



Travelling leaves you speechless,
then turns you into a story teller.
- Ibn Battuta

PART 2 - BEIJING - Great Wall of China



Great Wall of China

The **Great Wall of China** is a series of [fortifications](#) made of stone, brick, [tamped earth](#), wood, and other materials, generally built along an east-to-west line across the historical northern borders of China to protect the [Chinese states](#) and [empires](#) against the raids and invasions of the various nomadic groups of the [Eurasian Steppe](#). Several walls were being built as early as the 7th century BC;^[2] these, later joined together and made bigger and stronger, are collectively referred to as the Great Wall.^[3] Especially famous is the wall built 220–206 BC by [Qin Shi Huang](#), the first Emperor of China. Little of that wall remains. The Great Wall has been rebuilt, maintained, and enhanced; the majority of the existing wall is from the [Ming Dynasty](#) (1368–1644).

Other purposes of the Great Wall have included [border controls](#), allowing the imposition of duties on goods transported along the [Silk Road](#), regulation or encouragement of trade and the control of immigration and emigration. Furthermore, the defensive characteristics of the Great Wall were enhanced by the construction of watch towers, troop barracks, garrison stations, signaling capabilities through the means of smoke or fire, and the fact that the path of the Great Wall also served as a transportation corridor.

The Great Wall stretches from [Dandong](#) in the east to [Lop Lake](#) in the west, along an arc that roughly delineates the southern edge of [Inner Mongolia](#). A comprehensive archaeological survey, using advanced technologies, has concluded that the Ming walls measure 8,850 km (5,500 mi).^[4] This is made up of 6,259 km (3,889 mi) sections of actual wall, 359 km (223 mi) of trenches and 2,232 km (1,387 mi) of natural defensive barriers such as hills and rivers.^[4] Another archaeological survey found that the entire wall with all of its branches measure out to be 21,196 km (13,171 mi).^[5] Today, the Great Wall is generally recognized as one of the most impressive architectural feats in history.

Mrs.. RASHIDA FAHEEM

The Great Wall of China, the only man- made structure visible from space. It comes under the category of ..a must visit. No trip to China can be complete without climbing the uneven steps to the top. Fond memories of the Pearl outlet



and the calculations we did to distribute the box of Pearl cream, Aftab Bhai bought. I was the cash collector, so I hope everyone got their share and may you all keep getting more beautiful everyday using that cream!!!!

Mrs. Rukhsana Ahsan

On a lighter note... overheard while travelling in the coach.

One lady to another: 'Where are we going?'

Reply: 'To the Wall.'

'What wall?' Asks the first lady.

Response: 'The Great Wall bhaee! You don't know the Great Wall?'

A true case of ignorance is bliss.....

While standing on the Great Wall

A feeling of utter disbelief... I am actually here on the Wall... the Great Wall... the wall that had stood the test of time for so many centuries. I touched it and felt the hands that had placed the stone bricks one after another and created this great marvel. I looked at the steps, now polished smooth by the millions of feet that had traversed over them through the centuries. I imagined the hordes of warring armies of invaders as they stood before its formidable might. I marveled at its length and massiveness and as I did so my thoughts went to the bones that lay interred within the mortar and stones – the multitude of labourers and slaves whose lives had no importance for the ruler and his whim or was it an obsession to create the humongous and gigantic dragon of a wall?

While coming down the Wall, the lively tour guide's instructions rang in my ears –

Same way up...same way down

Same way up...same way down















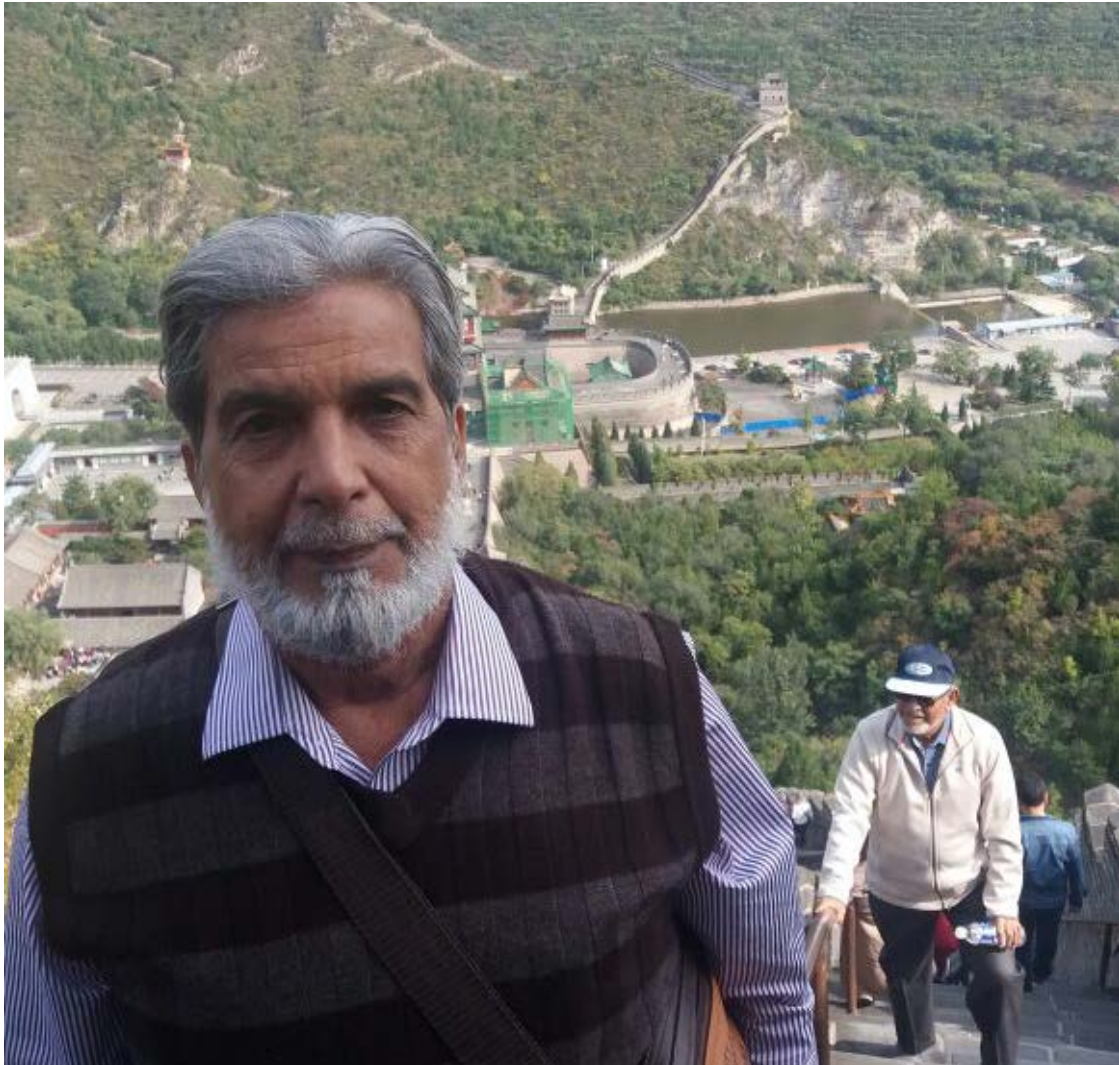














Summer Palace Beijing

The **Summer Palace** is a vast ensemble of lakes, gardens and palaces in [Beijing, China](#). It was an imperial garden in Qing Dynasty. Mainly dominated by Longevity Hill and [Kunming Lake](#), it covers an expanse of 2.9 square kilometers (1.1 sq mi), three-quarters of which is water.

Longevity Hill is about 60 metres (200 feet) high and has many buildings positioned in sequence. The front hill is rich with splendid halls and pavilions, while the back hill, in sharp contrast, is quiet with natural beauty. The central Kunming Lake, covering 2.2 square kilometers (540 acres), was entirely man-made and the excavated soil was used to build Longevity Hill.

In December 1998, [UNESCO](#) included the Summer Palace on its [World Heritage List](#). It declared the Summer Palace "a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design. The natural landscape of hills and open water is combined with artificial features such as pavilions, halls, palaces, temples and bridges to form a harmonious ensemble of outstanding aesthetic value".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Summer_Palace

MS. RASHIDA FAHEEM

The **Summer Palace**, another fascinating landmark in Beijing. It's a tale of fortunes and wealth enjoyed by the royalty of the Ming Dynasty. The shimmering waters of the canal that runs parallel with road that we travelled on to reach the Summer Palace, was especially made for the Monarch and his family to travel on, from the Forbidden City to this Palace when the weather changed. What is most amazing to see that all these centuries did not bring decay to these structures and the water in this man-made canal still shines as a new mirror. To me it was a reflection of a great nation, it's inspiring leadership and resilience to change itself for a dope addicted nation to a formidable power in the word today.

A food for thought for all of us. I often wish, after such visits that the people who are in positions of power in my country, might learn the ways as how destiny of a nation is turned around by foresighted leaders. A wish, a dream yet, so far away for us.





