

Montgomery County China Sister Cities Mission Trip Information

Sept. 15-23rd, 2013 Shanghai - Xi'an - Benxi - Beijing

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett is leading a 2013 trade and Sister-City China Mission trip from Sept. 15 to Sept. 23, 2013. The Mission is organized by Montgomery County Government and Maryland China Business Council (MCBC) with the support of the State of Maryland 's Maryland Center China (MCC) in Shanghai, which has been assisting local companies in China since 1996. This combination of experience and long term relationships offers a unique opportunity to explore, enter or expand in one of the world's most dynamic and fast growing markets and destinations.



Tour Highlights

Xi'an: Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses Museum (UNESCO World Heritage and the Eighth World Wonders), Shanxi Provincial Historical Museum, Ancient City Wall, Big Wild Goose Pagoda

Shanghai: the Bund, Shanghai Museum, Yuyuan Garden and Nanjing Road

Beijing: Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square, Great Wall, Olympic Stadiums, Hutong Tour

Group Travel Information



Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships
Diane Vu, Asian & Middle Eastern Liaison 240-777-8320

There will be four group options for travel based on interest of the trip and length of stay. Everyone is expected to travel from Shanghai to Xi'an to participate in Sister City activities. Once the activities are completed, we will split into four groups on September 21st:

Shanghai + Xi'an	Groups will split into 4 on Sept. 21
all groups will travel to Shanghai and Xi'an as part of the Sister Cities Delegation from Sept. 15 - 21	Group 1 (until Sept. 23): fly to Benxi with County Executive (Business Development)
	Group 2 (until Sept 23.): fly to Beijing (cultural exchange)
	Group 3 (until Sept. 23): on your own (stay in Xi'an or fly to other destinations)
	Group 4 (until Sept. 21): fly back to DC

Daily Itinerary and Track Information

Each day, itineraries will be broken down into 3 tracks. Participants can choose tracks based on interest.

- Track 1: Business
- Track 2: Cultural
- Track 3: Education/Social Services

Example of Daily Itinerary:

D1	September 15	Fly DC -> Shanghai			
D2	September 16	Arrive in Shanghai			
D3	September 17 Shanghai	Breakfast at Hotel			
		Morning	Track 1: Free Time	Track 2: Free Time	Track 3: Free Time
		Welcoming Lunch Banquet hosted by CE			
		Afternoon	Track 1: Business Networking Conference	Track 2: Mile-long walk along the Bund Nanjing Road Shanghai Museum	Track 3: Visit to elementary school Panel discussion with parents of students
		Evening	Dinner at Shanghai Restaurant Optional: Huangpu River Night Cruise		

D1 Sep 15th hometown – Shanghai

Start your tour by taking flight to Shanghai. Cross the International Date Line. Lose one day on the road.



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D2 Sep 16th Shanghai

Arrive at Shanghai, your tour guide will meet you at airport and transfer you to hotel.

D3 Sep 17th Shanghai

Shanghai, the modern metropolis, commercial and financial center of China. In the morning you will visit **Maryland Office in Shanghai**. Your afternoon city tour starts by walking along **the famous Bund**, a mile-long stretch along the Huangpu River. Lined by the colonial architectures of European design, this area is the best place to capture the western influences of the old days. We will be the bustling shopping district, **Nanjing Road**.



Then you will go to **Shanghai Museum**, it is a large ancient Chinese Art museum. After dinner you may take an optional tour, the **Night Cruise** on the Huangpu River.

D4 Sep 18th Shanghai

In the early morning you will visit Local Park, enjoy seniors Tai Chi practice, then heading to **Yuyuan Garden**, The inner and outer gardens were both built in the Ming Dynasty classical style, with numerous rock and tree garden areas, ponds, dragon-lined walls and zigzagging bridges separating various garden areas and pavilions. After lunch you will have free leisure time to explore



the city more and take **Magnetically Levitated Train** to Shanghai Airport, heading to Xian in the evening.

D5 Sep 19th Xi'an



Over a period of more than 2000 years, Xian was the capital for eleven dynasties. Upon arrival, you will go to visit the **Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses Museum**, sightseeing the attached life-sized defending army to the first emperor of China. It is regarded as “the eighth

wonder of the world” and among the top archaeological excavations of the 20th century. Visit an **Art Ceramics Studio** to see the artists how to make copy of terra cotta warriors and shop in local stores, we will enjoy the special local **Imperial Dumpling Banquet Dinner** and the traditional **Tang Dynasty Singing and Dancing Show** in the evening.



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D6 Sept 20 Xi'an

After breakfast you will visit the **Shanxi Provincial Historical Museum**, enjoy a local special noodle lunch and watch Noodle Making Performance. After lunch walk along **Xian's Ancient City Wall**, the most complete city wall that has survived in China. It is also one of the largest and most complete ancient military defence systems in the world. Then visit **the Big Wild Goose Pagoda**, the symbol of the city. It is said to have been built to house and protect Buddhist scriptures collected by Chinese Monk, Xuan Zang, the key figure in the Chinese classic novel, Journey to the West.

D7 Sep 21 Beijing



Fly from Xian to Beijing in the morning. Directly go to the astonishing **Great Wall** at Juyongguan Pass after pick up at airport. More than 12,000 Kilometers in total, the Great Wall is the most famous image of China throughout the world. It is the only manmade object visible from the moon, and as one of the Eight Wonders of the world, it is also a symbol of

Chinese traditional culture and the pride of the Chinese nationality. After lunch, you will have to close look over **Beijing 2008 Olympic Stadiums**, then take **Hutong Tour**. You will have free leisure time to explore the city.

D8 Sep 22 Xi'an- Beijing

Start your city tour with a visit to the **Tiananmen Square**, the largest public square in the world. Next stop is the **Forbidden City**. This complex, the largest and most intact conglomeration of ancient structures of an imperial palace ever built in the world, features more than 800 buildings with 9,999 rooms, resplendent golden-glazed roofs, red lacquered pillars and vermilion walls. In the afternoon, continue your tour to the **Temple of Heaven**, which was used by Emperors to offer sacrifices to heaven and pray for good harvest in ancient times. In the evening, enjoy a fabulous **Peking Roast Duck Banquet**. Back to hotel for rest or attend an optional energetic show-- "Legend of Kung-fu" at your own expense.



D9 Sept 23 Beijing

Your China journey is over all too soon as we take you to the airport for your homebound international flight, bidding a fond farewell to this ancient land. We know the trip is over, yet the experiences and memories will certainly last for a life time. You'll get home the same day you leave China.



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Price Information

Shanghai + Xi'an:	Groups will split into 4 on Sept. 21	Estimated Total Cost*
all groups will travel to Shanghai and Xi'an as part of the Sister Cities Delegation from Sept. 15 - 21	Group 1 (until Sept. 23): fly to Benxi with County Executive (Business Development)	Total costs are estimated* (see notes below) to be between \$2,500/pp for double occupancy - \$3,200/pp for single occupancy
	Group 2 (until Sept 23.): fly to Beijing (cultural exchange)	
	Group 3 (until Sept. 23): on your own (stay in Xi'an or fly to other destinations)	
	Group 4 (until Sept. 21): fly back to DC	

<p>*Estimated Total Cost Includes:</p> <p>(Note: Total prices are estimated and will be finalized by May 30th.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International flights for economy class (DC -> Shanghai and Beijing -> DC). Based on estimated airfare of \$1,445 for economy class on Air Canada with 1 stop. For business class, additional cost is approx \$3,400 per person. 2. Travel Accidental Insurance in China. 3. Domestic flights in economy indicated on the itinerary 4. Luxury Hotel accommodation 5. Daily meals as indicated on the itinerary (B/L/D) 6. Sightseeing tours indicated on the itinerary 7. Admission fees, Show, special banquet as indicated 8. English-speaking tour guide 9. Local transportation 10. Administrative fee for Montgomery Sister Cities (considered as a tax-deductible donation) 	<p>* Estimated Total Cost Does NOT Include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gratuity for tour guide and driver (\$8.00/day) 2. Chinese Visa fee 3. Any personal expenditure, such as phone bills, laundry, postage...etc 4. Travel Insurance (Medical/Trip Cancellation) 5. Any other charges caused by the acts of God, natural disasters, fires, weather, governmental and local authority's orders, political change, strikes, war, riots, quarantine, custom regulations, damages or injury caused by the accident beyond the responsibilities of travel agents and incurred due to the tourist action violating the law 6. Any items not listed in the itinerary
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Payment Information:

1. Deposit of \$300, cash or check only, made payable to travel agent listed below by June 15th, 2013.
2. It is recommended that airfare be booked through the travel agent listed below approximately two months before departure date (August 15th). Payment for airfare must be made in full by check or cash. If a credit card is used, there will be 5% surcharge.
3. Remainder of package cost must be made to the travel agent listed below by August 15th, 2013. At that time, you may also select your Track-based Itinerary.
4. \$100 administrative fee payable to Montgomery Sister Cities, preferably by check, is due August 15th, 2013.

If you are interested in joining the trip, please contact Diane Vu, Asian and Middle Eastern Liaison at diane.vu@montgomerycountymd.gov or 240-777-8320 to talk about next steps.



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Visa Information:

We recommend travelers send in their visa application with passport 45 days before departure day. The application fee is \$140 or you may use the travel agent listed above at a fee of \$30 per application.

- 1) Passport– You should submit your original passport that is valid for at least another 6 months with at least one blank visa page and a photocopy of the passport's information/photo page.
- 2) Visa Application Form– You should submit the Visa Application Form of the People's Republic of China (V2011A) which is truthfully completed and signed (<http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/visas/adr/>).
- 3) Photo– Please affix one color photo on the Application Form. The photo should be recent, front view, in 48mm x33mm size without head covering.
- 4) If traveler has visited China before, and previous Chinese visa is not printed on current passport, please provide a copy of previous Chinese visa page.
- 5) Invitation letter from Travel Agency or Personnel (We shall provide, if you travel with Nexus holidays)
- 6) Air flight Booking Confirmation with each traveler's name. (We shall provide, if you book with Nexus holidays)
- 7) Tour Itinerary (We shall provide, if you travel with Nexus holidays).
- 8) Your Chinese relatives or friend's local ID if you are invited by personnel.

