

# TRAVEL AND GAIN INTERNATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE in **CHINA**

*Working to preserve nature and culture in China*

MAY 17-28, 2011

12 DAYS in South China: Guilin, Yangshuo, Longsheng, Shanghai

Graduate and Continuing Education Credits available  
Participants need not be students at Virginia Tech  
Apply online at [www.educationabroad.vt.edu](http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu) by March 1, 2011

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Join us for a two-week trip to the beautiful Guangxi Province of South China where we will work with local partners seeking to integrate environmental conservation and economic development. The journey will prompt questions of “what is the ‘real’ China?” and “how can traditional culture continue in the face of globalization?”

Participants will work as a professional consulting team to conduct a project and produce a report on the opportunities and constraints for sustainable development in the region. Pre- and post-trip work is required.



The China Sustainability Initiative (CSI) is a series of professional development programs and client services focusing on leadership in sustainability...

- Providing graduate students and professionals with international work experience
- Offering applied research and consulting services to partner organizations
- Facilitating cooperative research projects and international professional exchanges.

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THE CHINESE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE  
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<http://nr.ncr.vt.edu/chinasustainability/>

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## GUILIN AND YANGSHUO - 5 DAYS

Situated on the banks of the Li River, Guilin is the largest urban center in the northern region of Guangxi Province. Guilin's history dates to the 3rd century BC and its rapidly growing population is fueled in part by rural-to-urban migration from places like Longsheng for which the city serves as an economic and cultural hub. Guilin is famous for its iconic karst geology, and is locally known as the birthplace of Chinese tourism—U.S. Presidents Nixon, George Bush and Clinton have all visited Guilin. The region's agricultural and natural heritage assets are at risk from various forms of urban and tourism development.

We will use sustainable tourism and urban development as the lens for examining the rising threats of transportation, congestion and pollution as Guilin's population expands and becomes more affluent. We will visit scenic Chuan Mountain, Banyan Lake, cruise the Li River to the village of Yangshuo, and tour related sites to better understand how Guilin is changing.

Through a series of forums with government agencies, lectures by local university faculty, and site visits we will get a behind-the-scenes look at the complex dynamics of sustainable tourism development in Guilin. We will see first hand the Chinese approaches to urban planning, natural resource protection, and cultural preservation, and how they intersect in a nationally prominent locale.

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## LONGSHENG - 4 DAYS

Located in the northeast portion of Guangxi Province, the mountainous Longsheng region is known for its diverse ethnic minorities with distinct customs and traditional agricultural livelihoods. Construction of Longsheng's elaborate rice terraces, including the area known as the Devil's Backbone, dates to the Yuan Dynasty in the 13th century.

We will focus our attention on Longsheng's 700 year history of sustainability and the contemporary challenges it faces. Using world-famous Ping'an village as our base, we will examine the area's changing landscape including the tenuous relationship between local agriculture and the tourism industry, the accompanying role of governments, and what the fate of these marvelous terraces may be. Site visits with farmers, merchants and officials from local villages throughout the Longsheng area will help us to better understand the opportunities and constraints for integrating environmental conservation and economic development in the region.

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## SHANGHAI - 3 DAYS

While retaining its legacy of European commerce in the 19th century, Shanghai has become arguably the most modern city in the world. As China's most populace city with nearly 20 million inhabitants and a breathtaking skyline, Shanghai will serve both to demonstrate the growing urban side of China as well as an ideal locale for reflecting on the learning objectives of the trip.



Photos, from the top: exploring the Li River watershed in Guilin County; Hillside rice terraces in Longsheng agricultural village; Shanghai, the 'other' China.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PROGRAM LEADERS

Dr. Michael Mortimer

<http://nr.ncr.vt.edu/people/MikeMortimer.htm>

Dr. David Robertson

<http://nr.ncr.vt.edu/people/davidrobertson.htm>

### ELIGIBILITY

Professionals seeking international work experience as well as graduate students and senior undergraduates. No prior knowledge of Chinese languages or natural resources expertise is required. Visas required. *Space is limited, so apply early.*

### COSTS

Program Fee: \$2900\*

Airfare: \$1600\*\*

Tuition (optional): up to 6 graduate credits or CEUs available.

\*Fee includes lodging, meals, local transport, activity and admission fees, translators, administrative support.

\*\* Estimated cost of roundtrip flight.

### FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships are available. In addition, students may purchase ISIC (International Student ID) cards to receive travel discounts.

### APPLY ONLINE

<http://www.educationabroad.vt.edu>

**Application deadline: March 1, 2011!**

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*Itinerary and course content subject to change. Note: Virginia Tech reserves the right to make cancellations, date and cost adjustments and other necessary changes in the program.*



Photos (clockwise from top): Guilin's Sun Moon pagodas at night; rural to urban migration is changing the Guangxi region; China Sustainability Initiative team (L to R: Dr. Dequn Zhou, Dr. David Robertson, Ms. Helen He, Mr. Robbie Fried, and Dr. Michael Mortimer); sunset over Guilin; Shanghai on the rise; Longsheng rice farmer; rice and sugar production near Guilin.