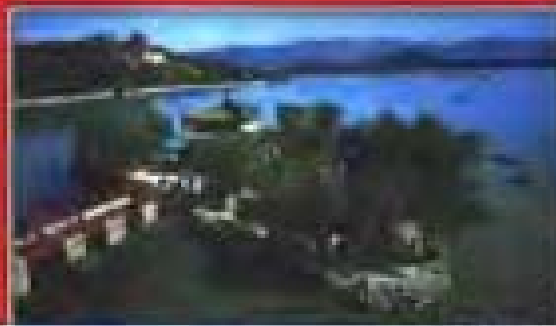
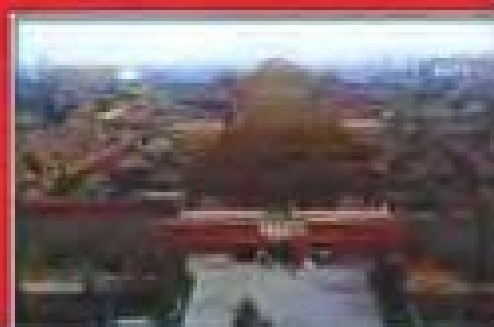


THE SIGHTS

BEIJING

北 京 名 胜 游 览

ZHU QIXIN



CHINA TRAVEL & TOURISM PRESS



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THE SIGHTS *of* **BEIJING**

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The Hall of Supreme
Harmony

Tian'anmen (Gate of Heavenly Peace)



The Palace of Heavenly Purity



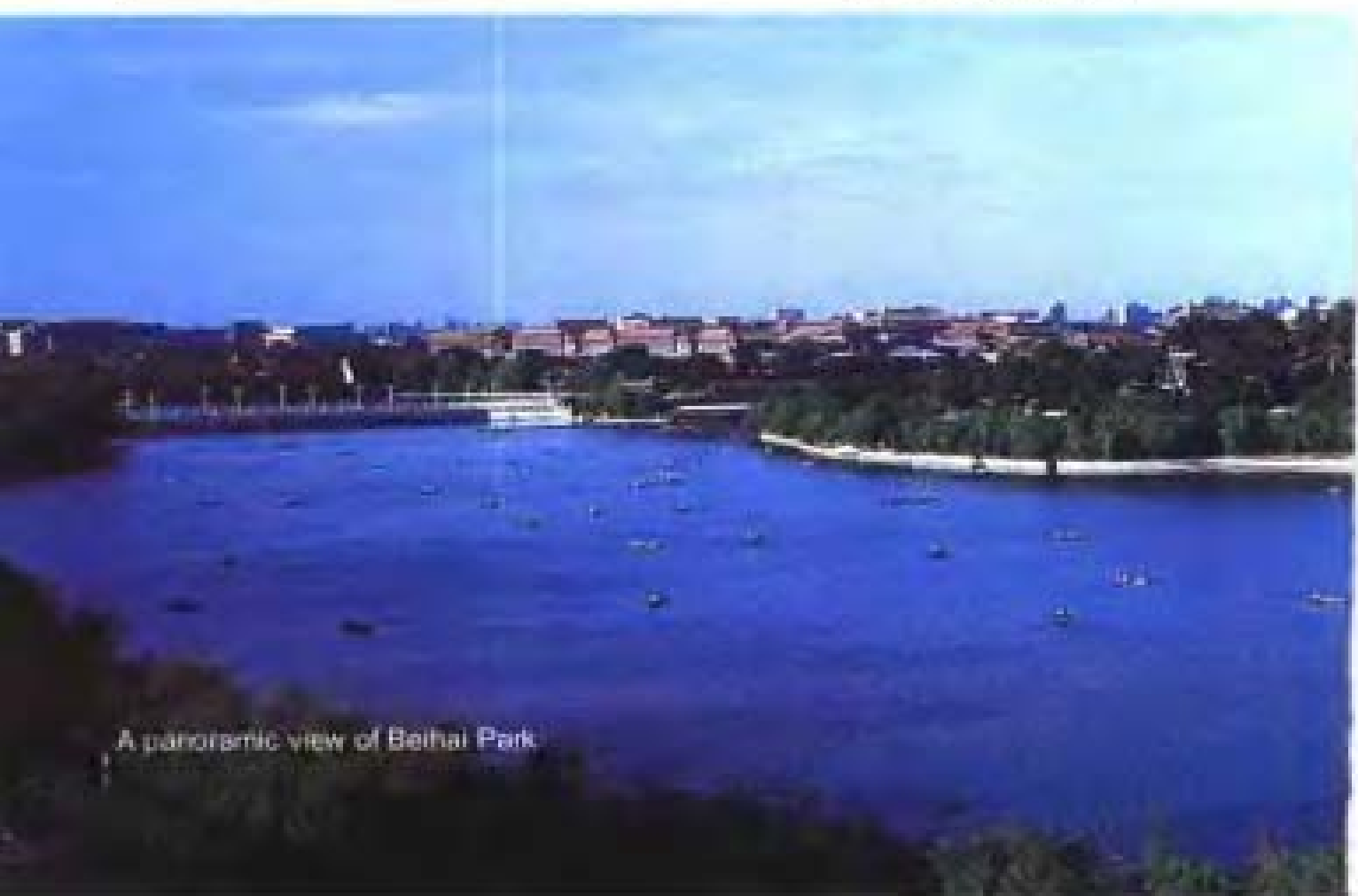
A look down the Forbidden City



Zhongshan Park



The Temple of Heaven



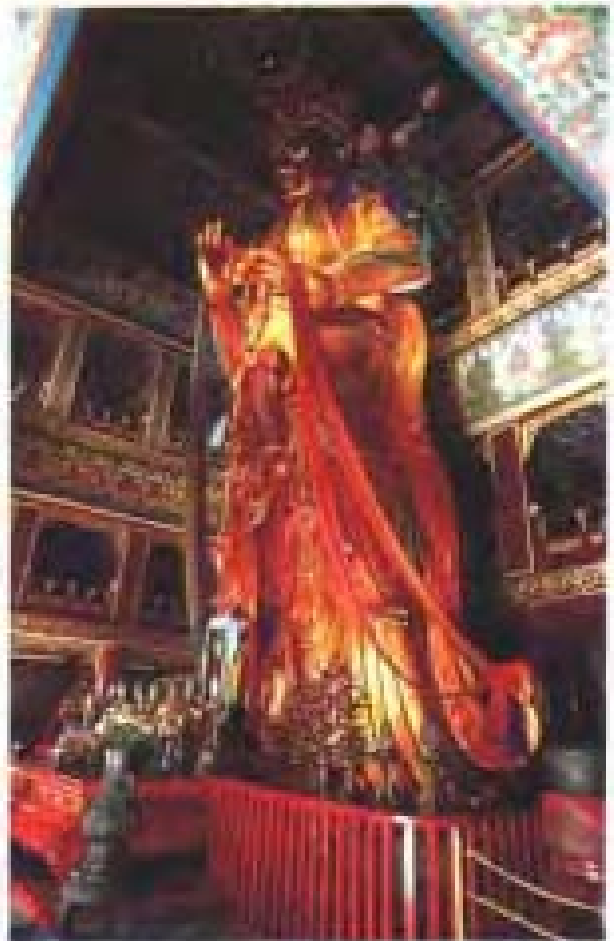
A panoramic view of Beihai Park



The Big Bell Temple



The Lama Temple



The statue of Maitreya in the Lama Temple





Red leaves on the Fragrant Hills



Marco Polo Bridge



The Summer Palace



The Great Wall at Badaling



The Great Wall at Jinshanling



Qianmen (Front Gate)



Deshengmen
(Gate of Virtuous
Triumph)



Beijing Tongrenfang Pharmacy



Wangfujing Church



Beijing Ancient Observatory



The Nine-Dragon Wall in Beihai Park



The Ruins of Yuanmingyuan



Beijing Confucius Temple



The statue of Sakyamuni
in the Reclining Buddha
Temple



The Grand View Garden



The Secret Way of the Ming Tombs

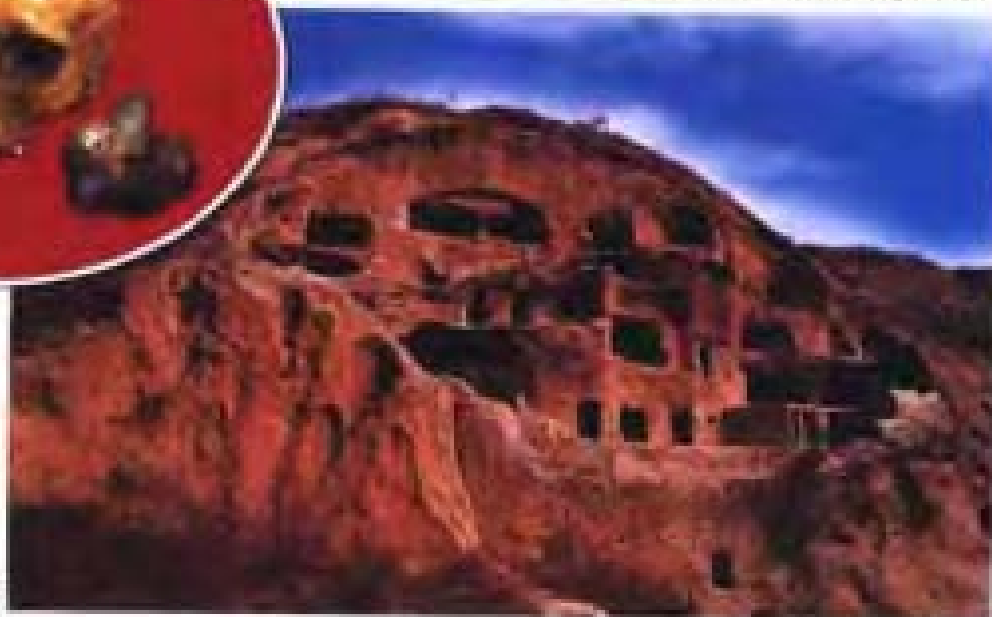


The Underground Palace of Dingling Tomb

The Site of Peking Man at Zhoukoudian



The skull of Peking Man at Zhoukoudian



Yangqing Ancient Cliff



China Millennium Monument



Beijing West Railway Station



The Capital Airport New Terminal

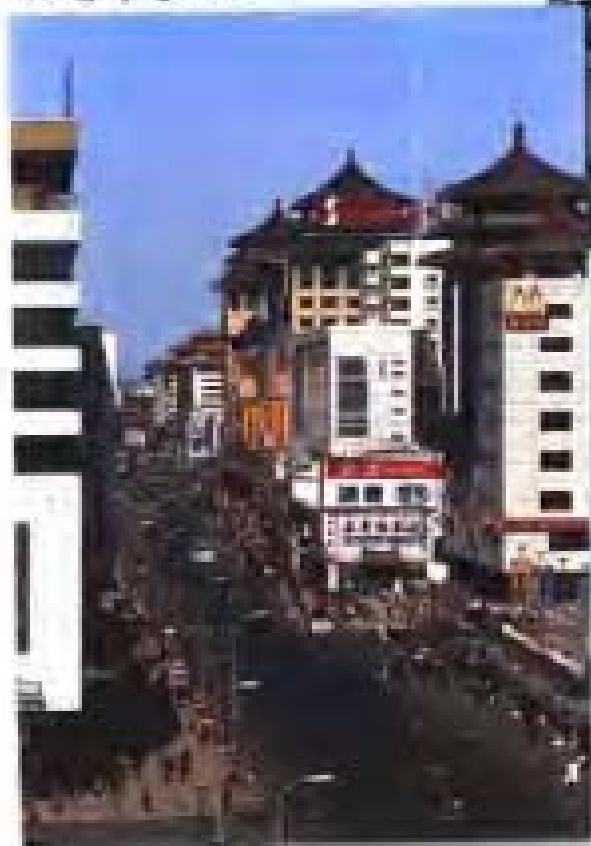


Beijing Subway



The modern appearance of Beijing

Wangfujing Street



A visit to *hutong* (lanes) by pedicabs



Beijing's *siheyuan* (quadrangle—a compound with houses around a square courtyard)

Lüchang Cultural Street (the
Antique Shops Area)



Sanlitun Bar Street



Peking Opera



Beijing Roast Duck

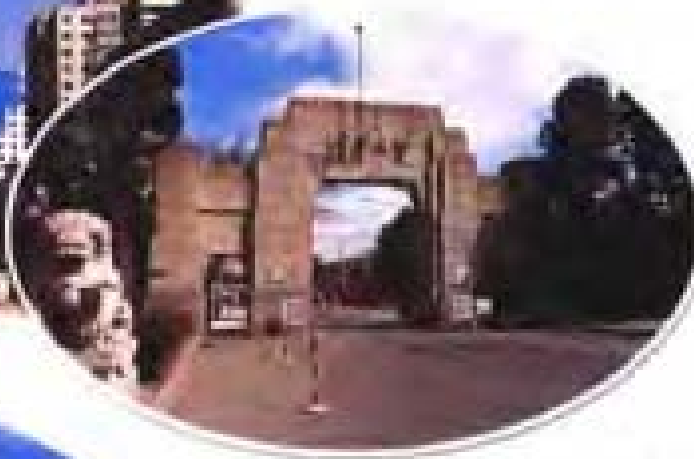




National Olympic Sports Centre



Zhongguancun Hi-Tech Park



Tsinghua University



Peking University



National Library of China

Preface

With the rapid growth of travel and tourism since China's reform and opening-up to the outside world in 1979, particularly the success of Beijing's bid for Olympic Games in 2008 and China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, an ever-increasing number of overseas visitors are coming to Beijing.

Beijing is a world-renowned ancient capital, and a famous city of world history and culture as well. Beijing is an ideal place to visit, as well as to invest, and to do business, to shop, to dine or to be entertained. Beijing is both an ancient and a young city. The city is ancient, because it boasts a 500, 000-year history of civilization; as a city, Beijing has a history of more than 3, 000 years (the city was established in 1045 BC), and as a capital (Jin Dynasty, the first dynasty in the Chinese history, made Beijing its capital in AD 1115), it has a history of nearly 900 years. This ancient city of Beijing is a masterpiece of the longest history and the largest scale in the world and also is the crystallisation of the capital construction in the history of China. Beijing is a young city in terms of vitality and its importance not only in China but also the world over. The reasons why Beijing attracts and pleases people are not hard to discover. To start at the heart of Beijing itself, tourists see the Tian'anmen Square, which is the geographical and emotional centre of the city.

National capitals are always tourist attractions. Most people wish to see their capital city when they begin travelling about their own country. When they go abroad, few neglect to pay at least a cursory call on a country's seat of government.

There is something special about a national capital, and Beijing is no exception. Its eminence among China's tourist attractions is not due solely to its status as the political and cultural centre of the nation. Beijing is a city of distinction in its own right, a tourist experience of unusual variety and unexpected contrasts.

More than any other city, Beijing offers a splendid microcosm of both modern and traditional China. It contains so many sights within its vicinity that one short visit is insufficient to include them all. "Half a loaf is better than no bread."

The Sights of Beijing, intended both for general readers and for serious students of tourism colleges, tourism universities and tour guide/inter-

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preters, presents very rich, fascinating and balanced pictures of places of interest in Beijing from the geological history of Peking Man's residence site at Zhoukoudian to the present-day in a span of approximately 500,000 years. The author is concerned not only with contents, but with Chinese history, philosophy, religion and the realm of ideas, while he places the contents in their historical, political and social setting. Hence this book is not merely a history of Beijing but, to some degree, a cultural history of Beijing and China as well.

It may also serve as a useful reference book for English-speaking interpreters of government offices and trade corporations who show overseas visitors or business people around from time to time. It may come in handy for overseas tourists who visit Beijing on an individual or family basis. As some sketch maps illustrate it, they may, if they want to, see the sights by themselves without the help of a local guide. China is a relaxed and contented land—and Beijing is the cosmopolitan heart with a great way of life. This book can only be a colourful index to your very special visit. Use it now as a guide then keep it as a fond memory of your all-too-brief stop in Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China.

The Sights of Beijing is divided into the following eight different parts. Part One consists of the city sightseeing. Part Two and Part Three contain profiles of the prime sights. Since it is intended both for guide/interpreters and overseas visitors, I try my best to put it in spoken English and follow the routes that include the major spots. Part Four is made up of places to visit. Part Five deals with travel information. Part Six includes some famous scenic spots within one day's journey from Beijing. Part Seven covers Olympics and sports, and Part Eight is concerned with appendix (some important information related to travel). To give readers a sense of reality, the first person is used occasionally in some of the briefings. In terms of contents, *The Sights of Beijing* advances with the times.

The author owes a debt of gratitude to many individuals for their help and support in preparing this book, especially to Professor Jiang Yiqun, the author's wife for her many useful suggestions and for her close scrutiny of the manuscript, and to Zhu Yu and Zhu Li, the author's daughters for their wholehearted participation.

Once more, I would like to express my special thanks to China Travel and Tourism Press and Tan Yan, whose continued general support for my work has helped to make this new, more fully illustrated edition possible.

ZHU QIXIN
May 2002