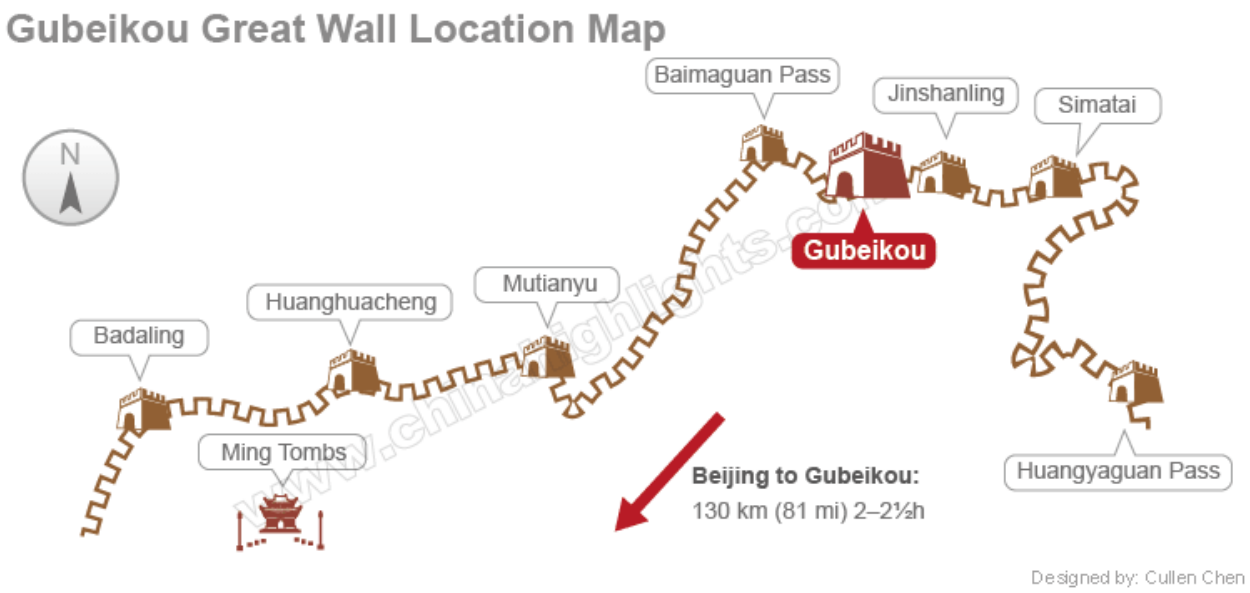
Great Wall Hiking Tour

2026

No Extrodinary Experience is Obtained Ordinarilly!

This was the wall that defended the Chinese Empire. It protected a proud people, took years to build and cost the lives of hundreds in its construction. ***Great Wall walking is truly the best way to appreciate such a colossal feat of engineering****; by trekking its sections, the story of the Great Wall of China comes alive! Great Wall hiking will reveal that many sections are maintained to the highest standards.* ***Pictures, while intriguing, can never do such a site justice.*** *The wall passes over mountains. Its towers perch precariously atop rugged ridges, which when climbed will see the fittest person on your Great Wall trekking trip draw breath.*

Unlike other Great Walls, ***Simatai Great Wall*** *is best-known in worldwide for four features attracting visitors: Primitiveness, Challenging Experience, Breath-taking Sceneries,and Various Structures of Towers.*



Hiking Guide

Responbile Travel

Responsible Travel is about providing and having a more rewarding and fulfilling holiday. It's about being culturally sensitive and minimizing negative impacts on the environment. It's about getting involved with the local people – ensuring that your tourist dollar benefits the community and that the local people are involved in decisions that affect their lives. It's about helping to conserve the world's wild places. It's about sustainability and "giving something back". By traveling "responsibly", you'll be making a positive contribution to the host communities and environments you visit, and ensuring that future travelers will enjoy the same privilege.

Physical Ratings

Though physical fitness is an important part of our activities, ***you do not need to be an athletes or marathon runner to enjoy the hiking on the Great Wall of China.*** *Most people of good fitness for their age can complete our hiking. Hiking on the Great Wall is walking holiday at your own pace enjoying the Great Wall vista and cultural contrast to it's fullest. Most first-time hikers are concerned that they won't keep up, but soon discover that a steady pace will have them in destination well before they would have expected.* ***These hikes are not running competition but walking holidays for people of all ages.*** *However, the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy it.*

Our adventures are planned with ***reasonably paced itineraries, incredible attention to detail, and the right mix of fun, learning, and physical challenge*** *that ensures a memorable trip. Whether*

you're doing a day hike or multi-day hike, you will find our adventures both physically active and culturally rewarding.

Great Wall Hiking FAQ

Which sections of the Great Wall can I do hiking?
There are several sections around Beijing you can do hiking, namely Jinshanling (currently closed for renovation until Nov.2017), Simatai, Gubeikou, Mutianyu, Jiankou and Huangyaguan. The most popular one is from Jinshanling to Simatai which will take 4 hours hiking on the wall, and is recommended by National Geographic Adventure Magazine.

What's the weather like on Great Wall?
It's meaningless to say the exact weather on the wall. There are different sections of the wall far away from Beijing, and it ***depends on which section you are going to do****. Generally speaking* ***spring and autumn are comfortable****. In summer rain and wind can occur on the wall at any time, because you are walking along high ridges, you are exposed to the elements.* ***Please check the weather report three days before your departure.***

What to take when hiking the Great Wall?
Comfortable shoes or boots, water, snacks, sunscreen, sun-glasses, stick, pocket knife, first aid kit, lip balm, cap.

How can I have meals when hiking Great Wall?
There are ***no facility on the path of the Great Wall, nor restaurants****. At the entrance of each section, there are a few* ***farmer's restaurants*** *offering local Chinese food. Alternatively, simple sandwich package (including sandwich, water, and fruit) can also be prepared for hikers. If you do a day-hiking and not stay overnight near the wall, you can prepare some snacks at the supermarkets before departure from Beijing.*

Program Sheet

Tour Name	Great Wall Hiking Trip
Tour Code	TBA
Day/Duration	2026 Best Time: June/September/October
Number and Type of Room	TBA

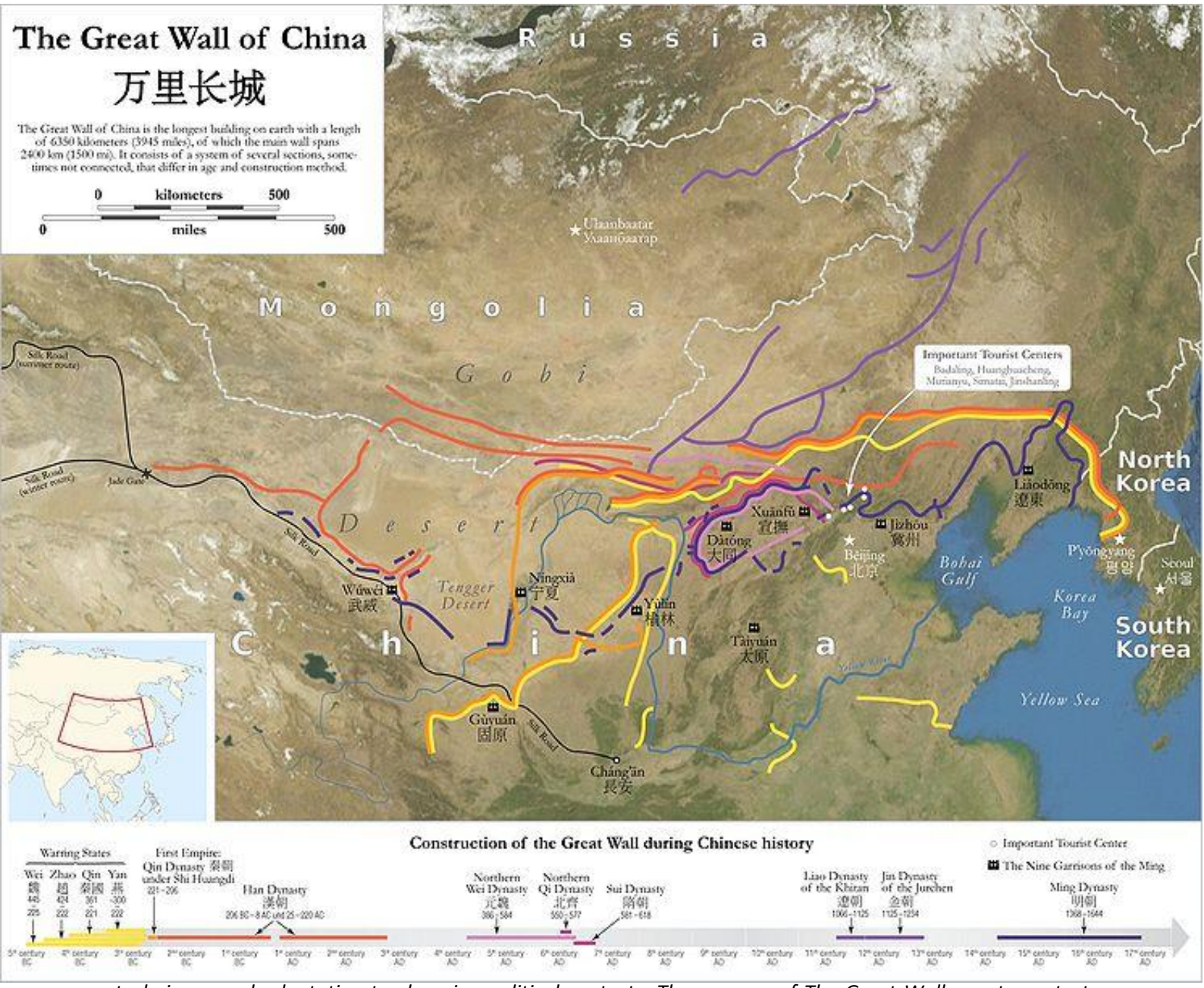
Day	City	Program	Meal	Hotel
1	Beijing	Arrive in Beijing, guests will be met from the airport by our English Speaking guide and transferred to Beijing.Transfer to hotel for check in. Enjoy the welcome **dinner**.	D	Qianmen Jianguo Hotel
2	Beijing	After the breakfast, embark on the journey to **the Tiananmen square** and then have the tour in **the Forbidden City.** Enjoy the **lunch** at local restaurant. In the afternoon, visit **the Heaven Temple.** Then transfer to have a rest at the hotel then enjoy the **dinner** at local restaurant.	B/L/D	Qianmen Jianguo Hotel
3	Beijing Chengde	After breakfast, bid farewell to your Beijing hotel and board a comfortable coach bound for Chengde (220 km, 3-hour scenic drive). Arrive before noon, check in, and enjoy a leisurely **lunch**. The afternoon is devoted to **the Mountain Resort**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and 5A-rated summer retreat where Qing emperors once escaped the capital's heat—stroll among lakes, palaces, and gardens framed by cypress-clad hills. **Dinner** at a local restaurant, then return to the hotel for a restful night.	B/L/D	Chengde Lan Horizon Hotel
4	Chengde	Full-day adventure in **Xinglong Mountain Scenic Area**. After breakfast, wind up forested roads to dramatic cliff walks, glass-bottom skywalks, and panoramic lookouts. **A simple lunch** is served inside the park. Descend in the late afternoon for another convivial dinner in town before heading back to your hotel.	B/L/D	Chengde Lan Horizon Hotel
5	Chengde	Post-breakfast, ride the cable car up **Qingchui Peak**, then hike gently along ridgelines carpeted with wildflowers. Glide down the rope-way and continue to **Pule Temple**, its tantric mandalas glowing in morning light. **Lunch** at a nearby restaurant, followed by a siesta at the hotel. In the afternoon, delve into Chengde Museum's imperial relics and try your hand	B/L/D	Chengde Lan Horizon Hotel

		at intangible-heritage paper-cutting with a local master. After **dinner**, take your seat for the open-air spectacle "**Kangxi Ceremony**"—a dazzling pageant of music, horsemanship, and laser effects that brings Qing history to life beneath the stars.		
6	Chengde Beijing	Check out after breakfast and set off for **Jinshanling Great Wall** (90 km, 75 minutes), famed for its unrestored battlements and "ten-mile gallery" of watchtowers. Walk the crenellated path as it snakes across misty ridges, then lunch inside the scenic area. Continue to **Gubei Water Town** (22 km, 30 minutes), a canal-laced replica of Jiangnan elegance set against the Great Wall's silhouette—lanterns flicker on stone bridges and boutique shops tempt with local crafts.	B/L/D	Watertown Hotel
7	Beijing	Rise early for a private ascent of **Simatai Great Wall,** A hearty **lunch** restores energy before the return drive to Beijing. Celebrate your journey with a quintessential Peking-duck feast crispy skin wrapped in thin pancakes, sweet bean sauce, and slivers of spring onion. Check in hotel for a good rest	B/L/D	Qianmen Jianguo Hotel
8		3 hours before departure time arrive in airport. Take the flight back to home **End of service**	B	

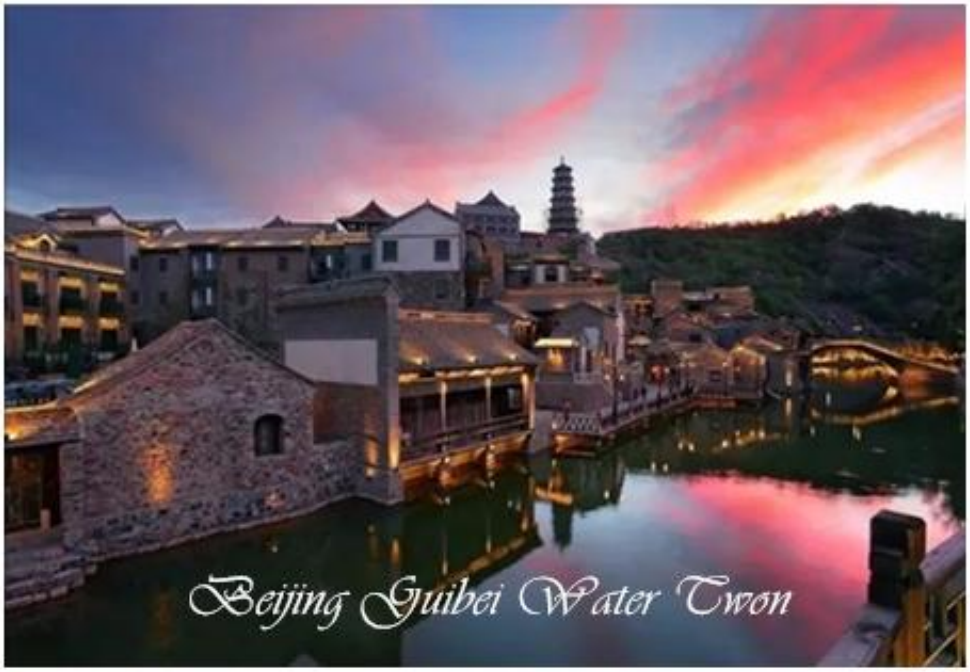
B= Breakfast L= Lunch D=Dinner

Supplier Cost	Package Cost(with twin shared accommodation) June; September-October (except for Dragon Boat Festival & National day holiday）
	Single supplement
Cost includes	1. English Map of Beijing/China 2. Complimentary birthday cake and birthday card for the guest who has birthday while traveling in China 3. Service of professional English-speaking guide for Great Wall Tours 4. One Luxurious tourist bus with professional drivers in Beijing 5. Meals as specified on itinerary 6. Escorted sightseeing; Attractions and Cultural Shows Admissions as specified on itinerary 7. Ground transportation including arrival/departure transfers as specified on itinerary 8. Hotel accommodations with breakfast daily for the trip except the arrival day 9. Two bottles of water per client per day
Cost excludes	1. International airfare to/from China, visa-processing fees, travels insurance. 2. Personal expenses such as alcoholic beverages, excess luggage fees, telephone charges, room service and laundry charges 3. Gratitude to the guides, drivers and porters in China
Notice	1. No hotels have been reserved. Hotels and tickets will be reserved upon your confirmation. 2. Train/flight schedule are for reference only. If the specified fights are not available, we will reserve the flights with same standard 3. **Health requirements**-Clients should take into account all international travel risks and familiarize themselves with health requirements applicable to the areas they intend to visit. The client is solely responsible for checking the safety and security conditions, vaccination, and other health requirements of governments in countries visited or transited. Travelers to Tibet are required to provide a doctor's certificate stating that the he/she is fit to travel and his/her blood pressure and heart condition are normal. This is a necessary requirement because of the possible effect that the very high altitude may have on certain people. 4. **Luggage allowance**-In accordance with regulations of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China, the free baggage allowance within China is **20kg** for the economy class, **30kg** for the business class, and **40kg** for the first class, plus limited carry-on luggage. Excess baggage charges are the sole responsibility of the client. Regulations within China specify that all suitcases must have a locking device attached. Failure to follow this regulation may result in refusal by airport staff to load suitcases onto the aircraft.

Water Town Hotel
www.wtowm.com



techniques and adaptation to changing political contexts. The purpose of The Great Wall was to protect China from outside aggression, but also to preserve its culture from the customs of foreign barbarians. Because its construction implied suffering, it is one of the essential references in Chinese literature. Great Wall carries a considerable part of Chinese culture. It has long been incorporated into Chinese mythology and symbolism. The most well-known legend is about the collapse of a section of the Wall caused by Meng Jiangnu, who cried bitterly over the death of her husband after he died while building the wall. This legend has been spread widely through textbooks, folk songs and traditional operas.


Beijing Guibei Water Twon

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Guibei Water Town (W Town)

Gubei Water Town (古北水镇）is officially known as Beijing Miyun Gubei Water Town (Simatai) International Tourism Resort (北京密云·古北水镇（司马台长城）国际旅游度假区).

The Gubei Water Town holiday resort takes an area of 9 square km and the scenic area of the water town resort occupies an area of 0.43 million square meters that is composed of Ming, Qing and Republic era style courtyards, two 5 star hotels, 6 boutique hotels, 400 B&B, restaurants and shops, as well as over 10 cultural exhibition areas with good facilities. It is not a historical water town, it is a replica of Wuzhen Water Town in the Southern China.

In Beijing WTown, the tourists can not only visit the best preserved Simatai Great Wall but experience the local unique folk customs at the foot of Great Wall, i.e. living in the farmhouse; roaming the prosperous North Region Shopping Street; tasting barbeque and other typical cuisine and snacks in North China; visiting Yongshun Dye House, Zhenyuan Escort Agency, Sima Liquor, Eight-Banner Chamber and many other scenic spots of the Ancient Town. As an open town, it has banks, post offices, markets, supermarkets, drug stores, clinics, express deliveries, bookstores, laundry and other facilities for daily necessities. Meanwhile, it also has a tourist service center with the largest coverage and the most complete facilities in China. This includes; two five-star hotels, six small boutique hotels, 400 northern family inns with the theme of ancient castle with 1,500 rooms in total, capable of meeting different demands of the tourist groups from economical self-service to luxurious high standards.

The 1000-year-old Beijing WTown, with simple and graceful houses row by row, stone-paved old streets and long lanes, shows the ancient town charm of Democratic Republic in North China. Even in such cold winter, you may see her beauty. In the ancient town is a criss-crossing water network. The ancient Tanghe River branch winds through; the ancient buildings and resident dwellings are built by the water. In summer, you may try the wupeng boats on the green waves and listen to the boatmen telling story about the ancient towns.

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古北水镇

Great Wall at Simatai Pass

The Simatai Great Wall is situated in Miyun County, 120 kilometers (74.5 miles) northwest of downtown Beijing. It is largely in its original state, as it has not undergone much renovation like other sections near Beijing. This particular section, built in the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), is 4.5 kilometers (2.8 miles) long, with the Jinshanling Great Wall to the west.

The wall is characterized by its steepness, the closeness of its watchtowers and variety in its structure. The wall follows the topmost ridge of the mountain, or the precipices and cliffs, sections of the Heavenly Stairway and the Heavenly Bridge being unimaginably breath-taking. The narrow Heavenly Stairway has no parapet and reaches an angle of 85 degrees, while the Heavenly Bridge is only 30 centimeters (12 inches) wide at the top. As safety comes first, visitors are not permitted to climb on them.

The watchtowers are particularly closely distributed on this section of the wall. By the normal standard of building the wall, watchtowers would be built every 500 meters (547 yards). In this 4.5-kilometer wall, there are thirty-five watchtowers, with the minimum distance between towers being only 43.8 meters (48 yards). These watchtowers are symbolic and to be marveled at. The well-preserved General Tower is adorned with relief sculptures with designs of Kylin, a legendary auspicious animal in China. Seen from a distance, the fourteenth tower in the east looks like an elegant cat squatting on the top of a hill. The exquisite and complex Fairy Tower hidden among the trees gives an impression of some concealed beauty. The sixteenth tower, at an altitude of 986 meters (3,235 feet) is also known as the Watch Beijing Tower. It is the highest tower in the Simatai section, and commands a spectacular view.

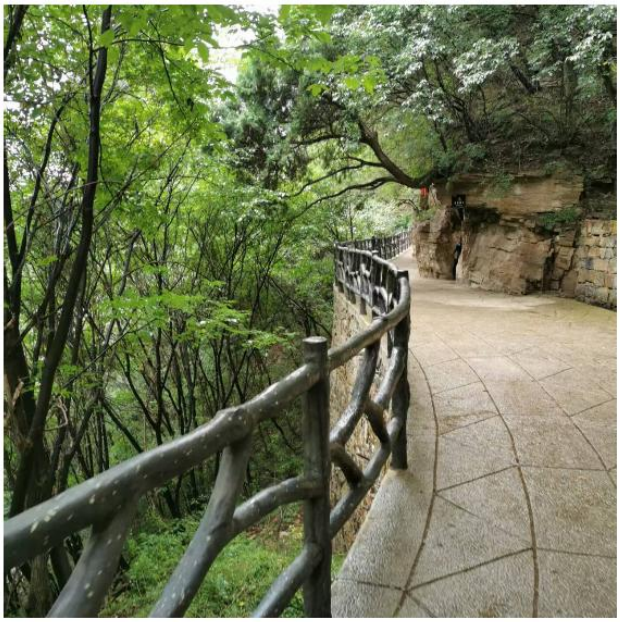
Qingchui Peak

Qingchui Peak – *also affectionately dubbed "Hammer Rock" or "God's Thumb" – rises like a petrified monument above the forests of Chengde, Hebei. Forged over millions of years from weather-worn sandstone and granite, this 38-metre-high spire tapers skyward in perfect symmetry, its rugged flanks softened only by a lone hardy tree that clings to a mid-cliff crevice .*

Approach is part of the adventure. From the parking lot of nearby Pule Temple, a gentle 1.5-hour forest trail winds past moss-covered boulders and the whimsical "Frog Rock" before revealing the full, towering silhouette of the peak. For those who prefer to soar above the canopy, a cable car glides to the upper ridge, offering bird's-eye views of emerald valleys and distant temple roofs.

At the summit, panoramic vistas unfold: the Imperial Mountain Resort's lakes glint like mirrors, while the Eight Outer Temples dot the horizon in a stately procession of golden roofs. Locals liken the rock to a celestial blacksmith's hammer left behind after forging weapons for the gods—a legend that adds mythic resonance to every snapshot .

Whether you hike at dawn, when mist swirls around the base, or ride the cable car at sunset, when the stone glows amber in the fading light, Qingchui Peak delivers a dramatic finale to any Chengde itinerary—nature's own sculpture garden, carved by time and steeped in imperial lore.



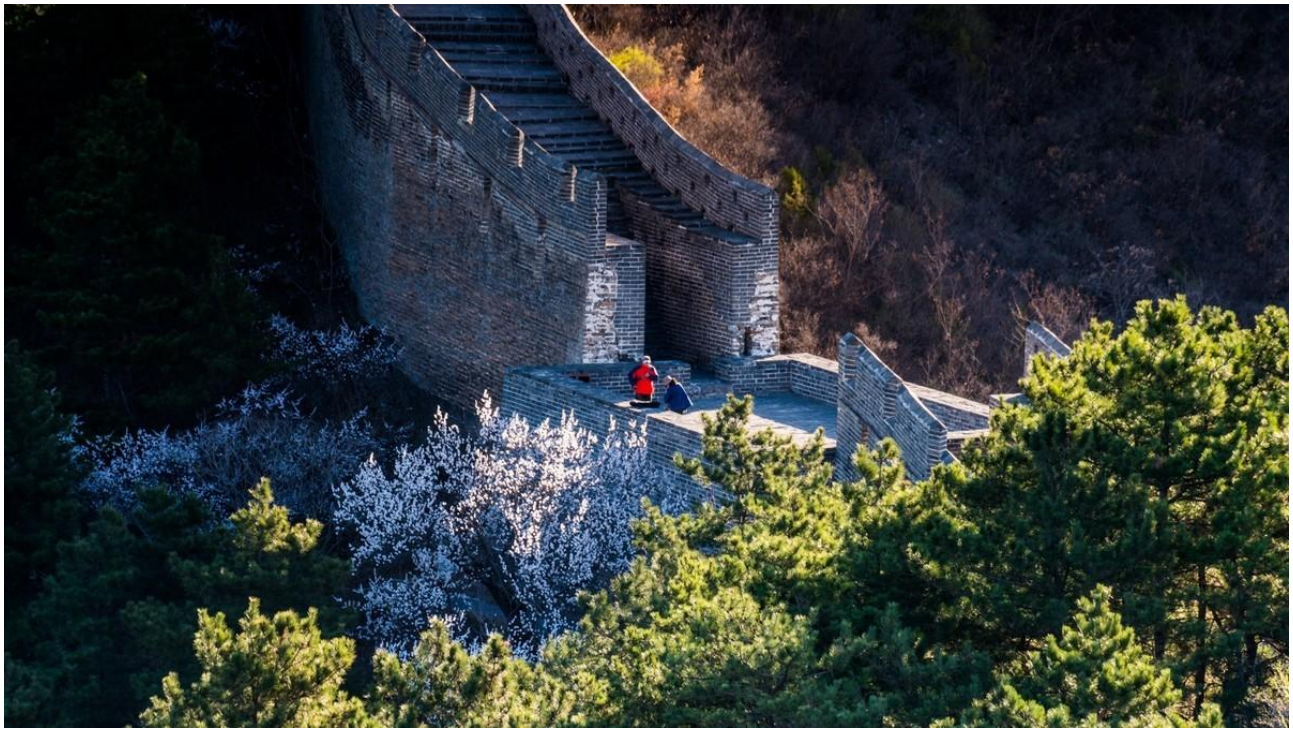
Xinglong Mountain Scenic Area

Xinglong Mountain Scenic Area – Chengde's "Vertical Garden" – thrusts skyward just 20 km south of the imperial summer resort, offering an adrenaline-packed escape into a karst world of sheer cliffs, glass-bottom skywalks and ancient pine groves. At its heart looms the 1,180-metre main ridge, fluted like a colossal organ pipe and sliced by a 400-metre-long suspension bridge that sways 300 metres above a whispering valley floor.

Begin your ascent via Switzerland-imported cable cars: glass-floor cabins glide silently over terraced orchards, then deposit you on Cloud-Top Plateau – a natural stage where sunrise paints the rock face gold and sea-of-clouds spill into distant gorges. From here a network of cliff-hugging boardwalks leads to the park's signature thrills: a 60-metre transparent skywalk that cracks underfoot (optical illusion!), a 150-metre zip-line launching you over a natural stone arch, and the vertigo-inducing "One-Line Sky" – a knife-edge path only 30 cm wide with sheer drops on both sides.

For hikers, a 3-km loop trail threads through evergreen forest past hidden waterfalls and 500-year-old Buddhist cliff carvings, emerging at Sky-Gate Terrace where eagles ride thermals at eye level. Descend again by alpine slide, a 1 km stainless-steel chute that spirals through cherry blossoms in spring and fiery maple leaves in autumn.

Whether you come for heart-pounding selfies on glass or quiet communion with wind-sculpted pines, Xinglong Mountain delivers an unforgettable vertical adventure – nature's own theme park, carved by time and tailored for wonder.



Jinshanling Great Wall: Where the Dragon Shows Its Scales

Tucked 130 km northeast of Beijing, Jinshanling is the Great Wall at its most photogenic — a 10.5-km ribbon of stone that snakes across misty ridges like a resting dragon. Built in 1570 under General Qi Jiguang, this stretch preserves 67 watchtowers, 2 beacon towers and 3 citadels, all untouched by modern restoration, their brickwork scarred by centuries of wind, war and weather.

Dawn here is cinematic. As sunrise spills over the Yan Mountains, orange light ignites the battlements while clouds pool in the valleys below, turning the wall into a bridge between earth and sky. Photographers gather at towers like Wuying (Five Heroes) and Xiaojinshan for 360-degree vistas that frame both crenellated horizons and wild apricot trees clinging to cliffs.

Hikers can choose their own adventure. A gentle 2-hour eastward walk from Zhuandoukou Pass to Wuying Tower rewards beginners with postcard-perfect turrets and easy gradients. For the fit, the full 5-hour traverse west to Simatai crosses knife-edge ridges, 45-degree staircases and the vertigo-inducing Heavenly Ladder — a near-vertical ascent that leaves you breathless in every sense.

History whispers through missing merlons and smoke-blackened walls; bullet holes from 1930s skirmishes still pock-mark Tower 24. Yet nature softens the story — purple thyme blooms between bricks, swifts nest in arrow loops and, in autumn, the entire ridge glows crimson with maple leaves.

Whether you come for sunrise lens-flare, a sweat-inducing trek, or simply to stand where sentries once watched the horizon, Jinshanling delivers the Great Wall in its purest form — wild, windswept and wonderfully alive.