



Day 1: Fly to China

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Beijing.

Day 2: Beijing

Arrive in Beijing: Welcome to Beijing, capital city of China. It was here that Chairman Mao established the People's Republic of China in 1949. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

Day 3: Beijing

EF International Language School orientation: Meet students from around the world at EF's International Language School (ILS) in Beijing. Today, you'll take an orientation tour of your ILS campus, go over your program syllabus and get acquainted with your fellow classmates.

ILS placement test: Take a test to gauge your familiarity with Mandarin. Students are grouped by proficiency level for the remainder of the language program. Whether you're a beginner or nearly fluent, all levels are welcome.

Sightseeing tour of Beijing: An expert local guide will introduce you to Beijing, a treasure chest of imperial monuments. Admire the ancient Tiantan, (Temple of Heaven Park), a huge outdoor complex adorned with relics from the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In the early morning, locals gather together to practice martial arts by the old cypress trees.

Forbidden City: Cross a moat and protective wall on your way into the Forbidden City, whose grandeur was once accessible only to the emperor. Venture inside and get up-close to the palatial, golden-roofed Imperial Palace.

Tiananmen Square: Stand in Tiananmen Square, the world's largest public square and a site of frequent political protests. Many images of the 1989 protests, which led to the death of hundreds of Chinese citizens, still hold a somber place in popular consciousness. Today, Tiananmen Square remains a place of international cultural significance.

Day 4: Beijing

ILS Language Program: Improve your ability to read, write and converse in Mandarin. Certified instructors work with students from around the world to practice grammar and speaking skills through teacher-led reading and written exercises, as well as group conversations.

Summer Palace: Explore the tiered pagodas on the magical garden grounds of the Summer Palace. The waters of Kunming Lake cover the majority of the ground of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll cross the lake on your dragon boat ride (seasonal) and see man-made Longevity Hill rise up off the waters.

Days 5-7: Beijing

ILS Language Programs: Continue your daytime Mandarin lessons and build up your language confidence.

Free time in Beijing: After your language program, you're free to explore Beijing however you'd like. Not sure where to begin? Check out our lists of ILS-offered after-school activities and free time suggestions below.

Day 8: Badaling | Beijing

Great Wall of China: No trip to Beijing would be complete without a walk along the Great Wall of China, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. You'll travel to Badaling for your chance to stand upon this man-made marvel. Construction began in the third century B.C. to defend the Chinese Empire against the invading Mongols, and 300,000 people (many of whom are buried in the wall) labored on it for several centuries. The Great Wall extends over an impressive swath of the continent, cutting across mountains and valleys for more than 3,000 miles—perhaps only a tenth of its former length.

Peking Duck dinner: Share a regional specialty with your tour group at a delicious Peking Duck dinner, complete with traditional side dishes.

Day 9: Depart for home

Activities offered by ILS:

- Night markets
- Puppet show
- Oriental Plaza
- Beijing's Wildlife Park
- Paddleboat in Beihai Park
- Wangfujing market street
- Palace Museum ("Purple Forbidden City")

Free Time Suggestions:

- Beijing Zoo
- Yonghe Lamasery
- Temple of Confucius
- Olympic Sports Center
- The Legend of Kung Fu show
- 798 Dashanzi Modern Art Zone
- Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology