

The Great Wall Marathon
Marathon – Half Marathon – 10K –5K
GWM group 1 – 4 / Beijing – Jixian / Pinggu – Beijing / 13 – 18 May, 2009
Itinerary No. 1

For Marathon Runners and their families

This **6-day / 5-night itinerary** is one of the three ways to participate in one of the world's most amazing marathon experiences - **The Great Wall Marathon**. This itinerary is primarily aimed at runners who want to participate in the marathon, but friends and family are welcome to accompany runners. This tour combines seeing the capital city of Beijing with a stay in rural Jixian / Pinggu located in the vicinity of The Great Wall Marathon venue. The town Jixian / Pinggu offers the charm of like in a small town as well as fairly modern and comfortable hotel facilities, and is a wonderful place to explore an different side of China. A fluent English-speaking guide will escort the group throughout the sightseeing tours.

Timetable

Day 1: Wednesday May 13, Beijing
Welcome to China

Welcome to amazing China and the city Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China. You arrive in a modern and bustling airport that reflects the energy of contemporary China. Our Great Wall Marathon (GWM) staff will receive you at the airport and help you get to your hotel, as this package includes an arrival transfer. After checking in, check the hotel notice board to get your tour guide's name and phone number. Great Wall Marathon information packs will be handed out by your tour guide, call the guide if you can't see him/her. The rest of the day is at your own leisure.

No meals are included on this day.

Day 2: Thursday May 14, Beijing
Great Wall Marathon Inspection & Jixian / Pinggu

A closer look at Beijing will have to wait three more days, as we will be heading for The Great Wall of China. Today your dream of climbing the Great Wall will come true. We will leave Beijing at 5 am (breakfast box prepared by the hotel will be handed out by your guide) and head northeast to "our section" of the enormous Great Wall at Huangyaguan. Very few tourists find their way up to this remote place, despite the rich range of possibilities here. All runners must walk the 3.5 km of the wall that is part of the Great Wall Marathon course to familiarize themselves with the route. Non-runners are also welcome to partake in this walk, though good physical condition is required. A sandwich lunch will be served and after lunch we will go straight to our hotel in the small town of Jixian / Pinggu, situated approximately a 45-minutes drive away from Huangyaguan. The town has few sites, but lots of local folklore that a visitor would never get to experience in Beijing. The rest of the afternoon is spent at your own leisure and that night, we will enjoy typical local dishes for dinner.

Please remember to check out of your hotel before leaving Beijing.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included on this day.

Day 3: Friday May 15, Jixian / Pinggu
Relaxation in Rural China with tour option and Pasta Dinner

Today is a good day to relax and take in the local atmosphere of rural China. The warm and friendly

Chinese in this area are not so used to foreigners, and their curiosity is a tourist attraction in itself. There is an opportunity to participate in the optional tour of Jixian and its most famous monuments.

Optional Tour 1 - Rural China

- **Tour begins from the hotel lobby, exact time follow the instruction of your tour guide.**
- **Price US\$ 62 per person**
- **Optional tours have to be booked before leaving for China.**

Tours includes

- Local Outdoor Market
- Dulesi Temple
- The Qing Tombs
- Chinese style lunch

We will start this excursion with a visit to the local outdoor market in Jixian. In China, private entrepreneurship has returned to the local markets after having been illegal for several decades, and here you will find most interesting examples of personal initiative. After the local market, we will head toward the Dulesi Temple, which was originally constructed during the Tang dynasty (618-907 AD). The temple is famous for its ancient wooden pavilion as well as numerous quite rare fresco paintings. From the Dulesi Temple, we will visit the Qing Tombs. An impressive graveyard covers an enormous area and houses 5 of Chinas emperors, 14 empresses and 136 "prime" concubines. Although these graves are more impressive than the famous Ming graves (located closer to Beijing), these Qing graves are visited by very few. Buried here is Qianlong, the greatest emperor of the Qing dynasty, whose grave monument is open to visitors.

At night, a pasta dinner will be held for everybody.

Breakfast and dinner are included this day.

Day 4: Saturday May 16, Jixian

The Great Wall Marathon

Today is the big day. We get up early in order to have breakfast, and will leave Jixian / Pinggu at 5 am to head for Huangyaguan and the 7:30 am start of the 2009 Great Wall Marathon. The half marathon will start at 7:40 am, while the 10K run will start at 8:10 and 5K run at 8:30. The reason we start early is to avoid the daytime heat and humidity. Running in the early hours of the morning is much nicer, and will definitely improve your running time. The Great Wall Marathon is an official international marathon timed by the Champion Chip system. All participants who complete the race within 8 hours receive a medal. However, it should be emphasized once again that the main aim of this challenge is to have fun and finish the race. Times are of minor importance and there are no prizes to be won. Sandwich lunches are provided for everyone, and there will be some extra refreshments for the runners. Between 12 am and 4:30 pm, busses will take runners back to Beijing as they fill.

Remember to check out of the hotel in the morning, as we will go to Beijing at the end of this day. Breakfast and lunch are included on this day.

Optional Tour 6 – Chinese Massage

- **Price US\$ 29 per person**
- **Masseur / Masseur will come to your room. Tell the guide in the bus your name, hotel, room number & at what time you want the massage**
- **Optional tours have to be booked before leaving for China.**

Day 5: Sunday May 17, Beijing

Beijing at leisure with tour options and Gala Dinner

Today is for runners to sleep in, recover and take it easy. You can shop at Silk Alley, or fill your senses with sights and sounds of Beijing, the street vendors, the crowds, the bicycles or the colorful banners. A day program is not included so Sunday is a good day to explore Beijing and its markets on your own. Don't forget to take a package of matches or a business card from the hotel, so you can show it to a taxi driver to get back in case you get lost. However, for people who prefer more planned activities, there is a choice of participating in two optional tours of Beijing and in this way exploring the most famous attractions in Beijing.

Optional Tour 2 - City of Emperors

Price US\$ 62 per person

- **Tour begins from one of the GWM official hotels at around 8:30 am, hotel name and exact time follow the instruction of your tour guide.**
- **Own transport by e.g. taxi is needed to and from the hotel which the tour starts from**
- **Optional tours have to be booked before leaving for China.**

Tours includes

- The Tian An Men Square
- The Forbidden City
- Temple of Heaven
- Silk Exhibition Hall
- Peking Duck lunch

Tian An Men Square, Mao's Mausoleum, The Forbidden City, Coal Hill, Peking Duck, Temple of Heaven and Silk Exhibition Hall

Beijing served as the capital for 5 dynasties over a period of 800 years. Each emperor was proclaimed to be a dragon sent from heaven. We begin our tour with a stop at Tian An Men Square, the largest public plaza in the world. Located in the heart of modern Beijing, Tiananmen Square was first built during the Ming Dynasty. Covering an area of 44 hectares, the enormous square is the main entrance to the Forbidden City. From there we continue north through The Forbidden City. Over the central arched gateway is the famous portrait of Mao. This magnificent complex with its many palaces and halls is the largest imperial palace ever built in the world, featuring more than 800 buildings with over 9,000 rooms, resplendent golden-glazed roofs, red lacquered pillars and vermilion walls. Most of the morning will be spent exploring the Forbidden City. Next we will walk just north of the Forbidden City to Scenery Hill, which is still remembered by most Beijing seniors as Coal Hill. The coal that was used for heating and the construction of the Forbidden City was excavated from this site. After the coal was used up, the earth that was dug to form the city moat was piled here to shape the hill we see today. This hill is the highest point in the area and offers a superb bird's eye view of the entire Forbidden City as well as contemporary Beijing. At lunch you will enjoy an outstanding dish of authentic roasted Beijing Duck. After lunch, sightseeing continues at the beautiful Temple of Heaven in the southern part of Beijing. This was the place where the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties worshipped heaven and prayed for abundant harvests. The complex consists of the 125 feet (38 meter high) Hall of Prayer for Bounteous Harvests, the Imperial Vault of Heaven with a gilded cupola, the three-tier Circular Altar, Echo Wall and the Thrice-Echoing Stone. Occupying an area of 270 hectares makes this the largest temple and altar complex in China. We complete the afternoon with a visit to a silk exhibition hall

where you will have the chance to see the reeling of silk from cocoons. There is a large variety of silk products can be purchased here such as silk dresses, blouses, skirts, pajamas, silk floss quilts, beddings, hats etc.

Optional Tour 3 - City of People

Price US\$ 56 per person

- **Tour begins from one of the GWM hotels at around 8:30 am, hotel name and exact time follow the instruction of your tour guide.**
- **Own transport by e.g. taxi is needed to and from the hotel which the tour starts from**
- **Optional tours have to be booked before leaving for China.**

Tours includes

- The Summer Palace
- Pearl Exhibition Hall
- Rickshaw drive
- Local family visit
- Lunch

We begin with a visit to The Summer Palace, one of the most extraordinary sights in Beijing. Once tour inside you will be amazed by its gorgeous general view and the exquisite architectural style. Summer Palace was first built several hundred years back in Jin Dynasty but was since renovated in large scale several times. In 1860 it was plundered during the Second Opium War but in 1888 the notorious Empress Dowager Cixi had it rebuilt by using the money that was intended for the Navy and made it a very opulent summer retreat for the royal family. Afterwards, we will visit a pearl exhibition hall just outside the Summer Palace. Then we will visit the traditional Hutongs, the traditional settlements within the city. Here, blue-collar workers live in typical Chinese houses with carved doors. We will take a rickshaw ride through the ancient narrow streets to a local family.

At 6:30 pm, all participants - runners and non-runners alike - are picked up from the hotel and taken to the banquet prepared to celebrate your triumph run over the Great Wall. Busses will be serving all hotels between 9:30 pm. and 10 pm. For the very fit who do not want to spend this celebratory night in bed, one of Beijing's great nightclubs will be awaiting us with dance music and colorful cocktails until the break of dawn. Dress code for the evening: No shorts or sandals!

Breakfast and dinner included on this day.

Day 6: Monday May 18, Beijing

Ready for The Great Tibetan Marathon on July 18th, 2009?

Bags packed with sweaty running gear and unforgettable memories, we are ready to return home. Depending on your departure time, you will have the day for shopping or a final visit to one of the many sights of Beijing. You need to check out before 12:00 noon. Departure transfer to airport / railway station is not included in the package price.

Breakfast is included on this day.

Price from US \$1,320 per person

General price and booking information:

- All prices are per person based on double occupancy (minimum 2 persons traveling together).
- Exchange rate is based on 1 USD = 6.70 RMB. Should the USD/RMB exchange rate changes drastically (over 5%) in favor of RMB or below rate 6.35 we will have to charge extra for the difference. Within 5% we will not charge difference.
- Single accommodation is available upon request for a supplementary fee.
- Price reduction of \$50 per person if booking and deposit are made before December 1st 2008.
- Late entry fee of \$50 per person will be applied for participants who book and register after March 16th, 2009.
- Last possible date to book and register with The Great Wall Marathon 2009 is April 16th 2009.

The price includes:

- One-way transfer between airport and hotel on arrival, when the arrival is on May 13, 2009
- 5 nights accommodation, including services and taxes
- Meals as written, where breakfast is American buffet style when possible. Meals in Jixian offered according to program
- Sightseeing and excursions as listed (Optional tours must be purchased separately)
- All expenses related to the Great Wall Marathon (Champion Chip excluded)
- Compulsory medical insurance, including "May 16" emergency medical treatment on location and evacuation from the race area.
- Marathon medical team of specialized physicians and nurses. This service is offered on May 16 only.
- Comprehensive information packet with documents

Price excludes:

- International air tickets, air fees and airport taxes
- Passport fee (every participant must have a passport valid past 01 December 2009)
- Visa for China
- Return transfer to the airport (can be booked through your national GWM sales agent).
- Champion timing chip (if you don't already own a chip, the Great Wall Marathon Souvenir Chip is available for USD35)
- Optional Tours which must be booked in advance

Please Note:

- It is the responsibility of each participant to have a valid passport and to obtain a valid visa before traveling into China.
- Every runner must have a Champion timing chip to enter the Great Wall Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K or 5K runs.
- Participation is purely at your own risk. All extra costs incurred, no matter what the cause, will under no circumstances be the responsibility of the Great Wall Marathon Company.
- Concerning medical risks - all active participants must declare that they are in good health. The Great Wall Marathon brings its own team of specialized physicians and nurses to assure that every injured participant receives suitable treatment. This is also the reason why compulsory travel insurance has been included in the package price.