

# Beijing Travel Guidebook



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Beijing is the capital city, cultural and political center of China with a history of over 3000 years. It has rich historic sites including 6 UNESCO Heritage Sites as well as lots of modern architecture and tourist attractions. It is a must-visit city during your travel in China.

## Need to Know

**City name:** Beijing (北京)  
**Time zone:** UTC +8  
**Area code:** (+86) 010

**Electricity:** 220V/50Hz  
**Population:** 21,707,000  
**City districts:** 16 districts

Dongcheng District	Xicheng District	Chaoyang District	Fengtai District
Shijingshan District	Haidian District	Mentougou District	Fangshan District
Tongzhou District	Shunyi District	Changping District	Daxing District
Huairou District	Pinggu District	Miyun District	Yanqing District

### Main train stations:

Beijing Railway Station, Beijing West Railway Station, Beijing South Railway Station

### Main airports:

Beijing Capital Airport, 010-96158, <http://www.bcia.com.cn/>

**Metro:** <https://www.bjsubway.com/en/>

**Taxi fare:** There is a 13 yuan charge for the first 3km and 2.3 yuan per kilometer thereafter. After 11 PM, the initial charge rises to 14 yuan and there is a 20% surcharge per additional kilometer.

## Emergency contacts

**Fire:** 119

**Police:** 110

**Medical emergency:** 120

**Traffic accident:** 122

**Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics.** 2 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang, Beijing, Beijing, 100015.  
010/5927-7000; 010/5927-7120; [www.ufh.com.cn/en](http://www.ufh.com.cn/en)

**Beijing tourism administration:** 010 – 8353-111

**Beijing travel hotline:** 010-12301

## 1. Great Wall (长城)

Your trip to Beijing won't be a good one without a visit to the Great Wall. The Great Wall is so famous that it should be on everyone's travel list during travel in Beijing. Badaling Great Wall and Mutianyu Great Wall are the best preserved sections with easy access from Beijing. Jishanling section is impressive but a four-hour drive away.

Read our guide for which one to choose: Mutianyu or Badaling Great Wall.

Badaling Great Wall is about 70 km from Beijing, and its opening hours range from 6 AM to 7 PM for summer and 7AM to 6 PM for winter. Cable cars are available from the bottom of the west car parking lot, and toboggan rides descending to the east car parking lot. Its facilities has been improved with disable access and ATMs. This section is touristy to lots of tourists home and abroad.

Mutianyu Great Wall is less touristy than Badaling, and a bit far from Beijing. It is well set up for families with cable car, chairlift and toboggan ride available. This section is famed for its impressive guard towers of the Ming Dynasty, walls and excellent views.

## 2. The Forbidden City (故宫)

The Forbidden City in the past is the grandly-built imperial palace of the emperors in Ming and Qing dynasties, now a marvelous palace museum with great values in architecture, culture, etc. It is one of the best tourist attractions in Beijing, occupying an area of 720,000 square meters, and has 800 buildings and 9,999 rooms.

Restaurants, café, toilets, ATMs and nursing room can be found within this palace, and still wheelchairs, pushchairs free to use.



▲ The Temple of Heaven

### 3. The Temple of Heaven (天坛)

The Temple of Heaven is also Beijing's city symbol. It served as an altar where the ancient Chinese emperors prayed for a good harvest for the empire and people. It was first built in early 15th century, built with Confucian design, but struck by lightning and burnt to the ground in 1889 and reconstructed the following year.

Its highlight is the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests (祈年殿), an icon of Beijing City. Other attractions include Imperial Vault of Heaven (皇穹宇), and Echo Wall (回音壁).



▲ Summer Palace

### 4. Summer Palace (颐和园)

The Summer Palace was the imperial garden in the Qing Dynasty. It was used as the summer retreat by the imperial families in order to escape from hot summer. It is not only a palace but a big ensemble of lakes, gardens, palace and parks.

Must-see attractions within Summer Palace include the Kunming Lake-the highlight in the palace, Longevity Hill, where you can overlook the whole Kunming Lake and Summer Palace, and South Lake Island accessible by ferry on Kunming Lake. Exploring this palace could have many funs .



▲ Tian'anmen Square

### 5. Tian'anmen Square (天安门广场)

With a large area of 400,000 square meters, Tian'anmen Square is one of the largest squares in the world. It is centrally located in the heart of Beijing city, with the Forbidden City, People's Heroes Monument, China National Museum nearby. The square is named after the Tian'anmen (Gate of Heavenly Peace), which is often used as the national symbol of China.

There is a flag-raising ceremony at sunrise performed by the People's Liberation Army of China, and many Chinese tourists are there to see the performance. You can get up early to see the flag-raising ceremony, which is a sacred moment.



▲ Beijing Hutongs

### 6. Beijing Hutongs (北京胡同)

If there is a way you can learn about the authentic Beijing local life style, it must be found in Hutongs, a type of narrow alley in Beijing. Hutongs in Beijing are alleys formed by lines of traditional courtyard residences, offering a glimpse of Beijing local life. Today, most Hutongs in Beijing have been under protection to preserve Chinese culture.

## 7. Beihai Park (北海公园)

Located in the city center, behind the Forbidden City, Beihai Park is one of the oldest and largest ancient imperial gardens in China. It has numerous historically important structures, palaces and temples with a relaxing atmosphere.

Beihai Park is largely occupied by a huge lake called North Sea, namely Beihai. The lake blooms with lotus flowers in summer and its water freezes in winter. Tourists can stroll around the lake or row a boat in summer in the lake.

## 8. Beijing Olympic Park (北京奥林匹克公园)

The Beijing Olympic Park or Olympic Green in Chaoyang District was constructed for the 2008 Summer Olympics. Now it becomes a good attraction for tourists. The main venues Bird's Nest and Water Cube are the most stunning buildings and worth exploring. They are the iconic architectures of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and stand for the sweet memory of Chinese in that sports meeting. Just head here to get a view of both up close, and get a feel about them.

## 9. Night Scenery of Simatai Great Wall (司马台长城夜景)

Simatai Great Wall boasts not only the steepest section of Great Wall, also the best night scenery of Great Wall, with a view of overlooking the nearby Gubei Water Town. The night scenery of Simatai Great Wall is a recent popular attraction. When night falls, Simatai Great Wall wakes up to life with the string lights lighting up. Tourists can take a night walking along the wall between 17:30 PM – 21:00 PM, watch sunset, take a fresh breath, then enjoy the night view of Great Wall and overlook Gubei Water Town.

## 10. Beijing China World Trade Center (北京中国国际贸易中心)

China World Trade Center is located in Beijing central business district, which stands for the prosperous modern Beijing. It is well known for the largest up-market commercial mixed-use site in the world and reputed as "The Place Where China Meets the World". It consists of three sky scrapers and 6 main parts, including China World Hotel, China World Summit Wing, Traders Hotel Beijing, China World Apartments, China World Mall, and China World Exhibition Hall.

Beihai Park



Beijing Olympic Park



Night Scenery of  
Simatai Great Wall



Beijing China World  
Trade Center



## 1. Taste Beijing Roast Duck (北京烤鸭)

Tasting a roast duck is a must-to-do experience in Beijing. The Beijing Roast Duck, commonly called Peking Duck, is a famous local dish in Beijing, which was the imperial cuisine in the Yuan, Ming, and Qing Dynasties. Quanjude, started in 1864 in the Qing Dynasty, is the best-known brand for cooking Peking Duck. Another famous brand is Bianyifang. Both of them have branches around Beijing. Read more— [Taste Beijing roast duck](#).

### Recommended places to eat:

**Quanjude Wangfujing:** No. 9, Shuaifuyuan Hutong, Wangfujing Avenue, Dongchen District

**Quanjude Shichahai:** No. 57, Dianmen Street, Xicheng District

**Bianyifang Chongwenmen:** 1st floor of Hademen Hotel, No. 2, Chongwenmen Wai Street

**Dadong Nanxincang:** No. 22, Dongsishitiao, Dongcheng District

## 2. Watch Peking Opera (京剧)

Peking Opera is a kind of Chinese opera, combining music, vocal performance, mime, dance and acrobatics. It is regarded as China's national cultural quintessence with a history of over 200 years. Good places to enjoy a Peking Opera include Mei Lanfang Grand Theatre, Chang'an Grand Theatre, Liyuan Theatre, Huguang Guild Hall, etc. Read more at [seeing Peking Opera](#).

### Recommended places to see:

**Liyuan Theater:** Beijing Qianmen Hotel, No. 175, Yongding Road, Beijing

**Huguang Guild Hall Theater:** NO. 3, Hufang Road, Xicheng District, Beijing

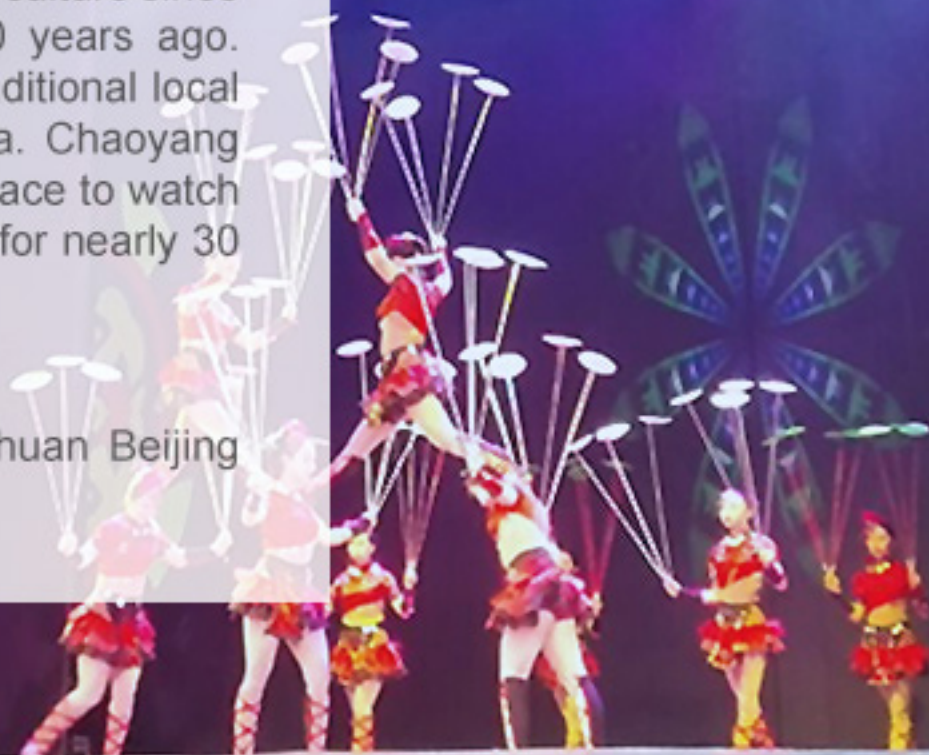


### 3. Acrobatics Show (杂技)

Acrobatics has been an a part of Chinese culture since the Western Han Dynasty, about 2200 years ago. Today, acrobatic shows have been a traditional local pastime in Beijing just as Peking Opera. Chaoyang Theater is local people's most favorite place to watch acrobatics show, which has held shows for nearly 30 years. [More information here.](#)

#### Recommended places to see:

Chaoyang Theater: No. 36, Dong Sanhuan Beijing Road (17:15-19:15)



### 4. Drink Tea at Teahouse (喝茶)

Teahouses in Beijing are not just places for drinking tea, but also for seeing day or night shows or any traditional Chinese performing arts including Peking Operas, folk arts, acrobatics and magic. Locals like to gather at teahouses to chat, socialize with others. That is a part of Beijing lifestyle. Famous teahouses in Beijing include Laoshe Teahouse, Three Kingdoms Teahouse, Minghui Teahouse, Bi Lu Xuan Teahouses, etc. See our article: [Drink tea at Laoshe Teahouse.](#)

#### Recommended place to drink:

Laoshe Teahouse: No. 3, Zhengyang Market, Qianmenxi Street (19:50-21:20)





## 5. Cycle around Hutongs in Beijing (胡同骑行)

Exploring Beijing Hutongs is an unmissable experience, and cycling is a unique experience for this exploring activity, which allows you to delve deep into Hutongs in Beijing. You have various cycling routes: from Nanluoguxiang to the Forbidden City, Yonghe Palace to Houhai Lake, Tian'anmen Square to Andingmen, etc. Find out more details on our site: [Cycling around Beijing](#).

## 6. Watch Kungfu show (功夫表演)

Watching a breathtaking Kungfu show would be a unique nightlife activity for your travel in Beijing. The Shaolin Kungfu show, enjoying an international fame, will be performed by many artists and the best Kungfu practitioners, with a great story line and martial arts skills.

**Recommended theater:**  
Red Theater: No. 44, Xingfu Street, Dongcheng District





## Beijing Travel Guidebook

# Eating in Beijing



## 1. Beijing Roast Duck (北京烤鸭)

Beijing Roast Duck is the most famous local dish, crispy on the outside and juicy on the inside. Date back to the Yuan Dynasty in 13th century, the dish was served as a royal cuisine, but didn't earn its fame until the early 1900s when an imperial cook ran a roast duck restaurant. Today Beijing Duck is not a royal cuisine anymore but a must-try dish for tourists in Beijing. Read [Quanjude Roast Duck](#) and [Dadong Roast Duck](#).

Recommended restaurants: [Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant](#) , [Dadong Roast Duck Restaurant](#).

Quanjude Hepingmen: No. 14, West of Qianmen Street

Quanjude Qianmen: A Branch in No. 32, Qianmen Street

Datong Roast Duck Restaurant: 5th Floor, Jinbaohui Shopping Center, No. 88, Jinbao Street, Dongcheng District

## 2. Beijing Hot Pot (北京火锅)

In addition to Sichuan Hot Pot, Beijing Hot Pot is also quite famous and popular in China. The Beijing Mutton Hot Pot or Beijing Lamb Hot Pot (Shuan Yangrou) is the favorite during a freezing winter, and has been in people's eating for over 1000 years and much loved by the royal family in the Qing Dynasty. Still, You could cook it by yourself, adding fresh meat and vegetables, and enjoy it with your friends. Read: [Top 4 famous hotpot restaurants in Beijing](#).

Recommended restaurants: [Haidilao](#), [Dong Lai Shun](#), [Koufujia](#), [Longshunyuan](#).

Haidilao: No. 109, 7th Floor, Hunqing Building, Xidanbei Street, Xicheng District

Donglaishun: No.44, Dongjiaominxiang Road, Dongcheng District

Koufujia: 1st Floor, No.9, Huayuan Street, Zhidixingzuo commercial centre, Xicheng District

### 3. Mung Bean Milk (豆汁)

Mung Bean Milk or called Douzhi, similar to soy milk but made from mung beans, is morning drinks to by Beijing locals. This grey-green drink dates back to the Liao Dynasty (907-1125) in northern China, and now is everywhere throughout the city. People in Beijing especially the locals love to drink it both in summer and winter.



photo by ctrip.com

### 4. Wheaten Cake Boiled in Meat Broth (卤煮火烧)

Wheaten Cake Boiled in Meat Broth (Pinyin: Lu Zhu Huo Shao) is a kind of traditional snack in Beijing, date back to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), with baked wheaten bread, pork chop, tofu, pork lung and chitterlings cut into pieces and boiled in the preserved meat broth. This dish has gained popularity among common people since the old days. Don't miss eating this dish.

**Recommended restaurant:**

**Xiao Chang Chen:** No.82, Ertiao Hutong, Langfang, Qianmen



photo by ctrip.com

### 5. Rolling Donkey(驴打滚)

Not a donkey but a local snack. Rolling Donkey or Lüdagun is popular in Beijing and Tianjin. It is glutinous rice rolls filled with red bean paste or brown sugar which is rolled and covered in a soybean flour crumble. It has been a local snack since the Qing Dynasty and tastes sweet and sticky with a nice bean flavor.

**Recommended restaurants:**

**Jiu Men Snack Store:** No.1 Xiaoyou Hutong, Denei Street, Xicheng District

**Yao Ji:** East Street, Gulou, Dongcheng District





## 6. Noodles with Soybean Paste(炸酱面)

Noodle with soybean paste, also called Zhajiang Noodle or Zhajiangmian, is a common Chinese dish, composed of thick wheat noodles topped with zhajiang sauce. In Beijing cuisine, the sauce uses yellow soybean paste. It is said that it was the Empress Cixi of the Qing Dynasty who introduced the vegetarian Zhajiangmian to Beijing and the imperial palace, she brought a chef back to Beijing from Xian after their escape trip in the Eight-Nation Alliance's invade. Today, Zhajiangmian has become a common dish in Chinese restaurants.

**Recommended restaurant:**

**Old Beijing Zhajiangmian Noodle King:** No. 56, East Xinglong Street, Chongwen District

## 7. Bingtanghulu(冰糖葫芦)

Bingtanghulu is a traditional Chinese snack of candied fruit, originated from northern China. It consists of fruits covered in hard candy on bamboo skewers, and one of most Chinese children's favorites. You can find this snack in Wangfujing Street in Beijing.

**Recommended place:** Wangfujing Street



## 8. Dumplings(饺子)

Jiaozi, Chinese dumplings, consisting of a thinly rolled piece of dough and stuffing of ground meat and vegetable, is must-eat food during Chinese New Year or year-round in northern provinces in China. In Beijing, don't miss this traditional Chinese food. You can eat at Laobian Dumplings Eatery, Shunyifu Dumplings Eatery and Taiping Dumplings Eatery.

**Recommended restaurants:**

**Xian Lao Man Jiaozi An Ding Men:** No.252, An Ding Men District, Dongcheng District

**Shunyifu Jiaozi Restaurant:** No.138, Wangfujing Street, Beijing AMPC District, Dongcheng District

## Where to shop

Shopping options are plentiful in Beijing, from shiny shopping malls, markets to shopping streets. You will be spoiled for the choices in Beijing. [Wangfujing Street](#) is the best known area for tourists to go shopping in Beijing. It is crowded with the latest western fashions. Hutongs around Beijing are full of stores to pick up various and exquisite souvenirs. [Qianmen Street](#) in Dongcheng District serves as a traditional commercial street, where you can find time-honored local brands like Quanjude, Tongrentang and Zhangyiyuan, etc. [Xiushui Street](#) in Chaoyang district is famous for buying silk products, handicrafts as well as clothes. [Liulichang](#) is an excellent place for picking up bric-a-brac. For buying any antiques, don't forget to visit Panjiayuan at weekends. Other good places for shopping include Dongdan Street, Nan Luo Gu Xiang, Hong Qiao Pearl Market, Yandai Xiejie, etc. For more information, please read [shopping guide in Beijing](#).

## What to buy

Cloisonné (Jing Tai Lan) sometimes referred as copper padding thread weaving enamel, is one of Beijing best known unique traditional handicraft for decorating metalwork objects. It dates back to the Yuan Dynasty (1206 - 1368) and becomes prosperous in the Qing Dynasty. It is a perfect combination of copper and porcelain. Tourists can buy them in Liulichang or Wangfujing Street. Antiques are also favored by tourists. Beijing is the best place to find any antiques including Liulichang Street, Panjiayuan Antique Market, Baoguo Temple Street, Hongqiao Market, and Beijing Antique City. They are the best places for picking up any bric-a-brac. Read more about famous antique markets in Beijing.



## 1. Drink at a bar street

After a tiring sightseeing activity in daytime, you may want to find some places for recreation at night. Drinking in a pub would be a good choice. Beijing has numerous bar streets, of which **Sanlitun Bar Street** and **Houhai Bar Street** are the most famous and popular among local people as well as foreign tourists.

**Sanlitun Bar Street** stands for Beijing's nightlife and Beijing's first bar community, which is divided into southern and northern areas, around 260 meters long, and it covers an area of 1648 square meters with over 80 bars lining in two sides of Sanlitun Bar Street.

**Address:** Eastern Chaoyang District

**Featured bars:** Boys & Girls Bar, Swing Bar, Jass Ya, Day off Bar, etc

**How to reach:** Bus No. 113, No.115, No.314 or metro Line 10 at Tuanjiehu Station (Exit A)

**Houhai Bar Street** is home to popular restaurants, bars and cafes, and an ideal place to enjoy a great nightlife in Beijing. It has beautiful sceneries and close to Shichahai Lake and Beijing Hutongs. It has built its name as a popular destination in evening and highly praised by Trip Advisor.

**Address:** Xicheng District

**Featured bars:** Houhai 5 Hao, Jiadingfang Bar, Buddha Bar, etc

**How to reach:** Bus No. 13, No. 42, No. 107, & No. 111



## 2. See Night Views of Beijing

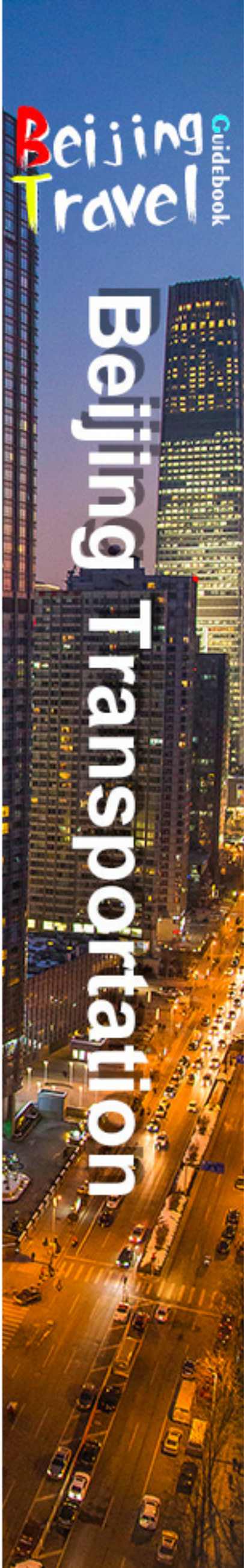
Bright lights, big city – That is Beijing, the metropolis of China, which boasts world-class city night views or skylines. Night in Beijing is seldom dark, with this ancient city illuminated by mesmerizing lights and surrounded by wonders of modern world. Here we recommend you best places for the best city night views in Beijing.

**Bird Nest and Water Cube:** The main stadiums for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games have become new icons for this city, and extremely eye-catching with colorful lights at night.

**Chang'an Avenue:** The major thoroughfare in Beijing stretches from Dongdan Street to Xidan Street, with a length of 8 kilometers. The avenue decorated with colorful streamers comes alive when night falls.

**Qianmen Avenue:** Qianmen Avenue is the medial axis of Beijing city and the oldest street in Beijing, which extends from Yueliangwan, through middle of Beijing city, to Tianqiao Road. You can take a walk at the commercial street and enjoy the bustling nightlife of Beijing.

**Shichahai:** Shichahai is also an ideal for watching night views of Beijing, where there are typical Hutongs and courtyard houses around Shichahai Lake decorated with red lanterns. You can take a walk around Shichahai Lake and have a drink in a bar there.



## How to get to Beijing

**Air:** Beijing has two airports for passenger service: Beijing Capital International Airport and Beijing Nanyuan Airport. Beijing Capital Airport is the most used airport for domestic service and international service, while Beijing Nanyuan Airport is only used by China United Airlines.

**Beijing Capital Airport** is about 14 miles northeast to Beijing downtown and has 3 terminals. Each terminal is linked by shuttle bus, and used by different airlines. Most international airlines use Terminal 2 or Terminal 3. Passengers should figure out which terminal is for your flight before leaving.

**Train:** Beijing has 4 railway stations for passenger service: Beijing West Station, Beijing South Station, Beijing Railway Station and Beijing North Station.

Beijing South Station and Beijing West Station are the most used high speed train stations.

## Trains from Beijing to

High speed trains from Beijing South to			
Destination	Duration	Price (CNY) for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Seat	Frequency
Shanghai Hongqiao	4.5-6 hrs	553	33
Tianjin	30-40 mins	54.5	158
Hangzhou East	4.5-6.5 hrs	538.5	15
Jinan West	1.5-2 hrs	194.5	100
Nanjing South	3.5-4.5 hrs	443.5	61

High speed trains from Beijing West to			
Destination	Duration	Price (CNY) for a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Seat	Frequency
Guangzhou South	8-10 hrs	862	5
Xi'an North	4.5-6 hrs	515.5	17
Chengdu East	8-10 hrs	778.5	3
Pingyao Gucheng	4 hrs	225.5	3
Luoyang Longmen	3.5-4 hrs	368	12
Hong Kong West Kowloon	8h56	1077	1



# Beijing Travel

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