

# **Denver Sister Cities 2018**

to

Ulaanbaatar and Mongolia

August 7 - August 20 2018





Denver Ulaanbaatar Sister Cities

## -Detailed Itinerary-

## Day 1 8/7/2018

## Arrive Together in Ulaanbaatar

We fly in as a group from Beijing, China. The contrast between ancient traditions and the dawning of a 21st century democracy is most visible in Ulaanbaatar where traditional gers and Buddhist monasteries coexist with modern high-rises. Upon arrival at the airport, we are met by our Nomadic Guides who will share a host duties with Jim Wagenlander. Nomadic Transfers us to our hotel, The Shangri-la (the best hotel in Mongolia).

Shangri-La Hotel

## Days 2 - 4

## Ulaanbaatar

8/8/2018 -8/10/2018 We gather for our first group breakfasts, which we will have every morning while we are in Mongolia. These three days will be dedicated to touring & Sister Cities meetings, and both public and private receptions. Though we will be hosted for some meals, the rest we pay for ourselves, except for breakfast.

Shangri-La Hotel

В

TBD

# Day 5 8/11/2018

#### Middle Gobi

Today, we will leave early in the morning by 4x wheel drive vehicles to Dundgobi (Middle Gobi) through grassland steppes. We stop to climb the huge Chinggis Khan statute to see an abandoned Russian Air Force base along the way.

Uush Mankhan Sanatorium and possible tent camping

We find a spot to have a tailgate lunch and continue our drive to Uush Mankhan, a secluded camp in a seldom visited area in the Middle Gobi where we will spend a few nights. We are hosted by the extended family of Soyombo and Altantsetseg. We explore the surrounding areas and visit a monastery site that was destroyed in the 1930's during the stalinist purges. Ten Sister Cities delegations have stayed here. The late, former Ulaanbaatar Mayor and Mongolian Prime Minister Narantsatsralt used to host us and now his eldest son Soyombo and widow do. They are very good friends of Jim and his family as well as Colorado.

В, L, D

Uush Mankhan is at the base of a sand dune, is a tiny rustic sanatorium where Mongolians seek treatments, and it is also the family's personal camp. We stay in our individual choice of gers, traditional Mongolian tents in the camp, or in camping tents set up above the sanatorium.

## Day 6 8/12/2018

## Mini Naadam at Uush Mankhan Sanatorium and Explorations

We climb the sand dune, participate in a Buddhist ceremony and enjoy a Naadam. This is a Mongolian traditional summer sport festival. Our's is a mini version which is solely organized annually by our host family for our group and locals. This now annual event includes wrestling and horseracing

Uush Mankhan Sanatorium

> B, L, D

Three Camel

Lodge

B, L, D

competitions. These are two of the three sports that traditionally measured the courage, strength, and pride of nomads and warriors and are referred to as the "three manly sports" although men, women, boys, and girls all compete in Naadam games today. Traditional entertainment is also provided. This is held maybe 10 kilometers from our camp on a wind swept mesa. Usually no more than 200 people attend but in this sparsely populated region many come from as far as 100 kilometers to attend. This last evening in the camp we party and dance with local herdsmen under the stars

# Day 7 8/13/2018

## Wonderful Three Camel Lodge and South Gobi

Leaving early in the morning we will drive to the South Gobi and Bulagtai Mountain near Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park, the location of award winning Three Camel Lodge one of the best eco lodges in Asia. Our trek is a hard long drive through barren but spectacular lands. We stop along the way for a picnic lunch.

Contrary to the sameness that the word 'desert' suggests, the Gobi is a fascinating and diverse region, and includes sites of some of the most important paleontological discoveries of the 20th century. For the next five days we explore the stunning landscapes of the Gobi, habitat for Bactrian camels, Argali mountain sheep, goitered gazelle, Golden Eagles, Saker Falcons, jerboas (similar to kangaroo rats), and many endemic reptiles.

During our stay at Three Camel we enjoy dinners at the lodge restaurant ger, and can hangout on the porch with an amazing panoramic view or sip beverages in the Lodge's bar. We overnight in our own very comfortable deluxe ger.

# Day 8 8/14/2018

## Yol Valley National Park

Drive to Yol Valley National Park (2.5 hours there and back), cradled between the foothills of the Altai Mountains. An ancient river carved this surprisingly green valley. Now, its remnant streams create ice formations at the base of the valley that sometimes persist until late in July. A hike through the valley allows you to discover habitat for indigenous vulture-like lammergeiers, Altai snowcocks, ibex, yaks and Argali mountain sheep. Enjoy visiting the small local natural history museum for an overview of the flora and fauna of the area. Return to the Three Camel Lodge.

# Day 9 8/15/2018

#### Ayaldai Valley

After breakfast, drive to Ayaldai Valley via Gegeet Valley (3 hour drive pver and through mountain canyons), home of the elusive snow leopard. Enjoy an exploration of this incredible landscape before continuing on to Ayaldai, located just before Hongoryn Els sand dunes. Upon arrival, pick our site and set up our camping tents, dining tent and kitchen at the base of the spectacular Hongoryn Els, or sand dunes.

# Day 10 8/16/2018

## Hongoryn Els Sand Dunes

After breakfast, we meet up with a camel herdsman to take an extended

Tent Camp

Three Camel

Lodge

B, L, D

B, L, D

Tent Camp

B, L, D

Three Camel

Lodge

B, L, D

camel ride in front of the sand dunes. "Els" is the Mongolian word for sand dunes and "Hongoryn" describes the exquisite pale tawny color of one of the world's most beautiful dunes fields, yet another remarkable landscape of the world's northernmost desert. These are some of the largest and most spectacular sand dunes in Mongolia. They are also known as the Duut Mankhan – "Singing Sands" " for the remarkable low-pitched groan that is emitted when the surface is disturbed by wind. The towering dunes of Hongoryn Els, which run 60 miles alongside the isolated Gobi Altai Mountain range and reaching upwards of 600 feet, can undeniably be deemed as the most magnificent in the Gobi. We hike and climb on the dunes and the surrounding area. Our camp, its perfect for relaxing, socializing over drinks and dinner under our shaded dining tent weather permitting. Overnight in our camping tents at a site away from others who might be visiting the dunes.

Day 11 8/17/2018

## Three Camel Lodge / Flaming Cliffs

In the morning, we leisurely drive back from the dunes to the Three Camel Lodge a different route. Afterwards we can wander the camp or resting. In the taking late afternoon we drive to Bayan Zag (1 hour), commonly known as the Flaming Cliffs for the orange glow of its rock at sunset. It was here in 1923 that Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews and his exploration team from the American Museum of Natural History found the first nest of dinosaur eggs. To the trained eye, the red sandstone of the Flaming Cliffs is rich with dinosaur fossils, and paleontological expeditions continue to make significant discoveries at this site. Return to the Three Camel Lodge in the evening.

Day 12 8/18/2018

Ulaanbaatar
Early morning we transfer to the airport a little more than an hour from
Three Camel for the return flight to Ulaanbaatar. Spend the rest of the day at
your leisure or shopping in the city, Nomadic provides us a final group
dinner at a popular Indian restaurant hosted by Nomadic guides and Jim.

Day 13 8/19/2018

## Final day in Ulaanbaatar

Depart

This day is free for additional individual sightseeing, shopping or special meetings that have been requested.

Best Western Tuushin Hotel B

Best Western

B. D

В

Tuushin Hotel

**Day 14** 

8/20/2018 Transfer to the airport for your individual flights home or elsewhere in Asia. Jim will stay a few more days.

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to alter the above itinerary if deemed necessary.

#### - Replacement Payment Pages -

Land Price: Once paid this cost may be adjusted resulting in a refund or increase

depending on the final numbers of travelers. \*\$6,655.00 6 – 7 Travelers (*currently projected*)

\$6,265.00 8 – 10 Travelers \$5,885.00 11 – 13 Travelers \$5,510.00 14 – 16 Travelers

**The Additional** Denver Sister Cities Assment is still negotiated with Denver Sister Cities International Inc. We hope in the next week to know this amount.

Internal Airfare: \$185.00 per person (currently projected, subject to

change by airlines)

**Denver Sister Cities International Inc Membership:** \$50 one-year membership must also be purchased by each delegate. If you wish you can add this and other costs to the Land Price payment or pay separately.

Single Supplement: \$1,670.00

**Payment:** Please make payments to Denver Sister Cities International Inc by check and mail it to 2650 East 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver, CO, 80205. Or you can call Denver Sister Cities International Inc at 303-832-1336 and pay by credit card for an additional 3% fee. Please advise Jim Wagenlander by email when you make payment.

#### Land Price Includes:

- Ground transportation in Mongolia as described in the itinerary;
- Transfers upon arrival and departure in Mongolia;
- All accommodations based on double or twin occupancy (hotel rooms and gers);
- Meals as noted in itinerary;
- All excursions, entrance fees, and visits as described in itinerary;
- Extensive pre-departure Travel Guide, reading list, important information about your trip, and luggage tags;
- Bilingual Nomadic Expeditions guide throughout your stay
- Jim Wagenlander is knowledgeable leadership during the trip

#### Land Price does not Include:

International airfare; internal airfare is quoted separately and subject to change by airlines; passport and visa fees; comprehensive medical and trip insurance; airport taxes; excess baggage charges; photography and video fees; tips to guides and drivers; food and beverages not included in the group meals; items of a personal nature, including alcoholic beverages, laundry and telephone calls; other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Food, lodging or land transportation in Beijing, China prior to the flight to Ulaanbaatar. Everyone who is staying over in Beijing at the outset of the trip is asked to travel together to the Beijing airport as a group.

Unlimited water is provided during the trip and often a beer or soda pop and some of the meals, otherwise. In general otherwise drinks are not. Prior to traveling to the Gobi however, there will be an opportunity to purchase pop, alcohol, and chocolates for your rural travel.

#### Single Supplements

Single supplements guarantee single accommodations in hotels and gers. If single travelers wish to share accommodations, every effort will be made to match them with a roommate. If a suitable roommate is not available at the time of booking, a single supplement fee will be invoiced. A refund will be issued if a share situation subsequently becomes available.

#### **International Airfare**

The most popular gateway cities to Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar are Beijing (Air China or Mongolian Airlines), Seoul (Korean Air or Mongolian Airlines), Moscow (Aeroflot or Mongolian Airlines) and Tokyo (Mongolian Airlines). Additionally, there are weekly flights from Berlin (Mongolian Airlines), Hong-Kong (Mongolian Airlines) and Istanbul (Turkish Airlines) as well. Due to the time difference, passengers originating from the USA or Europe, will have to leave 1-2 days prior to the trip commencement date.

Please indicate on your Trip Application Form if you would like us to assist you in booking international flights. Flight availability and pricing is subject to change and Nomadic Expeditions cannot guarantee the availability of flights close to the departure date, so it is in the client's best interest to make reservations as early as possible in the trip planning process. Airline ticketing fees will be applied to tickets purchased through Nomadic Expeditions.

It is imperative that you send a copy of your international flight itinerary to Nomadic Expeditions at least 30 days prior to departure so that we may arrange for any additional services and/or airport transfers.

### Visa Requirements

U.S. citizens do NOT require a visa to enter Mongolia. However, if you are traveling to Mongolia via China, you are only permitted 24 hours or less in the Beijing airport without a visa. If you plan on leaving the airport or have a layover, it is imperative that you obtain a double-entry Chinese visa in advance.

Most other nationalities, including Canadian and European, do NOT require a visa to enter Mongolia. Please contact us if you need a Mongolian visa application

## **Certain Insurance Provided**

(See the next page)



# ACE USA Products and Services

#### **Executive Assistance® Services**

#### **Product Description**

- Round-the-clock travel assistance services for employees and volunteers when traveling or working outside their home country
- Provided through preeminent global assistance firms, Europ Assistance USA and iJET Intelligent Risk Systems
- Live travel assistance services available 24/7 worldwide through one toll-free call
- Includes emergency medical and political evacuation or repatriation
- Unlimited access to password protected e-Services portal for pre-trip planning
- Automatic political evacuation coverage to reimburse a covered policyholder's costs (\$2,500 per covered person per event, up to \$10,000 policy limit)
  For more information, visit www.aceadvantage.com

#### Minimums

Included at no additional premium with Employers Responsibility Coverage under International Advantage® Package Policy and Employers Responsibility Coverage under Foreign Casualty Controlled Master Program

#### Limits

- Live in-language assistance when an emergency strikes
  - **Medical Assistance Services** 
    - Emergency medical evacuation when necessary
      - Repatriation to country of residence/citizenship when necessary
      - Emergency hospital admission deposit up to USD \$10,000
      - Medical monitoring
    - Dispatch of doctor or specialist as needed
    - Medical evacuation/repatriation expenses (policy limit: \$1 million)

#### Personal and Legal Assistance Services

- Pre-trip medical referral information to multi-lingual doctors and/or addresses and phone numbers of hospitals
- Emergency medication arrangements for transportation
- Lost document assistance
- Emergency cash advance of up to USD \$1,000
- Embassy and Consular Information
- Introduction to local attorneys; bail bonds
- Emergency translation services/referrals

#### **Travel Assistance Services**

 Emergency transportation arrangements for traveling companion and return of rented vehicle when employee or volunteer is hospitalized or evacuated

#### Concierge Services

Services useful when conducting business in other countries, including: Pre-trip Assistance, Destination Profiles, Epicurean Needs, Event Ticketing, Floral Services, Tee Time Reservations, Hotel Accommodations, Meet and Greet Services, Personalized Retail Shopping Assistance, Procurement of Hard-to-Find Items, Restaurant Referrals and Reservations, Rental Car Reservations and Airline Reservations

#### Emergency Political Evacuation and Repatriation

- Priority access to iJET emergency evacuation services
   Repatriation to country of which employee or volunteer is resident/citizen, when necessary
- e-Services through password-protected www.aceExecutiveAssistance.com
  - Easy-to-use online planning tools, including security alerts, comprehensive travel briefs to more than 180 countries and 200 cities worldwide and country-specific medical facility recommendations
  - Printable ID cards and passport stickers

#### **Typical Client Profile**

- In addition to foreign liability coverage, U.S.-based companies and non-profit organizations need to protect those in their care when emergencies arise while they work or travel outside their home country
  - Multinational employees living outside their home country
  - U.S. expatriate employees
  - Employees engaged in temporary travel outside their home country, including accompanying spouse, children or other companion(s)
  - Non-profit volunteers traveling outside of their home country

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Restricted Classes or Industries	• N/A
Key Competitive Advantages	<ul> <li>Global Presence: ACE global network of underwriting and claims professionals in more than 140 countries, staffed with underwriting and claims professionals thoroughly familiar with local languages, pertinent regulations and customs</li> <li>Exclusive Focus on International Business: Handling overseas exposures of U.Sbased companies is our only business, with foreign casualty underwriters located in 21 major U.S. cities</li> <li>Financial Strength: ACE consistently receives among the highest ratings for financial strength from the industry's principal rating agencies</li> <li>Exceptional service to brokers and clients, from consultation through proposal, policy issuance, implementation and claims management</li> </ul>
Contact(s)	Advantage Underwriting Center - Wilmington, DE Phone: 800 204-0518 Email: advantagepartners@acegroup.com

The above is a product summary only. For current terms and conditions of coverage, please refer to the policy. Insurance provided by insurers within the ACE Group of Companies or its allied distribution associates. All products may not be available in all jurisdictions. ACE USA is the retail U.S.-based operating division of the ACE Group of Companies, headed by ACE Limited (NYSE: ACE). ACE USA, through its operating companies, is a leading provider of proporty, casually, and accident and health insurance, as well as financial products and risk management services. The ACE Group of Companies provides insurance and reinsurance for a diverse group of clients around the world. Additional information can be found at www.aceusa.com.

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#### Reservations

Reserve your space on this trip by completing our Trip Application and mailing it to us with a \$750 deposit per person (\$200 deposit per person for extensions.) Please mail to:

Nomadic Expeditions 1095 Cranbury South River Road, Suite 20A Monroe Township, NJ, USA, 08831

Once we receive your Trip Application and deposit, we will send you written confirmation of your reservation and our extensive pre-departure information packet, which includes our Travel Guide, recommended reading, insurance information, visa kit, cultural and environmental guidelines, medical information, and travel tips. This information should answer most of the questions you may have about your upcoming adventure. However, if any other questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will also include an invoice for the balance of your trip payment, which will be due 90 days prior to your departure date, payable by check, money order or wire transfer to Nomadic Expeditions, Inc. (Please note that there is an additional fee for payment by wire transfer to cover bank service charges.)

Approximately three weeks prior to departure, after receipt of full payment, we will send your final departure package, which includes a participant list, final itinerary, contact numbers, group rendezvous instructions, luggage tags, and air tickets (if applicable.)

# Ger Accommodations and Upgrades Ger Camps

Made of a latticed wood structure covered with layers of felt and canvas, each ger is heated by a wood stove and furnished with beautifully painted wood-framed beds. The camp restaurant and western-style toilet and shower facilities are located in a central building found a few hundred feet from the gers. Gers provide an authentic and memorable taste of Mongolian culture and allow you to visit areas which otherwise lack traveler accommodations. Most visitors find their stays at ger camps to be among their most enjoyable experiences in Mongolia.

#### The Three Camel Lodge

The Three Camel Lodge is Mongolia's premier eco-lodge and expedition camp. Built in the Gobi according to environmentally and culturally sustainable guidelines, the camp offers an extraordinary combination of adventure and sophistication, combining traditional style with superb service.

The Three Camel Lodge was built to complement its natural surroundings and to utilize renewable energy sources, using both wind and solar power. Local artisans and workers crafted the roofs of the building in accordance with the canons of Mongolian Buddhist architecture, without using a single nail.

The Three Camel Lodge is more than an award-winning travel destination. It is also a center of education in the Gobi region. The Lodge funds and organizes nature conservation clubs for children in local secondary schools and serves as a base for scientific research and wildlife monitoring in the fragile Gobi eco-system.

### Upgraded accommodations at the Three Camel Lodge

If space is available, travelers will upgrade their accommodations to stay in luxurious, one-of-a-kind Deluxe Gers at the Three Camel Lodge. Deluxe gers include bathrooms with toilet and sink, and traditional-inspired amenities such as felt slippers and a del-styled bathrobe. Deluxe gers fill-up quickly.

### **Cancellation Policy**

All cancellations must be submitted in writing to Nomadic Expeditions. Cancellation charges are based on the number of days from the date we receive the written cancellation notice until the main trip departure date.

## **Cancellation charges:**

90 days or more \$750

89-60 days 25% of land 59-30 days 50% of land 29-0 days No refund After trip departs No refund

In addition, any unrecoverable charges or fees imposed by suppliers or vendors on advance payments will be assessed. Airfares are refundable in accordance with the policy of the airline carrier being used, subject to a \$50 handling charge.

If full payment is not received 90 days prior to departure, Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to consider this a cancellation. A Late Payment Fee will apply to all payments made less than 90 days prior to departure.

Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to cancel or postpone any travel services prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants. In the event that a trip cannot depart on the dates specified due to unforeseeable events that render the itinerary inoperable or inadvisable, Nomadic Expeditions reserves the right to postpone services until such time as it is deemed appropriate by Nomadic Expeditions. Trip payments will be held by Nomadic Expeditions, and subject to the same conditions as for the original scheduled trip.

Nomadic Expeditions is not responsible for any unrecoverable expenses incurred by trip participants due to trip cancellation or postponement, including non-refundable airline tickets, medical expenses and visa fees, or additional arrangements, made either through Nomadic Expeditions or another provider, purchased to coincide with this scheduled departure.

#### **Delays**

We are not responsible for any additional charges incurred arising from the delay or extension of a trip due to weather, equipment failure, illness, or other causes beyond our control. No refunds can be made for any unused services or accommodations on the trip.

#### What to Expect

The rewards of visiting a seldom-explored country require traveling with flexibility, a spirit of adventure, and a willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services. Mongolia is a developing country in terms of infrastructure; delays or changes in the itinerary are possible, and indeed likely. Accommodations are comfortable and clean and include first-class hotels in major cities and traditional nomadic gers in the Mongolian countryside (dome-shaped tents constructed of latticed walls, covered by felt and canvas.) There is a greater diversity of food choices nowadays in Mongolia; however, meals are typically meat-based. Transportation is by bus and four-wheel drive vehicle; most roads are unpaved and are very bumpy and dusty.

Nomadic Expeditions is committed to making positive impact on the destinations it visits and to giving back to those who dwell there and thus encourage our travelers to participate in our philanthropic activities. Ask your Expedition Specialist about how you can be part of our efforts aimed at sustainable tourism, conservation and cultural preservation.

It is very important that travelers contact both Nomadic Expeditions and Denver Sister Cities with any special needs, such as dietary or medical restrictions, as soon as possible so that every effort can be made to accommodate special

needs. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the client, in conjunction with their health care provider, if necessary, to determine whether their needs can be met sufficiently to allow for a safe and comfortable journey.

Please note that most domestic scheduled flights originate in Ulaanbaatar, so to fly from one destination within Mongolia to another, you will almost always return to Ulaanbaatar first. Also, it is not possible to arrive in Ulaanbaatar and connect with another flight on the same day. Therefore, you must overnight in Ulaanbaatar for at least one night before flying to another destination. Scheduled flights to the various destinations in the countryside do not operate everyday, and sometimes only once or twice per week. Therefore, the number of days spent in a destination may be dictated by the flight schedule.

All itineraries should be taken as an approximate schedule of events, though every attempt will be made to adhere to the given schedule. Itineraries are subject to change due to weather, airline schedule changes, road conditions, and other reasons beyond our control. When changes occur in routing or activities, we do our best to provide the best alternatives possible to accommodate all of our clients.

## **Cultural and Environmental Responsibility**

In our rapidly changing and shrinking world, travel is increasing to destinations that were once inaccessible. Contact between unique cultures, such as the traditional nomadic horse-based culture of Mongolia, and the outside world can have a definite impact on both sides. By promoting cultural interaction based on mutual respect and an understanding of cultural differences, we strive to maintain a delicate balance, neither accelerating the modernization of ancient cultures, nor suppressing their natural evolution.

### **About Nomadic Expeditions**

Nomadic Expeditions has been arranging exceptional adventures to Mongolia since the country's democratic transition in 1990 and the true opening of its borders to western visitors. Our objective is to create an unforgettable experience for our travelers, and our staff is dedicated to providing insight and guidance so that time in this remarkable country will be memorable and rewarding.

With full-time staff, operations, and offices in the United States and our affiliate office in Mongolia, Nomadic Expeditions brings a unique and enriching cross-cultural perspective to travel to Mongolia. Our offices are staffed both by native Mongolians and Americans with a genuine love of Mongolia and her culture. Our approach to business includes extended exchange programs for our employees, ensuring that each member of our staff is aware of the expectations and sensitivities of our clients and also has an understanding of the Mongolian spirit and way of life. An underlying requirement for anyone involved with Nomadic Expeditions, be they staff, suppliers, or guides, is a respect and love for Mongolia's environment and people.

Our foremost commitment is to Mongolia and her people. Nomadic Expeditions' commitment is a reflection of our founder and president, Jalsa Urubshurow, a Mongolian-American with a deep love and respect for his ancestral homeland. Having traveled much of the globe, he believes that Mongolia is one of the world's last unspoiled treasures and is dedicated to the preservation of its natural and cultural wonders. We believe that Mongolia can benefit greatly from the development of an ecologically conscientious and sustainable approach to tourism, as well as research and exploration that could reduce the demand and need for industrial development and exploitative mining of Mongolia's precious natural resources.

We believe that one of Mongolia's greatest treasures is its pristine environment and we are deeply committed to its conservation. As members of the Ecotourism Society, we are dedicated to providing sustainable travel in Mongolia through working to eliminate the negative effects of tourism, while enhancing the positive. By maintaining an ongoing dialogue with non-profit, university, and government organizations we hope to reinforce to Mongolians and visitors alike that in the long term, the environment is most valuable to us all when it is in a healthy, balanced state.

#### About Denver Sister Cities International, Inc.

Denver Sister Cities International (DSCI) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization supported by membership dues, City grants and public contributions. DSCI promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation with cultural, educational, and economic endeavors. DSCI manages and administers all activities with 13 unique Sister and Friendship Cities around the world, cultivating close business, economic, educational, and social ties with municipal governments and citizens alike. Denver and Kunming have been sister cities since 1986.