



Homeland Visit Introduction

April, 2006

Dear families,

Have you been thinking about visiting China with your child?

Think about group homeland visits organized by The Children's Bridge, an adoption agency with over 14 years of experience working and traveling in China.

Why go on a homeland visit with your child?

Traveling to your child's country of birth to learn about her heritage is an irreplaceable experience. It can open the door for discussions about her culture and her adoption. I know, from first-hand experience with my children that it instills a sense of pride built on direct contact. The trip makes the culture a lively rich reality far more tangible for a child than sporadic celebrations at occasional events. Visiting China makes your child a participant in the culture of an evolving and exciting country rather than being a distant observer of a far off "foreign" land. The trip sends a strong message that your family values China and its place in your family history.

I encourage you to look at the March edition of the CB Quarterly Newsletter to read the stories of two families who took the journey in October 2005.

How old should my child be?

Children's Bridge Homeland Visits are open to adoptees 6 years and older at the time of the trip. The adoptees who traveled on the first Children's Bridge Homeland Visit in October 2005 were between six and 10 years old. All did amazingly well with the challenges of international travel. They adapted to the food, language, toilets, crowds, volume and schedule with as much, if not more, ease than their parents!

Should I visit the orphanage with my child?

A trip to China may or may not include a visit to your child's orphanage. That decision is yours to make in the best interest of your child. Most of the families in the first Homeland Visit went to orphanages. I will be happy to talk to you in a general way about the variety of encounters. Four families chose not to visit orphanages for diverse reasons.

How much is this going to cost?

Here is a sampling of the costs in Canadian dollars for a 10-day trip, *not including* a visit to your child's orphanage.

1 adult + 1 child in a double room:
\$1,768 per adult, \$650 per child = **\$2418**

1 adult + 2 children in a double room with one extra bed:
\$1,768 per adult, \$650 per child (no extra bed) = **\$3068**

2 adults + 2 children:
\$1,378 per adult, \$650 per child (no extra bed) = **\$4056**

2 adults + 1 child in a double room:
\$1,378 per adult, \$650 per child (no extra bed) = **\$3516**

These costs DO NOT include airfare to China. We estimate them to be approximately \$1800 per adult and \$1200 for children under 12. Children older than 12 are considered adults both on Air Canada and for travel in China.

For details about the next Homeland Visit, November 4-14 please visit the Children's Bridge website www.childrensbridge.com. Click on "China Homeland Visits" to view the itinerary, complete costs and photos of the first trip.

What the kids thought....

The Children's Bridge first Homeland Visit in October 2005 was a universal hit with all the kids. They enjoyed the range of activities – from seeing ancient sights to visiting local schools – or maybe it was the unique opportunity to be in a group where every family was just like theirs that made the trip special.

Seeing, smelling, touching and being part of a living, evolving, and exciting contemporary China and sharing the adventure with kids just like them is a powerful experience. **As one little girl on the trip said "...seeing where I came from and making friends that were just like me" was the best part of the trip.**

The next Homeland Visit

The dates for the next trip are November 4-14, 2006. Trips to orphanage cities/orphanages can be arranged at an additional cost and scheduled at the end of the 10 day group trip.

The itinerary is similar to the pilot trip in October 2005. There is a sampling of historic, must see sights in Beijing and Xian. A unique feature of this trip is an overnight train ride from Beijing to Xi'an! For insight into a child's life in China there are visits to a school and a kindergarten. Craft activities, a kite-flying excursion and a visit with the Giant Panda's are just a few of the kid-focussed highlights of this 10 day trip.

Please contact me if you are interested in the next Homeland Visit in November 2006 or future dates (March 2007 and Summer 2007). Or download the registration forms, itinerary and accommodation options (which includes costs) from this site.

Deadline for registration for the November '06 trip is July 4, 2006. The group size is limited to 10 families with a maximum of 6 travelers per family for a total of no more than 40 travelers in the group. I hope you can join us on this incredible trip!

Sincerely,

Susanne Fletcher
Adoption Program Manager
susannefletcher@childrensbridge.com



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HOMELAND VISIT ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Dates: November 4-14, 2006

NB: Costs are based on a group minimum of 10 adults. Should there be fewer than 10 adults the costs will be slightly higher. If you decide not to participate your fees will be completely refunded

The costs per family are listed below. Please note that children ages 12 and up are considered adults for travel in China.

Hotels are family friendly and generally rated four to five stars in China. They were selected to keep costs moderate and suitable for the average family. They are comfortable, have pools as well as restaurants nearby with a varied choice of food.

Indicate by checking the appropriate box which option you prefer. Payment for the in-China travel is due no later than September 29, 2006. Cheques are made payable to "Children's Bridge In Trust". This payment will be wired to the travel coordinators (Beijing Oriental Century International Travel Service – BOCITS) in China as payment for hotel arrangements, guides and air travel within China. Should you not be able to come on the tour, cancellation penalties will apply as per schedule below.

A. Costs for a week in Beijing only (in Canadian dollars):

- 1 adult in a single room: \$1160 per person
- 1 adult + 1 child in a double room: \$1160 per adult, \$460 per child (no extra cot)
- 1 adult + 2 children in a double room with an extra bed: \$1160 per adult; \$580 per child (with one extra cot); \$460 per child with no extra cot.
- 2 adults + 2 children in a double room: \$830 per adult; \$460 per child (no extra cot); \$580 per child with extra cot.
- 2 adults + 1 child in a double room: \$830 per adult; \$460 per child (no extra cot)
- 2 adults in a double room: \$830 per adult

B. Costs for 10 day trip (in Canadian dollars):

- 1 adult in a single room: \$1768 per person
- 1 adult + 1 child in a double room: \$1,768 per adult, \$650 per child (no extra bed) \$2200 per person for a suite, child's cost remain the same.
- 1 adult + 2 children in a double room with one extra bed: \$1,768 per adult, \$650 per child (no extra bed), \$760 per child (one extra bed) \$2160 per person for a suite, child's cost remain the same.
- 2 adults + 2 children: \$1,378 per adult, \$650 per child (no extra bed), \$760 per child (with extra bed) \$1540 per person for a suite, the child's cost remains the same.
- 2 adults + 1 child in a double room: \$1,378 per adult, \$650 per child (no extra bed), \$760 per child (with one extra bed). \$1540 per person for a suite, the child's cost remains the same.
- 2 adults in a double room: \$1,378 per adult

*Please note that a "single" room contains two (2) beds or 1 king/queen bed and a "double" room contains two (2) double beds.

Costs *include* the following:

- Air tickets within China, including airport taxes
- Hotel accommodation in China for the duration of the 7 or 10 day trip
- Transportation from airport-hotel-airport as well as transportation to sights listed on itinerary
- Admission fees for sights/parks as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Guide service as per itinerary

Costs *not* included:

- Dinners (except where noted)
- International airfare and airfare in Canada
- Passport or Chinese visa processing fees
- Optional activities, personal purchases, laundry, business centre, room service, travel insurance

Cancellation Policy

1. Fees not paid by September 29, 2006 will result in all reservations in China being cancelled.
2. Cancellation 10 days prior to departure will result in cancellation fees being levied (15% per ticket for airfare within China; 10% of the total travel fees paid for in –China travel).



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HOMELAND VISIT ITINERARY

7 DAY ITINERARY – BEIJING ONLY – NOVEMBER 4-12, 2006

10 DAY ITINERARY – BEIJING – XIAN – BEIJING – NOVEMBER 4-14, 2006

Nov. 05 (Sun):

Arrive in Beijing by Flight_____,transfer to hotel. (Chang An Grand Hotel)

Nov. 06 (Mon):

9:00 am departure to visit the largest imperial garden -Summer Palace, take a boat ride on Kunming Lake. Lunch at Bang Fu Chun Restaurant. After lunch, visit a pearl factory to learn how a pearl takes shape and how to make pearl ornaments. In the afternoon go to Beijing Zoo to see the Giant Panda. (Dinner on own.)

Nov. 07 (Tue):

08:45 am departure to visit Branch of Beijing JingShan Boarding School. At 09:45 families and their children can do morning exercises together with pupils, then visit their dormitories, their classrooms and have a party with pupils. At 11:40 have lunch at school together with pupils. Leave school at 13:00 pm and go directly to Ya Show Market for shopping. 18:30 Beijing Duck Dinner.

Nov. 08 (Wed):

09:30 am departure to visit the papercut museum. Kids will participate in learning to make papercuts. Then take a walk to Shi Sha Hai Hutong, 11:30 have lunch at residents home, 13:00 rickshaw ride in Hutong, visit to Drum Tower& Bell Tower. (Dinner on own).

Nov. 09 (Thu):

09:00 am departure to sightsee the Great Wall at Badaling with cable car. Lunch at Dayi Restaurant. After lunch back to hotel. (Dinner on own).

Nov. 10 (Fri):

09:30 am departure to visit the kites maker and buy kites there. Lunch at 11:30. After lunch go to Chao Yang Park to fly kites. Dinner on own. 19:00 pm See performance at Regal Palace Theatre—Beijing's most elaborate cultural entertainment theatre to experience China's cultural soul.

Nov. 11 (Sat):

Pack and rest in the morning. Lunch on own. 14:00 departure to visit Temple of Heaven. Dinner will be arranged for the group. Overnight train from Beijing to Xi'an Z19 (20:28-07:58) train with air conditioning. It will take 11 hours and 30 minutes for the whole trip.

Nov. 12 (End of 7 day trip):

Pack and check out for families on 7 day trip. Last minute shopping! Home to Canada.

Nov. 12 (Sun):

07:58 am arrive in Xi'an, transfer to hotel. (Shangri-La Hotel-Xi'an), have breakfast in the hotel. After breakfast, go and visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda and the Muslim Mosque. Lunch.

Nov.13 (Mon):

09:00 am visit the Terra Cotta Warriors and the Museum. Lunch.

Nov.14 (Tue) (End of 10 day trip):

Leave Xi'an for Beijing to catch flight back to Canada or other points within China.

Hotel Information:

Chang An Grand Hotel-Beijing Tel: 010-67731234 Fax:010-67733456

Shangri-La Golden Flower Hotel-Xi'an Tel:029-83251000 Fax:029-83232888

CHILDREN'S BRIDGE



HOMELAND VISIT REGISTRATION PACKAGE

NOVEMBER 2006



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HOMELAND VISIT REGISTRATION FORM

	Parent #1 (Main Contact)	Parent #2
First Name:		
Last Name:		
Date of Birth:		
Complete Mailing Address:		
Tel. No. Home:		
Tel. No. Business:		
Cell Phone #:		
Fax #:		
Email Address:		

I am registering for:

Beijing only (November 4-12, 2006)

Beijing and Xi'an (November 4-15, 2006)

Do you wish to visit your child's orphanage? Yes No

If yes, you MUST complete the "Orphanage Visit Request Form" attached (2 pages).

Emergency contact person in Canada:

Name (Please print): _____

Tel. No. Home: _____ Tel. No. Business: _____



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WAIVER OF LIABILITY

I acknowledge that participation in this travel program organized by The Children's Bridge is entirely at my own risk. In addition, I assume full and complete responsibility for the safety, health and welfare for any minor in my care that participates in this travel program. The Children's Bridge assumes no liability for accidents or injuries associated with participation in this program howsoever caused.

I acknowledge that travel to China may carry with it an element of risk. It is my responsibility to behave and conduct myself in a safe manner and to insure that I have taken sufficient medical procedures to safeguard my health and that of any minor in my care.

I acknowledge that the Children's Bridge will contract the services of **Beijing Oriental Century International Travel Service (BOCITS)** to complete travel arrangements in China. **BOCITS** is an arm's length corporation acting independently of The Children's Bridge and The Children's Bridge assumes no liability relating to the services provided by **BOCITS**.

I/we _____ (parents)
understand and accept that participation in The Children's Bridge sponsored homeland visit to China is on a voluntary basis for myself/ourselves and my/our child(ren).

I/we acknowledge and represent that I/we carry health insurance for myself/ourselves and my/our child(ren) and understand that we are fully responsible for any and all costs associated with any illness or emergency treatment(s) that may result from participating in our visit to China. I/we do hereby waive from any liability the parties associated with the conduct of this Children's Bridge Homeland Visit employed by The Children's Bridge or **BOCITS** AND ANY OTHER OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES of The Children's Bridge.

Signatures:

Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

NB: A photocopy of each passport (pages 2-3) must be sent with your registration. Each passport must be signed. Passports must be valid for 6 months following dates of travel.



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HOMELAND VISIT PARTICIPANTS

The following information is required from **each** participant in the homeland visit:

	Name as it appears on the passport	Birth date
Parent #1		
Parent #2		
Adoptee 1		
Adoptee 2		
Additional Traveler		
Additional Traveler		
Additional Traveler		
Additional Traveler		



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PAYMENT SCHEDULE & TASK LIST

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The following is the payment schedule for the Homeland Visit scheduled for March 11-21, 2006:

Date	Amount	Description
July 4, 2006 or before	\$300.00 per adult registration fee	Registration deadline - Registration form (3 pages) needs to be submitted with the \$300 non-refundable service fee.
September 9, 2006	\$1,400-1,800 per adult (economy) – estimate only \$1,000-1,300 per child (economy) – estimate only	Confirmation of airline booking to China (a photocopy of tickets or itinerary).
September 29, 2006	As per attached fee schedule (Homeland Accommodation Options)	Total in-China travel service fees as per travelers in your family.
September 29, 2006	As per individual quote (if requested).	Orphanage city/orphanage visit add-on fees.
October 20, 2006**	15% Cancellation fee.	For air travel within China (ALL tickets).
October 20, 2006**	10% Cancellation fee.	Of total travel fees paid.

Please note:

- Payments may be made by cheque or money order. Cheques should be made payable to “Children’s Bridge In Trust”.

*Fees not paid by September 29, 2006 will result in all reservations in China being cancelled.

**Cancellation 10 days prior to departure will result in cancellation fees being levied (15% per ticket for airfare within China and 10% of the total travel fees paid for in-China travel).

Return forms and registration fee to: Children’s Bridge International Adoption Consultants
1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221
Ottawa, ON
K2G 3J2

Attention: Susanne Fletcher
Coordinator, Pre & Post Adoption Services

TASK LIST

You need to:

- Book your air travel to Beijing for arrival Saturday, November 4, 2006, returning to Canada from Beijing on November 14, 2006 (for 10 day trip) or November 12, 2006 for the Beijing only trip. Anton Cheng at Tin Bo Travel in Ottawa (613-238-7093 or 1-800-267-6668) can assist with these arrangements or you can book directly with the airline or agency of your choice. Advise Tin Bo you are calling about Children's Bridge 2006 Homeland Visit. Please be sure to investigate cancellation insurance.
- Return Homeland Visit Registration form and payment by July 4, 2006 (or sooner).
- Ensure everyone traveling has a *current passport* with a minimum of 6 months remaining validity at the time of travel.
- Submit to The Children's Bridge, confirmation of airline booking (copy of ticket or itinerary will do) at least 6 weeks prior to travel.
- Within 60 days of travel, apply for visas to enter China. Sample visa forms and applications will be sent to you once you have paid your registration fee. Children's Bridge will look after processing visas for you and courier them back to you prior to travel.
- Ten (10) weeks prior to travel (or sooner), submit Orphanage Visit Request Form (*if you wish to visit orphanage city and/or orphanage following either the Beijing only trip or the 10 day trip.*)
- Five (5) weeks prior to travel (or sooner) submit final payment for in-China travel fees.



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ORPHANAGE VISIT ARRANGEMENTS

PERMISSION

Children's Bridge will be pleased to arrange a visit to your child's orphanage family. Your request will be made through the Department of Civil Affairs in the province in China where your child was adopted. Such visits are approved both by the Department of Civil Affairs and the Director of your child's orphanage. While every effort will be made on your behalf to visit the orphanage, there is no guarantee that it will be allowed.

In order to make the request, the following *adoption documents* are required:

1. Copy of your child's Adoption Certificate with complete Chinese name, year of adoption, birth date etc. in English AND Chinese.
2. Name of orphanage, orphanage city and province in China.

Please complete the Orphanage Visit Request Form (pages 2 and 3 below) and send it to The Children's Bridge, 1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221, Ottawa, ON K2G 3J2.

Note: Do not fax these documents, as they will not be clear enough to send on to China.

TRAVEL COSTS

There will be additional costs involved if you choose to visit your child's orphanage. This cost will depend on the following factors:

- how far the orphanage is from the provincial capital
- whether an overnight stay is required and therefore a hotel cost
- the type of transportation necessary to travel to the orphanage city (car, bus, train or airplane)
- cost of guide and his/her travel/hotel arrangements
- the number of families going to the same orphanage (greater number will mean decreased cost)
- how many people in your family traveling to the orphanage

It will take approximately 4 weeks to determine this additional cost. Your patience is requested while we obtain a quote. As soon as we receive a quote we will advise you so that you can make a decision. Due to the length of time required to provide you with a quote and to make these arrangements, *the deadline to submit this form is August 1, 2006. You can submit the request earlier than August 1st if you wish.*



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ORPHANAGE VISIT REQUEST FORM

Fill out one form for EACH orphanage you wish to visit. Please **print** clearly.

Adoptee's name as it appears on his/her Canadian passport:

Complete original Chinese name:

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Adoption: _____

Your original Children's Bridge group number: _____

Orphanage name: _____

Orphanage city: _____

Parent #1: _____ Parent #2: _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____

Tel. No. Home: _____ Tel. No. Business: _____

e-mail address: _____

Copy of adoption documents enclosed.



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ORPHANAGE VISIT REQUEST FORM

Please tell us...

1. Do you wish to visit just the orphanage city? Yes No
2. Do you wish to visit the orphanage and staff? Yes No
3. Do you wish to have permission to review your child's orphanage file? Yes No

If you answered yes to questions 2 & 3 there is some required reading in preparation for both you and your child.

Go to: www.emkpress.com, scroll down to "Parent Resources and then to "Going Back". After reading this section move on to "Part III What's In an Orphanage File and Other Frequently Asked Questions".

Deadline for submission of orphanage city/orphanage visit add-on form is August 1, 2006.

Return forms and registration fee to:

Children's Bridge International Adoption Consultants
1400 Clyde Avenue, Suite 221
Ottawa, ON
K2G 3J2

Attention: Susanne Fletcher
Coordinator, Pre & Post Adoption Services