

北京地区导游员考试口试指定用书

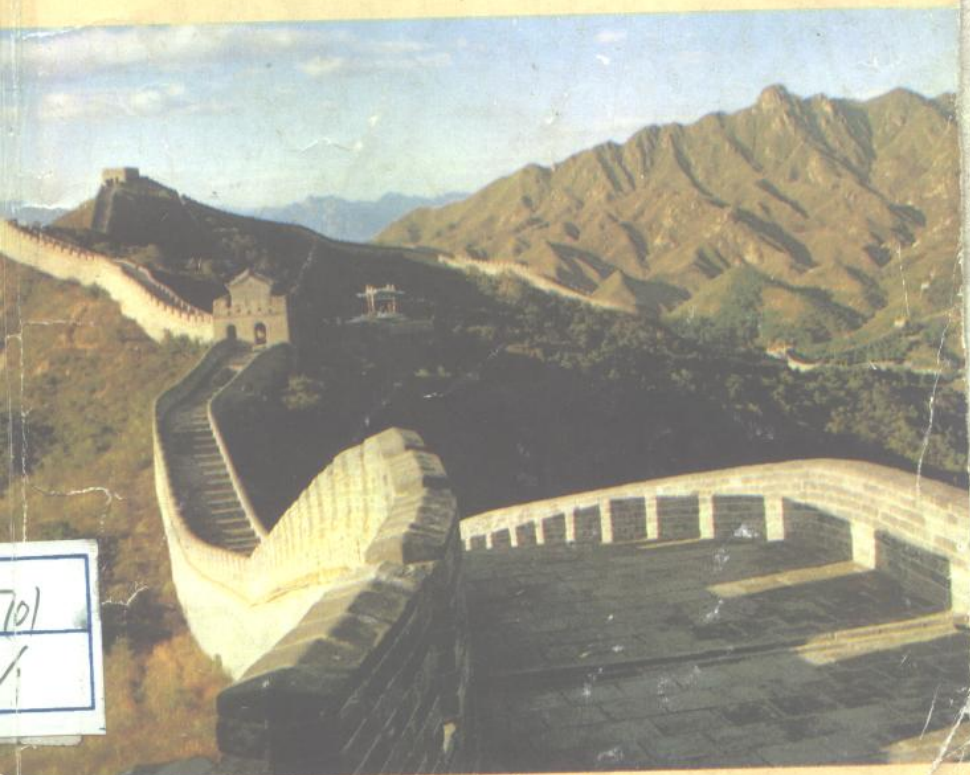
英语北京导游

——主要旅游景点

THE MAIN PLACES OF INTEREST IN BEIJING

俞新 顾维周 编著

Sophie Wong 朱锡炎 审订



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董春生九九年六月

Preface

There is no doubt that tour guides in showing tourists around the various places of interest in Beijing require a great deal of knowledge about the places. The primary aim of this book is to provide the background and facts of each site attraction that would make the job of a tour guide more competent. Experience tells us that there are certain questions which tourists ask about during their visits to the sites. These questions do not necessarily relate to the site attractions that they are visiting. There could be questions about local customs, food, living in general, housing, and so on. Very often tour guides are also faced with fresh problems which might require immediate solutions. Therefore, at the end of each chapter, there are questions for discussions. Each of the discussion questions presents a situation which requires a solution to the problem. This is a useful method in training students to come up with different ideas of handling a problem in a given situation.

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the Authors

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Lesson One

INTRODUCTION to BEIJING

Good morning/good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome to Beijing and thank you for using the China International Travel Service. You have picked the best time of the year to come to Beijing. Today's weather is just beautiful. Let's hope that it will stay like this for the rest of the week.

I will be your local guide during your stay in Beijing. My name is Huang Shu. To make it easier for you, just call me Mary. My English teacher gave this name to me, and I happen to like it very much. I am sure you will find it much easier to remember my English name, Mary.

I am from Beijing, born here 21 years ago. I was educated and trained at the Beijing Institute of Tourism. I am living with my parents. It is our custom in China to live with our parents if we are not married.

Now, I would like to introduce to you our driver. Everybody calls him Chang. He is married and has a young boy of 5 years old. He has been in this business for many years and is a very experienced driver.

I will be with you for most of the time and I am sure we will get to know each other better during these few days.

Please feel free to let me know if there is anything that I can do for you. It is our policy to satisfy our customer's needs and to make your stay in Beijing a pleasant and enjoyable one.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, you have come to the most exciting city in North China. We know you will like Beijing because it has got so much in it and so much to offer. We see many of our friends coming back to this beautiful city for a second visit. And for sure we would like to see you return one day.

We have already left the Capital Airport and is on our way to the hotel. We have booked you into one of the best hotels in Beijing. I think sure you will like it.

CAPITAL AIRPORT

Let me just fill you briefly on the Capital Airport. The airport has been in operation since 1980. It serves our international flights as well as our domestic flights. The airport is situated 30 km. from the city centre and usually takes about 45 minutes to reach there.

Since our government made the decision to step up its reform programmes and accelerate its pace of economic development, Beijing has become one of the busiest centres in China. There is an increasing demand in the use of the airport. Our airport is undergoing an expansion project, the passenger capacity will be increased by 50% on its comple-

tion. Eventually it will have a capacity to hold 9 million passengers a year. Recently the international and domestic departure lounges in the terminal building have been enlarged. The area has been increased from 7,000 sq. metres to 10,360 sq. metres. In addition, an office building will be built to accommodate foreign and domestic companies. It will have an area of 2,674 sq. metres. The highway leading to the airport has just been completed.

EN ROUTE TO THE HOTEL

We are now crossing the Wenyu River which is a tributary of the Chaobai River. There are three major rivers in Beijing, the Yong Ding River, the Chaobai River and the North Canal.

Trees along this road have been planted since 1958. Afforestation has been going on a nationwide scale since 1949. A total of 2 million trees are planted each year. Every year March the 12th is our Tree — Planting Day. On this day, people from all walks of life volunteer to help digging, watering and planting new trees. Even our prime minister and party secretary are at work on this day. Just to give you an example, on the Tree — planting Day 1992, more than 2 million people in Beijing joined in this "green drive". The volunteers planted 2.1 million trees, dug 2 million holes, tended 3 million trees and cleaned 3 million square metres of green belt in the city.

The orchards and fields that you can see on both sides of the road belong to one of the townships in Beijing. Since the introduction of townships as a new system, production has gone up and as a result people's living standards has been raised. The main crops that we grow here in Beijing are wheat, maize, and rice. We have two crops a year. And, the seasonal fruits that we produce here are apples, pears, peaches, and grapes.

BEIJING

Since we've got some time before we reach our hotel, I would like to tell you something about our city. Beijing does not have a very long history when compared to the time span of China's civilization. Although there was evidence showing the dwellings of the cavemen in the south western part of the city some 500,000 years ago, the first settlement was dated back 1,000 B. C.

GEOGRAPHY

Beijing is built on an alluvial plain which was originally a gulf 2 or 3 million years ago. Mud and silts that were brought down from the mountain by melting snow and heavy rain have turned the gulf into a plain which is known today as the Beijing sub—plain. This sub—plain is situated in the northern edge of the North China Plain and is surrounded by mountains on the north, the west and the south

west. Thus, it is sheltered from winds blowing from inland.

EARLY HISTORY

The city was first developed as a frontier town for the Mongols, Koreans and the tribes from Shandong and central China. Today it has developed into a modern city with nearly 10 million inhabitants and is the capital of the People's Republic of China. We Beijingers are very proud of it.

During the course of its history, the city has played various roles, and has been known by different names. The city boundaries have changed many times. Because of the strategic location of the city which is at the edge of the North China Plain, it has attracted many conquerors.

During the Warring States Period around 475 — 221 B. C., the city became the capital of the Yan Kingdom. It was called Ji because of the marshy features of the area. The city went through reigns of different warlords. Among them were the Khitan Mongols and the Manchurian Jurchen tribes.

13TH CENTURY BEIJING UNDER THE RULE OF KUBLAI KHAN—YUAN DYNASTY

History really gets underway in the early 13th century. In 1215 A. D. Genghis Khan broke through the natural barrier at Nankou south of the Great Wall and captured Zhongdu. Zhongdu was the capital since the Jin Dynasty in the

12th century. Genghis Khan burnt down the city and destroyed everything in sight. In 1260, Kublai Khan, the grandson of Genghis came to Zhongdu from the Mongolian steppes with the ambition to extend his rule over the whole country. He decided to rebuild the city and made it a centre of his rule. He renamed the capital as Khanbaliq which means Khan's Town. And in Chinese it was known as Dadu meaning Great Capital.

The only palace in Zhongdu which has escaped destruction was the Daninggong (Palace of Great Tranquility). It wasn't destroyed because of its isolated location. It was in the north eastern suburb outside the Jin city. Kublai made this the centre of Dadu. This is roughly where Beihai Park stands today.

In 1271, Kublai defeated the southern Song and founded the Yuan Dynasty. He united north and south China under his rule, thus Dadu became the national capital. It maintained its position under different names in different dynasties.

RECONSTRUCTION OF DADU

The construction of the city went underway. In the centre and to the south was the Imperial City. It consisted of three groups of palaces standing on the banks of Zhonghai and Beihai. The palaces on the east bank were where the Yuan emperor gave audience and lived. This area was

known as Danei, meaning Great Within. This was the predecessor of the Forbidden City in the Ming and the Qing Dynasties. The southern and northern palaces on the west bank of the lakes were the residences of the crown prince and the empress dowager. The palace roofs were built with brightly coloured glazed tiles, the terraces were of intricately carved white marble and the interiors were lavishly decorated.

In the centre of the city, north of the palace was the Drum Tower and behind it was the Bell Tower. Drums and bells were beaten to mark the hours of the day and night.

The city was surrounded by walls on four sides. It had two gates to the north and three gates on each of the other three sides. There were broad avenues running between opposite pairs of gates. Principal streets mostly ran north — south direction and were intersected by lanes running east — west. Some of these streets and lanes still exist today, for example Xidan street, Dongsì Street, Xisi Street, Dongzhimen Road, Xizhimen Road, Gulou West Road and Inner Chaoyangmen Road. These roads all existed in Dadu but only called differently.

There was a problem of water supply to this city. So Kublai commissioned a famous hydraulic engineer (Guo Shoujing) to improve the situation by bridging the waters of the Jade Spring in the Western Hills to the city at Jishuitan near the present Deshengmen in north — west Beijing, Jishuitan means Water Accumulating Pool. Also at a later

stage, canals were built which enabled barges to enter the city from the south. The area between Jishuitan and the Drum Tower became the commercial centre of the city.

Dadu attracted many foreign traders and monks to the area, as a result promoted the growth of cultural exchanges. Marco Polo was deeply impressed by the grandeur of the city and its magnificent palaces. He wrote very detailed descriptions of the palaces in his travels.

BEIJING IN THE MING DYNASTY

In 1368 there was a rebellion against the Yuan in central China. Zhu Yuanzhang founded the Ming Dynasty and shifted the capital to Nanjing. One of his generals captured Dadu and renamed it as Beiping meaning Northern Peace. He also reduced the size of the city by moving its northern wall south to its present location along the line marked by Deshongmen and Andingmen. After 35 years in the early 1400 Zhu's son Yong Le moved the capital to Beiping. Millions of taels of silver were spent on refurbishing the capital. Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven were first built in Yong Le's reign. When the reconstruction was completed, the capital was much larger than Dadu. The city was brought further south. During the reign of Jiajing emperor in 1522 — 1566 a new city wall was added enclosing the southern suburbs. The city became a 'twin town' with the "inner city" square in shape and an "outer city" oblong in

shape to the south.

The section of the Great Wall which stands on the north side about 60 km. from Beijing was rebuilt in this period to protect the capital from the attack of Manchurians. A fort was built at a strategic location in Badaling. It guards the traffic on the north side of the city.

MING TOMBS

The emperors in the Ming Dynasty were all buried in a site north of Beijing. This is the Ming Tombs or known to the Chinese as Shisanling meaning thirteen tombs. The largest tomb is Changling. It is the tomb of YongLe. Dingling is the tomb of WanLi who was the fourth and the last Ming emperor. Dingling was opened in 1956—58. It was the only tomb excavated so far. It was found that the tomb was as lavishly decorated as the imperial residence. The underground palace costed eight million ounces of silver to build at a time when one ounce of silver could buy 240 kilo of rice. This place is worth a visit.

QING DYNASTY—BUILDING OF IMPERIAL GARDENS AND PALACES

In 1644 the Manchurs invaded China and established the Qing Dynasty. The Qing rulers particularly Kangxi and Qianlong spent large sums of money and manpower in expansion, renovation and building summer palaces, pagodas

and temples. Improvements were made to the Forbidden City and Beihai Park within the Imperial City. The Tibetan — style Baita(White— Pagoda) was built in Beihai. During the reign of Kangxi(1662—1722) and Qianlong (1736—95) a large number of imperial gardens and palaces were built on the north western outskirts of Beijing. These palaces were known collectively as the Summer Palaces.

The most famous one is Yiheyuan (Garden of Nurtured Harmony) . In 1750, Wengshanpo(Jar Hill Pond) was enlarged and renamed as Kunming Lake. Wengshan (Jar Hill) was renamed as Wanshoushan meaning Longevity Hill. The whole area was enclosed by a wall and was called the Qingyiyuan meaning Garden of Clear Ripples. Not far from the New Summer Palace are ruins of the Old Summer Palace which is known as Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfection and Brightness). There are altogether three palaces on this site.

Until 1860, Anglo—French troops marched in and burnt the New Summer Palace to the ground. In later years, Empress Dowager Cixi used the money originally raised for building a modern Chinese navy to renovate the Palace. In 1888, the Summer Palace was renamed Yiheyuan.

CAPITAL OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

In the last 120 years of the Manchu Dynasty, Beijing and subsequently China were subjected to afflictions of power

struggles and invaders. The corrupt regime under Empress Dowager Cixi, the Boxers, General Yuan Shikai, the warlords, the Japanese and the Kuomintang finally ended in January 1949. On 1st October 1949, Mao Zedong in Tiananmen Square declared the founding of the People's Republic of China to half a million people. This opens a new chapter in the history of Beijing.

Post 1949 was a period of reconstruction. Beijing being the capital of the country continued to be a centre of political power and decisions. The National People's Congress and the Congress of the Chinese Communist Party are held here.

Under the old city planning schemes, high rises were never allowed because they were considered as obstructions to the emperor's views. Premier Zhou suggested that nothing higher than 45 metres be built within the old city wall, and that nothing higher than Tiananmen Gate be erected in that area.

From 1950 to 1952 the outer city walls were pulled down to allow better traffic circulation. Buildings were built by Russian experts. Today the Stalinesque features on some of the public buildings can be seen. Industry expanded rapidly at this time and Beijing became a major industrial city.

Construction of five to six-storey housing blocks continued at a brisk pace but were never able to keep pace with the demand. Townships were established on the city outskirts to feed the growing population.