

# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## *Pre-Departure Itinerary*

### *Beijing*

*Wednesday, October 31, 2012 – Thursday, November 8, 2012*

Beijing boasts a remarkable mix of history and culture and over the course of your stay you'll experience the best of what this city has to offer. Pause and reflect at Tiananmen Square and the exquisite **Forbidden City**, the imperial palace for the 15th-century Ming and Qing Dynasties and now the home to the Palace Museum; walk along a stretch of the 3,700-mile long **Great Wall of China**; travel through the **Valley of the Ming Tombs**, and stroll through the **Summer Palace**, recognized as one of the world's top classical gardens. You'll also experience modern life in Beijing with a visit to the **Beijing Zoo** and a world-famous **Peking Opera** production, tour the city by rickshaw and share lunch with a local family! With ample opportunity to explore at your leisure, you'll see how this world-class city warmly welcomes visitors from around the globe. This is an experience not to be missed!

#### **Includes**

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Beijing
- Seven nights' first-class accommodations: Qianmen Jianguo Hotel, Beijing
- Seventeen meals: nine breakfasts, four lunches, four dinners
- Round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

#### **Accommodations**

##### **Qianmen Jianguo Hotel**

No.175 Yong'an Road,  
Xuanwu District, Beijing  
Phone:(010) 63016688

The Qianmen Jianguo Hotel has a great central location for guests looking to explore the city of Beijing. The guest rooms are carefully decorated to provide comfort.

#### **Rates**

**\$2,379** per person double occupancy  
**\$2,359** per person triple occupancy  
**\$2,729** for single reservations  
Add \$100 for current air taxes and fees.  
Cancellation waiver and travel insurance is \$175.  
Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Purchase must be made at time of booking. Passport and visa required. Per person deposit is \$300.

#### **Features**

The Summer Palace, Beijing Zoo, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Peking Opera, The Great Wall, Valley of the Ming Tombs, Temple of Heaven

#### **Optionals**

Evening Acrobatic Show, Jingshong Cooking School, Lama Temple and Beihai Park, Xian & Terra-Cotta Warriors Museum; HONG KONG 2n post-tour extension: \$1,049 pp/do

## **DAILY ITINERARY**

### **Day 1: Overnight Flight**

### **Day 2: Arrive Beijing, China – Tour Begins**

Experience one of the most fascinating cities in the world, Beijing. Over the next several days, you will experience the beauty and intrigue of this ancient culture.

### **Day 3: Beijing**

Begin your journey in Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China. After a short lesson on the local language, depart for a morning visit to the Summer Palace, ranked among the most noted classical gardens in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the Beijing Zoo, home of the famous pandas. See the new habitat that has been created for those pandas rescued from the earthquake region who are now happily residing in their new home! Then, learn about jade carving and help design your very own custom-made jade name seal stamp, a perfect way to commemorate your visit to Beijing. Tonight, a traditional dumpling dinner is included. Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.

### **Day 4: Beijing**

Begin your day with a visit to the famous site of Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world. Next, visit the Forbidden City, a vast network of palaces including five halls, seventeen palaces and numerous other rooms and buildings which have been home to 24 Chinese Emperors over 491 years. This evening you will be treated to a dinner featuring Peking Duck, followed by a colorful performance of the Peking Opera. Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.

### **Day 5: Beijing**

Today is at leisure to explore this fascinating, constantly changing city independently. Your Tour Manager will be available to offer suggestions on how best to spend your day! Today breakfast will be included.

### **Day 6: The Great Wall**

No visit to China would be complete without seeing The Great Wall, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World! Behold this awesome site and have the chance to walk along a portion of this 3,700-mile marvel. Travel through the Valley of the Ming Tombs where you will walk along the Sacred Way, or Divine Road, which means "the road leading to heaven." Feel the excitement of the 2008 Summer Olympics when you view the Olympic Green where you have the opportunity to take photos of two famous structures - the Bird's Nest and Water Cube! Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.

### **Day 7: Beijing**

Enjoy a full day of leisure to relax or independently explore this wonderful city. You may take an optional tour to Xian\*, which includes a visit to the Terra-Cotta Warriors Museum. Today breakfast will be included.

### **Day 8: Beijing**

This morning you'll visit the Temple of Heaven where the emperor came twice each year to thank the gods for the good harvest and pray for the new harvest. You will also see the locals doing their morning Tai Chi exercises, playing cards or board games. Afterwards, experience ancient Beijing on a traditional rickshaw tour through its narrow streets and alleys. With help from an interpreter, you will learn about a local family's history and way of life when you share lunch with them in their Hutong home. They will also teach you the art of traditional dumpling making! Next you'll visit with a kite master and learn the history of the favorite pastime of many locals, followed by a traditional tea ceremony. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner. Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.

### **Day 9: Beijing – Tour Ends**

Your tour ends in Beijing. On your return flight home you will cross the International Dateline. Today breakfast will be included.

### **Optional 3day/2night Hong Kong Post Tour Extension**

**Rate \$1049 per person double occupancy, land and air included; 2meals: 2 breakfasts**

**Day 9: Beijing – Hong Kong**

This afternoon you arrive Hong Kong, one of Asia's most cosmopolitan and dynamic cities. You will stay in Kowloon, located in the heart of Hong Kong's bustling shopping district. The remainder of your day is at leisure. Hong Kong is noted for fabulous savings on jewelry, silk and leather products.

**Day 10: Hong Kong – Hong Kong Island**

Cross the harbor and enjoy a comprehensive tour of Hong Kong Island, home to the city's most popular sights. Visit Stanley Market and stroll around its famous seaside village bazaar. Learn About the lifestyle of Hong Kong 's fishermen with a visit to Aberdeen Fishing Village where you will have the opportunity to take a traditional sampan ride in the typhoon shelter. Your tour will also take you past Republic Bay Beach, an important strategic location during World War II and the longest beach on the island. Cap your tour with a panoramic ride up Victoria Park for spectacular views of the city and harbor below. The remainder of your day is at leisure. Today breakfast will be included

**Day 11: Hong Kong – Tour Ends**

You will board your flight home crossing the International dateline en route. Today breakfast will be included.

**Proof of Citizenship:** *US citizens require a passport with at least six months' validity past the date of return.. Passports are the responsibility of the traveler.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*