



US-CHINA CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

CHINA STUDY TOUR 2018 OVERVIEW

This year's study tour ranges from southern to central to northern China. It includes both premier historical sites and contemporary urban settings. This diversity provides the occasion to reflect on rich cultural heritage that Chinese Christians draw on, as well as the challenges and opportunities that today's world presents to Christian faith.

Tour participants will not only experience Chinese liturgy, Church architecture, and religious art first hand. They will gain a deeper understanding of Catholic history, community life, and social services in China. And by witnessing how Chinese Catholics respond to the challenges of modern life and rapid social change, they may gain insight into how to respond to similar challenges in American society today.

When

The 2018 China Study Tour will take place from Sunday, June 17th to Sunday, July 1st (14 nights in total). See addendum at the end of this document for our detailed working itinerary.

Where

We begin our encounter in **Hong Kong**, where the Catholic Church plays an important role in education, social services, and the civic life of the community.

From there we fly to **Xi'an**, home of a vibrant Catholic diocese, and the site of the first arrival of Christianity in China in the 7th century.

We then visit several local Church communities in **Hebei Province**, an area where Chinese Catholicism has flourished.

Our final stop takes us to **Beijing**, China's capital, where ancient imperial sites and churches on land granted by emperors in centuries past coexist in one of the most dynamic cities in the world. The greater Beijing metropolitan area, taking in some 25 million people, is a place where the possibilities and challenges of modern urban life confront the Chinese Church and Chinese society alike.



In 1605 the Wanli Emperor first granted land to Jesuit Father Matteo Ricci for the construction of a church. South Cathedral sits just across from that site.

Who

This study tour is especially intended for:

- ❖ Journalists who want to understand better religion and especially Catholicism in China
- ❖ Academics who seek first-hand exposure and contacts for research.
- ❖ Members of Catholic religious orders who may be exploring the history of involvement of their congregation with China.
- ❖ Priests, women and men religious, and others who minister in communities with a growing Chinese population.
- ❖ Representatives of social service agencies that deal with China or Chinese in the United States.

Space is limited to 30. Submit your application by **March 14** to be considered in the first round of the selection process.

Adaptability

While with have a full itinerary, we are willing to work with you so that you can make contacts or visit sites that reflect your own priorities and objectives. Normally you would have to bear the additional expense of add-ons to the group itinerary, but if we plan enough in advance, we can factor in deductions from group activities you do not attend. It is also possible for us to help with accommodations prior to or following the tour itself. Inquire ahead of time.

Resources for participants

So that you can get the most out of your travel to China, we can arrange for you to speak with specialists in various fields regarding your own goals for this study tour. Resource persons include:

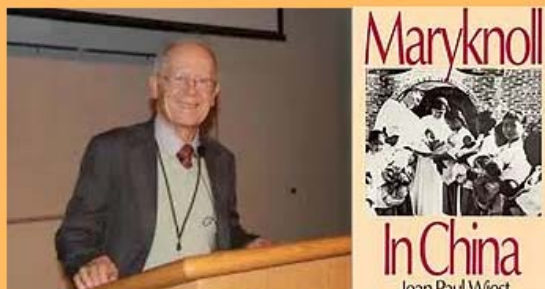
Ian Johnson, Pulitzer-Prize-winning New York Times journalist and author of numerous books and articles on religion in China, including *The Souls of China: The Return of Religion After Mao*.

Jean-Paul Wiest, author of *Maryknoll in China*, and mentor to a generation of Chinese scholars studying the history of Christianity in China.

J.B. Zhang, founding director of Jinde Charities, the leading Catholic social service agency in China.



J.B. Zhang at two institutions he helped to found, here with USCCA Executive Director, Fr. Agliardo.



Noted historian Jean-Paul Wiest is a member of the Board of the USCCA.



Ian Johnson delivered a thought-provoking keynote at the USCCA's 2013 national conference at Loyola University Chicago.

Cost

The cost for participation in the USCCB 2018 Study Tour is \$2725 (per person single occupancy) or \$2225 (per person double occupancy). That amount covers all room, board, transportation and activity costs for the entire study tour. The price per person will drop \$100 when and if our group reaches 20 persons in size.

In addition, participants must arrange for their own **arrival in Hong Kong on or prior to June 16** and their own **departure from Beijing on or subsequent to July 1**. Our travel agent is available to help with these arrangements.

For information about the application process, visas, and travel insurance see the Study Tour Application Process page on the USCCA website: www.USCatholicChina.org/tour-application

Subsidies are available for participants of limited income whose goals accord with those of the study tour program.

For more information

For more information and to apply, visit our website at: <https://www.uscatholicchina.org/tour-current>
Or contact Fr. Michael Agliardo, SJ, Executive: Director@USCatholicChina.org

Deadline for first round decision is **March 14**.

It there are spaces available after that date, we may continue to accept applications. Inquiries welcome.