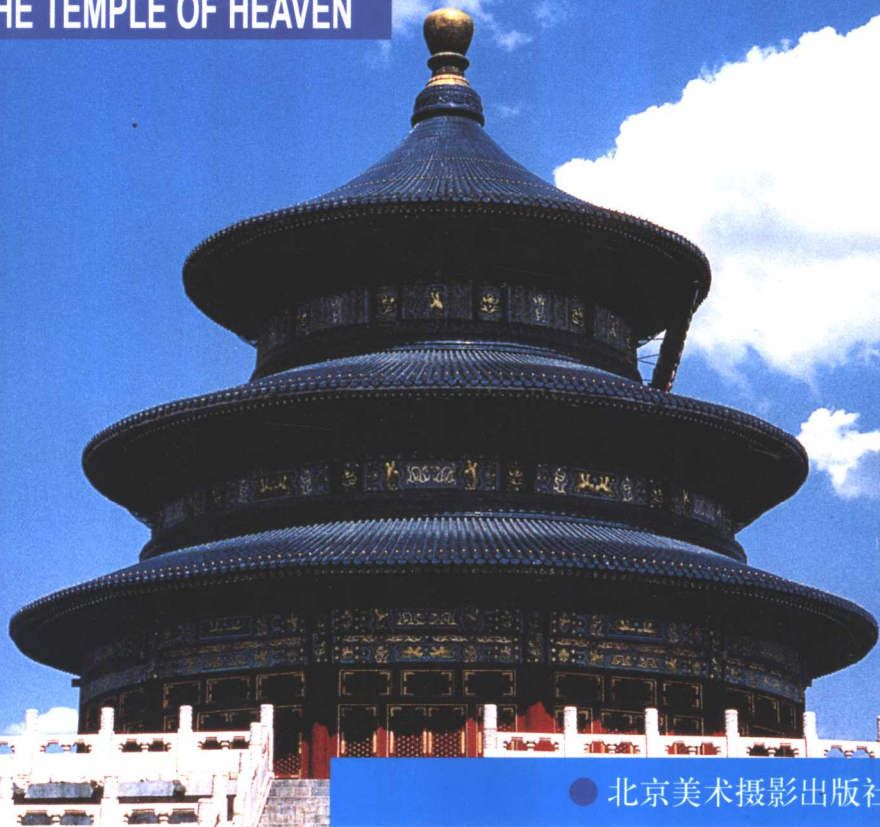


北京风光
BEIJING SCENES

天坛

THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN



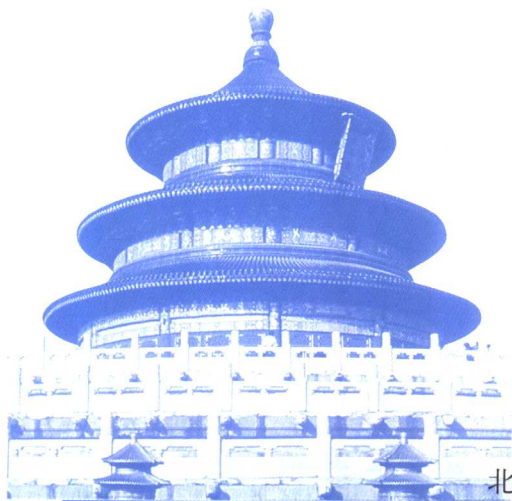
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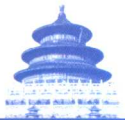
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THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN

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天坛

天坛是明、清两代皇帝举行祭天和祈谷大典的场所，始建于明朝永乐十八年（1420），以后历经改造、扩建，至清乾隆年间（1736—1795）最终建成。

天坛是世界上现存最大，也是保存最完好的古代祭天建筑群。明清时期，皇帝几乎每年都要到天坛祭天，即使皇帝不能亲自祭拜，也要派遣大臣替他行礼。

天坛有祈年殿、圜丘、皇穹宇、丹陛桥、长廊、斋宫、神乐署等明清时期古建筑600余间，天坛皇穹宇因其具有神奇的声学效果而被誉为“回音壁”，是中国古代声学建筑的代表作品。天坛还有九龙柏、七星石、甘泉井、望灯台、燔柴炉、瘞坎等古迹和大面积的古柏林。

1918年天坛辟为公园。1961年3月，天坛被列为第一批全国重点文物保护单位；1986年，天坛以“圜丘清音”入选新北京十六景；1998年12月2日，联合国教科文组织世界遗产委员会将天坛列入了《世界遗产名录》；2001年天坛被国家建设部列为AAAA级旅游景区。

The Temple of Heaven

The Temple of Heaven ,where the emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties held the ceremonies of worshipping heaven and praying for good harvests, was first built in the 18th year during the reign of Emperor Yongle (1420) of Ming Dynasty. Under continually reconstruction and enlargement, the Temple of Heaven was finally completed in the reign of Emperor Qianlong of Qing Dynasty.

The Temple of Heaven is the largest and best-preserved ancient sacrificial architectural group in the world. In the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the emperors nearly worshipped heaven every year. If the emperor couldn't do it himself, an official must be sent to the Temple of Heaven to worship heaven.

There are many famous ancient architectures as Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, Circular Mound Altar, Imperial Vault of Heaven, Red Stairway Bridge, Long Corridor, Fasting Palace, Divine Music Administration and more than 600 ancient architectures of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The Imperial Vault of Heaven is known as "Echo Wall" for its magic acoustical effect, and it is the representation of Chinese ancient acoustical architectures. In addition ,there are Nine-Dragon Cypress, Seven-Star Stones, Sweet Spring Well, Posts of Watching Lights, Firewood Stoves etc. and large area of cypresses.

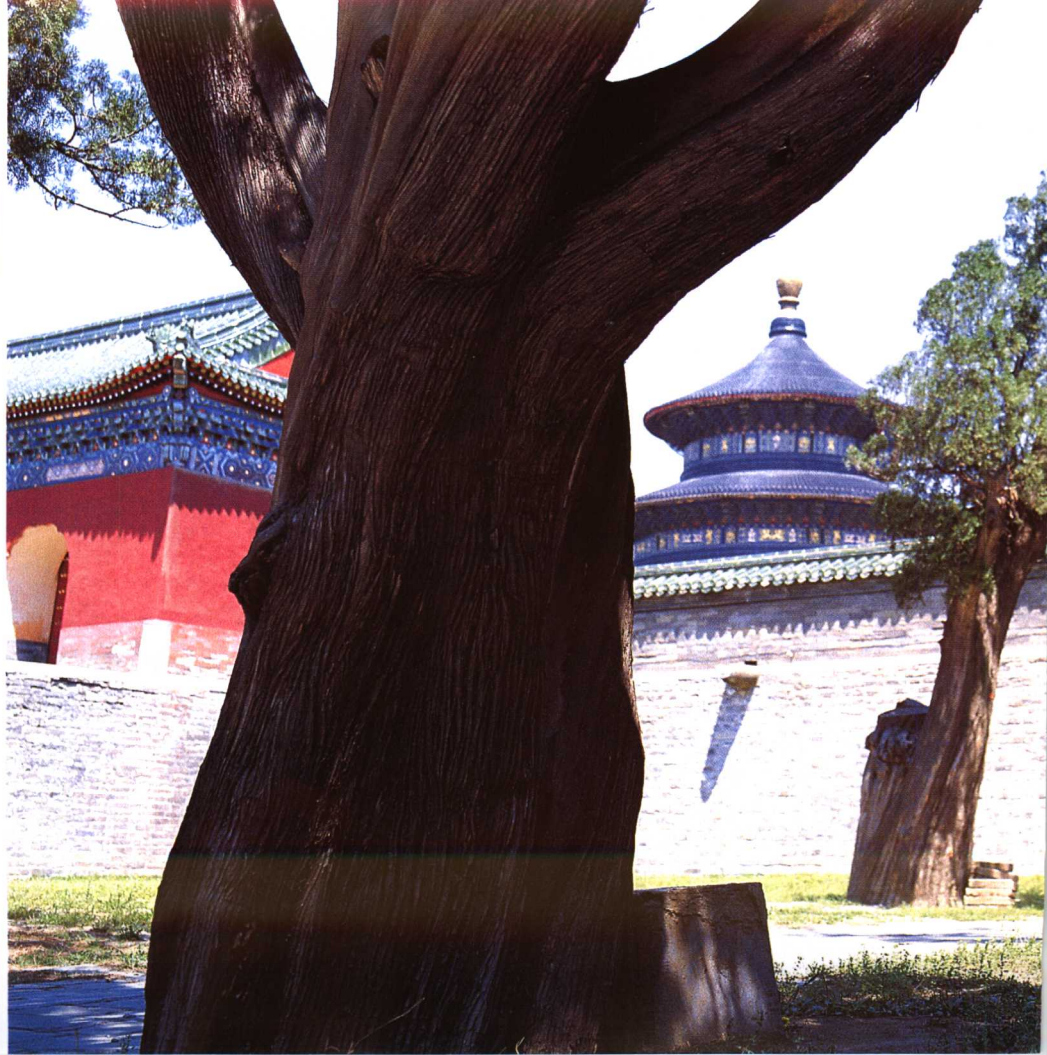
In 1918, the Temple of Heaven was opened to the public as a park .In March,1961, it was listed as one of the first groups of National Emphasis Protective Units of Cultural Relics. In 1986, it was chosen as one of the new sixteen scenic spots of Beijing. On Dec 2nd, 1998, it was listed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO World Heritage Committee. In 2001, the Temple of Heaven was listed as AAAA tourism scenic spot by Ministry of Construction.



天坛 The Temple of Heaven

天坛位于北京城正阳门东南，是明、清两代帝王祭天祈谷的祭坛，总面积达273公顷。天坛之内，南有圜丘坛，用于冬至祭天；北有祈谷坛，用于孟春上辛日（元月的第一个十天）祈谷。

Located to the southeast of Zhengyang Gate of Beijing, the Temple of Heaven is the sacrificial altar for the emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties to worship heaven and pray for good harvests. It covers an area of 273 hectares. In the south is the Circular Mound Altar, used for worshipping heaven on winter solstice. In the north is the Altar of Prayer for Good Harvests, used for praying for grain on the first 10th day of the first month of Spring.





天坛古柏 Cypresses of the
Temple of Heaven



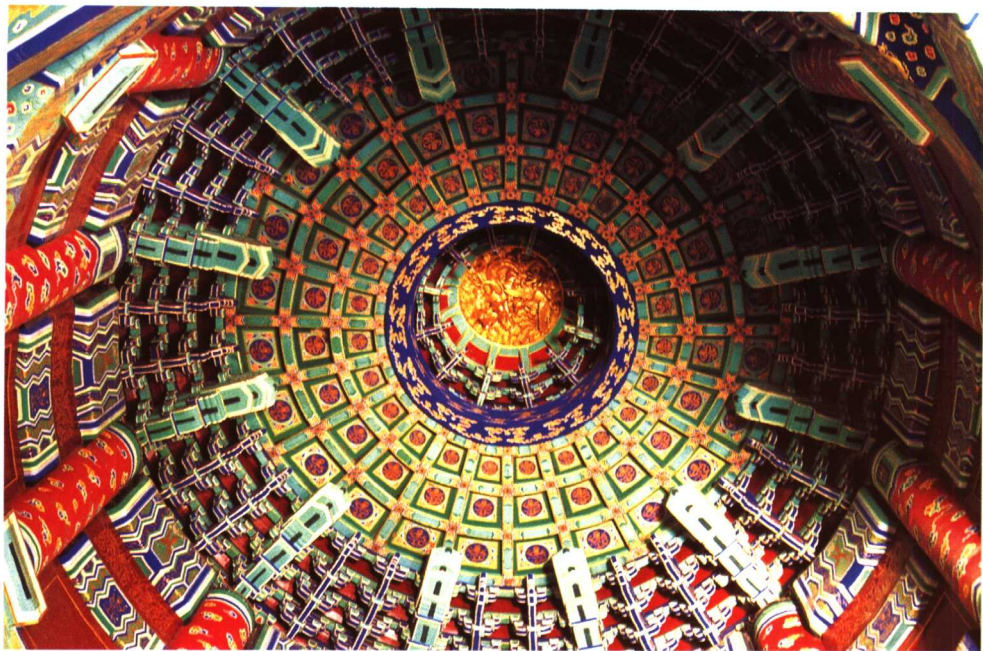


祈年殿 The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests

祈年殿是天坛祈谷坛的主体建筑，建于明朝永乐十八年（1420），最初称为大祀殿；1544年，明世宗将大祀殿拆掉重建，改为大享殿；1645年，清顺治皇帝改大享殿为祈谷坛；1753年，清乾隆皇帝将其命名为祈年殿。

The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests is the main architecture of the Altar of Prayer for Good Harvests. It was built in the 18th year during the reign of Emperor Yongle (1420) of the Ming Dynasty and first called the Great Hall for Sacrificial Rituals. In 1753, Emperor Qianlong renamed it the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests.





祈年殿龙凤藻井 Dragon and Phoenix Algae Well in the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests

祈年殿内，象征二十四节气的粗大立柱环绕支撑着大殿穹顶。

Inside the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, 24 pillars support the eave represent the 24 solar terms.



祈年殿正位 The Center Tablet in the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests

祈年殿正位供奉着皇天上帝的神版，清朝时，每年正月上辛日皇帝都要到祈年殿举行“孟春祈谷大典”。

Here displays the tablet of the God of Heaven. In the Qing Dynasty, on the 10th day of the first lunar month, the emperor would hold the ceremony of praying for grain in the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests.



祈年殿夜景 Night Scene of the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests





龙亭 Dragon Pavilion

举行祭祀大典时用于抬送神牌的礼器，由于其造型类似于中式亭子，所以称龙亭。

It is used for carrying memorial tablets in the sacrificial ceremony.

