5 Days Beijing Winter Tour with Nanshan Ski, Hutong Family Visit & Hot Spring

Trip overview

Embrace the enchanting quiet and crisp alpine air of northern China on this **5-Day Beijing Winter Tour**, a private seasonal journey perfectly blending imperial UNESCO wonders, outdoor winter sports, and restorative wellness. Wander through crowd-free palatial courtyards at the **Forbidden City**, **Temple of Heaven**, and the frozen lakeside of the **Summer Palace**, where red walls and glazed golden tiles create striking contrasts against winter snow. Beyond the imperial core, hike the snow-dusted battlements of the **Mutianyu Great Wall**, soak in the natural outdoor mineral pools at **Chunhuiyuan Hot Spring Resort**, and carve down diverse alpine slopes with flexible packages at **Nanshan Ski Resort**. Complete your seasonal getaway with comforting bites of authentic Peking duck and copper-pot mutton hot pot, rounded off by a nostalgic rickshaw ride and folk craft workshops in the historic lakeside **Hutongs**.

- **Durations:** 5 Days
- **Destinations:** Beijing
- **Tour inquiry:** https://www.asiachinatour.com/5-days-beijing-winter-tour/

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Beijing — Airport/Station Pick-up, Hotel Check-in & Optional Peking Duck Dinner

Welcome to Beijing, China's historic capital boasting over 3,000 years of civilization and serving as the political and cultural epicenter for five successive imperial dynasties. Upon clearing baggage claim and security at the airport terminal or train station exit, your private English-speaking tour guide and driver will greet you with a personalized welcome sign. They will assist with your luggage and drive you directly to your downtown hotel in a comfortable, climate-controlled private vehicle. After helping you complete check-in procedures, the rest of the day is yours at leisure to rest, adjust to the local time zone, or take a gentle stroll around the nearby shopping streets.

For dinner, you can opt for an authentic **Peking Roast Duck Feast** at an esteemed heritage restaurant such as Quanjude, Dadong, or Bianyifang. Watch as the roast master deftly carves the bird table-side into paper-thin slices of glistening, crisp skin and succulent meat. Wrap each slice inside a steaming handmade lotus-leaf pancake together with fresh cucumber slivers, sweet spring scallions, and sweet bean paste (*tianmianjiang*) for a classic culinary introduction to imperial Beijing.

Meals: On your own (Optional Peking Duck Dinner)

Accommodation: Hotel in Beijing

Expert Transit & Arrival Insights:
Beijing is serviced by two major international aviation hubs: Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK), situated approximately 28 km northeast of central downtown (40 to 60 minutes by highway), and Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX), located roughly 50 km south (about 60 to 75 minutes via dedicated expressway). High-speed bullet rail passengers generally arrive at Beijing South Railway Station (connecting Shanghai in 4.5 to 5.5 hours and Xi'an in 4 to 4.5 hours) or Beijing West Railway Station, both situated convenient 20- to 30-minute drives from central districts such as Wangfujing or Dongcheng. Your private driver monitors flight and train tracking schedules in real time, guaranteeing direct curbside greeting without delay regardless of customs queues or rail adjustments.

Day 2: Imperial Beijing Winter Highlights — Tian’anmen Square, Forbidden City, Jingshan Park & Summer Palace

Begin your morning after breakfast as your private guide and driver meet your family in the hotel lobby to explore Beijing's most grand imperial landmarks blanketed in serene winter beauty. Your first stop is **Tian'anmen Square**, the vast ceremonial heart of modern China. Stroll across the grand granite square toward the iconic Tian'anmen Gate, passing through the monumental threshold into the **Forbidden City (Palace Museum)**, the world's largest ancient palatial complex and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home to 24 emperors across the Ming and Qing dynasties, this sprawling imperial sanctuary features over 8,700 gilded chambers. In winter, the juxtaposition of vermilion palace walls, golden-glazed roof tiles, and delicate layers of white snow creates an evocative scene. Walk through the monumental courtyards of the Hall of Supreme Harmony, inspect the symbolic bronze vats and mythical ridge-beasts dusted with frost, and wander among the twisted ancient pines and pavilions of the Imperial Garden.

Leaving through the northern gate of the palace, take an easy walk directly opposite into **Jingshan Park**. Ascend the gentle stone paths up to Wanchun Pavilion atop the central hill, the highest vantage point along Beijing's historical north-south central axis. From here, take in sweeping 360-degree panoramic views across the capital, looking down upon the symmetrical grid of snow-covered golden roofs stretching across the entire Forbidden City below.

In the afternoon, drive northwest to the **Summer Palace**, a masterwork of classical Chinese landscape design and another celebrated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Once the imperial court's luxurious lakeside retreat from the summer heat, the vast royal park transforms into a tranquil wonderland in winter. Stroll along the celebrated 728-meter Long Corridor admiring thousands of painted ceiling panels, gaze up at the Tower of Buddhist Incense crowning Longevity Hill, and look out over the crystalline expanse of **Kunming Lake**. When cold winter temperatures freeze the lake solid (typically from early January through mid-February), enjoy the optional seasonal activity of renting traditional ice sleds or vintage ice bikes to glide across the open ice alongside

local families.

Conclude your winter day by returning to downtown Beijing, where you can opt for a heartwarming **Traditional Beijing Copper Pot Hot Pot** dinner. Gather around an authentic, charcoal-fired cloisonné or brass pot as paper-thin slices of tender Inner Mongolian lamb cook in boiling broth alongside winter greens, dipping each bite into rich, savory roasted sesame and peanut sauce.

Meals: Breakfast (Optional Traditional Hot Pot Dinner)

Accommodation: Hotel in Beijing

Expert Winter Touring & Planning Insights:
The vast open courtyards of Tian'anmen Square and the Forbidden City act as natural wind corridors during northern China's winter, making windproof down jackets, thermal base layers, fleece hats, and gloves essential gear for family travelers. Strict daily visitor caps at the Forbidden City require advance passport reservations, and your private guide ensures pre-arranged timed entry slots to avoid long gate lines. If participating in the seasonal ice activities on Kunming Lake, note that opening dates depend strictly on official ice thickness safety certifications issued each January, with rental payments handled conveniently on-site via local digital pay or cash.

Day 3: Beijing Winter Excursion — Mutianyu Great Wall Hike & Chunhuiyuan Hot Spring Soak

Set out from downtown Beijing after breakfast with your private guide and driver for a scenic drive north toward the Huairou District to explore the **Mutianyu Great Wall**, one of the best-preserved and visually striking sections of China's ancient defense system. Originally constructed in the 6th century during the Northern Qi dynasty and reinforced under the Ming Dynasty, Mutianyu spans dense pine-covered ridges punctuated by 23 watchtowers.

Board the comfortable enclosed cable car to glide effortlessly up to the 14th Watchtower, stepping right onto the historical ramparts. Embark on a rewarding winter hike westward toward the 20th Watchtower, where frosted evergreen branches frame weathered grey-granite battlements curving across snow-draped mountain crests like a giant sleeping dragon. Take time to soak in the crisp mountain air and capture panoramic photos of the winter landscape before riding the cable car back down to the valley terminal.

In the afternoon, begin your return journey toward Beijing, pausing along the way in Shunyi District for a rejuvenating soak at **Chunhuiyuan Hot Spring Resort**. Tapping into natural mineral hot spring waters drawn from deep subterranean reservoirs, the resort features an array of indoor pavilions alongside open-air thermal pools surrounded by quiet winter courtyards. Immerse yourself in the steaming, therapeutic mineral waters to ease tight muscles and soothe away walking fatigue from your morning hike. After completing your relaxing soak, dry off and rejoin your driver for the smooth transfer back to your downtown Beijing hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Beijing

Expert Winter Wall & Spa Insights:
The mountain ridge at Mutianyu can encounter biting northern winds during the winter months, so dressing in wind-resistant outer layers, thermal fleece linings, insulated hiking shoes with textured grips, and warm gloves is highly recommended, especially when tackling the steeper stone steps leading between the 18th and 20th watchtowers. Chunhuiyuan Hot Spring Resort supplies

complimentary bath towels, bathrobes, hair dryers, and basic locker amenities, but packing your personal swimwear and waterproof phone pouch beforehand will ensure an unhurried, comfortable transition from mountain hiking to thermal relaxation.

Day 4: Winter Sports Adventure — Nanshan Ski Resort (4-Hour or 6-Hour Ski Experience)

Gear up after breakfast for an action-packed winter sports day as your private driver picks you up from your downtown hotel lobby and drives northeast to **Nanshan Ski Resort** in Miyun District. Spanning the northern mountain slopes of Beijing, Nanshan is one of China's premier winter recreation complexes, boasting the most diverse trail network and modern snowmaking facilities in North China. Upon arrival, collect your pre-arranged ski pass and gear package—including ski boots, poles, and your choice of downhill carving skis or a snowboard—before heading out onto the slopes.

Spend your morning and afternoon carving through snow suited to your personal comfort level. First-time skiers and children can build balance along wide, gentle beginner trails equipped with easy-to-ride magic carpet conveyor lifts, while intermediate athletes can take chairlifts up to longer cruising slopes such as L1, L2, and M3. Advanced winter thrill-seekers can challenge steep black diamond runs including the S1 and S2 moguls. Snowboarders can test their freestyle skills at **Nanshan Mellow Park**, China's first dedicated snowboard park equipped with jumps, kickers, rails, and boxes. Non-skiers and younger kids can join in the winter fun at the dedicated Family Snow Park, spinning down groomed chutes on snow tubes or riding snowmobiles across designated snow fields.

After completing your exhilarating 4-hour or 6-hour snow session, return your rental equipment and take a moment to warm up with hot tea or lunch at the alpine wooden chalets overlooking the trails. Meet your driver at the resort entrance for your comfortable private transfer back to downtown Beijing, arriving in time to relax at your hotel for the evening.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Beijing

Expert Winter Sports & Logistics Insights:
Let us know your preferred ski duration (4-hour or 6-hour ski pass) and equipment preference (skis with poles or a snowboard) before departure so your tickets and rental vouchers are reserved smoothly. For first-timers, international travelers, or families wanting structured technique coaching, private English-speaking ski and snowboard instructors can be booked in advance to ensure safe, step-by-step progress on the bunny hills. Proper winter sports attire is crucial: dress in moisture-wicking thermal undergarments beneath waterproof, wind-resistant ski jackets and pants, and pack UV-protective ski goggles, insulated waterproof gloves, and a neck gaiter to stay warm against northern China's brisk mountain breezes.

Day 5: Beijing Imperial Heritage & Old Hutong Life — Temple of Heaven, Rickshaw Ride, Courtyard Family Visit & Departure

Begin your morning after breakfast at the magnificent **Temple of Heaven**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Beijing's most profound architectural masterpieces. Spanning an imperial sanctuary larger than the Forbidden City, this sacred sacrificial complex served 22 Ming and Qing emperors who came at each winter solstice to fast, perform solemn rituals, and pray for bountiful harvests.

Stroll beneath towering centuries-old cypresses through the surrounding public park, where local retirees gather in the crisp morning air to practice Tai Chi, play traditional two-stringed *erhu* fiddles, and write transient water calligraphy across the stone flagstones. Step into the central ritual axis to marvel at the **Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests**, a circular wooden rotunda constructed entirely without nails and crowned by triple-tiered, deep-blue glazed tiles. Walk the sacred stone pathway past the Imperial Vault of Heaven, testing the acoustic marvels of the Echo Wall and Triple Sound Stones.

Later in the morning, dive into the living history of old Beijing among the labyrinthine **Hutongs**. Hop aboard a traditional two-wheeled rickshaw for a leisurely ride winding through the historic **Shichahai Lake District**, where tranquil winter waters reflect weeping willows and the arched stone silhouette of Yinding Bridge (Silver Ingot Bridge).

Disembark to visit an authentic traditional *siheyuan* (quadrangle courtyard residence) for a warm conversation with a local Hutong family, discovering firsthand how multigenerational Beijingers uphold neighborhood customs, seasonal folklore, and courtyard camaraderie amid a rapidly modernizing capital.

Conclude your winter exploration with an interactive, hands-on **Traditional Cultural Workshop**. Choose between brush-and-ink Chinese calligraphy, painting symbolic facial patterns on a Peking Opera mask, or cutting intricate red paper designs (*jianzhi*). Practicing these folk arts takes on added warmth during winter as the city gears up for the Chinese Spring Festival, leaving you with a personalized, meaningful cultural keepsake of old Beijing.

Following your workshop, your private guide and driver will escort you to **Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK)**, **Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX)**, or your departure railway station, assisting with check-in and luggage to wrap up your memorable 5-day Beijing winter tour.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Not included (End of Tour Services)

Expert Departure & Cultural Insights:
Morning visits to the Temple of Heaven offer the best window to witness authentic local community park life before regular tourist crowds arrive, so wear comfortable walking shoes as the extensive park grounds involve walking roughly two to three kilometers across flat stone concourses. For afternoon flight departures, aim to leave downtown central Beijing at least 3 to 3.5 hours before scheduled domestic takeoffs to account for ring-road highway traffic and airport security checkpoints.

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate

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