Study Abroad to China Itinerary

**May 20 – Travel to Beijing**

**May 21 – Arrive Beijing, check into Beijing Penta Hotel**
Connected to the New World Shopping Plaza, the Beijing Penta Hotel is close to Tiananmen Square and a 1 minute walk to the subway. This four star hotel features high speed Internet, coffee/tea and complimentary bottled water.

**May 22 – Great Wall / Ming Tombs / Longdi Jade Factory Tour**
At the foot of Tianshou Mountain are the Ming Tombs; the mausoleums of 13 emperors from the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644). The layout and arrangement of the tombs are similar, but vary in size and complexity.

Badaling, the Great Wall’s most representative section is recognized as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO and is one of the new 7 wonders of the world. As early as the Qin Dynasty (221BC – 206 BC), the wall was used to protect China’s borders from northern nomadic tribes. The wall is 20 feet wide, which allowed horses to gallop five abreast.

Contact: Dr. Kevin Shanahan, kshanahan@business.msstate.edu
Of great significance and history to the Chinese, jade has played an important role in China for thousands of years. Jade represents beauty and grace. On the return from the Great Wall, we will tour the world renowned Longdi Jade factory, observe the production process and learn about the marketing of Chinese jade worldwide.

Overnight at Beijing Penta Hotel

May 23 – Temple of Heaven / Chinese Tea Tasting Class / Chinese Acrobats
The Temple of Heaven was first constructed in 1420 during the Ming Dynasty and was where the Emperors from the Ming and Qing Dynasties worshipped the God of heaven.

Meant to be a sensory exploration, the role of preparing, serving and drinking tea is a centuries old ritual that plays a central role in Chinese culture. We will attend a tea preparation class and learn how to properly prepare and serve tea in classical Chinese fashion.

Contact: Dr. Kevin Shanahan, kshanahan@business.msstate.edu
Similar to Cirque du Soleil, but in traditional Chinese fashion, Chinese acrobatics have been around for two thousand years. The performance is characterized by feats of strength, and daring and precision balancing. These include the lion dance, hoop diving and flying trident among others.

Overnight at Beijing Penta Hotel

**May 24 – Tiananmen Square / Forbidden City / Mao’s Tomb / Beijing Opera**
Located at the center of Beijing is Tiananment Square, built in 1417 during the Ming Dynasty. The square is said to have a sufficiently large enough capacity to hold a million Chinese. Playing a central role in the confirming of new Emperors, the square is bordered by the Great Hall of the People, Mao Zedong’s memorial and the Forbidden City.
Once known as the Peking Opera, the Beijing Opera is the quintessence of China. Developed by borrowing and absorbing many other dramatic formats, Beijing Opera involves face painting, martial arts, and a special blend of virtual and reality freeing this art form from the confines of time and space on stage.

Overnight at Beijing Penta Hotel

May 25 – Cloisonne Factory Tour / Pearl Market / Silk Alley / Peking Duck Dinner

Cloisonne is an ancient technique for decorating metal. While still fairly common in China, this technique has been used throughout the world including such items as the Imperial Crown of the Holy Roman Empire, the pectoral of Tutankhamun and the 10th century Golden Madonna of Essen. We will visit a working cloisonne factory.

While the Hongqio Pearl market does retail pearls from around the world, it is much more. Covering more than an acre and boasting 8 floors, it is a retail wonder to behold. Everything from a floor devoted to seafood, one devoted to silk products, another devoted solely to pearls to pretty much anything one would associate with China.
Once a harried group of outdoor stalls, post-Olympic Beijing’s famous Silk Alley has moved indoors. Those negotiating and bargaining skills you’ve honed in business school will be tested. But everything from Chinese handicrafts to Louis Vuitton purses are available. Well the last one at $10 is probably not authentic.

The Chinese say no visit, pleasure or business is complete without a trip to the Great Wall and a Peking Duck dinner. Beijing roast duck, one of the most delicious dishes in the world, offers an excellent opportunity to understand more about Chinese cuisine, culture and customs.

Overnight at Beijing Penta Hotel
May 26 – Olympic Venues Half Day Interior Tour and Tour of Walmart in Beijing
The 2008 Summer Olympic Games were held in Beijing. We will tour the facilities in which they were held including the National Stadium (Bird’s Nest), National Indoor Stadium, and the National Aquatica Center (Water Cube) and learn about Chinese methods of training their athletes for the Olympics.

Walmart is the same everywhere, right? Not exactly! In Beijing, Walmart is stocked with a lot of local products not found anywhere else. From turtles to a full display case of sea cucumbers, this isn’t your average Walmart. And everywhere you turn are samples. In China they compete on service not price. With dual escalators (traveling in the same direction) to handle heavy traffic, every inch of space is used to market goods, including the space between escalators. It has been described as “weirdly upscale” compared to US Walmarts.

Overnight at Beijing Penta Hotel
May 27 – Meet with US Embassy Officials and Brewery Tour at Yanjing
Today we visit with the commercial attache who will explain the concept of guanxi and its importance when doing business in China. Opportunities and potential pitfalls will be discussed along with current US-Chinese business relations.

Yanjing Beer as a brand was formed in 1993 but the brewery was founded in 1980. The company is a publicly traded, entrepreneurial example of the New China. We will tour the production facility and meet with the marketing directors to learn how to grow a thriving business in the current Chinese business environment.

Overnight at Beijing Penta Hotel

May 28 – Free Day in Beijing

Overnight at Beijing Penta Hotel
May 29 – Travel to Shanghai via High Speed Rail on Beijing/Shanghai Express
Once we arrive in Shanghai we will have an orientation tour of the area.

We will be staying at the Shanghai Equitorial Hotel in Shanghai. The hotel is a superior first class hotel in the central business district. The hotel boasts of a fitness center and high speed Internet.

Overnight at Shanghai Equitorial Hotel
May 30– Shanghai World Financial Center and Former French Concession

“Feel the pull of the global magnet” is not just a slogan. The Shanghai World Financial Center serves as a point of convergence for information as well as financial services.

The aptly named French Concession is exactly as the name suggests, an area of Shanghai once designated for the French. Today this is a busy shopping area and home to Shanghai Stadium. The area includes the former residence of Sun Yat Sen, site of the First National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party and other notable landmarks in Chinese history.

Overnight at Shanghai Equitorial Hotel
May 31 – The Bund, Yuyuan Garden, Jade Buddha Temple and Shanghai Museum
The Bund is the famous waterfront that has been a symbol of Shanghai for hundreds of years. The buildings vary from gothic to baroque to romanesque.

In the ultra modern city of Shanghai, a temple built in 1882 offers a stark contrast. Named the Jade Buddha Temple, two precious jade Buddhist statues provide not only rare cultural relics but also porcelain artwork.

The Yuyuan Garden, built in 1577, covers 5 acres. Its highlights include pavilions, halls, rockeries, ponds and cloisters.

The Shanghai Museum offers visitors the opportunity to see rare Chinese artifacts including: ancient bronze, calligraphy, sculptures, jade, coins, and Ming and Qing Dynasty furniture.

Overnight at Shanghai Equitorial Hotel
June 1 – Free day to explore Shanghai

Overnight at Shanghai Equitorial Hotel

June 2 – Depart for the United States...WELCOME HOME

Contact: Dr. Kevin Shanahan, kshanahan@business.msstate.edu