



A cultural exchange for the whole family

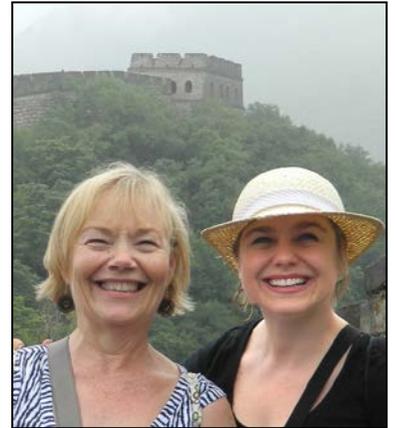
The YaleGALE Mission

The Yale Global Alumni Leadership Exchange (YaleGALE) is a strategic initiative of the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) that seeks the advancement of higher education through alumni engagement and volunteer leadership. YaleGALE volunteers share best practices in alumni relations and foster rich cultural understanding with alumni from universities around the world. YaleGALE, through its engagement of leaders, shares with and strengthens volunteer driven organizations.



A YaleGALE trip is a fun and meaningful adventure for the entire family. You'll find that all family members are welcome – especially non-Yale spouses, companions, and children. In fact, 30 to 40 percent of participants are not alumni. Two and three-generational families come. Enough kids and teenagers come to form a loose-knit but cohesive group.

All YaleGALE participants spend a substantial time together at significant cultural landmarks and institutions in our host country. In addition, when the alumni are engaged in alumni conferences and exchanges, non-Yalies are offered other optional tours of important and memorable sites. Some believe that the non-Yale participants get the better deal. Note also that non-alumni are welcome to participate in all the conferences and exchanges, and some do. In any event, because of the mission driven nature of the trip, a notable aspect of YaleGALE is the high degree of collegiality, and quickly formed, lasting friendships.



The best way to get a glimpse of a trip is through the eyes and words of participants.

I had a wonderful time and went on almost every one of the optional excursions. My companions were a tremendously varied group of women – there was always someone to chat with, learn about and with whom to experience a tiny bit of China. What we saw were incredibly beautiful temples, gardens, museums and some “off the beaten path” unique places in Beijing and Shanghai.

On some excursions I laughed so hard tears came out of my eyes, and on others I gazed in awe at sites I'd never seen before—incredibly preserved and gilded temples, trees that were thousands of years old and the finest pearls I'd ever seen. It was a unique and breathtaking experience, one I will always remember.

- Christine S., a non-alumna who went on both the China and U.K. trips with her husband

Family opportunities abound for children to tour with their parents, and with their peers.

When traveling with YaleGALE, the tour guides are always the best! They are always there to tell us the most important details of the sites we are going to visit and answer our questions.

The people you meet on these trips become friends for life! You are always talking to each other and hanging out on “free days”, and when you return home, you connect with them on Facebook or email and continue talking about the trip. The friends I have made on the trips



YALE GLOBAL ALUMNI LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE

(to Turkey and China) will be friends for life.



The places that YaleGALE took us to in Turkey were amazing, especially since I had just finished studying ancient world history in school. There was so much history to see! From religious temples and mosques to markets, what you see is truly wonderful!

I'd love to take another trip with YaleGALE ... hint-hint!

- Rachel W., the daughter of an alumna, attended both the Turkey and China trips while in high school



Is there nothing so wonderful to hear than "Wow!" "Amazing!" coming from a teenager upon seeing Pergamon, Ephesus or the Forbidden City? Acknowledging that she had actually studied the Ottoman Empire in school? Learning how to bargain in a Chinese market? Experiencing a Turkish bath with the ladies on YaleGALE?

What parent wouldn't be happy to see their child meeting other kids on a mostly adult trip and making friends with them? They tend to eat and hang together during the day's activities or simply take the day off when they've had enough of each other. It's very free flow and we all understand when they've had enough of each other or sightseeing.

YaleGALE makes the kids feel very special on these terrific trips and some do keep in touch, making the next trip a much anticipated reunion! What fun it is, and what better way to make history come alive than to travel!

- Lucy W., mother of Rachel W., attended the Turkey and China trips with her husband and child

Finally, here are some thoughts from a non-alumna who chose to participate in the YaleGALE alumni conferences and exchanges.

I have loved so many of the interesting – indeed amazing – sights & visits arranged for the non-Yale spouses & guests. But the trip is definitely a working trip for the Yale participants, and because the substance & issues of the exchange are of interest to me, it has been a definite pleasure to attend some of the sessions. These meetings are the heart and the lifeblood of the trip, and I feel they enable me to take its pulse.

- Susan P.R., a non-alumna who went on the Australia, Japan, Turkey, China, and U.K. trips with her husband



As you can tell, there are not only enough wonderful things for non-Yalies to see and to do, but there are enough to keep them coming back for more.