



WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
PHILADELPHIA
& PARTNERS

YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN THE
**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF PHILADELPHIA & PARTNERS**

ON AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR

TO

CHINA

*ATTEND PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA CONCERTS &
PARTICIPATE IN PHILADELPHIA-TIANJIN SISTER CITIES
DIPLOMACY*

OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 9, 2024



BACKGROUND

The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia is organizing a unique, curated tour of China this November. This exclusive program will bring together the worlds of international affairs and classical music by including performances by The Philadelphia Orchestra, creating a harmonious blend of culture, diplomacy, and artistic expression. The program will also feature a celebration of Philadelphia and Tianjin's 45 year relationship as a Sister City, one of the longest connections between a U.S. city and a Chinese city. The bond began in 1973 when President Nixon authorized The Philadelphia Orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China, strengthening relations between the two nations. This November, our group will be welcomed by the city of Tianjin to commemorate this historic bond and honor our shared passion for cultural diplomacy.

Cultural Diplomacy Highlights:

Concert Performances:

- The Philadelphia Orchestra will perform captivating concerts in Beijing and Chengdu that will transcend borders and leave lasting impressions.

Sister Cities Cultural Exchange

- Experience up-close Sister Cities diplomacy in Tianjin where our group will be warmly welcomed by officials of the city of Tianjin for diplomatic and cultural activities throughout our visit.
- Meet Sister City high school students in Tianjin already participating in active cultural exchange with high school students in Philadelphia



Photos Credit
© Chris Lee





YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1~ TUESDAY~ OCTOBER 29

USA/BEIJING

Begin your extraordinary journey to China today as you fly to Beijing. (Meals Aloft)

DAY 2~ WEDNESDAY~ OCTOBER 30

BEIJING

Today, your plane touches down in Beijing, where upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for the night. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong is located in Downtown Beijing near a metro station and close to Tiananmen Square. All 438 rooms are tastefully decorated with fresh modern colors, elegant dark wood furniture and spacious en-suite bathrooms with designer toiletries. Be sure to enjoy a meal at the Peony Garden Chinese restaurant serving the finest of Cantonese cuisine, or the Japanese restaurant Sakura or the Orchid Terrace Café offering guests a more relaxed casual style of dining. For some rest and relaxation, visit the indoor swimming pool, the sauna, or the steam room. Free Wi-Fi. Overnight at the NEW OTANI CHANG FU GONG BEIJING HOTEL, in superior rooms. (No Meals) <http://www.hotelnewotanichangfugong.com/>



DAY 3~ THURSDAY~ OCTOBER 31

BEIJING/TIANJIN

After breakfast you will be met by your national guide and transferred by vehicle to Tianjin, Philadelphia's Sister City, with over 600 years of history and cultural heritage.

Tianjin city information:

Being the cradle of China's modern mechanic and textile industry, Tianjin is an important industrial centre in China. This dynamic city is known for being the biggest port in northern China and for its Five Great Avenues, home to more than 200 European-style buildings from its foreign concession era. Tianjin is home to the only ferris wheel built on a bridge, the Tianjin Eye, as well as to the Tianjin Juilliard School. (approximately 2 ½ hours' drive).



Tonight's welcome dinner will offer you an introduction to Chinese cuisine, and a chance to get acquainted with your fellow travelers.

The Astor Hotel of Tianjin has been the city's premiere luxury accommodation choice for more than 150 years. Opened in 1863, The Astor Hotel is truly an iconic piece of history. The hotel has a small museum that tells the story of the hotel and of Tianjin, a city that used to be one of the few cities open to foreigners. Astor hotel overlooks the Hai River and is located in the former British concessional district. The hotel's 152 elegant rooms are air conditioned and include a flat-screen TV, a mini bar and a private bathroom with free toiletries. They all offer an in-room safe, a bathtub and internet access. The hotel features five exciting dining and winning venues.

Overnight at the ASTOR HOTEL, in classic rooms. (B,D)
<http://astorhoteltianjin.com/>



DAY 4~ FRIDAY~ NOVEMBER 1~TIANJIN

This morning is set aside for diplomatic visits.

In the afternoon, follow your guide and sinologist for a walking and talking tour in former concessions.

- Walking theme tour: the concessions, a history and an urban heritage.
- Tour of the former French and British concessions of Tianjin. (about 4.3 miles on foot and by bike, in 3 hours)

Tianjin's leasehold concessions, located on the banks of the Haihe River, were leased to foreign powers from 1860 following the Second Opium War. Then, after the end of the Empire in 1911, Chinese notables and other warlords built sumptuous residences here, taking advantage of extra territoriality to protect their assets from the instability of the Republic of China. Hundreds of listed buildings survived the wars and the 1976 earthquake, and your exploration will reveal an urban heritage that owes as much to the taste of a Chinese elite as to the foreign presence.



Attending a prestigious international Sister City Reception hosted by the Tianjin Office of Foreign Affairs to celebrate and honor two of the first bilateral Sister Cities between China and the US before dinner is a fantastic way to start the evening! It's a great opportunity to meet new people, learn about different cultures, and celebrate the bonds between communities.



Sister Cities: Philadelphia & Tianjin

Philadelphia and Tianjin are celebrating 45 years of Sister Cities ties this year, one of the longest kinships between a U.S. city and a Chinese city.



Relations between Philadelphia and China strengthened in 1973 when President Richard Nixon authorized The Philadelphia Orchestra as the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China. In December 1979, Philadelphia forged a sister-cities relationship with Tianjin, marking one of the earliest such ties between a U.S. and a Chinese city.

Throughout the decades, the cities' support for one another grew. Tianjin gifted Philadelphia the Friendship Gate, a symbolic entrance to Philadelphia's Chinatown crafted with tiles from Tianjin.

As a proud partner of the City of Philadelphia's Sister Cities program, World Affairs collaborates closely with Tianjin's international leaders to create economic, educational, cultural, and diplomatic opportunities for citizen diplomats each year. As Sister Cities, Philadelphia & Tianjin engage in the exchange of delegations comprising political and business leaders, cultural representatives, educators, technical experts, and students. World Affairs takes great pride in bridging connections between Philadelphia residents and Tianjin, fostering invaluable exchanges and global understanding. By joining this tour, you will be a first-person witness to people-to-people diplomacy between the two most powerful nations in the world.

Overnight at the ASTOR HOTEL. (B, Reception, D)



Tianjin's Gift to Philadelphia: Chinatown's Friendship Gate

DAY 5~ SATURDAY~ NOVEMBER 2

TIANJIN~ THE HUANGYAGUAN GREAT WALL/BEIJING

Head to Huangyaguan, the closest section of the Great Wall from Tianjin, which was first built in 556AD during the Northern Qi Dynasty (550-577) and was redesigned and bricked up during the Ming Dynasty. With a total length of 26 miles, 52 watchtowers and 14 beacon towers were built along this section of the wall which is noted for its tactical importance. Invaders wishing to pass down through Tianjin were forced to move past the wall making it a chokepoint for opposition armies.

Have lunch at a local restaurant and continue with your drive back to Beijing (93 miles, 2 ½ hours driving). Beijing was declared the capital city of China in 1057 B.C. Briefly, prior to 1949 in the western world, Beijing was known as Peking and throughout the centuries it has been known by a variety of names –

Ji, Zhongdu and Dadu; in 1421, Emperor Chengzu renamed it Beijing. Located in northeast China, it is the second largest populated city behind Shanghai and is recognized by the People's Republic of China as its political, educational and cultural center. Beijing was the host of the 2008 Summer Olympics.



Upon arrival, check into your hotel where you will have some time to rest before heading to the National Centre for Performing Arts for a concert.



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Join World Affairs for an unforgettable night with The Philadelphia Orchestra at their concert at the National Centre for Performing Arts with famed conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Last year, The Philadelphia Orchestra celebrated their 50th anniversary since they first performed in China in 1973. This relationship represents over 50 years of cross-cultural exchange of music and diplomacy. The concert will be held at the opulent Opera House – an acoustic marvel. Its golden walls curve like the petals of a lotus, cradling audiences in a cocoon of sound. Crystal chandeliers hang like constellations, casting a celestial glow as you enjoy the sights and sounds of the orchestra.



“While presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping were drawing the world’s attention for their talks in San Francisco this week, a different kind of summitry is happening in China. There, representatives from their two countries are speaking through violins, cellos, oboes and clarinets.

I write from Beijing, almost exactly 50 years after The Philadelphia Orchestra arrived as the first American orchestra to perform in China in a key moment of Ping-Pong diplomacy. I traveled there to be with a group of its musicians for two weeks of concerts mingling American and Chinese musicians, master classes, chamber music performances and panel discussions.

It may seem naïve to argue that a symphony orchestra can help solve the world’s problems. But a lifetime in music has convinced me that it’s not only worth the effort to try to do our part; it is our responsibility. Certainly, the American government supports the idea: Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently announced the Global Music Diplomacy Initiative, reinforcing the idea that cultural diplomacy is a powerful force for good in the world. Our visit here is one of the initiative’s first projects.

Since The Philadelphia Orchestra’s historic 1973 visit to China, we have returned 12 times. That decision is not a signal of approval of China’s policies. Rather, our journeys to China signify a belief in the possibility of change through dialogue. They make real the principle that music communicates shared ideas and feelings that words alone cannot convey.”

-By Matias Tarnopolsky, president and chief executive of The Philadelphia Orchestra and the Kimmel Center.

[Opinion | American Musicians Are Doing Something Profound in Beijing Right Now - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/27/opinion/philadelphia-orchestra-beijing.html)

Return to your hotel, the New Otani Chang Fu Gong, at the end of the concert and enjoy a nice rest. Overnight at the NEW OTANI CHANG FU GONG BEIJING HOTEL. (B,L)

DAY 6~ SUNDAY~ NOVEMBER 3
BEIJING~ FORBIDDEN CITY & TEMPLE OF HEAVEN



Discover Beijing's rich heritage as you step back in time to an era when mystery and incredible power reigned. Visit the Forbidden City. Construction began in 1406 and ended 14 years later. Surrounded by a 20-foot deep moat adorned with illuminated fountains and encased behind a 33-foot high wall designed to withstand cannon attacks, its 188-acres of grounds are home to 800 buildings comprised of 9,999 rooms. Yellow is the symbol of the royal family and dominates throughout from the glazed roof tiles, palace decorations and the bricks used to pave the grounds. One noticeable deviation from the color scheme is the royal library's black roof, believed to represent water that would extinguish a fire.

Designated a World Heritage Site in 1987, it is the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world. Divided into two sections, the Northern Section (Inner Court) was where the emperor would work and live with his family and maid-servants. The Southern Section (Outer Court) was where the emperor exercised his command and rule over the country. The largest wooden structure in China and most magnificent hall is located here - the Hall of Supreme Harmony, where enthronement and wedding ceremonies took place. Within this elaborate complex of buildings, halls, palaces and pavilions, you will find a small oasis of relaxation at the Imperial Garden.





Surrounding the Forbidden City are several thousand ancient city alleys, built over 800 years ago beginning in the Yuan dynasty and continuing through the Ming and Qing dynasties. They are called hutongs, and each emperor would establish their hutongs based on etiquette and class. The imperial kinsmen and aristocrats occupied hutongs near the Forbidden City, while merchants and other ordinary people were relegated to hutongs farther north and south of the palace. The hutong was designed around a quadrangle building with an inner courtyard. Today, many of the ancient hutongs have been destroyed to make room for modern residential buildings. However, those that still exist will give you an interesting look into the life of a Beijing resident as you tour via a rickshaw.



This afternoon, travel to the southern part of Beijing to see China's largest existing complex of ancient sacrificial buildings – the Temple of Heaven. Built in 1420 on a central axis, its sparkling white marble buildings and altars cover 667 acres. Emperors would come to the Temple of Heaven to worship and offer sacrifices to Heaven. The principal buildings are the Altar of Prayer for Good Harvests, Imperial Vault of Heaven and Circular Mound Altar. Inside the buildings, you will be astounded at the breathtaking beauty of the intricate and detailed paintings that adorn the walls and pillars. Interesting architectural touches enhance the mysterious atmosphere of the Temple, such as the Three Echo Stones just outside the Imperial Vault. Stand on the first step entering the Vault and speak, you will hear one echo. Stand on the second step and you will hear two echoes! Also, if you and a friend stand at each end of the wall enclosing the Imperial Vault of Heaven, and whisper to each other, the wall will act as a conduit for your voice, just like a telephone.



Tonight, savor Beijing's renowned roasted duck at the China Lounge restaurant. Overnight at the NEW OTANI CHANG FU GONG BEIJING HOTEL. (B,L,D)



**DAY 7~ MONDAY~ NOVEMBER 4 BEIJING~
EMBASSY VISIT/OLD SUMMER PALACE**



This morning is set aside for a visit to the US Embassy to speak with locally-based American representatives about the state of US-Chinese affairs and their role in bilateral relations.

Your afternoon tour is in what was once known as the “Versailles of the East.” Today, what remains of the former Summer Palace is shattered ruins. Almost 850 acres of gardens were full of Jesuit-designed palaces and hundreds of Chinese, Tibetan and Mongolian-style buildings before they were all looted by the French and subsequently burned by the British in 1860 at the end of the Second Opium War. Here, you’ll explore what is now a public park: the breadth of the Palace Buildings Scenic Area can be viewed in the Eternal Spring Garden. There were once more than ten buildings here, designed by Jesuits Giuseppe Castiglione and Michael Benoist.

The Great Fountain Ruins are considered the best-preserved relics. Dating back to 1759, the main building featured a lion-head fountain. Here, you’ll find five large stone screens embellished with European carvings of military flags, armor, swords and guns. Discovered on the grounds of Peking University in the 1970’s, the screens were restored and then returned to their original positions.

Optional: Tonight, at the National Centre for Performing Arts, there will be a Concerto Competition with The Philadelphia Orchestra and their Chinese counterparts, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. We can assist with identifying transportation through the hotel and obtaining tickets.

Overnight at the NEW OTANI CHANG FU GONG BEIJING HOTEL. (B,D)



DAY 8~ TUESDAY~ NOVEMBER 5

BEIJING/XIAN

Transfer to the railway station for your first-class bullet train ride to Xian (*approximately 4 hours*). The eternal city of Xian, known as Chang'an in previous centuries, is one of the birthplaces of ancient civilization in the Yellow River Basin area. The capital of the Shaanxi Province in the southern part of the Guanzhong Plain, it is flanked by the Weihe River to the south and the Qinling Mountains to the north. During the past 3,100 years, the emperors of 13 dynasties have ruled from here, and it is one of the four major ancient civilization capitals of the world, the others being Athens, Cairo and Rome. Upon arrival, you will be met by your local guide and transfer to a local restaurant for lunch.



Your first tour at the outskirts of the City of Xian will be its City Wall which has protected it since the Tang dynasty (618-907), and is built with layers of dirt, lime and glutinous rice extract. It was enlarged to its present size with bricks, four gates, 5,984 arrow-shooting holes and 98 guard towers by the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Zhu Yuanzhang, to become one of the largest ancient military defensive systems in the world. Standing 40 feet high and almost nine miles long, this incredible structure has been preserved intact, and includes a deep moat for additional fortification.



Next visit Xi'an's Muslim Quarter situated in the center part of Xi'an between the Drum Tower and Great Mosque. The quarter covers several blocks inhabited by over 20,000 Muslims. The area is famous for its mosques, and authentic Muslim food. The souvenir market is another feature of the area.

A stylish hotel in the ancient city walls where the ancient meets the new, stands the Hilton Xi'an, a modern hotel set within the historic City Wall of Xi'an. You are steps away from shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues, as well as iconic landmarks such as the beautiful Bell Tower. The hotel's 300 air-conditioned guest rooms and suites are beautifully decorated in shades of brown and cream, and fitted with large and clear windows. The bathrooms have a bathtub, separate walk-in shower and branded bathing amenities. With a range of dining options, a spa, pool, and fitness facilities, discover all you need to relax and unwind. Free Wi-Fi.

Overnight at the HILTON XI'AN, in Hilton guestrooms. (B,L)
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/xijihili-hilton-xian/>

DAY 9~ WEDNESDAY~ NOVEMBER 6

XIAN

Today's visit begins at "the eighth major miracle of the world" - the Museum of Qin Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses. Witness one of the most significant on-going archeological excavation sites of the 20th century with Mrs.



Tian Jing, researcher, and vice president of the Mausoleum Museum of the first Emperor of Qin, engaged in research of the Qin-Han culture for more than 30 years. She is passionate about all things Terra Cotta and the Shaanxi province. She has been the guide for Henry Kissinger, Bill & Hillary Clinton, and many celebrities from around the world.

Over 8,000 terra cotta soldiers, horses, chariots and weapons have been unearthed throughout this 50-acre complex, with many restored to their original grandeur. Discovered in 1974 by a group of peasants digging a well, it is actually a tomb created over 2,000 years ago for Emperor Qin Shi Huang, who began designing his mausoleum when he was just 13 years old. Divided into three sections; Named after the order they were found, Pit One houses the largest number of life-size terra cotta soldiers with archeologists expecting to uncover over 6,000 cavalrymen, infantrymen and archers; currently, approximately 204 are on display in battle formation. Pit two is home to approximately 1,000 life-size warriors acting as the flank force. Pit three is the military command center with 68 warriors, a war chariot and four horses. In addition, there are numerous 'side pits' that house discoveries including rare birds and animals, stables, the tombs of Emperor Qin Shi Huang's children and historical relics created from gold, silver, bronze, iron, pottery, jade, shellfish, lacquered wares, and silk fabrics.

All of the life-size warriors and horses were made of local clay and weigh from 242 pounds to 660 pounds, with an average height of almost six feet. Their construction was an in-depth, multi-step process, and some experts believe real soldiers served as models, due to the different features each one exhibits. After each statue was finished, the craftsmen inscribed their names on the back of the robe, legs or armor, and over 80 of their names have been discovered.



This underground palace of the first emperor in China, was constructed over 38 years, from 246 to 208 BCE, and is situated underneath a 250 foot-tall tomb mound shaped like a truncated pyramid.

Your afternoon is at leisure to explore Xian on your own.

This evening, enjoy the Tang Dynasty Dance Show and a dumpling banquet. The Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show, a wonderful performance of the ancient music and dance, is a must for anyone visiting Xian. The city has a very long history, and was the imperial capital during 13 dynastic periods. Of these, the Tang Dynasty (618 - 907) was the most prosperous and glorious of all. The Tang Dynasty Music and Dance Show is an outstanding exponent of this ancient stable and prosperous society, keeping alive its splendid culture and providing an insight into the peaceful life style of the period. By combining poetry with the skilled playing of musical instruments, singing, dancing and also stunning costumes, the modern presentation gives you an impressive view of ancient China including its splendid history, brilliant arts, distinct traditions and customs.

Overnight at the HILTON XI'AN. (B,L,D)



DAY 10~ THURSDAY~ NOVEMBER 7

XIAN/CHENGDU

Transfer to the railway station for your first-class high speed train ride to Chengdu located in the Sichuan province. Upon arrival you are met and escorted to your hotel for the next two nights. Chengdu is the birthplace of the Sichuan Opera and you will enjoy a visit. Chinese opera, an art form that dates back as far as the Three Kingdoms period (200 AD), is a diverse style of music. It has a long history and countless plays and a rich and unique means of utilizing music and performance on the stage. Follow your guide for a chance to go backstage to see how the actors and actresses do their makeup and have a chat with them.

Next stop at a local tea house, relax and immerse yourself in the local environment with the people of Chengdu.

Check into your hotel where you will have some time to rest before your evening concert.

Join World Affairs for a captivating night with The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Chengdu Arena. This is The Philadelphia Orchestra's first full orchestra visit to Chengdu. Be a part of this cultural diplomacy historic moment and celebrate our shared love for the orchestra.

Located close to Wide and Narrow Street and People's Park, Tibet Hotel Chengdu overlooks the Jialing River. All of the 271 individually furnished air-conditioned rooms have sound-proofed windows and bathrooms include a sauna, along with comforts such as a hair dryer, designer toiletries and bathrobes. You can enjoy a meal at one of the two restaurants and visit the spa to be pampered with massages or body treatments. Available in all rooms fee Wi-Fi and wired internet.

Overnight at the TIBET HOTEL CHENGDU, in standard rooms. (B,L,D)

<https://tibet.chengduhotels.net/en/>

DAY 11~FRIDAY~ NOVEMBER 8

CHENGDU~ PANDA BREEDING RESEARCH CENTER & DUJIANGYAN IRRIGATION PROJECT

Get ready to delve into the world of the Giant Panda. Currently, there are fewer than 1,400 pandas left in the wild and 80% are located in the Sichuan province. Spend the morning learning about these amazing creatures as you visit the Chengdu Panda Breeding Research Center, established in 1987, and situated on 92 acres of verdant bamboo, bright flowers and rolling hills. With over 150 pandas, the Chengdu Panda Research Base is equipped with the latest technology and research materials to gain a further understanding in how we can protect the panda and maintain, if not increase its numbers.



The park is set up to resemble the mountain and forest regions in north Sichuan, the original home of the Giant Panda, with extensive bamboo trees and large green spaces. The center takes great pains to imitate the panda's natural habitat so they will have the best chance to breed and rear these unique creatures, and in the future release them back into the wild. Giant Pandas spend the majority of their day sleeping. Tour the grounds, which are also home to other rare and endangered animals, such as the red panda, Black-necked Crane and White Stork.

In 1993, the center welcomed the opening of The Giant Panda Museum to further scientific education and improve public awareness, in order to protect both the pandas and their environment. Here, you'll also get a chance to see the Red Pandas, as a healthy population has been bred.

Continue with your visit to the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project, a pearl in the water works construction of ancient China. The Dujiangyan Irrigation System is a historical Chinese irrigation and flood control system constructed around 250 BC by governor of Shu, Li Bing and his son, near present day Chengdu, which still supplies water to the region. This irrigation system diverts part of the Minjiang River into an aqueduct leading to Chengdu. In order to build this irrigation system, it was necessary to cut a path through the mountains on the bank of the Minjiang River. The builders accomplished this before the invention of explosives by repeatedly heating and cooling the rock to crack and weaken it. The system also includes a dike in the middle of the river to help reduce the amount of silt that flows into the aqueduct. A spillway allows excess water to continue down the Minjiang River to prevent the flooding of the Chengdu basin. The Dujiangyan Irrigation System is a pearl in the water works construction of ancient China. Built over 2,200 years ago, it still provides benefits for the people.



Back to Chengdu to enjoy a hot pot dinner.
Overnight at the TIBET HOTEL CHENGDU. (B,L,D)

DAY 12~ SATURDAY~ NOVEMBER 9
CHENGDU/USA

This morning, bid farewell to this mysterious land and its mist covered mountains, ancient structures and incredible culture as you board your flight home. Arrive home on the same day you left Beijing. (B, Meals Aloft)

The Philadelphia Orchestra continues on to perform in Hainan Province. World Affairs can provide assistance with travel arrangements and concert tickets if needed.



3-DAY OPTIONAL POST-EXTENSION TO SUZHOU



DAY 12~ SATURDAY~ NOVEMBER 9 CHENGDU/SHANGHAI/SUZHOU

Bid farewell to the rest of the group returning to the USA today as you fly to Shanghai where upon arrival you will meet your local guide and transfer to Suzhou (*approximately 1 ½ hours*). Suzhou, a city where ancient meets modern, is located west of Shanghai, known for its canals, stone bridges, pagodas and classical gardens.

Take a leisure walk on Pingjiang Road, a historic street which dates back to the South Song Dynasty. Pingjiang Road is a stone route with a river flowing along it. Seventeen stone bridges have stood over the river near Pingjiang Road for hundreds of years. Walking on the road is like stepping into the daily life of people with delicious local food, handicrafts, interesting arts, old residences, and local traditions.

Experience an evening visit to Humble Administrator's Garden, the largest and one of the four most famous gardens in China. Listed as a World Heritage Site in 1997 by UNESCO, Humble Administrator's Garden in Suzhou is one of the top four classical gardens in China. While here enjoy a short performance of Kunqu opera, a World Intangible Cultural Heritage of China.



(Due to weather conditions, the garden might be closed in the evening, and we'll do the visit the next morning, but without the lights and opera)



The 5-star Garden Hotel is located in the heart of Suzhou, offering easy access to the city's major attractions and business districts. The hotel has 235 guestrooms, and each room is tastefully decorated with contemporary furnishings equipped with blackout curtains, air conditioning, safe, ironing equipment, a mini-bar, a refrigerator and a flat-screen TV with cable channels. In the private bathroom, guests will find a hairdryer, showering facilities and slippers for their comfort. The onsite restaurant serves a wide range of delicious Chinese cuisines. Drinks and light meals can be found at the Coffee Bar. The hotel also has a massage room, spa, gym and indoor swimming pool. Free in room Wi-Fi.

Overnight at the GARDEN HOTEL in standard rooms.
(B,D)

<http://www.gardenhotelsuzhou.com/>



DAY 13~ FRIDAY~ NOVEMBER 10

SUZHOU

Your first stop of the day is at the Suzhou Museum, known for its traditional handicrafts involving paintings and calligraphic art. The exhibition building



was designed by the world famous Chinese-American architect named I.M. Pei and

opened to visitors in 2006. The museum holds abundant porcelains, relics of the revolution, handicraft works, calligraphies and paintings.

Find peace while enjoying the beauty of Lingering Garden, a garden with a long history of more than 400 years. In the Lingering Garden, buildings, trees and flowers blend harmoniously with their surroundings. Liu Shu, one of the previous owners, was an enthusiast for stone collection. He collected many unusually shaped lake stones in the garden, among which Guan Yun Feng is the most precious one and gains honor for the garden.

Take a cruise on Grand Canal, a

part of Beijing-Hangzhou grand canal. Suzhou Grand Canal has been the golden waterway for thousands of years and prospered the economy of Suzhou.

Overnight at GARDEN HOTEL. (B,L,D)



DAY 14~ SATURDAY~ NOVEMBER 11

DAY AT LEISURE

You have a full day to explore the water town, do some shopping or just relax and enjoy the amenities of your hotel.

Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers.

Overnight at GARDEN HOTEL. (B,D)

DAY 15~ SUNDAY~ NOVEMBER 12

SUZHOU/USA

Today, bid farewell to the Venice of the East, as you are being transferred back to Shanghai to board your flight home. (B, Meals Aloft)

INCLUSIONS:

- Comprehensive pre-tour briefing to include:
 - Review of itinerary, accommodations, and travel logistics with our travel partner
 - Culinary & dining cultural awareness review with speaker, author, & World Affairs Global Leadership Institute Expert Trainer Terri Morrison
 - Safety, security, visa and other entry requirements overview with the Chinese Consulate in NY
- Accommodations as indicated, or similar.
- Tickets for one concert in Beijing and one in Chengdu.
- Flight from Chengdu to Suzhou on the post extension.
- High speed train tickets, first class: Beijing /Xian and Xian/Chengdu.
- Sightseeing via private air-conditioned motorcoach with English speaking guide.
- Breakfast daily; other meals as specified in itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner).
- Water with meals and during all touring.
- Lunch and dinner include a choice of one soft drink or local beer per person, or one glass of local red wine per person, and a shared pot of tea per table.
- A representative from World Affairs Council will accompany the group with a minimum of 10 travelers on the main program only.
- Gratuities to national and local guides, bus drivers, and other conveyance attendants.
- All applicable hotel taxes.
- All entry fees.
- Complimentary baggage tags and water bottle.
- Complimentary emergency evacuation insurance.

EXCLUSIONS

- Flights from USA to Beijing. If you require assistance with air arrangements, contact Classic Escapes.
- Passport and visa fees and service charges for obtaining visas. Visas are required for China.
- Excess baggage charges levied by airlines.
- Meals and beverages, other than specified.
- Laundry and other items of a personal nature.
- Personal and baggage insurance.
- Cost for anything not specifically mentioned in the listing above.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ITINERARY SEQUENCE IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF WRITING, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHINA

Participants:

- Must be able to climb in and out of, as well as move around in confined quarters within motorcoaches unassisted. People need to be willing to rotate seats.
- Must be able to tolerate walks at an easy pace on uneven terrain, sometimes uphill, for three or four hours at a time. Visiting the Great Wall requires moderate hiking, or you can decide to just observe the wall and not participate in the hiking.
- Should generally be in good health and prepared to travel in locations without Western medical facilities.
- Every effort is made to include a variety of meals, but please be aware that the overwhelming majority will be Chinese food. Note, though, that is well-prepared, delicious, and in many local varieties and flavors.

In general, this trip requires:

- Flexibility and good humor – unexpected changes and/or glitches will occur. True adventure in travel can sometimes be accompanied by unexpected changes in conditions, itineraries and occasionally your accommodations.
- A spirit of adventure, curiosity, and flexibility.
- Interest in and willingness to appreciate a destination with overall good infrastructure but with at times rustic accommodations and adventure activities. That being said, most locations are nestled in absolute luxury where pampering is the norm.

Air Schedules

The cost of your program does not include international airfare. If you require assistance, please contact Classic Escapes at 718-280-5002 and we will happily provide air quotes to you. You may make your own international air arrangements, but please ensure you arrive/depart on the correct dates. Contact your Journey Manager at Classic Escapes to verify the dates to ensure there are no errors. **The start city for the land only program is Beijing, and the end city is Chengdu, China.**

Upon registration, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with reissuing the ticket.



YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

DESTINATION: CHINA, INCLUDING TIANJIN, THE HUANGYAGUAN GREAT WALL, BEIJING, XIAN & CHENGDU

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION: WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

ESCORTED BY: REPRESENTATIVES FROM WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PHILADELPHIA

DATES: OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 9, 2024

COSTS: PER PERSON, LAND & AIR WITHIN CHINA	MAIN PROGRAM BASED ON 10 TRAVELERS	POST EXTENSION TO SUZHOU BASED ON 6 TRAVELERS
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	\$6,995 PER PERSON	\$2,195 PER PERSON
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT	\$1,395 PER PERSON, ADDITIONAL	\$395 PER PERSON, ADDITIONAL

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: RATE IS VALID FOR FIRST TWO SINGLE ROOMS BOOKED. IF MORE THAN TWO SINGLE ROOMS, ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENT MAY APPLY. SINGLES ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME/FIRST SERVE BASIS.*

INTERNATIONAL AIR ARRANGEMENTS: The cost of your program does not include international airfare. If you require assistance, please contact Classic Escapes at 718-280-5002 and we will happily provide air quotes to you. You may make your own international air arrangements, but please ensure you arrive/depart on the correct dates. Contact your Journey Manager at Classic Escapes to verify the dates to ensure there are no errors. **The start city for the land only program is Beijing, and the end city is Chengdu, China.**





CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL:

The purchase of your travel booking constitutes a contractual agreement between the traveler(s), customer(s), and/or purchaser(s) (collectively as "You" and "Traveler"), and Classic Escapes ("Classic Escapes", "We", "Us") pursuant to the following terms and conditions ("Terms", "Agreement"):

REGISTRATION & PAYMENTS

HOW TO BOOK: Fill out and sign the enclosed reservation form and send it, along with the relevant deposit as shown below, to: CLASSIC ESCAPES, 191 W Poplar Street, Floral Park, NY 11001. Upon receipt of your signed reservation form and deposit, we will, subject to availability, reserve your spot on the tour. You may consider your booking confirmed when you receive a confirmation notice and invoice from us.

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT: You will be required to pay the following per-person deposits when booking. Those amounts are:

- \$1,300 for main trip
- \$500 for the Suzhou extension

All deposits are subject to the Cancellation policy herein. Final payment is required no less than 95 days prior to departure (July 26, 2024) unless otherwise stated. Some airfares or services must be paid in full at the time of booking. Payments may be made by check or with a credit card (American Express, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.) Conditioned on receipt of final payment in full, all final documents and air tickets will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure.

CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS: If for any reason, any travel service provider is unable to provide the services for which you have contracted, your remedy lies against the provider, and not against Classic Escapes, and in the event that payment has been made to Classic Escapes by credit card, you agree that you will not seek to chargeback your payment to Classic Escapes. If the credit card is passed through to the travel service provider and you seek to chargeback your payment from the provider, you agree to be held liable and indemnify Classic Escapes against this chargeback from the provider, including without limitation any air debit memos charged to Classic Escapes. If the credit card is declined, you guarantee that you will settle any amounts owing to Classic Escapes via money order or cash immediately. Except in cases of fraud, you agree not to file any dispute with your bank or credit card company to avoid or violate any booking terms and conditions of Classic Escapes or its suppliers, including cancellations or changes of itinerary or arrangements for reasons beyond the control of Classic Escapes or its suppliers. If you attempt to chargeback, reverse or recollect a previously authorized trip payment, Classic Escapes reserves the right to collect all additional costs, fees and expenses associated with such chargeback, reversal or recollection, including, without limitation, attorney fees.

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Prices are subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Prices are not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. By signing the reservation form, you expressly acknowledge your acceptance of these conditions (i.e., increases before full payment and increases attributable to government-imposed taxes or fees after full payment will be your responsibility) applicable to your purchase.

RATES: Rates are based on the minimum number of guests outlined in this document, plus airfare costs, currency exchange rates and other factors and are subject to change. Though it is rare for Classic Escapes to make a price adjustment after promotion of an itinerary, we do reserve the right to assess a surcharge if the minimum is not met, or if increases are forced upon us by airlines or other partners or because of changes in currency exchange rates.

ADDITIONAL FEES: Additional taxes and surcharges that cannot be pre-collected may be charged locally. Cost of passport and visa fees and service charges for obtaining visa fees; excess baggage charges levied by airlines; laundry and other items of personal nature; optional travel insurance policy(s); or any other costs incurred that cannot be pre-collected are NOT included and are the sole responsibility of the Traveler.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: The quoted rate is valid for the first two single rooms booked and on a first-come, first-served basis. If more than two single rooms are needed, an additional supplement may apply. Single accommodations are not guaranteed but will be provided at additional cost if available (see your "Journey at a Glance section" for cost.) The single-room supplement pays for privacy, not better accommodations. For passengers who are traveling alone and wish to share a room with another tour member, we will do our best to provide a roommate. However, if this is not possible, you will be required to pay the single room supplement prior to your departure from the USA.



GRATUITIES, ENTRANCE FEES & TAXES: Gratuities for baggage handling, service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, and entrance fees to all points of interest as outlined in the itinerary are included in the final cost. U.S. and foreign airport taxes are included in air costs. Tips to drivers and specialist guide(s) are included.

CANCELLATIONS, DEVIATIONS & CHANGES

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We recommend travel insurance. Travel insurance can provide financial reimbursement should the unexpected occur. For comprehensive details and to explore your options, please visit the following link:
<https://select.travelinsure.com/?pcode=32592>

CANCELLATION: Please be aware that most travel bookings are non-refundable and cancelled bookings will incur charges. These charges can be up to 100% of the cost of the booking, regardless of whether travel has commenced. Where we incur any liability for a cancellation fee or charge for any booking that you cancel, you agree to indemnify us for the amount of that fee or charge. Cancellations are only effective upon receipt of written notification. The following per-person fees are applicable; however, depending on the specific itinerary or other factors, we may require a non-refundable deposit:

- Up 96 days prior to departure (July 25, 2024), \$300 per person administrative fee, plus \$250 non-refundable deposits given to suppliers, plus the cost of the concert tickets.
- 95 days to 76 days prior to departure (July 26 to August 14, 2024), deposit is forfeited.
- 75 days to 60 days prior to departure (August 15 to August 30, 2024), 50% refund is possible.
- 59 days or less prior to departure (August 31, 2024), no refund is possible.

These cancellation fees are also in addition to any fees imposed by airlines.

REFUNDS: While Classic Escapes uses its best endeavors to ensure that all anticipated accommodation is available as planned, there is no claim of any nature whatsoever against Classic Escapes for a refund, in whole or in part, if any accommodation or excursion is unavailable and a reasonable alternative is not found, or if the Traveler is unable to use any service provided in the itinerary.

CHANGES: Once your tour is reserved, changes to the itinerary are possible subject to the availability of air or land space at the time of your request. Should there be any change fees imposed by any airlines or ground operators, or additional costs incurred due to the availability of any space, these costs will be invoiced to you and you will be responsible for payment thereof.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Should you wish to make additional travel plans, including specially arranged pre- or post-tour extensions different than those offered in conjunction with your tour, a service charge of \$150 per person (over and above the cost of the services required) will be assessed.

DOCUMENTS

PASSPORTS: All individuals departing from the United States of America must be in possession of a valid passport. Please check that your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended return date. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have valid travel documentation, including but not limited to passports and visas, which meet the requirements of immigration and other government authorities at every destination. You are responsible for confirming with the United States Department of State or the representative government agency of the country to which you are traveling to confirm the requirements for visas and/or other requirements for admission to your destination. Any fines, penalties, payments, or expenditures incurred as a result of such documents not meeting the requirements of those authorities will be your sole responsibility.

REAL ID: Beginning May 7, 2025, if you plan to use your state-issued ID or license to fly within the U.S., it is your responsibility to make sure it is REAL ID compliant. If you are not sure if your ID complies, please check with your local state Department of Motor Vehicles or [visit www.tsa.gov/real-id](http://www.tsa.gov/real-id).

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: It is the responsibility of each Traveler to obtain and carry a valid passport, visa(s), and all other documents required by applicable government regulations. When traveling domestically or internationally, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) advise that everyone carry acceptable identification in order to board a flight. Acceptable identification can be found [at http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/acceptable-ids](http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/acceptable-ids). The name, date of birth and gender that appears on the identification card must exactly match the same such data that is listed on airline ticket(s) and booking records. You acknowledge any failure to strictly comply with these requirements may result in denied boarding or an undue delay at an airport security checkpoint causing Traveler to miss flight(s), and subsequent scheduled travel bookings on cruises and tours.



Travel documents include, without limitation, airline tickets, hotel vouchers, tour vouchers, or any other document (whether in electronic form or otherwise) used to confirm an arrangement with a service provider. Travel documents may be subject to certain conditions and/or restrictions such as, but not limited to, being non-refundable, non-date-changeable, and subject to cancellation and/or amendment fees. Travel documents cannot be transferred to another person to use. All airline tickets must be issued in the name of the passport/photo identity holder. An incorrect name on a booking may result in an inability to use that booking and the booking being cancelled. Any errors in names, dates, and timings may result in an inability to use that booking and the booking being cancelled. Any errors in names, dates, and timings on your documentation will be your responsibility if we are not advised at the time of booking. Please reconfirm your flights at least 24 hours prior to departure.

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION: Upon receipt of your registration and deposit, we will send you an electronic pre-departure packet containing all the information you need to prepare for your tour, including the complete itinerary, packing checklist, required documents, insurance information, etc.

FINAL DOCUMENTS: Electronic final documents and air e-tickets will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to departure, provided all monies have been paid in full.

TRANSPORTATION

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Your program does not include international airfare. If you require assistance, contact Classic Escapes.

FREQUENT FLYER MILEAGE: Check on the airline's website to enquire who their partners are. Obtain frequent flyer mileage on any of these carriers. Present your frequent flyer card for all flight check-ins and keep the boarding passes until you receive a statement with the mileage credit.

TRANSFERS: Roundtrip airport transfers are included in the tour for guests arriving on group flights. If travelers make their own air arrangements, they will be subject to extra transfer fees.

FLIGHT CONFIRMATION: We strongly suggest that you reconfirm exact flight times with the carrier prior to departure. Air travelers are required to check in at least 2 hours prior to departure time for domestic flights and 3 hours for international flights and must report to the gate at least 30 minutes prior to departure time. Failure to comply may result in the loss of the seat to another passenger.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Federal law prohibits passengers from bringing hazardous materials on the aircraft. Federal law forbids the carriage of hazardous materials aboard aircraft in the passenger's luggage or on the passenger's person. A violation can result in five years' imprisonment and penalties of \$250,000 or more (49 U.S.C. 5124). Hazardous materials include explosives, compressed gases, flammable liquids and solids, oxidizers, poisons, corrosives, and radioactive materials. Examples: Paints, lighter fluid, fireworks, tear gases, oxygen bottles, and radiopharmaceuticals. There are special exceptions for small quantities (up to 70 ounces total) of medicinal and toilet articles carried in the passenger's luggage and certain smoking materials carried on the passenger's person. For further information, each passenger should contact the relevant airline representative(s) on their itinerary. Restrictions on hazardous materials are listed <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items>.

INSECTICIDE NOTICE: Some countries require insecticide spraying of aircraft prior to a flight or while you are on the aircraft. We recommend that you refer to the Department of Transportation's list of airports in countries that require airlines to treat the passenger cabin with insecticides prior to the flight or while on the aircraft available at <https://www.dot.gov/office-policy/aviation-policy/aircraft-disinfection-requirements>.

BAGGAGE & FEES: Additional fees for baggage may apply. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding its checked baggage policies. On average, international flights from the USA allow one piece of checked luggage, not exceeding 50 pounds, plus a carry-on piece not exceeding 15 pounds; however, we always recommend that you check your airline's policy just before departure, as luggage limitations are always subject to change. There may also be luggage and weight restrictions for your destination and that information will be forwarded to you with your pre-departure material and also listed on your final documents.

AIRLINE CLAUSE: The airlines concerned are not to be held liable for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyance. The passengers' tickets in use by the airline or by other carriers concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passengers.

DELAYS: We cannot be held liable for any delays or additional costs incurred as a result of airlines not running to schedule. Any additional land or air fees imposed on account of airline delays will be borne by the traveler.



TRIP DETAILS

ACCOMMODATIONS: You will marvel at the wonderful accommodations provided throughout your tour. All rooms have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning and/or fans, unless otherwise specified. All rates are based on double occupancy. Most rooms are twin-bedded, but king-size beds are occasionally available and should be requested in advance. Accommodations listed in this itinerary are correct at time of writing, but on rare occasions may be substituted for a different property of comparable quality.

MEALS: All meals as specified in the itinerary. Please notify us if you have special dietary needs or requests, and we will do our best to accommodate.

WATER: It is always advisable to drink bottled and/or filtered water when traveling overseas. Safe drinking water will be provided to travelers free of charge in the vehicles and during meals.

PHOTOGRAPHY: The Company reserves the right without further notice to make use of any photograph or video taken on the tour by our photographers without payment or permission. We guarantee that no photographs of a compromising nature will be used.

GUIDES: If one of Classic Escapes' guides are unable to take a trip due to circumstances out of our control (i.e., illness, etc.), we reserve the right to substitute with another guide.

TOUR ITINERARY: To the best of our knowledge the itinerary is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or changes that may occur after printing.

HEALTH AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: You must have the proper immunizations and health screenings and required documentation of such immunizations and screenings before travel. It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of any health requirements, health advisories, or health travel restrictions applicable to your travel destinations and to ensure that you carry all necessary vaccination documentation. Classic Escapes is not responsible for providing you with this information. Travel carriers and local authorities at travel destinations may require specific testing prior to boarding and/or upon arrival at your destination, including, but not limited to, a temperature check as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. You may be denied entry onto your carrier and/or entry upon arrival at your destination or be required to self-quarantine at your destination and upon your return to the United States. You must comply with local government regulations. Any additional costs are your responsibility. Check the State Department Web site <http://travel.state.gov>, for relevant information relating to travel to specific destinations, and the Center for Disease Control <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/> relating to health issues related to travel.

You must be in good physical and mental health. It shall be your duty to inform us in case you have any medical condition that may affect your ability to enjoy and pursue fully the services of Classic Escapes. By registering for a Classic Escapes service/program, you certify that you do not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for yourself or others.

COVID-19 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In order to participate in one of our tours, travelers must certify that they have not recently been treated for, nor are aware of any physical or other condition or liability that would create a hazard to themselves or other members of the tour and agree to comply with all health protocols as directed by Classic Escapes and their representatives during their journey. Travelers must maintain suitable physical distancing and frequently wash or sanitize hands throughout their journey. Travelers MAY be required to wear masks in vehicles, indoor areas, and any outdoor areas where physical distancing is not possible and in accordance with local regulations. Noncompliance with these procedures will result in the suspension of the journey. **Travelers voluntarily assume all risks and related expenses in the event that they or any member of their traveling party require testing, quarantine, or become infected with COVID-19.** Classic Escapes will endeavor to provide assistance wherever possible.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION COVERAGE: For the convenience of our travelers, Classic Escapes provides a complimentary Medical Insurance Plan during your trip via Travel Guard Group, Inc. This includes:

- Emergency evacuation insurance up to \$100,000.
- Up to \$25,000 medical expense and up to \$500 dental expense coverage subject to the terms and limitations of the insurance policy.
- 24-hour worldwide travel and medical assistance.

Medical Plan (926801)

Please click here to view complete coverage of details.

https://webservices.travelguard.com/Product/FileRetrieval.aspx?CountryCode=US&StateCode=AL&ProductCode=926801&PlanCode=NW&FileType=PROD_PLAN_GM

TERMS & CONDITIONS

TOUR OPERATOR: Classic Escapes acts as a tour operator/travel agent only. Classic Escapes does not own, operate, manage, or control any independent suppliers of services and is not liable for their acts or omissions. Classic Escapes' obligations to you are to make travel bookings on your behalf and to arrange relevant contracts between you and other travel service providers. We have no responsibility for these services, nor do we have the authority to make any warranty or representation regarding their standard.

Requests cannot be guaranteed. All bookings are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by these travel service providers. You understand that your legal recourse is against the specific provider, not Classic Escapes. Conditions can change rapidly in a country at any time. It is your responsibility to check the USA Government Travel advisories for your intended destination at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMPANY: We always do our best to make sure your travel arrangements are satisfactory. However, Classic Escapes and its employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns do not own or operate any third-party entity that provides goods and services for your travel, including without limitation lodging facilities, airline, vessel, motorcoach, or other transportation companies, local ground operators, providers, food service providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors and are in no way affiliated to Classic Escapes. We are not liable for any delays or additional costs incurred by the Traveler as a result of any actions or occurrences by any of the foregoing third party entities.

LIABILITY: Classic Escapes is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any travel service provider or of any third party.

Because Classic Escapes does not have the right to control the operations of such travel service provider or any third party, you agree that Classic Escapes is not liable for any personal injury or property damage which may arise out of these services. Classic Escapes hereby disclaims any liability whether based on contract, tort, strict liability or otherwise, including without limitation liability for any direct, punitive, special consequential, incidental or indirect damages, in connection with the goods or services provided by any supplier booking through Classic Escapes, including without limitation liability for any act, error, omission, injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be incurred through the fault, negligence, willful acts, omissions or otherwise of such travel service provider or any third party, or their respective employees, agents, servants, or representatives, including, without limitation, their failure to deliver or their partial or inadequate delivery of services, their cancellation and refund policies, fuel increases, bankruptcy or cessation of operations and other matters outside of Classic Escapes' control, and you hereby exonerate Classic Escapes from any liability with respect to the same.

FORCE MAJEURE: Classic Escapes will not be in breach of these terms and conditions or otherwise be liable to you, for any failure or delay in performing an obligation under this Agreement that is due to any of the following causes, to the extent beyond its reasonable control: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, illness, disease, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, including web host and internet service provider, breakdown or malfunction of equipment, destruction of or serious damage to facilities, natural catastrophes including, but not limited to extreme weather events, floods and volcanic eruptions, governmental acts or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, fire, explosion, generalized lack of availability of raw materials or energy, and any other unforeseen circumstance which is beyond the control of Classic Escapes. **THE PURCHASE OF TRAVEL INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ON ALL TRIPS.**

REFUSAL OF SERVICE: Service providers reserve the right to refuse service to travelers at their sole discretion, including, without limitation, if the traveler: (i) lacks proper documentation for the country of destination; (ii) has a contagious disease; (iii) is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or narcotics; and/or (iv) manifests disruptive and/or unruly behavior. Classic Escapes assumes no liability for the acts of the service provider in refusing service.

ELECTRONIC OR HANDWRITTEN SIGNATURE: Both parties agree that you may acknowledge and agree to these Terms: (i) electronically; (ii) by handwritten signature; (iii) by any other electronic means, including, without limitation, via email acceptance of these Terms; or (iv) by your implied consent deemed via your actions, which shall include without limitation the payment of the invoice in part or in full or your use of the services provided by Classic Escapes or any other travel supplier related to your booking. All such means will be deemed to constitute effective acknowledgement and execution of this Agreement and shall be sufficient to bind the parties to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS: We reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to change these Terms and Conditions at any time. Updated versions of the Terms will be provided to you, will be posted on our website, and are effective immediately on posting.

GOVERNING LAW: The construction, validity, and performance of these Terms and any disputes between the parties shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of New York, without giving effect to its conflict of law principles, and any federal laws applicable therein. Both parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the State of New York with respect to any legal proceedings relating to these Terms.