

Peking Opera

Basics

Tour Code: LCT-BJ-3H-PO

Duration: 3 hours

Attraction: Liyuan Theater / Huguang Guild Hall Theater

Overview: The Peking Opera, regarded as the quintessence of Chinese culture, is a traditional style of Chinese theatre performance with a rich history of more than 200 years. As the soul of the Chinese national culture, it has inspired the ethos of the Chinese people and grown in immense popularity among Chinese theater-goers and even foreign audiences.

Highlights

- Enjoy an authentic Opera Show performed by local experts.
- Skip-the-line tickets booking;
- Learn about the traditional Chinese singing culture.

Itinerary

Date	Starting Time	Destination
Day 1	Flexible	Peking Opera

About 2 hours before the show, you will either take a taxi or use our private transfer service to get to the theater where our guide will be waiting for you. After receiving your tickets, you will be left to enjoy the show on your own. After the show, you will either go back yourselves or our driver will transfer you.

The **Peking Opera** was extremely popular in the Qing Dynasty court where it came to be regarded as one of the cultural treasures of China. With its unique combination of music, vocal performance, mime, dance and acrobatics, the Peking Opera is an ideal medium for interpretation and

performance of traditional and historic legends. It is a scenic art integrating music, performance, literature, aria, and face-painting. There are distinctive roles and strict rules that have been standardized over many years of artistic practice.

Main Roles

Sheng: Refers to male characters. Lao Sheng refers to the middle-aged man with a beard who acts as the decency figure. Xiao Sheng means young man without a beard.

Dan: Refers to female characters. Zhengdan mainly plays the role of the strong-minded middle-aged woman who behaves elegantly. Huadan refers to little (Seen? - not sure what word should go here) girls. Laodan refers to the senior woman and Wudan indicates a fighting female.



Jing: Refers to male characters with a unique appearance or personality who have painted faces.

Chou: Refers to a comic role or villainous character or righteous person whose nose is painted with white powder.

Four Means of Artistic Presentation

It includes singing, dialogue, dancing and martial art. Singing is utilized to intensify the appeal of the art by using all kinds of tones. Dialogue is the complement to the singing which is full of musical and rhythmic sensation. Dancing refers to the body movements requiring high performing skills. Martial art is the combination and transformation of traditional Chinese combat exercises with dances.

Six Main Types of Song Lyrics

It includes emotive, condemnatory, narrative, descriptive, disputative, and "shared space -separate sensations" lyrics. Each type uses the same basic lyrical structure, differing only in the kind and the degree of emotions portrayed.



Costumes function to distinguish the rank of the character being played and generally feature brilliant colors and rich embroidery.

Stage Props (Qimo)

Qimo or stage props are used to recreate real life experiences. For example, an actor can pretend to be galloping on a horse simply by using a horsewhip rather than riding a real horse on stage. Two chairs standing on each side of a table will make up a bridge. Storms are implied by performers dancing with umbrellas. Imaginary performance skills complemented with well chosen props allow performers to convey more life scenes convincingly.



Facial Painting (Lianpu)

Through long-term practice and experience, the dramatic artists create Lianpu based on their understanding and judgment of the roles in the plays. Different facial parts are painted in different ways. For example, eyes, foreheads and cheeks are painted like wings of butterflies, swallows and bats. Lianpu is the colorful dressing up on actors' faces and different colors represent different personal characteristics. Red symbolizes loyalty, black signifies honesty and frankness or abruptness and impertinence, and white stands for cattiness and cunning. By using exaggerated figures and colors, professional audiences can easily tell the characteristic of a role.

What's Important:

What's included:

- Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver (depending on your own needs).
- Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.
- Entrance fee for the Peking Opera Show.

Good to know:

1. Please have dinner before the show;
2. There are two theaters where Peking Opera is available:

Liyuan Theater

Address: Beijing Qianmen Hotel, No, 175 Yongding Road, Beijing

Huguang Guild Hall Theater

Address: Nr. 3 Hufang Road, Xicheng District, Beijing
3. If you used our service during the day, the private transfer service back to your hotel after the show is free.
4. Please advise in advance if you need a private transfer service.
5. Our guide will leave you to enjoy the show on your own and get back to your hotel either on your own or with the driver only.

FAQ

1. How long is the show?

Re: The show lasts about 1 hour.

2. Where do we enjoy this performance?

Re: There are two theaters for the Beijing opera, we will take you to one of them depending on the date you enquire.

3. I want to learn how to paint a opera mask, can you arrange?

Re: Yes, we have activities like this. In fact, we can arrange you to learn about making Chinese knots, opera mask painting, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese painting, and cooking class.