

Itinerary for the Chinese Language
Immersion in China
Sponsored UW Colleges
Travel Dates: July 2-July 30, 2012



Chinese Language and Culture Immersion in China
Earn four credits of Chinese

Immerse yourself in the culture and language of China in this four-week program open to Mandarin language learners of all levels, including beginners. Based in the historic city of Taiyuan, China's ancient former capital, you will live with a Chinese family and be placed in morning classes appropriate to your level. In the afternoon, you will have an opportunity to participate in cultural workshops such as Wushu and Chinese water color painting. Weekends will offer excursions to areas of interest, including a remote mountain village. The program also includes touring to Beijing and Xian.

Day 1 – Monday, July 2, 2012 Depart from Chicago

Depart Chicago O'Hare on evening flight for Beijing
Meals and full services aboard.



Day 2 – Tuesday, July 3, 2012 Arrive in Beijing

Welcome to Beijing. For the last seven centuries, this city has been the capital of China. Today, it has roughly 17 million residents.
Transport to hotel and dinner.

Day 3 – Wednesday July 4, 2012

Beijing



The day's sightseeing begins with a visit to the heart of Beijing – Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Explore its chambers and view the priceless treasures of China's past. Late afternoon shopping followed by dinner in the HouHai district, an area of teahouses, cafes and boutiques that combine modern and traditional elements. Enjoy an evening paddle boat ride to take in the energy of HouHai.

Day 4 – Thursday, July 5, 2012

Beijing

The day begins with an excursion to the Great Wall at Badaling, where you can stroll along this incredible wonder, the only man-made structure visible from Space. Later, we will visit the historical Ming Tombs, the burial place of thirteen emperors and their families of the Ming Dynasty. At last, we will also view the new landmarks of Beijing – the "Bird's Nest" National Olympic Stadium and the "Water Cube" Olympic Swimming Pool. Enjoy a Chinese dumpling dinner.



Day 5 – Friday, July 6, 2012

Beijing

We move from the bustling energy of the city to the tranquil retreat of the Summer Palace with its shimmering lakes. Enjoy a brief but scenic boat ride at the Summer Palace. Afterwards, we learn how pearls are harvested and made into jewelry. Experience a high-speed late afternoon/early evening train to Taiyuan.



Day 6 – Saturday, Sunday July 7-8, 2012

Enjoy time with your home stay family and getting acquainted with the city of Taiyuan

Day 8 – Monday, July 9, 2012

Classes begin

Taiyuan**Day 12 – Friday, July 13, 2012**

After classes, depart on an overnight train for Xian

Taiyuan**Days 13 – Sat., July 14, 2012**

Arrive early morning in Xian. After eating breakfast and checking into your hotel, experience the sites, sounds, smells and tastes of this culturally and historically rich city. Ride a bike atop the ancient city wall. Day includes a visit to the Ancient Wild Goose Pagoda and water show.

Xian**Days 14 – Sun, July 15, 2012**

Visit the Famous Terra Cotta Warriors. Late evening overnight train to Taiyuan .

Days 20-21 – Sat., Sun., July 21-22, 2012

Visit by bus and on foot the remote, mountainous Whitegoat Village in Wutai County for a weekend adventure you will never forget. Meet with local peasant villagers and gain a first-hand experience of rural life in China.

Whitegoat Village**Day 25 – Thursday, July 26, 2012**

Final examination. Classes end.

Taiyuan**Days 26-27 – Fri., Sat., July 27-28, 2012**

Experience the breathtaking view from the Hanging Monastery at the foot of Mount Hengshan. Visit the ancient Yingxian Wooden Pagoda that was constructed without nails and has survived more than seven major earthquakes without damage. We will also visit a local peasant village and, time permitting, climb an old section of the Great Wall.

Datong**Day 28, Sunday, July 29, 2012**

Say farewell to your home stay families before boarding a morning express train to Beijing. Afternoon shopping in Beijing.

Taiyuan/Beijing**Day 29 – Monday, July 30, 2012**

Transport to airport for 6:30 a.m. flight to Chicago. Arrive. on Monday, July 30

Beijing/Chicago/Madison

The language and cultural training in Taiyuan will be provided in partnership with the Mercan Chinese Language Institute (www.mercanschool.org), a Wauwatosa, Wisconsin-based organization that enrolls more than 6,000 students in language training facilities both in Milwaukee and Taiyuan (www.mercanschool.com).

For more information about Shanxi Province and Taiyuan, visit:
<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/shanxi/>