

ZEN BUDDHIST PILGRIMAGE TO CHINA

Presented by

THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY, NEW YORK
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1981

JAPAN AIR LINES



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October 14 – November 17

The Zen Studies Society, New York, is the first Zen Buddhist organization in the United States invited to make a pilgrimage to China to visit temples, pagodas and places of practice of the revered Zen Buddhist Patriarchs, especially those from the T'ang (618-907 AD) to the Sung Dynasties (960-1279 AD). The participants in this tour will have a rich experience of this Golden Age of Zen in China, during which art and architecture flourished along with religion. The tour is limited to 32 persons.

The Zen Studies Society was founded in 1956 by the late D. T. Suzuki. It is the parent organization for New York Zendo, where city students carry on part-time zazen practice, and Dai Bosatsu Zendo, a mountain monastery where monks and lay students practice full-time for longer periods. Eido Shimano Roshi, a Rinzaï Zen priest, is the Abbot of The Zen Studies Society and will lead the pilgrimage to China. Professor Alan Sponberg of Princeton University, Buddhist scholar and historian, will join the group as resource person and lecturer.

Here is the itinerary:

- Oct. 14, 1981 Depart JFK by Japan Air Lines. (Oct. 13 is a karmically important date which repeatedly recurs in the transmission of Buddhism from East to West.)
- Oct. 15 Arrive Hong Kong
- Oct. 16 Hydrofoil from Hong Kong to Guangzhou (Canton); Evening flight to Guilin (Kweilin)
- Oct. 18 Flight to Hangzhou (Hangchow) (Ningbo)
- Oct. 22 Train to Shanghai
- Oct. 25 Train to Suzhou (Soochow)
- Oct. 26 Train to Zhenjiang (Chengchiang)
- Oct. 28 Yangzhou (Nanking)
- Oct. 29 Nanjing (Nanking)
- Oct. 31 Train to Kaifeng (Kaifong)
- Nov. 3 Train to Luoyang (Loyang)
- Nov. 5 Train to Xi'an (Sian)
- Nov. 8 Flight to Taiyuan
- Nov. 10 Shijiazhuang (Shihchiachuang)
- Nov. 12 Train to Beijing (Peking)
- Nov. 15 Flight to Guangzhou (Canton)
- Nov. 16 Train to Hong Kong
- Nov. 17 Tour disbands

SOME DESCRIPTIVE NOTES

Guangzhou (Canton) Near Canton are several temples closely associated with Hui Neng, the Sixth Patriarch, Eno Daikan Zenji. Unmon Bun-en Zenji also lived in this part of China. Canton nowadays is a city of 3,000,000 inhabitants, South China's major trade and cultural center.

GUILIN (Kweilin) One of the most scenic landscapes in China, Kweilin is noted for the rocky, misty mountains which have been made famous by generations of poets and painters.

HANGZHOU (Hangchow) Between Kweilin and Hangchow is located Hyakujo's mountain, as well as Isan, Kyosan and Tozan. Even as Marco Polo described it in the 13th century, Hangchow is situated between a mouth of a river and a great lotus-filled lake, and is itself a network of canals and causeways. Near Hangchow is Ningbo where we will visit Tian Tai (Guo Ching Temple). Since the 6th century this temple has been lived in by monks who adapted Buddhism to the Chinese way of thought; they were in close contact with the Japanese monasteries of the Tendai School. Near Ningbo, too, is Tendo San, where Dogen Kigen Zenji had his famed encounter with his teacher, Nyōjo Zenji, in the 13th century.

SHANGHAI In this coastal city of almost 11,000,000 inhabitants is found the Temple of the Jade Buddha, as well as lovely parks, monuments and a variety of cultural activities. The Shanghai Museum houses possibly the best art works in Central China, including notable paintings from the Sung and T'ang Dynasties.

SUZHOU (Soochow) In this city of canals, ponds and beautiful gardens, we will visit Han Shan Temple (Kan Zan Ji) and appreciate the old Chinese proverb which goes "In heaven there is paradise; on earth, Suzhou and Hangzhou."

ZHENJIANG (Chengchiang) Built partly on an outcrop of rock, this town is known as one of the most attractive in the lower Yangtze valley. We will visit Chen Kian Temple and Golden Hill.

YANGZHOU (Yangchow) This is the home of Fa Jing, the temple of the Venerable Ganjin, who undertook to bring Ritsu Buddhism to Japan during the 6th century, at the request of Japanese Buddhists. Travel across the Japan Sea was so uncertain that he failed four times to complete his journey. The fifth time, he was able to reach Nara, but because of his strenuous effort became blind. His statue (a Japanese National Treasure) is now in Toshodai-ji in Nara.

NANJING (Nanking) One of the loveliest cities in China, Nanking was the capital for eight dynasties. People have inhabited this area as long as 6,000 years ago. Buddhism triumphed here under the Liang Emperor Wu, a devout Buddhist who built many temples and is known to Zen Buddhists through his famed dialogue with Bodhidharma.

KAIFENG (Kaifong) Under the T'ang and Sung Dynasties, Kaifong was the site of one of the foremost Buddhist monasteries in China. None of the early buildings remain, but two Sung Dynasty pagodas still stand. There has been a Jewish community here since the 12th century, indicated by a marker on the spot of the earliest synagogue in China, built in 1126 AD.

SOGHSAN (Suzan) Between Kaifong and Loyang is located Shao Lin Temple (Sho Bin Ji) where Bodhidharma, the first Zen patriarch in China, is said to have spent nine years "wall-gazing" after he left the meeting with Emperor Wu.

LUOYANG (Loyang) Confucius (6th century BC) and Lao-tse (4th century BC) are both said to have spent time in Loyang, which

was inhabited even prior to the 11th century BC. We will visit the Temple of the White Horse, built in 68 AD when the Buddhist canons were brought to Loyang. Monks of the Ch'an (Zen) school still live here. In the 6th century AD, Loyang was the site of 1,376 Buddhist temples, most of them carved out of the rock caves of Lungmen. These are filled with Buddhist sculpture, ranging from gigantic standing figures to walls covered with thousands of carvings. It must be noted that terrible damage was inflicted on these caves by 19th and 20th century antiquarians who sacked them and stole for the museums and collections of the West.

XI'AN (Sian) Lying along the famed Silk Route, Sian was the largest city in the world during the T'ang Dynasty. Kyoto in Japan was modeled after it. Some 1,300 years ago, the founder of Japanese Shingon Buddhism, Kukai (774-835 AD), studied in Sian. We will visit the Xing Joing Temple and the Little Goose Pagoda, built to house the precious texts which the venerable Genjosanzo (600-664) brought back from his sixteen years' stay in India, where he studied Pali and Sanskrit and translated the great Buddhist sutras into Chinese for the first time. Excavations begun in Sian in 1974 have unearthed 7000 lifelike clay sculptures of soldiers and horses ordered by the Emperor Qui (First Emperor of China, who reigned from 221-209 BC) to serve as his Imperial Bodyguard in the afterlife. Many of these will be viewed in the famed Shanxi Museum.

TAIYUAN Shanxi Province, where Taiyuan is located, is of vital importance in the history of Buddhism in China. Because of its dynamic history of being conquered, occupied and reoccupied by peoples from Mongolia and elsewhere in Central Asia, Shanxi was receptive to the early introduction and flourishing of Buddhism. Here we will see the remains of a vast monastery compound, Kuan Chung, and the Tsin Temple, a small late Buddhist temple still in use by practicing Buddhists. The Shanxi Provincial Museum houses extensive collections of Buddhist stone sculptures from the 5th to 10th centuries AD, including giant Buddhas and stone stelae.

SHIJIAZHUANG (Shihchiachuang) A small village in the early part of this century, this is now an important railway junction. It is of particular interest to us because near here, in the midst of a field, rises the pagoda of Rinzaï Gigen Zenji, built in his memory after his death in 867 AD. This is the actual spot from which springs Rinzaï Zen Buddhism, with its tremendous religious and cultural influence extending down to our own time.

BEIJING (Peking) Since the 10th century, Peking has been the capital of China. Site of the Great Wall, the Imperial Palace, innumerable temples and monuments through the ages, Peking now represents an incredible intermingling of ancient and modern China.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travel Arrangements The tour will leave from JFK Airport, New York, on Japan Air Lines on October 14, 1981. (Exceptions to this will be persons who may join the pilgrimage in Tokyo or Hong Kong.)

Plan A: New York/Hong Kong/New York. This fare includes no stopovers. Individuals may return to New York at anytime within 90 days of departure.

\$4,300

Plan B: New York/Hong Kong/New York, with one stopover in Japan. The return date may be anytime within one year of departure.

\$4,900

These amounts include:

1. Air fare (Note: Other post-tour travel arrangements can be arranged at additional cost.)
2. Land cost in China — hotels, three meals a day, transportation, English-speaking guides from beginning to end. Two nights and two breakfasts in Hong Kong.
3. A tax deductible contribution of \$200 to The Zen Studies Society, New York.

How to apply: For an application form, write to China Tour, the Zen Studies Society, 223 East 67th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, Attention: Saman, Lea Liu.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Climate and Clothing:

China, like the United States, is a very large country with a varied climate. In Hong Kong and Canton, the weather is humid and sub-tropical, somewhat like that of southern Florida, while in Peking it is similar to that of New York City (including winter snow).

Health Information:

Please bring any needed prescription drugs with you, as American drugs are not easily available in China. However, China does offer excellent medical care to its guests; should you be taken ill, you will be well cared for. While all such medical care will be at your own expense, you will find medical costs in China extremely low.

Applicants are advised not to make the trip if their health conditions are not suitable for long trips because of heart trouble, serious chronic disease, pregnancy or physical handicaps.

Currency:

No limit is set on the amount of foreign currency which may be brought into China. Travelers checks may be taken in and cashed within China.

It is prohibited to take Chinese currency (renminbi) into or out of the country. All Chinese currency must be exchanged into foreign currency before leaving the country.



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