The 2019 Connecticut Educators Summer Field Study

An exclusive transnational study tour for educators seeking enrichment, growth, and adventure that brings global competency into classrooms and learning communities.

JULY 8 - JULY 16 (Extended Tour JULY 19)
A Comprehensive Field Study for Connecticut Educators

An all-inclusive journey through thousands of years of history, an educational system, and cultural art to destinations steeped with magical nuance. So much more than a country, China is a fascinating world unto itself. With four key destinations across China and an extended tour in Thailand, you will be inspired as this learning experience is nothing short of comprehensive and well maneuvered by your host and Director of ACES International, Jason Hiru.

Contact: acesinternational@aces.org

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The 2019 Connecticut Educators Summer Field Study
BEIJING – CHENGDU – GUILIN – SHANGHAI - BANGKOK
A COMPREHENSIVE FIELD STUDY DESIGNED BY EDUCATORS FOR EDUCATORS

The Purpose of The 2019 Connecticut Educators Summer Field Study

- Advance our awareness of a country’s culture through its Educational System, Arts, History, Cuisine, Language, and People;
- Provide enhanced professional opportunities for educators and aspiring educators;
- Deepen multicultural and multinational awareness through commonalities;
- Experience relevance and global perspectives through experiential learning;
- Participate in hands-on learning opportunities;
- Build new friendships and collegial ties;
- Make relevant connections between cultures to promote world citizenry in the 21st Century.

Flight Departure

Beijing/Night 1:11 July 8 (Casual Dress)
Arrive to Beijing hotel
An evening dinner celebration as we begin your field study in Beijing!
Evening on your own to explore or grab a relaxing massage in the hotel spa.
Get a good night’s rest as we prepare for a day of culture and adventure tomorrow.

Beijing/Night 2:11 July 9 (Casual Dress) Day 1
Breakfast in Hotel (Western and Chinese Cuisine)
As you acclimate from your travel, a Tai Chi class serves as a learning opportunity and benefit to your body's adjustment from travel. Experience a class with a renowned Tai Chi master. In the class you will be introduced to and learn: Yin, Yang & Taoist theory behind Tai Chi; The methods to improve our body's internal "Qi" (energy) that is thought to fight illness and relieve our daily stress; Tai Chi relaxation exercises; and standing meditation. Throughout your trip, use Tai Chi to exercise and stay fluid in your motions each morning.

Lunch - local Beijing cuisine
After lunch, we visit one of the most prominent schools in Beijing. Its college-like setting provides a comprehensive experience to students preparing to compete on an international scale, only to be compared to some of the best public high schools in the USA.

This afternoon we pursue an adventure on The Great Wall of China.
In order to protect the evolving empire against the raids and invasions from the nomadic groups focused on expansion, several walls were built as early as the 7th century BC. Later on, these walls were joined together and constructed to be bigger and stronger. Collectively, they became The Great Wall. Especially famous, a part of the wall was built in 220 BC by Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China. The majority of the existing wall is from the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644).
Dinner and evening on your own
(Option to join the group leader for a walk and visit to a local café).

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Chengdu/Night 3:11    July 11    (Professional Casual)    Day 3
Breakfast in Hotel (Western and Chinese Cuisine)
Early morning departure flight to Chengdu

Today we visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Pandas or Chengdu Panda Base. We will see the different stages of a giant panda's life, from baby to young adult to adult. The Chengdu Panda Base, is a non-profit research and breeding facility for giant pandas and other rare animals. Our visit today will prioritize conservation and the science behind the Center as we connect with the Chengdu Panda Base Education Center.

Lunch

Following Lunch, we have the opportunity to meet with a principal of a public school in Chengdu. Chengdu schools are prioritizing innovation, international exchange, and arts education. Very progressive in its educational priorities for this region, our visit will allow you to link similarities and differences to schools in Connecticut.

Check into hotel and rest before dinner
Dinner in Chengdu and an evening on your own to relax or explore.

Chengdu/Night 4:11    July 12    (Active Dress)    Day 4
Breakfast in Hotel (Western and Chinese Cuisine)

Today we depart for a day of adventure and exploration on Mount Qingchengshan – the sacred mountain of Taoism. It is considered one of the birthplaces of Taoism and one of the most important Taoist centers in the world. In Taoist mythology, it was the site of the Yellow Emperor's studies with Ning Fengzi. As a center of the Taoist religion it became host to many temples. The mountain has 36 peaks and is home to the Dujiangyan Giant Panda Center and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The whole mountain is blanketed by an evergreen forest all year round, and thus gets its name, “Qingcheng” mountain, which literally translates as “mountain of green”.

Lunch and time to explore on your own
On to Qingyin Pavilion and the Wannian Temple for a stop to refresh in the natural beauty of the environment. Don't forget to take your “selfies” and scenic photos here!

Dinner near the hotel and an evening out with the group leader
Prepare your bags for your departure tomorrow morning to one of the most beautiful and breathtaking regions in the world – Guilin.

Guilin/ Night 5:11    July 13    (Active Dress)    Day 5
Breakfast in Hotel
Early morning departure for Guilin.

This morning we participate in a culinary workshop. We take a break from the outdoors as we experience the local culture with traditional Guilin chefs. You will work with your hands and learn beside a master as you learn to make dishes featuring chicken and pork with a variety of seasonal vegetables. One of the favorite local dishes is jian dan jiao, a simple but mouth-watering dish of steamed dumplings fried in egg – simple, light, and delectable.
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Your work and learning becomes your lunch. Enjoy the local cuisine you have created as you dine with your instructors.

Today, we step into the underground caves of Guilin. The stalactites, stalagmites, and stone pillars inside will dazzle you with a kaleidoscope of colors that will make you want to linger. We explore today and absorb the beauty and culture that we are surrounded by. Dinner and a good night’s rest before tomorrow’s river excursion.

**Guilin/Night 6:11**  **July 14**  **(Active Dress)**  **Day 6**
Breakfast in Hotel
This morning we participate in the highlight of our visit to Guilin – boat cruise and a visit to the Yangshuo Old Town.

Sit back and relax as you receive a guided experience on socioeconomics and history in the region along the Li River, witnessing the natural beauty during the entire course of our journey. You will experience spectacular views of the Guangxi Zhuang region’s amazing countryside. The winding river will bring us to the small city of Yangshuo but not before you experience the intrigue of the region’s mountains, sheer cliffs, and small rural villages lining the river’s shores. Lunch and then time to explore on your own while you are in Yangshuo to stroll, shop, and observe painters create Chinese landscape paintings inspired by the environment. Arts appreciators beware of incredible landscape paintings and watercolor portraits.

Dinner and learn the local minority dance as you receive a lesson from an elder.

**Guilin/Night 7:11**  **July 15**  **(Active Dress)**  **Day 7**
Breakfast in Hotel
Today we visit the Longji Rice Terraces where science meets nature. For over 2,000 years, the rice terraces have followed contours of the mountains and landscape. The knowledge of managing the crops have been handed down from the first generation to the next, creating a sacred tradition and delicate social balance that creates a landscape demonstrating harmony between humankind and the environment.

A workshop on the industry, science and cultural impact of rice will follow the visit.

Dinner and time to prepare your luggage for departure in the morning.

**Shanghai/Night 8:11**  **July 16**  **(Active Dress)**  **Day 8**
Early morning breakfast
Departure to Shanghai
For well over a century, the Bund has been one of the most recognizable symbols and pride of Shanghai. The architecture along the Bund is an outdoor exhibit of history and progress dating back to the colonial history of the 1800s. Bring your cameras and don’t miss the chance for selfies and documentary photos in the world’s largest port and trade center.

Lunch and then on to Old Town Shanghai. Try the famous Shanghai soup dumplings as society passes you by in this popular mecca for cuisine.
On to Tian Zi Fang in the Old French Concession quarter of Shanghai. Experience the 100-year-old archaic bungalows from the early republic in China. Explore the back alleys that blend modern cosmo with kungfu esoterica, and coins from the Qing Dynasty. In Tian Zi Fang, stop in a coffeehouse or private pub to rest your feet in an open-air terrace. Stroll and experience as you are transported back to the beginning of the city on these lanes, filled with an Old Shanghai ambiance.

Dinner
Enjoy an optional evening out with the group leader in the Xintiandi “Fashion” district to celebrate in the energy of Shanghai.

Prepare your luggage for your trip home or your exciting transition to Thailand!

Thailand/Night 9:11       July 17 (Extended) (Active Dress) Day 9
Breakfast in Hotel (Western and Chinese Cuisine)
Part ways as your flight departs for Bangkok.

A visit to Wat Pho is a must for your visit to Bangkok. As the home to the Reclining Buddha, you will be amazed as the whole statue is covered in gold leaf and brings new awareness to detail when you get up close to it.

Check in to hotel
Lunch and on to the Grand Palace for the viewing of the country’s cultural icon and center of the country. A workshop on culture and education in Thailand follows.

With over 200,000 visitors each day, the Chatuchak Market is a place not to be missed in the evening as you can explore and get lost in the culture for hours as you explore and bargain with vendors.

A late dinner and evening to relax after a long day. Optional evening stroll in the local neighborhood with the group guide as you visit an art gallery and speak to local artists about their creative process and quest to express themselves through their culture.

Thailand/Night 10:11     July 18 (Extended) (Active Dress) Day 10
Breakfast in Hotel
Your choice to participate in a Boat Trip along the Chao Phraya River or visit the Bangkok National Museum.

Lunch with Bankok’s famous noodle cuisine followed by a visit to the Buddhist temple, Wat Arun. With over 31,000 Buddhist temples spread out across Thailand, this temple is named after Aruna, the God of Dawn. Situated on the bank of the Chao Phraya River, the tower is covered in ceramic tiles and its porcelain makes for an incredible sight when you observe it in the right light. The temple itself is guarded by a pair of mythical giants that keep watch over the temple grounds.

Dinner and evening time on your own for a Hot Thai Massage or a rooftop cocktail to see the beautiful skyline of Bangkok in all of its glory. Please ask the group guide for suggestions.
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Thailand/ Night 11:11    July 19 (Extended)    (Casual Dress)    Day 11

Breakfast in Hotel

This morning, we visit Erawan Shrine. The shrine itself is a four faced brahma god statue. People from all over the world flock there to lay floral garlands in the hope their wishes will come true. The sight is breath-taking. We will meet with a local historian to understand the cultural traditions of the people visiting a shrine.

Lunch
Step back in time and observe the Floating Markets of Damnoen Saduak. This traditional market, where business is conducted on the water, will allow you to practice your bargaining skills one last time.
Prepare for your departure home.

Who can participate?
Educators, aspiring educators, retired educators, and significant others of participants

Responsibilities of the participant:
- Enrollment in travel insurance is the responsibility of the participant.
- Any medical shots and/or vaccinations required by your physician (Please see your physician or travel nurse directly).
- Valid passport that does not expire 6 months AFTER your return date.
- Assess your physical health and walking stamina: This tour can be physically demanding at times. On an active day, participants could walk 1-2.5 miles. Participants should consult with their physician if there is concern or challenge, especially for people with prior injuries or health conditions.

The price does not include:
- Medical & Emergency Evacuation Insurance
- Any medical shots or vaccinations required by your physician (Please see your physician or travel nurse well in advance of departure).
- Travel insurance (Advised)
- All personal expenses such as: excess baggage charges, extra flight accommodations, extra meals and beverages, laundry, telephone calls, insurance and expenses not specified in the itinerary.
- Any costs that are caused by accidents, bodily injuries or health complications during the trip.
- No refund will be made for any missed/unused tours/meals/entrance fees or any other arranged activities to the individual(s) who withdraw voluntarily from the tour or skip the arranged tour activities during the tour due to personal reasons.

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An exclusive transnational study tour for educators seeking enrichment, growth, and adventure, that all-inclusively features:

- Visa Application and Processing (Deduct $100.00 with a valid Chinese Visa)
- Two cultural preparatory workshops on: language; etiquette; cuisine; societal expectations; Chinese educational system; and destination regions
- Classroom learning materials and resources
- Round-trip economy airfare
- In-country airfare and ground transportation
- Four-star hotels based on double occupancy with full breakfasts. Hotels are located in central locations of our destinations
- All meals: Breakasts in hotel (both Chinese and Western cuisine), lunch, dinner
- Full time drivers in each region
- Full time guides and historians
- The ACES International director as group leader and host on mainland tour
- All entrance fees
- Certificate Ceremony following the return of the delegation that includes photo sharing database

Cost of Summer Field Study: $3,200.00
Extended Thailand Tour: $900.00 (Includes airfare, ground transport, hotel, meals, entrance fees, guide)
Single Room in China: $400.00
Single Room in Thailand: $150.00
* Participants are asked for their voluntary assistance in tipping guides and drivers in each of our city destinations.

Inquiries to jhiruo@aces.org or acesinternational@aces.org
Non-refundable security deposit ($450.00) goes toward total cost.
Registration is open through March 2019.
Please submit registration form and deposit together.

ACES International accepts check and credit card payment

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Because ACES International does not reserve spots without a non-refundable security deposit, registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participant spots are limited to maintain an effective and enjoyable experience.

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