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Population

17 Million

Currency

1 Yuan = 10 Jiao

Opening hours

Businesses are generally open from Monday to Friday, 9 am until 6 pm.

Many shops are also open on Saturdays and Sundays.

Internet

www.beijingpage.com

www.chinaonline.com

www.bjta.gov.cn

www.english.visitbeijing.com.cn

Newspapers

Beijing This Month

City Weekend

Beijing Review

China Daily

Emergency numbers

Ambulance: 120

Fire: 119

Police: 110

Tourist information

Xuanwu Bureau

Address: 3 Hufang Road

Tel: +86 10 6351 0018

BEIJING

PUBLISHING DATE: **2012-03-20** | COUNTRY CODE: **CN**

Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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Beijing is a great city—literally, "The Great City." Famous Tiananmen Square is big enough to hold one million people, while the historic Forbidden City is home to thousands of imperial rooms and Beijing is still growing. The capital has witnessed the emergence of more and higher rising towers, new restaurants and see-and-be-seen nightclubs. But at the same time, the city has managed to retain its very individual charm. The small tea houses in the backyards, the traditional fabric shops, the old temples and the noisy street restaurants make this city special.

THE CITY



© Francisco Diez

Beijing: Nowhere else can you find so many historic sites so close to each other. The famous Forbidden City and nearby Tiananmen Square, mark the centre of Beijing. North, lies the popular Qianhai Lake, where locals cool down in the hot summer months. The Chongwen district to the south of the Forbidden City, houses the Temple of Heaven, while the Chaoyang district in the east is well-known for its trendy restaurants and bars. Preparing the Chinese capital for the 2008 Olympic Games saw many old buildings getting refurbished and new skyscrapers erected. New restaurants, clubs and bars have also sprouted up and made the city more vibrant. Yet, Beijing is still managing to retain its traditional charm. A stroll alongside the city's old shopping streets with its many silk, antique and tea shops give visitors a unique insight into Chinese culture. And of course, Beijing is also a culinary capital. From traditional Chinese dumplings to the original Beijing Duck, Beijing's hundreds of restaurant and food stalls are sure to stimulate your taste buds.



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DO & SEE



© neiljs

Beijing is heaven for sightseeing fans. The city boasts well-known historic sites as well as many temples that attract thousands of visitors every year. The nearby Great Wall of China is clearly a must-see. Below is a list of some of the city's major tourist attractions.

Tiananmen Square

The 400 000 square metres large area is a key historic centre of Beijing. It was here that the former Communist Party leader, Mao Zedong, declared the founding of the People's Republic of China on 1st October, 1949. Today, thousands of visitors come here every year to see Mao's remains in the mausoleum, visit the Great Hall of the People that houses the country's National People's Congress and admire the 15th century Qianmen City Gate, which once divided Beijing's ancient inner city and the suburban areas.

Address: Tiananmen Dong
Subway: Tiananmen Dong

The Forbidden City

Built by Emperor Yongle in the early 15th century, the 720,000 square metres of Forbidden City was home to the imperial household. It was opened to the public in 1949. The well-preserved area boasts more than 800 buildings and 9,999 rooms. The Hall of Supreme Harmony, beautifully decorated with thousands of Dragons, was used to celebrate the Chinese emperor's birthday. The Palace of Heavenly Purity served as the emperors' living area and features several bedrooms.

Address: Tiananmen Dong
Subway: Line 1 to Tian'anmen Dong, Tian'anmen Xi

More Info: North of Tian'anmen Square

Summer Palace

The Summer Palace was once used by the imperial family as a retreat from the stress of Beijing city life. The grounds include a range of buildings and gardens including the Hall of Benevolence and Longevity, as well as the stunning Fragrant Buddha Tower, which offers superb views of Kunming Lake.

Address: 19 Xin-jian-gong-men Road
Subway: District Haidian
Phone: +86 10 6288 1144
Internet: www.summerpalace-china.com

Temple Of Heaven

This enormous park was built in the early 15th century, around the same time the Forbidden City was constructed. The park hosts several intriguing buildings. In the north of the park, a stone carved stairway leads up to the entrance of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests with its cylindrical blue-tiled roof and a beautifully decorated ceiling. It was struck by lightning and burnt to the ground in 1889 but was carefully reconstructed the following year. The Hall of Abstinence was used by emperors for fasting. In the south you will find the Round Altar—a three-tiered marble platform.

Address: Tiantan Donglu
Subway: Qianmen
Phone: +86 10 670 226 17
Internet: www.templeofheavenbeijing.com

Yonghegong Lamasery (Lama Temple)

Originally built in 1694 as the residence of the future Yongzheng Emperor, this complex of beautifully designed buildings was transformed into a Tibetan Buddhist Temple in the mid-18th century. The Falun Dian, the temple's teaching and assembly hall, features a large bronze statue of Tsongkapa, the founder of the Buddhist Yellow Hat sect.

Address: Yonghe Gong Dajie 12
Subway: Yonghe Gong/Lama Temple

798 Space

This well-known art centre is based inside a defunct, 1950s concrete factory. It features photographic exhibitions, video installations and other art themes.

Address: Jiuxianqiao Lu, Jiuxianqiao Beilu
Phone: +86 10 597 891 8
Internet: www.798space.com

Liulichang

This street is a must for antique-hunters: be it Chinese paintings, ancient books, calligraphy brushes or ink stones you are sure to find it on Liulichang. A favourite among calligraphers and scholars in the old days, the 750 metres long street was restored and expanded in the late 1980s.

Address: Liulichang Street, Xuanwu District
Subway: Hepingmen

The Great Wall Of China

Undoubtedly one of the world's top tourism destinations, the Great Wall is a stunning monument stretching over 5,000 kilometres and is even visible from space. When in Beijing, the most convenient place to view the wall is from Badaling in Yanqing County, situated around 70 kilometres from the Chinese capital. Take one of the Tourist Buses leaving from Qianmen Station or Bus 919 departing from Deshengmen Station. Other sights open for tourists to explore the wall are Mutianyu, Huanghuacheng, Simatai and Jinshanling.

Internet: www.greatwall-of-china.com

EATING



© Bill Holler

Chinese cuisine is no doubt one of the most popular across the globe - and it is not surprising that you'll find the best Chinese food in China! A visit to Beijing is not complete without having sampled the local speciality, the crispy Beijing Duck, which is served with pancakes, spring onions and fermented bean paste. However, Beijing also has a lot of fabulous international restaurants - from Brazilian to Japanese cuisine plus American-style fast food.

Courtyard

This elegant restaurant offers great views of the Forbidden City. It specialises in fusion cuisine, combining Western and Asian flavours, and boasts a very comprehensive wine list.

Address: 95 Donghuamen Dajie
Phone: +86 10 6526 8883
Internet: www.courtyardbeijing.com

Fangshan Restaurant

Set up more than 80 years ago by royal chefs, the Fangshan serves Chinese dishes such as Beijing Duck. It is based inside a grand mansion in a beautiful location alongside Lake Beihai.

Address: 1 Wenjing Jie
Phone: +86 10 6401 1879
Internet: www.fangshanfanzhuang.com.cn
More Info: Beihai Park, Xicheng District

China Grill

Atop Park Hyatt Beijing, China Grill serves international cuisine with the best meat, fish and

seafood. Here you will find a great wine selection and a 360 degrees view of Beijing.

Address: 2 Jianguomenwai Street
Phone: +86 10 856 718 38
Internet: www.parkhyattbeijing.com

Nobu Beijing

Nobu Beijing serves a new style Japanese Cuisine with South American flavor. Try their marvelous signature dishes or local specialties.

Address: 83 Jian Guo Road
Phone: +86 10 596 969 88
Internet: www.noburestaurants.com

Yu Restaurant

If you want luxury this is the place to go to. Yu restaurant have seven designed private dining chambers and a tea bar served by a tea master as a complement to a delicious dinner.

Address: No. 83A Jian Guo Road
Phone: +86 10 5908 8111
Internet: www.ritzcarlton.com
More Info: The Ritz-Carlton

CAFES



© Mitch Altman

Whether you are looking for a cup of freshly-brewed coffee or exotic Chinese tea, the variety of coffee shops and teahouses in Beijing is almost endless. Many cafés serve fresh bread and cakes as well.

Tasty Taste

The cakes in this place are sure to make your mouth water. From Green Tea Cheese Cake to Red bean Mousse Cake and Blueberry Chocolate Mousse Cake, Tasty Taste has something for everyone.

Address: Gongrentiyuchang Beilu, Gongrentiyuchang Xilu
Phone: +86 10 6551 1822
Internet: www.tastytaste.com.cn
More Info: Dong Cheng District

Gustomenta

This colourfully decorated, Italian café is based on Baijiazhuangxili and serves ice cream and espresso. The family who owns the place has more than 60 years of gelato making experience.

Address: No.24, Baijiazhuangxili
Phone: +86 10 659 229 78
Internet: www.gustomenta.com.cn
More Info: Chaoyang district

Tea Time

Tea has played a great role in Chinese history: the first references to the tea leaves go back 5,000 years in Chinese literature. The hot beverage had originally been an herbal medicine, to aid digestion for instance. But at some point in time it was also used as currency for trading goods.

The Bookworm

The Bookworm is a bohemian place in Beijing which offers you a hide away from the busy city. The walls are decorated with books and they serve European dishes and salads, sandwiches and desserts.

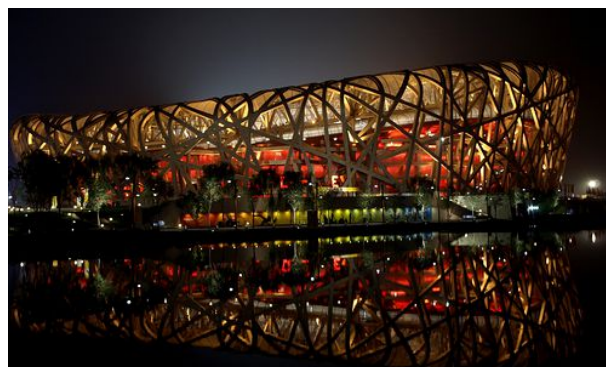
Address: Building 4, NanSanlitun Road
Phone: +86 10 658 695 07
Internet: www.beijingbookworm.com
More Info: Chao Yang District

Water Nymph Café

If you find that you have been drinking too much tea in Beijing then this is a place for all coffee lovers. Water Nymph also serves pasta and sandwiches in a comfortable setting which offer free internet.

Address: 4 West Houhai
Phone: +86 10 8403 168
More Info: Xicheng District

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© Jeff Campbell

Fancy a bottle of China's Tsingtao Beer, a cup of Japanese sake rice wine, or a pint of Guinness? Beijing has a large selection of bars catering to locals and international visitors—and it's growing. Make sure you pay a visit to Sanlitun Street with its many pubs.

No Name Bar

This pub may not have a name, but it's nevertheless popular and people come here for the splendid views of the Qianhai Lake. Locals sometimes refer to the bar by its owner's name, Bai Feng.

Address: 1 Dajinsi Hutong

Phone: +86 10 8328 3061
More Info: Xicheng District

Bar Blu

Bar blu is a favourite among the local party crowd, people here boogie on the small dance floor or chill out on the lovely roof terrace. Bar Blu also hosts regular events, such as quiz nights.

Address: 4th floor of Tongli Studios
Phone: +86 10 6417 4124
More Info: Sanlitun Beilu

Mao Livehouse

If you would like to experience a bit of pop-culture in Beijing then Mao is the place to go to. Many local bands from Beijing perform here in an intimate, cozy atmosphere.

Address: 111 Gulou Dongdajie
Phone: +86 10 6402 5080
Internet: www.maolive.com

Vics Club

Vics is said to be the place to be in Beijing by night. It is located inside the north gate of the Workers Stadium and has a nice mix of pop, soul, RnB and reggae.

Address: Workers Stadium north gate
Phone: +86 10 5293 0333
More Info: Gongrentiyuchang Beilu, Chaoyang

Mix

Mix is not as big as Vics, but it is one of the main clubs to go to. They mainly play hip-hop and you are guaranteed a good night out.

Address: Workers Stadium north gate
Phone: +86 10 6506 9888
More Info: Gongrentiyuchang Beilu, Chaoyang

SHOPPING



© Tom Caswell

Beijing has long been a centre of trade. Today, it boasts over 13,000 stores spread across the city, offering anything from original Chinese handicrafts to international designer fashion. Wangfujing Street is among the most popular shopping miles in town. It is home to new, shiny shopping malls and department stores selling trendy, expensive brand-name goods. Shoppers here will also find foreign language book stores, some arts and crafts shops as well as restaurants. Hongqiao Market, also known as the Pearl Market, has 3 floors of pearls and jewelry to shop from. Here you can also find electrical equipment, clothes and traditional Chinese artifacts.

Qianmen Street is one of the oldest shopping streets of its kind in Beijing. It is home to many old shops selling traditional Chinese goods such as fine teas, soft silk and cotton fabrics and shoes. Liulichang Street is great for antiques and has been a long-time favourite among scholars and calligraphers. Shops here are selling ink sticks, ink paste and other cultural goods, as well as some jewellery. If you think about taking up calligraphy, the sophisticated Chinese writing art, pay a visit to one of the stores on Liulichang to choose the most suitable equipment.

Another popular option for clothes is Xiushui Street-Silk market-, where both tourists and locals are hunting for bargain fabrics in all shapes and colours. Sanlitun Street, meanwhile, has witnessed the emergence of new and trendy designer shops. San Li Tun Yaxiu market is one of the most popular markets in Beijing. It is similar to the Silk market but with lower price as the locals visit here. Finally, if all this

shopping makes you hungry, make sure you pay a visit to Hongqiao Market at Tiantan Donglu in the Chongwen district. This is a good wet market offering a wide range of seafood and fresh fish, including lobster and crabs, and features more exotic specialities such as snail meat.

Oriental Plaza

Beijing's top shopping centre boasts 120,000 square metres of shops in a modern ambiance. It is home to well-known Western and Asian brands and houses a Sony Science Museum and a cinema.

Address: 1 Dongchang'an Jie
Internet: www.orientalplaza.com

China World Shopping Centre

This is a premier choice for the city's well-off with all the famous designer brands from Christian Dior to Gucci.

Address: 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie
Internet: www.cwtc.com

Ten Fu's Tea

This chain sells high-quality tea from across the region. The friendly staff brews small cups of tea for customers to sample.

Address: Danyao Dasha, Wangfujing Dajie
Phone: +86 592 3257 980

Ruifuxiang

This traditional textile shop has been around for more than 110 years and sells hundreds of cotton, wool and silk textiles.

Address: 5 Dazhalan Xijie
Phone: +86 10 6303 5764

SLEEPING



© Kitetraveller.com

In Beijing you will not have a problem finding a place to stay, no matter your budget. Just make sure that you have booked a hotel before arrival as this is not a city where you would like to travel around in order to find an accommodation.

Grand Hyatt Beijing

This luxury hotel, just around the corner from the Tiananmen Square, boasts an indoor swimming pool in the design of a tropical lagoon. It has 555 art decor style rooms and offers all the amenities you'd expect from a deluxe hotel, including a Spa and a Fitness Centre.

Address: 1 East Chang An Avenue
Phone: + 86 10 8518 1234
Internet: www.beijing.grand.hyatt.com

Raffles Beijing Hotel

This traditional and centrally-located hotel offers a range of tastefully decorated rooms, some with a view over the Forbidden City. The hotel features an 8-lane bowling alley and indoor tennis and squash courts.

Address: 33 East Chang An Avenue
Phone: +86 10 6526 3388
Internet: www.affles.com

Novotel Peace Beijing

This hotel is conveniently situated in the Wangfujing shopping district, and only a short stroll away from the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. The hotel—part of the well-known Accor chain—has comfortable rooms and an indoor swimming pool.

Address: 3 Jinyu Hutong
Phone: +86 10 6512 8833
Internet: www.accorhotels.com

Haoyuan Hotel

This small, charming courtyard hotel is based inside a building dating back to the Qing dynasty. Located in the Dongcheng District, it features rooms with traditional oriental decor and restaurants serving Chinese as well as Western cuisine.

Address: 53 Shijia Hutong
Phone: +86 10 6512 5557
More Info: Dongcheng District

Bamboo Garden Hotel

This hotel once served as the mansion of the Post Minister in the early 1920s. It has traditionally decorated rooms, including suites designed in the style of the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Address: 24 Xiaoshiqiao
Phone: +86 10 5852 0088
Internet: www.bbgh.com.cn
More Info: Xicheng District

JW Marriott Hotel

Being in Beijing for business or pleasure, JW Marriott Hotel is the most luxurious hotel you can find. It is a 5-star hotel located close to the business district and shopping facilities.

Address: 83 Jian Guo Road
Phone: +86 10 59086 688
Internet: www.marriott.com
More Info: Chaoyang District

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



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Exchange Office

There are more fun things to do on your holiday than look for exchange offices or ATMs. Exchange your currency before you leave and get time to do things that you really want. At Forex Bank you can always buy foreign currency free of charge, at hours that suits you. For more info about Forex Bank visit our website or click:

<http://www.forex.se/sv/Om-FOREX/Bankbutiker/>

Airport

The Beijing Capital International Airport is located around 27 kilometers north of Beijing's city centre. At present, the airport consists of three terminals.

The cheapest way to into town is to take CAAC's comfortable airport shuttle bus. Tickets cost RMB 16 and the ride takes between 40-90 minutes, depending on traffic and origin/destination. The shuttles leave

the airport from outside gates 11-13 in the arrival level of Terminal 2. Buses depart every 15-30 minutes.

There is also an airport express train called ABC or Airport to Beijing City. The airport express covers the 27.3 km distance between the airport and the city in 18 minutes, connecting Terminals 2 and 3, to Sanyuanxiao station in Line 10 and Dongzhimen station in Line 2. The one way ticket price is RMB 25.00.

Internet: www.bcia.com.cn

Public Transport

The subway is the best way to move around the city and avoid traffic jams in Beijing. Currently, there are 8 lines in operations, including the newly-opened ABC, or Airport to Beijing City airport line, Line 10 and the Olympic Branch line.

The five existing lines are, Line 1, Line 2 or the Loop Line, Line 5, Line 13 and the Batong Line. The subway runs from 5 am to midnight daily. Subway stations are marked by blue signs with a "D" (for Ditie or subway) in a circle. Tickets cost RMB 2, regardless of distance or destination. Route signs are in Bilingual.

Internet: www.ebeijing.gov.cn / www.bjsubway.com (in Chinese)

Taxi

Taxis are the default mode of transportation for most foreigners in Beijing. As many as 3 million people take the cab everyday so fear not, you will never ran out of taxis in this city. There are at least 70,000 cabs in Beijing. The flagfall route is RMB 10 for the first three kilometer during the day and RMB 11 from 11 pm until 5 am. The costs of a ride is RMB 2 per kilometer, RMB 3 after 15 kilometers. Have your destination written down in Chinese.

Beijing taxi drivers are generally honest and friendly. Expect to get your change and tipping is discouraged. Taxi from the airport to the city centre takes approximately around 50 minutes, depending on the traffic for roughly RMB 90, inclusive of a RMB 10 toll fee. Ask for your receipt by saying "Fapiao."

The Beijing Bureau of Communications takes complaints concerning taxis, minibus or other vehicles. No operator, but an English recording that gives instructions for faxing your complaint—which of course will mitigate your anger right away. Tel No. +86 10 6835 1150.

Post

Jianguomen Post Office

Address: Jianguomen Beidajie
Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 6.30 pm
Phone: +86 10 6512 8114
More Info: Chaoyang

Pharmacy

Shidai Golden Elephant Pharmacy

Address: 1 Huanyuan Road
Phone: +86 10 620 124 72
More Info: Haidian District

Dentist

Beijing International Medical Centre

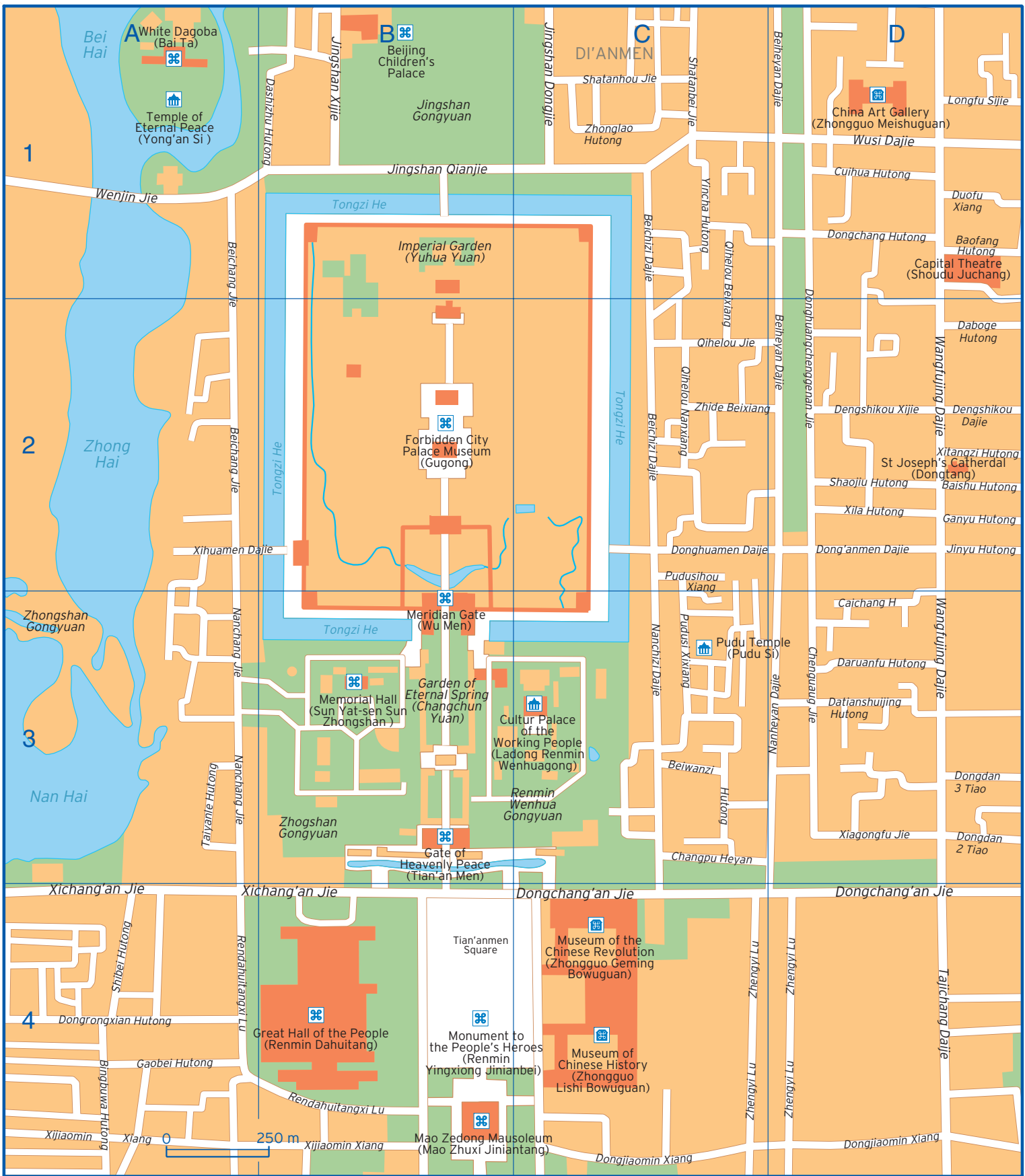
Address: Youyi Lufthansa Centre, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu
Phone: +86 10 6465 1561 Medical / +86 10 6465 1384 Dental unit
Internet: www.imclinics.com

Telephone

Country code: +86
Area code: (0)10

Electricity

220 Volt



Baishu Hutong	D2	Donghuangchenggenan Jie	D1 D2	Shaojiu Hutong	D2
Baofang Hutong	D1	Dongjiaomin Xiang	C4 D4	Shatanbei Jie	C1
Beichang Jie	A1 A2	Dongrongxian Hutong	A4	Shatanhou Jie	C1
Beichizi Dajie	C1 C2	Dong'anmen Dajie	D2	Shibei Hutong	A4
Beiheyang Dajie	D1 D2	Duofu Xiang	D1	Taiyanle Hutong	A3
Beiwanzi Hutong	C3	Ganyu Hutong	D2	Tajichang Dajie	D4
Bingbuwa Hutong	A4	Gaobei Hutong	A4	Tian'anmen Square	B4
Caichang Hutong	D3	Jingshan Dongjie	C1	Wangfujing Dajie	D2 D3
Changpu Heyan	C3	Jingshan Qianjie	B1	Wenjin Jie	A1
Chenguaug Jie	D3	Jingshan Xijie	B1	Wusi Dajie	D1
Cuihua Hutong	D1	Jinyu Hutong	D2	Xiagongfu Jie	D3
Daruanfu Hutong	D3	Longfu Sijie	D1	Xichang'an Jie	A4 B4
Dashizhu Hutong	B1	Nanchang Jie	A3	Xihuamen Dajie	A2 B2
Datianshujing Hutong	D3	Nanchizi Dajie	C3	Xijiaomin Xiang	A4 B4
Dengshikou Dajie	D2	Nanheyang Dajie	D3	Xila Hutong	D2
Dengshikou Xijie	D2	Pudusi Xixiang	C3	Xitangzi Hutong	D2
Dongchang Hutong	D1	Pudusi Hou Xiang	C2	Yincha Hutong	C1
Dongchang'an Jie	C4 D4	Qihelou Beixiang	C1 C2	Zhengyi Lu	C4 D4
Dongdan 2 Tiao	D3	Qihelou Jie	C2	Zhide Beixiang	C2 D2
Dongdan 3 Tiao	D3	Qihelou Nanxiang	C2	Zhonglao Hutong	C1
Donghuamen Dajie	C2	Rendahuitangxi Lu	A4 B4		