





BEIJING WONDER

In China, we find the most expensive hotel suite in the world, where every conceivable luxury is taken care of.

China has recently opened the most expensive hotel suite in the world. At a staggering 220,000 RMB (about \$38,800) a night, guests with seriously deep pockets will be able to “experience the life of a Qin Dynasty Emperor.”

Pingxi Royal Mansion in Beijing is a traditional Chinese courtyard villa where “guests are treated like emperors and pampered until their hearts are content,” said PR director Mr. Liu during a private tour. “You will be treated like a Qin Dynasty emperor and enjoy all of the imperial service to go with it.”

“The guests’ honour will be identified and privacy guaranteed,” said Huang Fushi, head of the Hongfu Group that built the villa.

Thirty minutes and 22km from Tiananmen Square in the suburbs of the Chinese capital, Pingxi Royal Mansion is a self-contained traditional Chinese villa in the same style as the mighty villas of the Forbidden City. This amazing complex is the jewel in the crown of Hot Spring Leisure City Complex, which also boasts a

hotel and smaller villas, along with an indoor beach and hot spring sauna.

Within the Royal Mansion, the Emperor’s Suite contains its own hot spring swimming pool (about 5m x 15m), a cinema (with a 2.5m x 3.6m screen) and karaoke room, a meeting room, tea room, study, an opium den and several guest rooms.

As one would expect at such a hefty price, no expense had been spared with the decoration. The 9m-high reception room contains what can only be described as a throne, complete with two ornate gold dragons and a magnificent Chinese-style chandelier made from gold and white jade and valued at over 1.8 million RMB (\$315,000). The wall- and ceiling-mounted golden dragons are worth around \$50,000 each.

Leading off the reception hallway on the ground floor is the cinema room, which comfortably seats 20 guests, the opium den, a secretarial bedroom (complete with bathroom) and the tea room. All are wood-panelled with antique furniture.

For about \$38,800 a night, guests with seriously deep pockets will be able to experience the lifestyle of a Qin Dynasty Emperor.



Upstairs, the 100sq m study, complete with old-style gramophone and original Chinese calligraphy writing set and brushes, has a rest room with an original Chinese mahogany divan bed and its own toilet and bathroom.

Across the hallway, the master bedroom, which comes complete with Jacuzzi and sauna room, is a work of imperial art. The original-style – and surprisingly small – four-poster Qin Dynasty bed was carved in Turkey. It took more than 10 years to intricately make and has 999 dragons carved into the wood. According to Mr Liu, the bed alone cost over \$75,000.

If all that is not enough, a natural hotspring bathing pool is on the ground-level eastern block, above which is a dining room that seats 20.

Just in case your guests do not fancy the trek home after an evening's entertainment, the western block contains six luxurious guest bedrooms, two of which are suites. The villa comes with four cooks, six maids and two courtiers that double up as security guards. And, yes, for that whopping \$38,800 all food (Qin dynasty banquet-style), drinks and service are thrown in.

The complex is situated just 5km from the Olympic village and will be cashing in on the forthcoming Olympic Games. But while most of the rooms are already booked out for the Olympic period, nights are still available at the Pingxi Royal Mansion!

Although cagey about revealing previous guests, it was let slip that several senior Communist Party chiefs have used the villa on numerous occasions, as has China's biggest film export, Jackie Chan. 📺

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