

MandarinRocks Summer Camp FAQ

1 What are the nationalities of the participants you enroll in the camp?

The 2009 international summer camp is open to worldwide participants. We had a diversity of nationalities in previous years. Participants mainly came from USA, Canada, UK, Spain, France, Germany, Singapore and Malaysia. Other students came from Italy, Poland, Holland, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, etc. Some of the participants are of Chinese ancestry or Chinese living abroad.

2 What is the average age for summer camp?

We divide age groups into 7-11, 12-15, 16-25. The average age for the summer camp is 9, 14, 20 respectively.

3 What are the session dates for 2010?

Jun 14, 28, Jul 12, 26, Aug 09. Duration: 2, 4, 6 weeks. Special arrangement made upon request. Full camp students should arrive on the Sunday before program starts and depart on the Saturday following the end of program.

4 Where is the summer camp held?

The summer camp is held on our centrally located school in Jing'an District, Shanghai. It occupies three floors of an elegant, classic Shanghai style villa.

5 Do you offer accommodation during summer camp? What's it like?

Yes, we offer housing arrangement. Full camp students and families live in safe, clean dorm room of residence or guest house on campus (double occupancy room). Roommates will be arranged based on gender, age and personal request. Single room or special accommodation could also be arranged upon request. We organize transportation between accommodation and school.

6 What kind of food do you serve? Do you have meal plan during summer camp?

Studying and traveling requires the best nutrition. Our choice of food is consistently praised from the past participants. Breakfast is served in buffet style in student residence or guest house dining hall while lunch and dinner are served in traditional Chinese dishes and sometimes western dishes in school or restaurants in the vicinity. During weekend excursion trips, food will be served at local restaurants. Many different styles of genuine Chinese cuisines can be tasted. These may include Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, Sichuan, Hunan, Cantonese cuisines etc.

A Typical Sample Menu

-Breakfast: cereal, pastries, bread, egg, juice, milk, soymilk, etc

-Snack: cookies, fruits etc

-Lunch: Rice with beef/chicken/pork, spaghetti, dumplings, fried rice, noodle etc

-Dinner: Chinese meals (meat, fish, vegetable, soup etc)

Three meals are provided daily to full camp students. Only snack and lunch are provided to day camp students. Special request like vegetarian, food allergy can be catered to as long as prior notice is given to us.

7 How are students placed into the right class?

The Chinese courses at MandarinRocks summer camp are offered at all levels from total beginners to advanced.

We ask students to grade themselves on 0-9 scale module and provide past learning experience info for our reference. We will further evaluate students on arrival or first day in the form of writing or interview in order to place them into the appropriate class. Besides language level, age is the other consideration.

8 How about teachers and teaching Methodology?

We've carefully selected a faculty among all our teachers with rich experience in teens and adults teaching. All of them are Chinese natives with university degrees, experienced and passionate about teaching their native language. All of them speak English or other languages. Classes are conceived to be sufficiently interesting and entertaining to motivate students to the fullest, but we simultaneously optimize class time by encouraging conversation and discussion in a serious and professional manner. Our aim is for students to enjoy themselves while learning as much as possible in a short period of time. The methodology is centered on a communicative approach, utilizing diverse techniques to cover the fundamentals of language learning: grammar, speaking, listening, vocabulary, pronunciation, writing & intercultural competence. For beginners, the teaching content will be conducted in Pinyin while for more advanced students, Chinese characters is an integral part of the learning content.

9 How many students in a class?

The maximum size of each class is limited to 10 (average 4-6) to ensure every student gets full attention from teacher and has ample time for practice.

10 What is the ratio of counselor to students?

It is around 1 to 8. Counselors chaperone all organized activities and trips

11 What are the activities that you offer?

They include sports activities like ice skating, martial arts, ping pong, badminton, cultural workshops like calligraphy, Chinese painting, paper cut and other relaxing activities like city tour, paintball, movies, acrobatic show, barbeque, etc. The activities cater to different age groups.

12 Who can join the program? I don't know any Chinese. Can I still join?

Many of our students are just learning Chinese and traveling to China for the first time. We look for students who are interested and learning and improving the Chinese language and those with an inquisitive thirst for cultural diversity, adventure. Those students who are narrow minded, skeptical about foreign culture, not willing to try new things and less motivated and independent, however, might not be suitable to the program.

13 How much money should students bring on themselves?

We suggest 100USD/week for personal spending or more for shopping souvenirs and gifts.

14 We will go to China by ourselves. Who should I contact once we are in Shanghai?

All pre-arrangement will be made by us. We will arrange airport pick-up based on your flight information. For those who are already in Shanghai, you can contact our office directly.

15 How safe is the program?

Shanghai is a very safe city. Violent crimes are very rare even in the poorest neighborhoods. In our program, students (under 16) are chaperoned by experienced counselors all the time, from having meals, going to classrooms, afternoon activities and weekend trips. The counselors stay in the student residence or guest house in the evenings and weekends to take care of every personal need or concern that each student may have. There is also 24h security and clinic support at residence site. Any private outings are subject to parent's prior written consent and our approval. The specific days, frequency and times are carefully determined by us for each student.

16 How much freedom can students get? Can students go out to explore on their own?

We arrange plenty of outdoor activities and sight seeing for students in our program. Our counselors will chaperone all these activities. Students aged over 16 are considered adults. They can freely explore the city on their own in their free time off the school class, organized activities or trips. We are aware that some younger students are mature than age and do enjoy a certain level of freedom at home and expect to be able to meet with friends and go off-campus in an unsupervised fashion. For this reason we allow our students under 16 a limited number of unescorted trips off-campus during our program. The specific days,

frequency and times are determined by us. This is possible if and only if we receive a written consent from students' parents or guardians.

Regardless of age, all camp students are required to be back in their room before 10pm. Students should sleep in their assigned rooms. No overnight guest is allowed.

17 I will accompany my child to join the camp. Is it possible?

Yes, parents can join the camp together with kids. In the morning when kids are taking Chinese lessons, parents can explore in Shanghai on their own. They can join all the camp activities and excursions.

Parent price includes everything except welcome pack, language course, academic counseling, textbooks and study materials. Parents can also sign up for language course with other adult students in our school.

18 Can relatives/friends visit participants? Can they go out with relatives during camp?

Yes. Friends or relatives are welcome to visit students at the school. They can stay for lunch, or even join the activities or excursions with students with a fee proportionally. With consent from parents or guardians, students can leave the camp with their relatives, but they should notify us and get approved before they leave and notify us when coming back.

19 Is the Internet connection available?

Internet access is everywhere in Shanghai. In our school, there are computers you may use for checking news, emails free of charge (time is limited so that everyone has the chance to use computer). There is free wireless connection in the entire building too. In each dorm room, there is cable internet. Students who bring their own computers can connect to the Internet conveniently after a simple setup. There are public internet cafés available as well around our school.

20 How and where do I apply for a visa?

No specific visa type is required by Chinese government to study Chinese at a language school or attend summer camp.

As a general practice guideline, students are suggested to apply for L (tourist) visa in your local Chinese embassy or consulate and it's the most convenient.

To avoid misunderstanding, do NOT mention studying Chinese or attend summer camp when you apply for L or F visa. Many visa officers will ask you to apply for student visa on hearing that while JW201 or JW202 form (one of the must documents for student visa application) is only released if you enroll in a Chinese university. The information they give is often misleading but somehow they just keep doing that!

21 How can I book and join your summer camp?

Step 1-Submit online application form

Step 2-Confirm information accuracy by replying to our auto generated message addressed to your email.

Step 3-We will issue an invoice to your email

Step 4-Pay deposit or full program fee according to dates outlined in the invoice

-Succeed! We will provide advice and information prior to your departure!

22 When and how do I pay?

You don't have to pay anything when you submit online application form.

A deposit of 240USD/180EUR deductable from the total (NON REFUNDABLE) must be paid after you receive invoice from us. This deposit is not an additional cost. The balance must be paid at least 6 weeks before arrival.

Students currently in Shanghai can pay by credit card or cash in person at school. Students from other cities or abroad can only pay by bank transfer. Bank details are contained in the invoice we issue to you.

23 It's passed application deadline, can I still enroll in your program?

Late applicants are accepted on case to case basis. You can still make inquiry to check availability with us.