

Attractions

- **Tiananmen Square**

Located at the center of Beijing City is Tiananmen Square, where you can visit Tiananmen Tower, Monument to the People's Heroes, Great Hall of the People, Mao Zedong Memorial Hall and see the national flag-raising ceremony. Thousands of people come to the Square every day.



- **Forbidden City**

The Forbidden City (known officially as the Imperial Palace Museum) was commissioned by the third Emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Emperor Yong Le. The palace was built between 1406 and 1420, but was burnt down, rebuilt, sacked and renovated countless times, so most of the architecture you can see today dated from the 1700's and on wards. The Forbidden City was the seat of Imperial power for 500 years, and is now a major tourist attraction in China. The total area of the complex is 183 acres, so it takes quite a while to walk through, especially if you want to have a close look at everything. All together there are 9,999 1/2 rooms in the Museum, not all of which can be visited.



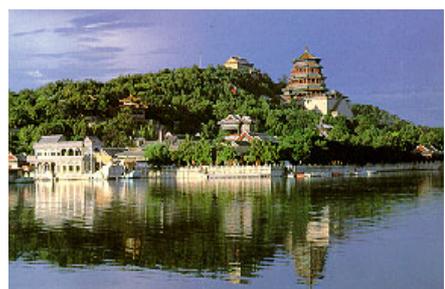
- **Great Wall**

A symbol of ancient Chinese civilization, the Great Wall has stood for more than 2,000 years. The wall was built in stages from the 5th century BC up to the 16th century AD as protection against northern nomadic tribes. Stretching from the coast of the Bohai Bay in the east and ending at the Jiayu Pass in the west, it snakes along the back of mountains, deserts and valleys for 6,350km (3900 miles). It is said to be 1 of the only 2 human engineering projects visible by astronauts from space with the naked eye. Built of huge granite slabs and special sized bricks, the Great Wall at Badaling 75km (47 miles) north of Beijing is most typical of the Wall during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). There the wall is wide enough for 5 horsemen to ride abreast or 10 men to walk side by side.



- **Summer Palace**

Summer Palace is a favorite among tourists sightseeing in Beijing. Indeed, it is one of the best parks in the city. Originally it was a retreat for emperors to escape from the scorching summer heat of Beijing. The Summer Palace was used by emperors for 800 years, but fell into disuse in the



18th century. Then in the 19th century, the Empress Dowager Cixi made massive renovations and restored many buildings using money funneled out from the state treasury.

- **Temple of Heaven**

China's largest temple and altar complex, the Temple of Heaven in the southern part of Beijing covers an area of 270 hectares. The Temple of Heaven is an exquisite and extraordinary example of Chinese religious architecture. Construction of the temple began in 1420 and at the temple emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties worshipped heaven and prayed for abundant harvests.



- **Hutong Tour**

This tour takes you back to the old days of Beijing. Hutong is the Chinese name for the ancient city alleys and narrow lanes originally built in the Yuan Dynasty, where neighborhoods are made up of traditional courtyard-style homes. Ride in an old-fashioned pedicab through the Hutong district during this guided tour.



- **Beijing Night Show**

Beijing Night Show Beijing Night offers a show named The Great China, which is a performance displaying traditional Chinese historical culture. The show is composed of 6 scenes and each one tells a famous historic story by the splendid and wonderful performance. 3 of them are named Ceremony of the Imperial Palace, Romance of White Snake and The Splendor of the Forbidden City. Guests from home and abroad give high praises for the performance of The Great China.



- **Peking Opera**

An art genre that is more than 200 years old, Peking opera dazzles the eyes with elaborate make-up and costumes, enchants the ears with beautiful melodies and grabs the hearts with complicated dramas. This performing art lures those who are keen to learn about the Chinese culture.



For further information, please visit <http://www.bjta.gov.cn>