

7-Day Beijing - Pingyao Tour

Basics

Tour Code: LCT-BP-7D-01

Duration: 7 Days

Attractions: Forbidden City, Tian'anmen Square, Mutianyu Great Wall, Pingyao Ancient Town, Qiao's Compound

Overview: Arrive in Beijing and spend two full days visiting all the major sites including the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. Take a high-speed train and head for Pingyao. Pingyao Ancient Town is one of the only two towns that has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site as a whole town. Taking this tour would enable you to see every aspect of life in the Ming and Qing Dynasties from commerce through to daily life. You will access one of the most famous compounds - Qiao's Compound to get an idea of how prosperous the economy was and how a business family ran their commercial empire.

Highlights

- See how Imperial Families lived in the Ming and Qing Dynasties by visiting the Forbidden City;
- Walk in the biggest square in the world - Tiananmen Square;
- Climb the Mutianyu Great Wall;
- Walk in the Pingyao Ancient Town and learn about the delivery business in olden day China.
- Taste unique Shanxi dishes and snacks.
- Learn about the Qing Dynasty architecture by visiting the Qiao's Compound.

Itinerary

Date	Starting Time	Destination
Day 1	Flexible	Arrive in Beijing

Day 2	09:00 a.m	Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Hutong
Day 3	07:30 a.m	Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace
Day 4	08:30 a.m	Beijing to Pingyao by High Speed Train D605, 10:28-14:28
Day 5	09:00 a.m	Rishengchang Draft Bank, City Wall, Ming Qing Street, Confucius Temple, Ancient Country Government
Day 6	09:00 a.m	Qiao's Compound, leave for Beijing
Day 7	Flexible	Departure Beijing

Day 1: Arrive in Beijing.

Upon your arrival in Beijing, your local driver will be waiting for you in the luggage area with a welcome sign with your name on it. You will be transferred to your hotel.

Day 2: Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Hutong.

09:00 a.m: Meet your local Beijing tour guide in your hotel lobby.

09:30-10:15 a.m: Visit **Tiananmen Square**, a rectangular square of 440,000 sq meters. Tiananmen Square echoes the layout of the Forbidden City to some extent. It also displays the major concept of China politics in ancient times namely, centralism. Many historic events took place here, the most famous of which is the Tiananmen Incident. Now, it's just a symbol.

10:30 - 12:30: Visit the magnificent **Forbidden City**, the largest Imperial Palace in the world. We'll spend a couple of hours wandering around this amazing example of Imperial architecture and learning about the history of the palace.

Enclosed by long scarlet walls extending 3.5km, the UNESCO-listed Forbidden City was the very central power



of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. This large palace witnessed the prosperity and the decline of feudalism. Here you will directly experience how royals lived and how they ruled.

12:30 - 13:30 p.m: Enjoy local food in a nice restaurant popular with local Beijingers. Lunch is for your own account.

14:00 - 15:30 p.m: Head for the **Temple of Heaven**.

Situated in the southeast of the central city, the Temple of Heaven was originally constructed in the eighteenth year of Yong Le (1420) in the Ming Dynasty. The Ming and Qing emperors conducted annual ceremonies praying to Heaven for a good harvest. It combines the architectural technology of the Ming and Qing Dynasties together, which is rare in ancient Chinese architecture and it is the largest sacrifice complex in the world. Charmed by its size, colorful meaning and importance in China's history, the site was classified into the "Directory of World Heritage" by UNESCO in 1998.



16:00 - 17:00 p.m: Walk in the tranquil **Hutongs**. In those interlaced Hutongs, one can experience the life of the ancient Beijing people. With public toilets available, shops and vendors selling all kinds of goods to satisfy local people's daily needs, and people gossiping along the lanes to strengthen their relationships, one can walk through the history and savour the unique culture.

Thus, we say that where there a lane, there is a story.

17:00: Drop off at your hotel.

Day 2: Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace.

07:30: Greeted by your tour guide in your hotel lobby to commence your day tour.

09:00 - 11:30: Drive around 1.5 hours to the **Mutianyu section of the Great Wall** and have a quick lunch at the Subway (is this the sandwich food chain from around the world?) at the foot of the Mutianyu Wall. This is one of the most famous and idyllic sections of the Great Wall. You will have a choice of taking the cable car or chair lift up the



breathtaking wall and spend a leisurely 1 to 2 hours walking up and down the various sections exploring the Watch Towers and marvelling at the construction and beauty of the renowned and

legendary Wall. You then have the option of an exhilarating toboggan ride back down or simply return the way you came with cable car.

11:30 - 12:30: Enjoy a typical Beijing lunch nearby the Mutianyu Great Wall (Lunch is for your own account).

14:00 - 16:00 p.m: Visit the **Summer Palace**. As the largest imperial garden in China, the Summer Palace was a summer resort for the royal families. There are huge lakes, bridges, corridors, pavilions, and various kinds of flowers and many rooms radiating the natural beauty and the grandeur of imperial gardens. With arched bridges and glittering ripples, pretty promenades and flowers in blossom decorated corridors and ancient doors, and "breezeways" (a kind of hallway that allows the passage of a breeze between structures), all these present tourists enchanting and ever-changing scenery.



16:30 p.m: Return to your hotel and the Beijing section of your tour ends here.

Day 4: Beijing to Pingyao by High Speed Train D605, 10:28-14:28.

08:30 a.m: Be ready at your Beijing hotel and your driver will transfer you to the Beijing West Train Station.

14:28 p.m: You will arrive at the Pingyao train station after a four hour train journey, where your Pingyao driver will be waiting for you. You will be transferred to your Pingyao hotel for check in.

Day 5: Rishengchang Draft Bank, City Wall, Ming Qing Street, Confucius Temple, Ancient Country Government

09:00 a.m: Meet your Pingyao guide and start to explore this old town.

09:10 - 17:00 p.m: Wander in the ancient town. Visit the precedent of modern Chinese banks - the **Rishengchang Draft Bank**. Take a nice walk on the well preserved ancient **City Wall**, exploring the defensive system with your



professional local guide and taking in a panoramic view of the ancient town. Thereafter drive to **Ming Qing Street**, the Wall Street of ancient China. This whole business street retains its original pattern. On both sides of the street, Ming and Qing style residences and shops are located, many of which bear history of over a hundred years. Stroll in the ancient town to the **Confucius Temple** and **Ancient Country Government**. There are a couple of Confucius Temples in China, but the one in Pingyao is the earliest one discovered. It's also the only Confucius temple that was built in Jin Dynasty. Here you will find the largest Confucius statue and other philosophers of Ru. Then, you will enter the Ancient Country Government and learn how ancient officials lived and worked.



17:00p.m: Head back to your Pingyao hotel.

Day 6: Qiao's Compound, leave for Beijing

09:00 a.m: Pick up from your hotel and set-off to Qiao's Compound.

09:50 - 12:50 p.m: Visit **Qiao's Compound**. It's an enclosed castle-like compound with an area of 4175 sq meters, composed of 6 big yards, 20 small yards and 313 rooms. There are no other houses or mansions neighbouring it, but some streets. This compound belonged to a local family named the Qiao family. This family was involved in commercial business and particularly in the banking business. In this compound, you can admire the architectural concepts of ancient Chinese people.



13:00 - 14:00 p.m: Enjoy a Pingyao-style meal at a nice local restaurant (lunch for your account) before you continue your exploration.

15:00 p.m: Drop off at the Pingyao Train Station and you will take train G628 (16:13 - 20:27) back to Beijing.

20:27 p.m: Your Beijing driver will pick you up at the Beijing West Train Station and drop you off at your Beijing hotel.

Day 7: Departure Beijing

Your Beijing driver will pick you up 3 hours prior to your flight and transfer you to the Beijing airport. Your 7-day Beijing Pingyao tour comes to an end.

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.
2nd class train tickets between Beijing and Pingyao.

What's not included:

Meals
Personal expenses or private entertainment items at sites.
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. 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 and 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.
5. Please be aware that your itinerary is changeable anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
6. What we provide are high-quality private tours, you will be only 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. We have an airport transfer service covered by our hotel, can you deduct this from the itinerary?

Re: Yes, we can cut this part.

2. When does the tour usually end?

Re: The tour usually ends at 17:00 p.m.

3. Can the itinerary be changed on the spot?

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

4. Where do we have lunch?

Re: Your tour guide will take you to a nice local restaurant instead of some tourist ones for lunch. You can try some delicious meter-long noodles.

5. 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.

6. Can I take different trains instead of the ones listed in the itinerary?

Re: Yes, we can arrange for you to take a different train and revise the itinerary to accommodate your train preference.

7. 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.

8. How long does it take to Pingyao from Beijing?

Re: The train ride is 4 hours, but we usually drop you off at the train station about 1 hour before the scheduled time to ensure you can get on the train on time.

9. Can I use credit card?

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