HARVARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2014 WORLDWIDE TRAVEL PROGRAM

TRAVELS 2014

CHINA AND TIBET:
Ancient Cultures and Modern Sophistication
with Martin K. Whyte, Professor of Sociology
May 17-28, 2014
EXPERIENCE THE MAGNIFICENCE OF CHINA’S PAST AND PRESENT, AND UNLOCK THE SACRED TRADITIONS OF TIBET . . .

Join fellow Harvard alumni and professor of Sociology, Martin Whyte, on an exploration of the incomparable Chinese and Tibetan traditions that have flourished over the millennia.

In Beijing, learn about the grandeur of the Ming and Qin dynasties with visits to the capital’s Forbidden City, Great Wall, and Temple of Heaven. In Xian, the Qing dynasty emerges before your eyes with Emperor Qin Shi Huang’s 2,300-year-old terracotta warriors.

Then, fly deep into the Himalayas to Lhasa and discover the heartland of Tibetan Buddhism. For over a thousand years Buddhism has developed its exotic spiritual life in the highest and most remote region of the world.

Experience the unrivaled beauty of Hangzhou, a historic city located on the charming West Lake. As the capital during the Song dynasty, Hangzhou became the cultural center of China, attracting the country’s best and brightest. Renowned for its tea, silks, and beautiful landscape, Hangzhou exudes sophistication and natural elegance.

Finally, explore cosmopolitan Shanghai, China’s most modern city where commerce and technology help shape the nation’s future.

All along the way, Professor Whyte and your resourceful local guides will provide insightful commentary that gives context to the China you will see.
SCHEDULE BY DAY

MAY 17, SATURDAY –
MAY 18, SUNDAY
U.S. – BEIJING
Depart the U.S. on flights to
Beijing, arriving in China the next
day. Transfer to your hotel, located in
the heart of Beijing. (MEALS ALOFT)
Overnight: Hilton Hotel

MAY 19, MONDAY
BEIJING
After breakfast, visit the Forbidden
City, the abiding symbol of
Imperial China. Marvel at its
expansive architecture, magnificent imperial gardens, and
many museums of antiquities and treasures. Next, explore Beijing’s
picturesque Houhai district, where
well-preserved courtyard homes and
narrow hutong alleys border tree-
lined lakes. Tour the district by
“pedicab” for a closer and more
engaging experience of traditional
Chinese life. Enjoy lunch in private
homes of local families. Tour the
Temple of Heaven, one of the finest
cultural expressions of the Ming
dynasty. This evening, savor the
imperial city’s most famous delicacy,
Peking duck, at the China Lounge
Restaurant. (B,L,D)
Overnight: Hilton Hotel

MAY 20, TUESDAY
BEIJING
In the morning, drive to the Great
Wall of China at Mutianyu, a rugged
section of the Wall that offers less
crowded access and a more striking
perspective of the surrounding hills.
Lunch is at Xiaolongpu restaurant
famous for farmers’ fresh produce,
and local flavors. In the afternoon
tour the 798 Dashanzi Art and
Culture District. This renovated
factory district is distinguished as
the “Soho” of Beijing. More than one
hundred galleries are here, in
addition to artist studios, fashion
boutiques, and design ateliers.
Tonight is free and dinner is on your
own. (B,L)
Overnight: Hilton Hotel

MAY 21, WEDNESDAY
BEIJING/XIAN
This morning fly to the ancient Tang
dynasty capital of Xian. Upon arrival,
tour the tomb of China’s first
emperor, Qin Shi Huang, home to the
extraordinary 2300-year-old
terracotta warriors. The warriors still
stand on the original site of the
emperor’s burial complex, where
peasants discovered them in 1974.
Before dinner, stroll Xian’s Muslim
Street and visit its Grand Mosque.
Chinese Muslim culture traces its
heritage from the once flourishing
Silk Road culture of the Tang dynasty.
(B,L)
Overnight: Hilton Hotel

MAY 22, THURSDAY
XIAN/LHASA
Fly to Gonggar airport in Tibet. Upon
arrival, meet your Tibetan guide and
transfer to Lhasa. After adjusting to
the altitude, enjoy a walk around
Barkhor Street, the marketplace of
old Lhasa and still amazingly
evocative of old Tibet. The Barkhor is
a pilgrim circuit where hundreds of
pilgrims on any one day make their
ritual circumambulations. It is also a
thriving market; and traditional
stone-block architecture forms the
backdrop for the sale of prayer flags,
prayer wheels, thangkas, sutras,
jewelry, Tibetan knives, and so on.
Lunch and dinner will be at the hotel.
(B,L,D)
Overnight: Sheraton Hotel

MAY 23, FRIDAY
LHASA
Start this day by going to the Potala
Palace, once the seat of government
and the winter residence of the Dalai
Lama. The abiding symbol of Tibetan
Buddhism. The complex comprises
the White and Red Palaces situated
in the center of Lhasa Valley at an
altitude of 12000ft. It rises over 13th
stories and holds thousands of
rooms. Then take a short drive to
Norbulingka, the Dalai Lama’s former
summer residence. Constructed in
the 18th century, it is a masterpiece
of Tibetan architecture and contains
several palaces and chapels. Later
visit Jokhang Temple, Tibet’s holiest
shrine, filled with altars, halls, and
galleries. The finest Tibetan art
treasures are found here, though
some originals were destroyed during
the Cultural Revolution.
(B,L,D)
Overnight: Sheraton Hotel

MAY 24, SATURDAY
LHASA
In the morning, visit Drepung
Monastery, the largest monastic
complex in Tibet and home to
approximately 300 monks. After
lunch, tour Sera Monastery, one of
the three great monasteries of the
Gelugpa sect. The great ceremonial
hall holds thousands of Tibetan
sutras in cubicles along the wall.
Hundreds of monks continue to
practice the Buddhist dharma,
including historic debating rituals.
Later in the day, stop by a local
Tibetan village where old Tibetan life
style continues. (B,L,D)
Overnight: Sheraton Hotel

MAY 25, SUNDAY
LHASA/HANGZHO
In the morning, take the flight from
Lhasa to Hangzhou (via Chengdu.)
Hangzhou is the most elegant and
beautiful city in China today. During
Marco Polo’s visit here, he called

FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/HAA/TRAVEL
HIGHLIGHTS

• Attend an educational program led by a Harvard study leader and expert local guides.

• Encounter the extraordinary and less crowded rampart at Mutianyu, a rugged section of the Great Wall that offers sweeping views of countryside.

• Come face to face with the extraordinary army of 2,300-year-old terracotta warriors which still stand guard over the tomb of China’s first emperor.

• Walk with Tibetan pilgrims in the Barkhor circumambulations and understand how many of the faithful have been prostrating themselves for months across the Tibetan plain.

• Marvel at awe-inspiring architecture of Potala Palace, the abiding symbol of Tibetan Buddhism.

• Learn the ancient art of tea cultivation with farmers in Hangzhou.

• Explore the elegant garden culture of Hangzhou and take a sunset boatride on the picturesque West Lake.

• Marvel at the world-class displays of Chinese bronze, jade, ceramics, paintings, and furniture. Wander in the old French Concession with European style villas in the historic district. Enjoy a special farewell banquet at the elegant Dingxiang Garden Restaurant famous for Shanghai cuisine. After dinner, stroll along the Bund, viewing the colonial buildings along the river.

Hangzhou “Paradise on Earth” and deemed it “the finest and noblest city in the world.” Upon arrival, check into your hotel by the lake. Take a walk along the White Causeway at the West Lake. The evening is free and dinner is on your own. (B,L)

Overnight: Shangri-La Hotel

MAY 26, MONDAY

HANGZHOU

In the morning, explore Guo Zhuang Garden, one of the magnificent classical gardens on West Lake. The tranquil scenery and surrounding hillsides are a thrilling experience for the garden lover. Visit Meijiawu Tea Plantation known for its superb longjing tea. Meet tea farmers and learn how this ancient art is carried on today. Walk the tea fields and learn the fine art of leaf picking. After a short break for lunch, tour the Buddhist Lingyin Temple, one of the earliest grand Chan Buddhist centers remaining in China today. Visit the compound of Qing dynasty merchant, Hu Xueyan. Countless courtyards lead from one to another, culminating in a grand garden with monumental rock and architectural design. Later, enjoy a sunset boat ride on West Lake and tour the charming gardens and classical architecture on the isles. Dinner is at a local restaurant featuring Hangzhou cuisine. (B,D)

Overnight: Shangri-La Hotel

MAY 27, TUESDAY

HANGZHOU/SHANGHAI

After breakfast, take a short bullet train ride to Shanghai (one hour.) Tour Yuyuan Gardens, which was designed in six unique parts, making the garden seem much larger than it really is. Head to the Shanghai Museum, viewing its wonderful collection of Chinese bronzes, ceramics, paintings, and furniture. Wander in the old French Concession with European style villas in the historic district. Enjoy a special farewell banquet at the elegant Dingxiang Garden Restaurant famous for Shanghai cuisine. After dinner, stroll along the Bund, viewing the colonial buildings along the river. (B, D)

Overnight: Portman Ritz-Carlton

MAY 28, WEDNESDAY

SHANGHAI – U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the Shanghai airport for flights home. Arrive in the U.S. the same day. (B, MEALS ALOFT)
Optional Extension Tours

CHENGDE IMPERIAL RESORT  MAY 14 – 18

Arrive in China a few days early and experience the grandeur of one of China’s greatest cultural landmarks, the Qing dynasty Summer Palace at Chengde. The garden complex includes imperial halls, southern-style lake gardens, Mongolian yurts and a wooded hillside with numerous pavilions. Eight Tibetan Buddhist temples, each one architecturally unique, were built just beyond the palace; five of the temples remain.

Price: $1,450 per person based on double occupancy, $650 for single supplement

HUANG MOUNTAINS & HUIZHOU CULTURE  MAY 28 – JUNE 1

This five-day extension focuses on Anhui Province and its idyllic landscape of rice paddies, Ming and Qing dynasty villages and old town centers. Discover traditional Anhui life, regional architecture and museums and the crown jewels of the region, the Huang Mountains. The beauty of granite precipices towering above the morning valley clouds has provided inspiration for Chinese artists for centuries. On foot and by cable car, explore the mountains’ gorgeous views.

Price: $2,095 per person based on double occupancy, $895 for single supplement

YANGZI RIVER CRUISE  MAY 28 – JUNE 1

Fly to Chongqing, the great city of interior China, with a visit to the Chongqing Zoo to see the giant pandas. Board the Victoria cruise ship, travel downstream through the spectacular Three Gorges. Along the way, disembark to enjoy activities onshore. Tour a relocated village and see the breathtaking Lesser Gorge, Danninghe. Experience the spectacular Three Gorges Dam at Sandouping. Disembark at Yichang and fly to Shanghai in the late afternoon.

Price: $2,195 per person based on double occupancy, $995 for single supplement

Pricing: Main Tour
Not including international air

Per Person, double occupancy: $6,995
Single Supplement: $2,095

General Information

Travel in China and Tibet: The schedule will be demanding with moderate physical activities. Travel in China will require good physical condition and health (special needs must be pre-arranged and may result in additional cost), a spirit of adventure, a flexible attitude, and a sense of humor. Lhasa is 12,000 feet above sea level. It is recommended you check with your physician about altitude medications and if you are fit to travel to Tibet.

Tour Cost Inclusions: Double occupancy accommodations in centrally located, first class hotels; All meals listed in the itinerary, at fine Chinese restaurants specializing in regional cuisines or in private homes; local beer and wine at lunches and dinners; All sightseeing, entertainment, and cultural activities listed in the itinerary; all air and ground transportation within China; Chinese airport taxes; English-speaking Chinese National and local tour guides; Harvard Study Leader; $50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance; Gratuities to National guides, local guides and drivers; Preparatory material.

Tour Cost Exclusions: Domestic U.S. and international airfare; Airport transfers and porterage; Gratuities on extension tours; Visa processing; Meals not listed in the itinerary; Excess baggage charges; Travel insurance; Liquor and other items of a personal nature.

Reservations, Deposits, & Final Payment: To reserve a space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person. Please either call us at 800.422.1636 or 617.496.0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in the back of this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure, and must be paid by check. Payment terms will be sent to you with your reservation confirmation from our partner tour operator.

Cancellations & Refunds: All cancellations must be made in writing to the Harvard Alumni Association. Cancellation penalties based on the date of receipt of written notice are as follows: 91 or more days prior to departure, a cancellation fee of $500 per person is retained; 90-46 days prior to departure, $1,500 per person; 45-31 days prior to departure, $2,500 per person; 30-0 days prior to departure, no refund is made.

International Air Arrangements: Roundtrip international air is available through AirTrek. For pricing, please contact AirTrek directly at 415-977-7136 or at china-advocates@artreks.com. Air cancellations and penalties are based on each carrier and ticket. Be sure to review these policies before purchasing air via AirTrek.

Changes in Itinerary and Costs: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of HAA Travels and the tour operator. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure printing and are subject to change. While the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

Insurance: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by the HAA upon confirmation.

Responsibility: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/china-tibet-2014. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call HAA Travels at 800.422.1636 or 617.496.0806.

Disclaimer: Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. HAA Travels nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

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Martin King Whyte is the John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and of Sociology at Harvard University. He specializes in the study of grass roots social organization and social change in the PRC and has published two books reflecting his ongoing research on inequality patterns and trends in China: *One Country, Two Societies: Rural-Urban Inequality in Contemporary China* (editor, Harvard University Press, 2010) and *Myth of the Social Volcano: Perceptions of Inequality and Distributive Injustice in Contemporary China* (Stanford University Press, 2010). He has also published studies on China’s economic development patterns, continuity and change in Chinese family life, gender relations, health trends, and on comparisons of the post-socialist transition in China and Eastern Europe.

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