FUJIAN: GATEWAYS, FORTRESSES, AND THE DIASPORA

SPRING BREAK 2018

PREPARED BY THE HUTONG FOR:
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BEIJING
KEY CONCEPTS

CREATIVITY, ACTION, AND SERVICE
In accordance with The Hutong’s Educational Mission, we aim to broaden students’ horizons by exposing them to unique experiences throughout China. The Hutong places particular emphasis on experiential learning, and works increasingly to give its students the opportunity to serve the communities they visit. Students who attend Hutong trips engage with global issues by collaborating to plan and execute community service programs. They leave the trip with a renewed sense of their strengths and abilities, as well as a more solid understanding of ethical tourism and global development.

PHYSICAL CHALLENGE
We aim to offer students a rewarding physical challenge that pushes personal and physical growth. Our expedition in Fujian will test their tenacity and move them beyond their perceived comfort zones, all in the spirit of a safe, controlled and mediated adventure. Fujian province has some of the most spectacular, rugged and underrated scenery in all of China and students will try their hands at a number of different outdoor challenges throughout the program. By the end of the program students will have developed a greater appreciation for what they are able to achieve, and their ability to exert themselves physically, mentally and emotionally.

CULTURE AND HISTORY
Xiamen has long been a gateway for foreign traders and fortune-seeking Fujianese. The city offers rich landscapes to interactively explore the local, the colonial, and the returning Overseas Chinese history and culture. By bike and by hike, students will explore the formerly fortified coastline, the hillside botanic gardens, the Nan Putuo temple hillside shrines, the beautiful Xiamen University campus - built by an overseas Chinese philanthropist - as well as the Overseas Chinese Museum. Students will also discover Fujian cuisine and explore contemporary urban culture through an interactive street photography workshop.

Heading out to the countryside, students will examine the rich history and architecture of the UNESCO-listed Nanjing tulou roundhouses through biking, hiking, and home-staying in an authentic living tulou. They will discover how and why the Hakka fortified themselves in these buildings, and assess how effectively these buildings, under UNESCO and NGO processes, are now being protected themselves.

Tea - extremely important in the local culture, paved the way for mass emigration of Fujianese. Students will pick their own tea, process it, and discover how radically it impacted China and the world – and how they can take a first step towards making an impact by designing sustainability into their own tea brand.
# ITINERARY & DAILY SCHEDULE

Meals provided indicated in schedule as Breakfast (B), Lunch (L), and Dinner (D)

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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>Beijing - Xiamen</td>
<td><strong>Morning:</strong> Morning flight from Beijing&lt;br&gt;<strong>Afternoon:</strong> Xiamen University Student District Go Game, gamezone including: - Shapowei Art District - Xiamen University - Xiamen Old Town &amp; Harbor - Nanputou Temple Check into hotel&lt;br&gt;<strong>Evening:</strong> Hakka Dinner Lecture or Urban Walk, with a focus on geographic and historic overview of Xiamen Reflections and Lights Out</td>
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<td>Accommodation:</td>
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<td>Day 2</td>
<td>Xiamen - Fuyulou</td>
<td><strong>Morning:</strong> Wake-up and Breakfast Bus Transfer to Fuyulou (3 hours) &lt;br&gt;<strong>Afternoon:</strong> Tea Plantation Visit Lunch at Tea Plantation Tea Picking &lt;br&gt;<strong>Evening:</strong> Tea Jeopardy Dinner Reflections and Lights Out</td>
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<td>Accommodation:</td>
<td>Tulou Guesthouse</td>
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<td>Meals: B, L, D</td>
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<td>Day 3</td>
<td>Fuyulou, Nanxi Valley</td>
<td><strong>Morning:</strong> Wake-up and Breakfast Bike Safety Briefing Nanxi Valley Bike Ride&lt;br&gt;<strong>Afternoon:</strong> Continue Nanxi Valley Bike Ride &lt;br&gt;<strong>Evening:</strong> Dinner at Fuyulou Reflections and Lights Out</td>
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| Day 4 | Fuyulou, Nanxi Valley | **Morning**  
Wake-up and Breakfast  
Continue Nanxi Valley Bike Ride  

**Afternoon:**  
Hakka Lunch in Scholar’s Tulou  
Yanxiang Tulou Scholar’s Tulou Rotational Activities  
- Village Exploration  
- Tulou Brick Making  
Afternoon:  
- Scarecrow Art  
Bike ride back to Fuyulo  

**Evening**  
Dinner at Fuyulou  
Reflections and Lights Out |
| Accommodation: Tulou Guesthouse | **Meals:** B, L, D |  |
| Day 5 | Fuyulou, Nanxi Valley | **Morning:**  
Wake-up and Breakfast  
Transfer to Chuxi  
Chuxi Tulou Hike (1.5 hrs)  

**Afternoon:**  
Hakka Lunch in Chuxi  
Chuxi Rotational Activities  
- Ciba Making (culinary workshop)  
- Tulou Museum Visit  
- Tulou Measuring Activity  

**Evening**  
Dinner at Fuyulou  
Design-Your-Own-Tulou Workshop Presentations  
Reflections and Lights Out |
| Accommodation: Tulou Guesthouse | **Meals:** B, L, D |  |
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| Day 6 | Fuyulou - Zhangzhou | **Morning:**
Wake-up and Breakfast
Bus Transfer to Zhangzhou (2.5 hours)

**Afternoon**
Check into Hotel
Arrival and Local Shacha Noodles Lunch
Zhangzhou Photography & Chill Challenge

**Evening**
Final Dinner
Reflections and Lights Out |
| Accommodation: Zhangzhou Hotel | Meals: B, L, D |
| Day 7 | Zhangzhou to Beijing | Breakfast
Check-out
Depart for airport.
Flight to Beijing |
|   |   | B, |
TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

XIAMEN HERITAGE & CULTURE

Xiamen, once fully enclosed within city walls, means “gateway to the mansion” and has a long history in trade. A treaty port, ceded after the Second Opium War, it has a rich colonial legacy mixed with a strong local and returned Overseas Chinese culture. The students will explore Xiamen on a Go Game adventure for a broad historical and geographical overview. Through their interactive treasure hunt students will be required to use teamwork, critical analysis, orienteering, and interaction with locals as they discover Xiamen as an important historical “gateway”.

Amoy, as Xiamen was formerly known, was also a gateway out for many Hakka, and Fujianese, seeking their fortunes overseas. Students will gain an appreciation for the emigrants’ difficult journey, many of whom returned to help protect their homeland (from the ravages of the Opium trade) through education and modernization, founding institutions such as Xiamen University. Creative displays in English at the Overseas Chinese Museum and potentially a speaker from Xiamen University will introduce the migratory culture that is so distinctively Fujianese.

FUYULOU TULOU HOMESTAY

Fuyulou is a celebrated five phoenix regal tulou in the UNESCO protected Hongkeng village cluster. It belongs to the Lin clan, who are Yongding Hakkas with a long recorded lineage in the area. This influential family played a prominent role in the bid for world heritage listing of the Fujian Tulou. Students will have the opportunity to meet family members and discover first hand the rich heritage of the Hakka, who first built the tulou in Fujian more than 8 centuries ago. It is a fantastic base for students to seek out the features of the communal and defensive architecture and culture that have won this village seven world heritage nominated properties.
TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

TULOU HIKES & EXPLORATION

In hikes and walks around tulou clusters, students will explore architecture, layout, decoration and other customs that are designed to strengthen the clan, which ultimately remains as the Hakka’s best defense. They will also interview residents who still live in these castle-like round houses.

Getting off the beaten track students will compare how life goes on in tulou that do not have the UNESCO badge of fame. Some people argue that tourism is turning the tulou into museum and the culture into a sideshow, giving students opportunities to compare the impacts of tourism and development on culture that have resulted in more recent years.

As a service to heritage we have the opportunity to document the diversity of humans of the tulou – many of which only contain a few remaining residents before becoming artifacts.

TEA CULTURE

Tea fields surround the nearby mountains. Families process their own home-grown tea and students will learn the art of picking, drying, rolling, and oxidizing Camellia Sinensis leaves into the distinctive Oolongs of the region. Fruit, herbs and flowers grown in the hills will be introduced to students, which can then be used to accent their own self-made teas.

Students will learn how to distinguish between different teas and learn the art of the Fujianese Kungfu tea brewing method. An evening workshop will help students design a brand and packaging for their own tea, which they can then pitch to a board of their teachers, Hutong staff, and fellow colleagues in a fun evening activity.

The broader historical impact of tea on China and the world will also be narrated as part of the Fujian story.
The hundreds of tulou (earthen multi storied roundhouses) in Yongding and Nanjing counties are best experienced by a bicycle trip - allowing students to appreciate the defensive qualities and geomantic layout as it relates to the surrounding landscape. Students will work through cultural heritage issues via documentary and assessment activities, as well as looking at tea culture along the way. The villages on this route are all spectacular and unique and offer opportunities to critically examine both the UNESCO heritage preservation model as well as alternative approaches.

The Nanxi valley bike ride features the prominent UNESCO sites of Zhengchenglou, Zhenfulou, and Yanxianglou as well as many less famed tulou. Students will seek out defensive, communal living, and Fengshui features in the architecture and landscape of the tulou, interacting with our hosts to uncover these details. This is a 40 km ride, but may be reduced to 20 km depending on the ability of the students.

Students will participate in a number of hands-on workshops that will further illuminate the secrets of the tulous and the lifestyles of the locals: from making tulou mud bricks to making local delicacies, from creating their own scarecrows to creating and presenting on their very own tulous.

In addition to our current creative programming, we will look to identify curriculum links and novel activities connecting the IB Maths and Designs MYP subjects to our experiential programming.
Zhangzhou city has a charming unrenovated (and virtually undiscovered) old town, based around trade streets of bamboo weavers, quilt makers, fortune tellers, paper cutters, wedding shops, and a hand puppet workshop owned by one of China’s most famous puppeteers. The hand puppet performance and street trades introduce students to fast disappearing skills which are now just beginning to receive nominations from UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage.

Zhangzhou also has scholars gates, small temples everywhere and an unrenovated Confucian temple similar to the one in Beijing, which until recently served as the old town’s local school. This town is the real thing – not yet disneyfied for tourists and crying out to be documented before it changes forever. Currently, large swaths of the Old Town are being knocked down and undergoing renovation.

Students will split into small groups and be introduced to some of the skills of street photography to help capture the ambience and authenticity of the town. Students will be required to use teamwork, creative thinking, interaction with the locals, and navigation skills to complete this challenge. They will also be guided on shooting to a theme and techniques of juxtaposition. Students will be invited to nominate the best pictures to be published on The Hutong’s blog.
VALUES AND CHALLENGES

Throughout our programs, we challenge students to not only push their boundaries and explore their surrounding culture but we encourage them to take responsibility for their actions through embracing sustainable travel, making good decisions and supporting their classmates. These notions are born out of our own company Core Values:

1. Be a good egg!
2. Embrace diversity!
3. Light a spark!
4. Go the extra ‘li’ (mile)!
5. Seek challenge!
6. Smile more!

We like to challenge students to adopt these practices and award those who demonstrate such values during the trip, through initiatives such as:

THE CHOPSTICK CHALLENGE

Each student is given their very own set of sustainable bamboo chopsticks with a stylish pouch to keep them in. Why? Forests are being chopped down for producing chopsticks – 20 million trees per year to produce 80 billion disposable chopsticks for China alone. To discourage deforestation and wasteful consumption we avoid using disposable chopsticks and encourage responsibility for possessions. Students who demonstrate best sustainability practices will earn the ‘Golden Chopstick Award.’

THE HUTONG HELMSMAN

Mao Zedong was known as “The Great Helmsman” because of his ability to steer the PRC to the right course of action. At The Hutong, we will choose our Helmsmen and Helmswomen based on who has lived up to the Hutong’s Core Values that day, thereby helping steer us to a more successful trip. We typically have each teacher choose someone from his or her group, and by the end of the trip each student ends up being recognized for their positive contributions.
REFERENCES

We have been running innovative, custom-crafted educational tours since 2009 with responsible professionalism and while maintaining an exemplary safety record. We encourage all new partners to contact references for an unbiased perspective on their experiences with The Hutong. Below is a list of top administrative contacts for international schools that we regularly run programs for. We are also happy to provide contact information of teachers who have been trip leaders on our programs, and with whom we have worked closely.

Simon Newbold snewbold@harrowbeijing.cn
Director of Sport and Leadership, Harrow International School Beijing

Colleen Drisner colleen.drisner@bcis.cn
Secondary School Principal, Beijing City International School

Matthew Shephard matthew.shephard@bsn.org.cn
Headmaster, British School of Nanjing

Karin Semler karin.semler@concordiashanghai.org
Director of Student Life, Concordia International School, Shanghai

Jaia Tucker jtucker@wiss.cn
Secondary School Principal, Western International School of Shanghai

Sandy Mackenzie sandy.mackenzie@dulwich-shanghai.cn
Head of Senior School, Dulwich International School of Shanghai

“I feel like I walked away from the trip not only appreciating China more but building friendships with the staff. The staff is very aware of their surroundings including the local culture, the students and the teachers. I personally wouldn’t want to go on another trip with another company because I believe the culture of the company clearly reflects the experience that they provide. Thank you for an amazing week. I wish it could have been longer!”

Dan Mazz dan.mazz@bsn.org.cn
Middle School Teacher, British School of Nanjing - Fujian 2014

“The mist, as it descended daily into the valleys of Fujian, brought a solemnity and peacefulness to my morning coffee. And every morning, as we talked about our day, ground our coffee beans, and stretched our aching muscles, I was thankful for the people I was able to work with. The Hutong guides were absolute experts, planned intricate details with precision, and handled difficulties with poise. But what made The Hutong tour through the Tulou country meaningful was that every Hutong guide I worked with was an example to my students. My guides took time to think about their world, talk to strangers, and try new foods. They never asked the students to do anything they weren’t doing themselves. They kept cycling when they were sore, they smiled when frustrated, and they took the time to really try to get to know every kid in my group. You all are a great group of people. I look forward to working with you again next year.”

Jim Richmond, Concordia International School of Shanghai, Head of English, Fujian 2014
 ABOUT THE HUTONG

At The Hutong, we offer a range of interactive, educational, unique, and fun activities to students and school groups of all different ages. Our interactive programs are designed to broaden participants’ understanding of Chinese culture and allow them to experience an authentic side of China. We aim to adapt our programs and work closely with schools and teachers to create customized cultural activities for various grade levels and subject areas. By incorporating grade and subject-specific learning targets into the design of our onsite and offsite excursions, The Hutong strives to offer top-notch activities that are engaging and relevant.

Combining our staff’s expertise in both tourism and education, we have been running unique and creative study tours to off-the-beaten-track destinations since 2009, with thorough professionalism and maintaining an impeccable safety record. We aim to broaden students’ horizons by exposing them to memorable experiences throughout China. Our typical educational tours focus on a combination of cultural immersion and outdoor education. We place an important emphasis on experiential learning. We do not just visit tourist spots, but we experience the places we visit and take a step deeper. The majority of our team has a background in both travel and education and this is where we look to excel.

Each year we expand our destinations and topics. Our goal is to work closely with schools to incorporate their curriculum and learning objectives in our educational travels, and give the students and staff exceptional experiences. The Hutong is happy to propose customized offsite programs that build upon the units of inquiry taught in your school.

The Hutong places particular emphasis on experiential learning, and works increasingly to give its students the opportunity to service the communities they visit. Students who attend Hutong trips engage with global issues by collaborating to plan and execute community service programs. They leave the trip with a renewed sense of their strengths and abilities, as well as a more solid understanding of ethical tourism and global development.
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