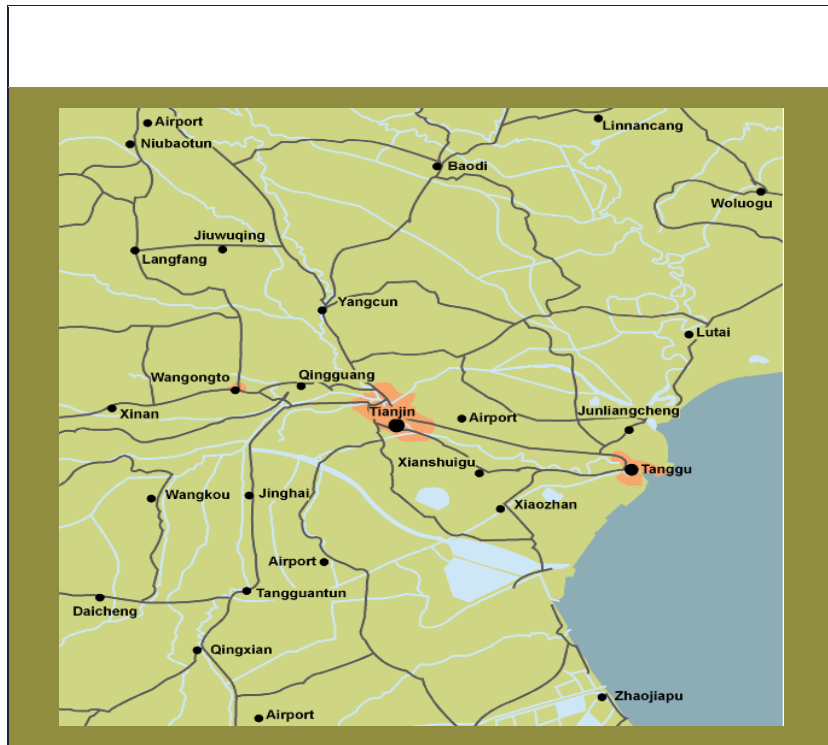


# Tips, Information & Suggestions for Students Studying in Tianjin, China Summer 2008



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Resident Director, Tianjin, 2008

The information is provided to assist students in making their plans for attending and participating in the study abroad program in China in Summer 2008. Stetson University College of Law is not responsible for changes in rates, schedules, dates or other facts contained herein or on websites listed.

## **GETTING FROM BEIJING TO TIANJIN**

The International Programs Office strongly encourages all participants to fly into Beijing Capital Airport on Saturday, July 5, 2008. Resident Director Dean Cooper has arranged for a bus to meet the group at the airport and to transport everyone to the lodging in Tianjin. The specific arrival time of the bus will be scheduled after the International Programs Office receives everyone's travel plans; the anticipated arrival is for the later afternoon or early evening. If you do not arrive on the date suggested, you will have to find your own way from Beijing to Tianjin.

Sunday, July 6, 2008 will be used to recover from jet-lag, and to orient the participants to Tianjin. Classes will begin Monday, July 7.

Note: in the past, some students have arrived in Beijing a few days early to tour the area. This is fine; though realize the entire group will be spending a weekend in Beijing later in the program. If you wish to explore the city before the actual program starts, please meet us at the airport to catch the bus to Tianjin. Otherwise, you will be responsible for making your own travel arrangements. Again, please advise the International Programs Office of your intentions.

## **GETTING FROM TIANJIN TO BEIJING**

Although the final exam of the program is scheduled to end at noon on Saturday, August 2, 2008, the International Programs Office encourages you to arrange your departure from Beijing in the afternoon or evening of Sunday, August 3, 2008. Dean Cooper is scheduling a farewell banquet for all program participants on the evening of Saturday, August 2. Dean Cooper has also arranged bus transportation for the group to travel from Tianjin back to Beijing. If you wish to stay in China longer to travel or watch the 2008 Summer Olympics, you can utilize the bus transport back to Beijing, or you can make your own arrangements. Again, please notify the International Programs Office of your intentions.

## **ABOUT TIANJIN**

### **History**

Tianjin, or "Jin" in hip local speech, or "Diamond of the Bohai Gulf" in chamber of commerce terms, is China's fourth largest city, with a staggering nine million citizens. Simultaneously gritty and vibrant, it is a city just beginning to realize its tourism potential. New swanky four and five star hotels decorate the downtown skyline with sophisticated pizzazz, while scrupulous parks and gardens along the Hai River challenge Tianjin's industrial image. Ancient temples and pagodas, and elaborate colonial buildings are no longer blights of neglect, but instead prized pieces of its past turned into the type of brochure-like attractions that prompt tourists to snap several photos of and describe in their journals as "fabulous" with three exclamation points. Plus, its surrounding mountains to the north access, among other jaw-stretching things, China's famous Great Wall. Keep in mind, however, that unlike some of the tourist-first coastal cities, Tianjin's attractions are widely dispersed. They tend to get lost in the city's overwhelming size and fist-shaking traffic, making it less than accommodating for "see-it-all" organized tours. Tianjin, like many other Chinese coastal cities, harbors a history heavy with military squabbles. Following the Opium Wars in the mid-1800s Great Britain, Russia, France and Japan swarmed through its streets and claimed residency. Though a source of local loathing, it did color the city with a mosaic wonder of architectural influences.

During the first half of the 1900s, Tianjin was cursed with three successive wars (The Democratic Revolution in 1911, the Anti-Japanese War 1937-1948, and the Civil War 1948), replacing the entrepreneurial motivations of economic progress with the limiting visions of day-to-day survival. It was not until after Mao's Cultural Revolution ended in 1969 that Tianjin began to grow and expand economically. But disaster, in the form of an earthquake, struck in 1976, killing close to 250,000 people and crumbling much of the city's antiquated infrastructure.

Eventual economic relief came when Chinese officials allowed Tianjin to open its proverbial closed doors to foreign investors. Since then, it has become the largest seaport in northern China. Tourism, though growing, remains a mere subplot to Tianjin's industrial focus.

Tianjin is divided into six city districts:<sup>1</sup>

Heping: also known as the Peace District, it functions as the city's main stage for human activity. As the former concession area for Great Britain and France, its streets are lined with a weird mix of contemporary skyscrapers and wow-look-at-that colonial buildings. Visitors can choose between the ultra-modern Renaissance Tianjin Hotel or the wonderfully regal looking Tianjin First Hotel built in 1922. Both provide quick access to some of Tianjin's most famous restaurants including the Bader Brauhaus and the Goubili Restaurant. The Tianjin Concert Hall, the Art Museum, the Catholic Church and famous Ancient Culture Street are all within its confines as well.

Hebei: located north of Heping, it almost feels calm compared to downtown's hypersonic pace. The four-star Holiday Inn and the Ocean Hotel are its prized room and board sites. Both are within walking distance of Ancient Culture Street and the architecturally impressive Notre Dame des Victories. Beining Park is relatively close too (relative as in hop in a taxi) and is highlighted by the Zhiyuan Pagoda.

Hongqiao: situated northwest of downtown it is best known for where visitors go to snap photos of the Grand Mosque. Otherwise, there is little else to see from a tourist's perspective.

Hexi: formerly a German colony during Tianjin's "concession years," this district now boasts some of the area's best lodging options including the Sheraton Tianjin Hotel, the city's only five star hotel, the impossibly huge Tianjin Grand Hotel, and the impressive Geneva Hotel. Out of all its dining options, however, the Quanjude Roast Duck Factory ranks as its most popular. It is one of the only restaurants in Tianjin that serves authentic Beijing duck.

Nankai: nestled south of downtown it is best known for housing Tianjin University and Nankai University, as well as Tianjin's famously scenic Shuishang Park.

Hedong: besides the Royal Court Restaurant decorated in the manner of an ancient Chinese palace, this district offers little else in the way of tourism options.

## Climate

Tianjin falls within the temperate zone, and, being a port city in northern China, it is frequently affected by tidal air currents. The annual average temperature here is about 13 degrees C. July is the hottest month, with the temperature above 26 degrees C., while January is the coldest, when below freezing temperatures can be expected. The annual precipitation of the city is not much, although occasionally plagued by monsoon weather in summer time.

## Transportation

**Please Note:** You **MUST** have a visa to enter China. You can obtain a Visa from the Chinese embassy in the US, or a consulate. You can also use a Visa service such as Capitol Visa (<http://www.capitolvisa.com/visas/china-visa.php>). Please apply for a Tourist visa. Although you are studying in China, you should not apply for a Chinese Student Visa. You only need to do this when you will be attending classes at a Chinese University. Allow yourself adequate time to obtain the visa. Applying early is always better than later. I would also encourage you to request a 60 day tourist visa rather than a 30 day one.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-2599081-tianjin\\_introduction-i](http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-2599081-tianjin_introduction-i)

By Air: There are three Chinese national airlines: China Southern, Air China, and China Eastern all of which fly some international routes, most notably to Japan, Southeast Asia, North America, and Western Europe. Service and safety standards are fairly good on these international routes, although you may wish to fly a more reputable international carrier to China.

The following international airlines serve the international airports at Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing, Xi'an, Guilin, Harbin, Tianjin, Qingdao, and Dalian: Air France, Alitalia, Ansett Australia, Asiana, British Airways, Canadian, Delta, Dragonair, Japan Airlines, KLM, Korean Air, Lufthansa, Malaysian, Northwest, Qantas, SAS, Singapore, Swissair, Thai, United, and Virgin Atlantic.

The best advice we can give you is to get to the terminal as early as possible and know the Chinese characters for your destination (announcements are not always made in English – or in Chinese!). If you're still lost, show someone your ticket. Most people will be very glad to help you out. Also, a Y50 departure tax applies to all passengers at all airports and is usually added to the ticket. Check with your travel agent in advance.

By Rail: Trains connect Shanghai and Beijing, and points in between, with Hong Kong. Tickets can be purchased at any train station along the lines (at least where the trains stop) and at any KCR station in Hong Kong.

This is the best value mode of transportation in China, and the network is extensive. Because of this, it's a popular way to go, and tickets tend to have to be booked well in advance. You'll generally be out of luck if you try to book with short notice on irregular runs or during the peak holiday seasons. All towns served by rail have a booking office of some sort, but the best way to purchase a seat or berth is through a travel agent. This saves you valuable time, as well as helping to maintain your sanity. Removing the arduous task of lining up at the station and trying to buy tickets while people crowd in around you and try to butt into line is quite a load off a weary traveler's back.

There are three classes on Chinese trains: soft sleeper, hard sleeper and hard seat. The first is a comfortable, cushioned bed with clean linens in a four-bed, private compartment, usually next to the dining car (and with rights to the meal's "first sitting"). This comes with a somewhat higher price than the hard sleeper, which offers second crack at meals and a bed in more open, dormitory-like sleeping cars (triple tiered, for 6 beds a section – though there is no door at the end). The hard seat is just what it suggests and is not really an option for long-distance journeys, unless you're short on cash. The high traffic, short distance lines such as that running between Kowloon, Shenzhen and Guangzhou have quite comfortable seats for a decent price.

Food on the trains: the dining car is not open whenever you feel the urge to eat. There are pre-set times for breakfast, lunch and dinner. At all other times, hungry travelers will have to make do elsewhere, so be careful if you're going to take an extended nap! Many veteran travelers bring their own supply of snacks. You'll also find plenty of vendors hawking food at most any stop, however – boiled eggs, peanuts, instant noodles and such are usually on offer. Hot water is readily available on board the train; each compartment should have a thermos full of hot water, which can be refilled from the water heater at the end of the train car. Be careful when filling the thermos, as the water is literally boiling and the steam moves around with the jarring motions of the train.

An internet booking service (<http://train.cei.gov.cn>) that serves all of the Beijing railway stations has recently cropped up and will be useful for those who can read Chinese. Unfortunately, there is not yet such a service available in English.

By Road: Buses are the cheapest way to get around the countryside, are frequent, and are sometimes, though not normally, faster than the train. Expressways run between selected major cities whereas the rest of the roads are of lesser quality and size, making the train a somewhat safer option. Most towns have a bus station where tickets can be purchased well in advance, or they can be paid for on the bus itself. If you don't speak Chinese, there's

often a travel agency in or around hotels which can arrange tickets for you. Sometimes hotel desk staff will do the same.

By Water: Jetfoils and turbo-cats make regular runs from Hong Kong to Macau and Guangzhou. Some slow ferries also service this route. Ferries between Shanghai or Tianjin and Kobe or Osaka run weekly two-day trips which are less comfortable, and obviously slower than the plane, but much more affordable. Consult your travel agent, or a respected travel guide for more information.

## **VACCINATIONS AND MEDICAL SUGGESTIONS<sup>2</sup>**

It is recommended that you bring your medical records along with you. In the event of an emergency your medical records will be of great assistance. The medical record should include your blood type, immunization record, allergies, and any medications you are currently taking (both prescription and non-prescription). You should also include your doctor's name, address, phone number, emergency contact name and phone number, and your insurance company's name, address and phone number.

### Vaccines/Immunizations (4-6 weeks before your trip):

- - Hepatitis A or immune globulin (IG)
- - Hepatitis B if you might be exposed to blood, have sexual contact with the local population, be exposed through medical treatment, or stay longer than 6 months. (Hepatitis B is recommended for infants and for children 11-12 years of age who did not receive it as infants.)
- - Rabies, if you might be exposed to wild or domestic animals.
- - Typhoid, for visiting developing countries.

### How to stay healthy:

- Drink only boiled or bottled water or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks and ice cubes.
- Protect yourself from mosquito bites using mosquito/insect repellent or spray.
- For prevention of Malaria, starting 4-6 weeks before your trip, start taking an anti-malaria drug. (Please ask your doctor which one he/she thinks is best.)
- Bring over-the-counter anti-diarrhea medicine if you have or get diarrhea easily.
- Bring Ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil, or other types of mild pain relievers for headaches, toothaches, muscular aches, backaches, the common cold, menstrual cramps and fever reducers and mild body pain.

### How to avoid sickness:

- Don't eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Don't drink beverages with ice.
- Don't handle animals (especially monkeys, cats, dogs), to avoid the risk of rabies.
- Don't swim in fresh water (excluding well-chlorinated pools) in some parts of China to avoid infection with schistosomiasis.

### Health Precautions:

- Wash hands often with soap or water (and/or instant antibacterial hand wash).
- Don't eat or drink dairy products unless you know they have been pasteurized.
- Don't share needles with anyone.
- Eat only thoroughly cooked food, or fruits and vegetables that you have peeled yourself.
- Never eat uncooked meat, raw eggs, or unpasteurized dairy products. Raw shellfish is dangerous for people who have liver disease or compromised immune systems.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.chinahighlights.com/customer/medical.htm>

## WHAT TO PACK

Try not to over pack; it's expensive to pay for excess baggage. Also, pack a change of clothes in carry on luggage in case of luggage delay.

- Basic classroom supplies (legal pads, pens, pencils, highlighters, etc.)
- Battery-operated alarm clock to get you up for class!
- Business attire. You will visit courtrooms and meet local attorneys.
- Casual clothes to wear in the classroom.
- Comfortable walking shoes. You will be doing much more walking in China. Waterproof or leather shoes.
- Copies of your passport and plane ticket and kept separately in a safe place.
- Electric adapter, converter, and/or batteries to use your electric appliances in Freiburg.
- Glasses and/or contacts and a spare pair and/or your prescription in case you need to replace them.
- Light jacket/raincoat, or ideally a raincoat with a zip out lining.
- Light sweater.
- Medications. Bring all that you will need for your entire stay in Asia. Carry all medication in your carry on luggage.
- Money belt or waist bag for your money and valuables.
- Phone card.
- Pocket calculator for quick currency conversions!
- Small umbrella (or wait and buy one when you get there).
- Toiletries (travel kit). Important: If you pack your toiletries in your carry-on baggage, the airport requires that you pack them in no larger than 3 oz. plastic containers. You can buy more toiletries in Freiburg.
- Your International Student ID Card (ISIC) card and Emergency Contact Card.

## CULTURE SHOCK

While you are no doubt prepared for China to be different from the U.S., you may not be aware that Americans do often suffer what is called "culture shock" on arrival. China differs greatly from the U.S. in such areas as class structure, attitudes to service, and standard of living. Therefore, the quality of accommodation(s), gender attitudes, etc. is quite different than in the U.S., so it is essential that you prepare yourself mentally for the fact that you are going to a foreign country, and not just a smaller version of the U.S. The way to deal with these differences is to be prepared for them, learn about them, and to try to be as open minded as possible about everything you encounter. It will help you to read about Tianjin before you leave. Familiarize yourself with the geography and the population statistics.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

### Stetson University College of Law

Office of Graduate & Int'l Programs

Associate Dean John Cooper

Address: 1401 61st Street South

Gulfport, FL 33707

Phone: (727) 562-7857

Fax: (727) 231-0723

E-mail: [cooper@law.stetson.edu](mailto:cooper@law.stetson.edu)

[International@law.stetson.edu](mailto:International@law.stetson.edu)

### Nankai University College of Law

Address: 94 Weijin Road,

Tianjin, 300071, P.R. China

All class sessions will meet in the Main Administration Bldg. Room 407 or 409 (TBA).

### U.S. Embassy in China

Address: 2 Xiu Shui Dong Jie

Beijing 100600

[just to the northeast of the Jian Guo Men Wai Friendship Store]

Phone: (86-10) 6532-3431,

6532-3831

After Hours: (86-10) 6532-1910

Fax: (86-10) 6532-4153,

6532-3178

Monday through Friday, except [holidays](#), between the hours of 8:30am-12:00pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Be sure to bring your passport for identification when you come.

**Effective June 1, 2007, American Citizen Services will be closed to the public on Wednesday afternoons.**

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Register Your Trip: The United States State Department requests that U.S. citizens register their trip online. Registration provides an added level of security to your trip in case something happens to you while abroad or the area you are visiting becomes an area of civil unrest. You will need to know your passport number, the countries you are traveling to, and the dates traveling. You can register at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>.

Notify Financial Institutions: Banks and credit card issuers will commonly cancel debit or credit cards that are being used in foreign countries without advanced notification. Therefore, if you plan on using your ATM/debit card abroad, you should inform your bank of the dates and countries you will be traveling to. Likewise, if you plan on using your credit card(s), you also need to notify your credit card companies with the same information.

Finally, ask your credit card company how to report the loss of your card from abroad. "1-800" numbers do not work from abroad, but your company should have a toll-free number that you can call while you are overseas.

## BASIC CHINESE PHRASES

zhèng què. Yes.  
正确。

cuò wù. No.  
错误。

qǐng. Please.  
请。

xiè xiè nín. Thank you.  
谢谢您。

bú kè qì. You're welcome.  
不客气。

láo jià. Excuse me.  
劳驾。

dùì bù qǐ. I am sorry.  
对不起。

zǎo chén hǎo. Good morning.  
早上好。

wǎn shàng hǎo. Good evening.  
晚上好。

wǎn ān. Good night.  
晚安。

### *Chinese Phrases for Meeting and Greeting*

nín huì jiǎng yīng yǔ ma?  
Do you speak English?  
您会讲英语吗?

zhè lǐ yǒu rén huì jiǎng yīng yǔ ma?  
Does anyone here speak English?  
这里有人会讲英语吗?

wǒ zhǐ huì jiǎng yì diǎn zhōng wén.  
I only speak a little Chinese.  
我只会讲一点中文。

nín jiào shén me míng zì?  
What is your name?  
您叫什么名字?

wǒ jiào luó lún sī.  
My name is Luo Lun Si.  
我叫罗伦丝。

nín hǎo?  
How are you?  
您好?

wǒ hěn hǎo, xiè xiè nín.  
I'm fine, thank you.  
我很好谢谢您。

Hěn gāo xìng rèn shí nín.  
I am very glad to meet you.  
很高兴认识您。

wǒ bù míng bái.  
I don't understand.  
我不明白。

nín shuō shén me?  
What did you say?  
您说什么。

nín kě yǐ jiǎng màn diǎn ma?  
Can you speak more carefully?  
您可以讲慢点吗?

wǒ wán quán míng bái.  
I understand perfectly.  
我完全明白。

## TOURIST DESTINATIONS<sup>3</sup>

### Xikai Church

Situated on Dushan Road, the Xikai Church was built by French Catholics in 1916. The 45-metre-tall structure has a floor space of 1,585 square metres. Built on a plan in the shape of a cross, this building has three towers, each having a green hemisphere top. Its walls are built with red and yellow bricks.



### Tianjin Railway Station

One of the earliest railway station in China, Tianjin Railway Station plays the role of a hub in China's railway network. Both Beijing-Harbin Railway and Beijing-Shanghai Railway pass Tianjin, enabling the city to link with the capital, the Northeast and the East of China. Centred around the station, a group of new buildings stand by the Haihe riverside. On top of the main building of the station erects a 67.8-metre-tall clock tower, which is the highest of its kind in China.



### Tianjin TV & Radio Tower



The Tianjin TV & Radio Tower, built in 1991, rises 415.2 metres above the ground. Seen from a distance, the tower seems to pierce the sky from a mirror-smooth lake. The revolving restaurant on its top can serve 200 people at the same time. It takes 45 to 60 minutes to turn round once. To dine here, one can enjoy a bird's-eye view of the magnificent metropolis of Tianjin.

### Tianjin Sport Center

Covering an area of 111 hectares, the centre includes a gymnasium, a stadium, an indoor swimming pool, bicycle racing ring, base ball arena and athletes' village. In addition, there is also a park for the public to do physical exercises and hold various recreational activities.

The gymnasium, the first-phase project of the Tianjin Sport Centre, is 90.4577 metres long and 48.46 metres wide inside with a floor space of over 5,000 square metres. This multi-functional, international standard sport project has 10,000 seats in the main hall and 2,500 seats in its subordinate hall. The 43rd World Table Tennis Championship was held here in May 1995.



<sup>3</sup> Enorth.com.cn. June 17, 2005.

### Dabei Zen Temple



This famous temple consists of two parts: the old Temple in the west courtyard and the New Temple in the east courtyard. The former was built in 1669 during the Qing Dynasty and the latter was built in 1940. In the New Temple are a series of halls, such as the Heavenly King's Hall, the Great Buddha's Hall, the Lecture Hall and the memorial hall of a Tang-dynasty monk, Xuan Zhuang. Housed in the old Temple are several hundreds of Buddhist statues. These state treasures, made of bronze, iron, stone or wood, are from various dynasties.

### Seaview Tower

Situated at Shizilin (Lion Forest) Bridge on Hebei Road, the Seaview Tower is in fact a Catholic church built in 1869. The building was ruined and rebuilt repeatedly. The last serious destruction took place in 1976 during Tangshan earthquake and it was reconstructed in 1983. The church has been under state protection as a major national relic since 1988.



### Haihe River



A symbol of Tianjin, Haihe River starts from Jingang Bridge in the west suburbs of Tianjin and ends at Dagukou, where the river flows into the Bohai Sea. It spans 70 kilometres across the city proper.

The banks of the river are a popular place where the locals do morning exercises and have family fun in the evening. The place is also the rendezvous for lovers. New buildings and entertainment establishments also congregate along the riverside.

### **Remember:**

Provide a copy of your PASSPORT and TRAVEL ITINERARY to the Office of International Programs.