

NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

#15, October — December, 1984



HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR TRIP TO CHINA

The following article is derived from a talk given at the September China Travel Briefing.

Most people who visit China have a wonderful time. Their memories of their experiences stay with them for a lifetime and they are quite willing to relate their discoveries to anyone who will listen. On the other hand, a few travelers are disappointed with their visit to China. They may feel that the tour was a poor one, that they didn't see the "real" China, or that independent travel (as opposed to group touring) is preferable.

Having visited China many times, taught there, and recently returned from leading my fourth tour, let me indicate a few items to consider to get the most out of a trip to China.

CHOOSING THE TOUR

Once you have decided to travel to China, you must figure out how to get there. For most people, the best way to see China is with a group tour. Although it is now possible to travel to China as an independent tourist,

this option is inappropriate for most. Those who try to travel through China on their own are often quite disappointed. Tickets are almost impossible to get. Hotels are hard to find, and, often, only the most expensive are available. Unlike many other parts of the world, few ordinary people in China speak English. And independent travel with a hired car and guide is too expensive for most. In addition, many institutions, factories, and other units do not make themselves available to individuals or very small groups.

Most of us are best able to see China with a group tour. But not all tours are alike. One must shop around to find the tour best suited to one's needs. Don't choose the first tour that comes to your attention. Look at several options before making a final decision. Here are a few questions you might ask:

1. Does the tour visit the places I most want to see? Most parts of China are now open to travel. If there is one part you most want to see, examine different tours until you find one that goes there. If there are several places on your list of favorites, look for a tour that visits

two or three of them. It is impossible to recommend one city or area over others; all sections have their interesting aspects. Most first-time visitors want to see Beijing and the Great Wall, and possibly Shanghai. This desire presents no problem since many tours go to these places. But repeat travelers can select tours that skip Beijing and spend more time in southern China. Those who like the more unusual can choose tours that go to Xinjiang or Inner Mongolia in the north or Guangxi or Yunnan in the south. The key to selection is to read widely, ask previous travelers, and choose a tour that suits your interests.

2. What time of year is best? All of China is hot in the summer and the north is bitterly cold in the winter. Spring (April/May) and fall (September/October) may be the most pleasant but they are also the most crowded with tourists (overbooked hotels and planes, crowds at popular spots, etc.). Again, if you look hard enough you can find a tour that goes to the right places and comes at the time of year best for you. Sometimes, of course, a good tour in all respects is offered at the wrong time of year. One cannot have everything; however, time of year should be one part of the initial criteria.

3. How much does the tour cost? China travel is one area where the old adage "you get what you pay for" does not always apply. Many of the higher-priced tours (\$5,000 or more for a three-week tour) are no better than those at

a lower cost (\$3,000). Look at the description of the tour carefully. See what is included. The actual difference between high and low cost tours may not be great. Ask your travel agent to carefully explain the differences by itemizing the "extras" on the higher-priced tours.

4. What other questions might I ask? A few of the many questions you might want to ask before selecting a tour are: Is the length of the trip appropriate for me? Does the trip end in Hong Kong (if you are planning post-China travel)? Will the tour have experienced leadership? Will I have much in common with the other travelers? What is the size of the group? Does the group have a special focus that is appropriate for me?

PRE-TOUR STUDY

Once a tour is selected, one should begin preparation in order to get the most out of the China experience. As a general rule, those who have done the most study tend to get the most out of the trip. One might try to do some of the following before leaving for China:

1. Read some ancient and modern Chinese history. Historical perspective makes any travel more meaningful. Contact the China Council office for a suggested reading list.

Read travel books. Not only are these useful in selecting a tour, but they are even more valuable once the itinerary is known. Look for scenic spots of interest. See if a great restaurant is suggested. Find out if a city you will visit has a special spot of interest to you. You will be able to suggest these places to your tour leader later. The two best travel guides are The China Guidebook by Kaplan and de Keijzer and Nagel's Encyclopedia Guide to China.

4. Attend talks and other educational

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programs before you leave. Take advantage of the offerings of the China Council and other local organizations (U.S. - China Peoples Friendship Association, colleges and universities, etc.).

5. Read contemporary Chinese materials. One can find modern novels, magazines, short stories, etc. in English. Some of the better Chinese periodicals are China Reconstructs (news and features) and China Daily (contemporary news and politics).

ON THE TOUR

There are many things one can do while in China to maximize the experience. Let me suggest just two possibilities:

1. Insist that your tour leader arrange to visit non-touristy "ordinary" places and do some of that on your own. China will want to show you its grand temples, museums, parks and historical sites. And these places are wonderful, indeed. A China trip without them would be nothing. However, visits to workers' neighborhoods, a stroll through a small food market, shopping a regular department store, talking to peasants in their homes, etc., are extremely valuable in giving one a bit of the whole picture of this vast country. And, if the organized tour fails to accommodate your desires, feel free to explore on your own. You can decide to omit a formal group visit in favor of taking off on your own by cab or by foot.

2. While in China, try to keep an open mind when evaluating what you see and learn. Remember that China is a poor, developing country. Constant comparisons of China with the U.S. are of little value. Instead, compare China today with what you know of old China. Ask people how their lives have changed over the last 30 years (or even over the last five years). Be accepting of the fact that China is a rapidly changing socialist country. Being open-minded does not mean acceptance of what you see. But, it does give you a chance to examine it

with more understanding.

There are, of course, many other aspects of China travel that can help you get the most out of your trip. In general, the more you put into pre-trip preparation the more you will get out of it. By following some of the suggestions mentioned here, you will be on your way toward having an exciting and worthwhile experience in China. Then, perhaps as soon as you return, you can begin to plan that second China trip!

Steve Kosokoff

SPECIAL EVENTS

DR. VICTOR SIDEL ***"THE HEALTH OF CHINA"***

Tuesday, October 9, 5:30--7:00 PM
8th floor, KOIN Center, 222 SW
Columbia

\$2, China Council associates
\$3, Public
(includes refreshments; drinks will
be no-host)

Reservations: 229-3049

Dr. Victor Sidel, President-elect of the American Public Health Association and Distinguished Professor of Social Medicine at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York, presents this important talk on the most current developments in modern Chinese health care. With his wife, Ruth, Dr. Sidel wrote two books on China, The Health of China (1982) and Serve the People: Observations on Medicine in the People's Republic of China (1973).

In his talk, Dr. Sidel will address China's integration of Western with traditional Chinese medicine; the changing role of the barefoot doctor; how China is dealing with the special health prob-

lems of the aged and the very young; and the education of medical personnel. Of particular interest will be Sidel's observations on the dangers that China faces as it seeks to modernize its medical system.

LITTLE WEST GARDEN PUPPET TROUPE FROM TAIWAN

Sponsored by the Northwest China Council and Tears of Joy Theatre

Wednesday, October 17
School for the Blind
2214 E McLoughlin Blvd.
Vancouver, WA

Matinee (for children) 4:00 PM
Evening Performance 7:30 PM

	Adults	Children
Matinee	\$4	\$2.50
Evening	\$6	\$3

Tickets: use order form below

A highly acclaimed troupe of professional pupeteers and musicians is touring the U.S. under the auspices of the Michigan China Council. Hsiao Hsi Yuan or Little West Garden will present two performances of hand puppetry, along with an introduction to the classical stories on which the plays are based, the live music and sound effects used, and the stage.

The matinee will be less than an hour long and is suitable for older children. "Wu Song Fighting a Tiger on Mount Gin Yang" includes kungfu and dramatic action scenes.

A 90-minute evening performance includes two plays: one the story of the first emperor of the Song dynasty and the other an heroic episode from the story of the Three Kingdoms.

Headed by master pupeteer Hsu Wang,

Little West Garden was founded by his father in 1917 and helped revive traditional puppetry in Taiwan. Using hand-held puppets with full-length bodies and feet, the puppeteers masterfully recreate human movements, with the scripts, make-up and costumes borrowed from Chinese opera. Three hundred years ago, puppetry was brought to Taiwan from Fujian province.

Four musicians accompany the troupe and play such instruments as the moon guitar and flute, gong and cymbals and will also sing.

Little West Garden was singled out by the Puppet Show Association of Japan to perform there in 1983 and their trip to the U.S. includes performances in 14 cities.

"THE EMBRACE OF THE MOTHERLAND: CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND TAIWAN"

PART I: HONG KONG

Monday, October 29, 8:30 AM to noon
Westin Benson Hotel, SW Broadway at
Oak, Crystal Room

\$12, Associates
\$15, General Public
(continental breakfast included)

Reservations: 229-3049

PART II: TAIWAN

Friday, January 4, 1985

Hong Kong's return to the control of China is one of the most dramatic and critical international stories of the century. The Pacific Rim's busiest harbor, Hong Kong represents one of capitalism's greatest triumphs. The future of Hong Kong will affect the form and nature of international trade. And, its fate will tell much about what Taiwan can expect in its eventual re-unification with China.

China's quest for sovereignty over Hong Kong and Taiwan will be the topic of a two-part forum featuring some of the nation's most informed experts on the area.

Three major speakers will present different perspectives on China and the future of Hong Kong. They are: Frank Ching, former correspondent for the Asian Wall Street Journal; Steve Goldstein, program director of the national China Council and professor of government at Smith College; and Adam Watson, former British diplomat and author of books on diplomacy and international politics.

Ching and Goldstein will have just come from an off-the-record conference on the future of Hong Kong sponsored by the national China Council in New York October 23-4, where representatives of the British and Chinese governments, the US Consul General in Hong Kong, members of the Hong Kong business community, and scholars and journalists will meet to grapple with the effects and implications of the joint declaration issued by China and Great Britain this fall.

In January, Part II of this forum will focus on the future of Taiwan. Our special speaker will be Leonard Unger, last U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of China on Taiwan, his assignment ending January 1, 1979, when the U.S. established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic.

Media and business representatives will react to the talks and there will also be time for audience questions.

CHINESE PERFORMERS TO VISIT PORTLAND

The Chinese Performing Arts Troupe, a Good Will Troupe of internationally known entertainment artists will perform in Portland on November 3, 7 PM. Featuring

folk, ancient, and acrobatic dance, solos and duets from Cantonese opera, flute and erhu (a two-stringed bow instrument) solos, and mimicry, the Troupe consists of 20 artists, including Chen Ailian, a lead dancer of the China Opera and Dance Drama House; Liu Xiaoqun of the Cantonese Opera; and Jiang Weihao, actor, ballet dancer and choreographer from the Central Ballet.

With 12 different dances, the program constitutes an introduction to Chinese dance, including the Tang Dynasty Sword Dance; Lantern, Water, and Snake dances; and the Dance of the Pandas, a special dance dedicated to the American people and Chinese Americans.

The Chinese Performing Arts Troupe is sponsored in Portland by Oregon Asian Cultural Exchange, Inc. at the Benson High School auditorium. Tickets are \$6 for the performance and \$25 for a reception to meet the artists at Tuck Lung. Contact Warren Chung at 289-3312 for information and tickets.

CHINA RESOURCES

ASIAN STUDIES IN OREGON

The growing awareness of the importance of East Asia, represented by Governor Atiyeh's and Mayor Ivancie's recent official missions to the Orient, indicated to the China Council that it was time to survey the status of Asian studies in Oregon and southwestern Washington. A survey was conducted in June - July 1984, following up a 1982 survey made by the China Council.

We found that the opportunity to study abroad has increased since 1982, but courses about East Asia have increased only slightly.

The University of Oregon is the only institution currently offering

an Asian studies degree and has both undergraduate and graduate interdisciplinary programs. At U of O, Asian studies may be emphasized within the International Studies degree program as well. Portland State University hopes to establish an Asian studies program for undergraduates in the fall of 1984. Lewis & Clark College offers the opportunity to complete an Asian studies degree as part of the student-designed major. Other institutions which offer an Asian component within their interdisciplinary studies programs include Western Oregon State College, Mt. Hood Community College, Linfield College and George Fox College. Two institutions, PSU and MHCC, offer International Business certificates. Intercultural communication courses are given at PSU and Pacific University.

The greatest variety of courses on

East Asia is available at the U of O, which offers 33% of the East Asian undergraduate courses given in the state and nearly all of the graduate courses (PSU is the only other institution which offers graduate level courses). Courses at the U of O range from anthropology to religion, with the highest concentration in art and modern East Asian history. Most state institutions offer an East Asian history course and an Asian art survey (the exceptions being Eastern Oregon State College and Central Oregon Community College), but the U of O has such specialized courses as "Himalayan Art" and "Readings in Zen Classics". Of the independent schools, Lewis & Clark has the most courses on East Asia, with a concentration in history, although there are courses in art, international affairs, religion, and sociology.

RESERVATION/BOOK ORDER FORM

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

zipcode

DAY PHONE(S) _____ Are You a China Council Associate?

_____ Yes _____ No

Please indicate the number of reservations you wish for the events you plan to attend, and send with a check to written to "World Affairs Council for NWRCC" to Northwest China Council, 1912 SW Sixth, #252, Portland, OR 97201.

<u>EVENTS</u>	<u># RESERVATIONS</u>	<u>AMOUNT ENCLOSED</u>
LITTLE WEST GARDEN PUPPET TROUPE	_____	_____
<u>Adults</u> <u>Children</u>		
Matinee \$4 \$2.50		
Evening \$6 \$3		(tickets to be mailed)
THE EMBRACE OF THE MOTHERLAND: CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND TAIWAN (\$12, associates, \$15, others)	_____	_____
		(tickets to be held at door)

<u>BOOKS</u>	<u># BOOKS</u>	<u>AMOUNT ENCLOSED</u>
The People's Republic of China: A Basic Handbook (\$6, associates; \$7.50, others)	_____	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

STUDY ABROAD

In addition to well-established study programs in Japan, new opportunities are opening up for students who want to go to China for academic work. The U of O now offers a one-year program in Xibei (Northwestern) University in Xian for graduates and undergraduates with advanced Chinese language skills. PSU also offers a study program in China. Beginning this fall, students will go to Zhengzhou University (Henan province) in exchange for Chinese instructors who come to teach at PSU.

All of the Oregon State System of Higher Education (OSSHE) schools jointly offer a 15-week Chinese language and culture study program at the Beijing Foreign Languages Institute Branch Campus.

Also, Southern Oregon State College is hoping to establish an exchange relationship with a Chinese school.

Lewis & Clark College has a 20-week study program for undergraduates in Guilin, China. In exchange, Chinese faculty from the Guangxi Teachers College in Guilin study and teach in Portland for two years. The opportunity to take part in the China program occurs every three years and may be incorporated into a student-designed Asian studies major.

Willamette University is in the process of setting up an exchange with Xiamen University in Fujian province. Willamette Law School is one of three law schools in the country with a program in China. This is a one-month summer session at the East China Institute of Politics and Law in Shanghai, jointly administered with Columbia University.

LANGUAGE STUDY

PSU and the U of O have four-year language and literature programs in Chinese and Japanese, yet only the U of O offers an undergraduate language degree. Six institutions in

the state have first-year Chinese courses, while 13 offer first-year Japanese. PSU is the only school which teaches Korean (summer session).

Kyle Cook

BOOKS IN THE NEWS

The People's Republic of China: A Basic Handbook, fourth edition
Steven M. Goldstein, Kathrin Sears, and Richard C. Bush
China Council of The Asia Society
\$7.50 (\$6.00 for associates)--from the Northwest China Council

This compendium of facts and figures was first issued in 1979 and has been extensively updated three times. The 1984 edition is enlarged as well and will be of great use to anyone with an interest in keeping informed about China's politics, economy, and daily life.

A listing of the chapters and the kinds of information they contain follows:

LEARNING MORE ABOUT CHINA: where to get more information about current events, China travel, aids for teachers (books, periodicals, organizations).

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE: maps and tables showing elevation, agricultural regions, population distribution, etc.

HISTORY OF THE CHINESE REVOLUTION: biographies of revolutionary leaders and chronology of China under Mao as well as charts showing the structure of the Chinese Communist Party and the government.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE: Chronologies and documents on China's relations with Japan, USSR and U.S. and tables on Chinese military forces.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN TRADE: Tables illustrate economic indicators, energy supply, U.S. - China trade, and many other areas.

MATERIAL WELFARE, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH: Tables on income in-

equality, school enrollments, women in China, hospital beds, food intake. DAILY LIFE: Discusses rural and urban organization and composition of the labor force.

Each chapter has a general introduction, as well as suggested readings.

1985 CHINA TOUR

Oregonians have a chance to join a China tour planned and led by the state's top China experts. The Northwest China Council board is planning a 1985 trip, from mid-October to mid-November, landing in Beijing and departing from Shanghai, with three weeks in China. Travelers will benefit from the China Council's wide background in Chinese culture and extensive contacts in China--half of our board has traveled to China this year.

The trip's theme is "China Old and China Now": not only will we explore China's ancient civilization, but also the newest features of Chinese life, such as the one-child family and the new economic reforms. You'll see firsthand such fascinating Chinese inventions as acupuncture and silk-making. We will also arrange for visits to Chinese homes and meetings with Oregonians living and working in China. Before the tour leaves, the China Council and World Affairs Council plan to sponsor a statewide series of lectures on China, bringing China experts to such towns as Bend, Pendleton, Salem and Ashland.

The tour will visit a wide variety of sites, including the magnificent Forbidden City in Beijing, the Great Wall, the ancient tombs of Xian, and the astonishing mountains and rivers of Guilin. We will also tour what will soon be Oregon's sister province in China, Fujian, a

lovely coastal area rarely visited by Americans.

The trip is limited to 20 participants, so please call 229-3049 to be given first priority.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The China Council needs the help of volunteers with a variety of skills. Especially needed now is a clerical assistant, who types at least 50 words a minute and can take on regular tasks such as processing new membership applications. Call Jane Larson, 229-3049, if you want to know more.

Volunteers include Kyle Cook who does research; he recently compiled the reading materials for a packet given to participants at September's China Travel Briefing. Janice Cagle gives her time as a fundraiser, contacting businesses which are likely donors to the China Council. Nevill Eschen writes press releases and radio spots and does the layout and paste-up of the newsletter. Other volunteers, such as Leslie Slocum, help at events. Still others, like Sandra and Rudy Miner, host China Council speakers, such as Fredric Kaplan, China Guidebook author.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 10/1 - 11/17 "FRONTIERS OF TRADE: OREGON AND THE WORLD 1784-1984": exhibition celebrating 200 years of world trade from early Russian, English, American fur traders to today; features trade with China; Oregon Historical Society, 1230 SW Park; Monday - Saturday 10 AM to 4:45 PM; no admission charge; information: 222-1741.
- 10/1 - 12/15 "READ LAO TZU--THE TAO TE CHING--IN CHINESE!": newly developed course teaches classical Chinese using material taken from Lao Tzu. No previous knowledge of Chinese is required. Portland State University. Call John Emerson for late registration: 233-9463.
- 10/9 * "THE HEALTH OF CHINA": lecture on modern Chinese health care given by Dr. Victor Sidel, author of two books on China. KOIN Center, 8th floor, 222 SW Columbia; 5:30 to 7:00 PM; \$2 associates, \$3 public; reservations: 229-3049.
- 10/9 DOUBLE TEN CELEBRATION: a ten-course gourmet dinner fundraiser for the Chinese Language School. Chinese Village Restaurant, 520 S.E. 82 Avenue; 6 PM; \$25; information: Gene Chin: 253-1441; Steve Louie: 246-4055.
- 10/9 - 10/27 "ASIAN POINT OF VIEW": an exhibition by 31 Asian Artists of Oregon; Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association Hall, 315 N.W. Davis; hours: Monday - Saturday, 12-6 PM; no admission charge; information: Roberta May Wong: 282-9208.
- 10/17 * LITTLE WEST GARDEN PUPPET TROUPE FROM TAIWAN: two performances sponsored by Northwest China Council and Tears of Joy Theatre; in Vancouver, WA at School for the Blind, 2214 E. McLoughlin Blvd.: Matinee, 4 PM, adults, \$4, children, \$2.50. Evening, 7:30 PM, adults, \$6, children, \$3. Tickets available from China Council, 229-3049 or Tears of Joy, 206-695-3050.
- 10/20 UNITED NATIONS FOLKFEST: international fair and cultural display; Neighbors of Woodcraft Hall, 1410 SW Morrison; 11 AM to 6 PM. No admission charge. Visit the China Council booth.
- 10/24 "CHINA AND ITS PEOPLE": World Calvacade film with Raphael Green, Portland Civic Auditorium, 8 PM; ticket information: 228-6851.
- 10/29 * "THE EMBRACE OF THE MOTHERLAND: CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND TAIWAN": a forum sponsored by the China Council, 8:30 AM to noon, Westin Benson Hotel, S.W. Broadway and Oak. \$12, China Council associates, \$15, general public. Speakers are Frank Ching, Steve Goldstein and Adam Watson. Includes continental breakfast. Reservations: 229-3049.

November

- 11/3 CHINESE PERFORMING ARTS TROUPE: performance of dance, Chinese opera and mimicry sponsored in Portland by Oregon Asian Cultural Exchange at Benson High; \$6, performance only; \$25, performance and reception for artists. Call Warren Chung for information and tickets: 289-3312.
- 11/4 SIXTH ANNUAL CHINESE FOOD FAIRE: over 65 restaurants and Chinese businesses serve Cantonese and Northern foods, wine and beer. Sponsored by Chinese American Citizens Alliance and Chinese Chamber of Commerce; Western Forestry Building Miller Hall, 4033 SW Canyon Rd.; two seatings at 4 PM and 6 PM; \$25 per person; call Fong Yee (286-9703), Ron Eng (292-6159) or Betty Jean Lee (224-4082) for tickets.
- 11/10 WING LUKE MUSEUM ANNUAL ART AUCTION: fundraiser for this Seattle museum, 414 8th Ave. S.; information: 206-623-5124.
- 11/14 "CHINA TRADE UPDATE 1984": full-day seminar sponsored by the Washington State China Relations Council, with speakers from U.S. State Department Office of Chinese Affairs At Madison Hotel, 6th and Madison, Seattle; registration information from Robert Kapp: 206-464-1409.
- * Program is sponsored by the Northwest Regional China Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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BECOME A CHINA COUNCIL ASSOCIATE

You may combine World Affairs Council membership with associateship in the China Council, or become a China Council associate only.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

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Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Occupation (s) _____

Special Interest in China _____

I would like to volunteer to help the China Council with:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| _____ Events | _____ Office Work |
| _____ Publicity | _____ Fundraising |
| _____ Hosting/Escorting Speakers | _____ Recruiting Associates |
| _____ Programming | |

Please circle the option you wish and enclose a check to "World Affairs Council for NWRCC"

	Individual	Family	Retired	Student
I wish to join the World Affairs Council as a China Council associate	\$35	\$40	\$25	\$20
I wish to become a China Council associate only	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
I am a current member of the World Affairs Council and wish to be a China Council associate	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10

The Northwest Regional China Council is formed to deepen public understanding of China's history, culture, and contemporary affairs (in the People's Republic, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and among Chinese-Americans). Our events are held all over Oregon and in Southwestern Washington and include exhibitions, lectures, conferences, teacher workshops, and business seminars. The Northwest China Council is a self-supporting program of the World Affairs Council of Oregon and one of twelve regional China councils in the U.S. affiliated with The Asia Society. There is a branch office in Seattle.

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