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China National Tourism Administration www.travelchina.gov.cn

### Recommended Tourist Itineraries

- A Tour of Beijing's History**  
Route: Tian'anmen – Imperial Palace – Temple of Heaven – Nanluoguxiang – Summer Palace – The Badaling Section of the Great Wall – Ming Tombs  
Sight: Beijing, one of the four ancient China capitals, has more than 1,300 years of history with over 800 years as the capital city of China. It has six UNESCO Heritage Sites and numerous places of historical interest.
- A Tour of the Hutong (Lanes) in Beijing**  
Route: Shichahai – Nanluoguxiang – Drum Tower  
Sight: Beijing's hutongs have over 700 years of history as the residential areas of many Beijing locals. The Hutongs have also been central locations of Beijing's historical and cultural development. With a strong cultural atmosphere, they are a living museum of China's folk customs and lifestyles.
- City Tour of Beijing**  
Route: Bird's Nest – Water Cube – Beijing 798 Art Zone – National Center for the Performing Arts  
Sight: As the capital city of China, Beijing is a modern international metropolis and the host city of the 29th Summer Olympics in 2008.

### Beijing Overview

Beijing is the capital city of China, and the political and cultural center of the country. It is a world-renowned ancient capital city and modern cosmopolitan.

In Beijing, the weather is hot and rainy in summer, cold and dry in winter, and moderate in spring and autumn. Autumn is the best season to tour Beijing.

Beijing, the world-famous ancient capital, has a history of more than 3,000 years, with more than 860 years as the capital of China. Showcasing the brilliant Chinese culture, it has 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, namely, the Imperial Palace, the Great Wall, the Ming Tombs, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian, and the Grand Canal. As the world city home to the largest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Beijing has a rich imperial style and a strong local Chinese atmosphere. It is famous for its profound cultural foundation and the world's modern fashions.

The city is also a modern cosmopolitan home to numerous skyscrapers. The Wangfujing Pedestrian Street is crowded day and night. The ZPark, known as China's Silicon Valley, develops rapidly. The CBD is the symbol of prosperity in China, and the Bird's Nest has become the icon of modern Beijing. If you prefer bar life, you can choose to visit Houhai, Sanlitun or Nan Luoguxiang.

**Website:** www.visitbeijing.com.cn

### Transportation, Accommodations and Travel Services

- By Air**  
The Beijing Capital International Airport is the largest and most modern airport in China. It has three terminals and flights connecting 88 domestic and 69 international cities with over 5,000 regular flights passing through every week.
- By Train**  
Beijing is one of the centers of China's railway network. High-speed railway lines that start in Beijing include the Beijing-Shanghai High-speed Railway, Beijing-Guangzhou High-speed Railway, and Beijing-Tianjin-Tanggu Intercity High-speed Railway. Ordinary railway lines include the Beijing-Kowloon Railway, Beijing-Shanghai Railway, Beijing-Guangzhou Railway, Beijing-Harbin Railway, Beijing-Baotou Railway, etc. Major railway stations in Beijing include the Beijing Railway Station, as well as Beijing North, South and West railway stations.
- Public Transport**  
Beijing has a mammoth public transport system. The minimum public transport fare within the city is often RMB 1. If passengers use the Municipal Transport Card, they can have 50% off from the original fare.  
Beijing has 17 metro lines in operation, including 16 subway lines and 1 airport line.  
**Website:** www.bjsubway.com

#### Accommodations

Name	Star-rate	Add	Tel
Beijing The Ritz Carlton Hotel	5	NO. A83 Jianguo Rd., Huamao Center, Chaoyang District	10-59088888
Hilton Hotel Beijing	5	No.1 Dongfang Rd. The E. Third Ring Rd., Chaoyang District	10-58655000
Beijing JW Marriott Hotel	5	No. 3 Jianguo Rd., Huamao Center, Chaoyang District	10-59086688
JingJin Hotel	4	No. 3 Jianguo St., Chaoyang District	10-65002266
Continental Grand Hotel Beijing	4	No. 8 Mid. Beichen Rd., Chaoyang District	10-84985588
YuYang Hotel Beijing	4	No. 18 Xinyuanxi Mid. St., Chaoyang District	10-64669988

#### Travel Services

Name	Add	Tel
China International Travel Service Limited, Head Office	CTTS Building, No.1 Dongdan N. St.	10-85228888
China Travel Service, Head Office	Room 210, Block C, Shuangqing Building, No. 5 Jingshen Rd., Chaoyang District	4008116666
China Comfort Travel Agency	1st Floor, Zhongren Building, No. 9 Changweimenwai St.	10-51158888
China International Travel Service Limited (Beijing)	Room 701, Travel Building, No. 28 Jinnwai St.	4008886667

### Dining and Shopping

- Dining**  
Traditional Beijing cuisine is best represented by Peking Roast Duck, hotpot, copper hotpot and soy sauce noodles. Some popular local snacks and delicacies include soybean juice, baked wheat cake, Ma Tofu, Jiao Quan (fried bread coil) and Ludagun (fried chopped rice cake).  
**Peking Roast Duck:** Peking Roast Duck is characterized by its red color, tender meat, and wonderful flavor. It is fatty but not greasy. The primary preparation methods for Peking Roast Duck involve roasting either directly, or indirectly in oven fire. These two methods are best represented by Quanjude and Bianyifang restaurants respectively.  
**Instant-boiled mutton:** The famous instant-boiled mutton restaurants include Dong Lai Shun, Koufuju and Hongyuan Instant-boiled Mutton Restaurant, etc.  
**Beijing snacks:** Beijing not only has the diverse local dishes, but also has the royal dishes, home-made dishes, Muslim dishes and food from all over the world.
- Shopping**  
Famous products in Beijing include Peking preserved fruits, Peking Roast Duck, cloisomé, Beijing jade ware and silk flowers, etc. and can be purchased in such places as Qianmen and Dashilar, while more modern and fashionable shopping centers can be found at Sanlitun, Wangfujing and Xidan.

#### Useful Telephone Numbers and Websites

Name	Tel
ID30 Code of China	86
Police	110
Fire	119
Ambulance	120
Traffic Accident	122
Telephone Number Enquiry	114
Weather Forecast	12121
Liaoluqiao Bus Station	10-83811716
Shilu Long Distance Bus Station	10-65574804
Zhonghualou Long Distance Bus Station	10-67229491
The Capital Airport Information Telephone	10-961518
The Capital Airport Website	www.bjta.com.cn
Beijing Tourism Complaints	10-12301

### Imperial Sites

#### Beihai Park

Beihai Park is one of the best-preserved imperial parks with the longest history in China. It used to be the imperial park for kings and emperors of the Liao Kingdom, Jin Kingdom, Yuan Empire, Ming Empire and Qing Empire. The major scenic spots in Beihai Park include the Grand White Tower, Five-Dragon Pavilion and Nine-Dragon Screen.  
**Website:** www.beihaiPark.com.cn

#### Yuanmingyuan Park

Yuanmingyuan Park was built in 1708 as an imperial park in the Qing Dynasty. The famous French writer Victor Hugo called it "the model of ideal and art". Today, all that remains of the original park are a series of hills and waters as well as some gardens and building foundations.  
**Website:** www.yuanmingyuanPark.com

#### Fragrant Hills Park

Xianglu Peak, the highest peak of Fragrant Hills, is 575 meters above sea level, and is one of the four most famous places in China to appreciate maple trees in autumn. On the hill, there are about 100,000 cotinus coggagya trees. The period between the middle of October and the beginning of November is the best season to appreciate the maples.  
**Website:** www.xiangshanPark.com.cn

### Imperial Sites

#### Tian'anmen Square

Tian'anmen Square is located in the center of Beijing. It is the largest public square in the world and marks the location of the Tian'anmen, Monument to the People's Heroes, the Chairman Mao Memorial Hall, the Great Hall of the People, the National Museum of China and more. The daily National Flag Raising Ceremony is the most solemn ceremony in Tian'anmen Square.

#### Ming Tombs

The Grand Ming Tombs hold the 13 emperors of the Ming Dynasty. The main divine passage is seven km long. Today, only three tombs are open to the public: the largest, the Changling Tomb for Emperor Chengzu of the Ming Dynasty, the Dingling Tomb for the Emperor Wanli and the Zhaoling Tomb for the Emperor Muzong.  
**Website:** www.mingtombs.com

#### Bell Tower and Drum Tower

The Bell Tower and the Drum Tower were places for keeping time in the city during the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. With one standing in front of the other, the two towers provide a magnificent sight. Today, the two towers retain their original positions and structures.

#### Yonghe Temple

Yonghe Temple is the largest Tibetan Buddhism temple in Beijing. It has 5 grand halls lying in a row. And the 26-meter-high Maitreya Buddha wood statue in Wanfu Hall is the most famous one in China.  
**Website:** www.yonghegong.cn

### Temple of Heaven

The Temple of Heaven was a complex used by emperors in the Ming and Qing dynasties to offer sacrifices to the heavens in respect of a rich harvest. The major buildings in the Temple of Heaven include the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, the Imperial Vault of Heaven, Circular Mound Altar, the Hall of Abstinence, Music Hall, Echo Wall, Triple Echo Stones and Double King Longevity Pavilion.  
**Website:** www.tiantanPark.com

#### Circular Mound Altar

The Circular Mound Altar used to be the place for emperors to offer sacrifices to the heavens during the Winter Solstice (December 22nd solar term). The Circular Mound Altar has a round top resembling the sky with three levels. In the middle of the third level, there is a round stone extending to the outside in nine fan-like stone blocks.

#### The Imperial Vault of Heaven

The Imperial Vault of Heaven has one eave and blue tiles. The dome is gold plated. From a distance, it resembles a huge sapphire umbrella with a golden top. Outside the Imperial Vault of Heaven building are the famous Echo Wall, Triple Echo Stones and Talk Stone.

### Imperial Palace

The Imperial Palace was used as the royal residence in the Ming and Qing dynasties. The Imperial Palace, the world's best-preserved and largest ancient wooden building complex, consists of an exterior and interior section.  
**Website:** www.dpm.org.cn

#### The City Wall and Entrance

The Imperial Palace is surrounded by city walls, which have one entrance and guardian tower on each of the four sides. The Meridian Gate is the main entrance into the Imperial Palace. With 9 sections in a line, the Meridian Gate is really grand and splendid.

#### Hall of Supreme Harmony

The Hall of Supreme Harmony is the largest wooden structure hall that exists in China. It consists of 11 rooms built horizontally and five rooms built vertically. The Hall of Supreme Harmony is 27 meters high. The entire hall is solemn and magnificent. In the middle of the Hall is the gold-plated Emperor's seat decorated with dragon patterns, the symbol of feudal imperial power.

#### Qianqing Palace

Qianqing Palace is the most important palace in the Imperial Palace. In the Ming and Qing dynasties, it used to be the place for the emperors to sleep and handle government affairs. In the middle of the Qianqing Palace is the Emperor's seat with warning partitions on both ends. Above the Emperor's Seat is the tablet with an inscription meaning "fair and righteous".

### Imperial Palace

#### Six Western Palaces

The Six Western Palaces refers to the six palaces on the west of the central axis in the Forbidden City. It used to be the residence of the Emperor's wife and concubines. The Empress Cixi once lived in Changchun Palace and Chuxiu Palace.

#### Museum of Treasures

Ningshou Palace was built for the retirement of Emperor Qianlong. It is a large building complex with a layout similar to that of the Forbidden City. Today, it has been renovated into a Museum of Treasures containing a few theme halls exhibiting many historical relics.

#### Imperial Garden

The Imperial Garden is the largest garden in the Imperial Palace. It was built for the emperors and their wives to have rest and relaxation. The Imperial Garden is centered in Qin'an Hall and has four pavilions representing the four seasons, namely, the Wanchun Pavilion, Fubi Pavilion, Qianqu Pavilion and Chengru Pavilion.

### Summer Palace

The Summer Palace is the best-preserved and largest imperial garden in China. Having a splendid and gorgeous layout, it consists of Mount Wanshou and the Kunming Lake, with three quarters of its area made up of water.  
**Website:** www.summerpalace-china.com

#### Foxiang Pagoda

The magnificent Foxiang Pagoda is the main building in the Summer Palace. It is built on Mount Wanshou and faces the Kunming Lake in the south.

#### Kunming Lake

The Kunming Lake is the main lake in the Summer Palace. There are three islands in the lake arranged in a tripod layout, representing three mountains in the sea.

Green trees on the banks of the lake are reflected in the water, presenting the beauty and natural landscape of Southern China.

#### The Long Corridor

The Long Corridor facing the Kunming Lake lies to Mount Wanshou on the north and starts with Yaoyue Entrance on the east. The total length is 728 meters. It is the longest sightseeing corridor among all the Chinese landscape gardens.

#### Qing Yanfang

Qing Yanfang is the aquatic building in the Summer Palace. With dense Western style, the ship-like building is 36 meters long with 2 levels, making it exquisite and luxurious.

### Beijing's New Look

#### Bird's Nest and Water Cube

The Bird's Nest, was the main venue of the Beijing Olympics. The Water Cube is also one of the symbols of the Beijing Olympics. Its membrane structure is unique and the largest of its kind in the world.  
The Bird's Nest Website: www.n-n.cn  
The Water Cube Website: www.water-cube.com

#### National Center for the Performing Arts

The National Center for the Performing Arts is the largest theatre complex in Asia. Floating atop a man-made water surface, the building consists of a half-oval shaped roof, and a series of passages and entrances.

#### Sanlitun

Sanlitun Bar Street boasts the liveliest night life in Beijing. Every night, the entire street lights up and the crowds flood in, making this place a symbol of the bustle and luxury of cosmopolitan life.

#### Headquarters of CCTV

The CCTV Headquarters Building is the new landmark in Beijing. It has won the Award of the World's Best High-rise Building.

### Hutong Styles

#### Shichahai

The Shichahai scenic area has the most charming landscape. The Hutong (lanes) and Sihyuan (houses with a courtyard) represent the history of old Beijing. In the surroundings of Shichahai are many Hutongs. There are 15 Hutongs in this area, including Dajinsi, Xiaojinsi, Qianjing and Houxiaojing.

#### Nanluoguxiang

Nanluoguxiang is about 800 meters long, lined with eight parallel Hutongs on either side. As a former residence of senior officials, nobles and famous figures, today, it has gained popularity for its traditional buildings and boutique shops.

#### Qianmen Dashilar

Dashilar is a commercial street with hundreds of years of history. Many famous old brands can be found here, such as Tongrentang's Chinese medicine, Ruifuxiang's cloth and silk textiles, and Zhangyiyuan's famous tea.

#### Dongjiao Minxiang & Xijiao Minxiang

Dongjiao Minxiang and Xijiao Minxiang are two longest lanes (Hutong) in Beijing. Dongjiao Minxiang used to be the embassy area which has the sole preserved cluster of Western buildings in Beijing.

### Museums

#### National Museum of China

The National Museum of China is a comprehensive museum displaying the culture and history of the Chinese nation in a systematic way. The Museum focuses on both history and art and combines the functions of collection, exhibition, research and archaeological studies. It now boasts of more than one million collection pieces.  
**Website:** www.cnmmuseum.cn

#### Capital Museum

Capital Museum displays the brilliant culture in Beijing and its development history. The Museum exhibits 250,000 pieces of antiques. The basic exhibition sections include Ancient Capital City Beijing – Culture and History, and Past Days in Beijing – Exhibition of Folk Customs in the Past Days in Beijing.  
**Website:** www.capitalmuseum.org.cn

#### Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution

As the only comprehensive museum specialized in the military history, it is also one of the landmark buildings in Beijing. The Museum consists of Ancient War Hall, Modern War Hall, the Northern Expedition Hall and Weaponry Hall.  
**Website:** www.jb.mil.cn

Museum Name	Collection/Description
National Art Museum of China	Collecting, studying and displaying works of modern artists
The Geological Museum of China	The largest national geological museum in Asia
Chinese Aviation Museum	Largest aviation museum in Asia
China Ethnic Museum	Displaying buildings, folk customs, songs, dances, techniques and cuisine of ethnic minorities in China
Old Observatory in Beijing	One of the oldest observatories in the world
China Red Sandalwood Museum	A large museum displaying the art of red sandalwood and appreciating traditional Chinese classic furniture
Beijing Museum of National History	A large museum of natural history and Grade-1 museum in China
Great Wall Museum of China	A specialized museum about the history and current situation of the Great Wall
China Millennium Monument	A public-interest organization collecting, displaying and studying art works from all over the world

### The Great Wall

Originally a military project, the Great Wall was built in ancient China to defend against invaders. The Great Wall today refers to the section built in the Ming Dynasty. Major sections within Beijing include Badaling, Juyongguan and Simatai.

#### Yanqing Badaling Section of the Great Wall

The Badaling Section of the Great Wall was the most important built during the Ming Dynasty. As an important strategic location in the past the region has numerous mountains. The whole section is built with granite slabs and specially designed bricks, which make it very strong.  
**Website:** www.badaling.gov.cn

#### Changping Juyongguan Section of the Great Wall

The Juyongguan Section of the Great Wall includes and thus magnificent mountains fascinating landscape. The former military post is enclosed in a circular structure at this location. Recent construction in the area has produced an office, a temple and a Confucian school.  
**Website:** www.juyongguan.com

#### Huairou Mutianyu Section of the Great Wall

The Mutianyu Section of the Great Wall is one of the best parts of the Great Wall built in Ming Dynasty. It has the Zhengguang Platform consisting of three fortresses. Because of its fascinating natural scenery, it is a place favored by photographers.

#### Miyun Simatai Section of the Great Wall

The Simatai Section of the Great Wall is the sole ancient building heritage that preserves its original look in the Ming Dynasty. Because it has the many characteristics of the Great Wall, it is known as a marvelous wonder.

### Scenic Spots Around Beijing

#### Fangshan Shidu Scenic Area

Shidu is the only regional world geology park in Northern China characterized by karst landforms, mountain clusters and a valley topography. Known as the "Natural Air Conditioner", it has major scenic spots including Gu Mountain Village, Juma Amusement Park and Donghu Port.  
**Website:** www.shidu.cn

#### Mentougou Mount Miaofeng

Mount Miaofeng is located in a western suburb of Beijing. With a height of 1,291 meters above sea level, it is known for its ancient temples, and strange-looking pines and rocks. It has the nickname of "No. 1 Celestial Mountain in Northern China". The annual Mount Miaofeng Temple Fair attracts many tourists and visitors.

#### Yanqing Longqing Canyon

Longqing Canyon is known as the Small Lijiang River in Beijing. The deep-green water surface reflects the mountains and white clouds. The two mountains on its east and west are so steep that they seem to be cut by a knife. Rowing a boat through the canyon, one will feel as if he/she is passing through a picture.  
**Website:** www.longqingxia.com.cn

#### Yanqing Kangxi Grassland

Kangxi Grassland is one closest to the urban area of Beijing. As a summer resort, it is the ideal place to enjoy the sceneries and styles typical in North China.

### Scenic Spots Around Beijing

#### Huairou Mount Yunmeng

Mount Yunmeng is a famous national forest park in Beijing. The mountain stands high with rocks in diversified shapes, dotted with many waterfalls and streams as well as trees and fragrant flowers. Because of this, it is also known as the Small Mount Huangshan.

#### Pinggu Jingdong Grand Canyon

The 3-km-long canyon is narrow, isolated, deep and steep. In the scenic area, you can appreciate the vast lake, the marvelous and deep pond, the green-covered wilderness and the aerial cableway at the height of 1,000 meters.

#### Huairou Qinglong Canyon

Qinglong Canyon has a relatively smooth slope covered with wild plants such as pines, cypresses, date trees and chestnut trees. At the bottom of the canyon are strangely shaped rocks, and a huge waterfall and a beautiful pond, all providing a most fascinating landscape.

#### Miyun Number One Waterfall in Beijing

The Number One Waterfall in Beijing is made up of the springs of Mount Yunmeng, and has an elevation of 62.5 meters. It is the largest waterfall in the suburbs of Beijing. In the valley, the stream flows constantly throughout the year, alongside many interconnected ponds, creating most beautiful and admirable scenery.