



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN PRESENTS
CHINA HIGHLIGHTS AND ECOLOGY
 LED BY DRS. PETER & PATRICIA RAVEN MAY 13 – 27, 2012

"China has the richest stock of biodiversity in the temperate Northern Hemisphere, a world treasure that has enriched our stocks of food and medicine and beautified our gardens and made our lives more interesting that they could be otherwise. China is approximately equal in area to the contiguous United States and to Europe, yet China has about 31,500 species of plants, the U.S. about 19,000, and Europe about 11,500." Dr. Peter Raven

Dr. Peter Raven is co-editor of the Flora of China, a joint Chinese-American International Project that is a contemporary account on the plants of China. Join he and his wife, Dr. Patricia Raven, who look forward to leading you through the many wonders of this incredible country.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Longhua Pagoda, and honor Shanghai tradition by admiring the peach blossoms in the Longhua gardens
- Tour the Shanghai Botanical Garden, and observe the orchid garden considered the best in China
- Explore the beautiful waterside city of Suzhou in Jiangsu Province, most famous for its elegant classical gardens. Among these, the Humble Administrator's Garden is the largest and most renowned
- Walk through the Lingering Garden, one of China's four most famous gardens, first built in 1593 it has a history of 400 years, and maintains its classical style
- Tour the Horticultural Expo Garden, a vast collection of plants from China and the world
- Visit Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, a research institution where over 10,000 species of tropical plants are preserved in its 34 living collections
- See the Menglun Tropical Botanical Garden, called "the Emerald on the Crown of the Kingdom of Plants"
- Visit Jiuzhaigou, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, located in the mountains of northwestern Sichuan, and home to Nine Tibetan Villages
- Visit Shuzheng Valley and Zharu Tibetan Village, and enjoy a Tibetan and Qiang minority music performance
- Visit the Beijing Botanical Gardens, which cultivates 6,000 species of plants, many of them rare species

TRIP DETAILS

TRIP DATES

May 13-27, 2012

TRIPLENGTH

15 days

LAND PRICING

\$5,648
per person
Based on 15
participants

Int'l Airfare from
St. Louis
\$1,450 (estimated)



Rates are based on double occupancy. A single supplement is available for an additional \$840. A \$200.00 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than Jan. 13, 2012. This deposit is refundable until Feb. 7, 2012 excluding a \$100.00 cancellation fee. Final payments are due on Feb. 8, 2012. Cancellations received after Feb. 8, 2012 are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849.





May 13 USA/Chicago Departure

After a short flight from St. Louis to Chicago, depart on a non-stop flight across the North Pacific and the International Dateline to China.

May 14 Shanghai

Arrive in Shanghai, China's largest and most cosmopolitan city. After clearing customs, you will be met, and your luggage transferred to the hotel, while you take the magnetic levitation high speed train a from the airport to the Pudong terminus in 7 minutes. Visit the TV Tower observation deck before continuing to the Bund Hotel. This evening and dinner are at your leisure. **Overnight at Bund Hotel.**

May 15 Shanghai

This morning visit Longhua Pagoda. Viewing the peach blossoms in the Longhua Gardens, now a memorial cemetery, has been a Shanghai tradition for centuries. Then tour the nearby Shanghai Botanical Garden (Zhiwuyuan). After lunch visit the Urban Planning Exhibition and the Shanghai Museum, a world-class museum with a collection of bronzes, jade, pottery and ceramics, paintings and calligraphy, old coins and furniture. Dinner tonight at a floating restaurant on the Huangpu River. **Overnight at Bund Hotel.** (BLD)

May 16 Shanghai/Suzhou

Drive to Suzhou, called "the Venice of the East" for its many canals. Famous for traditional Chinese gardens and homes as described in the novel, "Spring Moon", the tour includes the new museum designed by I M Pei, the Lingering Garden [Liuyuan] and Tiger Hill Pagoda [Huqiu Shan], including the Bonsai [Panji] Nursery on the grounds of Wanjing Villa. Also see the Master of the Nets Garden [Wangshi Yuan]. **Overnight at Garden Hotel (Yuan Wai Lou).** (BL)

May 17 Suzhou/Nanjing

This morning visit the Humble Administrator's Garden [Zhouzheng Yuan] and the Lion Grove Garden [Shizilin] before driving to Nanjing. After lunch, activities will be arranged through the Nanjing-St. Louis Sister Cities program. Tonight's dinner will be held in the Fuzimiao nightlife area. **Overnight at Nanjing Grand Hotel.** (BLD)

May 18 Nanjing/Kunming

Take a morning flight to Kunming, known as China's "Spring City" for its year-round moderate weather. On arrival, transfer to the Grand Park Hotel. After lunch, visit the Horticultural Expo Garden. Built in 1999, it has pavilions with a vast collection of plants from China and the world. Dinner features wild mushroom delicacies. **Overnight at Grand Park Hotel.** (BLD)

May 19 Kunming/Jinghong

This morning drive to see the Stone Forest. It is a natural formation of Karst rock formations and home of the Sani, one of Yunnan Province's ethnic minorities. Return to the Kunming airport for an afternoon flight to Jinghong, set along the Lancang (Mekong) River, the capital of the Xishuangbanna Prefecture, a subtropical lowland that borders Laos and Burma. Transfer to the Tai Garden Hotel. **Overnight at Tai Garden Hotel.** (BLD)

May 20 Xishuangbanna

Visit the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden and drive to see the Menglun Tropical Botanical Garden. Afternoon free to visit

the minority nationality market areas. **Overnight at Tai Garden Hotel.** (BLD)

May 21 Jinghong/Chengdu

Fly back to Kunming and connect on a flight to Chengdu, Sichuan Province's capital. Stay at the Sheraton Chengdu Lido Hotel. This evening attend a Sichuan Opera 'Bianlian' performance in a local teahouse. **Overnight at Sheraton Chengdu Lido Hotel.** (BL)

May 22 Chengdu/Jiuzhaigou

Fly to Jiuzhaigou, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, located in the mountains of northwestern Sichuan. Stay at the Ge Sang Hotel. The name Jiuzhaigou means Nine Village Valley, the home of nine Tibetan villages. The valley has over 100 lakes; most of the lakes have a high mix of calcium carbonate, so that the banks are covered with crystals. The water is so clear that the bottom is visible no matter how deep the lake. Waterfalls are a must-see part of the scenery. Visit the Nuoriliang Waterfall, the Rizegou Valley and Zechawa Valley to see the lakes. **Overnight at Ge Sang Hotel.** (BL)

May 23 Jiuzhaigou

Visit Shuzheng Valley and Zharu Tibetan Village. Dinner features roast lamb with a Tibetan and Qiang minority music performance. **Overnight at Ge Sang Hotel.** (BLD)

May 24 Jiuzhaigou/Beijing

Drive to Huanglong and tour this valley of waterfalls before taking a flight connecting thru Chengdu to Beijing. In Beijing, stay at the Bamboo Garden Hotel. **Overnight at Bamboo Garden Hotel.** (BL)

May 25 Beijing

This morning visit the Fragrant Hills, location of the Beijing Botanical Gardens. Tour the gardens in the morning including exhibition greenhouses as well as WoFoSi Sleeping Buddha Temple. Have lunch at the I.M. Pei designed Fragrant Hills Hotel. After lunch visit the Qing Dynasty Summer Palace. **Overnight at Bamboo Garden Hotel.** (BLD)

May 26 Beijing

This morning go outside the city to visit the Great Wall of China. Scholars estimate that the Wall once stretched for 6,200 kilometers. Your visit will focus on Mutianyu, a rugged, somewhat less visited section of the Wall with cable car availability and striking, panoramic views. On return to the city, stop at the Olympic Park to see the Birds Nest Stadium and the Water Cube. A farewell dinner tonight will be at Fangshan, a restaurant on an island in Beihai Lake featuring imperial cuisine. **Overnight at Bamboo Garden Hotel.** (BLD)

May 27 Beijing/Departure/Arrival in Chicago

Check out of the hotel and go to see Tiananmen Square. For those who have been to Beijing before, the time will be open to visit art and antique galleries, and taxi directions to the restaurant booked for lunch will be provided. After lunch take a tour of the Forbidden City, the symbol of dynastic China, and the Palace Museum. Originally built in 1406 for the second Ming emperor, the Palace now houses a collection of antiquities and art from China's last dynasty. After lunch, transfer to the airport for the return flight to the States.