

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

Standard Tour #3 (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 the hotel.

Beijing has more attractions than any other city in China. It has blossomed into a city that any international traveller 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

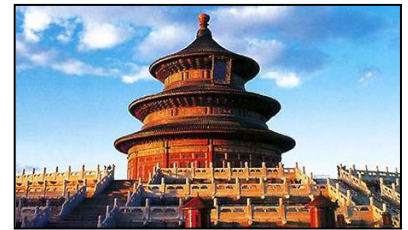
Aboard your motorcoach en route to sightseeing, enjoy an orientation of Chinese culture, a brief history, and a discussion of the economic and political situations. Visit Tian An Men Square, the largest open plaza in the world that accommodates half a million people at one time. Tour the Forbidden City (Palace Museum), the former Imperial Palace for the 24 Emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasty, and also visit the Temple of Heaven, where the Emperors of both dynasties worshiped heaven. This evening, enjoy a traditional Beijing Duck Banquet.

Day 4 Beijing

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

Morning tour of the Summer Palace, the summer resort of the royal families, including the famous Marble Boat. Afternoon visit to 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. ***Rehearsal and Concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.***



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Day 6 Hangzhou

Morning transfer to Hangzhou via AM flight (1 ½ hr). One of the most scenic areas in China, Hangzhou was once described by Marco Polo as the Paradise on Earth. Afternoon guided tour of the city includes a cruise on the West Lake where you can see some of Hangzhou's breathtaking scenery.

Hangzhou is a rarity in China: a city in a beautiful setting that's made for strolling and biking. One can visit the museums, the factories, patronize the shops, but Hangzhou's essence is outside, on the lake, on the walkways, and in the folds of the green tea-laden hills.

Day 7 Hangzhou

A guided tour includes a tea plantation, a silk weaving factory (with fashion show), and the Lingyin Temple (one of China's best know Buddhist Monasteries). ***Afternoon rehearsal and evening concert at a Municipal Art Performing Hall as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.***

Day 8 Shanghai

Transfer to Shanghai via motorcoach (2 ½ hrs). Afternoon sightseeing includes Shanghai's Old City (known as Nanshi), a charming mesh of lanes and alleyways. Then visit the Yu Garden with its marvelous vistas of pools, pavilions and rock gardens, and then spend some time at the Nanjing Road Pedestrian Walkway and the Bund. In the evening, take a cruise of Shanghai's busy harbor, enjoying the lights of the skyline.

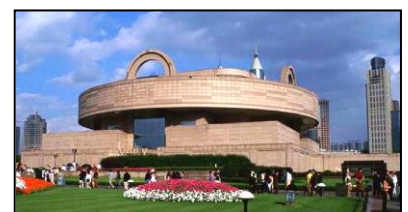
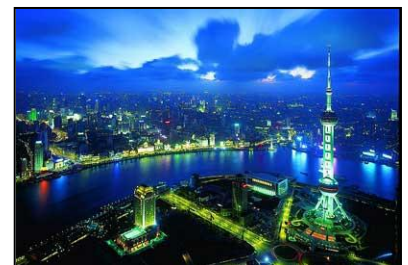
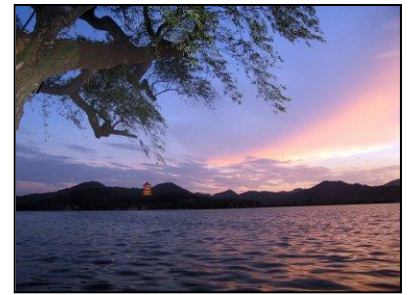
Shanghai is clearly one of Asia's most powerful cities, perhaps soon to be its most powerful economically. With 20 million residents, Shanghai is China's most populous city, and the United Nations estimates that by the year 2015 Shanghai's population will reach the unimaginable figure of 23-24 million.

Day 9 Shanghai

Morning sightseeing includes the Municipal Planning Exhibition Hall and Shanghai Museum. This modern and top-notch museum contains more than 120,000 Chinese art pieces and archeological findings. Permanent exhibits feature bronzes, ceramics and paintings, among other artifacts. Afternoon school visit for a music exchange and activities. ***Afternoon rehearsal and evening joint concert as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.*** 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.