Join us on a journey through China to experience the thriving and throbbing energy of China’s three greatest cities: Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong.

In and around Beijing, see the Great Wall of China (Juyongguan site), the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Old and New Summer Palaces, and the Ming Tombs. In Xi’an (historical Chang’an) and environs, stand in awe of the terra cotta soldier burial complex surrounding the still-unexcavated Tomb of the First Emperor of China.

In Shanghai, stroll the world-famous Bund, visit the Yuyuan Bazaar, and people watch at the Nanjing Pedestrian Street. Then, escape the urban bustle for the spectacular natural scenery of Mt. Emei in Sichuan Province and the Panda Research and Breeding Centre. Here, enjoy delicious Sichuan cuisine, which (in Dr. Wright’s opinion) is the very best in China. In Guilin, cruise the Li River and visit the spectacular terraced rice fields of Longji.

Finally, travel to the third great city of the tour to experience for yourself the differences between mainland China and Hong Kong, formerly a British colony and now once again part of China. Enjoy a brief trip by ferry from Hong Kong to Macau, formerly a Portuguese colony.
Orientation
The orientation course will consist of five Wednesday evenings, March 28 – April 25, 7 – 9:30 p.m., at the University of Calgary campus. Topics will include the history and culture of China and background information on the historical sites we will be visiting. The itinerary, travel arrangements, and health matters will be discussed in detail.

Itinerary
Three meals daily throughout this trip.

MAY 5 – 6 Our trip begins in Beijing, China’s capital, with a visit to the Temple of Heaven.

MAY 7 On this first full day of the tour we visit Tiantanmen Square, the mausoleum of Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung), and the National Museum of China. We will lunch with a family in a traditional and historical part of the city (a hutong alleyway) and visit the Forbidden City, where the emperors of the last two dynasties lived and ruled over China.

MAY 8 Today’s excursion is to the Great Wall of China (Juyongguan site) and the Ming Tombs, where several Ming dynasty emperors are buried.

MAY 9 We visit the Old Summer Palace and the New Summer Palace (Yuanmingyuan and Yiheyuan).

MAY 10 We take the morning express train for a 5½-hour journey from Beijing to Xi’an, known historically as Chang’an, the capital of China’s two greatest dynasties: Han (202 BCE – 220 CE) and Tang (618-907 CE). This city was either the beginning or the end of the famous Silk Road — depending on which direction the camel caravan trader was travelling. We’ll also visit the site of the Silk Road Terminus and tour the city’s Muslim mosque and market.

MAY 11 Today, we’ll stop at the world-famous terracotta soldier complex dating back to the Qin (221-206 CE) dynasty and the reign of the First Emperor of China. Afterwards, we tour the Huating Hot Springs site where Yang Guifei, China’s most famous femme fatale, first enchanted a Tang emperor with her beauty, later meeting an untimely and tragic end at the hands of jealous and vengeful courtiers. We’ll attend the splendid outdoor play, Song of Everlasting Sorrow, which depicts the tragic story.

MAY 12 Today’s highlights include the Shaanxi History Museum, the Wild Goose Pagoda, and the headquarters of the Eighth Route Army, where we hear the story of Canada’s own Norman Bethune (1890-1939), a major hero to the Chinese people.

MAY 13 En route to the Xi’an airport, we’ll take in the Hanyangling Museum. Then, we board our plane for Shanghai. We’ll stroll on the Bund, Shanghai’s world-famous downtown waterfront, and enjoy an evening cruise on the Huangpu River to take in the lights of Shanghai’s magnificent night-time cityscape.

MAY 14 Our day includes a visit the Yuyuan Bazaar and the Pudong New District and some free time on the Nanjing Pedestrian Road. We’ll take in a dazzling acrobatics show in the evening.

MAY 15 Visits to the First Congress Site of the Communist Party of China, the former French Concession area of Shanghai, and the Shikumen Museum fill our day.

MAY 16 We are in the air for three and a half hours as we fly from Shanghai to Chengdu, Sichuan Province. There, we visit the city’s historical streets and the Wenshu Monastery before enjoying Sichuan cuisine that evening.

MAY 17 Today begins with the Panda Research and Breeding Centre and then the giant Leshan Buddha. From there, we travel to China’s famous Mt. Emei, a major symbol of Sichuan province, and take in a Chinese martial arts show in the evening.

MAY 18 We’ll travel up and down Mt. Emei and enjoy a Sichuan hotspot dinner in the evening.

MAY 19 First, a visit the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, 70 km from Chengdu. Then, we travel to Pixian County to visit the Sichuan Cuisine Museum, where there will be a cooking class.

MAY 20 We relax on a two-hour flight from Chengdu to Guilin where we visit the spectacularly beautiful terraced rice fields of Longji.

MAY 21 We take a beautiful river cruise on the Li River from Guilin to Yangshuo. Then, visit a traditional farmhouse in the countryside and watch a breathtaking light show that tells the story of Liu Sanjie against the scenic karst topography.

MAY 22 Fly from Guilin to Hong Kong (1.5 hours).

MAY 23 We enjoy a full-day tour of Victoria Peak with tram; Central-Mid-Levels Escalators and walkway system, the longest outdoor covered escalator system in the world; Man Mo Temple; Hollywood Road with its antique shops; Stanley Market; and the floating village of Aberdeen. Our dinner is at a restaurant with a Harbour view.

MAY 24 We ferry from Hong Kong to Macau, a former Portuguese colony and now once again part of China and see for ourselves how much more Macau is Portuguese than Hong Kong is British. We briefly visit the St. Paul Ruins; Senator Square; and if you’re so inclined, Macau’s casinos. Macau is the largest casino city in the world. Four times more money flows through Macau than through Las Vegas.

MAY 25 We ferry back from Macau to the Hong Kong airport to board our flight for home.

Accompanying Instructor
David Curtis Wright took his PhD in East Asian Studies at Princeton University in 1993 and is a history professor at the University of Calgary. A fluent speaker of Mandarin Chinese, he is the author of five books and dozens of articles on Chinese history, with more on the way. In 2002 he received a Distinguished Teacher Award from the Faculty of Social Sciences. This will be David’s third Continuing Education travel study trip to China.

Costs

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Estimated Air Travel $1,400

A deposit of $500 is required at registration. Final payment is due on Nov. 17, 2017. For fee details, withdrawal/refund procedures and liabilities please see page 2.

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Do you love to learn? Do you love to travel? Experience both with UCalgary Continuing Education!

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Fees
Cost includes: tuition, orientation course, accommodation, transfers, all surface travel, and meals as listed in the itinerary. A $500 non-refundable deposit is required with the registration form. Fees are based on the information available at the time of print and are subject to change to reflect any changes in currency rates, airfares, or land costs. There are possibilities of decreases or increases, and any changes will be reflected on the final payment and passed on to the participant. All fees are based on double occupancy and a minimum of 16 participants. Fees in all programs exclude airport taxes; passport and visa fees; cancellation, medical and other personal insurance; gratuities for local guides; wine, liquor, and other items not specifically mentioned as included; and other personal services.

Single Supplement
The single supplement fee is listed in each program description. Every effort is made to find a suitable roommate for those who wish to share, however, if this is not possible, a single supplement charge will be applied.
Liability and Responsibility

University of Calgary and its travel agents will exercise all reasonable care in making arrangements for conducting the tour. They are, however, acting only in the capacity of an agent and do not assume liability for any damage to persons or property resulting from or arising out of any act or inadvertence of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, or other company or persons rendering any of the services included in the tour or for any damage caused by other factors beyond their control. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and passengers. All prices are based on current international exchange rates and airfare prices at the time of planning the tours, and are subject to change. In the event that it becomes necessary or advisable to alter the itinerary or arrangements for any reason whatsoever, such alterations may be made. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants; conversely refunds will be made to participants if any savings are affected thereby. The right is reserved to decline, accept, or retain any participant or tour member at any time.

Insurance

We highly recommend cancellation and medical insurance. Information will be sent out at the time of final payment.

Refund Policy

Please call 403.220.2866 if you need to cancel your trip. Your $500 deposit is not refundable. After the final payment date, the amount of refund will depend on the amount recoverable from the tour operators.

Contact Information

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South India with Optional Extension to Sri Lanka
JAN. 15 – FEB. 5, 2018

Southeast Asia: Cambodia and Myanmar (Burma)
FEB. 16 – MARCH 10, 2018

Discover Cuba
FEB. 17 – 24, 2018

Best of Baja Mexico
FEB. 17 – MARCH 3, 2018
MARCH 3 – 17, 2018

A Culinary Tour of Maui
MARCH 29 – APRIL 8, 2018

Lyon and Strasbourg
APRIL 14 – 27, 2018

Roots of the Blues Tour
APRIL 26 – MAY 7, 2018

Urban and Scenic China Adventure Tour
MAY 5 – 25, 2018

Namibia: Deserts and Wildlife
AUG. 15 – SEPT. 1, 2018

The Samurai Trail
SEPT. 1 – 16, 2018

The Country of the Firebird: Architectural, Artistic and Religious Traditions of Russia
SEPT. 28 – OCT. 14, 2018

Tanzania and the Serengeti Plains
FEB. 25 – MARCH 13, 2019