



Saturday · January 5th, 2019 - Sunday · January 20th, 2019

International Crane Foundation ~ Custom Journey to China, South Korea and Japan

Itinerary for International Crane Foundation

Introduction

Saturday · January 5th	Day 1: Arrive in Shanghai, China (D) The Peninsula Shanghai (2 nights)
Sunday · January 6th	Day 2: Shanghai (B, L, D)
Monday · January 7th	Day 3: Fly Nanchang (B, L, D) Shangri-La Hotel (4 nights)
Tuesday · January 8th	Day 4: Poyang Lake National Reserve (B, L, D)
Wednesday · January 9th	Day 5: Poyang Lake (B, L, D)
Thursday · January 10th	Day 6: Poyang Lake (B, L, D)
Friday · January 11th	Day 7: Fly to Seoul, South Korea (B, L, D) The Mvl Hotel Kintex (2 nights)
Saturday · January 12th	Day 8: Gangwha Island (B, L, D)

Sunday · January 13th	Day 9: Drive to Yeoncheon (B, L, D) Hantan River Spa Hotel (1 night)
Monday · January 14th	Day 10: Cheorwon; Return to Seoul (B, L, D) The Westin Chosun (2 nights)
Tuesday · January 15th	Day 11: DMZ - Panmunjeom Tour (B, L, D)
Wednesday · January 16th	Day 12: Fly to Kushiro, Japan (B, L, D) ANA Crowne Plaza (1 night)
Thursday · January 17th	Day 13: Drive to Nemuro (B, L, D) East Harbour Hotel (1 night)
Friday · January 18th	Day 14: Drive to Kawayu (B, L, D) Kawayu Kanko Hotel (1 night)
Saturday · January 19th	Day 15: Drive to Tsurui and Akan; Return to Kushiro (B, L, D) ANA Crowne Plaza (1 night)
Sunday · January 20th	Day 16: Departure (B)

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 Comfort Level
 Trip & Travel Considerations
 ICF Trip Leader: George Archibald
 ICF Trip Leader: Qian Yu
 ICF China Tour Leader: Dr. Li Fengshan
 ICF Korea Tour Leader: Dr. Kisup Lee
 ICF Japan Tour Leader: Yulia Satsuki Momose
 International Crane Foundation Mission

Introduction

Join International Crane Foundation (ICF) co-founder George Archibald on this remarkable journey to visit some of the world's most important places for cranes in China, South Korea and Japan.

On this amazing journey, we will visit Poyang Lake in China where almost all the world's Siberian Cranes spend the winter. Our trip continues to South Korea where more than half of the mainland Red-crowned Cranes winter and more than two-thirds of the world's White-naped Cranes rest during migration or remain through winter. We will conclude our wildlife explorations on beautiful Hokkaido, Japan, where as many as 1,500 Red-crowned Cranes can be found on the stunning snowy landscape. Throughout our journey we will have the opportunity to see firsthand ICF's local conservation projects and to meet ICF partners in striving for crane conservation.

Saturday · January 5th

Day 1: Arrive in Shanghai, China (D)

Upon landing at the Shanghai airport, you will be met by local staff and transferred to our hotel, The Peninsula Shanghai, located on The Bund, Shanghai's historic waterfront area on the Huangpu River.

Tonight we will gather to enjoy a welcome dinner with George and Qian Yu, ICF China Program Director.

The Peninsula Shanghai

+86 21 2327 2888

Shanghai, China

<http://shanghai.peninsula.com/en/default>

Jan 05 · 3:00 PM

Check-in

Jan 07 · 12:00 PM

Check-out

2 nights

Duration

Sunday · January 6th



Day 2: Shanghai (B, L, D)

Located at the mouth of the Yangtze River, Shanghai has struggled with extremes in culture-clash, from foreign commerce entering the ancient city in 1842, to Maoist communization in 1949, to the current era of rapid modernization. Because of this, Shanghai is a tremendously stimulating place to visit. No city gives a better look at the dislocations, advances, and yearnings of today's China.

We have a full day to experience the wonders of cosmopolitan Shanghai. Following breakfast, we head to the acclaimed Shanghai Museum for a private guided tour with a resident museum expert. Set in a newly designed building in the People's Park, the Shanghai Museum is home to a collection of pieces dating from Neolithic times. The bronze collection is considered the best in the world, and the exhibits of sculpture, jade, calligraphy, painting are also first-rate. From here we visit the classical Yu Gardens to stroll among its pagodas, pavilions, rockeries, fountains, ancient trees, and precious flowers.

This afternoon, explore the French Concession area of the city, lingering in the arts and crafts enclave of Taikang Road, where casual cafés, charming boutiques, and labyrinthine alleyways lend a European air.

Early this evening we will gather at our hotel for an introduction to the International Crane Foundation's work at Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve. Afterwards, we have dinner at a nearby local restaurant on the Bund.

Monday · January 7th

Day 3: Fly Nanchang (B, L, D)

Today we depart to the airport for our flight to Nanchang, the base for our explorations of the Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve (PLNNR).

Fed by the Yangtse River and five tributaries, Poyang Lake is the largest freshwater lake in China and the wintering grounds of Siberian, White-naped, Hooded, and Eurasian Cranes. The reserve was established in 1983 to protect rare and endangered migratory birds and the wetland eco-environment in Poyang Lake, to develop relevant scientific research on ecological protection, and to use the natural resources scientifically and sustainably.

On arrival in Nanchang we are met and transferred to our hotel. This evening we enjoy a welcome dinner with ICF China Program Coordinator, Dr. Li Fengshan and ICF China Program Officer, Jin Jiefeng who will accompany us during our explorations of Poyang Lake.

Shangri-La Hotel

86-791-82222888

Nanchang

Jan 07 · 2:00 PM

Check-in

Jan 11 · 12:00 PM

Check-out

4 nights

Duration

Tuesday · January 8th



Day 4: Poyang Lake National Reserve (B, L, D)

Over the next three days we explore the Poyang Lake basin with ICF conservationists.

This morning, we head off for a drive outside of Nanchang to visit the lotus ponds at Wuxingnongchang. We may observe a few Eurasian Cranes, Whistling Swans, geese, and ducks on your way. On arrival, we have the opportunity to meet with the owner of these lotus ponds and managers from the Wild Animal Protection Agency and learn about Siberian Cranes foraging habits in lotus ponds over recent years.

After lunch in Wuxingnongchang, we continue to Kangshan Dam, which was constructed in the late 1950s. On the way, you may see Siberian Cranes, White-naped Cranes, Hooded Cranes, and possibly Eurasian Cranes. Large flocks of Tundra Swans, Swan Geese, and other geese are common to this region as well. During our time at Kangshan, we may have the opportunity to spot Chinese finless porpoises.

We return to Nanchang in the early evening for dinner and overnight.

Notes

- *Today's itinerary remains flexible and will depend on the current location of the*

Wednesday · January 9th

Day 5: Poyang Lake (B, L, D)

This morning, we drive to Shahu and Benghu wetlands to watch Hooded Cranes and White-naped Cranes. We may observe a few Eurasian Cranes and Siberian Cranes along the way. Following, we will have a simple lunch with local fishermen who have spent generations on Poyang Lake and can share their knowledge on this important area.

After lunch, continue to the Poyang Lake Model Test and Research Base where we will have the opportunity to see a 3-D model of Poyang Lake to best understand the landscape, hydrology, and layout of these nature reserves.

Notes

- *Today's itinerary remains flexible and will depend on the current location of the cranes*

Thursday · January 10th



Day 6: Poyang Lake (B, L, D)

We continue our explorations of the lakes within the Poyang Lake basin.

Other visits may include the PLNNR's Dahuchi Field Station and a walk between Dingshan Hill and Dahuchi wetland, one of earliest sites where Siberian Cranes were discovered, with birding along the way.

Notes

- *Today's itinerary remains flexible and will depend on the current location of the cranes*

Friday · January 11th

Day 7: Fly to Seoul, South Korea (B, L, D)

Early this morning, we transfer to the airport and check in for the first leg of our flight to Seoul via Shanghai.

In Korea, ICF has worked for the past decade to emphasize the importance of conservation in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the bordering Civilian Controlled Zone (CCZ), both vital to the welfare of one-third of the world's Red-crowned Cranes and

two-thirds of the White-naped Cranes. The most important part of the DMZ for cranes is the ten-mile-wide Cheorwon Basin in the central highlands of the peninsula. While on migration to and from Japan, more than 1,000 additional White-naped Cranes spend about a month in the Cheorwon Basin. After Poyang Lake in China, the Cheorwon Basin is perhaps Asia's second most important site for cranes.

Upon arrival to Seoul's Incheon International Airport, we will be met by our local guide and ICF local partner and naturalist leader, Dr. Kisup Lee and transfer together to our hotel in Ilsan, located just outside of Seoul. This evening we will gather for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

The Mvl Hotel Kintex

82319277700

Goyang-Si

Jan 11 Check-in	Jan 13 Check-out	2 nights Duration
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Saturday · January 12th



Day 8: Gangwha Island (B, L, D)

This morning we have an early start, traveling to Gangwha Island for a full day of birding and field activities. Species found on Gangwha Island include the Red-crowned Crane, Hooded Crane, Japanese Reed Bunting, Red-throated Thrush, Siberian Accentor, Long-tailed Tit, Rough-legged Buzzard, Baikal Teal, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Red-crested Pochard, and the Far Eastern Curlew.

Located a stone's throw from Seoul in the estuary of the Han River, Gangwha Island is a favorite hangout for cranes and numerous other migratory species, including shorebirds making their way back and forth from Australia and New Zealand to areas farther north in Asia. Estuaries and precarious tidal flats near Gangwha support the Great Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-faced Spoonbill, Critically-endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper, and Endangered Spotted Greenshank. These tidal flats are under tremendous threat of "reclamation." The Han River estuary is marked for seaport development once reunification comes to the divided peninsula. ICF is continuously working with Korean colleagues to instead secure these lands for an international peace park that showcases biodiversity, conservation, and world heritage.

We spend our morning in the southern part of Gangwha with visits to Donggeomdo Island and Seonduri.

For lunch, we enjoy a warm bowl of the local specialty, Ginseng chicken soup. Afterwards, we head to the northern side of the island to visit the Ganghwa Peace Observatory. From the observation deck overlooking the Hans River, we have a direct view of North Korea at the point where it is closest to South Korea. Here, instead of the expanse of the DMZ, only the river separates us from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the surrounding area's natural ecosystem.

In the late afternoon, we return to our hotel for dinner and an evening at leisure.

Sunday · January 13th



Day 9: Drive to Yeoncheon (B, L, D)

The Imjin River flowing south from North Korea, penetrates the DMZ in Yeoncheon County creating a valley where about 200 Red-crowned Cranes and 100 White-naped Cranes spend the winter. They roost at night in the river and during the day feed on waste grains in agricultural fields on the hillsides.

After an early breakfast at our hotel, we depart for the one-and-a-half-hour drive to Yeoncheon, where we tour several crane sites within the Civilian Control Zone (CCZ) along the border of the DMZ. On arrival to Yeoncheon, we enter through the military check point before continuing to three different crane sites located beyond the military gate. Accompanied by an English-speaking military guide, we first stop at a bird hide located beside the Imjin river feeding site. We then continue by bus to the Bingae riverside roosting site and the Typoon observatory roosting site.

Afterwards, we drive about one more hour to Cheorwon. Time permitting, we stop en-route for a short walk up to a crane site on White Horse Hill.

Notes

- *Today's itinerary within the CCZ is subject to change*

Hantan River Spa Hotel

+82 70-4694-1134

Cheorwon

Jan 13

Check-in

Jan 14

Check-out

1 night

Duration

Day 10: Cheorwon; Return to Seoul (B, L, D)

Korea is at the nexus of a flyway that extends around nearly half of the globe, from Russia and China to Australia and New Zealand. Cheorwon, scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the Korean War, is now part of South Korea's vital "rice bowl" and a haven for migratory birds. Here we may see not only endangered Red-crowned and White-naped Cranes, but also Black Vultures, Ruddy Shelducks, and many other enchanting species. Cheorwon encompasses parts of the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and its contiguous Civilian Control Zone (CCZ), which together contain as many as 3,500 species of plants and animals, including over 50 mammals and fish, some of which are found only in this area.

Early this morning we head out for additional bird watching in the Civilian Control Zone (CCZ) of Cheorwon. Located on local farmlands, these birding sites are set along narrow farm roads that are only accessible by smaller vehicles. For that reason, we travel to these sites in smaller private cars with our local research guides. After lunch, we visit the hides along the river where we may have outstanding opportunities to photograph the cranes.

In the late afternoon, we depart Cheorwon for the two-and-a-half-hour drive back to Seoul for dinner and overnight.

The Westin Chosun

82-2-771-0500

Seoul

Jan 14 Check-in	Jan 16 Check-out	2 nights Duration
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Day 11: DMZ - Panmunjeom Tour (B, L, D)

This morning we join an organized tour which will take us to the DMZ and Panmunjeom. We depart on a military bus and travel about an hour's drive north of the city center.

This two-and-a-half-mile-wide "no man's land" separating North from South Korea is strewn with barbed wire, tank traps, landmines, and two armies at the ready a very surreal place since it has also become a tourist destination complete with viewing towers. The area we visit is known as the Joint Security Area, inside of which is the truce village of Panmunjeom and the blue-painted UN buildings. This is the only place we can get so close to North Korean soldiers without being arrested; the tension is thick and protocol is very strict. We also visit the Unification Bridge, Advance Camp, Freedom House, the Bridge of No Return, and Imjing Park. The tour continues to the 3rd tunnel dug by North Korean soldiers to invade the South; the Dorasan station, which is the last train station before North Korea territory; and the Dorasan observatory, where we can have a panoramic view of North Korea's landscape.

The DMZ is something of an ecological treasure, since it is the most well-preserved temperate zone ecosystem in the world, and for the past 50 years much of the 150-mile border land has been untouched. The DMZ is home to black bears, mule deer, Chinese egrets, Red-crowned Cranes, black-faced spoonbills, and swan geese, to name a few. It is hoped that eventually, should hostilities cease between the Koreans, the DMZ will become an officially protected wildlife area.

After the completion of the tour, we return to our hotel. This evening, Kisup will join us for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Notes

- *Public tours of the DMZ and Panmunjeom are subject to change.*

Wednesday · January 16th

Day 12: Fly to Kushiro, Japan (B, L, D)

Early this morning, we transfer to the Gimpo Airport and our flight to Japan. Upon arrival in Haneda, we connect with our domestic flight to Kushiro, located on the beautiful island of Hokkaido.

Upon arrival, we are met at the airport by ICF Naturalist Yulia Momose, as well as Kuni Momose of the Red-crowned Crane Conservancy (RCC), who will accompany us throughout our time on Hokkaido. Together we transfer to our hotel. After lunch, we check in to our rooms and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Time permitting, we may make an optional afternoon visit to the local Kushiro Museum.

Tonight we gather for dinner at the top of our hotel overlooking the Kushiro Harbor.

ANA Crowne Plaza

81-154-314-111

Kushiro-Shi

Hokkaido

Jan 16

Check-in

Jan 17

Check-out

1 night

Duration

Thursday · January 17th



Day 13: Drive to Nemuro (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we drive east towards Nemuro, stopping en-route in Akkeshi, a small fishing village that's famous for oysters. In Akkeshi, there are several breeding territories of the Red-crowned Cranes as well as resting and wintering sites for Whooper Swans. In the upper stream of Akkeshi, there is a large wetland called Bekaubeushi. Young fishermen from Akkeshi are aware of the importance of keeping the wetland and the surrounding forest healthy, given the relationship between these environments and the sea. These local fishermen are active in conservation activities and have been planting trees around the wetland. The oysters, once on the verge of extinction, are now thriving.

We continue along the Pacific coastline through brackish water habitats of the Red-crowned Crane. Our first stop is at Mochirippu, where a pair of cranes stays year-round to both breed and spend the winter. We will drive through Hichirippu, where we have the chance to view cranes against the beautiful landscape. Also along the rugged coast we might see Harlequin Ducks.

After a short break at Kiritappu, we continue east along the shore through Pon-Poroto, Poroto, and Esashito, then stop for lunch at a restaurant located on Lake Furen. If we are lucky, we may see White-tailed Eagles and Steller's Sea Eagles during our stop at Lake Furen.

In the afternoon, we visit Mr. Sumio Yamamoto, the leading conservationist of the Blackiston's Fishowl, the largest owl in the world. After raising chicks in his captive Fishowl sanctuary, he releases them into the adjacent forest. During our visit, Mr. Yamamoto will take us in small groups into the forest to see fishowls in the wild.

Afterwards, we continue to our hotel in Nemuro, where we check in and have dinner.

East Harbour Hotel

+81-153-24-1515

Nemuro

Jan 17 Check-in	Jan 18 Check-out	1 night Duration
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Friday · January 18th

Day 14: Drive to Kawayu (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we continue along the coastline, taking a short break at Michi-no-eki Odaito. From here, on a clear day, we can see nearby Kunashiri Island. In 1995, George banded a Red-crowned Crane chick at the south end of this island, and the chick flew to the Akan feeding station in the city of Kushiro for wintering in the same year.

After lunch in Nakashibetsu, we visit one of the RCC project sites for dispersion of the Red-crowned Crane population, aimed at lessening the density in both breeding and wintering areas. From here, we continue to Akan National Park for a visit to Lake Mashu, a caldera lake which was made by a huge volcanic explosion 7,000 years ago. Lake Mashu is one of the Japan's deepest, most transparent lakes, and although it is usually appreciated for its clear blue water, it is also famously and frequently blanketed in heavy fog. If we are lucky enough to have a clear sky today, we may get a glimpse of the "Mashu Blue."

We make our next stop at Mt. Io (i.e., Iozan - "Sulfur Mountain"), an active volcano in the vicinity of Kawayu Onsen. Its yellow, sulfurous vents can be viewed up-close as we walk between them.

In the late afternoon, we arrive in the town of Kawayu, whose name means "a river of hot water." Here we check in to our ryokan, a traditional Japanese countryside inn. After check in, those interested may enjoy a traditional onsen bath in the hot springs.

Tonight we enjoy a traditional dinner at our ryokan. Though not required, it is customary to wear a Japanese yukata or kimono.

Kawayu Kanko Hotel

+015-483-2121

Hokkaido

Jan 18	Jan 19	1 night
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Check-in	Check-out	Duration
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Saturday · January 19th



Day 15: Drive to Tsurui and Akan; Return to Kushiro (B, L, D)

We depart this morning for the drive to Sunayu, where we stop at Lake Kussharo to see Whooper Swans. We continue along the edge of Lake Kussharo, the largest caldera lake in Japan, and then up to the lookout point for a magnificent view.

Next, we travel to Kushiro Shitsugen National Park, the kingdom of the Red-crowned Crane. There are three major wintertime feeding stations. The Japanese population of the Red-crowned Crane is known as the island population, while the other is referred to as the continental population. Unlike the continental population, the island population does not undertake a long-distance migration and generally stays in eastern Hokkaido year-round. The island population successfully increased its numbers from about 30 to 1,500 in less than a century, but in quite a limited space and supported by artificial feeding in the winter months.

We stop for lunch in the village of Tsurui. “Tsuru” translates to crane in Japanese, and “Tsurui” translates to the place where cranes reside. Afterwards, we tour the Akan International Crane Center. The center is located adjacent to Yamazaki Farm, where artificial feeding was initiated in 1950 by the late Mr. Yamazaki and is now carried on by his grandson. We arrive in time for the afternoon feeding.

In the late afternoon, we return to Kushiro. Tonight we enjoy a special farewell dinner and tea ceremony at the “Crane Restaurant” with a renowned local chef and ceramic artist.

ANA Crowne Plaza

81-154-314-111

Kushiro-Shi

Hokkaido

<div>Jan 19</div> <div>Check-in</div>	<div>Jan 20</div> <div>Check-out</div>	<div>1 night</div> <div>Duration</div>
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Day 16: Departure (B)

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our domestic flight back to Haneda Airport in Tokyo. Upon arrival at Haneda, we transfer to Tokyo's Narita International Airport (NRT), which may take up to two hours depending on local traffic conditions. Upon arrival at Narita International Airport, check-in for our individual departure flights.

Trip Price

\$18,350 (12-15 guests)

\$19,880 (8-11 guests)

Single Supplement: \$1870

Internal Airfare: \$2100 per person (subject to change by airlines)

Shanghai/Nanchang/Shanghai/Seoul and Seoul/Tokyo/Kushiro/Tokyo

Prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy

All prices are based on currency exchange rates at the time of publication. Please call to verify that the information you have is current.

Inclusions & Exclusions

Included

- Services of International Crane Foundation Co-founder and Leader George Archibald
- Services of International Crane Foundation Naturalists in China, South Korea, and Japan
- Services of expert GeoEx trip leader, local guides, drivers, and support staff throughout
- Internal airfare Shanghai/Nanchang/Shanghai/Seoul and Seoul/Tokyo/Kushiro/Tokyo (economy airfare quoted separately above)
- All ground transportation (including airport transfers)
- Accommodations as noted
- All sightseeing, events, and visits as noted
- Meals and beverages as noted
- Bottled water on all transfers and during sightseeing
- Gratuities for naturalist leaders, GeoEx trip leader, local guides, drivers, porters, bellboys, restaurant staff, and local assistants
- Services of GeoEx in-house air reservations/support team
- Emergency evacuation and medical advisory services (up to \$300,000) and supplemental medical expense insurance (up to \$50,000)

Not Included

- Round-trip international airfare USA/Shanghai and Tokyo/USA
- En-route expenses
- Passport/visa fees, excess baggage fess, or departure taxes
- Personal expenses and incidentals, such as (but not limited to) phone calls, internet, and laundry
- Trip cancellation, travel delay, or baggage insurance (recommended)
- Charges incurred as a result of delays beyond the control of GeoEx
- Donation to International Crane Foundation

About the Itinerary

While we endeavor to make this itinerary as accurate as possible, it should be considered an approximate schedule of activities rather than a rigid schedule of events. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our trips, and advance reconnaissance may present opportunities for superior routing or activities. Trip itineraries are also subject to revision due to weather conditions, road and trail conditions, government restrictions, and other factors beyond our control.

Comfort Level

This trip involves moderate touring and travel. Accommodations in the majority of places on the itinerary are good to excellent, food is good to excellent, transport is good and tourist facilities are, for the most part, well developed. The trip involves a fair amount of walking and trip participants should be able to walk comfortably for up to 4 hours at a time. Walking in the countryside may involve steep inclines and uneven ground, all of which may be in areas of little or no shade. Weather conditions vary throughout. Traveling in China, Korea and Japan during the winter months, you may experience snow and ice conditions. Warm, layered clothing and waterproof footwear are essential for prolonged activities outdoors.

There will be several long days involving full-day air and road travel and several consecutive days of travel with change in hotels. Flexibility and a sense of humor are essential.

Trip & Travel Considerations

Cancellations and Refunds

If you must cancel your trip (or any portion thereof), a cancellation charge will apply; refunds depend on the timing of the cancellation. GeoEx cannot offer a refund for any unused accommodations, services, or features once the trip has commenced. For more details, please refer to the payment/cancellation schedule for this trip, or to the Terms of Service section of GeoEx.com.

Travel to/from Your GeoEx Trip

Our trip price does not include transportation between your home city and the GeoEx trip (With arrival to Shanghai and departure from Tokyo). We encourage you to take advantage of GeoEx's complimentary, full-service, in-house air-ticketing department, whose staff comes with decades of experience arranging complex travel to remote destinations. Feel free to call us with questions about routings, fares, and even trip extensions—we're happy to assist you.

Before purchasing non-refundable flights, please confirm that we have the minimum number of participants required to operate the trip.

Pre-Departure Packet

After signing up for the trip, you will receive a detailed packet of information that includes notes on health and safety, packing recommendations, suggested reading, and more.

Visa Information

A visa is required for China and must be obtained in advance. More information will be provided in the pre-departure packet.

ICF Trip Leader: George Archibald

George Archibald, Ph.D., International Crane Foundation Co-founder. George has been involved in crane conservation in Japan since 1972, in South Korea since 1973, and in China since 1979.

The future of many crane species was once as fragile as the delicate and graceful birds themselves. George Archibald's visionary leadership in international conservation efforts over the past 40 years has given flight to crane conservation worldwide. In 1973, when cranes were in a perilous situation and many were on the brink of extinction, Archibald, along with Cornell University colleague, Ronald Sauey, Ph.D., established the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, Wisconsin as the world center for the study and preservation of cranes. Today, ICF has over 50 employees and supports conservation projects in 45 countries. Archibald is a true conservation ambassador who uses his unique brand of crane diplomacy to work in sensitive places. He leverages the charisma of cranes to unite people from diverse cultures and countries to work together to preserve the landscapes necessary for the survival of both cranes and people.

ICF Trip Leader: Qian Yu

Qian Yu, International Crane Foundation China Program Director. Qian pursued her master's degree in plant ecology at the Institute of Botany in the Chinese Academy of Sciences where she fell in love with all nature (except the leech and the flea!). After graduating, she began her career in Tsinghua University to study ecological succession and restoration of abandoned mining sites in suburban Beijing. Four months later, she joined The Nature Conservancy to work on the Chinese government program to define national-wide conservation priority areas and to develop a China Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan as a national commitment to Convention on Biological Diversity. Before joining International Crane Foundation, she worked for The Nature Conservancy for 11 years on the TNC China Program developing strategic partnership networks to promote conservation impacts.

ICF China Tour Leader: Dr. Li Fengshan

Dr. Li Fengshan, International Crane Foundation China Program Coordinator. Fengshan joined International Crane Foundation in 1997 and coordinates ICF's Black-necked Crane research and conservation projects in southwestern China, community-based conservation and development at Cao Hai, Guizhou Province, China, publishing China Crane News, and Small Grants for Crane Research. He also assists other China Program activities, including Black-necked Crane research and conservation in Tibet and Poyang Lake ecological monitoring in Jiangxi Province, China. He was a staff member from 1982-1986 at Guizhou Forestry Department, Guizhou Province, where his responsibilities included creation of wildlife regulations and assisting county authorities in setting aside new wildlife reserves. Fengshan was born in Chifeng, Inner Mongolia, China. He received a B. S. (Agriculture) in Wildlife Ecology at Northeast Forest College, a Master of Agriculture in Wildlife Management at Northeast Forestry University, China, and a Ph.D. in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

ICF Korea Tour Leader: Dr. Kisup Lee

Dr. Kisup Lee, Waterbird Network Korea, Director. Dr. Kisup Lee has served as the Director for Korea Institute of Environmental Ecology since 2003 and is in charge of the research and conservation strategy for waterbirds, specially concerning cranes on the DMZ. Kisup is a biologist by training and has been involved in monitoring, research and education of waterbirds for more than 20 years. Kisup graduated from the University of Kyunghee located in Seoul, Korea and serves as the vice-president in the Orthological Society of Korea. Kisup holds particular scientific interest in the conservation of endangered species such as the Black-faced Spoonbill and Red-crowned Crane. He has worked to strengthen the network for the conservation of cranes in Korea since 2002. Now focusing on the conservation of endangered waterbirds, Kisup is the representative Director of Waterbird Network Korea (WNNKorea).

ICF Japan Tour Leader: Yulia Satsuki Momose

Yulia Satsuki Momose, Red-crowned Crane Conservancy, Chairperson. Yulia has been involved in the conservation and research of the Red-crowned Crane since 1972; the same year she first met George Archibald in Kushiro. Serving as the current Chairperson of the Red-crowned Crane Conservancy (RCC), Yulia has been a staff member of the RCC, and former Tancho Protection Group, since its establishment in 1985. Although trained in the United States as an immunohematologist, Yulia has devoted her professional life to the conservation of the Red-crowned crane. She and her husband, ornithologist Kunikazu Momose, study the Red-crowned crane year-round. Yulia's many travels over the years have spanned three continents as she continues her conservation efforts. Yulia enjoys sharing her passion and expertise for cranes based on scientific knowledge and a lifetime of personal experiences. In addition to her devotion to cranes, Yulia loves four-legged furry animals, classical music, good food and wine.

International Crane Foundation Mission

The International Crane Foundation works worldwide to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds, and flyways on which they depend. ICF provides knowledge, leadership, and inspiration to engage people in resolving threats to cranes and their diverse landscapes.