

3-day Hiking Tour From Jiankou, Gubeikou to Simatai West

Tour Code: LCT-BJ-3D - Jiankou- Gubeikou- Simatai

Duration: 3 days

Attractions: Jiankou section, Gubeikou section and Simatai section

Overview: The wild wall at Jiankou to Gubeikou displays the ruined and original condition of the wall. Mutianyu, Jinshanling and Simatai vary from tower to tower. Immerse yourself in the rural life in China and learn the details of locals. You will be rewarded by your effort and courage on the Great Wall of China.

Highlights:

1. Underdeveloped sections of the Great Wall at Jiankou, Gubeikou & Simatai West
2. Restored sections of the Great Wall at Mutianyu & Jinshanling
3. Stunning photo opportunity of the Great Wall
4. Accommodation and food at local farmer's guesthouses
5. Hotpot lunch

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 Beijing - Jiankou - Mutianyu (5 hours, 10 km hiking)

We will pick you up at 8 am at your hotel in Beijing and then drive to the Olympic venues for a 20-minutes walking. Select your favorite sandwich at Subway for your lunch on the Wall and then drive to Jiankou (2.5 hours). We will start the hiking at 11 am. You will hike on both restored and original walls. Shorts are not recommended since you will meander through jungles and bushes. We will drive to Gubeikou in late afternoon and stay at a local farmer's guesthouse.

Jiankou to Mutianyu offers a wonderfully satisfying experience of the Wall. It has superb scenery, dense vegetation and many fine watch-towers in an excellent restored section which is about six meters broad. The brickwork is elaborate, with crenellations on both sides and finely curved eaves on some watch-tower roofs. There are decorative gables with animal statues, and tablets bearing calligraphy above some entrances. The first one hour is going straight up and reaches the wall, and then hikes the unrestored towers. The wild Wall to the west is the original Ming Dynasty with fine stonework, and there are almost no other people. You will be rewarded when you approach Zhenbeitou Tower, where you will have a breathtaking view of Jiankou section.

There will be a sharp contrast when you arrive at Mutianyu section with the restored wall and towers. We will provide you with water and snacks and you need a day pack to carry these stuff. We will stay at a traditional local farmer's guesthouse at Gubeikou village which played important role in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 AD) to defend the capital. There's chance to walk around the village and try home-made local farmer's food.

Meals: picnic lunch, dinner

Accommodation: local farmer's guesthouse at Gubeikou village

Day 2 Gubeikou - Jinshanling (5 hours, 10km hiking)

Get up at 8 am and finish breakfast by 9:00 am and then start the hike today. It will take about 5

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hours hiking on the wall. This is a long but leisure day. We will come back to Gubeikou village again after the hike. Gubeikou, along with the passes at Shanhaiguan and Juyongguan, was a key strategic target in military campaigns since ancient times. Protecting these three passes was considered vital for keeping Beijing safe from the Mongolian nomads. This is a flat valley further to the west, one of vital importance since it connected the Mongolian Plateau to the north with the vast fertile plains of north China. The vistas of the sinuous Wall snaking its way over the ridges of the Yanshan are breathtaking. After 2 hours hiking on the wall of Gubeikou section, we have to get off the wall to avoid a military area nearby. Going through the path in the field for 1.5 hours, and then we will come back to the wall again at the Jinshanling section.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Accommodation: local farmer's guesthouse at Gubeikou village

Day 3 Jinshanling - Simatai West (3 hours, 5 km hiking) - Beijing

We will drive to Jinshanling in 20 minutes after breakfast, and start the hike at 8am. It's the right time to produce amazing photographs. At this time there are usually no other tourists on the wall, you have the wall to yourself. It will take about 3 hours hiking on the wall. We will get off the wall near Kylin Tower and then drive back to the city. This section offers arguably the finest hiking anywhere on the Great Wall. It is extremely photogenic, with over 15 watch-towers, and steep gradients that give constantly changing perspectives and wide, open views. There is fascinating variety in the watchtowers here. Some have two storeys, others three. Some have flat roofs, others rounded and others again are pitched with upturned eaves. This section of the wall is wild, ruined, preserved and original. On a clear day, it is difficult to fail to take good photographs here. We will organize a unique Hotpot lunch when back to the city. Hotpot is originally from Sichuan Province and now is popular all over China. You can choose Plain or Spicy one as you like. This is also a good opportunity to practice your chopstick skills. We will drop you off at your hotel after lunch and our service ends here.

Meals: breakfast, lunch

What's Important:

What's included:

- Comfortable air-con vehicle with experienced driver
- Fully-escorted personal expert English-speaking hiking tour guide
- Entrance fees of all section of the Great Wall as listed
- 2 nights twin-shared accommodation at local farmer's guesthouse
- Unlimited bottled water; snacks; meals as listed in the itinerary
- A certificate of completion for hiking on the Great Wall of China

What's not included:

- Travel insurance
- Cable car, chairlift, toboggan (slideway) or any other additional local facilities
- Personal expenses
- Tipping of hiking guide/driver recommended on good service on a 2:1 ratio separately

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What to take:

Comfortable boots, sunscreen, sun-glasses, first aid kit, lip balm, cap

Good to know:

1. You will hike the Wall from A to B every day and your belongings will go with the car/van directly to the accommodation, and you need a day pack to carry water, snacks and other stuff.
2. Travel insurance is optional and is the sole responsibility of travellers. It is strongly encouraged to have coverage of injury or accident.
3. There is no toilet along the path on the Wall. There are toilets at the entrance of Jiankou, Mutianyu, Gubeikou, Jinshanling and Simatai West, otherwise be prepared to commune with nature. Please prepare before hiking and always carry toilet paper by yourself.
4. Unlimited bottled waters are stored in our car/van every day.
5. We will bring trekking poles in our car/van and please tell your guide if you need one.
6. Since this trip will go through jungles and bushes, then long pants with zip-off legs will be the best in summer time and shorts are not recommended.
7. You will be followed by local farmers when starting the hike on Day 3. The farmers will give you help along the way, as a reward they will sell some souvenirs. If you don't like this, you have to say NO firmly at the beginning (MAYBE LATER does not work in Chinese culture) or just ignore them and not speak a word with them; otherwise they can be persistent and follow you all the way on the Wall.
8. It's recommended to prepare your own snacks before your departure from Beijing if you don't like snickers.
9. As responsible travelers, we "take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprint".

FAQ

1. Can you pick us up from the airport/ train station on the first day before heading for the Jiankou section?

Re: Sure, Lilysun China Tours can offer you extra private transfer service. All you have to do is ask beforehand.

2. How long will we be hiking?

Re: You will hike about 5 hours on Day 1, 5 hours on Day 2, and 3 hours on Day 3 before heading back to city, covering sections like Jiankou, Mutianyu, Gubeikou, Jinshanling and Simatai West.

3. Is this tour available every day?

Re: Out of safety, you can only participate the tour from late March to early November.

4. Is it very strenuous?

Re: Yes, it can be a little strenuous for some people. Please be prepared to take this trip.

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5. How is the farmhouse we are staying at?

Re: We will select the best local farmhouse that can satisfy almost all your needs. Meanwhile, you will learn about local life from your host and enjoy authentic local food.

6. Is it too hot to hike in Summer?

Re: Well, it can be a little hot, which is why you need to prepare all the necessary precautions to protect against the heat and sunburn. There are air conditioners and unlimited water in the vehicles and farmhouses, but outside can be a little tough to endure.