



Summer Palace

fact sheet

Located in a northwestern suburb of Beijing, the Summer Palace was originally a royal garden and a temporary dwelling palace for the emperors of the Qing Dynasty. In 1886, Empress Cixi used navy outlays and other funds in the reconstruction and renamed the park the Summer Palace in 1888. The Summer Palace is now the largest and most complete imperial garden existing in China.



The Summer Palace park consists of more than Imperial buildings. The entire area of the park totals 3km², consisting of gardens, palaces and the imposing man-made Kunming Lake, covering ¾ of the total area. Longevity Hill houses the imperial living quarters, giving the Emperor the best view over the lake and gardens and the best position to be cooled by the breezes off the lake.

Boating is now popular on the lake, however the strangest boat is tucked away in the corner of the lake. This boat is made of solid marble and sits on the bottom of the lake. The empress had the boat specially made for her personal dining hall.



Leading off from where the Marble Boat is situated is the start of the Long Corridor. Over 700 metres in length, the Long Corridor boasts a most impressive collection of paintings from Chinese literature. With over 1400 different paintings, the Long Corridor is worth the effort to walk its entire length.

