

Beijing Classic Day Tour – Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace

Tour Type: A private tour for our group exclusively

Departure: Daily

Duration: Approx.8 hours (includes lunch)

Attractions: Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, and Summer Palace.

Pick-up point and time: International Bamboo and Rattan Tower (IBRT) around 8:30am

Finishing point and time: IBRT around 6:00pm

Walking Level: Beginner - intermediate

Cost: \$130

Itinerary:

1. Pick up from IBRT at 8:30 am. First visit **Tiananmen Square**. Tiananmen Square is the heart and symbol of Beijing and is the biggest square in the world as well. The square can hold about one million people for public celebration or gatherings. On the west of Tiananmen Square it is the Great Hall of the People, the meeting place of national people's congress of the People's Republic of China. There are Monument to the People's Heroes and Chairman Mao's Mausoleum on the south. On the east of Tiananmen Square is The National Museum of China, and visiting the exhibition is like reading concise China General History. Tiananmen Square is the heart and symbol of Beijing and is the biggest square in the world. Tiananmen (Gate of Heaven Peace), which is on the north of the square, is originally the frontispiece of the imperial city of Ming and Qing Dynasties, constructed in the fifteenth year of Ming Yong Le. The original name of it is the Gate of Heavenly Succession (Chentianmen), which means shouldering the duty from the Heaven. In the eighth year of Emperor Shunzhi of Qing dynasty it was reconstructed and got its name Tian An Men Rostrum. Tiananmen Rostrum is 33.7 meters high, it is a peak city gate tower with double eaves. The Rostrum is nine Ying wide and five rooms deep. Numbers nine and five symbolize the most superiority. There are 60 huge and towering columns on the rostrum where floor is paved with gold brick. There are chestnut lattice fan gate on south and north. There painted Chinese traditional auspicious picture and gold dragon colored painting on Tian Hua Gate and girder. There are five arch passages in the face of the Rostrum and the path in the very middle is especially reserved for the Emperor himself. Tiananmen is the place of issuing imperial edict by emperors of Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasties. It is used when there are important celebration activities, such as ascending the throng of new emperor, marriage and sacrifice, and the parents of the emperor come into the Palace. In addition, before the emperor personally led his soldiers in a military operation or senior generals go out for a battle, they should hold sacrifice in front of Tian An Men and pray for victory. There is the outer golden water in front of city gate tower and seven jade stone bridges run across the river. The most spacious bridge in the middle the " Imperial Bridge "which is used by the Emperor exclusively. The "Royals' Bridges" on the two sides of the "Royals' Bridges" is used by officials above rank three. Official and soldiers below rank four and servant could only use the "Common Bridge." Common Bridges run across before the Imperial Ancestral Temple (nowadays the Working People's Cultural Palace) and the State Temple (nowadays Zhongshan Park). Tiananmen has been repaired four times after 1949. Opening time is from 8:00 Am. To.17:00 P.M., and the price is 15 Yuan.



Come out of Tiananmen, and then enter into the largest city-central square of the world Tian'anmen Square. It is 500 meters wide, 880 meters long and the ground is paved with light granite slate disposed through special technology treatment. The flag-raising ceremony at sunrise and flag-lowering ceremony at sunset are the most magnificent rites.

On the west of Tiananmen Square it is the Great Hall of the People, the meeting place of national people's congress of the People's Republic of China . The Great Hall with huge and complicated engineering was built within ten months, possessing central hall, great hall, banqueting hall with 7000 square meters, office building of people congress standing committee and hall named with all provinces and autonomous region. The whole area is 172.000 square meters and there are 25 huge columns at the front of frontispiece. Visiting time is from 9:00 to 1400, and the price is 15 Yuan. You can enter to visit from east gate.

On the east of Tiananmen Square is The National Museum of China, and visiting the exhibition is like reading concise China General History. Here is state special museum of collecting, exhibiting and researching China ancient and neoteric cultural relics.

There are Monument to the People's Heroes and Chairman Mao's Mausoleum on the south. Its external design adopts the session of China People Politics Consultative Conference in 1949. Its external design adopts the project made by Professor Liang Sicheng. Moument is composed of 413 granites and monument base is paved of 17.000 granites and white marbles. There are eight white marble sculptures on the monument seat: including a series of importanti history events, Such as Opium burning in Humen, Jintian Uprising. Wuchang Uprising. The May 4th Movement of 1919. the May 30th Movement of 1925, Nanchang Uprising. War against Japan and Successful Crossing



of the Changjiang River. Design of the tower represents perfect quintessence of socialism practical art and symbolizes Chinese revere and memory for revolution martyr.

Chairman Mao's Mausoleum started to construct in November 1976 and completed in May 1977. The area is 2000 square meters and it is composed of north hall (the place holding memorial activity), viewing hall (crystal hall special for Chairman Mao relique) and south hall. In addition, there are Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi and Zhu De revolution achievement memorial rooms. If you want to view Chairman Mao's dead portrait, please pay attention to opening time: the whole day of Monday, Wednesday and Friday and A.M 8:30-11:30 and P.M 1430-1640 of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Specially notice: any kinds of bags of visitors should be deposited before visiting and don't wander around at will and make noise when you enter into viewing hall.



2. Then move on to the **Imperial Palace, also known as the "Forbidden City"**, the largest and best-preserved ancient imperial palaces group with 500 years history. The palace was built between 1406 and 1420, but was burnt down, rebuilt, sacked and renovated countless times, so most of the architecture you can see today dates from the 1700's and onwards.

The Forbidden City (also known officially as the Imperial Palace Museum) was commissioned by the third Emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Emperor Yong Le. The palace was built between 1406 and 1420, but was burnt down, rebuilt, sacked and renovated countless times, so most of the architecture you can see today dates from the 1700's and onwards. The Forbidden City was the seat of Imperial power for 500 years, and is now a major tourist attraction in China. The total area of the complex is 183 acres, so it takes quite a while to walk through, especially if you want to have a close look at everything. All together there are 9,999 1/2 rooms in the Museum, not all of which can be visited.



The Imperial Palace is rectangle architecture. It is 961 meters long from south to north and 753 meters wide. There is city wall with 10 meters height around and the moat outside of city wall is 52 meters wide. The Imperial Palace has 4 gates. The Gate of Divine Prowess (Shenwumen) on the north, Meridian Gate (Wumen) on the south, the Eastern Flowery Gate (Donghuamen) on the east, and the Western Flowery Gate (Xihuamen) on the west. There are 4 corner towers at the 4 coners of city wall and the whole area is 724.250 square meters.

On the whole, the Imperial Palace is divided into two parts: front court and back chamber. Not only in the Imperial Palace, the monarch bed chamber of Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty is divided like so. Front court of the Imperial Palace mainly includes the 3 palaces of mid-way and the Hall of Lierary Glory (Wenhuadian), the Pailion of the Source of Lierature (Wenyuange), Shang Si Court, Arrow tower, Imperial Hospital, Imerial Teahouse. Qing Embassy and Cabinet Warehouse of east way. And also Yu Ying Palace. Yan An Palace. Internal Affairs Mansion , Building Office and Nan Xun Palace of west way. Back bedchamber includes Back Three Palaces of mid way (the Palace of Heavenly Purity (Qianqinggong), the Palace of Union and Peace (Jiaotaidian) and the Palace of Earthly Tranquility (Kunninggong).



East Six Palaces, Feng Xian Palace, Ning Shou Palace and the Palace of Abstinence (Zhaigong) of east way, West Six Palace, the Hall of Mental Cultivation (Yangxindian), Ci Ning Palace, Ning Shou Palace kang Palace and Shou An Palace of west way. So you can choose on route or two routes among mid you can choose one route or two routes among mid way (outside court, internal court travel route), west way (internal court west travel route) and east way (internal court east and external east travel route). If you are non-group tourist, suggest you rent multi lingual guide record at Meridian Gate (Wumen) and



return when you go the Gate of Divine Prowess (Shenwumen). After you visit the Imperial Palace, you go out of the Gate of Divine Prowess (Shenwumen), enter into Jingshan Park and overlook the panorama of the Imperial Palace. In addition, suggest you visit front-street of Jingshan Park by manpower pedi-cab at cool night of summer. Shining lights are bright and Forbidden City is brilliant. Colored lights from all directions lighten Meridian Gate (Wumen), the Gate of Divine Prowess (Shenwumen) turret, palace wall and other main palaces.



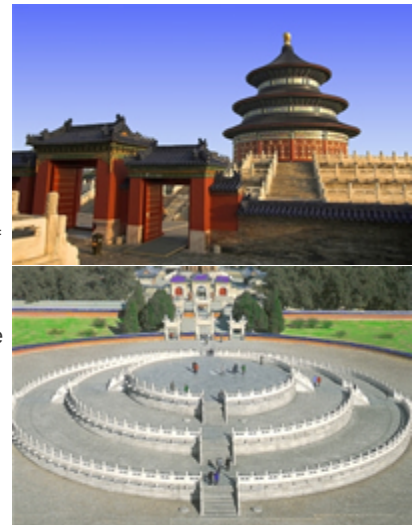
3. Proceed to the **Temple of Heaven**, the place where the Emperors prayed for peace and harvest. It is located in the southern part of Beijing, and had been one of the most holy places for the whole country for more than five centuries. It used as a complex of sacrificial buildings for the Ming and Qing emperors.

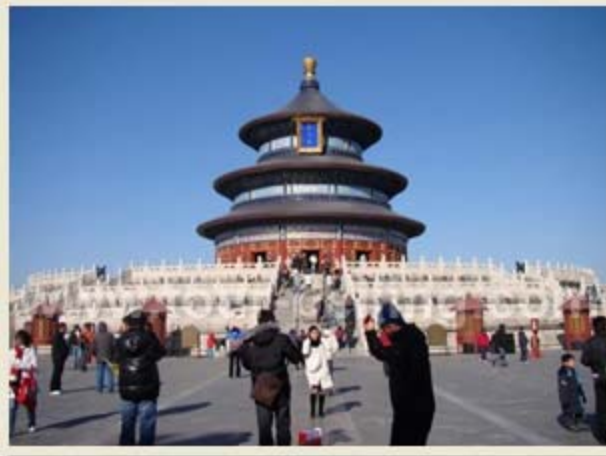
Temple of Heaven (Tiantan) is located in the southern part of Beijing, and has been one of the most holy places for the whole country for more than five centuries. It used as a complex of sacrificial buildings for the Ming and Qing emperors, and is the largest one in Beijing among several royal altars to Heaven, Earth, the Sun, the Moon and other deities or symbolic forces of Nature.

The Temple of Heaven was originally constructed in the eighteenth year of Ming Yong LE(1420). It was rebuilt and reconstructed during the period of Emperor Jiajing In Ming Dynasty and Emperor Qianlong in Qing Dyansty. The building is magnificent and environment is solemn and respectful. It was the place where the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties worshipped Heaven and prayed for good harvests.

The north part of the temple looks like a roundness and the south is like a square. Surrounded by an outer wall of 5 km, it covers an area of 273 hectares, thrice the size of the Forbidden City. It is divided into the Inner Temple (Neitan) and the Outer Temple (Waitan) by a double wall. Main buildings assemble in the inner part, including the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests (Qiniandian), the Hall of Imperial Zenity (Huangqiandian), the Circular Mound (Huanqiu) the Imperial Vault of Heaven (Huangqiongju), the Palace of Abstinence (Zhaigong), Beamless Hall (Wuliangdian), Long Corridor (Changlang) etc. There is also the Echo Wall (Huiyinbi), Triple-sound Stone (Sanyinshi), Seven Star Stone (Qixingshi) etc. Temple of Heaven combines the architecture technology of Ming and Qing Dynasties together. It is rare Chinese ancient architecture and the largest sacrifice complex in the world. In 1998, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Culture Organization listed it into the "Directory of World Heritage".

If you go to the Temple of Heaven in the early morning, you can see groups of people practicing all types of kung fu and taiji. You can Iso practice with them if you are so inclined. This is another good activity for the jetlagged.





4. After lunch, visit the Summer Palace, one of China's largest imperial garden. Summer Palace was originally a royal garden and a temporary dwelling palace for emperors of Qing Dynasty. Its predecessor was the Garden of Clear Ripples (Qingyi Yuan) started in 1750 and burned down by the British and French allied troops in 1860.

Located at the northwest suburb of Beijing, the Summer Palace was originally a royal garden and a temporary dwelling palace for emperors of Qing Dynasty. Its predecessor was the Garden of Clear Ripples (Qingyi Yuan) started in 1750 and burned down by the British and French allied troops in 1860. In 1886, Empress Dowager Cixi used navy outlays and other funds in the reconstruction and renamed the park as Summer Palace in 1888. The Summer Palace in northwest suburban Beijing is the largest and most complete imperial garden existing in China.

Summer Palace mainly consists of Longevity Hill (Washou Shan) and Kunming Lake. Covering an area of 290.8 hectares, of which 3/4 is covered by water. Hill-and water-surrounded palaces, temples and garden buildings are divided into three areas: the palace area, with the Hall of Benevolence and Longevity (Renshoudian) as the center, where Cixi held court from behind a screen in most time of her late years; the residence area, with Yulan Hall, Leshou Hall and Yiyun Hall as main bodies, where the emperor and empress lived before death; the tour area integrating landscape, buildings, flower and plants, a place of tour and rest for rulers of that time. As the building center in the whole Palaces, the Tower of Buddhist Incense (Foxiangge) stands highly relying on the Hill and facing to the water.



The water surface of Kunming Lake is spacious like sky, charming, gentle and appealing. In the vast mist-covered water stand the magic hills and wonder islands; the Seventeen-arch Bridge spans the green water like a rainbow. The West Dike of the lake runs from north to south. Forming a God-given scene together with six graceful bridges. Business on the palace market is flourishing. Towering palaces shine with the hill and water, Group peaks of West Hill (Xishan) and the Jade Spring (Yuquanshan) are even taken as the background. With masterly design and artistic architecture and integrating the essence of Chinese garden arts, the Summer Palace has a title of "Imperial Garden Museum". It is a imperial garden most completely reserved with richest landscapes and concentrated buildings. The Summer Palace was added to the world cultural heritage list in 1998.



5. Back to IBRT about 6:00 pm



Booking Note:

1. It's a heavy day with a lot of walking. So be sure to wear comfortable shoes and have a good sleep the day before.
2. We try to finish the heavy tour schedule in 8 hours. But the traffic in Beijing is very bad sometimes. Our tour guide and driver will do their best to keep your day trip smooth and avoid any delay. If any delay, your patience and understanding is much appreciated. So please don't make any important appointment in the later afternoon due to the possible delay for the day tour.