



# Beijing

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Maridav/Shutterstock



hxdyl/Shutterstock

Beijing's famous Tiananmen Square is vast enough to hold one million people, while the historic Forbidden City boasts thousands of imperial rooms. The city continues to grow with the emergence of ever-higher rising towers, new restaurants, and trendy nightclubs. Despite this rapid development, China's capital has managed to retain its unique charm. The small teahouses in the backyards, traditional fabric shops, old temples, and bustling street restaurants make this city one of a kind.

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## THE CITY



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Nowhere else brings together so many historic sites in one place. The Forbidden City sits at the heart of the city, with Tiananmen Square just next door, while north of the centre, Qianhai Lake is a favourite spot for locals to cool off in summer. To the south, the Temple of Heaven rises amid Chongwen's streets, and east of the city centre, the Chaoyang district is home to modern restaurants, bars, and art spaces.

Preparing for the 2008 Olympic Games brought refurbishment to old buildings and the rise of new skyscrapers. Alongside this modernisation, Beijing has kept much of its traditional charm. Wandering the city's old streets, you'll find silk shops, antique stores, and tea houses that offer glimpses into daily life and centuries of culture.

Beijing is also a food city. From traditional dumplings and street snacks to the original Peking Duck, its hundreds of restaurants and food stalls make it easy to explore local flavours at every turn.

## DO & SEE



Maridav/Shutterstock

Beijing is a city of layers. Ancient palaces and temples sit alongside quiet hutongs and lakes, while contemporary art districts and bustling shopping streets show a very different side of life. The Great Wall is never far from anyone's itinerary, but within the city, there's a mix of history, culture, and everyday rhythm that keeps each walk, each street, each park feeling a little different.

### Great Wall of China



Undoubtedly one of the world's top tourism destinations — and officially one of the New Seven Wonders of the World — the Great Wall stretches for thousands of kilometres across northern China. From Beijing, the easiest section to reach is Badaling, about 70 km from the city. It's well restored and has a cable car, but it also draws the biggest crowds. Mutianyu is another popular choice with fewer tour groups if you go early. For a wilder feel, head to Simatai or Jinshanling, where much of the wall is original and the hikes are longer. Huanghuacheng is partly submerged by a reservoir, so you get the unusual sight of watchtowers half surrounded by water.

Photo: zhu difeng/Shutterstock  
Address: Huairou District, China  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-6pm, Sat & Sun  
7:30am-6:30pm  
Phone: +86 10 6162 6022  
Internet: <https://en.mutianyugreatwall.com>

### Tiananmen Square



Tiananmen Square is where Mao Zedong announced the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. The square is dominated by the red Tiananmen Gate and Mao's enormous portrait, which you'll see everywhere. Every morning at sunrise, there's a flag-raising ceremony, and on the first day of the month, it's done with a military band.

The square is also home to the Monument to the People's Heroes, a 38-metre granite obelisk in the centre, and the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong, where people still queue to pay respects.

Photo: zhang kan/Shutterstock  
Address: Tiananmen Square, Dongcheng District, Beijing

### Forbidden City



Once home to China's emperors, the Forbidden City has more than 800 buildings and nearly 10,000 rooms. This vast imperial household opened to the public in 1949, and it's remarkably well-preserved. The Hall of Supreme Harmony, covered in thousands of dragon motifs, hosted grand ceremonies, while the Palace of Heavenly Purity was where emperors lived, with bedrooms and private halls. Walking through the courtyards and along the red walls, it's easy to

feel the scale and ritual of life here.

Photo: ABCDstock/Shutterstock  
Address: 4 Jingshan Front Street, Dongcheng, Beijing  
Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8:30am-4pm, Mon closed  
Phone: +86 400 950 1925  
Internet: <https://intl.dpm.org.cn/index.html?l=en>

### Summer Palace

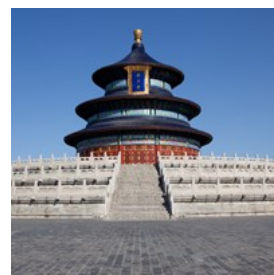


Built in the mid-18th century for the Qing emperors as a retreat from the heat of the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace is a vast imperial garden centred on Kunming Lake and Longevity Hill, both man-made. The lake was modelled on Hangzhou's West Lake, with islands, bridges, and long covered walkways. Scattered around are pavilions, temples, and a recreated riverside street designed to look like a traditional market town. Later restored under Empress Dowager Cixi, it became her favoured residence.

Today, it's worth visiting not just for the palaces themselves, but for the long lakeside walks, shaded courtyards, and the sense of space that feels very different from central Beijing.

Photo: i viewfinder/Shutterstock  
Address: The Summer Palace, Haidian District, Beijing

### Temple of Heaven



Built in the early 1400s, around the same time as the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven was where emperors prayed for good harvests. The vast park contains several ceremonial buildings, the most striking being the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests with its blue-tiled roof and

intricate wooden ceiling. The original hall was destroyed by lightning in 1889 but rebuilt soon after. Other highlights include the Hall of Abstinence, where emperors fasted before rituals, and the Circular Mound Altar — a three-tiered marble platform symbolising heaven itself. Today, the park is as much about everyday life as it is about history: locals gather here in the mornings for tai chi, dancing, and music.

Photo: Perkus/Shutterstock

Address: Temple of Heaven, Dongcheng, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 6am-9pm

Phone: +86 10 6702 8866

Internet: [www.tiantanpark.com/english](http://www.tiantanpark.com/english)

### Lama Temple (Yonghe Temple)



Built in 1694 as the residence of the future Yongzheng Emperor, the site was later converted into a Tibetan Buddhist monastery and remains

one of the most important of its kind outside Tibet. The complex is a series of richly decorated halls and courtyards filled with incense smoke and prayer wheels. Inside the Falun Dian stands a bronze statue of Tsongkhapa, founder of the Gelug (Yellow Hat) school. The highlight for many is the towering 18-metre-tall Maitreya Buddha carved from a single piece of sandalwood, housed in the Wanfu Pavilion.

Photo: V\_E/Shutterstock

Address: 12 Yonghegong Avenue, Dongcheng

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +86 10 8419 1919

Internet: [www.yonghegong.cn](http://www.yonghegong.cn)

### 798 Art Zone



Once a 1950s military factory complex, 798 has been converted into Beijing's best-known contemporary art district. The old concrete

workshops and warehouses now house galleries, studios, and design shops, featuring everything from major exhibitions to small, experimental shows. You'll find photography, video art, installations, and plenty of one-off pieces that change all the time.

The area has also filled up with cafés, bars, and restaurants, so it's easy to spend a few hours wandering, eating, and people-watching. It's in the Dashanzi area, northeast of the centre, and the mix of Mao-era industrial buildings and modern art is half the experience.

Photo: RYUSHI/Shutterstock

Address: 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang, Beijing

Phone: +86 10 5978 9798

### Liulichang



Liulichang, whose name means 'Glazed Tile Factory', started as a hub for Beijing's literati and artisans and remains a centre for traditional arts

and culture. The 750-metre street is full of shops selling Chinese paintings, calligraphy brushes, ink stones, antiques, and rare books — perfect for collectors or anyone curious about traditional crafts. Restored and expanded in the late 1980s, it's a good place to wander slowly, soak up the old-school atmosphere, and maybe pick up a souvenir that feels genuinely local.

Photo: claudio zaccherini/Shutterstock

Address: Liulichang Street, Xicheng District, Beijing

### Chaoyang Theater



For a glimpse of a uniquely Chinese form of entertainment, head to Chaoyang Theatre to watch traditional acrobatics. The one-hour show includes feats with bicycles, chairs, and other daring stunts that have been perfected over generations.

Photo: yongyuth limpasute/Shutterstock

Address: 8 Jianwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Phone: +86 10 6552 4990

Internet: <https://chaoyangtheatre.com>

### Beihai Park



Just behind the Forbidden City, Beihai Park is one of Beijing's oldest and best-preserved imperial gardens. It's quieter than some of the larger tourist spots, with lakes, pavilions, and tree-lined paths perfect for a stroll — the central White Dagoba on Qionghua Island is a highlight here.

Photo: claudio zaccherini/Shutterstock

Address: 1 Wenjin Street, Xicheng District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 6:30am-9pm

Phone: +86 10 6403 3225

### National Museum of China



Sitting on the east side of Tiananmen Square, the National Museum of China is one of the largest museums in the world, covering both Chinese history and art, from ancient artefacts to modern works. The exhibitions are vast, so you

could easily spend a full day here, though most visitors focus on a few sections that interest them. English signage is available in key areas, but a guide or audio tour can help make sense of the collection.

Photo: Taras Vyshnya/Shutterstock

Address: 16 E Chang'an Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9am-4:30pm, Mon closed

Phone: +86 10 6511 6400

Internet: [www.chnmuseum.cn](http://www.chnmuseum.cn)

### Shichahai



Shichahai is a chain of three lakes just north of the Forbidden City, surrounded by old hutongs, temples, and courtyard houses. It's a popular spot for walking, cycling, or renting a paddle boat in summer, while in winter the frozen lake often turns into an ice rink. Around the water, there are plenty of cafés, restaurants, and teahouses, along with a stretch of lively bars — many with live music in the evenings. The side alleys are worth exploring as well, with small shops selling antiques, snacks, and local crafts.

Photo: anek.soowannaphoom/Shutterstock

Address: Shichahai, Xicheng District, Beijing

### Nanluoguxiang



One of Beijing's oldest hutongs — the city's traditional narrow alleyways lined with courtyard houses — Nanluoguxiang has kept its Ming dynasty street layout while changing completely in character. Today, the lane is dotted with cafés, bars, boutiques, and souvenir

shops, drawing a mix of tourists and young locals. It runs from Drum Tower East Street down to Ping'an Street, and it's usually packed in the evenings when the lights come on. The old courtyards are still there behind the modern shopfronts, so you get a contrast between Beijing's past and its current street life.

Photo: aphotostory/Shutterstock  
Address: Nanluoguxiang, Dongcheng District, Beijing

### Beijing Olympic Park



Built for the 2008 Games, the park is home to two of Beijing's most recognisable landmarks: the National Stadium (the 'Bird's Nest') and the National Aquatics Centre (the 'Water Cube').

Both are still in use for sports and events, and they light up at night, which is the best time to see them. The park itself is also one of the largest green spaces in the city, with long open avenues, lakes, and gardens — a good spot for a walk if you're in the north of Beijing.

Photo: Frederic Köberl/Unsplash  
Address: Chaoyang District, Beijing  
Opening hours: Daily 6am-9:30pm  
Phone: +86 10 8437 3008

### Dashilan



Just outside Qianmen, Dashilan is one of Beijing's oldest commercial streets, with a history of over 600 years. It used to be the busiest suburban market and remains full of character today. Some of Beijing's oldest brand boutiques started here, alongside the city's first cinema, and many are still operating. Walking

the street gives a sense of everyday life beyond the imperial palaces, where locals have shopped, worked, and socialised for generations.

Photo: rongyiquan/Shutterstock  
Address: Xicheng District, Beijing

### Happy Valley Beijing



For adrenaline-pumping rides, head to Happy Valley Beijing, Beijing's main theme park, with six themed zones, around 40 rides, an IMAX theatre, and a shopping area. It's popular with both locals and tourists, so weekends and holidays can be very busy.

Photo: Jacob Lund/Shutterstock  
Address: 8, North 5th Ring East Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing  
Internet: <https://bj.happyvalley.cn>

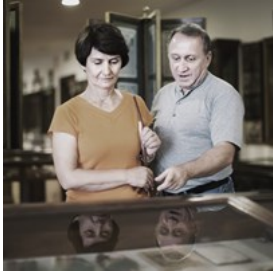
### Beijing Aquarium



Inside the grounds of Beijing Zoo, the Beijing Aquarium is one of the largest inland aquariums in the world. Its seven exhibition halls cover everything from tropical fish and coral reefs to Chinese river life and endangered species, such as the Chinese sturgeon. There are also daily dolphin and sea lion shows. It's a popular stop for visitors with kids, though if you're mainly after wildlife, the zoo itself is the bigger draw.

Photo: Anton\_Ivanov/Shutterstock  
Address: 137 Xizhimen Outer Street, Xicheng District, Beijing  
Phone: +86 10 6217 6655

## Capital Museum



First opened in 1981 within the Confucian Temple, the Capital Museum relocated to a purpose-built modern building in 2006 to accommodate its growing collection. It holds over 200,000 cultural relics; approximately 5,000 are typically on display at any given time, featuring a diverse range of items including porcelain, jade, calligraphy, paintings, coins, and Buddhist statues.

Photo: BearFotos/Shutterstock

Address: 16 Fuxingmenwai Avenue, Xicheng District, Beijing

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9am-4pm, Mon closed

Phone: +86 10 6339 3339

## Yuanmingyuan Park



Once considered the most magnificent of China's imperial gardens, Yuanmingyuan was filled with palaces, lakes, and pavilions, as well as rare plants and artworks collected from across the empire. It was destroyed in 1860 by British and French troops during the Second Opium War, and again suffered damage in 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion. What remains today are ruins — stone foundations, broken archways, and scattered carvings — set among lakes and quiet parkland.

Photo: ZCOOL HelloRF/Shutterstock

Address: Yuanmingyuan Park, Haidian District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 7am-5pm

Phone: +86 10 6262 8501

## DINING



BBstockimage/Shutterstock

Food is one of Beijing's great joys. The city is the birthplace of Peking Duck—crispy skin, tender meat, pancakes and all—which remains the must-try dish. But there's much more to explore: steaming dumplings at hole-in-the-wall joints, refined takes on imperial cuisine, and inventive restaurants pushing Chinese flavours in new directions. And if you're craving a change of pace, Beijing's dining scene stretches far beyond local food, with everything from Japanese izakayas to Brazilian grills and Italian trattorias.

## King's Joy



Set in a quiet siheyuan courtyard near the Lama Temple, King's Joy is a vegetarian fine-dining restaurant which has earned both Michelin stars and the Green Star for its sustainability efforts. The menus rotate every couple of weeks, highlighting seasonal, locally sourced ingredients in creatively plated, meat-free versions of Chinese dishes. It's on the pricier side, but for a refined and green dining experience—with candlelit dinners and hushed elegance—it stands apart in Beijing's culinary scene.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock

Address: 2 Wudaoying Hu Tong, Dongcheng District, Beijing  
Opening hours: Daily 11am-10pm  
Phone: +86 10 8404 9191

### Little Yunnan

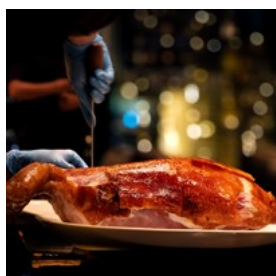


Located beside Beijing's old city wall, Little Yunnan has the warmth of a lived-in courtyard home, with wooden beams, low tables and a loft piled with cushions. The menu sticks close to Yunnan home cooking—spicy papaya fish, minty beef stew, and flower-scented scrambled eggs—alongside house-brewed rice wine. It's laid-back, reasonably priced, and a favourite with both locals and expats.

Photo: wing-wing/Shutterstock

Address: 28 Donghuangchenggen Beijie, Dongcheng District, Beijing  
Opening hours: Daily 11am-10pm  
Phone: +86 10 6401 9498

### Dadong Roast Duck Restaurant



One of Beijing's top addresses for Peking Duck, DaDong has spent decades perfecting the dish. Ducks are roasted in special ovens for even heat, producing skin that is crisp without being greasy and meat that's tender and juicy. Carved tableside and served with soft pancakes, scallions, and sweet bean sauce, the duck is the star of the menu, though other inventive Chinese dishes are worth exploring.

Photo: J.Thasit/Shutterstock

Address: 88 Jinbao Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing  
Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-10pm

### TRB Hutong



Housed in a 600-year-old temple near the Forbidden City, TRB Hutong serves contemporary French cuisine in a serene courtyard setting. With one Michelin star, polished service, and a wine list that spans the globe, it's considered one of Beijing's most memorable fine dining experiences.

Photo: Evgeny Litvinov/Shutterstock

Address: 23 Shatan North Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing  
Opening hours: Daily 11am-2:30pm / 5:30pm-10pm  
Phone: +86 10 8400 2232  
Internet: [www.trbhutong.com](http://www.trbhutong.com)

### Haidilao Hot Pot



China's most famous hot pot chain, Haidilao is loved for its attentive service and endless choice of broths, meats, seafood, and vegetables. The Sanlitun branch is open 24 hours, just steps from the nightlife district, and draws crowds as much for the lively atmosphere as for the delicious food.

Photo: 54613/Shutterstock

Address: 1 F, 29 Nanmofang Road, Pioneer Building, Chaoyang District, Beijing  
Opening hours: Open 24 hours  
Phone: +86 10 8779 8911  
Internet: [www.haidilao.com](http://www.haidilao.com)

### Fangshan Restaurant



Founded over 90 years ago by royal chefs, Fangshan serves Beijing Duck and other dishes inspired by imperial cuisine. Set on an island

in Beihai Park, the restaurant combines traditional décor with a grand mansion setting, complete with bright yellow accents and ornate Chinese artwork. Some dishes, including rare sweets, are hard to find elsewhere, making it a unique experience for visitors.

Photo: vsl/Shutterstock

Address: 1 Wenjin Street, Xicheng District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 11am-10pm

Phone: +86 10 6401 1889

### Grandma's Kitchen



Grandma's Kitchen brings a touch of Americana to Beijing, with checkered tablecloths, wicker chairs, and a menu full of Western comfort food.

Indulge in omelettes, sandwiches, pastas, and milkshakes, all served in a relaxed, family-style setting. If you're looking for a break from Chinese cuisine, this long-standing favourite is a reliable spot to satisfy cravings for home-style dishes.

Photo: Tarin C/Shutterstock

Address: 28 Shique Hu Tong, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng District, Beijing,

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm

Phone: +86 10 8403 9452

### China Grill



On the 66th floor of the Park Hyatt Beijing, China Grill offers international cuisine with prime meats, seafood, and fish, alongside a strong wine

list. The floor-to-ceiling windows give panoramic views of the city, making it one of Beijing's highest and most memorable dining spots.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock

Address: Park Hyatt Beijing, 2 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District, Beijing

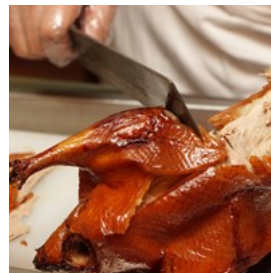
Opening hours: Daily 11:30am-2:30pm / 5:30pm-10:30pm

Phone: +86 10 8567 1838

Internet:

[www.hyatt.com/park-hyatt/en-US/beiph-park-hyatt-beijing](http://www.hyatt.com/park-hyatt/en-US/beiph-park-hyatt-beijing)

### Xi He Ya Ju



Set in a traditional siheyuan courtyard in Ritan Park, Xi He Ya Ju serves classic Beijing dishes in a serene, traditional Beijing

setting. The menu features Peking duck, sweet and sour shrimp, and Chinese yams with blueberries. Wooden beams, red lanterns, and a central courtyard give the restaurant its historic character, making it a quiet spot to enjoy traditional Chinese cuisine.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock

Address: Ritan Park, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 11am-10pm

Phone: +86 10 8561 7643

### Annie's Cafe



Located in the heart of Chaoyang, Annie's Cafe is a beloved Italian restaurant chain offering a warm, family-friendly atmosphere. With its

spacious two-level layout and classic 70s-80s music setting the tone, it's a comfortable spot for both solo diners and families. The menu features a wide array of Italian classics, including pastas, pizzas, and fresh salads. Popular choices include the truffle mushroom pasta and wood-fired pizzas with unique toppings.

Photo: Cristi Lucaci/Shutterstock

Address: Building 6, Gongrentiyuchang East Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 11am-11pm

Phone: +86 10 8587 1469

### Huang Ting



Tucked inside the Peninsula Hotel, Huang Ting recreates the feel of a Beijing nobleman's courtyard home, with carved wooden screens,

elegant furniture, and private dining rooms. The menu highlights refined Cantonese cuisine—delicate dim sum, Szechuan prawns, and roast duck—served with polished service.

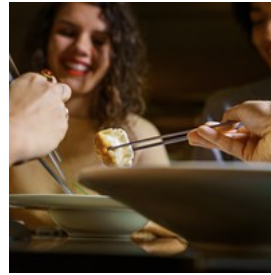
Photo: ARENA Creative/Shutterstock

Address: B1F, The Peninsula Beijing, 8 Jinyu Hutong, Dongdan, Dongcheng District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 11:30am-2:30pm / 6pm-10pm

Phone: +86 10 8516 2888

### Baoyuan Jiaozi Wu



Baoyuan Jiaozi Wu in Chaoyang District is a simple, unpretentious eatery famous for its hand-crafted dumplings. Skins are naturally dyed

with vegetables, and fillings range from classic pork and cabbage to more inventive combinations like smoked tofu and eggplant. Dumplings are ordered by weight, so it's easy to mix and match. The menu has photos and English translations, making it accessible for visitors. It can get busy, but the wait is usually short, and the dumplings are worth it.

Photo: Lomb/Shutterstock

Address: 6 Maizidian Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 10:30am-10:30pm

Phone: +86 10 6586 4967

### CAFÉS



hxdyl/Shutterstock

Whether you're after a carefully brewed coffee or a pot of traditional Chinese tea, Beijing offers a wide variety of cafés and tea houses to explore. In recent years, the city has seen the rise of specialty coffee shops inspired by third-wave trends, offering high-quality beans, precision brewing, and stylish interiors. At the same time, teahouses continue to thrive, preserving long-standing traditions and providing a calm, cultural experience in both historic hutongs and

modern settings.

### 1901 Cafe



Tucked inside a historic annex of Xishiku Church, 1901 Café sits in a 1901-built villa that immediately stands out from its Hutong

surroundings, even without a sign. Inside, three creaking wooden floors are linked by narrow staircases and furnished with mismatched armchairs, old bookshelves, and a mix of vintage décor that gives the place a lived-in charm. It's long been a favourite with expats looking for a quiet corner near Houhai. The menu features Western dishes along with a few Chinese ones, and the drinks range from coffee to beer.

Photo: fornStudio/Shutterstock

Address: 101 Xi'anmen Dajie, Xicheng District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm

Phone: +86 10 6616 0335

### Laoshe Tea House



Named after the writer Lao She and his classic play Teahouse, Laoshe Tea House is one of Beijing's best-known places to experience

traditional tea culture. The setting feels theatrical in itself: carved wood, lantern light, and a steady hum of teapots being refilled, and the menu mixes classic teas with small desserts and snacks drawn from both imperial and everyday Beijing traditions.

Most visitors come for the performances, which rotate throughout the evening and can include snippets of Beijing Opera, bianlian (face-changing), acrobatics, and traditional

magic acts. If you're planning to go, it's worth booking ahead, especially on weekends, as seats fill up quickly.

Photo: Julenochek/Shutterstock

Address: 3 Zhengyang Shichang, Qianmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 10am-9:30pm

### Maan Coffee



Maan Coffee doesn't look especially remarkable from the outside, but inside you'll find one of Beijing's more atmospheric café chains.

The interiors lean towards vintage industrial, with tall bookshelves, exposed brick, soft lighting, and oversized chandeliers. It's a Korean-owned chain with multiple locations across the city, popular with students, remote workers, and anyone who wants a relaxed place to linger. The menu is known for its waffles and honey toasts, often served with fruit or ice cream, along with a wide range of coffees and teas.

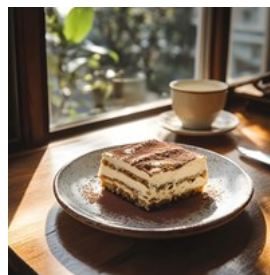
Photo: Naer/Shutterstock

Address: 9 Jiangtai W Road, Chaoyang, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 8am-10:30pm

Phone: +86 10 8457 3470

### Voyage Coffee



In the heart of Dongcheng, Voyage Coffee is the kind of café that wins over serious coffee people. The space itself is bright and

minimal, with huge windows that let in streams of natural light and a clean, modern design that feels instantly calming. Voyage is known for its meticulous approach to brewing, whether you're

ordering a hand-pour, a robust espresso, or their excellent cold brew. If you'd like something sweet on the side, their house-made desserts, especially the tiramisu and cheesecake, pair perfectly with a cup.

Photo: Passion Driven Soul/Shutterstock

Address: Dongcheng, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm

Internet: [www.instagram.com/voyagecoffeebeijing](https://www.instagram.com/voyagecoffeebeijing)

### Flat White Cafe



Inspired by New Zealand café culture and named after the popular Aussie-Kiwi coffee beverage, Cafe FlatWhite was founded in China and

now has several locations across Beijing, including a flagship in the 798 Art District. The café specialises in carefully brewed coffee, with a rotating selection of single-origin and blended beans. The menu also includes simple Western-style food such as sandwiches, salads and pastries.

Photo: Efetova Anna/Shutterstock

Address: 4 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 8am-10:30pm

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



*zhu difeng/Shutterstock*

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, home to many pubs.

### Sanlitun District



Sanlitun remains one of Beijing's most famous nightlife areas, centred on the Taikoo Li complex and a mix of pubs, live-music venues, and cocktail lounges. Once known for a dense 'Bar Street,' parts of that original row have been redeveloped, though the district still attracts embassy staff, expats, young professionals, and creatives into the night.

Photo: brodtcast/Shutterstock

### Shenghuatun Night Market



Shenghuatun Night Market is a food stall stretch beneath neon signs next to Guta Park, serving everything from stinky tofu and lamb skewers to macarons and fried bugs. It buzzes

with games, street performances, and influencer livestreams; like stepping into a night-time street fair full of laughter, sizzling grills, and unexpected bites.

Photo: TY Lim/Shutterstock

Address: 200m East of Guta South Gate, Wangsiying, Chaoyang District

### Great Leap Brewing



Since opening in 2010, Great Leap Brewing has been at the forefront of Beijing's craft beer scene. Founded by Ohio native Carl Setzer and his wife,

Liu Fang, the brewery experiments with Chinese ingredients, such as Sichuan peppercorns and Qingdao flower hops. The bars are often set in traditional siheyuan courtyards, giving a one-of-a-kind local feel while serving up to 40 seasonal beers straight from the tap. The brewery doesn't serve food directly, but menus from nearby restaurants make it easy to pair a pint with pizza, dumplings, kebabs, or other local favourites.

Photo: Master1305/Shutterstock

Address: Xinzhong Street, Dongcheng District, Beijing  
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 5pm-1am, Fri & Sat 5pm-2am  
Phone: +86 10 6417 0018

### Mix Club



Mix Club is an established nightclub located inside the Workers Stadium's north gate in Beijing's Chaoyang District. The

venue spans two floors, features a dance floor wired for high-profile DJs, and focuses largely on hip-hop and R&B nights. If late-night dancing is

on your agenda, Mix is worth checking out.

Photo: Maxim Blinkov/Shutterstock

Address: Workers Stadium north gate, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 8:30pm-5am

Phone: +86 10 6530 2889

### Nuoyan Rice Wine House



Nuoyan Rice Wine House is a small, quiet spot focused on contemporary rice wine made with traditional methods. The brand began in 2010 and

produces several varieties in-house, including the original brew, rose, osmanthus, vanilla, and Chinese bayberry. The tasting room occupies a former 1970s printing-factory building, now fitted with simple wooden beams and understated décor. Upstairs, a few tables overlook the surrounding rooftops. Light dishes are available to pair with the wine.

Photo: Suzanne Pratt/Shutterstock

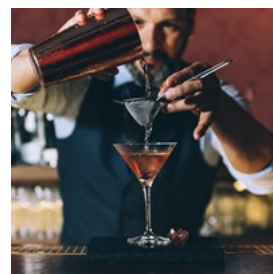
Address: 7 of Banqiao south alley, Beixinqiao, Dongcheng District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 4:30pm-12:30am

Phone: +86 156 5251 1819

More Info: Located inside the People's Art Printing House

### Atmosphere



Perched on the 80th floor of the Shangri-La, Atmosphere is one of the highest bars in Beijing and an easy pick if you want a drink with a bird's

eye view of the city after dark. The room keeps things simple and contemporary, so the skyline stays front and centre. Cocktails lean toward fancy takes on the classics, with a few seasonal ideas in the mix, and the bar usually has either a

live act or a DJ in the evenings.

Photo: santypan/Shutterstock

Address: Level 80, No.1 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 5pm-midnight

Internet: [www.shangri-la.com/beijing/chinaworldsummitwing/dining/bars-lounges/atmosphere](http://www.shangri-la.com/beijing/chinaworldsummitwing/dining/bars-lounges/atmosphere)

### Jing-A Brewery



Jing-A is one of Beijing's most established craft breweries, and its Longfusi taproom sits just west of Dongsi in the hutongs. The space

blends a converted-factory look with a relaxed, neighbourhood feel. They pour from 30-plus taps, covering Jing-A classics, seasonal experiments, and a few draft cocktails. The kitchen centres on thin-crust sourdough pizzas baked in a large brick oven, along with a short menu of bar snacks.

Photo: Viivien/Shutterstock

Address: 38 Qianliang Hutong, Dongcheng District, Beijing

Internet: <https://jingabrewing.com/beer-temples/longfusi>

## SHOPPING



Maridav/Shutterstock

Beijing has long been a centre of trade, and today the city offers a wide variety of shopping experiences, from bustling traditional markets to large modern malls. Visitors can find everything from Chinese handicrafts and antiques to

contemporary fashion and international luxury brands.

### Oriental Plaza



Oriental Plaza is a massive complex combining retail, offices, serviced apartments, and a hotel, but the shopping area is the main draw for visitors. Shops are arranged in themed zones, offering a mix of international and local brands, along with cafés and restaurants. A central feature is the colourful musical fountain, and the mall also includes a cinema and other attractions family-friendly attractions.

Photo: WaitForLight/Shutterstock

Address: 1 Dong Chang'an Jie, Dong Cheng District, Beijing

Phone: +86 10 8518 8888

### China World Mall



China World Mall in Beijing's Chaoyang District is a modern, multi-level shopping complex that brings together both luxury and mid-range brands. You'll find international designers such as Dior and Gucci, alongside home décor stores, electronics shops, and more affordable fashion outlets. The mall also has a cinema, an ice rink, and a range of cafés and restaurants.

Photo: Creative Lab/Shutterstock

Address: 1 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm

Phone: +86 10 6505 2288

Internet: [www.chinaworldmall.cn](http://www.chinaworldmall.cn)

### Ten Fu's Tea



Ten Fu's Tea is a well-known chain stocking a wide range of high-quality Chinese teas from across the country. Stores carry green, oolong, black, and scented teas, along with teapots, accessories, and gift sets, perfect place if you want to bring home a piece of traditional tea culture.

Photo: New Africa/Shutterstock

Address: East Chang'an Street, Wangfujing, Dongcheng, Beijing

Phone: +86 10 8518 6177

### Hongqiao Market



Hongqiao Market, often called the Pearl Market, is one of Beijing's most visited indoor markets and a handy stop if you're after jewellery or general bargains. The upper floors are packed with pearl vendors, especially freshwater pearls, and it's worth taking a lap before committing, as quality and prices vary noticeably from stall to stall. Lower levels mix electronics, clothing and assorted souvenirs. If you're looking to pick up jewellery, it helps to compare shops and examine pieces closely; some vendors will customise items on the spot.

Photo: Stock for you/Shutterstock

Address: 9 Tiantan Dong Lu, Dongcheng, Beijing

Phone: +86 10 6713 3354

### Qianmen Street



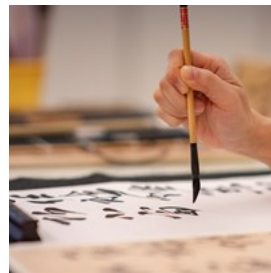
Qianmen Street is one of the oldest and most well-known shopping streets in Beijing. It stretches about 840 metres along Beijing's historic central axis, just south of Tiananmen Square and heading towards the old city gates.

The pedestrianised boulevard pairs Qing-style façades and carved archways with modern shops and restaurants, creating a mix of old Beijing charm and contemporary retail. On one end you'll find long-established shops selling fine teas, silks and Chinese medicines; venture further and you'll hit familiar international brands, cafés and snack stalls.

Photo: Nattee Chalermtiragool/Shutterstock

Address: Qianmen, Dongcheng District, Beijing

### Liulichang Street



Liulichang Street is a compact, pedestrian thoroughfare in central Beijing that's long been associated with scholars, artists, and calligraphers. Here you'll find shops specialising in the 'four treasures' of the Chinese scholar: brushes, ink sticks, paper, and ink stones. There are also galleries selling scrolls, paintings, seals, and other cultural curios.

Photo: Paul Ou Taiwan/Shutterstock

Address: Liulichang, Xicheng District, Beijing

### Wangfujing Avenue



Wangfujing Street in the Dongcheng District is one of Beijing's best-known shopping avenues, with a commercial history stretching back to the Ming Dynasty. The pedestrian area runs for around 1.8 km and features large modern malls as well as older "time-honoured" shops selling teas, silk fabrics, and traditional goods. Just off the main street, you'll find the well-known snack alleys, where scorpion skewers and other unusual items are sold largely for the spectacle.

Photo: Maridav/Shutterstock

Address: Wangfujing, Dongcheng District, Beijing

### Joy City



Xidan Joy City is the main modern mall in the Xidan commercial district, drawing a younger, fashion-focused crowd. Spread over more than ten floors, it houses international brands with a good selection of contemporary Chinese labels, along with electronics shops, cafés, and a large food court, plus a handful of entertainment spaces, including a Ferris wheel.

Photo: Sergey Nivens/Shutterstock

Address: 131 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-10pm

Phone: +86 10 6651 7777

### Taikoo Li Sanlitun



Taikoo Li Sanlitun, formerly known as Sanlitun Village, is a trendy, open-air shopping and lifestyle district in Beijing's Chaoyang District. The complex consists of 19 low-rise buildings arranged across two main areas: the Piazza in the south and the Deck in the north. Its modern architecture is impressive, with irregular shapes, contrasting colours, and open courtyards that give the district a distinctive, contemporary feel. Taikoo Li is home to international fashion labels, concept stores, cafés, and restaurants.

Photo: Austin Li/Unsplash

Address: 19 Sanlitun Lu, SanLiTun, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm

### Yandaixie Street



Yandaixie Street is a charming, narrow hutong in the Shichahai-Houhai area of central Beijing. Its name refers to the 'smoking-pipe slanted alley', reflecting its Qing Dynasty origins when shops sold tobacco pipes and the shape of the alley resembled a pipe. Today, the street is lined with traditional grey-brick buildings, small craft shops selling embroidered shoes, Chinese paintings, and local snacks, as well as cafés and bars.

Photo: rodho/Shutterstock

Address: Yandai Xiejie

### Beijing Antique City



Beijing Antique City is one of Asia's largest indoor markets for antique art and crafts. Housed in a four-storey building just west of Huawei Bridge, it is home to more than 600 dealers displaying a wide range of wares: classic furniture, ancient clocks, textiles and rugs, ceramics, Tibetan relics, carved ivory and bronze, calligraphy and paintings, and much more.

Photo: TonyV3112/Shutterstock

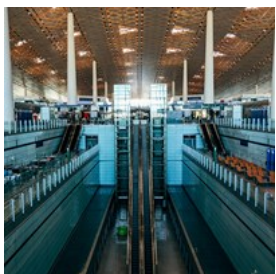
Address: 21 Dongsanhuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing

## TOURIST INFORMATION



N K/shutterstock

### Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK)



The Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) is located approximately 32 kilometres northeast of Beijing's city centre. This is the busiest airport in Asia and one of the busiest in the world.

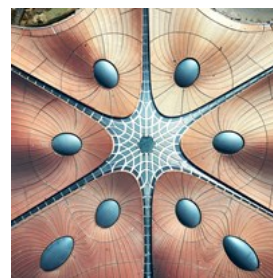
The Airport Express Train is the fastest and most convenient option, connecting Terminal 3 and

Terminal 2 to Dongzhimen Station in downtown Beijing in about 20 minutes. Taxis offer a more direct route, taking 45 minutes to an hour depending on traffic. For a budget-friendly choice, the Airport Shuttle Bus provides multiple routes to various parts of the city, taking about an hour.

Photo: Markus Winkler/unsplash

Internet: [www.bcia.com.cn](http://www.bcia.com.cn)

### Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX)



Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX) is located around 46-50 km south of Tiananmen Square; depending on traffic, expect a taxi or ride-hail into central Beijing to take about 60 to 90 minutes.

The most efficient public-transport option is the Daxing Airport Express. It runs from the terminal about every 9-15 minutes and takes around 22 minutes to reach Caoqiao Station, where you can transfer to Subway Lines 10 or 19. Alternatively, shuttle buses operate from the airport to key spots in the city; a journey takes roughly 80 minutes.

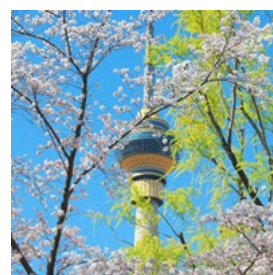
Photo: Howen/Unsplash

Address: Beijing Daxing International Airport

Internet: <https://daxing-pkx-airport.com>

More Info: Also known as Beijing New Airport

### Best Time To Visit



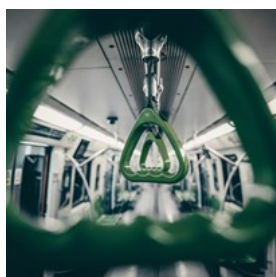
Most of Beijing's attractions feature timeless architecture and rich cultural heritage, making them enjoyable year-round. However, the

outdoor temperatures are most pleasant in spring and autumn, as winter can be too cold and summer too hot for comfort. Additionally, the city's parks and gardens are particularly beautiful during these seasons, with blossoming flowers in spring and vibrant foliage in autumn.

It's best to avoid Chinese public holidays, especially from October 1st to 7th, when the city is crowded with local tourists.

Photo: Wang Xiaoqi/unsplash

### Public Transport



**Subway** The subway is the quickest way to move around Beijing and avoid traffic. The network is extensive, with more than twenty lines in operation, and covers most major sights. Trains generally run from around 5 am to 11 pm, depending on the line. Stations are easy to spot; look for the blue "D" symbol. Signs and announcements are in both Chinese and English.

### Buses

Buses reach parts of the city that the subway doesn't, including many suburban areas. Services usually run from about 5 am to 11:30 pm. Apps such as Beijing Public Transport or Ruubypay make it much easier to plan routes.

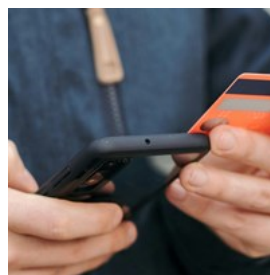
### Yikatong Card

The Yikatong is Beijing's transport smartcard and works on the subway, buses, some taxis, and even public bikes. You can buy and top it up at service counters and machines in most stations. A small deposit is required, and you can return

the card for a refund at designated stations. For travellers, the physical card is usually the simplest option.

Photo: zhang kaiyv/unsplash

### Mobile Payments



In China, mobile payment apps such as Alipay, Weixin Pay, and UnionPay are widely used and accepted almost everywhere, including restaurants, shops, street food stalls, and tourist attractions. To use them, you can link your international credit card or set up a local bank account.

Both apps provide features in English and are user-friendly, making it easy to handle payments, split bills, and even pay for transportation. Download these apps before your trip and familiarise yourself with their functionality to enhance your travel experience in Beijing.

Photo: Anete Lusina/pexels

Internet:

<https://english.visitbeijing.com.cn/article/4HWNoka8e95>

### Taxi



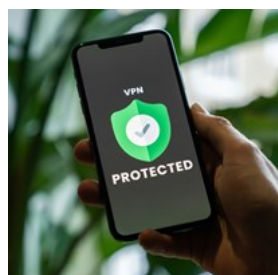
Taxis are easy to find in Beijing and a reliable way to get around the city. Most drivers speak little to no English, so having your destination written in Chinese will be quite helpful.

All official taxis should use a meter. If a driver hesitates to turn it on, politely insist or choose another cab.

Ride-hailing apps are widely used in the city. Didi is the most popular option, and you can usually use it with an international credit card, though having mobile data is essential. It's often easier than flagging a cab on the street, especially during rush hour or late at night.

Photo: csqxiv/unsplash

### Internet Access & VPN in China



Because of the internet security laws of China, certain websites and apps are not accessible from the mainland, which includes those very commonly used in the West (Facebook, Instagram, X, Google and Gmail, Skype, among others). Some travellers have been able to gain access to those via a VPN service installed prior to arrival in China.

Make sure you comply with local laws and regulations when deciding on whether or not to employ a VPN, and which one to choose. If you do, only use those explicitly allowed by the Chinese government, and only use them for authorised purposes to avoid any trouble. There have been reports of foreigners in China getting their cell service cut off in response to unauthorised use of VPN; restoring cell service required a trip to the local police station, where the contents of the device were investigated and certain apps removed.

Given that Google is banned in China, Google Maps might not be the most accurate and reliable source of information. Some local apps, such as Baidu Maps, tend to work better than Google Maps.

Photo: Privecstasy/unsplash

### Post



As in most major cities, post offices are conveniently located throughout Beijing, providing travellers with services such as sending letters and parcels, purchasing stamps, and basic banking functions. Green metal mailboxes are commonly found near street corners, in front of residential complexes, or by small shops.

Operating hours vary by branch, but major post offices usually open around 8 am and close by 6 pm, sometimes staying open on weekends. For international shipping, China Post handles everything from small parcels to faster EMS delivery, with tracking available.

Photo: Simona Sergi/unsplash

Address: Qianmen Post Branch Bureau - 98 Qianmen Street, Dongcheng, Beijing

### Pharmacy



Pharmacies in Beijing are easy to spot once you know the signs: look for the green medical cross or the characters 药 (yào) 店 (diàn). Large chains, such as Golden Elephant and Watsons, are commonly found throughout the city. They stock a mix of Western over-the-counter medicines, Chinese traditional remedies, and basic health products.

For prescription medication, it's best to go directly to a hospital or an international clinic pharmacy, since many local pharmacies won't accept foreign prescriptions and may not stock the exact brands you are used to. Certain

medicines, such as antibiotics, may require a local prescription and ID registration. To be safe, bring enough of any essential medication from home, packed in its original box with a copy of your prescription.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash

Address: Watsons - 138 Wangfujing Avenue, Dongcheng District, Beijing  
Phone: +86 10 6528 1149

### Electricity



Mainland China uses a standard voltage of 220V with a frequency of 50Hz. Power plugs and sockets are mainly of types A, C, and I. Type A plugs have two flat parallel pins, Type C plugs have two round pins (the same as those widely used across Europe), and Type I plugs feature three flat pins in a triangular arrangement.

Photo: Steve Johnson/unsplash

### Telephone



Country code: +86 Area code: 10

Photo: Miryam León/unsplash

### Population

22.6 million (2025)

### Currency

Chinese Yuan (CNY, ¥)

### Internet

<https://english.visitbeijing.com.cn>

### Newspapers

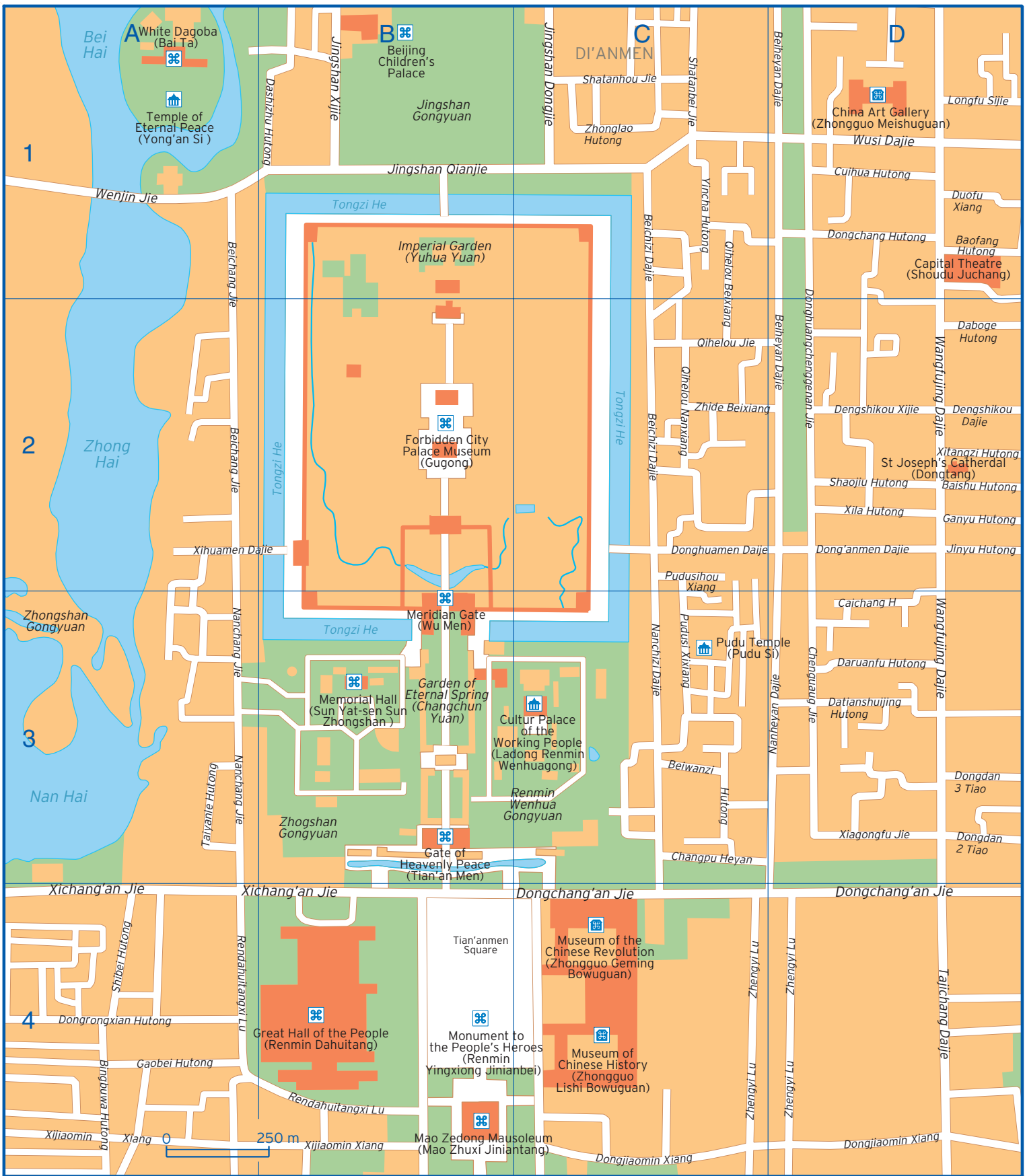
China Daily: [www.chinadaily.com.cn](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn)  
Global Times: [www.globaltimes.cn](http://www.globaltimes.cn)  
Beijing Review: [www.bjreview.com](http://www.bjreview.com)

### Emergency numbers

Ambulance: 120

Fire: 119

Police: 110



1

2

3

4

A White Dagoba (Bai Ta)  
Temple of Eternal Peace (Yong'an Si)

B Beijing Children's Palace  
Jingshan Gongyuan

C DI'ANMEN  
Shatanhou Jie  
Zhonglao Hutong

D China Art Gallery (Zhongguo Meishuguan)  
Wusi Dajie

Imperial Garden (Yuhua Yuan)

Forbidden City Palace Museum (Gugong)

Meridian Gate (Wu Men)

Memorial Hall (Sun Yat-sen Sun Zhongshan)

Garden of Eternal Spring (Changchun Yuan)

Cultur Palace of the Working People (Ladong Renmin Wenhua Gong)

Renmin Wenhua Gongyuan

Gate of Heavenly Peace (Tian'an Men)

Tian'anmen Square

Great Hall of the People (Renmin Dahuitang)

Monument to the People's Heroes (Renmin Yingxiong Jiniantai)

Mao Zedong Mausoleum (Mao Zhuxi Jiniantang)

Museum of the Chinese Revolution (Zhongguo Geming Bowuguan)

Museum of Chinese History (Zhongguo Lishi Bowuguan)

Capital Theatre (Shoudu Juchang)

St Joseph's Cathedral (Dongtang)

Pudu Temple (Pudu Si)

250 m

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
Beiheyuan 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
Chenguang 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
Datianshuijing Hutong	D3	Nanchizi Dajie	C3	Xijiaomin Xiang	A4 B4
Dengshikou Dajie	D2	Nanheyuan Dajie	D3	Xila Hutong	D2
Dengshikou Xijie	D2	Pudusi Xixiang	C3	Xitangzi Hutong	D2
Dongchang Hutong	D1	Pudusihou 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		