3 Days Beijing Walking Tour: Mutian Great Wall, Forbidden City, Summer Palace and the Hutongs

Trip overview

Experience the very best of China's capital with our most popular 3-day private tour. This itinerary is meticulously designed for those who want to see the "Must-Visits" without feeling rushed. From the golden roofs of the Forbidden City to the rugged stone ridges of the Great Wall, you will witness the architectural wonders of the Ming and Qing dynasties while feeling the pulse of modern Beijing.

- **Durations:** 3 Days
- **Destinations:** Beijing
- **Tour inquiry:** https://www.asiachinatour.com/beijing-mutianyu-forbidden-hutongs-tour-3-days/

Itinerary

Day 1: The Imperial Heart of Beijing – From Forbidden Palaces to Lakeside Retreats

09:00 | Stand in the Center of the World: Tian'anmen Square

Your journey begins with a private pickup from your hotel. First, stand in the monumental **Tian'anmen Square**, the largest city plaza on Earth. Feel the weight of history as your guide shares stories of the events that shaped modern China, all while standing before the iconic gate where the People's Republic was founded.

10:00 | Step Back in Time: The Forbidden City

Cross the Golden Water Bridge to enter the **Forbidden City**, a sprawling masterpiece of 9,000 rooms once strictly off-limits to ordinary citizens.

- **The Royal Path:** Walk the central axis once reserved only for the Emperor.

- **Art & Architecture:** Marvel at the intricate yellow-glazed tiles, white marble balustrades, and the sheer scale of the Ming and Qing dynasties' power. Your guide will lead you to hidden corners that standard tours often miss.

12:00 | The Masterpiece View: Jingshan Park

Just outside the palace's northern gate lies **Jingshan Park**. After a short, easy climb to the park's pavilion, you'll be rewarded with the **ultimate panoramic view**: the entire Forbidden City's golden roofs spread out beneath you like a sea of history. It is the perfect spot for your "postcard" photo of Beijing.

13:30 | Royal Leisure: The Summer Palace

After a break for lunch, a 40-minute drive takes you to the **Summer Palace**, the world's most magnificent imperial garden.

- **Lakeside Serenity:** Stroll along the **Long Corridor**, adorned with over 14,000 vivid paintings.
- **The Emperor's Retreat:** Admire the shimmering Kunming Lake and the iconic marble boat. This is where the royals escaped the summer heat, and you'll see why—it is a breathtaking blend of natural beauty and man-made elegance.

Evening | Cultural Spectacle (Optional)

Finish your first day with one of Beijing's world-class performances:

1. **Legend of Kung Fu:** A high-energy narrative tracing the spiritual and physical journey of a young monk.
2. **Beijing Acrobatics:** A gravity-defying display of balance, agility, and ancient circus arts.
3. **Peking Opera Show:** China's "national treasure," integrating the essence of various art forms such as Huiju Opera, Kunqu Opera, and Hanju Opera. ***You can experience this with us!***

Day 2: Hutong Soul & Spiritual Sanctuaries – A Deep Dive into Local Life

09:00 | Waterside Origins: Shichahai & Silver Ingot Bridge

Begin your morning where Beijing's pulse beats strongest. Start at the **Yinding (Silver Ingot) Bridge**, a charming stone arch that separates the shimmering Qianhai and Houhai lakes. In the morning light, it's the perfect spot to see locals practicing Tai Chi and enjoy a view that hasn't changed much in centuries.

10:00 | From Tobacco Pipes to Trendy Lanes: Yandaixie & Nanluoguxiang

Follow your guide into the labyrinth of **Hutongs** (ancient alleys).

- **Yandaixie Street:** Wander through "Tobacco Pouch Diagonal Street," Beijing's oldest commercial lane. Discover quaint boutiques and traditional crafts tucked away in historic storefronts.
- **Nanluoguxiang:** Transition into one of the city's most vibrant creative hubs. Here, 800 years of history meet modern lifestyle. See beautifully preserved **Siheyuan (courtyard houses)** standing alongside chic cafes and artisan workshops.
- **Local Flavors:** Enjoy an authentic lunch in the heart of the Hutongs, savoring dishes that have fed Beijingers for generations.

13:30 | Wisdom of the Sages: Temple of Confucius & Guozijian

In the afternoon, escape the bustle as you enter the serene **Temple of Confucius**.

- **Ancient Scholasticism:** Walk among the steles engraved with the names of successful scholars from the imperial exams.
- **Guozijian (Imperial Academy):** Step next door into the highest institute of learning in ancient China. Admire the traditional architecture where emperors once lectured to thousands of students, and explore the museum detailing the rigorous ancient examination system.

15:30 | The Golden Temple: Lama Temple (Yonghe Palace)

Your walking journey culminates at the glittering **Lama Temple**, the most renowned Tibetan Buddhist monastery outside Tibet.

- **Sensory Experience:** Breathe in the scent of thick incense and listen to the low hum of chanting monks.
- **A World Record:** Marvel at the "Ten-Thousand Happiness Pavilion," which houses an 18-meter-tall **Maitreya Buddha** carved from a single piece of rare sandalwood—a Guinness World Record holder.

17:00 | Evening Return

After a full day of cultural immersion, your guide will escort you back to your hotel, or feel free to stay in the area for a dinner by the lake—your guide will be happy to provide the best local recommendations!

Day 3: From Heaven to the Great Wall – Imperial Rites & Ancient Ridges

08:30 | Morning Serenity: Temple of Heaven After breakfast, drive to the **Temple of Heaven**, a masterpiece of Ming Dynasty architecture where emperors once performed solemn rites to ensure a good harvest.

- **Living History:** Beyond the iconic circular altars, you'll witness the "Heartbeat of Beijing." Watch locals practice the ancient art of **Water Calligraphy**, fly colorful kites, or join a spontaneous **Tai Chi** session under the centuries-old cypress trees.

10:30 | The Great Ascent: Mutianyu Great Wall Leave the city behind for a scenic 1.5-hour drive (70km) to the majestic **Mutianyu Great Wall**. Known for its breathtaking watchtowers and lush forest surroundings, this section offers a much more peaceful experience than the crowded Badaling.

- **The Trek:** Embark on an invigorating 40-minute hike from the base to **Watchtower No. 10**, then traverse the ridge toward **Watchtower No. 20**.
- **The View:** This is the most scenic stretch of the Wall. Capture "brag-worthy" photos as the stone fortifications "wriggle" like a giant dragon across the emerald mountain ridges.
- **The Descent (Optional Thrill):** Why walk down when you can slide? We highly recommend the **Toboggan ride**—a safe, 3-minute exhilarating descent that is often the highlight for many travelers!

15:30 | Modern Icons: The Bird's Nest & Water Cube On your way back to the city, make a photo stop at the **Beijing Olympic Village**.

- **Architectural Wonders:** Admire the intricate steel lattice of the **National Stadium (Bird's Nest)** and the translucent blue bubbles of the **Water Cube**. These symbols of the 2008 and 2022 Olympics offer a stunning contrast to the ancient sites you've explored.

17:00 | Journey's End After three days of exploring the soul of China's capital, your private guide and driver will escort you back to your hotel or transfer you directly to the airport/train station for your next adventure.

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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