

Beijing City Tours

CT-1 TIANANMEN SQUARE & FORBIDDEN CITY 1/2 DAY

As required sightseeing attraction for any visitor to China, this tour provides the maximum experience in a half-day tour.

Located in the centre of Beijing, Tiananmen Square is the largest square in the world. It is a vast impressive desert of pavestones where people wander and fly kites. Though it was a gathering place in the imperial days, Tiananmen Square is Mao's creation. Major rallies took place here during the Cultural Revolution, when Mao reviewed parades of up to a million people. Today it becomes the landmark of Chinese capital.



Walking through the underpass and massive Tiananmen Gate Tower, you'll reach the Forbidden City - the best preserved imperial palace of more than 500 years old. The old world of beautiful concubines and priapic emperors, ball-breaking (and broken) eunuchs and conspicuous wealth still hovers around the lush gardens, courtyards, pavilions and great halls of the palace. This 1.5-2 hour walking tour will make you feel as if you were the emperor & empress back to the glorious old days.

Departure time(s): 08:00 am & 02:00 pm

Tour length: 4.5 hours

Meeting place: Convention Centre

CT-2 Be a Beijinger 1/2 DAY

The local phrase for "small street", Hutong is commonly known as old Beijing residential area where 100-year-old courtyard houses are found. This special tour by rickshaw allows you to catch a glimpse of ordinary people's life in traditional Beijing. Senior citizens playing chess along the lake; Locals shopping in the little grocery; The aroma of baked sweet potatoes lingering in the air; Stop and have a cup of tea and snacks in local family. Warm-hearted host and hostess will show you their family albums and share with you their stories. Children in the kindergarten eager to show their hospitality by singing songs and playing games with you. You can never say that you've been to Beijing without visiting Beijing's Hutong.



Departure time(s): 09:00 am & 02:00 pm

Tour length: 3 hours

Meeting place: Convention Centre

CT-3 Panda Garden & Lama Temple 1/2 DAY

Built in 1908, Beijing Zoo was initially named Ten Thousand Animal Garden, which is now almost 100 years old. Among all the rare animals in the zoo, the giant panda is probably the most famous Endangered Animal. Panda is called "Xiongmao" in Chinese, which literally means Giant Cat Bear. The Panda was believed to have magical powers that could ward off natural disasters and evil spirits. Writings about the Pandas can be traced back 3,000 years. They were even kept as pets by Chinese Emperors. The Panda was first introduced to the Western world in 1869 by a French missionary. He sent a pelt to a Museum in Paris. There are more than 10 pandas including new-born babies are living there.



Yonghegong Lama (or Tibetan) Temple, with its beautifully landscaped gardens, is a temple to die for. Originally it was a private residence of a prince, later turned into a monastery when its owner was promoted to emperor in 1723. As the former residence of Son of Heaven, the temple is an enlightening sight, ornamented with intriguing statuary, stunning frescoes, tapestries, incredible carpentry and a formidable pair of Chinese lions. Perhaps most impressive of all is an 18m (60ft) high sandalwood statue of the Maitreya (future) Buddha in the Wanfu Pavilion. The statue is recorded in Genies World Record as the tallest wooden Buddha statue carved from a single tree.



Departure time(s): 08:30 am & 02:00 pm

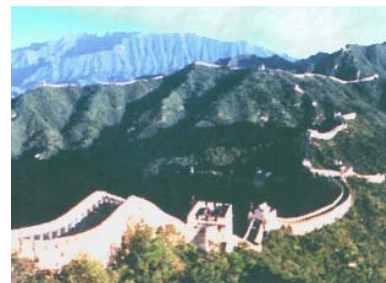
Tour length: 3.5 hours

Meeting place: Convention Centre

CT-4 Juyongguan Great Wall 1/2 DAY

As the two required sightseeing attractions for any visitor to China, this tour provides the maximum experience in a one-day tour.

The Great Wall, as a metaphor, has gone through a few restorations in its time. When it was originally built 2000



years ago by the Qin dynasty emperor, it was a sturdy 'No Trespassing' sign directed at neighbouring kingdoms. For centuries after that it remained neglected and forgotten until 18th-century Europeans, infatuated with progress and artifice, appended a 'Great' to it and sat back to marvel at man's prehensile capacity to build Bloody Big Things. Juyongguan Great Wall is only a small section of this 6,000 km long barricade, which is a classic and well-preserved example of Ming defence, with high and wide ramparts, intact parapets and sturdy beacon towers. Just like what Richard Nixon said after he visited the Great Wall "This is a Great Wall, and only a great people with a great past could have such a great wall."

Departure time(s): 08:30 am & 12:30 pm

Tour length: 4.5 hours

Meeting place: Convention Centre

CT-5 Shopping tour to Hongqiao Market and Silk Store 1/2 DAY

Beijing is a shopping paradise. From traditional Chinese arts & crafts like jade, cloisonné, lacquer wear to modern consuming goods like fashion, leather, silk etc., you'll find everything that you are dreamed of at attempting prices.



Departure time(s): 08:30 am & 01:00 pm

Tour length: 4 hours

Meeting place: Convention Centre

CT-6 Summer Palace 1/2 DAY

The Summer Palace with its cool features - water, gardens and hills - was the palace of choice for vacationing emperors and Dowager Empresses. It was badly damaged by Anglo-French troops during the Second Opium War (1860) and its restoration became a pet project of Empress Dowager Cixi, the last of the Qing dynasty rulers. Money earmarked for a modern navy was used for the project but, in a bit of whimsical irony, the only thing that was completed was the restoration of a marble boat. The boat now sits at the edge of the lake in all its immobile and nonmilitary glory. Today, the Summer Palace is one of the best examples of Chinese imperial gardens.



Departure time(s): 08:30 am & 12:30 pm

Tour length: 4 hours

Meeting place: Convention Centre