



CHENGDU

S L O W A N D F A S T



Seminar Week Autumn Semester 2019

Sat. 19 Oct, 2019 - Sat. 26 Oct, 2019

Min 10 - Max 15 Students

Cost Frame E, Including Individual Flights

Visa Required

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Chengdu has been the cultural, economic and political center of southwest China for dozens of centuries. It was the capital city of more than five regimes in ancient China. The city is located in a basin surrounded by upland regions and mountains. As written in ancient poetry that “the road to Shu (the ancient name of Chengdu) is harder than the one to the sky”, the upland regions provided perfect geographical isolation for Chengdu and the basin areas. Thanks to this geographical isolation, the fertile soil and the favorable climate, the city maintained a high degree of prosperity and development during most of Chinese history and was famous for its “slow” way of living. People named this area “the land of abundance”. It was always the shelter place for those that were driven out of their homeland by exile, starvation and war.

The city expands dramatically due to the recent urbanization process. It houses 16 million inhabitants within an urban areas of 1700 km², with skyscrapers up to 468 meters high and massive shopping centers with floorplan sizes of 200000 m². Taking this into account, can we still find places in the city where we can retrieve and read its great history? Has the traditional way of living survived and managed to coexist with the modern culture? We will explore not only the landmarks but also the backstage hidden to tourists. We will meet local professionals, students, and visit prominent design offices, universities, even construction site! We will also travel to surrounding areas where we can find a diversity of local culture, ancient hydrologic masterpieces, and panda bears.