



JCCs of North America
מרכזים קהילתיים יהודיים בצפון אמריקה

Discover Jewish
travel 

Jewish China

October 18 - 31, 2010

Day 1

Monday, October 18, 2010 / USA - Beijing

You board an international jetliner. The wide body jet traverses the Pacific, crossing the International Date Line to arrive in Beijing.

Day 2

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 / Arrive Beijing

The flight arrives at Beijing, the capital city of China. Make sure all of the required customs forms have been filled out before deplaning to retrieve your luggage. Transfer to your deluxe luxury accommodations for a good night's rest.

Day 3

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 / Beijing

As the capital of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Beijing is the nation's center of government and culture. Established in 1045 B.C., it is an ancient cultural city that served as the capital for five dynasties. Start the city tour by visiting the Ming Dynasty Tiananmen Square, which means "Gate of Heavenly Peace." It is the world's largest urban square, even larger than the Red Square of Moscow. Walk through the square and across the street just north to the Forbidden City, home of the Ming and Qing emperors. Construction of the Forbidden City was started in 1406 under Ming emperor Yongle and was completed in 1420. Comprised of 800 buildings covering 720,000 sq. meters, it is the world's largest palace complex. Located inside the Forbidden City is the Palace Museum, which you will visit as well. After lunch, continue on to Old Town Beijing for a journey through the Hutongs via pedicab, stopping to visit Siheyuan (traditional local courtyard style home) of a local resident. Return to your hotel to rest.

Day 4

Thursday, October 21, 2010 / Beijing

The star attraction of China is its Great Wall, a massive defensive structure built to keep intruders from entering the mainland. At once a symbol of national pride and ingenuity, the Great Wall stretches an impossible 4000 miles across China's north, covering nine provinces. An enormous undertaking that originally began under Qin Shi Huang (first emperor of China) in 200 B.C., the Great Wall was not completed until the Ming Dynasty in 1640. This morning, you have plenty of time to walk atop the Wall until your heart's content, descending to visit the nearby Sacred Way to the Ming Tombs. The Ming Tomb Museum will also be visited. Returning to the city, for fellowship, we visit Kehillat Beijing. This Synagogue meets at the Capital Club in the city's northeast Chaoyang District where we will meet and have discussions with a member of the Jewish community. Dinner will be served at the hotel for your convenience.



Day 5

October 22, 2010 / Beijing - Xian

On the way to the airport this morning, we will stop at the temple of Heaven for a visit. In China's imperial era, the emperor was considered the "Son of Heaven" and ruled the nation under the mandate of heaven. Each year, the emperor would fast and come to the Temple of Heaven to pray for a bountiful harvest. Board a short flight later to Xian. A proud city with 5000 years of history, Xian is located in China's Shaanxi Province and is an important hub for commerce. Driving into town from Xianyang Airport, the bus will pass through the massive City Wall, the best preserved ancient wall structure on earth. Shabbat dinner is served at the hotel this evening.

Day 6

Saturday, October 23, 2010 / Xian

The serendipitous discovery by farmers of the Terra Cotta Warriors in 1974 have drawn throngs of visitors to Xian each year and ranks as one of the world's most important recent archaeological finds. Three excavation pits have been opened to the public with a fourth underway; during his visit to China, President Clinton came to visit the dig. Spend ample time reviewing the fine troops, horses and carriages in battle formation. After lunch, the motor coach takes us back inside city limits, stopping at the Bell Tower for a visit. Returning to the city, you attend a delightful Imperial Dumpling Banquet, tasting local Xian specialties. After dinner, attend the spectacular, world renowned Tang Dynasty Stage Show.

Day 7

Sunday, October 24, 2010 / Xian - Guilin

Guilin is a city of great natural beauty located on the banks of the Li River that enjoys the reputation of possessing the most picturesque landscapes in all of China. As the old Chinese saying goes, "The scenery in Guilin is unrivalled under heaven." Karst limestone formations imbue Guilin's landscape with a mystical quality. Explore Elephant Trunk Hill and Reed Flute Cave where fantastic stalactite and Stalagmite formations impress us as magical and otherworldly. In the evening, we will attend a Minority Folk Dance performance after dinner.

Day 8

Monday, October 25, 2010 / Guilin

A meandering river cruise down the Li River is a delightful way to savor the serene, fairy-tale scenery of Southern China as it passes by. You may even catch the fascinating sights of fisherman with cormorant birds! Lunch is served aboard. Our riverboat arrives at the town of Yangshuo, where you disembark. Take some time to walk along Xijie, the main boulevard of Yangshuo lined by numerous coffee shops and stores. Later, take the motor coach back to Guilin.

Day 9

Tuesday, October 26, 2010 / Guilin - Shanghai

Depart Guilin for Shanghai, China's most populous city and also it's most modern. Dazzling and dynamic, Shanghai today shows many signs of ample international influences since the turn of the 20th century. Nowhere is this more apparent than at the Bund, a mile-long stretch along the Huangpu River. Lined by architecture of European design, the area shows off the flair with which Shanghainese live life. The city tour also includes a visit to the Ming Dynasty Yu Garden, considered to be one of the four great Chinese gardens. The bus will drive through Nanjing Road, a bustling shopping area locals frequent. After dinner this evening at the hotel, hop aboard a cruise of the Huangpu River, taking in the magnificent twinkling night scenery of Shanghai.

Day 10

Wednesday, October 27, 2010 / Shanghai

After breakfast this morning, the group will visit the Shanghai Museum and view the exhibits of ancient Chinese art. Designed by a local Shanghai architect, the current building was completed in 1993 and resembles the shape of a bronze cooking vessel. After ample time admiring the numerous exhibits, you'll be given an opportunity to shop for the highest quality silk goods. Visit Huoshan Park to see the monument honoring Jewish refugees, Ohel Moshe Synagogue and walk the streets of the Shanghai ghetto home to over 20,000 Jewish refugees of the Holocaust, followed by discussions with a member of the Jewish community of Shanghai. Return to the hotel to wash up before going out for a farewell dinner. After dinner, cap off the day by attending a performance of exciting Chinese Acrobatics.

Day 11

Thursday, October 28, 2010 / Shanghai - Hong Kong

Today we visit the Israeli pavilion at World Expo before boarding a short flight to Hong Kong. Among its many nicknames are "Jewel of the Orient" and "Asia's Shopping Paradise." Once a colony of Great Britain, Hong Kong returned to Chinese control in 1997 and has continued to prosper. Upon arriving at Hong Kong, you will transfer to the hotel.

Day 12

Friday, October 29, 2010 / Hong Kong

We visit Carmel School, the only Jewish Day School in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong JCC and Ohel Leah Synagogue. Rest of day is at leisure to do some last minute souvenir and gift shopping, explore the city on your own, or even take the ferry to Macau for a visit. Shabbat Kiddush at the hotel.

Day 13

Saturday, October 30, 2010 / Hong Kong

Recognizing that Hong Kong is a destination that begs to be explored on your own, we have planned just a half day city tour this morning. Scenic spots visited include Stanley Market, Repulse Bay and the Aberdeen Floating Community. Finally, take a cable car ride up to Victoria Peak where you are presented with a jaw-dropping panoramic view of Hong Kong and its harbor. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 14

Sunday, October 31, 2010 / Hong Kong - USA

You board your homebound international jetliner, bidding China and Hong Kong a fond farewell. The plane re-crosses the international date line to arrive back in the United States. Your trip is over, but the memories will certainly last for a lifetime.

Itinerary subject to change without notice.



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