

**“Wish I’d Known” Survey  
Guilin, China**

**PACKING AND TRAVELING**

*Specifically, what kind of LINENS did you need to bring?*

- None
- Towels and washcloth
- Towels

*What are you glad you packed from home?*

- Personal hygiene items
- Extra t-shirts (it was so hot)
- Personal items like soap, anti-bacterial stuff, pictures, camera and lots of film—it’s expensive to buy abroad

*What do you wish you had left at home?*

- Speakers and some clothes
- Pants, long sleeve shirts, and sweatshirts
- Extra clothes—always bring less than what you think you’d need. Extra shoes because they are heavy and not easily packed.

*Do you have any travel tips to pass on (planning advice, safety considerations, guidebooks, train vs. bus, etc.)?*

- Buy a Lonely Planet Guide Book
- Reach and learn as much about the history as possible. Chinese history is very confusing if you do not have some knowledge.
- Guidebooks are nice to bring when traveling by yourself or in a small group.

*What places would you advise future students to see and why?*

- Longsheng, San Jian, and Rong Shui—minority villages
- See it all! As much as you can—tourist spots, slums, dance clubs and nightlife, grocery stores and malls.
- Rome was beautiful, lots of famous historical places to see. The Great Wall of China—also cool historical views in China.

**MONEY AND COMMUNICATIONS**

*How much money in U.S. currency would you recommend students have at their disposal for their whole time abroad?*

- \$4000
- \$500-700
- Depending on the amount of time abroad—\$500 to 1000 a month.

*How much money did you have in foreign currency when you left for your program?  
Was it enough?*

- None
- None, you can't get yen in the U.S.
- I had no foreign currency when I left. There are ATM's and banks in all the airports I flew into.

*How did you manage your money (credit cards, traveler's checks, bank accounts etc.)?  
How and where did you access your money?*

- Traveler's checks and a bank account at the Bank of China
- Traveler's checks, but I didn't like this way because only one bank would cash these. I recommend an ATM card along with some U.S. cash.
- I used my check card and used ATM machines that had English instructions but spit out foreign currency.

*How much money did you spend on books?*

- \$10 US dollars
- None
- Nothing

*How did you communicate with the U.S.? What would you recommend to future students (e.g. calling card, set up e-mail account and where, etc.)?*

- Calling card and email.
- Set up international calling plans with AT&T or Sprint. I didn't like emailing.
- An email account helps, but computers are sometimes slow. Calling cards work really well, especially AT&T.

## **SCHOOL WORK**

*How did your academic experience abroad differ from your U.S. experiences concerning:*

Relations with professors/Classroom Instruction?

- It was very relaxed and informal
- Closer relations with professors and other students while abroad

Grading?

- The same
- More lenient abroad

Study habits?

- The same
- Not as demanding, but still of good quality

Library?

- Used it for computers, not really to study though

#### Computer Access?

- Every day use was 50 cents per hour
- Lots of computers, they were slow compared to the U.S. computers

#### Other?

*What enabled/hindered your successful academic experience?*

- Be open minded and accept cultural differences

### **SOCIAL LIFE**

*How did you meet students from your host country?*

- Connections with other students
- Walking around
- Other students who were in my class

*How did you like to spend your free time and why? Is there anything you regret not doing more of in your free time?*

- Hanging out with people and be more accepting
- Walking around shopping and seeing the sites.
- Walked through the city, shopped a lot and traveled throughout the country or area.

*What opportunities for social, recreational, and cultural events that the host university or program offered did you like the best? Why?*

- None
- The University here doesn't offer anything.
- I liked planned visits to the popular "tourist sites". That was everything was taken care of and we could just enjoy it.

*What piece of advice would you give future students regarding their non-academic life while abroad?*

- Be yourself and willing to try new experiences
- Have fun and be open minded, because life in China is very different.
- Do everything you possibly can regardless of price or time constraints!

### **CULTURAL ISSUES**

*Are woman treated differently in your host country than in the U.S.? If so, what advice would you pass on to women who are thinking of studying in your host country?*

- Women are still in process of gaining equality
- I did not notice any differences.
- It seemed to be more geared towards men in business, but respectful of women.

*Are minorities—racial, religious, sexual identity—treated differently in your host country than in the U.S.? If so, what advice would you pass on to members of any minority group that are thinking of studying in your host country?*

- Minorities are treated better here than in the U.S.
- I did not notice anything.
- I didn't notice any specific treatment that was different.

### **OTHER COMMENTS**

- The trip was worth every penny.
- It's the most exciting, adventurous, educational, necessary experience I could ever have had.