

7-Day Beijing - Pingyao Tour

Tour Code: LCT-BP-7D-01

Duration: 7 Days

Attractions: Forbidden City, Tian'anmen Square, Mutianyu Great Wall, Pingyao Ancient Town, Qiao's Compound

Overview: Arrive in Beijing and spend two full days there to visit all the major sites including Forbidden City and Great Wall. Take a high-speed train and head for Pingyao. Pingyao Ancient Town is one of the only two towns that have been listed into UNESCO World Heritage site as a whole town. Taking this tour would enable you to see every aspect of the life in Ming and Qing Dynasties from commerce to daily commons. You will access one of the most famous compound - Qiao's compound to have an idea of how prosperous the economy was and how business family run their commercial empire.

Highlights:

1. See how imperial families lived in Ming and Qing Dynasty by visiting the Forbidden City;
2. Walk in the biggest square in the world - Tiananmen Square;
3. Climb the Mutianyu Great Wall;
4. Walk in the Pingyao Ancient Town and know about the delivery business in old times of China.
5. Taste unique Shanxi dishes and snacks.
6. Learn about Qing Dynasty architecture by visiting the Qiao's Compound.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Beijing.

Upon your arrival in Beijing, your local driver will hold a welcome sign with your name on it at the baggage area and wait for you. Then, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Day 2: Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Hutong.

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09:00 a.m: Meet your Beijing local tour guide at your hotel lobby and be ready for the day tour.

09:30-10:15 a.m: Visit the **Tian' anmen Square**. It' s a rectangular square with an area of 440,000 sq meters. To some point, the Tian' anmen Square echoes the layout of the Forbidden City. It also displays the major concept of China politics in ancient times- centralism. There were so many historic things took place here , of which the most famous one is the Tian' anmen Incident. Now, it' s just a symbol.

10:30 - 12:30 p.m: Visit the magnificent **Forbidden City**, the largest Imperial Palace in the world. We' ll spend a couple of hours wandering around this amazing example of Imperial architecture and learning about the history of the palace. Surrounded by a long scarlet walls longing 3.5km, UNESCO-listed Forbidden City is the very central power in Ming and Qing Dynasty. This large palace witness the prosperity and the decline of feudalism. From here, you will have a direct experience how royals lived and how they rule.

12:30 - 13:30 p.m: Enjoy a local food in a nice restaurant Beijingers always visit, please pay on moment based on what you have.

14:00 - 15:30 p.m: Head for **Temple of Heaven**. Situated in the southeast of central city, the Temple of Heaven was originally constructed in the eighteenth year of Yong Le (1420) in Ming Dynasty for Ming and Qing emperors to conduct annual ceremonies of praying to Heaven for good harvest. It combines the architectural technology of Ming and Qing Dynasties together, which makes it a rare Chinese ancient architecture and the largest sacrifice complex in the world. Charmed by its size, colorful meaning and importance in China's history, the site was classified into the "Directory of World Heritage" by UNESCO in 1998.

16:00 - 17:00 p.m: Walk in the tranquil **Hutongs**. In those interlaced Hutongs, one can experience the life of the ancient Beijing people. With bathrooms and public toilets usually being found, shops and vendors selling all kinds of goods that satisfy the local people's daily needs, and people gossiping along the lanes to strengthen their relationship, one can walk through the history and savor the unique culture. Thus, we can say that where there is such a lane, there is a story.

17:00 p.m: Drop you off at hotel for rest.

Day 3: Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace.

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07:30 a.m: Greeted by your tour guide in your hotel lobby and commence your day tour.

09:00 - 11:30 p.m: Drive around 1.5 hours to the **Mutianyu section Great Wall** and you will take a rest and lunch at the Subway down the foot of the Mutianyu Wall. This is a one of the most famous and ideal sections of the Great Wall. You will have your choice of taking the cable car or chair lift up the breathtaking wall and spend a leisurely 1 to 2 hours hiking up and down the various sections exploring the Watch Towers and marveling at the construction and beauty of the renown and legendary Wall. You then have the option of an exhilarating toboggan ride back down or simply return the way you came with cable car.

11:30 - 12:30 p.m: Enjoy a typical Beijing lunch nearby the Mutianyu Great Wall (pay on moment).

14:00 - 16:00 p.m: Visit the **Summer Palace**. As the largest imperial garden in China, the Summer Palace has been a summer resort for royal families. There are huge lakes, bridges, corridors, pavilions, and various kinds of flowers and lots of rooms fully radiating the natural beauty and the grandeur of imperial gardens. With arched bridges and glittering ripples, pretty promenades and flowers in blossom, decorated corridors and ancient doors, and "breezeways" (a kind of hallway that allows the passage of a breeze between structures), all these can bring tourists into an enchanting and ever-changing scenery.

16:30 p.m: Come back to hotel for rest.

Day 4: Beijing to Pingyao by HST D605, 10:28-14:28.

08:30 a.m: Be ready at your Beijing hotel and your driver will pick you up for the Beijing West Train Station.

14:28 p.m: After 4 hours' train ride, you will arrive at Pingyao train station where your Pingyao driver will be waiting for you. You will be transferred to Pingyao hotel and check in.

Day 5: Rishengchang Draft bank, City Wall, Ming Qing Street, Confucius Temple, Ancient Country Government

09:00 a.m: Meet your Pingyao guide and start explore this old town.

09:10 - 17:00 p.m: Wander in the ancient town. Visit the precedent of modern Chinese banks -

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Rishengchang Draft bank. Move to take a nice walk on the well preserved Ancient **City Wall**.

Discover the defensive system with your professional local guide and get a panoramic view of the ancient town. Afterwards, drive to explore the business street - **Ming Qing Street**, the Wall Street of ancient China. The whole street remains its original pattern. On both sides of the street, Ming and Qing Style residences and shops are located, lots of which bear a history of over a hundred years now. Stroll in the ancient town to the **Confucius Temple** and **Ancient Country Government**. There are a couple of Confucius Temples in China, but the one in Pingyao is the earliest one discovered. It's also the only Confucius temple that built in Jin Dynasty. You will find the largest Confucius statue and other philosophers of Ru. Then, you will go inside the Ancient Country Government and learn how ancient officials lived and worked.

17:00p.m: Head back to your Pingyao hotel and rest.

Day 6: Qiao's Compound, leave for Beijing

09:00 a.m: Pick up from your hotel and set out to Qiao's Compound.

09:50 - 12:50 p.m: Visit the **Qiao's Compound**. It's a enclosed castle-like compound with an area of 4175 sq meters, composed of 6 big yards, 20 small yards and 313 rooms. There are no other houses or mansion neighboring it, but some streets. This compound belonged to a local family named Qiao family. This family made their way in commercial business, particularly in bank business. From this compound, you will see the architectural concept of ancient Chinese people.

13:00 - 14:00 p.m: Enjoy a Pingyao-style meal at a nice local restaurant (pay on spot) before begin your exploration.

15:00 p.m: Drop off at Pingyao Train Station and you will take train G628 (16:13 - 20:27) back to Beijing.

20:27 p.m: Your Beijing driver will pick you up at Beijing West Train Station and drop you off at Beijing hotel.

Day 7: Departure Beijing

Your Beijing driver will pick you up 3 hours prior to your flight and transfer you to Beijing airport.

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Your 7-day Beijing Pingyao tour comes to an end.

What's Important:

What's included:

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sites mentioned.

Bottled water.

2nd class train tickets between Beijing and Pingyao.

What's not included:

Meals

Personal expenses or private entertainment items in sites.

Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job(recommended)

Accommodations

What to take: smile and a relaxing heart.

Good to know:

1. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or the shops for shopping.

2.For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food with a fair price. Please inform us about your food preferences in case you have any allergies.

3.A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. If you want a tour with a duration exceeding the working period of our tour guide and driver, we need to charge you for your extra hours with the standard of 100 RMB per hour.

4.The tour we provide you are based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours.

In case you only need our service for over 6 hours yet less than 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.

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5. Please be aware that your itinerary is changeable anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
6. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will be only with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.
7. Wheelchairs are accessible, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.

FAQ

1. We have airport transfer service covered by our hotel, can you deduct this from the itinerary?

Re: Yes, we can cut this part.

2. When does the tour usually end?

Re: The tour usually ends at 17:00 p.m.

3. Can the itinerary be changed on the spot?

Re: Sure, you can change the itinerary whenever you want. Your tour guide will accommodate your needs.

4. Where do we have lunch?

Re: Your tour guide will take you to a nice local restaurant instead of some tourist ones for lunch. You can try some delicious meter-long noodles.

5. I'm a vegetarian, where could I find such a place?

Re: Don't worry, your tour guide will take you to a local restaurant where only vegetarian food is served.

6. Can I take different trains instead of the ones listed in the itinerary?

Re: Yes, we can arrange you to take a different train and revise the itinerary to accommodate your train preference.

7. I want to see some Jade Factory, can you arrange?

Re: Yes, if you insist visiting the Jade Factory in Beijing, we can arrange you to there. For your information, it's a shopping factory where many tour agencies arrange to collect commissions. We never take our customers to there.

8. How long does it take to Pingyao from Beijing?

Re: The train ride is 4 hours, but we usually drop you off at the train station about 1 hour before the scheduled time to ensure you can get on the train on time.

9. Can I use credit card?

Re: Sorry, we can't accept credit card yet, but we do accept paypal and bank transfer.

Cancellation policy:

No less than 2 weeks, you will lose your deposit;

Within 7 days - 13 days, loss of 50% of your payment or just the deposit.

Within 6 days, loss of full payment or just the deposit.

Please bear in mind that your deposit is still available for your next trip with us. You may also offer this deposit to someone else as their tour deposit with us.