

The Great Wall Marathon – Optional Excursions

Excursions must be booked before arriving in China.
Optionals bookable with the 6-day package – Itinerary 1.

Day 3, Friday 16 May 2025: Qing Tombs Approximate cost R 2395,00 per person

Today you will make your way to the magnificent Qing Tombs located in Zunhua and nestled between four mountains.

The Qing imperial tombs cover an enormous area and housed five of China's emperors, 14 empresses, and 136 concubines. Although the Qing tombs are more impressive than the famous Ming dynasty graves, these Qing burial sites are visited by relatively few. Your first stop will be at Yuling, one of the most splendid royal tombs. Emperor Qianlong is buried here in a magnificent chamber consisting of a series of rooms separated by solid marble doors. The walls and arched ceilings are resplendent with Buddha figures and more than 30,000 words of Tibetan scriptures.

Next, pay a visit to Ding Dongling, the tomb of Empress Dowager Cixi, the woman who ruled imperial China behind a curtain for 48 years. The main hall contains reproductions of pictures produced in 1903 by Cixi's photo studio located at the Summer Palace. The tomb bears a striking resemblance to the Empress Dowager's quarters in the Forbidden City.

Please note: The excursion begins from the hotel lobby. The exact time will be announced by your tour guide in advance.



Day 5, Sunday 18 May 2025: Forbidden City & Temple of Heaven Approximate cost R2 090.00 per person

You begin the excursion at Tiananmen Square, one of the largest squares in the world. Located in the heart of modern Beijing, Tiananmen Square was first built during the Ming Dynasty. Covering an area of 44 hectares, the enormous square also serves as the entrance to the Forbidden City. You continue north to the Forbidden City and enter through the arched gateway with the iconic portrait of Mao. This magnificent complex with its many palaces and halls features more than 800 buildings with over 9,000 rooms, resplendent golden-glazed roofs, lacquered pillars, and vermilion walls. Most of the morning will be spent exploring the extensive grounds and many buildings. Lunch will be a delectable meal consisting of the city's signature dish, roasted Beijing Duck.

After lunch, you'll continue sightseeing at the beautiful Temple of Heaven in the southern part of Beijing. This was a site of worship for the Ming and Qing emperors. Ceremonies for better harvests were performed at the Temple of Heaven. The area consists of the 38m-high Hall of Prayer, the Imperial Vault of Heaven, the three-tier Circular Altar, the Echo Wall, and the Thrice-Echoing Stone. The afternoon will end with a visit to a silk exhibition hall where you will be introduced to the intricacies of silk-making from the reeling of silk from cocoons to dyeing the fabric. A large variety of silk products such as dresses, blouses, bedding, and hats can be purchased here.

Please note: The excursion begins at one of The Great Wall Marathon hotels at around 08h30. The exact time and place will be announced by your tour guide in advance. If you are not staying in one of the Great Wall Marathon hotels, you will need to arrange your own transportation to the hotel from which the tour starts. Excursion must be booked before arriving in China.

All prices are per person. GWM reserves the right to adjust US Dollar prices (charge differences) if 1US\$ varies from original calculation. The rates shown are calculated from original currency of US\$ to SA Rands using a projected exchange rate. Therefore, all prices quoted are estimated, subject to change and will be confirmed shortly before full payment is due February 2025 and adjusted at that stage if necessary. Any advertising is done with information provided at that time by the suppliers. The suppliers can alter schedules and facilities at any time. Terms & Conditions apply as per the given booking documentation and Standard Business Terms & Conditions.

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