

# China through Your Eyes



**Forbidden City**

**Tibetan Plateau**

**Cosmo Shanghai**

**May 24 – June 6, 2012**

Beijing, Gansu (Tibetan Region), and Shanghai

(Roundtrip international airfare and Chinese visa included) 14 days for only \$3,500.00

The Asian Affairs Center (AAC) of the University of Missouri is offering an up-close tour of China May 24 through June 6, 2012.

## **Prerequisites for this off campus experience:**

- Longing for an in-depth look at the “real” China most tourists seldom see.
- Craving “authentic” Chinese food (not Americanized): i.e. longevity noodles, toffee banana with yak butter tea.
- Yearning to witness the world’s highest plateau where Tibetan culture persists and their religion survives.
- Desiring to meander down quaint back-streets, bargain for deals at traditional markets, visit historic sites, and most importantly, mingle and chat with intriguing and captivating locals you will never forget.

## **Why This Trip?**

For some westerners, China evokes images of the Great Wall, Jackie Chan and fried rice. To others, China is primarily known for its magnificent cultural legacies, its bustling crowds, its constant conflict with western principles, and its rapid transformation into an economic giant with “socialist characteristics”. But to many westerners, the real lives of the ordinary people of China are too often a mystery. Don’t miss this chance to take a close-up look at one of the world’s most exotic destinations. This is your chance to demystify China. You will return home with a feel for China that eludes traditional tourists and enough memories to last a lifetime.



### **Terms and Conditions:**

The trip includes international roundtrip airfare from Missouri, Chinese visa fee, domestic flights, train rides within China, ground transportation, some admission fees, a professional bilingual tour director throughout the trip, local drivers, meals as indicated, and lodging with private baths based on double occupancy (additional \$545.00 for single occupancy). A \$700 non-refundable deposit is required per reservation no later than March 5, 2012. Full payment for the trip must be received by April 5, 2012 due to passport and visa applications. This trip is based on a minimum of 14 and maximum of 20 participants. Make check payable to University of Missouri. If trip is cancelled, deposit will be returned.

*Not included in the cost are passport fees (valid for six months from date of departure), transportation to/from a Missouri airport, extra baggage/excessive baggage weight costs, insurance and medical attention costs, and tips for local drivers and bellhops.*

For information and full details, including the itinerary, please contact **Gary Dou** at (573) 884-8201 or email [doug@missouri.edu](mailto:doug@missouri.edu) or **Nanci Chappell** at (573) 882-9935 or email [chappelln@missouri.edu](mailto:chappelln@missouri.edu) . Information session about this trip will be held in the Memorial Union S-206 - GW on February 16, 2012.

### **Who is leading?**



Gary Dou, AAC Coordinator of Chinese Programs, is a highly qualified and popular tour coordinator for trips to China and Asia. “Gary has a gift for bringing the Chinese culture alive for Americans. His easy-going personality and his genuine care for his participants will make this an unforgettable cultural immersion journey.” Besides introducing you to

memorable historic and scenic sites, Gary will walk you down unbeaten paths, take you to savory Chinese “ma and pa” eateries, help you hone your bargaining skills, and broaden your experience with his bi-cultural understanding.

### **Others Say:**

“I see travel as an experience rather than an adventure - a way of meeting other cultures and enriching our knowledge. If you really want to have a flavor for the culture and daily lives others in another part of the world you have to travel.”

“The real journey of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”

“...Rich cultural texture...Interesting conversations/bargains at the local market... Enjoyed that kind of cross-cultural communication very much! ”



**Xiahe** is a small, lively town situated in a valley of the Ganan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, southwest Gansu. At 3,000 meters above sea level and surrounded by hilly mountains, this rural haven hugs its neighboring Tibet. The town centers upon the famous Labrang Monastery that rests in the center of town.

The locals and nomads that you will see in the village live a laid-back lifestyle that will appeal to those who have been traveling for almost any length of time. The population here is diverse with Tibetan, Han, and Hui (Muslim), making this a good place to observe monks in bright purple, yellow, and red; nomads clad in sheepskins; and the Hui Muslims with skull caps and wispy beards. The town is also known as "Little Lhasa."

"Xiahe is several hundred kilometers (and a world) away from Gansu's smoggy provincial capital of Lanzhou. Xiahe (pronounced roughly *Sheah-huh*) is a diverse little place featuring ethnic Tibetans (Buddhist), Han (Taoist, Buddhist and State Religion) and Hui (Muslim) ...If our experience is any measure, Xiahe was a highlight of our travels." (Daniel Noll and Audrey Scott)

For more information about Xiahe (Tibetan Region in Gansu) click the followings:

- [A taste of Tibet in Xiahe, China](#)
- [Labrang Monastery and Little Lhasa](#)