



President Select Pre Cruise Package Beijing Overland 2020

Welcome aboard!

Cruise Connections is excited and proud to present our "**President's Select Overland Package**" for your upcoming Shanghai – Tokyo cruise in March 2020 for Beijing.

As the distance to get from the port city of Tianjin to Beijing or the Great Wall is approximately 4 hours each way, we have put together a 2 night / 3 day comprehensive package to take in all of the sites of Beijing and help eliminate the long transfer times by motorcoach and maximize on your time in Beijing.

For our '*Hosted*' Overland Package, we are featuring a 2 night package for the best of Beijing including 2 nights in Beijing at the Sofitel Beijing Central Hotel. This package offers a number of Cruise Connections exclusives including:

- 2 nights in Beijing
- full day tour of Beijing including the Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven
- Full day tour to the Great Wall of China
- Tour of The Summer Palace and dim sum lunch
- Transfers
- Basic Gratuities
- all meals where stated with limited beverages

Please take a moment to review the President's Select Overland Package below and see what fun and exciting adventures await you!

CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR EXCITING OVERLAND PACKAGE:

1-888-523-3732

Bon Voyage!
Your Cruise Connections Team

Please note the following important information:

- **Overland Package must be booked prior to November 2, 2019**
- **Overland Package is non-refundable after finalizing your reservation**
- **For this cruise, your passport must be valid for six months after the date you return home. Visa for China is required.**



Beijing (2 nights)

\$999 CAD per person

Taxes/Gratuities \$99 per person

April 1 - 3, 2020

Beijing

April 1, 2020

Breakfast (onboard), Lunch, Dinner

- Tian'anmen Square
- Forbidden City
- Temple of Heaven
- Summer Palace (if time permits)
- Lunch with local beverages
- dinner with local beverages
- overnight at the Sofitel Beijing Central

This morning after an early breakfast onboard, you will meet for your three day / two night Beijing overland tour.

After departing from the Celebrity Millennium, you will go by motorcoach into Beijing for your tour of some of the historic sites starting with a visit to Tian'anmen Square.

Tiananmen Square (literally "Square of the Gate of Heavenly Peace") is one of the largest public squares in the world. It lies at the center of Beijing's historical north-south axis that runs through the Temple of Heaven and the Forbidden City. The square is in front of the Forbidden City and has a number of sights of its own, including the Monument to the People's Heroes, the Great Hall of the People, the National Museum of China, and the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong. The historical, cultural, and political significance of the square makes it a must-visit sight in Beijing.

Following your visit to Tian'anment Square you will visit the Forbidden City with its most outstanding feature being that it is the largest Imperial Palace in the World!

Ringed by 3.5km of scarlet citadel walls at the very heart of Běijīng, the Unesco-listed Forbidden City is China's largest and best-preserved collection of ancient buildings, and the largest palace complex in the world. Steeped in stultifying ritual and Byzantine regal protocol, this other-worldly palace was the reclusive home to two dynasties of imperial rule, sharing 900-plus buildings with a retinue of eunuchs, servants and concubines, until the Republic overthrew the last Qing emperor in 1911.





'Forbidden City' is an approximation of the Chinese 紫禁城 (Zǐjìn Chéng), a poetic moniker that also references the colour purple and the cosmically significant North Star, the 'celestial seat' of the emperor. But officially, it's called the Palace Museum (故宫博物院; Gùgōng Bówùguǎn), a public institution established in 1925 after Puyi, the last emperor, was evicted from the Inner Court. Most Chinese people simply call it Gù Gōng (故宫; Ancient Palace).

10 Numbers to Describe the Forbidden City

1. The Forbidden City took **14 years** to build (from 1406 to 1420).
2. It was built by over **1,000,000 workers**, including more than 100,000 craftsmen.
3. It was the imperial palace of China for **492 years** (1420–1912).
4. It was the home of **24 emperors** — 14 of the Ming dynasty and 10 of the Qing dynasty
5. It covers **0.72 sq km** (0.28 sq mi), of which 15 hectares (38 acres) are floor area.
6. It has **980 buildings** in over 70 palace compounds, with over 8,700 rooms.
7. It is **961 meters long** from south to north and 753 meters wide.
8. It is surrounded by a **10-meter-high wall**, which is 3.4 km (2 miles) long.
9. It has a **52-meter wide moat** round it.
10. It hosts **14 million visitors** per year, a maximum of 80,000 visitors per day.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant before we continue our exploration of Beijing at the Unesco World Heritage site - the Temple of Heaven – an Imperial Sacrificial Altar.

The Temple of Heaven, founded in the first half of the 15th century, is a dignified complex of fine cult buildings set in gardens and surrounded by historic pine woods. In its overall layout and that of its individual buildings, it symbolizes the relationship between earth and heaven – the human world and God's world – which stands at the heart of Chinese cosmogony, and also the special role played by the emperors within that relationship.

The Temple of Heaven was **the most important of Beijing's imperial temples**. It was where emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties (from 1420 to 1900) worshiped the god of heaven and prayed for good harvests. It has been described as "a masterpiece of architecture and landscape design".



Following a full day of touring Beijing, you will be dropped off at the Sofitel Beijing Central to check in and relax before meeting for dinner.



Beijing
April 2, 2020
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning after breakfast at the hotel, you will depart for the Great Wall of China.

- Mutianyu Great Wall with Cable Car access
- Lunch at a local restaurant
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- overnight at the Sofitel Beijing Central

After departing the hotel, you will drive to the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall of China. Upon arrival at Mutianyu, you will get on the cable car to go up to Watchtower No. 14 where you can explore the wall.

The Great Wall at Mutianyu is one of the best-preserved sections of the Wall close to Beijing. Being a scenic section but with fewer tourists than Badaling, Mutianyu Great wall is an ideal introduction to this ancient wonder and especially favored by foreign travelers.



After exploring the Great Wall, you will go to a local restaurant for lunch before heading back to Tianjin and the Azamara Quest.

Basic Facts of Mutianyu Great Wall

- ▶ It has a total length of 3.4 miles (5,400 meters).
- ▶ It was first built in Northern Qi Dynasty (550-557). In the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Tan Lun and Qi Jiguang, two famous patriotic generals, rebuilt it in order to strengthen its defensive potential when they guarded the strategic pass. It served as the northern protective screen, guarding the capital and imperial mausoleums for generations.
- ▶ It is mainly made of slabs of granite. It measures 23 feet (7 meters) to 26 feet (8 meters) in height, and 4 yards (4 meters) to 5 yards (5 meters) in width.



- ▶ Both sides of the Great Wall have parapets to defend against enemies. Some parapets are saw-tooth shaped instead of the regular rectangular form. Below the parapets, there are square embrasures, the top of which are designed in an arc structure, different from the traditional round embrasures.
- ▶ There are 23 watchtowers distributed at close intervals along the wall. They are located not only in the main wall but also at the distinctive "branch city". Branch cities are built on the hill ridge against the inner or outer side of the wall. For example, No. 11 Watchtower can be found on the branch wall.
- ▶ Zhengguan Terrace (No. 6 Watchtower) is 44 yards (40 meters) long, 33 yards (30 meters) wide, and 66 feet (20 meters) high. The gate is not designed in the middle, but is on the eastern side. The two-storey terrace is comprised of three hollow watchtowers, a large one in the middle and two smaller ones on two sides. It has many rooms to store grain and station troops.
- ▶ Big Corner Tower (No. 1 Watchtower) is connected with Mutianyu in the west, with Gubeikou in the east, and with a branch city wall in the south. The tower looks like a corner from each angle, so it is called Big Corner Tower.



Dinner will be at a local restaurant.



Beijing – Tianjin
April 3, 2020
Breakfast, Dim Sum lunch

After breakfast at the hotel, you will checkout and begin your visit of the Summer Palace.

The Summer Palace is the largest and best-preserved Royal Palace and is also called 'Yi He Yuan', literally meaning the 'Garden of Restful Peace' in Chinese and one of the most visited scenic spots in China. This ancient Royal Garden is beautifully composed of palaces, temples, gardens, pavilions, lakes and corridors full radiating the natural beauty and grandeur of Imperial Gardens.

A Summer Retreat for Imperial Families

The Summer Palace's landscaped gardens, temples, and pavilions were designed to achieve harmony with nature, to soothe, and to please the eye. So the Chinese name 'Nourishing Peace Garden' is apt.

During the hot Beijing summers, the imperial family preferred the beautiful gardens and airy pavilions of the Summer Palace to the walled-in Forbidden City. **Dowager Empress Cixi** took up permanent residence there for a time, giving rise to some wonderful tales of extravagance and excess.



What Makes the Summer Palace Outstanding

The Summer Palace was listed as World Heritage in 1998. UNESCO reported that the Summer Palace is "a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design". It harmonizes plants and paths, water and land, architecture and horticulture, epitomizing the philosophy and practice of Chinese garden design, which played a key role in the development of this cultural form throughout the East. It is a potent symbol of one of the world's major civilizations.

The History of the Summer Palace

- In 1750, Emperor Qianglong, fourth emperor of the Qing Dynasty, commissioned the first Summer Palace, named Qingyi Yuan or 'the Garden of Clear Ripples'.
- In 1860, it was destroyed by the Anglo-French Allied Forces and rebuilt in 1886.
- In 1888, the Summer Palace was given its present-day Chinese name, Yihe Yuan, and served as a summer resort for the Empress Dowager Cixi.
- In 1900, it was destroyed by the Allied Forces of the Eight Powers.
- In 1912, it was rebuilt as one of the final acts of the Qing Dynasty (1644–1912).
- In 1924, it was opened to the public as a tourist attraction.
- In 1998, UNESCO included the Summer Palace on its World Heritage List.

Following the Summer Palace visit, there will be free time for shopping (time permitting) and a dim sum lunch before heading back to the Celebrity Millennium in Tianjin.

**Inclusions:**

- Accommodation based on double occupancy at:
Sofitel Beijing Central Hotel <https://sofitel.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-B628-sofitel-beijing-central/index.shtml>
- All Sightseeing tours by air conditioned coach
- Entrance fees to all the monuments including all activities as mentioned
- Meals where stated with limited local beverages.
- Basic Gratuities
- Difficulty level: Moderate
- English speaking guide
- Transfers and taxes included

****PLEASE NOTE:** The itinerary, hotels and tours are subject to change. In the case the travel dates coincide with religious holidays and national celebrations, some monuments and sites may be closed without prior notice or due to other unforeseen circumstances including weather conditions. The order of the tour may be changed without notice. Visa for China is required for this trip

