

Beijing History Tour



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

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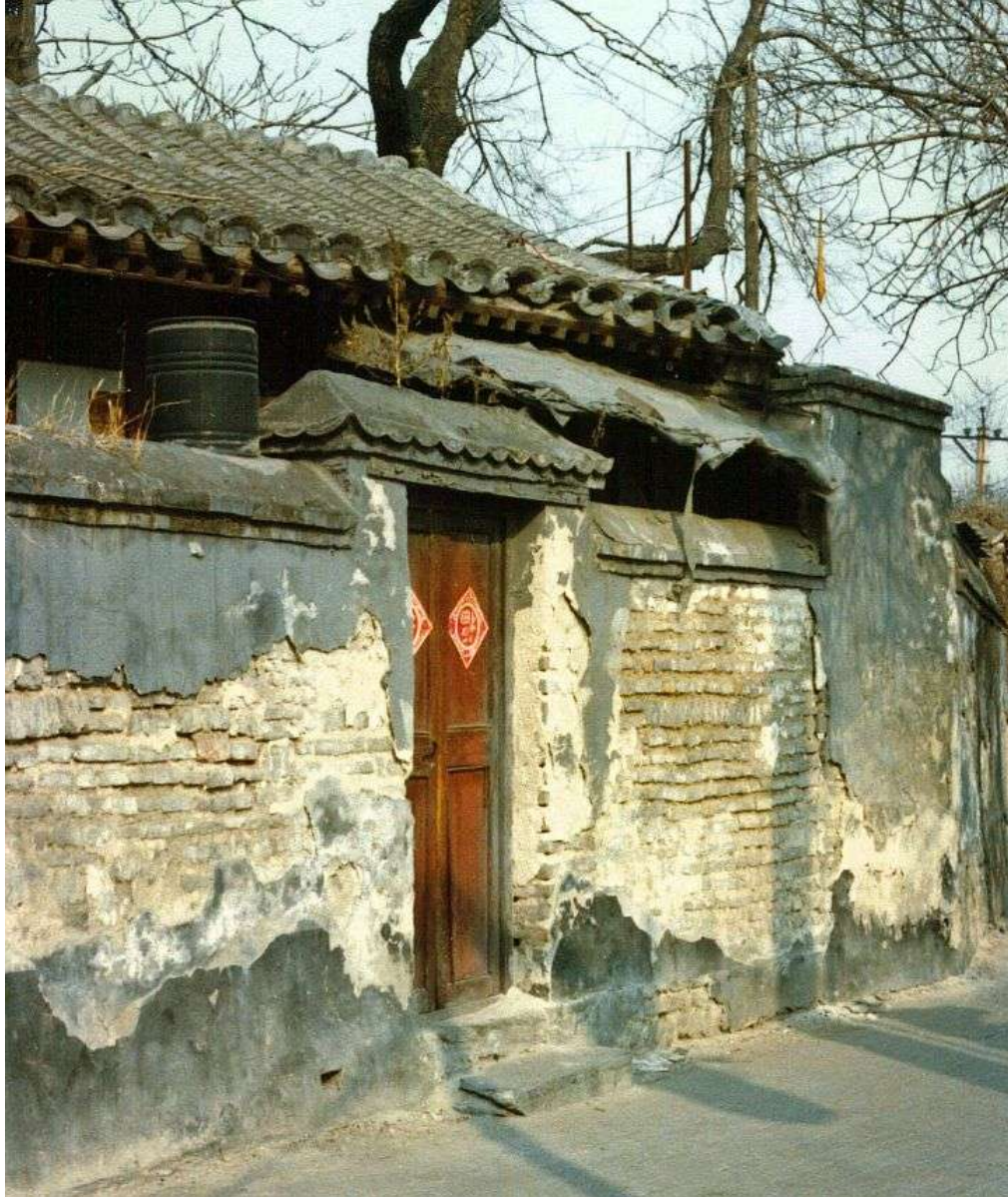
Tour Summary

Entertaining, enlightening, and enchanting are words that best describe this walking tour through Beijing's past. Begin at BeihaiPark, Beijing's most popular park that was founded in the 900s. Besides the historical aspect, it's a veritable variety show on weekends! Watch people practicing ballroom and traditional Chinese dancing, juggling and singing. Next move on to a leisurely stroll through the lakes district, with its endangered hutongs. These ancient housing areas are fast being replaced with modern housing. Finally, spend a relaxing respite at the gracious and stately home of the late Soong Ching Ling. She was known as the "mother of China."

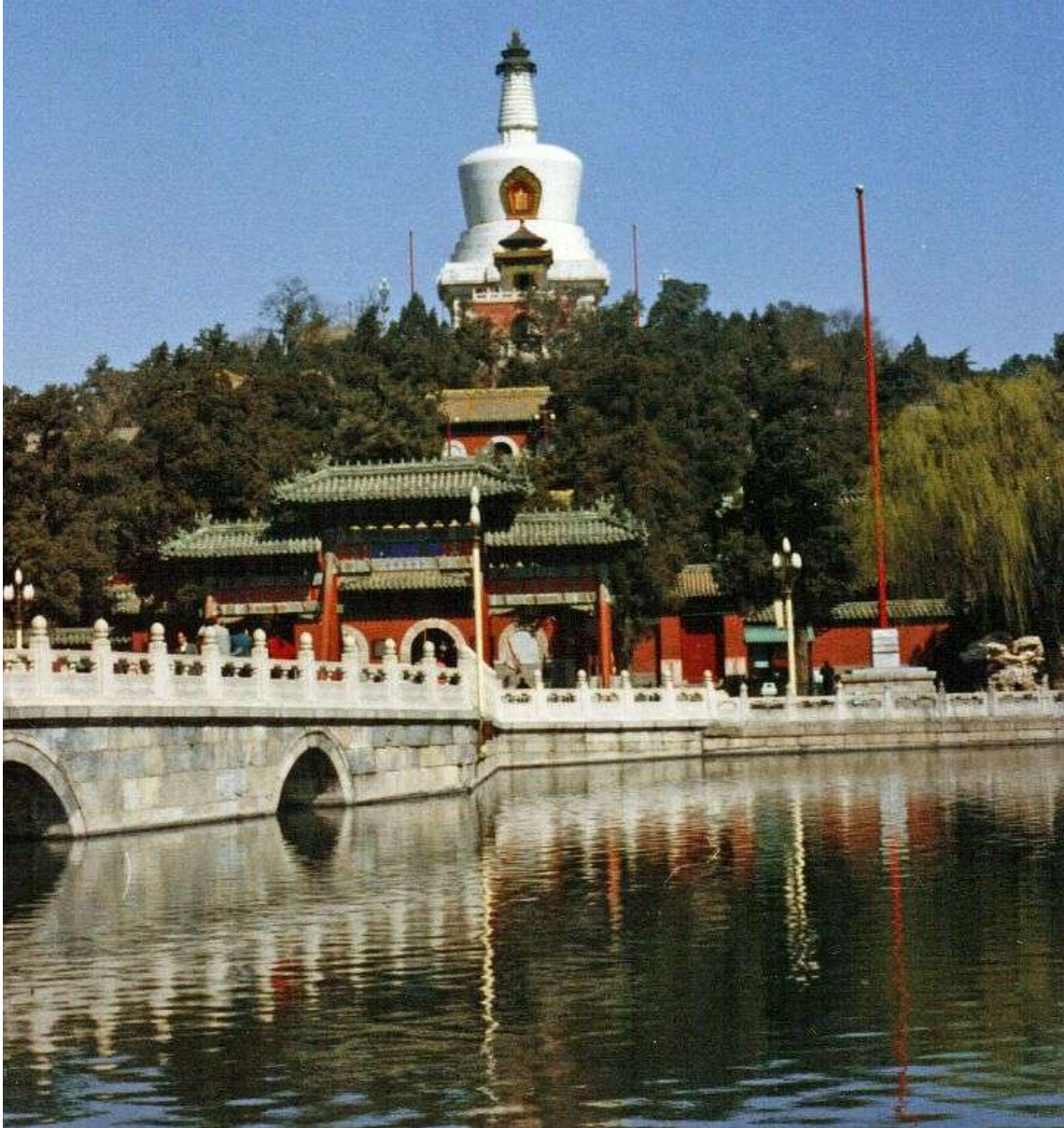
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Introduction





Playful. Disappearing. Gracious. These are words that describe the highlights of this walking tour.



The first stop is Beihai Park, Beijing's most popular park. Enjoy a walk around Beihai Lake, which is punctuated with the White Dagoba Temple. On weekends, especially,

the park is filled with dancing, exercising and performing Chinese. It is truly a variety show.



Next is a leisurely stroll along several lakes. It will take you through hutongs that are disappearing as Beijing rushes to modernize.



The tour ends at the gracious mansion of the late Soong Ching Ling. She was the widow of Sun Yat-Sen, who is commonly

referred to as the father of modern China.
Soong Ching Ling, however, was famous in
her own right.



This walk will take four to six hours, depending on how much time you spend in the park. It can also be done in reverse. The walk is only along the east side of the lakes; the west side is equally interesting if you have the time to make a loop.



Also recommended, time permitting, is walking through the remaining hutongs around the Drum and Bell Towers.



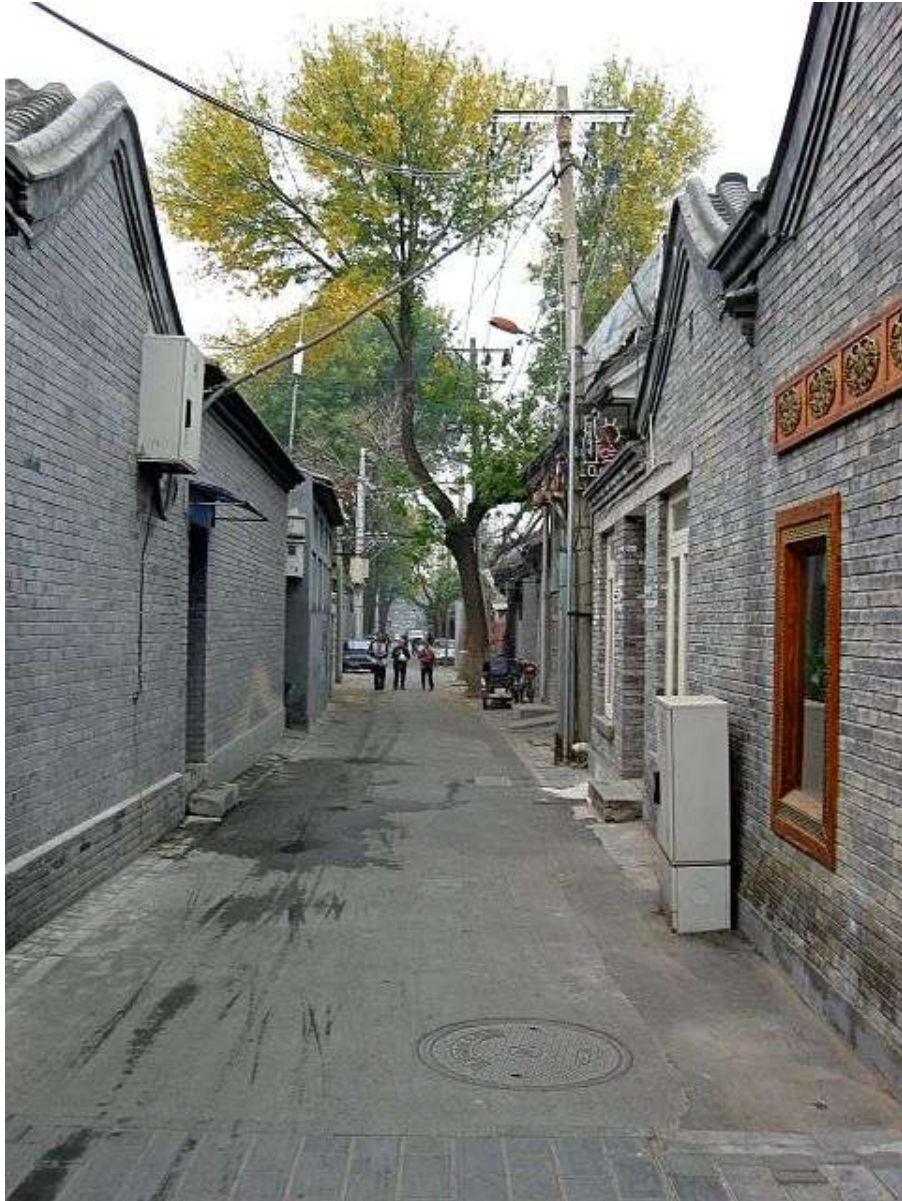
Perhaps you'll run across someone waving colorful fabrics at Behai Park on a Saturday morning.



Look up. Maybe there will be a cat on a tin roof in the hutongs.



Ornately painted woods decorate buildings in parks and stores throughout this area.



Walking is the best way to see the hutongs.



Narrow walkways in hutong housing is made even narrower with the parking of bicycles in the path.



Playful statues can be found in Beihai Park and the lakes area.

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