

The Great Wall Marathon

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The Great Wall Marathon Marathon – Half Marathon – 8.5K Great Wall Marathon 2021 6-day package Itinerary No. 1 GWM group 1 – 3

For Marathon Runners and their families

Run the Great Wall Marathon and have the time of your life with runners from around the world.

With three nights in Jixian near The Great Wall Marathon venue of Huangyaguan, and two nights in Beijing after the race, this marathon and holiday package combines the classic Beijing experience with a touch of China outside the great metropolis. It's the more relaxed tour option as your Jixian base is closer to the wall and thus offers more time to relax before the race and a shorter drive on the morning of race day. If you want to spend all nights in Beijing, have a look at the 7-day itinerary.

Itinerary

The itinerary is detailed below. This is what you'll be doing during your stay!

Day 1: Wednesday May 12, Welcome to China and Jixian

Arrival to Beijing Capital (PEK) or Beijing Daxing (PKX) airport.

Shuttle buses to Jixian will run at set transfer times (see transfer times below under important info). If you are unable to book a flight that matches the set transfers, or you don't want to wait up till 2 hours, an individual transfer can be purchased.

Great Wall Marathon representatives in the arrival halls will guide you to the bus.

After checking-in at your hotel in Jixian your Race Pack will be handed out by the guide. The rest of the day is free for you to explore Jixian.

No meals are included on this day.

Day 2: Thursday May 13, Route Inspection Day

Today, is Inspection Day!

An important event for you to inspect the part of the route along the Great Wall and prepare yourself mentally for the challenge ahead.

Race officials and medical staff will be present to answer any questions you may have.

After breakfast we board our bus and head to the Great Wall of Huangyaguan - a bus ride of 45-60 minutes.

All runners are expected to walk the 3.5km section of the wall that is part of the marathon, half-marathon and 8.5k Fun Run course. Non-runners are also welcome, although good physical condition is required.

A sandwich lunch will be served after the wall walk.

Once the group is gathered again we head back to Jixian and have the afternoon free to explore the town.

Meals: Breakfast and sandwich lunch

Day 3: Friday May 14, Relaxation in Jixian with tour option

Today is a good day for relaxing before the big race day tomorrow.

Take in the local atmosphere of Jixian, or go on the optional excursion that takes visitors to Qing Dynasty Tombs. The tour includes lunch. Learn more about this tour below.

Tonight dinner in your hotel is included with additional rice and noodle dishes.

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Meals: Breakfast and dinner included (lunch is provided for those going on the optional excursion)

Optional Tour 3 - Qing tombs(Rural China)

- **Tour begins from the hotel lobby, exact time follow the instruction of your tour guide.**
- **Price US\$ 95 per person**
- **Optional tours have to be booked before leaving for China.**

Tours includes

- Local Outdoor Market
- 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 Qing Tombs. An impressive graveyard covers an enormous area and houses 5 of China's 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. We will first visit one of the most splendid one of all royal tombs in Chinese history, Yuling (buried here is Qianlong, the greatest emperor of the Qing dynasty) has the finest tomb chamber, a series of rooms separated by solid marble doors, with its walls and arched ceilings engraved with Buddha figures and more than 30,000 words of Tibetan scripture. The 3-ton doors themselves have reliefs of bodhisattvas (beings on the road to enlightenment) and the four protective kings usually found at temple entrances.

Another tomb we will visit is Ding Dongling, the tomb of Empress Dowager Cixi, the woman who ruled China behind a curtain for 48 years. The main hall contains reproductions of pictures produced in 1903 by Cixi's photo studio within the Summer Palace. Everywhere there are reminders of the Forbidden City, such as the terrace-corner spouts carved as water-loving dragons. The interior has motifs strikingly painted in gold on dark wood, recalling the buildings where she spent her last years. There are walls of carved and gilded brick, and superbly fearsome wooden dragons writhe down the columns.

Day 4: Saturday May 15, Race Day

Today is the big day! After an early breakfast, we'll leave Jixian at 5:00am and head to the race venue in Huangyaguan. Please remember to check-out of your hotel room in Jixian, as we will leave for Beijing at the end of the day.

After an aerobics warm-up and speeches by local officials, the race will start at 7:30am.

Sandwich lunches will be provided for everyone in the finish area. A 20-minute massage on site is included after the race.

Shuttle buses will take runners back to Beijing between 12 and 4:30pm. For more information about the race, look here.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Day 5: Sunday May 16, Explore Beijing - excursion options & Evening Celebration Party

Today is a day of recovery. Sleep in, relax, do a bit of shopping in the Silk Alley or fill your senses with the sights and sounds of Beijing.

Two optional excursions are available today. Please note, these must be purchased prior to your arrival in China. Take in classic Beijing highlights with the City of Emperors tour or visit the giant panda and Summer Palace on the City of People tour.

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In the evening, we all gather for the big celebration dinner. All participants will be picked up at their hotels and taken to the party venue tonight.

Meals: Breakfast and dinner included (lunch is provided for those going on an optional excursion)

Optional Tour 4 - City of Emperors

- **Tour begins from the hotel lobby, exact time follow the instruction of your tour guide.**
- **Price US\$ 70 per person**
- **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, The Forbidden City, 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. 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 5 - City of People

- **Tour begins from the hotel lobby, exact time follow the instruction of your tour guide.**
- **Price US\$ 65 per person**
- **Optional tours have to be booked before leaving for China.**

Tours includes

- The Summer Palace
- Pearl Exhibition Hall
- Giant Panda
- Olympic village outside visit
- Lunch

We begin with a visit to the Beijing Zoo where we will see Giant Pandas. The giant panda is universally loved, but this peaceful, bamboo-eating member of the bear family faces many threats. Its population is small and isolated as its

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traditional forest habitat in southwest China's mountainous areas becomes fragmented. The government has set up more than 30 reserves, but habitat destruction and poaching continues to pose a threat to pandas living outside them. With rapid economic development, it is more important than ever to ensure the giant panda's survival. There are 1596 pandas living in the wild and 234 in the zoos in China. Then drive 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. On the way back we will have a chance to make an outside visit to Bird's Nest and Water Cube, which are famous for Olympic Game 2008.

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!

Day 6: Monday May 17, Farewell Beijing

Depending on your departure time, you might be able to do some last-minute shopping or take in more of Beijing's sights.

Hotel check-out is before noon.

Please note that the departure transfer is not included in the package but can be pre-booked at an extra cost. See prices for details.

Meal: Breakfast

Price information

Have a look at package prices below. Please note that prices include the race package.

Price information

Below package prices are inclusive of the race entry.

6-day Itinerary - 12 May to 17 May 2021

All prices per person

Hotel rating	Shared double/twin	Single room supplement
Standard, Central	1460 USD	+240 USD
Comfort, Central	1740 USD	+335 USD
Deluxe, Central	1980 USD	+515 USD



Kindly note

- All prices are per person based on double occupancy (minimum 2 persons traveling together).
- 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 2020.
- Late entry fee of \$100 per person will be applied for participants who book and register after March 16th, 2021.
- Last possible date to book and register with The Great Wall Marathon 2021 is April 16th 2021.

Price includes:

- 5-nights accommodation, including service charge and taxes
- Transfer from airport to hotel on set transfer times as advised under important information
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- Transportation as per itinerary
- The Great Wall Marathon race package which includes: start number, bib chip timing, running T-shirt, supplies on route, Danish medical team and finisher certificate.
- Comprehensive information packet and guide book for the Great Wall Marathon event which includes detailed maps and day-by-day descriptions.

Price excludes:

- Flights
- Visa for China
- Departure transfer to airport (can be purchased separately)
- Optional tours (must be booked in advance)
- Travel insurance
- Meals not stated in the itinerary
- Beverages
- Personal expenses
- Anything not mentioned under 'Inclusions'

Registration deadlines

Registration closes for the 2021 Great Wall Marathon on 16 April 2021.

After this date, no new entries will be accepted.

We advise you, however, to book early to avoid disappointment. Some packages sell-out well in advance of the regular registration period.

If you sign up after 16 March 2021, a late registration fee of 100 USD will be applied to each person on your booking. In addition, the full amount (ie. not just the deposit) must be paid immediately.

Important Info

We've put together a list of important information about travel in China. Have a look below.

Visa information

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Almost all non-Chinese nationals will need a visa to enter China. There are different categories and you will most likely need a tourist visa (L). Please contact your local Chinese embassy or consulate for more information. The procedure normally requires submitting a visa application form, paying a fee and providing the Chinese authorities with a service voucher from the Great Wall Marathon containing hotel information and dates.

A few months before departure, you will receive the service voucher which you can use for acquiring a visa. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note that your passport must be valid for at least six months after entry.

Transfers

The following arrival transfer times to Jixian are included in the package price:

07:00, 09:00, 11:00, 13:00, 15:00, 17:00, 19:00, 21:00, 23:00

It is possible to purchase a private transfer if you arrive after 22:00 (minimum 1 hour should be estimated to get through immigration and customs) or do not want to wait in the arrivals hall for the set transfers.

To make sure everybody have room on the transfers you must provide us with your arrival flight details no later than 4 weeks prior to your arrival.

If you arrive to Beijing before 12 May and/or by other means of transportation than flight it is your own responsibility to make it back to PEK or PKX to catch the set transfers to Jixian, but again we need to know which transfer you then want to go on.

Transfer time from PEK to Jixian is approximately 2 hours while an extra hour should be calculated when arriving to PKX.

There will be Great Wall Marathon representatives in the arrivals hall during the set transfer time hours to welcome you and show you to the bus.

Departure transfers are not included in the package and can be booked separately. The optional departure transfer only goes to Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) or Beijing Daxing Airport (PKX). If you would like to add a departure transfer to your reservation, please select this option on the booking form and let us know your departure flight details.

Hotels

The packages are divided in to hotel category and location.

Categories are standard, comfort and deluxe hotels.

Location is either Downtown for hotels located within the second ring road of Beijing or Central for hotels located between the second and fourth ring road of Beijing.

Room options

If you are a single traveller and choose a shared double room when booking, we will pair you with another traveller of the same gender. If you prefer to have your own room, choose single room. A single room supplement will apply.