

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

Standard Tour #6 (8 nights / 10 days)

## Day 1

Depart via scheduled airline service to Shanghai, 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 Suzhou

Arrive in Shanghai Airport, where you will be met by MCI's Chinese staff who assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoaches for a transfer to Suzhou (1 ½ hr). Evening Welcome dinner and overnight.

*Suzhou is characterized by a network of canals and bridges. Its history dates back to the 6th century BC. During the Ming Dynasty, Suzhou flourished as a place of refinement, drawing an influx of scholars and merchants, who built themselves numerous elegant gardens*

## Day 3 Wuxi

Morning tour of Suzhou includes the Grand Canal, Panmen Watergate, National Embroidery Institute and Wangxi Garden. Late afternoon departure for Wuxi. In the evening, explore the local night markets in Wuxi.

*Wuxi, according to legend, was established 3,500 years ago as the capital of the Wu Kingdom and was a center for the production of tin. When the mines ran dry (Wuxi means "without tin") the capital moved west, but Wuxi remained significant due to its location on the Grand Canal.*

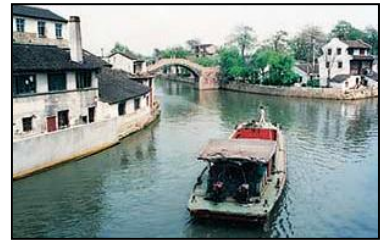
## Day 4 Wuxi

Enjoy a morning cruise on Lake Tai Hu. One of China's largest lakes, Tai Hu is famous for its rocks, an indispensable feature of a traditional garden. The lakes northern shores are fringed with scenic spots including Mei Yuan (plum garden), spectacular in spring when its 4,000 fruit trees blossom. Afternoon school visit, music exchange and activities. ***Rehearsal followed by a concert in the Municipal Concert Hall as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.***

## Day 5 Nanjing

Transfer to Nanjing via motorcoach (1 ½ hr). Upon arrival, visit Yangtze River Bridge and the Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. ***Afternoon rehearsal and evening concert in a local theatre as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.***

*Nanjing (once known as Nanking) is the most attractive of all of China's great cities. The capital of Jiangsu province, it is picturesquely set on the banks of the Yangzi, close to the magnificent Purple Mountain. This city of lakes is still enclosed within its grand city wall. It was China's capital under the early Ming, and more recently capital of the first Chinese Republic under Dr. Sun Yat Sen. Today, Nanjing is a fast developing city, with good restaurants and a lively nightlife.*



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## Day 6 Hangzhou

Transfer to Hangzhou via motorcoach (2 ½ hrs). 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. Also visit the Lingyin Temple (one of China's best known Buddhist Monasteries).

*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

Today's tour includes a visit to Hangzhou Silk Museum and Silk Weaving Factory, and a Tea Plantation. Afternoon school visit, music exchange and activities. **Rehearsal followed by an evening joint concert in the Art Performing Hall of Zhejiang University.**



## Day 8 Shanghai

Transfer to Shanghai via motorcoach (2 ½ hrs). Shanghai 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 rehearsal and evening joint concert in Shanghai Conservatory of Music or a local University as part of the American Celebration of Music in China.**



*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

Full-day sightseeing includes Shanghai's Old City (known as Nanshi), a charming mesh of lanes and alleyways. Also visit the Yu Garden with its marvelous vistas of pools, pavilions and rock gardens, then on to the Temple of Jade Buddha and the Nanjing Road Pedestrian Walkway and finally to the Bund. In the evening, take a cruise of Shanghai's busy harbor, enjoying the lights of the skyline. 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.



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