**FACTS & FIGURES**

- **Capital**: Beijing
- **Largest City**: Shanghai
- **Official Languages**: Mandarin
- **Official Script**: Simplified Chinese
- **Currency**: Renminbi (Yuan - ¥) (CNY)

**Geography (estimates)**

- **Population**: 1.3 billion
- **Pop. Density**: 145/km²
- **Area**: 9.5 million km²
- **Time Zone**: EST + 12

**Government**

- **President and Party General Secretary**: Xi Jinping
- **Legislature**: National People’s Congress
- **People’s Republic Proclaimed**: 1949

**HISTORY OF CHINA**

- The core of Chinese History builds over the course of multiple dynasties, each influencing regional traditions, beliefs and way of living.
- Three era’s: Ancient, Imperial and Modern span within a timeframe of over 10,000 years.
- The current flag of the People’s Republic of China represents the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the 4 social classes. Adopted in 1949
- Current day China serves as a global economical hub centered on Manufacturing, Services/Healthcare and Agriculture.
- China is the world’s largest emerging market economy
Language & Religion

- The Chinese language is divided into 7 major dialects, Mandarin being the most prevalent
- Chinese is written in its two forms; traditional and simplified characters
- Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism compose the “three teachings” in early Chinese Culture
  - In addition, Catholicism, Protestantism and Islam are faiths practiced in modern day

Chinese Traditional Festivals in 2017

- Chinese New Year (Jan 28)
- Lantern Festival (Feb 11)
- Qingming (Apr 4)
- Dragon Boat (May 30)
- Valentine’s (Aug 28)
- Mid-Autumn Festival (Oct 4)
- Chongyang Festival (Oct 28)
- Winter Solstice (Dec 22)

Cuisine

- Chinese staple foods appear regionally; Rice (South), Wheat/Noodles (North)
- Styles of cuisine are heavily influenced by history, lifestyle and geography
  - Cantonese, Shandong and Sichuan are the most influential styles
- Traditional dishes include: Peking Roasted Duck, Gong Bao Chicken, Dim Sum and Congee

Music & Art

- Traditional National music or Guoyue was popularized in the 20th century as a form of National pride.
- Chinese Opera and Folk music date back many centuries and are influenced regionally throughout the country
- Art forms swept the country from its early upbringings
  - Paintings, Pottery, Sculptures and Contemporary art merely touch the surface of Chinese Art