Dear Middlebury College Alumni, Parents and Friends,

Today’s China is a country of contrasts, extremes and juxtapositions. Once home to emperors, the shanghai of a revolution and now rejuvenated – it is a happening 21st century global powerhouse. Although many of China’s bicycles have been replaced by cars, and the wave of modern architecture is astounding, the country still retains a stable, longer-than-lifeline demeanor.

This journey to China will begin in Shanghai, home to the blinking skyline of the city’s magnificent Pudong area, fine restaurants and investing galleries. From here we travel to Central Sichuan and its capital, Chengdu, surrounded by dotted silken and forested mountains. Highlights of our stay include a visit to Sanya Museum which houses recent archaeological treasures of great significance and Ginghong Shan, a 2000-year-old Buddhist retreat mountain. We will also learn about Sichuan poetry and calligraphy before we fly to Kunming. Here, the group will enjoy some private meetings with local university faculty members, before taking a train to Dali, standing at an altitude of 2,400 ft. between the mountains and Erhai Lake. This area is home to the Bai people, one of the country’s colorful ethnic minorities.

We continue on to Yangshuo, remnants of ancient China with its cobbled streets and ancient Ming and Qing dynasty houses. Finally, we return to Shanghai for three days including a full day trip nearby Shanghaita.

We anticipate great interest in this exciting and well-paced journey through China. Please contact our travel partner Authentic Asia at (888) 586-9958 or tina@authenticasia.net to reserve your space.

With warm regards,

Coleen Kenny, Associate Director
Alumni and Parent Programs
Middlebury College

With Professor John Berninghausen

INSIDE CHINA:

April 13 – 27, 2016
Middlebury College Alumni Office
700 Exchange Street
Middlebury College
Middlebury, VT 05753

EXCLUSIVE REGISTRATION

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DAY 1 | April 13 | SHANGHAI

Each traveler arriving on Weds. April 13th, at Shanghai’s Pudong International Airport will be met and transferred to the J. W. Marriott Hotel Changfeng Park located much closer to Shanghai’s Hongqiao International Airport used for domestic flights. JW Marriott Shanghai

DAY 2 | April 14 | SHANGHAI to CHENGDU

**Breakfast** at Linden Center. We will be transferred to the hotel by motor coach (please note: carrying or pulling your luggage a few blocks through pedestrian areas only will be necessary. After checking in, we will set out on an orientation stroll through the surrounding area, including a visit to the Yu Yuan Buddhist meditation house, noted for its gardens and teahouses. Welcome dinner this evening. Buddha Zen Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 3 | April 15 | CHENGDU

A morning tour of Shuangliu Sanxingdui Archaeological Site and Museum outside of Chengdu featuring fabulous and unparalleled bronze and gold artifacts dating back to 3100-2500 BCE. After lunch, we will visit the city of Leshan to view the world’s largest seated Buddha statue. After dinner in the nearby restaurant, we will check into the hotel, before setting out on an orientation walk along the bank of the Dadu River. After this, we will be transferred to the hotel. Sky Valley Hotel

DAY 4 | April 16 | CHENGDU

After breakfast we will head out to the Dujiangyan Flood Control and Irrigation system, one of the marvels of ancient Chinese engineering believed to have been constructed in 2500 BC. After lunch we will visit the nearby village of Xizhou, noted for its balance between modern and traditional Chinese architecture. After dinner we will enjoy a performance of “Shu Xian Opera.”

DAY 5 | April 17 | XIZHOU to LIJANG, YUNNAN

Today we will travel to Lijiang, a World Heritage Site and a city within one of the last remaining cultural and linguistic minorities in China. After checking in, we will be transferred to the hotel. **Breakfast** at Linden Center. We will visit the justly famous Three Tower White Pagodas so often photographed as a symbol of old Yunnan. Today’s highlight will be the start of the Third Lunar Month street festival in Lijiang, one of the largest festivals in Yunnan. Lunch is on one’s own. Dali West Lake Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch)

DAY 10 | April 22 | XIUCHUO to LIJANG, YUNNAN

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OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES

• Additional days at the Shaxi J. W. Marriott Hotel prior to or after the tour can be arranged on a space available basis.

• Private day excursions to Shaxi prior or after the tour can be arranged at the hotel.

• Additional time in Beijing prior to or after the tour can be arranged at the hotel.

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