



THE MEDICAL MUSICAL GROUP

TAIWAN 2019



Main Trip-Taipei: November 11-18, 2019 * Optional Extension-Sun Moon Lake and Kaohsiung: November 18-22, 2019

MON. NOV. 11. DEPART USA. Board your own flight to Taipei, Taiwan. **Make your own flight arrangements.**

WED. NOV. 13. TAIPEI. Book your transportation from the airport to the **Westgate Hotel** in Taipei (we will provide clear instructions). The Trip starts from the hotel with our **Half day tour of Taipei** at 2:00 pm. Explore Taipei's historic highlights e.g. **Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, Martyrs Shrine, Longshan Temple.** **Dinner**, at 7:00 pm at the hotel. (D)*



WESTGATE HOTEL TAIPEI



TAIPEI CITY

THUR. NOV. 14. TAIPEI. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy a day of leisure in Taipei **OR:** Optional full day tour to **Wulai.** Evening **Rehearsal** for performers. (B)*



WULAI



ABORIGINAL VILLAGE

OPTIONAL 1 – Wulai: \$55/pp. Wulai, the closest aboriginal village to Taipei, is a favorite of city dwellers looking to find a quick escape. Experience push-car; visit Wulai Waterfall; enjoy aboriginal folk dance show; see Swallow Lake and Chieftain Statue. Wulai is renowned as a center of indigenous Taiwanese culture of the Atayal aboriginals – enjoy their unique cuisine in the town's restaurants and then investigate their history at the Wulai Atayal Museum.

FRI. NOV. 15. TAIPEI. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Day of leisure in Taipei **OR:** Optional full day tour to **Jiufen and Pingxi.** **Dinner.** Evening **Rehearsal** for performers. (B, D)*

OPTIONAL 2 – Jiufen and Pingxi: \$95/pp. Drive along Taiwan's northern coast. Scenic stops at the two-toned **Yin-Yang Sea** and **Golden**

Waterfall. The water's yellowish hue is from copper and iron deposits of old mines. Learn



JIUFEN



PINGXI

about the area's mining industry. Visit historical **Jiufen**, stroll the narrow, cobbled streets and purchase a meal at a local eatery, followed by a relaxing teahouse stop (own expense). In **Pingxi District** visit **Shifen Old Street**, lined with shops selling miniature sky lanterns (included in tour). You'll have the opportunity to make your own rice paper lantern and write wishes on it, light a candle and watch it take flight.

SAT. NOV. 16. TAIPEI. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Day of leisure **OR:** Optional full day tour to **Thousand Island Lake & Tea Plantation.** Evening **Rehearsal** (performers). (B)*



THOUSAND ISLAND LAKE



TEA PLANTATION

OPTIONAL 3 – Thousand Island Lake and visit to Tea Plantation: \$50/pp. Soak up the scenery as we ride along mountain roads into the **Shiding district.** Admire views of **Thousand Island (Qiandao) Lake** and **Feitsui Reservoir.** Enjoy the serene landscape, of lush green hills, vast tea plantations, and glittering lake dotted with tiny islands. Continue to the **Pinglin district**, famous for its Wanshan Pouchong tea. Enjoy a tour of the **Pinglin Tea Plantation.** Visit the **Pinglin Tea Museum** (admission fee included), learn about the fascinating tea production process, from growing and harvesting the tea leaves, to brewing the perfect cup of Taiwanese tea.

SUN. NOV. 17. TAIPEI. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Afternoon **Rehearsal** for performers, and Evening **CONCERT** at **Holy Family Church.** **Post Concert Gala Banquet.** (B, D)*

MON. NOV. 18. TAIPEI/USA OR TRANSFER TO SUN MOON LAKE. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. If you are returning to USA today, take the Airport Shuttle to the airport (we will provide instructions). **OR:** Take the **Optional Extension (\$655/pp)** to **Sun Moon Lake and Kaohsiung.** Transfer to Sun Moon Lake by deluxe coach.

Drive first to Lukang (2½ hours), one of Taiwan's oldest towns and once a bustling port in the 1600s. Lukang Old Street is famed for its well-preserved street markets, temples, and historical mansions. After lunch (on own) continue to Sun Moon Lake (1½ hours). Travel the scenic area around the lake, with views of boats docked by the pier and other sites such as Tehua Village of aboriginal people. Short stops at Wenwu Temple, Tse-En Pagoda and Holy Monk Shrine, among others. Arrive at **Fuli Hot Spring Resort. Group Dinner.** (B, D)*



SUN MOON LAKE



CHATEAU DE CHINE HOTEL



KAOHSIUNG CITY

TUES. NOV. 19. TRANSFER TO KAOHSIUNG. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Half day tour of Kaohsiung, Taiwan's second-largest city (included). Travel past waterside parks, cafes, galleries and museums to visit highlights such as the **Pier-2 Art Center** (admission included). View **Wude Hall**, the **Former British Consulate at Takao** and **Formosa Boulevard Station.** Check into the **Chateau de Chine Hotel.** (B)*

WED. NOV. 20. KAOHSIUNG. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy day of leisure in Kaohsiung **OR:** Take Optional full day tour to **Tainan** (B)*



TAINAN, TAIWAN



OPTIONAL 4 – Tainan: \$85/pp. Tainan is Taiwan's old capital. Visit **Tainan Confucius Temple** (admission included) one of the oldest Confucius temples in Taiwan. Then the charming **Anping Old Fort**, built by the Dutch East India Company during their occupation in the 1600s; now serves as a museum. The Former **Tait & Co. Merchant House** was a warehouse built by the Dutch, and is now a historical site showcasing

Taiwan's past. **Anping Old Street** is filled with food, souvenirs, and even small ornate temples. Purchase lunch. **Chihkan Tower** (admission included) was the administrative center of Dutch East India Company. It was reconstructed throughout the centuries with elements of Taiwanese influence added. **Hayashi Department Store** has a unique facade, having been built by the Japanese in the 1930s. It is the first ever department store built in Tainan, and the second ever in the entirety of Taiwan.

THUR. NOV. 21. KAOHSIUNG Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. Enjoy day of leisure in Kaohsiung **OR:** Take Optional full day tour to **Meinong Hakka Village and Taiwan Indigenous Culture Park. Farewell Dinner.** (B, D)*



ABORIGINAL CULTURE PARK – KAOHSIUNG

OPTIONAL 5 – Meinong Hakka Village and Taiwan Indigenous Culture Park: \$60/pp. Start off at **Meinong**, home to Hakka culture. Well preserved landmarks e.g. **East Gate Tower** and **Literature Pavilions.** Venture into the **Meinong Folk Village**, and try the delicious local delicacies such as flat noodles and stewed winter melon. **Taiwan Indigenous Peoples Cultural Park** (admission included) was established in 1987 in order to preserve the aboriginal culture and artifacts, and is the largest aboriginal museum in Taiwan. Learn about the history of the nine main aboriginal tribes in Taiwan. The Park includes a grand 360 degree multimedia room, a lifestyle exhibition, a wax figure museum, and a handcraft room, displaying the aborigines' bright earth tone color handcrafts. Inside the park, there are traditional tribal cabins, visitors may join the tribal cultural activities and ceremonies e.g. harvest festivals to experiencing the vivid cultural heritage of the aborigines.

FRI. NOV. 22. KAOHSIUNG. Hot breakfast buffet at hotel. *Transfer on your own to Kaohsiung airport for return to USA (we will provide instructions).* (B)*.

* **ABBREVIATIONS:** B=Breakfast, D=Dinner included in tour price.



INCLUDED IN YOUR FARE:

ACCOMMODATIONS:

BASIC TOUR

- 5 nights (Nov. 13-18) in the 4-star **Westgate Hotel** in Taipei, double occupancy. Hot buffet breakfast daily.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

- 1 night (Nov 18) in the 4-star **Fuli Hot Spring Resort** in Sun Moon Lake. 3 nights (Nov. 19-22) in the 4-star **Chateau de Chine Hotel** in Kaohsiung, double occupancy. Hot buffet breakfast daily.

CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES

- Concert at the Holy Family Church in Taipei, on Sunday, November 17, 2019.

MEALS:

BASIC TOUR

- All breakfasts plus 3 dinners (one is a gala banquet).
- All other meals are on your own.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

- All breakfasts plus 2 dinners (one is a banquet).
- All lunches are on your own.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- All service charges and taxes.
- Gratuities to Drivers and Guides (except on optional tours).
- Free Wi-fi, Coffeemakers, etc. at hotel

BASIC TOUR

- Half day guided city tour of Taipei.

OPTIONAL KAOHSIUNG EXTENSION

- Half day guided city tour of Kaohsiung.

NOT INCLUDED:

- **Air Transportation:** *Please make your own flight arrangements!*
- Ground transportation between the hotels and airports in Taipei and Kaohsiung. We will provide detailed instructions on these.
- Entrances/Sightseeing/Meals other than specified.
- Coaching/guiding other than specified.
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS: *Reserve now! These are limited in size and are based on a strict first come, first served basis. No guarantee for enlisting in them if reservations are made late. If not enough passengers are enlisted, an excursion may be cancelled.*

REGISTRATION: *Mail your Registration and check (payable to "MMG") to: MMG, Attn: Richard Kuntz, 332 River Bend Road, Great Falls, VA 22066-4140.*

To qualify for the trip, you must also pay MMG's 2019 registration dues (\$100). You may also register and pay by credit card at our secure Website: <http://test.medicalmusical.com/>, click on "Taiwan Tour". Note: A 3% surcharge must be added for the online credit card transaction fee.

TOUR COST

BASIC TOUR, NOVEMBER 11-18

FULL FARE (Land Only): \$1,150 per person double occupancy. Deposit \$700 with registration. Priority in excursions is on a First Come, First Served basis. **Final balance: September 1, 2019.**

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: Deduct \$200 paid in full by April 15, 2019.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$350 per person.

OPTIONAL TOUR #1: Wulai: \$55.

OPTIONAL TOUR #2: Jiufen and Pingxi: \$95.

OPTIONAL TOUR #3: Thousand Island Lake and Tea Plantation: \$50.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION, NOVEMBER 18-22:

LAND ONLY: \$655 per person.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: \$100.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$225 per person

OPTIONAL TOUR #3 – Tainan: \$85.

OPTIONAL TOUR #4 – Meinong Hakka Village and Taiwan Indigenous Culture Park: \$60.



REWARD TO INDIVIDUALS WHO REGISTER NEW TRAVELERS WHO HAVE NEVER TRAVELED WITH US BEFORE: If you register a new traveler who has never traveled with us previously, you earn a free optional excursion of your choice as long as space is available on that particular excursion.

INSURANCE: VERY IMPORTANT! Purchase your trip insurance when you make your initial deposit, in order to be covered for preexisting conditions.

Travel Insurance may come in handy if you must cancel your trip and would help defray some of the cancellation penalties. Purchase trip insurance from your own home insurance or other companies. The following examples have no relationship with MMG, but they are listed as a service to you.

TRAVELEX: Tel: 1-800-228-9792, www.travelex-insurance.com

TRAVEL INSURED INTERNATIONAL: Tel: 1-800-243-3174, www.travelinsured.com

TRAVEL GUARD: Tel: 1-800-826-4919, www.travelguard.com

PASSPORT: VALID PASSPORT REQUIRED. It is recommended that your passport be valid for at least 6 months from the date of departure. No visas are required; however your passport should have 2 fully blank Visa pages in it.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: September 1, 2019. Reservations may be accepted after that, depending on space and subject to possible late fees.

IMMUNIZATIONS. No required vaccinations. However, the CDC recommends some. See <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/>.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refund minus a \$100.00 fee will be made for cancellations received in writing up to 91 days prior to departure (Aug 11). After that date, cancellation fees will be assessed as follows:

<u>Number of days Prior to Departure</u>	<u>Cancellation Fees as % of Total Tour Price</u>
90-61	15%
60-45	30%
44-31	50%
30-0	100%

Please note: Unused tour portions are non-refundable. Also, purchase travel insurance.

RESPONSIBILITY: MMG and other participating organizations act solely as agents in arranging for transportation, hotel accommodations and other services. We do not assume, and do expressly disclaim, any liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay due to any act, negligence or default of tour guides, or any company or person, agents or employees engaged in transportation, or rendering any service, or carrying out the arrangements for any tour.

FOR QUESTIONS: Call 1-888-6-DoReMi (1-888-636-7364) or 202-797-0700, or send an email to vanmmg@hotmail.com. For updates visit our website www.medicalmusical.org.

IMPORTANT: OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS ARE SPACE LIMITED. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!



JOIN US IN TAIWAN 2019!



MMG, a non-profit organization, is the premier medical musical group in America. Its chorus and orchestra members span virtually every state in the Union. Many are associated with the VA, or with medical practice, teaching, or research. MMG's mission is to perform "Music with a Message" – a message of inspiration, healing, national unity, and international brotherhood. MMG received the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Bob Hope Award for its service to veterans and the Armed Forces, and for its "Veterans Hymn"; as well as numerous other awards and recognitions. Our concerts are broadcast on various television networks.

MMG trips are famous for combining fun, high quality, value, creature comforts and a mission of American friendship and brotherhood around the globe. To date these trips were to: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy (and the Vatican), Latvia, Lithuania, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Other destinations included the Western Caribbean and Hawaii.

