

beijing stopover

go guide

don't leave home without it



spotlight

what you see

Beijing

- Tiananmen Square
- Forbidden City
- Great Wall - UNESCO-listed
- Summer Palace - UNESCO-listed
- Silk Alley markets
- Cloisonne Factory

Note: Entrance fees, visa and visa fees not included

what you get

- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch
- 2 nights 3-4 ★ hotels
- Touring and excursions including as per itinerary
- Train station arrival transfer to the hotel
- Guided sightseeing - Day 2 with English speaking guide
- All relevant transfers and transportation

The Beijing Stopover is available only to clients when undertaking a Trans-Siberian journey from Beijing to Moscow, and is only available as a classic adventure.



on location

Your guide to on the ground...

visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to China. If you book at on the go tour we can obtain the letter of invitation for you which is required for Chinese visas. If you are a resident of the UK, we'll supply all visa forms & can arrange visa procurement. If you are a resident overseas, please contact a specialist visa company to procure visa forms and to arrange visa issue. It is your responsibility to ensure you procure

your visa in a timely fashion and visa fees are at your own expense. We recommend that you apply for your visas at least 6 weeks prior to departure. Further visa info is available online at onthegotours.com.

climate

In all, China has a great diversity of climates. Beijing experiences hot summers and at its peak the weather can get quite humid. The winters are very cold often getting below zero for lengths of time. Sep-Oct is warm to hot and dry. Nov - Mar are the coldest months. During Apr-May the weather is at its best in Beijing. See A-Z guide (provided upon booking) for more info.

money

USD1 = CNY6.8 GBP1 = CNY10.5 AUD1 = CNY6.2 (subject to fluctuation). The Yuan are non-exportable and only available in their respective countries. Exchange USD, GBP or Euro notes in pristine condition. ATMs in China can be found in all major cities.

health requirements

Recommendations - Hep A, Diphtheria, Polio & Tetanus. Malarial risk - south-west China. Please contact your local health care provider for more information.

how much?

- Can of coke, 330ml CNY3-5
- Mineral water CNY2-5
- Meal for 2 CNY120
- Beer (local brew) CNY4-10
- Chocolate candy bar CNY7

final checklist

- Visa
- Ticket/tour voucher
- Travel Insurance
- Airline ticket/E ticket
- Reconfirm flight
- Passport
- Jabs
- Guide book
- Warm clothes
- USD cash for exchange

things to bring

- Slippers & comfortable clothes for the train.
- A mug, spoon, instant coffee, tea bags & cup a soup.
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Bring USD cash for exchange. Pristine notes only.
- A guidebook especially if on a costsaver adventure
- A phrasebook and practice Mandarin & Russian.
- Books, magazines, cards & a padlock.
- A photocopy of your passport data pages.

top experiences

- Once forbidden to all but the emperor and his entourage, the Forbidden City.
- Take a stroll on gargantuan Tiananmen Square - a square for the public and home of Mao's mausoleum.
- Blow a bit of cash at Silk Alley Market building, Beijing. Snag bargain casual clothing, bags etc.
- Check out some of Beijing's history in the hutongs area of the city. Authentic Beijing in another era.
- Walk the impressive Great Wall and marvel at the amazing sight of it winding over the mountains.





beijing stopover: itinerary

day 1 - any day of your choice

Welcome to Beijing! We will pick you up from the train station Overnight - Beijing.

day 2 - the great wall

Beijing - breakfast. Hello Beijing! Some say it can be seen from space, but unless you're a top gun at NASA, perhaps you'll never know. Instead, experience the real deal. Today, travel beyond Beijing to Badaling, where you can walk (and almost climb on some sections) on the Great Wall. No matter how many pictures you've seen, the Great Wall of China is at once very impressive. An enduring symbol of Chinese civilisation and genius, the UNESCO protected Great Wall of China was built as a defensive structure. Although the present wall dates mainly from the Ming dynasty, some 20 states and dynasties were involved in its immense construction over a period of 2,000 years and followed different routes and building extensions as required. Snaking some 6700 kms across barren hills, deserts, mountains and plateaux, the now partially ruinous Great Wall stretches east to west in northern China. At one time perhaps nearly 9700 kms long, the wall was garrisoned by nearly 1 million soldiers and featured over 1,000 fortified passes and 10,000 beacon towers. Today, a visit offers a healthy, if steep and vertiginous walk, made all the more breathtaking by the stunning views and the realisation that this 2,200 year-old wall isn't just a common or garden wall.

Continuing on we visit a cloisonne workshop, where you'll see firsthand the production of decorative items utilising the techniques of this practised and ancient craft.

This evening, why not visit one of the many restaurants and taste some of China's delicious cuisine. Peking Duck is northern China's most famous dish. Processed in several steps, the duck is first basted in spices, salt and sugar, and then hung to aerate for an agreed time. The duck is then roasted in an oven, or hung over a fire until it takes on a brownish hue, with a rich grease that beads on the now-crispy skin. Carving the duck is a culinary art. The whole duck must be expertly sliced into 120 pieces with a complete cross-section of meat and crispy skin. Condiments are served with the duck including julienned spring onion (scallions/shallots), and cucumber, a dish of hoisin sauce

(a thick soy-like sauce) and a steamer containing a stack of impossibly thin pancakes. There's no real etiquette in terms of stuffing and rolling your pancake. Essentially, throw a bit of everything on the pancake, spread a little of the sauce on top, wrap, roll and eat. Lunch and overnight - Beijing.

day 3 - the forbidden city

Beijing - breakfast. Today, enjoy guided sightseeing of the nation's capital, which was the host of the 2008 Olympics. As capital, Beijing is also China's political, economic and cultural hub. Established in 1045 BC, for 800 years alone it served as the capital of several powerful dynasties. Tiananmen Square partly framed by illustrious Chang-an Avenue is essentially the heart of Beijing. A patriotic vision of grandeur, Tiananmen Square is a square for the public and also home of the mausoleum of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Communist father of the Communist People's Republic and the striking Monument to the People's Heroes. Mao's gargantuan mausoleum is an austere behemoth in granite where since his death in 1976, he has lain in state in his crystal coffin. Enjoy a stroll on the square, which attracts many tourists wishing to take photos, all under the watchful eye of the dutiful guards. Perhaps one of Beijing's most famous sights is the Gate of Heavenly Peace. Up above the gate and looking out across to all his people, is a famous colour portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

The Gate of Heavenly Peace is the main entry point into the Forbidden City. A vision in grandeur with its imperial yellow roofs and vermilion walls, the Forbidden City, once forbidden to all those except on imperial business until 1911, when the last emperor, Puyi, was turfed off his throne is a city within a city. Beijing was always a walled city but the Forbidden City, seat of the great emperors, was the innermost sanctuary of the city. Built between 1406 and 1420, it served as the imperial palace for the Ming and Qing dynasties. Enjoy a guided walk through the city's many temples, grand halls and courtyards. An all-out assault on the eyes, said to be 720,000sqm the lavishly constructed Forbidden City boasts 9999 rooms! Last stop is the UNESCO listed Summer Palace - a stunning imperial garden, before returning to Beijing where our tour ends.

all aboard!

train schedules

Chinese and Mongolian Railways do change their schedules from time to time, which could alter the itinerary of your trans manchurian/mongolian train journey. Please check with us at time of booking.

train upgrades

If you are a solo traveller wishing to upgrade to a 2 berth cabin on the train exclusively (or wanting to share with another member of the public) or party of 3 wishing to exclusively occupy a 4 berth cabin, please contact us for rates. Upgrades to 1st class cabins are subject to route and availability. Some trains may only be configured with one 1st class 2 berth cabin wagon (containing 9 cabins or 18 seats in total). On services between Irkutsk and Ulan Ude, there are no 2 berth cabins available, and on the once-weekly service between Beijing and Ulaan Baatar seats are offered on a per person basis, so we cannot provide for a 'buy-out' of a 4 berth cabin to be occupied by 2 passengers, if a 2 berth cabin isn't available on that route. Moreover, during period May - October, all routes get particularly busy, and it may prove more difficult to successfully obtain an upgrade to a 2 berth cabin on routes that would normally be easier to secure such a cabin under normal circumstances. on the go will advise on an individual basis, the status of upgrade possibility.

luggage - suitcase or backpack?

A frameless backpack/rucksack in favour of an unwieldy suitcase is recommended for your Trans-Siberian journey, as complimentary portage is not offered anywhere. Suitcase wheels get mired in the snow making it difficult to wheel your luggage, there are often lots of stairs to climb and rigid cases are also hard to store in the cabin.

The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.

