

## 8-day Beijing - Kaifeng -Dengfeng - Luoyang Tour

**Tour Code:** LCT-BDKL-8D-01

**Duration:** 8 Days

**Attractions:** Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Great Wall, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, Justice Bao Memorial Temple, Daxiangguo Temple, Longmen Grottoes, Shaolin Temple, Kungfu Performance

### Overview:

This 8-day tour will take you to four ancient cities of China - Beijing, Kaifeng, Dengfeng and Luoyang. In Beijing, you will explore the magnificent Forbidden City and its recently opened parts, hike on the breathtaking Mutianyu Great Wall, admire the high-rise CCTV New Tower, enjoy thrilling acrobatic show, and if time permits, taste authentic Beijing Roast Duck. After visiting Beijing, you will take the train to Kaifeng where you will pay your respects to Governor Bao Zheng and walk in the picturesque Qingming Riverside Landscape Garden. Then you will head to Luoyang via Dengfeng city and be totally awed by the Longmen Grottoes, Shaolin Temple and the inspiring Zen Music.

### Highlights:

1. Discover the hidden stories and mysteries of the Forbidden City
2. Trek on the Mutianyu Great Wall and ride a toboggan
3. Enjoy an acrobatic show performed by professional acrobats
4. Walk in the picturesque Qingming Riverside garden and feel like Song-era person
5. Watch a Kungfu show performed in the Shaolin Temple by the real monks
6. Visit the first Buddhist temple in China, White Horse Temple
7. Enjoy thousands of Buddhist statues in Longmen Grottoes
8. Listen to the awe-inspiring Zen Music

### **Detailed Itinerary:**

Day 1: Arrival in Beijing

Your private Beijing driver will be waiting for you at the baggage area upon your arrival and will take you to your hotel. On the way to a centrally-located hotel, you will stop by the world famous CCTV New Tower a landmark of Beijing with its avantgarde architecture.

### **Day 2: Mutianyu Great Wall, Bird Nest and Water Cube**

07:30: Your local Beijing expert will meet you at your hotel lobby and take you to enjoy an amazing Great Wall visit.

09:30-12:00: After 2 hours drive, you will arrive at the world-famous *Mutianyu Great Wall*. Located in Huairou District, about 75km from the Beijing City, the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall is newly developed in recent years. It's not as crowded as the Badaling section and will provide you with stunning views and great photo opportunities. You may take a cable car to go up the Great Wall and can get down by riding an exhilarating toboggan.

12:00 - 13:00: Enjoy an authentic Beijing lunch at a restaurant near the Great Wall and be ready for the afternoon adventure.

15:00 - 16:00: On your way back to the hotel, your guide will take you to the *Bird Nest and Water Cube* that served at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. While you cannot go inside, the external photo opportunities are stunning.

16:30: Drive back to hotel for rest.

### **Day 3: Tian'anmen Square, Forbidden City, Jingshan Park, Hutong walking tour, Acrobatic show**

09:00: Start the day tour by meeting your friendly tour guide in the hotel lobby.

09:30: Your first sight will be *Tian'anmen Square*, also called Gate of Heavenly Peace. It is the largest inner city square in the world. Several significant historic events occurred here, the most important of which was when Chairman Mao proudly announced the founding of the People's Republic of China. Following your guide, you will learn about other historical events that

happened here.

10:30 - 13:00: The **Forbidden City** borders Tiananmen Square and is the highlight of the day tour. It served as the home for Imperial Families for over 500 years and has survived both natural and manmade disasters. Being the largest and the best-preserved palace compound in the world it has symbolized the Imperial Power and is a cultural symbol of ancient times.

13:00 - 14:00: Enjoy a local Beijing lunch at your own expense.

14:20 - 15:00: Set out for **Jingshan Park** which is also one of the ancient Imperial Parks. Nowadays, it's a place where local people enjoy their leisure time. The park provides a commanding view of the whole Forbidden City and if you are lucky to be visiting in autumn, the red maple forest is a splendid scene fit for royalty.

15:30 - 17:00: Stroll in the old **Beijing Hutongs** where old Beijingers live. A few decades ago, almost all people in Beijing lived in Siheyuan in Hutongs. There could be a few families in one courtyard who have been living together for a long time and know each other well. You can imagine the hustle and bustle of old times. Nowadays, there are still some people living there but most Hutongs are vacant. You may be interested in joining some groups for activities like opera mask making, paper cutting, rickshaw riding, kite flying, calligraphy or learning to paint.

17:00-18:00: Your guide will help you with the dinner at a nice local restaurant. After that, you will head for the Beijing Chaoyang Theater and enjoy a world-class acrobatic show.

20:30: Hotel drop off.

Day 4: Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, take train to Zhengzhou

08:00: Greeted by your Beijing guide and driver you will enjoy the last day tour in Beijing.

08:30 - 10:00: Head for the **Temple of Heaven**. Ringed by lush vegetation, the Temple of Heaven was a sacred place where the ancient emperors prayed for a good harvest and offered sacrifices. The temple itself was built entirely of wood with no nails which is a unique architectural achievement originating from China. Comprised of two parts, a rectangular foundation and a semi-circular top, the Temple represents the typical Chinese concept of a circular heaven and rectangular ground. Now, the grounds are a public park where you can see local people doing their

morning exercise.

10:30 - 12:00: You will set out for the **Summer Palace** which was a summer resort for royal families to escape from the heat in the capital. Like other palaces in Beijing, there are man-made hills, artificial lakes, bridges, pavilions, trees and beautiful gardens with various flowers blooming every season. If time permits, we recommend you take a boat ride on the lake. (at your own expense).

13:00: Your Beijing driver will drop you off at the Beijing West Train Station where you may grab a bite for lunch and then take the train G503 (14:41 - 17:41) to Zhengzhou East Train Station. Your Zhengzhou driver will be waiting for you holding a welcome sign with your name written and then will drop you off at the Kaifeng hotel for rest.

#### Day 5: **Justice Bao Memorial Temple, Daxiangguo Temple, Qingming Riverside Landscape Garden**

09:00: Meet your local Kaifeng expert and begin to explore the Kaifeng city.

09:30- 11:00: Your first sight will be the **Justice Bao Memorial Temple**. Located on Xiangyang Road, Justice Bao Memorial Temple is a special place built to memorize an upstanding and honest governor Bao Zheng in Northern Song Dynasty. He was one of the most revered public officials in Chinese history. It's said that he always put righteousness above family loyalty and even executed his nephew convicted of murdering. This memorial temple is the largest one that has preserved the entire record of this great man.

11:00 - 12:00: Enjoy an authentic Henan - flavored lunch at a local restaurant.

12:30-14:00: After lunch and rest, you will head for the **Xiangguo Monastery**. Situated in the Western Section of Ziyou Road, Daxiangguo Temple is one of ten famous Buddhist temples in China. Originally built in Northern Qi Dynasty (555 A.D.), the temple was called Jianguo Temple. In Tang Dynasty, it was renamed as Daxiangguo Temple. In the Northern Song Dynasty, since it was located in the capital city Daxiangguo Temple received a lot of donations from royal families and became the biggest temple and a Buddhist center. Later, the temple was destroyed by war, flood and other human consequences. In Qing Dynasty, Emperor Kangxi ordered the temple to be

restored and with that the temple regained popularity.

14:30-16:30: Your last stop will be the ***Qingming Riverside Landscape Garden***. It's a theme park based in the Kaifeng city in Song Dynasty. It's basically a living replica of the famous painting Riverside Scene at Qingming Festival produced by Zhang Zeduan. Inside the park, you will feel like you went back a thousand years ago with shops, antique pavilions and corridors, and a clear lake under an exquisitely carved bridge with recreational boats floating leisurely.

17:00: Back to the hotel.

Day 6: Kaifeng - Dengfeng, Shaolin Temple, Pagoda Forest, Shaolin Zen Music Grand Ceremony

08:00: Your guide and driver will meet you at the Kaifeng Hotel lobby and take you to the Shaolin Temple.

10:30-12:00: Visit the world-famous ***Shaolin Temple***. Located in the region of Song Mountain, Dengfeng City, Henan Province, Shaolin Temple is reputed to be “The Number One Temple under Heaven”. Included on UNESCO's World Cultural and Heritage List in 2010, it is the cradle of Chinese Zen Buddhism and Shaolin Martial Arts such as the Shaolin Cudgel.

12:00 - 13:00: Enjoy an authentic Henan - flavored lunch at a local restaurant.

13:00- 16:00: Continue your visit at the Shaolin temple and enjoy a Kungfu show performed by a group of real monks. Afterwards, you will proceed to the ***Pagoda Forest***. Situated at the foot of Wuru Hill, west side of Shaolin temple, Pagoda Forest is a tomb complex for prestigious monks. As the biggest of its own kind in China, the Pagoda Forest has over 500 pagodas, of which 232 tombs are preserved. Each pagoda differs in size and structure depending on the building era, social opinions about Buddhist, and the achievement of the occupant. Most of the pagodas were constructed by masons but there are some chiseled from stones. The pagodas are inscribed with exquisite patterns, reliefs and characters telling the story of the pagoda host. Some of the pagodas are accompanied by the tablets on which the pagoda host's life story is engraved, his achievements, when and how the pagodas were made. This Pagoda Forest is not only a great place to study ancient Chinese masonry architecture, Chinese calligraphy and carving technique, but also a valuable place for the Chinese Buddhism and Shaolin Culture.

16:30: Your guide and driver will escort you back to the hotel for rest, when you will also enjoy dinner on your own.

19:00: Your driver will pick you up from the hotel and take you to enjoy the grand Shaolin Zen Music Grand Ceremony. The show is performed in Daixian Valley, about 7km from the Shaolin Temple. The brooks, forests, and stone bridges in the valley play a role in this show. You will sit on a cattail hassock while enjoying all kinds of Zen Music like Water Music, Wood Music, Wind Music, Light Music, and Stone Music, each giving a completely different mood.

21:40: You will be taken back to the hotel for rest.

**Day 7: Drive to Luoyang, Longmen Grottoes, White Horse Temple, Lijing Gate**

08:00: Your tour guide and driver will meet you at the hotel lobby and take you to Luoyang city to admire the Longmen Grottoes.

09:10 - 12:30: Visit the world-famous Longmen Grottoes. Set on the banks of the Yi River, 12 km south of Luoyang City, the Longmen Grottoes are ranked the first of the Four Great Grottoes in China, together with the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Yungang Grottoes in Datong and Mount Maiji Grottoes in Tianshui. It was also listed into the World Cultural Heritages and Relics by UNESCO in 2000 for its broad collections and profound cultural influence on the world. Dotted between Xiangshan Mountain and the Longmen Mountain, with the Yi River flowing below, the Longmen Grottoes are harmonious with the surrounding mountains, forests and rivers creating a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

12:30- 13:30: Look for the local favorites in Luoyang, like lamb soup, spicy soup, Bu Fan soup , Tang Mian Jiao, noodles in green-bean milk, etc.

14:10 - 16:00: Your next sight will be the White Horse Temple. The White Horse Temple is located in the Baima town, about 12km from the old Luoyang town. Built in Eastern Han Dynasty, it has a history of about 1900 years. It's said that this is the very first official Buddhist temple in China. Inside the temple, you will see a variety of the Buddhist Statues, the disciples, traditional Chinese style architectures, Thai-style temples, Indian-style temples, and Burmese-style temples. You will also discover that local people come here to worship the Buddha and pay their respect.

16:30-17:00: Your last stop will be the Lijing Gate. Built in Sui Dynasty, Lijing Gate used to be the West Gate of Luoyang City. Luoyang people used to say that Lijing Gate is the No.1 Gate in middle China and also one of the eight must-see sights in Luoyang. There is also a local saying that you have only been to Luoyang if you visited the Lijing Gate. Standing on the Lijing Gate, the old streets unfold in front of you. Today's Lijing Gate is a lot like other old streets in China. It's inundated with all kinds of characteristic restaurants, gift shops, and stalls. You may stop by to taste the delicious local soup, or the pleasantly presented Peony Flower Pastry.

17:30: Get back to your Luoyang hotel.

#### Day 8: Departure Beijing

Today, you will go back to Beijing as this memorable trip comes to an end. Your Luoyang driver will pick you up 2 hours before your train and drive you to the Longmen Train Station, from which you will go to Beijing. Upon your arrival in Beijing, your Beijing driver will be waiting for you and take you to the Beijing hotel or airport.

#### **Important details:**

##### What's included:

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced drivers.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guides.

Entrance fees for sights mentioned, including upward cable car and downward toboggan in

Mutianyu Great Wall.

Bottled water.

Second class train tickets listed above.

Show tickets for Acrobatic Show in Chaoyang Theater and Zen Music Ceremony.

##### What's not included:

Meals.

Accommodations.

Personal expenses or private entertainment items at the sights.

Tips or gratuities for good service by guide or driver (recommended at your discretion).

What to take: open and enthusiastic attitude.

**Good to know:**

1. Please be aware that the Luoyang Peony Festival is in April. Please be prepared for the crowds if you are planning to travel in the same time period. If you want to visit the Peony Gardens, please inform us in advance.
2. There are a lot of stairs in Longmen Grottoes, please watch your step and take care of the elders and children in your group.
3. As our customer your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or shops for shopping.
4. For lunch, we will take you to a nice local restaurant, where you can enjoy the local food at a fair price. Please inform us about your food preferences in case you have any allergies.
5. 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, there will be additional charge for extra hours at the standard rate of 100 RMB per hour.
6. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. In case you only need our service for between 6 hours to 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
7. Please be aware that your itinerary can be flexible. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
8. What we provide is high-quality private tours, you will only be with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.
9. Wheelchairs are available, please advise prior to your trip if wheelchair is needed.

**FAQ**



1. Do we have to take the toboggan down the Mutianyu Great Wall?

Re: No, you don't have to. There are two options for you to get down the Great Wall, you may either take the cable car or the toboggan. Both costs the same amount. By cable car, you will take the same one that you took up and the view is the same. While riding the toboggan, you will enjoy a completely different view and it's quite a fun experience.

2. We want to taste the Peking Roast Duck, can you help?

Re: Yes, we can help you to reserve seats in one of the most popular Roast Duck restaurants. You just need to tell us the preferred time and group size.

3. Can you upgrade the train tickets for me? I want to ride in business class.

Re: Yes, we can help you to upgrade the seats. Please be aware that the business class seats are much less comfortable than that of the second class, please submit your passport copies to us as soon as possible once you decide.

4. How do we get to the Longmen Grottoes?

Re: You will take electric car to the Longmen Grottoes to save energy for the afternoon trip.

5. How far is the Shaolin Temple from the Longmen Grottoes?

Re: It is an hour drive to the Shaolin Temple. The Longmen Grottoes are pretty near the train station.

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Email: [lilychinatours@hotmail.com](mailto:lilychinatours@hotmail.com)

6. Can we watch the Shaolin Kungfu Performance?

Re: Sure, the Kungfu Show is performed every hour of every day. You will see an actual monk performing for you.

7. My child is very interested in Kungfu, can you arrange a master to teach him a little?

Re: There are two kinds of Kungfu classes in Luoyang. One is commercially run outside the temple by a private group. The other is inside the Temple taught by a real monk who will give you a tour afterwards. Please let us know which kind you prefer.

8. What kind of Acrobatic Show tickets will you get for us?

Re: There are six kinds of seats in Acrobatic Show. We usually get you the seats in row 1-4.

Rows 1-4 = \$43 USD/ticket

Rows 5-6 = \$105 USD/ticket

Rows 7-8=\$135 USD/ticket

Rows 9-10, it's \$89 USD/ticket

Rows 11-12, it's \$74 USD/ticket

Rows 13-14, it's \$59 USD/ticket.

9. How long is the acrobatic show?

Re: The show is one hour and is performed three times each day, 16:00—17:00, 17:30—18:30, and 19:00—20:00. We will reserve the last show for you.

10. What kind of Zen Music Show tickets will you get for us?

Re: There are five kinds of tickets for Zen Music Show. For Zone A seat, it's \$46 USD. For Zone B

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seat, it's \$41 USD. For Zone C seat, it's \$31 USD. For VIP seat, it's \$77 USD. For presidential seat, it's \$154 USD.

11. How long is the Zen Music Show?

Re: The Zen Music Ceremony is only performed between March 1 and Dec.2 and the show time is from 20:00 to 21:15. In Summer days, the show will start 15 minutes later, aka at 20:15.

12. What kind of car will I have?

Re: It depends on your group size. For a group size of 1-2 people, you will be offered a sedan car. For a group size of 3-4 people, you will enjoy a 7-seater van. A 14-17-seater van will be in service if there are 5-8 of you. When your tour group size is larger, a 33-seater coach or bigger will be offered.

13. Can you help me booking the train tickets?

Re: Sure, we can help you to book all the train tickets or flight tickets. This is one of our side services. After booking the tickets, your paper train tickets would be couriered to your Beijing hotel for you to use.

14. I may want to book the tickets on my own. How can do that?

Re: There are several ways to book train tickets or flight tickets on your own. The traditional way would be to go to the train station.

If you wish to book online, you can try Ctrip.com. This website can help you book train tickets and air tickets. The official booking system 12306.com is unavailable for foreigners right now.

15. Can I confirm this is a private tour?

Re: Yes, this is a private tour just for your group. No other people will join you.

16. Can the tour guide accompany us to have dinner and help us order?

Re: The working time for the tour guide and driver is 8-9 hours. If you have finished your tour early, our tour guide can certainly help you until you get to dinner. Otherwise, you will need to pay extra for their overtime work.

17. Do you offer children-friendly tours?

Re: Yes, that's one place we shine. Based on your children's ages and interests, we can customize the itinerary. From a more general perspective, we can provide car booster seats for babies under 2. Meals will be recommended catering to children. The tour will be relaxing and educational.

18. Do you provide tour guides that speak languages other than English?

Re: Sure, we can provide the most commonly-used language speaking tour guides, like English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Japanese, Italian, etc. Please inform us of your language preference beforehand.

19. How do I tip my guide?

Re: You may know that we don't tip people in China. Indeed, tipping is not a compulsory thing here, but our tour guide and driver would expect you to. They would see it as recognition of their hard work and a good job. There is no specific amount that you need to tip. It depends on you.

20. What do I do if I have some free time and want to explore outside the hotel?

Re: If you want to explore on your own, please prepare yourselves with a map, the hotel's business card and your tour guide's phone number. Just ask your guide whenever you have a problem.

21. Does our tour guide accompany us at each sight?

Re: Our tour guides will escort you to all the sights arranged. They will accompany you to the sights and provide you with all the information and facts.