

UD ALUMNI & FRIENDS TRIP TO CHINA

THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE has announced the 11th annual Special Trip to China, for friends, alumni, students, faculty, and staff of the University and its Master Players Concert Series to visit China. The trip is led by UD's Trustees Distinguished Professor of Music Xiang Gao and Chinese Language Professor Renee Dong.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY to experience five thousand years of history, culture and music of China with two experienced bi-lingual and bi-cultural volunteer directors originally from China.

THE 13-DAY TOUR visits China's most important historical cities:

- **BEIJING**
- **XI'AN**
- **SHANGHAI**
- **SUZHOU**

Departing on Monday, June 15, 2020 (tentative)

Early reservations are highly recommended as space is limited.

Deposit of \$800 with each reservation must be received by January 15, 2020

For reservation and visa forms, visit our website www.masterplayers.udel.edu/trips/apply

For other questions email **Professor Dong** at rdong@udel.edu



2015 China trip (June 17, 2015)

TOUR FEATURES

- Many special excursions and programs standard touring companies are not able to accommodate
- International and domestic (within China) travel
- First class air conditioned ground transportation
- Twelve nights of 5-star hotel accommodations
- Top quality, English-speaking, local tour guides under the daily direction of UD tour directors
- 29 meals (vegetarian and vegan options available): 12 Western-style breakfast buffets, 9 lunches and 8 dinners including a dumpling banquet in Xi'an, Beijing Roast Duck dinner and farewell dinner party in Shanghai. All menus personally selected by Professor Gao.
- Cultural events including but not limited to Tang Dynasty Dance, Chinese traditional music performance, Chinese traditional acrobatic performance, boat ride on the Huangpu River in Shanghai
- Special UD cultural presentations including Modern Chinese Society with Professor Dong; Musical and Cultural Traits of China and Survival Chinese with Professor Gao; Chinese Calligraphy workshop with Professor Dong
- Meeting UD leadership and distinguished UD alumni in China and attending UD Alumni events (tentative)
- Concert activities of Professor Gao's Shanghai Sonatas production in Shanghai, China (tentative)



ITINERARY

(Tentative as of Oct 21, 2019)

- **DAY 1: (MON, JUNE 15) USA/BEIJING**
Take an international flight from JFK to Beijing, China. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.
- **DAY 2: (TUE, JUNE 16) BEIJING (Dinner)**
Upon arrival in Beijing, you will be greeted by the tour directors and transferred to your hotel. A welcome dinner will be waiting for you (pending the final flight schedule, this dinner might be replaced by a light supper in case of late night arrival).
- **DAY 3: (WED, JUNE 17) BEIJING (Western breakfast, lunch, dinner)**
The highlight today is a trip to the magnificent Great Wall of China, one of the most visited sites in the world. Dinner is a dumpling feast in northern Chinese style, followed by a traditional Chinese acrobatic performance. The day ends with an evening bus tour of the city of Beijing.
- **DAY 4: (THURS, JUNE 18) BEIJING (Western breakfast, lunch, special dinner)**
The excursion today includes a visit to the Tiananmen Square. We will then visit the Forbidden City, the largest and most intact conglomeration of ancient structures in the world. The Forbidden City was the imperial palace for 24 Ming and Qing Dynasty emperors who ruled China for over 600 years. Lunch is followed by a visit to the Summer Palace, the famous summer resort of the Empress Dowager Ci Xi. Feast your eyes on the Long Corridor, Longevity Hill, and Kunming Lake. Tonight's dinner will be hosted at a BBQ restaurant, featuring Korean-Chinese cuisine and entertainment.
- **DAY 5: (FRI, JUNE 19) BEIJING (Western breakfast, lunch, special dinner)**
Today starts with a pedicab tour of the Beijing Hutong (Chinese alleyways) area, where the narrow lanes of the old residential quarters are. You will have the opportunity to take a glimpse of the local residents' daily life. Next, you will attend a traditional Chinese tea ceremony at an elegant teahouse. In the afternoon you will tour the delicately crafted Temple of Heaven, where the Chinese emperors used to pray for a good harvest. A Beijing Roast Duck dinner party will follow the afternoon excursion.
- **DAY 6: (SAT, JUNE 20) BEIJING (Western breakfast, lunch)**
Two special UD presentations will be offered before lunch in the conference room of the hotel: one on Chinese Calligraphy and the other is a lecture on modern Chinese society. After a Beijing style special lunch near the hotel, you will have free time to explore this wonderful city on your own and to finish your last-minute shopping in Beijing.
- **DAY 7: (SUN, JUNE 21) BEIJING/XI'AN (Western breakfast, special dinner)**
After breakfast, you will take a flight or high-speed train to Xi'an, the ancient capital city for 11 dynasties in Chinese history. You will also take a tour of the well-preserved city wall upon arrival in Xi'an. After a local style barbeque dinner, we will visit the Sleepless City of Tang, a renowned Xi'an city attraction.
- **DAY 8: (MON, JUNE 22) XI'AN (Western breakfast, lunch)**
Today you will take an excursion to the Tomb of China's first emperor Shi Huang of the Qin Dynasty and see the awesome Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses, widely regarded as the Eighth Wonder of the World. After lunch inside the museum, enjoy the rest of the afternoon and evening for your leisure. The acclaimed Xi'an Muslim Quarter and the Drum Tower are the suggested evening excursions on your own.
- **DAY 9: (TUE, JUNE 23) XI'AN (Western breakfast, lunch, dinner)**
After breakfast, you will visit the DaMing Palace museum to experience the "Forbidden City" of Tang Dynasty. Professor Gao will give a special presentation of Musical and Cultural Traits of China before you enjoy a world-famous dumpling dinner banquet, followed by a spectacular show of Tang Dynasty court dance and music.
- **DAY 10: (WED, JUNE 24) XI'AN/SHANGHAI (Western breakfast, dinner)**
After breakfast, you will fly or take the high-speed train to Shanghai, the "New York City of China." Often regarded as "the Pearl of the East," Shanghai has retained the flavor of its past European influences. After we arrive Shanghai, you will have the option to ride the fastest train in the world— Shanghai Maglev train into the city in 7 minutes on your own to meet the group bus. Then, a bus tour of the city and its Bund area will show you the long and western influence of this trading city. Dinner will be served in Shanghai style, which is famous for its special seafood and fresh vegetable dishes. There's an optional short walk after dinner to the bustling Nanjing Road, the "5th Avenue of Shanghai" to conclude your first day.
- **DAY 11: (THURS, JUNE 25) SHANGHAI (Western breakfast, lunch)**
Today's excursion takes you to XinTianDi, or the "French Quarter" of Shanghai and the birthplace of the Chinese Communist Party. Lunch will bring you to the popular shopping heaven of the city: the Old Shanghai Street. Free afternoon and evening for you to explore the city on your own.
- **DAY 12: (FRI, JUNE 26) SHANGHAI/SUZHOU (Western breakfast, lunch)**
Today, you will visit Su Zhou, the world's capital for silk. It is also famous for her most beautiful historical gardens. After visiting the world-famous Humble Administrator's Garden, the extraordinary Suzhou Museum designed by the renowned Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei and the Suzhou Silk Factory, a Su Zhou style lunch will conclude your Su Zhou trip. Free evening in Shanghai will allow you to explore the "Pearl of the East" on your own.
- **DAY 13: (SAT, JUNE 27) SHANGHAI (Western breakfast, lunch, special dinner)**
After breakfast, you will visit Professor Gao's favorite Chinese museum, the Shanghai Museum of Art and History, which ranks among the greatest museums of the world. After lunch, you will have a relaxing afternoon with a final exploring opportunity before attending a cruise on the Huangpu River to enjoy the spectacular night view of Shanghai. A farewell dinner celebration with Shanghai cuisine in the evening will conclude your trip to the Middle Kingdom.
- **DAY 14: (SUN, JUNE 28) SHANGHAI/USA (Western breakfast)**
After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back home.

DEPARTURE DATE (TENTATIVE) & TOUR FARES

JUNE 15, 2020 DEPARTING FROM NYC (JFK)

TOUR COST (including Chinese visa, all air and ground transportation, double occupancy hotel, 29 meals, local tour guides and all excursions): \$5,999

TRIP INSURANCE (include evacuation cost at \$500,000 minimum): Cost varies*

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,100

*Travel protection insurance: You are required to purchase international travel protection insurance from other sources to cover trip cancellation and all other related cost. Emergency transportation of the policy must be at least \$500,000. Cost of coverage varies based on age and medical conditions. (Please contact Allianz Travel or similar travel insurance companies)

RESERVATION DEPOSIT due January 15, 2020: \$800

FINAL PAYMENT due March 8th, 2020

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT: Your reservation will be confirmed upon receipt of your deposit of \$800.00 by January 15, 2020 and final payment balance is due March 8, 2020. Note: Final trip cost is subject to change based on the USD-RMB exchange rate on June 1, 2020 and visa application cost of March 8, 2020. (Exchange rate on October 15, 2019: 1USD=7.13 RMB) USA in-country transportation: not covered by tour fare. Participants should arrange their own transportation to catch the JFK non-stop flight to China.

CANCELLATION PENALTY: Prior to February 1: No penalty/deposit refunded in full • February 1 to March 8: \$800 • March 9-April 15: 80% of tour cost • After April 15: 100% of tour cost. Proof of US Citizenship and visa application: This tour requires a current passport and a visa to enter China. Your current passport must be valid through February 1 of 2021 and sent to the address listed below with two current 2x2 passport color photos for visa application. Your visa-processing fee is included in the tour fare and the original passport will be returned with a Chinese visa by March 28, 2020. Non U. S. Citizens are responsible to fulfill appropriate entry requirements of China and the USA. Contact your consulate office for requirements. Health condition: Participant's family doctor's approval for international travel in June will be required by late May 2020. In case of a major health issue during the trip, the trip insurance's evacuation plan will cover the transportation cost for the participant to travel back home without interrupting the trip schedule. International health insurance: Travelers must provide proof of international health coverage. Single supplement: Double occupancy hotel rooms are included and optional single rooms are available with a supplement payment of \$1100 per room.

RESPONSIBILITY: UD and faculty volunteer touring directors cannot be held responsible, in the absence of their own gross neglect, for events over which they have no control, nor for acts and omissions by persons, companies or agencies, including hotels, airlines, restaurants, sea and land transportation companies, which are not directly controlled by UD and faculty touring directors.