

VOLUNTEER IN CHINA

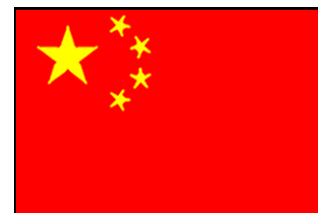
"Everyone is so friendly in China. There are so many cute dogs! My student wrote a poem about the meaning of equality; it was so good. People really know how to save water here. I can play soccer everyday if I want to. I giggle and rejoice with my students and fellow foreigners all the time." - Zoe P.



- **Who:** Volunteers in good physical health between the ages of 18 to 70, or under 18 with parental consent.
- **When:** First Monday of any month, minimum stay 2 weeks and maximum 1 year.
- **Where:** Fengyan, near Guilin and Yangshuo & Chengdu
- **What:** Volunteer as a tutor at an orphanage or for street children, assist with community conservation projects.
- **How:** First submit your Volunteer Application, interview, then submit payment for the program: \$1290 (2 weeks) and \$260 or \$460 each additional week.

"China is an epic adventure. From the wide open and empty panoramas of Tibet to the push and shove of Shànghǎi, from the volcanic dishes of Sìchuān to beer by the bag in seaside Qīngdǎo, a journey through this colossus of a country is a mesmerizing encounter with the most populous, perhaps most culturally idiosyncratic nation on earth. Everyone is talking about China, so why not find out what all the fuss is about?" -Lonely Planet

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PERKS

Guaranteed volunteer placement.

Airport pick-up and transfer.

Basic and safe accommodations in volunteer house with traditional meals included..

Orientation & Training.

International Medical Insurance.

Full-time pre-departure and local support from our team of coordinators.



Join Our Community to ask questions:



Read blogs from current participants or email us: info@culturalembrace.com

PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs

Volunteer in China Offers:

- First-hand experience helping the local community in Fengyan (near Yangshuo/Guilin) or Sichuan, Chengdu.
- An opportunity to broaden your perspective and worldview
- An opportunity to participate in and learn local cultural activities (e.g.: sports, music, cooking)
- Memorable travel experiences with the chance to see exotic sites you have always dreamed about
- The ability to make lifelong friends from around the globe
- A valuable work experience that strengthens your resume, exhibiting your diligence, independence, and intercultural experiences
- A great way to develop and support your self-confidence and interpersonal skills



Cultural Embrace Includes:

- ✓ **Guaranteed Volunteer Placement Prior to Departure**
Cultural Embrace pre-arranges your volunteer project before you leave home to ensure an easy and hassle-free transition into your new life abroad.
- ✓ **Housing and Board**
Basic, clean & comfortable accommodations with 2-4 person sharing basis in a volunteer guest house. Limited single rooms are available upon request for additional fee. All meals are cooked at the guest house and are typical Chinese dishes with plenty of vegetarian and rice dish options.
- ✓ **Visa Assistance**
All volunteers to China travel on the tourist visa. Please contact your local China or China Embassy or Consulate to check details, or ask your *CE* coordinator. Please note that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we can assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your work experience. *Cultural Embrace* has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.
- ✓ **Arrival Pick-Up and Orientation**
Airport pickups are available for weekend arrivals (preferably Sunday mornings). Please anticipate ~3 hours from airport to Fengyang or Chengdu orientation location. A forced overnight in Guilin or Chengdu may be required and basic accommodations will be included with your program fee. Weekday pickups may be arranged for additional fees (~US\$75). You will be

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PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

met at the airport by our local coordinator who will help you settle into the guest house and introduce you to the project. The first week includes many activities, tours and lessons to help volunteers adjust and feel more comfortable in China.

✓ **International Traveler's Insurance with Basic Major Medical Coverage**

Our policy provides basic medical coverage. Additional policies and premium plans are available at extra cost.

✓ **Cultural Embrace "Culture Kit"**

Before your departure, we will send you a cultural kit that is filled with useful tips, advice, information, and your insurance card to prepare you for your amazing adventure of living and working abroad.

✓ **Full-time Representation**

Cultural Embrace provides English-speaking representation in the United States and China prior to, during, and after your placement.

Requirements:

In order to participate in this volunteer program, *Cultural Embrace* requires that you:

- Be between the ages of 18 to 70. Or, if younger than 18, you must have parental or guardian consent
- Have good physical health
- Be open to foreign cultures and living abroad
- Have a high level of responsibility
- Be dedicated to the full term of commitment
- Be a team player
- Enjoy providing a service and working with others in a challenging environment



2012 Program Fees:

| Program | Length | Price |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Orientation (1) + Volunteer (1) | 2 weeks | \$1340 |
| Extra week – Volunteer in Fengyang or Sichuan | 1 week | \$255 |
| Extra week – Beach, Panda, Trekking, Adventure activities | 1 week | \$435 |

*Fees in US\$

**Fees subject to change with foreign currency exchange rate

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Project Details:

Orientation & Culture Week (Fengyan)

The Orientation Week will take place in our regional center located in Fengyan village, with a group of participants from different parts of the world. During this time we will also engage in the following activities: Basic language lessons, learning about “do’s & don’ts” in China, team building activities, introduction to China and the local culture. Furthermore we will do some local sightseeing, such as visits to the local markets, day trips to nearby towns and visits to ancient temples.

You will have time to meet the local people, taste the delicious foods, and learn about the Chinese customs. During this period, you will also be informed about the program and project details.

Village Experience (Fengyan)

Our Volunteer China Program will give you the chance to make real friends among students, teachers and the local villagers. Located in the heart of Guangxi Province, spend weekly periods in Fengyan with Volunteering options to: Teach/Tutor English and Sports Coach; Farm in the forest with fruit trees (Oct-Dec); Assist with eco/environmental projects to help clean and preserve the environment of the village.

Teaching/Tutoring (Fengyan or Sichuan)

Work with local schools and community centers in the area. Teach and tutor the students in English and other subjects; or be a sports coach and teach the children to improve their team-building skills.

Orphanage Assistance (Fengyan or Sichuan)

Assist a local community center/orphanage filled with children younger than 6 years old. Lend a hand with some chore work, such as: cleaning, washing, or watering the garden; or play, tutor, and be a positive role model to the children.



Trekking

We will see the most adventurous side of China. Experience the quietness of the Dali Mountains, trek and overnight stay in a temple in the Chicken Foot Mountain (3240 meters high) and observe the harvest of rice, corn and tobacco in the autumn, wheat and bean in the spring. We will also visit the Shang Qing Village in Bin Chuan and do another trek through the mountains into the lake village Shuang Lang. The itinerary will be adapted to the season. (+\$460/week)

Tai Qi

Study and live at a Tai Qi training school with a local Master located in Yangshuo, Guangxi. Your M-F training will teach you more about posture, hand and foot work, relaxation and power. Please note it takes about 6 months of focused training to be a Tai Qi master. (+\$460/week)

Rock Climbing/Outdoor Adventure

An amazing way to experience what Yangshuo, China have to offer. Rock climbing, caving, kayaking, hiking, absailing, zip-lining, and swimming are just a few fun activities combined in weekly program. Recommended for physically fit participants. (+\$460/week)

Cycling & Tour

Embrace Yangshuo on wheels! Explore and experience the beauty of the Big Banyan, Moon Hill, the Yulong

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Bridge, the Li River, Dragon Cave. Also, enjoy a variety of lessons such as paper crafting, calligraphy, TaiQi, and other Chinese cultural activities. (+\$460)

Panda Program

Volunteers are needed to play a part in safeguarding the future of these cute buddies. The Giant Panda is one of the most delightful and captivating of animals, yet is also one of the most endangered species in the world. The best scientific estimates place the total number of all pandas at only about 1600. The panda is one of the cutest, most magnificent, adorable animals on the earth giving joy to adults and children alike. Volunteers will stay in a hotel within the Panda reserve that is walking distance to your volunteer work station. The hotel is relatively basic and run by the local villagers. Rooms are shared 2-4 people, with an attached bathroom that has 24-hr hot water. (\$460/week)

Chengdu Culture & Tour

Learn more about the local Chinese culture in Sichuan Province. Explore the beautiful and historical scenic spots, such as: Leshan Giant Buddha, E'Mei Mountains, Huanglongxi Ancient City, etc. (\$460/week)

How to Apply:

1. Obtain the **Volunteer Abroad Application Forms & Procedures** documents in one of two ways:
(a) Download the forms from our website at www.culturalembrace.com
(b) Call *Cultural Embrace* at 1-512-469-9089 or Skype: Cultural.Embrace to have the forms mailed to you within 3-4 days.

2. Read the instructions carefully and *complete all forms*.

3. Submit your completed application packet to:

Cultural Embrace
7201 Bill Hughes Road
Austin, TX 78745 USA

Completed packets should include the following:

- Volunteer Program Application
- Signed Volunteer Agreement
- Copy of your passport (information page only)
- Cover Letter in English explaining why you want to Volunteer in China
- Two References: preferably professional and/or character references
- Doctor's note verifying that you are in excellent mental and physical health
- Copy of Police Clearance (obtainable from your community's local police station)
- Two 1½" x 2" official passport-size photos, with your name printed on each photo



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- One smiling full-length photo of yourself (for local coordinator to identify you)
- US\$250 non-refundable deposit (credited towards your program fee)

Upon receipt of your application, a *Cultural Embrace* coordinator will contact you for a 20-30 minute phone interview. Once we accept you in to our program, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of your program fee. In order for us to contact our local partners to start your placement process, we require at least 50% of your program costs.

We recommend submitting your application and program fee at least 3-4 months prior to your desired start date in order for us to organize and arrange your volunteer placement.



**Cultural Embrace* requires an expedited application fee for those applying 16 weeks or less before the desired date of departure. Applications received 12-16 weeks prior to desired departure date will be charged \$150. Applications received fewer than 12 weeks before the desired departure date will be charged \$250.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1) *Why should I pay to volunteer abroad, and where does my money go to with Cultural Embrace?*

Cultural Embrace and our local partners in China specialize in arranging a guaranteed volunteer placement, housing and insurance prior to your departure. This will alleviate the troubles and stress of getting everything organized in a new country, so you will have more time and energy to spend on your volunteer project and living abroad. Your time abroad will still be an independent and memorable one, but we are here to guide you to a safe, healthy and comfortable experience before, during, and after your adventure.

You will be assigned an experienced Program Coordinator from our Austin, Texas office. He/She will provide personalized attention to help pre-arrange your volunteer placement, housing and travel needs. Our Program Coordinator will work with our in-country representative to match your requests and background skills with the availability and needs of the local employer. Once you go abroad, you will be assisted by our in-country representative, and will typically have a direct supervisor for your project, as well.

Your program fee includes your customized volunteer placement, housing and meals, airport transfer, orientation, basic international traveler's insurance, and all of the administrative and logistical costs to set up your placement in the States and China. *Cultural Embrace* also pro-rates the expenses for marketing, advertising, and site visits/communication among all of our programs within our fees.

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2) *What are the living conditions like?*

While on your volunteer placement, you will stay in a clean, simple volunteer facility. All accommodations are shared, 2-4 people per room with modern amenities like a hostel.



3) *What type of meals are included?*

Chinese food is delicious and tasty, for those who enjoy knock for spicy and flavorful dishes. Vegetarian and dietary meals may be met, however, if you have specific allergies, you may need to provide your own food. Please list any special dietary requirement on your application.

4) *What is the application process like, and when will I have confirmation about my volunteer project?*

After C.E. receives your completed application, you will be assigned a personal Program Coordinator who will work with you through your departure and beyond. He/She will conduct ~30 phone/web interview (or in person, if applicable) to discuss your background, goals, and expectations of a volunteer placement. Then, you will receive an invoice for the remainder of the program, and once we receive at least half of this fee, we will send your details to China to find available projects that match your interests. Some companies may want to conduct a phone interview with you, which your Program Coordinator will prepare you accordingly. Placements are confirmed prior to departure with both volunteers and project managers agreeing on the terms, duties, responsibilities, and schedule.

5) *How long can I volunteer in China?*

The minimum duration is two weeks, and you may stay up to one year.

6) *What type of visa assistance does **Cultural Embrace** provide?*

Participants going to China for three months or less will travel on a tourist visa good for up to 90 days. If you are planning to stay longer than 3 months, you will have to apply for an extension of your tourist visa. Please note that any visa fees are the responsibility of the applicant. And, while we try to assist you during the process, ultimately it is your responsibility to ensure that you have obtained the appropriate visa for your volunteer experience. *Cultural Embrace* has no control over the visa process and cannot guarantee that your visa application will be accepted.

7) *What should I wear and bring to China?*



Depending on the time of year and location of your placement, you will need to dress accordingly. Please note that China is a conservative country and the locations in which you will be volunteering will probably be more traditional than the larger cities. *Cultural Embrace* will provide you with more details in your *Cultural Embrace* pre-departure kit.

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PROGRAM DETAILS & FAQs CONTINUED

8) *Can I volunteer and/or live with a friend or partner?*

Yes, you can enroll in this program with a friend or partner. Please just let us know so we can make sure your trip is coordinated simultaneously. We encourage you to travel and explore your world with others. This enhances your experience and memories, and you can be rewarded for referring others to travel on a CE program.



9) *How long will it take to make my placement?*

We ask applicants to apply at least 3-4 months in advanced of your desired start date. The placement may take less time than this, but we want to ensure that we have enough time to find a great placement for you! There are additional administrative fees if you apply less than 3 months in advanced, and we do not contact our local partners until we receive at least 50% of the program fee payment.

10) *When should I buy my plane ticket and does **Cultural Embrace** provide any resources to help with plane tickets?*

Plane tickets should not be purchased until after your placement has been confirmed. *Cultural Embrace* works with consolidators and discount travel agencies that can help find cheaper tickets than those that are available to the general public. We have a partnership with STA Travel (1-877-236-1048) for great student/youth rates, and they have a very nominal service fee if you need to make any changes before or during your travels.

11) *What do I do if I have a problem or complaint within my volunteer placement?*

You should first speak with your project supervisor or manager to give them an opportunity to explain or investigate the situation. If the complaint still exists, then please contact your local representative in China, as well as let *Cultural Embrace* (Austin office) know so we may diplomatically mediate on your behalf. Please note that you will be assigned an in-country representative that will assist you with any questions or concerns. We also encourage you to fill out our program evaluations.

12) *Is there someone I may speak to about their experience on this program, and being abroad?*

Yes, we have a network of current and past travelers that are happy to communicate with you. Due to confidentiality, please contact our Austin office to receive a list of names and contact information of participants and alumni that have agreed to be contacted by others. Additionally, we encourage you to check out, use, and get involved with our social media community. These community sites will provide great insight of what you should expect on your adventure abroad. Plus, we provide additional discounts to our community members!

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Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/CulturalEmbraceTravel>)

Twitter (<http://twitter.com/culturalembrace>)

Blog (http://www.culturalembrace.com/log/cat_china_blogs.html/)

Youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/CulturalEmbrace1>)

A Few Words. . .

At *Cultural Embrace*, we want to facilitate experiences that, first and foremost, help individuals have a safe and healthy time abroad while becoming better acquainted with both themselves and the richly textured cultures of the world around them. Our partnerships with companies, non-profits, and NGOs grant program participants the opportunity to explore China first-hand while adding valuable content to their resumes. Volunteering in China is, putting it shortly, a tremendously edifying experience that is sure to leave you with lasting memories and a renewed sense of purpose. So do yourself a favor: call *Cultural Embrace* straight away and let us start planning your once-in-a-lifetime international adventure!

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@culturalembrace.com or by phone at 1-512-469-9089 or by Skype: Cultural.Embrace.



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