



# Effective Study Abroad Programs for Students in Elementary to High School

Yinghua Academy

Dr. Luyi Lien, Academic Director

Susan Berg, Executive Director

# Program Overview

- A 14-day summer study abroad program.
- Designed for 6 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Chinese speaking teacher chaperones.
- Alternating Southern route and Northern route itineraries:
  - Taiwan and China
  - Sister schools exchange (class visits, host family placement, local cultural experiences)

# Program Goals

- Provides students an opportunity to be immersed in an environment of Chinese language and culture.
- Provides students an opportunity to use their learned language functionally.
- Stirs up students' curiosity to learn through real-world experiences.
- Measures students' authentic proficiency.

# Student Participant Criteria

- Open to 6 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Applicants must complete application with parent's signature.
- Candidates must demonstrate a strong motivation and commitment to use Chinese language during the entire trip.
- Candidates must be able to attend all meetings and activities before, during, and after the trip.

# Program Funding

- Cost per student depends on total number of participants, time of year, and destination.
- Parents are main sponsors for the travel costs.
- Other potential financial sponsors:
  - School's past FLAP grant or future grants
  - Hanban grant (when traveling to China)
  - Parent-organized school fundraising

# Preparing for the Trip

- Attend weekly “World Traveler Club” meetings.
- Partake in video-conference with sister school students.
- Complete weekly pre-trip homework leading up to the trip.
- Attend evening monthly meetings (6 times) with parents leading up to the trip.

# During the Trip

- Set goals to seek opportunities out of your comfort zone!
- Contribute to the group's journal shared with parents via Blog/WeChat/Line
- Complete Traveler's Notebook: Assignments that allow students to benefit from experiential learning.
- Conduct research project—Topics of Interests

# Traveler's Notebook

英華寒假游学营 2014

## 游学北京生活体验



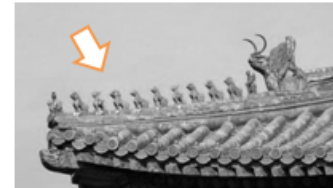
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英華 Yinghua Academy  
 英華寒假游学营

游学北京生活体验

日期: 2014 年 月 日 星期

- 紫禁城各处宫殿的房顶上，有各种各样奇形怪状的小动物的形象，这些当然都是出自建筑大师们的手笔。皇宫是讲究庄严肃穆的地方，按照这样的逻辑，当初修建故宫的时候，不会仅仅为了好玩有趣，就在屋顶上安装了那么多的“小动物”。请画出/贴图三种你看到的屋顶动物，并写出它的名称及代表的意义。



画出动物形状/ 贴图	动物名称	其代表意义

英華

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CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



# After the Trip

- Students assess goals set versus goals met
  - reflection of one's own experience
- Students maintain relationships with sister school friends in China/Taiwan
- Students present in an assembly to student body
- Students complete research project on Topics of Interests

# Benefits of the Program

- Students gain confidence in their learned language and are stimulated to learn more.
- Students gain in-depth understanding and “eye witness” perspective of Chinese culture.
- Students develop and solidify their friendships with sister schools’ pen pals.
- Students’ worldviews are broadened.

# Program Challenges

- Affordability of the trip
  - Limited by family's ability to pay
  - Dependent on available grants and fundraising opportunities
- Student safety
  - Students are young; clear expectations must be set and enforced.
  - Students with specific health concerns
  - Local health hazards

# Tourist vs. Traveler





# Sister School Visit



# First arriving

at Hohhot  
Number Eight  
Middle School.

In China, they consider grade 7-9  
as middle school.





# ***Culture Exchange Performances***









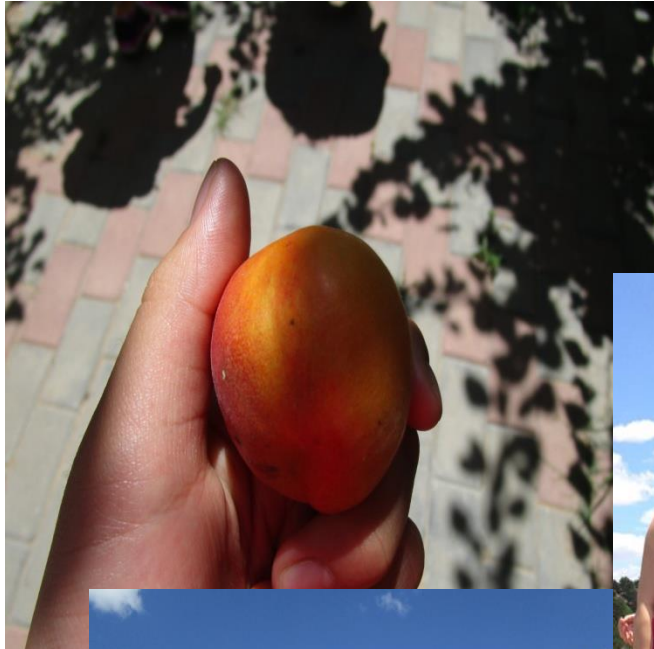
Class time!





Host families

# Local Attraction--apricot orchard



谢谢！ Thank You!



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# Effective Study Abroad Programs Checking and Reflecting Your Goals

Dr. Luyi Lien, Academic Director

[Luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Luyi.lien@yinghuaacademy.org)

Susan Berg, Executive Director

[Susan.berg@yinghuaacademy.org](mailto:Susan.berg@yinghuaacademy.org)