

The Great Wall Marathon

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The Great Wall Marathon Marathon – Half Marathon – 8.5K Great Wall Marathon 2021 7-day package Itinerary No. 2 GWM group 4 – 6

For Marathon Runners and their families

This 7-day marathon and holiday package offers you the definitive Beijing experience!

All nights are spent in the capital of China and you will get an unforgettable holiday in this exciting city. We will visit classic Beijing highlights such as the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Temple of Heaven and also have plenty of chances to sample exquisite local cuisines in the many markets and street stalls of old Beijing.

You can top up your Beijing stay with our optional excursions that take you to classic Beijing highlights such as the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and the Temple of Heaven or how about visiting the Summer Palace, the former summer residence of the Imperial family and see the giant panda at the city zoo? Whatever your interests, the excursions offer a wide range of attractions that give visitors a great taste of Beijing.

If you want to stay closer to the race venue, have a look at the 6-day option.

Itinerary

Day 1: Tuesday May 11, Welcome to Beijing

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

Transfer buses are available throughout the day and leave for the city with 30-45 minute intervals. Look for "The Great Wall Marathon" sign in the arrivals hall and our representatives will show you to the bus.

After checking in to your hotel, check the hotel notice board to confirm your tour guide's name and phone number. Goodie bags will be handed out by the guide. If you don't receive your goodie bag today, it will be given to you on Inspection Day.

The rest of the day is free for you to explore Beijing.

No meals are included on this day.

Day 2: Wednesday May 12, Beijing Highlights - Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the Temple of Heaven

A visit to Beijing is not complete without seeing the city's three most famous landmarks, so today features a classic sightseeing tour.

The first stop of our day's exploration is Tiananmen Square from where we continue to the Forbidden City and spend the rest of the morning there. As we exit the Forbidden City it's time for lunch, which will be a delicious local speciality - Beijing roast duck.

After lunch we continue our sightseeing tour with a stop at the beautiful Temple of Heaven. The last stop of the afternoon will be a visit to a silk exhibition hall, where a large variety of silk products can be purchased.

In the evening an optional acrobatics show is available for purchase. Enjoy a fantastic evening out and watch a spectacular performance by talented acrobats.

Meals: Breakfast ,lunch and dinner.

Optional Tour 1 – Acrobatics Show

• **Tour starts from the restaurant where you have dinner at around 19:00 pm, exact time follow**

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the instruction of your tour guide.

- Price US\$ 35 per person
- Optional tours have to be booked before leaving for China.

Acrobatics is a traditional Chinese performing art. The history of acrobatics in China can be traced back to Neolithic times. By 300BC, skills such as walking on 3m-high stilts and juggling daggers had been developed. The art form has evolved a great deal throughout time and today Chinese acrobatics is an inheritance of tradition and evolving techniques.

Day 3: 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.

Our day will begin early in the morning as we board our bus and head to the Great Wall for route inspection. Breakfast will be served as a breakfast box that can be enjoyed on the 2.5 hours drive to the Huangyaguan Great Wall, which is our race venue.

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 will drive back and arrive in Beijing around 5pm. The rest of the evening will be at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast and sandwich lunch

Day 4: Friday May 14, Relaxation in Beijing or Ming Tombs visit

You have the day in Beijing to get mentally prepared for tomorrow's race in the way you want. Go shopping, enjoy one of Beijing's many parks, find a nearby spa or simply relax in your hotel room - choice is yours.

You also have the choice of joining the optional excursion to the Ming Tombs.

This excursion departs in the morning and head for the Ming tombs in a valley south of the Tianshou mountain, about 50km west of Beijing. Thirteen out of the sixteen Ming emperors were buried in this peaceful valley.

Meals: Breakfast (lunch also included if you book the Ming Tombs tour)

Optional Tour 2 – Ming Tombs

- Tour begins from one of the GWM official hotels at around 8:30 am, the 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

- Cloisonné Factory
- Ming tombs
- Sacred Road
- Lunch

We will start today's tour with a visit to a Cloisonné Factory. In the factory you will get into the workshops to see all the six steps to make cloisonné. The earliest and existing cloisonné is the product in Yuan dynasty, which we know it has nearly thousands-year history already.

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During the course of Jingtai period of Ming that is between 1450 and 1456 craftsmen found a blue glaze in navy-blue color that is elegant and decent of the artworks. That is the cloisonné we are using now.

The Ming tombs lie in a broad valley to the south of Tianshou (Longevity of Heaven) Mountain in Changping County, about 50 kilometers northwest of Beijing proper. Thirteen out of the 16 Ming emperors are buried in this peaceful valley. The Great Red Gate marks the beginning of the 7-kilometer-long Sacred Way (Shendao), which leads to the entrance of the Changling, the tomb of Emperor Yongle (reigned 1403-1424). Continuing on is the famous Avenue of the Animals, where pairs of lions, elephants, camels, horses and a number of mythological beasts line the road. There are 24 stone creatures in all. These beasts are followed in turn by a group of 12 stone human figures, which represent the funeral cortege of the deceased emperors. Carved in 1540, this group is made up of military, civil and meritorious officials.

Continuing north to the Changling, compared to the other 12 tombs the Changling is the largest and best preserved. The dimensions of the Hall of Eminent Favor (67 x 29 meters) closely match the dimensions of the Hall of Supreme Harmony in the Forbidden City, which makes it one of the largest wooden buildings in China. Four giant wooden columns and 28 smaller pillars support this structure, The four large columns are 14.3 meters high and 1.17 meters in diameter, and are extraordinary for the fact that they are each a single trunk of Phoebe nanmu.

Day 5: Saturday May 15, Race Day

Today is the big day!

Breakfast boxes will be handed out before we leave for Huangyaguan at 3:30am. The race starts at 7:30am.

Sandwich lunches will be provided for everyone at the race site.

Busses will be ready to take runners back to Beijing between 12 and 4:30pm. A 15-minute massage on site is included after the race.

Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Day 6: 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 Market or fill your senses with the sights and sounds of Beijing.

If you want to make the most out of your visit to Beijing you can join today's excursion and see the giant panda and the Summer Palace on the City of People tour.

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 5 - City of People

- Tour begins from one of the GWM official hotels at around 8:30 am, the 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

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• Lunch

This excursion will take us to the Beijing Zoo to see the endangered giant panda. We will continue to the Summer Palace in the outskirts of Beijing.

Our day will begin with a visit to the Beijing Zoo to see giant pandas. The giant panda is an endangered species and its population is small and vulnerable. Despite being a protected species, habitat destruction and poaching continue to pose a threat to the species. After the visit to the zoo, we'll head to the Summer Palace, just outside of Beijing.

The Summer Palace was built several hundred years ago during the Jin Dynasty but has been renovated on numerous occasions since then. In 1860, it was plundered during the Second Opium War but in 1888, the notorious Empress Dowager Cixi rebuilt it using money intended for the Navy and turned it into an opulent summer retreat for the imperial family.

After the Summer Palace, we will visit a pearl exhibition hall. On the way back to the city, we'll make a photo stop outside the Olympic Village, where we'll be able to see the Bird's Nest National Stadium and Water Cube National Aquatics Centre. Lunch is included.

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. Shuttle 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 7: 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.

7-day Itinerary - 11 May to 17 May 2021

All prices per person

Hotel rating	Shared double/twin	Single room supplement
Comfort, Central	1560 USD	+390 USD
Comfort, Downtown	1980 USD	+500 USD
Deluxe, Downtown	2310 USD	+730 USD

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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:

- 6-nights accommodation, including service charge and taxes
- Transfer from airport to hotel
- 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

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

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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

Arrival transfers from the airport to the hotel will be available on 11 May 2021. Busses leave the airport in 30-45 minute intervals.

The Great Wall Marathon representatives in the arrivals hall will show you to the bus. Please be advised that there may be a waiting time of up to an hour at the airport.

To organize your pick up please email us your flight details.

Departure transfers are not included in the package and can be booked separately. The optional departure transfer only goes to Beijing Capital Airport or Beijing Daxing Airport.

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.