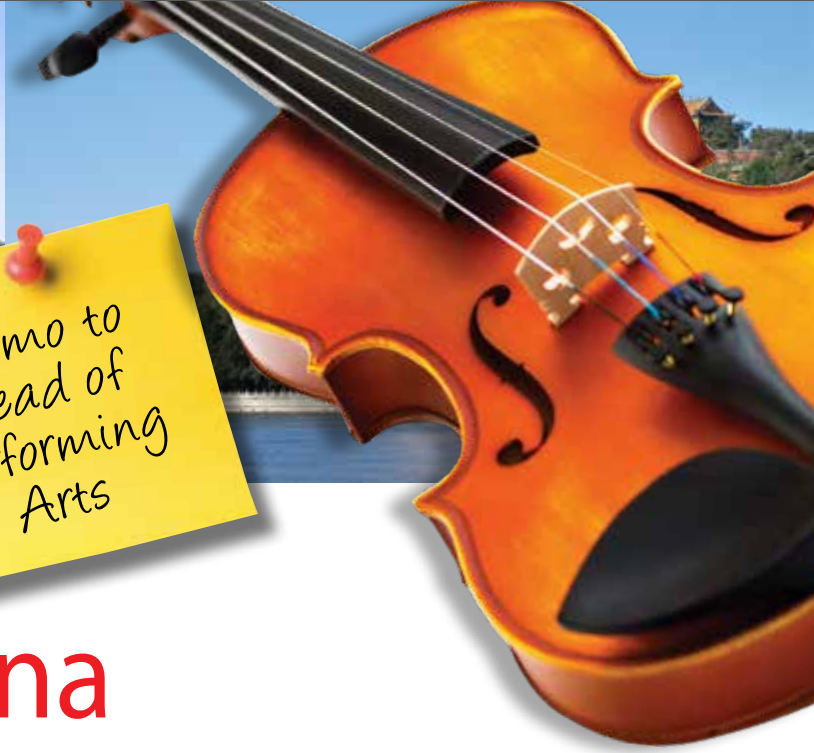


Your School Tour Specialist - Morcombe Travel Presents...



Memo to  
Head of  
Performing  
Arts

# Performing Arts Tour - China

## Tours for 2019/2020

**Tour can be modified to include Dance, Visual Arts or Media Studies.**

**A unique opportunity** for music students to experience the culture of China. Visit the National Centre of Performing Arts, a Chinese school or perform at a retirement village. The Beijing Opera School is also on the itinerary plus many other points of interest.

For more information contact the school group tour specialist

Call us for your 'tailor made' school group travel destinations and dates!



Call Jeff at  
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Ph: **1300 552 805**  
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**Since 1996  
Morcombe Travel  
has been planning  
and booking  
school tours.**

### Tour Inclusions

- Airfare
- 12 nights accommodation, 7 nights Beijing, 3 nights Suzhou, 2 nights Shanghai
- Minimum 3 star standard, twin share rooms.
- 4 free of charge staff in twin share rooms
- Single room accommodation is available at an additional cost.
- All meals - Breakfasts are Western and Chinese buffet selection.
- 12 breakfasts, lunches and dinners
- Meet and greet on arrival by China Stars staff/representative.
- Tour manager and guide attached to the group 24/7
- Music arrangements
- All school liaison
- Performances and work shops with schools as per final itinerary.
- Quality executive coaches for all transfers.
- Internal High Speed Railway transfer Beijing to Suzhou.
- Sightseeing - Entrance fees to all events, tours and sightseeing venues mentioned in the itinerary or as finally selected.
- Visa fees
- Official invitation letter required for visa issuance.
- Security lanyard.

**Tips:** Please add AUD2 per person per day for all fees/gratuities payable to Chinese drivers / guides.

### Price excludes

Drinks outside of those supplied at meals. Phone calls, laundry or any other personal expenditure or in room costs, any bus usage costs outside of the scheduled itinerary. Large instrument hire if required (eg pianos, timpani, xylophones, concert marimbas, tubular bells, drum kits, concert bass drums, double basses, cellos).

# Proposed itinerary taking in Beijing, Suzhou and Shanghai

**Day 1:** Depart your home city for Beijing.

**Day:** Arrive Beijing. You will be met by China Stars personnel. Check into accommodation. Rest & local orientation.

**Day 3:** Morning visit to the Summer Palace which is called "Yiheyuan" (Garden of Nurtured Harmony) in Chinese. It is currently the best preserved and largest imperial garden in China, and listed as one of the World Heritage Sites. Afternoon tour of Beijing's Hutongs. See a unique form of community that exists only in China. Built in the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasty (1271-1911). Hutong Culture literally means a small street or a lane between two courtyards. Many can be seen scattered amongst the modern high rise areas in Beijing city. Attend a traditional Tea Ceremony and find out what the art of drinking tea really means. Experience an evening Acrobatic Show where acrobats are revered as much as prima ballerinas or opera singers are in the West.

**Day 4:** Morning attendance at the National Centre for Performing Arts. This building is said to resemble an egg floating on water, thus nicknamed "The Egg". There are three formal performance spaces with a total of around 5500 seats. Pay an afternoon visit to Tiananmen Square situated in the centre of Beijing. It is said to be the biggest square in the world and can hold one million people. For modern China, it is where Mao Zedong proclaimed the new Peoples' Republic of China. It is surrounded by some significant buildings including the Forbidden City. Continue with a visit to the Forbidden City, called "Gu Gong" in Chinese. This was the Imperial Palace during the Ming & Qing dynasties. It is the world's largest palace complex, surrounded by a six metre deep moat and a ten metre high wall and has 9,999 rooms. Today this is also listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site. This evening visit Wangfujing Street, a 700 year old commercial street, and the busiest in Beijing. It houses a wide variety of shops and boutiques, with many world famous brand commodities. The street is said to be the "sister street" of the Champs-Elysees in Paris.

**Day 5:** A morning visit to a chinese school or a retirement village where a performance can be arranged at either venue. This afternoon attend the Beijing Opera School which is the training school for future Beijing Opera performers. Beijing Opera presents dramatic plays and figures mainly by infusing four artistic methods: singing, dialogue, dancing and martial arts. Enjoy some free time this evening to shop or relax.

**Day 6:** A morning tour to The Great Wall – we visit the Juyongguan Pass section, which is the least commercialised section of the wall and close to Beijing. Like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds its way up and down across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaux stretching 6,700 kilometres from east to west. We will spend 2 – 2.5 hrs. here. One of the greatest wonders of the world, UNESCO has listed the wall as a World Heritage site. In the afternoon, we continue to Xiu Shui (the Silk Street). No visit to Beijing is complete unless you have been to Xui Shui to shop. It is one of the most famous markets in Beijing, with a huge selection of garments of every description, bags, jewellery, IT items, manchester and souvenirs, all at bargain prices. The more you haggle, the better the bargain!! Enjoy another evening at leisure.

**Day 7:** All day/evening – a music day...with an International School. Workshops and master classes followed by a joint performance. Some fun too, as you mix and perform with students from around the world.

**Day 8:** Art District 798 – a morning casual performance opportunity. Located in the Dashanzi area, is the site of previously state-owned factories which originally produced Electronics. Now the old factories have been developed into galleries, art centres, artists' studios, restaurants and is a vibrant place to visit. Make more music this afternoon / evening. Attend workshops and rehearsals followed by a joint performance with a chinese school, giving you another opportunity to meet "the locals".

**Day 9:** Beijing – Suzhou .... Morning transfer - travel on High Speed Railway. Suzhou, praised as the "Oriental Venice" was built in 514 BC and the unique characteristics of the past are still retained. The city's canals, stone bridges, pagodas and gardens have contributed to its status as one of the top tourist attractions in China. An afternoon visit to the Humble Administrator's Garden. Initially it belonged to a former government servant who planned to do some simple gardening work after his retirement. He said it was the life of a humble man, hence the name of the garden. Spend some free time this evening.

**Day 10:** Visit a school for the day. Spend your morning visiting a school and experience some in-class time. Compare it to your classes/school back home. The afternoon & evening will be spent rehearsing and ending with a joint performance at the school.

**Day 11:** A full day tour to Zhouzhang Water Town. This ancient town has a history dating back to 770 BC. Many existing houses were built in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Zhouzhang is a beautiful picturesque village of willow-lined canals that are contiguous with rows of waterside buildings. Inland the streets are paved with cobblestones.

**Day 12:** Suzhou – Shanghai – morning departure by coach. Check in to your Shanghai accommodation on arrival. Afternoon / evening – Nanjing Road & the Bund. If you have not been to the Bund, you have not been to Shanghai. It epitomises Shanghai's history. From 1840 to the 1930s, many foreign businesses snatched this prime area to establish banks, council houses etc. It has earned the reputation of "The Oriental Wall Street". Nanjing Road is one of the premier streets not only in China, but in Asia. It is the world's longest shopping district, measuring approximately 5.5km in length and attracts over 1 million visitors daily.

**Day 13:** A morning visit to Chenghuangmiao – a reconstructed old street. Once a group of pawnshops, private banks, gold shops, silverware shops, wine shops, teahouses, theatres and hongts. It is a thoroughfare for the flow through of pedestrians going to the Town God Temple. This afternoon pay a visit to the World Financial Centre. This was planned to be the tallest building in the world when it was designed in 1997 and construction was completed in 2008. What better way to end your stay than with an evening cruise down the Huangpu River. The river is Shanghai's mother river. A stunning light show from the riverside buildings is not to be missed.

**Day 14:** Depart from Shanghai ... Morning checkout from accommodation, then to lunch. Afternoon transfer to the airport for your departure flight home.

**Day 15:** Arrive Home.

For more information contact the school group tour specialist



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