

Itinerary

June 20, Sunday: Leave the US for Beijing

June 21, Monday: Arrive in Beijing

Transfer to our hotel upon arrival at airport. **Red Wall Hotel*****

June 22, Tue.: Beijing

Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Tour the new **Capital Museum** to receive a brief introduction to Chinese history and culture on our first morning in China. See how the local people live in a traditional community by touring a **Hutong** in the afternoon.

June 23, Wed.: Beijing to Datong by train

BLD

Walk on the famous **Tiananmen Square** and visit the **Forbidden City**, the Chinese imperial palace and center for political and ceremonial events for almost five centuries during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Relax and take in the rural scene on our afternoon train to Datong (6 hrs).

Red Flag Hotel ***

June 24, Thur.: Datong

BL

Visit the **Yungang Grottos**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and see some amazing rock carvings from the 5th and 6th centuries; the carvings represent the outstanding achievement of Buddhist cave art in China and the successful fusion of religious symbolisms from south and central Asia with Chinese traditions. After lunch we will visit and perform at **Datong University**; local students will perform Chinese music for us.

June 25, Fri.: Datong to Pingyao by coach

BLD

On our way to Pingyao (3 hr) in our private coach we will see the incredible **Xuankong Si** (Hanging Monastery), an ancient architectural wonder. It is unique not just for the marvelous engineering achievements from 1,500 years ago but also for the blending of Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian elements.

Guest House ***

June 26, Saturday: Pingyao

BL

Visit **Pingyao Ancient Town** (a financial center in ancient China, still retains city layout from the Ming and Qing dynasties, a UNESCO World Heritage site, renowned for its well-preserved city wall). We will walk the streets and enter some buildings trying to imagine what life was like so many years ago in a place most of us have never heard of. We will return to the present and take a glimpse into the future in the afternoon when we **visit a local high school and give a concert.**

June 27, Sunday: Pingyao to Taiyuan by coach

BL

We will spend a leisure morning in Pingyao before continuing to Taiyuan (1 hr) on our private coach. **Visit Shanxi University and give a concert** there. **Hotel: Shanxi Hotel ******

June 28, Monday: Taiyuan to Beijing by train

BL

Morning visit to the **Jinci Temple** (classic ancient Chinese religious buildings in a garden setting). We say "goodbyes" to our Shanxi guide and driver and take an afternoon train back to Beijing (3.5 hrs) arriving by dinner time. **Hotel: Red Wall *****

June 29, Tuesday: Beijing

BL

Visit **the Jinshanling Section of the Great Wall**. This section is one of the most desirable sections for enjoying and appreciating the Great Wall. We will take our time trying to imagine all the happenings on and around this wall over the ages, all the emotions experienced by the builders, the soldiers defending and invading the wall and their families far away or not so far away. Enjoy a light lunch on the wall.

June 30, Wednesday: Beijing

BLD

Visit the **National Stadium and National Aquatics Center** where athletes from around the world shared the glory of victory and the agony of defeat during the 2008 Olympics. Afternoon **visit to an artist colony and give a concert at a local community** nearby.

July 1, Thursday: Beijing

B

Free day

July 2, Friday: Depart Beijing for Home

Please contact Mr. John Eaken at 717-600-5475 or Mr. David Dietz at 717-580-6908 for details and terms for this tour.

You may see a description of this tour on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhzzUL1Uf1M>

This tour will be escorted by Bob Cheung, owner of Encore China. You may contact him at encorchina@gmail.com.