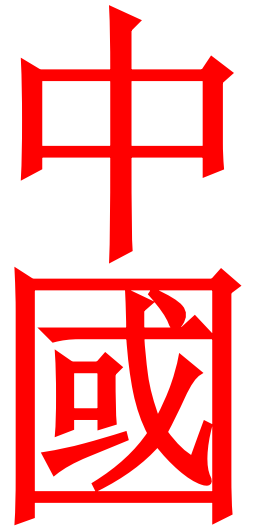


# China

with an optional Tibet extension

September 17 – 27, 2012  
Treasuries of

Spend ten days in China, a country rich in fabulous treasures and wonders produced by 4,000 years of history. This custom tour planned by Pierce College's own Aysin Clay, includes Beijing, Xian, Suzhou and Shanghai with an optional Tibet extension. See the Great Wall and the site of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Then travel to Xian to see the Terra Cotta Warriors of Xian, one of the marvels of the ancient world - no two of the faces are alike. According to a Chinese proverb "There is paradise in heaven and Suzhou on earth." You'll visit Suzhou an area known for centuries for its canals and exquisite private gardens. In Shanghai, you'll find the perfect blend of modern, traditional, western and oriental cultures. Extend your experience with an optional six day journey to Tibet- the "Roof Top" of the world.



**For more information:** Contact Aysin Clay by e-mail at [aclay@pierce.ctc.edu](mailto:aclay@pierce.ctc.edu) or call (253) 964-6601. A \$450 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of registration to hold your spot on this popular trip.

**What's included:** \$2,529\* per person double occupancy. Fee includes: Meals (B, L, D) as indicated, local English speaking tour guide, transportation in country, show and site entrance fees, airport transfers, accommodations, domestic airfare inside China. Domestic airfares and taxes/fuel surcharges, subject to change until paid in full and tickets are issued, hotel and ground service taxes.

**Not included in fees:** Tips for drivers, guides and other services, supplements or optional Tibet Extension, visa, passport and entry/exit fees; travel insurance, international flight from US to China\*\*.

\*Increases in the currency market may occur in the amount of 3% or higher. This may cause increase in the amount of the total fee for this trip scheduled for fall of 2012.

\*\*International flight expenses from US to China is not included as flights and prices were not available at the time of printing. Pierce College will negotiate a group rate for international travel when flights become available and notify participants.

*Changes in Trip Itineraries: Please note that we work hard to keep to our planned itineraries, chosen hotels and travel dates, but there are times when things happen that are out of our control as we make plans usually one year before the actual departure date. Keep in mind that travel dates, times, planned itineraries, hotel accommodates, sites, airline tickets and fees and other trip related events are subject to change. Please contact our staff before making plans or reservations to extend your stay or fly outside of the trip to minimize problems.*



# CHINA ITINERARY

## September 17th

Depart Seattle for Beijing.

## September 18th

Arrive in Beijing and transfer to the hotel. Balance of the day to rest and explore on your own.

## September 19th

After breakfast, start with a morning visit to Tian'anmen Square the largest city square in the world and the site of several important cultural events. Next you'll visit the Forbidden City which served as the Imperial Palace for the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Eat lunch with a local family where you will learn to make Chinese dumplings. On tricycles, visit the Hutong (narrow streets) where you'll stop long the way to learn to make the traditional Chinese knot and try your hand at Chinese calligraphy. Afternoon cycling to visit old city of Beijing. (B, L, D)

## September 20th

Day tour to Great Wall at Jianshanling section built to protect the northern borders of the empire. You'll take a four-hour walking tour to the Simatai section of the wall and enjoy a picnic lunch on the way. (B, L, D)

## September 21

Morning visit to the Summer Palace with boat ride on the Kunming Lake and visit the Olympic Green site of the 2008 Olympics. After lunch, transfer to the airport for departure to Xi'an. Overnight in Xi'an. (B, L, D)

## September 22

Morning visit to the Terra-cotta Warrior sculptures depicting the armies of the first emperor of China created in 210 BC. In the afternoon visit to the Great Mosque and Muslim quarter. That evening, dine on Chinese dumplings while you enjoy a Tang Dynasty show. (B, L, D)

## September 23

Departure to airport for Shanghai. Afternoon walking tour of this large Eastern city includes the historical Bund District and the French Concession, once a French settlement in Shanghai. Overnight in Shanghai. (B, L, D)

## September 24

Morning excursion including Yuyuan Garden in the center of the old city and the Shanghai museum. In the afternoon an opportunity to do some community service in Caoyang New Village. Evening Acrobatic show performance. (B, L, D)

## September 25

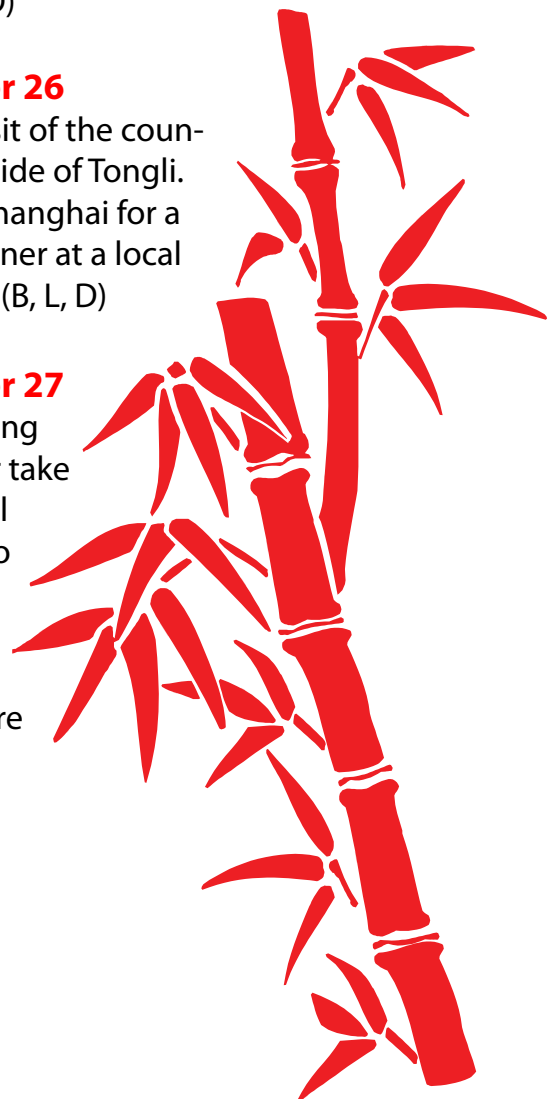
Bus transfer to Tongli, area known for its canals and exquisite private gardens. Afternoon visit of the old town, Tuisi Garden and a canal boat ride. (B, L, D)

## September 26

Morning visit of the countryside outside of Tongli. Return to Shanghai for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

## September 27

Depart Beijing for home or take the optional extension to Tibet and transfer to the airport for departure to Chendu.



# Tibet

Sept. 28 - Oct. 1, 2012 *Optional extension*

## TIBET ITINERARY

### September 27th

After breakfast at the hotel, depart Shanghai for Chengdu, Tibet. Upon arrival into Chengdu meet your local guide and transfer to the hotel with an overview of the city along the way. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Chengdu. (B, D)

### September 28th

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and then visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. China's giant pandas are considered a living national treasure and are loved by not only the Chinese people, but people around the world. The Center is 92 acres of open space where the panda and other endangered Chinese species roam free. They also plan to add an additional 500 acres to simulate a natural environment in hopes of preparing the giant pandas for release into the wild. It is a delightful experience for visitors of all ages. There may be an opportunity to volunteer to help during our visit. After a quick lunch at a local restaurant travel to the airport for flights to Lhasa. Upon arrival into Gonggar airport meet your assistant and transfer to Lhasa. The drive will be about 1 ½ hours. Along the way you will see Nie Tang Buddha – a Buddha image carved into the mountain face. Afternoon at leisure to acclimatize or visit the local bazaar. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight Lhasa. (B, L D)

### September 29th

Visit the Tibet Museum is dedicated to Tibetan culture. Opened in October of 1999 it houses a rich collection that celebrates the history of Tibet. It covers an area of 5.8 acres with the exhibition hall covering 2.6 acres. The museum is a source of information and inspiration temple is one of three university monasteries of Tibet. It is magnif-



icent and covers an area of about 28 acres. Its main buildings house scriptures written in gold powder, fine statues, scent cloth and unparalleled murals. There are about 600 Monks in residence and hold colorful debates on Buddhist doctrines. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Lhasa. ((B, L, D))

### September 30th

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and fly to Beijing. Upon arrival into Beijing transfer to the hotel. You'll have a free time in the afternoon to do some last minute shopping. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Beijing. Overnight in Beijing. (B, D)

### October 1st

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and transfer to the airport for the flight home. (B)



[www.PierceCE.com](http://www.PierceCE.com)