CHINA’S CERAMICS CENTRES: JINGDEZHEN, CHANGSHA AND DEHUA
October 27 – November 5, 2017 (10 days, 9 nights)

Registration begins on Monday, 15 May
Registration Deadline is July 15
Click here to register  https://goo.gl/forms/o7tJuMGr74S8GzAf1

Tour Leader: Patricia Bjaaland Welch

Visit three of China’s most famous ceramic centres—Changsha (production centre of the bulk of ACM’s Tang Dynasty Belitung cargo), Dehua (ACM houses one of the world’s top collections of its beautiful blanc de chine), and the world-famous Jingdezhen (which has been producing imperial porcelain since the Yuan Dynasty)—while travelling through some of China’s most beautiful landscapes. Pack a notebook, bubble wrap and tape. We fly non-stop on SilkAir from Singapore to Xiamen on Friday, October 27 arriving mid-day for a first day of Xiamen sightseeing and overnight at the Hotel Conrad Xiamen (Deluxe Seaview Room). (Refer to Map on next page). The next day, we drive to Dehua County, one of China’s three ancient porcelain capitals, and the main ceramic exporting centre in Fujian Province, especially known for its blanc de chine produced since the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). There are over 1400 Dehua ceramic enterprises in Dehua and 80% of their products are exported abroad. In Dehua we will visit the Dehua Ceramic Museum and the ancient kiln sites of Qudougong (a ‘hencoop kiln’ with 17 kiln chambers preserved from the Song and Yuan Dynasties) and Yueji (400 years old and still in production), meet local craftsmen, artists, and visit the Yueji Kiln Ceramic Art Centre.

And while in the region, we’ll visit the famous traditional Hakka round settlements built from earth (Fujian Tulou) in Yongding County. Most settlements are located in the mountainous areas and were built between the 12-20th centuries. We’ll visit a typical settlement, a local Hakka home and explore the tulou cluster at Nanxi Village located in a beautiful green valley.

A short flight takes us from Xiamen to the second of our ancient ceramic capitals, Changsha, the provincial capital of Hunan Province, and the production centre of the bulk of ACM’s fabulous Tang Dynasty Belitung shipwreck collection. (It is also associated with Chairman Mao, spicy Hunanese cuisine, as well as being the site of the very famous Mawangdui Han tombs.) We’ll visit the Changsha Tongguan Kiln site, begun in the Tang Dynasty, the birthplace of copper red glaze technology and the first Chinese kiln to use traditional Chinese calligraphy and poetry to decorate its products.

From there it’s high-speed train to Nanchang, then a bus to the world famous Jingdezhen, “China’s Porcelain Capital”. Jingdezhen was China’s largest imperial porcelain factory, and produced the finest ceramics for the emperors and the courts of Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. We’ll visit a fabulous educational historical site that is still producing JDZ porcelain that shows every step of the process before visiting the JDZ Museum, local shops and the town itself. We return to Xiamen, pack our treasures for the flight home (bring bubble wrap) to Singapore, arriving Sunday evening, November 5.

The date of the trip has been carefully planned for when the weather is perfect, and after the Jingdezhen Fair, when prices return to normal and the tourist crowds have dissipated. This will be a great learning trip for docents and non-docents alike with a special focus on Chinese ceramics, history and art, as well as a taste of China’s natural rural beauty. Recommended reading lists, a schedule of sharing sessions, study topics, and a more detailed itinerary, will be available at the first meeting.

The approximate cost of this study tour is SGDS$4,600 per person, which includes all international and domestic airfares, train fare, double-sharing accommodation in the best hotels available (single room supplements are an extra $900), all meals, bottled water, transport, entrance fees, guides, tips, travel insurance and a contribution to the FOM general fund. It does not include visa fees and personal expenses such as alcoholic drinks, laundry or phone calls.

Deposit Payment:  $1,600 per person

NOTES: Information on further payments will be sent out later with a detailed itinerary to registered participants. This study tour is limited to 16 participants including the tour leader.
First pre-trip meeting: Tuesday, 29 August, 7:00 pm (Venue TBA)
Map of Southeast China showing Kiln Sites

Kiln sites are identified by ▲