

# Beijing School Tour Summary

A group of 34 students and 5 teachers went on a 5-day tour of Beijing, the capital of China, from July 2 to July 6. The tour was led by Vice Principal Mr. Kot, who shared his past experiences visiting Beijing and compared them to the present day, highlighting the rapid development and modernization of the city.

## Day 1:

The group arrived at Beijing Capital International Airport, a symbol of China's modern infrastructure and growth. The airport, designed in the shape of a dragon, is one of the largest and most advanced in the world. Before checking in at their hotel, they visited the Beijing National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, and the Water Cube. These iconic structures, built for the 2008 Olympics, showcase China's architectural innovation and commitment to hosting world-class events. In the evening, they enjoyed local halal food near their hotel, experiencing the diverse culinary landscape of Beijing, which caters to various dietary preferences and reflects the city's multiculturalism.



## Day 2:



The day started with a visit to the Hutong, Beijing's historic narrow alleys and traditional courtyard residences. The rickshaw ride through the Hutong provided a glimpse into the city's rich cultural heritage and how urban life has evolved over centuries. This experience highlighted the contrast between old and new Beijing. They then visited the University of Science and Technology of China, where the university students showcased cutting-edge

research in aviation technology, including demonstrations of drones and robots. This visit underscored China's significant investments in education and technological innovation. The day ended with a walking tour of Tsinghua University and Peking University, two of China's top universities, offering insights into the country's higher education system and its role in driving economic growth.



### Day 3:

The group spent the day at the National Palace Museum, also known as the Forbidden City. This enormous complex, with its vast collection of artifacts and historic buildings, provided a deep dive into China's imperial history and architectural grandeur. Despite the 5-hour visit, they could only explore a small portion of the museum, which speaks to its vastness and the depth of China's cultural heritage. Later, they visited the modern Wangfujing walkway, a bustling commercial street that blends traditional Chinese shops with international brands, illustrating Beijing's dynamic economy and consumer culture.



### Day 4:



They visited the Great Wall at the Juyong Pass section, experiencing first-hand one of the greatest feats of ancient engineering. The excellent weather allowed for stunning views, and the hike up to the end of the section was both challenging and rewarding. The Great Wall visit provided a comprehensive understanding of its historical significance in defence and its symbolism of Chinese perseverance and ingenuity. In the afternoon, they visited the Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, gaining insights into the burial

practices and beliefs of China's past emperors. The day concluded with a tour of the Beijing Air and Space Museum, which highlighted China's advancements in aerospace technology and its ambitions in space exploration.

### Day 5:

The final day was spent at the 798 Art Zone, a vibrant art district housed in a former industrial complex. The diverse and impressive artworks on display connected modern Chinese art to its ancient roots, reflecting the country's evolving cultural identity. The area is a hub for contemporary artists and a testament to Beijing's thriving creative scene.

### Overall Experience:

The tour provided an enriching and comprehensive understanding of Beijing's historical and cultural heritage, its rapid modernization, and China's broader development trajectory. Students and teachers alike gained valuable insights into the dynamic interplay between tradition and innovation in China, leaving with a deeper appreciation for the country's past, present, and future.