

# Smart Panda Kids in China!

August 10 - 21, 2010

12 days / 11 nights Beijing & Mutianyu



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## THE ITINERARY

### Days 1 - 7: Beijing

Seven nights lodging at the *Park Plaza Hotel*, a 4-star western-style hotel located in central Beijing.

Superior room with pool access at sister 5-star hotel next door.

<http://www.parkplaza.com/hotels/chnbwan>

Listed below are the sites and activities we'll enjoy.

The SPKids component is integrated into many of these:

- Tiananmen Square & the Forbidden City
- Summer Palace
- Temple of Heaven
- Beijing zoo and panda bears
- Visit to the Night Market
- Monkey King skit by professional actors
- Pedicab ride through a *hutong*, including a visit into a resident's home
- Hands-on paper-cutting tradition
- Yo-yo mastery demo
- The art of candy-blowing demo
- Tea pouring ceremony
- Beijing opera mask painting
- Acrobat show
- *Kung-fu* demo
- Silk Market exploration and shopping
- Sword & Fan Dancing
- Traditional calligraphy
- Afternoon time on your own
- SPKids: Scrapbooking of day's events
- Free time

### Days 8 - 12: Mutianyu

Four nights lodging at *The Schoolhouse*, featuring renovated village homes with Western conveniences.

<http://www.theschoolhouseatmutianyu.com/> Listed below are the sites and activities we'll enjoy.

- The Great Wall and cable ride up and down
- Walks and hikes to and around The Great Wall
- Village life exploration
- Artisan glass-blowing demo
- Noodle-making by hand and cooking activity
- Free time

### INCLUSIONS:

Lodging at properties noted in the itinerary.

All breakfasts, most lunches, and most dinners.

Group service of a luxury coach bus to major sites, as noted in the itinerary.

All admission fees and activities expense, as noted in the itinerary.

Pick-up at the airport. Transfers from and to the airport, including luggage handling.

Services of an English-speaking local guide.

### EXCLUSIONS:

Airfare to and from the United States.

Hotel room upgrade except where traveler has requested and agreed to on the registration form.

Alcoholic beverages as well as imported beverage not included in the meals.

Expenses of a personal nature.

Excursions and activities not included in the itinerary.

Travel and medical insurance.

Gratuities to guides, drivers, and porters.

Additional local guides as may be requested by the overall group or individual traveler.



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## “Meet me in Beijing!” says Amy Fu.

What better place to learn Chinese than in China? This summer, SMART PANDA PRESENTS LLC will take a band of intrepid young students and their families on a language and cultural adventure in China. On this **12-day, 11-night tour, August 10 - 21**, we'll divide our time between bustling **Beijing** and rural **Mutianyu**, a village in the shadow of **The Great Wall**. Our itinerary focuses on family fun and integrates time for young travelers enrolled within the **Smart Panda Kids (SPKids)** group of our tour. **SPKids** is the language-learning, educational component of our adventure and is led by SPP co-founder **Amy Fu** and her assistant. Enrollment in **SPKids** is limited to 12 students.

### How our SPKids language-learning, educational component will work:

Our tour offers children a rare opportunity to advance their acquisition of Mandarin and heighten their awareness of Chinese culture. The goal of the **SPKids** group is to encourage speaking and application of their Mandarin knowledge in unscripted situations. We aim to take full advantage of being in China, amongst her people, and immerse our **SPKids** at every opportunity, both planned and spontaneously. Most days, **Amy Fu** and the **SPKids** will breakaway from their English-speaking parents and family members to participate in 'speak only Chinese' sessions. We believe this will facilitate each child's growth in his/her competency and acquisition. That said, we also realize that parents want to experience China with their child, literally together as a family. This is, after all, a true summer vacation and meant to be shared family time.

With that in mind, daily blocks of time are planned to allow Amy and the **SPKids** to breakaway from the rest of the overall group for 1-3 hours at a time, oftentimes twice or more per day. The outing and activities of each day becomes the springboard for these breakaway sessions. Our two hotels have also set aside air-conditioned meeting rooms for our **SPKids** for specific activities in the afternoons (a welcome relief from the heat outside!). The breakaway session will immerse the **SPKids** in Chinese, with very little English spoken. Activities are designed to challenge and grow our kids' listening and speaking abilities and include games, possible interaction with local children at playgrounds, shopping, etc. A Mandarin-English speaking assistant will accompany Amy and the **SPKids** at all times. An enrollment limit of 12 **SPKids** yields a low teacher-student ratio of 1:6—a very manageable number for effective learning and safety.

### Here's an example of how the breakaway sessions would work:

On Day 2, our overall group will spend the entire morning visiting the Forbidden City. Toward the end of that visit, Amy and the **SPKids** will breakaway and play a game while still inside the Forbidden City. Parents and other family members can continue touring this historical site, shop for souvenirs, or stop for a refreshment, all within the walls of the Forbidden City. When we reunite with the **SPKids**, we'll go for lunch together. At the restaurant, Amy and the **SPKids** will sit at a table separate from the parents and adults. During lunch, Amy will draw upon the immediate setting to further promote language learning.

### About the creators of our itinerary:

**Amy Fu** is the Mandarin-speaking curriculum designer and teacher for SMART PANDA PRESENTS. Much loved and appreciated by young and teen students, she is highly sought-after by parents in greater Los Angeles. During the school year, she teaches Mandarin at a college preparatory high school in Orange County. **Bruce Austin** is husband to SPP co-founder **Linda Austin**. He brings 20+ years of professional experience in designing and organizing tours for major adventure travel companies. He has created tours in South Africa, France, Ireland, Switzerland, Italy, China, and other foreign destinations. Together, **Amy** and **Bruce** have combined their expertise to create a family-focused itinerary with a strong language-learning component.

### Recommended age range, prior Mandarin training, and temperament for SPKids:

7-12+ years with some BASIC Mandarin language training. Teenagers are welcome but must be comfortable being around much younger children. *Participation in the SPKids language-learning group is limited to 12 kids.* The setting will be very foreign and likely sweltering. A child will do well if he/she has an adventurous, open-minded, cooperative, and courageous temperament....all while being separated from his/her parents for 1-3 hours at a time.

**Minimum age for SPKids:** 6 years (but please talk to us first!)

**Accompanying adults:** An unlimited number of family members and their friends are welcome. Parents should be comfortable with their child being in the **SPKids** breakaway sessions.



## Terms and Conditions:

### Payment Schedule, Early Enrollment, Cancellation, and General Booking Policies

"Traveler" and "per person" refers to both children and adults. "Adult rate" applies to a person age 13 years and older. "Child rate" applies to a person under 13 years old. "SPKids" refers to Smart Panda Kids, the language-learning educational group within the overall tour group. "Booking" and "booked" refers to the moment a traveler has been recognized as having paid for a reservation(s) on the tour.

#### Trip Fees:

- **Adult Tour Cost:** \$2,350 per adult. Full payment due May 25.  
Early enrollment rate: \$2,250 per adult if full payment is received by May 1.
- **Child Tour Cost:** \$2,100 per child. Full payment due May 25.  
Early enrollment rate: \$2,000 per child if full payment is received by May 1.
- **SPKids Tuition & Materials Fee:** \$400 per participating child. Full payment due May 25.  
Sorry, early enrollment rate does not apply to this fee.
- **Reservation Deposit for TOUR COST:** \$300 per person reserves a space on the trip. This deposit will be applied to the person's total Tour Cost. NOTE: This deposit does NOT reserve a spot in the SPKids group.
- **Reservation Deposit for SPKids:** \$100 per child reserves a space in the SPKids language-learning group. This deposit will be applied to the child's Tuition & Materials Fee. **Space is limited to 12 kids.**
- **Combined Pasadena and China Camps:** Kids who are enrolled in both camps qualify for 25% off SPKids tuition & materials fee per child. (\$400 discounts to \$300)

#### Payment schedule to qualify for early enrollment rate:

To enjoy the enrollment rate, full cost of the Tour Cost per person in portions or in-full must be received no later than May 1. An accounting statement of fees received and balance due will be emailed as a reminder.

#### Final & Full Payment on all outstanding balances:

Due Tuesday, May 25, in the Smart Panda Presents LLC office.

#### Date of trip departure guarantee or cancellation:

Smart Panda Presents LLC will make this determination on June 7, 2010 (64-days before the August 10 departure date.) A minimum of 10 kids enrolled in the SPKids group and a minimum of 14 adults are needed to guarantee trip departure. Should Smart Panda Presents LLC cancel the trip, 100% of payments received from clients will be refunded. **We recommend that you do NOT purchase airline tickets until after this June 7 determination.**

#### Cancellation and refund policy of RESERVATION DEPOSITS received:

- Cancellation notification received by 12 a.m. May 1 subject to 50% retention.
- Cancellation notification received after 12 a.m. May 1 subject to 100% retention.
- Client must submit cancellation notice via phone call to our office or via email *in addition to WRITTEN NOTIFICATION sent to Smart Panda Presents LLC by U.S. mail.*

#### Cancellation and Refund Policy of TOUR COSTS and TUITION & MATERIALS FEES received:

- Cancellation between June 7 - July 7 subject to 50% retention.
- Cancellation after July 7 subject to 100% retention.
- Client must submit cancellation notice via phone call to our office or via email *in addition to WRITTEN NOTIFICATION sent to Smart Panda Presents LLC by U.S. mail.*

#### Trip cancellation insurance:

Smart Panda Presents LLC recommends purchasing trip cancellation insurance. Such insurance covers specific unforeseen events and medical emergencies, such as illness and death in the family. You can shop the web for trip cancellation insurance sellers. Start your search with this company:  
<http://www.1worldinsurance.com/>

#### Passports and Visas:

Booked travelers are solely responsible for obtaining a Visa from the People's Republic of China, have a valid U.S. Passport, and obtaining and assessing current travel advisories and warnings to his/her comfort level.

#### Under-age travelers:

To be booked on the CHINA CAMP tour, persons under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent or parent-designated adult.

#### Assumption of risks and release of liability agreement:

Each traveler (or parent/guardian) will be required to sign and return the agreement to Smart Panda Presents LLC no later than 10 calendar days after booking. Should a traveler choose not to accept the terms of the agreement, he/she has 10 calendar days after booking to acknowledge cancellation of the trip and obtain a full refund of his/her Reservation Deposit.

#### Smart Panda Presents LLC:

- reserves the right to cancel or eject any booked person, at anytime, before or during the tour, if said person puts fellow-travelers at risk or is deemed substantially disruptive to the well-being of fellow-travelers. Payments received may be subject to cancellation policies as stated above.
- will make reasonable effort to accommodate travelers' requests, manage unforeseen changes/events that affect booked travelers and the itinerary.
- will make reasonable effort to run the tour as advertised. Smart Panda Presents LLC reserves the right to curtail or modify the itinerary, or to substitute activities, hotels, meals, or transportation as deemed necessary.

These Terms and Conditions are subject to change by Smart Panda Presents LLC at any time without notice.

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