Tour Payment Schedule

To ensure that all the tour participants have adequate funds to cover the expected costs and to provide parents with financial targets to meet (which also aids in saving the full cost of the tour). The tour payment has been distributed at the beginning of the tour intake.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Payment Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Feb</td>
<td>$950 (Deposit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Mar</td>
<td>$1350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Apr</td>
<td>$1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st May</td>
<td>$2150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Jun</td>
<td>$2550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Jul</td>
<td>$2950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Aug</td>
<td>$3300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Message from the Finance Team

Dear Parents/tour participants,

This is just a friendly reminder that our goal was to have $950 in every student’s account by February 1st. Unfortunately, a lot of people have forgotten to keep up with their payments. Our next target is $1350 by March 1st which is fast approaching.

Your payments cover airfares, accommodation and all land arrangement so we need the money to be in the students’ accounts as per the payment plan. If the airline has not received the instalment payment, our group ticket can be cancelled. We may not be able to re-book the same date or we may have to pay increased airfare which could be a few hundred dollars extra!!

Congratulations to those who have already reached the current target or paid extra in advance!

Tour Committee Nomination

A tour committee needs to be formed for both fundraising and effective communication so the tour will be a success. Each fundraising activity should have a volunteer in charge. Please think about all the possible fundraising activities and nominate yourself to be involved. Your efforts and contributions will make this wonderful study tour the best ever!
Luggage Allowance (Please read this information before you choose your luggage bags)

**China Southern Airline baggage allowance:**

**Check-In Baggage:** Max 2 pieces, total 23 kgs.
*The sum of the 3 sides of every piece of baggage should not exceed 158 cm (62 in).*

**Carry-On Baggage:** China Southern Airline only allows one baggage, not more than 5 kg.
*Carry On bag may not exceed 115 cm when its length, width, and height is totalled. Any item in excess of carry-on baggage weight or size will be required to be handled as checked in baggage.*

**Train baggage allowance** is not strict as airlines in China, but we have to carry on our own luggage without being allow to bring in checked-in luggage on the trains. The trains in China run to very tight schedules, and we will only have minutes to board. So **light**, **compact** and **transportable** luggage is ideal. Also due to the limited space available on sleeper train cabins and the high speed train, please pack only the necessities! (See pictures, left – overnight train cabin; right- bullet train) **

**Remember the biggest packing errors almost always involve “too much” rather than “not enough”!**

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**Passport**

**Do you have a valid passport?** Only 6 students have submitted their passport copies. All tour participants are required to provide a copy of their passport to the airline. **Please hand in your copy as soon as possible.** Thank you for your cooperation.

**Travel Insurance**

All the participants need to organise their own travel insurance and must provide the policy number and details to the school before departure. (Please provide a copy of your policy to Mr Dunn.) It is highly recommended that you purchase your travel insurance immediately as the tour departure is guaranteed to protect any unforeseen circumstances.
Ancient capital of China

The most famous China ancient capitals are Beijing, Xi’an, Luoyang, and Nanjing. Here is a brief description of the two ancient capitals which we will visit during our trip. You will have a general knowledge about China ancient capital history and their famous and distinctive ancient capital travelling sights.

Beijing

Beijing undoubtedly is the greatest historic city in China, presiding over China for most of the last 1,000 years and having many world-class historic tourist sites: the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City (Imperial Palace), the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square with Mao’s Memorial Hall, the Ming Tombs, and the Hutong neighbourhoods. As the imperial capital of China, Beijing attracts tourists from home and abroad every year. The ups and downs of the history have witnessed the prosperity and decline of the capital.

Thousands of years’ history has shaped Beijing its own cultural environment: magnificent with leisure, solemn but elegant.

Ancient Capital Beijing has a long history, tied to the history of its name. Archaeological findings of China ancient capital Beijing show that Beijing man, dated 500,000 years ago, lived for a very long time in Zhoukoudian, a cave system in Beijing Municipality.

It was called Zhongdu (Central Capital) in 1153, when it became the ancient capital of the Jin Dynasty. In 1283, Beijing became the ancient capital city of the Yuan Dynasty and was called Dadu (Great Capital) by its Mongol rulers.

In 1368 the Ming Dynasty overthrew the Mongols and called Beijing Beiping (Northern Peace) in the history of ancient China record. From 1421 it was known as Jingshi (Model Capital) and when the Qing Dynasty captured Beijing in 1644, it continued to keep that name.

During the Republican Era the capital was called Beijing in 1911, then Nanjing became the China ancient capital briefly in 1928, and Beijing reverted to the name Beijing. When Mao began the Era of the People’s Republic in 1949, Beijing was set in its current position (with its current name) as national capital.

In pictures: Old Beijing vs New Beijing
Xi’an

Xi’an is also a world class historical city, which retains more of its ancient character and atmosphere than Beijing. Xi’an was capital of China in a more ancient period than Beijing, and could be said to be the first Chinese capital historically, as previously China was divided into smaller warring states. Historic sites include: the Terracotta Army, the City Wall, the First Emperor’s Tomb, Shaanxi History Museum, and the Forest of Stele Museum.

Xi’an is the capital of Shaanxi Province, and a sub-provincial city in China. One of the oldest cities in China, with more than 3,100 years of history, the city was known as Chang’an (meaning "eternal peace") before the Ming Dynasty. Xi'an is one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, having held the position under several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history, including Zhou, Qin, Han, Sui, and Tang. Xi’an is the starting point of the Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

An old saying in China tells the unique position of this legendary city: "If you want to see China of 100 years ago, visit Shanghai; China of 500 years ago, Beijing; China of 2000 years ago, Xi’an."

During its 3,100 years of development, 12 dynasties, including the Western Zhou (1046 BC-771 BC), Qin (221 BC-206 BC), Western Han (206 BC-25 AD), and Tang (618-907), made their capitals in this ancient capital Xi’an for over 1,100 years, leaving abundant legacies to the city.

During the Western Han and Tang dynasties, Xi’an was China’s political, economic, cultural, and foreign exchange centre, where people from all over the world lived in harmony. It was also the first stop on the Silk Road in ancient China, linking up the oriental and western civilizations.

Since the 1990s, as part of the economic revival of interior China especially for the central and northwest regions, the city of Xi’an has re-emerged as an important cultural, industrial and educational centre of the central-northwest region, with facilities for research and development, national security and China’s space exploration program. Nowadays Xi’an enjoys an equal fame with Athens, Cairo, and Rome as "one of the four major capitals of ancient civilization".

This old photo shows the history of Xian City
Photo taken on 5th May 2014 shows a panoramic new view of the South Gate of Xian City Wall