



Grade Six “Week Without Walls” trip to Tai Shan

Dear Grade 6 Parents,

As next week’s “Week Without Walls” trip to Tai Shan is soon upon us, we would like to provide some information regarding departure times, transportation and contact information. Grades 6 students should arrive at school at the regular time on Monday morning and will leave from QISS at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, September 22. Students should report to Ms. MacDonald at the entrance to the school. Students will return to QISS on Wednesday, September 24, in time to take the regular school buses home at 3:40.

Please do not forget to have your child bring their identity cards or passports (with valid visas)! This is required to check into the hotels.

QISS Grade 6 Homeroom teacher, Ms. Erin MacDonald is the chaperone in charge on this trip. She can be reached in case of emergency at 185 6067 5013. The other chaperones will be School Counselor Mr. Tony Seal and Upper School Science Assistant, Ms. Sunny Lu.

On Monday, September 22, we will be staying at the Blue Horizon International Hotel in Zibo (0533-3579999). On Tuesday, September 23, we will be staying at the top of Tai Shan at the Shen Qi Hotel (0538-8223866).

On the reverse side of this paper is a packing list for your consideration. Remember that students are responsible for carrying their own luggage.

It is the hope that all students hike the entire way up Tai Shan. In the event that a student is unable to complete the climb up the mountain, there is a cable car that is available for the last portion of the hike. The cost of this cable car is 100RMB and is not included in the cost of the trip. Students must have enough money to cover the cost of the cable car in this event.

Program/Itinerary

Monday, September 22, 2013

We will be departing from QISS in the morning and travelling by bus to Zhoucun, near Zibo. The trip should take approximately 4 hours. In Zhoucun, we will experience a trip back in time as we visit the ancient culture street. We will be spending the night at the Blue Horizon International Hotel in Zibo (phone: 0533-3579999).

Tuesday, September 23, 2013

We will be departing from Zibo and travelling by bus to Tai’an. The trip should take approximately 2.5 hours. In Tai’an, we will be following in the footsteps of Chinese emperors and ascending the spiritual mountain of Tai Shan. At the top of Tai Shan, we will visit the various temples and spend the night at Shenqi Hotel (0538-8223866).

Wednesday, September 24, 2013

After watching the glorious sunrise from the summit of Tai Shan, we will be descending the mountain and returning by bus to Qingdao. The students will be back in time for regular dismissal at 3:30.



What do I need to bring?

Documents:

- Passport with valid visa or identity card

Clothing:

- Warm, wind/water proof jacket/ Rain gear
- Layered clothing for both warm and cold weather environments
- Comfortable trousers/shorts (2 pairs)
- Sufficient changes of underwear, socks and T-shirts (at least 3 sets)
- Two pair of comfortable walking shoes (broken in)!!!
- Sleep wear/pajamas
- Bathing suit and swimming cap

Must-have equipment:

- Hat, Sunscreen & Sun glasses
- Water bottle (plastic or metal – NOT GLASS!)
- Personal toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, towel, face cloth, etc.)
- Plastic bag for dirty laundry

- Wet antiseptic wipes
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Day-pack for water, fruit, wallet, extra clothes etc.
- Money for souvenirs, extra snacks and cable car (if needed)

Other optional equipment:

- Cameras, films, and perhaps extra batteries for your camera
- Snack foods (e.g. chocolate, peanuts, raisins, dried food)
- Books, mp3 players, games for the bus ride
- Personal medication (where applicable)
- Wrist watch

How do I pack?

Most of your gear and supply will be carried on the bus during the trip. When hiking up the mountain, students should only take their day-pack with one change of clothes, toiletries, water, camera, etc. to minimize the weight. **A backpack is essential. Carrying a bag by hand up the mountain is very difficult.**



Food

All of the meals while we are away beginning with lunch on Monday, September 02 and concluding with lunch on Wednesday, September 04 will be included. The restaurants we visit will be offering Chinese/Western mixed dishes.

It would also be advisable to have a number of drinks, and healthy snacks in case students get hungry outside of meal times.

Pocket Money

It may be advisable for the students to have a small amount of spending money on the trip. This could come in handy if they wish to purchase food outside of meal times, or if they wish to purchase a souvenir somewhere along the way.

We would suggest the purchase of a neck wallet as a secure mode of carrying valuables and currency while travelling.

Passports

Teachers will collect students' passports before the trip and hold onto them until they return. Passports must be valid and have a valid visa for China. Chinese nationals may provide their identification cards in lieu of a passport.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school by telephone at 86-532-6889-8888 or send an email to pthorpe@qiss.org.cn.

Sincerely,

Peter Thorpe
Upper School Principal
Qingdao No. 1 International School of Shandong