

Beijing City Day Tour to Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven

Tour Code: LCT - BJ - 1D - 04

Duration: 1 Day

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

Overview:

Embark on a journey to four major classic attractions in Beijing in a single day. Take the morning to explore the palatial and extravagant Forbidden City and the biggest city square in the world - Tian'anmen Square. In the afternoon, head for the old royal garden of Summer Palace and Temple of Heaven, the very place where emperors from Ming and Qing Dynasties held grand sacrifice ceremonies to the heaven.

Highlights:

1. Stroll on the Tian'anmen Square and listen to the stories behind all the monuments, gates, museums and halls.
2. Marvel at the exquisite Forbidden City - the largest palace complex in the world.
3. Enjoy a peaceful time in Summer Palace.
4. Meet a lot of Beijing local people in Temple of Heaven;
5. Satisfy your tongue with a meal full of Beijing delicacies.

Detailed Itinerary

After breakfast, your tour expert and guide will take you to the first destination of the day - Tian'anmen Square. Seated in the center of Beijing, the square is well-known to be the largest city square in the world. The fact is the Tian'anmen Square is also a witness of numerous historical events and changes. At present, the square has become a place hosting a lot of monuments, museums, halls and the grand celebrations and military parades. It holds an special place in Chinese people's hearts. Many local people come here early in the morning to view the solemn ceremony of raising the national flag of China.

Passing the Tian'anmen Square, you will enter the world-renown Forbidden City. As the largest and the best-preserved wooden palace complex in the world, the Forbidden City is definitely a

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great place to study architecture. As a place housing 24 emperors and royal families from Ming and Qing Dynasties, the palace is also a wonderful place to learn the life of royals, the Ming and Qing history and customs. While as a royal palace with over a million pieces of treasures, the palace serves as a grand museum to learn the past of Beijing. From all aspect, it's a must-see sight in your list.

Your lunch will be arranged at a local restaurant and you will have a chance to taste the authentic Beijing dishes.

Your afternoon tour starts with the Temple of Heaven. Served as a place where emperors in Ming and Qing dynasties held sacrificial ceremonies to the heaven praying for good harvest, the Temple of Heaven was a holy place. Nowadays, it's more like a local park, except that there are many exhibition rooms displaying vessels, chimes, paintings, and documents of the rituals. Meanwhile, you can also admire some of the finest architectures like the Circular Mount Altar. If you visit in the morning, you will encounter a lot of local people exercising in the park.

Lastly, we will cover the Summer Palace. It was a royal summer resort in old times. Imperial families came here to escape heat. Therefore, it's a great place to spend your summer time in. You can take a leisure walk along the quiet paths, take a boat floating on the rippling Kunming Lake, walk on the Seventeen-Arch Bridge and listen to the beautiful stories, or follow the fine paintings on the beams of the Long Gallery and see where they take you.

After the tour, you will be transferred safely back to your hotel.

What's Important:

What's included:

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sights mentioned.

Bottled water.

What's not included:

Meals.

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Personal expenses or private entertainment items at sights.

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

What to take: smile and a relaxed and enthusiastic attitude

Good to know:

1. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or shops for shopping.
2. 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.
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 at the standard rate of 100 RMB per hour.
4. The tour we provide you is based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9 hours. In case you only need our service for between 6 to 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
5. Please be aware that your itinerary may be changed anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
6. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will only be with your families or friends. There are no other people joining your tour.
7. Wheelchairs are available, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.

FAQ:

1. When is the tour start?

Re: The tour starts at 9:00 a.m.

2. When is the Summer Palace open?

Re: The Summer Palace opens at 8:30 a.m, we can start early in summer to avoid heat.

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3. What time does the tour end roughly?

Re: The tour ends around 5:00 p.m.

4. Who designed the Forbidden City?

Re: The designer of this magnificent palace complex remains a mystery. There are many records left on the buildings stating who had done such an amazing job. There have been many guesses, but the most reliable quote came from superior engineer Yu Zhaoyun, who believed it was a unknown designer, Cai Xin.

5. Why does the Forbidden City have 9999 rooms?

Re: Ancient Chinese people believe that heavenly god is superior than human beings and emperors were the sons of the heavenly god who were sent to rule the human world. Only the heavenly god are entitled to own 10,000 rooms. Therefore, emperors have their palace built with 9,999 rooms.

6. Who owns the Forbidden City?

Re: Prior to the Republic of China (1919-1949), the Forbidden City belonged to royal families of Ming or Qing Dynasty. While during the Republic of China, it has changed hands several times until the central government of new China took over and made necessary protections.

7. Why was the Summer Palace built?

Re: Summer Palace was built by Emperor Qianlong in Qing Dynasty. In 1750, the emperor ordered the Qingyi Garden to be built for his mother queen, which extended from today's Qinghua Park to Xiangshan Park.

8. How far is the Summer Palace from Beijing?

Re: Summer Palace is about 21km from Beijing downtown area. It takes half an hour to drive.

9. How far is the Temple of Heaven from the Forbidden City?

Re: Temple of Heaven is about 5km from the Forbidden City.

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10. How old is the Temple of Heaven?

Re: Temple of Heaven was built in 1420 during the reign of Emperor Yongle of Ming Dynasty. It has a history of 600 years.