



# Global | Learning Across Borders

EXPERIENCE MATTERS™

---

## From Modernity to Tradition: Explorations in China and Tibet

Spring/Fall Semester Program



- *Wheresoever you go, go with all your heart.* •
- Confucius



Tibetan Buddhism, Taoism, community service, brush painting and calligraphy, Mandarin and Tibetan language study, folk dancing, music, community service, and much more will be included in this Global Learning Across Borders™ (Global LAB) semester program which offers participants an authentic, hands-on introduction to the remarkable cultures and traditions of both the “The Middle Kingdom” and Tibet.

### Primary Locations

#### Guangzhou (Guangdong Province)

The semester begins with several days of orientation and exploration in the economic boomtown of Guangzhou (formerly known as “Canton” and, among other claims to fame, birthplace of several renowned Chinese dishes, including Dim Sum) in the Pearl River Delta. Participants will visit the bustling Qingping “Peaceful” Market; observe (and perhaps start to practice) Tai Chi Chuan at the city’s largest park, Haizhuang Gongyuan; enjoy a boat ride up the ZhuJiang and an excursion to BaiYun Shan, one of thirty nearby peaks where temples and monasteries preserve ancient spiritual traditions and practices.

Before leaving this region students will spend three days together volunteering in a health support role in medical clinic.

From Guangzhou, participants will board a sleeper train taking them on a journey through the southern provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, and finally to Yunnan, one of the most beautiful and culturally diverse provinces in China. Located in the country's Southwest, Yunnan's dramatic mountains and rivers (including stretches of the Yangtze, Mekong, Red, Pearl, Salween, and Irawaddy); diverse indigenous communities; and shared borders with Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, and Tibet, make it an unparalleled "classroom" for learning about China's extraordinary cultural and biological diversity.



### Kunming, Chengdu and Xining (Yunnan, Sichuan, Amdo/Qinghai Provinces)

After a few days in Yunnan's capital city of Kunming—including a day trip to see the stunning natural wonder of the Stone Forest—the group will head north to the city of Chengdu (capital of Sichuan Province) where they will board a flight to Xining, the cultural heart of the Tibetan region of Amdo, located in the Chinese province of Qinghai. Participants will begin a study of both Islam and Tibetan Buddhism in this region where both faiths have deep roots. They will visit the Mengda Nature Reserve, home to a lake sacred to Muslims and Buddhists; the Great Mosque of Xining; and Kumbum Monastery, (historically one of the six most important monasteries in all Tibet). Students will visit the homes of rural Tibetan families and perform service work helping the teachers in a rural Tibetan school that meets in a monastery. Housing will be provided at the monastery where students will live and work for several days. Our service project will be coordinated with the Ngak-Mang Institute, a Tibetan NGO which works to preserve Tibetan culture through education, improved access to medical care, and other means.

Returning from the northern edge of the Tibetan plateau, the group will spend a week in Chengdu, visiting the Giant Panda breeding center and meeting with community leaders who will address issues such as the challenges of environmental preservation in a densely populated region and describe projects such as microcredit loans which are being implemented in Sichuan to help people move from poverty to prosperity. The group will visit cultural sites in Sichuan's biggest city and enjoy some of the hot and spicy food for which the region is famous.



The first homestays of the program will occur in Emei, Sichuan where students will continue language and cultural studies, engage in service learning and begin their first Independent Study Projects (ISPs). Students will spend about four weeks in Sichuan province altogether and will enjoy excursions to sacred sites such as Emei Shan (Emei Mountain) and the Tibetan communities in the western region of the province and to Chongqing province for lectures at Southwest China Normal University.

## Zhongdian, Lijiang and Dali (Yunnan Province)

The group will move on next to northwestern Yunnan province (called Kham, by Tibetans) where they will experience a several day excursion to Zhongdian (officially renamed “Shangalila” in Chinese because some believe it is the location of the mythical paradise “Shangri-la”). This area is home to a large, active



Buddhist monastery, and surrounded by Tibetans whose lives are centered on the raising of yaks, pot-bellied pigs, and barley. Traditional Tibetan practices such as polygamy and polyandry still occur in this fascinating area. A community service project with an environmental focus will be implemented with local leadership and participation.

Upon leaving Zhongdian the group will head south along the Mekong, continuing language learning while exploring the indigenous communities of Lijiang and Dali. In Lijiang the matrilineal Naxi utilize the only pictographic language still in use in the world today. We will also visit Baihua village, a minority village and see the Naxi orchestra. In Dali, the Bai people are a significant presence. In Lijiang or Dali students can enroll in cultural classes of their choosing, including but not limited to Martial Arts study and practice, calligraphy and brushpainting.

## Zhanjiang (Guangdong Province)

The third month of the semester returns to Guangdong Province, where participants will embark on their second extended stay in one region, in the coastal city of Zhanjiang, on the eastern coast of the Leizhou Peninsula. Participants will live on the campus of Zhanjiang Normal University, befriending both local and international students, and indulge in some weekend explorations of the surrounding South China Sea beaches and islands, including an excursion to Hainan Dao (Hainan Island), Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region, and Shenzhen, a Special Economic Region. While continuing their study and practice of Mandarin, participants will again dive in to an extended Independent Study Project and/or apprenticeship of their selection, with options including intensive study/practice of Martial Arts, calligraphy, cooking, and traditional dance forms, or internships or volunteer projects.

The semester culminates with a final week long excursion that is designed and implemented by the program participants, with semester directors coming along for the adventure. Visits to renowned monasteries famed for their role in the development of Chan Buddhism and Martial Arts; a journey to Xian to witness the legendary Terra Cotta Warriors; or an excursion to see the sites of Beijing or Shanghai are among the many possibilities for this final segment.



After spending nearly thirteen weeks in China, learning Martial Arts, studying and practicing Mandarin, meeting with rural and urban inhabitants in various parts of the People’s Republic of China and on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau, participants will return to Guangzhou for a few final days of last minute

shopping, reflection, and focusing on the task of bringing all that they have learned back home to their local communities in the United States.

### 2012 Program Dates

Spring Term: \*February 13 – May 12, 2012 (\*pre-travel orientation in US, February 13-15)

Fall Term: \*September 10 – December 8, 2012 (\*pre-travel orientation in US, September 10-12)

*Applications are accepted year-round on a rolling admissions basis (group size: 6-12 students).*

### 2012 Semester Program Tuition

\$12,295 (not including r/t international airfare or travel to point of group departure—NYC or Washington, DC). Tuition includes: pre-trip preparatory and educational materials and orientation; dedicated student web pages for program communications and resources; all logistical facilitation; all hotels and guest houses; all meals; all domestic air fares/taxis/buses/trains; museum, park and temple entrance fees; Global LAB faculty and instruction; local coordinators, cooks, porters; all program elements (independent study projects and apprenticeships, community service projects, home-stays, community support/charitable contributions). Please note: Additional expenses not covered by Global LAB include: inoculations, travel insurance and international medical and evacuation insurance; visa/passport processing fees; personal costs (laundry, phone calls/emails, souvenirs, etc.).

### Cancellation/Refund Policy

While Global LAB would like to provide as much flexibility as possible, this policy is based on the timing of



our commitments to instructors, international airfares and travel arrangements, confirmation of in-country program components, logistical administration, and student preparation. We recommend that participants purchase travel insurance to protect themselves against financial loss in the case of personal emergency or other unforeseen events requiring last minute cancellation.

### Program Deposit

A \$500 program deposit is due with student application. \$250 of the deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure. If a participant withdraws his or her application within 90 days of program departure, the deposit is nonrefundable. The \$500 deposit is fully credited toward program tuition. If Global LAB does not accept a student's application, the full deposit is refunded less a \$75 processing fee.

### Tuition Balance

Tuition balance is due in full 60 days prior to program departure and is 50% refundable up to 30 days prior to departure. If cancellation occurs within 30 days of departure, 20% of tuition is refundable.

## How to Apply & Eligibility

Global LAB accepts applications on a rolling admissions basis, accepting qualified applicants until programs are full (maximum of 12 participants). For this reason, we recommend candidates submit their applications as early as possible. Semesters are open to those ages 16-22. No language prerequisite is required. While the semester is geared toward interim or 'gap' year students, high school seniors as well as college freshmen and sophomores will be considered.

## Credit

For high school seniors, Global LAB works closely with you and your school to ensure that you receive the fullest credit possible for participating. University students may also be eligible for credit. Contact our Director of Programs for the very latest credit information and guidance.



Photos on pp 2-5 Courtesy of Cheryl Stockton and Stockshot Studio©



*Global Learning Across Borders™, a non-profit 501(c)(3) based in New York, exists to educate and inspire new generations of young people and adults to become responsible and committed global citizens in their local communities and beyond. We do this through international cultural immersion and community service programs for young adults; global studies professional development programs for educators; partnering with schools to help design and launch experiential global education and service programs; and through global expeditions that offer exceptional cultural experiences for adults.*