

# BEIJING

travel handbook



# Beijing Overview

**B**eijing, the capital and heart of China, is a city of countless attractions and things to discover. Of them all, there are a number of scenic spots in Beijing that visitors should not miss, including a lot of ancient palace architectural complex, imperial gardens, temples, altars, mausoleum of the emperors and royal families, ancient towers and pagodas, stone carvings, former residence of celebrities, ancient and modern buildings, museums, memorial halls and so on. Among them, the Forbidden City in Ming Dynasty (1368 A.D.–1644 A.D.) and Qing Dynasty (1644 A.D.–1911 A.D.), Tian'an Men Rostrum, Tian'an Men Square, Jingshan Mountain out of the north gate of the Palace Museum and Beihai Park are the most famous.

In the center of Beijing City, there are some former residences of celebrities like as Song Qingling, Guo Moruo etc. Some well-known temples dating back to the Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty are also can be found here, such as the Temple of Heaven, the Temple of Earth, the Temple of the Sun, the Temple of the Moon, Yonghe Lama Temple, Baiyun Taoist Temple (or the White Cloud Taoist Temple), Niujie Mosque, Dazhong Temple (or Great Bell Temple) and so on. Besides, people can also visit Beijing Planetarium, Military Museum, Geological Museum and Natural Museum in this area. In the suburban area of Beijing, places of interests mainly include the Summer Place, the Ruins of Yuanmingyuan Imperial Garden (the Old Summer Palace), the Fragrant Hill, Bixia Temple, Badachu Park on Xishan Mountain, and Lugou Bridge. In the exurban area of Beijing, places of interests include the Ming Tombs, Juyong Pass, the Badaling Section of the Great Wall and the Mutianyu Section of the Great Wall.



However, the charm of the colossal city is not limited to these infamous locations. The best way to travel in Beijing is to appreciate the numerous quadrangle courtyards, small Hutongs (or alleyways), sceneries around the imperial walls, and the former residences of noted historical figures. They serve as reminders of the quick passage of time and the daily life of the common people against the background of the big city throughout the centuries. In the respect of food, Beijing has its unique Beijing cuisine which has absorbed the quintessence of food in other places and created a system of its own. Beijing cuisine is elegant in appearance and delicious in taste. It consists of the local food in Beijing, Muslim food which takes beef and mutton as its main material, the royal food which derives from the Ming and Qing royal families, private home cuisine which is famous for its exquisite techniques in cooking seafood, and some food of other provinces.

The snacks in Beijing are distinct as well. In Beijing, the snack combines the strengths of the snacks of Han people, Hui people, Mongolian people, Manchu people, and the royal snacks in Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty. Among them, the most distinct ones are Douzhi (a fermented drink made from ground beans), Guan Chang (Peking Fried Sausage), Chao Gan (Beijing-style fried pig's liver), Mung Tofu (Extra-thin Beancurd Skin), Zha Jiang Mian (noodles served with such sauce) and so on. Night fair is a good place for tourists to have a try of these tasty snacks, and tourists should never miss it. They can find a series of delicious food in Guijie Street (a night fair snack street near Dongzhi Men), such as Xiang La Xie (Sautéed Crab in Hot Spicy Sauce), Ma La Tang (fried bean curd and beef with cayenne pepper) etc. Guijie Street is famous for its numerous restaurants, unique and cheap food, and popularity among Beijing people. It is a very typical snack street in Beijing.





Beijing Hutong

With long history and culture, Beijing quadrangle courtyard is a main form of residence to Beijing people for generations. Hutong is the local feature of Beijing streets and lanes. It is said that “there are three hundred and sixty hutong that have names, while Hutong which you can’t tell names are numerous.” Different hutongs have different names, and every name has a story behind it. Travelling through hutong by tricycles is an indispensable part of travelling in Beijing. Tourists can sit on a tricycle which has a brass-made ring on it, and go through the hutong with the tinkling of the brass ring. That would be a unique and wonderful experience.

Strolling Hutong by foot is a new way for Hutong sightseeing. It can help tourists to explore Beijing city by themselves, and find out every touching moment with their own eyes and hearts. With the support of Beijing government, the old hutong has been developed and renovated under reasonable guidelines. Some old hutongs have been distinct shopping streets. The various creative goods and services in different shops, and the unique home-made coffee and desserts attract a huge number of tourists who enjoy themselves so much as to

forget to leave. Two of the most famous hutongs of this kind are Nan Luo Gu Xiang cultural street and the Wu Dao Ying cultural street, both of which are the new hot spots of Beijing tourism.

Cultural performances in Beijing are also quite colorful. Traditional cultural performances include the Peking Opera, while the new cultural performances include modern dramas and cross talks in little theaters. There are many theaters where tourists can appreciate these cultural performances. For example, the cultural center of Xicheng District has a Xin Xiaosheng Theater where tourists can be amused; the wonderful acrobatics performance in Chaoyang Theater is also one thing that tourists can never miss. In addition, the Kung fu Show in Red Theater gathers nearly seventy top martial artists all over China and advanced stage artistic design and special effects facilities. It intends to create a new cultural performance that absorbs the essence of Chinese Kung fu, acrobatics, modern dance and TV special effects.

Beijing is one of the most important financial centers and commercial centers in China. The well-known business centers in Beijing include Wangfujing, Xidan, Qian Men, the emerging CBD commercial circle, Panjia Yuan (famous for antique trading), and Clothing Wholesale Market near Beijing Zoo. Even today, there are still a lot of well-preserved traditional shops in Beijing. These traditional shops reflect different aspect of Beijing culture. Many of them are Chinese time-honored brands such as Tong Ren Tang (traditional Chinese medicine store), Wu Yutai (tea store), Rong Bao Zhai (antique store) and so on.



Beijing Wangfujing

After successfully holding Beijing Olympic Games, Beijing has upgrades its tourism capability to a new level. By far, there have been 772 star-grade hotels in Beijing, which is bigger than the number of star grade hotels in any other cities in China. Boutique hotels can be seen all over the city. In recent years, Beijing has spared no efforts on developing public transportation and rapid rail transit to improve the traffic jams in Beijing gradually. Thus, the air quality has been improved as well.

Like many other big cities, there exist some flaws in Beijing, natural and man-made, such as sandstorms and traffic jams. In spite of these issues, China's capital radiates on account of its clear blue skies of October, the ginkgo tree under the eaves, the hutongs and stone bridges bathed in sunset colors in Houhai, the sight of senior community members enthusiastically fishing by the river; the vibrant red walls and green tiles of the Forbidden City, the imposing but glorious Great Wall traversing the northern mountains, and countless cultural details that attract millions of visitors from around the world each year.



# Beijing Weather

Beijing has relatively short spring and autumn. The annually average temperature of Beijing is about 11.7 °C. The coldest weather falls in January with the temperature ranging from -22.8 to 10.7 °C and the hottest weather falls in July with the temperature ranging from 16.1 to 39.6 °C. The annual average precipitation is about 644mm and most of the rainfall falls in summer.

## ***Best Visiting Time***

The best months to visit Beijing are May, September and October when the weather is comfortable with pleasant scenery. However, the period of summer holidays, which is regarded as the tourist peak season, is usually over crowded.

## ***Spring***

Spring in Beijing is quite short, mainly from April to May, with a sharp rise of temperature and a large temperature difference between day and night. The weather is relatively comfortable in spring in Beijing, suitable for sightseeing, spring outing and outdoor activities. The average temperature is 13.1°C in April and 19.9°C in May. The temperature is high in the daytime and will jump down at night. Spring is the season with the largest temperature difference between day and night. Spring of Beijing is very dry and windy, together with floating dust and sand storm. What's more, once you meet with the sand storm in spring in Beijing, your journey may be boiled.

## **Clothing Tips:**

In spring, light jackets, T-shirts and jeans are enough. As it's windy in spring, tourists had better bring hats and glasses with them.



## **Summer**

Summer in Beijing mainly lasts from June to August. It is hot and rainy. The temperature ranges from 11.2 to 38.9 °C in June, from 16.1 to 39.6 °C in July and from 12.3 to 38.3 °C in August. The annual highest temperature falls in July, with the average temperature of 25.8 °C. The high temperature lasts steadily and there's small temperature difference between day and night. The precipitation in summer accounts for 70% of that of the whole year, mainly in the form of the heavy rain.

### **Clothing Tips:**

As it's very hot and sunny in summer, short-sleeved T-shirts and shorts are necessary. To avoid the strong sunshine, tourists had better bring sunglasses, sun cream and parasol.

## **Autumn**

Autumn in Beijing mainly lasts from September to October, with very cool and comfortable weather condition and sufficient sunshine. The temperature ranges from 4.9 to 32.3 °C in September and from -1.4 to 29.3 °C in October. Autumn is one of the best seasons for tourists to visit Beijing. In autumn, especially in November, the maple leaves of the Fragrance Hill in Beijing all turn brilliant red, presenting a red hill, which is the most charming autumn scenery in Beijing.

### **Clothing Tips:**

As it's cool in autumn in Beijing, tourists had better bring long-sleeved coats and light knitted sweaters.

## **Winter**

Winter in Beijing lasts from November to the following March, which is long, dry and chilly, lasting five months. However, it has abundant sunshine, over 6 hours every day. The temperature in January ranges from -22.8 to °C. The Spring Festival, Chinese New Year, falls in February, during which, a number of celebrations are held, such as the temple fairs. Besides, while traveling in Beijing during winter, due to the snowfall, tourists can travel to those ski resorts in Beijing. Beijing boasts a number of excellent ski resorts, which are at their best in winter.

### **Clothing Tips:**

As it's very chilly in winter in Beijing, tourists should bring very warm clothes, such as down jackets, cotton-padded jackets, thermal underwear, cotton-padded shoes, anti-skidding shoes and cotton gloves.

# BEIJING attractions



# Top 10 Tourist Attractions

## 1、Tiananmen Square

Tiananmen Square is located in the center of Beijing. It is the biggest in-city square in the world today and can hold a grand gathering of about one million people. The rostrum of Tiananmen is situated in the northern end of the square where the red five-starred flag (the national flag of People's Republic of China) flies high in the sky above all. As well, the Monument to the People's Heroes stands in the center, the Great Hall of the People and the National Museum of China face each other from the eastern side and western side, and the Chairman Mao Memorial Hall and the rostrum Zheng Yang Men stand in the southern part of the square. Nowadays, hundreds and thousands of people visit Tiananmen Square every day, and as a result, Tiananmen ranks as the #1 of 16 main visitors' attractions in Beijing.

### How to get there:

Getting there by bus: Bus 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 17, 20, 22, 44, 52, 53, 54, 59, or 110.

Getting there by subway: Take Subway Line 1 to Tain'an Men Xi Station and Tiananmen Dong station; or Subway Line 2 to Qian Men Station.



The Great Hall of the People



Nearby Attractions:

1. The Great Hall of the People is at the western side of Tiananmen Square, inside of which is a famous auditorium that can hold 10,000 people, and a banquet hall that can hold 5,000 people.

Tickets: 30 RMB for adults, 15 RMB for students

Telephone: 63096156

Hours: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm (except under exceptional circumstances)

Notes: Bags are forbidden inside the Great Hall of the People and should be checked.

The National Museum of China



2. The National Museum of China, located at the eastern side of Tiananmen Square, is the combination of the former National Museum of Chinese History and the former Museum of the Chinese Revolution. The extensive collection of items on display here are all categorized and precious cultural relics that visitors should not miss.

Tickets: As of March 17th, 2011, the National Museum of China has and continues to receive nearly 3,000 visitors a day, including 2,000 group visitors and 1,000 independent visitors. Due to its popularity, group visitors should make an appointment on the phone 2 days ahead of time and get tickets by presenting the letter of introduction of the travel agency. Independent visitors should get tickets by presenting their valid documentation at the ticketing center at the northern gate of the museum. The ticketing center will stop giving out tickets when the number of visitors reaches the maximum allowed number.

Telephone: 65128901

Hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Chairman Mao Memorial Hall



4. Zheng Yang Men, also known as Qian Men (meaning the front gate), is located at the southern end of Tiananmen Square and is one of the few gate towers and embrasured watchtowers that remain in Beijing. Various exhibitions are also held here.

Tickets: 20 RMB during the high season, 10 RMB during the off season

Notes: From Zheng Yang Men, visitors can walk north along Chang An Avenue to the Palace Museum (or the Forbidden City). The next station in the south is Qian Men Avenue and Da Shi Lan. As well, Wang Fu Jing is about two stations away east along Chang An Avenue.

Zheng Yang Men



## 2. The Palace Museum (the Forbidden City)



The Palace Museum is also known as the Forbidden City. It is located in the center of Beijing, one kilometer north of Tiananmen Square, and opposite the southern gate of Jingshan mountain. Covering an area of 720,000 square meters (72 hectares), it is the largest palace architectural complex in the world.

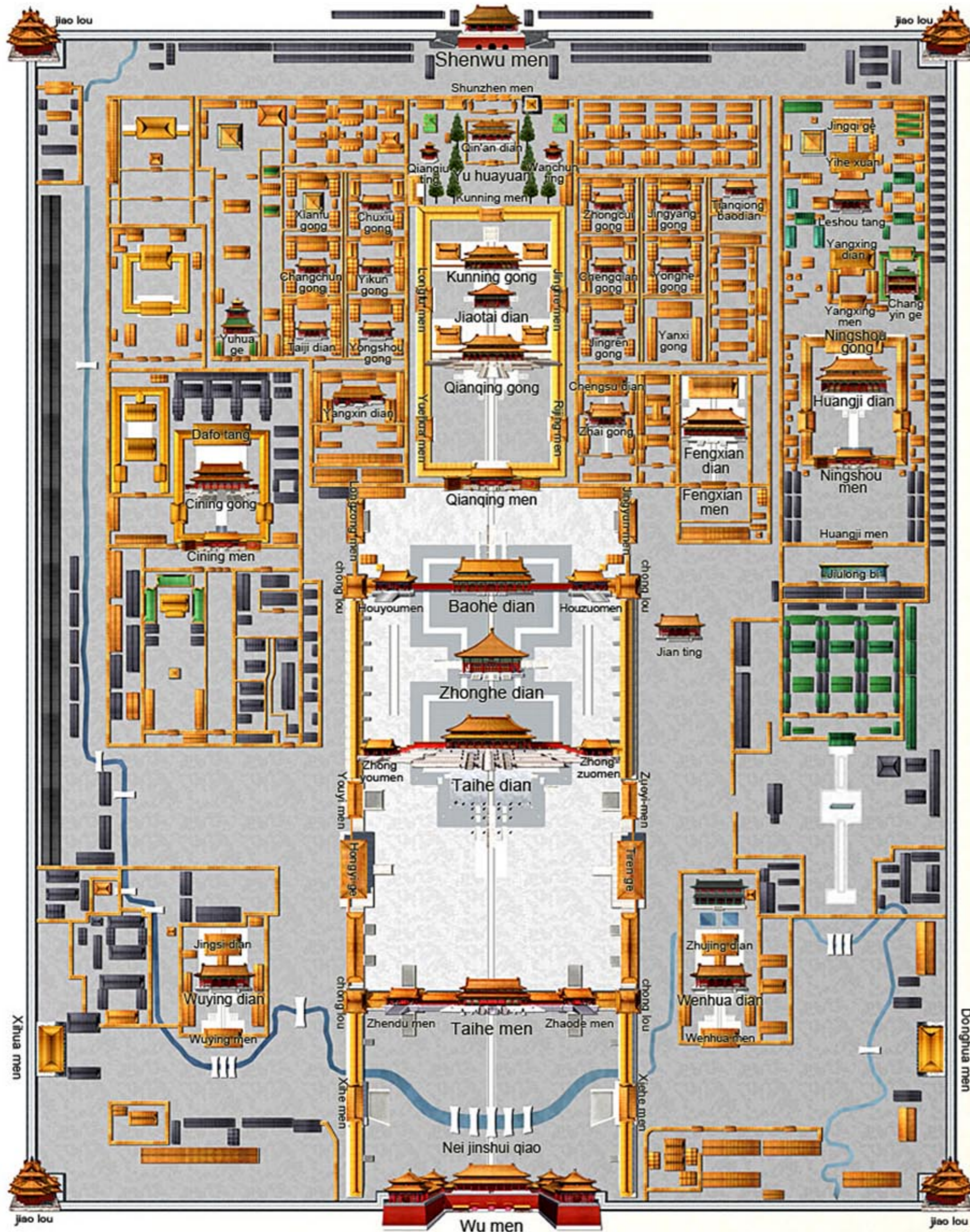
The museum is large in scale, neat in arrangement, exquisite in design, and magnificent in style. Inside the Palace Museum are mesmerizing collections of rare and invaluable cultural relics. These artifacts display the best examples of architectural, cultural, and artistic achievements throughout the history of China.

Around the Palace Museum is a city moat 52 meters wide and 6 meters deep, and within the moat is a city wall 3 kilometers long and nearly 10 meters tall. There is gate in each cardinal direction: Wu Men (Meridian Gate) in the south, Shen Wu Men (Gate of Divine Prowess) in the north, Dong Hua Men (East Prosperity Gate) in the east, and Xi Hua Men (West Prosperity Gate) in the west. Situated at the four corners of the wall are four corner towers which are all uniquely designed and exquisitely built.

In general, the Palace Museum can be divided into two main sections: in the south is the working area, which is also known as Wai Chao (meaning the outer palace); and in the north is the living quarter, which is also known as Nei Ting (meaning the imperial palace). All the buildings in the outer palace and the imperial palace are symmetrical along the axile wire which runs from south to north.



A map of the Palace Museum



Wai Chao, the outer palace, is where the emperor dealt with prestigious political affairs. Tai He Dian (Hall of Supreme Harmony) is the largest hall in this section at 60.1 meters wide, 33.33 meters long, and 35.05 meters tall. Grand ceremonies were held here when the emperor ascended the throne, got married, bestowed titles of nobility on his subjects, called the muster roll of officers and assigned them tasks, and went on expeditions. When such ceremonies were held, thousands of citizens would loudly shout "Wan Sui (meaning long live the emperor)" 3 times while hundreds of varieties of sacrificial musical instruments were be played at once, demonstrating the imposing influence of the imperial family. Nei Ting, the imperial palace, consists of Qian Qing Gong (Hall of Heavenly Purity), Jiao Tai Dian (Hall of Union), Kun Ning Gong (Palace of Earthly Tranquility), and the 6 eastern palaces and 6 western palaces. This is where the emperor and his wife and concubines lived, and also known as "San Gong Liu Yuan" (meaning three palaces and six courtyards). A little imperial garden in the north of the living quarters served as a place of relaxation and entertainment for the imperial family.

Tickets:

April 1st to October 31st: 60 RMB in the high season. November 1st to March 31st: 40 RMB in the off season. Zhen Bao Guan (Hall of Jewelry) and Zhong Biao Guan (Hall of Clocks and Watches) are both 10 RMB. Primary and middle school students can visit the Palace Museum free of charge on Tuesdays. On March 8th (International Women's Day), women can buy half-priced tickets. On June 1st (International Children's Day), children can visit the Palace Museum free of charge. On August 1st (Army Day), servicemen can visit free of charge.

Hours: October 15th to March 31st : 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, the last tickets are sold at 3:30 pm. April 1st to October 14th: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, the last tickets are sold at 4:00 pm.

Getting there by bus: Bus 1, 4, 5, 10, 20, 2, 101, or 103.

Getting there by subway: Subway Line 1 to Tiananmen Dong Station and Tiananmen Xi Station, then walk through Tiananmen Square to the Palace Museum.

Suggested walking tour routes:

**Middle Route:** Wu Men (the Meridian Gate) – three main halls following Tai He Men (Hall of Supreme Harmony, Hall of Central Harmony and Hall of Preserving Harmony) – Qian Qing Men (Gate of Heavenly Purity) – Qian Qing Gong (Hall of Heavenly Purity), Jiao Tai Dian (Hall of Union) – Kun Ning Gong (Palace of Earthly Tranquility) – Yu Huan Yuan (the Imperial Garden) – Shen Wu Men (Gate of Divine Prowess).

**Eastern Route:** Wu Men (the Meridian Gate) – three main halls following Tai He Men (Hall of Supreme Harmony, Hall of Central Harmony, and Hall of Preserving Harmony) – Qian Qing Men (Gate of Heavenly Purity) – Six Eastern Palaces – Ning Shou Gong (Palace of Tranquil Longevity) – Zhen Fei Jing (the well in which a concubine of Emperor Guangxu died).

**Western Route:** Wu Men (the Meridian Gate) – three main halls following Tai He Men (Hall of Supreme Harmony, Hall of Central Harmony, and Hall of Preserving Harmony) – Qian Qing Men (Gate of Heavenly Purity) – Six Western Palace – Ci Ning Gong (Palace of Compassion and Tranquility) – Yang Xin Dian (Hall of Mental Cultivation) – Shu Fang Zhai.

Donghuamen Gate



Tips:

1. If visitors only have half a day to pay a hurried visit to the Palace Museum, the middle route is suggested.
2. Fans of Chinese calligraphy should not miss the San Xi Tang room in the west snappers hall of Yang Xin Dian (Hall of Mental Cultivation).

Notes:

1. Magnificent Architectural Complex: One of the most significant things to keep in mind when visiting the Palace Museum is to remember to note its magnificent and imposing architectural style. Because the Forbidden City was meant to gather the energies of the heaven and earth, the intricate details and art of the Palace Museum should be observed carefully. All the buildings in the museum are constructed of brick and wood structure with yellow glazed roof tiles, greenish white marble base, and glorious and magnificent colorful paintings as decorations. The building strives for utmost excellence and quality in both the choice of building materials and the design techniques.
2. City Wall and City Moat:  
Around the Palace Museum is a city moat 52 meters wide and 6 meters deep, and within the moat is a city wall 3 kilometers long and nearly 10 meters tall. There is gate in each cardinal direction: Wu Men (Meridian Gate) in the south, Shen Wu Men (Gate of Divine Prowess) in the north, Dong Hua Men (East Prosperity Gate) in the east, and Xi Hua Men (West Prosperity Gate) in the west. Situated at the four corners of the wall are four corner towers which are all uniquely designed and exquisitely built. Both the city moat and the city wall are considered the most charming places under the imperial walls where visitors can learn the ways the Beijing people once entertained themselves. Such places are also good for photographing fans. It is suggested that visitors first go in through the Donghuamen (Gate of Eastern Prosperity) and enter a place which is totally different from the imperial city. The evening here in the summer is extremely breathtaking and inspiring. Go east along the city moat to arrive at the famous Donghuamen night market and the well-known Wangfujing shopping street.

the Tiananmen Rostrum



Zhong Shan Park



Worker People's Cultural Palace



Jingshan Park



Nearby Attractions:

1. The Front Gate of the Tiananmen Rostrum to the Forbidden City. It was the absolute symbol of China's supreme power for thousands of years and today, the most popular photo opportunity for visitors. Tickets: 15 RMB for adults, half-priced tickets for students and children Telephone: 65243322 Hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Notes: Bags are forbidden inside and should be checked.

2. Zhong Shan Park: Zhong Shan Park is located in the west of Tiananmen Square. It was once an earth and harvest altar where the emperor offered sacrifices to the local god of the land and the god of harvest. The scenery in the park varies with the change of seasons. With ancient trees reaching to the sky, rests in the shade can be enjoyed after a long day of walking. Visitors will arrive at Wu Men (the Meridian Gate of the Palace Museum) when they leave from the northern gate of the park, and go to Beihai Park out of the western gate of the park. Tickets: 3 RMB for adults, half-priced tickets for students Telephone: 66055431

3. Worker People's Cultural Palace (the Imperial Ancestral Temple): The Worker People's Cultural Palace is situated in the east of Tiananmen. It was once the place where the emperor offered sacrifices to their ancestors. Tickets: 2 RMB Telephone: 65252189 Hours: 6:30 am – 9:30 pm

#### 4. Jingshan Park:

Jing Shan Park lies opposite Shen Wu Men (Gate of Divine Prowess) across the street. Jingshan Mountain, located on the axle wire of Beijing, is the only mountain above 1800 meters altitude in the flat region. As a protective mountain of the Forbidden City, it is also called "Zhen Shan" (meaning the mountain to block the evil) with regards to a geomantic omen. The Wan Chun Ting (All Time Spring Pavilion) is the commanding height of the whole city of Beijing on which visitors can experience a panoramic view of the Palace Museum.

Tickets: 10 RMB for adults, 5 RMB for students, 3 RMB for the elderly

Telephone: 64044071

Getting there by bus: Bus 101, Bus 103, Bus 109, or 111.



### 3. The Temple of Heaven



The Temple of Heaven is in the Dongcheng District, Beijing Municipal City. It is a huge temple several kilometers south of the Palace Museum used to offer sacrifices to heaven and gods. Covering an area of about 2.7 million square meters (270 hectares), it is four times as large as the Palace Museum.

The total area of the Temple of Heaven is 273 hectares and is in the shape of the Chinese character “回”. The temple is divided into two main parts based on two temple walls: the inner temple and the outer temple. The wall of the outer temple is 6,416 meters in length and the wall of the inner temple is 3,292 meters in length. The bounding wall in the southern end is square in shape, symbolizing the earth, while the bounding wall in the northern end is semi-circle in shape, symbolizing the heaven. This is a demonstration of the belief of the ancient Chinese people that the earth is square and the heaven is round. The northern part of the Temple of Heaven is taller than the southern part, indicating that the heaven is above the earth. Most of the buildings inside are located along the northern end and southern end of the axile wire of the inner temple, connected by the broad Dan Bi Bridge. From the south to the north, there is the Yuan Qiu (Circular Mound Altar), Huang Qiong Yu (Imperial Vault of Heaven), Qi Nian Dian (Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest), Huang Qian Dian (Hall of Imperial Zenith), and more. In addition, visitors can see some other ancient buildings such as Shen Chu (Divine Kitchen), Zai Sheng Ting (pavilion where sacrificial animals were killed), Zhai Gong (Hall of Abstinence), and so on. The design of the Temple of Heaven is ingenious, the color matching is harmonious, and the building techniques are advanced for their time. All of these factors make the temple an outstanding relic of the history of ancient Chinese architecture.

Apart from the heaven, there were many other deities in China that the ancient emperors needed to offer sacrifice to including the deity of earth, the deity of water, the deity of agriculture, the deity of the military, the deity of religion, the deity of society, the deity of citizens, and their own ancestors. As a result, activities related to sacrifice were one of the main jobs of Chinese emperors. The energy and resources needed to perform the proper sacrifices and rituals took a lot of time, often from the beginning of a year to the end. Thus, there are all kinds of buildings related to sacrifice in Beijing, all with their own unique features. Such buildings consist of a large part of the attractions in Beijing.



Tickets:

April 1st to October 31st: 15 RMB, November 1st to March 31st: 10 RMB. In addition to the entrance ticket of the park, there are some other tickets needed if visitors want to visit additional scenic spots inside the park. The tickets for the attractions inside the park are 20 RMB.

A complete ticket covering both the entrance ticket and access to the inner scenic spots is 35 RMB in the high season, 30 RMB in the off season, and 28 RMB for students and the elderly.

As well, to go into Zhai Gong (Hall of Abstinence) and Shen Yue Shu (Hall of Divine Music), an additional ticket is 15 RMB in the high season, and 10 RMB in the off season.

Getting there by bus:

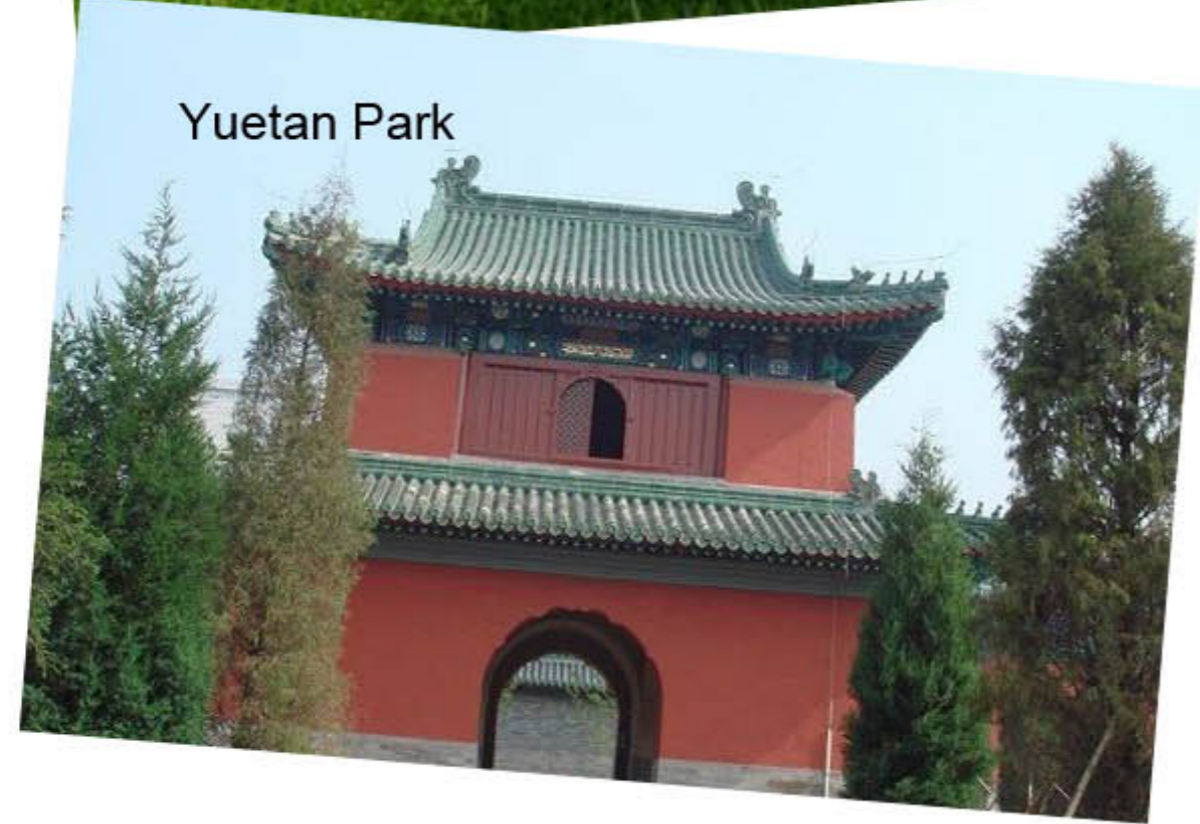
Bus 6, 15, 17, 20, 35, 36, 39, 106, 120, 122, or 803.

Hours: 6:00 am – 9:00 pm

Telephone: 67028866



Xian Nong Tan



Yuetan Park

Other Sacred Ancient Sites

**1. Xian Nong Tan (Temple of Agricultural Deities):** Xian Nong Tan and the Temple of Heaven are symmetrical along the symmetry axis of the axile wire of the old Beijing city. It is the place where the emperors in the Ming Dynasty (1368 A.D. – 1644 A.D.) and Qing Dynasty (1644 A.D. – 1911 A.D.) offered sacrifices to the agriculture deities. It is the only sacred site of agriculture deities in China that still exists today. In Xian Nong Tan, there is not only Ti Sui Dian (Hall of Planet Jupiter) which is as magnificent as Tai He Dian (Hall of Supreme Harmony), but also the ceremony during which emperors demonstrated their ability to plant crops.

Tickets: 15 RMB

Telephone: 63172150, and 63045608

Hours: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Getting there by bus: Bus 14, 20, 54, or 106 to Xian Nong Tan.

**2. Temple of Earth:** The Temple of Earth is located on An Ding Men Wai Street. The temple fair during the Spring Festival is quite famous.

**3. Ritan Park (Temple of the Sun):** Ritan Park, small but lovely, is near Jian Go Men. The park is very popular with foreign visitors, and Xishui Street is not far.

**4. Yuetan Park (Temple of Moon):** Yuetan Park is on Yutan North Road in the Xicheng District.

## 4. Beihai Park

Beijing seems to be a city of too much steel and concrete and not enough water. However, there are several relatively big lakes in the old Beijing city alone. Among them, Beihai Lake is the most beautiful, providing the image of vast mist-covered waters for the people.

Beihai Park itself combines the elegance and beauty of the gardens in the regions south of the Yangtze River with the grandeur of the imperial gardens in the north. Visitors may go skating in the winter and boating during warmer seasons. As well, they can enjoy the scenery of Zhongnanhai in the distance. This popular park is a perfect place to sit down and quietly appreciate the beauty of nature and fellow pedestrians. The recognized Jiu Long Bi (Nine Dragon Wall) is also in Beihai Park.

Getting there by bus:

Bus 5, 101, 103, or 109 to Beihai Qian Men. Or, take Bus 13, 42, 107, 111, 118, 701, or 810 to Beihai Hou Men.

Tickets: 20 RMB for adults, 15 RMB for children.

Telephone: 64040610      Hours: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm



## 5. Yonghe Lama Temple

Yonghe Lama Temple is the largest and best preserved lama temple of the school of Geluk in Beijing. The architecture of Yonghe Lama Temple, mixing the art styles of the Han, Mongolian, and Tibetan people is magnificent, inspiring, and unique. Today, there are still a number of monks cultivating themselves according to the doctrine of Lamaism in Yonghe Lama Temple.

Tickets: 25 RMB      Telephone: 64044499

Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm in the high season, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm in the off season.

Address: No. 13, Guo Zi Jian Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing Municipal City

Getting there by bus: Take Bus 62, 44, or Te 2 to Yonghe Gong Station; or take Bus 13, 116, or 684 to Guo Zi Jian Station.

Getting there by subway: Subway Line 5 or Subway Line 2 to Yonghe Gong Station and leave the station at Exit C.

Nearby Attractions: Guo Zi Jian (the Imperial College) and Kong Miao (Confucian Temple) face Yonghe Lama Temple across Guo Zi Jian Street. It is the only ancient street whose four memorial archways still remain today. In the Yuan Dynasty (1260 A.D. – 1368 A.D.), Ming Dynasty (1368 A.D. – 1644 A.D.), and Qing Dynasty (1644 A.D. – 1911 A.D.), Guo Zi Jian, the best college at the time, was located in the middle part of this street next to the Confucian Temple to its east. There is a stone on which the Thirteen Confucian Classics are inscribed, dating from the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736 A.D. – 1796 A.D.). This stone is the most significant artifact to be appreciated in the ancient college. Also, the scale of the Confucian Temple here is the largest aside from the Confucian Temple located in Qufu City of the Shandong Province.



## 6. The Summer Palace

The Summer Palace is the largest imperial garden remaining in the world. It consists of two main regions: Kunming Lake and Wanshoushan Mountain. The entire palace itself is divided into three parts, each of which has its own functions: the political zone centered on Renshou Dian (Hall of Benevolence and Longevity); the living zone centered on the Yulan Tang, Yiyun Guan, and Leshou Tang halls; and the sightseeing zone centered on the Long Corridor, Kunming Lake, and Suzhou Street.

The Summer Palace is the costly and elaborate heritage left behind by Empress Dowager of the Qing Dynasty. In the history of the building, it has been seriously destroyed twice. In 1860, the Summer Palace was burned by the British and French troops. After that, it was rebuilt and restored, and changed its name to Yi He Yuan. In 1900, it was ruined by the eight allied powers. Then in 1902, the palace was rebuilt to the scale visitors can see now.

Hours: 6:30 am – 6:00 pm      Telephone: 62881144

Tickets: April 1st to October 31st: 30 RMB in the high season. November 1st to March 31st: 20 RMB.

Getting there by bus: The Summer Palace is about 15 kilometers from the downtown area. Take Bus 301, 303, 330, 331, 332, 346, 362, 374, 375, 904, or 905.

Getting there by subway: Subway Line 4 to Bei Gong Men Station or Xi Yuan Station, then walk 500 meters west along Tong Qing Street to arrive at the eastern gate of the Summer Palace (the main entrance).



## 7. Visiting the Great Wall

### The Badaling Section of the Great Wall

There is a saying that goes “one who fails to reach the Great Wall is not a hero,” referring to the Badaling Great Wall. Located in the Changping District, it is 1015 meters above sea level. It is the best-preserved part of the Great Wall built in the Ming Dynasty. Today, it has been overly restored and often crowded with visitors so it may not be the most tranquil or awe-inspiring part of the national landmark.

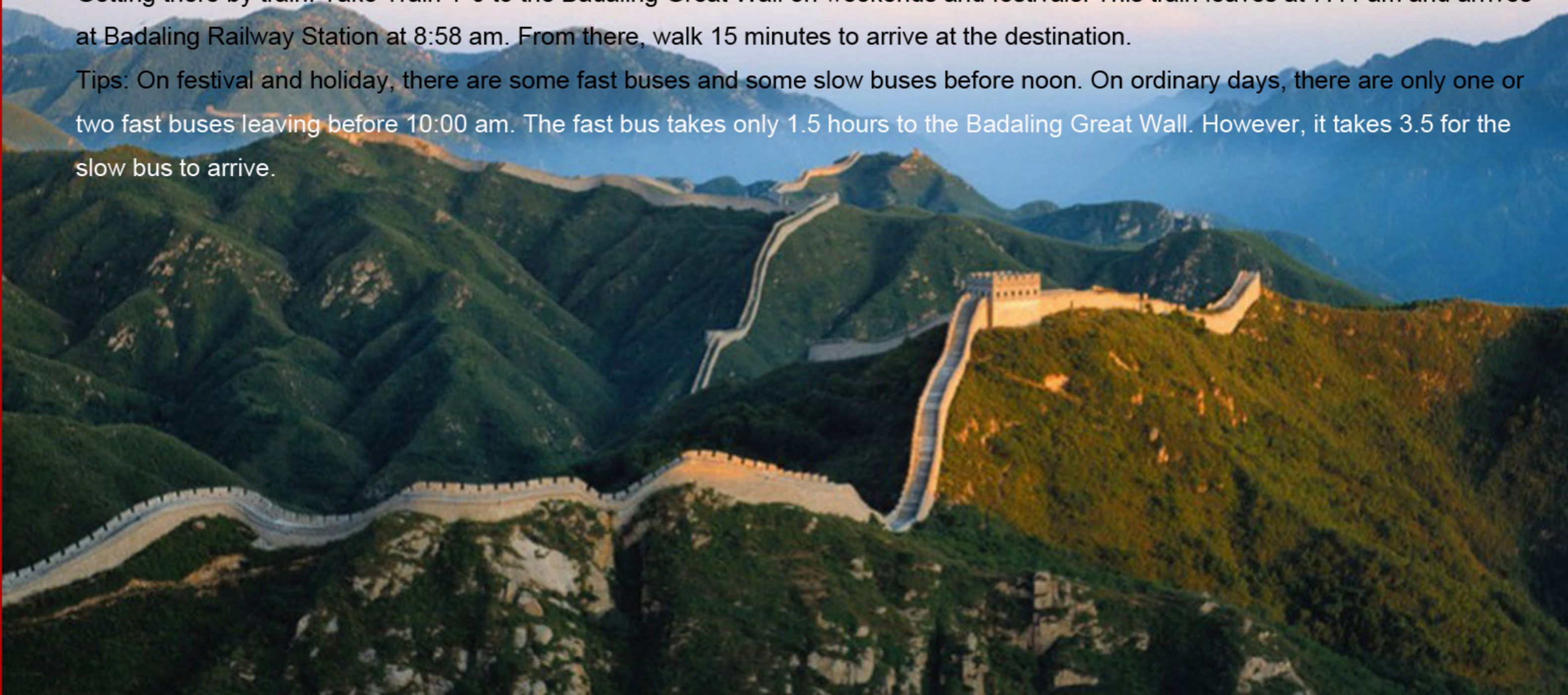
Hours: 7:30 am – 11:30 pm

Tickets: 45 RMB in the high season, 40 RMB in the off season, half-priced tickets for students.

Getting there by bus: Bus 919 at De Sheng Men Station. As well, there are also some buses to Badaling from the Beijing Tourist Center at Tiananmen Bus Center.

Getting there by train: Take Train Y 9 to the Badaling Great Wall on weekends and festivals. This train leaves at 7:44 am and arrives at Badaling Railway Station at 8:58 am. From there, walk 15 minutes to arrive at the destination.

Tips: On festival and holiday, there are some fast buses and some slow buses before noon. On ordinary days, there are only one or two fast buses leaving before 10:00 am. The fast bus takes only 1.5 hours to the Badaling Great Wall. However, it takes 3.5 for the slow bus to arrive.



### **The Mutianyu Great Wall**

It is said that in the 8,851.8 kilometer (5,500.3 miles) long Great Wall, the Mutianyu part is the most beautiful. The Mutianyu Great Wall is 2,250 meters long and its highest point measures 540 meters above sea level. Visitors can either climb the Mutianyu Great Wall along the ancient path from the Mutianyu Pass, or take a cable car to the top. It is about 2 kilometers along the ancient path from Mutianyu Village to Mutianyu Pass. The buildings on the Mutianyu Great Wall are unique in shape, and the views of the section differ with changes in season. The best time to visit the Mutianyu Great Wall is in autumn.

Tickets: 45 RMB, 25 RMB for students.

Telephone: 66018285

Getting there by bus: Bus 916 at Dong Zhi Men Station to Huairou District, then take a taxi (about 25 RMB) to Mutianyu Parking Lot.

### **The Simatai Great Wall and the Jinshanling Great Wall**

The Simatai Great Wall and Jinshanling Great Wall almost have never been renovated. Therefore, they are great opportunities for seeing the natural state of the original Great Wall.

The Simatai Great Wall, 19 kilometers (about 11.81 miles) long with 35 watchtowers, is famous for its steepness and beauty. It is located in the northeast part of Miyu County in Beijing Municipal City. This section is the only part of the ancient Great Wall that maintains the natural state of the Great Wall as it was during the Ming Dynasty, and as such, has deemed to be “the original Great Wall” by UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific And Cultural Organization).

The Jinshanling Great Wall is connected with the Simatai Great Wall in the east. There are two striking features of the Jinshanling Great Wall. One is that it is imposing, steep, and broad. The second is that it has many watchtowers. All of the watchtowers are uniquely designed and they all differ from each other in shape.

Getting there by bus: Take the long-distance bus from Beijing to Chengde, to Jinshanling.

Tickets: 40 RMB for the Simatai Great Wall, 50 RMB for the Jinshanling Great Wall.

Telephone: 8830222

## 8. The Ming Tombs

If you like discovering the darker side of life, do not miss the resplendent and magnificent Ming Tombs. The tombs are the best-preserved tombs in the world, and the number of emperors buried in the Ming Tombs is larger than in any other crypt in the world. There are a total of 13 tombs, all of which are built against the eastern foot, western foot, and northern foot of the mountain. The Ming Tombs are a complete and imposing architecture complex. As well, the Ding Tomb discovered recently is particularly huge and beautiful.

Hours: 6:30 am – 10:30 pm

Getting there by bus: Take Bus 345 at De Sheng Men Station to Changping Bei Station, or Bus 345 Branch to Changping Dongguan Station, then change to Bus 314 to Shen Lu, Ding Tomb, and Chang Tomb.

Getting there by subway: Take Subway Line 13 to Li Shui Qiao Station, then take Changpin Bus 22 and Changping Bus 23 to Shen Lu, Ding Tomb, and Zhao Tomb.

Tickets: The high season lasts from April 1st to October 31st, the off season is November 1st to March 31st.

Shen Lu: 20 RMB in the high season, 15 RMB in the off season.

Zhao Tomb: 20 RMB.

Ding Tomb: 60 RMB in the high season, 40 RMB in the off season.

Chang Tomb: 45 RMB in the high season, 30 RMB in the off season.



## 9. Hutong

### Nan Luo Gu Xiang (or the South Alleyway of Gong and Drum)

Nan Luo Gu Xiang is about 1,000 meters long from its southern end to its northern end. There are eight symmetrical hutongs branching out from its east and west sides, make the alleyway look like a centipede when seen from above. As a result, Nan Luo Gu Xiang is also known as the street of scolopendra. The hutongs here are all grey in color, clean, and neatly arranged. The dwellings along these hutongs are all made of grey bricks and green tiles, making the scenery here much different in contrast with Prince Gong's Mansion. The Central Academy of Drama is located in the Dong Mian Hua hutong (the East Alleyway of Cotton) nearby. As well, there is a drama theatre in Bei Bing Ma hutong (the North Alleyway of Troops and Horses), and the National Theatre Company of China in Mao Er hutong in the west. Clearly, the area is home to a large dramatic influence and atmosphere in Beijing. In recent years, about 10 to 20 bars have been set up, thus creating a new street of bars and nightlife.

Notes:

No. 13 Yard of Hei Zhi Ma hutong (the Alleyway of Semen Sesami Nigrum): This is the most famous yard in Nan Luo Gu Xiang. It is a typical quadrangle courtyard with 5 rows of yards.

Guo Ke (Passers-by): This bar is located at No. 108 of Nan Luo Gu Xiang. It is a good place for visitors to relax with a cup of tea, have a chat with several friends, and enjoy a good rest.



### **Ba Da hutong (Eight Famous Valleyways)**

Ba Da hutong is the name of the red-light district in old Beijing. It was also known as Ba Da Bu. This hutong is situated in the west of the Da Shi Lan business street along Guan Yin Si Street (the Avalokitesvara's Temple Street) out of Qian Men. The widely acknowledged 8 famous alleyways are Bai Shun hutong, Yan Zhi hutong, Han Jia Tan, Shan Xi Xiang, Shi Tou hutong, Wang Guang Fu Xie Jie, Zhu Jia hutong, and Li Sha Mao hutong.

Visitors usually visit Ba Da hutong mainly for two reasons: to appreciate the old streets, old alleyways and old buildings in old Beijing; and To curiously discover everything related to the old brothels. The hutong is especially fascinating for those interested in experiencing authentic daily lifestyles since it reflects Beijing as it is in the eyes of the common people and shows the real living conditions of the older generations.

#### **More hutongs:**

##### **1. Hutongs along the way from Dong Dan to Bei Xin Qiang Street**

In the Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty, many officials lived around this area. The hutongs here are neatly arranged and the houses on both sides are among the best in Beijing. Although the homes have been seriously destroyed over time, visitors can still gain glimpse of the glory these houses once portrayed. Especially in Dong Zong Bu hutong and Dong Si Liu Tiao, there are still some well preserved stone lions and gate piers in front of some homes.

##### **2. The area southwest of Xi Si**

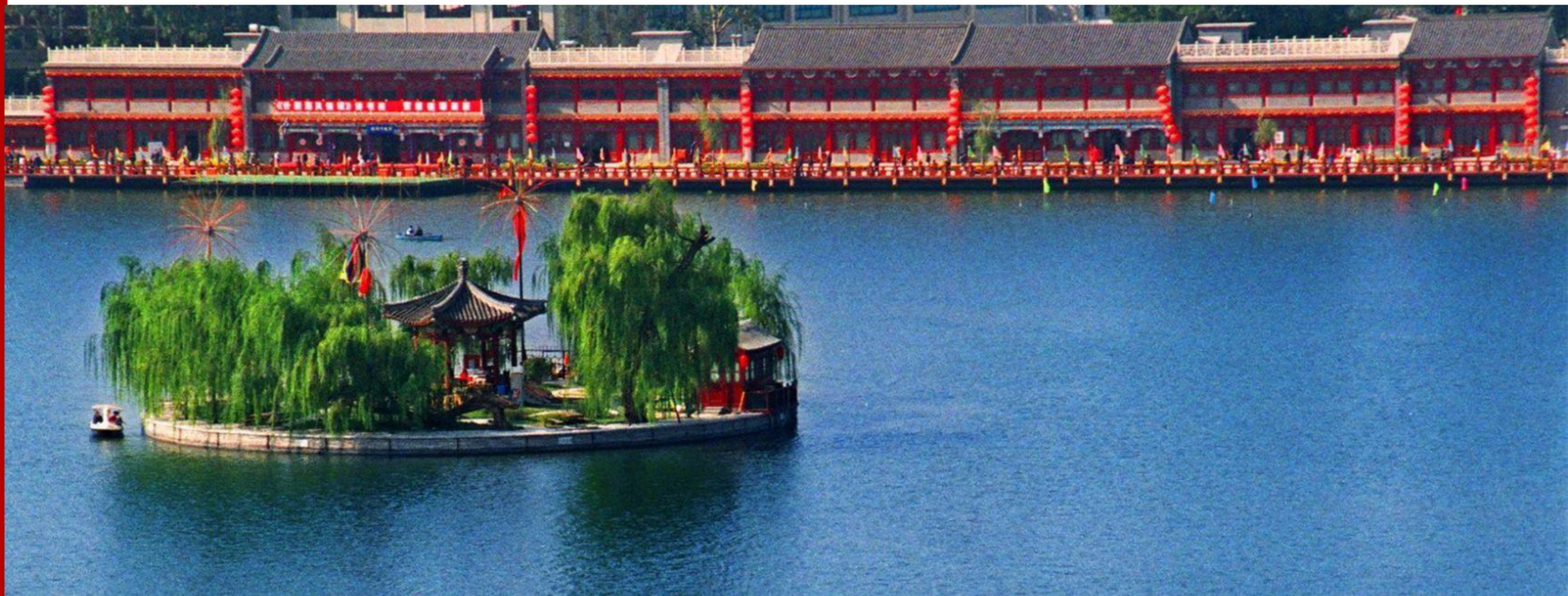
Most of the hutongs here were also the houses of the officials from the old Beijing city. In addition, there are some hutongs dating from the Yuan Dynasty such as Zhuan Ta hutong, the oldest hutong in Beijing.

## 10. Shi Cha Lake

Shi Cha Lake consists of Qian Hai (the front lake), Hou Hai (the back lake), and Xi Hai (the west lake, also known as Ji Shui Tan) and is said to be the area of the most concentrated literary brilliance of Beijing. Second only to the Forbidden City, it is the most stunning and atmospherically and culturally significant location of the metropolis. Ever since the old Beijing city was built, this area has been designed to be the living quarters for the upper middle class. Today, the dense nearby hutongs and quadrangle courtyards within are the most comfortable neighborhoods in Beijing to live in and much more luxurious than any other neighborhood around.

Yandai (small-bowled long-stemmed tobacco pipe) Xie Street: This is the noisiest and busiest place in Hou Hai (the back lake). All along the streets of Hou Hai are full of quadrangle courtyards, café, and fashion stores.

Yin Dian Bridge: It is said that from Yin Dian Bridge, visitors can see the vista of Xishan Mountain on clear days.



# BEIJING food & restaurants



# Beijing Food

Beijing has its unique Beijing cuisine which has absorbed the quintessence of food in other places and created a system of its own. Beijing cuisine is elegant in appearance and delicious in taste. It consists of the local food in Beijing, Muslim food which takes beef and mutton as its main material, the royal food which derives from the Ming and Qing royal families, private home cuisine which is famous for its exquisite techniques in cooking seafood, and some food of other provinces.

Beijing's famous dishes include Spiced Fish, Braised Fish Lips, Braised Shark's Fin in Yellow Wine Sauce, Braised Cuttlefish Roe, Vinegar-Flavored Braised Mandarin Fish, Fried fish in soy sauce, Stuffed Prawns, Braised Sea Cucumber with Scallion, Mongolian Lamb Hot Pot, Sautéed Tofu Skin Rolls, Beijing Roast Duck, Sautéed Diced Chicken in Soy Sauce, Beijing Style Pickles, Chinese Cabbage with Mustard Sauce, Walnut Pastry, Deep-fried lamb's tail and Chinese Yam in Hot Toffee.



### **Steamed Crab and Fish Lips**

“Steamed Crab and Fish Lips” is a famous dish of Fangshan Restaurant which sits in the north of Qiong Island of Beihai Park. Fangshan is namely, Imitative Imperial Food. The dishes are characteristic of handpicked materials, careful making, pleasing colors, tasty flavors and unique styles.

The dish is soft but chewy, with strong crab flavor. The best time to make it is in autumn when crab meat is the plumpest.

### **Braised Shark’s Fin in Yellow Wine Sauce**

Braised Shark’s Fin in Yellow Wine Sauce is the royal dish in Beijing which originated from government official Tan Zongjun’s family in last years of the Qing Dynasty. In Tan Zongjun’s life, he had a passion for gourmet. As of he became an official, he was fond of inviting colleagues to dinner to make a god of his belly. Constantly improving the cooking, mistresses of Tan’s Family gradually formed the unique “Tan Family Dish” which became increasingly well-known. In order to feast their mouth, many officials and celebrities managed to feast guests at Tan’s family with no regard to cost. To the thirties and forties, it has been so well-known in Beijing that there went the saying “no tune in theater community does not imitate ‘Tan’” (refers to famous Peking Opera performer in the Qing Dynasty); no mouth in food circle does not compliment ‘Tan’ (Tan Family Dish).

Among the 100 famous dishes in Tan Family Dish, the sea food dishes rank the highest with shark’s fin making being the most outstanding praised by many people. Braised Shark’s Fin in Yellow Wine Sauce is the top grade of it. It is made with a whole yellow fish’s fin, namely Lv Song Fin—a kind of yellow fish fin indigenous to Philippine. With a layer of fat meat inside arrayed with muscles, “Lv Song Fin” is of best quality containing a large number of colloid. When it is done, the fin meat is well-cooked in yellow and tasted soft and smooth.

### **Vinegar-Flavored Braised Mandarin Fish**

Vinegar-Flavored Braised Mandarin Fish is a soup dish best made at Feng Zeyuan Restaurant. In early years, Feng Zeyuan Restaurant kept many living fish in a few wooden basins for cooking dishes like Vinegar-Flavored Braised Mandarin Fish and Sauce fish. Mandarin fish, grass fish and herring are all fine for making Vinegar-Flavored Braised Mandarin Fish as long as it is alive. With delicious fish and milky soup, the hot and sour dish can stimulate your appetite and disintoxicate alcohol.

### **Braised Cuttlefish Roe**

Cuttlefish roe, namely the egg of cuttle, is in oval shape covered with a translucent skin that contains a plenty of protein. Mostly indigenous to Qingdao and Yantai Cities in Shandong Province in China, they have always been regarded as seafood treasures. After tasting the dish several times, Yuan Mei, he noted poet and gourmet in the years of Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty, recorded the recipe in a food list: "It is most difficult to make the cuttlefish roe tasty. It requires getting rid of the sand and fishy smell and fully cooking with mushroom and chicken soup." So it is a famous dish with a long history.

To make this dish, first you need to wash the cuttlefish roe, shuck off the skin and put them in cool water. When it is boiled, take it down and soak for 6 hours. After that, rip away them one by one and put into cool water to boil to 80 percent degree, and then cool them again and boil again. After repeating for 5-6 times, the fishy smell will be thoroughly gone. Now put the container on fire and add in chicken soup, cuttlefish roe, soy sauce, Shao Wine, ginger sauce, fined salt and monosodium. When the soup is boiled, remove the scum, put in starch mixed up with water and stir it well. Afterwards add in vinegar, pepper and cooked chicken oil, put it in a bowl and sprinkle some parsley chips in the end.

### **Fried Fish in Soy Sauce**

"Fried Fish in Soy Sauce" is the specialty of Beijing for which the late third-grade cook Wang Shizhen was famous in 1950's. His disciple Wang Yijun who is in the same grade is also good at making this dish and even surpasses his master.

Water is the heating member in the cooking process of this dish, when the soy sauce is thoroughly permeating into the fish, mixing the fish and the soy sauce flavor. When it is done, the dish looks shiny in garnet red. With no fry in the whole process, the fish retains most of the water and is therefore tasted very tender.

### **Chinese cabbage with Mustard Sauce**

The dish is crispy with sweet, sour and spicy flavor. It has the functions of getting rid of fatness and smooth breathing, suitable for spring and winter. Clean the Chinese cabbage, remove the bottom and cut it into strips about 4cm long. Dip vegetables in boiling water for a few seconds and drain off the water. Put the mustard in a bowl, then pour in boiled water and stir it in one direction. After that, add in vinegar, salt, sugar and sesame oil. Spread the prepared mustard sauce on the sliced Chinese cabbage and lay them in a plate with another one covered up. Put it in the warm place in room and it will be done the second day.

# Beijing Restaurants

## Kaorouji Restaurant

The restaurant was established in 1848 of the Qing Dynasty. At that time it was operated in the open air by the water area of Shichahai, which has been a scenic and commercial area, as well as a summer resort of Beijing City since the Yuan Dynasty. Every year from May 5 till July 5 on the Chinese Lunar Calendar, a lotus market was set up at the southern end of Shichahai to provide a place for people to enjoy the scenery and stay cool. During the period, Ji Decai, a local from Tongxian County near Beijing, would go to the lotus market and set up a roast meat stand by the lakeside. The stand became more and more popular because it offered delicious roast meat, and people can enjoy the scenery by the lake while eating. Ji invented 8 unique ways to roast the meat, which enabled the meat with tastes like tender, tough, sweet, salty, spicy, or scorched. It is better to eat while roasting, in this way, people can choose whichever taste they prefer. Usually roast meat is consumed with wine, which helps digestion and enhances tastes. In the beginning, people used abrasive jugs rather than cups to drink wine. Later, Tin jugs and cups replaced abrasive jugs. Roast meat is usually consumed with pancakes, with sesame pancakes being the most popular nowadays.

Address: 14, Qianhaidongyan, Di'anmenwai Avenue, Xicheng District

Tel: 010-64042554



### **Manfulou Restaurant**

Manfulou Restaurant was established in 1991, with lamb hot pots of Qing Dynasty imperial style as its specialty. The decoration inside the restaurant looks a duplicate royal kitchen. Instant boiled mutton is the specialty of the restaurant. Lambs are carefully selected from Inner Mongolia. In order to serve fresh and tender meat, only about half a kilogram of hindquarter meat is used from a 40-kilogram sheep. Its condiment is a mixture of 28 ingredients. Besides the instant boiled mutton, cuttlefish meat balls, smoked Lamb Kebabs and sesame pancakes are also very delicious and popular. Over the years, Manfulou has received distinguished guests like state leaders, ambassadors and celebrities.

Address: 36, Di'anmennei Avenue, Xicheng District (north of Jingshan Park)

### **Guijie Food Street**

Guijie (or Ghost Street) is the common name for a famous food street in Dongzhimen of Dongcheng District. Many foreign embassies are located near the street, which made it also famous among foreigners. There are about 150 restaurants along this 1442-meter-long street. Many traditional snacks of Beijing can be found here. In recent years, spicy shrimps has become a popular snack at Guijie.

Transportation: Take subway line 5 and get off at Beixinqiao Station. Or take public bus No. 106, 116 or 807, and get off at Beixinqiao Station.

### **Qianmen Avenue**

Qianmen Avenue is a must-see place for tourists, and gathers many time-honored restaurants, such as Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant, Youyichu Shaomai (steamed dumplings stuffed with meat), Laozhengxing Restaurant, Yitiaolong Restaurant, etc.

Transportation: Take public bus No. 2, 5, 17, 22, 44, 110, 120, 201 or 826, or take subway line 2 and get off at Qianmen Station.

### **Fulong Temple Food Street**

The food street gathers numerous delicious foods and snacks from all over China, as well as fast food chains like KFC and McDonald's.

Transportation: Take subway line 5 and get off at Dongsì Station

### **Jiumen Snacks**

Jiumen Snacks is a “snacks courtyard house” located in Xiaoyou Hutong of Houhai Area. Inside the courtyard house, traditional Beijing snacks can be found. Most of them were relocated from Qianmen, and for the first time over the past 50 years, these famous snacks stands gather together to form a small market of Beijing traditional snacks.

Address: 1, Xiaoyou Hutong, Denei Avenue, Xicheng District

Tel: 010-64025858 64026868

Transportation: Take subway line 2 and get off at Jishuitan Station, or take public bus No. 44, 800 or 820 to Deshengmen Bridge.

Note: Xiaoyou Hutong has two exits, one at West Avenue of Drum Tower, and the other at the northside of Houhai. Jiumen Snacks is located near the north side of Houhai.

### **Guang’anmen Food Street**

Guang’anmen Food Street features spicy flavors, with Sichuan cuisine and restaurants being the most popular.

Transportation: Take public bus No. 5, 6, 19, 109, 201 or 816 and get off at Baiguang Road Station

### **Wonton Hou Restaurant**

This restaurant serves Chinese fast food with wonton as its specialty. It has opened many branches in Beijing. Suggested dishes include Three Delicacies Wonton, Tomato Wonton, Shredded Chicken Wonton, Bigot Wonton and Scallop Wonton.

Address: 309, Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 010-64042021

Average cost per person: 10 – 50 yuan

### **Family Hu Dumpling Restaurant**

The restaurant has a long history, and still retains its original features of strong and fragrant flavor.

Address: 1, Pufang Road, Fangzhuang, Fengtai District

Tel: 010-67688274 67688275 67607243

# Muslim Restaurants

## Baikui Laohao Restaurant

It is one of the most well-known Muslim restaurants in Beijing, featuring unique flavored mutton. In 1780, a Muslim named Baikui opened a small mutton boucherie near Fulong Temple in Dongcheng District. Gradually he invented a way of processing mutton, which is to braise then deep-fry the mutton. The restaurant carefully selects and uses certain parts of sheep, and mixes dozens of ingredients to make condiments.

Besides the delicious food it serves, the restaurant gained fame for its location near Fulong Temple. Built in the Ming Dynasty, Fulong Temple is one of Beijing's ancient temples, and became one of the four major temple fairs since the Qing Dynasty.

Address: 1, front street of Fulong Square, Dongcheng District.

Tel: 010-84012373 64060667

Transportation: Take subway line 5 and get off at Dongsì Station

## Niujie Muslim Food Street

Niujie (or Ox Street) is the largest Muslim community in Beijing. It has a long history and over 20 ethnic groups living in this area. Muslim restaurants and shops make this area full of Islamic culture.

Address: Niujie, Guang'anmen, Xuanwu District

Transportation: Take public bus 53, 61, 109 or 822, and get off at Niujie Station.

## Afanti Hometown Music Restaurant

This restaurant serves Xinjiang cuisine, and has strong Xinjiang flavor. Its specialties are Grilled Beef with Lemon, Mutton peppered with Sesame Seeds and Xinjiang Salad.

Address: 2, Guaibang Hutong, Chaonei Avenue, Dongcheng District.

Tel: 010-65272288/65251071



# BEIJING shopping

### **Sanlitun Yaxou Clothing Market**

There are five floors selling various kinds of things. Basement: shoes, handbags and suitcases. Almost every people especially who are struggling to house big feet can find fitting shoes here. First floor: coats and jackets. Second floor: hiking gear, suits, ladies wear. Third floor: silk, clothes, carpets, fabrics and tailors to fashion your material into something wearable. Fourth floor: jewelry, souvenirs, toys and a beauty salon. And, finally in the fifth floor, there are more than 20 restaurants selling delicious local recipes.

Address: No.58 Gongti North Road, Chaoyang District

### **Xiushui Street**

Xiushui Street( Silk Market) is replete with some of the finest silk products, as well as an amazing arrays of name-brand clothes, bags such as Reebok, Adidas, Gucci. But very few of these top labels are the real thing despite their uncanny resemblance. This is probably the reason that serious shoppers usually avoid this market but there is still a lot of interesting things to see and to do. The fun of the place may not come in searching for the perfect bag or best shirt, it comes in the haggling. It may yield a feeling of accomplishment when you purchase an item at maybe 30 percent of the original price. No price is fixed is the golden rule there. The more you haggle, the better price you may get. Xiushui Street is the one of the few places in Beijing where foreign can purchase clothes and shoes in large sizes.

Address: 8 Xiushui East Street, Chaoyang District

### **Chaowai Yuexiu Clothing Market**

The Chaowai Yuexiu Clothing Market, situated near the Chaoyangmen metro station, was opened in 2005. Currently, it covers a total area of 30,000 square meters having possession of more than 1000 shops. Visitors can find various kinds of cloth here, such as Business suits, T-shirts, and casual wear, especially traditional Chinese apparel: Qipao, T'ang cloth and sun yat sen's uniform. It is also a good place to discover interesting traditional Chinese crafts such as Chinese Brocaded, silk, Chinese Pottery.

Address: It is located near the Chaoyangmen Metro Station.

### **Panjiayuan Market**

**Feature:** Covering a 1,000 square metre, Panjiayuan Market is the biggest collecting and distributing center of art and craft articles in China. Panjiayuan Market mainly trades in all kinds of secondhand goods, art and craft articles and antiques. There are also large variety of antique furniture imitations, four treasures of Chinese study (writing brush, ink stick, ink slab and paper), ancient books and paintings, agate, jadeite, ceramics, ancient Chinese and foreign coins, bamboo and animal bone sculptures, leather figurines for shadow play and all types of face masks for Chinese opera. The most busy days are from Thursday to Sunday,

**Benefit:** Art lovers and collectors can easily spend hours perusing the endless stalls where traditional and contemporary local artists display their wares.; Even if you walk away empty-handed (unlikely), the bustle and atmosphere of Panjiayuan is an experience in itself, soak up the lively market atmosphere.

**Location:** Panjiayuan Antiques Market (潘家园旧货市场) is in the southeast corner of the Third Ring Road, just east of Longtan Park. The Chinese address is 潘家园桥西.

**Opening Hours:** Mon-Fri 8:30am-6pm; Sat-Sun 4:30am-6pm

### **Liulichang Antiques Street**

The Liulichang Culture Street, a few minutes' walk from the south of Hepingmen Subway Station is a great place for shopping in terms of both variety and atmosphere. The street is thought to have originated from Qing Dynasty, which is evidenced by the ancient wooden architecture lining either side of the street. Products sold here include jewelry, antiques, and ancient calligraphy and paintings. Enjoy the pleasure of bargaining when you decide to buy something.

**Address:** It is situated near the Hepingmen Subway Station.

### **WangFujing Shopping Street**

Wangfujing Street is one of the largest pedestrian streets in China. On the north end of Wangfujing Street is Wangfujing Department Store, Green House(Lu Wu)Department Store, One World Department Store, Hong Kong Gourmand City, Foreign Bookstore and Linsheng Sports Article Store...It is the center of this Market Street. If you spend 3 minutes in every chain store, it will take several days to visit them all.

**Address:** Wangfujing Avenue, Dongcheng District

# BEIJING transportation

## Taxi

The fare is charged based on the distance and waiting time. The starting price is 11 yuan for the first three kilometers, and 2 yuan per kilometer afterwards. Two yuan is charged for every five minutes of waiting. The charges are usually pasted on the car window, and there will be additional charges when driving at night and for deadhead kilometers.

## Subway

Subway could be the fastest means of transportation inside Beijing city area. The operation hour is from 5:00 in the morning till midnight. The access of subway is a grey square concrete building with a B-shaped lightbox. The ticket window is at the entrance. In every subway station there are usually many entrances and exits, indicated by A, B, C or Da. Read carefully the information at the platform before you exit the subway. Nearly all the stations along subway line 2 is either an important scenic spot of Beijing or a transfer station. The subway line to the airport has been open to traffic, operating between Dongzhimen Station and Terminal 2 and 3 of Beijing Capital International Airport. The price is 25 yuan per person.

## Public Bus

There are more than 700 lines of public buses in operation. Line 1-122 (price: 1 yuan per person) run along routes within the city, Line 201-212 are night buses, line 300-599 (price is based on distance: 1 yuan within 12 kilometers and 0.5 yuan for every additional 0.1-5 kilometers afterwards) are suburban routes, while lines starting with number 8 are air-conditioned buses.

**Airport Buses** The regulated price is 16 yuan per person.

Line 1: Fangzhuang (Guiyou Mansion)-Dabeyiao (Southern Airlines Pearl Hotel)- Capital Airport

Line 2: Xi Dan (Civil Aviation Building)-50 meters east of Dongzhimen Bridge-Capital Airport

Line 3: Beijing Railway Station-Beijing International Hotel (West Gate)-50 meters east of Dongzhimen Bridge-West Gate of Landmark Tower-Capital Airport

Line 4: Gongzhufen (Xinxing Hotel)-north gate of Friendship Hotel-Beitaipingzhuang (50m east of the intersection)-Anzhen Building-Capital Airport

Line 5: Zhongguancun (Fourth Bridge)-Beihang University (north gate)-Huixin West Street (Anhui Plaza)-Huixin East Street (Tianshui Yige Hotel)-Capital Airport

# BEIJING travel FAQs



**Q: What are your recommendations for visiting in Beijing during the May Day Holiday?**

A: 1. Accommodation: Regular hotels are good choices, but you may not be able to experience the old tradition of Beijing. There are some hotels transformed from the traditional courtyard houses, which are recommendable, and if you look for cheaper price the international youth hostels transformed in courtyard houses are also very good.

2. Traveling: Beijing is actually not suitable for traveling, but for experiencing. Only when you slow down can you experience the real old Beijing. To put it in a simple way, a leisurely day is to take a morning walk at Jingshan Park, sip tea in an old store to chat with older Beijingers at noon, and watch acrobatics or Xiangsheng (cross talk) in a small theater in the evening, and then finish the day soaking in the hot bath in a bath house.

3. Transportation: Taking the subway is the best means of transportation. Spare one day for Forbidden City to appreciate the ancient treasures. In the evening, you can go to the Water Cube to swim and watch the Bird's Nest on the way. For the second day, visit Yonghe Lama Temple in the morning and Summer Palace in the afternoon. It is very important to choose the right day for visiting the Great Wall. Avoid weekends when the possible traffic jam might take you four or five hours on the road.

4. Food: It is not easy to tell the location. Jiumen Snacks Court at Shichahai is overpriced and ordinary. There are many food streets in Beijing with traditional snacks, such as the food street near Huguo Temple, Islamic food at Niu Jie, and gravy at Xuanwai Dajie.

To sum up, if you want to know about the real old Beijing, don't just visit the scenic spots. Rent a bicycle and ride through the narrow Hutongs to learn about their stories, which might soon be a past history.

**Q: How about the transportation from Beijing Capital International Airport to the city area? Are subways available from the airport to the city area?**

A: You can take subway from Dongzhimen to Terminal 2 and Terminal 3 of the airport. It is also convenient to transfer subway or other means of transportation at Dongzhimen Station.

**Q: Where can I find the cheapest but best possible traditional Beijing food?**

A: If you are traveling alone, you can go to Huatian Snacks at Di'anmen; Jiumen Snacks are either for one person or groups. In addition, if you want to try instant boiled meat, you can go to Baodu Feng.

## Dealing with Emergencies

### Losing Luggage at the Airport

1. Look for the airline's baggage office or window, and report it there at once.
2. Give the window clerk your baggage stub and they will track your bag on the computer.
3. The clerk will ask you to fill in a claim form. Supply a way (like your hotel address and phone number) that can reach you over the next few days.
4. Keep a copy of the form.

### Losing Passport

1. Be sure to check if it is indeed lost before you report it. Once it's reported lost, it is cancelled and no longer valid, and you'll need a replacement. Please also note that offices handling such issues usually close on weekends and public holidays.
2. Ask your tour guide for assistance, and report the loss to the nearest Public Security Bureau, who will issue a certificate of loss for you.
3. Locate the nearest embassy or consulate of your own country and apply for a replacement passport in person. You'll be required to complete a new passport application.
4. After the new passport is issued, go to the Public Security Bureau and apply for new visa.

### Losing Credit Card

Please report the loss to your credit card issuer as quickly as possible, and follow your bank's instructions.

### Being Robbed or Stolen

If you lose something of value, please report immediately to the nearest police station or call 110 (toll free) for police. Notify your tour guide or tour leader for assistance. If you are in a hotel, please inform the hotel staff and ask them to call the police.

**Getting Lost**

Please always take with you the contact details, such as your tour guide's phone number and your travel advisor's phone number. With just a phone call, you can easily help you get your bearings. When you leave the hotel, please take a card of your hotel, then you can show it to the taxi driver when you need a ride.

**Falling Sick**

If you feel minor discomforts, please relax, have a rest and drink some water. Eat more fruits and stay away from overly fatty foods. Take some medicine if you see necessary. If you suffer from a serious illness, please go to the hospital or call 120 (toll free) for an ambulance. Please remember to bring a copy of your medical records with you when you travel.

More Emergency Phone Numbers in China:

- Mainland China: 110 – Police; 119 – Fire; 120 - Ambulance (110 is generally used)
- Hong Kong & Macau : 999 -- Police/Fire/Ambulance

