

Beijing City Day Tour to Summer Palace, Lama Temple and Panda House

Basics

Tour Code: LCT - BJ - 1D - 03

Duration: 1 Day

Attraction: Summer Palace, Lama Temple, Panda House, Beijing Hutong

Overview: Want something different in Beijing? Check out this city tour. You will explore four less-frequented city sights like Lama Temple and Summer Palace and have a better understanding of the past of Beijing. You will also have a visit to the Panda House to encounter many rare animals.

Highlights

- Stroll in the stone paved paths of around the Kunming Lake and have a leisure time;
- Ride a boat on the Kunming Lake of Summer Palace and imagine being a royal member taking the same antique boat;
- Experience the Tibetan culture and admire the Tibetan style architecture in Lama Temple;
- Meet the cute pandas and other rare animals;
- Get a real glimpse of the old Beijinger's life in Hutongs.

Itinerary

Date	Starting Time	Destination
Day 1	09:00 a.m	Summer Palace, Lama Temple, Panda House, Beijing Hutong

After breakfast, your Beijing local guide and driver will pick you up and take you to **Summer Palace** first. Being the largest and most well-preserved royal park in China, the Summer Palace has greatly influenced Chinese horticulture and landscape with its famous natural views and

cultural interests. The arched bridges, pretty promenades, decorated corridors, and “breezeways” (a hallway that allows the passage of a breeze between structures) lead visitors through ever-changing views and scenery. We recommend you take a boat on the Kunming Lake to enjoy the picturesque scenery on the bank.



Afterwards, you will head for the **Lama Temple**, aka **Yonghe Palace**, one of the few imperial temples of Tibetan Buddhism. It used to be the residence for Emperor Yongzheng when he was a prince and the birthplace of Emperor Qianlong. Therefore, the temple was very popular until now. Many locals come here for wishes. Meanwhile, the temple is also a wonderful representative of Tibetan and Han architectural styles and the integration of Han and Tibetan Buddhism. You will see the statues of both the Maitreya from Chinese Buddhism and the Tsongkhapa from Tibetan Buddhism. In addition, the temple has collected a lot of relics like Buddhist statues, Thangka, sandalwood carvings, etc.



By now, your morning tour draws a conclusion. Have some traditional Beijing delicacies as lunch. Your afternoon tour is more about fun and firstly let's go to **Panda House**. It's the earliest zoo in China and the one host the most diversified animal species in China. Besides the common animals either domestically or from overseas, importantly, you will see Giant Pandas. It has a special house particularly built for panda breeding program. You will have a chance see those furry bears without going to Chengdu.

Lastly, you will get a real sense of Beijing life in **Shichahai Hutongs**. A few decades ago, almost all people in Beijing lived in Siheyuan in Hutongs. There may be a couple of families in one yard who have been living together for a long time and they 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. There are several ways to visit these crisscrossing alleys, but the most popular way is to ride rickshaws. Try if you like.



At the tour end, your guide and driver will take you back to your Beijing 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.
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 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.

3. What time does the tour end roughly?

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

4. Can I switch the Lama Temple with Temple of Heaven?

Re: Yes, the tour is customizable. You can choose whatever sight to visit.

5. Why is the Summer Palace famous?

Re: 1. It's a UNESCO listed sight. 2. It's the best-preserved imperial palace in China. 3. It's a great place to relax in. 4. It has collected some of the finest architectures from Ming and Qing Dynasties.

6. 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.

7. When was the Summer Palace destroyed?

Re: In 1860, the garden was savaged and burned by the Anglo-French Allied Force. Twenty-eight years later, the garden was restored and renamed as Summer Palace. Unfortunately, it was plundered again by the Eight-Power Allied Forces only a decade later. With the perish of Qing Dynasty, the once magnificent garden was at hands of several warlords. Until the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the Summer Palace finally came to good hands and got protected.

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. Does Beijing Zoo have pandas?

Re: Yes, Beijing Zoo is also called Panda House. You will see pandas here.

10. What time does Beijing Zoo open?

Re: It opens at 7:30 a.m.