



FIREFLIES
TRAVEL GUIDES

BEIJING

Beijing is a 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.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



POST

Jianguomen Post Office

50 Guanghua Road Chaoyang, Beijing

+86 10 6512 8120

Open Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 6.30 pm

PHARMACY

Shidai Golden Elephant Pharmacy

1 Huanyuan Road, Beijing

+86 10 620 124 72

Haidian District

TELEPHONE

Country code: +86

Area code: (0)10

ELECTRICITY

220 Volt

BEIJING CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL 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. 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.

Shunyi, Beijing

+86 10 96158

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. Route signs are in Bilingual.

www.bjsubway.com

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. 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. 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.

CAFES



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.

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.

4 NanSanlitun Road, Beijing
+86 10 658 695 07
www.beijingbookworm.com
Chao Yang District

12SQM

This is a very small family-owned café and as the name suggests, it is 12sq meters. Here you can relax in a cosy ambiance and get fresh-ground coffee and if you like it really strong they provide real espresso too.

South Luogu Alley, Dongcheng, Beijing
+86 10 640 215 54
www.twelvesqm.com
Dongcheng District

CAFÉ ZARAH

Café Zarah is located in the centre of Beijing and provides food and drinks in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere. Here you can get breakfast, lunch, dinner and if you are craving for something sweet have a waffle with a scoop of ice cream or an apple cake.

42 Gulou East Street, Dongcheng, Beijing
+86 10 840 398 07
www.cafezarah.com

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.

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.

Gongrentiyuchang Beilu, Gongrentiyuchang Xilu, Beijing
+86 10 6551 1822
www.tastytaste.com.cn
Dong Cheng District

DO & SEE



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.

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.

19 Xin-jian-gong-men Road, Beijing
 +86 10 6288 1144
www.summerpalace-china.com
 District Haidian

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.

7 Tiantan Nei Dongli, Beijing
 +86 10 6702 8866
www.templeofheavenbeijing.com
 Chongwen District
 Qianmen

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.

Tiananmen Dong, Beijing
 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.

Tiananmen Dong, Beijing
 North of Tian'anmen Square
 Line 1 to Tian'anmen Dong, Tian'anmen Xi

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.

Liulichang Street, Beijing
 Xuanwu District
 Hepingmen

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.

Yonghe Gong Dajie 12, Beijing
Yonghe Gong/Lama Temple

798 ART ZONE

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

2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Beijing
+86 10 5978 9798
www.798space.com

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.

The Great Wall Of China
+86 10 6162 6022
www.mutianyugreatwall.com

BEIJING CAPITAL MUSEUM

Beijing Capital Museum was formally open to public in 1981 and the Confucian Temple was its original site. In order to accommodate a larger collection a new museum was built in December 2001. There are totally 5,622 pieces of cultural relics here like porcelain ware, calligraphy works, paintings, coins, jades, seals and Buddhist statues.

16 Fuxingmen Outer Street, Beijing
+86 10 6339 3339
www.capitalmuseum.org.cn
Xicheng District

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CHINA

National Museum of China (NMC) is focusing on both history and art. You will find NMC at the east side of Tiananmen Square and you can easily spend a whole day here. Do not miss the Buddha statues which are amazing.

16 East Chang'an Street, Beijing
+86 10 651 164 00
www.chnmuseum.cn
Dongcheng District

BEIHAI PARK

Beihai Park is one of the oldest and largest ancient imperial gardens in China which is located in the city centre, also one of the best-preserved parks. It has over 1,000 years of history and located just behind the Forbidden City. This is a nice quite park with a relaxing atmosphere.

1 Wenjin Street, Beijing
Xicheng District

BACK LAKES (HOU HAI)

Take a stroll around this lake and around the narrow streets behind the lake where you will find interesting shops with Chinese art crafts. There are plenty of restaurants around the lake where you can have a relaxing dinner and at the same time enjoy the beautiful views. You can also rent a boat or bike and explore the area in a fun way.

Shicha Lake Scenic Resort, Beijing
Xicheng District

CHAOYANG THEATRE ACROBATICS SHOW

Enjoy a performance of acrobatics at Chaoyang Theatre which was built in 1984. The program contains tricks with cycling, with chairs and other magical Chinese stunts. The show last for one hour and it is much appreciated among tourist.

36 Dongsanhuan North Road, Beijing
+86 135 5252 7373
www.chaoyangacrobatshow.com
Chaoyang District

BEIJING AQUARIUM (BEIJING HAIYANGGUAN)

Beijing Aquarium is the biggest inland aquarium in the world and located inside the Beijing zoo. It consists of seven exhibition halls with 1000's of marina species, presenting also endangered creatures. In addition there are shows with adorable animals like dolphins and seals. This is a great attraction for both adults and children.

18 Gaoliangqiaoxie Street, Beijing
+86 10 621 766 55
www.bj-sea.com
Haidian District

HAPPY VALLEY BEIJING

For adrenaline-pumping rides, head over to this theme park which opened its doors in 2006. It consists of 6 themed zones, in total 40 rides, an IMAX theater complex and a shopping complex. This is a very popular amusement park among tourist and locals alike so it can get crowded on weekends.

Xiaowujibei Road, Dongsihuan, Beijing
+86 10 6738 9898
bj.happyvalley.cn
Chaoyang District

DINING



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.

HAIDILAO HOT POT

This restaurant is known for its good services and for the tasty food but it is also a great place to have hotpot. The atmosphere can be described as vibrant and warm. There are plenty of varieties here from the meat, fish and vegetable section. Very popular place so it might be crowded.

2 Huayuan Road Haidian, Beijing
+86 10 620 331 12
www.haidilao.com

CHINA GRILL

China Grill serves international cuisine with the best products of meat, fish and seafood. Here you will find a great wine selection and 360 degree views of Beijing. The restaurant is located inside the hotel Park Hyatt Beijing.

2 Jianguomenwai Street, Beijing
+86 10 856 718 38
www.beijing.park.hyatt.com
Chaoyang District

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.

1 Wenjing Jie, Beijing
+86 10 6401 1879
www.fangshanfanzhuang.com.cn
Beihai Park, Xicheng District

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.

83A Jian Guo Road, Beijing
+86 10 5908 8111
www.ritzcarlton.com
The Ritz-Carlton

BRIAN MCKENNA @ THE COURTYARD

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

95 Donghuamen Dajie, Beijing
+86 10 6526 8883
www.bmktc.com

NOBU BEIJING

Nobu Beijing serves a new style Japanese Cuisine with South American flavor. Try their marvelous signature dishes or local specialties like rock shrimp tempura with cream spicy sauce or sashimi salad with matsuhisa dressing.

83 Jian Guo Road, Beijing
+86 10 596 969 88
www.noburestaurants.com

BLACK SESAME KITCHEN

This popular and small restaurant is located in an alley that may be difficult to find, but definitely worth to seek for. It features an open kitchen where you can watch the chefs cook good Chinese food. Be sure to come here with an empty stomach, they serve a 10 course menu. Due to the high demand and its popularity it is advised to book in advance.

3 Heizhima Hutong, Beijing
+86 13 691 474 408
www.blacksesamekitchen.com
Dongcheng District

THE TAJ PAVILION

If you are craving for authentic Indian food, this is the place to go to. The restaurant is located in the heart of commercial area near the China World Trade Centre. The waitress serves typical Indian food (inspired from all over India) in a cosy ambiance.

8 Guanghua Dong Li, Jianguomen Wai Avenue,
Beijing
+86 10 6505 5866
www.thetajpavilion.com
North Tower, 2nd Floor, F2-03

BAOYUAN JIAOZI WU

Baoyuan Jiaozi Wu is a simple but popular restaurant and has a great selection of steamed dumplings for a reasonable price. On the menu you will also find tasty classical dishes. However, it can get crowded but the wait times are usually pretty short.

Maizidian Street, Chaoyang, Beijing
+86 10 658 649 67
Chaoyang District

ANNIE'S CAFE (GUOMAO)

At this chain restaurant you can eat tasty Italian food. One of the restaurants is located in the heart of the busy CBD. The menu is very varied, from classical Italian pasta and risotto to soups, salads, seafood and meat. In addition the children can even make their own mini pizzas. Annie's Cafet is open for both lunch and dinner and serves food for a reasonable price.

2 East Third Ring South Road, Beijing
+86 10 8589 8366
RUISAI Business Building

MOSTO

Whether you are looking for a business lunch, weekend brunch or a romantic dinner, you have come to the right place. The restaurant provides an international menu with dishes like grilled beef, grilled tuna steak, braised duck leg and dessert like tiramisu.

3F Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Beilu, Beijing
+86 10 520 860 30
www.mostobj.com
Chaoyang District

VINEYARD CAFE

Vineyard Cafe is a restaurant and bar situated near "The Lama Temple" and serves a wide selection of home-style European cooking. It also provides an extensive beer, wine and cocktail list. This is a place where you can eat dishes like pizza, pasta and burgers.

31 Wudaoying Hutong, Dngchéng, Beijing
+86 10 640 279 61
www.vineyardcafe.cn

HUANG TING

The restaurant is very beautifully decorated with a genuine 'hutong' feeling and is located at the bottom of the Peninsula Hotel. The professional staff serves high class Cantonese food like dim sum and other classical regional dishes such as Szechuan Chilli prawns and the famous Beijing Duck. The price is a bit higher than other restaurants in the area but well worth the money.

8 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing, Beijing
+86 10 65 106 707
www.peninsula.com/Beijing
Peninsula Hotel

TRB- TEMPLE RESTAURANT BEIJING

For contemporary European cuisine and high quality service, head over to restaurant TRB. This is a real gem, a beautiful courtyard restaurant with elegant decor. The wine list has a huge selection of wines from different regions for a reasonable price.

23 Shatan Beijie, Beijing
+86 10 840 022 32
www.temple-restaurant.com
Dongcheng District

THE CUT STEAKHOUSE

Enjoy the finest slices of Wagyu beef at this award-winning steak restaurant. On the menu you will find the finest organic steaks and seafood dishes which are carefully prepared by the high skilled chefs. This restaurant stands out and offers high quality food in an elegant atmosphere and comes with outstanding customer service.

8 Yong An Dong Li, Jian Guo Men Wai Avenue,
Beijing
+86 10 850 736 17
www.fairmont.com/beijing
Fairmont Beijing Hotel, Chaoyang District

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



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.

MODO ULTRA CLUB

Modo Ultra Club is quite young in the nightclub scene here in Beijing, but has made a lasting impression. Cool, hipp and sexy are just a few words used to describe this nightclub.

4F U-Town Shopping Mall Chaowai Street
Chaoyang District, Beijing

+86 10 8526 6666

www.modoultraclub.com

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.

1 Dajinsi Hutong, Beijing

+86 10 8328 3061

Xicheng District

FURNACE

Furnace has a bit of a rough and industrial feeling to it. It is the type of place where you can start off your evening before heading elsewhere or if you just feel like going out for a tasty drink.

98-2 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng district, Beijing

LINE COCKTAIL BAR

Line Cocktail Bar is an intimate bar with cosy Chinese décor. On the menu you will find well-tasting signature and classic cocktails. If you are a fan of whiskey, then the long menu will be to your satisfaction.

18 Xinzhong Jie, Chaoyang district, Beijing

CIRCLE CLUB

Circle Club's clientele is the crowd who will book a table with an ice bucket with many bottles in it and this is reflected in the tiny bar upstairs. Luckily, the big dance floor compensates for that as you will dance the night away here!

6 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang district, Beijing

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, cosy atmosphere.

111 Gulou Dongdajie, Beijing

+86 10 6402 5080

Dongcheng District

Q BAR

Relax and sip a delicious cocktail on the top floor terrace at the hotel Eastern Inn. This trendy and very cosy bar is a great place to visit with friends or for a romantic date. Q Bar has received numerous awards for its cocktails, services and for the environment.

6/F Eastern Hotel, Beijing

+86 10 659 592 39

www.qbarbeijing.com

Chaoyang District - Corner of Sanlitun Nanlu and Gongti Nanlu

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. This is a vibrant venue and popular with party people.

Workers Stadium north gate, Beijing
+86 10 6530 2889
www.clubmixchina.com
Gongrentiyuchang Beilu, Chaoyang

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.

Workers Stadium north gate, Beijing
+86 10 5293 0333
Gongrentiyuchang Beilu, Chaoyang

SHOPPING



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.

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.

1 Dongchang'an Jie, Beijing
 +86 10 8518 6363
www.orientalplaza.com

QIANMEN STREET

Qianmen Street is one of 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.

Qianmen Street, Beijing

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.

1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Beijing
 +86 10 6505 2288
www.cwtc.com

LIULICHANG STREET

Liulichang Street is great for antiquities 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.

Liulichang Street, Beijing

XIUSHUI STREET - SILK MARKET

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.

Xiushui Street, Beijing

SAN LI TUN YAXIU MARKET

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.

Workers' Stadium North Road, Chaoyang, Beijing

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.

1 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang, Beijing
 +86 592 3257 980
www.tenfu.com
 Kerry Mall

HONGQIAO MARKET - PEARL MARKET

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.

9 Tiantan Road, Dongcheng, Beijing

+86 10 6713 3354

www.hongqiao-pearl-market.com

RUIFUXIANG

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

5 Dazhalan Xijie, Beijing

+86 10 6303 5764

BURBERRY

Hearing the name Burberry, most of us come to think of their exceptional trench coats and their trademark tartan pattern. This British luxury house still remains at the top when it comes to posh sophisticated design.

Dong Yi Lu, Dongcheng, Beijing

+86 400 120 2756

cn.burberry.com