

Western Beijing Gardens Tour



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

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

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Tour Summary

Hikers--and anyone with a green thumb--will enjoy this tour of western Beijing! It starts at the Summer Palace, one of Beijing's most beautiful parks. UNESCO named it a World Heritage Site because of its impressive gardens. Next up is a gentle stroll through Beijing Botanical Garden, with thousands of plants and a Tropical Conservatory. Finish up with a visit to Sleeping Buddha Temple, with its copper 54-ton statue of a reclining Buddha—the largest in China. The final stop is Fragrant Hills Park. Hike or take the cable car to the top for stunning views of Beijing in the distance.

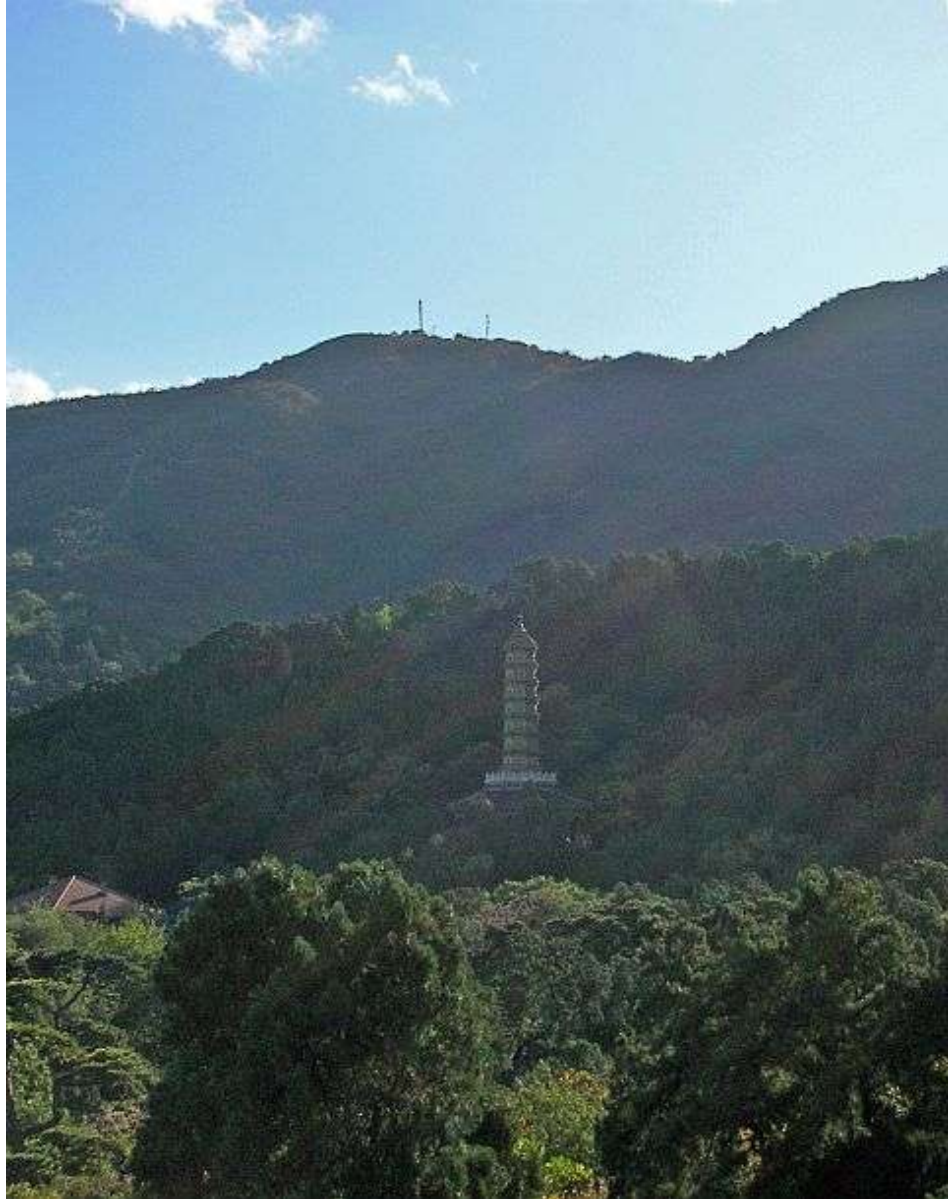
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Introduction





Beijing's great outdoors beckons on this tour in western Beijing. It begins at the Summer Palace, one of the top Beijing must-sees.



It ends with a hike through
Fragrant Hills Park in the mountains west of
Beijing.



In between is a leisurely stroll through Beijing Botanical Gardens to the Sleeping Buddha Temple.



The route can be reversed. With an early start, it's possible to do the three sites in one day, but that is rushing it. Far better to break it up into two days.



Serious hikers may want to pack a picnic lunch and make a day of hiking in the Western Hills on the fringes of Beijing.



Those who prefer leisurely strolls may want to spend the entire day at the Summer Palace. These visitors can begin with a walk around Kunming Lake. They then can

tour the buildings and gardens at the north end after the crowds have had a chance to clear out.



The Summer Palace has some interesting rock gardens.



Beijing Botanical Garden has thousands of plants and shrubs.



Stone bridges cross scenic canals at the Summer Palace.



Fragrant Hills Park glows with brilliant colors in the autumn.



Summer Palace attractions include boat rides on Kunming Lake.



A bronze ox stands guard over Kunming Lake at the Summer Palace.

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