C & T Youth Technology Academy

YBB: CHINA CULTURE EXPLORATION
Spring 2019, April 12 – 21
(Stop 1-2-3 & Part 1-2-3)
Program and Application Information
Apply Online: www.ctyta.org

Youth Building Bridges China Culture Exploration Program:
The Youth Building Bridges Cultural Exploration Program is an opportunity for American students to experience immersive cultural exploration in China.

The initiative of this program is to introduce students to life, education and culture in China. Students reach beyond basic tourist travel, delving into local customs and culture, applying Chinese language skills when applicable, and interacting with locals on an interpersonal level. This program is unique because it is people-to-people driven. Students gain an international perspective in one of the most exciting and unique destinations around the globe. They experience the energy of the thriving large cities of Beijing and Shanghai, as well as the natural environment of Chongming Island and Fujian. Students travel off the beaten path, cultivate meaningful relationships with local students and families, and develop an exclusive understanding of modern China.

Journey Map:
STOP1: BEIJING

Beijing is the capital of China, and a modern city set among the backdrop of ancient Chinese culture. This exciting urban environment is constantly buzzing with activity. Students will see the incredible Forbidden City and the Great Wall. They will taste famous Peking Duck and immerse themselves in this exciting culture. A local, English speaking tour guide will conduct all tours. Students spend two days in Beijing, and then board the overnight D train for the trip to Shanghai.

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China, the world's third most populous city proper, and most populous capital city. The city, located in northern China, is governed as a municipality under the direct administration of central government with 16 urban, suburban, and rural districts.

Beijing is an important world capital and global power city, and one of the world's leading centers for politics, economy and business, finance, education, culture, innovation and technology, architecture, language, and diplomacy. A megacity, Beijing is the second largest Chinese city by urban population after Shanghai and is the nation's political, cultural, and educational center.

Combining both modern and traditional architecture, Beijing is one of the oldest cities in the world, with a rich history dating back three millennia. The city is renowned for its opulent palaces, temples, parks, gardens, tombs, walls and gates. It has seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Ming Tombs, Zhoukoudian, and parts of the Great Wall and the Grand Canal.
STOP2: SHANGHAI

Shanghai is one of the four municipalities under the direct administration of the central government of China, the largest city in China by population, and the second most populous city proper in the world, with a population of more than 24 million as of 2017. It is a global financial Centre and transport hub, with the world's busiest container port. Located in the Yangtze River Delta, it sits on the south edge of the estuary of the Yangtze in the middle portion of the East China coast. The municipality borders the provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang to the north, south and west, and is bounded to the east by the East China Sea.

As a major administrative, shipping and trading city, Shanghai grew in importance in the 19th century due to trade and recognition of its favorable port location and economic potential. The city was one of five treaty ports forced open to foreign trade following the British victory over China in the First Opium War. The subsequent 1842 Treaty of Nanking and 1844 Treaty of Whampoa allowed the establishment of the Shanghai International Settlement and the French Concession. The city then flourished as a Centre of commerce between China and other parts of the world (predominantly the Occident), and became the primary financial hub of the Asia-Pacific region in the 1930s. However, with the Communist Party takeover of the mainland in 1949, trade was limited to other socialist countries, and the city's global influence declined. In the 1990s, the economic reforms introduced by Deng Xiaoping resulted in an intense re-development of the city, aiding the return of finance and foreign investment to the city. It has since re-emerged as a hub for international trade and finance; it is the home of the Shanghai Stock Exchange, one of the world's largest by market capitalization.

Shanghai has been described as the "showpiece" of the booming economy of mainland China; renowned for its Lujiazui skyline, and museums and historic buildings, such as those along The Bund, as well as the City God Temple and the Yu Garden.
Chongming, Shanghai

Chong’ming, Shanghai is the third largest island in China. It is located on the Yangze River estuary. Chong’ming, a 21st century “Island Garden Town,” is the largest alluvial island on Yangze and the largest sand island in the world.

YBB chose to establish the institute in Chong’ming because it is a new, modern ecological city, a demonstration of modern urbanization set among a natural landscape. Chong’ming is a stone’s throw from downtown Shanghai and YBB’s partner, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

This new community focuses on low carbon, sustainable development. The island will become an epi-center for ecological tourism, energy conversation, and efficiency with an eco-friendly and livable urban layout. It combines modern urbanization with an eco-mindful approach to living, using wind, solar and biotic energy. Construction applies the use of open space along with harmonious design and advanced ecological technology. Chong’ming is currently implementing a zone of higher education, an international business zone, a municipal green industrial zone focused on software technology, and land dedicated sports and leisure.

Chong’ming is a true example of a community for the future, using innovative concepts. Shopping, pedestrian streets, national park land, bicycle tracks, and industrialization to establish a city with little disruption to the natural environment. In 2017, RMHS signed an MOU with two high schools in Chongming, and in January of 2018 they hosted the first group of Chinese exchange students. This trip is the US equivalent. RMHS students will visit the schools and interact with local Chinese students.
STOP3: FUJIAN

Fujian is a province on the southeast coast of mainland China. Fujian is bordered by Zhejiang to the north, Jiangxi to the west, Guangdong to the south, along with Taiwan 150 km (93 mi) to the east, across the Taiwan strait.[6] The name Fujian came from the combination of Fuzhou and Jianzhou (present Nanping), two cities in Fujian, during the Tang dynasty. While its population is chiefly of Han origin, it is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse provinces in China.

Historical Fujian is now divided by China and Taiwan and both territories are named the Fujian province in their respective Republics. The majority of the territory of historical Fujian (the mainland territory and a few islands) currently make up the Fujian province in the People's Republic of China (PRC). The archipelagos of Kinmen and Matsu make up the Fujian province in the Republic of China (ROC) based in Taiwan.
CHINESE CUISINE:

Chinese cuisine is an important part of Chinese culture, which includes cuisine originating from the diverse regions of China, as well as from Chinese people in other parts of the world. Because of the Chinese diaspora and historical power of the country, Chinese cuisine has influenced many other cuisines in Asia, with modifications made to cater to local palates.

The preference for seasoning and cooking techniques of Chinese provinces depend on differences in historical background and ethnic groups. Geographic features including mountains, rivers, forests and deserts also have a strong effect on the local available ingredients, considering climate of China varies from tropical in the south to subarctic in the northeast. Imperial, royal and noble preference also plays a role in the change of Chinese cuisines. Because of imperial expansion and trading, ingredients and cooking techniques from other cultures are integrated into Chinese cuisines over time.

The most praised "Four Major Cuisines" are Chuan, Lu, Yue and Huaiyang, representing West, North, South and East China cuisine correspondingly. Modern "Eight Cuisines" of China are Anhui Huîcài, Cantonese Yuècài, Fujian Mîncài, Hunan Xiângcài, Jiangsu Sūcài, Shandong Lǔcài, Sichuan Chuōncài, and Zhejiang Zhècài cuisines.

Color, smell and taste are the three traditional aspects used to describe Chinese food, as well as the meaning, appearance and nutrition of the food. Cooking should be appraised from ingredients used, cuttings, cooking time and seasoning.

It is considered inappropriate to use knives on the dining table. Chopsticks are the main eating utensils for Chinese food, which can be used to cut and pick up food.
Program Part 1: Cultural Chinese Workshops

Before departure, YBB will conduct two cultural Chinese workshops. The purpose of these workshops are to introduce students to China, especially the specific destinations they will visit. They will also get to know chaperones traveling with them. The workshops will also:

- Introduce students to the academic project
- Provide ice breakers and exercises for students to bond as a travel group
- Address any concerns or issues that students/parents may have regarding the trip

Program Part 2: Travel Daily Itinerary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Night</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D1: Fri, 4/12</td>
<td>Air China</td>
<td>4:35pm Departure from IAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2: Sat, 4/13</td>
<td>Nanjing Great Hotel. Four-star hotel located at 5 Wangfujing West Street, Beijing</td>
<td>6:25pm arrive Beijing airport&lt;br&gt;8:00pm Dinner/experience authentic Chinese food&lt;br&gt;9:30pm Hotel Stay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D3: Sun, 4/14</td>
<td>Day: Great Wall&lt;br&gt;Evening: Casual Walk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D4: Mon, 4/15</td>
<td>Overnight Train From Beijing to Shanghai</td>
<td>Forbidden City&lt;br&gt;Tiananmen Square&lt;br&gt;Hutong, Casual Walk/shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D5: Tue, 4/16</td>
<td>Chongming</td>
<td>Visit RM Chongming sister school&lt;br&gt;Chongming life and culture Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D6: Wed, 4/17</td>
<td>Kingtown Riverside Hotel Plaza. Four-star hotel in downtown Shanghai, just off Nanjing Road, near the Bund.</td>
<td>Yuyuan Garden/Shopping&lt;br&gt;The Bund/Nanjing Road&lt;br&gt;Huangpu River cruise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D7: Thu, 4/18</td>
<td>Fujian Hotel</td>
<td>7:25am T-Train to Fujian&lt;br&gt;1:05pm arrive Ning’de&lt;br&gt;2:50-4:20pm: Visit Xian’cun Elementary School&lt;br&gt;4:30-5:00pm: 1-1 Exchange&lt;br&gt;Evening: Visit local student home/Bonfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D8: Fri, 4/19</td>
<td>Fujian Hotel</td>
<td>8:00am visit local Minority museum, experience Minority life&lt;br&gt;10:30am-11:30am: pick up Natural Tea&lt;br&gt;12:00pm: Lunch at local Minority village&lt;br&gt;3:00pm-4:40pm: Visit Zhouning middle school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D9: Sat, 4/20</td>
<td>Fuzhou Fliport Garden Hotel (4 start)</td>
<td>Visit Zhouning Museum, Jiu’ji Water fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fu’zhou Pu River carp culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D10: Sun, 4/21</td>
<td>Air China</td>
<td>8:15am Departure from FOC, international Chang’le airport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D11: Sun, 4/21</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>2:35pm arrive IAD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part 3: Academic Project and Culture Exhibition**

Students can select one aspect of their travel experience and create a photo, video or written essay of their experience. This may be a group project or individual project. Students will research their focused study before departure, create a unique project during the trip, and present their projects upon return. Students are also urged to keep a daily journal of their travel. RM teachers will direct all aspects of the academic project as it fits into the curriculum for students and work with C&T for the YBB annual culture exhibition.

Facets of China Exploration for Students:

- Academic/Education
- Cultural
- Cuisine
- Economic/New China Development
- Environment

**Cost:** Approximately $3200 ($2200 + $1000 International Air ticket). It may change due to fluctuation in flight cost.

**Included:**

- Two sessions Chinese culture workshop prior to departure.
- International Air Ticket and Visa.
- Hotel/dorm accommodation and all meals.
- Accident Insurance (Please refer to page 4 for further information on insurance.)
- Sightseeing tickets, transportation, river cruise and local tour guides.

**Not Included:**

- Passport
- Personal purchases/expenses

**Meals:** All cuisine will be local, for students to experience the different flavors of China

**Group size:** 24-36 (Every 12 students will have two chaperones: 1 RM teacher and 1 Chinese chaperone)
Important Deadline Dates:

- October 22, 2018: Students/Teachers Application
- January 31, 2019: Final payment is due and Approved Travel Health Form
- February 15, 2019: Passport (Passports must not expire within 6 months of travel dates)

Application Process

Students apply online at [www.ctyta.org](http://www.ctyta.org) through October 22, 2018. Admission to the program operates on a first-come, first-accepted basis*, so students are encouraged to apply early, as spaces fill quickly. We have max 36 spaces. Admissions will close once we have 36 students. Once 36 spots are filled, an email will be sent to let people know.

*online applications will be time-stamped as a record of submission. All first payments must be received by the deadline of October 22, 2018. Any check received for an application submitted after the first 36 spots are filled will not be processed and will be returned to sender.

Candidates must submit the application and first payment/deposit of $2000. This covers the flight ticket as well as a deposit for the space on the trip. Checks should be made payable to CTYA: YBB, Memo: 2019 Spring YBB China Culture Exploration and Student Name, and mail to 14320 Travilah Road, Rockville, MD 20850. All final payments are due by January 31, 2019.

Cancelation Fee:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Air Ticket</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Program              | $250 after October 23, 2018  
                        | $500 after October 30, 2018  
                        | No Refund after February 15, 2019 |

Application Requirements:

1. Students must be actively enrolled at Richard Montgomery High School.

2. Applicants must demonstrate maturity and independence.

3. Students must follow the rules and regulations set forth by the program and abide by behavioral guidelines of RMHS.

4. Approved Travel Health form (physical) from physician.

Organizers and Partners

The YBB program was founded by C&T Youth Technology Academy, with a distinct focus on offering American future leaders an opportunity to share their education and resources in a global setting. C&T works with a distinguished group of partners, including the “Building
Bridges” program of Yale University, both the Chinese and Montgomery County of Maryland Education Departments, local governments, and Office of Overseas Chinese Foreign Affairs.

About C&T Youth Technology Academy

C&T Youth Technology Academy is a leading innovator of youth education, revolutionizing a new era of learning through technology-based coursework not found within the traditional education system. Utilizing the latest technology, students prepare to become leaders in their chosen professional fields. C&T values education through practical experience, independence, and student growth, both personally and professionally. In addition to helping students improve their academic education, C & T prepares them to better serve their community and country as community-oriented, mature, successful adults.

C&T offers programs to prepare students for well-rounded early career training through two facets: academic and community service. At C&T, students build confidence, maturity and a solid education foundation, all of which are needed to achieve academic and social success.

Academic: In the academic sector, students train in specialized classes and innovative lessons to build on their educational foundation and practical life skills, in order to prepare for college and beyond. Mastering the latest technology gives students an advantage in advanced computer skills, math, writing and global education, preparing them to become leaders in their chosen professional fields.

Community Service: Elementary and middle school students gain leadership skills in local community projects, such as the Interages program, which allows students to share their technological expertise with older generations. High school students take their training to a global level, traveling overseas to serve as leaders and mentors through programs like Youth Building Bridges. These services programs instill a confidence in students, as they gain confidence in public speaking, teaching and leadership.
About the Youth Building Bridges Program

*Personal character and leadership development through teaching, exploration, and global service project. EST 2009*

Youth Building Bridges empowers American and Chinese students to travel to rural, poverty stricken areas in China, teaching and sharing their knowledge within the primary and secondary education systems. Through a unique education and social experience, American students develop an international perspective and gain an exceptional understanding of the power of education within the global community.

At the YBB Institute in Chong’ming, Shanghai, students are immersed in a leadership, education and personal character development program. Through these initiatives, youth develop skills in leadership, team building, and international community development. In a highly disciplined environment, students learn the importance of responsibility, problem-solving, personal conduct and strength of character. These skills are practically implemented during the service trip. High school students embark on a life-changing adventure, and return home with a newfound maturity and personal skills to become powerful leaders of tomorrow.

The spring 2019 cultural trip to China is the first endeavor by C & T to offer an immersive travel experience to students at RMSH. We envision offering this trip on a bi-annual basis, so we anticipate the next trip will be spring of 2021.

Program Documentary: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATjyu8jfW4Y&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATjyu8jfW4Y&feature=youtu.be)

**History of RM/Chongming Sister Schools:**

In the fall of 2016, Mr. Monteleone traveled to China and visited with education and government officials in Shanghai and toured schools in Chongming. Relationships were forged and a memorandum of understanding reached.
In March of 2017, administrators and teachers from Chongming Senior High School and Yangtze High School visited Richard Montgomery, Montgomery College, and met with superintendent, Dr. Jack Smith, as well as members of the Board of Education.

Last year we were honored to have 24 Chinese students and 4 staff members join us as part of our exchange from Sunday, January 28th through Friday night, February 2, 2018 here at Richard Montgomery High School. These students were imbedded with our RM students and families for the week and shadowed students through their normal course schedule.

**Video:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maA5NJKlwA4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maA5NJKlwA4)

**FAQs**

**Can I book my own flight?**

No. Our program books the student/teacher group as a whole to ensure all students stay together during all travel. Booking as a group allows parents to get a partial refund of their ticket should their child not attend. Purchasing additional flight insurance is not necessary.

**Why do we have to make a decision so quickly?**

The main reason for the first payment is to purchase flight tickets at the lowest cost available. Booking before October 21 will ensure families receive the lowest possible fare. Please understand we are booking a group fare, not purchasing individual tickets, so the cost may be different from prices reflected online. No additional flight cancelation insurance needs to buy. The cancelation police for the airline we choose, Air China is $250. The first payment also includes a deposit for C & T Youth Technology Academy.

**Can I book now and cancel later?**

You can cancel at any time, though you will lose $250 cancellation fee set by Air China, as well as a different refundable deposit to C & T Youth Technology Academy. Please see the payment schedule and cancelation fee for more information.
Is this trip sponsored by Richard Montgomery High School?

No. RMHS or MCPS has no official affiliation with C & T Youth Technology Academy or Youth Building Bridges. Students will be traveling with teachers from RMHS and will be expected to abide by the same behavioral and academic policies as the school. C & T Youth Technology Academy is a third-party organizer of cultural student travel.

What will my child be doing academically during the trip?

Students will have an academic project during their travel, and will be working with RMHS teacher chaperones. More information will be forthcoming once the student application process is completed.

What about missing school on April 15 and 16, 2019?

Students will miss school on April 15 and 16, 2019. This is an excused administrative absence, and teachers will work directly with students to ensure all missed work is completed.

Can parent chaperones go on the trip?

At this time, we are not including the option for parent chaperones. Part of our YBB philosophy is to have students experience the independence of travel. There will be teacher chaperones from RMHS as well as representatives from C & T Youth Technology Academy, as well as local guides and chaperones at each destination. The ratio of adult/child is approximately six students per adult.

How will C & T ensure my child’s safety at all times?

C & T Youth Technology has taken hundreds of students to many provinces in China over the past ten years. The chaperones we provide have experience working with children, have children themselves, in many cases are professional educators, and are familiar with the culture of China. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the chaperones before the trip. As an applicant, we do expect that the student is mature enough to travel independently and conduct himself or herself appropriately at all times throughout the trip.

What does the Accident Insurance Cover?

YBB purchases additional accident insurance for all travelers. Students will be covered in the event of an accident such as a fall or other travel related injury. This insurance does NOT cover general illness, allergy attack, etc. Any naturally occurring illness where the student needs medical attention will be paid for by C & T, with reimbursement by the family of the student. Medical cost is minimal in China, so even a doctor visit is very inexpensive. In the event of a larger incident in which the child needs hospital stay, families can go through their personal insurance policies here in the U.S. All students will be required to complete a health exam prior to departure.