

# 2009 Beijing Choral Tour Oregon Children's Choir Young Men's Ensemble Tour Destination Introduction

**Tian An Men Square** is the largest open plaza in the world (it accommodates half a million people at one time!). It is located at the city center. Thousands of people come to the Square every day. It is the must place to visit in Beijing.



**Central Conservatory of Music** is considered the most prestigious music institute in the nation. For the past 55 years, thousands of students have graduated from the conservatory. Some of them have established international reputation. The students have won 481 prizes in major international music competitions, including the golden and silver medals in Tchaikovsky International Music Competition.

**The Forbidden City, also known as Palace Museum** is the former Imperial Palace for the 24 Emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasty. It is the world's largest palace complex and covers 74 hectares with 9,999 buildings. Having been the imperial palace for some five centuries, it houses numerous rare treasures and curiosities. Listed by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site in 1987, the Palace Museum is now one of the most popular tourist attractions worldwide.



**Temple of Heaven** is the largest temple and altar complex in China, where the ancient Emperors worshiped Heaven and prayed for good harvests. It was built in 1420 A.D. during the Ming Dynasty.

**The Great Wall of China** at Ju Yong Pass is one of the world's architectural wonders – the only man-made structure that can be seen from outer space. Just like a gigantic dragon, the Great Wall winds up and down across deserts, grasslands, mountains and plateaus stretching approximately 4,163 miles from east to west of China. With a history of more than 2000 years, it is one of the most appealing attractions all around the world owing to its architectural grandeur and historical significance.



**The Xiu Shui Market** houses 1,700 retail vendors and over 3,000 salespeople spread over seven floors with three levels of basement. It is a shopping mall with a wealth of traditional Chinese knick knacks to bring home for your family. It has become the inner city's one stop tourist shopping paradise.

## **Wang Fu Jing Street**

This is Beijing's premier shopping street. It is partially closed to cars and is crowded at all times of the day with tourists. Recently unveiled to the public after months of renovation, this wide, sprawling street is a showcase of Beijing's economic progress. Feeling adventurous? Then dine on deep-fried scorpion among other local culinary delights at the night market!



## Beijing Number 159 High School

Beijing Number 159 High School is one of the key high schools in Beijing. Besides its focus on academic excellence, its school choir, brass band, athletic teams and science teams achieve impressive awards annually. Hundreds of students compete and win in district, city and national level each year. The school is evaluated as "Traditional School in the City Level", "Model School for Health Promotion", and "Model School for Ethic Studies".



In 2003, Beijing Number 159 High School moved into its new and modern facility, complete with 300-meter tracks, large swimming pool, indoor basketball court and much more. The new building is the largest education facility in Beijing city. It has 12 science experiment classrooms, 4 computer labs, 3 multi media classrooms, large library....etc. All classrooms are air-conditioned. The school often hosts major education conferences,

workshops and meetings for the school district in its top quality facility.

Principal Li Huanping is a strong believer of international exchange and its educational value. She personally lead students to visit Oregon Children's Choir, Shasta Middle School and the University of Oregon in Eugene in winter of 2006 and 2007. Further, the school hosted students and educators from Spain, Switzerland, Ireland, New Zealand and U.S. Each year, students at Beijing 159 High School have opportunities to participate in educational tour and competition in the US., Europe and Canada.

## Beijing Yucai School

Beijing Yucai School is listed in the "Grand Dictionary of Chinese Education" and the "Records of Famous Schools in China"; and is a nationally renowned school in China. It situates in Xiannong Altar, which is an imperial garden of two dynasties; the locale of the school is within the cultural relic protection area of the national level. It occupies an area of 70,000 m<sup>2</sup>, within the campus, ancient buildings look resplendent and magnificent, green cypresses and pine trees grow tall and upright, and the environment is extremely ethereal.

In the recent years, Yucai School was appraised as "National Modern Educational Technique Experimental School", "Advanced School in Art Education of a National Level", and "Advanced School in School Environment Construction of the National Level". The wind band of the school is denominated as the second troupe of Beijing Jinfan Art Troupe. The school baseball and basketball teams won championships and second places in many national matches. They have represented the state and compete overseas many times.



Beijing Yucai School has established widespread relations with schools in Japan, America, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden. Yucai School welcomes students from other countries for short-term visit or studies, hopes to establish friendly and meaningful relations with schools of the same level all over the world.