

the Summer Palace is a spacious yet compact park where nature and the landscaping art blend harmoniously.

Hsiangshan (Fragrant Hills) Park and Surroundings

Situated in a valley in the Fragrant Hills to the northwest of Peking, the walled park was once an imperial lodge known as the "Hunting Park". It is well-known for its scenic beauty, especially in the autumn when the leaves are a riot of colour. Some of the former elegant buildings still remain, including the Zhao or Luminous Temple, built in the Tibetan style in 1780 as the Panchen Lama's Peking residence, the much-restored Pavilion of Introspection and the ruins of the Xiang Shang temple.

Near the park, amid evergreen trees in the foothills, are the ancient Temple of the Sleeping Buddha (Wo fo si), famous for its rare trees, and with a modern Forestry School annexed, and the Temple of the Azure Clouds, with a magnificent view over the whole plain around Peking.

The Ming Tombs

The tombs of 13 Ming Emperors are situated in a great amphitheatre formed by low purple mountains. The largest and most majestic of the tombs is Chang Ling, tomb of the famous Ming Emperor Yung Lo, who reigned from 1403 to 1424.

The Underground Palace or Ting Ling, excavated in 1958, was the tomb of the Emperor Wan Li who ruled from 1537 to 1620. Five underground walls covering 1195 square meters, with vaulted ceilings unhindered by beams or columns, were uncovered. An exhibition hall displays funerary