

Bethany Christian Services Ministry Observation Trip to China

Oct 15 & 16 Arrival

Depart the United States and arrive in *Beijing* (we lose one day to time/date changes). We will settle into our hotel and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Beijing is best known for Peking Duck! We will dine at the top level of Silk Market (shopping mall) where we overlook the city while witnessing the art of carving a duck. Eating "Chinese style" around a "lazy susan" will be a fun experience to experiment with new foods.

Oct 17 Beijing

Tour *Tiananmen Square* and the *Forbidden City*. Tiananmen Square is located in the center of Beijing and is approximately 440,000 square meters (equivalent of almost 63 football fields) and has become a relaxing place for people to fly kites and walk. The square is especially beautiful on holidays when the entire area is covered with fresh flowers. Here, we can see or visit the Tiananmen Tower, Monument to the People's Heroes, Great Hall of the People, Mao Zedong Memorial Hall and see the national flag raising ceremony.

Visit the Forbidden City or, Gu Gong in Chinese. This was the imperial palace during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Now known as the Palace Museum, it is just north of Tiananmen Square. Rectangular in shape, it is the world's largest palace complex and covers 74 hectares (almost 30 acres).

After dinner, we will enjoy the spectacular *Acrobat show*. Beijing is especially known for its acrobats. The show will leave you breathless!

Oct 18 Beijing

Visit the *Great Wall of China*. Stand with humility on a man made world wonder that is thousands of years old. Witness a culturally breath-taking experience that you will never forget.

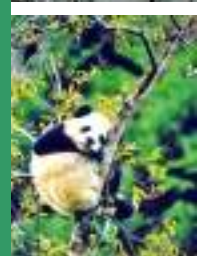
Visit the Olympic Stadium called the "*Bird's Nest*". The opening and closing Olympic ceremonies were held here, and were viewed by millions of people world wide.

Fly to Xi'an in the evening. The flight takes about 1 hour.

Oct 19 Xi'an

Spend a full day viewing the spectacular *Terra Cotta warrior statues*. The Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses are the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century. A group of peasants uncovered some pottery while digging for a well nearby the royal tomb in 1974. It caught the attention of archeologists immediately. They have established that these artifacts were associated with the Qin Dynasty (211-206 BC).

Fly to Zhengzhou. The flight takes about 1.5 hours



Fall 2009

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Oct 20 Zhengzhou / Luohe

Spend the entire day with the children in the *Luohe Orphanage*, and with foster families who are caring for children in their community. Although some of the foster families and the children living with them remain on the orphanage grounds, this program provides an opportunity for the children to live with families. Because the children in the Luohe orphanage struggle with special needs, any chance to receive individual attention is a tremendous benefit.

Spending a day with children in an orphanage and with families who are committed to their care will be a life-changing experience. Our emotions become alive as our hearts open to these precious children. The highlight will be treating many of the children and their foster families to dinner that evening. This will be a wonderful time to create friendships with people who share your heart and compassion for children.

Oct 21 Nanjing

Leave for Nanjing this morning. The flight will take about 1.5 hours. Nanjing is home to *Amity International*. Amity and Bethany have worked together for the past 10 + years to impact child welfare and foster care services through micro and macro level training. Key training has been provided to orphanage directors, foster care staff, and representatives from the Department of Civil Affairs. Bethany's partnership with Amity has become a cornerstone for best - practice initiatives in China.

Oct 22 Shanghai

Travel to Shanghai by bus. By the time we reach Shanghai, it will be noon. We will get checked into our hotel and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. We will walk along the *Bund*, a symbol of Shanghai, and will enjoy an evening *Huangpu River Cruise*, enjoying the beautiful scenery and lights along the Huangpu River.

Oct 23 Shanghai

Shanghai is best known for its cosmopolitan atmosphere. Shanghai has the best of both worlds. It will take us from one extreme of innovative progress, technology and a thriving financial environment, to the opposite extreme of thousands of years of tradition and architecture.

While we are in Shanghai we will visit *Xin Tian Di*, a popular destination among foreigners for food and shopping. Here, you will find anything and everything you need to bring home as gifts and souvenirs. We will enjoy lunch at the Xin Tian Di where you can select from multiple restaurants to fit your tastes.

After lunch we will visit the old section of Shanghai, providing us with an historical perspective of Shanghai in its original state.

Oct 24 Return Home from Shanghai

