

Subject: Grade 12 China Trip details
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From: HQ NEWS



Shanghai Community International School

Greetings parents and guardians of Grade 12 students. The annual SCIS China Trip for Grade 12 students is taking place from September 4-8 and we will be travelling to the Shaolin Temple and surrounding district. This email provides updated information on various aspects of the trip.

SCIS Chaperones

Joining your children on the China Trip this year will be:

- Danny Wall: Head of TOK
- Rachel Punter: Grade Level Leader for Grades 11 & 12
- Ian Cole: CAS Coordinator
- Carol Cayford: Grade 12 English Literature teacher
- Helen He: Grade 12 Chinese B teacher
- Lennox Meldrum: IBDP Coordinator

Flights and transport

We are leaving early on the morning of Monday 4 September and all students are requested to be on campus by **4.30am** to be ready for a 5.00am departure to the airport on a school-arranged bus. Our flights are in and out of Shanghai Hongqiao airport, however we are requiring **all students** to first meet on our campus and not to go directly to the airport. We return on the morning of Friday 8 September and students, with parental permission, will be able to leave directly from the airport. All other students will return to school on a school-arranged bus and should be on campus by **11.00am**. **To grant permission for your child to leave directly from the airport, please email Elanie Lim (elim@scis-china.org) with your child's name and a brief message.** Our flight details are:

- Monday 4 September: Shanghai Hongqiao Airport to Zhengzhou Airport on flight **MU5395** (7.35am – 9.35am)
- Friday 8 September: Zhengzhou Airport to Shanghai Hongqiao Airport on flight **CZ3591** (7.45am – 9.30am)

Itinerary

Our group will be participating in a range of activities across the week. A summary of these activities follows:

- *Day 1:* After arriving at Zhengzhou Airport we travel to Dengfeng township and check into the *Luming Villa Hotel*. After lunch we will visit the *Dengfeng KungFu School and Orphanage*, meet the students, and watch them practice their routines. Dinner will be back at the hotel and the evening will be spent doing final preparations for the classes our students will run the

next day.

- *Day 2:* Following breakfast we will return to the *Dengfeng KungFu School and Orphanage* and our students will rotate through two sets of activities. One will be training with the kungfu students 1-on-1 to learn an entire form. The other activity will be working in groups to teach a class of 8-10 students in a particular subject area. We will eat lunch at the kungfu school and have dinner at a restaurant with the orphans from the school. In the evening we will reflect on the day and relate this to our CAS and TOK programmes.
- *Day 3:* We check out of the hotel after breakfast and travel up to the Shaolin Temple where we will be staying in the *Shaolin Guest House*. Our activities during the day will rotate through a tour and kungfu show at the Shaolin Temple, and a hike up to the Dharma Cave on Mount Songshan. Lots of steps will make sure we sleep well at night after dinner, our debrief, and a TOK session.
- *Day 4:* After breakfast we will head back to Dengfeng township and check back into *Luming Villa Hotel*. We will focus more on SCIS aspects throughout the day such as the college application process, emotional literacy for CAS reflections, deeper TOK concepts, Extended Essay formatting and finalisation workshop, and time management skills. We will have time for games and relaxation as well and pack up to be ready for an early departure the next morning.
- *Day 5:* An early start to the day with breakfast, checking out, and travelling to Zhengzhou Airport for our return flight to Shanghai.

Packing list

Attached is a recommended packing list from Insight Adventures. The weather is predicted to be relatively good with the potential for some showers. Temperatures should range from highs around 26 degrees down to 18 degrees at night. Up at the Shaolin Temple it could be a couple of degrees cooler, so students should pack with this in mind. Although the Insight Adventures general packing list recommends thinking twice about laptops, phones, and battery packs, I believe our Grade 12 students are mature and responsible to take care of these items. All students will need their laptops for the day 4 session so these should be brought along. A reminder that battery packs should not be put in checked luggage and they need to have information about their power rating on them or they may be taken by airport screening personnel.

Approved ACT study time

As outlined in Mr Barclay's earlier email, we are aware that some students will be taking the ACT exam on Saturday 9 September. We have successfully worked with this issue in previous years and have made two methods of accommodating student preparation. One is the early flight back on Friday to try to avoid the stress that flight delays could cause. The second accommodation is to provide students with opportunities to have quiet study sessions across the week. Students who wish to focus on their ACT preparation will be granted permission to study in their hotel rooms instead of participating in the kungfu training session on day 2 and the Shaolin Temple tour on day 3, as well as time provided on our day 4 SCIS sessions. This allows students up to 10 hours of additional study time in these three days, plus an early return home on Friday.

Expectations

All students are expected to follow appropriate SCIS school rules while on the trip. Attached is an overview of our trip regulations including possible consequences if rules are not followed. Please discuss these rules with your child.

Contact numbers

Rachel Punter can be contacted during the trip on the Grade 12 Parent WeChat group. Please email her on rpunter@scis-china.org if you are not yet part of the group. The hotel contact phone numbers are:

- Luming Villa: 0371-62890888
- Shaolin Guesthouse: 0371-62745888

We are very excited for the upcoming China Trip and will be working with your children over the next week to help them prepare for the lesson they will be teaching at the kungfu school.

If you have any questions about the trip, feel free to contact me at any time.

Kind regards,

Lennox R. Meldrum

Upper School Vice Principal (Academic) & IBDP Coordinator
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