

Visit China with the Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce!

Bejing-Hangzhou-Suzhou-Shanghai 8 Days

October 04 - 12, 2009

Do not miss this opportunity to join the Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce trip to China in October, 2009!

Package tour price: \$1799 (including taxes) double occupancy. \$300 additional for single supplement. You should also plan for a \$150 visa application fee and about \$6 per day for tips to tour guides and bus drivers.

The tour price includes international round trip airfare and flights within China, four and five star luxury hotels, all meals, ground tour bus transportation, English speaking tour guide service, airport taxes and complimentary travel insurance to members who make complete payment 60 days before departure.

Tour operated by Star River Int'l Travel INC.

CST#2085704-40

Day01-02 **Oct04-05** **LA-Beijing** **Flight No. CA984** **LAX-PEK**
Check in time 9:30pm, 10/04/09, Terminal 2; Departure time at LAX 1:40am, 10/05/09

Our flight departs from LAX for China. Try to sleep on board overnight as we cross the Pacific Ocean, because your tour starts the moment we arrive!

Day03 **Oct06** **Arrive in Beijing (B/L/SD)** **Hotel: Beijing Jade Palace Hotel or Similar 5***



We arrive in Beijing early in the morning and have some tea & dim sum in a traditional Chinese restaurant. We start our sightseeing at the **Temple of Heaven** with an area of about 2,700,000 square meters. The Temple was built in 1420 A.D. during the Ming Dynasty to offer sacrifices to Heaven. Chinese emperors called themselves "the Son of Heaven". Here you will also see the dynamic daily life of local residents who start a fresh day by walking out into the open air.

Next we arrive at the **Summer Palace**, the imperial garden built in the Qing Dynasty. This summer residence of imperial rulers was designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1990. This is the largest garden in China. It features a 17-arch bridge and marble boat on the Kunming Lake and a mile-long open-air art gallery with colorful paintings based on Chinese legends. Dinner at 5:30 pm. Optional Chamber business exchange will start at 7:30pm.

Stroll along **Qian Men Street**, the Front Gate Street, a renovated ancient street from the Qing & Ming Dynasty, a place to feel and touch the traditional life style of local people.

Day 04 Oct07 Beijing (B/L/D) Hotel: Beijing Jade Palace Hotel or Similar 5*



We will take a full day excursion to the **Great Wall of China** in a suburb of Beijing. The Great Wall has witnessed Chinese history for over 2000 years. Put your feet on just a few steps or hike up to the top so that you can say, "I have conquered the Great Wall!" Stretching 4500 miles from east to west China, the wall construction began during the Warring States Period (403 to 221 BC).

Zi Tian Museum – precious hard wood carving museum, China’s largest collection of marvelous wood carving furniture and arts. A unique eye-opening experience only here in Beijing!



Tonight we enjoy the **Imperial Banquet** at a splendid ancient Chinese restaurant decorated with dragons and phoenixes with a picturesque view near the Forbidden City.

This is a very special exclusive offer to the Laguna Niguel Chamber tour group. Take the opportunity to taste the food made from Chinese emperors’ recipes and enjoy a once-in-lifetime palace-style meal.

Day 05 Oct08 Beijing (B/L/D) Hotel: Beijing Jade Palace Hotel or Similar 5*

Tian’anmen Square has witnessed many important political incidents and movements in contemporary Chinese history. In this world’s largest square stand The Monument of the People’s Hero, History Museum, the National People’s Congress, and the recently built Grand Opera Theatre with a huge dome.

The Forbidden City, also named the Palace Museum, is the highlight of today's tour. Lying at the center of Beijing, this imperial palace was built in 1404 and completed in 1420 during the Ming and Qing dynasties. The world's largest palace complex of 9,999 buildings covers 74 hectares surrounded by a six meter deep moat and a ten meter high wall. Twenty-four emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties reigned here for over 500 years. Listed by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site in 1987, the Palace Museum is now one of the most popular tourist attractions world-wide.

You will have a few hours free time to stroll along Wang Fu Jing, a traffic-free commercial street. Here you may explore some government-owned foreign language book stores and elegant arts & crafts stores. We will also see two famous buildings from the 2008 Beijing Olympics -- the **Bird Nest National Stadium** and **Water Cube Aquatics Center** as well as **Olympic Park**.

Special Peking Duck Dinner followed by the world famous **Beijing Acrobats** tonight!

Day06 Oct09 Beijing-Shanghai-Suzhou (B/L/D) Hotel: New Garden City Hotel or Similar 4*

Fly to Shanghai in the morning. **Yu Garden** is a famous classical garden in Shanghai. The garden was finished in 1577 by a government officer of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) named Pan Yunduan. Yu in Chinese means pleasing and satisfying, and this garden was specially built for Pan's parents as a place for them to enjoy a tranquil and happy time in their old age.



During the Opium War of the 19th century, Yuyuan Garden was severely damaged. The Yuyuan Garden you see today is the result of a five year restoration project which began in 1956. The garden opened to the public in September, 1961. Our first stop in Shanghai is at this 400-year old classic Garden.

Coming out of Yu Garden, you will find yourself in the center of **Old Town of Shanghai**, fascinated with traditional southern China architectural styles, an ancient shopping mall, and the interesting daily activities of local people. It is a must stop before you see modern Shanghai.

We take a bus ride to Suzhou and spend the night in Suzhou.

Day07 Oct10 Suzhou-- Hangzhou (B/L/D) Hotel: Hangzhou Bari Int'l Hotel or Similar 4*

As the cradle of the finest arts in the silk industry, embroidery and garden design, Suzhou plays a vital role in Chinese cultural history. The Grand Canal runs through Suzhou and makes it well-known as the Oriental Venice. You will take a **Boat Ride** along water lanes to enjoy the scenery in this small town. Your tour guide will also take you to visit **Lingering Garden**, the **Silk Factory and Embroidery Museum**.

You will leave this friendly town with unforgettable memories. You will be bused to the next beautiful city - Hang Zhou, China's paradise.



Day08 Oct11 Hangzhou- Shanghai (B/L/D) Hotel: Days Hotel Tongji or Similar 4*

Located southwest of Shanghai, Hangzhou is a cultural city with 2,000 years of history. A Chinese saying goes: "If there is heaven on earth, Huang Zhou and Suzhou must be it". You are now in a place for leisure, romance, tea and flowers. The central attraction of the city is its mist-laden **West Lake** and **Fish Park**, around which a handful of ancient romances and legends were developed into novels and dramas. We will **tour around the lake by boat** to enjoy the picturesque view and its stories.

If you work in this town, your boss will pretend not to notice when you leave the office early for a flower show. This is also the home of **Dragon Well green tea**. Hundreds of tea villages and thousands of tea houses spread out in the suburb and all over the city. Seniors enjoy half price in a tea house where they eat and talk with their friends all day long while the young date on the weekends in a tea village.

After lunch we will be on the way to Shanghai. Upon arriving in Shanghai, we will spend a couple of hours in **Shanghai Museum** with its many exhibition halls covering thousands of years of Chinese history and arts, a wonderful way to conclude our trip to China!

After dinner, tour guide will take us to the "**Bund**", a German word for "river bank", to see fantastic neon lights by the bank of the Huang Pu River, with European style buildings on one side and modern high scrapers across the river, a showcase of China's fast-paced development in the recent 20 years.

Day 09 Oct12 Departure to LAX via Beijing (B) CA983 Oct12 PVGLAX 2:20PM / 6:00PM

Morning bus tour to **Pudong newly developed area**, taking last look at the Metropolitan Shanghai on the way to the airport. Transfer to Beijing from Shanghai, board Air China CA982 heading for the U.S. Arrive at LAX at 6pm, Monday, October 12

Optional Extended Tour to Xi'an 3 Days / 2 Nights

Hotel: Xi'an Hotel or Similar 4*

Month	Package Price	Single Supplement	Extra night
Oct12-14	\$590p/p	\$165p/p	\$165p/n/r+ ABF

Itinerary: fly from Shanghai to Xian on Oct. 12

Day01/12Oct: Transfer to hotel. **CA1216 12Oct Shanghai to Xi'an 12:55pm/3:25pm**

Visit Ancient City Wall upon arrival in Xian (D)

Day02/13Oct: Qin Shi Huang's Terra Cotta Warriors Museum, Big Goose Pagoda. (AB/L/D)

Dumpling Dinner tonight

Day03/14Oct: Transfer to airport. (AB) **CA1224 Xi'an to Beijing 3:15pm/5:00pm**

Fly from Beijing to LAX

Four Steps to China!

Step 1 - Sign up & Deposit:

Sign up now to reserve your spot on the tour! To sign up, contact Debbie Newman in the LN Chamber office (949) 363-0136 or Wendy Harder at wwharder@soka.edu or Lisa Lu lu@soka.edu (949) 480-4083. A **deposit of \$200** is due **by June 30** payable to the Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce to secure your space. Because our group size is limited by the airline reservation, space will be reserved based on the order that deposits are received. Mail your deposit check to: *Laguna Niguel Chamber of Commerce China Trip Oct 2009, Attn: Debbie Newman, 28062 Forbes Road, STE C, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677.*

Step 2 - Check your passport and be sure it doesn't expire within six months after Oct. 4, 2009.

Apply for a new passport if you need to - allow at least eight to ten weeks.

Step 3 - Final Payment due by July 30: Send the remaining tour fee \$1599 (double occupancy) or \$1899 (single occupancy) to Star River International Travel, Inc. Payment received before 07/30/09 will guarantee free travel insurance courtesy of Star River Holidays. (This is not cancellation insurance. You may wish to purchase cancellation insurance separately.) Make the final payment check payable to **Star River Holidays** with a memo note that it is for the Laguna Niguel Chamber China Tour Oct 2009. Mail your check together with a **copy of the first page of your passport** to:

Gao Jun, *Star River International Travel Inc., 1139 Coiner Ct. Suite 105, City of Industry, CA 91748*

Step 4 - Tour Meeting schedules:

May 29, Friday: Tour information meeting at 12 noon at Laguna Niguel Chamber Office, 28062 Forbes Road, STE C, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. (Optional - but a good chance to ask questions!)

Sept. 04, Friday: Visa application meeting at 12 noon to help you submit your visa application, same location. You must bring to this meeting: 1) original passport 2) a check for \$150 payable to Star River Holidays for visa application fee; 3) one 2x2" passport photo; 4) completed visa application form (to be provided online).

Sept. 18, Friday: Passport and air ticket distribution meeting at 12 noon at the same location to receive passport back with approved visa inside; air tickets, travel insurance document, luggage and name tags and final Q&A. Now you are ready to pack for China!