# Table of Contents

**Shanghai**
- Leisure .................. 3
- Business ................ 4
- Culture .................. 5

**Xi’an**
- Leisure .................. 6
- History ................. 7
- Culture .................. 7

**Beijing**
- Leisure ................. 8
- History ................. 9
- Culture .................. 9

**Hong Kong**
- Leisure ................. 11
- Business ............... 11
- Culture .................. 11

**Final Notes** ........... 12
Shanghai offers an incredible list for entertainment and leisure wherever you go. Nanjing Road provides endless shopping opportunities; one could even try their hand at bartering in the French concession where small local shops are everywhere. Shanghai also offers several sightseeing options like the Oriental Pearl Tower, located in the heart of the infamous Bund, or the historic Jing’an Temple, which was accessible through the convenient subway system. One of the distinguished characteristics about Shanghai is its unique blend of ancient history and modern 21st century city feel.
Another one of Shanghai’s iconic activities is its superb nightlife. After a day of sightseeing or shopping, there’s no better way to end the day than to go to one of the nightclubs for an evening of guaranteed fun. Travelers will be shocked at how different the nightlife scene is compared to the United States. In the United States people often go to bars to enjoy a drink with friends. But in Shanghai, there are nightclubs that provide hype music and an open dance floor where people go to dance the night away.

**Business**

Aside from the major leisure activities offered by Shanghai, there is also an incredible amount of cutting-edge, progressive businesses populating the city that are accelerating the world market. Getting the opportunity to interact with real-world media professionals on a global scale is so rewarding, and the sheer variety of agencies visited gives a wholistic perspective of the Chinese marketplace. Understanding local projects with BIGmind Designs, advertising for a range of audiences with Leo Burnett, simulating a PR launch with Burson Marsteller, and experiencing WeChat, which dictates every decision a Chinese citizen makes, paint such a vivid portrait of Chinese media habits, and make such valuable connections in understanding the market here.

“The Shanghai skyline is one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen.”

- Trey

“Shanghai blew my expectations out of the water. I wanted to stay longer so I could continue to explore the city.”

- Elizabeth
Shanghai has an atmosphere unlike any other place in the world. With fast paced, New-York-like traffic and innovative technology in everything from the subways to the Oriental Pearl Tower, this city is perfect for the traveler that wants to experience one of the most modern cities in China. One walk along the Bund is sure to inspire as lights dance along the sides of buildings both tall and small. Scannable QR codes are ubiquitous throughout the city and can inform the public about discounts, general information, and more. Even the water town of Wuzhen just outside of the city showcases some of the most gorgeous views of traditional Chinese water culture. The authentic food in Shanghai is easy to share because “lazy susans” are on the tables inside nearly every restaurant, so delicious dumplings are accessible to everyone. While some people may feel nervous coming to an entirely new country, you will receive a warm welcome as you stroll along Nanjing Road while browsing the wide variety of shops. Not to mention, the citizens are almost guaranteed to take pictures with you because of your fascinating American features so your celebrity status will finally be achieved!

“Watching the bright orange koi fish circling the canals in Wuzhen created a sense of peacefulness unlike anything I’ve experienced before.”
- Sophie
In Xi’an, leisure and history combine to make an epic city experience. On the Ancient City Wall, tourists glide across the stony walls that make for a fast paced overlook of scenic Xi’an. Near Muslim Street, history abounds as the brightly lit, ancient drum towers sit high and mighty adjacent to the shopping streets. To end an enthralling journey into China’s old capital, traditional, local puppet shows appear in restaurants which make for interesting and quality entertainment. Even within a limited amount of time, it’s possible to enjoy several of Xi’an’s unique activities.
“I loved being able to bike on top of the Ancient Great Wall! Not many people can say they explored a historic monument with a bike.”
- Elizabeth

**HISTORY**

“The Terracotta warriors were insanely cool. I wouldn’t be surprised if they became the ‘8th Wonder of the World!’”
- Trey

Originally the capital of ancient China, Xi’an offers a landscape rich in tradition amidst the pressures of a modern society. The Ancient City Wall was constructed over 600 years ago to defend the former capital during the Ming dynasty. And if you think that’s cool, the Great Wild Goose Pagoda was constructed nearly 1,000 years ago! Still not impressed? Look no further than the mesmerizing Terracotta Warrior Army. Constructed as a defense for the very first Chinese emperor during his afterlife, the army was only discovered by happenstance in the 1970s, and most are still being unearthed.

**CULTURE**

From first encounters in Xi’an, you can tell that this place has a very different feel than Shanghai. This city caters to the daring individual that enjoys the challenge of bargaining in local markets or trying new types of food from street vendors. The collection of noises and smells in the market give a liveliness that carries the onlooker from one street to the next. In addition to the excitement found on the streets, there is also a calming atmosphere created by the Great Mosque and the Terracotta Warriors.

“For a generally small town, Xi’an packs in cultures from all around the world in everything from the food to the entertainment.”
- Sophie
The capital of Beijing was as grand and majestic as reports have described it as. The local Red Theater showcases the power and authenticity of the ancient martial art of kung fu. For the shopaholics, there is an endless amount of fake markets where bartering is essential. On the other hand, Beijing still retains a strong cultural identity that is evident in its street side markets that sell a variety of unusual food like fried scorpion. Outside the markets, local older women partake in “grandma dancing” complete with music and brightly colored costumes. Lastly, a visit to Beijing would not be complete without visiting the site of one of the most grandeur Olympics in the 21st century. At the historic Olympic Park, the Bird’s Nest and the Water Cube still stand tall as testaments to another successful Olympic Games.
“I think that the food was impeccable, and I absolutely loved the Peking duck dinner. It was the best meal I’ve had on this trip.”
- Elizabeth

“I couldn’t stop smiling as I walked along the Great Wall of China, I mean that I’ve never felt more alive than I did after climbing all the way to the top and calling the dawgs.”
- Sophie

“History

When you touch down in Beijing, you instantly feel an aura of importance - for better and for worse. Experiencing Beijing means also experiencing a form of government completely different from the U.S. branches. Since China has had a centralized government for so long now, they have only recently declared open Specialized Economic Zones in Shanghai and Shenzhen. Going to Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Temple of Heaven in the heart of Beijing will also showcase Beijing’s political aura. But let’s not forget the most iconic piece of history Beijing has to offer, The Great Wall! Trekking up the wall in rain or shine is a life-changing experience, and you’ll be in awe at how they managed to construct it all of those years ago.

Culture

In Beijing there is a stark difference in attitude compared to other cities. Since Beijing is the capital of the country, there are many guards and policemen that patrol various areas, and it will give chills to even the most confident individual. Watching how the citizens of China act when they visit places such as Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City provides an entirely new perspective that a textbook simply cannot capture. This spread out city offers plenty of space for the adventurer to explore and there is always something different around each corner. However, nothing compares to the awestruck feeling a person gets when walking on top of the Great Wall of China. The impressive structure has continued to wind along China’s green mountains since 221 BC and to this day crosses through ten different provinces -- perfect for pictures and simply witnessing history.

“The sheer gravitas of Tiananmen Square is something that hits you right in the heart.”
- Trey
HONG KONG

DYNAMIC.

EDGY.

DIVERSE.

Watch the Adventure
There’s so much to see and discover in Hong Kong that at first it can almost be overwhelming. On Hong Kong Island, the Happy Valley horse racetrack sits in Wan Chai where people from all around the city come to try their luck on betting for the next champion. Travelers and locals alike can also attend the local Hong Kong stadium that hosts a variety of international sports games like soccer and rugby. As a way to wind down from an exhaustive day, Lan Kwai Fong is the perfect hotspot for dining and nightlife and is guaranteed to bring about an unforgettable night. For the more adventurous souls, hiking trails like Dragon’s Back and impeccable views from Victoria’s Peak are spread out across the entire city so there is always something new to discover.

“I knew that I would love this city. My love for it grew even more when we went hiking on the Dragon’s Back trail.”

- Elizabeth

With one of the fastest growing economies in the entire world, Hong Kong has the perfect business landscape to dive into. Once under British rule, Hong Kong has recently fallen back under Chinese rule, but it stills retains its independence from the mainland. Visiting the PR and Advertising agencies of Edelman HK, Burson-Marsteller HK, and BBDO HK completely changes the way you view the Hong Kong audience in comparison to the mainland Chinese audience. All of the agencies are extremely prolific within the industry and if you want to get a jump start interning or become a potential job prospect, you will find the best connections here!

With more skyscrapers in one city than anywhere else in the world, it only makes sense that Hong Kong has inhabitants of all kinds busily commuting around the crowded island. The diverse population’s influence is strong, so there are many opportunities for even the pickiest individual to find clothes, food, and activities they might like. The British presence in particular has encouraged people to attend horse races, watch soccer, and drive on the left side of the road as well. Long work days are typical in Hong Kong but the nights are filled with well-deserved drinks for their consistent dedication. There is never a boring time in this dynamic atmosphere!

“I was shocked to see how everyone in Hong Kong works hard, but plays even harder!”

- Sophie
China is not for the faint hearted. While many of my peers would seek out places their friends had already visited, I Chose China because I wanted an unfamiliar thrill; that’s exactly what I got. From trying foods I never imagined I would eat, such as fried scorpions, to seeing places that made my jaw literally drop, I can confidently say that this has been the best month of my life. I can call everyone on this trip one of my greatest friends and I’ve absolutely loved discovering this astounding country halfway around the world with them. Dr. Meng is the most fun, organized, and energetic professor I have ever met and she takes experiential learning to the next level. Please, #ChooseChina, you won’t regret it.

China is my birth country and therefore holds a special place in my heart. I had always talked to my parents about one day coming back to the country for a visit but that had always been a far-off dream until this May. As soon as I had heard about Choose China, I had never applied to a program so fast. I am so incredibly thankful to Dr. Meng for bringing me along on this unforgettable journey in this magnificent country. Without her, I wouldn’t have made the same friends or had the same experiences that I did. I hope that one day I return and share some of these experiences with my family in the future.

My time on the Choose China program was something I will remember for the rest of my life. When I was looking for a Maymester abroad, I initially looked to the typical destinations with all of my friends like Europe and Australia. I’m so lucky that those did not end up working out because this has to be the best study abroad experiential learning program UGA has to offer. Yeah, you do all of the touristy things, but this program will open you up to a whole different world of possibilities. All of the business visited completely immerse you in the radially developing Chinese market, and with a small group of only 12, you’re sure to make some lifelong friends on the journey as well.