:

- Work alongside orphanage caregivers.
- Enjoy a specially arranged trip to Huxian County, known as “Land of Chinese Modern Folk Arts.”
- Art lesson with one of China’s best folk artists
- Specifically selected authentic and traditional meals representing each region’s typical menu.
- Early morning walking through local parks and tai-chi practice.
- Take a Chinese yo-yo or jump rope break right in the Forbidden City
- Experienced, English-speaking adoption guides have traveled with hundreds of adoptive families.
- Explore the old neighborhood of Beijing, chat with locals and experience real Chinese families.
- Climb the Great Wall at the best section for both children and adults.

Tour Cost:

- \$1,699 per adult, double occupancy
- \$1,399 per child (under 12)
- Single supplement: \$520

Additional cost:

You can add a side trip to your child’s orphanage(s) after the main tour. The additional cost per orphanage tour will be \$900-\$1250 per adult and \$600-\$950 per child under 12 for a 3-4 days orphanage tour. The additional tour cost includes the orphanage visitation fee required by the local provincial government. Please email to Ming at adoptioninchina@gmail.com for orphanage visit quote.

What’s included:

- Air/Land transportation within China
- Escorted by English-speaking professional tour leader/guides
- 4 star hotel or local accommodations, hotel and dining taxes
- Meals according to itinerary
- Admissions, sightseeing and cultural events as noted on itinerary
- Visit to a local family
- Baggage handling for one piece of luggage per person
- Airport and hotel transfers

What's not included:

- Price does not include international airfare (arrival city: Beijing, departing city: Xi'an), passport and visa fees, travel insurance, personal items and expenses, fees associated with excess baggage, optional sightseeing expenses/transfers/taxes, gratuities to guides (\$4-5 per day/per person), optional tips, meals as noted, costs associated with optional trip extension and orphanage visit.
- Children over 12 years of age are considered adults.
- Tour fares are subject to change.

Itinerary

Day 1 — June 22, 2018: Depart for Beijing Cross the International Date Line to the wonders of China. In-flight meals.

Day 2 — June 23, 2018: Arrive in Beijing Meet your Beijing local guide at the Beijing International Airport. Transfer to your hotel. Enjoy the city at your leisure.

Day 3 — June 24, 2018: Beijing After breakfast, visit Tiananmen Square, which at 98 acres is the largest public square in the world and site of many history-making events. Tour the impressive Forbidden City and kids will learn to play Chinese yo-yo right in the Forbidden City. Lunch will be northeastern family style cuisine. Afternoon, skip the tourist crowd and visit Beihai Park. Often overlooked by tourists, Beihai Park is the oldest imperial garden in the world, as well as one of the largest in China. Stroll along the river bank and watch local people playing chess, practicing tai chi or singing Peking opera. Our group will stop and learn basic tai chi forms. Relax and immerse yourself in local culture! Evening optional acrobatic show. Dinner on your own. (Breakfast (B) and Lunch (L) included)

Day 4 — June 25, 2018: Beijing Morning drive to the Bird's Nest and Water Cube Olympic venues for pictures. Stop at a jade factory for a brief educational tour. Enjoy lunch at a local farmer's restaurant. Proceed to the Great Wall in the Mutianyu area. You will take a cable car up to the top of the Great Wall and take a wheeled toboggan ride down on a winding metal track. Shop and bargain with village vendors for souvenirs. We choose the best section of the Wall and have carefully arranged the timing for this trip to avoid the crowds. That means you can enjoy some quiet moments to explore the area! You will absolutely love this experience! Evening is at leisure for your family to explore Beijing on your own. (B/L included)

Day 5 — June 26, 2018: Beijing After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a rickshaw tour of Beijing's old back-alley "Hutong" neighborhood. Then, visit a local family and learn to make dumplings (please bring some gifts). Lunch will be homemade dumplings. Stop at a local community store to browse for snacks for the evening's train ride to the next city. High Speed train to Xi'an (the "City of Everlasting Peace"), which is

one of the world's largest and grandest cities. Xi'an was the capital of China for 11 dynasties, with its zenith during the Tang Reign (618-917 A.D.). (B/L/Dinner (D) included)

Day 6 — June 27, 2018: Xi'an Xi'an Orphanage Volunteering work. Morning begins your first day of volunteering at the orphanage. Lunch will be provided at the orphanage. Afternoon activities include visiting the Shanxi Folk Art Museum to take lessons in Chinese calligraphy. (B/L included)

Day 7 — June 28, 2018: Xi'an Day two of volunteering at the orphanage will occupy your morning. Afternoon activities include a walk or bike ride on the Ancient City Wall of Xi'an. Built in the Ming Dynasty, this is the only well-preserved city wall remaining in China. This will be one of the highlights of your China trip. We have carefully arranged the timing of this trip to avoid the most crowded times so that our group will have a quiet moment to truly enjoy the area. You can even fly kites on the City Wall! You have the freedom to choose your own dinner this evening. Your hotel area has options like Subway, Hot Pot, or any of the colorful restaurants nearby. If you like, join Ming to have an authentic northeastern style dinner at her relative's restaurant. Food will be excellent! (B/L included)

Day 8 — June 29, 2018: Xi'an Morning orphanage volunteering work, and lunch with the orphanage staff. In the afternoon, visit the extraordinary 2,300 year-old Terra Cotta Warriors of China's first emperor, Qinshihuang. Later, visit the Shanxi Art and Clay Factory to see how the Terra Cotta Warriors were made. Your kids will have the opportunity to make their own warriors! Evening is free for you to explore the area. (B/L included)

Day 9 — June 30, 2018: Xi'an morning will be your last day of orphanage volunteering work. You will find yourself loving these children and will bring home memories that will last a lifetime! In the afternoon, you will be driven to HuXi'an, one of the most famous counties for "Peasant Painting" in China. Many masterpieces have been printed into stamps, exhibited, and collected by national and international museums. For years Ming and her Chinese Cultural Exchange have been promoting the farmers' painting in US and have brought over many peasant artists to the US for exhibitions. Our group will be well received and Ming will take you to visit her old friends, Master Artist Lu Zhi De, the best peasant folk artist in China, and Master Artist Fan Zhi Hua, curator of HuXi'an Peasant Art Museum. There will be a specially arranged art lesson for our group. Return to Xian in the evening. (B/L/D included)

Day 10 — July 1, 2018: Xian Morning attend an exclusively arranged educational exchange with Shida Elementary School, Xi'an's #1 public school and sister school with Parkway Elementary School in Greenwich, CT. For the past 13 years, Ming has played crucial part to strengthen the ties between the two schools and helped set up many exchange programs. Our group will be warmly welcomed. Attend Physical Education classes with young and enthusiastic students. (Please bring some English books to donate to their library.) Lunch at the school's cafeteria. After lunch, you will be transferred to Xi'an Airport for your international flight home or your flight to the capital city of your child's orphanage province (please complete the attached orphanage visit form.) (B/L included)

Add-on Orphanage Visit — We will arrange for you to visit the city orphanage or foster family where your child lived while in China. It could be the most important day of your entire trip. Your child will be able to see the place where she lived before. It will also be a wonderful chance for the caregivers who took care of them to be able to see your child again. Please email to Ming at adoptioninchina@gmail.com for orphanage visit quote.

For assistance in arranging your flights and/or obtaining travel insurance, please contact Elli Krikke at Travel Leaders Jenison, (616) 457-4100 or with a travel agent of your choice.