

Beijing Travel Guide

Beijing: The Heart of Imperial China

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Things to do in Beijing

Landmarks & Monuments

Beijing's most iconic structures spanning from imperial dynasties to modern achievements, showcasing architectural brilliance and historical significance.



Must See

The Great Wall of China

4-6 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of the world's most impressive architectural feats, the **Great Wall** stretches over 13,000 miles. Visit the nearest restored sections at **Badaling** (45 minutes from city center) or the rugged **Jinshanling** for a more authentic experience. Best visited early morning to avoid crowds. The wall winds through dramatic mountain terrain offering breathtaking views.



Must See

Book Ahead

Forbidden City

3-4 hours Book Ahead



Map

The world's largest palace complex with **nearly 1,000 buildings** spanning nearly 183 acres. Home to 24 emperors, this masterpiece of ancient Chinese architecture features ornate throne rooms, imperial gardens, and precious artifacts. Allow 3-4 hours for a thorough exploration of the outer and inner courts.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Book Forbidden City and Summer Palace tickets online in advance to skip queues
- Wear comfortable shoes as these sites require extensive walking
- Visit early morning (8-9 AM) to avoid peak tourist crowds
- Bring water and sun protection, especially during summer
- Hire a guide for deeper historical insights



Museums & Galleries

World-class institutions preserving China's rich cultural heritage and contemporary art, from ancient artifacts to modern masterpieces.



Must See Book Ahead

National Museum of China

3-4 hours Book Ahead



Map

One of the world's largest museums spanning **20,000 square meters**, located on **Tiananmen Square**. Houses extensive collections of Chinese art, ancient bronzes, jade, ceramics, and cultural relics dating back millennia. The museum covers both classical Chinese history and the revolutionary period. Free entry with ID registration.



Must See Book Ahead

Palace Museum (Forbidden City Museum)

4-5 hours Book Ahead



Map

The museum housed within the **Forbidden City** contains over one million precious artifacts including imperial porcelain, jade carvings, calligraphy, paintings, and personal imperial belongings. The collection represents the finest achievements of Chinese imperial craftsmanship across dynasties.



Top Pick

Beijing Capital Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

首都博物馆
CAPITAL MUSEUM, CHINA

A modern museum showcasing **5,000 years of Beijing's history** with nine exhibition halls covering ancient Beijing, feudal societies, and modern developments. Features significant historical artifacts and interactive exhibits. The architecture itself is a contemporary masterpiece blending traditional and modern design.



Top Pick

798 Art District

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A cutting-edge contemporary art hub in a **former military factory** complex, now home to galleries, studios, restaurants, and boutiques. Features works by emerging and established Chinese and international artists. Free to explore the streets and most galleries, with some requiring admission. Perfect for art enthusiasts and photographers.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- National Museum and Palace Museum require advance online booking
- Most major museums offer audio guides in multiple languages
- Photography policies vary—check before visiting
- Weekday mornings have fewer crowds than weekends



- Many museums close on Mondays



Religious Sites

Sacred places representing Buddhist, Taoist, and Chinese folk religions, offering spiritual experiences and architectural artistry.



Must See

Lama Temple (Yonghe Gong)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Beijing's most important Tibetan Buddhist temple complex, featuring **colorful roofs, golden dragons, and intricate carvings**. The main attraction is the impressive **18-meter-tall sandalwood Buddha statue** carved from a single piece of wood. Five interconnected courtyards showcase Buddhist art and monastic life. Active monks still reside here.



Top Pick

Great Bell Temple

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An ancient Buddhist temple housing the **Great Iron Bell**, weighing 46.5 tons and cast in 1406. The 108-bell carillon creates harmonious sounds. The temple features traditional Chinese architecture, bell museum exhibitions, and peaceful courtyards. Less crowded than major temples, offering a more intimate experience.



Top Pick

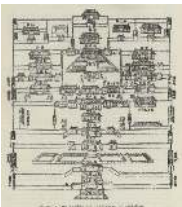
White Cloud Taoist Temple

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Beijing's largest Taoist temple complex dating back to the **8th century**, featuring distinctive architecture with white tiles and golden ornaments. The temple is an active place of worship with monks in residence. Multiple halls honor various Taoist deities. During Chinese New Year, it hosts massive festivals with temple fairs and traditional performances.



Top Pick

Confucius Temple

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A tranquil temple dedicated to **Confucius the great philosopher**, featuring traditional Chinese courtyard architecture. The temple houses ancient stone tablets with historical inscriptions. Peaceful gardens and ancient cypress trees create a serene atmosphere perfect for reflection. Adjacent to the Imperial College Museum.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Dress respectfully when visiting active temples—cover shoulders and knees
- Remove shoes in certain temple areas
- Photography may be restricted in some inner sanctums
- Visiting early morning offers quieter, more spiritual experiences
- Incense burning creates smoky atmospheres—consider bringing a mask



Ancient & Historical Sites

Archaeological treasures and heritage structures revealing millennia of Chinese civilization, from Ming tombs to ancient palaces.



Must See

Ming Tombs

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A vast necropolis containing **13 Ming Dynasty emperors** in underground chambers beneath hillsides. The **Sacred Way** approaches the tombs with impressive stone sculptures of animals and officials. Only a few tombs are fully excavated and open to tourists. The tomb of Emperor Yongle is the most impressive with elaborate stone carvings and guardian statues.



Must See

Badaling Great Wall & Cable Car

4-5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The most visited Great Wall section featuring well-preserved walls and towers with **13-degree grade slopes**. Take the cable car for easier access to higher sections, or hike for a more adventurous experience. The restored portions showcase Ming Dynasty construction with brick and stone. Panoramic views extend for miles across mountain terrain.



Top Pick

Ancient Observatory

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **rare surviving structure from 1442** housing the world's oldest astronomical instruments. Located atop the old city wall, it features bronze instruments with intricate carvings including armillary spheres and astrolabes. The observation deck offers panoramic city views. A fascinating blend of ancient science and astronomy.

Tips for Ancient & Historical Sites

- Great Wall sections require significant walking—wear proper hiking shoes
- Ming Tombs is best visited on a day trip combined with Great Wall
- Early morning visits avoid peak tour group crowds
- Bring plenty of water for outdoor historical sites
- Some sites have minimal shade—bring sun protection



Squares & Streets

Vibrant public spaces and lively thoroughfares showcasing urban energy, commercial vitality, and cultural atmosphere.



Must See

Tiananmen Square

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The world's largest city square at **109 acres** capable of holding 1 million people. Surrounded by the **Forbidden City, National Museum, Great Hall of the People**, and the **Mausoleum of Mao**. The square features the **Monument to the People's Heroes** and is a symbol of modern China. Beautiful at sunrise and night when illuminated.



Top Pick

Qianmen Street

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A reconstructed **700-year-old pedestrian shopping street** featuring restored traditional architecture with red lanterns and intricate woodwork. The street offers restaurants, teahouses, souvenir shops, and street food vendors. **Qianmen Gate** marks the entrance with towering archways. Perfect for experiencing old Beijing atmosphere and purchasing traditional crafts.



Top Pick

Wangfujing Street

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Beijing's premier shopping and entertainment avenue spanning **1,255 meters** lined with international brands, department stores, and flagship retailers. Features the **Foreign Languages Bookstore** and **APM shopping mall**. The street buzzes with energy day and night with restaurants, cafes, and street food stalls. Neon signs and storefronts create vibrant nightlife.



Top Pick

Hutong Alleys

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Traditional narrow alleyways (**hutongs**) representing **700+ years of Beijing culture**, lined with courtyard homes. Walking tours reveal local life, artisan workshops, teahouses, and historic residences. Some hutongs near Qianmen are commercialized while those near Bell Tower remain authentically residential. Rickshaw rides offer scenic tours through maze-like lanes.

Tips for Squares & Streets

- Tiananmen Square is best visited early morning before massive crowds arrive
- Wangfujing Street is extremely crowded on weekends and evenings
- Hutong exploration is best done with a knowledgeable local guide
- Many shops on Qianmen Street are tourist-oriented—bargain if interested
- Street food stalls offer unique snacks but ensure proper food safety practices



Neighborhoods & Districts

Distinctive areas showcasing Beijing's diverse character from imperial heritage to ultra-modern development and trendy cultural hubs.



Must See

Dongcheng District

Full day exploration No Booking Needed



Map

The historic **cultural heart of Beijing** containing major sites like **Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Lama Temple**, and **hutong neighborhoods**. This ancient imperial district blends historical monuments with vibrant modern commerce. Home to traditional teahouses, restaurants, and cultural experiences reflecting centuries of Beijing heritage.



Top Pick

Chaoyang District

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Beijing's **business and entertainment hub** featuring skyscrapers, luxury shopping, international restaurants, and nightlife. Home to **Beijing Central Business District (CBD)** with modern architecture and international brands. Features the **CCTV Headquarters, Olympic venues**, and **trendy Sanlitun bar street**. A showcase of modern China's development.



Top Pick

Xicheng District

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A traditional residential area featuring **hutongs, temples, and cultural sites** including **White Cloud Temple and Confucius Temple**. Known for preserving old Beijing character with tree-lined streets and authentic local life. Less touristy than Dongcheng with better opportunities for genuine cultural experiences and local dining.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Each district has distinct characteristics—plan visits based on interests
- Dongcheng concentrates most major tourist attractions
- Chaoyang offers modern shopping and dining experiences
- Hiring a guide helps navigate hutong neighborhoods effectively
- Public transportation connects districts efficiently



Parks & Gardens

Serene green spaces and meticulously designed gardens offering respite from urban hustle with natural beauty and recreational opportunities.



Must See Book Ahead
Summer Palace
2-3 hours Book Ahead



Map

A magnificent **741-acre UNESCO World Heritage imperial garden** centered on **Kunming Lake** with traditional pavilions, temples, and scenic bridges. Built as a royal retreat, it showcases classical Chinese landscape design with artificial islands, marble boats, and corridors decorated with paintings. Boat rentals offer unique perspective across the serene lake.



Top Pick
Beihai Park
1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

An ancient imperial park with **Beihai Lake** at its center surrounded by pavilions, temples, and gardens. The stunning **White Pagoda** dominates the landscape from White Island in the lake center. The park offers traditional teahouses, restaurants, and peaceful walking paths. Popular for tai chi practitioners and locals enjoying scenic landscapes.



Top Pick
Temple Fair Parks
2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Seasonal public parks hosting traditional **temple fairs (庙会)** especially during Chinese New Year and other festivals. Features traditional entertainment, folk performances, food stalls, crafts, and cultural activities. **Longtan Lake Park, Ditan Park, Yuetan Park** are popular fair venues. Experience authentic folk culture, street performances, and traditional games.



Top Pick Book Ahead
Beijing Zoo
2-3 hours Book Ahead



Map

China's oldest zoo established in **1906**, home to over **2,000 animals** including the iconic **giant pandas**. The zoo features diverse habitats from tropical zones to polar exhibits. Modern facilities provide good viewing platforms, though some areas remain basic. The giant panda pavilion is the main attraction attracting visitors worldwide.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Summer Palace and Beihai Park are best visited early morning or late afternoon
- Rent a boat at Summer Palace for unique perspectives and cool relief
- Temple fairs occur seasonally—check dates before visiting
- Many parks have teahouses for refreshing breaks
- Spring (cherry blossoms) and autumn offer the most pleasant park experiences



Tours & Activities

Guided experiences and interactive activities offering deeper engagement with Beijing's culture, cuisine, and contemporary life.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Traditional Beijing Opera Performance

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Experience **400-year-old classical performance art** combining music, acrobatics, martial arts, and elaborate costumes. Performances feature mythological tales and historical legends with distinctive falsetto singing. The **National Center for Performing Arts** and smaller traditional theaters offer nightly shows. English subtitles help international audiences follow complex narratives.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Tai Chi Class at Sunrise

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

Join local practitioners for **traditional tai chi lessons** in parks like **Beihai or Temple of Heaven** at sunrise. Professional instructors teach slow, meditative movements improving balance and flexibility. Sessions last 1-2 hours followed by tea. A peaceful, authentic way to experience Chinese wellness culture alongside locals.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Hutong Walking & Rickshaw Tours

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Explore **traditional alleyways** on foot or via traditional **pedicab rickshaw** tours guided by locals. Visit courtyard homes, artisan workshops, family-run restaurants, and teahouses. Tours reveal authentic Beijing life with stories of residents and historical sites. Evening tours showcase lantern-lit alleyways creating nostalgic atmospheres.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Cooking Class

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Hands-on classes teaching **traditional Peking duck preparation** and regional Chinese cuisine. Professional chefs instruct techniques, ingredient selection, and authentic recipes. Classes include visits to local markets and concludes with enjoying your prepared meals. Perfect for food enthusiasts wanting deeper culinary understanding.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Martial Arts & Kung Fu Performance

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

Watch acrobatic **Chinese martial arts performances** featuring kung fu masters demonstrating fighting techniques, staff combat, and acrobatic feats. Shows combine entertainment with traditional combat skills. Professional troupes perform at theaters and venues citywide. Daytime and evening performances available with varying skill demonstrations.



Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book tours and performances through reputable agencies to ensure quality
- Many guided tours depart from major hotel lobbies or metro stations
- Morning tai chi classes require early wake-up but offer magical experiences
- Cooking classes should include market visits for complete culinary experience
- Traditional performances have peak seasons—book ahead during Chinese holidays



Day Trips & Excursions

Nearby destinations offering varied experiences from ancient walls to scenic mountains, accessible by public transit or organized tours.



Must See

Great Wall at Jinshanling

5-6 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A less-crowded Great Wall section perfect for **hiking and photography** with stunning mountain vistas. The wall features both restored brick sections and crumbling original walls showing authentic age and weathering. Hiking trails of varying difficulty wind through forested terrain. Sunrise and sunset offer dramatic lighting for photographers. Approximately **2 hours from Beijing**.



Must See

Mutianyu Great Wall & Toboggan

4-5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A scenic Great Wall section surrounded by **lush forests** with cable car access and a thrilling **toboggan slide descent**. The restored wall features well-preserved towers with excellent views. Cable cars provide easy ascent avoiding strenuous climbing. A 2.7-km toboggan offers fun descent with speed control. About **90 minutes from Beijing**.



Must See

Ming Tombs Full Day Trip

4-5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Explore **13 imperial tombs** of Ming Dynasty emperors in a vast necropolis with **Sacred Way** featuring guardian statues and stone sculptures. Archaeological excavations reveal underground chambers with precious artifacts and murals. The complex showcases imperial burial customs and architectural grandeur. Often combined with Great Wall visit. **45 minutes north of Beijing**.



Top Pick

Yanqing District Mountain Scenic Area

Full day exploration No Booking Needed



Map

Stunning mountain landscapes featuring **dramatic peaks, alpine meadows, and scenic viewpoints**. Popular for hiking, photography, and nature lovers seeking escape from urban Beijing. Guanting Reservoir offers water activities and scenic drives. Ancient temples perched on mountainsides provide cultural interest. **1.5-2 hours from central Beijing** by car.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Day trips to Great Wall sections require early morning departures
- Hire private drivers for flexible itineraries or group tours for social experiences
- Pack plenty of water, snacks, and sun protection for outdoor excursions
- Great Wall hiking requires proper footwear and physical conditioning
- Combine multiple sites on single day trips for efficiency (Great Wall + Ming Tombs)



Fountains & Public Art

Contemporary and traditional artistic expressions scattered throughout the city, adding visual interest and cultural value to urban spaces.



Top Pick

Olympic Green Sculptures

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Large-scale public artworks in the **Olympic Park** created for 2008 Beijing Olympics. Modern sculptures, fountains, and installations showcase contemporary Chinese art. The **National Stadium (Bird's Nest)** and **National Aquatics Center (Water Cube)** are architectural masterpieces. Free area with walking paths, parks, and cultural venues creating dynamic urban arts space.



Top Pick

Art 798 District Galleries & Sculptures

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **former military factory complex** transformed into contemporary art district featuring galleries, studios, and outdoor sculptures. Modern art installations, murals, and sculptures line streets and courtyards. Cutting-edge exhibitions showcase emerging Chinese and international artists. Trendy cafes, restaurants, and boutiques blend cultural experience with leisure.

Tips for Fountains & Public Art

- Olympic Park is extensive—wear comfortable shoes for exploration
- Art 798 galleries have varying hours and admission fees
- Photography is excellent at both locations during golden hour
- Trendy cafes and restaurants in Art 798 provide good dining options



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Beijing, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

Shengyongxing Roasted Duck Restaurant Sanlitun Branch★★★★★ 4.7 (63)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shengyongxing Roasted Duck Restaurant Sanlitun Branch is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.7★ from 63 reviews. Located at China, Bei Jing Shi, Chao Yang Qu, Xin Dong Lu, 5 CN 100027.

Must See

Jing★★★★★ 4.6 (21)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Jing is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.6★ from 21 reviews. Located at China, Bei Jing Shi, Dong Cheng Qu, Jin Yu Hu Tong, 8 100006.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Must See

Liu's Family And Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (177)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Liu's Family And Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.6★ from 177 reviews. Located at 8 Mei Shu Guan Dong Jie, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100009.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Must See

TRB Hutong★★★★★ 4.6 (46)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

TRB Hutong is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.6★ from 46 reviews. Located at China, Beijing Dong Cheng Qu, # 23 Shatan North Street 胡同 : 100009.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM

Must See

Beijing Dawanju Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (58)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Beijing Dawanju Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.6★ from 58 reviews. Located at 11 Dong Hua Men Da Jie, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100006.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Must See

Pangmei Noodle Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (62)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Pangmei Noodle Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.6★ from 62 reviews. Located at WCQ8+PHR, Xiang Er Hu Tong, 胡同 Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100009.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Top Pick

1949 The Hidden City★★★★★ 4.5 (104)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

1949 The Hidden City is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.5★ from 104 reviews. Located at China, Bei Jing Shi, Chao Yang Qu, 朝阳区 贡仁提鱼场北路, 4号 电话 : 100020.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Top Pick

Jingzun Peking Duck Restaurant★★★★★ 4.5 (276)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Jingzun Peking Duck Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.5★ from 276 reviews. Located at WCPV+VJG, Chun Xiu Lu, Chao Yang Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100027.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Top Pick

Little Yunnan★★★★★ 4.5 (127)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Little Yunnan is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.5★ from 127 reviews. Located at China, Bei Jing Shi, Dong Cheng Qu, 东城区 28号 电话 : 100009.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Top Pick

Xianlaoman Restaurant★★★★ 4.5 (54)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Xianlaoman Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.5★ from 54 reviews. Located at 252 An Nei Da Jie, 朝阳区 Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100009.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Top Pick

TempleRestaurantBeijing★★★★ 4.5 (49)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

TempleRestaurantBeijing is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.5★ from 49 reviews. Located at Dongcheng, Beijing, China, 100051.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM

Top Pick

Xinrongji★★★★☆ 4.4 (58)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Xinrongji is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.4★ from 58 reviews. Located at China, Bei Jing Shi, Chao Yang Qu, Xin Yuan Nan Lu, 8号 100027 CN 朝阳区 : 100027.



Top Pick

Siji Minfu★★★★☆ 4.4 (736)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Siji Minfu is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.4★ from 736 reviews. Located at 32 Deng Shi Kou Xi Jie, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100006.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 11:00 PM

Top Pick

King's Joy★★★★☆ 4.4 (151)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

King's Joy is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.4★ from 151 reviews. Located at 2 Wu Dao Ying Hu Tong, 王府井 Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100011.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Top Pick

Najia Garden Restaurant★★★★☆ 4.4 (47)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Najia Garden Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Beijing, rated 4.4★ from 47 reviews. Located at 3 Jin Yu Hu Tong, Dong Cheng Qu, Bei Jing Shi, China, 100006.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 10:00 PM



Practical Information

Ideal Visiting Seasons

Spring (April-May): Pleasant temperatures (15-25°C), blooming flowers, cherry blossoms in parks, and comfortable outdoor exploration. Air quality generally improves. This is peak tourist season with higher prices and crowds.

Autumn (September-November): Clear skies, mild temperatures (10-20°C), and vibrant autumn foliage. Excellent visibility for sightseeing and photography. Comfortable weather for outdoor activities. Generally considered the best season.

Summer (June-August): Hot and humid (25-35°C+), occasional rain, and high pollution levels. Monsoon season brings afternoon thunderstorms. Despite heat, it's popular with families on vacation. Avoid midday outdoor activities.

Winter (December-February): Cold (-5 to 5°C), dry, and occasionally snowy. Beautiful clear skies but requires heavy clothing. Heating indoors is excellent. Chinese New Year festivities create vibrant cultural experiences. Fewer tourists mean shorter queues.

Best Overall: September-October offers ideal weather, clear air, and comfortable conditions for all outdoor activities.

Getting Around Beijing

Beijing Subway: The most efficient transportation with **27 lines, 400+ stations**, and modern facilities. Frequent trains every 2-5 minutes during peak hours. Fares are affordable (around 2-9 RMB based on distance). Purchase IC cards (一卡通) at stations for convenient travel. Avoid rush hours (7-9 AM, 5-7 PM). English signage at major stations aids navigation.

Buses: Extensive network of over 1,000 routes covering entire city. Cheap (1-2 RMB base fare) but slower than subway. Useful for sightseeing routes. Apps like **Beijing Bus** help navigate complex system. Obtain IC card for convenient payment.

Taxis: Metered taxis with starting fare of 13 RMB. Red taxis are official; avoid unmarked vehicles. Didi app (similar to Uber) offers safer booking. Negotiate fares for long-distance trips or hire hourly rates.

Bicycle Sharing: Bikeshare programs (**Mobike, Ofo**) offer convenient short-distance travel. Beijing has extensive bike lanes in many areas. Popular for hutong exploration and eco-friendly sightseeing.

Private Hire: Book private drivers through apps or tour companies for comfortable, flexible day trips (typically 400-600 RMB per day).

Airport Transfer: **Beijing Capital Airport** (mainly for international flights) and **Beijing Daxing Airport** (newer, domestic focus) serve the city. Airport buses (25-30 RMB), subway lines, and taxis provide connections to downtown (30-45 minutes).

➔ Airport Transfer

Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) to city center:

- **Airport Express (subway):** Direct to Dongzhimen or Sanyuanqiao in about 20-25 minutes, flat fare of 25 CNY
- **Airport Shuttle Bus:** Multiple lines cover major districts like Beijing South Station and Xidan in 45-70 minutes, tickets around 16-30 CNY depending on route
- **Taxi:** Metered ride to city center takes roughly 45-60 minutes and costs about 100-150 CNY plus a 10 CNY airport surcharge, more in heavy traffic
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked car service to downtown hotels takes about 45 minutes and typically costs 200-300 CNY

Shopping Guide

What to Buy in Beijing: **Silk products** (scarves, robes, tapestries), **jade and gemstone jewelry**, **traditional Chinese paintings** and **calligraphy**, **tea** (pu-erh, oolong from premium shops), **jade seals**, **cloisonné enamelware**,



peony flowers (spring), **Beijing duck ceramics**, and **traditional medicine products**.

Premium Shopping Areas: **Wangfujing Street** offers international brands and luxury shopping with modern malls. **Qianmen Street** features traditional shops, teahouses, and cultural products. **Sanlitun Village** combines upscale international brands with trendy cafes. **Chaoyang District** hosts designer boutiques and contemporary galleries.

Antique & Curio Markets: **Panjiayuan Antique Market** (weekends especially) offers furniture, art, ceramics, and collectibles with intense bargaining culture. **Liulichang Street** specializes in traditional art supplies, books, and cultural products. **Guanjiayuan Art Market** features contemporary art and sculptures.

Tea Markets: **Maliandao Tea Street** has 100+ tea shops offering various Chinese tea varieties. Expert tea masters provide guidance. Prices range from affordable to premium specialty teas. Conduct tastings before purchasing larger quantities.

Bargaining Tips: Hagglng is expected at antique markets and street vendors (start at 50% of asking price). Department stores and chain shops have fixed prices. Polite negotiation often yields 10-30% discounts. Avoid pushy vendors in tourist areas offering suspiciously low prices on antiques.

Markets to Avoid: Fake products are prevalent in some tourist-oriented markets. Purchase antiques and luxury items at established shops with reputations. Be cautious of scams offering jade testing or private shopping opportunities in unmarked locations.

Annual Events & Festivals

Chinese New Year (Spring Festival): Typically January-February. Massive **temple fairs** at parks featuring traditional performances, food stalls, folk games, and cultural activities. The city is illuminated with red lanterns and decorations. Major fairs at **Ditan Park, Longtan Lake Park**. Peak crowds on first few days; quieter after Day 5.

Peony Flower Festival: April at gardens like **Summer Palace, Juyongguan Gorge**. Thousands of peonies bloom in spectacular displays. Garden photography becomes iconic. Peak blooming 10-day period varies annually based on weather.

Dragon Boat Festival: May-June. Traditional dragon boat races on lakes and rivers featuring decorated boats and competitive teams. Cultural performances and special food (zongzi) are consumed.

Beijing International Film Festival: Usually April. Premiere screenings, film exhibitions, and industry events throughout the city. International and Chinese films are featured in various cinemas.

Midi Music Festival: September-October. Large-scale rock and pop music festival featuring international and Chinese artists. Multi-day outdoor event with camping options near Beijing.

Beijing Design Week: September-October. Contemporary design exhibitions, installations, and cultural events celebrating architecture and product design across the city.

National Day Celebrations: October 1-7. Golden Week public holidays with parades, special exhibitions, and cultural performances. Heavy tourism and shopping crowds; expect reduced discounts.

Chrysanthemum Festival: October-November at parks and botanical gardens. Thousands of chrysanthemum varieties create stunning displays. Photography opportunities abound in traditional garden settings.

5-Day Itinerary Plan

Day 1: Imperial Beijing Heritage (8 hours)

- **8:00 AM:** Start early at Tiananmen Square for sunrise viewing and monument walks. Watch flag ceremony (7 AM sharp).
- **9:00 AM-12:00 PM:** Visit Forbidden City, exploring outer and inner courts, throne rooms, imperial gardens. Book timed entry tickets online.
- **12:30-1:30 PM:** Lunch at Qianmen Street traditional restaurants (Peking duck, noodles).



- **2:00-4:00 PM:** Hutong rickshaw tour or walking exploration in surrounding alleyways, visiting local teahouses.
- **4:30-6:00 PM:** Climb Jingshan Park for sunset views overlooking Forbidden City and city skyline.
- **Evening:** Dinner at a traditional Beijing restaurant, optional Beijing Opera performance.

Day 2: Great Wall Adventure (10 hours)

- **6:00 AM:** Early departure for Badaling or Jinshanling Great Wall section.
- **7:00-11:00 AM:** Hike Great Wall sections, explore towers, take photographs from scenic viewpoints.
- **11:30 AM-12:30 PM:** Lunch at base facility restaurant.
- **1:00-3:00 PM:** Continue exploring or relax, visit Great Wall museum exhibits.
- **3:30-5:00 PM:** Return drive to Beijing with photo stops.
- **Evening:** Rest and recovery, light dinner, early sleep for next day.

Day 3: Sacred Sites & Temples (8 hours)

- **8:00-9:00 AM:** Sunrise tai chi session at Beihai Park or temple grounds with local practitioners.
- **9:30 AM-11:30 AM:** Visit Lama Temple (Yonghe Gong), observe Buddhist rituals, view Buddha statue.
- **12:00-1:30 PM:** Lunch in Dongcheng District, traditional Chinese cuisine.
- **2:00-4:00 PM:** Explore Confucius Temple and Imperial College, ancient stone tablets, peaceful courtyards.
- **4:30-6:00 PM:** Visit White Cloud Taoist Temple, observe Taoist architecture and practices.
- **Evening:** Dinner at Buddhist-vegetarian restaurant, evening stroll through temple district.

Day 4: Museums & Contemporary Art (8 hours)

- **9:00 AM-12:00 PM:** National Museum of China, exploring diverse Chinese history and art collections.
- **12:30-1:30 PM:** Lunch near Tiananmen area.
- **2:00-5:00 PM:** Explore 798 Art District galleries, contemporary sculptures, street art, and trendy cafes.
- **5:30-6:30 PM:** Shopping at nearby boutiques and design shops.
- **Evening:** Dinner at Art District restaurant, evening art gallery viewing or museum special exhibitions.

Day 5: Summer Palace & Local Life (8 hours)

- **8:00-9:00 AM:** Travel to Summer Palace.
- **9:00 AM-12:30 PM:** Explore palace buildings, gardens, boat rental on Kunming Lake, visit pavilions and temples.
- **12:30-1:30 PM:** Lakeside lunch at traditional teahouse.
- **2:00-4:00 PM:** Visit nearby Beihai Park or shopping on Wangfujing Street.
- **4:30-6:00 PM:** Cooking class preparation and market visit.
- **Evening:** Enjoy prepared dishes from cooking class, packing and departure preparations.

Best Photography & Instagram Locations

Golden Hour Photography (Sunrise/Sunset): Jingshan Park offers unobstructed panoramic views of Forbidden City and city skyline illuminated by golden light. Sunrise arrives around 4:30-5:30 AM; sunset around 6:00-7:00 PM (seasonal variation). Arrive early for best positioning and clear skies.

Great Wall Photography: Jinshanling section provides dramatic perspectives with mix of restored brick and crumbling walls against forested mountains. Morning light accentuates texture and shadows. Sunrise and sunset create golden glow on stone. Misty mornings create mystical atmospheres.

Forbidden City Symmetry: Photograph through ornate gates and doorways capturing repeating architectural elements and red walls. Morning light minimizes crowds and harsh shadows. Courtyards provide excellent composition with traditional architecture framing.

Summer Palace Lake Reflections: Kunming Lake offers serene water reflections of pavilions and bridges, especially at sunrise and twilight. **Marble Boat** creates iconic composition. Boat rental provides unique water-level perspectives. Autumn foliage reflects beautifully in calm waters.

Hutong Atmospheric Shots: Juer Hutong, Nanluoguxiang alleyways offer traditional courtyard gates, red lanterns, and local life scenes. Morning and evening light creates dramatic shadows on narrow lanes. Winter snow adds romantic



atmosphere. Narrow alley framing creates depth.

Temple & Spirituality: **Lama Temple** golden roofs, incense smoke, and Buddhist imagery create mystical photos. **White Cloud Temple** white-tiled roofs contrast dramatically with blue skies. Worship activities and monk routines provide cultural storytelling opportunities.

Modern Architecture: **CCTV Headquarters, Olympic Stadium**, and contemporary mall designs offer geometric patterns and modern aesthetics. Night photography reveals neon reflections and urban energy. Contrast with traditional architecture tells Beijing's modern-ancient duality.

Street Markets: **Panjiayuan Antique Market** (weekends) offers colorful displays, vendor portraits, and authentic market energy. Early morning before crowds arrive provides clearest visibility. Varied textures and colors create dynamic compositions.

Night Photography: **Wangfujing Street** neon lights and illuminated storefronts create vibrant night scenes. **CBD district** skyscrapers create modern skyline shots. Temple lanterns and holiday decorations add atmospheric elements.

Best Times Overall: **March-April** (spring flowers, clear skies) and **September-November** (autumn foliage, blue skies, perfect light). Avoid summer (hazy air quality) and peak tourism hours (10 AM-3 PM).

Electrical Standards & Adapters

Voltage: **220V, 50 Hz** throughout China. Different from the US (110V) and some other countries. European appliances (220V) work directly. North American appliances (110V) require voltage converters for safe operation.

Plug Types: China uses **Type A (two flat pins), Type C (two round pins), and Type I (two flat angled pins)** plugs. Many hotels feature **Type A** (American style). Purchase **multi-type universal adapters** at airports or electronics stores before arrival for flexibility across various outlet types.

Where to Buy Adapters: International airports sell adapters at inflated prices. Electronics malls in **Chaoyang District, Zhongguancun** offer competitive prices on voltage converters and adapters. Hotels provide adapters at front desk (sometimes free, sometimes chargeable).

Hotel Conveniences: Most modern hotels provide **USB charging ports** and international outlet adapters in rooms. Request adapters from front desk if unavailable in rooms. Budget hotels may lack these conveniences—plan accordingly.

Purchasing Electronics: China operates on 220V; electronics purchased locally are designed for this voltage. Bring back to 110V countries would require voltage converters. Some retailers sell dual-voltage appliances suitable for international travel.

Safety Tips: Never use improper voltage without conversion—risk of device damage and fire hazard. Verify converter wattage matches appliance requirements. Budget converters may not handle high-wattage appliances (hair dryers). Unplug devices during non-use and thunderstorms.

Must-Try Beijing Cuisine

Peking Duck (北京填鸭): Beijing's most iconic dish featuring crispy-skinned roasted duck with tender meat. Traditionally served with thin wheat pancakes, sweet bean sauce, and cucumber-scallion garnish. Diners wrap duck slices in pancakes creating flavorful bundles. Restaurants like **Quanjude, Dadong** are legendary establishments. Cost ranges from 60-200+ RMB per whole duck depending on restaurant.

Jianbing (煎饼): A savory crepe breakfast staple filled with egg, crispy fried wonton, scallions, and sauce. Vendors prepare hot on griddles at street stalls. Inexpensive (3-5 RMB) and satisfying morning meal. Variations include different fillings and sauce combinations.

Malatang (麻辣烫): A DIY hotpot experience where diners select raw vegetables, noodles, meat, and seafood from displays, then cook in spicy broth at communal pots. Casual, interactive dining perfect for groups. Budget-friendly (30-50 RMB per person). Available at night markets and casual restaurants.



Baozi (包子): Steamed buns filled with pork, beef, or vegetables. Breakfast favorite available at dim sum restaurants and street vendors. Fluffy steamed dough envelops savory or sweet fillings. Inexpensive (1-3 RMB per bun) and available everywhere.

Dumplings (饺子): Beijing-style pork and vegetable dumplings prepared boiled, steamed, or pan-fried. Famous dumpling shops create varieties with different wrappers and fillings. Authentic experience at local restaurants over fancy establishments. Typically 6-10 dumplings per order (15-30 RMB).

Hot Pot (火锅): Communal interactive dining where diners cook raw ingredients in simmering broth at table. Meats, vegetables, tofu, mushrooms, and seafood are dunked briefly in hot broth. Modern restaurants offer creative broths (spicy, mild, medicinal). Popular for group dining (50-150 RMB per person depending on ingredients).

Noodles & Noodle Soups: Lanzhou beef noodles, chow mein, and cold sesame noodles are ubiquitous quick meals. Noodle shops serve hot soups with various toppings. Affordable (8-15 RMB) and quick service ideal for busy days. Excellent quality at dedicated noodle specialist shops.

Dining Tips: Lunch hours (11:30 AM-1:30 PM) and dinner (5:30-7:30 PM) experience peak crowds at popular restaurants. Arrive early or make reservations for upscale establishments. Many casual restaurants only have Chinese menus—download translation apps or point at other diners' dishes. Tipping is not customary; round up bill for service appreciation.

Night Markets: Wangfujing Street night market, Temple fairs offer food stalls with diverse street food. Try stir-fried scorpions, starfish, crickets (adventurous eaters), alongside more conventional skewers, crepes, and dumplings. Hygienic concerns at lesser-known stalls—choose busy vendors with visible sanitation.

Dietary Restrictions: Vegetarian options are abundant—Buddhist restaurants specialize in meat-free cuisine. Communicate dietary restrictions clearly (allergies, religion) as cross-contamination is common. Learning basic Chinese phrases for restrictions helps significantly.

Tourist Passes

Beijing Tourist Pass Card

The **Beijing Tourist Card** offers discounts at major attractions including **Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Great Wall sections, temples, and museums**. Unlimited public transportation on **metro and buses** for pass duration (1-7 days available). Cost varies (typically 100-300 RMB depending on duration). Particularly valuable for multi-day sightseeing with extensive public transit usage.



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Great Wall Pass

The **Great Wall Multi-Pass** provides discounted entry to multiple Great Wall sections (**Badaling, Mutianyu, Jinshanling**) valid for 5-7 days. Includes round-trip transportation via shuttle service from downtown hotels. Cost around 200-300 RMB saves 20-30% versus individual tickets. Useful for visitors planning multiple wall visits across different days.



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Beijing Museum Pass

The **Beijing Museum Consortium Pass** grants free or discounted entry to over **40 major museums and galleries** including **National Museum, Capital Museum, Ancient Observatory, Lama Temple museums**. Valid for 1-7 days (typically 150-400 RMB). Excellent value for culture enthusiasts with significant savings across multiple museum visits.



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Imperial Heritage Pass

The **Imperial Heritage Pass** combines entry to **Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, and Ming Tombs** with optional guided tours. Valid 7 days, cost around 250-400 RMB depending on inclusions. Substantial savings versus purchasing individual tickets while ensuring coverage of major imperial sites across Beijing.



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