

The Great Wall Marathon - Optional excursions

Excursions must be booked before arriving in China.
Optionals bookable with the 7-day package – Itinerary 2

Day 3, 15 May 2025: Acrobatic Show

Approximate cost R1 445,00 per person

An entertaining evening is in store for you! Prepare to be impressed by a spectacular show of breathtaking performances by a troupe of talented acrobats. Acrobatics is a traditional Chinese performing art. The history of acrobatics in China can be traced back to Neolithic times. By 300 BC, skills such as walking on 3m-high stilts and juggling daggers had been developed. The art form has evolved a great deal throughout time and today Chinese acrobatics is an inheritance of tradition and evolving techniques.

Please note: The excursion starts from the dinner restaurant around 19:00. The exact time will be announced by your tour guide.



Day 4, Friday 16 May 2025: Ming Tombs

Approximate cost R2 095,00 per person

You will start the day with a visit to a cloisonné factory. Cloisonné is an ancient technique for decorating metal objects or ceramics. You will be able to observe the intricate process of making cloisonné, and you will get an appreciation and historical understanding of this delicate art. After a tour, you will be able to browse a dazzling collection of various colors and styles of cloisonné.

After lunch, you'll head to the Ming tombs in a valley south of the Tianshou mountains. Nestled among lush hills, with a peaceful river flowing through the center, the valley was carefully chosen in accordance with geomancy principles (Fengshui).

Thirteen out of sixteen Ming emperors are buried here, and three of the tombs are open to the public. Enter the valley through the Great Red Gate – one of the largest stone archways in China – and explore the 'Sacred Way,' a long path leading to the tombs that is lined with larger-than-life stone sculptures.

The belief was that the emperor was the Son of Heaven, and he descended to Earth along the Sacred Road – he would leave that way, too. In recognition of their brilliant siting, planning, and design, as well as their unique contribution to historical and cultural understanding, the Ming Tombs (along with the Qing) have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000.



Day 6, Sunday 18 May 2025: Hutongs by rickshaw

Approximate cost R1 745.00 per person

Exploring Beijing's hutongs by rickshaw offers a unique glimpse into the city's rich history and traditional lifestyle. These narrow alleyways, lined with ancient courtyard residences, tell stories of a bygone era. As the rickshaw weaves through the labyrinthine lanes, you'll encounter vibrant local while enjoying the leisurely pace and authentic charm of this traditional mode of transport. It's a captivating way to experience the cultural heart of Beijing.

A Mongolian hot pot lunch is included in the tour.

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