



# SICHUAN: LAND OF PLENTY

## OCTOBER 2018

PREPARED BY THE HUTONG FOR:  
THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF BEIJING



**The Hutong**  
Education



THE BRITISH SCHOOL  
OF BEIJING, SHUNYI  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# KEY CONCEPTS

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

The program offers students a first-hand experience of Sichuan's biologically diverse environment. Students will participate in a variety of hands-on, strategically engineered activities that will get them critically analyzing various threats to the region's natural environment. Students will also assess a range of sustainable solutions to these challenges. By the end of the program, students will be able to recognize distinct features of the region's biodiversity, as well as thoughtfully evaluate the impact of human activity and the importance of sustainable development in Sichuan.

## PHYSICAL CHALLENGE

Our aim is to offer students a rewarding physical challenge that encourages personal and physical growth. Our Sichuan program will test their tenacity and move them beyond their perceived comfort zones, all in the spirit of a safe, controlled, and mediated adventure. Sichuan 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 their ability to exert themselves physically, mentally, and emotionally.



## LEARNING SERVICE

At The Hutong, we prefer to use the term “Learning Service” as opposed to “Service Learning” or “Service”. This not only acknowledges the learning component of service, but also embraces it as the most positive input and outcome of “service” exchanges. The trend of encouraging service before we encourage learning can lead to misguided actions and damaging results. As such, our Sichuan Program offers opportunities to learn about the social, economic, and environmental issues facing the region as well as interact with organizations that are working hard to tackle these issues. In this way, students can offer service while on their program and leave Sichuan as more knowledgeable and responsible change-makers.

## TEAM BUILDING

Our aim is to help students develop leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills under challenging circumstances, while also improving their understanding of team dynamics. The Hutong's carefully planned activities will test students' abilities to work effectively as a team. In order to successfully participate in and complete the course, students must work together and collaborate. By the end of the program, they will understand and be able to identify the benefits and challenges of true collaboration.



# DESTINATION: SICHUAN 四川

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The Hutong's Sichuan program brings students on a journey to experience the fiery cuisine, ancient landmarks, and vibrant cultures of China's land of plenty. We'll take time to soak up the relaxing atmosphere in Chengdu, exploring the winding alleys, bustling markets, all the while sampling the best bites of China's most famous cuisine. Beyond the bustling city limits of laid-back Chengdu, we find a bucolic mountain landscape of picturesque cliffs, hilltop temples, and meandering rivers. Most importantly, we'll get to hang out with China's famous ambassador, the Giant Panda!

This action-packed trip will have the students engaging with the ethnic groups and religions that make up this diverse region, from Tibetan Buddhist monasteries to holy Taoist mountains, while they participate in meticulously designed activities that are sure to create new challenges, new friendships, and new stories to bring back home. From volunteer activities with the local community to exploring ancient stone villages, students will come away with a unique perspective on China's southwest. Join us for a total immersion in everything that makes Sichuan so special.



# DESTINATION: SICHUAN 四川

## PROGRAM DESTINATIONS AT A GLANCE:

The Hutong's Sichuan programs aim to give participants a chance to experience multiple areas of the land of plenty. We will travel to the following destinations:

### CHENGDU CITY 成都

Colloquially known as the “Country of Heaven”, Chengdu is a bustling city, rich in culture and activity. It is a city known for its leisurely lifestyle and incredible food.

### DUJIANGYAN 都江堰

A short distance outside Chengdu, Dujiangyan is home to two incredible Unesco World Heritage sites: Qingchengshan, one of China's four sacred Taoist mountains, and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, which has kept the region safe from flooding and provided irrigation for crops for millennia.

### WENCHUAN 汶川县;

Located in the mountainous Aba Prefecture in Northwestern Sichuan, Wenchuan offers us a glimpse of another side of Sichuan, with rugged landscapes, tiny villages, and ethnic minorities. Wenchuan was also the epicenter of the devastating 2008 Sichuan earthquake, the effects of which can still be felt in the region today.



# ITINERARY & DAILY SCHEDULE

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

DAY	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Beijing - Chengdu  Accommodation: Chengdu Hotel  Meals: L, D	<b>Afternoon</b> Arrival in Chengdu Transfer to Chengdu City CD Walking Tour – Chill Challenge Welcome Hot Pot Dinner  <b>Evening</b> Check in to Chengdu Hotel Talk With Panda Research NGO Daily Reflections
Day 2	Chengdu  Accommodation: Chengdu Hotel  Meals: B, L, D	<b>Morning</b> Breakfast Visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding Lunch  <b>Afternoon</b> Visit to the Chengdu Hui Ling Center for youth with special needs Tea Tasting by the River and Wangjiang Bamboo Park Exploration  <b>Evening</b> Dinner Daily Reflections
Day 3	Chengdu- Dujiangyan  Accommodation: Dujiangyan Hotel  Meals: B, L, D	<b>Morning</b> Breakfast Morning Exercises at Chengdu Peoples Park Transfer to Dujiangyan(1.5 hours) Lunch  <b>Afternoon</b> Go to The Dujiangyan Irrigation Project Introduction To Taoist Culture and Nature Walk Dujiangyan Ancient Town Exploration in small groups (if time allows)  <b>Evening</b> Dinner Check In to Dujiangyan Hotel Reflections at Hotel

# ITINERARY & DAILY SCHEDULE

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

DAY	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES
Day 4	Dujiangyan-Wenchuan  Accommodation: Wenchuan Hotel  Meals: B, L, D	<b>Morning</b> Breakfast Transfer to Muka Qiang village (1 hour) Rotational activities: Group A: Exploration of Ancient Qiang Stone Villages Group B: Farming Activity at Qiang Village  <b>Afternoon</b> Lunch Continue rotational activities: Group A: Farming Activity at Qiang Village Group B: Exploration of Ancient Qiang Stone Villages (rotational activities)  <b>Evening</b> Hotel check in Qiang Meal at Riverside Restaurant in Wenchuan Riverside Promenade Walk Reflections
Day 5	Wenchuan  Accommodation: N/A  Meals: B, L	<b>Morning</b> Breakfast Wenchuan Market Exploration Visit Wenchuan Market Transfer Back To Chengdu Airport (2 hours)  <b>Afternoon</b> Lunch Flight to Beijing



# TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

## CHILL CHALLENGE

To explore the laid-back neighborhoods of Chengdu city, we lead students on a Chengdu Chill Challenge. The Chill Challenge consists of activities including interacting with colorful historical characters, and playing some Sichuan “snack food” bingo all within a pedestrianised cultural area. This is the best way to take in all the sights and wonderful smells of the vibrant culture of Chengdu’s older neighborhoods.

## SICHUAN FOOD

Chengdu is one of only eight cities in the world recognized by UNESCO for its abundant “food heritage.” During our days in Chengdu, we taste many local snacks and learn about Chengdu’s unique flavors. We get to know the classic numb and spicy tastes of Sichuan cuisine by sampling one of the city’s famous “Hot Pot” restaurants. In addition to classic Sichuan good, we have the opportunity taste food of the Qiang ethnic minority in Wenchuan.





# TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

## GIANT PANDAS

No trip to Sichuan is complete without meeting cute and cuddly giant pandas! Participants will meet with an NGO concerned with panda conservation and talk with an expert about panda breeding programs. This discussion will prepare them to visit the Chengdu Panda Base, where they will be able to see adult and baby pandas and learn more about their breeding habits.

## LEARNING SERVICE

Hui Ling Community Services for People with Intellectual Disabilities (慧灵阳光家园) has been operating in China since 2002. The organization provides a variety of invaluable services to individuals and their families. In a developing mental health care system, Hui Ling is one of a handful organizations in China working to promote the rights of intellectually disabled citizens to seek and retain employment. Students will have the opportunity to visit the center and interact in a variety of fun activities with the amazing people at Hui Ling center. Moreover, students will learn valuable lessons about service in their communities, disabilities, and how they can help and support great organizations like Hui Ling.





# TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

## DUJIANGYAN

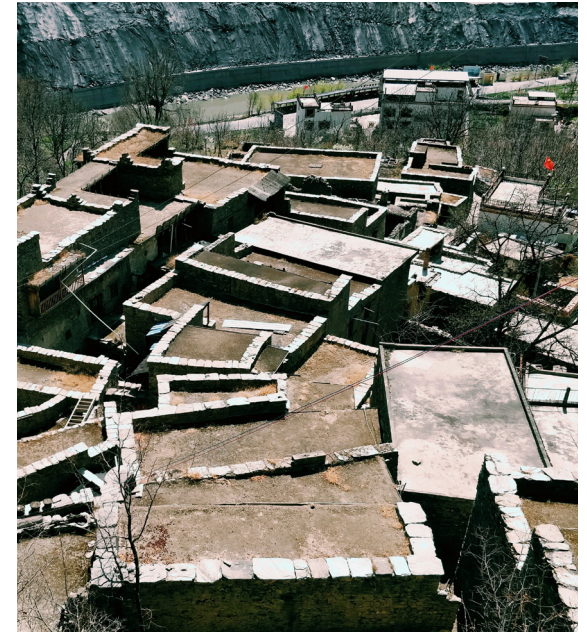
Dujiangyan is famous for its eponymous irrigation system that has been keeping the Chengdu Plain from overflooding for over 2200 years. Built in 256 BC to provide irrigation and flood control to the region, the Dujiangyan is one of the greatest hydraulic engineering and water conservation projects in history. We will traverse the different bridges and waterways, while also learning more about the history, engineering principles, impact of this still-functioning ancient wonder. We will also spend some time learning about Taoism at a nearby Taoist temple.



## MUKA QIANG VILLAGE

In Wenchuan county, we will visit the remote Muka village, where we will be hosted by the local Qiang ethnic minority people. We will explore this culturally rich area by visiting a local farm to harvest crops, making Qiang handicrafts in the village, and hiking to some ancient ruins and stone villages of the Qiang people. We will learn how the environment has shaped the history of the area and made it famous for not only its architecture, but its incredible food production. We will taste delicious Qiang food and may even get the chance to see and experience a Qiang traditional square dance!

We will also have the opportunity to explore the colorful Wenchuan market and take in all the local seasonal produce.





# 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 Joyce** [sjoyce@isf.edu.hk](mailto:sjoyce@isf.edu.hk)  
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**Greg Ladner** [gladner@hkis.edu.hk](mailto:gladner@hkis.edu.hk)  
Associate Principal, Hong Kong International School

**Heidi Witt-Williams** [heidi.wittwilliams@bsn.org.cn](mailto:heidi.wittwilliams@bsn.org.cn)  
Head of Secondary School, British School of Nanjing

**Fred Runkel** [fred.runkel@sh.ycef.com](mailto:fred.runkel@sh.ycef.com)  
Co-Principal, YCIS Shanghai

*"The Hutong is the best group I have had the opportunity to work with in my 16 years of doing Week Without Walls programs. They are safety oriented, engaging to students, understand the importance of building solid relationships, great communicators, detail oriented, problem solvers, and an all around fun group of people work with."*

Craig Gingerich, Concordia International School Shanghai

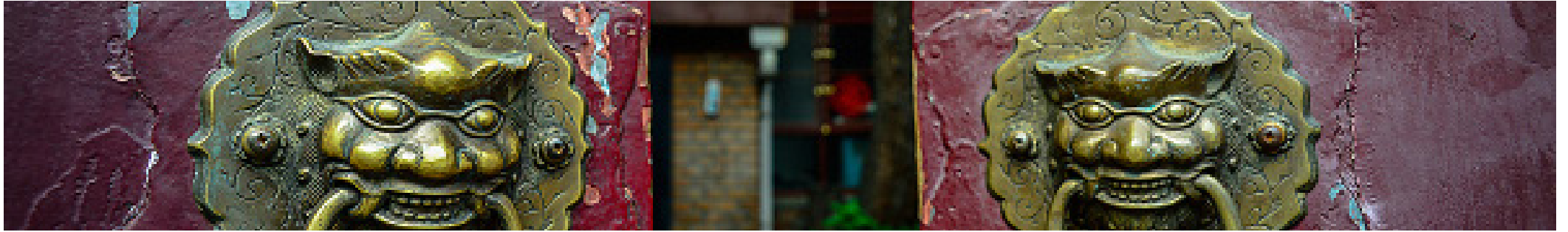
*"In 32 years of teaching, I have accompanied many school trips all over the world and used many companies. This trip was one of the best and The Hutong deserve to be ranked at the top!"*

Beryl Scott Rous, Utahloy International School Guangzhou



# ABOUT THE HUTONG

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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.