



Adoption Toolbox Book Review

from home to HOMELAND

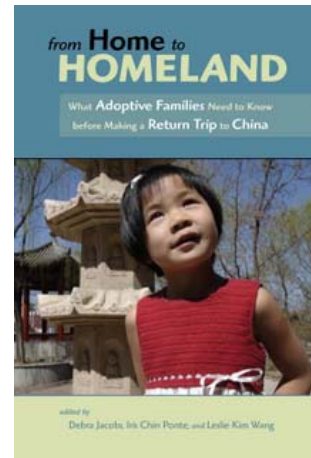
What Adoptive Families need to Know before Making a Return Trip to China

edited by Debra Jacobs, Iris Chin Ponte & Leslie Kim Wang

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www.yeongandyeong.com

For Adults



from home to HOMELAND is a thoughtful collection of essays written by China adoptive parents, adoptees, social workers, therapists, medical doctors and researchers. Beginning with *Getting Ready: Preparing Children and Families for the Trip*, and proceeding through chapters on *Choosing Group or Independent Travel*, *Making Connections in China*, *Extending the Trip: Living in China Temporarily*, and *Home Again: Lasting Impact of the Trip*, the book provides a wraparound experience for adoptive families pondering a return visit to their children's birth country.

The three chapters at the heart of book bring the reader's focus in to 'personal', and strongly connect with intimate revelations and honest reflection. *The Heart of the Matter: Visiting the Orphanage*, *Finding Site and Foster Family*, *Traveling with Children Who Face Emotional Challenges* and *Primary Sources: Adoptees' Own Experiences of Returning to China* offer prospective travelers a deeper look at the potential pitfalls and the long-range and often life-changing benefits of taking on a homeland visit. These essays breathe life into the necessary nuts and bolts of trip prep, while delving into what we *really* need to know before we go.

from home to HOMELAND wraps with *Thoughts for Further Inquiry: What the Research Tells Us*, which supplies us with the viewpoint of Chinese citizenry on international adoption, and the results of adoptive family interviews by the book's three editors. **From home to HOMELAND** makes an excellent case for a return trip to China with eyes wide open, and is a valuable, multi-voiced resource for a post-adoption pilgrimage.

Reviewed by Jean MacLeod
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