

THE
LEADING
CITIES OF
CHINA
-Beijing²⁰⁰⁴

Foreign Languages Press



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READ BEFORE YOU GO!

**THE
LEADING
CITIES OF
CHINA**
-Beijing²⁰⁰⁴

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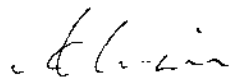
Dear Readers,

Three important elements have combined to give Beijing its unique character: nature, art, and the life and character of the people. Nature provides the physical environment; the art of man has adorned it with towers, palaces and temples; and the way of life of the common people, rich and poor, old and young endows the city with its character.

Beijing, with the population of 13 million (2003) offers a variety of experiences as you walk along the city. It's famous for the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Summer Palaces, the Beijing Roast Duck, the Peking Opera, Panjiayuan, Bar streets, and more. It has the best facilities while at the same time, has many problems like other big cities in the world. The 2008 Olympic Games gives the city a chance to be upgraded with the latest information and technology. The Imperial past that continues to attract visitors is fast becoming a rare site, as the Capital is metamorphosing cell-by-cell into a modern metropolis. Beijing is simultaneously smartly cosmopolitan and charmingly provincial, cutting-edge and gently timeless.

On behalf of Metropolis Media, may I wish you happiness in Beijing.

Sincerely,



Alicia Ma
General Manager
METROPOLIS Media, Ltd

原书空白

THE LEADING CITIES OF CHINA *-Beijing²⁰⁰⁴*

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上海圖書館藏

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上海圖書館藏

日照香炉升紫烟

遥看瀑布挂前川



Beijing Info>>

Peking man, the famed Homo erectus, whose remains and artifacts were discovered near Beijing at Zhoukoudian, used primitive tools and possessed a rudimentary mastery of fire.

Beijing



Beijing History



Beijing was called Ji (蓟) until the Tang Dynasty. The theory about the origin of this name is that there was a hill called Ji in the northwest corner of the town, because of the grass also called Ji. During the Xi Han Dynasty, Beijing was called many names: Yan (燕), Zhuojun (蓟郡), Yanjun (燕郡), Youzhou (右州), Guangyangjun (广阳郡) and Guangyangguo (广阳国). During the 'Three Kingdoms' period, Ji was in control of Yanjun. The name was changed many times with the changes of the dynasties. Most of the Tang people called it Youzhou (右州) or Yuyang (渔阳). In Liao Dynasty, it was called Nanjing (南京), and was changed to Yanjing (燕京) in the first year of Kaitai (1012). In the first year of Jinzhen (1153), it was called Shengdu (盛都) and then Zhongdu (中都), and later changed to Dadu (大都). In the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, Xu Da, a general who worked for the emperor Zhu Yuanzhang, seized Dadu, renamed it Beiping (北平), which stands for the north of China is peaceful. Prince Zhu Di of Beiping usurped the throne, made it the capital and named it Beijing. It was the first time that it was called Beijing in history. In the Qing Dynasty it was named Jingdu (京都). Then it was called Beijing again after the founding of the People's Republic of China.



City Layout

Tian'anmen Square (天安门) is the center of Beijing where the city is divided into four parts from this point. Chang'an Street is the most famous street along which almost all government offices are located. From Tian'anmen to the east part of the city is the CBD; to the west is the financial area where all Chinese Banks have their head offices.

Most streets run from north to south, or from east to west. The 2nd Ring Road, third ring road and forth ring road run around the city. (The subways are also surrounded by the 2nd Ring Road, extend along Chang'an Street and link the northern suburbs residential area to the city).

The present layout of Beijing is based on the structure of the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1644, 1644-1911). During that time, the city was walled on all sides and generally made up of the inner city, which is known as the 2nd Ring Road and the outer city.

According to historical report, the inner city is square in shape and the outer city is rectangle in shape. The outer rectangle surrounded the southern side of the inner city square; the inner surrounded the Imperial City; the Imperial City surrounded the Forbidden City and each one was embraced by a deep and wide city moat. So the Forbidden City became the center of the whole city, and was tightly guarded.



A central axis, which is about 7.5 kilometers long, runs through the middle of the Forbidden City from Yongdingmen in the south to the Bell Tower in the north cutting it into two parts: eastern and western. Zhengyangmen 正阳门 (in the south of Tian'anmen Square) to Di'anmen 地安门 (not far away from Houhai bar street) in the north formed a restricted zone east to west which no one was allowed to cross from. All main and grand gates and palaces in the zone stood on this axis.

The design and geographical layout of the city were all for serving the feudal emperors. The walls and city moats were built for their security; all of the palaces, temples and their positions were designed to show the crowning majesty of each emperor.

During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the outer city had seven gates, the inner city had nine and the Imperial City had four. Gates are called "men" (门) in Chinese. So Yongdingmen mentioned above means Yongding gate, which belonged to the outer city. All these gates stood either on the central axis or were arranged in bilateral symmetry so the main streets in both inner and outer cities seemed to form a big chessboard in appearance when viewed from the air. Most of the streets ran from north to south while hutongs (narrow lanes) ran mostly from east to west. All of the streets had a fixed size: big ones were twenty-four paces-wide; small ones were twelve paces-wide.

In the past, emperors devoted particular care to geomantic omens, Feng Shui in Chinese. They would sit in the north and face the south and believed that they and their descendents would be the emperors forever.

After China's liberation in 1949, the walls came down; the restricted zone functions no longer existed; some gates became museums opening to the public (Red Gate Gallery); some were pulled down and their remaining names serve as reminders of where the gates used to stand. In recent years, new roads and buildings have sprouted up continuously, so much of the pattern of the city which has the south to north central axis and buildings in the east and west standing symmetrically has been broken. But generally speaking, the basic layout of the ancient city still exists.

Area Under Administration



- HUIROU DISTRICT
- YANQING DISTRICT
- MIYUN DISTRICT
- PINGGU DISTRICT
- SHUNYI DISTRICT
- CHANGPING DISTRICT
- MENTOUGOU DISTRICT
- FANGSHAN DISTRICT
- TONGZHOU DISTRICT
- DAXING DISTRICT
- HAIDIAN DISTRICT
- CHAOYANG DISTRICT
- XICHENG DISTRICT
- XUANWU DISTRICT
- SHIJINGSHAN DISTRICT
- DONGCHENG DISTRICT
- CHONGWEN DISTRICT
- FENGTAI DISTRICT

18 Districts (including city districts, suburbs districts) are:

City Districts: Dongcheng District, Xicheng District, Chongwen District, Xuanwu District, Chaoyang District, Haidian District, Fengtai District and Shijingshan District.

Suburbs Districts: Mentougou District, Fangshan District, Tongzhou District, Changping District, Shunyi District, Daxing District, Pinggu District, Huairou District, Miyun District and Yanqing District.

Weather

The average temperature:

The identification of the four seasons is easy. It's usually windy and dry with much dust brought by wind from the north-west in Spring (March, April, May), sometimes causing dust storms. Summer (June, July, August) is hot owing to warm and humid monsoon winds from the southeast bringing most of the annual rainfall. The sun burns fiercely during Beijing summers, sun screen and sunglasses are definitely necessary. The golden time of the year is Autumn (September, October, November). Winter (December, January, February) is dry and cold, sometimes with strong winds.

		Daytime	Nighttime
	Spring	20°C	5°C
	Summer	37°C	24°C
	Autumn	25°C	15°C
	Winter	0°C	-17°C

Autumn, Xiangshan Park



Spring, Zhongshan Park



Winter, St. Joseph's Cathedral



Winter, Yuyuantan Park