



## BEIJING ON A SHOESTRING

Travelling in Beijing has never been easier! We've crafted this great value offer to provide travellers with an exceptional Beijing experience.

This tour covers classic Beijing highlights such as Tiananmen Square, the magnificent Forbidden City, the peaceful Lama Temple and the Great Wall of China. We also explore the beautiful alleyways of Old Beijing, known as hutongs, while we sample local delicacies and specialities. We catch a glimpse of everyday life at the various food markets we visit and soak in the sights and sounds of a bird and flower market.

This special offer is fantastic value for money and you are guaranteed a wonderful holiday that won't break the bank. So don't wait too long. Join us!

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### ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1: Welcome to Beijing

Day 2: Lama Temple - The hutongs - Drum Tower - Local food market - Nanluoguxiang Hutong

Day 3: The Egg - 798 Art District - Bird and flower market - Traditional tea house

Day 4: Tian'anmen Square - The Forbidden City - Coal Hill - Night Market - Wangfujing Road

Day 5: The Great Wall - Cloisonne factory - Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium - Peking Duck

Day 6: Departure

## BEIJING ON A SHOESTRING

### Day 1: Welcome to Beijing

Arrival in Beijing. Make your own way to Far East hotel for check in. It will take approximately 35min by taxi from the airport.

Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring Beijing! The hotel is situated in a lovely neighbourhood in the Xuanwu district with lots of little shops and only 2.5km from Tiananmen Square. Check out Liulichang, one of Beijing's arts and crafts street, which offers some great bargains on paintings, books and art work. It also makes for a lovely walk through one of Beijing's old quarters.

**Lodging:** Far East Hotel or similar budget accomodation



### Day 2: Lama Temple - The hutongs - Drum Tower - Local food market - Nanluoguxiang Hutong

After breakfast, another day of Beijing exploration awaits! An Albatros Travel guide will meet you at the hotel and take you to the [Lama Temple](#), the first visit of the day. This is the largest Tibetan Buddhist temple in Beijing and a magnificent display of stunning frescoes and beautiful architecture.

We continue our tour with a walk through the heart of **old Beijing**, the charming alleyways and narrow lanes that make up a large part of old Beijing. During our walk, we'll pass by the **Drum Tower**. The tower was originally built in 1272 and houses the world's largest drum, weighing 625kg with a diameter of 285cm.

The **local food market** which we will soon arrive at is a true mecca for foodies! Filled to the brim with stalls selling vegetables, spices and local delicacies, we'll have a wander around this market before heading to **Nanluoguxiang Lane**, a renovated hutong replete with shops, bars, restaurants and a myriad snack stalls. If there's a very long line of people snaking its way through the narrow lane, it's probably the queue for the very popular Beijing yoghurt. This is a must while in Beijing! Trust us, it's worth queuing for.

And while we're in a delicious food trance, we make our way to one of the most famous dumpling eateries in Beijing. Don't let this modest-looking establishment's appearance fool you. Inside the confines of these four walls, a dumpling feast awaits. **Mr Shi's dumplings in Baochao Hutong** are reknowned for their great taste and variety. In fact, he's got quite a few prizes under his belt too. So you are definitely in for a treat!

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Lodging:** Far East Hotel or similar budget accomodation





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### Day 3: The Egg - 798 Art District - Bird and flower market - Traditional tea house

After breakfast, we start the day with a visit to the **National Centre for the Performing Arts**, known colloquially as **the Egg**.

We'll continue to the **Shilihe bird and flower market** and soak up the lively atmosphere among the stalls selling birds of all species while breathing in the heady scent of the flowers and plants.

From the market, we'll head to our lunch restaurant where we'll enjoy another delicious Chinese meal. This afternoon, we'll sample some exquisite teas at a **traditional tea house** nearby. By the end of the visit, you should be well-versed enough in Chinese teas to know your Oolong from your white tea!

We'll spend the rest of the day wandering about the very enjoyable [798 art district](#) located in the eastern part of Beijing. The area was originally part of the great industrialisation of the larger Chinese urban areas and an innovative and creative art culture arose in the early 1980s. A myriad of art shops, studios and galleries have emerged in the abandoned factory buildings.



**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Lodging:** Far East Hotel or similar budget accommodation

### Day 4: Tian'anmen Square - The Forbidden City - Coal Hill - Night Market - Wangfujing Road

The morning begins at the **Beijing Urban Planning Museum** where a great model of the inner city of [Beijing](#) is on display. A visit here shows visitors the changes that China and Beijing have undergone in the last 30 years.

Across from the museum is one of the greatest symbols of new China: [Tiananmen Square](#). The 440,000m<sup>2</sup> square is home to the Memorial Hall of Mao Zedong. Entry requires a valid ID, so please bring your passport if you wish to see Mao Zedong. To the north of the square, lies the [Forbidden City](#) of the Ming and Qing dynasties. We cross over the five famous bridges and Mao Zedong's picture to enter through the city's south gate.

We will enjoy a local favourite for lunch, Guo Qiao Mi Xian or *Crossing the Bridge Noodles*, a southern speciality. There are many stories about the origin of this dish but one of the most popular is that a Chinese scholar sent his wife to the other side of the river to buy noodles for dinner. When he later asked for the name of the dish she had prepared, she answered *Guo Qiao Mi Xian* - Crossing the Bridge Noodles, because she had crossed the bridge to get the noodles.

Entering the Forbidden City and seeing the largest courtyard (Siheyuan) in all of Beijing, is a stunning sight that instantly transports you back to Beijing before 1910. Leaving the Forbidden City, we climb the **Coal Hill** or Jingshan which means the 'Hill of Scenery' and the character Jing (景) holds the characters for both sun and capital city inside it, meaning the hill from where one can see the sun rise and set over the capital.

On our way back to the hotel we walk through the boisterous **Donghuanmen Night Market** at **Wangfujing road** where you can whet your appetite with skewered cricket or roasted silk worm if you are feeling adventurous.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Lodging:** Far East Hotel or similar budget accommodation



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### Day 5: The Great Wall - Cloisonne factory - Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium - Peking Duck

This morning, we'll begin the day with a visit to a **cloisonné factory** where we'll be introduced to the intricate art of pottery glazing and painting - an ancient method for decorating metal objects.

We'll make our way by bus to the Shuiguan (Water Pass) section of the **Great Wall** after the factory visit. Built during the Ming dynasty, this section was one of the most fortified and strongest parts of the wall. The water system was used as a part of the military defence network and formed a pass. We will have lunch at a nearby restaurant.

On the way back to the city, we'll stop at a **jade shop** so you can stock up on souvenirs to bring home.

Driving back on the new highway, the tall buildings of Beijing's inner city slowly reappear showing how great construction projects have been always been embedded in Chinese history. The day will end at the **Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium** in the northern part of Beijing. Outside the Bird's Nest you will be able to see the extension of the north – south axis that runs through Beijing.

This evening, we'll enjoy a lavish dinner of **Peking Duck, Beijing's signature dish**. The duck is prepared by a Peking Duck Chef to ensure that the skin is crisp and the meat is succulent. The duck is traditionally wrapped in a thin pancake with sauce, cucumber and onion.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Lodging:** Far East Hotel or similar budget accommodation



### Day 6: Departure

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and you're free to continue your China journey!

**Meals:** Breakfast



## DATES AND PRICES

Additional information

Want to travel on another day? [Contact us for a quote](#)

### INCLUDED

- Professional local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodation
- Transportation according to the programme with car, coach or bus depending on group size
- Meals as stated in the itinerary B = Breakfast. L = Lunch D = Dinner. Breakfast is usually international breakfast buffet combined with local Chinese breakfast. Lunch consists of local Chinese dishes including meat and vegetables. Sometimes lunch is a western-style sandwich if the weather or programme so requires. Dinner is specialised Chinese meals from many different regions in China.
- Beverages (soft drinks or local beer - 1 glass per meal)
- All entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the itinerary
- English map of Beijing
- 24hr on-call service in case of emergencies

### EXCLUDED

- Anything not in "Included" list above
- Any flights or transportation besides those mentioned in the "Included" list above
- Phone calls or other personal expenses
- Tips - We recommend that the guide receives 2 USD per person per day and 1 USD per person per day for the driver

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Tour starts/ends:

This tour starts and ends in Beijing.

### Expected group size:

10-16 people.

### Type of vehicles used:

For transfers between destinations we use modern and comfortable vehicles that have air conditioning.

### Level of ability required:

This tour includes fairly strenuous activity on uneven surfaces. A reasonable level of ability is required.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact us in advance.

### Food and dietary information:

If you have any particular dietary preferences or requirements, please make these clear when you make your booking. Most types of diet can be catered for. We will eat at local restaurants. It's not a problem to maintain a vegetarian diet in China.

### Health and vaccinations:

In general, tourists do not need any vaccinations. Malaria vaccinations are not necessary in most parts of China. However, we advise you to consult with your doctor before travelling. For more information about health and vaccinations, please look at this [website](#).

### What to wear:

Long trousers are recommended on some of the days on the wall. We will walk through sections where trees and bushes with thorns grow on the wall.

### Baggage and what to bring:

#### Baggage

For domestic travel by air, the baggage allowance is 20kg (44lbs) per person. Since we do not provide tours with international air travel, please check your airline's website for luggage weight limits.

#### Adaptors

Flat two pin outlets are used in China. European round two pin outlets can also be used but don't fit perfectly. A plug adaptor can be purchased in most electronic stores.

### Visa requirements:

**visa requirements.**

Most tourists need a visa to China. For more information regarding visa applications, look at this [website](#).

**Cancellations:**

**If you need to cancel**

We understand that your travel plans sometimes change and we try to be as flexible as possible. However as we have to book accommodation at hotels we are also bound by their cancellation policies. In general, the following rules will apply when cancelling a tour you have booked:

- If cancelling more than 45 days before commencement of our services there is no cancellation fee and we will refund 100% of your money
- If cancelling within 45 to 31 days before commencement of our services: 20 % of the total booking value will be levied
- If cancelling within 30 to 15 days before commencement of our services: 60 % of the total booking value will be levied
- We are unable to offer a refund if cancelling less than two weeks before commencement of our services

For full details of our cancellation terms, please see our general [Terms and Conditions](#).

# TERMS & CONDITIONS

Beijing Albatros Travel Service Co. has implemented both the EU 'Law on Package Tours' and the regulations set forth by the China National Tourist Administration. In accordance with these laws, travel agencies must be able to document that they have drawn the attention of the consumer to all possible contingencies: the detailed itinerary, all formalities and expenses, possible changes, and the terms of agreement must be very clear when the tour is booked (i.e. before you confirm your booking by paying a deposit).

It is therefore very important that you have familiarised yourself thoroughly with the terms of agreement for a tour. The terms of agreement comprise the following elements: brochure and/or website information including price list and itinerary, invoice, terms and conditions.

If the tour is booked AND paid for on the Beijing Albatros Travel Service Co. website, chinatoursandholidays.com, the traveller is obliged to read and possibly print all relevant information and documents:

- A. Brochure and/or website information including price list and itinerary which contains a detailed description of the tour, current prices and a specification of expected extra expenses, as well as special regulations or information relevant to the specific tour. Flight times, visa requirements, etc., are frequently altered and information regarding these will therefore seldom be found in the printed brochures.
- B. The terms and conditions must be seen in context with the other relevant content of the terms of agreement as mentioned above. If there are conditions stipulated in the tour itinerary or practical information relating to the specific tour, these must be included in the information provided in our brochure and/or our website. Otherwise, you may assume that the general terms and conditions for Beijing Albatros Travel Service Co. are valid for your tour.
- C. Product liability insurance. In keeping with legislation regarding extended liability for tour operators, we always presume that our customers have familiarised themselves with the content of all of the distributed material.

## 1. Booking

A booking is binding for both customer and travel agency once the deposit has been paid.

## 2. Conditions of payment

The following rules apply unless other conditions are stipulated in the tour itinerary or practical information relating to the specific tour on our website.

At the time of booking, a deposit on 25% of the tour's total price per person, though no less than 300 USD, must be paid. The remaining payment must be submitted no later than 75 days prior to departure. If the deadline for the remaining payment is exceeded, there is no guarantee against otherwise unnecessary changes. Please note that some tours have different conditions of payment and often stricter conditions for cancellation, i.e. tours utilising chartered ships or flights. These conditions will be stated in the specific tour terms and conditions on our website.

## 3. Cancellation

The following rules apply unless other conditions are stipulated in the tour itinerary or practical information relating to the specific tour on our website.

### Cancellation by the customer

If the customer cancels a tour up to 76 days prior to departure the deposit is lost. If cancellation is made within 75-15 days prior to departure, a handling fee of 85% of the total price of the tour will be charged. Later cancellations: The customer has no claim to reimbursement.

Should war and life-threatening epidemics break out, or natural catastrophes and similar events occur within 14 days prior to departure, the trip may be cancelled free of charge. This will, however, be on condition that the United Kingdom's Foreign Office directly advises against travelling to the specific area, and that the contingencies have arisen after the booking of the tour.

### Cancellation by the travel agency

If the number of participants is insufficient for a scheduled group tour, it may be cancelled up to 14 days before departure. The minimum number of participants for a tour is 10 persons. The tour may also be cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control and which neither our partners nor we could foresee (force majeure). In such cases the customer has no right to compensation beyond a refund of the price of the trip. Should the aforementioned contingencies arise the travel agency will always try to offer an acceptable alternative.

## 4. Travel documents

If travel documents, other than the invoice, are required, these will be emailed or posted to the participants upon full payment.

Additional travel documents could include detailed flight schedules (if included in the purchase), vouchers and itinerary that include the pre-booked services at your destination. If you are participating in a tour with a guide or in an event described in our programme, you will not normally be given a voucher beforehand.

## 5. Passport and visa

Unless otherwise specified, obtaining the required passport and visa for travelling is the responsibility of the traveller.

The traveller must ensure he/she has a valid passport and visa and give the travel agency correct information regarding name and nationality, etc. We draw your attention to the fact that the processing of visa may take several weeks. The travel agency cannot be held responsible for travellers who, for whatever reason, may be denied entry at a border. Some countries require the traveller to be in possession of a suitable amount of currency, as well as a valid return ticket.

Please be aware that rules and regulations may change between booking and departure.

Please note that there are also visa requirements when in transit. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after returning from your destination.

## 6. Vaccination requirements

These should be obtained from your own physician. Information given by the travel agency about vaccination and/or prophylactic measures or other medical subjects should be considered a service that is under no medical liability.

## 7. Change of traveller

In keeping with legislation, and if practically possible, transferring one's tour (instead of cancelling it) to family or friends on the condition of paying a fee is an option. The size of the fee depends on the character of the tour. The travel agency does not carry out resale of tours already paid for, nor does the travel agency guarantee that a change of traveller can be effectuated.

## 8. Changes in prices

In accordance with legislation, tour operators may raise the agreed upon price as a result of increased transport costs (including increased fuel prices), altered taxes, tariffs and fees, as well as fluctuating exchange rates. Unfortunately, many sudden price increases occur as a result of fuel surcharges, increased safety taxes or other taxes. On many overseas travels, these extra costs may exceed several hundred USD. Price increases will take place according to the following principles:

- 1) Airfares, tariffs and taxes will be increased with the exact amount if this exceeds USD 50.
- 2) Alterations in currency rates with more than +5% or less than -10% in relation to the list price when published. The alteration in price will only include costs regarding the relevant currency and not the entire cost of the package. Please note that we continuously update our price lists, and that a tour will always be sold at the current price even though the customer may be in possession of an outdated price list. The same tour may have been sold at different prices, because we rarely permit price increases to influence the price of tours that have been booked prior to the price increase. General price reductions as a result of, for example, an exceptional reduction in airfares will benefit all customers, regardless of when a tour is booked or paid for.

## 9. Changes in the itinerary

In accordance with legislation, the travel agency cannot, in principle, make major alterations in the planned tour once it has been booked. It is therefore important that you draw the attention of the agency to any special wishes you may have in connection with the tour you have booked (e.g. hotel with a tennis court, golf, diving, etc.). Such wishes must be included on the invoice. The purpose of this is to guard you against an undesired product. On many of our more 'adventurous' tours, we operate (as far as possible) with late changes in order to create the best possible tour-taking climate, local conditions and events into consideration. Changes due to weather and infrastructure can occur and the traveller must see this as a natural part of the trip. Therefore, no compensation is paid for delays and changes within a 24hr duration.

## 10. Travel insurance

All travellers should be suitably insured. This is of paramount importance regarding transport in case of illness, as well as home transportation etc. All travellers are responsible for having the appropriate insurance coverage. Participation on a trip presumes responsible and considerate behaviour, and you are expected to comply with the directions of the travel agency and its representatives. It is not advisable for travellers to venture alone into unknown and remote areas especially after nightfall. If you wish to be independent, this should always be in consultation with the travel agency or its local representatives. Should the travel agency not be represented at certain destinations, please consult relevant guidebooks for advice on specific conditions.



## **11. Taxes and tariffs**

A number of taxes and tariffs are levied upon issue of your ticket and are included in the price of the trip. However, a number of local taxes cannot be levied beforehand and must be paid for on the spot. These are often airport taxes, as well as tariffs in some national parks. These expenses will usually be stated in your itinerary for your information. We would, however, like to draw your attention to the fact that tariffs and taxes may be altered between the booking of a ticket and your departure.

## **12. Your responsibility**

As already mentioned, your participation in a trip is subject to your being aware of the above information as well as the information on the website, on the invoice and in the itinerary, and to your following the aforementioned regulations. It is also expected that you seek publicised information about the current political, health, natural and climatic conditions at your destination. People travelling individually must pay attention to the fact that the information material does not mention all circumstances. Especially airline tickets, alteration of these, reconfirmation of itinerary, visa etc. need extra attention.

## **13. People with disabilities**

It will always appear from the itinerary whether special demands on physical ability and health are required for completing the tour. A principal rule is that all travel participants must be self-reliant. Wheelchair users and people with a motor handicap are very welcome on many of our tours, but please consult the travel agency before booking a tour. The travel agency reserves the right to turn away participants who, based on the travel agency's professional opinion, will not be able to complete the tour on their own. The travel agency is not responsible for any such refusal.

## **14. Claims**

Claims regarding shortcomings on a trip must be directed to the travel agency or to its local representative as soon as they are ascertained so that the agency can attempt to rectify the situation. The travel agency is regulated by the China National Tourist Administration. In case of disagreement between the travel agency and the traveller regarding shortcomings on a tour, you may place your complaint with the local China Tourist Administration on this website: <http://en.cnta.gov.cn/>

Any lawsuit or dispute with the travel agency will be ruled upon according to Chinese law.