

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

Standard Tour #5 (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 (D)

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 (B,L,D)

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 (B,L,D)

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 performance in the Municipal Concert Hall as part of the American Celebration of Music in China

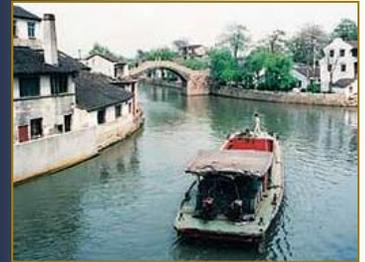
Day 5

Nanjing (B,L,D)

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 performance in a local theatre as part of the American Celebration of Music in China



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

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 Yangtze, 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

Day 6 **Hangzhou** **(B,L,D)**

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** **(B,L,D)**

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 performance in the Art Performing Hall of Zhejiang University

Day 8 **Shanghai** **(B,L,D)**

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 performance 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** **(B,L,D)**

Full-day sightseeing includes Shanghai's Old City, 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

(B)

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

***This is a very flexible itinerary.** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.*

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