

Beijing, China

Beijing eGuide.com

Introduction



Beijing, the capital of China is a vibrant, modern city with a strong culture and heritage. Beijing provides much for the visitor to experience and enjoy.

For the traveller, Beijing is a welcoming city offering a wide variety of options. Combining the heritage of an ancient history with the excitement of a rapidly growing metropolis, Beijing has something for every mood or interest. Fans of culture can enjoy a performance of the classic Beijing Opera, a Kung Fu show, Beijing acrobatics, or a night at one of the city's many theatres or cinemas. Those looking for nightlife will enjoy the already large and constantly growing list of Beijing restaurants and bars.

From the Forbidden City to the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square to the bird's nest Olympic Stadium, there is an endless list of things to see in and around Beijing. In fact, there is so much to do that it is easy for the traveller to become

overwhelmed. Fortunately, there are many opportunities to relax. Whether you sit in one of the many parks or temples, spend the afternoon over a pot of tea or indulge in a famous Beijing massage, there are just as many ways to do nothing in Beijing as there are activities.

Some of the main attractions are Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, Beihai Park, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, Fragrant Hill, the Peking Man, the Big Bell Temple, the Ming Tombs, the Lugou Bridge and the Grand View Garden.

Beijing is a modern 21st century city preparing to show itself to the world at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Skyscrapers, shopping malls and traffic contrast with the 'old' Beijing of teahouses, opera, local markets and street life.

Travellers looking for fine cuisine, vibrant nightlife, history, culture, or even relaxation will all find a place in Beijing. A city of change and tradition, Beijing is one of the most exciting places in the world. There is no reason to wait for this destination that should be ranked as a "must see" on every traveller's list.

Tourist Information

Essentials

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ambulance: call 120

Fire: call 119

Police: call 110

Traffic Police: call 122

Tourist Information Centre

Tourist hotline: **6513 0828**

Safety

Beijing is generally a safe place. As in all world cities, beware of petty theft. It is always advisable to use the safe box in your hotel.

Medical Services

International Medical Centre: **6465 1561**

Peking Union Medical Hospital: **9529 5284**

Also see **Hospitals** below.

Health

Do not drink water that has not been boiled. Use bottled water which is available.

Hospitals

Beijing Asia Emergency Assistance Clinic (AEA)

Building C, BITIC Leasing Centre, 1 Xingfu Sancun North Road, Chaoyang District. Phone: 6462 9100

Beijing International SOS Assistance (SOS)

Suite 105, Wing 1, Kunsha Building, 16 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang District. Phone: (010) 6462 9112

Beijing United Family Hospital (Beijing Hemujia Yiyuan)

2 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang District. Phone: 6433 2345

Peking Union Medical Hospital

9529 5284

Beijing International Medical Centre (IMC)

Room 106, Beijing Lufthansa Centre, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District. Phone: 6465 1561

Beijing Union Medical Hospital (Beijing Xiehe Yiyuan)

53 Dongdanbei Dajie, Dongcheng District. Phone: 6529 5284

Hong Kong International Medical Clinic

Swissotel, 3rd Floor, Beijing Hong Kong Macau Centre, Dongsihitia, Chaoyang District. Phone: 6553 2288

International Medical Centre

6465 1561

Money

The Renminbi (RMB) is referred to as yuan (spoken as kuai) and issued as 100, 50, 10, 5, 2 and 1 notes. The yuan breaks down into 10 jiao which breaks down into 10 fen. Change can be hard to find so keep as many 10 yuan notes as possible. There are many ATMs around but not all accept overseas cards. The Bank of China ATMs work in English and are spread around Beijing. Credit cards are not universally accepted and some places might display the Visa symbol but only accept Chinese cards. It is best to have some cash in China and not be totally reliant on plastic means to pay for things.

Time

Beijing is two hours behind Australian Eastern Standard Time, eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time, 16 hours ahead of US Pacific Time and 13 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time. This means that, if it 12 noon in Beijing, it is 2pm in Sydney; 4am in London; and 11pm the previous day in New York. Times change slightly due to daylight savings adjustments in some countries.

Telephone

Card phones are the cheapest way to phone for local and long distance calls and not all phone booths allow international calls. The mobile phone network is 900 and 1800 MHz. The country code for China is 86; the city code for Beijing is 010 and for Beijing local calls just dial the eight digit number. To make an international direct dial call from Beijing use the international access code "00". Local SIM cards are easily available and are offered as you arrive at Beijing International Airport.

China Post

The postal system is efficient. Use envelopes of an approved size.

Tipping

Tips are generally not expected and a service charge is normally added to restaurant bills. The main exceptions are hotel porters and tour guides who happily accept tips.

Climate

Located in the north of China at the northern end of the North China Plain, Beijing is ringed by mountains and enjoys warm, typically humid, summers. Winters tend to be cold and dry, with most of the city's annual precipitation falling in June and August. Occasional dust storms, blowing in from China's northern deserts, reach the city in late spring.

China Visas

All visitors need a visa which needs to be arranged before arrival. This can be obtained at a Chinese embassy or one of China's state travel agencies. The single entry tourist visa is valid for 30 days. Multiple entry visas, business visas and student visas are also available. Visa extensions are arranged by the Public Security Bureau (6525 5486).

Types of visa:

L - tourist visa normally valid for up to 30 days.
F - business visa normally valid for up to three months.
Z - work visa.
X - student visa.
C - flight attendant visa.
J - journalist visa.
D - resident visa.

Customs and Quarantine

A customs form must be completed on arrival. Prohibited items include fresh fruit, arms, ammunition, printed matter, films or tapes "detrimental to China's economy, culture and ethics", narcotic drugs, animals and plants. Cash over a stated value (US\$6,000 or equivalent in foreign currencies, as at April 2008) must be declared. If you purchase antiques in China, you must obtain a certificate of authenticity to allow it to be exported.

Chinese Language - A Little Help

English can be a problem in Beijing. English will be spoken in all the main hotels, large restaurants and larger shops. Taxi drivers are not good at English and normal practice is to ask the hotel staff to write down your destination in Chinese. Do make sure you carry with you the hotel card in Chinese to return. Many restaurants have picture menus including the fast food outlets.

Mandarin (known as Putonghua) is the national language of China. Cantonese is spoken in Guangdong, and Hakka is used in north-eastern Guangdong. Chinese uses tones and incorrect tones change meanings of words.

Electricity

The voltage is 220V. Numerous plug types are used: the two-pronged styles and the three-pronged, angled Australian styles are common. An adapter with American and Australian styles will cover most places.

Office Hours

Offices in Beijing normally operate from 8am to 5pm and close for lunch.

Internet

Most hotels have Internet and Internet cafes are easily found.

Newspapers

The *China Daily* is produced on all days except Sunday and the *Beijing Weekend* on Friday has useful visitor information

Holidays

1 January	New Year's Day
Chinese New Year or Spring Festival	Depends on the Chinese lunar calendar but is around January/February. A major four day holiday
8 March	International Women's day
1 May	International Labour Day
4 May	Youth Day
1 June	Children's Day
1 July	Anniversary of the Founding of the Communist Party of China
1 August	Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese PLA
1 October	National Day

Festivals**Spring Festival**

The Spring Festival happens in late January or February and falls on the first day of the new lunar month and lasts 15 days ending with the Lantern Festival. The festival marks the Chinese New Year.

Lantern Festival

The Lantern Festival or Yuanxiao Jie, is at the end of the Spring Festival and happens on the 15th day of the first month of the lunar year.

Dragon Boat Festival

The Dragon Boat Festival (Duanwu Jie) happens on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese lunar calendar.

Mid-Autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival happens seven months from the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar and is when the moon's orbit is at the lowest angle on the horizon.

National Day

National Day is the 1st October and celebrates the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Religious Services**Jewish**

Chabab Lubavitch of Beijing (6468 1321)

Protestant

Beijing Gangwashi Church (6617 6181)

Beijing International Christian Fellowship (8454 3468)

Congregation of the Good Shepherd (8486 2225)

River of Grace Church (2690 5684)

Muslim

Dongsi Mosque (6525 2770)

Niujie Mosque (6353 2564)

Xiapo Mosque (8562 6316)

Roman Catholic

Our Lady of Mt Carmel (6615 6619)

St Joseph's (6524 0634)

St Michael's (6513 5170)

Orientation

Beijing is the second largest city in China, after Shanghai, and is the political and cultural capital of the country. Beijing covers an area of almost 17,000 square kilometres and has a population of nearly 18 million people. Traditionally called Peking in English, Beijing's population is comprised of all of China's many ethnic groups as well as a large international population.

Beijing is made up of 16 urban districts and two rural counties. The inner city is square in shape with the outer city being a rectangle and the Forbidden City in the centre. Central Beijing is made up of wide tree-lined boulevards and highways with little alleyways (or hutongs) running off various courtyards. Parks and gardens are spread around the city.

Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City form the centre of the city. During the 'Imperial China' period, this area was thought to be the centre of the Chinese Empire and, by default, the universe. From this centre, a series of five concentric highways, or ring roads, move out towards the perimeter. An extensive transportation system consisting of trains, buses and taxis cover the entire metropolitan area and provide connections to outlying areas like the Great Wall and Ming Tombs.

Beijing's subway system currently features five lines, with most of the city serviced only by the crowded and sometimes complicated bus system. A large number of taxis service the entire city and usually charge two yuan, about US\$0.30, per kilometre.

A major transportation hub for all of China, Beijing also features connections via train, bus and aeroplane to almost all other cities in China. Beijing also serves as the major entrance point for travellers entering China from abroad.

The centre of Beijing is built around a grid pattern and divided into seven main sections. Fengtai District and Xuanwu District make up the city's southwest, home of the Beijing South train station. In the southeast, Chongwen District is home to the iconic Temple of Heaven Park and the lively Beijing Dirt Market as well as two famous Beijing restaurants, known for their roast duck, Quanjude and Biaiyifang.

In the northeast of Beijing is Chaoyang District. This area is home to much of the Beijing nightlife, particularly in the Sanlitun and Worker's Stadium areas. Much of Beijing's foreign population, embassies and the Olympic park can be found in this area. The Beijing airport and the popular Silk Market can also be found in Chaoyang District.

To the west of Chaoyang District is Dongcheng District. Wangfujing street, a famous pedestrian shopping street and the central Beijing train station can be found here. The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and Zhongshan Park are also located within Dongcheng District.

West of Dongcheng District is Xichang District, home of the Xidan Commercial Area, a good place for up-scale shopping. Beihai Park and the second largest Beijing bars area, Houhai Park, are also located within Xichang District.

Finally, in the northwest of Beijing is Haidian District, home of the Summer Palace and many of Beijing's universities.

The Great Wall of China is located on the edge of the greater Beijing municipality limit, to the north of the city centre. To the southwest is the Marco Polo Bridge and to the southeast is the coastal city of Tianjin.

Culture

Beijing is commonly considered the centre of Chinese culture. It is home to many museums, theatres, architectural monuments and universities. Beijing has its own linguistic dialect, characterised by the addition of a harsh "r" sound at the end of many words. This dialect has been adopted as the standard form of Mandarin in China.

Beijing is known for its Siheyuan architectural style which predominates the city's hutongs, or alleyways, neighbourhoods. These typically single-story homes are built around courtyards and often communal hallways and bathrooms. This style of housing produces a vibrant street life in the neighbourhoods and is characteristic of Beijing's old city.

The Beijing Opera is considered by many to be the highest achievement of Chinese cultural development. Beijing Opera combines song and dialog with stylised and symbolic gestures and movements. The operas use a special dialect that can be very difficult to understand. Fortunately, most popular theatres in Beijing display subtitles in both English and standard Mandarin.

The cuisine in Beijing has been influenced by cooking techniques from all over China. However, some Beijing restaurants do feature some dishes that are unique or characteristic of the city. The most famous is the Beijing roast duck, more commonly known as Peking Duck. Imperial cuisine, the food specially developed for China's emperors, is also unique to Beijing and can be found at many specialised Beijing restaurants.

Beijing is also the centre of the Chinese art scene. There are dozens of galleries exhibiting the work of modern and contemporary Chinese artists. There are also many museums dedicated to various forms of traditional art including painting, sculpture, ceramics and crafts. The National Art Museum is located on the east side of Tiananmen Square.

Famous traditional crafts of Beijing include cloisonné metalworking, Beijing lacquer-ware, combs hand-carved from bone, and carvings of traditional scenes on a rice-grain-sized piece of ivory. Beijing is also known for its silk flowers which appear on hair clips as well as in wreaths and bouquets.

History in a Nutshell

Beijing history and its 34 emperors can be traced back 500,000 years thanks to the discovery of 'Peking Man' in 1929 at Zhoukoudian.

The first human settlements were about 3000 BC and originally called Ji, later Yan. In 1153 Beijing became the capital of the Jin Dynasty which ruled from 1115 to 1234. Beijing was called Zhong Du at that time but little remains to be seen as Zhong Du was burnt to the ground by the armies of Genghis Khan in 1215. Kublai Khan crowned himself emperor in 1260 and founded the Yuan dynasty in 1271.

In 1368 Zhu Yuanzhang overthrew the Yuan dynasty and started the Ming dynasty. The city was renamed Beiping. He died in 1398 and his fourth son, Emperor Yongle, took over and he named the capital Beijing meaning Northern Capital. He built the Forbidden

Palace, Bell Tower and Temple of Heaven and much the city layout that still survives today. The royal cemetery, the Mong Tombs, were also built at that time.

In 1664 the Manchus conquered Beijing and kept the Ming administrative and remained in power until 1911. The Qing built the Old Summer Palace and many of the gardens we see today. In 1912 the Republic of China was founded by Sun Yat-sen.

In 1928 the capital was moved away from Beijing to Nanjing. Mao Zedong was a founder member of the Chinese Communist Party in 1921. In 1937 the Japanese occupied the city after defeating the Chinese troops at the Marco Polo Bridge. The end of World War II was followed by civil war won by the Communist Party. On 31 January, 1949 the People's Liberation Army entered the city and, in Tiananmen Square on 1st October 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China.

In 1964 the old city walls were taken down to construct the Second Ring Road. Tiananmen Square was expanded and the Great Hall of the People and the National Museum constructed (originally called the Chinese History and Revolution Museum).

A series of economic reforms put in place in 1978 by Deng Xiaoping started an ongoing process of development. A boost was the 1990 Asian Games and the 50th anniversary of the Republic of China in 1999.

Beijing's successful bid for the 2008 Olympic Games has continued the process of major development and a focus on the environmental issues facing Beijing. On 12 January 2005 the State Council approved the Beijing Urban Development Plan (2004-2020) where Beijing is to be developed into a "*modern metropolis, capital of culture and a pleasing city*" and home to almost 18 million people. The city is to develop a multi - polar polycentric plan with modern satellite cities to reduce the traffic problems in the city centre.

With all the transformation, development and major infrastructure, Beijing is changing fast. An area in the centre of the city has been preserved and the original hutongs and buildings will be restored.

Facts and Figures

Environment

Beijing has just over 7,000 square kilometres of green areas. Air pollution is a problem that is being addressed. In 2004 there were 229 days in which air quality was fair or good. To help the problem 20,000 taxis failing to meet the European 111 Emission standards are to be replaced with environmentally friendly vehicles.

Government

The People's Government of the Beijing Municipality is the executive body of the Beijing Municipal People's Congress and the main administrative body. It functions under the State Council. The Beijing Municipal Government has a mayor, several deputy mayors, a secretary-general and directors of different municipal commissions, offices and bureaux.

Getting About

Beijing Airport

Located on the north-eastern side of Beijing's central district, the Beijing Capital International Airport (phone 6512 8931) is about 26 kilometres from the city centre. The airport opened in 1999 and is a modern efficient airport. Free baggage carts are available and the airport has lockers for passengers to store their baggage. Beijing Capital International Airport has a host of facilities for the world traveller, including money changers, ATM machines and a host of restaurants.

Its three terminals are designated as follows: Terminal 1 for Hainan Airlines; Terminal 2 for Skyteam, China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines; and Terminal 3 for Star Alliance, Shanghai Airlines, Air China and Oneworld.

Terminal 3 began operations only in March 2008. It is widely regarded as the largest airport building in the world and is expected to provide much-needed support to what is already the busiest airport in the country, and just in time for the Beijing Olympics. According to estimates, the airport will have the capacity to handle 90 million passengers a year by 2012.

It is strongly recommended that you DO NOT USE any of the people soliciting taxis and transfers; only use a pre-booked transfer, public taxi or airport bus.

Pre-booked Airport Transfers

An easy option is to pre-book, before you go, a transfer from the airport to the hotel. An English speaking guide from Gray Line Blue Diamond will meet you and escort you to your hotel. This beats the long taxi queues and drivers who rarely speak English.

Airport Bus

Tourists may also take the airport shuttle to the city centre, which is the cheapest means of travel available, costing around ¥16. The airport bus is available on the lower level just outside the arrivals area that departs every 15 to 30 minutes. There are four main bus lines servicing various locations.

Line 1 heads south-east to Fangzhuang and operates from 7.30 am to 10.30 pm. Stops include Baijiazhuang, Dabeiyao, Fangzhuang, Panjiayuan, Liangmoqiao and Shilhe.

Line 2 heads south-west to Xidan and operates from 7 am until the time of the last available flight. Stops include Xidan, Sanyuanqiao, Dongshidiao Bridge and Dongzhimen.

Line 3 heads to the city centre and other southeast locations. It operates from 7.30 am until the time of the last available flight. Stops include the Beijing Railway Station, Chaoyangmen, Yuyang Hotel and Yaoboulu.

Line 4 heads to north-west of the city to Gongzhufen and operates from 7 am to 11.00 pm. Stops include Beitaipingzhan, Gozhufen, the Beijing TV Station, Friendship Hotel and five bridges: Anzhen Bridge, Hangtian Bridge, Jimen Bridge, Madian Bridge and Zizhu Bridge.

Line 5 heads north of the city to Zhongguancun and operates from 8.30 am to 9.30 pm. Stops include Wangjing, the Asian Games Village, Baofusi Qiao, Xiaying and Xueyuan Bridge.

Taxis

Tourists usually take taxis to head to the city centre. Fares cost between ¥70-120. Depending on your time of arrival, you may have to brace yourself for some massive traffic jams en route to the city centre.

Taxis are available from the lower level of the airport. **Do not use** drivers who approach you and only use the taxi line outside the terminal. Your taxi information will be recorded in case of any problems. Make sure that the driver puts the meter on. The taxi driver will provide a printed receipt and also a second receipt for the toll road which must also be paid. There is no need to tip taxi drivers. Carry the name of your hotel in Chinese as drivers rarely speak English.

Limousines

There are several limousine companies for private hire. ASM Chauffeur Services (8463 4451) and Beijing Limo (6546 1688).

Car Rental

There are a number of international and local car hire companies in Beijing that rent out cars. Our [Beijing eGuide.com](#) partner, Holiday Autos, offer a lowest rate guarantee and cars can be booked in Beijing.

Bus

The bus system services the entire city. Unfortunately, virtually all signs and maps are written in Chinese and the drivers hardly speak any English. On the bright side, there are a handful of lines that call out each stop in English. If you remain undaunted, taking the bus can lead you to anywhere you want to go in Beijing and, certainly, to a lot of pleasantly surprising places where you did not want to go!

Beijing buses are impressive and so many of them are brand new, specifically to meet the high demand for transportation during the Beijing Olympics. Most buses are fully air-conditioned (but heated in winter), have their own television sets and a scrolling screen that flashes upcoming stops in Chinese. For help using the bus system, tourists can call 96166, the number for the Beijing Public Transportation Customer Helpline.

The buses may be difficult for visitors to use as no English information is provided, but they are cheap and people will help you. All bus lines have their designated routes indicated by number, running from 1 to 999. Those below 300 cater to the city centre: buses numbered between 1 and 100 operate within the Third Ring Road; between 200 - 212 are night buses. Those from 300 and above travel from the city centre to the suburbs. Those starting from 900 and above service the city's rural outskirts.

Bus passes are available and easily bought at McDonald's.

Subway

It is easy for foreign tourists to get around Beijing using the subway. Each subway station has signs in English and easy-to-understand maps.

As of October 2007, Beijing has five operational subway lines:

Line 1 - Stretching from Pingguoyuan in Western Beijing to Sihui in the East, this line has 21 stops including Dongdan, Xidan, Yonganli, Guomao, Wangfujing and Tiananmen. It is identified as the red line.

Line 2 - Known as The Loop, this line covers the Second Ring Road and Qianmen Avenue in Northern Beijing. It is identified as the blue line.

Line 5 - This line began operations in October 2007 and is the city's first line running from north to south. One of its most popular stops is the Temple of Heaven. It is identified as the purple line.

Line 13 - This line extends further north than Line 2 and runs from Dongzhimen to Xizhimen. It is identified as the orange-yellow line.

Batong Line -- Also known as Line 8T, this line travels east, from Tuqiao to Sihui. Foreign tourists rarely use this line. It is identified as the red line.

In addition, Beijing is presently building seven more subway lines, which will be operational in time for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Tickets are priced depending on the distance you will travel. You can also obtain a pre-paid subway card for ¥20.

Look for the "Tickets" sign. After buying your ticket proceed down the stairs to the platforms where you present your ticket. Just follow the subway map to your destination.

Coaches

From Beijing to Shanghai is 1461km and from Beijing to Nanjing is 1139km. There are many coach operators which are a good way to reach the cities closer to Beijing.

Bicycle

Cars have now overtaken bicycles as the main means of transportation in Beijing. Nonetheless, you will still see more bicycles in the city than you will find anywhere else.

Cycling is an excellent way to explore the city and is encouraged by local authorities. Virtually every major thoroughfare in Beijing has its own bicycle lane. Given the typical Beijing traffic and its overcrowded streets, a bicycle may even take you to your destination faster than any car or bus.

There are many places where you can rent a bike in Beijing including hotels and some hostels. Other bicycle hire shops are easily found. There is also a popular bicycle touring company called Bicycle Kingdom Rentals and Tours which provides its own tour guide. Bike rentals are available on an hourly basis.

It takes just over an hour to cycle from Tiananmen Square to the Summer Palace.

Train

The major routes to Beijing are from Guangzhou, Shanghai, Harbin, Chengdu and Urumqi. There are four train stations.

Beijing Station at Beijing Zhan Jie. Phone 5182 1114.

Beijing West Station at Lian huachi Donglu. Phone 5182 6253.

Beijing North Station at Xizhimen, Xicheng District. Phone 5186 6223.

Beijing South Station in Chingwen District. Phone 8310 9031.

Xian to Beijing takes about 10 hours; Shanghai to Beijing takes about 12 hours; Haerbin to Beijing takes about 20 hours and Guangzhou to Beijing takes about 30 hours.

Tours

There is a large choice of tours available in Beijing. We recommend that you browse to find your choice and book online at BeijingeGuide.com. Below is a small sample of day tours.

Day Tours

Listed below is a selection of day trip tours that can be taken in Beijing. Where a link is highlighted click on it to learn a little more and book in a safe and secure environment. It is a great idea to book before you arrive in Beijing. Popular tours sell out well in advance! Don't be disappointed! Save vacation time! Plan & book now, not when you're there. To see a complete list of available tours in Beijing just click this link.

The Great Wall - 8 hours

See 2 of the most popular destinations in Beijing in just one day - the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. Included in your tour is an English speaking guide, all admission fees, lunch and pick up and drop off at your hotel in Beijing. You will also enjoy a stop at the world renown Bohua Jade Factory to indulge in a shopping spree fit for a King or an Emperor!

Classic Beijing - 8 hours

This intensive eight-hour tour takes you to the best imperial sites in Beijing. See the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven, Pearl Market and the Summer Palace. Included in your tour is an English speaking guide, all admission fees, lunch and pick up and drop off at your hotel in Beijing.

Essential Beijing - 9 hours

See the three main sightseeing attractions for any visitor to China in this great one day tour. The Great Wall at Badaling, The Forbidden City and Tian'anmen Square. Plus a visit to the famous Bohua Jade Factory. Included in your day tour is an English speaking guide, all admission fees, lunch and pick up and drop off at your hotel in Beijing.

Historic Beijing I - 7 hours

This tour is part one of the Historic Beijing Tour and offers a more in depth look into 3 of the most famous sites in this enormous city of nearly 15 million people. Highlights include Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, a visit to the Jiangan Silk Factory and the Temple Of Heaven. Hotel pick up and drop off, lunch, English speaking guide and all admission fees are included in this historical day tour.

Historic Beijing II - 7 hours

This tour is part two of the Historic Beijing Tour and visits the Lama Temple, White Peacock Silk Carpet Factory, Panda Garden at Beijing Zoo and the Summer Palace. As for the Historic Beijing I tour, hotel pick up and drop off, lunch, English speaking guide and all admission fees are included, so book both tours for a great 2 days touring in Beijing!

Accommodation

Due to the huge quantity and variety of accommodation available in Beijing, we recommend that you browse to find your choice and book online at BeijingeGuide.com prior to your departure.

Restaurants

Beijing restaurants reflect the long tradition of culinary diversity that has made Beijing a unique and exciting place to eat. As the long-time capital of China, flavours and traditions from all over the country, as well as the world, have migrated to the city. This wide variety of options and a dedication to quality that dates back to preparing food for emperors, makes eating in Beijing a special experience.

Restaurants vary from street stand, to family operations to internationally recognised. Most local restaurants have menus with pictures which makes it easy to choose.

Though influenced by many different cuisines, Beijing has several characteristic dishes. The most famous is the roast duck, more commonly known as Peking Duck. Served with hoisin sauce and leeks then rolled in a pancake, Peking Duck is a must have treat for visitors to Beijing. There are several restaurants that make Peking Duck their specialty and offer an excellent experience to diners.

Beijing is also famous for its on-the-street food stalls. These vendors sell everything from snacks to dumplings, noodles to fried rice. Some even sell such exotic things as scorpions and silk worm larvae, both delicacies in some parts of China. The best place to sample Beijing's street food, from the mundane to the wild, is at the food market directly off of the famous Wanfujing pedestrian shopping street.

A third type of food special to Beijing is imperial cuisine. These restaurants specialise in preparing food as it was for the emperors of China. The emphasis is on the quality of ingredients and the presentation of meticulously prepared dishes. Usually a meal will consist of a dozen or more small courses. There are several restaurants that cater to this ancient style.

The importation of flavours and cooking styles has not stopped. Whether you want food from across China or imports from South East Asia or Europe, there is a restaurant that will cater to your taste.

Chinese Restaurants

Chinese restaurants will normally fall into the following categories: Beijing Duck, Cantonese, Chaozhou, Guizhou, Hakka, Hot Pot, Huaiyang, Hunan, Imperial, Mongolian, Shaanxi, Shanghai, Shanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Tibetan and Yunnan.

Beijing Duck

Quanjude, 14 Qianmen West Street. Phone 6304 8987.

Bianyifang, 73 Tiantan Donglu, Chongwen District. Phone 6702 0904.

Cantonese

Hang Heung's Kitchen, 1-2 Taihua Apartment, Chongwenmenwai Dajie. Phone 6708 3155.

Imperial

Fangshan Restaurant, 1 Wenjin Jie (inside Beihai Park). Phone 6401 1889.

Sichuan

Gold Barn, Sanlitun Beixiaojie, Chaoyang District. Phone 6463 7240.

Non-Chinese Restaurants

Finding a non-Chinese restaurant does need a little more research and we list some to make it easier. There are many others.

African

Pili Pili, Dongfang Qicai Market, Chaoyang District. Phone 8448 4332.

American

DelightsB, 20 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang District. Phone 6460 7158.

Brazilian

Rio Brazilian BBQ, Dongzhimengnei Dajie. Phone 8406 4368.

English (Fish and Chips)

Fish Nation, Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang District. Phone 6415 0119.

European

Riverside Café, 10 Sanlitun Beixiaojie, Chaoyang District. Phone 6417 8108.

French

Flo, 2/F Rainbow Plaza, 16 Dong San Huan Lu, Chaoyang District. Phone 6595 5140.

Fusion

Buffalo Stone, 6 Lotus Lane, Xicheng District. Phone 6617 2146.

German

Die Kochmutzen, 1/F Building, 7 Jianwai SOHO 39, Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District. Phone 5869 3830.

Greek

Athena, 1 Xwu Jie Sanlitun, Chaoyang District. Phone 6464 6036.

Indian

Raj, 38 Maoer Hutong, Di'anmenwai Dajie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6401 1675.

Italian

Tonino Lamborghini, Ground Floor, Millennium Heights, Oriental Plaza, Dongcheng District.

Luce Café, 138 Jiugulou Dajie, Xicheng District. Phone 8402 4417.

Japanese

Takenosuke, Japanese area at Liangmaqiao, Chaoyang District. Phone 6431 8238.

Korean

Sorabol, 2/F Liangmahe Lage Building, 8 East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District. Phone 6465 1215.

Malaysian

Nyonya Kitchen, Gaojiayuan Middle School, Chaoyang District. Phone 6433 7377.

Mexican

Mexican Wave, Dongdaqiao Lu. Phone 6506 3691.

Middle Eastern

Arabesque, 24H, South 9 Building, Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang District. Phone 6416 5460.

Muslim

Kaorou Ji, 14 Qianhai Dongyan, Xicheng District. Phone 6404 2554.

Russian

The Moscow, Southwest corner of Ritan Park, Chaoyang District. Phone 6586 3217.

Spanish

Ashanti, 168 Xinzhong Jie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6416 6231.

Thai

Orchid Thai Restaurant, 5 Guanghua Xili, Chaoyang District. Phone 6595 2485.

Pink Loft, 6 Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District. Phone 6506 8811.

Vegetarian

Lily Vegetarian, Jimen Hotel, Jimen Qiao, North Third Ring Road, Haidian District. Phone 6202 5284.

Sea of Mercy, 103 Dianmen Xidajie, Xicheng District. Phone 6657 1898.

Vietnamese

De-con, 2F/e Tower, 12 Guang Hua Lu. Phone 6586 7730.

Attractions

Architecture, Buildings and Places of Historical Significance

Beijing contrasts ancient buildings with modern. The CBD is one area that is being transformed around Guoma and will create a significant urban space to equal Lower Manhattan or Central in Hong Kong. New futurist buildings are springing up all over the city and by 2008 Beijing will have been transformed.

Hutongs

A hutong is a small street or laneway formed by a passageway being left between courtyards enabling more convenient passage. They often contain shared facilities, such as cooking and washing places, for the local residents. A Mongolian word meaning 'water well', around which people lived, hutongs have their own structured layout between courtyards, gardens and rockeries. There are numerous hutongs and courtyards in Beijing which, seen from above, appear as well-ordered as a chess board. Hutongs also define the neighbourly culture of Beijing's citizens. Many have now gone as Beijing modernises but examples can be seen at Di'anmen Avenue near the Gulou Tower.

Niujie Mosque

To the southwest of outer Beijing city is the Niujie Mosque built in 996 during the Liao Dynasty. The Niujie Mosque blends the style of Chinese palaces with Arabian mosques. The mosque is built of timber with a central Prayer Hall (Kiln Hall) and the stone tablets inside were laid in 1496. Outside are two steel pavilions to the north and south.

Prince Gong's Mansion

Heshen built this mansion in 1777 during the Qianlong period. The compound shows how nobles lived at this time. Prince Gong was the younger brother of the Xianfeng emperor. In the complex is a large lily pond and rock garden. Located at 14A Liuyin Jie, Xicheng District. Phone 6616 8149.

CCTV Tower

The tallest structure in Beijing is the CCTV (China Central Television) Tower at a height of 405 metres to the tip of its antenna. Built in 1992 the tower hosts CCTV broadcasting equipment. There is an observation deck and restaurant at 238 metres which provide 360 degree views over the city. An annual race is held to the top to the tower which entails two laps of the base then a climb up the 1484 steps to the observation deck.

Located in Beijing's western suburbs (Haidian District), the tower is near the Gong Zhu Fen station and Yuyuantan Park.

Forbidden City

The Forbidden City (the Palace Museum) has been the residence of 24 emperors. The Forbidden City covers 170 acres and about 9,000 rooms rich in antiques, clocks and jewels. It was built during the period 1406 to 1420 and is located a kilometre north Tiananmen Square. It is believed that around 1,000,000 workers were used to construct the Forbidden City. The last emperor to live in the city was Puyi who left in 1924. The southern section of the Forbidden City contained the official area and the northern section, or the Inner Court, was the living area. A wide deep moat and a 10 metre high wall surround the city as a rectangle with four corner towers.

As you enter the city you pass under the Gate of Supreme Harmony and then into a large courtyard. On the north of the courtyard is the Hall of Supreme Harmony. The second ceremonial hall you then pass through is the Hall of Middle harmony. Then comes the Hall of Preserving Harmony next to a Starbucks! From here you can explore the Hall of Jewellery, Inner Palace, and Imperial Garden and to the exit via the North Gate.

It normally takes about three hours to explore the Forbidden City and an English audio tour narrated by Roger Moore is available. The main entry point is the Meridian Gate which is 10 minutes walk north of Tiananmen Square. This is the same gate as the Gate of Heavenly Peace.

Located at Jingshanqian Jie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6513 2255.

Great Wall

The Great Wall at one time stretched 6,500 kilometres (4,000 miles) across the border between China and the Hun territories in the north. It started as a series of earthworks and was connected in the Qin dynasty (221 to 206 BC) with each dynasty adding to the height, width, length of the Great Wall. During the Ming dynasty (1368 to 1644), the watch towers were redesigned, the brick and granite reworked and cannons added. After this period parts of the Wall were dismantled to provide building materials. Armies were garrisoned along the length of the Wall to provide a warning of invasions and signal fires were used to tell the next tower where an invasion was about to happen. The Wall extends along the mountain ranges to gain height and provide views.

The three sections of the Great Wall near Beijing are the Badaling, Mutianyu and Simatai sections. You may choose to hire a car and driver for the day or take an organised tour.

Badaling Section

The Badaling section is 70 km from Beijing and the closest to the city. It is close to the Ming Tombs. There is a chairlift, fast food restaurants and easy to walk along the wall from here. Located at Yanqin.

Mutianyu Section

Mutianyu is 90 km north of Beijing and another popular place to visit. There is steep climb from the main gate but there is a chairlift to make it easy. A good place for views across the ridges and down the valleys. Located at Huairou County. Phone 6162 6873.

Simatai Section

The Simatai section is about 120 kilometres north east of Beijing city centre. It is 5.4 kilometres long with 35 watchtowers, 20 of which, to the west, are well preserved. This section of the Wall is one of the most spectacular for scenic beauty.

Marco Polo Bridge

The Marco Polo Bridge, 15km southwest of Beijing, crosses the Yongding River. The original bridge was constructed in 1192 and reconstructed in 1698. The bridge is 266.5 metres in length and 9.3 metres wide with 281 pillars each with a lion on top lying in a different posture. At the end of the bridge are four columns. The Marco Polo Bridge marks the start of the War of Resistance in July 1937 against the Imperial Japanese Army.

Ming Tombs

All but one of the Ming emperors is buried at the 13 Ming Tombs which are found 50 kilometres to the northwest of Beijing. Only the Dingling Tomb and Changling Tombs are open to the public. Changling is well preserved. The Lingsi Palace is made of camphorwood with a painted ceiling.

Dingling is underground and is the mausoleum of Emperor Zhu Yijun. The main things to see are the Stone Bridge, Soul Tower, Baotong and Underground Palace. When a Ming emperor died, a concourse was built to be used only for the funeral processions leading to the hills, with stone beasts and figures of warriors lining the path. The Sacred Way is about six and a half kilometres (four miles) long.

Peking Man

Zhoukoudian is a World Heritage site about 50 kilometres southwest of the city at Dragon Bone Hill, where on the 2nd December 1929 a skullcap was discovered that provided evidence of human life between 700,000 and 200,000 years before. Further discoveries led to what is now called Peking Man which was very similar to modern man except that the skull has a low forehead with an eyebrow that sticks out and large teeth which do not overlap. Close to the Peking Man three other adult skulls, now called Upper Cave Men, were found and were estimated to be about 18,000 years old.

Summer Palace

Located at Xiyuan in Haidian District and 15 kilometres from Beijing, the Summer Palace is a classical Chinese garden, established in the Jin Dynasty (1115 to 1234) and covers 294 hectares most of which is water. The Summer Palace contains pavilions, towers, bridges, and divides into a court area, front hill area, lake area, rear hill and the back lake.

The front hill is where the Gate of Dispelling Clouds, Hall of Dispelling Clouds, Hall of Moral Glory and the Tower of Buddhist Incense are found. The Garden of Harmonious Interest is found in the rear hill area. Views of the lake can be seen from the front lake area where there is the Seventeen-Arch Bridge and on the west side is the Jade-Belt Bridge.

The main entry point is the Hall of Benevolent Longevity. Close by is the Hall of Jade Ripples and the Hall for Cultivating Happiness and Longevity. Located at Haidian district. Phone 6288 1144.

Tiananmen Square

The largest central square (440,000 square metres) in the world holds a million people and marks the centre of Beijing. As part of the square are the Great Hall of the People, the Monument to the People's Martyrs, Memorial Hall of Chairman Mao Zedong and Tiananmen Tower. Tiananmen Square is the front door of the Forbidden City and was used to declare the next emperor. The guard of honour raises the Chinese flag every morning and is a popular visitor attraction.

The Gate of Heavenly Peace (phone 6309 5718) to the north of the square leads towards the Forbidden City. The inscription on the left says *"Long live the People's Republic of China"* and the one on the right, *"Long Live the Unity of the People of the World"*. Good views of the square can be had from the top of the Gate.

The granite Monument to the People's Heroes in the centre of the square was built in 1952 and has the words *"The People's Heroes are Immortal"* as written by Chairman Mao on the monument.

On the western side of the square is the Great Hall of the People (phone 6608 1188) built in 1959 consisting of the Central Hall, the Great Auditorium and Banqueting Hall.

On the eastern side of the square is the China National Museum.

Chairman Mao's Mausoleum (phone 6513 2277) is at the south side of Tiananmen Square and opened in 1977. The memorial has three halls and the Hall of Reverence is where Chairman Mao's body lies in a coffin. In the centre of the north hall is a statue of Chairman Mao made of white marble. On the wall of the south hall is a poem written by Mao presented in gold and hand-written by Guo Moruo, the calligrapher. Located at 11 Qianmen Dajie at the southern end of Tiananmen Square.

Art Galleries

An area of art galleries is found at Dashanzi, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District.

Central Academy of Fine arts

Hosts major exhibitions and located at 5 Xiaowei Hutong, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District. Phone 6527 7991.

New Millennium Gallery

Contemporary art gallery located at 2 Dong Sanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District. Phone 8453 6193.

Wan Fung Art Gallery

136 Nanchizi Daijie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6523 3320.

National Museum of Fine Arts

Can't think of the name of a Chinese artist, yet you can recognise a Chinese painting when you see one? The China National Museum of Fine Arts, covering over 17,000 square metres, is a great place to further your knowledge of Chinese art. Completed in 1962, it collects and researches modern and contemporary artworks. The history of China's fine arts are archived and published from this museum. Also on display are works of calligraphy and photography. It is a treasure house of masterpieces of Chinese artists and represents a unique cultural aspect of the Chinese people. 1 Wusi Street, Beijing . Telephone 6401 7076.

Museums

Beijing has 127 museums open to visitors. The main ones are listed below.

Ancient Architecture Museum

21 Dongjing Lu, Guanfu. Phone 6301 7620.

Ancient Currency Museum

Deshengmen Jianlou, North Second Ring Road, Xicheng District. Phone 6201 8073.

Ancient Observatory

The observatory built in 1442 has eight astronomical devices created by the Jesuits and given to the Imperial Court. Located close to Jianguomen Subway Station, Dongcheng. Phone 6524 2202.

Arthur M Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology

Archaeological findings from China, bronze, jade and bone objects. Located at Peking University complex.

Beijing Art Museum

Calligraphy, painting, embroidery, porcelain, furniture, coins dating from the Neolithic times. Located at Wanshou Temple, Suzhou Jie, Haidian District. Phone 6841 3380.

Beijing Aviation Models Museum

Models of airplanes and air shows. Located inside Dashanzi Huantie, Nangao, Chaoyang District. Phone 6437 3015.

Beijing Ancient Numismatic Museum

A collection of coins made of jade, stone, metal and bone. Located at Arrow Tower, Deshengmen, Xicheng District. Phone 6201 8073.

Beijing Art Museum of Stone Carving

Located in the Temple of Five Pagodas with stone sculptures from different dynasties. Location 24 Wutasicun Village, Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian District. Phone 6218 6081.

Beijing Museum for Cultural Relics

A museum located in the Zhi-Hua Temple at 5 Lumicang, Dongcheng District. Phone 6528 6691.

Beijing Red Sandalwood Museum

A private museum with exhibits are of red sandalwood. Located at 9 Xinglong Xijie, Chaoyang District. Phone 8575 2818.

Beijing Museum of Natural History

This museum has three main functions: specimen collection, academic research and popularisation of palaeontology, zoology, botany and anthropology. Displays of dinosaurs, fossils and large taxidermy collection. Located at 126 Tianqiao Street, Chongwen District. Phone 6702 4431.

Beijing Police Museum

China's first police museum with four exhibition rooms. On the ground floor is the security history exhibition. The second floor contains the criminal investigation exhibition room whilst the third floor houses the police functions exhibition. On the fourth floor is the police culture exhibition. Located at 36 Dongjiaomin Lane, Dongcheng, Beijing. Phone 8522 5018.

Beijing Tap Water Museum

See how Beijing's water supply system works and learn all about water flow and purification techniques. Located at Dongzhimenwai Beidajie. Phone 6465 0787.

Capital Museum

The Capital Museum is located in the Confucius Temple and traces Beijing's history with a good collection of pieces. Located at 13 Guozijian Street, Dongcheng District. Phone 6401 2118.

China Aviation Museum

Over 200 airplanes on display and many aerial weapons. Located at Xiaotangshan Town, Changping District (6178 4882).

China Currency Museum

A museum affiliated to the People's Bank of China, the China Currency Museum collects, exhibits and studies currencies. With over a quarter of a million items in its collection, it covers ancient currencies, minority currencies, foreign currencies, gold and silver currencies, contemporary currencies, paper currencies and cultural relics which relate to currency.

32 Chengfang Street, Xicheng District, Beijing. Telephone 6608 1385.

China Honey Bee Museum

On the west side of the Botanical Gardens in the Fragrant Hills a museum where you can learn all about bees and sample different types of honey. Located at Fragrant Hills Botanical Gardens, Haidian District 9 8259 0094.

China Military Museum

Lots of war paraphernalia including AK 47s, US tanks and reams of many wars. Located 9 Fuxing Lu, Haidian District (6686 6114).

Occupying 60,000 square metres, the Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution is a must-see. It houses more than 500 photographs and over 1,000 artefacts of the Chinese revolution, which spanned half a century and was led by Chairman Mao Zedong. It is located south of Yuyuantan Park and on the northern side of the middle of Fuxing Road.

9 Fuxingmenwai Dajie, Beijing. Telephone 6851 4441.

China Millennium Monument

Celebrating the new millennium with a range of exhibitions showing traditional Chinese culture along with modern architecture and sculpture. Location 9A Fuxing Lu, Haidian District (6851 3322).

China Museum of Posts & Telecommunications

Devoted to the story of the Chinese postal and telecommunications system. Location 42 Xueyuan Lu, Haidian District (6230 3627).

China National Museum Waxworks

Wax images of famous celebrities located at the east side of Tiananmen Square (6513 8095).

China National Museum

The Museum of Chinese History and the Museum of the Chinese Revolution are both housed within the National Museum of China. Anything and everything which we associate with China is on display, from old silk to ancient machines. It is the history of the country and is a great place to begin a tour of China. The museum runs along the eastern side of Tiananmen Square with 24 pillars on the west gate portico. Located on the eastern side of Tiananmen Square. Phone 6512 2801.

China Science and Technology Museum

Featuring hands on exhibits, I-Max films and science exhibits. Located at 1 Beisanhuan Zhonglu, Xicheng District (6237 1177).

Chinese Ethnic Museum

National villages from the Qiang, Oroqen and Hezhe ethnic groups, iron sculptures in a scenic setting. Located next to the National Olympic Sports Centre of the Asian Games. (6206 3647).

China Sports Museum

Covering an area of 7,100 square metres, with an exhibition area of 2,510 square metres, is China's sports museum. Comprised of a central hall and four exhibition halls, the museum contains dragon boats, photographs, rubbings, football team cards, documents and various memorabilia from such events as the 1939 Berlin Olympics. It traces the history of polo from the Tang Dynasty and covers sports psychology and sporting arena design in the modern world.

Beijing City, Anding Men Wai, Anding Road, #3A. Telephone 6491 2167.

Capital Museum

Situated in the grounds of the Temple of Confucius contains antiques of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. Located at 13 Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng (6401 2118).

Guanfu Classical Art Museum

Chinese antique furniture from the Ming and Qing dynasties. Located at Huazhi Business Plaza, Nanzhugan Hutong, Chaoneinan Xiaojie, Dongcheng (6526 3208).

China National Arts & Crafts Museum

A collection of arts and crafts located at 101 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District (6601 2255).

Jin Tai Art Museum

Located at the north gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District (6501 9441).

Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution

The museum displays weapons, and artifacts from military history. Located at 9 Fuxing Lu, Haidian District (6686 6114).

National Art Museum of China

A collection of modern and contemporary art spread over a very large area and opened in 1962. There are three floors and 13 exhibition halls. 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District (6401 7076).

National Palace Museum

See the Forbidden City, Dongcheng District. Phone 6513 2255.

Sony ExploraScience

A high-tech museum with robotic dogs, musical sculptures, light distortion machines and lots more. Located on the first floor of The Malls at Oriental Plaza, 1 Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng District. Phone 8518 2255.

Tongzhou Museum

Tongzhou is at the eastern gate of Beijing and displays the history of Tongzhou from the Neolithic age. Located at 9 West Street, Tongzhou District. Phone 6954 6442.

Xu Beihong Museum

This museum celebrates the father of modern Chinese painting, Xu Beihong, who lived from 1895 to 1953. Located at 53 Xinjiekou Beidajie, Zicheng. Phone 6225 2042.

Temples***Confucius Temple***

Need a break to relax and unwind from the buzz of Beijing? Then head for the Confucius Temple; there you will find people from the local hutongs chatting quietly together. Holding 198 stone tablets engraved with the names of scholars who passed the imperial exams, the Confucius Temple, of unknown age, has attracted the populace since 1743. It is comprised of walls, gardens, ponds and two great halls with the ancient Imperial College next door. Very much a studious and academic place, the Temple is well worth a visit away from the hustle and bustle of modern day life. 1 Zhongmen Li, Beijing - one street west of Ancient Culture Street. Open: 8.30am to 5pm. Located at 13 Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng District. Phone 8401 1977.

Dongyue Temple

Right in the heart of the CBD with lots of life-sized plaster figures of the 73 Chiefs of Departments and 18 Layers of Hell is this Temple of the God of Taishan Mountain. Located at 141 Chaowai Dajie, Chaoyang District. Phone 6551 0151.

Great Bell Temple

Built in 1733 in the Qing Dynasty, at the centre of the Great Bell Palace hangs a 47 ton bronze bell which was designed to be heard up to 40 kilometres distant. Located at 31A Beisanhuan Xilu, Haidian. Phone 6255 0819.

Guanghua Temple

Only open to the public on the 1st and 15th of each lunar month. Located at 31 Ya'er Hutong, Xicheng District. Phone 6403 5032.

Guangji Temple

Built in the Jin Dynasty, the Guangji Temple has a main gate, the Heavenly King Hall, Mahavira Hall, Yuantong Hall and Sutra Hall. Inside the Heavenly King Hall is the statue of the Maitreya Buddha. In the second courtyard is the Mahavira Hall and the Yuantong Hall in the third courtyard is the residence of Bodhisattva.

Lama Temple

This temple was built for Count Yin Zhen in 1723 who lived there before moving to the Forbidden City when he became Emperor Yongzheng. As you enter, you pass the Drum Tower and Bell Tower and in front is the Hall of Heavenly Kings with a statue of Maitreya. There are a number of halls to explore the Hall of Harmony, Hall of Eternal Blessing and the Hall of the Wheel Law. The Pavilion of 10,000 blessings has a large statue of the Buddha standing 18 metres tall. Close by is the Temple of Confucius. Located at 12 Yonghegong Da Jie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6404 4499.

Temple of Heaven

Built between 1406 and 1420, this temple covers 273 hectares and illustrates the Ming and Qing architecture. The Temple of Heaven has a large park. Within the grounds are several religious buildings, the Hall for the Prayer of Good Harvests, the Circular Altar, Imperial Vault of Heaven and the Echo Wall. Located at Tiantan South Gate, Chongwen District. Phone 6702 8866.

Temple of Azure Clouds

Near the north gate of Xiangshan Park is the Temple of Azure Clouds, built during the Yuan Dynasty (1271 to 1368). At the centre is the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, the Five Hundred Arhats Hall and the Vajra Throne Tower. Inside the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall is an empty coffin (the body is elsewhere) given by the USSR in 1925 in memory of Sun Yat-sen. The Five Hundred Arhats Hall has nine rooms and a pavilion. The Vajra Throne Tower is a tall tower.

Temple of Recumbent Buddha

Located 20 kilometres from Beijing near the Temple of Azure Clouds is the Temple of Recumbent Buddha, a Buddhist Temple built during the Tang Dynasty (618 to 907 AD). The main buildings are the Four Heavenly King's Hall, Three Buddhas' Hall and the Recumbent Buddha's Hall with a bronze Buddha made in 1321 and weighing about 54 tons, 5.3 metres long and surrounded by twelve other Buddhas.

White Cloud Temple

Built in 793 in the Tang Dynasty is this Taoist Temple. The headquarters of the China Taoism Association is within the walls of the White Cloud Temple (Baiyunguan) in south-western Beijing. Known as the Temple of Heavenly Eternity during the Tang Dynasty and the Temple of the Great Ultimate during the Jin Dynasty, the Temple's history is of great importance to Chinese culture. A visit to the Temple should be a must-do on your Beijing itinerary – go and have a chat to the Taoist monks, revel in the essence of Chinese history, pray peacefully and inhale the incense. Visit the multiple courtyards, memorial archway, the main gate, pool, bridge, the Hall of Officials of the Heavenly Censor, the Jade Emperor Hall, the Hall of Religious Law, the Hall of the Four Heavenly Emperors and the Pavilion of Three Purities. Located at 6 Baiyunguan Jie, Xibianmenwai, Xuanwu (west city) District.

Yonghegong Lamasery

A Tibetan Buddhist temple with a 23 metre Maitreya Buddha carved from the trunk of a white sandalwood tree. Located at 12 Yonghegong Dajie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6404 4499.

Zhihua Temple

Inside the Zhihua Temple is the Ancient Music Centre where musicians play instruments used in the Ming Dynasty. In the west hall of the main courtyard is a collection of Ming Dynasty octagonal wooden pedestals. Located at 5 Lumingang Hutong, Dongcheng. Phone 6528 6691.

Animal Attractions**Badaling Wild Park**

Lions, tigers, bears and other animals roam around in the park. Badaling Great Wall Centre, Yanqing Country. Phone 6912 1842.

Beijing Aquarium

Located on the north bank of the Chang River, and within the Beijing Zoo, is the Beijing Aquarium. Covering 120,000 square metres it was revamped in 1999 and has an impressive conch-shaped building containing several themed areas including a man-made rainforest. Daily entertainment includes dolphin and sea lion shows in the marine theatre which holds 3,000 people. Photo opportunities and souvenirs are on offer. Located at 18B Gaoliangqiao Xiejie, Haidian District. Phone 6212 3910.

Beijing Zoo

China's largest zoo houses more than 3,500 species of animals and wildlife from every corner of this planet. It is set in a large compound that was the private garden of a Qing Dynasty aristocrat. The Beijing Zoo contains various themed areas with bears, monkeys, zebras, tigers and elephants as well as many amphibians and exotic birds. China's famed mascot, the adorably cute panda is one of the main features. 131 Xi Zhi Men Wai Avenue, Xicheng District. Phone 6831 4411.

Blue Zoo

Walk through the Blue Zoo's 110 metre long transparent tunnel in their main aquarium, the largest of its type in Asia. With plenty of marine life to see, the zoo raises baby sharks and offers mini courses on underwater life. It contains 18 themed tanks which are home to thousands of ocean and marine estuary creatures, including sharks, rays, eels, coral reef fish, lobsters, sea horses, starfish and many others. South Gate, Workers Stadium Road, Chao Yang District, Beijing. Phone 6591 3397.

Taipingyang Underwater World

An aquarium where certified divers can dive in the main tank. Due to the recent popularity and construction spree of aqua-parks, Taipingyang Underwater World, a wonderful water world in the Hai Dian District of Beijing, is under threat of closure. It's a great place to spend half a day when the weather's not kind, look out for the shark feeding times and enjoy the quality exhibits available. There's plenty to keep both old and young amused! 11 West Third Ring Road Central Road, Hai Dian District. Phone 6846 1172.

Fun Attractions***Beijing Amusement Park***

Roller coaster, ferris wheel and other attractions. Located at 1 Zuo'anmennei Daije, Chongwen District. Phone 6711 1155.

Beijing Planetarium

A state of the art planetarium with a 4D theatre. Located at 138 Xiximenwai Daije, Xicheng District. Phone 6835 2453.

Shijingshan Amusement Park

The largest amusement park in Beijing with water slide, roller coaster, bumper cars and other attractions. Located at 25 Shijingshan Lu, Shijingshan District. Phone 6886 2547.

World Park

Showcases world famous landmarks and attractions built as small replicas. Located at 158 Fengbao Lu, Huaxiang, Fengtai District. Phone 8361 3344.

Parks and Gardens***Beijing Botanical Gardens***

With 3,000 different types of plants contained in a conservatory, the Beijing Botanical Gardens are set against the spectacular backdrop of the western hills. Enjoy the various themed gardens or seek out the varying bamboos, lilacs, lotuses, pines, roses, magnolias, cherries, peaches, crepe myrtles ... the list goes on! Temples, memorials and a cemetery also form part of the botanical gardens. A divinely fragrant place to visit! Wofosi Road, Xiangshan. Phone 6259 1283.

Fragrant Hills Park

Fragrant Hills Park is 30 kilometres northwest of the city. Built in 1186 in the Jin Dynasty and in 1745 Emperor Qianlong added halls, pavilions and gardens and renamed it as Jingyi Garden. Due to fire and war a lot of the original works have been destroyed. In autumn, red leaves cover the mountain. One route to explore the park is to take the north route passing the Spectacles Lake and Bright Temple, built in 1780 as the residence for the sixth Panchen Lama. The southern route passes the Tranquility Green Lake, Fragrant Temple and the highest peak the Incense Burner Peak. The Shuangqing Villa was once the residence of Chairman Mao Zedong and is in the park. Located at the foot of Xishan Hill, Haidian District. Phone 6259 1155.

Beihai Park

Beihai Park was the royal garden of the Jin, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties with a lake and paddleboats that can be rented. Beihai Park was originally home to a palace constructed by Kublai Khan in the 13th Century. All that remains is the enormous green jade jar used for his wine storage, now found in the Round City. Jade Isle is across the bridge from the Round City and full of lotus flowers in the summer. At the foot of the hill is Yong'an Temple and at the top is the White Dagoba erected in 1651 in honour of the Dalai Lama. Around the Jade Isle is the Painted Gallery verandah. Near where the boats dock is the Hall of Rippling Waters and the well known Fangshan Restaurant. The north side of the Beihai is reached by boat from the Five Dragon Pavilion. Located at 1 Wenjin Street, Xicheng District. Phone 6403 1102.

Coal Hill

In central Beijing stands Coal Hill, immediately to the north of the Forbidden City and in the Xicheng District. Originally built in the Yongle era of the Ming Dynasty from the dirt excavated from the moats of the Imperial Palace and canals, this 45 metre high artificial hill was an imperial garden known as Jingshan Park. Chongzhen, the last emperor of the Ming Dynasty is said to have

committed suicide there by hanging himself in 1644. Coal Hill is the site of the Ten Thousand Springs Pavillion. Located at 1 Wenjin Street, Xicheng District. Phone 6404 4071.

Ditan Park

If you wish to experience some local culture, Ditan Park and the Temple of the Earth holds a traditional temple fair in spring at which you can see folk dancing and songs performed. The festival includes the sale of various arts and crafts and is a popular place to practice tai ji quan, or shadow boxing. Originally built in 1520 as a sacrificial altar to the earth god, the two-story worship terrace was off limits to ordinary citizens until 1911. Now an urban park with an ice arena and other attractions including a merry-go-round and electronic games. The closest train stations are An Ding Men or Yong He Gong. A2 Andingmenwai Avenue, Dongcheng District. Phone 6421 4657.

Liuyin Park

Containing 17 hectares (seven of those being water), Liuyin Park is situated to the west of Andingmen Waidajie. Built to resemble the Chinese countryside, and possibly the only park in Beijing showing rural scenery, it holds thatched pavilions, willow trees, bamboo, lotus flowers and fruit trees. The centre of the lake contains an island on which wild ducks nest and birdlife is abundant. Squirrels, magpies and nightingales are also a regular attraction. There is tea garden on the island. Liuyin Park can easily be reached from Andingmen subway station (a 10 minute walk), or by using bus numbers 108 or 104 to Jiangzhaikou station. Jiangzhaikou, Andingmenwai, Dongcheng District. Phone 8413 1357.

Longtanhu Park

Also known as Dragon Pool Park , Longtanhu Park was opened in 1952 and is spread over almost half a square kilometre of land, nearly one third of which is taken up by the Dragon Pool Lake. The well landscaped gardens and lake shores provide a sense of tranquillity to the visitor, with its footbridges and carved dragons, together with open spaces, flowers and trees. It contains the Dragon Gate, the Flying Dragon Pavilion, the Green Dragon Bridge, badminton courts, roller skating and Beijing's reputedly tallest climbing wall. 8 Longtanhu Lu, Chongwen District. Phone 6714 4336.

Qingnianhu Park

Have fun with all of the family at this aquatic park. Containing a huge twin pool area, manned by lifeguards and with first aid equipment at the ready, the park has 11 water slides and various kiddies' recreational facilities including bumper cars and paddle boats. It also contains a split-level driving range for the golfers. Andingmenwai Dajie, Dongcheng District. Phone: 8413 2757

Ritan Park

Located in Beijing's central business district, north of Yongangli and Jianguomen subway stations, is Ritan Park and the Temple of the Sun. Dating back to the 16th century, the emperor made sacrificial offerings to his sun god on the altar. Today though, it is a beautiful green space containing facilities for children such as trampolines, a merry-go-round, fishing pond, mini golf and also various food outlets and bars for the adults. Ritan Park, 6 Ritan Beilu, Chaoyang. Phone 8561 6301.

Tiantan Park

Tiantan is a pleasant park to walk around and had rose garden. It is more than just a park as it contains the Temple of Heaven and Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest. Amongst Beijing's finest buildings, the Hall is 38 metres high and almost 30 metres in diameter and was built without the use of a single nail. Located a good 25 minute walk from the Chongwenmen subway station, it is probably best to take a cab to get there. Yongdingmen Dajie, Chongwen District. Phone 6702 8866.

Tuanjiehu Park

Inside the park is a water park with a beach and wave pool together with a roller skating park. Located at 16 Tuanjiehu Nanli, Chaoyang District. Phone 8597 3603.

Yuyuantan Park

Yuyuantan Park is a great place to take children in Beijing. Centred around a lake, it has an aquatic park, lots of child-friendly entertainment and you can hire bicycles there. In April each year, Yuyuantan Park is host to a cherry blossom festival showcasing its beautiful cherry and magnolia blossoms. Its 136 hectares contain over 2,000 different types of trees. Located west of Tiananmen Square at the southern end of Sanlihe Road, China's CCTV Tower stands at the east gate of the park. A further 200 metres to the south of the park is the China Millennium Monument . Parking is not available, so it's best to get there by bus, taxi or subway. When you're ready to leave, you can catch a boat along the canal to the Summer Palace from close to the park's south gate. Xisanhuan Road (near CCTV Tower), Haidian District. Phone 8865 3804/6.

Zizhuyuan Park

Explore the canals and lakes by boat or ice chair. This park has plenty of bamboo. Located at 45 Baishiqiao Lu, Haidian District. Phone 6842 5851.

Zhongshan Park

A formal park with a Sun Yat-sen statue, bamboo groves and covered walkways. Boats and iced chairs can be rented to travel along the Forbidden City's moat. Located at the west of Tiananmen Gate. Phone 6605 5431.

Entertainment

Acrobatics

In China they say that every minute an acrobat spends on stage requires ten years of training. Indeed, Beijing acrobatics shows, featuring astonishingly limber performers practicing feats of strength, balance and skill, are a tremendous sight to behold. Though the origins of the performance art are unknown, many believe that acrobatics developed from martial arts exhibitions and date back as early as the Neolithic period. There are several famous Beijing acrobatics theatres, including:

Chaoyang Theatre

36 East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District. Phone 6507 2421.

Universal Theatre

Dongshishitiao Lijiaoqiao, Chaoyang District. Phone 6502 3984.

Tianqiao Acrobatics Theatre

East Beiwei Road, Xuanwu District. Phone 6303 7449.

Wansheng Juchang

North Beiwei Lu, Near Qianmen Dajie. Phone 6303 7449.

Kung Fu

The most famous Beijing Kung Fu show is called The Legend of Kung Fu. It tells the story of a young boy who dreams of becoming a master of Kung Fu. Featuring traditional Kung Fu and acrobatics mixed with modern dance, the production is one of the most popular night shows in Beijing. Though the show itself has no dialog, narration is given in both English and Chinese to help the audience follow the story. Purchasing tickets in advance is advised. Theatres located at:

Chaoyang Culture Centre

17 Jintaili, Xiaozhuang. Phone 8599 0393.

The Red Theatre

Worker's Cultural Palace, 44 Xingfu Street, Chongwen District. Phone 6714 2473.

Peking Opera

Peking Opera is a traditional theatre form that combines singing, dialog, dance, music, acrobatics and elaborate costumes. Traditional instruments such as the two stringed fiddles, lutes, drums and gongs are used. It was performed in the late 18th century but became popular in the 19th century, especially during the Qing Dynasty. While the popularity of Beijing Opera has waned in recent years, despite attempts to modernise it with contemporary storylines, it is still considered a pinnacle in Chinese culture.

The story is normally a myth or historical event. There are over 1,400 storylines that a traditional Beijing Opera can depict, though recently some new plays and adaptations have emerged. Most of the stories are based around Chinese history and folklore. The Beijing Opera uses a special dialect of Chinese that can be very difficult to understand. Fortunately, many of the most popular theatres now offer subtitles in both English and standard Mandarin.

There are four main roles in every Beijing Opera. The Sheng, or main role, is a male character who typically sings in a very high voice. The Jing is a supporting male role, always depicted with a painted face and characterised by a strong voice and forceful body movements. The third male role is the Chou, or clown, which is also a painted face character and has a close relationship to the opera's percussion accompaniment. The final character type is the Dan, or female, role.

The stage scenery of a Beijing Opera is typically very sparse. Instead, the focus of the story falls upon the actors, who narrate events with highly stylised and symbolic movements that are timed precisely with accompanying music.

Peking opera can be enjoyed in several places with daily shows. The most popular Beijing Opera theatres are at:

Changan Grand Hall

Changan Building, 7 Jianguomennei Dajie. Phone 6510 1309.

Li Yuan Theatre

Inside the Qianmen Hotel. Phone 6301 6688.

Huguang Guild Hall

3 Hufang Lu. Phone 6351 1309.

Zhengyici Theatre

220 Xiheyuan Dajie. Phone 6303 3104.

Nightlife

Bars

The Beijing bar scene is constantly spreading and expanding but, at the moment, the majority of the action is still confined to two main areas. The good thing about this is that it is very easy to find everything and once you are in a neighbourhood it is very easy to walk from place to place.

The first area in Beijing to develop a true bar scene was Sanlitun, named for a street near the embassy neighbourhoods of Chaoyang District. A long time favourite with foreigners, there is a constant rotation of new bars featuring a wide range of themes in Sanlitun. Despite this rotation, there are consistently a lot of people having a great, sometimes rowdy, time. Bars open until late.

The other major cluster of bars can be found around Houhai Lake. The Houhai Lake bar area experienced a surge of development in 2003 and hasn't stopped since. Now there are a good number of bars, all offering a similar atmosphere, on both sides of the lake. These tend to be low key affairs and nearly all of them offer seating on the water. This is a great place to have a quiet drink, enjoy the water and relax.

There is a third area, also overlooking Houhai Lake, along the street Houhai Nanyan. This row of bars and restaurants tend to be a bit more upscale, specialising in fine food and fancy cocktails. This is certainly the place to go if you are trying to impress a date.

Beijing Night Show

A show with acrobatics, traditional music, opera, dance and traditional costume. Located at 1 Dayabao Hutong, Dongcheng District. Phone 6527 2814.

Cinemas**Capital Time Square Cinema City**

88 Xichangan Building, Xicheng District. Phone 8391 3541.

China Cinema

25 Xinjiekouwai Dajie, Haidian District. Phone 6223 0207.

China Film Heng Le New Century Cinema City

BB65 1 Floor Basement, 1 Dongchang'an Boulevard. Phone 8518 5275.

Dahua Cinema

82 North Dongdan Street, Dongcheng District. Phone 6527 2757.

Film Dong Huan Cinema City

Building B, Dong Huan Plaza, 9 Dongzhong Street Beijing. Phone 6418 5939.

New Dongan Cinema

5th Floor, New Dongan Plaza, 138 Wangfujing Street, Dongcheng District. Phone 0107 0895.

Showmax Cinema

9th Floor Soshow Market, 40 Chongwenmenwai Dajie, Chongwen District. Phone 5167 1298.

Youth Palace Cinema

68 Nanxiao Jie, Xizhimen, Xicheng District. Phone 6615 2207.

Ziguang Cinema City

5th and 6th Floor West of Landiao Plaza, Chaoyang Menwai Dajie. Phone 6599 2922.

Massage and Spas

There are many options available for massage in Beijing. The foot bath massage is Beijing's specialty. For this, the feet are soaked in a warm bath infused with special minerals and herbs. The masseuse then rubs the feet, using principles of reflexology. In this way, the masseuse is able to relax the entire body by only touching the feet.

Traditionally in China, privacy and etiquette dictated that a masseuse must be blind. This treatment from a blind masseuse can still be found in several places in Beijing.

Pampering oneself has caught on in Beijing. As a result many other forms of massage are also available including full body massage, traditional ear massage and full spa treatments.

Beijing Massage Parlours

99 Massage Centre. Phone 6501 0799.
Beijing Miaoshou Foot Massage. Phone 6512 0868.
Bodhi Therapeutic Massage. Phone 6417 9595.
Heping Massage Centre. Phone 6436 7370.

Beijing Spas

The Aspara Club Spa. Phone 8440 1108.
Golden Coralla. Phone 6551 8091.
Novotel Oasis Spa Resort. Phone 6159 2299.

Temple Fairs

During the Spring Festival, temple fairs are held. Acrobats, singers, dancers and families burning incense creates a visual and aromatic experience. The most popular temple fairs are at the Temple of Earth, White Cloud Temple and Changdian in the Liulichang area.

Theatres**Beijing Concert Hall**

1 North Xinhua Jie. Phone 6605 7006.

Beijing Exhibition Centre Theatre

135 Xizhimenwai Dajie. Phone 6835 4455.

Broadcasting Theatre

47 Longfusi Jie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6852 3728.

Capital Theatre

22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6525 0996.

Changan Grand Theatre

Changan Building, 7 Jianguomennei Dajie. Phone 6510 1309.

Chaoyang Theatre

36 Dongsanhuan Beilu. Phone 66507 2852.

China Children's Art Theatre

64 Donganmen Dajie. Phone 6513 4115.

Minorities Cultural Palace Theatre

49 Fuxingmennei Dajie. Phone 6602 2530.

People's Theatre

15 Erqi Juchang Lu. Phone 6603 5979.

South Gate Space

4 Jiuxianqiao Lu. Phone 6438 2797.

Tianqiao Theatre

1 Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu District. Phone 6303 0300.

Wansheng Theatre

95 Beiweilu Dajie, Xuanwu District. Phone 6303 4504.

Shopping

Beijing has excellent shopping opportunities from very upmarket malls to busy markets with excellent bargains.

For a world-class shopping spree, Beijing is definitely the place to be. You can start at the malls of Oriental Plaza, where you will find a wide selection of diamonds, good food, clothes, DVDs and music CDs. There are also several large malls in Xidan near Tiananmen Square that offer a variety of goods. The city's biggest mall can be found near Yuanda Bridge, the Golden Resources Shopping Mall, which is Asia's second largest mall.

For high-end shops and expensive products, tourists will thoroughly enjoy the shops at Wangfujing or at the China World Trade Centre. Meanwhile, technology buffs will feel like they found heaven at the electronic malls at Zhong Guan Cun, which is considered the Silicon Valley of China. The most popular malls here are Hilon and Dinghao. The best stores for outdoor gear in China can be found at Building 4 in Nancun, Madian and at Jinzhiqiao Dasha in the Chaoyang District.

If you're hunting for antiques, head to Liulichang for their many exquisite antique offerings, including furniture, handicrafts, Chinese paintings, old books and the like. Gu Wan Cheng on the Third Ring Road also has a broad range of upmarket antiques.

Many hotel shops also offer a lot of Chinese specialty items. For instance, the Emperor shop at Kempinski Hotel has excellent porcelain, silk clothing, tea items and table settings. The Torana Gallery at the same hotel offers an impressive array of silk and Tibetan carpets.

Beijing Shopping Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Shopping Districts

Capital Times Square

A retail complex with designer labels, cinema and restaurants.

Liulichang Culture Street

Liulichang Culture Street near Hepingmen subway station and good for antiques (antiques over one hundred years old have a red seal and you will need an export license) and paintings. A good street to explore traditional Chinese culture and see traditional buildings from the Ming and Qing dynasties. Take the subway to Hepingmen and walk south along Nanxinhua.

Wangfujing Street

Wangfujing to the east of Tiananmen Square has a wide range of boutiques.

Department Stores and Malls

Beijing COFCO Plaza

8 Jianguomennei Dajie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6526 6666.

China World Trade Centre

Known locally as Guomao with lots of brand names. Located at 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie. Phone 6505 2288.

Friendship Store

The Friendship store on Jianguopmenwai Dajie has Chinese goods, silks, carpets and rugs. Located at 17 Jianguomenwai Dajie. Phone 6500 3311.

Full Link Plaza

A smaller mall with some big name brands with a bargain basement. Located at 18 Chaoyangmen Dajie, Chaoyang District. Phone 6588 1997.

Lufthansa Shopping City

52 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District. Phone 6465 1188.

Dashilan

Dasilan is an old commercial street on south of Tiananmen Square with old shops and where you can buy traditional handicrafts.

Xidan Area

An area of department stores selling brands at fixed prices in the centre of the city.

Zhong Guan Cun Area

In north-west Beijing, this is the place for computer goods and software.

Oriental Plaza

1 East Chang An Jie, Dongcheng District. Phone 8518 6363.

Pacific Century Place

A2 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. Phone 6539 3888.

Peninsula Place

An upmarket mall with top brands. Located at 8 Jinyu Hitong, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District. Phone 6559 2888.

SOGO

The Japanese department store. Located at 8 Xuanwumenwai Dajie, Xuanwu District. Phone 6310 3388.

Wangfujing Department Store

Many floor of shopping to rival the largest department stores in the world. Located at 255 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6512 6677.

Bookstores

Yansha Books, Lufthansa Centre, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District.

Wangfujing Foreign Language Bookstore, 235 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District.

The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nanjie.

Electronics

Computer Mart, 10 Chaowai Street, Chaoyang District. Phone 6599 5911.

Markets

Beijing's markets are a great place for bargain hunters. If you want to get the best buys available, there is one rule to bear in mind: you have to haggle. Local vendors are notorious for jacking up their prices when dealing with foreign tourists, so haggling is expected. Haggling can save you 15% or more on what you pay.

One of the biggest markets in town is in Xidan, near Tiananmen Square, right beside some huge malls. It is a great venue for a wide variety of items. Jianguomen Wai Dajie is a building also near Tiananmen Square that sells goods exclusively for foreign tourists. These include clothes, jewellery, luggage, bags, make-up, electronics, sporting goods and artwork amongst other things.

Beijing has a host of markets that specialise in particular products. There are several clothing markets, but you will find two of the most popular ones at Xizhi Men and at Gongti Beilu, known as the SanLiTun YaShou Clothing Market. There are also several men's tailoring shops in these markets where you can order a custom-made suit and get it within 24 hours. Apart from clothes, the Gongti Beilu market also has great bargains on china, bedding and consumer electronics.

The Silk Market or "Silk Street" is on East Xiushui Street while the state-run silk market can be found at Hong Qiao near the Temple of Heaven.

If you're looking for a flea market, you'll find the biggest one in China at Pan Jia Yuan at the eastern portion of Third Ring Road, near Pan Jia Yuan Bridge. There you will find antiques, jade, porcelain, carved stone, furniture, paintings, maps and many other items.

Dongwuyuan Wholesale Market

Where the stallholders at Yaxiu and Hongqiao buy so good bargains if you buy in bulk. Located at south of Beijing Zoo in Haidian District.

Fuzhang Market

A small market with designer clothes and other items. Located at Xueyuan Lu in Haidian District.

Golden Five Stars Market

A large market organised in selling areas. Located at Xueyuan Nanlu, Haidian District.

Hong Qiao Market

In the south central area of Beijing (sometimes called the Pearl Market) an indoor market for no-name or fake sunglasses, watches, pearls and more. Located at 16 Hongqiao Lu which is to the north east of the Gate of Temple of Heaven in Chongwen District.

Jiayi Market

Lots of items and lots of bargains at Dongsanhuan Lu in Chaoyang District.

MEN Shopping Center

A clean, organised market with a full range of items located at 36 Chaoyandmenwai Dajie.

Na-li Mall

Antiques, clothes, shoes and more at Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang District.

Panjiayuan Antique Market

Numerous antique dealers selling everything located at Panjiayuan Qiao, Chaoyang District. Chinese antiques market most of which is reproduction where bargaining is expected. Located at east of Dongsanhuan Nanlu and open on Saturday and Sunday.

Photo Market

A one-stop photography shopping market located on the shoulder road of the Fourth Ring Road near Wukesong Station.

Xiushui Market

Market style shopping mall known as the Silk Market with clothing, replica designer labels and where you are expected to bargain. Located at Yong'anli, Chaoyang District.

Yaxiu Market

A popular market for tourists located at 58 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyan District.

Active Beijing

Badminton

Chaoyang Gymnasium

Liulitun Xikou, Chaoyang District. Phone 6501 1016.

Olympic Sports Centre

Asian Games Village. Phone 6491 2233.

Basketball

Dongdan PE Centre

108 Chongwenmennei Dajie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6512 9377.

Bowling

Beijing Recreational Centre

Asian Games Village. Phone 6499 3434.

Holiday Inn Lido

Jichang Road Jiangtai Road. Phone 6437 6688.

China World Hotel

1 Jianguomenwai Dajie. Phone 6505 2266.

Climbing

Longtanhu Climbing Centre

Longtanhu Park, South East Ring Road, Chongwen District. Phone 6718 6358.

Fengyuxue Ritan Climbing Wall

Ritan Park, 6 Ritan Beilu, Chaoyang District. Phone 8562 3820.

Fitness Centres

Beijing Recreational Centre

Asian Games Village. Phone 6499 3434.

China World Fitness

1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. Phone 6505 2266.

Beijing Trend Station Beauty and Fitness Centre

B3, Tower C, COFCO Plaza, 8, Jiannan Dajie. Phone 6562 0795.

Golf

Beijing Big Canal Golf Club

Hu Ge Zhuang, Tongzhou District. Phone 8958 3058.

International Club

Phone 6974 6388.

Beijing Country Golf Club

Phone 6940 1111.

Huatang International Golf Club

Beijing Dongyanjiao Development Zone. Phone 6159 3932.

Beijing International Golf Club

Changping County. Phone 6076 2288.

North Star Golf Club

8 Beichendong Lu, Chaoyang District. Phone 6491 0385.

Horse Racing

Beijing Horseman's Park

Beizang Village, Daxing County. Phone 6027 5019.

Beijing Country Horse Racing Range

Mapo, Shunyi County.

Horse Riding

Beijing Green Equestrian Club

Jichangfu Lu, Chaoyang District. Phone 6457 7166.

Equuleus Riding Club

91 Shunbai Lu, Sunhe Town, Chaoyang. Phone 6438 4947.

Ice Skating

Ditan Ice Arena

14A Hepingli Zhongjie, Dongcheng District. Phone 6429 1619.

New World Champion Skating Rink

Basement of New World Shopping Mall, Chingwen District. Phone 6708 9523.

Le Cool Ice Skating

China World Tower Two, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang. Phone 6505 3551.

Shangmei Ice Skating

Xidan Cultural Centre, Xicheng District. Phone 6603 0050.

Martial Arts

Yuanmingyuan Ruyi Martial Arts School

152 Yuan Ming Yuan Lu. Phone 6257 1596.

Shooting

China North International Shooting Range

Nankou Town, Changping County. Phone 6977 1368.

Olympic Sports Centre

Paintball Strike Range, 1 Anding Lu, Chaoyang District. Phone 6492 1603.

Squash

Beijing Recreational Centre

Asian Games Village. Phone 6499 3434.

Holiday Inn's Lido Club

Phone 6437 6688.

China World Hotel

Phone 6505 2266.

Lufthansa Centre

Phone 6465 3388.

Hilton Hotel

Phone 6466 2288.

Movenpick Hotel

Phone 6456 5588.

Skateboarding

Ezone Club

Fangzhuang Sport Centre, Fengtai District. Phone 6742 5664.

New Trend Rollerskating World

54 Zhongguancun Nanlu, Haidian District. Phone 6218 4225.

Honglinglin Park

5 Hou Balizhuang, Chaoyang District. Phone 8581 9548.

Skiing

Badaling Ski Resort

Badaling Town, Yanqin County. Phone 6501 0335.

Lianhuashan Ski Resort

Wanfotang Village in Yongxuan. Phone 6980 4549.

Hebaei Saibei Ski Resort

North of Xiqueliang, Chongli County. Phone 6710 3778.

Nanshan Ski Village

Shengshuitou Village, Henanzhai Town, Miyun County. Phone 6445 0991.

Huaibei International Ski Resort

In Jiugukou at 548 Hefangkou Village, Huaibei Town, Huairou District. Phone 6966 1177.

Shijinglong Ski Resort

Zhongyangfang Village, Zhangshanying Town, Yanqing County. Phone 6919 1614.

Jindinghu Ski Resort

Northeast of Jugezhuang Town. Phone 6808 7910.

Swimming

Beijing Twenty-First Century Hotel

40 Liangmaqiao Lu. Phone 6466 3311.

Splash Recreation Club

A large outdoor and indoor pool, sand volleyball court, playground and poolside bar. Located at the Sino- Swiss Hotel, Xiaotianzhu, Shunyi District. Phone 6456 5588.

Huiyuan Mansion

Asian Games Village. Phone 6499 4847.

Tuanjiehu Pool (has a wave pool)

16 Tuajiehu Nanlu, Chaoyang District. Phone 8597 3603.

Olympic Sports Centre

1 Anding Lu, yayuncun, Chaoyang District. Phone 6491 0468.

Xin'aote Yingdong Swimming Pool

Olympic Sports Centre. Phone 6492 1601.

Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Centre

40 Liangmaqiaolu. Phone 6466 3311.

Tennis

Beijing Grand Canal Club

Hu Ge Zhuang, Tongzhou District. Phone 8958 2988.

Olympic Tennis Centre

Asian Games Village. Phone 6491 2233.

Beijing International Tennis Centre

50 Tiantan Donglu. Phone 6711 3872.

Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Centre

40 Liangmaqiao Lu. Phone 6466 3311.

Beijing International Club

21 Jianguomenwai Dajie. Phone 6532 2046.

Xiannongtan Tennis Centre

Xian Nong Tan Stadium. Phone 6301 7744.

Beijing Tennis Club

Xiannongtan. Phone 6317 5606.

Yoga

Home of Yoga

88 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District. Phone 8589 4351.

Beijing Olympics

Introduction

Mayor Wang Qishan accepted the Olympic flag from the president of the Athens Olympic Games in August 2004. Beijing is investing heavily to ensure an excellent event. The Beijing Olympic Games will have three principles: "Green Olympics", "High Tech Olympics" and "People's Olympics".

Known officially as the "Games of the XXIX Olympiad", the Beijing Olympics is expected to be one of the greatest sports spectacles in history, involving 205 countries and about 10,500 athletes competing in 28 sports and 302 events. It will be held from 8th to 24th August in Beijing in the People's Republic of China. The famed Beijing National Stadium will host the opening ceremonies which commence at 08.08.08 pm CST on 8th August 2008.

Former IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch has said that he expects the Beijing Olympics to be "the best in Olympic history."

The centre of the Beijing Olympics will be the Olympic Green between the North Third and Fourth Ring Roads, on a direct axis to the Forbidden City. At the centre of the Olympic Green is the National Stadium, the Aquatic Centre and Digital Beijing, a museum and command centre for the 2008 Olympics.

Calendar of Events

The football (soccer) competitions will begin two days prior to the official opening, on 6th August. Most of the other events will begin on 9th August, including archery, badminton, basketball, boxing, cycling, equestrian, fencing, gymnastics, handball, judo, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, volleyball, water polo and weightlifting.

Diving, field hockey, swimming and tennis will begin on 10th August, whilst canoeing starts on 11th August. Softball and wrestling commence on 12th August, baseball and table tennis on 13th August, athletics on 15th August, triathlon and synchronised swimming on 18th August and the modern pentathlon on 21st August.

The events with the most gold medals at stake are athletics with 47, swimming with 34, cycling and wrestling with 18 each, canoeing with 16, shooting and weightlifting with 15 each and judo and rowing with 14 each.

Public Transport

Beijing's subway system has undergone a major expansion to more than double its capacity in preparation for the Olympic Games. Preparations include the addition of seven lines and over 80 new stations to the existing four lines and 64 stations.

The additional lines include a station that links the Beijing Capital International Airport directly to several Olympic Games venues. Moreover, Beijing has added 11 new trains to the airport to assist with people movement during the Olympic Games. These new trains are operational from June 2008.

Beijing has also outfitted all Metro cars plying the city with video screens to show constant updates on the Olympic Games.

The city has designated 38 public transit routes linking directly to various Olympic Games venues. As many as 2,500 large buses and 4,500 minibuses will be manned by 8,000 drivers to ply these routes for the duration of the Beijing Olympics.

Foreign visitors should note that smoking is banned in virtually all corners of the Beijing transport system. Violators will be fined between US\$13 to US\$26.

Tickets

The Beijing Olympic Organising Committee has allocated more than seven million tickets for the competitions as well as for the opening and closing ceremonies. About 75% of all tickets are allotted for domestic sales and are sold at relatively low prices to encourage maximum attendance among the Chinese.

International tickets can be purchased through each country's National Olympic Committee. Tickets went on sale as early as 14th April, 2007.

Venues

The Beijing Olympics will have 37 competition venues in all, 31 in Beijing and six venues just outside the city and 59 training centres.

The Beijing Olympic events will take place at the following venues:

Archery will take place at the Olympic Green Archery Field.

Athletics and **Football** will be held at the National Stadium in the Olympic Green.

Badminton and **Rhythmic Gymnastics** will take place at the Beijing University of Technology Gymnasium.

Baseball will take place in Wukesong Baseball Field in the Western Community Area.

Basketball will take place at the Wukesong Indoor Stadium in the Western Community Area.

Beach Volleyball will take place at the Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground.

BMX will take place at the Bicycle Motor Crossing (BMX field) in the Western Community Area.

Boxing will take place at the Workers' Indoor Stadium.

Cycling will take place at the Laoshan Velodrome and **Mountain Biking** at Laoshan mountain bike track in the Western Community Area.

Fencing will take place at the Fencing Hall at the Olympic Green.

Football will take place at the Olympics Sports Stadium at the Olympic Green and at the Workers Stadium.

Handball will take place at the Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium at the Olympic Green.

Hockey will take place at the Olympic Green Hockey Field.

Judo and **Taekwondo** will take place at the University of Science and Technology Beijing Gymnasium.

Rowing, **Canoeing** and **Kayaking** will take place at the Shunyi Olympic Rowing Park in the North Scenic Area.

Shooting will take place at the Beijing Shooting Range in the Western Community Area.

Softball will take place in Fengtai Softball Field in the Western Community Area.

Swimming, **Diving** **Water Polo** and **Synchronised Swimming** will take place at the National Aquatics Centre at the Olympic Green.

Table Tennis will take place at the Peking University Gymnasium.

Tennis will take place at the Olympic Green Tennis Centre.

Trampoline, **Artistic Gymnastics** and **Handball** will be held at the National Indoor Stadium at the Olympic Green.

Volleyball will take place at the Beijing Institute of Technology Gymnasium and the Capital Indoor Stadium.

Weightlifting will take place at the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics Gymnasium.

Wrestling will take place at the China Agricultural University Gymnasium.

The six main venues are as follows:

Beijing National Stadium

The National Stadium has been nicknamed the "Bird's Nest" because its architectural design resembles a steel bird's nest. Aside from the opening and closing ceremonies, the Beijing National Stadium will also host the track and field competitions.

The stadium is 69.2 metres tall, 330 metres long and 220 metres wide. It has a seating capacity of 100,000. The cost of construction cost was about US\$423 million.

Designed as the centrepiece of the Beijing Olympics, the stadium is the result of a worldwide competition among leading architectural firms. Herzog & de Meuron Architekten AG, based in Switzerland, won the rights to design the stadium, in collaboration with the China Architecture Design & Research Group. Its design included plans for a giant retractable roof, but this was later scrapped for safety and economic reasons.

Beijing National Indoor Stadium

This multi-functional venue, located at Beijing's Olympic Green, will be the site of the artistic gymnastics, trampoline, and handball competitions. It can house 19,000 spectators.

The Beijing National Indoor Stadium had a 'dry run' in November 2007 when it hosted a national artistic gymnastics event and received rave reviews.

After the Olympics, the stadium is envisioned to be an exercise centre for the locals as well as a venue for cultural and entertainment events.

Beijing National Aquatics Centre

Located right beside the Beijing National Stadium, this venue is the site of the swimming, diving and synchronised swimming competitions. It is fondly called the "Water Cube." It can accommodate 17,000 spectators.

The Beijing National Aquatics Centre is made mostly out of ETFE (Ethylene tetrafluoroethylene), which is similar to plastic but is durable and more susceptible to light and heat penetration. This design will bring about 30% savings in energy cost.

Considered as the biggest ETFE structure in the world, the Beijing National Aquatics Centre has already won two prestigious awards, the Venice Biennale Award for most accomplished work (Atmosphere section) in 2004 and the Popular Science Award for Best of What's New in Engineering in 2006.

Olympic Green Convention Centre

This sparkling new convention centre will host the fencing, shooting and fencing disciplines of the modern pentathlon. Spanning approximately 270,000 square metres, the centre will also serve as the Main Press Centre and Broadcast Centre for international media.

After the Olympics, this top-flight convention centre will be used for major conventions and exhibitions.

Olympic Green

This is Beijing's Olympic Park and the venue of several competition sites, including the Beijing National Stadium, Beijing National Aquatics Centre, Beijing National Indoor Stadium, Olympic Green Convention Centre, Olympic Green Hockey Field, Olympic Green Archery Field, Olympic Green Tennis Centre and the Olympic Village.

Local authorities have ensured that the Olympic Green is easily accessible to spectators, both locals and international sports fans alike.

Beijing Wukesong Culture and Sports Centre

This indoor arena will be the venue of two popular sports events, the basketball and baseball competitions. The basketball area has a seating capacity of 18,000 whilst the baseball field can accommodate 15,000 spectators.

In March 2007, the baseball field was the venue for the "MLB China Series" featuring two teams from the USA's Major League Baseball, the San Diego Padres and Los Angeles Dodgers. It was the first time that two MLB teams played in China.

Major Airline Offices in Beijing**Air France**

5/F, Full Link Plaza
18 Chaowai Dajie
Chaoyang District
Phone 6588 1388

Alitalia

China World Trade Centre
West Building, 503B
1 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6505 6670

All Nippon Airways

N200 Beijing Fortune Building
5 Dongsanhuai Beilu
Chaoyang District
Phone 6590 9191.

Asiana Airlines

Rm. 102, Lufthansa Centre
Chaoyang District
Phone 6468 4000

Austrian Airlines

Kempinski Hotel
50 Liangmaqiao Lu
Chaoyang District
Phone 6462 2161

British Airways

Rm. 210, CVIK Tower
22 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Chaoyang District
Phone 6512 4070

Canadian Airlines International

Rm. 201, Lufthansa Centre
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Phone 6468 2001

Air China

Minhang Yingye Building
15 Xi Chang'an Jie
Xicheng District
Phone 6601 3336 (domestic flights),
6601 6667 (international flights)

China Northwest Airlines

Minhang Yingye Building
15 Xi Chang'an Jie
Xicheng District
Phone 6601 7755

China Southern Airlines

227 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie
Chaoyang District
Phone 6601 7596

China Northern

Minhang Yingye Building
15 Xi Chang'an Jie
Xicheng District
Phone 6601 7594

China Southwest Airlines

15 Xi Chang'an Jie
Xicheng District
Phone 6601 7579

China Xinhua Airlines

2A Dong Chang'an Jie
Taijichang Dongcheng District
Phone 6512 1587

Dragon Air

Rm. 1710, Henderson Centre
18 Jianguomennei Dajie
Chaoyang District
Phone 6518 2533

Finnair

Rm. 204, SCITE Tower
22 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Chaoyang District
Phone 6512 7180

Japan Airlines

1/F, Changfugong Office Bldg.
26A Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6513 0888

Korean Air

Rm. C-401, China World Trade Ctr.
1 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6505 0088

Lufthansa Airlines

Rm. S101, Lufthansa Centre
50 Liangmaqiao Lu
Chaoyang District
Phone 6465 4488

Malaysia Airlines

W115A, China World Trade Ctr.
1 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6505 2681

Mongolian Air

1/F, China Golden Bridge Plaza
1A Jianguomenwai Dajie
Chaoyang District
Phone 6506 4466

Northwest Airlines

West Building, Rm. 501
China World Trade Center
1 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Chaoyang District
Phone 6505 3505

Pakistan Airlines

East Building, Rm. 617
China World Trade Centre
1 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Chaoyang District
Phone 6505 1681

Qantas Airlines

Rm. S120B, Lufthansa Centre
50 Liangmaqiao Lu
Chaoyang District
Phone 6467 4794

Russian International Airlines

Lobby, Jinglun Hotel
3 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6500 2412

SAS

1403 Henderson Centre
Office Tower 1
18 Jianguomennei Dajie
Phone 6518 3738

Singapore Airlines

8/F, Tower 2
China World Trade Centre
Phone 6505 2233

Swissair

Rm. 608, CVIK Tower
22 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Chaoyang District
Phone 6512 3555

Thai International

Rm. S102B, Lufthansa Centre
50 Liangmaqiao Lu
Chaoyang District
Phone 6460 8899

United Airlines

Lufthansa Centre
50 Liangmaqiao Lu
Chaoyang District
Phone 6463 8551

Consulates & Embassies

Islamic State of Afghanistan
8 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 1582

Republic of Albania
28 Guanghua Lu
Phone 6532 1120

Democratic People's Republic of Algeria
7 Sanlitun
Phone 6532 1231

Republic of Angola
1-13-1 Ta Yuan Diplomatic Office
Phone 6532 6968

Republic of Argentina
11 Dongwu Jie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 1406

Republic of Armenia
9-2-62, Ta Yuan Diplomatic Compound
Phone 6532 5677

Australia
21 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 2331

Austria
5 Xiushui Nanjie
Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 2061

Republic of Azerbaijan
3-2-31 Sanlitun Diplomatic Compound
Phone 6532 4614

Kingdom of Bahrain
10-06 Liangmaqiao Diplomatic
Residence Compound, 22 Dong Fang
Dong Lu, Chaoyang District
Phone 6532 6483, 6532 6485,
6532 6486

People's Republic of Bangladesh
42 Guanghua Lu
Phone 6532 2521

Republic of Belarus
1 Dongyijie Ritan
Phone 6532 6426

Belgium
6 Sanlitun Lu
Phone 6532 1736

Republic of Benin
38 Guanghua Lu
Phone 6532 2741

Republic of Bolivia
2-3-2 Ta Yuan Diplomatic Bldg.
Phone 6532-3074/4370

**Republic of Bosnia and
Herzegovina**
1-5-1 Ta Yuan Diplomatic Office
Phone 6532-6587/0185

Republic of Botswana
1-8-1, 1-8-2 Ta Yuan Office Bldg.
Phone 6532 5751

Federative Republic of Brazil
27 Guanghua Lu
Phone 6532 2881

Brunei Darussalam
3 Qijiayuan Diplomatic Compound
Phone 6532 4094

Republic of Bulgaria
4 Xiushui Beijie
Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 1946

Republic of Burundi
25 Guanghua Lu
Phone 6532-1801/2328

Cambodia
9 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 1889

Republic of Cameroon
7 Dongwu Jie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-1828/1114

Canada
19 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 3536

Republic of Cape Verde
6-2-121, Ta Yuan Diplomatic
Compound
Phone 6532 7547

Republic of Central Africa
1-1-132, Ta Yuan Diplomatic Office
Building, 1 Xin Dong Lu, Chaoyang
District
Phone 6532 7353

Republic of Chile
1 Dongsijie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-1591

Republic of Colombia
34 Guanghua Lu
Phone 6532-3377/1713

Republic of the Congo
7 Dongsijie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-1658/1417

Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
9 Beixiaojie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-1482/3572

Republic of Croatia
2-1-31 Sanlitun
Diplomatic Apartments
Phone 6532-6241/6256

Republic of Cuba
1 Xiushui Nanjie
Jianguomenwai
Phone 6532-6568/1714

Republic of Cyprus
2-13-2 Ta Yuan Office Bldg.
Phone 6532-5057

Czech Republic
Ritan Lu, Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 6902

Denmark
1 Dongwujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 2431

Republic of Djibouti
1-1-122 Ta Yuan Diplomatic
Compound, Chaoyang District
Phone 6532 7857, 6532 9309

Republic of Ecuador
11-21 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532-3158/3849

Arab Republic of Egypt
2 Ritan Donglu
Phone 6532 1825

Republic of Equatorial Guinea
2 Dongsijie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-3679

**Federal Democratic Republic of
Ethiopia**
3 Xiushui Nanjie
Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 5258

Republic of Finland
Level 26, South Tower
Beijing Kerry Centre, Guanghua Lu
Phone 8529-8541

Republic of France
3 Dongsanjie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-1331, 6532-4841

Republic of Gabon
36 Guanghua Lu
6532-2810/3580

Federal Republic of Germany
17 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 2161

Republic of Ghana
8 Sanlitun Lu
Phone 6532-1319/1544

Hellenic Republic (Greece)
19 Guanghua Lu
Phone 6532 1317

Republic of Guinea
2 Xiliujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-3649

Cooperative Republic of Guyana
1 Xiushui Dongjie
Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 1337

Republic of Hungary
10 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-1431/1432

Republic of Iceland

Rm. 802, Landmark Tower
8 North Dongsanhuan Lu
Phone 6590-7795/7796

Republic of India

1 Ritan Donglu
Phone 6532-1856/1908

Republic of Indonesia

Office Building B, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-5488

Ireland

3 Ritan Donglu
Phone 6532 2691

Islamic Republic of Iran

13 Dongliujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 2040

Israel

China World Trade Centre
West Wing Offices
1 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6505 2970

Republic of Italy

2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-2131 to 34

Japan

7 Ritan Lu, Jianguomenwai
Phone 65322361

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

5 Dongliujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 3906

Republic of Kazakstan

9 Dongliujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-6182/6183

Republic of Kenya

4 Xiliujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-3381/2473

Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea

Ritan Beilu, Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 1186

Republic of Korea

4/F, China World Trade Center
1 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6505-3171/2608, 6505-3067

Kyrgyz Republic

2-4-1 Ta Yuan Office Bldg.
Phone 6532 6458

Lao People's Democratic Republic

11 Dongsijie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 1224

Lebanon

10 Dongliujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 1560

Kingdom of Lesotho

1-7-1 Ta Yuan Office Bldg.
Phone 6532 6842

Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

3 Dongliujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 3666

Republic of Lithuania

3-1-11 Sanlitun Diplomatic Compound
Phone 6532-4421/4451

Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

21 Neiwubujie
Phone 6513 5937

Republic of Madagascar

3 Sanlitun Dongjie
Phone 6532-1053/1643

Malaysia

13 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 2531

Republic of Mali

8 Dongsijie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-1704

Republic of Malta

5-2-22 Sanlitun Diplomatic Compound
Phone 6532-3114

Mauritania

9 Dongsanjie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 1346

Republic of Mauritius

2-2-11 Dongsanjie Sanlitun
Diplomatic Apartments
Phone 6532-5695/5696

Mongolia

2 Xiushui Beijie
Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 1203

Kingdom of Morocco

16 Sanlitun Lu
Phone 6532 1796

Republic of Mozambique

1-7-1 Ta Yuan Office Bldg.
Phone 6532-3664/3578

Republic of Namibia

1-13-2 Ta Yuan
Diplomatic Office Building
Phone 6532-4810/4811

Nepal

1 Xiliujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 1795

Netherlands

4 Liangmahe Nanlu
Phone 6532 1131

Papua New Guinea

2-11-2 Ta Yuan Office Bldg.
Phone 6532-4312

New Zealand

1 Dong'erjie, Ritan Lu
Phone 6532 2731

Niger

3-2-12 Sanlitun Apartment
Phone 6532 4279

Federal Republic of Nigeria

2 Dongwujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 3631

Norway

1 Dongyijie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532 2261

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

1 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 6660

Republic of Peru

2-82 Sanlitun Office Bldg.
Phone 6532-3719/2913

Republic of the Philippines

22 Xiushui Beijie
Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532-1872/2518

Republic of Poland

1 Ritan Lu
Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532-1236/1237, 6532-1745

Republic of Portugal

8 Dongwujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-3497/3220

Romania

2 Ritan Lu, Dong'erjie
Phone 6532-3442

Russian Federation

4 Dongzhimennei Beizhongjie
Dongcheng District
Phone 6532-2051/1381

Republic of Rwanda

30 Xiushui Beijie
Phone 6532-2193/1762

Republic of Sierra Leone

7 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532-1222/2174

Republic of Singapore

1 Xiushui Beijie
Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532-3926/3143

Republic of Slovenia

3-53 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532-6356/6357

Spain

9 San Li Tun Lun, Chaoyang District
Phone 6532 1986

Republic of South Africa

5 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532-0171

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

3 Jianhua Lu
Jianguomenwai Dajie
Phone 6532 1861

Republic of Sudan

1 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-3715/2205

Republic of Suriname

1-3-31 Jianguomenwai
Diplomatic Compound
Phone 6532-2939/2938

Sweden

3 Dongzhimenwai Dajie Sanlitun,
Chaoyang District
Phone 6532 9790

Switzerland

3 Dongwujie, Sanlitun
Phone 8532 8755

Syrian Arab Republic

6 Dong Si Jie, San Li Tun
Phone 6532 1372

Republic of Tajikstan

9-1-101 Ta Yuan Diplomatic Compound
Phone 6532-2598

United Republic of Tanzania

8 Liang Ma He Nan Lu, San Li Tun
Phone 6532 1491, 6532 1408

Kingdom of Thailand

40 Guang Hua Lu
Phone 6532 1749

Republic of Togo

11 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Phone 6532-2202/2444

Republic of Tunisia

1 San Li Tun Dong Jie
Phone 6532 2435

Republic of Turkey

9 Dongwujie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-2650/2871

Turkmenistan

King's Garden Villa D-1, 18 Xiaoyun
Road
Phone 6532 6975

Republic of Uganda

5 Sanlitun Dongjie
Phone 6532-1708

United Arab Emirates

14 LiangMaHe Nan Road, ChaoYang
District
Phone 6532 7650

**United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland**

11 Guanghua Lu Jianguomenwai
Phone 5192 4000

Republic of Ukraine

11 Dong Liu Jie, San Li Tun
Phone 6532 6783

United States of America

3 Xiu Shui Bei Jie, Jian Guo Men Wai
Phone 6532 3831

Oriental Republic of Uruguay

2-7-2 Ta Yuan Office Bldg.
Phone 6532 4445

Republic of Uzbekistan

11 Beixiaojie Sanlitun
Phone 6532-6305

Republic of Venezuela

14 Sanlitun Lu
Phone 6532-1295/2694

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

32 Guang Hua Lu, Jian Guo Men Wai
Phone 6532 1155

Republic of Yemen

5 Dongsanjie, Sanlitun
6532-1558/3394

Republic of Zambia

5 Dongsijie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-1554/1778

Republic of Zimbabwe

7 Dongsanjie, Sanlitun
Phone 6532-3795/3665

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