Beijing Weekend and Tour

Your tour of the historic capital of China (including four UNESCO World Heritage sites) begins with an air-conditioned private bus to take you from Tianjin Jinbin International Hotel to check in to your comfortable hotel, which is located next to the vibrant Wangfujing Shopping Street in central Beijing. After dropping off your luggage, we will take you directly to the heart of the Middle Kingdom at the Forbidden City (The Palace Museum) and Tian’anmen Square. You will have time to take some photos in the expansive surroundings of Tian’anmen Square before entering the Forbidden City through the imposing Tian’anmen Gate (Gate of Heavenly Peace). As you walk through the enormous “city within a city”, your tour guide will explain how the massive halls were used during the Forbidden City’s nearly 500 years as the home of China’s all-powerful emperors.

After a traditional local lunch, we will take you on to one of the most iconic sites in Beijing: the Temple of Heaven. This is another site of the Ming Dynasty’s remaining ancient architectural treasures. Built from 1406 to 1420 during the same time as the Forbidden City, this temple was used by both the Ming and Qing Dynasties as a place for the emperors to pray for good harvests. You will also have time for a bit of souvenir shopping at the Hong Qiao Pearl Market, which is located directly across the street from the Temple of Heaven.

Before dinner you will have the opportunity to witness one of China’s premier intangible cultural assets in action at the Acrobatics Show, which showcases some of China’s top acrobatic performers. We will finish off your first day in typical Beijing fashion with a traditional hotpot dinner at a local restaurant before settling into your hotel for the night.

Day 2 starts off with breakfast at your hotel before moving on by private bus to visit the Ming Tombs complex, which is the final resting place for thirteen of the sixteen Ming Dynasty emperors. After a traditional local lunch, we will take you to climb up on the legendary Great Wall of China at Juyongguan, with fantastic views of the Great Wall as it spans a small lake and sprawls across the countryside. From there we will stop by the Olympic Park for some photo opportunities with the National Stadium (Bird’s Nest) and the National Aquatics Center (Water Cube) before visiting a fascinating exhibition that demonstrates how silk is actually made – the secret of making silk played an integral part in China’s historical development. That evening you will be able to enjoy a traditional baozi (steamed dumplings) dinner before returning to your hotel for the night.

The final day of your Beijing tour begins with breakfast at your hotel and a free morning to explore the nearby Wangfujing Shopping Street. That afternoon, we will pick you up from your hotel lobby to visit the beautiful Summer Palace, including a dragon boat ride across Kunming Lake for a unique view of this enormous and historic park. After your visit to the Summer Palace, we will end your Beijing tour with a trip back to Tianjin Jinbin International Hotel by private bus.

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(Beijing Tour services provided by Beijing Discovery Tours http://www.BeijingDiscoveryTours.com/)

The Palace Museum http://www.dpm.org.cn/www_oldweb/English/defaultt.html

Tian’anment Square http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/beijing/30801.htm

The Temple of Heaven http://www.china.org.cn/english/31018.htm

Hong Qiao Pearl Market http://www.hongqiao-pearl-market.com/eng/eng/mainfrm.aspx?level=main

The Ming Tombs http://www.china.org.cn/english/features/atam/115650.htm

Great Wall of China at Juyongguan http://www.china.org.cn/english/MATERIAL/31255.htm

Beijing Olympic Park: National Stadium (Bird’s Nest) and National Aquatics Center (Water Cube) http://www.bopac.gov.cn/english/

Summer Palace http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/880