

Great Wall Marathon Tour 2016
with Kathy Loper Events
Itinerary Sun 15 May – Thu 02 June (17N)

Sun 15May **Leave your home town on flights you have arranged to Beijing.**

Mon 16May

Arrive Beijing. On arrival, meet-and-greet by our Chinese local hosts and transfer to your hotel:

CAPITAL HOTEL

A fine 4 1/2-star hotel centrally located; only a 10 minute walk from the famous Tiananmen Square.

www.capitalhotel.com.cn/en/introduct/index.htm

Settle in at the hotel and relax this evening from your journey.

Dinner on own.

Tue 17May

B,L

In Beijing.

Get the “kinks” out with an optional early morning guided run, watching the traditional daily flag raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square.

Breakfast at the hotel.

0830 Morning Tour to Temple of Heaven and Silk Factory with lunch

Afternoon at leisure. Start exploring the city on your own for the greatest shopping opportunities you can imagine. Visit the Yashow Market, the Friendship Store, or any of the many other exciting shopping areas. Your US dollar is very strong in China, making everything look like a bargain...

1700 Welcome to China “Happy Hour” at our hotel.

Dinner on own.

Wed 18May

B,L,D

In Beijing. Breakfast at the hotel.

0830 Summer Palace including lunch. Remainder of day at leisure.

Afternoon race bib number distribution.

1715 Acrobatic Show at the famous Chao Yang Theatre followed by Peking Duck

Dinner at Bianyi Fang Roast Duck Restaurant.

Thu 19May
B,L,D

In Beijing. Early morning light breakfast at the hotel.

Every traveler to China wants to climb the Great Wall, and today your dreams come true on this "mandatory" site inspection. Full day trip by motorcoach to the isolated section of the Great Wall of China where the runs will take place on 21May. This visit is mandatory for everyone in order to familiarize yourself with the Great Wall and the run route. You will be walking the actual 4-km, incredibly spectacular section of the Wall which is included on the run. Lunch is included. Return directly to your hotel in the mid-afternoon.

Eve A special, exclusive carbo-loading Pasta Dinner is included this evening for our group at our hotel.

Fri 20May
B,L

In Beijing. Breakfast at the hotel.

0830 Morning Hutong Tour a visit to the Old Beijing section with lunch. Includes a pedicab ride to & from the Hutong Area.

Balance of afternoon at leisure. Treat yourself to a traditional Chinese massage or a foot reflexology, all available at your hotel. Or just take advantage of the hotel's indoor swimming pool (swim cap required!) and the gym.

Dinner on own. Plan to tuck in early!

Sat 21May
RACE DAY!
B,L

In Beijing. Coffee and juices and light breakfast items at the hotel.

THIS IS YOUR DAY!

Very early morning wake-up call for 1hr 45min, 130 km drive by motorcoach (yes, you can sleep on the bus) to "our" piece of the Great Wall at Huangyaguan for THE event, the Great Wall Marathon or Half Marathon or 8.5k, whichever you have chosen. It takes place on a part of the 6,000 km long Great Wall which is not generally visited by tourists.

This is an official international event with chip timing, medals and certificates for all participants. The primary objective is not time, but fun and the experience of having "done" the Great Wall Marathon or Half Marathon or 8.5k.

What a thrill it is - just talk to Kathy Loper or Kurt Bodmer who have done it several times, or to some of the over 1800 people who went with us in the last thirteen years. For the accompanying "spectators", non-runners, lunch will be provided at the Wall and the bus will take them to various places along the village route to cheer on the runners. Perfect for family members of participating runners.

All KLE participants including our spectators will be treated to a special 20-minute cool-down massage at our own “exclusive KLE massage tent” at the finish line. Afternoon bus back to your hotel, feeling exhausted and yet, triumphant! **Dinner on own.**

Sun 22May
B,D

Beijing

Breakfast at the hotel. Sleep in and recover!

No particular plans today, although adventurous souls may wish to explore the city further and do some more shopping. For those interested, we will offer an optional morning tour to the Lama Temple, one of the most interesting religious buildings in Beijing, originally built in 1694. Includes one hour foot massage, followed by lunch.

Eve Gala Dinner for all participating runners and non-runners. A very special, elaborate Chinese Banquet to celebrate all the runners' triumph over the Great Wall. A fun evening, sharing the experience with others. Includes transfers.

Mon 23May
B

Beijing

Optional tour of Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Coal Hill with lunch. Free afternoon. Last minute shopping OR relaxing. Dinner on own.

Tue 24May
L

Beijing-Xian

06:00 Transfer to the airport for Flight to Xian

08:05 Leave Beijing on CHINA EASTERN AIRLINES MU2102 Boeing 757

09:45 Arrive in XIAN, the east end of the legendary Silk Road.

Upon arrival at Xian airport, meet local guide and drive into Xian to the Terra Cotta Warriors Digs. This is one of the most fascinating archaeological sites in the world and a highlight of any China itinerary.

Early lunch at a local restaurant inside the Digs compound.

Return to Xian to check into our hotel

TITAN TIMES HOTEL

A fine 5-star hotel centrally located at the Western City Gate.

Dinner on own.

Wed 25May

B,L

Xian

Breakfast at the hotel.

MT. Huashan tour. 1.5 hours bus ride to Mt. Huashan
Bring comfortable running/walking shoes and water. The mountain offers several pathways as you challenge yourselves to hike the most beautiful mountain in Northern China today. We will experience the cable car ride up and back to the mountain. You are free to choose to climb up either the Eastern or Western slope. You can also walk the famous plank!

Lunch will follow at a nearby restaurant, then relax on the bus back to Xian.
Optional Xian City Wall Bike Ride in evening.

Dinner on own.

Thu 26May

B,D

Xian

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning at leisure.

Optional visit to Provincial Museum or Xian City Bike Ride.

Lunch on own.

Mid afternoon visit to Jade Factory followed by Dumpling dinner at Grand Opera House and Tan Dynasty Show

Fri 27May

B,L

Xian-Shanghai. Breakfast at the hotel.

TBD Pick up & transfer to the airport by coach with guide, who has the group air ticket.

TBD Leave Xian on CHINA EASTERN AIRLINES MU2109, Airbus 320, non-stop.

TBD Arrive Shanghai

Meet & Greet in Shanghai airport, luggage will go directly to hotel centrally located near the famous Nanjing Road and the Bund.

Salvo Hotel www.salvohotel.com

You will experience the Maglev (high speed train) to Longyang Station, transfer to bus and lunch at local restaurant.

Afternoon sightseeing: Expo China Pavilion, Jade Buddha Temple, and Nanjing Road, ending at the Salvo Hotel.

Dinner on own.

Sat 28May
B,L

Shanghai. Breakfast at Hotel
08:30 City tour of the Bund, Yu Garden, World Financial Center, (the second tallest building in the world, enjoy the lift up to the viewer deck for a bird's view of Shanghai).
Lunch at a local restaurant.
Afternoon cruise on Huangpu River with a visit to the Shanghai Museum.
Dinner on own.

Sun 29May
B,L,D

Shanghai. Breakfast at Hotel
08:30 Drive to Zhu Jiaz Jiao the famous old water town, one of well preserved traditional Chinese architecture cities for one full day sightseeing. Experience the boat ride along the canal with special local lunch at local restaurant.
1400 Return to Shanghai and visit the old French concession area. Free time to walk in Xintiandi dining and shopping district.
Farewell Dinner at local restaurant.

Mon 30May
B,L

Shanghai-Hong Kong
Breakfast at Hotel.
TBD Transfer to airport for your flight to Hong Kong.
Meet & Greet guide in Hong Kong Airport
TBD Dim Sum Lunch at Jumbo King Restaurant.
TBD Arrive at Peak Tram to Victoria's Peak.
Transfer and check-in at hotel
Rest of evening at leisure
Dinner on own .

Tue 31May
B

Hong Kong
Breakfast at Hotel.
TBD Drive to Aberdeen Fishing Village. Experience a Sampan Ride
TBD Explore and enjoy lunch at Stanley Market
TBD Optional tour to see Tian Tan Buddha (Big Buddha)
Rest of evening at leisure **Dinner on own .**

Rest of evening at leisure
Dinner on own .

Wed 01June

B

Hong Kong- Optional Tours

Breakfast at Hotel.

Optional Tour to Macau

Includes Ferry ride and lunch \$178USD per person

(pricing based on 10 participants)

Explore the peninsula and casino

OR

Optional Tour to Lantau (Big Buddha)

Includes Ferry ride and lunch \$169USD per person

(pricing based on 10 participants)

Thu 02June

B,L

Breakfast at Hotel.

TBD Transfer to Hong Kong International airport for your flight back home.