



CHINA STUDY TOUR 2019

Thank you for your child's interest in the 2019 China Study Tour. In this pack you will find information about the planned tour, costs, itinerary and frequently asked questions.

We would like to make sure that all families have adequate information to make an informed decision. Please contact us if you have any other further questions or require more information.

Yours Sincerely,

Susan Moore

Susan Moore
Principal
Alice Springs Language Centre

EDUCATION AIMS OF OVERSEAS STUDY TOURS

Language Skills

The immersive nature of an overseas study tour gives students the opportunity to use and improve their language skills in real time and provides an opportunity to have authentic interactions in that language.

Cross Cultural Competence

The experience of living with a host family and joining the local community, facilitates an appreciation of different cultures and lifestyles, develops coping skills and resilience.

Personal Growth

Study tours enable students to explore and develop new ways of thinking. This analysis and clarity is a life skill which helps students to reach academic potential.

Leadership Ability

An overseas educational study tour is both mentally and physically challenging. This provides students with an opportunity to set and achieve goals and to explore and develop personal strengths.

Growth in Confidence

Study tour students grow in confidence with improved presentation, communication skills and global awareness that helps them achieve success.

TOUR OUTLINE

The trip is planned to depart Alice Springs in mid-June 2019. The group will spend 12 days in China, visiting Shanghai, Chengdu, Xian and Beijing. Students will participate in language lessons and visit local tourist attractions such as the Great Wall of China, Forbidden City and Terracotta Warriors. The students will be accompanied by our 2 Chinese teachers, Ms Qiu and Mr Chen.

This is an educational study tour, therefore during the tour students will participate in language lessons and be required to complete a daily journal which will be used for an assessment when students return.

COSTS OUTLINE

| | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| Tour: | \$3000 | |
| Passport: | \$142 | \$282 |
| | (under 16) | (over 16) |
| Insurance: | \$150 | |
| Visa: | \$135 | |

Inclusions in tour cost:

- Domestic and international flights from Alice Springs to China
- Accommodation
- Public transport and private transfers
- Language lessons at Beijing Language and Culture College
- Entry fees to local attractions
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- 4x polo shirts

****Please note that these costs are approximate only and have not been finalised****

PAYMENTS

A non-refundable deposit of \$300 is required to secure your child's place on the study tour. This is due by Friday 28th September. Final payment is due in full by Friday 29 March, 2019.

Payments can be made in instalments or in one lump sum payment. ASLC is happy to sit down with you to set up a personalised payment instalment plan. An approximate guide is \$105 per week starting from 5th October.

ASLC covers the cost of our staff and any other expenses not included in the itinerary provided by the tour company (GET Educational Tours), this includes meals and transport costs. The usual practice is to incorporate these costs into the student price. In order to keep costs as low as possible for families, the ASLC pays for these expenses.

Indigenous students may be eligible for some funding from Centrecorp Foundation ASLC is able to help with applications, please contact us if needed.

KEY DATES

| | | |
|--|-----------------|--|
| Thursday, 30 August | Term 3, Week 6 | Parent Information Session Applications Open |
| Friday, 14 September | Term 3, Week 8 | Applications Close |
| Friday, 21 September | Term 3, Week 9 | Successful applicants notified |
| Friday, 28 September | Term 3, Week 10 | Non-refundable deposit due (\$300) All permission forms due |
| Friday, 15 February | Term 1, Week 3 | Passport copies to ASLC |
| Friday, 29 March | Term 1, Week 9 | Final payment due |
| Thursday, 6 June | Term 2, Week 7 | Final parent meeting |
| Saturday, 15 June | Term 2, Week 8 | Depart Alice Springs |
| Thursday, 27 June | Term 2, Week 10 | Return to Alice Springs |
| <i>We will also hold 3 coaching sessions for students, dates to be confirmed</i> | | |

ITINERARY

| | |
|-------|---|
| Day 1 | Fly from Alice Springs to Shanghai |
| Day 2 | After breakfast, experience exotic and cosmopolitan Shanghai. Walk along The Bund, with its famous European architecture, browse through the Shanghai Museum of Art and History, and enjoy a cruise on the river. After dinner, you will witness an amazing acrobatic show |
| Day 3 | After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Chengdu. On arrival, you will be met by your guide who will assist you with your transfer to your hotel. After check in, commence your guided tour of Chengdu |
| Day 4 | After breakfast, your guide will meet you at your hotel for the trip to Bifengxia to see the Pandas. Chengdu has established the world renowned breeding and research base for giant pandas, which attracts almost 100,000 visitors each year. Return to your hotel in Chengdu in time for dinner |
| Day 5 | After breakfast, check out of your hotel and your guide will take you to see Leshan's giant Buddha. Return to Chengdu airport for your flight to Xian, and on arrival transfer to your hotel |

| | |
|--------|---|
| Day 6 | After breakfast, meet your guide for the tour to visit the Terracotta Warriors and Horses, before heading to the magnificent City Wall. Your guide will then escort you to the train station for the overnight train to Beijing, where you will be travelling in first class sleepers |
| Day 7 | On arrival, you guide will meet you and then transfer you to your hotel in time for breakfast. You will then commence your guided tour of Beijing. Dinner tonight is Beijing's specialty – Peking duck |
| Day 8 | After breakfast head off to the Forbidden City in the morning, followed by a visit to Summer Palace in the afternoon. A cruise on Kunming Lake is a highlight of your time in Beijing |
| Day 9 | Head off to the Great Wall of China after breakfast, and marvel at one of the great wonders of the world. On returning to your hotel, stop off at the Olympic stadium before enjoying an evening Kung-Fu Show after dinner |
| Day 10 | Attend the Beijing Language College for language lessons followed by cultural activities in the afternoon |
| Day 11 | Attend the Beijing Language College for language lessons followed by cultural activities in the afternoon |
| Day 12 | After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home |
| Day 13 | Arrive in Australia and return to Alice Springs |

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications open on Thursday, 30 August and close on Friday 14 September.

- ▶ Students and parents complete application form which can be found on our website or by contacting the Language Centre
- ▶ ASLC contacts the student's school and collects information on the student's attendance and behaviour
- ▶ The student may be called for an interview if deemed necessary
- ▶ ASLC will send a letter to successful applicants

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- ▶ Students must respect and follow directions from all ASLC staff and accompanying adults.
- ▶ Under no circumstances should students be given or borrow money from ASLC staff, accompanying adults or other students.
- ▶ Students must maintain personal hygiene including daily showers. Students must provide their own toiletries (deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste etc.)
- ▶ Communication to Alice Springs whilst on study tour is the sole responsibility of students and their families. The ASLC is not responsible for costs of students' calls or internet us. This does not include emergency situations.

- ▶ Students are permitted to take ONE electronic device on the trip (e.g. Phone or iPad). NO Laptops
- ▶ Students will only be allowed to listen to music devices or wear earphones while travelling on the airplane or in their room in the evenings.
- ▶ Electronic devices will be confiscated for the duration of the day if students use them throughout the day for purposes other than taking photos.
- ▶ Under no circumstances are students permitted to consume alcohol or non-prescription drugs, regardless of age.
- ▶ Students will not bring excessive quantities of high sugar, high fat junk food/lollies. A small sweet treat is okay.
- ▶ Students must wear appropriate clothing, adhering to the following guidelines:
 - All students will wear a uniform. Casual clothes may be worn during homestays
 - NO short skirts or shorts
 - NO t-shirts with inappropriate slogans or images
 - Do not bring unnecessary or valuable jewellery
 - Limit of one sturdy suitcase per student
- ▶ Students will be required to give their passports to staff for safekeeping.
- ▶ Students are representing themselves, our school and our country. Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.
- ▶ Students are required to complete their journal daily
- ▶ Students are required to give a short PowerPoint presentation at their school assembly upon return

Students who are unwilling to adhere to these guidelines may not be allowed to participate in certain activities and may be sent home at the families' expense.

CANCELLATIONS

Students who wish to withdraw from the study tour will forfeit the \$300 deposit. Any withdrawals after February 1st will also forfeit all other payments made.

INSURANCE

ASLC purchases a group insurance policy through QBE Insurance. It is compulsory for all students and staff on an overseas excursion to be covered by a comprehensive travel insurance policy.

STUDENT COACHING SESSIONS

Students will be required to participate in coaching sessions run by ASLC staff. These sessions will prepare students for the mental and physical challenges of an overseas study tour. Topics that will be covered during these sessions include, cultural differences, manners & gratitude, currency, basic language, punctuality, expectations while overseas and emergency procedures.

FAQs

What happens if my child gets lost?

At every new location students will be given a muster point, this is a location in the area where students are to meet if the group is separated. If a student gets lost they need to remain where they are and an ASLC staff member will come to look for them. Students will also be given a card with the teacher's mobile number and accommodation details. A local sim card will be purchased for each student upon arrival so that staff and students can be in contact.

What happens if there is a natural disaster or terrorist attack?

We book all our study tours with GET Educational Tours who provide a 24 hour emergency support service. In the case of a natural disaster such as earthquake or a terrorist attack, our staff and GET Tours will take immediate action to remove students from danger and return to Australia. The ASLC has been running overseas study tours for over 15 years and we have never been involved with any incidences where we've had to use this service.

What happens if my child loses their passport?

All passports will be collected by the teachers and kept together to prevent students from losing their passport. Students will be given their passports back at airports and any other time where ID is required. Students will also be provided with a photocopy of their passport to keep in their bag.

What if my child gets sick?

All ASLC staff are trained in first aid. If your child becomes sick or injured, staff will determine whether it is necessary for the student to visit a doctor or be taken to hospital. All medical costs will be covered by the ASLC and claimed back on insurance.

What if there is a family emergency at home?

Please notify the Language Centre, who will arrange for you to come into the ASLC and call the teachers so you can speak to your child. If you require your child to fly home immediately, these costs will not be covered by the ASLC.

How much spending money will my child need?

Because the tour cost is all inclusive your child will only need spending money for souvenirs and additional snacks. Each country is different depending on the exchange rate and cost of living. Usually \$500 is sufficient, we don't encourage students to take excessive amounts of spending money.

Will my child's bank card work overseas?

Debit cards with Visa or Mastercard will work at most major establishments overseas. We suggest contacting your bank to discuss the best option for your child. Most banks offer travel cards, however, in the past some students have had problems with these. Remember that fees to withdraw money overseas add up quickly, we suggest withdrawing cash every couple of days to avoid fees.

Australian money can be exchanged to Chinese Yuan at the international airport or you can exchange money at the bank before departure. Speak with your bank about how far in advance you need to purchase your foreign currency.

How can I get a passport for my child?

Applications forms for Australian passports are available at the post office, or online. Visit www.passports.gov.au for all information regarding how to apply for a passport and the required documents. You should allow approximately 4 weeks for the passport to arrive after successful lodgement. All passports need to have 6 months validity from the date of arrival back into Australia.

What will the weather be like?

China will be starting their summer months so the weather will be quite warm. Temperatures around 30 degrees should be expected.

Does my child need any vaccinations?

We suggest speaking with your doctor to see if your child requires any vaccinations. Generally, none are needed if routine vaccinations are up to date.

How will I know my child is safe while overseas?

Every day during the study tour, the Language Centre will email parents with a short update and photos of the group. If your child becomes sick or injured, the ASLC will contact parents directly. You can always ring the Language Centre if you're worried about your child.

I have more questions, who can I contact?

Please call the Language Centre on 89552366 and speak with Tara Welch or email tara.welch@ntschoools.net.



Spain 2018



Japan 2018



Japan 2016



China 2013