



# THE TRAVEL CLUB

## *Pre-Departure Itinerary*

## **Explore Beijing**

**Sunday, March 14 - Monday, March 22, 2010**

Beijing Boasts a remarkable mix of history and culture and over the course of your nine-day stay you'll experience the best of what this city has to offer. You'll 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 **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: Grand Millennium
- Fifteen meals, seven breakfasts, four lunches, four dinners
- Roundtrip airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

### **Rates**

**\$2,225** per person double occupancy

**\$2,205** per person triple occupancy

**\$2,619** single reservations

### **Features**

Tour of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, the summer palace, the Great Wall, Valley of the Ming Tombs, Peking duck dinner and Opera show, Temple of Heaven, Beijing Zoo, **OPTIONALS:** Terra Cotta Warriors of Xian day excursion, \$499 per person, must reserve 45 days prior to departure

Add \$360 for current air taxes, fees, charges and surcharges. Cancellation and unused services waiver is \$150 per person. Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Purchase must be made at the time of booking. Passport required. Visa required; visa cost approximately \$90 USD.

## **DAILY ITINERARY**

### **Day 1: Sunday, March 14, 2010-Overnight Flight**

### **Day 2: Monday, March 15, 2010-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: Tuesday, March 16, 2010-Beijing**

**LANGUAGE DISCOVERY:** Today, your Tour Manager will help you discover the origin and history of the language(s) you will experience on your tour along with key words and phrases that will help you communicate with the locals. Start your journey into Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China, with a sightseeing tour of Tiananmen Square, the largest square in the world. Next visit the Forbidden City, a vast network of palaces including five halls, seventeen palaces and numerous other buildings. You are free this afternoon to explore on your own. (B,L,D).

### **Day 4: Wednesday, March 17, 2010-Beijing**

This morning visit the Summer Palace, which is ranked amongst the most noted classical gardens in the world. In 1998 it was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. After lunch, the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore on your own. Tonight, a traditional dumpling dinner is included. (B,L,D)

**Day 5: Thursday, March 18, 2010-The Great Wall**

No visit to China would be complete without seeing The Great Wall. 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.” Your dinner this evening, a famous Peking duck dinner, is followed by a special treat: the Peking Opera show. (B,L,D)

**Day 6: Friday, March 19, 2010-Beijing**

This morning visit the Temple of Heaven where the emperor came twice each year to thank the gods for the good harvest and to pray for the new harvest. You will also see the locals doing their morning Tai Chi exercises, playing cards or board games. The afternoon is at leisure. This evening you may choose an optional tour to the world-famous Beijing Acrobatic Show. (B)

**Day 7: Saturday, March 20, 2010-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. (B)

**Day 8: Sunday, March 21, 2010-Beijing**

This morning, enjoy a visit to the Beijing Zoo, home of the famous Pandas. Afterwards you have the opportunity to experience ancient Beijing on a 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, visit with a kite master and learn the history of the favorite pastime of many locals. During your visit to the Bell Tower enjoy a tradition tea ceremony. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner. (B,L,D)

**Day 9: Monday, March 22, 2010-Beijing - Tour Ends**

Your tour ends in Beijing. You will be transferred to the Beijing Airport for your return flight to Boston. On your return flight home you will cross the International Dateline. (B)

**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.*