

American Celebration of Music in the People's Republic of China

Standard Tour #1 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled airline service to Beijing, China. Enjoy full meal/beverage service and in-flight entertainment during this trans-Pacific overnight flight. Cross the International Date Line during this flight.

Day 2 Beijing

Arrive in Beijing Airport, where you will be met by MCI's Chinese staff who assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoaches for the transfer to a downtown hotel. Time permitting, enjoy a brief orientation tour of Beijing en route to hotel check-in.

Beijing has more attractions than any other city in China. It has blossomed into a city that any international traveler can enjoy, and has become a vibrant and international city. The list of musts is impressive: the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, Tian An Men Square, and the Great Wall should not be missed. For the last six centuries, Beijing has been the most important capital of China.

Day 3 Beijing

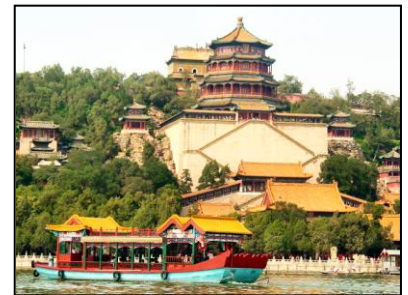
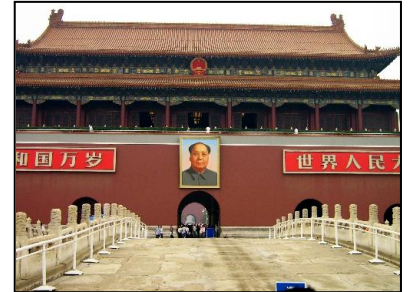
Aboard your motorcoach en route to sightseeing, enjoy some orientation about Chinese culture, a brief history, and a discussion of the economic and political situations. Visit Tian An Men Square, the largest open plaza in the world (it accommodates half a million people at one time!). Visit the Forbidden City (Palace Museum), the former Imperial Palace for the 24 Emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasty. Also visit the Summer Palace, the summer resort for the Royal Family. This evening, enjoy a traditional Beijing Duck Banquet.

Day 4 Beijing

Take an excursion to the Great Wall of China at Ju Yong Pass, one of the world's architectural wonders. ***Performance on the Great Wall as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.*** On the way back to the city, stop at the Beijing Cloisonne Factory, the largest of its kind in China. In the evening, attend the Beijing Acrobatic Performance.

Day 5 Beijing

Visit the Temple of Heaven, the largest temple and altar complex in China, where the ancient Emperors worshiped Heaven and prayed for good harvests. Visit a school in Beijing that specializes in training students in traditional Chinese musical instruments, and participate in a cultural exchange with a school affiliated with the Central Music Conservatory. ***Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.***



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Day 6 Beijing

Excursion to Tianjin via motorcoach (1½ hours). Your Tianjin city tour will include the historic sites and the new economic development district. Possible afternoon visit to a school. **Evening Concert at the Concert Hall of the Tianjin University as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.** After the concert, return to your Beijing hotel.

The most important seaport in Northern China, Tianjin was first open for foreign trade after the Opium War in 1842. It is one of the four Municipalities in China directly under the administration of the Central Government.



Day 7 Xi'an

Morning flight to Xi'an (1½ hours). Upon arrival, visit the Ancient City Wall, the only complete city wall existing in China. Welcome Banquet - Dumpling Feast. In the evening, attend the Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Performance.

Once the largest city in the world and a model of imperial splendor, Xi'an is best known as one of the cradles of Chinese civilization. Xi'an, China's ancient capital, is home to the terra-cotta armies of the first emperor, the royal tombs of 10 successive dynasties, and two pagodas from the golden age of the Tang. Xi'an spans the first 17 centuries of China's dynastic history.



Day 8 Xi'an

Visit the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses Museum, acclaimed as the “*Eighth Wonder of The World*” with a stop at Hua Qing Hot Springs, a winter resort for the ancient Emperors; the Factory that manufactures the Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses according to the original way. Visit a school affiliated with the Xi'an Music Conservatory for a **cultural exchange performance. Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.**



Day 9 Beijing

Early morning, participate in Taichi exercise and enjoy the performance of Martial Arts. Also tour the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. Afternoon flight back to Beijing. Check into a hotel near the airport for a Farewell Dinner and overnight.



Day 10 Depart for home

Return via scheduled airline service, arriving home on the same day.

NOTE: Three meals per day are included in China. The sightseeing mentioned above can be modified according to the group's wishes and interests.