

Report 3 – Places to Go in Beijing

Beijing is the capital city of China, where rich historical heritage meets a modernized environment. With many top-notch universities and numerous multinational companies based here, Beijing is a popular destination for students from all over the world. The city offers a wide range of experiences, from ancient architecture and traditional culture to modern city life that makes it a perfect blend of the old and the new. Below is a guide to must-visit attractions you can explore if you plan to join an exchange program in Beijing:

1. The Forbidden City (故宫)



Forbidden City which is also known as National Palace Museum is one of China's most iconic landmarks and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was built during the Ming Dynasty in the early 15th century and it served as the imperial palace for 24 emperors over nearly 500 years until the end of the Qing Dynasty in 1912.

2. The Great Wall of China (大长城)



The Great Wall of China, one of the Seven Wonders of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage site, was built during the Ming Dynasty to protect against northern invasions. Most famous sections near Beijing include Badaling, Mutianyu, and Jinshanling. But I personally recommend Mutianyu (慕田峪) which is 2-hour drive from the city as it's more spacious, less crowded, offers better views, and even provides a free slide from the wall down to the base.

3. Shichahai (什刹海)



If you enjoy afternoon walks and Chinese cuisine, Shichahai is a great spot to explore. Known for its scenic lakes, hutongs, and courtyards and it becomes lively at night with bars, cafes, and restaurants which can be a perfect place to hang out with friends. For me, a must-try restaurant here is Nanmen Shuanrou (南门涮肉), a traditional Beijing hotpot restaurant famous for hand-sliced lamb, copper pot cooking, and rich peanut sauce.

4. Universal Studio Beijing



If you're a big fan of amusement parks, this is a must-visit! I highly recommend Universal Studios Beijing, as it offers a wide variety of fun attractions in a beautifully designed and immersive environment. You'll find themed areas based on Harry Potter, Minions, Transformers, and many more.