

5-Day Beijing - Zhangjiajie Tour

Basics

Tour Code: LCT-BZ-5D- 01

Duration: 5 Days

Attractions: Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Mutianyu Great Wall, Yuanjiajie National Park, Glass Bridge, Grand Canyon

Overview: Arrive in Beijing and make the best of these 2.5 days visiting the major sites in Beijing covering Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Mutianyu Great Wall, and the Summer Palace. Then, take an afternoon flight to the paradise of Zhangjiajie. As a natural treasure, Zhangjiajie is filled with rare herbs and trees. Traveling here, you must visit the Yuanjiajie forest park and marvel at the spectacular rock formations and peaks. Take the Bailong Elevator built on the cliff and walk on the Glass Bridge to see the foggy mountains, peaks and trees. This is the very highlight of this trip. Then go down to the Baofeng Lake, take a boat ride and watch the local minority youth singing and dancing.

Highlights

- Walk on the 1430 meter-high Glass Bridge!
- Take one the highest elevators on earth - the Bailong Elevator.
- Ride a boat on the crystal Baofeng Lake and enjoy a local performance.
- Explore the world's largest existing Imperial Palace - the Forbidden City.
- Take cable car up and toboggan down the world's Eighth Wonder - the Great Wall.

Itinerary

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

Day 2	07:30 a.m	Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace
Day 3	09:00 a.m	Temple of Heaven, Lama Temple, head for Zhangjiajie.
Day 4	09:00 a.m	Yuanjiajie Scenic Area, Golden Whip Stream, Ten-mile Gallery, Tianzi Mountain Nature Reserve
Day 5	09:00 a.m	Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon with the Glass Bridge, Boat ride on Baofeng Lake. Hotel or airport drop off.

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

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

09:30: Your first sight would be **Tiananmen Square**, also called the 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 world. You are here because of several significant historic events that occurred here, the most important of which was Chairman Mao proudly announcing the founding of the People's Republic



of China. Following your guide, you will learn about the other significant events that took place here.

10:30 - 13:00: Bordering Tiananmen Square is the **Forbidden City**, the main sight of the day. It served as the home for imperial families for over 500 years and has survived both natural disasters and the artificial damages. Being the largest and best preserved palace compound in the world, it has symbolized the imperial power, simply because common people are prohibited access. Now, it's more like a cultural symbol, telling the old stories.



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

14:20 - 15:00: Filled with energy, you will 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 happen to visit on an autumn day, the red maple forest presents a splendid scene fit for royalty.

15:30 - 17:00 p.m: 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.

17:00p.m: Hotel drop-off at the end of your tour.

Day 2: Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace

07:30 a.m: Start your day tour by meeting the tour guide in the hotel lobby.

09:00 - 12:00 p.m: 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, Lama Temple, head for Zhangjiajie.

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

09:30- 11:00 a.m: 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: 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 - 14:00: Have lunch in a local restaurant under the guidance of your tour guide.

14:00 - 15:30: Head for the **Confucius Temple**. As we all know Confucius was one of the greatest philosophers and ideologists in China. His philosophy has dominated Chinese people's lives for centuries and continues to this day. This temple was built during the Yuan Dynasty (1306) and it became a place for people to worship Confucius. Here, you



can still see the sacrificial vessels and musical instruments placed in position as the ancient people would place them. You may imagine the grand scenes of sacrificial rituals in the old times. In other pavilions, there are hundreds of priceless steles, which played an important role in the study of Imperial Examination System of China.

16:30: Drop-off at the Beijing airport for transfer to Zhangjiajie on flight CA1359, 18:55 - 21:40.

21:40: Your Zhangjiajie driver will be waiting for you upon your arrival holding a sign with your name. You will be transferred to your Zhangjiajie hotel. We strongly suggest you book a hotel in Wulingyuan area.

Day 4: Yuanjiajie Scenic Area, Golden Whip Stream, Ten-mile Gallery, Tianzi Mountain Nature Reserve

09:00: Meet your tour guide at your hotel lobby and head for the Yuanjiajie Scenic Area.

09:30 - 11:00: Visit **Yuanjiajie National Forest Park**. As part of the first forest park (Zhangjiajie Forest Park) in China, Yuanjiajie is geographically located within the Wulingyuan Scenic Area. Adjacent to the Golden Whip Stream, it is bordered by the Suoxiyu Nature Reserve to the east, the Yaozizhai Scenic area to the south, the Huangshizhai Village

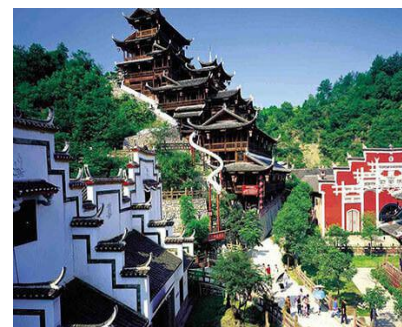


to the, west and the Tianzi Mountain to the north and spans an area of about 1,200 km². With the guidance of your tour guide, you will discover a lot of hidden natural beauties.

11:00-12:00: You will see the **Golden Whip Stream**. Narrowed by the towering peaks, the Golden Whip Stream flows quietly. Walking along the stream is like wandering in a picture. On either side large rock formations create a fascinating landscape and towering up into the sky you will see the Golden Whip Stone. Clusters of wild monkeys jump here and there over the formations and have no fear of humans, instead sometimes they may beg for food!

12:00 - 13:00: Lunch will be arranged at your own cost, your tour guide will give you some recommendations.

13:00 - 14:30: After lunch, you will leave for the **Ten-mile Gallery**. The name comes from the fact that this scenic area offers so many diversified views that it is just like wandering in a gallery. Like any other natural scenic area, many of the mountains, peaks and stones here are personalized and have their own stories. A small train in site offers the option of sightseeing without walking which can save a lot of time and energy. You are most welcome to try!



14:50 - 17:00: You will continue on to the **Tianzi Mountain**. It's said that a leader named Xiang Dakun in Song Dynasty led a peasant uprising here and he called himself Tianzi. That's why the mountain is named Tianzi Mountain. You may feel concerned about climbing mountains, but Tianzi Mountain offers many breaks by providing rich natural views spread along the way. You will be amazed by the natural landscape here.

17:00: Your tour today comes to an end and you will be transferred back to your hotel.

Day 5: Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon with the Glass Bridge, Boat ride on Baofeng Lake. Hotel-airport transfer to Shanghai. Airport-hotel transfer. (B)

09:00: Meet your tour guide to start the day of the most breathtaking tour.

09:30 - 12:30: First, you will head for the **Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon**. Like many other sites in Zhangjiajie, the grand Canyon is filled with natural views. You will continue to immerse yourselves in the nature. The next stop the magnificent glass bridge connecting two mountains.

You will have a chance to walk along the bridge. Despite the many tourists walking on the bridge taking photos or viewing the distant mountains, you will probably feel terrified if you suffer from acrophobia. The secret is not to look downward.



12:30 - 13:30: Lunch will be served at your own cost after visiting the bridge.

14:10 - 16:30: After lunch, you will enjoy a boat ride on **Baofeng Lake**. A few years ago, this place was a deep canyon. The local people established a 72-meter-high reservoir to reserve water for irrigation and an unexpectedly beautiful lake was created. You will take the boat to enjoy the lake. Surrounded by the mountains, you will hear the sound of rushing water before you could see the waterfall. Then suddenly, a song will begin. The folk song of a local girl of Tu nationality singing to welcome you. Then, you will hear a male voice echoing her singing. Your tour guide will share many stories of the Tu People with you.



17:00: In the evening, you will be dropped off at your Zhangjiajie hotel or any other place you request.

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.
Economy class air tickets between Beijing and Zhangjiajie.

What's not included:

Meals
Personal expenses or private entertainment items in sights.
Tips or gratuities for guide and driver if we did a good job (recommended)
Accommodation

What to take: smile and a relaxed enthusiastic attitude.

Good to know:

1. Please book hotels in Wulingyuan area in Zhangjiajie, it's more convenient to get around.
2. In case you booked Beijing hotels located outside the Beijing city, you will need to pay extra for transfers. Staying in Zhangjiajie city hotels would also incur extra charges.
3. Please follow your tour guide very closely. The road names in Zhangjiajie change very frequently and only locals can discern. You can't even trust your e-map.
4. Coming to Zhangjiajie, your primary purpose is to appreciate the cloudy mountains. Please check the weather condition in advance.
5. Book your hotel in advance. It's better to book 4-5 star hotels, where service quality is guaranteed.
6. When you order meals in Zhangjiajie, do not order dishes with no listed price. Do not order

so-called rare animal meat.

7. Be cautious about the girls who call themselves from Tu Nationality. They may get too enthusiastic, encourage you to take pictures with them and then press you for payment.
8. When you take cabs on your own, be cautious about the taxis providing the service for only 10 RMB! That's fraud.
9. There are kinds of entrance tickets regarding the Grand Canyon and Glass Bridge. You can either choose both sites or just Glass Bridge to visit. You can't just book the tickets for the Grand Canyon with Glass Bridge.
10. In case you just want to walk on the Glass Bridge, not in the Grand Canyon, please let us know beforehand.
11. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or shops for shopping.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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 and 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
15. Please be aware that your itinerary can be changed anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
16. 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.
17. Wheelchairs are available, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.

FAQ

1. Can you provide airport drop off service in Zhangjiajie?

Tel: +86 18629295068

Email: lilychinatours@hotmail.com; service@lilysunchinatours.com

Re: Yes, we can. Please send your flight info. beforehand.

2. How can we book entrance tickets for Glass Bridge?

Re: For safety reasons, there is a limitation on the number of people who can access the Glass Bridge. All the bookings must be made in advance and tour agencies have priority. When you book this tour, we would require your passport information to make the reservations in advance to make sure you can get in.

3. When do you recommend visiting Zhangjiajie?

Re: It's better to visit during April to October, the first 2 months of which are the rainy seasons. You will enjoy unique foggy views when coming at that time. Visiting here in autumn is also a great choice.

4. Is the Zhangjiajie tour very strenuous?

Re: It's true that this tour does involve some climbing and walking, but there are well-paved concrete roads. At most sights, you will take cable car and escalator.

5. Can the itinerary be changed at short notice?

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

6. Where do we have lunch?

Re: Your tour guide will take you to a nice local restaurant instead of the tourist traps for lunch. The price will be fair while the food be great.

7. 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.

8. I want to see a Jade Factory, can you arrange this?

Re: Yes, if you wish to visit a Jade Factory in Beijing, we can arrange to take you there. For your information, this is a shopping factory where many tour agencies arrange to collect commissions. We normally prefer not to take our customers there.

9. Can I use credit card?

Re: Sorry, we can't accept credit cards yet, but we do accept Paypal and bank transfers.