

China  Educational Tours

# Beijing Travel Guide



# CONTENTS



- Beijing City Map ..... 02
- Best Time to Visit ..... 04
- Top Things to do ..... 06
- Top Recommended Tour ..... 10
- Beijing Attractions ..... 12
  - Ancient Beijing ..... 12
  - Modern Beijing ..... 22
- Eat in Beijing ..... 30
  - Top Dishes to try ..... 30
  - Top Restaurants ..... 34
  - Top Food Street ..... 36
- Shopping ..... 38
  - Top Items to take back Home ..... 38
  - Top Places for Shopping ..... 39
- Beijing Nightlife ..... 40
- Transportation ..... 40
- Top Hotels ..... 44
- Before you Go ..... 45

# Welcome to Beijing

Beijing, which means Northern Capitol (Bei = north and Jing = Capitol), has not always been the capitol of China. The Ming emperors made it their capitol in 1421 and it has remained China's capital ever since. The city itself is over 3,000 years old and has played an essential role in the development of Chinese history, the economy, and its culture.

As of 2019, population estimates range from 19–22 million (this number is for the entire Beijing metropolitan area, not just the people living within the legal boundaries of the city). It's located in the northern part of the country on the edge of the Gobi Desert and thus has a fairly dry climate.

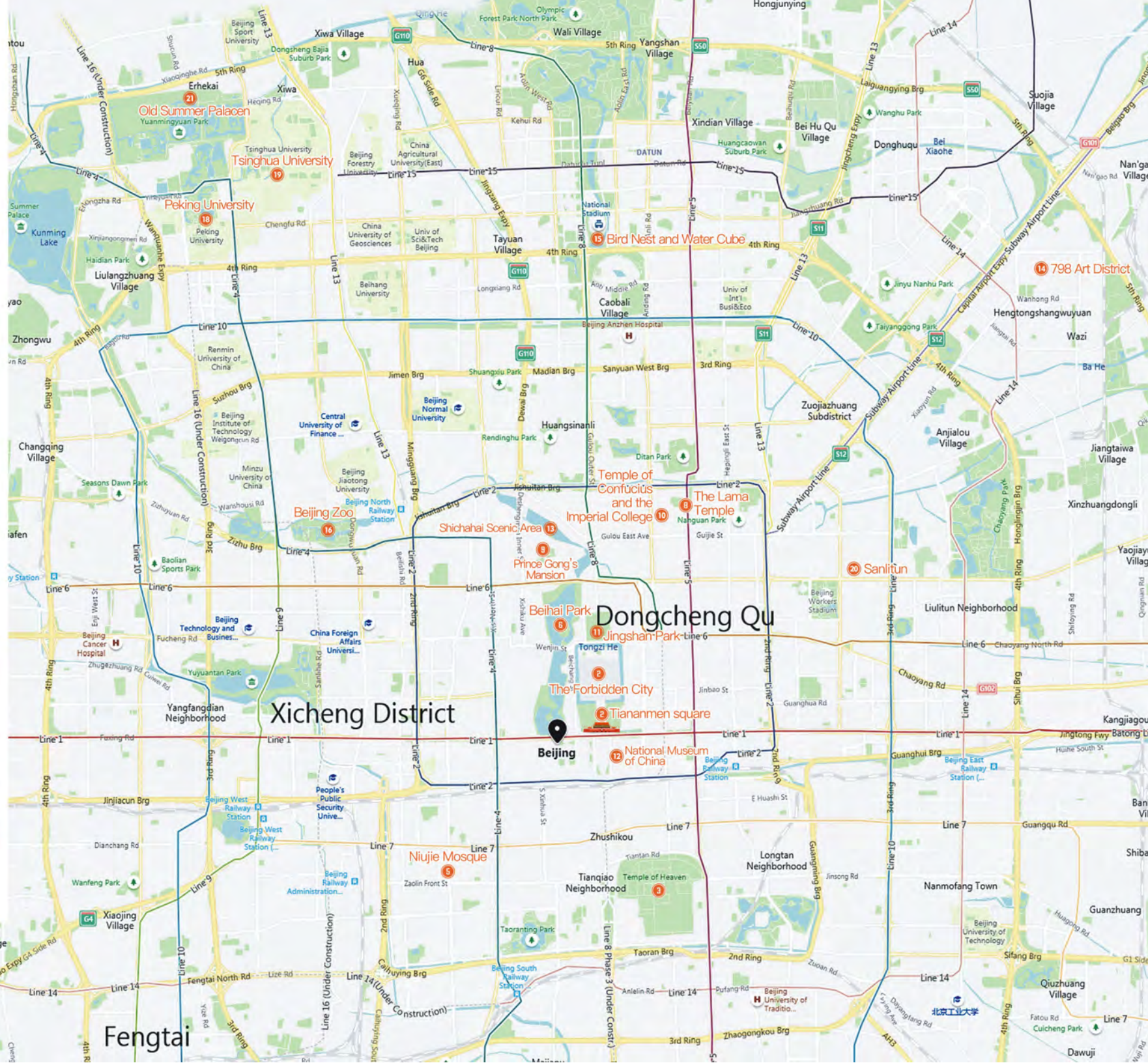
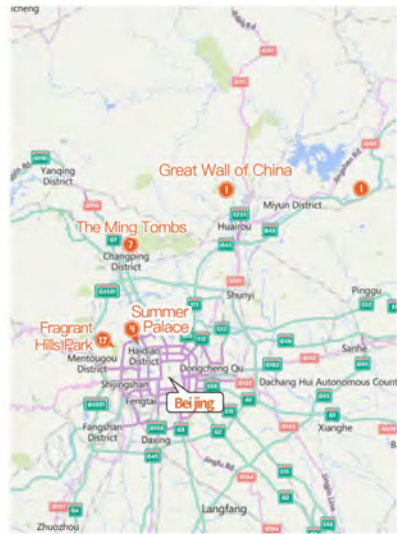
Of recent, Beijing made a splash on the world stage by hosting the 2008 Summer Olympics, and it will host the next Winter Olympics in 2022. Unlike many other mega international cities, Beijing has passed laws preserving historic neighborhoods and restricting the number, location, and height of skyscrapers. Thus, many areas of Beijing (specifically the old “*Yan*” or “*Hui*”) do not find as many mega-tall buildings like in Shanghai and Shenzhen. This helps kindle a more neighborly feel in many areas of the city and travelers will often find many locals who are glad to help show them around parts of their great city.

For travelers who love history and heritage, Beijing itself holds no fewer than seven sites on UNESCO's world heritage list (one of the highest number of UNESCO sites found in a single city): Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian, the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, the Ming Tombs, and the Grand Canal.



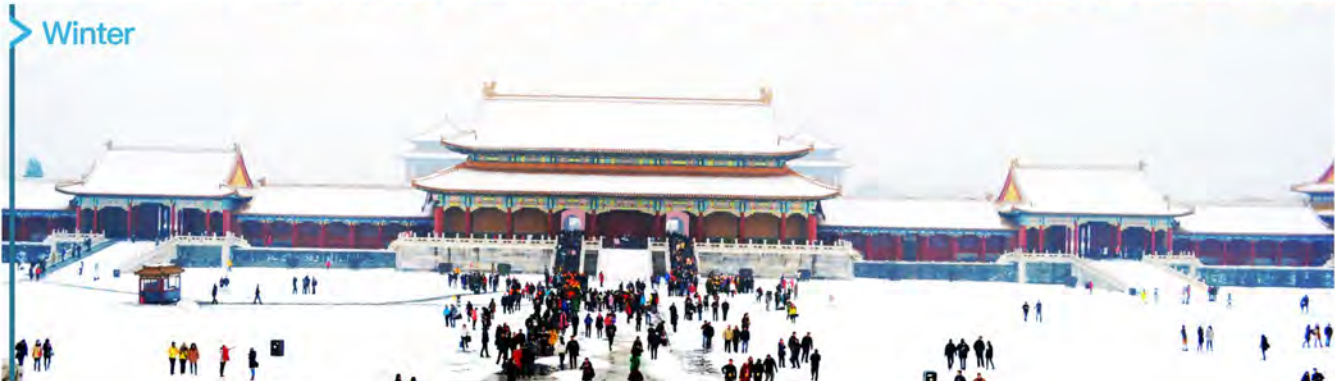
# Beijing City Map

- 1 Great Wall of China
- 2 The Forbidden City / Tiananmen square
- 3 Temple of Heaven
- 4 Summer Palace
- 5 Niujie Mosque
- 6 Beihai Park
- 7 The Ming Tombs
- 8 The Lama Temple
- 9 Prince Gong's Mansion
- 10 Temple of Confucius and the Imperial College
- 11 Jingshan Park
- 12 National Museum of China
- 13 Shichahai Scenic Area
- 14 798 Art District
- 15 Bird Nest and Water Cube
- 16 Beijing Zoo
- 17 Fragrant Hills Park
- 18 Peking University
- 19 Tsinghua University
- 20 Sanlitun
- 21 Old Summer Palacen



# Best Time to Visit

Beijing has four distinct seasons. Spring and autumn are the best times to visit as temperatures are wonderfully mild. Summer can be quite hot and rainy, and winter can be exceedingly cold. For snow lovers, Beijing can be beautiful in winter and there are numerous winter activities in the city itself and surrounding areas.



# Clothing



Spring · Summer · Autumn · Winter

**Spring** — Temperatures can swing greatly throughout the day with mornings and evenings being chilly and mid-day and afternoon being pleasantly warm. Best to dress in layers and take a sufficiently large backpack with (to accommodate the extra layers). Large, heavy winter coats are usually not necessary for most people. Gloves, warm hats, and scarfs may be necessary for some people for early morning or late evening activities. Shorts and sandals may also be necessary during the day for some people. It doesn't rain much during the spring but it's a good idea to bring an umbrella or light rain jacket.

**Summer** — Warm, summertime weather usually lasts from May to September and Beijing usually has above average rainfall during this time (although being a city located on the edge of a desert, Beijing has much less rain than most other cities in China, especially those in the south). A good umbrella, rain jacket, and waterproof shoes will usually come in handy for afternoon downpours. Mornings and evenings are mild, and a light sweater or light jacket is sufficient for most travelers. Daytime temps are usually very warm, with strong sun, so lightweight "activewear", shirts, pants, and shorts are recommended. Sandals are fine but your feet will likely get wet during afternoon rain showers (note: lightweight "flip-flops" are not recommended to wear in the street as they don't provide enough support for the amount of walking you'll be doing, but they're perfect for hotel, pool, and shower use.)

**Autumn** — Fantastic weather that will make you want to extend your stay. Temps cool off quickly as the days approach November, but late September can still be warm. In general, you'll need heavy sweaters or medium-weight jackets for early mornings and evenings, but daytime temps are perfect for long pants and short-sleeve or long-sleeve T-shirts. Some travelers may want gloves, scarfs, and hats for November travel. It rarely rains during this time, but a lightweight rain jacket that doubles as a wind breaker will be your best friend — some travelers may want to bring two. (Note: trips to the Great Wall, especially locations at the higher elevations, can be significantly cooler than in the city, so make sure bring appropriate layers — and a wind breaker).

**Winter** — Beijing has true winters so pack accordingly — one heavy winter coat with hood, several heavy sweaters, long pants with long underwear or leggings underneath, warm shoes, gloves, scarfs, and hats. While you shouldn't overpack, it's preferable to pack slightly on the heavy side and then take off what you don't need. Travelers often underestimate the cold temps and pack on the light side. Snow is expected at some point during the winter but is not frequent, so waterproof shoes are a really good idea (having wet feet can ruin a trip). The Great Wall will be extra cold and windy, so hoods and face coverings can help. As long as you pack appropriately, winter can be a fantastic time to visit and you'll be very comfortable all day long.

# Top Things to do

---

Beijing, like other major cities in China, is packed with things to see and do. Arguably, Beijing has even more attractions, so depending on your interests, plan accordingly to get the most of your trip.

Minimum recommended time — 3 full days/3 nights (less than this and you'll only be able to see the Great Wall and the Forbidden Palace/Tiananmen Square, nothing more.)

Recommended time — 5 days/4–5 nights (this will give most visitors the absolute best experience)

For true lovers of Chinese history and culture — 7–10 days (Beijing has plenty to keep you busy for every one of those days)

## 1 The Great Wall

Few travelers are aware there was never just “one” Great Wall. In fact, several “Great Walls” were built over time and currently, only some sections have survived. Those sections, if connected, would span over 2000 miles (+3,500km) and run from near the ocean all the way to the far western part of the Gobi Desert. Beijing is famous for being one of the best places to see some of the most spectacular, mountainous sections.

Expert Tip: Research and plan your Great Wall trip carefully. The closest section to Beijing, called “Badaling”, is so completely overrun by tourists every day, especially Chinese tourists, that it's difficult to enjoy the Wall's beauty, its history, and its views. Most travel agencies offer their cheapest trips to this section. “Jinshanling” and “Mutianyu” are good alternatives for those with limited time and tight budgets offering mind-blowing, postcard views with fewer tourists. For those with more flexibility in time and budget, there are other sections where you can have the whole wall to yourself, although these sections usually require at least 1 overnight in a nearby town as they're located hours away from Beijing.

Recommended time — 1 full 16-hour day, possibly 2 days/1 night





## Visit the Forbidden City Tiananmen Square

Step back in time by entering this world famous, meticulously-preserved example of ancient China. The “City” is a sprawling complex that easily takes up an entire city block. Inside, there are dozens and dozens of individual buildings and rooms that have been converted into mini museums showcasing many aspects of ancient life. Most people need at least a 1/2 day here, but for those who like to take lots of pictures or really enjoy historical items, it’s best to plan 1 full day. Conveniently, the famous Tiananmen square is located just in front of the entrance to the City so snap your world-famous photo in front of Chairman Mao’s portrait before going in. (Note: the entrance and exit to the Forbidden City are on opposite sides of a city block and Tiananmen Square is located at the entrance. Also, the local police close the square around dusk each day. If you are in the square at this time, you will be asked to leave.)

Caution: The “City” will be packed with tourists, especially Chinese tour and school groups, every day it’s open. Weekends and holidays are extra packed, so it’s highly recommended to come during the week, although be prepared for massive crowds even then.

Recommended time – 1/2 day minimum (3–4hours), 1 full day (6–8 hours) best





## 3 The Summer Palace

This sprawling complex of lakes, gardens, and gorgeous architecture is not to be missed. Many consider it even more beautiful and enchanting than the Forbidden City. While the “City” might be the more famous of the two, the Palace may be your favorite. Like the City, the inside of the Palace has been restored and converted into mini-museums or showcases of its former glory. It’s difficult to find a more splendid, charming example of ancient Chinese architecture in the whole country.

Caution: The “Palace” will be packed with tourists, especially Chinese tour and school groups, every day it’s open. Weekends and holidays are extra packed, so it’s highly recommended to come during the week, although be prepared for large crowds even then. Due to being so expansive and slightly less popular than the “City”, the crowds during the week may not feel as overwhelming as in the Forbidden City.

Recommended time – (Similar to the Forbidden City) ½ day minimum (3–4 hours), 1 full day (6–8 hours) best

Note: true history and architecture lovers can spend 2 days here and see something new each day



## 4 Traditional Beijing Neighborhoods : Hutongs

While the Forbidden City is a museum-like experience, Hutongs are where real people still live today. These are very quiet, intimate neighborhoods located around the city that give travelers wonderful insight into the day-to-day life of many Beijing residents.

Recommended time – Depending on individual interests: 1 hour minimum, 3–5 hours for a more relaxing, comprehensive experience

## 5 Sample different Chinese Cuisines

China, like any large country, has many different styles of cuisine and the flavors and cooking styles (fried versus steamed, for example) can vary greatly. In Beijing, you can not only taste the local Beijing cuisine, but also food from all over China. Even if Chinese food is not your favorite, one of the best, and most fun, experiences on a trip is sampling new food.

For the most adventurous, Beijing even offers an “insect” street where vendors serve up all sorts of tasty, fried insects, organs, and other rarely-eaten delights. Everything here is prepared professionally and adhering to the Department of Health standards. It’s popular with tourists because even if you don’t try what’s being served, it’s wicked fun to watch others!

**Expert Tip** — If you want to try the insects, meat-eaters are often tastier than vegetarians. So, scorpions and spiders are preferred to grasshoppers, beetles, and cicadas. For this writer, a palm-sized, fried, hairy spider tasted remarkably like barbecued chicken. Honestly.



## 6 Temple of Heaven Park

Another popular and photo-worthy monument in Beijing, this park is not just famous for its style but also as a popular place for people doing Tai Chi. In fact, it’s one of the more popular places in the city to see, or do, this popular exercise activity.

# Top Recommended Tour

While the Great Wall of China is on everyone's bucket list, Beijing, as the capitol of ancient and modern China, has a lot more to discover: the mysterious Forbidden City, delicious Peking Roasted Duck, top Chinese universities, and the historic Hutongs where you can visit a local family.

The following private tour covers all the highlights of Beijing and gives you unparalleled access to eye-popping information, intimate local experiences, and off-the-beaten-track gems. Return home after this tour and be considered a Beijing expert even among the most ardent Chinese history and culture buffs of your friends.



## **Day 01: Forbidden City Heritage Walk and Hutong (B,L)**

After a leisurely breakfast in your hotel, your guide will pick you from your hotel and teach you some simple Chinese phrases and greetings on the way to the world-famous Forbidden City. Your guide, who will be an expert on Beijing top historical sites, will show you around the “City” with an off-the-beaten-track tour including access to secret areas and interesting, little-known stories about the emperor’s life and background history. It’s a 4–5 hour walk with several short breaks.

Once you’ve finished at the Forbidden City, you’ll take a relaxing rickshaw ride through some of the more popular and scenic Hutong alleys and neighborhoods. You’ll also get to interact with local families who have been living there for generations and still lead a very traditional lifestyle. At the end of the Hutong tour, your guide will take you for a short stop at a local tea house to learn more about traditional Chinese tea culture (more involved than most people think).

## **Day 02: Hiking the Great Wall (B,L)**

After an early breakfast, your guide will pick you up from your hotel in a private vehicle with separate driver to start the 1 ½ – 2 hour drive to the breathtaking Mutianyu section of the Great Wall. Your guide will teach you some more useful Chinese phrases on the way. Mutianyu is a better-preserved section of the Wall with smaller crowds. The Wall here winds 1.4 miles (2km) through lofty mountains and high ridges. Don’t worry about walking to the top – which is possible but includes 1,000s of steps and takes most people several hours. Instead, relax and save your energy by taking a cable car (included in the tour price). Once at the top, you’ll have most of the day to explore the Wall and enjoy the views. Some people choose to spend their entire time atop, others are happy after just a few hours. Once finished, you can either take the cable car back down, or the fun, steel toboggan ride. Lunch is served either in a garden restaurant owned by local farmers at the bottom of the Wall, or arrangements will be made for those who want to eat on the Wall itself. The selected restaurant serves farm-fresh meat, vegetables, and fruit juice.

## **Day 03: Tai Chi Experience and Chinese Calligraphy (B,L)**

After two days that include a fair amount of walking, Day 3 will be a little more laid back. After breakfast, your guide and driver will take you to the Temple of Heaven where you’ll have ample time to admire this architectural masterpiece. Then meet the Tai Chi master who will give you a full demonstration of Yang Style Tai Chi and help you practice in this incredible setting.

The tour continues on to “798 Art Zone” to see some modern Chinese artwork from a younger generation of Chinese artists. We’ll spend an hour or two here before having lunch at one of the many nearby restaurants.

In the afternoon, we will visit a local kindergarten in the village of “Gaobeidian” – a 1000-year old but modern Chinese village. You’ll get a tour of the kindergarten and meet the children where they’ll sing songs and perform a short dance to welcome you. You’re welcome to play games with the children as your guide will assist with the communication. After a welcome session, you’ll join the kids for a one-of-a-kind Chinese calligraphy class and take home your work to show off to your friends and family.

## **Day 04: The Summer Palace and China’s Top University (B,L)**

The Summer Palace is the best-preserved imperial garden in the country. It was first built in 1750 and rebuilt in 1860 and 1900 after being destroyed by invaders. It is an architectural masterpiece as the man-made houses, corridors, gardens and grand marble boat are all kept in great harmony with natural lakes and hills surrounding the complex. Enjoy a relaxing, leisurely, and informative visit here spending the entire day or spend just the morning here and, in the afternoon, we’ll take you on a private tour of China’s top university, Peking University. Built in 1898, Peking University was the very first comprehensive university in China and is the dream destination for many Chinese students. For anyone not interested in the university visit, we can alternatively go to one (or more) of the following: the Silk Market, Yuanmingyuan Park, or Houhai Bar Street. All three destinations are considered a highlight on any Beijing tour.

# Beijing Attractions

## ANCIENT BEIJING

### Great Wall of China

★★★★★ | Landmark / Architecture / Ruins

The Great Wall of China is the longest and largest defensive engineering feat in history. Construction began under the West Zhou Dynasty in 7th Century BC and continued mostly continuously for over 2,000 years. Today, only the original modern sections are still standing that date back around 500 years. The Great Wall (which is actually a vast network of many different walls) stretches from the ocean out to the western part of the Gobi Desert and according to a 2012 Chinese government geographical survey, spans some 13,000 miles (21,000km) — although not all of the length is still standing. The main purpose of each section of the Wall was to keep out northern invaders.

- Facts about the Great Wall

The Great Wall functioned mostly as a defense against foreign invasion. It resisted Huns during the West Han Dynasty (from 202 BC to 8 AD), Mongols (in the 13th century), and Tatars during the Ming Dynasty (in the 15th century). The Great Wall played an important role in the late Ming Dynasty and the early Qing Dynasty too. Although the Great Wall was built originally for defense, it also enhanced peace and economic cooperation between warring factions living inside the wall as some people who may have wished to leave the area control by the Chinese dynasties were somewhat forced to stay and adapt due to the wall hampering their ability to migrate.

- Popular Sections to Visit

In general, the Great Wall sections in Beijing and Hebei Province have been kept in good condition, and contain the most popular spots for both domestic and international visitors. Recommended sections include Mutianyu, Jinshanling, and Jiankong. The most popular, and closest section of the wall to Beijing, “Badaling”, is best avoided due to the overwhelming crowds.





## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese name: 故宫博物院 gù gōng bó wù yuàn
- Location: Center of Beijing
- Previous Residents: 14 emperors from the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644), 10 emperors from the Qing Dynasty (1644 – 1911), and their families.

• Tickets: To purchase tickets online (recommended):

<http://gugong.228.com.cn>

Note: The Forbidden City limits the daily number of visitors to 80,000 so we recommend visitors book tickets in advance online if possible. However, since this site is only offered in Mandarin, it is practically useless for most foreign visitors. If you can navigate Mandarin on your computer using a translate option, or have a friend who can help, then foreign visitors are required to provide passport numbers and full names at the time of booking tickets. If you cannot get online tickets, please visit the onsite ticket office early in the morning and there will usually be some available (unless it's a weekend or Chinese holiday).

Prices: Summer – April 1st – October 31st: 60 RMB,

Winter – November 1st – March 31st: 40 RMB

Discounts: Children under 1.2 meters (approx. 4 feet) – FREE

Disabled visitors – FREE

Students with valid ID – 20 RMB

Seniors – 50% discount with valid ID

- Opening hours: 8:30–16:30
- Address: No. 4, Jingshan Qianjie, Dongcheng District, Beijing, China
- Best time to visit: Spring and Autumn for nicer weather. Summer can be hot and extra crowded. Winter will usually have noticeably fewer tourists but will be cold.

• How to get there: Take bus 1, 120, 2, 52, 59, 82, 99, night 1, night 2, night 17, sightseeing line 1, or sightseeing line 2 bus. By subway, take line 1 to "Tiananmen East Station".

# The Forbidden City

★★★★★ | Historical Site / Architecture / Royal Palace

Located in the center of downtown Beijing, The Forbidden City was the imperial palace for both the Ming and Qing dynasties. It is the best conserved, largest, and most magnificent ancient palace and architectural complex in the world today. Construction began in the 4th year of the Yongle Emperor's Reign (1406 AD) and completed 14 years later.

The palace went through a series of renovations during the Ming and Qing dynasties, but it has maintained its original layout. The palace is nearly 580 years old allowing twenty-four emperors to have sat on its throne and rule the country from here. In 1987, the Forbidden City was listed as a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO.



# Temple of Heaven

★★★★★ | Historical Site / Architecture / Sacrificial Culture

As the largest altar-styled monument in China, the famous Temple of Heaven was historically used by emperors in the Ming and Qing Dynasty to offer sacrifices to heaven, and pray for rain and a good harvest. In 1961, the State Council included the Temple of Heaven on the list of key national historic and cultural sites. In 1998, it was listed as a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO. On May 8th, 2007, the Temple of Heaven was officially approved as a national “5A Scenic Spot” by China’s National Tourism Administration (the top rating in its system).

## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 天坛 Tiān Tán
- Built in 1420
- Duration: 2–3 hours
- Entrance fee (Temple of Heaven only): High season (April–October): 15 RMB. Low season (November–March): 10 RMB.

Combined ticket (covers the Temple of Heaven, Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, Circular Mound Altar, and Echo Wall): 34 RMB in high season and 28 RMB in low season.

- Address: East of Yongdingmen Inner Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing City

- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.

- How to get there: Take Bus 2, 6, 7, 17, 20, 25, 34, 35, 36, 39, 43, 53, 69, 71, 105, 106, 110, 116, 120, 122, 504, 525, 610, 684, 685, 687, 707, 723, 729, 743, 800, 803, 814, 826, 958, BRT 1, T3, or YT 102, and get off at Temple of Heaven Station.

Subway: Take Line 5 and get off at Exit A of Temple of Heaven East Station



# Summer Palace

★★★★★ | Historical Site / Architecture / Summer Resort

The Summer Palace, formerly known as Qingyi Garden, is a breathtaking imperial garden complex from the Qing Dynasty. Situated in the western suburb of Beijing, it is 15 km away from the city center. Covering an area of 290 hectares (+715 acres) with Kunming Lake and Longevity Hill as major landmarks and West Lake in Hangzhou as its blueprint, the Palace is a large-scale landscape garden with ancient-styled buildings and monuments built in a South China garden style. As the best preserved imperial resort in the country (and one of the best in the world), it is a national historic and cultural site.



## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 颐和园 Yí Hé Yuán
- Built in 1750
- Duration: 2–4 hours minimum, up to 2 days for enthusiasts
- Entrance fee: 30 RMB (High season: April 1st – October 31st), 20 RMB (Low season: November 1st – March 31st); Combined ticket (covers the Summer Palace, Yard of Cultural Prosperity, Garden of Harmonious Virtue, Pavilion of the Fragrance of Buddha and Suzhou Street): 60 RMB in high season and 50 RMB in low season.
- Address: 19 Xinjiangongmen Road, Haidian District, Beijing City
- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.
- How to get there by bus:
  - 1) Take bus 374, 74, 437, or 952. Get off at Xinjiangongmen station and enter the palace from the Xinjiangongmen entrance gate.
  - 2) Take bus 330, 331, 332, 346, 584, 594, 375,563, 508, 579, or 303. Get off at Donggongmen Station (East Gate of the Palace) or Beigongmen Station (North Gate of the Palace)
- How to get there by subway:
  - 1) Take Line 4 and get off at Xiyuan Station. Enter the park from Xinjiangongmen entrance gate.
  - 2) Take Line 4 and get off at Beigongmen Station. Enter the park from Beigongmen entrance gate.



# Niujie Mosque

★★★★☆ | Religious Building / Muslim



## QUICK FACTS

Located in the center of the Niujie area and covering an area of approximately 6,000 square meters, Niujie Mosque is the biggest and oldest mosque in Beijing. It was built in traditional Chinese style using wooden interiors and upward sloping slated roofs, but it incorporated an Arabian style of interior decoration. Tourists may visit the worship hall and also observe

prayer sessions of the Hui Nationality.

Note: Shoes are usually required to be removed before entering all Islamic religious buildings.

Bonus: Try some of the food served in the area for a delicious, unique flavor not easily found in the rest of Beijing.



- Chinese name: 牛街清真寺  
Niú Jiē Qīng Zhēn Sì
- Duration: 1–2 hours
- Ticket price: 10 RMB
- Opening hours: All day
- Location: Unit 18, Niujie, Xicheng District, Beijing
- Best time to visit: All year round
- How to get there: Take bus 10, 48, 88, 23, or night bus No. 717 and get off at Niujie Mosque stop.



# Beihai Park

★★★★★ | Park / Local life / Architecture



In the northwest of the Forbidden City lies the ancient imperial garden, Beihai Park, encompassing “the Three Lakes”: Beihai Lake, Zhonghai Lake, and Nanhai Lake with Beihai Lake at the center. The total area of the park is 71 hectares (175 acres), with an astounding 39 hectares (96 acres) of it being water. With so many ancient looking monuments surrounded by a peaceful, aquatic setting, the park has a striking resemblance to the Summer Palace. In fact, Beihai Park was once used as a temporary



residence by members of the imperial household during the Liao, Jin, and Yuan Dynasties. In the Ming and Qing dynasties, it served as an imperial garden for the emperors and is currently one of the oldest and best preserved existing imperial gardens in the country, along with the Summer Palace. In 1925, it was opened to the public as a park. It boasts a long, photogenic bridge which makes an excellent background for group pictures.



## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 北海公园 Běi Hǎi Gōng Yuán
- Duration: 2–4 hours, one full day for enthusiasts
- Entrance fee: Peak season (April–October) 10 RMB; Low season (November–March) 5 RMB, Combined ticket (including entrance ticket, Qionghua Islet, and Circular City) 20 RMB in peak season; 15 RMB in low season
- Opening Hours: Peak season (April–October) 6:30–21:00 (ticketing stops at 20:30), low season (November – March) 6:30–20:00 (ticketing stops at 19:30)
- Address: No.1 Wenjin Street, Xicheng District, Beijing
- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.
- How to get there: Take bus 5, 101, 103, 109, 124 or 685 and get off at Beihai Park. Or, take bus 13, 42, 107, 111, 118, 609, 701, 612 or 623 and get off at Beihai North.

# The Ming Tombs

★★★★☆ | Tomb / Mausoleum / Architecture

## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 明十三陵 Míng Shí Sān Líng
- Duration: 1–2 hours, 4 hours for a more relaxing walk through the immaculately groomed gardens.
- Entrance fee: High Season: 135 RMB; Low Season: 100 RMB
- Opening hours: 8:00–17:30
- Address: The foot of Yanshan Mountain, Changping District
- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.
- How to get there:
- By Bus:
  1. Take bus 872 from Deshengmen to Dingling and Changling; (Note: 872 only operates from 7:00 to 20:10.)
  2. Take bus 345 Express or 886 from Deshengmen West Station, get off at Changping Dongguan Station, and then take bus 314 to the Sacred Way (Nanxin Village Station), Dingling, and Changling.
- By Subway:

Take subway Changping Line to Changping Dongguan Station, then transfer to bus 314 to Changling or Dingling.

(Note: don't get off at the "Ming Tombs Subway Station" because it is still 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from the scenic area. If you make a mistake and do get off here, the only option to get to the scenic area is by private taxi and there are reports of people getting overcharged from this subway station. Of course, you can wait for another 314 to come and take it to Changling or Dingling.)



The Ming Tombs are the mausoleums of the Ming Emperors. In total, there were thirteen emperors, twenty-three empresses, two crown princes, more than thirty consorts, and two eunuchs. All of the thirteen imperial tombs were built along the base of a mountain and in strict accordance to the traditional feng shui rules. From site selection to planning and design, architects made sure there would be harmony between the buildings and the natural landscapes, including the water and the flora. The site is expansive and exceptionally well organized with many repeating statues lining long, wide concrete paths. Perfectly carved shrubbery completes the impeccable layout. A tour here will give you access to the tombs as well as teach about the funeral services for ancient Chinese emperors.

It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site on July 3, 2003.

# The Lama Temple

★★★★☆ | Religious Building / Historical sites

The Lama Temple is the largest imperial Tibetan Buddhist temple of the Gelugpa sect (Shamanism) in Beijing and one of the most well preserved and colorful of all Tibetan temples outside of Tibet. This was the former residence of Prince Yinzen, the fourth son of Emperor Kangxi in the Qing Dynasty, and the birth place of Emperor Qianlong. Later, the site was converted into a Shamanist temple attracting Buddhist pilgrims year-round. Valuable and rare cultural relics are on display inside.



## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 雍和宫 Yōng Hé Gōng
- Built in: 1694
- Duration: 1–3 hours
- Entrance fee: 25 RMB
- Opening hours: Access all year April 1st – October 31st: 09:00 – 16:30 November 1st – March 31st 09:00–16:00
- Address: 12 Yonghegong Street, Beixinqiao, Dongcheng District, Beijing City
- Best time to visit: Spring, Summer, and Autumn
- How to get there:  
Take bus 116 or 117 and get off at Lama Temple Station  
Subway: Take Line 2 or 5 and get off at Lama Temple Station



# Prince Gong's Mansion

★★★★☆ | Historical Sites / Fu Culture

Prince Gong's Mansion is another of Beijing's many expansive historical complexes that are impeccably maintained and designed. The mansion complex includes more than 30 buildings, lakes, bridges, statues, and gardens. It's another photographer and history buff paradise and fans of ancient Chinese architecture will feel like they are living a dream as they meander through the many bright, red columns. The mansion earned its name because it was occupied by Yi Xin, who was Prince Gong in the late Qing Dynasty.

## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 恭王府  
Gōng Wáng Fǔ
- Duration: 2–3 hours, 4–6 hours for enthusiasts
- Entrance fee: 40 RMB, Combined ticket: 70 RMB (includes entrance fee, guide service, entrance to, and a performance in, Prince Mansion Theater)
- Opening Hours:  
8:00–17:00, April 1st – October 31st;  
9:00–16:00, November 1st – March 31st
- Address: No.17 Qianhaixi Street, Xicheng District, Beijing 100009, China
- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.
- How to get there: Take bus 107, 111, 118, 13, 204 Inner Ring, 42, 609, 612 or 623 and get off at Beihai North Gate. Subway: Take subway Line 6 to the Beihai North station and exit gate B (northeast gate). From the exit, either take Sanzuoqiao Hutong or Longtoujing Street and walk about 200m.



# Temple of Confucius and the Imperial College

★★★★☆ | Confucian Culture

The Temple of Confucius and the Imperial College are two large adjacent buildings considered as part of the same attraction. Similar in style and scope, they both are massively large temples with dozens of large red columns. The Temple of Confucius also boasts a large white, wonderfully carved statue of the man himself. Today, the site is used to carry out ceremonial and educational events.



## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 孔庙与国子监 Kǒng Miào yǔ Guó Zǐ Jiàn
- Duration: 1–3 hours, 4–5 hours for true lovers of Confucian culture and photographers
- Entrance fee: 30 RMB
- Opening Hours: 8:30–18:00 (High season: May to October, ticketing service stops at 17:00) 8:30–17:00 (Low season: November to April, ticketing service stops at 16:30)
- Address: Guozijian Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing
- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.
- How to get there: Take bus 118, 684, 13, or 117 and get off at Yonghegong Stop; or take bus 113, 108, 104, 803, 124, 758 or 950 and get off at Fangjiahutong Stop.
- Subway lines: Take subway Line 2 or Line 5 and get off at Yonghegong Station.



## Tian'anmen Square

★★★★★ | Square / Architecture

Stretching from Tian'anmen in the north, Zhengyang Gate in the south, the National Museum of China in the east and the Great Hall of the People in the west, Tian'anmen Square is 880 m (960 yards) long from north to south and 500 m (550 yards) wide from east to west, with the total area being 440,000 sqm (525,000 sqy). As the largest city square worldwide, it can host gatherings of up to 1 million people.

The floor of the square is paved with light-colored granite stones and the square is located directly in front of the Forbidden Palace entrance. In the center of the Square stands the Monument to the People's Heroes and the solemn Chairman Mao Memorial Hall. The Beijing Working People's Cultural Palace and Zhongshan Park are located on each side of the square.

### QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 天安门广场 Tiān Ān Mén Guǎng Chǎng
- Duration: 15 minutes to 1 hour
- Entrance fee: Free
- Opening hours: Before the flag-raising ceremony and after the flag-lowering ceremony (mostly dawn to dusk, people are asked to leave the square at closing time.)
- Address: West Chang'an Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing
- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.
- How to get there: Take Bus 2, 5, 120, 126 or 210, and get off at Tian'anmen Square West Station or Tian'anmen Square East Station
- How to get there by subway:
  - 1) Take Line 1 and get off at Tian'anmen West Station or Tian'anmen East Station
  - 2) Take Line 2 and get off at Qianmen Station



# Jingshan Park

★★★★★ | Park / Photography

Located opposite the exit to the Forbidden Palace, this is another must-see destination to Beijing. If you had to pick only one imperial garden, it would be a toss-up between here at the Summer Palace. While the splendor of the Summer Palace is inarguably greater, Jingshan Park is nearly equally large, and the gardens are nearly equally as impressive. One of its biggest draws however is that at the top of its 45.7m (150 feet) central peak, you can see the entire downtown of Beijing and the Forbidden Palace. The visit here is worth it just for the view and potential “shot-of-the-trip”.



## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 景山公园  
Jǐng Shān Gōng Yuán
- Duration: 1–3 hours
- Entrance fee: 2 RMB
- Opening hours: 6:30–20:00
- Address: No.44 of Jingshan West Street, Xicheng District, Beijing
- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.
- How to get there: Take bus 111 or 124 and get off at Jingshan East Gate.





# National Museum of China

★★★★☆ | Museum / History

## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 中国国家博物馆  
Zhōng Guó Guó Jiā Bó Wù Guǎn
- Duration: 3–5 hours, all day for enthusiasts and for Mandarin readers
- Entrance fee: Free (Foreigners can request free tickets by showing their passports at the ticket office, which south of the West Gate, and enter at the West Gate)  
Opening hours: 9:00 — 17:00 (Last tickets at 15:30; no entry to the Museum after 16:00; all visitors must begin leaving after 16:30; closing hour is 17:00). Closed on Mondays.
- Address: 16 East Chang'an Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing City
- Best time to visit: All year round
- Luggage storage: Luggage storage is provided. 2–10 RMB depending on luggage size. All luggage must be picked up by 17:00 on the same day.
- Photographs: Photos are allowed but no flash or tripods allowed. For temporary exhibitions, photography rules may differ and a notice will be placed in the exhibition hall if photography is allowed.
- How to get there: Take Bus 2, 5, 120, 126 or 210, and get off at Tian'anmen Square West Station or Tian'anmen Square East Station  
Subway: Take Line 1 and get off at Tian'anmen East Station; or take Line 2 and get off at Qianmen Station



As the largest Chinese art and cultural museum in the country and second largest art museum in the world after the Louvre, the National Museum of China showcases an impressive collation of Chinese art and cultural pieces. With 5 floors and a length that spans nearly one city block, the museum holds 48 exhibition halls and it could easily take a full day to visit all of them.



# Shichahai Scenic Area

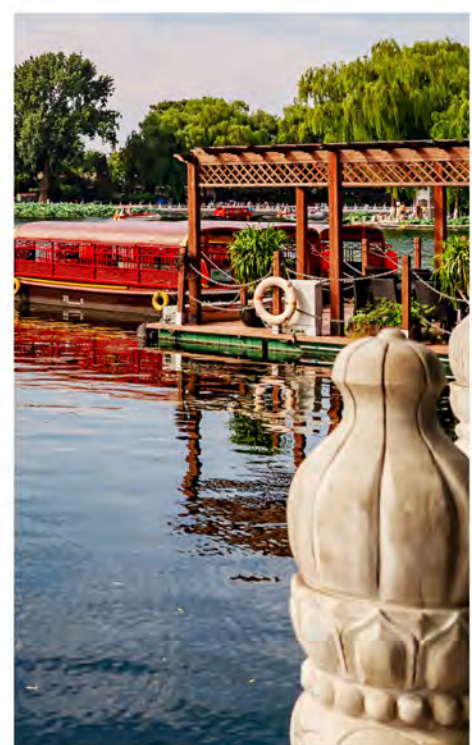
★★★★☆ | Park / Local life / Resort



## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 什刹海风景区 Shí Chà Hǎi Fēng Jǐng Qū
- Duration: 2–3 hours
- Entrance fee: Free
- Opening hours: All day
- Address: 23 Yangfang Hutong, Xicheng District, Beijing City
- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.
- How to get there: Take Bus 13, 42, 107, 111, 118, 701, 810, 823 or 850, and get off at North Gate of Beihai Park

Shichahai Scenic Area covers Shichahai (also known as Qianhai Lakes), Back Lakes (Houhai Lakes), Xi Lakes (Jishuitan), and neighboring areas, with an impressive 34 hectares (83 acres) of water — the only open water area in Beijing. Former celebrity residences, Hutongs, royal palaces, as well as local snacks can all be found in this area. Nearby Houhai Bar Street is a great place for nightlife.



## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 798艺术区  
Qī Jiǔ Bā Yì Shù Qū
- Duration: 3–4 hours
- Entrance fee: Free
- Opening hours: 10:00–17:00
- Address: No.4 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing
- Best time to visit: All year round
- How to get there: Take bus 401, 402, 405, 445, 909, 946, 955, 973, 988, or 991 and get off at Dashanzi Lukou Nan.



## 798 Art District

★★★★☆ | Art / Playground

798 Art District is located in the northeast of Chaoyang District. It is an area of old factories that have been converted into creative workspaces and display areas. It is currently the largest and most comprehensive art community in not only China but also Asia. The district spans 30 hectares (75 acres) with nearly 500 cultural and artistic organizations, 50 of which are from more than 20 different countries and regions. This is a great place to experience contemporary Chinese art.





## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 国家体育场  
Guó Jiā Tǐ Yù Chǎng
- Designers: Pierre de Meuron, Jacques Herzog, and Li Xinggang
- Cost of Construction: 3.4 billion RMB
- Entrance fee: 50 RMB
- Construction Area: 258,000 square meters (2.8 million square feet)
- Height: 69m
- Number of Seats: 80,000 fixed seats, 11,000 temporary seats
- Duration: 1–2 hours
- Opening Hours: 9:00–21:00
- Best time to visit: All year round
- Address: A3 of Anding Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing
- Functions for Sports Events: Track and field, football, javelin, hammer throw, and discus
- Post-event Functions: Domestic and international sports, cultural, and entertainment events

# Bird Nest and Water Cube

★★★★☆ | Architecture / Sports Venue

The architectural stars from Beijing's stint as the 2008 Summer Olympic hosts, these two buildings define modern architecture in China today. Becoming iconic the world over, these make great background pictures and are impressive to behold. The 91,000 capacity Bird Nest was the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies, all track and field (athletics) and football events and the ingeniously designed water cube was appropriately the venue for all swimming, diving, and other water events. After the Olympics, the Bird's Nest became a professional venue used for other hosting and sporting events.



# Beijing Zoo

★★★★☆ | Zoo / Historic Architecture/ Local Life

The most convenient place for travelers to China to see both the Giant Panda and its adorable, little-known cousin the Red Panda. The zoo has many other rare species too. The zoo is divided into three zones: the East, the South and the North Zone. The main entrance leads to the East Zone and the separate Beijing Aquarium is in the North Zone (separate fee).

## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 北京动物园 Běi jīng dòng wù yuán
- Constructed: 1906
- Duration: 3–8 hours
- Entrance fee: 15 RMB per person, High season (from April 1 to October 31)  
10 RMB per person, Low season (from November 1 to March 31)  
Combined ticket (including the Panda House):  
19 RMB per person, High season (from April 1 to October 31)  
14 RMB per person, Low season (from November 1 to March 31)
- Opening hours: April 1 – October 31: 7:30 – 18:00, November 1 – March 31: 7:30 – 17:00
- Address: No. 137, Xizhimenwai Avenue, Xicheng District, Beijing
- Best time to visit: Spring or Autumn. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people. (Tip: the animals are most active during the cooler, milder days.)
- How to get there: Bus – To the South Gate of Beijing Zoo: Take 27, 87, 105, 107, 111, 206, 209, 319, 347, 360, 362, 534, 563, 608, 614, 632, 697, 714, Te 4, Yuntong 104, Yuntong 105, Yuntong 106 or Yuntong 205 and get off at the Beijing Zoo Station.  
To North Gate of Beijing Zoo: Take 16, 26, Yuntong 103 or Yuntong 105 and get off at Beijing Jiaotong University Station  
Subway – Take Line 4, get off at the Zoo Station, Exit A.



# Fragrant Hills Park

★★★★☆ | Park / Photography / Historic Sites / Mountain

Located in the far northwest corner of the city, Fragrant Hills Park (aka, Xiangshan) is a highly recommend stop for nature lovers, for those needing a quick and easy escape from the hectic city, for those who want to relax surrounded by nature and feel miles away from a city, and for anyone wanting to see the quiet side of Beijing. You could spend all day here and still not see the entire park with its 162 hectares (400 acres) of trails and paths. Small picturesque pagodas and dreamy little bridges dot this park and autumn is by far the best time to visit as the trees turn all shades of red, orange and yellow.



## QUICK FACTS

- Chinese Name: 香山公园 Xiāng Shān Gōng Yuán
- Duration: 1–2 hours, or all day with picnic lunch for a fully relaxing escape
- Entrance fee: High season (April 1st–November 15th): 10 RMB. Low season (November 16th–March 31st): 5 RMB.

Inside the Park: Single-trip cable car to the top of 550 m (1800ft) Xianglu Feng (Incense Burner Peak): 60 RMB per adult. Separate entrance to Biyun Temple: 15 RMB.

- Opening hours:  
April 1st–November 15th: 06:00–18:30  
November 16th–March 31st: 06:00–18:00

- Address: Eastern Foot of Xiaoxishan Mountain in the Northwest Suburb of Haidian District, Beijing

- Best time to visit: By far, Autumn is the best season especially during the changing of the leaves. Spring is also nice. Summer is hotter with more people and winter is colder with fewer people.

- How to get there: Take Bus 318, 331, 360, 630, 696 or 698 and get off at the Fragrant Hills Station; or take Bus 563 and get off at the East Gate of Fragrant Hills Station.

From the Summer Palace, it's approximately a 30–50 RMB taxi ride.

# Eat in Beijing

Beijing's rich historical culture is not only reflected in its architecture and scenery, but also in its flavorful cuisine and varied cooking methods. In addition to the best-known culinary export, Peking Duck, let's explore other dishes.

## Top Dishes to try



### 1. Peking Duck (Běijīng kǎoyā)

Beijing Roast Duck (aka Peking Orange Duck) is the epitome of Beijing cuisine. It is made with high-quality duck which is roasted in an oven. The dish is famous for having thin, crispy duck skin, with a light orange flavor and true authentic versions of the dish serving mostly skin and little meat.

Special Characteristics:

Authentic versions are cooked using wood from fruit trees bringing a special fragrance to the dish.

How to eat:

A carved duck is supposed to be enjoyed with accompaniments.

There are three ways to serve it:

1) Lightly pour sweet soy sauce over a thin pancake or baked sesame seed cake, add a few slices of duck meat, some scallions, cucumber, or turnip strips and roll them together.

2) Add mashed garlic, soy sauce, and turnip strips to slices of roast duck for a spicier version of the dish.

3) Eat the crispy duck skin with white sugar.

Recommendations:

Quan Ju De:

Address: No. 9, Shuaifuyuan Hutong, Wangfujing Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing

## 2. Copper Hotpot (Tóng guō shuàn ròu)

This traditional Beijing hotpot is also known as “boiled mutton”. Cabbage and tofu is added to a clear broth, plus some of these items: tripe, mutton, vegetables, and/or noodles.

Characteristics:

Thin slices of a leg of sheep, aka mutton, is cooked quickly in the boiling broth.

Recommendations:

Jubaoyuan, Niujie Branch

Address: No. 5-2, Niu Street, Xicheng District, Beijing



## 3. Beijing Fried Noodles (Zhá jiàng miàn)

Beijing Fried Noodles is a unique local dish, made from stir-fried shredded vegetables, sauce and rice noodles. The vegetables include cucumbers, Chinese toon leaves, bean sprouts, green beans and soy beans. The sauce is made with diced meat, onion, ginger, oil, and soybean paste or sweet noodle sauce.

Characteristics:

The hand-made noodles are wonderfully chewy and the sauce is lightly fried to bring out the deep flavors.

Recommendation:

Hai Wan Ju

Address: No. 11, Zengguang Road, Haidian District, Beijing (northwest of Ganjiakou Building)



## 4. Zhizi Barbecue (Zhì zi kǎoròu)

Zhizi barbecue is a traditional form of Chinese barbecue cooked over a small round oven pot with cast-iron grates. Beef, mutton, shredded shallots, and coriander are spread over the grill and then barbecued over hot coals.

Characteristics:

Smokey and tender.

Recommendation:

Kaorou Wan, Yonghegong Branch

Address: No. 185, Yonghegong Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing (near the west exit of Gui Street)





## 5. Beijing Sautéed Shredded Pork (Jīng jiàng ròu sī)



Beijing sautéed shredded pork is a well-known, tender meat dish with a rich sauce. Ingredients include sweet noodle sauce, shallots, ginger, and other seasonings.

Characteristics:  
Slightly salty, slightly sweet.

How to eat:  
The dish is usually served on top of thinly sliced tofu, or accompanied by sliced shallots, cucumbers or other seasonal vegetable.

Recommendation:  
Jin Bai Wan, Jinsong Branch  
Address: Commercial Building, No.43, Songyuxili, Panjiayuan, Chaoyang District, Beijing



## 6. Qingfeng Steamed Buns (Qìng fēng bāozi)



Qingfeng Steamed Buns restaurant was founded in 1948. It started no different than other restaurants, but its tasty steamed buns became popular in 1956. A steamed bun is a vegetable filling rolled in a light, fluffy dough and steamed until hot and moist. Ingredients include chili and garlic pastes, oils or infusions, fresh coriander and leeks, sesame oil, and other flavoring.

Recommendation:  
Qingfeng Steamed Buns, Qianmenxi Street Branch  
Address: No. 4, Zhengyang Market, Qianmenxi Avenue, Xicheng District, Beijing.

## 7. Lamb Spine (Yáng xiēzi)



This unique dish serves a complete lamb (Yáng) spine with tenderloin attached. Since it resembles the shape of a scorpion (xiēzi), it is commonly known as Yáng xiēzi. The meat attached to the bones is tasty as expected. It is usually cooked in a hot pot which makes it perfect for cold winter days or nights.

How to eat:

This is one of the few dishes in China that is usually eaten with your hands, but since touching food in China is frowned upon, restaurants will supply customers plastic gloves so that diners don't get their hands dirty. A bone marrow soup or broth is usually served with the meat and has a rich, meaty, hearty flavor.

Recommendation:

Xie Wang Fu

Address: 1F, Building 5, Songjingbei Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing (Northeast side of Panjiayuan Bridge)

## 8. Quick Boiled Lamb Noodles (Yángròu cuān miàn)



Quick Boiled Lamb Noodles is a home-cooked local Beijing specialty. Soy sauce, sesame oil, and other seasonings are poured over sliced mutton. When the noodles are almost cooked, the meat is added and once it has cooked in the boiling water, the noodles and meat are removed from the water.

Characteristics:

“Cuān” refers to food that is cooked in boiling water and

then removed from the water. Cooking time is usually extremely short.

Recommendation:

Xiaoyuezhai Qingzhen (Halal) Handmade Noodles

Address: No. 4, Yong'an Men Nei Avenue, Xicheng District (originally in Xuanwu District), Beijing (Opposite to Beijing Hui People Hospital)

# Top Restaurants

## 1. Najia Xiaoguan (A Piece of Inn)

Traditional Beijing Cuisine

This high-end restaurant serves authentic Beijing fine dining — known in Beijing as “Imperial Cuisine”. The inn is elegantly decorated in a simple Qing dynasty style with lots of wood everywhere. The experience is highly recommended, authentic, and unique. Average price per person: 110 RMB  
Business hours: Daily 10:00–21:30  
Address: 10F, North Building, Parkson Shopping Center, No. 101, Fuxingmennei Avenue, Xicheng District, Beijing

## 2. Beijing Da Dong

Roast Duck

Da Dong is famous for its unique roast duck. Different from the traditional roast duck that can be slightly on the oily side, the duck skin at Da Dong is crisp but not fatty or oily. When you bite into the meat, it just melts in your mouth with a luscious, rich flavor. The restaurant also provides dining manuals which explain traditional eating (not cooking) methods. Quality comes with a price though and this duck can be steep. Average price per person: 300 RMB  
Hours Daily: 11:00–22:00  
Address: 6F, Donghua Jinjie Shopping Center, No. 301, Wangfujing Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing

## 3. Lily Vegetarian

Vegetarian

This restaurant specializes in serving vegetarian dishes that seem like meat alternatives. The alternative dish,

sweet and sour ‘steak’ is the specialty here (only the ‘steak’ is not actually meat). Their dish “crackling” is made from lotus root and is crispy and sweet. Pumpkin pods make an aromatic and sticky dessert with crushed peanuts, other nuts, preserved fruits, and more.

Average price per person: 79 RMB

Hours Daily: 10:00–21:00

Address: No. 23, Caoyuan Hutong, Beixiaojie, North of Dongzhimen, Dongcheng District, Beijing

## 4. Lijiacai Old Shop

Upscale Imperial Cuisine

Lijia cuisine originates from the imperial palace of the Qing Dynasty and tries to replicate dishes served during imperial times. It adheres to sophisticated traditional cooking methods and uses only fine ingredients. The dishes here usually have a mild taste.

Average price per person: 200–800 RMB

Hours Monday to Sunday: 11:00–14:00, 17:00–22:00 (No orders after 20:15)

Address: No. 11, Yangfang Hutong, Deshengmennei Avenue, Xicheng District, Beijing

## 5. Qinian No. 8

Dim Sum Buffet serve

The place has a more Western design with dark wooden tables and chairs. The dishes served are a combination of Imperial, Sichuan, and Hunan cuisine. In addition to the famous Shunde Cantonese-style duck, many

dishes are unique creations, like Lingnan lichi (drunken shrimp), calf ribs baked in a clay pot, and truffle abalone rice sauce.

Average price per person: 154 RMB

Hours Lunch, 11:30–14:30, Dinner, 17:30–22:30

Address: 2F, New World Beijing Hotel, No. 8, Qinian Avenue, Dongcheng District, Beijing

## 6. Imperial Granary

Ancient architecture Kunqu Opera show

Nanxincang Granary, once an imperial granary, is currently the best preserved historical warehouse in Beijing and serves Chinese, Western, and Japanese cuisine. It was renovated in the 7th year of the Yongle Emperor (1409 CE, Ming Dynasty) on the base of the Beitaicang granary which was built in the Yuan Dynasty. The interior decoration is elegant and modern showcasing old bricks and original ceiling beams that date back 600 years. Famous dishes include triple auspicious treasures, authentic Imperial Granary duck, rice cake shrimp ball, and braised spiky sea cucumbers. Performances by the Kunqu Opera are held each Friday and Saturday at 7pm. The show is included with buffet ticket: 298 RMB.

Average price per person: 300 RMB

Hours Monday to Sunday: 10:30–22:00

Address: No. 22, Dongsishitiao, Xinnancang, Dongcheng District, Beijing



# Top Food Street

The best place to eat authentic local food, sometimes referred to as “snacks”, but is understood to be more like quick bites, is usually tucked away in a small “food” street. Stalls in food streets have unique flavors difficult to find even in restaurants. Below are the most recommended food streets in Beijing.



## Xianyukou (Seafood) Food Street – a street with a cluster of old restaurants

This seafood street near Qianmen dates back 570 years and is decorated with fish-themed artwork on bricks and lamps and flags hanging at entrances. Popular with travelers because most kinds of Beijing street food is served here.

Recommendation: Jinfang Snacks, Donglaishun Skewers, Tianxingju Mansion Stewed Liver, Pianyi (Affordable) House, and Wangji Pan-fried Dumplings.

Address: No. 123, Dajiang Hutong, Qianmen Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing

Attractions nearby: Tian’anmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven Park and Beihai (North Lake) Park



## Niu Jie Street - the authentic halal food street

Niu Jie Street is home to Beijing’s Muslim community so the street and nearby Hutongs are full of halal restaurants, old snack bars, and restaurants. Niu Jie’s halal food is famous for their exhaustive variety and delicious flavor. Try the Douzhir and Quick-fried Tripe, which is something akin to ordering fish and chips in Britain.

Recommendation: Jubaoyuan Boiled Mutton, Mr. Man’s Quick-Fried Tripe, Chengyi Lamb Spine Hot Pot House. Guests have to wait until their reservation number is called in many restaurants. Turpan Restaurant, at the north end of the street, is renowned for its atmosphere and Uyghur cuisine.

Address: Niu Street, Guanganmennei Avenue, Xicheng (originally Xuanwu) District, Beijing

Attraction nearby: Capital Museum



## Huguosi Snack Street – a street of affordable food

Huguosi Street is about 600 meters (650 yards) long and is named after the nearby temple. Also nearby is the former residence of the Peking Opera maestro, Mr. Mei Lanfang, and the People's Theatre. The street has many stalls which serve a wide variety of quick bites known as Huguosi snacks.

Recommendation: Huguosi Snack Bar and Mr. Man's Quick-Fried Tripe (Lao Man Bao Du)

Address: Huguosi Street, Xicheng District, Beijing

Attractions nearby: Prince Kung's Palace Museum, Beihai Park, and Shichahai Park



## Ping'an Avenue – Historic Food Street

Along Ping'an Avenue, people can find all kinds of restaurants starting from Dongsishitiao Bridge. As many restaurants have been built on the sites of ancient palaces and mansions, the historical architecture is every bit as good as the food served here. Popular with locals who stroll the avenue to have dinner and then perhaps slip into one of the many bars afterwards.

Recommendation: Gege (Royal Princess) Mansion, a former house of the Empress Dowager Cixi, serves various stewed recipes that was previously served to the former royal family.

Address: Near Guanyuan Bridge, west of Dongxishitiao Bridge, Xicheng District, Beijing

Attractions nearby: Nanluoguxiang Hutong and Houhai (Back Lakes)



# Shopping

## Top Items to take back Home



### 1. Gu Gong Weng Chuang (Forbidden City Cultural and Creative Products)

Products that integrate historical and cultural Chinese elements into day-to-day items.

### 2. Beijing Daoxiangcun

Beijing Daoxiangcun is a popular, century-old pastry chain serving traditional pastries, shortbreads, and cakey cookie type packaged deserts. Beijing Daoxiangcun has many locations around Beijing and their deserts are often sold in boxes making convenient gifts. Check out the "Beijing eight pieces" — a small

sampler box.

### 3. Beijing clay figurines

Small, colorful clay figurines that are made into people and animals. The "Rabbit Master" is the most popular and comes from the legendary "The Lady Chang'e Flying to the Moon" and "Jade Rabbit Mashing Herbs". According to local folklore, the Rabbit Master is a god that protects Beijingers from disease.

### 4. Poria Cocos Cake (Fúlingbǐng)

Poria Cocos starts as a fine powder which is mixed with sugar and made into a dough, then rolled into a pancake shape. Syrup and honey

along with pine nuts, walnuts, hawthorns and other fruits are then stuffed or rolled into the dough.

### 5. Sachima

Sachima is a soft, beige colored Manchurian recipe that resembles the western "Rice Crispy treats", but with a very different taste. Sugar is blended with Osmanthus and honey into a mix of eggs and flour, baked, and then cut into small squares.

It was one of the main offerings for the first three Emperors before the Qing Dynasty came to power in Beijing. In the Manchu language, it means "medlar and sugar".

# Top Places for Shopping



## Liulichang

A charming little street lined with old, brick and wood shops selling locally produced art. During the Qianlong period, Liulichang became a distribution center for antique calligraphy, paintings, and ancient books. Address: Nanxinhua Street, Xicheng District, Beijing

## Wangfujing Street

A street loaded with food stalls and small street shops offering mostly daily items like clothes, jewelry, electronic accessories, bags, shoes, etc. Address: Dongcheng District, Beijing City

## Silk Street (Xiushui Street)

For people looking for good bargains on day-to-day items, this is a great option. While some shopping streets can be slightly touristy, Silk Street is mostly visited by locals looking for good prices that can be bargained down to super deals. Almost any day-to-day item can be found here.

Address: Core zone of Beijing CBD (Central Business District), the extended line of Chang'an Avenue

## Xidan

A high-end district that boasts international name brand shopping popular with the young, rich crowd. It's all Gucci, Coach, Kate Spade, etc. here and at premium prices too. Address: Xidan North Street, Xicheng District, Beijing



# Beijing Nightlife

---

## Beijing Sanlitun

---

Sanlitun is an upscale, classy bar street frequented by expats, foreign tourists, Chinese celebrities and the upper class.  
Address: Mid-west of Chaoyang District, Beijing

---



# Transportation

---

## Taxi

Taxis are plentiful, efficient, affordable, and safe in Beijing (as well as in most of the China). The base rate is 14 RMB, depending on the type of car, and then 2.3 RMB for every kilometer. A 20% night subsidy is charged from 23:00 to 6:00. In general, Beijing taxis are standardized with all having easily displayed meters and the drivers are usually good about using them. If you do get in a taxi and the meter (with bright red LED numbers) is not turned on within the first few seconds of the trip (again, very rare), just point to it and the driver will turn it on. A great way to hail taxis now is through a taxi-hailing app. The most popular, and arguably best one, is the Apple backed “Didi Chuxing”, simply called “Didi”. How can you use a Chinese app when you don’t read Chinese? Well, you’re in luck. Beginning in 2017, Didi launched an English version that will auto-translate simple text between you and the driver.

## Bus:

- Buses are as cheap as the subway (usually only 1–4 RMB)
- China is famous for having very comprehensive bus systems covering nearly every corner of every city meaning you won't have to walk very far once getting off.
- Buses come frequently with popular lines arriving possibly every minute during rush hour, but rarely

longer than every 10 minutes.

- Buses are modern and usually based on Japanese or German designs.
- Some buses even use hybrid engines making them better for the environment.
- During summer, they always have the AC on.



## Subway:

The subway is the fastest, nicest, coolest, and the most convenient way to move around Beijing. Modern, climate-controlled trains whisk you around the city quickly, efficiently, and best of all, very affordably. While taxis are affordable by western standards, you'd need to take several subway trips before equaling the cost of just one taxi ride. True, you'll need to walk a little to get to your final destination, but Beijing's subway system has stops at most major (and even minor) popular destinations — and traffic is never an issue.

### Notes and Tips:

Taking the subway, even at night, is extremely safe. All stations are well lit and have security guards. Westerners who are used to doggy, dingy, or poorly lit subways with no security are in for a treat. China's subways are the complete opposite.

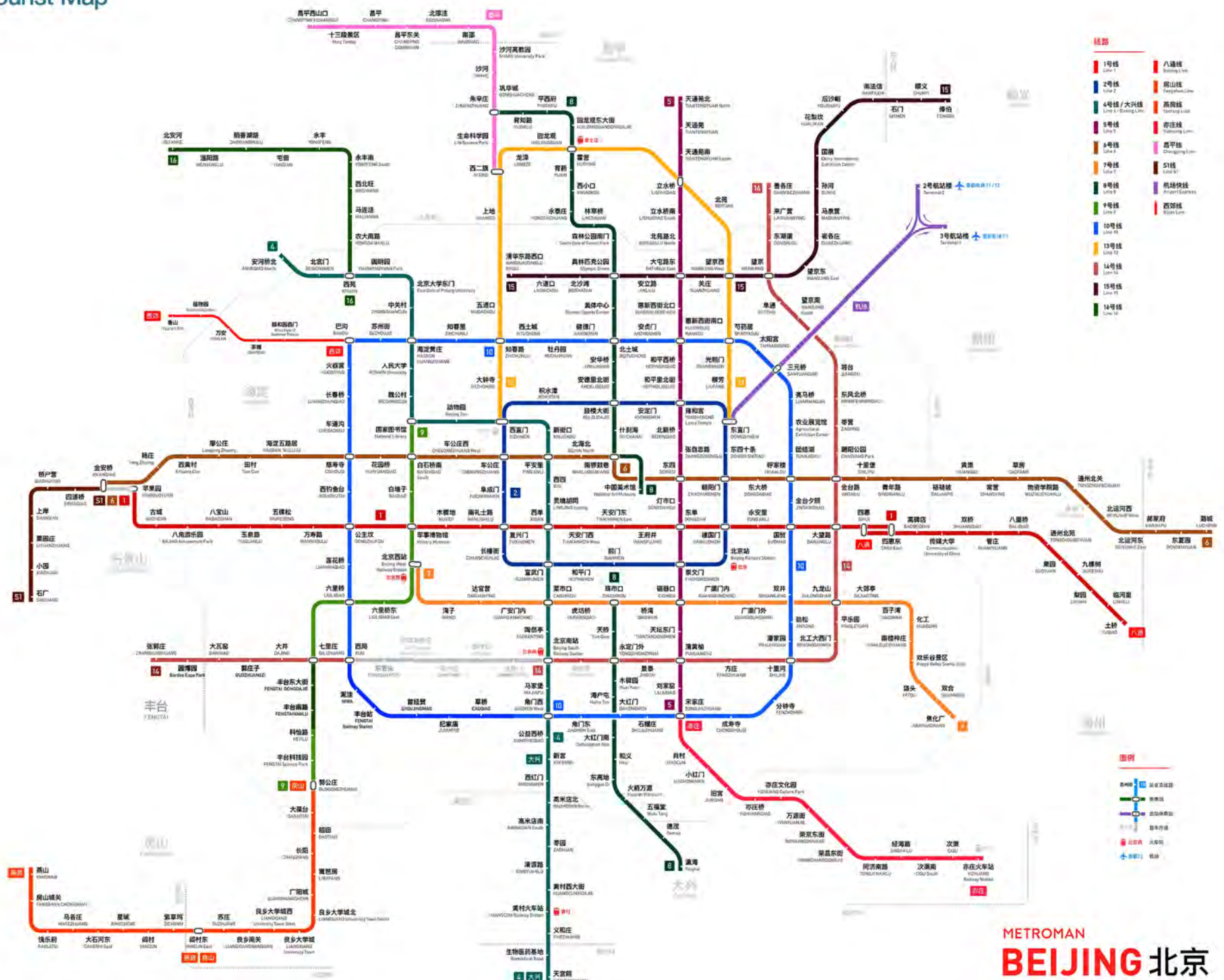
Subway maps, found inside the trains and all over the stations, use both Chinese characters and their Pinyin counterparts (Pinyin is Chinese written using the Roman alphabet). For those not familiar with riding subways, the following is important: before boarding a train, find your destination on a map and then look at the FINAL DESTINATION going in that direction. The name of the final destination is important in order to find which train you need.

There are 16 subway lines and one dedicated airport line in Beijing now — which costs a very affordable 25 RMB. Ordinary lines cost 3–9 yuan depending on the distance traveled. Visitors should look into getting a Subway/Bus transport card if you'll be in Beijing for several days and plan to take many trips on public transport. The card itself is free and acts as a debit card — load the card with money (50–100 RMB is usually sufficient) and then instead of waiting in line to buy tokens for the subway, or paying in cash every time you take a bus, you will just scan your card, saving you time as well as money since there is a very slight (around 5%) discount applied. The easiest place to get these cards is at the customer service window located in most subway stations. Usually, attendants can speak enough English to handle this type of transaction.

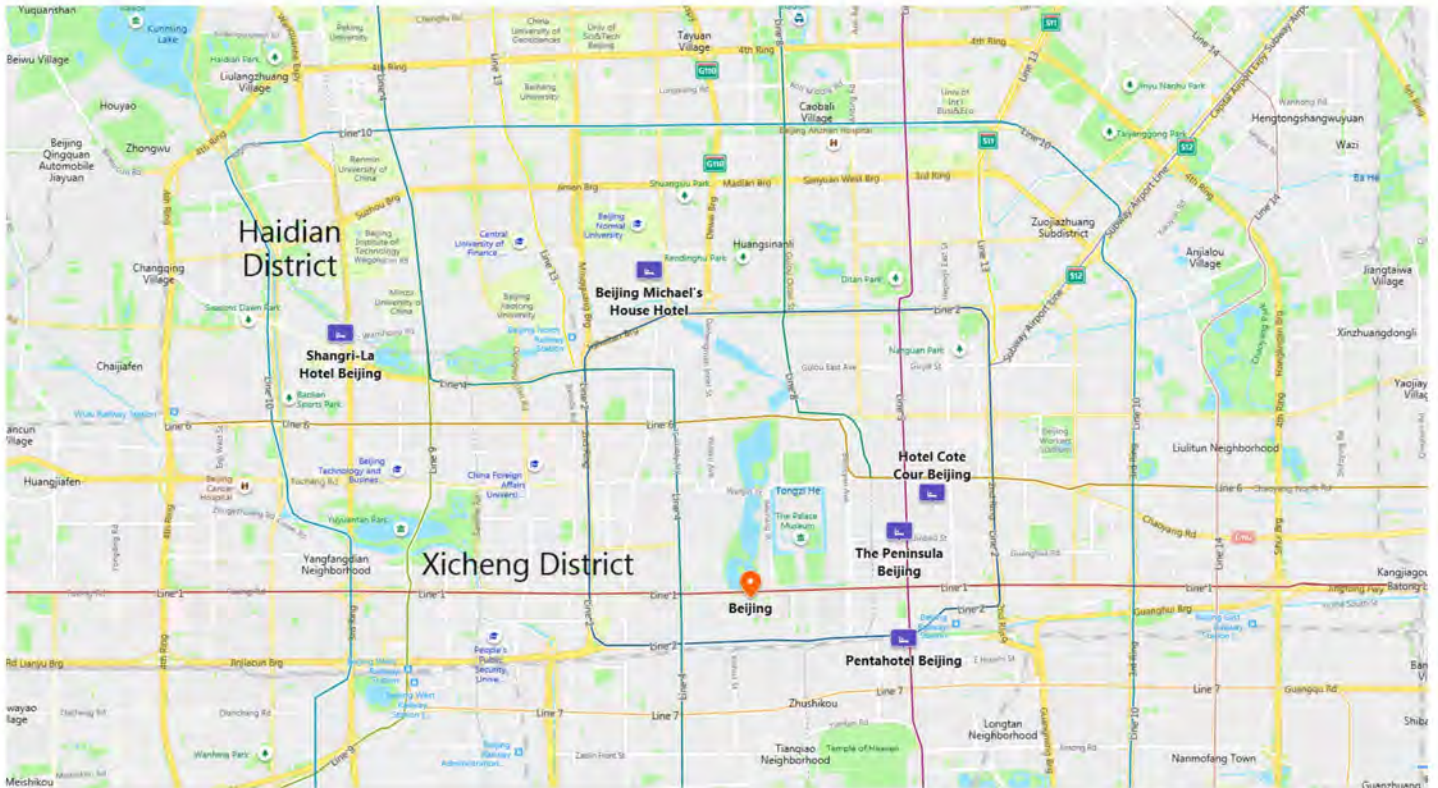
The below quick reference guide will help you find which lines go to the major tourist destinations.

- Line 1: Xidan, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Wangfujing Commercial Street
- Line 2: Lama Temple, Sanlitun
- Line 4: Summer Palace, Peking University, Tsinghua University, Zoo
- Line 5: Temple of Heaven, Lama Temple
- Line 6: Beihai Park
- Line 8: Bird's Nest and Water Cube

# Beijing Metro Tourist Map



# Top Hotels



## The Peninsula Beijing

The Peninsula Beijing was voted “Top 3 Best Hotels in Beijing 2017” by Travel + Leisure US magazine. An extremely unique exterior design makes guests feel they are staying some place extra special combining timeless Chinese artistry and craftsmanship with cutting-edge technology. They offer spacious all-suite guest accommodations, spectacular service, and luxurious comfort right in the heart of the capitol.

Address: No.8, Jinyu Hutong, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100006, China

## Shangri-La Hotel Beijing

Juxtaposing the old and new, Beijing likes to showcase the best both worlds. The Shangri-La Hotel is firmly in the modern world with comfortable, modern touches such as a marble entrance hall, comfortable lighting throughout, an large indoor pool, and

spacious rooms with high ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows offering fantastic views of the city.

Address: No. 29, Zizhuyuan Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100089, China

## Pentahotel Beijing

Pentahotel Beijing is conveniently located in the heart of the city thus putting it just a hop away from Chongwenmen Metro Station, Tiananmen Square, the Temple of Heaven and more popular sights. The rooms are very comfortable, practical, and more affordable than other places of similar quality.

Address: No. 3-18, Chongwenmenwai Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing 100062, China

## Hotel Cote Cour Beijing

One of more unique places to stay in Beijing, this hotel looks unlike anything else on this list. If you're not into large multi-floor skyscrapers and prefer single-layer complexes with simple,

classical, ancient Chinese design somewhat resembling a Beijing Hutong, then this place is for you. The interior is a combination of classic and modern. If you want to experience the charm of staying in an authentic Beijing Hutong without giving up more modern comforts, this hotel is for you.

Address: Dongcheng District 100010, Yanle Hutong, Dongsu South Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing, China

## Michael's House

Another welcoming, charming, smaller option that has a Hutong-esque feel to it. An original Beijing flavor abounds here and helps make you feel the warmth of staying at your own private Beijing home. Prices are affordable and the entire hotel is expertly done to give a modern, comfortable feel to a small, neighborhood hotel.

Address: South Campus, No.1, Tianzhiqiang North Park, Xiaoxi, Haidian District, Beijing 100088, China

# Beijing Facts

Chinese name: 北京 Běi jīng

Location: North of China

Population (city): 21.7 M

Language: Mandarin

Zip code: 110000

Tel code: +86 (010)

Time zone: China standard (UTC+8)

## Before you Go

---

## Bank

Banks and ATMs are plentiful around the city — in shopping areas, around office parks, along most streets, in railway stations, airports, etc. All ATM's have an English option on the keypad and machines are usually located in well lit, modern locations sometimes with an accompanying security guard. Reports of crime at or around ATMs are exceedingly rare in Beijing. Nearly all major banking card networks are accepted by Chinese ATMs — Electron, Maestro, Plus, Cirrus, Interlink, Star, NYCE, Diner's Club, Mastercard, Visa, American Express, and more. The most popular (Asian) networks in China are UnionPay and JCB. In addition, credit cards are accepted at all major hotels and restaurants and at most smaller ones. The only places where a card might not be accepted are street stalls, very small local restaurants, very small hostels and the like.

## Internet

China generally provides more free Wi-Fi than most other countries. Some cities even have a city-wide network (although it can be painfully slow). All hotels/hostels, and the vast majority of coffee shops, large buildings, shopping malls provide their own free Wi-Fi network — just ask for the password if there is one, but sometimes no password will be required. You will often be required to register on the network using your passport or other ID number. Registration can be in English and usually takes 1–3 minutes depending on your technical savvy. If you have trouble getting connected, nearly anyone nearby who looks to be under the age of 25 and either a student or a professional will likely be happy to help.

Note: Internet speeds in China are usually good to acceptable, but rarely “mind-blowingly speedy”. Access to most popular internet sites in the west are still blocked in China and

have been for a decade. This includes, but is not limited to: Facebook, Google, Gmail, Youtube, Twitter, Instagram, Messenger, Bloomberg, most of CNN, the New York Times, etc. If access to any of these sites will be important while on your trip, it's recommended to install (sometimes for free, sometimes for a charge) a VPN on all your electronic items before arrival. Paid VPN's usually work much better than free ones and for most people are worth the \$5–\$10/month charge.

## Medical Services

In China, there are basically two types of medical treatment options — public and private. The public locations are much more affordable than the private ones, but even the expensive private hospitals and doctor offices will be considered exceedingly affordable by western standards (and if you're American, that 10 RMB x-ray or 50 RMB doctor office charge is going to feel completely free). The level of care is noticeable and it's highly recommended that travelers try to find treatment at the best facility in whatever city they're in. The quality of medical care — including knowledge and training of medical staff, newness of equipment, and medical infrastructure — overall is truly very good in China, but the private locations are hands-down better for travelers. While you shouldn't expect fluent English at even the priciest of hospitals, you will find far more English speakers there and thus you'll have the best chance of accurately communicating your issue (this intentionally implies that the lack of English found in most public places can make communication, and therefore accurate treatment, impossible.)

Beijing (and other major Chinese cities such as Shanghai and Hong Kong) are very well equipped to handle any time of emergency or

medical condition which needs attention. Travelers with rare conditions, or who will need regular medical attention while on their trip, should definitely consult with their doctor prior to departure and possibly do a little translation work as well, but should have nothing to fear.

For medical emergencies anywhere in mainland China, expats can call the International SOS, Ltd., 24-hour “Assistance Center” in Beijing at telephone (86)(10) 6462–9100 or in Shanghai at (86)(21) 5298–9538 for advice and referrals to local facilities. International SOS Alarm Centers can also be contacted in Hong Kong at telephone (852) 2428–9900.

The below list are the recommended medical centers for Beijing (maybe keep a copy of this list handy during your trip).

Bayley & Jackson Beijing Medical Center  
#7 Ritan Dong Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100020  
(86)(10) 8562–9998 Fax: (86)(10) 8561–4866

Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics  
#2 Jiang Tai Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100016  
(86)(10) 6433–3960 Fax: (86)(10) 6433–3963  
Emergency Hotline: (86)(10) 6433–2345

Beijing United Family Clinic — Shunyi Pinnacle Plaza, Unit # 818, Tian Zhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi District, 101312  
(86)(10) 8046–5432 Fax: (86)(10) 8046–4383

Peking Union Medical Hospital  
1 Shuai Fu Yuan, Dong Cheng District, Beijing 100730  
Tel: (86)(10) 6529–5269 (registration and information);

(86)(10) 6529-5284 (24 hours);  
(86)(10) 6529 6114 (operator)  
Modern Facilities with English  
speaking staff. Separate ward for  
foreign patients.

Raffles Medical, formerly  
International SOS  
Address: Suite 205, Wing 1, Kunsha  
Building, 16 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang  
district  
Open 7 days a week 8am-8pm  
Clinic Appointments: (010) 6462  
9112 Dental Clinic: (010) 6462 0333

Beijing Vista Clinic  
Kerry Center Shopping Mall No. 1  
Guanghua Road Chaoyang District  
Beijing 100020, China  
Tel: + 86 10 6594 5129 Fax: + 86 10  
6594 5129

Global Doctor Beijing Clinic  
Beijing Friendship Hospital No. 95  
Yong'an Road Xuanwu District  
Beijing, China  
Tel: + 86 10 8315 1915

Hong Kong International Medical  
Clinic - Beijing  
9/F Office Tower, Hong Kong Macau  
Center 2  
Chao Yang Men Bei Da Jei Road  
Chao Yang District Beijing 100027,  
China  
Tel: + 86 10 6501 2288 Fax: + 86 10  
6502 3426

International Medical Center  
(IMC) Beijing Office Building S106,  
Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa  
Centre  
No. 50 Liang Maqiao Road Beijing  
100016 China  
Tel: + 86 10 6465 1561 Fax: + 86 10  
6465 1984

Sino-German Polyclinic Landmark  
Tower  
Room B-1 8 North Dong San Huan  
Road Chao Yang District Beijing  
100004 China  
Tel: + 86 10 6590 0901 Fax: + 86 10  
6680 6609

OASIS International hospital  
9 Jiuxianqiao North Road Chaoyang  
District, Beijing China  
Hours: Monday-Friday 08:30-17:30  
Tel: 400 87 62747; +86 10 5985  
0333 (24 hours)

APM's Puhua International Hospital -  
Shuangjing  
No. 54 Wusheng Bei Lu, Beijing  
100022  
24 Hour Patient Service Hotline:  
+86-10-5363-1264  
Tel: +86-10-87735522 Fax: +86-  
10-87735006

### Consulate Services

The consulates of various countries  
are mainly concentrated near  
Sanlitun.

### Safety

Both violent and non-violent crime is  
rare in China. Streets are mostly safe  
to walk down at all hours of the  
night. Taxis are mostly safe too.  
China has extra strict, forcefully  
applied, laws protecting foreigners  
which discourages most crime  
against them.

Nevertheless, travelers should always  
observe good common sense. While  
even dark alleyways may be perfectly  
safe in China, if you're carrying  
anything valuable, you may not want  
to risk walking down one. Don't leave  
luggage or any possessions un-  
attended. Be careful with pick  
pockets in large crowds or on  
public transportation, although this  
too is not common. Women traveling  
alone should also take normal  
precautions, but there's no need to  
be fearful. Overall, China - even  
Beijing - are exceptionally safe  
places to travel.

**HEAD OFFICE OF CHINA EDUCATIONAL TOURS IN CHINA**

Contact number: +86 773 3564 989

Address: Room 804, Unit 1, Building No. 11, 48 Qixing Road, Qixing District, Guilin, PRC, 541002

**AUSTRALIA BASED OFFICE OF CHINA EDUCATIONAL TOURS**

Contact number: +61 419460966

Address: PO BOX 324, Inverloch, VIC. 3996

Email: [info@chinaeducationaltours.com](mailto:info@chinaeducationaltours.com)

Website: [www.ChinaEducationalTours.com](http://www.ChinaEducationalTours.com)

