

Beijing: An Imperial Journey Through Time

Welcome to Beijing, China's magnificent capital, where ancient imperial grandeur meets modern innovation. This comprehensive 5-day guide will take you through the city's most iconic landmarks, rich cultural heritage, and vibrant contemporary scenes.

Historical Overview

Beijing, with over 3,000 years of history, has been China's political and cultural center for centuries. From the Ming and Qing dynasties to the present day, the city has preserved its imperial legacy while embracing modern development, making it a unique blend of old and new China.

Iconic Landmarks

- The Forbidden City: The world's largest palace complex and former home to Chinese emperors
- Great Wall of China (Mutianyu): One of the best-preserved sections of this wonder of the world
- Temple of Heaven: An imperial complex where emperors performed important ceremonies
- Summer Palace: A vast ensemble of lakes, gardens, and palaces

Cultural Treasures

- National Museum of China: Home to priceless artifacts spanning Chinese history
- 798 Art District: Beijing's thriving contemporary art scene
- Lama Temple: The largest Tibetan Buddhist temple outside Tibet

Charming Neighborhoods

- Nanluoguxiang Hutong: Traditional alleyways showcasing old Beijing life
- Sanlitun Village: Modern shopping and entertainment district
- Wangfujing Street: Famous shopping street with local snacks and souvenirs
- Yandaixie Street: Historic bar street with traditional architecture

Beijing Lifestyle

- Cuisine: Sample Peking duck and other local delicacies
- Tea Culture: Experience traditional Chinese tea ceremonies
- Shopping: From traditional markets to modern malls
- Parks: Join locals in their morning tai chi routines

Green Spaces

- Jingshan Park: Offering panoramic views of the Forbidden City
- Beihai Park: One of the oldest imperial gardens in China

Practical Travel Tips

- Transportation: Utilize the extensive subway system; consider getting a transportation card
- Best Times to Visit: Spring (March-May) or Autumn (September-November) for pleasant weather
- Language: Basic Mandarin phrases are helpful; English is limited in many areas
- Air Quality: Check daily air quality reports and plan indoor activities accordingly

5-Day Itinerary Highlights

- Day 1: Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, National Museum, Jingshan Park
- Day 2: Temple of Heaven, Hongqiao Pearl Market, Wangfujing Street, Ancient Observatory
- Day 3: Great Wall (Mutianyu), Summer Palace
- Day 4: Beihai Park, Nanluoguxiang Hutong, Qianmen Street, Yandaixie Street
- Day 5: 798 Art District, UCCA Center, Lama Temple, Sanlitun Village

This guide includes over 30 carefully selected locations, allowing you to customize your Beijing experience. Each destination offers unique insights into China's imperial past and dynamic present.

Beijing is more than just a city; it's a living museum where ancient traditions coexist with modern innovations. As you explore its magnificent palaces, traverse the Great

Wall, and wander through historic hutongs, you'll discover why Beijing has captivated visitors for centuries.

Let this imperial city transport you through time as you create unforgettable memories during your journey. Welcome to Beijing!

Itinerary Preview

5 days

Forbidden City

Jingshan Park

DAY

National Museum of China

Tiananmen Square

Temple of Heaven

DAY

01

Hongqiao Market

02

Wangfujing Avenue

Beijing Ancient Observatory

Great Wall of China

DAY 03

Mutianyu Great Wall Scenic Area Ticket Office

Summer Palace

Beihai Park

DAY

South Luogu Lane

04

Qianmen Street

Yandaixie Street

798 Art Zone

DAY

UCCA Center for Contemporary Art

05

Lama Temple

Sanlitun SOHO Shopping Mall 1



Daily Events

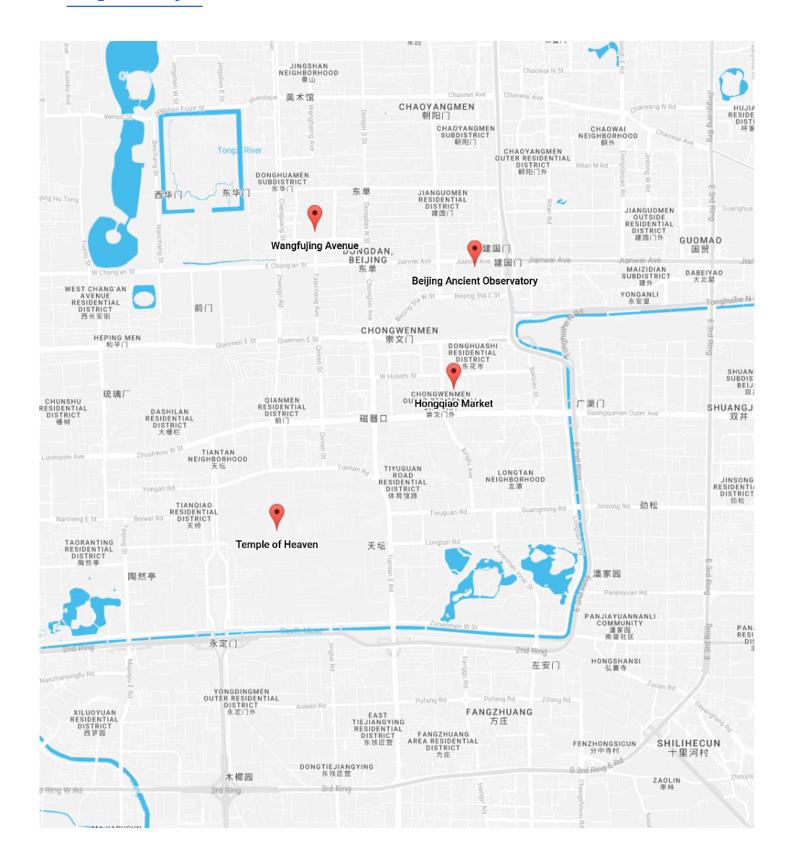
Forbidden City 09:00 4 Jing Shan Qian Jie, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100009 11:00 11:30 Jingshan Park 44 Jing Shan Xi Jie, 景山 Xi Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100009 13:30 **National Museum of China** 14:00 16 Dong Chang An Jie, 前门 Dong Cheng Qu, China, 100051 16:00 16:30 **Tiananmen Square** 前门 Dongcheng, China, 100051 18:30

Map for Day 1



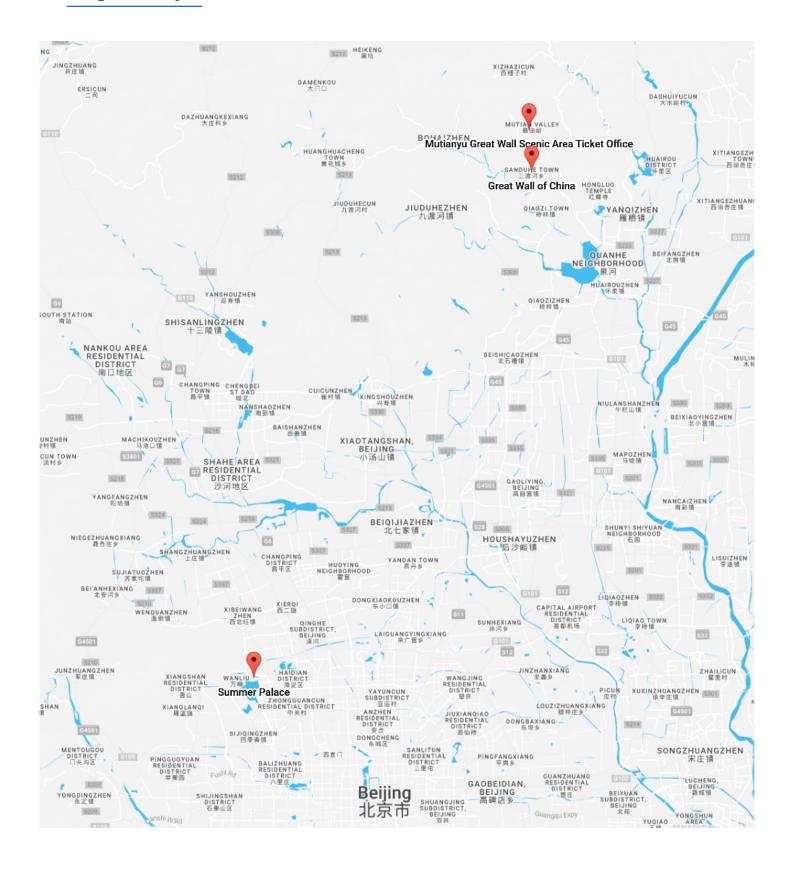
09:00 **Temple of Heaven** 1 Tian Tan Dong Lu, Dong Cheng Qu, China, 100061 11:00 11:45 **Hongqiao Market** Dongcheng, China, 100062 13:45 14:30 Wangfujing Avenue Wang Fu Jing Da Jie, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100006 16:30 17:15 **Beijing Ancient Observatory** China, Bei Jing Shi, Dong Cheng Qu, 东裱褙胡同2号 邮政编码: 100005 19:15

Map for Day 2



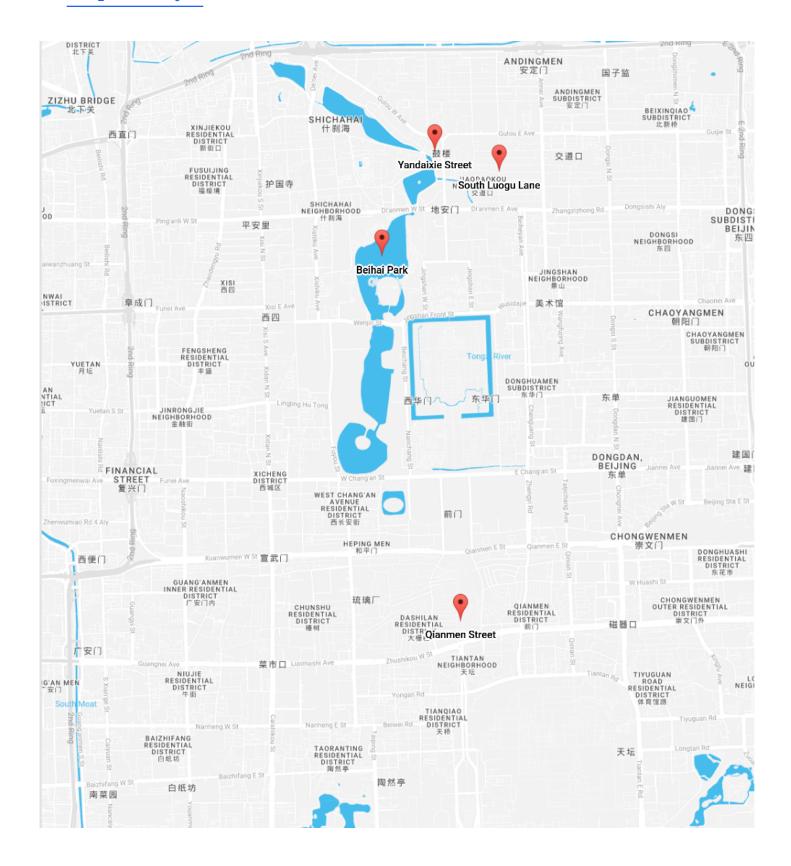
09:30	Great Wall of China
	Huairou District, China, 101406
11:30	
12:15	Mutianyu Great Wall Scenic Area Ticket Office
	CHM7+3JC, Mu Tian Yu Lu, Huai Rou Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 101406
14:15	
16:00	Summer Palace
	19 Xin Jian Gong Men Lu, Hai Dian Qu, China, 100091
18:15	

Map for Day 3



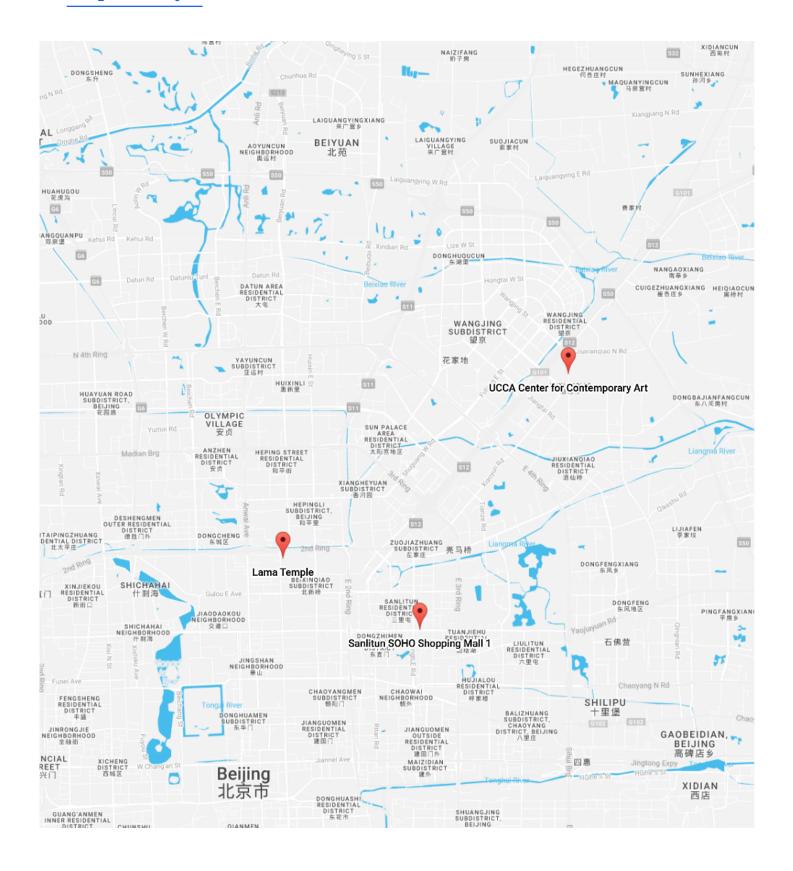
09:00 Beihai Park 1 Wen Jin Jie, 西安门 Xi Cheng Qu, China, 100034 11:00 11:45 South Luogu Lane Nan Luo Gu Xiang, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100009 13:45 14:30 **Qianmen Street** Qian Men Da Jie, Bei Jing Shi, China 16:30 17:45 **Yandaixie Street** Yan Dai Xie Jie, Xi Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China 20:15

Map for Day 4



09:15 798 Art Zone 2 Jiu Xian Qiao Lu, Chao Yang Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100102 11:15 12:00 **UCCA Center for Contemporary Art** 4 Jiu Xian Qiao Lu, Chao Yang Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100102 14:00 14:30 Lama Temple 12 Yong He Gong Da Jie, 国子监 Dong Cheng Qu, China, 100007 16:30 18:15 **Sanlitun SOHO Shopping Mall 1** WFM3+57W, Gong Ren Ti Yu Chang Bei Lu, 使馆区 Chao Yang Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100020 20:30

Map for Day 5





Spots



798 Art Zone

2 Jiu Xian Qiao Lu, Chao Yang Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100102

Summary:

Decommissioned factory buildings now holding artist studios & exhibits, vendors & eateries.

Phone:

010 5978 9798



Yandaixie Street

Yan Dai Xie Jie, Xi Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China



South Luogu Lane

Nan Luo Gu Xiang, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100009



The Ming Tombs Museum

China, Bei Jing Shi, Chang Ping Qu, Huan Ling Lu, 长陵 邮政编码: 102200



Longqingxia Scenic Area

China, 北京市延庆区旧县镇古城村G2W5+7FV 邮政编码: 102109

Summary:

A series of gorges with mountains & attractions such as bungee jumping & a huge dragon escalator.

Phone:

010 6919 1020



National Stadium

1 Guo Jia Ti Yu Chang Nan Lu, Chao Yang Qu, China, 100101

Summary:

Iconic stadium known as the Bird's Nest built for the Olympics & now hosting concerts & sports.

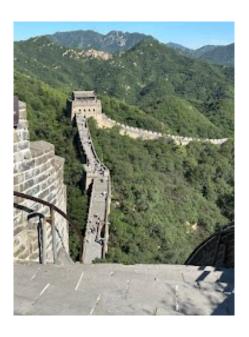
Phone:

010 8437 3008



The Great Wall at Badaling

Yanqing District, China, 102112



Old Beijing Gui Street Characteristic Snack

China, Bei Jing Shi, Dong Cheng Qu, 东直门东直门内大街WCRG+GFF 邮政编码: 100007



National Centre for the Performing Arts

2 Xi Chang An Jie, Xi Cheng Qu, China, 100031

Summary:

Titanium-encased, egg-shaped performance hall hosting a range of concerts, ballets, operas & shows.

Phone:

010 6655 0000



Chinese Ethnic Culture Park 2 North Gate 2

1 Min Zu Yuan Lu, Chao Yang Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100017

Phone:

010 6206 3646



Beijing Dashilan

V9WV+7XV, Da Shi Lan Shang Ye Jie, Xi Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100031

Summary:

A lively, centuries-old commercial street lined with souvenir shops, tea houses & small eateries.



Fangjia Hutong Elementary School

17 Fang Jia Hu Tong, 交道口 Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100011



Shichahai

Shichahai, Xicheng District, Beijing, China, 100035



Zhongshan Park

Dongcheng, China



Wudaoying Hu Tong

Wu Dao Ying Hu Tong, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100011



Peking Opera

Huguang Guild Hall 3 Hufangqiao, Zhengyci Theater 220 Xiheyan Dajie, 西安门西城区 北京市 China, 100077

Phone:

010 6722 7775



Beijing Planetarium

138 Xi Wai Da Jie, Xi Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100044

Phone:

010 5158 3311



Beijing Zoo

China, Bei Jing Shi, Xi Cheng Qu, 西直门外大街137号 邮政编码: 100044

Summary:

Venerable zoo, founded in 1906, with traditional landscaping & native animals such as pandas.

Phone:

010 6839 0274



Beihai Park

1 Wen Jin Jie, 西安门 Xi Cheng Qu, China, 100034

Summary:

First opened to the public in 1925, this 69-hectare former imperial park features a massive lake.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 6:30 - 9:00 AM Tuesday: 6:30 - 9:00 AM Wednesday: 6:30 - 9:00 AM Thursday: 6:30 - 9:00 AM Friday: 6:30 - 9:00 AM Saturday: 6:30 - 9:00 AM Sunday: 6:30 - 9:00 AM

Phone:

010 6403 3225



Hotel Hu Tong Impressions Beijing Guesthouse

41 Di'anmen Nei, Main Street, Dong Cheng Qu, China, 100009

Phone:

010 6407 3799



Lama Temple

12 Yong He Gong Da Jie, 国子监 Dong Cheng Qu, China, 100007

Summary:

Ornate Tibetan Buddhist temple complex built in 1694 & featuring bronze statues & incense burners.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone:

010 8419 1919



National Museum of China

16 Dong Chang An Jie, 前门 Dong Cheng Qu, China, 100051

Summary:

Free, massive (2.2 million-sq.-ft.) museum of Chinese history & art with more than 1 million relics.

Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Friday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Saturday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

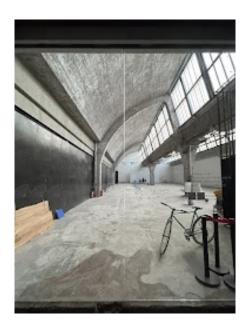
Phone:

010 6511 6400



Beijing 798 Art Zone

Beijing 798 Art Zone, Chaoyang, China



Temple of Heaven

1 Tian Tan Dong Lu, Dong Cheng Qu, China, 100061

Summary:

Renowned temple complex from 1420 featuring distinctive circular buildings set in a popular park.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM Tuesday: 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM Wednesday: 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM Thursday: 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM Friday: 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM Saturday: 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM Sunday: 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Phone:

010 6702 8866



Wangfujing Avenue

Wang Fu Jing Da Jie, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100006



Beijing Ancient Observatory

China, Bei Jing Shi, Dong Cheng Qu, 东裱褙胡同2号 邮政编码: 100005

Summary:

Dating to 1442, this former observatory is now a museum exhibiting ancient astronomical gear.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Thursday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Friday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone:

010 6524 2202



Hongqiao Market

Dongcheng, China, 100062

Summary:

Huge marketplace famous for trading in pearls with around a million visitors each year.

Phone:

010 6713 3354



Forbidden City

4 Jing Shan Qian Jie, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100009

Summary:

Completed in 1420, this palace complex with 980 buildings features a museum with art & artifacts.

Opening Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Wednesday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Saturday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM Sunday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Phone:

400 950 1925



Tiananmen Square

前门 Dongcheng, China, 100051

Summary:

Historic, sprawling city square & cultural center, featuring a 37m-tall obelisk.



Sanlitun Bar Street Management Office

WFP3+HVG, San Li Tun Lu, 使馆区 Chao Yang Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100600



UCCA Center for Contemporary Art

4 Jiu Xian Qiao Lu, Chao Yang Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100102

Summary:

Modern paintings, sculpture & multimedia installations showcased in an industrial-chic space.



Jingshan Park

44 Jing Shan Xi Jie, 景山 Xi Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100009

Summary:

Historic 57-acre park located on a hill & offering views of the Forbidden City.

Phone:

010 6403 8098



Ming Dynasty Tombs

764F+3C3, Chang Chi Lu, Chang Ping Qu, China, 102200

Summary:

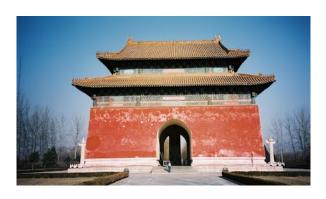
Immense, ancient complex including the tombs of 13 Ming Dynasty emperors plus pathways & statues.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Friday: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Saturday: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Sunday: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Phone:

010 6076 1422



Summer Palace

19 Xin Jian Gong Men Lu, Hai Dian Qu, China, 100091

Summary:

Lakefront palace renowned for its ornate temples & artworks plus its lavishly landscaped grounds.

Phone:

010 6288 1144



Mutianyu Great Wall Scenic Area Ticket Office

CHM7+3JC, Mu Tian Yu Lu, Huai Rou Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 101406



Qianmen Street

Qian Men Da Jie, Bei Jing Shi, China



Great Wall of China

Huairou District, China, 101406

Summary:

Ancient world wonder that winds for more than 8,850 km across China, with towers & walkways.

Opening Hours:

Monday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Friday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Saturday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Sunday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Phone:

010 6162 6022



Sanlitun SOHO Shopping Mall 1

WFM3+57W, Gong Ren Ti Yu Chang Bei Lu, 使馆区 Chao Yang Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100020

Opening Hours:

Monday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM Tuesday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM Thursday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM Friday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM Saturday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM Sunday: 10:00 AM - 9:30 PM

