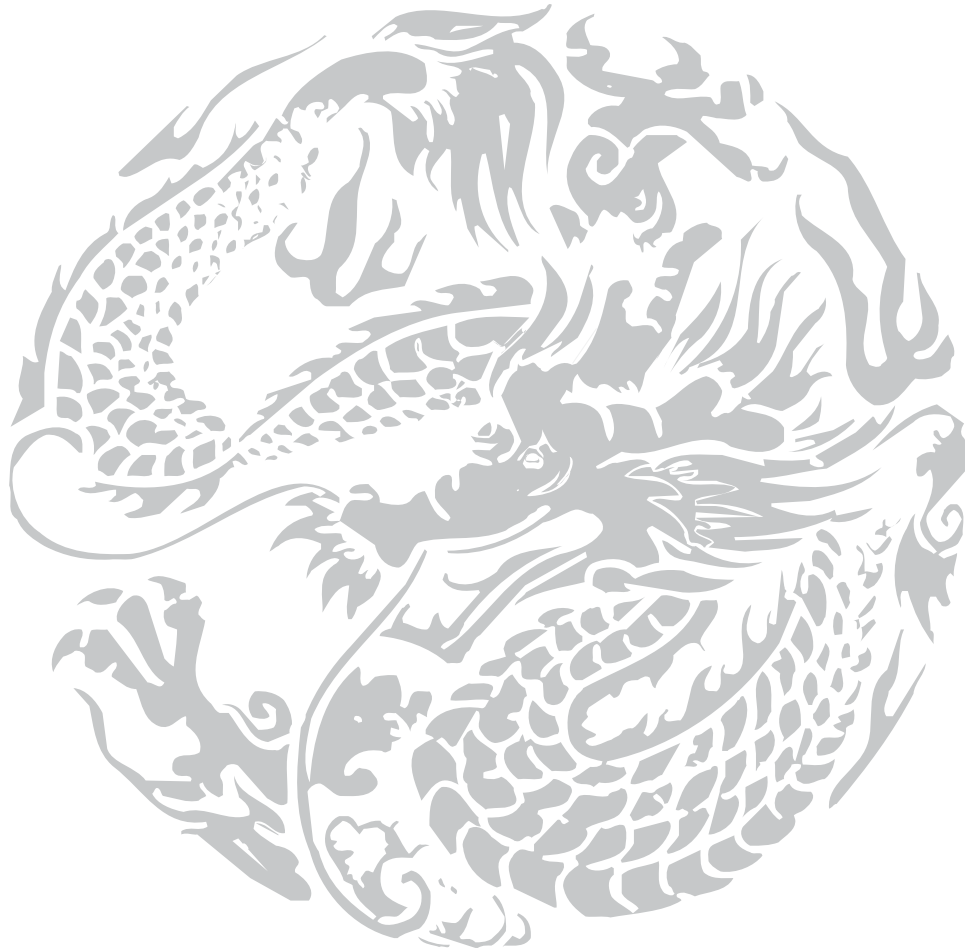




BEIJING TRIP PLANNER

China Highlights, Discovery Your Way (Since 1959)!
www.chinahighlights.com

Contents



- When to Go
 - What to Pack
- How to Get to Beijing
 - How to Get a Beijing Visa
 - Flying to Beijing
- Where to Stay in Beijing
 - Electricity
 - Communications
 - Business Hours
 - Medical Emergencies
- What to See in Beijing
 - Tourist Traps
 - Travel Individually or with a Travel Company?
- Dining in Beijing
 - Tipping
 - Toilets
- Shopping in Beijing
- Nightlife in Beijing
- Public Transport in Beijing
 - Crossing the Road
 - Local Customs

When to Go

When to go largely depends on one's vacation time, weather preference, personal budget, and tourist seasons in Beijing.

Beijing in the Four Seasons



Spring in Beijing is from March to May. It is a windy and dry season, and the temperatures rise quickly. Dust storms happen frequently, and may delay travel.

Summer is from June to August. It is a very hot season with plenty of rainfall.

Autumn is from September to November. It is considered to be the most attractive season in Beijing, when there is plenty of sunshine and cooler temperatures. Autumn is the most beautiful and comfortable season of the year in Beijing.

Winter is from December to February, chilly with an average temperature below 0°C (32°F).

Least desirable periods: Spring Festival (about 2 weeks starting late January or early to mid February), Labor Day (3 days duration from May 1), National Day (7 days duration from October 1), due to Chinese tourist crowds and price rises.

What to Pack

Beijing enjoys a temperate and continental monsoon climate, and its weather is characterized by four distinct seasons.

March–May: Spring is cool to warm, windy, and dry, but the temperature difference between day and night is large. If you want to go out at night dress warmly! There are also sandstorms in spring. Bring long pants, one or two jackets and sweaters.

June–August: Beijing's summer is very hot with abundant rainfall. Bring light clothes such as T-shirts, shorts, and skirts. Take an umbrella. Hat, sunglasses, long-sleeve shirts, and sun cream may be needed to protect yourself from getting sunburnt.

September–November: Autumn is the pleasantest season of the year in Beijing. The temperature is mild with plenty of sunshine. Prepare long pants and jackets.

December–February: Beijing's winter is cold and dry with occasional snow. The average temperature is below freezing. Prepare wool sweaters, down jackets, thick pants, hat, gloves, and an umbrella. A mask might be needed to protect your nose on windy days.

For more (including things to do each month) see [Beijing Weather](#).



How to Get to Beijing

How to Get a Beijing Visa

Usually foreigners need to apply for a visa before travel to China. The overseas Chinese visa authorities are Chinese embassies, consulates, and Visa Application Centers (VACs). You should apply in your own country, or ask your travel agency or visa agency for help.

Beijing is one of nine Chinese cities that have adopted a visa-free transit policy. The policy allows foreign tourists to travel around Beijing for up to 72 hours without a visa.

Tourist (L) Visa Application — Documents Required

For individuals: A correctly filled out L visa form, passport (with at least 6 months validity and at least one blank visa page), and a 2 inch passport-style photo.

For tour groups: A visa notification form issued by authorized travel agencies in China, a name list of the members of the tour group, original passports of each group member, a photocopy of the information page of each passport, and a letter (including the total number of group members, contact person, and the itinerary of the tour) issued by the tour's travel agency.

Visa Extensions

If you want to extend your visa in Beijing, you should go to the Exit and Entry Administration of the Public Security Bureau.

- ◆ Chinese name: 北京市公安局出入境管理处.
- ◆ Address: 2 Andingmen Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (Southeast of Beixiaojie Bridge) 东城区安定门东大街2号 (北小街桥东南)
- ◆ Working Hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Saturday
- ◆ Tel: 010-8402010

Flying to Beijing

Beijing Capital International Airport, located 30 km northeast of Beijing city center, is China's busiest and most important international airport.

There are plentiful flights to domestic and foreign cities.

Airport: Beijing Capital International Airport

- ◆ Chinese name: 北京市公安局出入境管理处.
- ◆ Address: 2 Andingmen Dongdajie, Dongcheng District. (Southeast of Beixiaojie Bridge) 东城区安定门东大街2号 (北小街桥东南)
- ◆ Working Hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Saturday
- ◆ Tel: 010-8402010

Where to Stay in Beijing

In Beijing there is a huge range of accommodation options, suiting every budget, including hotels, hostels, traditional hutong courtyards, guesthouses, and boutiques. When choosing a hotel, you should consider the hotel's location, rating, and price. First choose the area where you want to stay, then compare the hotels specifications and prices for that area.

China Highlights offers a good hotel booking service. Below are some recommended hotels in Beijing.

Best Five-Star Hotels

- ◆ The Opposite House Ranked #4 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Fairmont Hotel Beijing Ranked #5 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ The Kerry Hotel Beijing Ranked #6 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Hilton Beijing Wangfujing Ranked #7 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Four Seasons Beijing Ranked #11 on Trip Advisor

Best Four-Star Hotels

- ◆ Red Wall Garden Hotel Ranked #2 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing Ranked #12 on Trip Advisor

Best Boutique Hotels

- ◆ Hotel G Beijing Ranked #45 on Trip Advisor
- ◆ Hotel Kapok Ranked #77 on Trip Advisor

Electricity

Electricity in China is 240 Volts 50 Hz. Electric devices may require a transformer, which can be bought in China. As the shape of a socket varies between countries, a portable plug adapter may also be necessary. Some hotels can provide adapters for guests, but we suggest visitors bring one or buy one in China.



Communications

Internet: Most hotel rooms will offer an Internet cable and Wi-Fi for your laptop. Beijing airport, Starbucks, SPR, and a number of cafes and restaurants also provide free Wi-Fi. China Highlights offers Portable Wi-Fi Rental so that you can surf the internet anytime and anywhere while traveling in China.

Telephone

China's country code is 86 and Beijing's code is 010.

When making a phone call from China to another country, first dial "00" (international prefix), then dial the country code, then the area code and local number. E.g. if you want to call 434-5678 in California (area code 760) in the USA (country code 1), you need to dial 00-1-760-434-5678.

Tourist Traps

Generally Chinese people are kind and friendly to foreign visitors. Most foreigners feel very safe when travel in Beijing. But that doesn't mean you are always safe from being cheated. Like other countries in the world, tourist traps and scams also exist in China. Knowing some typical tourist traps will help you to avoid them. Click here to see how to avoid tourist traps.

Travel Individually or with a Travel Company?

Public transport in Beijing is very convenient, and you can get to wherever you want by buses, subway, and taxis. But there are still many problems you will encounter, like "How do I get the most out of a visit?" and "Where should I go after the Temple of Heaven?".

If you have a responsible tour company, they will take care of your trip, and you can explore in depth the local culture and go to some less-easy-to-get-to places. You will never feel lonely and helpless. We suggest that tourists travel with a travel agency, so that you can have a relaxing and comfortable tour.

China Highlights has been specializing in tailor-making China tour for over sixteen years. If you want to travel in Beijing, contact us and our travel experts will be glad to help you arrange your tour based on your requirements.



Making long distance calls within China

Landline calls: First dial the area code, and then dial the local phone number. E.g. If you call 123-4567 in Guilin (area code 0773), you need to dial 0773-123-4567.

Cell calls: First dial 0 (national prefix), then the cell phone number

Learn Some Chinese

When in Beijing, it's quite interesting and practical to learn some useful Chinese phrases, since English is not widely spoken. More on learning Chinese.

Business Hours

Chinese government stipulates a five-day workweek from Monday to Friday with no more than 8 hours a day. The normal business hours are generally from 8am to 6pm, with a break from 12pm to 2pm. However business hours may vary.

Medical Emergencies

In Beijing there are some hospitals and clinics with modern medical facilities and English speaking staff. They can offer emergency medical services and a range of clinical services for foreigners. Below is information for some of these hospitals and clinics.

Bayley & Jackson Beijing Medical Center

- ◆ Address: 7 Ritan Dong Lu, Chaoyang District
- ◆ Tel: (86) (10) 8562-9998
- ◆ Fax: (86) (10) 8561-4866

Beijing United Family Hospital

- ◆ Address: 2 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang District
Emergency: 86-10-59277120
- ◆ Tel: 86-10-59277000
- ◆ Email: patientservices@ufh.com.cn

International SOS

- ◆ Address: Suite 105, Wing 1, Kunsha Building 16, Xinyuanli, Chaoyang District
- ◆ Tel: 86-10-64629100

Peking Union Medical Hospital

- ◆ Address: 1 Shuaifu Yuan, Dongcheng District
- ◆ Tel: 86-10-6529-5269 (registration and information); 6529-5284 (24 hours); 6529 6114 (operator)

Beijing Visa Clinic

- ◆ Address: Kerry Center Shopping Mall, 1 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang District
Tel: + 86-10-6594-5129
- ◆ Fax: + 86-10-6594-5129

Global Doctor Beijing Clinic

- ◆ Address: Beijing Friendship Hospital, 95 Yong'an Road, Xuanwu District
- ◆ Tel: + 86 10 8315 1915

International Medical Center

- ◆ (IMC) Beijing Office Building S106, Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Road
- ◆ Tel: + 86 10 6465 1561
- ◆ Fax: + 86 10 6465 1984

Useful Phone Numbers

- ◆ Police: 110
- ◆ Fire: 119
- ◆ Hospital: 120
- ◆ Traffic Accident: 122
- ◆ Weather: 121

What to See in Beijing

Beijing is one of the most popular cities in the world, renowned for its ancient palaces, temples, gardens, tombs, Great Wall, and gates. It is a city for travel in all seasons.

There are hundreds of attractions in Beijing, and something for everyone. The most famous ones are the Forbidden City, Tian'anmen Square, the Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Great Wall, Ming Tombs, hutongs, and Olympic Park (Bird's Nest and Water Cube).

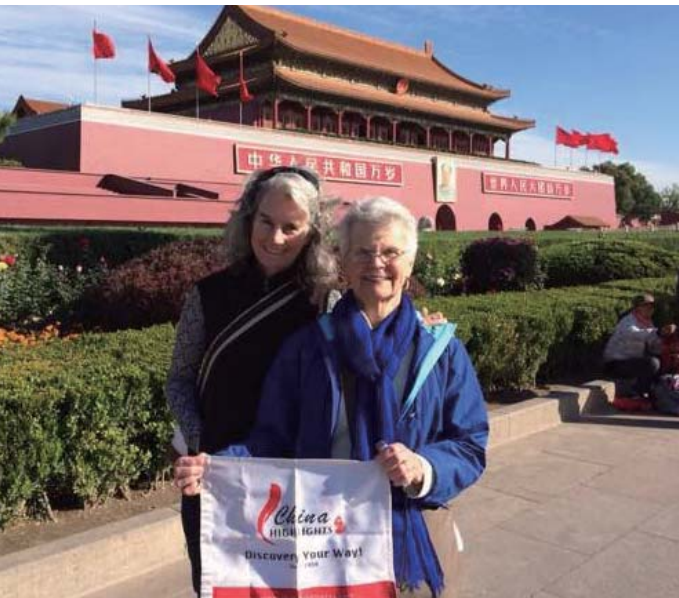
@ [More Beijing Attractions](#)

Recommended Tour Itinerary

Three days are enough if you only want to see the essence of Beijing. A recommended itinerary is as follows:

- ◆ Day 1: Discovering the Forbidden City and hutongs
- ◆ Day 2: Hiking and photography at the Great Wall
- ◆ Day 3: The Summer Palace and Temple of Heaven

If you want to discover more of Beijing, you will need one or two days more. China highlights' travel experts are glad to tailor-make a Beijing tour according to your special interests and requirements, or see our [Beijing tours](#).



Tian'anmen Square



Great Wall



The Temple of Heaven



Hutongs

Dining in Beijing

For centuries Beijing has been the capital of China, Beijing has food from all over China as well as from many parts of the world. There are thousands of restaurants, including Chinese restaurants, Western restaurants, vegetarian restaurants, Muslim restaurants, and Asian restaurants.

There are quite a few types of foods which are unique to Beijing, and one of the most famous specialties is roasted duck. It is said that there are two things that you must do when visiting Beijing: one is to enjoy the roast duck, and the other is to take a stroll on the Great wall. So while you are in Beijing you should try this famous dish.



Best Peking Duck Restaurants:

Roasted Duck at Qianmen Quanjude

- ◆ Chinese Name: 前门全聚德烤鸭店
- ◆ Open: 11am–1:30pm and 4:30pm–8pm
- ◆ Address: 30 Qianmen Street, Congwen District (崇文区前门大街30号)
- ◆ Tel: 010-65112418



Bianyifang Restaurant (Hademen Branch)

- ◆ Chinese Name: 便宜坊烤鸭店 (哈德门店)
- ◆ Open: 11am–10pm
- ◆ Address: 4/F Bianyifang Mansion, 16 Chongwenmen Outer Street, Dongcheng District (东城区崇文门外大街16号便宜坊大厦4层)
- ◆ Telephone: +86-10-67112244



Duck King Roast Duck

- ◆ Chinese Name: 鸭王烤鸭
- ◆ Open: 11am–11pm
- ◆ Address: 24 Jianguomen Outer Street, Chaoyang District (朝阳区建外大街24号)
- ◆ Telephone: +86-10-65156909



Some Other Top Local Restaurants

Din Tai Fung Restaurant

- ◆ Chinese name: 鼎泰丰
- ◆ Address: 24 Xinyuanxili Zhongjie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区新源西里中街24号
- ◆ Open: 11am-10pm
- ◆ Tel: 010-64624502



Din Tai Fung Restaurant

Black Sesame Kitchen

- ◆ Chinese Name: 黑芝麻厨房
- ◆ Open: 10am-10pm
- ◆ Address: 3 Heizhima Hutong, Dongcheng District (东城区黑芝麻胡同3号)
- ◆ Tel: 13691474408



Black Sesame Kitchen

Lost Heaven

- ◆ Chinese Name: 花马天堂
- ◆ Open: 11am-2pm and 5:30-10:30pm
- ◆ Address: 23 Qianmen Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District (东城区前门东大街23号院)
- ◆ Tel: 010-85162698



Lost Heaven

Best Western Restaurants

1949 Hidden City, Sanlitun Village

- ◆ Chinese Name: 1949 隐秘的城市
- ◆ Open: 1pm – 2am
- ◆ Address: 4 Gongti North Road, Chaoyang District (朝阳区工体北路4号院)
- ◆ Tel: 010-65018881, 65393682



Flamme

- ◆ Open: 11am – 12am
- ◆ Address: S4-33 (Floor 3, 4 South Sanlitun Village), 19 Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang District (朝阳区三里屯路19号院三里屯村南区4号楼3楼S4-33号)
- ◆ Tel: 010-64178608



Tipping

In mainland China tipping is not part of the culture. You have the choice, since tipping is a matter of personal preference. We suggest you tip as follows:

- ◆ Tip tour guides and car drivers on an organized private tour or group tour
- ◆ Tip waiters and waitresses in high-level Western restaurants
- ◆ Tip bellboys who take your luggage to your room at a luxury hotel

Toilets

Toilets in China are normally of the squatting type. Now airport and most hotels have Western toilets, and many public toilets have Western style as well as squat style. Always carry toilet paper with you, because most public toilets don't provide toilet paper. See more on [How to Use a Squat Toilet in China](#)

Shopping in Beijing

As a capital of China for centuries, Beijing has had a prosperous economy since ancient times. Every year there are many new shopping centers, plazas, malls, and shopping streets sprouting up in Beijing. Shopping in Beijing is becoming more and more convenient.

Some Popular Shopping Areas

Wangfujing Street

Location: about 15 minutes' walk east from Tian'anman Square

Xidan Commercial Street

Location: about one hour's walk west from Tian'anmen Square

Qianmen Street

Location: about 10 minutes' walk from Tian'anmen Square

Xiushui Street

Location: close to Beijing CBD, Chaoyang District

Panjiayuan Antique Market

Location: Chaoyang District

Liulichang Culture Street

Location: Outside Hepingmen



[More on Beijing Shopping](#)

Nightlife in Beijing

Beijing nightlife is very colorful, and it offers diverse options for people with different interests. There are cinemas, theaters, nightclubs, bars, song and dance halls, karaoke clubs, restaurants, Beijing opera, teahouses, kung fu, and acrobatics shows.

Watch Beijing Opera, acrobatic shows, and dramatic performances in a teahouse; taste some local snacks in a snack market, have a cup of coffee in a café, have a beer in a bar, or take a stroll along Chang'an Street to Tian'an men Square.

There are hundreds of bars in Beijing. The best bar streets in Beijing include Sanlitun Bar Street, Shichahai Bar Street, Super Bar Street, Nanluoguxiang Bar Street, Dashanzi Bar Street, and Solana Bar Street, which are popular among locals, expats, and tourists. See more on Beijing Life.



Public Transportation in Beijing

Beijing has fast and efficient public transportation. There are three main forms: buses, subways, and taxis.

Bus

Public buses are the most extensive, widely used, and affordable form of public transportation in urban and suburban areas. There are thousands of buses operating in Beijing with hundreds of bus routes. Most attractions can be reached by buses.

Operating hours: 5:30am–11pm (downtown), 5:30am–6pm (in suburban areas), 11pm–4:30am or 5am (for the night lines)

Taxi

Taking a taxi is the most convenient way for a newcomer to travel in Beijing. More than 67,000 taxis run to every corner of the city every day. Most drivers can not speak English. If you want to go to a hotel, just make sure you have

the Chinese name and address of your hotel printed out in Chinese characters. Taxis in Beijing are metered, so just get in and pay the fare when you get out.

Traffic jams can be colossal and commonly happen in Beijing. We recommend visitors avoid taxis during the rush hours: 7–9 a.m. and 5–7 p.m.



Fairmont Hotel
北京费尔蒙酒店
地址：中国北京市朝阳区
建国门外大街永安东里8号

Subway

The Beijing subway is a rapid transit rail network that serves the urban and suburban areas of Beijing. It has been extended over recent years. The subway system is an excellent option for getting around. The subway lines cover most of the famous attractions in Beijing. It is fast and convenient with English signs and announcements, which direct tourists to exits near places that they are likely trying to find.

@ [How to See Beijing's Top Attractions by Subway](#)

Crossing the Road

For many foreigners, crossing the road in China is a big problem. Some even think it's a nightmare. We recommend crossing on a zebra crossing when the green light is on, because then drivers usually slow down or stop to avoid pedestrians. When there is no zebra crossing, be even more alert and aware of your surroundings. If you are not confident of crossing the road yourself, follow the locals as they cross. They know what to do. Try to wait until a large crowd of people is preparing to cross the road together.

Local Customs

Spitting: Spitting is really common. Don't be surprised to find the locals spitting every now and then even in crowded buses and trains. Even though there are threats of fines for those caught in the act of spitting in public, it still happens.

Smoking: Smoking in public is quite common in China and Beijing is no exception. Although Beijing authorities have started to impose bans on smoking in some public places, it is still widespread. Most hotels provide no-smoking rooms, and more and more restaurants are becoming no-smoking.