TO SCHEDULE A TOUR CONTACT

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This morning retraces the route of imperial processions past when you visit the magnificent Temple of Heaven said to be the most beautiful example of Ming dynasty (1368 – 1644) architecture. First constructed in 1420, this simple yet stunning landmark played the majestic backdrop to ceremonial sacrifices offered two times during the year (the winter solstice and the Spring Festival) to “Tian” the celestial force of Heaven in hopes of an abundant harvest come spring. Today, the temple grounds, set within verdant park, are crowded with early morning residents who flock to this area to meet friends, exercise, sing and dance, or play cards.

You will make like the locals during your visit when you engage in a private Tai Chi class led by a local Tai Chi master.

Following your visit to the Temple of Heaven end the morning with a visit to the bustling Hongqiao Market where if you want it, they have it. The market covers five floors and features all manner of arts and crafts, clothing, bags, electronics, sporting goods, shoes and the largest selection of fresh and salt-water pearls anywhere in Asia.

INCLUSIONS

- Transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle with a driver (19-seater coaster for 5 – 14 persons, 37-seater coach for 15 – 30 persons) and an English speaking guide
- Entrance fees while sightseeing
- Bottled water
- Guide and driver tipping

COST: USD $86.00 PER PERSON (MINIMUM 5 GUESTS)
Trace the history of old Beijing as you ride through its winding alleyways, or hutongs, seated in a traditional pedicab. Meaning “water well” in Mongolian, these networks of narrow lanes, linking various neighborhoods helped popularize the sentiment that Beijing was a, “collection of villages” posing as a city. Despite the continued onslaught of urban redevelopment that has caused their numbers to dwindle there remain some charming hutong neighbourhoods that recall a Beijing of another time and place. You will explore the lanes and alleyways both by pedicab and on foot and visit the home of a local family for a rare glimpse into the heart and soul of “Old Beijing”.

Your tour also includes a lunchtime lesson in preparing traditional northern dumplings as well as some other luncheon dishes.

INCLUSIONS

▶ Transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle with a driver (19-seater coaster for 5–14 persons, 37-seater coach for 15–30 persons) and an English speaking guide
▶ Entrance fees while sightseeing
▶ Bottled water
▶ Guide and driver tipping

COST: USD $119.00 PER PERSON (MINIMUM 5 GUESTS)
THE SUMMER PALACE
MONDAY | OCTOBER 15, 2018

Departure: Morning half-day tour – 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Dress code: Casual – good walking shoes recommended

Step through a Moon Gate and into a world of ethereal beauty that is the magical Summer Palace. Located 12 kilometres to the northwest of the city centre, the Summer Palace represents the last great construction of the Qing dynasty (1644 – 1911) first commissioned in 1750 by the Emperor Qian Long (1736 – 1796) as a birthday gift for his mother - this vast sanctuary exemplifies the seamless marriage of natural and architectural beauty, offering respite and residency to the ruling families of the Qing dynasty before it was destroyed by foreign troops in 1860. Restoration efforts by the infamous Empress Dowager Cixi (1835 – 1908) saw to the palace’s revival in 1888, though local legend suggests at a highly questionable cost. Stroll through the grounds of this landscape painting come to life as your guide recounts the many legends, enchanting stories, and tall tales that colour the canvas of this most magnificent of imperial sites.

INCLUSIONS
- Transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle with a driver (19-seater coaster for 5 – 14 persons, 37-seater coach for 15 – 30 persons) and an English speaking guide
- Entrance fees while sightseeing
- Bottled water
- Guide and driver tipping

COST: USD $88.00 PER PERSON (MINIMUM 5 GUESTS)
This morning set off for a visit to one of China’s most magnificent landmarks, the Great Wall at the Mutianyu, one of five major access points along the Great Wall in close proximity to Beijing. The Wall has been built up in myth and legend, but despite the many inaccuracies written, it remains one of the great man-made wonders of the world. In fact, in a three-year survey on the internet the Great Wall was voted the “World’s Most Recognized Landmark” earning more than double the votes of the second place site, the pyramids of Egypt. The Wall rides some of the highest peaks of the Yan Mountains affording some stunning views of the surrounding countryside. Originally built to guard strategic passes to the plains on which Beijing is located, the magnificent vistas and solitary setting here evoke the grandeur and dazzling achievement of 5,000 years of Chinese civilization.

Enjoy time to walk and explore the ramparts and battlement towers that once stood at the vanguard of Chinese civilization protecting the rich wealth of cultural history from the marauding hordes that swept out of the steppes of Central Asia. There is no better or more fitting way to remember a visit to Beijing than to walk along the wall of time that symbolizes the imperial majesty that is China.

After visiting the Wall transfer for lunch at Xiao Long Pu a popular local restaurant that specializes in the farm to table freshness of rural Chinese cuisine. So good is the food that the restaurant has a loyal and loyally group of patrons from Beijing who flock here each weekend to savour the flavours of traditional “北方菜”.

**INCLUSIONS**

- Transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle with a driver (19-seater coaster for 5 – 14 persons, 37-seater coach for 15 – 30 persons) and an English speaking guide
- Entrance fees while sightseeing
- Lunch served at local restaurant (including bottled water, Chinese tea, local soft drinks)
- Bottled water
- Guide and driver tipping

**COST: USD $245.00 PER PERSON (MINIMUM 5 GUESTS)**