



Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Students & Parents,

We are delighted to launch the 2021 Emmbrook Sixth Form China Trip, which will be the sixth such trip run by us. Although final dates cannot yet be confirmed by our travel company, we are likely to be departing in the final week of the Spring Term 2021, returning in the middle of the Easter holidays (approximate dates 2<sup>nd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – these could be subject to change by a few days).

The trip will consist of a 10-day tour of China including the cities of Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai.

Specific highlights will include visiting the Great Wall, Forbidden City, the Terracotta Warriors and a trip to Disneyland Shanghai. The itinerary will provide students with an insight into the culture of China, as well as developing understanding of a range of concepts that will enrich their understanding for a wide variety of A-level subjects. A draft version of the itinerary is included with this letter.

We expected to be launching an identical trip to last time that featured a few nights in Hong Kong. Given the recent events, this excursion has been removed from the tour. If the political situation changes, we may be able to reinstate the visit.

**This trip is open to all students who will be studying in The Emmbrook Sixth Form during the 2020-21 academic year. This includes all students in the current Year 12 and all students in the current Year 11 who are going to join our Sixth Form this September. Please note that if you are not planning to attend the Emmbrook School Sixth Form next year then you cannot take part in this trip.**

The total cost of the trip will be £2800. This will include:

- All travel (including transport to and from Heathrow, flights, all internal travel in China including access to our own private coach in each city)
- All accommodation (4 star hotels)
- All food (including hotel buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner at local restaurants)
- All excursions (tickets for all events on the itinerary, additional excursions can be arranged in the evenings at an extra cost, these will be voluntary)
- English speaking guides who will lead the trip
- Insurance and emergency cover

**Please note that the cost of passports and travel visas for China are not included and you will need to cover these expenses.**

In the event that you choose to withdraw from the trip, a refund could only be made if a replacement student could be found who is willing to take up your place. It would be your responsibility to find a replacement.



The payment schedule is as follows:

November: £300 (deposit to secure place on trip)

December: £300

January: £300

February: £300

March: £300

April: £300

May: £200

June: £200

July: £200

August: No payment due to the summer holiday

September: £200

October: £200

Once our travel company are in a position to confirm exact details (flight dates, etc) we will be in touch. However, given that we have run this trip four times before, we are confident that the overview provided is accurate. If you would like any further information, then please email me [cjohnson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:cjohnson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

This is a fantastic opportunity to experience a different culture and develop a greater understanding of the world. If you would like to secure a place on the trip then please complete the slip below and return to The Finance Office, along with the non-refundable deposit payment of £300 by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Johnson  
Director of Business & Humanities

Miss Horne  
Teacher of Business and Economics

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Student: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child to attend the 2021 China Trip.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent / Guardian)

*Please send payments to the Finance Office (cheques payable to The Emmbrook School) or use the school online payment system. If you have not already created an online account, you should have received a letter with your pupil link code and guidance on creating this. If you need a copy of this letter please e-mail [finance@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:finance@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).*



THE EMMBROOK SCHOOL  
CHINA TOUR

APRIL 2021

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## The Emmbrook School China Tour April 2021

A fascinating tour to the cities of China

### Detailed Itinerary



#### DAY 1 Flight to Beijing

Today you will depart on your scheduled overnight flight from London to Beijing.

#### DAY 2 Arrival in Beijing - Birds Nest Stadium & Forbidden City

You are met on arrival at the airport by your local guide and transfer into the city. You stop to visit the iconic **Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium**, scene of the 2008 summer Olympics. The stadium was designed in part by the contemporary Chinese artist Ai Wei Wei who now lives in Cambridge. Today the stadium hosts pop concerts and sports matches. Premier League teams have played here as part of their pre-season friendly tours.

You continue into the city and Beijing's famous **Tiananmen Square** where you can see **Mao Tse Tong's mausoleum**. Chinese soldiers are on ceremonial guard at several places in the Square. At the far end of the square you walk through the Gate of Supreme Harmony and enter Beijing's magnificent, sprawling **Forbidden City**. In total, 24 emperors occupied the Forbidden City, so named because it could only be accessed by the emperor, his immediate family and servants. The complex consists of almost 1000 buildings, mainly in yellow and red colours, surrounded by a defensive wall and moat. This evening you have dinner at a city restaurant and can explore the vibrant **Wangfujing Street**, home to many shops and department stores.

#### DAY 3 Beijing - Summer Palace & Temple of Heaven & Sanlitun District

This morning you visit the Imperial Gardens of the **Summer Palace**, a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. The natural landscape of hills and streams is combined with pavilions, halls, palaces and bridges to create a tranquil scene. The gardens include temples and monasteries in the Han and Tibetan styles.

In the afternoon you visit the **Temple of Heaven**, also known as Tiantan Park, first constructed during the Ming Dynasty in 1420. Originally the temple was used for ritual sacrifice so that the rulers could appease the Gods and bring about a fruitful harvest. The current temple dates from 1889 and is one of the most impressive in the city. Surrounded by serene gardens the temple is a UNESCO world heritage site and offers an oasis of calm in this bustling city.

This evening you visit the lively **Sanlitun district**, an ultra-modern upmarket shopping district with all the international labels and brands on offer. There are also a great selection of restaurants where we can eat, and a few karaoke bars for the fearless.



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### DAY 4 Gubei Water Town, Simatai Great Wall & Ming Tombs

This morning you drive to **Gubei Water Town** and the Great Wall at Simatai. Gubei Water Town is a meticulously authentic replica of a traditional Chinese village which has been created at the foot of the Great Wall. It was modelled on Wuzhen, a water town in southern China and has canals, bridges, traditional junks and even a waterfall. No detail has been overlooked and although it is undoubtedly a tourist attraction, it has charm and character. There are workshops which make and sell traditional handicrafts, and occasional musical performances in the public squares.

After lunch you take a cable car to the **Great Wall at Simatai**. This is a superb section of the Wall with wonderful scenic and panoramic views. You can hike a section of the Wall and then return to Gubei by cable car. In the afternoon you return to Beijing, visiting on the way the **Ming Tombs**, a collection of mausoleums built by the emperors of the Ming Dynasty.

This evening you have dinner at a traditional **Peking Duck Restaurant**.

### DAY 5 Hutong Tour - Bullet Train to Xian

This morning you have a **Hutong Tour** by rickshaw. The Hutongs are the oldest part of Beijing with narrow lanes and rickety old houses that are still lived in. Located near Beijing's Bell & Drum Towers they provide a window on the city's history. These traditional Chinese communities and their culture are fast disappearing in the drive for modern, sterile high-rise buildings, and although they are currently protected, they will not last for ever.

After lunch you transfer to the station to take the **high-speed bullet train** to Xian. On arrival you will be met by your guide and transfer to your hotel for check-in and dinner.

### DAY 6 Xian & the Terracotta Warriors

Your first visit this morning is to the ancient City Walls which enclose the old town and which date from the 14th century. You also see the iconic Bell Tower and the Drum Tower. After lunch you visit the world-famous Terracotta Army. Discovered by local farmers by chance during the 1970's, the Warriors date from the time of China's first Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. You spend the afternoon viewing the life-sized ranks of warriors and horses and exploring the adjoining museum. Later in the afternoon you transfer to your hotel and tonight you can dine at a traditional Shui Jiao dumpling restaurant before going to a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.



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### DAY 7 Fly to Shanghai - The Bund & Pudong

In the morning you transfer to the airport in Xian for the short domestic flight to Shanghai, China's business powerhouse with its futuristic cityscape of Pudong. After checking into your hotel, we will get our bearings with a wonderful cruise on the **Huangpu River** where we can see the famous **Bund** on one side and the skyscrapers of Pudong on the other. In the afternoon you can stroll along the Bund. This famous waterfront avenue is regarded as the symbol of Shanghai and has some of its most elegant shops.

This evening you cross over to Pudong and visit the **Jin Mao Tower** for a spectacular vista over the city. Built in 1998 the tower rises to 1,379 feet and blends traditional Chinese and modern Western tower designs. We can take the high-speed lift to the observation deck on the 88th floor, known as the Skywalk, where we can enjoy the magnificent views of the city.

### DAY 8 VW Factory & Shanghai Museum

This morning you travel to the outskirts of the city for a tour of the **Volkswagen manufacturing plant**. Founded in 1985 as the first joint venture company in China, the Shanghai VW factory now produces over 450,000 vehicles per year. The tour lasts around 90 mins and begins by viewing the company's introduction film. A visit then follows to the factory's product exhibition hall, the Press workshop, the body workshop and assembly workshop. The visit is concluded with a short film about the history of the company. This tour is of particular value to business studies students as it provides a useful insight into joint ventures in the new China and the production techniques used in a modern factory.

After lunch you return to Shanghai where you visit People's Square, the cultural heart of Shanghai, connecting the main landmarks of the city. The **Shanghai Museum** which houses ancient Chinese art is located here. This is one of the most important museums in China with galleries and exhibition halls arranged over four floors.

#### Alternative afternoon option

After lunch you visit **Zhujiajiao Water Town**. The town is dominated by a series of canals and waterways where traditional Chinese boats ply up and down. A boat trip is the perfect way to see the town before you explore on foot its narrow walkways passing lots of little shops and restaurants. There are pretty bridges from which you can take photos, and a few temples and a pagoda. Despite the tourist day trippers, the town oozes character and it a delightful place to be.

This evening you can visit the Stella International Cineplex where you can watch a latest English language film release on an IMAX screen. Films in China are mostly screened in their original language with sub-titles. There is also an adjacent shopping mall for last minute souvenir hunting.





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### DAY 9 Shanghai Disneyland

After an early breakfast at your hotel you visit the new **Shanghai Disneyland Resort**, only opened in 2016. There are many familiar Disney sights such as the Magic Castle, in fact the biggest castle of all the parks, and all the famous Disney characters. However, it is very much aimed at Chinese visitors so there is no Main Street USA, rather a bend of Toon Town with an oriental theme. The park has the Adventureland and Fantasyland areas as well as popular rides including Pirates of the Caribbean and the incredible Tron, a truly futuristic roller-coaster experience like no other. There are currently no meal-deal options at Shanghai Disneyland so all meals within the Park are at your own expense and arrangement. You can elect to stay at the park and have dinner here or we can return to the city for dinner.

### DAY 10 Factory Visit, Jade Buddha Temple, Yu Gardens & Nanjing Road

This morning you visit the **Meiji Seika Chocolate Company** in Songjiang district where they make a variety of chocolate products. Visitors are escorted along a walkway which runs through the whole chocolate production process. Here you can see how ordinary cocoa powder is transformed into the silver-foiled bars we buy in the shops. At the end of the tour you get to try Meiji's delicious products!

#### Alternative Morning Option

This morning you visit **Yakult's Shanghai factory** where they make the famous Japanese milk drink. Here, the ingredients are sterilised and placed in giant 6,000 litre fermentation tanks where they sit at 37 degrees centigrade for around a week before being mixed with sterilised water. The manufacturing equipment is the most advanced of the group's 38 factories around the world. We will see the different varieties of Yakult products and will also be able to have a taste!

You continue with a visit to the famous **Jade Buddha Temple**, built in 1882 and still home to around 70 resident monks. This is a large temple right in the middle of Shanghai and has a formidable wall around it to ward off evil spirits. This afternoon you visit to the **Yu Gardens**, a classical Chinese garden. Built between 1559 and 1577, the Yu Gardens feature an elaborate maze of Ming Dynasty pavilions, bridges and ponds, all encircled by an undulating dragon wall.

In the early evening you visit **Nanjing Road**, Shanghai's version of 42nd Street and home to seemingly millions of neon-lit buildings and a place with relentless energy. Dinner will be at a city restaurant in this area.

### DAY 11 Fly Home

This morning you transfer to the airport for your homeward flight





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