

3 Days Beijing Discovery Tour

Basics

Tour Code: LCT-BJ-3D - 01

Duration: 3 Days

Attractions: Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven, Lama Temple, Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace.

Overview: Spend three days discovering the charm of this amazing city. Follow your personal guide to explore the mysterious life of ancient Imperial Families in the Forbidden City and Lama Temple and then climb the hill in Jingshan Park to have a bird's-eye view of the whole palace compound. Walk along the grand Mutianyu Great Wall and have an idea how ancient soldiers protected their home and resisted the invaders. Visit the Temple of Heaven and learn how emperors protected their subjects and pleaded for a good harvest. Stroll in Tiananmen Square and the old Hutong alleys to contrast the drastic change of the city.

Highlights

- Explore the largest and best preserved royal palace in the world for a glimpse into Imperial Life;
- Enjoy a bird's-eye view of the whole Forbidden City in Jingshan Park;
- Enjoy the modern art form in 798 Art District;
- Visit the local Hutongs and meet a family while learning about their lives;
- Walk on the Mutianyu Great Wall while learning about the skill and craftsmanship of ancient Chinese people.

Itinerary

Date	Starting Time	Destination
Day 1	09:00 a.m	Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Jingshan Park,

		Beijing Hutongs
Day 2	07:30 a.m	Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace
Day 3	09:00 a.m	Temple of Heaven, Yonghe Palace, Beijing Zoo, 798 Art District

Day 1: Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Jingshan Park, Beijing Hutongs

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

09:30: Your first sight will be **Tiananmen Square**, also called Gate of Heavenly Peace. There is not much to see in the square itself, except that it's the largest inner city square in the whole world. Several significant historic events occurred here, the most important of which was that it was here that Chairman Mao proudly announced the founding of the People's Republic of China. Following your guide, you will learn about the other historical events that happened here.

10:30 - 13:00: The **Forbidden City** borders Tiananmen Square, and is the highlight of your 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, simply because common people are prohibited access. Now, it's a cultural symbol revealing old stories.



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

14:20 - 15:00 p.m: Filled with energy, you set out for **Jingshan Park** which is also one of the Imperial Parks of old times. Nowadays, it's just a place where local people enjoy their leisure time. The park presents a commanding view of the whole Forbidden City and if you are lucky to be visiting on an autumn day, the red maple forest presents 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 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. 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: Hotel drop-off at the end of your tour.

Day 2: Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace

7:30: Start your day tour by meeting the tour guide in the hotel lobby.

09:00 - 12:00: Time to walk along the top of the **Mutianyu Great Wall** which has only recently become popular and attracts more visitors every day. Take a cable car up and enjoy the most breathtaking views. Walk along the Great Wall, while learning about the history and function of the towers and parapets. After walking for about 1-2 hours, take a thrilling toboggan ride down.



12:00 - 13:00: Enjoy an authentic rural lunch at one of the many local farms at the foot of the Great Wall.

14:30 - 16:00 p.m: After lunch, you will set out for the **Summer Palace**. It 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. (This is an extra charge for your own account).



16:30 p.m: Transfer back to your hotel.

Day 3: Temple of Heaven, Yonghe Palace, Beijing Zoo, 798 Art District

09:00: Meet your local guide and set off for the day tour.

09:30- 11:00: Head for the **Temple of Heaven**. Ringed by the 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. Nowadays, the grounds are a public park where you can see local people doing their morning exercise.

11:00 - 12:30 p.m: Visit the **Yonghe Palace (Lama Temple)** situated in northeast Beijing.

Originally built as a palace for the fourth prince Yong by the Emperor Kangxi in the Qing Dynasty, it became an Emperor's Palace after the prince ascended the throne.

During the rule of Emperor Qianlong (Emperor Yongzheng's son), the palace was changed into a Buddhist temple, also called the Lama Temple with the objective of showing

kindness to southwest minority groups such as the people of Tibet.



12:50 - 13:50: Have lunch in a local restaurant under the guidance of your tour guide.

14:30 - 16:00: Head for the **Beijing Zoo** and see the cute Giant Pandas. Beijing Zoo has a history of 200 years. 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.



17:00 - 17:30: Visit the **798 Art District**, named after the old Beijing state-controlled electronic industry plant. With mottled red tiles, well-arranged industrial buildings, interlaced pipes, and slogans from different eras, workers in uniforms walking on the street contrasted with fashionably-dressed tourists create quite a unique scene. Here, history and reality, industry and art are perfectly integrated together. This is the perfect example of a plant transformation.

17:00: Your three day Beijing trip comes to an end.

What's Important:

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What's included:

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sites mentioned, including cable car up and toboggan down the Great Wall.

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 hours to 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
5. Please be aware that your itinerary can be changed at 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.

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8. Please advise in advance in case you want to enjoy the Acrobatic show or Kung fu Show.
9. Please advise prior to your trip if you want to do some activities such as painting, calligraphy, exercising Tai Chi, watching opera, paper cutting, etc..

FAQ

1. How long do I stay at the Forbidden City?

Re: You will stay there about 3 hours.

2. Can I take the cable car down the Great Wall as I can't ride the sled?

Re: Sure, you can take the cable car down the Great Wall as well. The price for a round-trip cable car is the same as up with cable car and down with sled. The meeting point for sledding down is a bit further away from the cable car and you will need to walk a little to get there.

3. Can I visit the Ming Tombs?

Re: The Ming Tombs are located about a 1.5 hours' drive to the southwest of the Mutianyu Great Wall. If it is imperative that you visit the Ming Tombs then we recommend rather visiting the Badaling Great Wall since it is more convenient to reach the Ming Tombs from there. However, the Badaling Great Wall is the busiest part of the Great Wall. We don't recommend that you visit the wall here because there are many crowds and your time is really limited.

4. Can you pick me up from the airport/train station? What's the price difference?

Re: Yes, we can provide airport and train station transfer service. You just need to inform us about your flight or train info in advance. With this service added, the price would be higher. Please advise when you need this service, so that we can send you the exact quote.

5. Can you arrange Beijing Opera / Acrobatic Show / Kungfu Performance for us?

Re: Yes, we can arrange these activities for you. We can also provide private transfer services for you. Please inform in advance about your requests.

6. Can I take a boat ride at the Summer Palace? Is this rate included in the quote?

Re: Sure, you can take the boat ride at the Summer Palace, but it will be for your own account. We have only included the basic entrance fee.

7. 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 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.

8. 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.