

Thomson Family Adventures
Friends Across Borders Information
Destination: Xi'an China

Ni hao (hello)! Very soon you will be packing your bags and waiting for the flight that will start your adventure. Before you go your child(ren) can write to a pen pal in China.

During your pen pal visit your family will have the opportunity to visit the Tang Dynasty Arts Museum and meet their pen pals. They will learn some simple Chinese and experience the art and culture of Chinese calligraphy through practicing specific techniques.

Keep in mind that Chinese children are generally very shy and English is not their first language. Encourage your kids to be open and share information about your hometown and the things they like to do.

Please follow the guidelines below to ensure effective communication.

BEGINNING COMMUNICATION – Kids

Attached are some fun templates and questions to help your kids get started! They can choose from one of the templates or write their own letter. See reverse side for helpful conversation starters.

1. Your child is responsible for writing the first letter. Send their first letter as soon as possible. Feel free to include photos, drawings, etc.
2. Mail their letter to our local office in Watertown, MA or email me at Lisa@familyadventures.com All letters are delivered electronically to our colleagues in China.



GETTING RESPONSES

- Please be patient. Your pen pal will write a letter which will then be translated and delivered electronically to our office.
- We will then mail or e-mail the letter to you.
- You can respond via our office to any letters you receive by following the initial guidelines.

LEARN THE LANGUAGE!

Proper greetings and cultural appreciation are important in Chinese culture. Impress your new friends by learning common Chinese words and phrases. Try to include them in your letters to your pen pals, they will be amazed!

- Ni hao! (Hello)
- Xie Xie (Thank you)
- Zai Jian (Good bye)
- Ni shuo ying wen ma? (Do you speak English?)

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gifts and donations are not required. Chinese children love to give small gifts to show their hospitality. If you would like to bring a gift, we encourage something small that's unique to your hometown.

Sincerely,

Lisa Aprille

Conversation Starters

Who? What? When? Where? How?

What is your favorite book?

When is your birthday?

Where are you from?

Do you have any pets?

How old are you?

Do you have any brothers or
sisters?

What is your favorite holiday?

What is your favorite ice cream
flavor?

What is your eye color?

What is your favorite month?
Why?

What is your favorite food?

What is your favorite movie?

How tall are you?

What type of music do you
listen to?

Who is your best friend?

Who is your hero?

Do you have any nicknames?

What is your favorite subject
in school?