



CHINA: MANDARIN LANGUAGE COURSES -YANTAI

China: One of the most ancient civilisations on earth. Shrouded in mystery and revered for centuries, China is a treasure trove of diverse cultures, absolutely *brehtaking* scenery and historical & cultural wonders! Sip green tea in ancient pagodas, press your way through hectic crowds under the neon lights of the big cities or calm your soul atop the snow capped mountains of the Tibetan Plateau...

Polarity & disparity, an endless array of mouth watering food, night markets where weather-worn men watch over flatbreads and spring rolls over a smouldering fire... Whether you want to silently join tai chi practitioners in parks at dusk or share a friendly smile and a few words over a bowl of noodles with someone as eager to learn about your life as you are theirs... China is both calming and frantic, modern and ancient...China is easy to fall head over heels in love with, and it's a country and an experience that you'll never, ever forget!



WHAT DO YOU GET?

- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.
- Experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who'll meet you at the airport on your arrival - helps you **feel safe and never alone!**
- An in-depth Induction makes you **feel local straight away!**
- A unique insight into another culture – **see it from the inside** in a way you could never do as a tourist.
- An opportunity to **make lifelong friends from all over the world.**
- And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**

► SUMMARY FACTFILE

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| Start Dates | There are 2 semesters each year beginning on 1 September and 1 March respectively. Although you can choose various durations, your programme must begin on either one of these two dates. |
| Duration | Minimum 4 weeks, up to a 1 or 2-Semesters course, subject to visas |
| Requirements | Minimum age 17, no qualifications or knowledge of Mandarin necessary. |
| Price | For up-to-date prices, please check our website www.travellersworldwide.com |
| What's included | ► Accommodation ► Meeting you at the Airport ► Transfer to your accommodation ► Transport to and from your project ► Full pre-departure support ► Course fees and Materials ► Local in-country team support and backup ► 24-hr emergency support. |
| What's not included | Food, Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (if a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance), Return transfer to airport. |
| Who can do this Project? | All our projects are open to all nationalities. Unless otherwise stated, you need to be aged between 17 and 70+ |

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

Yantai, a peninsula in the east of Shandong Province, lies between the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea, overlooking Korea and Japan. Yantai is a large and busy port, and the fact that it is seldom visited by foreign tourists makes it an absolutely wonderful place in which to live and study. Our Yantai course is run in association with Yantai University, and is the one for you if you're looking to gain a qualification or University points while studying and living in "real China.

The Mandarin Programme

Learning Mandarin will be of benefit to you both during your life in China and afterwards. Within the country, very few people outside the education system speak English, and while travelling around China there are frequent opportunities to strike up conversations with people who are as curious about you as you are about them! Learning Mandarin will enable you to speak with these people, thus enriching your time here immeasurably, as you find out things about the culture and the way of life that someone without language skills simply would not have access to.

On a larger scale, Mandarin is one of the 5 major UN Languages, and is the most widely spoken language in the world. One out of five people in the world speaks Chinese as their native language! China is changing faster than just about any other place on Earth; even a short stay here will demonstrate this fact. The recent entry into the WTO has only accelerated this trend.

In 1997, as the rest of Asia slid into depression, China was forging a path forwards and has continued to develop steadily, embracing world trade in a way that few had predicted. As a result of all this change, it is predicted that China will continue to grow and become a major player in world affairs and business in the coming few years. The ability to speak Mandarin will be of great benefit to anyone hoping to participate in affairs of business or culture on the world stage...

It's also a really fun language to learn, and even more fun to master, as it's so very different to so many Western languages. With Mandarin, not only will you be able to impress the people of China, but probably your family and friends back home too.

Whatever your circumstances, the opportunity to learn more about this ancient and fascinating culture from an insider's perspective is one not to be missed.

The Mandarin Course for foreign students has been running at Yantai University for 15 years. A typical class size is 25 students, and the teaching staff are professors or lecturers who are accredited and experienced in teaching Mandarin to foreign students.

The course is designed to immerse international students in the Chinese language and culture through compulsory classes, conversation with native speakers and optional electives. All areas of the language will be covered in your course: reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, phonetics and vocabulary. These will be taught via a variety of topics which will relate to aspects of Chinese culture, society and history.

Each semester there are around 100 International Students enrolled on the course at various levels. Many of these students are from Korea and Japan, and there are also often students from the UK, France and the USA. This project will give you the opportunity to meet people from a variety of different cultures; not just from China, but from all over the world!

Work Content.

Yantai University, where the course is based, is located 10 minutes from the city centre by bus. The University area is a vibrant and buzzing part of town, as it is home to a great many students, both Chinese and from elsewhere in the world. The building itself faces long stretches of beach on one side and Shandong's stunning mountainous landscapes on the other. There are many small shops and street stalls, a busy market and a selection of Chinese and Korean restaurants running along the coast. You will live on Yantai University campus and mixing with thousands of Chinese students, as well as students from other parts of the world.



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Some of the courses currently on offer include: Spoken Chinese, Chinese Comprehension (Pinyin, Grammar and Writing), Reading, Chinese Listening Comprehension.

Classes are available at various levels, so no matter what your level of Mandarin is, there will be a class to suit you. We can offer **beginner, elementary, intermediate or advanced** classes. Around 50% of the students on the course are Beginners. The University will assess your level of competency in the language when you arrive and will allocate you accordingly. Regardless of how long your course lasts, you will obtain a certificate at the end of your study time.

Each semester you will also obtain around 20 credits, and these can often be credited to your university course in your home country. [If you wish to take advantage of this option, you must check that your university will recognise this qualification before you leave, as it does vary between institutions.

The course takes place from Monday to Friday, running from approximately 8am to 3:40pm. You will have homework in the evenings, in much the same way as you would during a similar course in most countries, and you will be expected to complete this to the deadline set by your teachers. Your weekends will be free and this will allow some time for relaxing, travelling and sightseeing.

An example of a Daily Schedule:

| Time | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Period 1 8:00am-8:45am | Comprehensive Chinese(Pinyin & Grammar) | Spoken Chinese | Listening Comprehension | Spoken Chinese | Comprehensive Chinese(Pinyin & Grammar) |
| Period 2 8:55am-9:40am | | | | | |
| Period 3 10:00-10:45am | Listening Comprehension | Chinese Reading | Comprehensive Chinese(Pinyin & Grammar) | Comprehensive Chinese(Pinyin & Grammar) | Chinese Reading |
| Period 4 10:55-11:40am | | | | | |
| Period 5 2:00-2:45pm | Comprehensive Chinese (Pinyin and Grammar) | Comprehensive Chinese (Pinyin & Grammar) | Tai Chi | Sports | Chinese Calligraphy |
| Period 6 2:55-3:40pm | | | Tai Chi | Sports | Chinese Calligraphy |

LOCATION:

Our language course is based in Yantai, a coastal town in Shandong province, North-West China. Yantai is a large and busy port, and the fact that it is seldom visited by foreign tourists makes it an absolutely wonderful place in which to live and study.

Yantai is thoroughly and authentically 'Chinese', creating a wonderful sense that you are living in a real Chinese city and experiencing life and culture from a local person's perspective. Its size makes it easy to access every amenity you might need, and often at a cheaper price than the other major cities in the country. Yet its relative isolation from

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the tourist industry will make you feel as if you are really participating in a segment of Chinese life, instead of simply being an onlooker.

The Chinese people are, in general, supremely caring and helpful, and will go hugely out of their way to help you out with absolutely anything you might need. As a Westerner, people will be fascinated by you to such an extent that you will be stared at constantly and won't be able to step onto the street without someone shouting 'hello' at you with a huge smile on their face.

The Chinese interest in foreigners is absolutely unremitting, as so few of the people are able to leave the country, but all this curiosity presents itself in a friendly, extremely unthreatening way. You will probably be told you are 'piao liang' – beautiful, at least several times a day! This warm inquisitiveness is especially evident in Yantai, as so many of the locals are unaccustomed to seeing a foreign face.

Yantai University, where the course is based, is located 10 minutes from the city centre by bus. The University area is a vibrant and buzzing part of town, as it is home to a great many students, both Chinese and from elsewhere in the world. The building itself faces long stretches of beach on one side and Shandong's stunning mountainous landscapes on the other.

There are many small shops and street stalls, a busy market and a selection of Chinese and Korean restaurants running along the coast.

Yantai is easily accessible internationally and domestically and there are daily flights into Yantai airport from Hong Kong, Osaka and Seoul. Domestically, Yantai is connected to many major Chinese cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Nanjing and Xi'an by frequent daily flights. The ferry, railway and freeway systems also link the city to destinations throughout the country and it is a relatively short (in Chinese terms!) journey to the Capital by any method.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

During your course, you will live at Yantai University Hostel with the other students who are on the course. The hostel is a four storey building located on Yantai seafront.

You will share your room with another person, either a Travellers Volunteer or a student who is on the course with you. Each room has two beds, a bathroom, a table and chairs and a telephone and TV.

The hostel is in short walking distance of the University building in which you will take your classes.

There are 7 dining halls on campus, and meals are served throughout the day. On this project, your food is not included in the price of the placement, and you will pay in cash, at the dining hall, for every meal that you take. Food on campus is extremely cheap, and a meal costs between 2 and 5RMB (15RMB = approx £1)

There are also many restaurants and street stalls in the surrounding area, serving a variety of delicious Chinese and Korean dishes.

VISAS:

For most nationalities visas are required, but don't worry we will liaise with you about your visa requirements, and make the visa process very easy.

FLIGHTS:

You have the option to arrange your own flights or we can assist you with your flight arrangements. If you would like us to do this for you, we will liaise with you regarding available flights and dates to suit you. All arrangements for your flight bookings/payments will be fulfilled by [Murray Rogers Travel Limited](#), ATOL No. 6856.



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INDUCTION ON ARRIVAL:

When you arrive, you will be welcomed at the airport by our China Organiser, who will take you to your accommodation. During your first few days you will be given an induction so that you can learn about China and its culture, as well as useful information like how to use the transport system etc.

COSTS:

Please see the prices pages of our website [Full Price List](#). The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Meeting you at the airport
- ✓ Transport to and from your project
- ✓ Local in-country team support and backup
- ✓ 24hr emergency helpline
- ✓ Full pre-departure support
- ✓ UK administration
- ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations)
- ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection
- ✓ Staff Training/Equipment
- ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

For every volunteer, a donation is made by Travellers on your behalf into the [Bridge The Gap Foundation](#). This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

COUNTRY PROFILE:

China is one of the most ancient civilisations on earth. Shrouded in mystery and revered for centuries, China is a treasure trove of diverse cultures, *breathhtaking* scenery and historical & cultural wonders! It's also heading towards a glittering future as one of the world's major powers, and so there's no better time to experience this tantalisingly different land...

BEIJING is the Capital of China and also its cultural heart. You'll find everything here that you imagine when you think of China... chaotic hustle and bustle, skyscrapers crammed next to temples and plenty of monuments to China's long and complex past. On your project here you'll be among **Famous Temples**, ancient **Hutongs** (alleyway communities) the magnificent **Forbidden City & Tiananmen Square** and the immense **Great Wall of China!**

YA'AN is located in Sichuan province, and is known as the gateway from Sichuan and Yunnan to Tibet. Here you can spend time exploring the Chinese and Tibetan villages nearby to the project (that's if you ever get bored of cuddling up to your new Giant Panda friends!) And with Chengdu, the lively capital of Sichuan province only 1 hour away, you'll have access to the best of both worlds.

YANTAI is a busy fishing port which sits on the Shandong Peninsula, North-East China. Its 'out of the way' feel makes it the perfect place to experience a slice of provincial Chinese life. Here you will REALLY feel like one of the locals. Its close proximity to Korea and Japan also make it a great place to experience a more multicultural environment. We run a University Mandarin Course here in association with Yantai University.

YANGZHOU is known as China's 'city of gardens and alleys', Yangzhou is enough 'out of the way' for you to feel as though you're living in real China, and has a fascinating 'Old Town' where you can explore alleys and noodle shops that still run as they did a century ago. However, the City's location in Jiangsu Province, only a stone's throw from Shanghai, means that you're never away from the glamour of one of the worlds' most modern urban centres.



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THINGS TO DO IN: CHINA

- **China's natural beauty!** The tranquillity and heartbreaking beauty of sunrise from the top of one of China's sacred mountains is an absolutely unforgettable experience. There are many mountains dotted around the country on which the local people practice pilgrimage routes. Tai Shan, in Shandong Province is particularly stunning. Nature reserves and national parks can also be found all over the country. Worth particular mention is Hansi Hu - Xinjiang Province's edge-of-the-universe park which boasts amazing treks and is home to all kinds of nomadic people from Kazaks to Xinjiang's native Muslim Uyghurs.
- **Northern China**, along the path of the ruins of the Great wall, also has many sights, and a slightly rough-around-the-edges charm. Here, you can visit the Gobi desert & climb enormous sand dunes in Gansu Province or explore ancient grottoes and caverns full of religious art & Buddha statues at Dunhuang or Datong. You can even spend a night camping out under the stars in a yurt on the epic grasslands of Inner Mongolia. Here you might find yourself taking part in traditional Mongolian wrestling or drinking the local spirit (hopefully not at the same time!)
- **China's big cities** - The economic and cultural centres of this blossoming nation can be found in its 3 big cities - **Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong**. These cities are practically alive with energy and each deserve a visit during your time in China. They represent the glitz and glamour of China's future and everything that's hip in China's new youth, with the rich history of Chinese culture running strongly through them.
- **The far North-West** - Xinjiang Province in the far North-West of China next to the borders with Mongolia & Kazakhstan is a multicultural melting pot of Han Chinese, Uyghurs (the local Muslim people) and Kazakhs. Here you can visit Tian Chi, a lake halfway up a mountain inhabited by nomadic Kazakh people or take part in local grape making in the desert around Turpan.
- **The Army of Terracotta Warriors outside Xi'an** - 6000 soldiers and horses that were originally designed to guard the tomb of an ancient Emperor. 2000 years old, these warriors were discovered by accident in the 1970s by peasants digging a well! Every figure differs in facial features and expression, and they make for an amazing sight.



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- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK:

"Thank you unreservedly for my time in China... I had an amazing time, and had to be dragged away by the end of it. What really made it for me was the contact with the people, whether in class or around the town... everyone there would go completely out of their way to help or just talk to me. What's more, I gained a great knowledge of life in modern china, which is just what I wanted and needed for my Uni course!"

– Charles Corn, Teaching Project

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HOW TO BOOK:

Please complete a [booking form](#) online or you can send a postal booking from our free brochure. When we receive this, we'll telephone you to discuss the details and then start the exciting process of planning your trip!

We do hope you'll join us and are confident that you'll find this an incredible experience. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions - we'll be happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

You may also be interested in other courses with Travellers, or do other projects in our other destinations – please visit our [website](#) for details of all our projects. In fact you can choose from over 300 projects in 19 countries!

Make a Difference – Get Involved!

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