

5 Days Beijing - Chengdu Tour

Basics

Tour Code: LCT-BC-5D-01

Duration: 5 Days

Attractions: Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Mutianyu Great Wall, Giant Panda Keeper Program, Giant Buddha

Overview: Arrive in Beijing and spend two whole days visiting the most important sites from the Forbidden City to the Mutianyu Great Wall. Then, take a high-speed train heading southward to Chengdu. Participate in the Giant Panda Keeper Program learning how to take care of the pandas. You will make cookies for them and clean up their enclosures. On the last day, visit the Giant Buddha in Leshan city and taste Chengdu cuisine on Jinli Street.

Highlights

- Visit the Forbidden City and be amazed by its grandeur and splendour.
- Take cable car up and down the Great Wall to have a great view of this man-made miracle.
- Join in the Panda Keeper Program and help to take care of pandas for a day.
- See the Giant Buddha in the distance from a local cruise.
- Enjoy the most authentic Chengdu cuisine and learn how to prepare some dishes if you wish.

Itinerary

Date	Starting Time	Destination
Day 1	09:00 a.m	Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Hutongs
Day 2	07:30 a.m	Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace
Day 3	07:30 a.m	Beijing West - Chengdu East by G571 (09:22 - 19:08)

Day 4	07:30 a.m	Panda Keeper Program
Day 5	07:30 a.m	Giant Buddha, Huanglongxi Ancient Town

Day 1: Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Hutongs

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 Chinese 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 p.m: 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 p.m: Drop off at your hotel.

Day 2: Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace.

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

09:00 - 11:30 p.m: Drive around 1.5 hours to the **Mutianyu section of the Great Wall** and have a quick lunch at the Subway restaurant 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 p.m: 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 3: Beijing West - Chengdu East by G571 (09:22 - 19:08)

07:30 a.m: Your Beijing driver will be waiting for you at your hotel lobby and transfer you to Beijing West Train Station.

19:08 p.m: Your Chengdu driver will pick you up at the Chengdu East train station and drop you off at your Chengdu hotel.

Day 4: Panda Keeper Program

Pick up from your hotel: 7:30 a.m

Your personal tour guide and driver will pick you up at 7:30 a.m from your hotel and drive you directly to the Dujiangyan Panda Base.

Note: Please let us know beforehand if you want to start earlier or later.

Registration for volunteering: 8:30 - 9:00 a.m

When you arrived at the Panda Base, your tour guide will help you to register and sign a safety agreement with the Giant Panda Volunteer Service Center. After registration, your volunteer experience will commence.

Firstly you will receive a uniform, a pair of gloves and other equipment. Then, the base staff will provide instruction about the work, which your tour guide will assist in translating. You will be properly trained.



Cleaning pandas' home: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m

The first activity will be cleaning the panda's enclosures. You need to help the staff to clean-up the pandas' faeces and replace their bamboo. All the leftover bamboo needs to be cleared. You can observe how pandas live.

Wandering around the panda base: 10:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m

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After an hour's work, you will have a break, during which you can wander around and observe the cute pandas eating bamboo. Your tour guide will guide you through the whole base and help identify the different kinds of pandas. Some of them are celebrities bonding relationships between China and other countries.

Feed pandas: 11:00 a.m - 11:30 a.m

You may know that pandas eat a lot. Besides bamboo, they like to eat cakes, apples and carrots. You will come into close contact with them as you feed them with specially made panda cakes.

Lunch time: 12:00 p.m - 13:00 p.m

The panda base will provide lunch for you. There is usually rice, meat dishes, vegetable dishes, porridge, and other Chinese food. In case you are not in mood for typical Chinese food, please bring your own lunch.



After lunch, you may rest a little and get ready for the afternoon activities.

Panda documentary: 13:00 - 14:00 p.m

You will watch some documentaries on how pandas evolved and efforts to protect them.

Clean the enclosure and feed the pandas again: 14:00 - 14:50

The morning's bamboo will have dried out and needs to be cleared away and replenished with fresh bamboo. You can also feed the pandas some fruit and vegetables.

Make panda cakes: 14:50 - 15:30

When you feed the pandas with panda cakes, you will be curious about how they were made. Now you will have the chance to make panda cakes with your own hands. You can make them into various shapes.

Receive a certificate for your work and get back to hotel: 15:30 - 16:30 p.m

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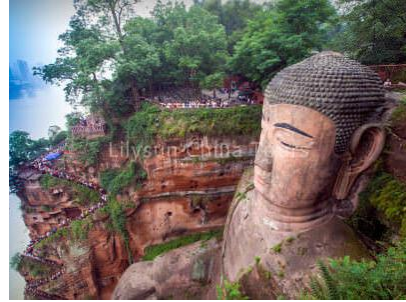
Your volunteering experience will end here and the panda base will issue you a certificate indicating your love and work for the pandas. You will be transferred back to your hotel.

Day 5: Giant Buddha, Huanglongxi Ancient Town

07:30 a.m: Get up early and be prepared to visit the Giant Buddha.

09:30 - 11:00 a.m: Visit the **Giant Buddha** in Leshan city.

It's located at the river outlet of the Min River, Qingyi River and Dadu River, over 160km north of Chengdu city. Built on a cliff on the Xixia Peak of the Lingyun Mountain, the Giant Buddha is the largest stone-carved Buddha in the world with a height of 71 meters. There are two ways to admire this



giant Buddha. The ordinary way is to go inside the site and come down to the foot of the Buddha.

The other way is to take a cruise and observe it in the distance, which provides better views.

11:00 - 12:00 p.m: Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant nearby the Giant Buddha (Lunch is for your own account).

13:30 - 15:30 p.m: Visit the **Huanglongxi Ancient Town**. Named after Huanglong River that runs through, the Huanglongxi Ancient Town has a history of 1,700 years. Most of its buildings date back to the Qing Dynasty and feature cobbled streets, wooden buildings, tranquil tea houses, tall old trees and temples. Coming here will make anybody calm and peaceful and that is why it attracts many producers here to shoot movies.



16:30 p.m: Drop you off at Jinli Street where you are free to explore Chengdu cuisine.

What's Important:

What's included:

Air-conditioned vehicles with experienced driver.

Licensed Chinese- English bilingual speaking tour guide.

Entrance fee for sites mentioned, including the Giant Buddha Cruise.

Bottled water.

Second class train tickets between Beijing and Chengdu.

Lunch in the Dujiangyan Panda Base.

What's not included:

Meals except the one listed in the inclusion section.

Personal expenses or private entertainment items at the 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. We recommend taking the Giant Buddha cruise where you will be rewarded with better views.
2. If you are interested in panda holding, or the panda keeping program, please advise in advance so we can arrange this for you.
3. As our customer, your time is very valuable to us. We will never take you to any factories or shops for shopping.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The tour we provide you is based on days, not the hours. A regular day tour will last 8-9

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hours. In case you only need our service for between 6 to 8 hours in one day, we will consider it a day tour.

7. Please be aware that your itinerary is changeable anytime. Whenever you want to adjust it, we will help you with that.
8. 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.
9. Wheelchairs are available, please advise prior to your trip in case you need any.

FAQ

1. Can you arrange cooking class for us?

Re: Yes, we can arrange one for you. Just let us know where you would like to have this class. We would recommend Chengdu.

2. What kind of car will I have?

Re: It depends on your group size. For group size of 1-2 people, you will be offered with a sedan car. For group size of 3-5 people, you will enjoy a van with 7-seater. While 14-17-seater van will be in service if there are 5-8 of you. When your tour group size is larger, 33-seater coach or bigger will be offered.

3. Can you help me booking the train tickets?

Re: Sure, we can help you to book all the train tickets or flight tickets. This is one of our service features. After booking the tickets, your paper train tickets would be couriered to your Beijing hotel for you to use.

4. How can I book internal train tickets online?

Re: There are several ways to book train tickets or flight tickets on your own. The traditional way would be get to the train station or airport to buy tickets on the spot.

If you wish to book online, the official booking system 12306.com is unavailable for foreigners right now. You can try Ctrip.com. This website can help you book train tickets and air tickets.

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5. 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.

6. 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 have 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.

7. Can we take flights from Beijing to Chengdu, train seems too long for us?

Re: Sure, we can arrange flights for you. This way, you will have a little extra time for your own exploration.

8. Is there anything we should be aware of regarding the Panda Keeper Program?

Re: The Panda Keeper Program is a serious job. There are strict processes when it comes to the application. Once you are approved to join, please be aware of the following notes:

I. Please do not wear slippers;

II. Please do not wear perfumes, or use some other stimulating chemicals like manicures and nail polish;

III. You are provided with uniforms and gloves by the Panda Base, there is no need to bring on your own;

IV. Please read the safety agreement very carefully before you get to work. Strictly follow the lead of the base staff;

V. Do not touch the pandas under any circumstances. They are carnivorous;

VI. Bring your own food in case you are not accustomed to the Chinese lunch offered;

VII. Report to the instructor immediately if you aren't feeling well;

VIII. Do not lark and take pictures during work.

IX. The private transfer service starts from a hotel within city center.

X. The program may change due to some reasons like the health conditions of pandas, weather, etc.. Thank you for understanding.

XI. The itinerary can be flexible based on your schedule, but a half day tour would still be priced as one whole day;

XII. Please prepare physical examination beforehand;

XIII. Age limitation: 12-65 years old. In case you are bringing children under 12, please keep your children out of the panda cage;

9. How do I tip my guide?

Re: You may know that we don't tip people in China. Indeed, tipping is not a compulsory thing here, but our tour guide and driver would expect you to. They would see it as a sign of their hard work and good job. There is no specific amount how much you need to tip. It depends on you. Usually, our guide deserves a 200 RMB tip, while the driver deserves 100 RMB.

10. What do I do if I have some free time, but I am unwilling to stay at the hotel?

Re: If you want to explore on your own, please prepare yourselves with a map, your hotel's card and your tour guide's phone number. Just ask your guide whenever you have a problem.

11. Do our tour guides accompany us at each site?

Re: Of course, your tour guides will escort you to all the sites arranged. They will enter the sites and introduce to you all the stories and facts.