Sophomore International Experience

Discovering the Real China: Culture and Business

January 7-20, 2013

** Tentative Itinerary **

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Sophomore International Experience - China

Great Wall of China

Hong Kong
Jan. 7  Departure for Beijing from Providence/Boston

Jan. 8  Beijing: Arrival, Night Bus Tour along Chang’an Avenue and Tiananmen Square

- Arrive at Beijing Capital International Airport
- Check in at China People’s Palace Hotel
• Dinner in Authentic Hunan Restaurant
• Night bus tour along Chang’an Avenue and Tiananmen Square (in front of the Forbidden City)

Jan. 9  Beijing: Lenovo Corporate Visit, Great Wall, Traditional Acrobatic Show
• Visit Lenovo/IBM PC (casual business attire): Discussion with Managers, Visit Lenovo Museum, PC Plant and Call Center (www.lenovo.com)
• Traditional Acrobatic Show

Jan. 10  Beijing: Bank of China, Urban Planning Museum, Tiananmen Square, Palace Museum (Forbidden City), Silk Market
• Visit Bank of China Headquarter (casual business attire): Bank of China Museum, Discussion with Managers
• Lunch at Xidan Shopping Mall on students own
• Beijing Urban Planning Museum
• Palace Museum (Forbidden City) (http://www.world-heritage-tour.org/asia/china/ming-qing/beijing/forbidden-city/map.html)
• Silk Market shopping, free time, dinner on students own
• Group meeting

Jan. 11  Beijing: Olympic Village, Business College of Beijing Union University, Summer Palace, Beijing Duck Dinner
• Visit the Business College of Beijing Union University: Short Lecture, Conversation with Chinese Students
• Tour the Summer Palace (http://www.world-heritage-tour.org/asia/china/ming-qing/beijing/summer-palace/wanshoushan-north-up/sphere-flash.html)
• Dinner: Beijing Roast Duck

Jan. 12  Beijing Airport / Guilin Airport / Yangshuo
• Flight departs for Guilin
• Arrive at Guilin airport, depart for Yangshuo (coach) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yangshuo)
• Check in at hotel
• Dinner on students own, free time

Jan. 13  Yangshuo: Mountain Biking and Cave Exploration
• Mountain Biking
• Cave Exploration
• Local Cooking Classes (Cook your own Chinese dinner)
• Presentation: Doing Business in China

Jan. 14  Yangshuo: Hiking, Farm Visit, River Boat Tour, Light Show / Fishing Show
• Hiking along the Li River
• Lunch at farm
• River boat tour
• Dinner on students own
• Options: Liu San Jie Light Show / Cormorant Fishing Show

Jan. 15  Zhuhai: Jilin University Zhuhai College
• Flight to Zhuhai (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhuhai,_China)
• Check in hotel
• Visit Beijing Institute of Technology Zhuhai, campus tour, discussions with students and professors
• Dinner in student cafeteria

Jan. 16  Zhuhai: Conversation with Chinese Students, Presentation on Doing Business in China, Factory Visit
• Conversation with Chinese Students
• Presentation on Doing Business in China by Chinese professors
• Lunch
• Factory visit
• Dinner

Jan. 17  Hong Kong: History Museum, Supply Chain Company Visit, River Cruise
• Ferry to Hong Kong, Check in to hotel
• Hong Kong History Museum on the Opium War and Hong Kong history (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong)
• Visit Modern Terminals Ltd., Discussion on International Supply Chain Management with Mr. Peter Levesque, CFO
• Dinner
• River cruise at Victoria Harbor

Jan. 18  Hong Kong: Exploration Day (Groups need to research and propose plan and activities prior to the trip)
• Groups depart from hotel and explore proposed sites
• Evening: Group reports and presentations
• Dinner
• Fireworks show

Jan. 19  Hong Kong: AIG Hong Kong, China-United States Exchange Foundation
• Visit AIG Hong Kong, meet CEO and Bryant alum
• Visit China-United States Exchange Foundation, Presentation and discussion on U.S.-China Relations
• Dinner

Jan. 20  Hong Kong / Providence
• Arrive at Providence TF Green Airport in the evening

Pictures and more information about past trips are available at the U.S.-China Institute website.

From past students:

“Traveling to China has been so far the most educational and enjoyable experience of my life. It took things I learned in the classroom and made them real. Bryant did an amazing job organizing and packing the trip with activities that are all enjoyable and worthwhile. I don’t think I would have gotten nearly as much out of the trip if I had traveled without Bryant. I highly recommend that everyone choose China and am so thankful for my own experience there.”

Emily Bogan
“The Sophomore International Experience in China has been amazing and has exceeded my expectations, which were high from the start. I think the way in which we are exposed to Chinese history, culture, and business, is very effective. The reason for this is that even though we have a decent amount of work to do, it helps you put into context certain events that took place in the past, cultural aspects, and processes in various business sectors. For example, having read about doing business in China has drastically improved my insight into how the Lenovo manufacturing plant and overall organization operates and how it was able to grow at such a fast rate.”

**Pieter Niesten**

“China is amazing! I’m so glad that I choose to go to China for Sophomore International Experience. Beijing was awesome. Some interesting times, some fun times, some awe inspiring moments, and much, much more. The Great Wall had the most beautiful scenery! Now I also have a better understanding of what Chinese food is, not the American version of Chinese food.”

**Rebecca Ptak**

“I believe this trip has truly changed me as a person. Through seeing such a different lifestyle from America, and such a new way of thinking, speaking, and acting, I have come to look at things in a different way. I can now see myself traveling constantly and possibly working and living in a different country. I have also gained a greater understanding and appreciation for the Chinese culture.”

**Alexander Scelzo**

“I think my favorite part about the trip was having the day to ourselves in Hong Kong. I really liked that we were given that opportunity because it taught us to step out of our comfort zone and explore. I have definitely made some really good friends after this trip. Being in another country brings you together with so many people. I hope I get to come back to this amazing country someday. I will never forget all of the great memories I have made here.”

**Samantha Garfi**

“It is one experience that I will always remember. Studying China through seminars and books is nothing compared to actually being immersed in the culture. I talk to the locals every chance I get. It is a very interesting feeling being the minority. It is something that I have never felt before. I think the culture here is so rich that it would take years and traveling the country to understand what it is truly like to be a part of the culture. I have an interest in learning the language and have asked many questions about different words and their meanings.”

**Brett DuBreuil**

“This trip has been such an amazing experience for me on so many levels. First of all, all of the opportunities that I have had on this trip are truly once in a life time opportunities. I am so happy that I chose to come to China because originally I was apprehensive about the trip, and this was a very big step for me personally. Now that I have done this and had all of these great experiences I feel like there is nothing I can’t do. The thing that I really love about this trip is the blend of different experiences that I am having, from sightseeing things like climbing the Great Wall, to more cultural experiences such as talking to the range of students from eighth grade to college. Every day was so packed with fun activities after every one I kept thinking to myself that the next events can’t top the ones I just did, but they always do.”

**Sarah Perlman**

“In the end, this trip was one of the best experiences of my life. It has opened my eyes and given me a global perspective on life. I do plan on returning to China in the future, but I am afraid that my future trip will be no match for how great this trip was. This trip was so great that I have been telling my friends that they should visit China at some point in their life. I highly recommend it for students next year. It is an experience like no other. China is a place that at times can be like America, but at other times be completely different. It is wonderful. I do not know how the beach could be better than this.”

**Kyle Lipkvich**
“As for my future plans in regards to China, I am eager to travel back there. I thought that when I signed up for this it would be the only time in my life that I would go to China but I am already trying to figure out how I can go back. When CEO of AIG John Carey said that, “there is no such thing as domestic business anymore”, it really made me think about my major and what I would like to do with my life. I am looking to possibly switch around my schedule and take Chinese this semester and I think I would even be interested in one day working in China for a couple of years. This experience was a huge eye-opener for me and I am eager to see where it leads me.”

**Taryn Smith**

“The Sophomore International Experience trip to China was, without a doubt, my best Bryant experience. Not only did it unite fifty members of the class of 2011 and allow for a great networking experience, but it was the most educational trip I’ve ever taken. It has inspired me to further my interest in international business and perhaps even take a few courses in Chinese language.”

**Hillary Cartwright**

“China has truly been an experience of a lifetime. At first, I was apprehensive to visit such a culturally different country, especially because I had never been outside of North America. However, I have found China to be a very lovely place filled with fantastic attractions and incredibly friendly people. Coming to China has been a true blessing, as I never imagined being able to immerse myself in such a unique and interesting culture.”

**Cole Osgood**

"It was great to interact with people our age as we have so much in common although we are from opposite sides of the world."

**Tom Carroll**

"The Great Wall has made me appreciate being in China for all the right reasons. I came here to learn about another culture and to experience and see things that I would never have a chance to. The Great Wall has emphasized this for me. It has been the most amazing thing I have ever done in my life.”

**Felicia Ross**

"After spending some time in Beijing, I have quickly realized that China is not the same country as the one shown in the media and news publications in the United States. From what I can see, the people are very kind and patient with us, making the language gap between us much easier to bear.

**Thomas Lill**