



# New Zealand China Friendship Society

## Chinese Gardens Tour

18 days in April/May, 2015

with **Diana Madgin and Bill Willmott**

Diana and Bill have taken many tours to China, several of them with a Chinese garden theme. Diana is a highly-respected garden writer and speaker and has a specialised knowledge of Chinese Garden design and history.

Bill was born in Chengdu, China, to a Canadian missionary family and lived there until he was 17. Chinese was his first language until he was four. Now retired from the Chair of Sociology at the University of Canterbury, Bill's academic work focused on China and he has been honoured as a Chinese Friendship Ambassador.

They will be supported by NZCFS friends in managing the tour.



This tour will concentrate on visiting three main areas:

**Beijing**

**Chengdu  
Sichuan**

**Shanghai  
Suzhou.**



*Diana Madgin and Bill Willmott*

We will visit a range of different garden styles from the three locations, including classic gardens, a water village, public parks, and the bamboo gardens at the panda sanctuary in Chengdu.

Near Chengdu, the tour will also include a visit to a recently opened exhibition of photographs taken by missionaries, a tribute from the Chinese government that recognises the compassionate support freely given by the Canadian Mission in the first half of the twentieth century, especially in the areas of health and education. Bills family feature prominently here.

**Fully escorted from New Zealand, the price includes twin-share, 4★ accommodation, all meals and tips, and domestic travel in NZ, but excludes personal insurance and visa.**

**\$7,300 (estimated price only, subject to cost increases and exchange rate fluctuations).**

**For enquiries and expressions of interest, contact: Ann White at <[tours@nzcfs.org.nz](mailto:tours@nzcfs.org.nz)> or ph. 03 614 8944**

**[www.nzchinasociety.org.nz/news/tours-to-china](http://www.nzchinasociety.org.nz/news/tours-to-china)**

# Chinese Gardens Tour

25 April to 13 May, 2015.

(Itinerary subject to modification.)

Depart Auckland 25 April, 2015.

## Day 1 - SHANGHAI

Arrive Shanghai early morning.  
Visit the magnificent and ancient Guyi gardens.  
Check into hotel after lunch.  
Free afternoon.

## Day 2 - SHANGHAI

Visit the Shanghai Museum - one of the best in the world, the famous Bund on the waterfront, and the ancient Yu Garden in the heart of old Shanghai.



## Day 3 - SHANGHAI

Seminar - "The Greening of Shanghai".  
River trip and up the Oriental Pearl Tower.

## Day 4 - SUZHOU

Drive to Suzhou - "Venice of the East" - visiting a water village on the way.  
Check into hotel and enjoy a canal trip in the afternoon.



## Day 5 - SUZHOU

Morning: Visit Suzhou gardens: Fisherman's Net, Lu Yuan (Lingering Garden).  
Afternoon: Visit a pagoda and temple with garden.  
Evening: optional evening concert in a garden.

## Day 6 - HANGZHOU

Train/bus to Hangzhou.  
Visit Guo's Villa, Dragonwell Tea Plantation.  
Afternoon: boat trip on West Lake and visit Lingyin Zen Temple (326 AD), the most famous Chan (Zen) temple in China.



## Day 7 - SHANGHAI

Morning in Hangzhou.  
Drive back to Shanghai.  
Stay in hotel near the airport.

## Day 8 - CHENGDU

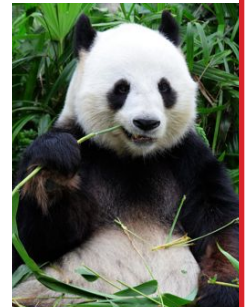
Fly to Chengdu in the morning.  
Afternoon: visit DuFu's Garden with an excellent penjing display (bonsai landscapes in a bowl).  
DuFu was a famous poet in the mid 8<sup>th</sup> century.

## Day 9 - CHENGDU

A tour of the former West China Union University (now part of Sichuan University), where Bill's parents taught. Nearby are the hospital established by the missionaries and the house where Bill was born.

## Day 10 - XINCHANG.

Bus to Xinchang to visit the new gallery launched last year to house a large collection of old China photographs taken by the Canadian missionaries from the 1880s to 1952.

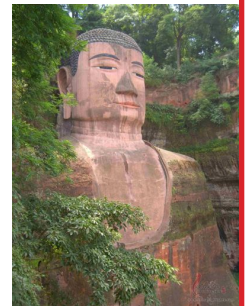


## Day 11 - CHENGDU

Return to Chengdu via the Rent Collector's Courtyard, the restored villa of the infamous landlord, Lu Wen Cai, containing a remarkable exhibit of life-size models depicting his exploitation of the peasants.

## Day 12 - CHENGDU

Visit Panda Sanctuary and the historic Dujiangyan irrigation project, built in the Qin Dynasty (256 BC) and still in operation.



## Day 13 - LESHAN

Bus to Leshan, near Mt Omei, to view the Giant Buddha carved into the cliff.  
Visit Bill's foster brother's family.

## DAY 14 - BEIJING

Drive to Chengdu Airport and fly to Beijing.  
Free time - suggestions include: Tiananmen Square, museum, shopping on Wangfujing, Silk Market and the Temple of Heaven.

## DAY 15 - BEIJING

Great Wall at Mutianyu.  
Official banquet in the evening.

## DAY 16 - BEIJING.

Visit a variety of old gardens including: the Imperial Palace, Jingshan Gongyuan (Mountain with a Beautiful View), Beitang (North Church), Gongwangfu (Prince Gong's Mansion), and the mansion and garden of Song Qing Ling (widow of Sun Yat Sen).



## DAY 17 - FLY HOME.

Or arrange to extend your time in China.  
Arrive in Auckland 13 May, 2015.