

# NurseryWorld

PRESENTS

# EARLY YEARS EDUCATION IN **CHINA**

Specialist cultural and professional tour

29th August –  
12th September 2017



## MASTER TRAVEL STUDY TOURS

*Escorted tours with  
a personal touch*

### *Who is it for?*

- Early years professionals
- Nursery teachers and managers
- Childcare practitioners

### *Highlights include:*

- Professional visits to kindergartens in Shanghai, Beijing and the Xian Orphanage for children with learning difficulties, to meet with early years teachers and children
- Explore Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall
- See the Terracotta Warriors



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# EARLY YEARS EDUCATION IN **CHINA**

Nursery World, in association with Master Travel, invites all early years professionals to journey with us on the trip of a lifetime to China, where we will have the unique opportunity to see first-hand how their early years policies are put into practice. Alongside professional visits, this trip will give you the chance to see and experience the cultural highlights of this fascinating country.

A programme of private professional visits to kindergartens, nurseries, and development centres across China will enable you to meet early years teachers and children, seeing the very different conditions and challenges that Chinese practitioners face. You will also be immersed in China's rich cultural heritage, great cities, historical sites and uplifting landscapes.

## From Shanghai to Yangshuo

**O**ur tour begins in Shanghai, the world's fastest growing city; a mixture of tradition, art deco elegance, and cutting edge architecture and style. A leisurely city tour will open our eyes to the many faces of Shanghai, strolling from People's Park down the Nanjing Road on to the famous Bund on the Hangpu River, across which lies the futuristic cityscape of Pudong (new town).

The next day, we will visit a public kindergarten for three-to-seven-year-olds, where we will have the chance to meet the children and discuss practice and daily life with the staff. The rest of the day will include a visit to the Shanghai Museum and exploring the spectacular landmarks across the Bund.

In the morning we will depart for Suzhou. The hour's journey between modern Shanghai and picturesque

Suzhou is a step back in time. Suzhou's 2,500-year history evokes memories of ancient China with its charming canals and winding alleyways. We will see Suzhou's oldest and most famous product, silk, being made at the silk factory, as well as visiting the Master of the Nets classical garden and a relaxing cruise along the canal.

The following day we will journey onwards to the great imperial city of Beijing via high speed train, arriving late afternoon and enjoying some time at leisure before our evening meal. In Beijing, we will visit a private kindergarten for two-to-six-year-olds to experience how early years education differs from our own in the private sector. Afterwards, we will explore Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. In the evening there will be an optional visit to see the Beijing Acrobats.

The next day will offer us the chance to see the Summer Palace and one of the world's most famous landmarks, the



Great Wall of China. A traditional dinner will await us in the evening, so we can find out how much better Peking duck tastes in Beijing than it does in Soho.

Our journey will then take us to Xian, one of the great cities of the ancient world and gateway to the Silk Road. After watching or taking part in an early morning Tai Chi practice under the city ramparts, we will visit another of China's great cultural treasures, the awe-inspiring Terracotta Warriors. In the afternoon, we will visit the Xian Orphanage School to learn about the inspiring work

carried out by staff for children with learning disabilities.

The following day we will head out to visit a children's hobby learning centre in Xian, where the focus is on allowing the children to develop in the arts, such as painting and music. Whilst admiring the artistry of Chinese script in Calligraphy Street, we will have the chance to learn how to practice this art with a brush, before our flight to Guilin later that day.

After an overnight stay in Guilin, we will set off on an amazing four-hour scenic cruise along the Li River to the

## 10 FACTS ABOUT CHILDREN IN CHINA

- 1 China is home to more than 80 million children aged from birth to four years – that's more than the entire population of the UK.
- 2 For more than 30 years, China's government has tried to reduce its population growth by controlling the legal age to marry (22 for males, 20 for females), encouraging couples to delay childbirth and limiting the number of births for some families. This effort has become known collectively as 'the one child policy'. Nowadays, many Chinese children have no brothers or sisters and, as their parents are only children too, they also don't have cousins.
- 3 For many urban families, their only son or daughter holds the family's future prosperity and wellbeing in his or her hands, which can include taking care of ancestors' spirits too. This is a big responsibility and partly why parents often show a huge commitment to their child's care and education.
- 4 Although China's most commonly spoken language is Mandarin (or putonghua, which literally means common language), many children across the country grow up speaking very different dialects and languages belonging to particular regions or ethnic groups, such as Hakka. Most learn to read and write a common script (Zhong wen), which is made up of symbols known as Chinese characters.
- 5 Life can be vastly different depending on where you grow up in China. Some young children live in flourishing economic cities where commerce drives change at a fast pace and life is quite different from when their parents and grandparents were growing up. By contrast, childhood in the remote countryside areas may not have changed much for centuries.
- 6 There is a widening gap between rich and poor families in China - some live in absolute poverty while others are millionaires. Since economic growth is concentrated in certain areas (mostly the urban, coastal regions of the east), the standard of living, quality of life and access to services for health and education vary enormously.
- 7 There is a lot of migration in China and sometimes this means parents seeking work can be separated from their child for long periods, although many try to get together for national holidays like Spring Festival. But with China stretching 3,000 miles from west to east, this can mean very long journeys, often by train.
- 8 Many families' approaches to bringing up their children are influenced by a mixture of different traditions. Some beliefs and practices stem from ancient Chinese philosophy, such as Confucianism and Taoism; some are Communist or Socialist principles and thoughts from Karl Marx, Chairman Mao Zedong and his successors; while others have originated from parenting advice based on recent neuroscience or developmental psychology, imported from other countries.
- 9 Chinese law provides for 98 days of maternity leave on full pay for female employees, which is paid through a maternity insurance system or by her employer. The costs of healthcare during childbirth are covered by the same systems.
- 10 Women still take the greatest responsibility for young children's care. As many mothers return to work when their baby is just a few months old, the care of babies and very young children is often left to grandparents, although neighbours and friends sometimes help too.



*An extremely well organized and delivered trip with a superb balance to 'tourist' sites and the educational establishments.*

Anne Randell, Retired teacher,  
participant on Education in China tour

picturesque Yangshuo, through the sublime landscapes of Guangxi Province, which are immortalised in Chinese art and literature. Here we will have plenty of time to relax, explore the village markets and enjoy a spectacular Son et Lumière show on the river's moonlit backwaters.

Our penultimate day will be spent cycling through villages to a local kindergarten to learn how charmingly and pragmatically people cope on limited means, before pedalling on through the surrounding paddy fields. Our farewell dinner will be enjoyed that evening, where we can reflect on all that we have experienced of this fascinating country, before travelling back to Shanghai the following day for our final night's stay and returning home the London the next morning.



#### Tour leader and your group

On your trip to China you will be accompanied by Ravi Chandiramani, from the *Nursery World* publishing team. Ravi has been a journalist for nearly 20 years, including as an editor of leading publications in the education sector. He is an experienced public speaker and event chair, and was tour leader for our Early Years Education in Finland and Sweden trip in 2014.



Photographs, left to right: Shanghai skyline at dawn; playing in the park; Beijing; playing in Calliopsis blossom; playing with toys; Fisherman on the Li River, Guilin; Terracotta Warriors, Xian; Great wall at sunset, Beijing.

Back cover: Rice terraces in Guilin

(Photographs © Adobe Stock)

# CHINA ITINERARY

Full board throughout the tour



## 29 AUG LONDON

PM: Depart London Heathrow for Shanghai.

## 30 AUG SHANGHAI

AM: Arrive in Shanghai and transfer to the hotel.  
PM: Orientation walk from People's Park down Nanjing Road to the Bund.  
EVE: Welcome dinner and preview of the tour.

**31 AUG** AM: Visit the Shanghai Museum.  
PM: Visit a public kindergarten (2-5 year olds) in Shanghai.  
EVE: Dinner in a local restaurant.

## 1 SEP SHANGHAI / SUZHOU

AM: Drive to Suzhou and check into hotel. Visit the Silk Factory and Museum.  
PM: Visit the Children Development Centre in Suzhou.  
EVE: Dinner in the old town.

## 2 SEP SUZHOU / BEIJING

AM: Visit the Master of the Nets Garden.  
PM: Take the train to Beijing and transfer to hotel.

## 3 SEP BEIJING

AM: Visit Xi Yuan Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine.  
PM: Visit a private kindergarten.  
EVE: Optional visit to the Beijing Acrobats.

## 4 SEP

AM: Visit the Summer Palace.  
PM: Walk the Great Wall.  
EVE: Enjoy a delicious Peking roast duck dinner.

## 5 SEP

AM: Walk through Tiananmen Square and explore the Forbidden City.  
PM: Explore the *hutongs* of Old Beijing.

## 6 SEP BEIJING / XIAN

AM: Fly from Beijing to Xian.  
PM: Visit Calligraphy Street Market and The Great Mosque.  
EVE: Hot Pot Dinner.

## 7 SEP XIAN

AM: Pre-breakfast *Tai Chi* at City Wall Park. Visit a local Chinese medicine market. See the Terracotta Warriors.  
PM: Visit the Xian Orphanage School.  
EVE: Optional visit to Traditional Tang Dynasty Theatre.

## 8 SEP

## XIAN / GUILIN

AM: Cycle round the City Walls.  
PM: Fly to Guilin and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

## 9 SEP

## GUILIN / YANGSHUO

AM: Cruise down the Li River to Yangshuo and transfer to the hotel.  
PM: At leisure.  
EVE: Optional visit to the Son et Lumière show.

## 10 SEP

## YANGSHUO

AM: Cycle to a local kindergarten thereafter through the paddy fields to a barefoot doctor.  
PM: At leisure.

## 11 SEP

## YANGSHUO / SHANGHAI

AM: Fly to Shanghai.  
EVE: Farewell dinner.

## 12 SEP

## SHANGHAI / LONDON

AM: Depart on flight to London.  
PM: Arrive London Heathrow.

Please note that this is a provisional itinerary only. The final itinerary will be confirmed at the briefing meeting.

*This is a fantastic opportunity for a trip of a lifetime. I cannot imagine a better way of seeing all the major sights whilst also getting a real insider's feel for the country, its culture and people, through a tailored programme of professional visits to early years settings and training organisations. The efficient and assured organisation and running of the trip ensures the experience is relaxed and pleasurable whilst offering the opportunity to reflect on global practice in early childhood care and education principles with both one's fellow travellers and Chinese colleagues.*

Anne O'Connor, early years consultant and *Nursery World* author

Early Years Education in China, Easter 2014

# **THE COST** of the tour is £4,670 per person

Secure your place with a £650 deposit, with the remainder payable in instalments.

**Single travellers:** A single supplement of £499 is payable if you wish to guarantee a single room. This does not apply if you opt to share a twin room with a fellow participant.

## **THE COST INCLUDES:**

- Return scheduled economy flights on Virgin Atlantic London/Shanghai.
- Regional connections and upgrades are available; please contact us for details.
- Visa fees and UK airport tax.
- Pre-trip briefing meeting in London and comprehensive briefing notes.
- The services of Master Travel tour leaders and Zhang Zhong Jiu (Zhang) throughout China.
- 13 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in first class or medium grade hotels.
- Full board throughout the tour, with an allowance of soft drinks, tea and beer with meals.

- All flights, transfers, transport services and airport taxes in China.
- Full programme of professional and cultural visits and talks as per the itinerary including admission fees.
- Services of local English speaking guides in Xian and Guangxi.

## **THE COSTS EXCLUDES:**

- All personal extras such as tips, porterage, laundry, inoculation fees and drinks not provided with meals.
- Any optional excursions, tours and visits.
- Travel insurance.

Please note that all itineraries in China are subject to change according to local conditions. Due to the nature of the tour, spaces are limited.

We will hold a briefing meeting in London one month prior to departure where you will be able to meet your tour leader and fellow travellers as well as learn more about the places to be visited.

**EARLY BIRD booking: £4,550**

valid ONLY until  
1st May 2017

*Early bird booking for Master Travel club members and Nursery World subscribers: £4,475*

\*After 1st May 2017 the tour price will be fixed at £4,670 for all travellers

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

If for any reason you wish to cancel your reservation, written notification of intention should be sent to Master Travel Ltd. Cancellations are effective on the day they are received by us. Please let us know the reason for cancellation. Please note that under NO circumstances will cancellation by telephone be acceptable. The following cancellation charges would come into effect if written notification is received:

**More than 61 days before departure:  
Deposit only;** Between 60 and 31 days before departure: **60% of total;** 30 days or less before departure: **100% of total**

# To book your place on this tour...

...please contact Master Travel:

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