



GUEST ITINERARY

CURATED CHINA JOURNEY
Dragon Discover







Beijing & Tianjin

5 Days 4 Nights

Imperial Dress & Twin-City Discovery

BEFORE YOU GO

Key Travel Prep

-  Please book your own international flights.
-  Please arrange your own travel and medical insurance.
-  Please arrange your own mobile data plan before departure.
-  Check visa requirements for your destination before booking.
-  Bring any personal prescriptions needed.
-  Please inform us of any dietary needs, allergies, or restrictions when booking.

See the full "Prepare for Travel" section later in Before Booking.

Overview

Five days across two of north China's defining cities, built around the details that make a short trip feel anything but rushed.

In Beijing, a professional costume studio transforms your morning into a Qing-dynasty photo shoot before you walk the same palace grounds in modern clothes. A Peking Opera evening at Meifu pairs refined tea ceremony with live performance. The Great Wall day takes you to Mutianyu — forested ridgeline, fewer crowds — before the Summer Palace closes the afternoon with imperial garden scenery and Olympic-district landmarks at dusk. On Day 4 the route jumps to Tianjin, where colonial concession architecture, the Porcelain House, and a sunset Ferris wheel ride over the Hai River offer a completely different texture. Everything wraps with a free morning in Beijing and a departure at your own pace.

Trip Snapshot

Accommodation

4-star equivalent city hotels for 4 nights. Beijing's 2nd Ring for central location.

Airport Transfers

Airport transfers are not included. Meet at the designated city hotel in Beijing. The tour ends at the same location.

Guide & Transport

Bilingual guide and private vehicle for 5 days. Private group, no mixed joiners. Includes Beijing-Tianjin transfer.

Meals

4 breakfasts and 3 dinners included. Peking duck, copper-pot hotpot, Tianjin specialties. Meifu tea ceremony evening.

Signature Experiences

Qing-dynasty costume photography, Peking Opera at Meifu, Shichahai rickshaw ride, Tianjin Eye sunset ride.

Trip Style

Boutique-paced twin-city tour. Imperial heritage mornings, cultural evenings, Tianjin day trip for contrast.

Where You'll Stay

4-Star Equivalent

Modern City Hotels

4 Nights

Central Beijing hotels inside the 2nd Ring Road — walking distance to nightlife and local food streets. Clean, modern rooms with reliable service.

Itinerary

Day 1 — Arrival & Hutong Evening




Check in at your Beijing hotel and settle in at your own pace. When you're ready, your guide meets you in the lobby for the evening programme.

The first outing is a **Shichahai rickshaw ride** — a pedal-powered loop through the hutong lanes that fan out from the old lake district. The alleys are narrow enough that you hear the neighbours' televisions and smell what's cooking next door. Your driver threads through courtyards and doorways that cars will never reach, past chess games on foldout stools and laundry drying across the lane.

The evening shifts to **Meifu**, a fine-dining venue styled after Peking Opera master Mei Lanfang's private residence. Over a refined **tea ceremony**, you settle into the courtyard atmosphere before a live **Peking Opera** performance begins — painted faces, silk sleeves, and the sharp crack of percussion in an intimate setting, not a stadium.

Dinner is on your own tonight. Your guide recommends **Huguo Temple Street** (*Huguosi Jie*) — a local food lane where you can try old Beijing snacks in one short walk: sesame paste noodles, fried dough twists, and whatever else catches your eye.

Day 2 — Imperial Costume & Palace Walk

 Temple of Heaven  Forbidden City  Qing-Dynasty Costume Photography  +1 more




After breakfast, the morning begins at a professional costume studio where you're transformed into a Qing-dynasty court figure — full hair, makeup, and period wardrobe handled by the stylists. The effect is theatrical and surprisingly convincing.

Still in costume, you head to the **Temple of Heaven** — the triple-roofed ceremonial hall where Ming and Qing emperors prayed for harvest, built entirely without nails. The setting is made for the photos: vermillion walls, blue-tiled rooftops, and the circular Altar of Heaven framing every shot. A **professional photographer** works alongside your group, capturing portraits and candid moments in the imperial setting. Retouched digital photos are included.

From the Temple of Heaven, you continue to the **Forbidden City** — the world's largest surviving imperial palace, with 9,999 rooms behind vermillion walls. Your guide walks you through the ceremonial axis and into the deeper compounds that most visitors miss. After the shoot wraps, you change back into your own clothes and continue exploring the palace as a regular visitor, seeing the same halls from a different angle.

Dinner is a proper **Peking duck** meal — lacquered-skin roast duck carved tableside and wrapped with scallion and sauce. Beijing's signature dish, and the right way to close a day spent inside its most famous buildings.

Day 3 — Great Wall & Imperial Gardens

 Mutianyu Great Wall  Summer Palace  +4 more

An early departure after breakfast heads north to **Mutianyu Great Wall** — a forested section with fewer crowds than Badaling and one of the best-preserved stretches of Ming-dynasty wall architecture. The hike follows the ridge through watchtowers with views dropping away on both sides into thick green canopy. The pace is scenic, not strenuous — your guide tailors the walking distance to the group.

In the afternoon, the route returns to Beijing for the **Summer Palace** — 300 hectares of imperial garden that Empress Cixi rebuilt with the navy budget. Your guide walks you through the Long Corridor's painted panels, up to the **Foxiangge** (*Tower of Buddhist Incense*) for the hilltop lake view, and along **Kunming Lake** where the Seventeen-Arch Bridge stretches to the far shore.

On the way back, the car passes the **Bird's Nest** and **Water Cube** — the 2008 Olympic landmarks that sit just north of the city centre. A brief photo stop lets you take in the scale of the steel-lattice stadium and the blue bubble-clad aquatics centre as the light softens.

Dinner is **old Beijing copper-pot hotpot** (*shuanrou*) — paper-thin lamb sliced at the table, dipped in sesame paste, and cooked in a charcoal-heated brass pot. The kind of meal that warms you from the inside after a day on the wall.

Day 4 — Tianjin — Architecture & River Views

 Five Great Avenues

Porcelain House

 Tianjin Eye

+3 more

An 8:00 AM departure takes you southeast to **Tianjin** — about 90 minutes by road from Beijing — for a full day in a city that feels nothing like the capital.

The first stop is **Ancient Culture Street** (*Guwenhua Jie*), Tianjin's Qing-dynasty commercial street where folk art shops, calligraphy studios, and the **Tianhou Temple** line a pedestrian avenue built in traditional style. Your guide points out the clay figurines (*nirenzhang*) and New Year prints (*yangliuqing*) that are Tianjin's signature crafts.

From there, you walk through the **Five Great Avenues** — Tianjin's former foreign concession district, where over 200 colonial villas in British, French, Italian, and German styles line tree-shaded boulevards. The architecture is a time capsule of treaty-port China, and your guide walks you through the history of each national quarter.

A photo stop at the **Porcelain House** — a French-style mansion encrusted with millions of antique porcelain fragments — is one of the city's most visually striking moments, even from the outside.

As the afternoon turns to evening, you board the **Tianjin Eye** — a giant Ferris wheel built directly over the Hai River, one of only a handful of bridge-mounted observation wheels in the world. The 30-minute ride gives you a panoramic view of the river, the European-style waterfront, and the city skyline as the lights come on.

Dinner is **Tianjin specialties** — steamed buns (*goubuli*), pancake rolls (*jianbing guozi*), and whatever local dishes your guide recommends for the season. Afterwards, the drive back to Beijing takes about 90 minutes — arrive at your hotel relaxed and ready for a simple departure morning.

Day 5 — Free Morning & Departure

A final breakfast at the hotel, then the morning is yours. Browse a neighbourhood market, pick up souvenirs, revisit a favourite street, or simply rest before your journey home.

When your departure time arrives, check out and make your own way to the airport or train station. Your guide can help arrange a taxi or recommend the most efficient route.

Before Booking

✓ What's Included

Transport — Daily ground transportation by private vehicle throughout the tour, including the Beijing–Tianjin intercity transfer on Day 4.

Guide — Professional bilingual guide for the full 5-day journey.

Accommodation — 4 nights at 4-star equivalent hotels in Beijing's city centre.

Meals — Daily breakfast (Days 2–5) plus 3 included dinners featuring Peking duck, old Beijing copper-pot hotpot, and Tianjin specialties. An evening tea ceremony at Meifu is also included on Day 1.

Entrance Fees — All scheduled sightseeing sites, including Temple of Heaven (combined ticket), Forbidden City, Mutianyu Great Wall, Summer Palace, and Tianjin Eye Ferris wheel.

Experiences — Shichahai rickshaw hutong tour, Meifu Peking Opera tea ceremony evening, Qing-dynasty costume photography session with professional photographer and retouched photos.

Pricing Promise — Everything in the itinerary is included in the tour price. Optional packages and room choices, if any, are shown clearly before payment. No hidden on-trip charges.

+ Booking Options


Single-Room Supplement — A single room is available for the full 4 nights at an additional charge. Select when booking.


King-Bed Room Upgrade — Upgrade to a king-bed room for the full stay at an additional charge. Select when booking.


Everything in the itinerary is included in the tour price. No paid activity packages apply to this route.

Prepare for Travel


 Please book your own international flights.


 Please arrange your own travel and medical insurance.

 Please arrange your own mobile data plan before departure.

 Check visa requirements for your destination before booking.

 Bring any personal prescriptions needed.

 Please inform us of any dietary needs, allergies, or restrictions when booking.

 Most scheduled venues accept international credit cards. For smaller shops, please have local cash or a local mobile payment app ready.

🏞️ Gentle pace with comfortable walking days. The Mutianyu Great Wall hike follows a manageable path along a forested ridge — no strenuous climbing required.

🏠 Beijing and Tianjin share a continental climate — hot, humid summers and cold, dry winters. Light layers in spring and autumn; sun protection and water in summer; warm coat and layers in winter.

? FAQ

Where does the tour start and end?

Starts and ends in Beijing. Airport transfers are not included. Meet at the designated city hotel in Beijing. The tour ends at the same location.

How do we get around during the tour?

By private vehicle with a dedicated driver for the full 5 days, including the Beijing–Tianjin intercity transfer on Day 4. A bilingual guide travels with you throughout.

How physically demanding is the Great Wall day?

Mutianyu is a forested section with a manageable path along the ridge. The hike is scenic rather than strenuous, and the afternoon at the Summer Palace is a gentle walk through imperial gardens.

What does the costume photography session include?

A professional studio session with Qing-dynasty period costume, full hair and makeup styling, and a photographer who shoots on location at the Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven. Retouched digital photos are included.

Do we spend a night in Tianjin?

Day 4 is a full-day excursion to Tianjin. The group returns to Beijing the same evening — about 90 minutes by road — so you wake up in Beijing on your departure morning.

Is the Porcelain House visit an interior tour?

The itinerary includes an exterior viewing and photo stop at the Porcelain House. The building's facade — covered in millions of antique porcelain fragments — is the main attraction and is fully visible from the street.

What is the cancellation policy?

Our cancellation and refund policy is tiered based on how far in advance you cancel. Full details at [Terms & Conditions](#).

Should I book pre/post-tour accommodation?

Day 1 begins at your Beijing hotel in the afternoon, so arriving the night before or early morning works well. Day 5 is a free morning with departure at your own pace — an evening flight gives you the most flexibility.

Can I fly a drone during the tour?

China requires all drone operators (including foreign visitors) to register with the CAAC before flying. Many heritage sites and city centres are no-fly zones. Inform your guide in advance if you plan to bring a drone.

Are airport transfers included?

Airport transfers are not included in the tour price. Please arrive at the designated city hotel in Beijing for the start of the tour. The tour concludes at the same location.

Local Names

Gugong goo-GOHNG

The Forbidden City — world's largest surviving imperial palace with 9,999 rooms

Tiantan tee-EN-tahn

The Temple of Heaven — where emperors prayed for harvest under a triple-roofed hall built without nails

Mutianyu moo-tee-EN-yoo

Forested ridge with fewer crowds — one of the best-preserved Ming-dynasty stretches

Yiheyuan ee-huh-YWEN

The Summer Palace — 300 hectares of lake, hill, and painted corridor

Shichahai shih-chah-HIGH

Three linked lakes that were once the Grand Canal terminus of imperial Beijing

Wudadao woo-dah-DOW

Five Great Avenues — Tianjin's foreign concession quarter with 200+ European villas

Tianjin Zhi Yan tee-EN-jin jir-YEN

The Tianjin Eye — Ferris wheel built over the Hai River bridge