



ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO NEWSLETTER

3590 Bayview Avenue, North York, Ontario, Canada, M2M 3S6

January 2014

Vol. 40. No. 8

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 5 th January @ 11:00 am	Maidyarem Ghambar (F)
Friday, 3 rd January @ 7:00 pm	Avesta Class
Tuesday, 7 th January @ 10:00 am	Kanoun Ladies Meeting
Friday, 10 th January @ 11:00 am	Seniors games
Saturday, 11th January @ 5:00 pm	Social Evening & Sports Night
Sunday, 19 th January @ 10:30 am	Khushali nu Jashan
Sunday, 19 th January @ 2:45 pm	Children's Religion Class
Friday, 24 th January @ 11:00 am	Seniors - DVD
Sunday 26 th January @ 2:45 pm	Children's Religion Class
Saturday 1 st February @ 7:00 pm	Jashne Sadeh
Saturday , 8 th February @ 7:00 pm	Scouts Valentine Day Dance
Saturday, 22 nd March	Nourooz Dinner Dance

All events will be held at Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr, 3590 Bayview Avenue, unless otherwise specified. ZSO as publisher is not responsible for content and support of any flyers not issued by them. Anyone (anywhere in the world) can receive the newsletter by email, by simply emailing their contact information (name, mailing address, email and telephone number) to office@zso.org

Please note: Membership fees are due on 1 April 2014. Members are hereby informed that unless their fees are paid by that date, they **may not receive the April Newsletter or any further communications from ZSO after March-end.**

Fee Schedule :

- \$100.00 F = Family (married or single, includes children under 18)
- \$ 60.00 I = Individual (non-student over age 18)
- \$ 30.00 YS = Youth Student (full time student, age 18 to 25 yrs,) D
- \$ 30.00 ISR = Individual Senior (age 65 and over)
- \$ 50.00 FSR= Family Senior (both spouses age 65 and over)

ZSO Newsletter Advertising Rates

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Miscellaneous Two liners: \$15.00; Inserts: \$200.00

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EXECUTIVE CORNER: According to a recent Credit Suisse report, **US median wealth for 2013 stood at \$ 44,900 (US), while Canada stands at \$ 90,300.** Part of that dramatic difference is thanks to Canada's untroubled housing market in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, but the fundamental factor is Canada's robust economic performance. In terms of global production, energy-rich Canada is #6 in Oil; #3 in gas (behind Russia and Iran); #3 in hydro-electricity; and #2 in Uranium. Mineral-rich Canada is #1 in Potash; #3 in Aluminum, and easily ranks in the top-5 for most other minerals. At \$ 200 Billion, Canada has the 5th largest urban construction market. Canada has the highest per capita income among the 28 OECD countries. *Thank you Canada ! Our home and native land !*

Sarosh J. Bharucha, President

Best wishes to all recipients of this newsletter from the Executive Committee of the ZSO and a Happy New Year 2014 !

EC News:

- **Full Disclosure:** ZSO has expended a total of \$ 117,889.50 for legal fees to Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG):

○ General	- starting 2007.04.16	\$ 25,421.56
○ Site Plan application		\$ 13,517.07
○ Mortazavi Lawsuit		\$ 10,742.47
○ BCCC – Return of donations		\$ 68,208.76
○ Total		<u>\$ 117,889.86</u>

The Mortazavi lawsuit is not resolved and expenses could go still higher.

- **MGDM Renovations:** The Architect has appointed a new structural engineer in response to concerns raised by some members of the Renovations Committee. An application has been made to the city to cancel the old Demolition Permit and the associated Letters of Credit. (Details are shown in the Report of Visit to City Hall).
- **Contact Information - additional Sub-Committee members:** Three more sub committees have been activated:

○ Facilities	Chair - Khushru Chothia	ExecOfficer1@zso.org
○ Finance	Chair – Jamshed Kershaw	Treasurer@zso.org
○ Interfaith	Chair – Bahram Bahrami	Interfaith@zso.org

Progress as Promised: The following has been accomplished since the new EC took office:

- **December:** Visit to City hall (in North York) to cancel Building Demolition Permits and Letters of Credit related to the cancelled Darbe Mehr Re-build project.
- **November 2013:** Enterprise day held, after a lapse of 8 years.
- **October 2013:** Renovations to Caretaker's apartment completed. Sponsorships for two scholarship awards received. Computerized vital records uploaded to the Cloud. First-ever Strategy Day held.
- **September 2013:** Newsletter is made available to anyone via email.
- **August 2013:** Opened up attendance to Executive Committee meetings.

Recent Events:

1. **Volunteers Dinner and Dance** was celebrated on November 16, 2013 by nearly ~200 volunteers. This annual event celebrates the incredible contributions of our volunteers who put in endless hours to stage the various programs offered by ZSO. These volunteers are the ones who work silently and behind the scenes to make ZSO the great success that it has become. Mitra Jam and Mahshad Khosraviani received certificates of recognition from the Provincial Minister of Citizenship and Culture. The highlight of the event was the music show by Sunil Patel and Lalit Thakrar. DJ Meherwan Wadia had everybody, the young and even the very old dancing away to western music, Indian music and Persian music, well into the night. Percy (Mystik Masala) Daruwalla cooked up a sumptuous dinner which had all the tongues wagging for doubles and even triples. A big thank you to our

volunteers and to Co-Chairs Zubin Sethna and Zarine Dordi for putting on a great show. (For photos - please see enclosed sheet).

2. **Enterprise Day** was attended by ~24 members on Sunday 17th November. After a round of introductions, ideas were exchanged on methods to boost business within the community such as :
 - a) Displaying the names and services of members on the ZSO website
 - b) Portraying the services of one member in each ZSO newsletter
 - c) Realigning ZSO's procurement policies to ensure fairness and equal opportunity
 - d) Organizing quarterly meetings to maintain the momentum
 - e) Forming a sub-committee

Each attendee received a gift to help improve their sales skills. Each attendee will endeavor to expand the alliance.

Support Alliance News: At 12 noon on 3rd November 1972, he was standing in line at Global House in Toronto to hand-in his immigration application, when the federal government issued an ordinance banning all such applications from within Canada. He returned to India and applied again, successfully. This is the persistence that has always marked *aapro-jaanito-and-maanito Dara Homavazir*. As a provincial employee, he started a janitorial business cleaning office buildings in the evenings. Using his experience in Property Management, Dara started a home renovation business. In business since 1995, his company A & Z Renovations specializes in residential and commercial construction. His services include new basements, kitchens, bathrooms and home-additions. TEVA Stores in Yorkdale Mall, Markville Mall and Holt Renfrew (downtown) basement-level were constructed by Dara as well as Doctor's offices and three additions of houses in the last two years. He can diagnose difficult problems quickly and efficiently and offer appropriate solutions to his clients.

Always cheerful, he has reached out to help his extended family. He often visits elderly Zoroastrians in nursing/retirement homes to keep them in touch with the community. A role-model of self-reliance, father of two, grandfather of three, Dara recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Happy Birthday, Dara !

Dara is a member of the Support Alliance whose members support ZSO through their services and contacts. By patronizing the entrepreneurs of the Support Alliance, Zoroastrians can help to grow the wealth of the community.

Death: Behman Sethna, husband of Freny and father of Framroze, Shireen and Gulshan on December 3rd, 2013 in Toronto, Ontario.

Awards: Pervez Masani has loved woodworking since his youth. In India, he would sit with the carpenter and give him ideas on how to re-size old, big furniture into smaller pieces that would fit the apartment. His foray into woodworking here in Toronto started when two good friends requested him to make "patlas" for their respective children's wedding. He then decided to do this as a way of contributing to the ZSO and keep the tradition alive.

He joined a woodworking group in Scarborough and learnt a great deal under their mentoring and guidance. Through this group, he was also exposed to woodworking shows where master craftsmen showcased their work. Pervez started doing small relief work carvings and, as his interest grew, he became more involved. The group in Scarborough has very high standards and that made him want to live up to their expectations even more. It was also a good way to pass the long winter days. Three years ago, he won his first ribbon in a competition and since then he has taken part in other competitions in the region. Congratulations Pervez !

Music to Soothe the Soul: As stated in the last newsletter, a music program is under consideration to bring the community together through the simple pleasures of music. The program is clearly targeted to those who already play an instrument, but novices are also encouraged to apply. Please contact Fred Mirza (mirzafa2003@yahoo.ca or (416) 744-9207 if you are interested.

100 Toronto Scout Group continues to be very active with all Sections participating in a variety of scouting activities. On Sunday, 8th December, the Willow Valley Area Commissioner visited our group at the Darbe Mehr along with two Assistant Commissioners. He presented four of our Leaders with **Scouts Canada's Medals and Certificates of**

Appreciation for their dedicated services to our group. Pearl Chothia and Ashish Italia (Beavers), Mashya Amroliwala (Cubs) and Farhad Sethna (Venturers), who also happens to be our Group Commissioner.

Congratulations to our 4 dedicated Leaders!

Our eager little Beavers had a Friday-Saturday Sleepover at the Darbe Mehr. But this time they did a FIRST: sleeping in tents which they set up in the DM hall, an experience they thoroughly enjoyed! Our Cubs buried themselves in Scoutcraft with some of them earning the Cooking Badge, Hiking Badge and Flex Training Badge. The Cubs also enjoyed and benefited by participating over a weekend in Scout Canada Activities: the Eco-Spirit Hike and Green Star activity. Under supervision from MGDm's caretaker, our Cubs and Scouts did some community service by carrying firewood for our Sacred Fire (Atash) from the outdoor area and placed it in our Prayer Hall to protect the wood from the ravages of winter.

And how can we forget the **Volunteer Appreciation Night** on 16th November, when 32 of our Leaders, their spouses and some Scouts were invited by the ZSO to a night of hospitality, fine dining and entertainment organized by the ZSO's Entertainment Committee. **Thank you, ZSO!** The MC for the evening was our very own Zubin Sethna who made a special mention of the many values and benefits that Scouting has brought to his life.

The focus of the entire Scout Group is currently on our fund raiser – the **Valentine Dance** and we hope that parents and well-wishers will attend and contribute to the success of this most enjoyable annual event. For further details please see the flyer attached to this newsletter. (Submitted by: Russi Surti).

ZSO Newsletter Information:

Publisher: Zoroastrian Society of Ontario

Editor: Natasha Bozorgi

Visit us on the Internet at: www.zso.org



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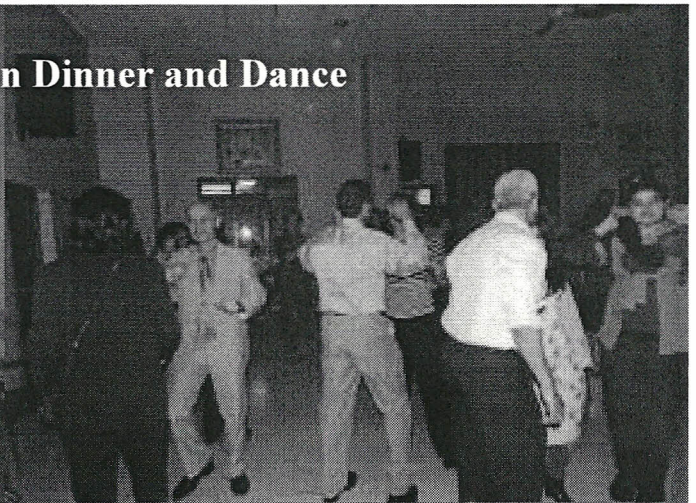
**REPORT OF THE VISIT TO CITY HALL FOR CANCELLATION OF THE BUILDING
DEMOLITION PERMIT AND LETTERS OF CREDIT RELATED TO THE DARBE MEHR
REBUILD PROJECT**

1. In order for the ZSO to apply for Renovation Permits to carry out the renovations to the kitchen and washroom areas of the MGDM as mandated by the membership, the Site Plan Approval and the Building Demolition Permit issued by the City of Toronto (North York Division) related to the defunct Darbe Mehr rebuild project had to be cancelled and the Letters of Credit given to the city in connection with these permits also be returned to the ZSO.
2. Despite numerous inquiries to persons connected with the Rebuild project neither the Site Plan Approval, Building Demolition Permit, or the Letters of Credit could be located by the current ZSO Executive Committee.
3. Because the Letters of Credit were costing the ZSO money due to fees having to be paid to keep them open, on 12th Dec 2013 the Vice President (Dara Panthakee) and the Secretary (Fredoon Khory) visited the City's Office at 5100 Yonge Street to try request cancellation of the Site Plan Approval and Demolition Permit and return of the Letters of Credit.
4. The first stop was at the Building Dept. where much to their surprise The VP and Secretary were informed that the Building Inspector had cancelled the permits in January 2013 because per the city's rules if no work has commenced within one year of the permit being issued, the Building Inspector has the authority to cancel it. The Building Inspector would send a letter to the owner of the property 30 days in advance of the cancellation date giving notice of cancellation.
5. The VP and Secretary asked for a copy of the Building Inspector's cancellation letter but were told that since the ZSO was not the owner of the property at 3590 Bayview Avenue a copy could not be given to them. The letter had been sent to the attention of the Rustom Guiv Foundation Ontario (RGFO) which is the registered owner of the property.

6. The VP and the Secretary then requested a return of the fees paid in relation to the permits and were informed that per the city's rules a refund of only \$5000-6000 could be expected out of the total of \$ 35,738.63 that was paid by the ZSO to the city. At the request of the VP copies of Receipts for the fees paid by the ZSO were given to the VP and Secretary.
7. For return of the Letters of Credit the VP and Secretary were told to go to the individual departments to which they had been given. The Parks Dept. was the first stop and they informed us that a letter of Credit for \$6000 that they were holding would be returned after they were advised by the Building Dept. that the Building Permits had been cancelled and their employee had visited the property and was satisfied that no trees had been cut down. So the VP and Secretary went back to the Building Dept. and requested them to send an email to the Parks Dept. to advise them of the cancellation of the Building permit.
8. The next stop was the Planning Dept. Unfortunately the person we were asked to meet regarding the remaining Letters of Credit was not available. The VP will try to contact this person in the coming days.
9. On Fri. 13th December the Secretary was at the Darbe Mehr and the Chairman of the RGFO, Dr. Russi Balsara happened to be there also. The Secretary asked him about the Permit Cancellation notification that the Building Inspector had sent to the RGFO in Dec 1012. The Chairman of the RGFO denied having received or seen this letter from the City's Building Inspector.

Now that this Executive Committee is aware that the Building Demolition Permit has been cancelled, an application will be made for fresh permits to enable the Kitchen & Washroom Renovations to proceed.

Volunteers Appreciation Dinner and Dance





ZOROASTRIAN SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

Would like to invite the entire Zoroastrian Community to attend our First

2014 KHUSHALI NU JASHAN

To Thank Ahura Mazda for blessing us with a year filled with success



Sunday, January 19th 2014

Jashan at 10.30am and to Lunch thereafter

Cost of attendance along with Lunch \$7.00

5yrs & under Free

Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr, 3590 Bayview Ave, Toronto, On. M2M 3S6

Donations of ravo, sev, malido, dahi are welcome.

Please email your info before Jan 15th, 2014 on
entertainment@zso.org or Contact Zubin Sethna # 905-780-1726

OR

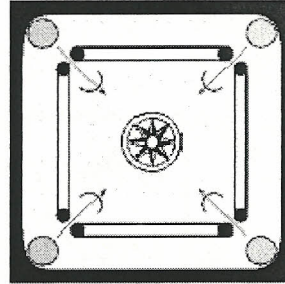
Mail the form below along with your cheques (Payable to: Zoroastrian Society of Ontario)
to Zubin Sethna, 36 Martini Drive, Richmond Hill, On. L4S 2T7

Name (Adult)	Name (Child 5 & under)	Ven	Non-Ven
Total Amount \$	PH #		

Saturday – January 11, 2014

Social Evening & Sports Night

VISIT US AT: [HTTP://SPORTNIGHTS.ZOOMSHARE.COM](http://SPORTNIGHTS.ZOOMSHARE.COM)



A fun-filled evening with Sports, Dinner and Dancing

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 PM – Sports (Table Tennis, Carrom, Cards etc)

Time: 8:00 – 9:00 PM – Dinner & Dessert

Time: 9:00 – 10:00 PM – “Gorgeous Hawaiian Dancers”

Time: 10:00 PM – Midnight – Dancing (Professional DJ with Light & Sound)

Dinner: Shrimp Curry with Golden Crust Potatoes & Long Grain Basmati Rice

Dinner: Kachumbar (Salad)

For Vegetarians: Okra, Curry, Golden Crust Potatoes & Long Grain Basmati Rice

Dessert: Mango Kulfi (Special Mango Ice-cream)

Soft Drinks, Refreshments, Tea/Coffee

Children under 5 years free.

Children between 6-10 years: \$5/-

Dinner, Dancing and Entertainment: \$10/- per person

**Please give your names for dinner not later than
January 07, 2014 by calling:**

Kerman Katrak: 905-707-7359

Email: kkatrak@gmail.com

100 TORONTO
FIRST ZOROASTRIAN SCOUT GROUP PRESENTS

Valentine Dinner & Dance

વેલેન્ટીન ડિનર ને ડાન્સ



જાહેન: Saturday, February 8th, 2014
તિલે: 7.00pm onwards.....
લોકેશન: Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr
પ્રાઇસ: Adults \$25 / Children \$15 (6 - 12yrs)

Buffet Dinner, Dessert & Beverages
Cash Bar
Plenty of Games, Gifts & Prizes

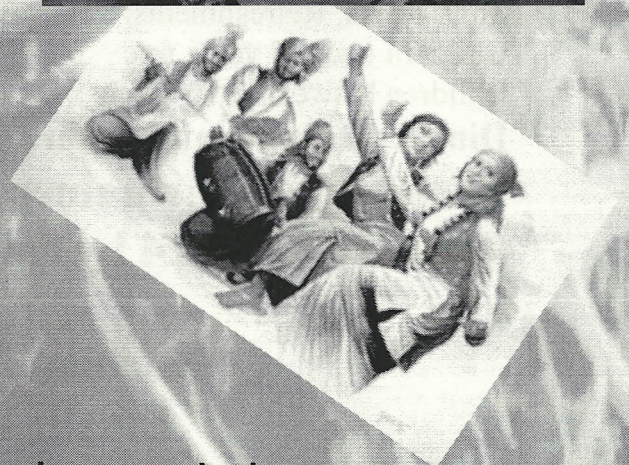


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For information and tickets please contact:

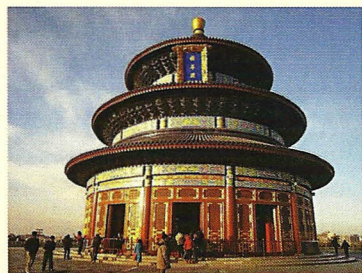
Rashna Unvala (905) 826-8054 or Shiraz Tampal (416) 371-3704 or Anahita Ogra (647) 404-1388

Mail your Cheques (Made out to "100 Toronto Scout Group") to:

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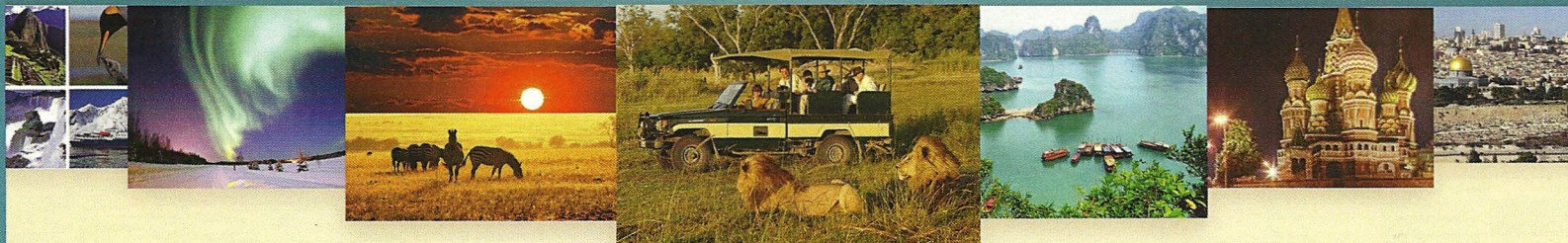
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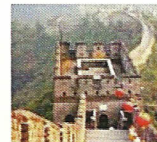
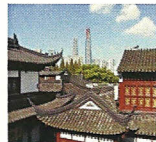
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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Yangtze River cruise
- Great Wall of China
- Forbidden City
- Terra Cotta Warriors
- Garden City of Suzhou
- Local Cuisine and Shows



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All gratuities included

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Day 1 / May 14: Toronto – Beijing

Your journey begins with a transpacific flight to China. Move your watch a day ahead as you cross the International Dateline.

Day 2 / May 15: Beijing

Welcome to Beijing, the political and cultural centre of the world's most populous nation. Your friendly national tour guide will meet you at the airport followed by a transfer to **5-Star Marriott City Wall Hotel**. (D)

Day 3 / May 16: Beijing

Visit **Tian An Men Square** and the **Forbidden City**, home of many priceless treasures. Savour a **Dim Sum Lunch** and explore the **Temple of Heaven**. A sumptuous **Peking Duck dinner** will be served in the evening. **Optional: Legend of Kungfu Show**. Overnight at **5-Star Marriott City Wall Hotel** (B/L/D)

Day 4 / May 17: Beijing

Stroll along the mighty **Great Wall** then have locally flavored lunch. On the way back take a photo stop at the **Olympic sites**, where you will see the **Bird Nest Stadium** and **Water Cube Aquatic Centre**. Visit the **Cloisonné Factory** to experience the art of Chinese pottery-making and go on a **Hutong tour** by Pedicab, driving through the ancient streets and residential areas to see the daily life of local people. Overnight at **5-Star Marriott City Wall Hotel** (B/L/D)

Day 5 / May 18: Beijing-Yichang

After breakfast, transfer to airport for your flight to Yichang. (Lunch in flight). Arrive in the afternoon & enjoy a tour of Yichang. After dinner you board the **5 star MS Yangtze 2** for your river cruise. (B/L/D)

Day 6 / May 19: Yangtze River Cruise

Participate in guided Tai Chi session on the sun deck early morning. Enjoy the stunning scenery as you sail through **Xiling Gorge**. Embark on a shore excursion to the **Three Gorges Dam Site**, the largest water conservancy project undertaken by man. Later, enjoy the spectacular sights while passing through the **Three Gorges Dam 5-stage ship locks**. In the evening, there will be a **Captain's Dinner** and a **Folkloric Performance**. (B/L/D)

Day 7 / May 20: Three Gorges

Participate in a guided Tai Chi session on the sun deck early morning. Depending on the river conditions, there may be a shore excursion to **Shennong Stream**, which is a natural habitat of the mandarin ducks and golden-hair monkeys. After lunch, admire breathtaking sights of the narrow cliff walls and dramatic vistas in the **Wu Gorge** and **Qutang Gorge**. (B/L/D)

Day 8 / May 21: Yangtze River Cruise

Participate in guided Tai Chi session on the sun deck early morning. Later in the morning, take a shore excursion to **Fengdu "the Ghost City"** or **Shibaozhai**, home to a 12 storey red wooden pavilion built against a protruding 220 meter rectangular rock with sheer cliffs on the north bank. (B/L/D)

Day 9 / May 22: Chongqing – Xian by flight

As the cruise ends, you will disembark in Chongqing Pier. Upon arrival you will visit the **Erling Park** and the **Flying Tiger Museum**. After lunch you will be transferred to the airport and fly to Xian. Tour the **Wild Goose Pagoda** and the ancient **City Wall**. Overnight at the **5-Star Golden Flower by Shangri-La Hotel**. (B/L/D)

Day 10 / May 23: Xian

Explore the famous **Terra Cotta Museum** where you will see the mighty terra cotta warriors. Lunch features local cuisine. En-route visit the amazing **Lacquerware Furniture Store**. In the evening, watch an amazing **Tang Dynasty Dinner Show**. Dinner includes **four varieties of specialty dumplings**. (B/L/D)

Day 11 / May 24: Xian - Shanghai by flight

Take a morning flight to Shanghai. Visit the **Orient TV Tower**, **Yu Garden** and the **Bund**. Western dinner will be arranged at the hotel. **Optional: Acrobatic Show** available. Stay at **5-Star Renaissance Yangtze Hotel** for three nights. (B/L/D)

Day 12 / May 25: Shanghai-Suzhou

Coach to Suzhou, the 'Venice of the East'. Visit the **Master of Nets Garden** and take a boat ride on the **Grand Canal**. Visit **Silk Factory and Workshop**. Back to Shanghai and join in the farewell dinner. Stay at **5-Star Renaissance Yangtze Hotel**. (B/L/D)

Day 13 / May 26: Shanghai

Free day to explore Shanghai or enjoy a shopping spree and sight-seeing at your leisure. **Optional tours** will be offered. (B)

Day 14 / May 27: Shanghai –Toronto

After breakfast, transfer to the airport on the high speed Maglev train. Say good-bye to China as you board your transpacific flight home. (B)

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

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May 14, 2014	
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Land Only Includes China domestic flights	\$ 2,999
* Single Supplement	\$ 650
** Full Single Supplement	\$ 999

Tour extensions to other South East Asia destinations also available

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- Round trip economy air from Toronto
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- Meals as specified
- Sightseeing & admissions
- Deluxe A/C coach
- **All gratuities included**

PACKAGE PRICE EXCLUDES:

- International air taxes and fuel surcharge (approx. \$500-\$600)
- China domestic airport, fuel & government taxes (approx. CAD \$ 150 per person)
- Airport transfers for "Land Only" guests
- Visa fees
- Meals not described in the itinerary
- Optional sightseeing and shows
- Travel insurance (mandatory)
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