

Perspectives Brazil 2011

2 Weeks: July 10-July 23, 2011

Summer Programs
China, India & Brazil



Foundation Global Education
Perspectives Programs and
Perspectives China School Trips
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Foundation Global Education

This year we are taking a major step in the process that we began in 2001 when we decided to offer an engaging educational program in China to English-speaking high school students from around the world. We are now expanding our focus beyond China and India. Our programs, Perspectives China, Perspectives India, and the new, Perspectives Brazil, will maintain the same standards of quality as before and incorporate both experience and knowledge, giving inquisitive young people the opportunity to get below the surface of these countries and emerge from their experiences with a new, more global perspective.

For 2011 we offer a four-week program in China, based in Shanghai, a three-week program in India, based in Jaipur, and a two-week program in Brazil, based in São Paulo. Perspectives China will focus on intensive Mandarin introducing students to the depth and breadth of Chinese culture. Perspectives India will expose students to Indian culture, both traditional and its modern transformations, enabling them to gain a new understanding of both India's traditions and its rapid rise in international economic power. The new Perspectives Brazil provides an intense exploration and experiential learning experience focusing on aspects of Brazil's economy, environment and energy issues as well as the rich, vibrant culture of São Paulo.

We strongly believe that a combination of experience and knowledge in a new culture enables curious and engaged high school students from around the world the chance to acquire new perspectives of the country they are studying, of the world, and, perhaps most importantly, of themselves. Participants will find themselves among a carefully selected group of high school students from many nations. As you will read in this booklet, many of our past participants found that the new perspectives they had gained resulted in greater personal empowerment.

These students returned to their home countries with a sense that they could do more than they had ever thought possible, and that they could make an important contribution to the well-being of others.

In the pages of this booklet you will find the details of our exciting new programs. If what we offer strikes a chord within you, please come and join us in China, India or Brazil next summer.

For more information visit:
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BRIC

Economists call them the "BRIC" countries. Hiding behind the obscure title are some of the world's fastest growing and potentially largest economies - Brazil, Russia, India and China.

The inventor of the acronym are some of the world's fastest-growing and largest economies - Brazil, Russia, India and China. Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill coined the acronym "BRIC." In 2001 he argued that "over the next ten years, the weight of the BRICs and especially China in world GDP will grow" and as a result "world policy making forums should be reorganised" in favour of the BRIC countries. *Konstantin Rozhnov, Business reporter, BBC News.*



Perspectives Brazil

Program dates: 2 weeks: July 10-July 23, 2011, in São Paulo

Exploring the complex and contrasting aspects of Brazil would certainly take much more time than two weeks. Therefore, we decided to set base in São Paulo, the current Latin American icon of economic growth, and to focus in three areas: Economy, Environment and Energy.



Themes

Economy

Today, Brazil's rising economy is propelling the nation to a leadership role in Latin America. But despite its dynamism and potential, the economic growth has yet to close the gaps in wealth and opportunity that have plagued Brazil's history. To understand the historical context of Brazil's boom, and how such growth impacts the lives of everyday citizens, Perspectives students will conduct a small survey of the formal and informal economic sectors in downtown São Paulo. Fieldwork will be complemented with lectures and a visit to the stock market to understand why foreign investors are betting on Brazil. Other visits will include a multinational corporation's car factory and a tour of both an affluent gated neighborhood and a favela (low-income community), interacting with locals to explore and discuss life on two contrasting extremes of the economic continuum.

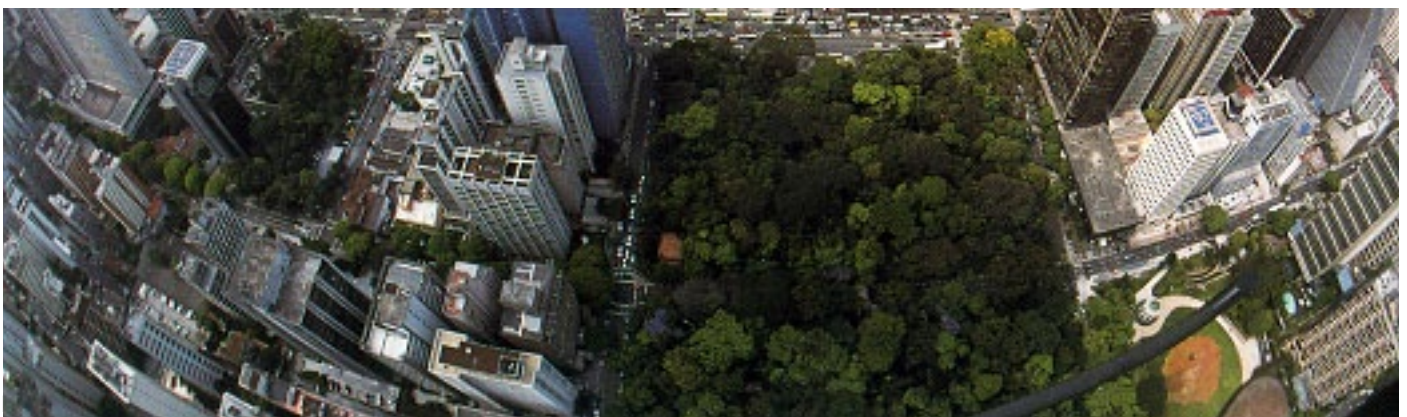
Environment

The São Paulo metropolitan area is already home of 19 million inhabitants, and the challenges of urban sprawl and sustainability are becoming ever more acute. Resources like water, once abundant and taken for granted, are now becoming serious public policy issues. We will study and debate about it takes to make water drinkable and witness of the impact of unclear housing policies on São Paulo's water reservoirs. Our students will reconsider the paradigm of garbage as waste, visiting recycling cooperatives and thinking about the different ways of reusing and recycling. In a landscape of concrete and glass, the verdant greenery of Serra de Cantareira stands as a , a huge green stain living reminder of a much bigger the Atlantic rainforest. Students will be immersed in one of the world's largest urban forest, exploring its paths and trails as a break from the urban bustle and a lesson in the importance and potential of conservation.



Energy

In recent years, Brazil has become a hot topic in the global energy market and policy field. Besides the discovery of massive offshore oil reserves – which could propel the country into the global top tier of energy producers – Brazil is a key innovator in biodiesel produced from sugarcane. Perspectives will take advantage of São Paulo's role as a research and financial center, inviting top experts to speak on the implications of Brazil's energy future. Complementing lectures and classroom work, we will visit a thermoelectric plant installed at a landfill, a project approved as a United Nations Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) which allows the sale of certified carbon credits.



A Typical Day

Three times a week, students will start the day with the rhythms and movements of capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art that combines different elements of music and dance.

Breakfast will be served from 8 to 9 a.m., lunch from 12 to 1 p.m. and dinner from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Meals highlight a balanced diet of fresh local produce and different regional dishes, alongside the traditional Brazilian staples of feijoada (black bean stew) and rice.

In the morning, from 9 to 9:30 there will be debriefing sessions to discuss the site visits and lectures covered the previous day so as to exchange ideas and perceptions and summarize the lessons learned.

From 9:30 to 12 p.m. there are two lecture sessions, with a 15-minute break in the middle to provide the background of the site visits done mainly in the afternoon.

Afternoons will usually start with one-hour session dedicated to the learning of the local language, Portuguese. Students will then head out for supervised site visits to complement morning classes with hands-on experience.

After dinner, activities will vary between cultural workshops, movie screenings and special guest speakers.

On weekends, students may choose an excursion to visit a nearby city: Santos or Paranapiacaba.

At 10 p.m. we will call it a day. It is time to rest and recover for tomorrow's packed agenda.



Occasionally, we may swap morning and afternoon sessions to take advantage of time-specific opportunities for our site visits – for example, a special morning market.

Activities

Portuguese

Uniquely for Latin America, Brazil's nearly 200 million citizens are Lusophones – Portuguese-speakers. Students will study Brazilian Portuguese, learning basic vocabulary and sentence structures to facilitate interaction with locals and increase their exposure to Brazilian culture.. No prior knowledge of the language is required; depending on student demand, those with previous study experience can be offered an advanced Portuguese track.

Music and Dance

Music is a core element in the Brazilian culture. Students will have the opportunity to study different rhythmical beats used by blocos and schools of samba during Carnaval as well as the peculiarities of typical instruments as “zurdo”, “pandeiro” and “agogo” whose sounds blend in an energizing “Batucada”. Brazil, ifamous worldwide as the cradle of bossa nova, is also home to many other styles that compose its rich musical heritage.. Samba and forró are also part of the Brazilian identity.. Students will learn the basic steps and secrets to share the local gafieira dancehall floor with locals!

Arts and Crafts

Graffiti, considered by some as an art and by others as a social expression, is ubiquitous in São Paulo. A grafittero will be invited to teach the students the history of this expression and different techniques for them to try. Kites and lanterns are not just traditional games for children. They are a hand-craft that requires the mastery of some specific skills that will be passed on to the students for them to produce their own.

Capoeira

Several days a week, students will benefit from the practice of capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian art form that combines elements of martial arts, music, and dance. It was created in Brazil around 400 years ago by African slaves by mixing the many fighting styles from many of their tribes.

Excursions

During their stay, students will have the opportunity to take trips outside São Paulo. Pending student and parent input, we are considering the historical cities of: Paranapiacaba and Santos.

More Information

Please visit our website: www.foundationge.com

