China & Hong Kong

Chinese Australian Hometown Heritage Tour

A cultural experience hosted by Kate Bagnall & Sophie Couchman

22 March - 31 March 2017 (10 days)
Highlights

Explore the history and heritage of Chinese Australian home villages
Meet Dr Selia Tan in Candong village, a conservation and development project in Kaiping
Marvel at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed diaolou watchtowers in Kaiping
Experience traditional Cantonese food, culture and architecture
Venture off the tourist track for a unique taste of life in southern China

Your tour hosts

Dr Kate Bagnall is a Canberra-based historian who specialises in Chinese migration and settlement in Australia before 1940. She has a PhD from the University of Sydney and is currently an ARC DECRA Research Fellow at the University of Wollongong. Kate has visited Guangdong about a dozen times, living in Zuhai in 1997 and Guangzhou in 2000.

Dr Sophie Couchman is an Honorary Research Fellow at La Trobe University and currently works at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne. She has travelled widely in China, living in Wuxi and Shanghai in 2002 and Nanjing in 2013. Sophie has researched and published in the field of Chinese Australian history for many years, including as Curator at the Chinese Museum in Melbourne.

On the tour you will share in Kate and Sophie’s informed commentary, extensive research experience and love of travelling in China.

Destinations

Hong Kong
Jiangmen (Kongmoon)
Kaiping (Hoiping)
Taishan (Toishan, Sunning)
Xinhui (Sunwui)
Zhongshan (Chungshan, Shekki)
Zuhai
Your experience begins here...

Day 1: Wednesday, 22 March 2017 - Arrive Hong Kong
No activities are planned for today and you are welcome to fly in at any time. A shared arrival airport transfer takes you to your starting hotel in bustling Tsim Sha Tsui.

Day 2: Thursday, 23 March 2017 - Hong Kong BD
This morning is free leisure time. In the afternoon meet in the hotel lobby for a heritage walking tour of Hong Kong's historic sights. Tonight you are invited to join your hosts for a welcome dinner. Over dinner Hong Kong historian Dr Catherine Ladds will share her research on foreign communities in China.

Day 3: Friday, 24 March 2017 - Hong Kong | Jiangmen BL
After breakfast travel by ferry to Jiangmen (3 hours), our first stop in mainland China. After lunch visit the Wuyi Overseas Chinese Museum, before an optional visit to the Wuyi University Overseas Chinese Culture Research Centre. In the evening visit downtown Pengjiang to explore and enjoy dinner at your leisure.

Day 4: Saturday, 25 March 2017 - Jiangmen | Kaiping BLD
In the morning travel to Candong in Kaiping to explore its village heritage with architectural historian Dr Selia Tan from Wuyi University. Learn about local conservation efforts and the village's Australian connections. After a traditional lunch visit the magnificent Li Yuan mansion and garden.

Day 5: Sunday, 26 March 2017 - Kaiping BL
Today explore the Kaiping diaolou and villages with Dr Selia Tan, who worked on the successful UNESCO World Heritage bid. Places to visit include the Tanjiang river, Chikan town, and Zili and Majianglong villages. In the afternoon join us for an optional traditional countryside afternoon tea.

Day 6: Monday, 27 March 2017 - Kaiping | Taishan BLD
This morning travel to Duanfen in Taishan, the ancestral home of Quong Tart and the Mei (Moy) clan, visiting unique sites such as the Mei Family Compound. After lunch join an optional walking tour of the old town of Taicheng or spend the afternoon at leisure.

Day 7: Tuesday, 28 March 2017 - Taishan | Xinhui | Zhongshan BLD
After breakfast visit Shiqi village in Xinhui, a village whose connections to Australia stretch back 150 years. Then explore nearby Chen Chong to help solve a history mystery! After lunch at tranquil Yutai Temple, visit the scenic Guifeng Mountain Park and the Palm Tree Museum.

Day 8: Wednesday, 29 March 2017 - Zhongshan BD
Enjoy a special Cantonese yum cha breakfast before visiting heritage sites in Sheqi (Shekki), the old part of Zhongshan city. Highlights are the Xiangshan Commercial Culture Museum and historic Sun Wen West Road. After an afternoon at leisure, visit Sanxi village for a dinner with a historic twist.

Day 9: Thursday, 30 March 2017 - Zhongshan | Zhuhai BLD
This morning visit the Museum of the Former Residence of Sun Yat-sen and the Zhongshan Folklore Culture Museum in Cuiheng. After lunch enjoy a stroll by the sea before continuing to Waishan in Zhuhai, the ancestral home of one-time Sydney residents Choy Hing and Choy Chong of the famous Sun Company department store. Celebrate our final night together with a farewell dinner in Zhuhai.

Day 10: Friday, 31 March 2017 - Zhuhai | Hong Kong B
After breakfast transfer to Jiuzhou Wharf for our return ferry to Hong Kong (1 hour), where the tour concludes. A shared departure airport transfer takes you to the airport to meet your flight home.
$3995* per person twin share
Single supplement $1021 (subject to availability)

Inclusions

9 nights twin share accommodation with private facilities
Land transportation, including shared return airport transfers in Hong Kong
Meals as specified in the itinerary (9 x breakfast, 6 x lunch, 5 x dinner)
Sightseeing and entrance fees as specified in the itinerary
Tour hosting by Dr Kate Bagnall and Dr Sophie Couchman, assisted by local historical experts

Exclusions

International airfares
Visa fees (a China visa is required for Australian and NZ passport holders)
Travel insurance
Personal expenses, laundry, beverages, and meals not specified in the itinerary
Sightseeing not specified in the itinerary or undertaken during free time
Gratuities (a tipping pool of USD100.00 per person will be collected by your tour hosts on Day 2 of the program)
Any other items not mentioned above

Important notes

Booking your place
A minimum of 10 tour guest are required to confirm and guarantee this tour's departure. Spaces are limited; book early to avoid disappointment. All deposits and interim payments are non-refundable and no exemptions can be made for any tour guest who has paid a deposit and can no longer attend the tour.
Deposit: $500.00 per person upon booking your place on the tour
Interim payment: $1,000.00 per person due within one week of the tour becoming a confirmed departure
Final payment: Balance due by 20 January 2017

*The tour price may change, subject to confirmation of all services. As the tour cost is based on the US dollar, a currency surcharge may be applicable if the US dollar exchange rate falls prior to final payment.

Tour activity level
This trip is best enjoyed with a good level of health and fitness. You will need to walk on uneven ground and irregular paving, climb stairs, and handle your own luggage.

Travel insurance
Travel insurance is required for all tour guests. We suggest taking out a comprehensive insurance policy on payment of your deposit to protect your non-refundable payments in the unlikely event of an unforeseen cancellation. Disinclination to travel is not covered by travel insurance. It is the responsibility of each tour guest to ensure that their travel insurance covers their personal requirements and any pre-existing medical conditions for travel to China and Hong Kong. We offer all our clients a 15% discount on policies purchased through Active Travel. Contact us for a quote today.

Please refer to our booking form for full terms and conditions.

For bookings please contact Katrina Lilly, Group Travel Consultant

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