China - Commerce & Industry
*(China for economics students)* 12 days

Departs anytime (2021-2022)

Please note: This itinerary can be modified in any way to best suit your school’s aims, learning objectives and budget.

This 12-day trip of China is designed specifically for students seeking insight into the country’s ever-burgeoning commercial and industrial proficiency as it continues to grow in geopolitical and cultural significance.

This fast-paced trip features access to several manufacturing plants, ‘green’ enterprises as well as one of the largest steel factories in the world where the student will have the opportunity to talk to management about Chinese industry and its future objectives. The itinerary will also include a visit to an internationally renowned car manufacturer as well as meeting with members of *AmCham* – (America Business Chamber of Commerce) amongst other business-related enterprises.

Other important sites which students will visit on this trip include the awe-inspiring *Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square*, the *Forbidden Palace* as well as a thorough exploration of the megacity of Shanghai and Hangzhou. This extensive trip will further include an excursion to Xian to view the Terracotta Warriors as well as a high-speed train trip to the nation’s capital city, Beijing.

Apart from presenting an overall impression of this vast nation, this itinerary is also intended to familiarise students with the grand narrative that characterizes modern China. This program further seeks to encourage students to examine the contemporary themes of social change, environmental degradation and exponential economic growth in this nation, that will likely continue to have significant implications for the entire planet in the years ahead.

Billy Penfold
Director

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Day 1  
Arrive Shanghai

We land in Shanghai this afternoon and are escorted to our hotel by our tour leader. En route, our tour leader will give us a quick Chinese language lesson and share with us some essential information about travelling in this immense country. Few cities in the world evoke so much history, glamour and mystique in name alone as does this amazing Chinese metropolis. Later in the day, we will visit the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre to learn about urban development and the infrastructure projects continuously developed to cater to this city with a population larger than Australia. While the Chinese government has gone to great efforts to control rampant urbanisation and migration in recent years, many communities in the city have been impacted and marginalised by its frenetic growth and rising economic disparity. This evening we will enjoy dinner at a busy local restaurant before possibly visiting the world’s largest Starbucks café! (meals: dinner) Flight details to be advised

Day 2  
Shanghai

Today we will set out for a thorough exploration of Shanghai, beginning in the Wai Tan district (Shanghai Bund) renowned for its landmark buildings and spectacular architecture. This area is regarded as one of the must-see places in Shanghai and gives a great sense of the pulse and frenetic buzz of the city. No trip to China would be complete without us gleaning some insight into the country’s bleeding-edge industrial prowess. This we will learn much about as we pay a special visit to a leading automobile manufacturing plant to see Chinese work practices and technologies that now rival those of Japanese and German manufacturers. We will also learn of innovations in driverless and battery technologies, as well as enjoy a question & answer session with staff to glean a perspective of what the Chinese believe the future holds for private and mass transport. Tonight, we take a boat cruise on the Huang Pu River to see the city from another perspective and observe the river trading route that is so integral to the city. (meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 3  
Shanghai (student-initiated activities)

Prior to travelling, a Student Educational Adventures staff member will talk to teachers and students about specific activities that you might like to add to your Chinese travel experience. These activities can be included based on students’ knowledge of the country or their interests or passions for any aspect of a country’s culture. The activities we can include are many and varied. These may include an introduction to a country’s creative or performing arts scene, interaction with local contemporaries, theme parks/attractions, sports events such as national sporting matches (e.g. football, badminton, national sports etc.), youth culture venues, architectural marvels, or a plethora of cultural programs. Please contact us for further ideas.

Activity 1  
French concession: Shanghai is China’s showpiece city - the industrial hub of the country famed for being the most modern city on the mainland. We will see the frenetic pace as we head out to explore the French Concession Region. Situated in Xuhui district, the French Concession in Shanghai is the largest, earliest and the most prosperous of the four French Concessions in modern China. Opened to foreign traders after the First Opium War, French colonial officials created a district in Shanghai exclusively for French patronage until Japanese forces invaded China during the Second World War. We will spend a short time at the former residence of Sun Yat-Sen who was a Nationalist and early revolutionary. It is here we learn about China’s recent political history and the struggle between the democratic movement and communism. (meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)
Activity 2

Streets & Markets: Students have the choice to visit Shanghai’s famous Nanjing Road, renowned for being the world’s longest shopping precinct. This precinct of Shanghai, made famous in movies and literature, was once home to several casinos and gambling dens. Nearby we will explore the renowned Yuyuan Bazaar filled with bamboo articles, paintings and tasty soup dumplings. Alternatively, students may choose to visit the Tianzifang precinct, a labyrinth of shikumen styled houses (a fusion of Chinese and Western-style architecture), galleries and craft stores. (meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Activity 3

American Chamber of Commerce activity: Today we will have a special opportunity to meet with a member of The American Chamber of Commerce, China. This group is a nonprofit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) whose membership comprises of several thousand business women & men who represent some 900 companies operating across China. The chamber’s mission is to help companies succeed in China through advocacy and information. Today we will enjoy a unique insight into the challenges for foreign companies doing business in China as well as learn of career prospect for those of us who are considering working in Asia in the future.

This afternoon we will visit the fascinating M50 arts district. It is here we find over 100 art galleries displaying contemporary art in all shapes and forms. This industrial warehouse site converted to art galleries is popular with the young Chinese, many of whom come to take photos in this contemporary setting which includes graffiti-lined streets, cafes and industrial relics - not to mention the art itself. It is often called the Soho of Shanghai. (meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 4 & 5

Hangzhou

This morning we visit a steel production facility on the outskirts of Shanghai to learn about this leading and the seemingly unending appetite China has for natural resources.

From here we will journey southwest to the province of Hangzhou (杭州), a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its beautiful lakes and parks. As one of China’s most enduring holiday spots, Hangzhou’s wistful panoramas have for centuries played an important role in the western perception of China, its watercolour of willow-lined banks being the inspiration for the famous willow pattern crockery commonly found in homes throughout the world. Whilst here we will enjoy a boat trip on West Lake as well as visit Hangzhou’s walking street filled with lanterns and trappings that adorn its delightful ancient edifices.

Hangzhou became a prosperous city owing to its location at the southern terminus of the Grand Canal. In more recent years, the city has reinvented itself as a centre of technology and innovation and is today home to the e-commerce corporation Alibaba and other multinational corporations, one of which we can visit.

Other activities during our stay include a boat ride on the Grand Canal and time permitting, a side trip out to Lu Town (meals: 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners)

Day 6

Hangzhou 🐘 Xian

This morning we will depart Hangzhou for our flight to the fabled city of Xian. This ancient city was once an important stop on the ‘Silk Road’ and the capital city of China for thirteen dynasties. Upon arrival, we visit the ancient City Wall built under Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang, the forefather of the Ming Dynasty.

With the primitive weapons of ancient times, the only way for an invading force to gain access was to forcefully enter the city through the main gates, hence the importance of city walls. We will walk and bicycle on top of the citadel wall to learn about Xian’s turbulent history and successive rulers. Tonight, we will visit the Hui Muslim
Street that retains the flavour and atmosphere of the old Silk Road, where traders once plied their wares from Europe to Malaysia. We will explore the myriad of surrounding streets famous for traditional Muslim snacks, confectionery and a vast array of spices and dishes being cooked using age-old methods. *(meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)*

**Day 7**

**Xian (Terracotta Warriors excursion)**

This morning we will journey to the site of the city’s famed Terracotta Warriors. The site was discovered in 1974 when farmers found many broken pottery figures while sinking a well in Xianyang village. Excavators subsequently uncovered an enormous pit in which the Terracotta Army of the Qin Dynasty was buried. In more recent times, another two pits were discovered to the north of the original site. On arrival at the village, we will watch an introductory film then begin visiting the main pits around the site. Served as the emperor’s principal fighting force, the main pit contains columns of warriors with horse-drawn chariots and represents the main body of the formation. It is estimated that there are over 1,000 pieces of pottery figures, chariots and saddled horses. This afternoon we will get behind the wok for a hands-on cooking class to learn stir-frying, noodle and dumpling-making. This activity will be hosted by a professional Chinese chef who will also share with us the essential ingredients required so we make take our skills back home to impress our families and friends. *(meals: breakfast, lunch)*

**Day 8**

**Xian (Technology activity & cooking class) ➔ Beijing**

This morning we will visit a solar panel plant to learn of this advanced industry in which China has become the world’s leader. Touring the factory with local staff will provide us with insights into the processes involved in the production and the most recent technological advances in panel design. This is a major transition, as China (and most of Northeast Asia) aims to implement massive solar energy initiatives and move away from much publicised and increasingly unpopular damming (hydro) schemes and coal power plants. We then head to the city’s train station to board the high-speed train that will efficiently transport us to Beijing. Capable of exceeding speeds of 320 kilometres per hour, our train journey will allow us time to marvel at the efficiency of high-speed rail travel which is fast replacing the need and fuss for aircraft travel in China and the greater Asian region. Constantly reimagining itself as it races towards the future, while yet inextricably linked to its glorious past, Beijing is as compelling as it is complex. Upon arrival in the nation’s capital, we will see orderly cues, ancient temples and photos of Chairman Mao everywhere. *(meals: breakfast, dinner)* **Train details:** Xian – Beijing *(train departure time to be advised)*

**Day 9**

**Beijing (city tour & Tai Chi)**

We will awake to the sounds of millions of people going about their daily routines before setting off to visit the city’s splendid Summer Palace. The Summer Palace was built within a large, natural garden on the foundations of Longevity Hill and Kunming Lake. Despite suffering several attacks over the centuries, the Palace has managed to survive the country’s Cultural Revolution – a topic our tour leader will offer us some insight into today. This afternoon we will visit the Temple of Heaven where the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties offered sacrifices to pray for large harvests. Listed as a World Heritage site, the Temple of Heaven is a very recognisable
example of Chinese architecture on which buildings across the region are modelled. It is here in the gardens surrounding the Temple we will partake in a Tai Chi session, a popular activity with residents any time of the day. Before dinner, we will also have time to visit the Wangfujing precinct to enjoy some independent exploration. (meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 10
Beijing (Great Wall of China excursion)

China’s greatest engineering triumph and must-see sight, the Great Wall wriggles haphazardly from its scattered Manchurian remains in Liaoning province to wind-scoured rubble in the Gobi Desert and faint traces in the unforgiving sands of Xinjiang. Today we will visit a picturesque section of this magnificent structure and walk atop its parapets and towers. Sometimes mistakenly assumed to be one continuous entity, China’s Great Wall, in fact, exists nowadays as chunks interspersed through precipitous mountains extending some 2,710 kilometres long.

This afternoon we will visit the celebrated 798 Arts District. This precinct is one of the coolest spots in Beijing packed with brilliant galleries, hole-in-the-wall museums and great cafes. The district provides a unique insight into the mentality of a population struggling to express themselves in a society that habitually suppresses freedom of expression. We will have the opportunity to talk to curators and discuss freedom of expression within the local art scene. Tonight, we enjoy a meal of the city’s signature dish - Peking Duck. (meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 11
Beijing (city excursion & Kung Fu)

Time will be set aside to explore one of the few remaining hutong backstreet districts to give us an insight into what urban life must have been like over 100 years ago. The ‘hutong’ streets are made up of stalls selling cheap snacks, laundries, curio shops, traditional-style wooden houses, and hand-pulled transport of all shapes and sizes. There is plenty of time for bargaining and interacting with the locals to be had.

Later we will learn the secrets of making Chinese dumplings, hosted by a family whose ancestors have perfected this typical dish over several generations.

Mid-afternoon we will visit the Chinese Military History Museum to learn of the tumultuous events that have shaped modern China. Among the exhibits are depictions of past conflicts with the Japanese, revelations of internal nationalist struggles as well as interpretations of more recent military and political events. As an alternative to the History Museum, we may instead take part in a fun & physical martial arts class. Our instructors will teach us some basic drills and patterns while explaining the theory behind this self-defence discipline that originated in the temple of Shaolin some 1,500 years ago.

This evening we take in a performance of Beijing’s famous Peking Opera - a must-see event while visiting China, showcasing this fascinating performing arts tradition accompanied by music, theatrics, and martial arts. (meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)
On this, our final day in the Middle Kingdom, we will check-out of our hotel then set off to visit one of the most important of Asia’s heritage sites - The Forbidden City. This place was the abode of successive emperors during the Ming and Qing Dynasties and sits at a very auspicious location in the centre of Beijing. It served as the residence of twenty-four emperors over several dynasties and is regarded as the largest and best-preserved palace complex in the world.

Before lunch, we will also visit Tiananmen Square, directly opposite The Forbidden City. This vast public space was the scene of a highly publicised crackdown in 1989 as Chinese troops violently retook the square where pro-democracy protesters had set up camp for weeks. The Tiananmen Square Massacre as it came to be known left an unknown number of dead, with some estimates in the thousands. So controversial was this movement that the Chinese government’s extensive censorship apparatus—which employs two million online censors — still rigorously blocks information about this seminal event.

From here we will transfer to the airport for our journey back home. Our tour leader will help us with our onward travel arrangements and then wave us farewell. **NB: for this final day you will need to wear comfortable walking shoes for our Forbidden City visit (approx. 3 hours).** (meals: breakfast) **Flight details to be advised**
Summary

Grading

Easy: Students will be required to be in good health to get the most out of this trip while anyone of reasonable fitness will be able to take part. There are no real physical difficulties however students will be expected to walk every day. You will also be expected to be able to ride a bike. It will be necessary for you to carry your own luggage throughout the trip but only for short distances.

Group Size

Minimum group size 20 students & 2 staff members travelling free of charge
▲ Smaller group sizes can be quoted upon application

Specific Trip Activities

SHANGHAI
- Shanghai city tour
- Shanghai Planning & Exhibition Centre
- French Concession
- Shanghai Museum
- The Bund & Oriental Pearl Tower excursions
- Yu Gardens & tea tasting
- Volkswagen car production plant guided
- M50 Art District
- Huang Pu Riverboat cruise
- Student initiated activities (options):
  - French concesion
  - Cars & arts
  - Streets & market exploratory activity
  - Pearl tower excursion

HANGZHOU
- UNESCO World Heritage site excursion

XIAN
- Citadel cycling activity
- Muslim Street exploration
- Terracotta Warriors and Horses
- Tour of solar panel plant

BEIJING
- Summer Palace exploration
- Temple of Heaven visit
- Tai Chi class with a local instructor
- The Great Wall of China walking tour
- Visit to 798 Arts District meet with curators
- Special Peking Duck meal
- Rickshaw tour of Hutongs
- Chinese Military History Museum or Chinese Kung Fu activity
- Peking Opera show
- The Forbidden City & Imperial Palace
- Tiananmen Square visit

China - Commerce & Industry (China for economics students) 12 days

# Please contact Student Educational Adventures for a competitive flight quote for flights from your country to China.

Inclusions

- All accommodation, transport, activities, entrance costs and other programs as described in the itinerary
- Internal flights Hangzhou - Xian
- Professional Student Educational Adventures tour leader throughout trip & additional specialist guides
- Community project sourcing and arrangements
- Extensive destination-specific risk management and assessments
- Meals (and drinking water) as listed in the itinerary
- 24 hours IN COUNTRY support from Student Educational Adventures staff
- Pre-departure support, briefings and planning meetings for students and parents
- All equipment including extensive medical supplies
- Parents information evening presentation
- Parental & student advice for vaccinations & equipment etc.
- Tips for local guides & drivers

Exclusions

- International flight to/from China #
- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- China Visa (if required)

Accommodation

Student accommodation is on a twin/triple share basis. Teacher accommodation is on a single room basis. Hotels hold a 3-star equivalent rating.

Transport

Private bus, high-speed train, aircraft
7 things to check before choosing a student travel company

Choosing the right travel company is one of the most important decisions you’ll make for your students. As you compare different school travel providers, you’ll need to weigh up everything from staffing arrangements to overall trip cost – and, of course, educational value.

To help you choose with confidence, we’ve created a checklist of seven essential factors to consider when you’re assessing travel companies. You’ll be pleased to know that these factors are a feature of every trip we run.

1. Does your travel provider have a truly local presence?

You might not know it, but many school travel companies have no local presence in the countries they send your students to. Behind the façade, these providers are marketing companies who outsource their trips to in-country operators – often importing a foreign manager at your schools’ expense. Value for money aside, running trips in this way has far-reaching consequences in an emergency, when access to language skills and local knowledge are vital.

To make sure you’re getting a genuinely local experience, it’s important to choose a bonafide in-country travel company who has a real local presence in the country you’re travelling to. For example, we use our own in-country supervisors and tour leaders to manage the school trips we run. As local experts, they travel with you and your students throughout your entire trip and are responsible for every aspect of your students’ wellbeing.

2. Is your school trip really of value to your students?

A trip abroad with friends will appeal to any young person, and many will relish the chance to explore a world away from home. But to be of real and enduring educational value, a school trip should challenge students beyond the kinds of basic touristic experiences they might just as easily have on a family holiday.

To this end, your school travel provider should provide a customised itinerary that shows quality and depth of engagement. We tailor each of our itineraries to push students beyond a surface-level exchange and maximise their time in-country so they’re learning the whole time they’re travelling. Our activity-rich programs are big on cross-cultural interaction, team-building and authentic local experiences. We also include community service projects wherever possible, which make our trips not only highly educational but life-changing, too.

3. Is the person leading your students up to the task?

The best people to lead you through a country are the folk who live there. But on top of having expert local knowledge, the people leading your students should also be expertly trained to deal with young student travellers. A tour leader who’s up to the task can teach across the full range of personalities, interests and abilities found among every student group.

For this reason, we make sure our tour leaders have at least three years’ experience leading student groups before they go in-field with yours. And they’re more than just guides – they’re also teachers, translators and troubleshooters. Our tour leaders will welcome you warmly when your group arrive, manage all of your trip logistics, and work responsibly to make sure you and your students always stay healthy and safe.

4. How safe is your travel provider, really?

While some travel companies offer a 24-hour call centre, there’s no substitute for having local people by your side and looking after you where you are. Local staff know the lay of the land, how to access the best medical attention in times of crisis and which dialect or language to speak when you need it most. This is especially important outside of major cities, where major providers’ services can be limited.

www.studientechnicaladventures.com  China – Commerce & Industry (12 days)
Our in-country staff and tour leaders not only access the best international providers (such as SOS, Global Rescue and Columbia Asia), but also complement these with expert knowledge of the nearest and most appropriate medical attention within every local area. So, if a worst-case scenario happens – when you need to communicate with non-English speaking doctors; when a comprehensive first aid kit won’t do the job; or when the phone number of an international medical provider just isn’t sufficient – you can be sure your student group is in the best of hands, no matter where they are.

5. How authentic are your service-learning programs?

Today, having students raise money for their overseas trip is a common way for schools to give back to the places they visit. However, exchanging skills – and smiles – with local communities can leave a positive legacy that’s even more powerful.

Fundraising, while well-intentioned, can be in vain if it’s not done in consultation with local communities. To make sure your impact isn’t simply an add-on, choose a school travel company that facilitates projects that solve real community problems and which help build local capacity.

Take our community service projects, for instance. We develop them through extensive cooperation with local people’s committees, NGOs and women’s organisations to ensure your students’ altruism has a lasting impact. All our service components are meticulously planned, designed to be meaningful and transparent, and, most importantly, provide tangible long-term benefits for communities.

6. Does the program you’re being offered match your students’ learning needs?

No two school groups are the same, which is why no two school trips should follow the same itinerary. Check that the travel company you choose offers a customised program that’s flexibly designed to match your students’ unique interests. In our experience, nothing inhibits a successful trip more than ‘off the shelf’ programs with generic activities.

For this reason, each trip we run is tailored to your school’s curriculum and your students’ distinct learning needs. We also like to involve students in co-designing their itinerary. Prior to their trip, we run a series of student-initiated activities to promote agency and collaboration, setting them up for success once they’re overseas.

7. Is the tour priced competitively?

A foreign travel experience for your students needn’t cost the earth. And while variations in destinations, flights and trip durations add complexity to the task of pricing your trip, the school travel company you choose should offer you that transparency, without question.

Alongside integrity in pricing sit sound educational outcomes. If your trip provider can’t quantify how your students will benefit from the trip, then you might ask whether they’re the right fit for you and your school.

Because we operate entirely in-country, with exclusively local staff, our overheads are significantly lower compared to those of other travel companies. With us, your money goes directly toward creating your tour, rather than to overseas administration costs or third-party suppliers.