

Summer Palace in Beijing: The Ultimate Guide for an Unforgettable Visit

Beijing, the vibrant capital of China, is home to a treasure trove of architectural marvels and historical landmarks. Among these, the Summer Palace stands out as a captivating oasis, combining breathtaking natural beauty with exquisite imperial gardens and palaces. This comprehensive guide will provide you with everything you need to know to plan an unforgettable visit to this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Summer Palace, known as "Yiheyuan" in Chinese, was originally built as a retreat for the Qing Dynasty emperors in the 18th century. Over the years, it has undergone several expansions and renovations, each reflecting the tastes and preferences of the reigning emperor. The palace complex was severely damaged during the Second Opium War but was later restored to its former glory. Today, the Summer Palace is a symbol of China's rich history and cultural heritage.

The Summer Palace encompasses a vast expanse of 290 hectares, consisting of a harmonious blend of gardens, palaces, and lakes. As you explore this enchanting wonderland, you will be greeted by a feast for the senses:



Summer Palace in Beijing - a travel guide and tour as with the best local guide (Beijing Travel Stories Book 7)

by Wander Stories

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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- **Kunming Lake:** This vast lake, covering over three-quarters of the palace grounds, provides a serene backdrop for the Summer Palace's many structures. Take a leisurely boat ride to appreciate its picturesque shores and numerous islands.
- **Seventeen-Arch Bridge:** Spanning the eastern end of Kunming Lake, this iconic bridge is a masterpiece of Chinese architecture. Adorned with intricate marble carvings and colorful glazed tiles, it offers panoramic views of the lake and surrounding scenery.
- **Long Corridor:** The aptly named Long Corridor stretches for over 700 meters along the northern shore of Kunming Lake. Its walls are adorned with thousands of colorful paintings depicting scenes from Chinese history and mythology.
- **Marble Boat:** This exquisite waterside pavilion is a testament to the ingenuity of Chinese artisans. Constructed entirely from marble, it resembles a miniature boat floating on the edge of Kunming Lake.

- **Garden of Harmonious Interest:** Nestled amidst rolling hills, this secluded garden is a haven of tranquility. Its exquisite pavilions, serene ponds, and towering trees create a serene oasis within the palace grounds.

To fully appreciate the grandeur and history of the Summer Palace, book an exclusive guided tour with a local expert. Our knowledgeable guides will provide you with insider insights, share captivating stories, and help you capture the essence of this imperial masterpiece.

- **Morning Tour:** Embark on an early morning tour to beat the crowds and witness the Summer Palace at its most tranquil.
- **Sunset Tour:** Experience the magical ambiance of the Summer Palace as the sun dips below the horizon, casting a warm glow over its gardens and palaces.
- **Private Tour:** Tailor your visit with a private tour, offering exclusive access to restricted areas and personalized attention from your guide.
- **Best Time to Visit:** Spring and autumn offer the most pleasant weather for exploring the Summer Palace.
- **Getting There:** The Summer Palace is conveniently located in the northwestern suburbs of Beijing. Take Metro Line 4 to Yuanmingyuan Park Station, and then transfer to Bus 330 or 375.
- **Admission Fee:** The standard entrance fee for the Summer Palace is 60 RMB (approx. \$9).

- **Opening Hours:** The Summer Palace is open daily from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.
- **Wear comfortable shoes:** The vast expanse of the Summer Palace requires extensive walking.
- **Bring sunscreen and water:** Stay protected from the sun and keep hydrated during your exploration.
- **Respect the palace grounds:** Avoid touching or climbing on historical structures, and observe designated walking paths.
- **Capture the beauty:** Bring a camera to capture the stunning scenery and architectural marvels of the Summer Palace.
- **Immerse yourself in the culture:** Engage with local visitors, observe traditional performances, and sample authentic Chinese cuisine.

The Summer Palace in Beijing is a breathtaking masterpiece that offers a glimpse into China's imperial past and artistic brilliance. With its vast gardens, exquisite palaces, and serene lake, it provides an unforgettable experience for travelers of all ages. Whether you choose to explore the palace independently or embark on an exclusive guided tour, this comprehensive guide will help you plan a visit that will create lasting memories.

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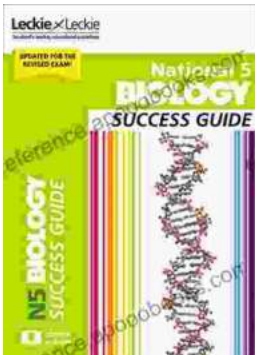


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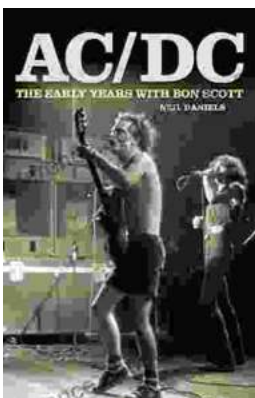
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