

BEIJING

北京





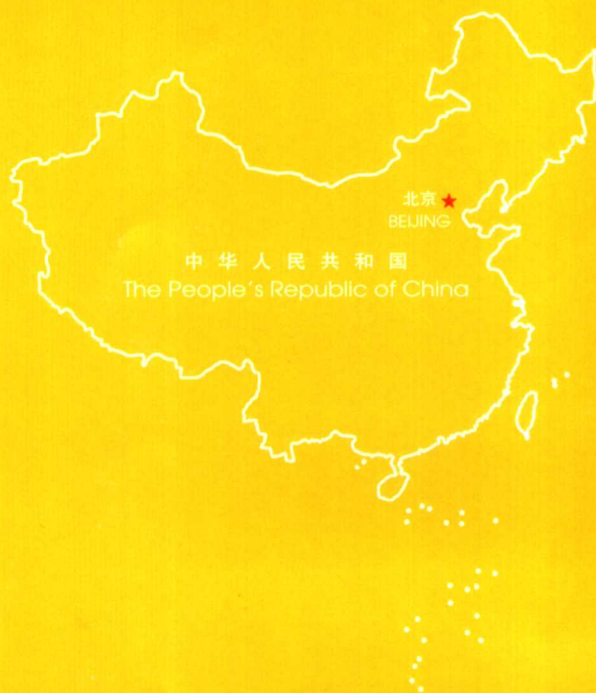
# 北京

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这是一座古老却又洋溢着青春活力的城市。这是一座在不同文化的碰撞下焕发出夺目光彩的城市。

北京，中华人民共和国的首都，中国的政治中心和文化中心。

她是世界知名的古城，在人类文明史册中占有重要位置。

北京是一座非凡的城市，她迷人而又有独特的个性。无论是徜徉在有数百年历史的皇宫林苑，还是漫步在灰墙黛瓦的古老街巷，或者伫立在高楼林立的现代化街区，都会有一种惊奇、一份感叹油然而涌上您的心头：深厚的文化底蕴和强烈的现代气息怎么会如此融洽地在这个古老而又年轻的城市并存着？！

这就是北京的魅力。

北京很古老。50万年前，北京出现了会用火、有语言、能够直立行走的北京猿人。他们是世界上最早懂得使用火的原始人类之一。

作为一个历史悠久的城市，北京与世界上任何古城相比都毫不逊色。她建城已有3000余年，作为都城也已有800年的历史。自元朝的第二个皇帝忽必烈定都北京开始（1272年），北京第一次成为中国的政治、经济和文化中心。经过二十余年的建设，一座以一连串的湖泊衬托着美丽的宫殿和园林，有着规整的棋盘式街道布局的城市诞生了。她就是元大都，是意大利著名旅行家马可·波罗笔下当时世界上最宏伟壮丽的城市。自那以后，她一直是中国最重要的城市和封建王朝的都城。

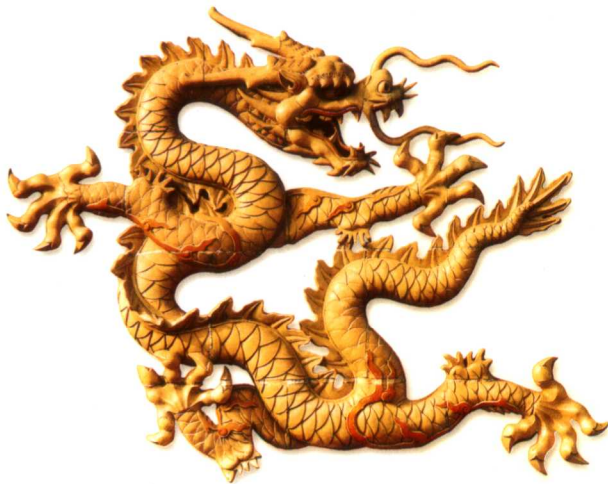
北京很美丽。从3000年前一个诸侯国的都邑，到一个有着十几亿人的泱泱大国的首都，数千年各种不同民族文化的融合、数百年帝王之都的熏陶以及近百年东西方文化的碰撞，孕育出成熟大气、凝重醇厚的北京文化。作为中国主流文化中最重要的一部分，这种由千年文化积淀陶冶出的、极具地域特色的文化与新世纪的气息交融，形成了奇异而微妙的文化存在，使古城北京体现出一种独特的文化之美。正是这种文化之美，使北京具有了永恒的魅力。

数百年来，几代王朝的不断建设，为北京留下了无法计数的名胜古迹和文化艺术珍品，使北京成为拥有世界遗产最多的中国城市。人类建筑史上的奇迹万里长城、世界上现存规模最大的皇家建筑群故宫、如诗如画的皇家园林颐和园和北海、世界上最大的祭祀性建筑群天坛、规模宏大的皇

家墓寝明十三陵、远古北京人的居所周口店猿人洞、埋藏着千年石刻佛经的房山云居寺等等，还有香山、潭柘寺、戒台寺等众多设计精妙的公园和寺庙，北京的名胜古迹多得不胜枚举。而那些呈棋盘状构成北京城基本骨架的上千条胡同，以及有着独特韵味的京味文化，更使北京因融合了古城神韵、皇都气度和多层面的市井文化而具有独树一帜的美丽。

北京又很现代。作为中华人民共和国的首都和中国的政治中心和文化中心，北京城市规模不断扩大，人口不断增加，经济实力不断增强。特别是20世纪80年代以来，北京以海纳百川的胸怀吸引着国内外、海内外的各类人才和投资。北京是全中国吸引外资最多、人才最集中、信息最发达、现代化程度最高的城市。而2008年即将在北京举办的奥运会，更使北京的城市建设和文化建设日新月异，向着国际化的现代都市大步迈进。

到过北京的人，无不惊叹她的独特和大气；而长住在北京的人，却会陶醉在她的深邃和丰富之中。





# F o r e w o r d

Beijing, capital of People's Republic of China, is the hub of the national political and cultural life.

It is an old city full of vigor. It is also where different cultures meet and melt into one.

It is a well-known tourist destination in the world, taking an important position in the history of human civilization.

Beijing is a unique and charming city with its own features. Wherever you go, either walking in hundred years old imperial palaces and gardens, or strolling on the ancient roads and lanes made of gray wall and black tiles, or ever standing among modern high-rises and skyscrapers, you will find yourself keeping asking how a deep cultural tradition and strong modern breath could harmoniously co-exist in such an old and youthful city.

It is where the charm of Beijing lies.

The history of Beijing can be dated back to 500,000 years ago when Peking man just appeared. Peking man had language and was able to walk, and was one of the earliest human beings who knew how to make use of the fire.

As a city, Beijing has 3,000 years' history, of which more than 800 years serving as a capital. The city became a political, economic and cultural center in China for the first time in history in 1272 when Kublai, the second emperor of the Yuan Dynasty, chose Beijing as capital. A beautiful city with regularly crisscrossed streets and dotted with rivers, lakes, palaces and gardens was gradually born in the following two decades. It was then called Dadu (Grand Capital) in the Yuan Dynasty (1368-1644?), and was described by Marco Polo as the most prosperous and glorious city in the world at that time. It has remained as an important city and capital in China since then.

Beijing is a beautiful city. During the process of its growth from a small town under a seigneur 3,000 years ago to a capital city for a large country with a population of 11 billion, a great and deep culture has been nurtured, and has later become the most important part of the mainstream culture in China. In Beijing culture you may feel the blend of different nationalities, the influence of feudal

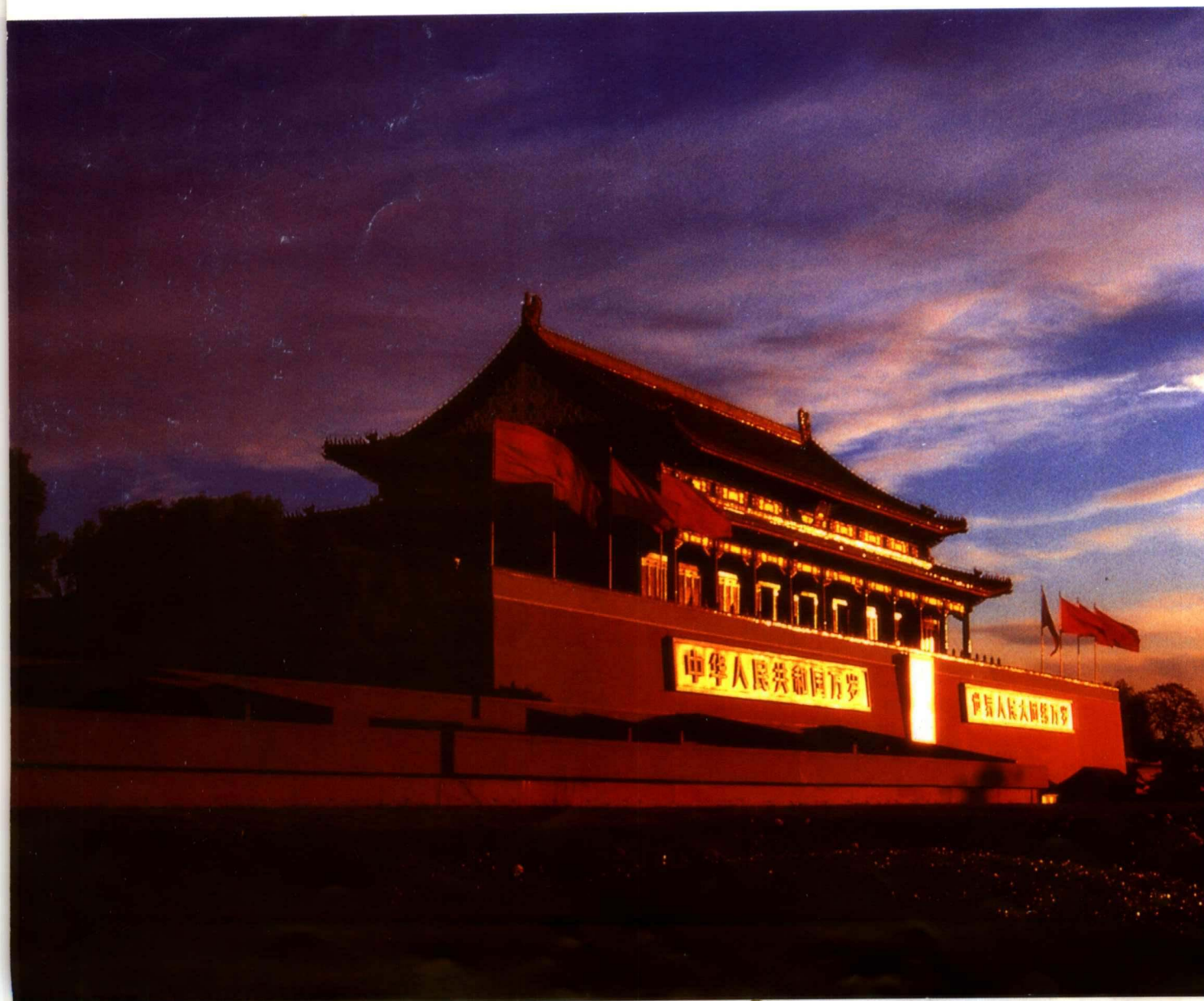
dynasties and harmonious notes in the cultural conflicts between the East and the West. It is a unique culture featuring thousand years old history, strong local characteristics and fresh breath of the new century. Because of this, the city boasts an everlasting charm.

The continuous construction of the feudal dynasties in several hundred years has left the city numerous places of historical interest and cultural treasures. Beijing is the city which has the most sights listed on the World Heritage List in China. There are many world renown attractions, the Great Wall, a wonder of man-made structure; the Palace Museum, the largest royal building group exist today; the Summer Palace and Beihai Park, the poetic royal gardens; the Temple of Heaven, the largest sacrificial architectural group in the world; the Ming Tombs, the large-size royal burial ground; Ape Man Cave in Zhoukoudian, where Peking man once lived and; Yunju Temple at Fangshan, where thousand-year-old stone carvings of Buddhist sutra can be found. Of course, Beijing has more to show, the Fragrant Hills, Tanzhe Monastery and Jietai Monastery, to name only a few. The crisscrossed streets and lanes that form the basic framework of the ancient city, its left-behind imperial mien and multi-dimensional cultures have put together to make it a city with magic attraction.

Beijing is also a modern city. As a national capital of the People's Republic of China, Beijing's city scale is expanding and at the same time its population and economic strength are also keeping increased. Since the 80's in the 20th century, Beijing has opened its arms to welcome different talents and investments from home and abroad. Beijing is the city that has attracted most of the foreign investments to the country. It now has built a well-developed information network, gathered many talents and has become the most modern city in China. The 2008 Olympic Games is sure to promote the urban and cultural construction of the city and accelerate its process toward an international metropolis.

No one will pass Beijing without exclaiming its uniqueness and greatness. Beijing residents also feel honored to live in a city with rich and deep cultural connotations.









# 北京的心脏

## Heart of Beijing

对中国人来说，也许没有一个地方像天安门广场那样令人魂牵梦萦。她是百余年来中华民族许多重大历史事件的见证，她是自信、自立的中华人民共和国的象征，她是北京的心脏。

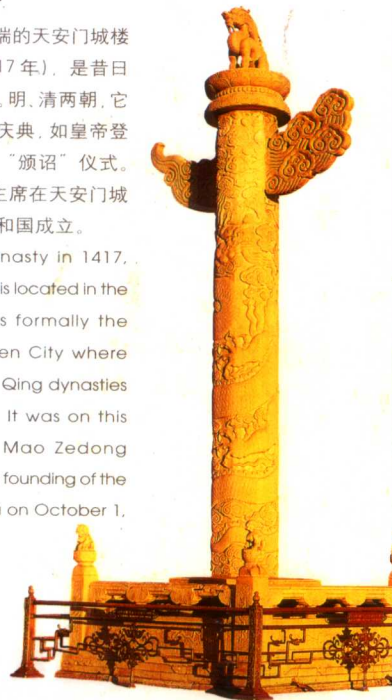
Probably, there is not any place as ravishing (enchancing) as Tian'anmen Square in China. The square has witnessed many historic events for centuries. It is the heart of Beijing and also a symbol of confidence and self-reliance of the People's Republic of China.

## 天安门城楼

### Tian'anmen Rostrum

坐落在天安门广场北端的天安门城楼始建于明永乐十五年（1417年），是昔日的皇宫——紫禁城的正门。明、清两朝，它最大的用途是国家有重大庆典，如皇帝登极、册立皇后时在此举行“颁诏”仪式。1949年10月1日，毛泽东主席在天安门城楼上庄严宣布中华人民共和国成立。

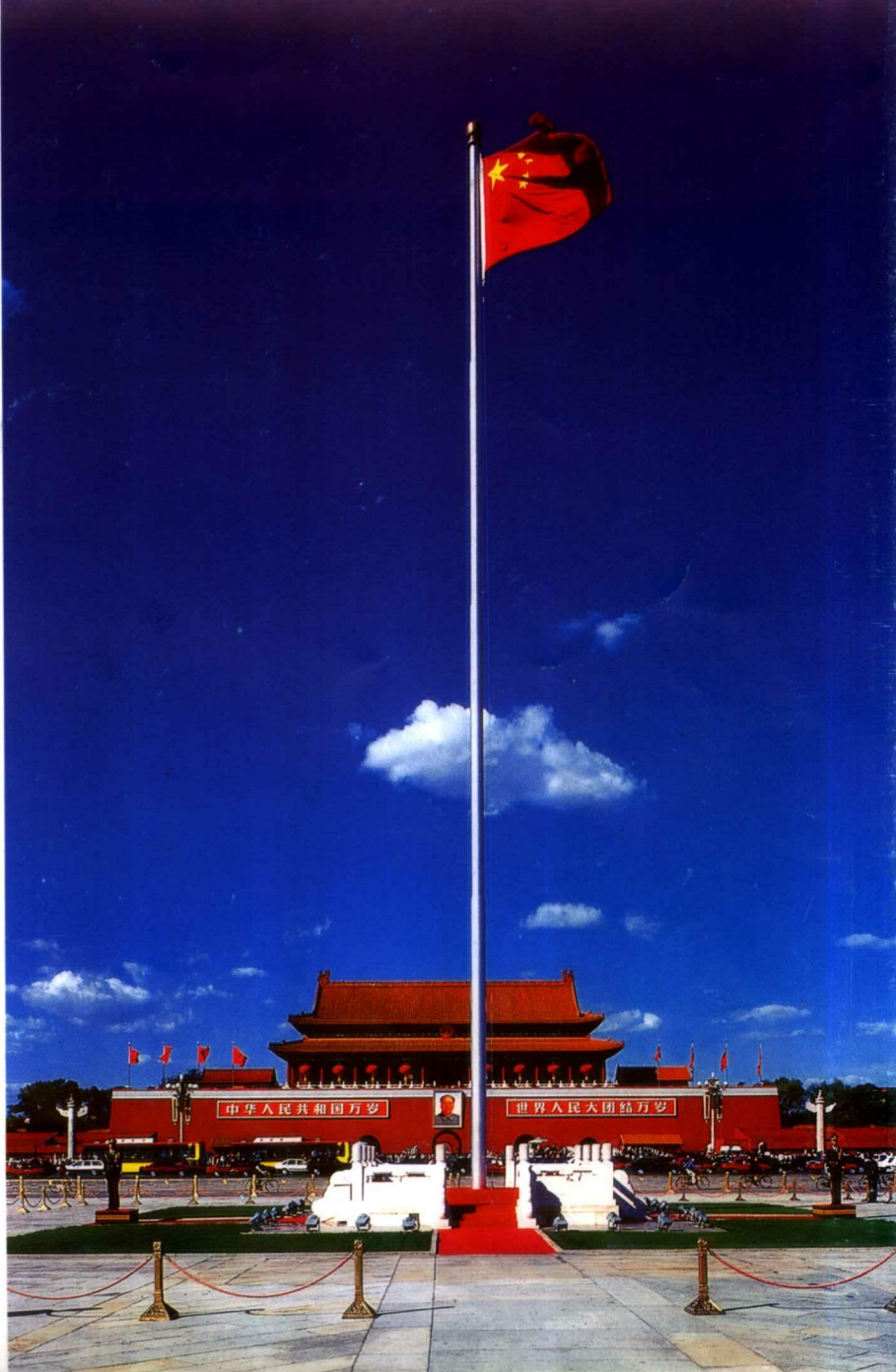
Built in the Ming Dynasty in 1417, Tian'anmen Rostrum, which is located in the north of the square, was formally the entrance to the Forbidden City where emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties held grand ceremonies. It was on this rostrum late Chairman Mao Zedong announced to the world the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949.



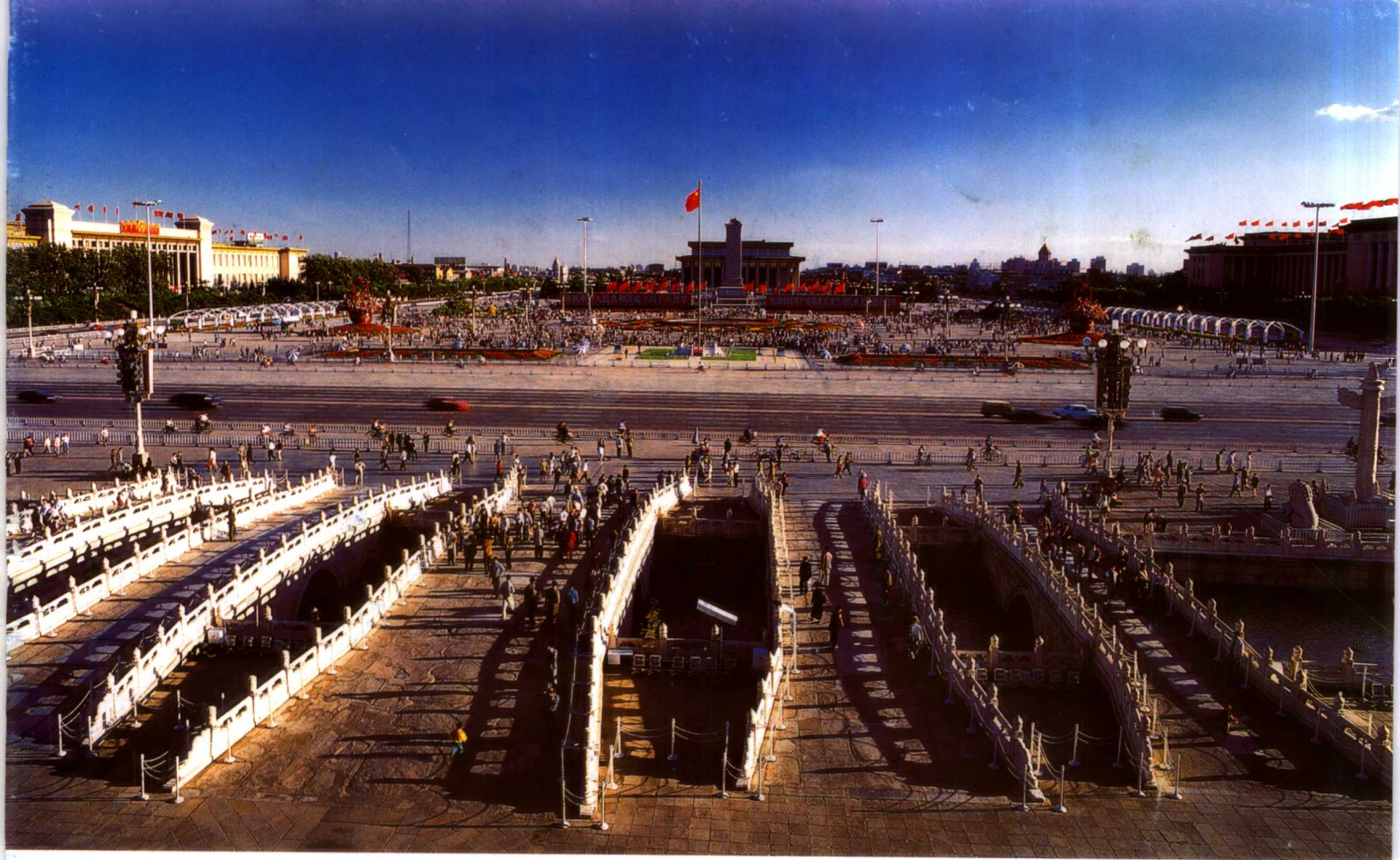


中华人民共和国的国旗——五星红旗在天安门广场上空高高飘扬。每天黎明和黄昏，许多人会肃立在五星红旗周围，等待庄严的升、降国旗仪式。

The Five-Starred Red Flag, the national flag of the People's Republic of China, is flying high over the square. The daily flag raising and lowering ceremonies at sunrise and sunset always attract many people.







天安门广场南北长880米，东西宽500米，总面积达44万平方米，可容纳100万人举行盛大集会，是世界最大的广场。天安门广场的东侧是中国历史博物馆和中国革命博物馆，西侧是人民大会堂；广场中央高高矗立的人民英雄纪念碑记录着百余年来中国人民民族解放的艰苦历程。纪念碑南侧的毛主席纪念堂于1977年落成。每天，有成千上万人来自全国和世界各地的人们到天安门广场参观、游览。

Tian'anmen Square is the largest of the sort in the world. It is 880 meters long from north to south, and 500 meters wide from east to west. Occupying an area of 440,000 square meters, it can accommodate a large size assembly for one million people. To the east is the Chinese History Museum and Chinese Revolutionary Museum. To the west is the Great Hall of People. In the middle of square is the Monument to the People's Heroes, which has recorded Chinese people's hard struggles for the national liberation. Back to the south is the Chairman Mao Memorial Hall built in 1977. Each day many tourists from home and abroad will come to pay homage to him.



## 人民大会堂

### The Great Hall of People

人民大会堂建成于1959年，总面积172万平方米，是全国人民代表大会常务委员会的办公地点。这座由中央大厅、万人大会堂、7000平方米的大宴会厅，以及以包括港澳台在内的全国各省、自治区、直辖市的名称命名的厅堂组成的宏大建筑群，当年建设只用了令人难以置信的10个月的时间。

The Great Hall of People, built in 1959, occupying an area of 1.72 million square meters, is the seat for the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. It is a great architectural group consisting of Central Hall, Ten-Thousand-People Conference Hall, 7,000-square-meter banquet hall and halls named after provinces, autonomous regions and cities directly under the jurisdiction of the Central Government. The construction of the building only took 10 months.



## 中国革命博物馆、中国历史博物馆

### The Chinese Revolutionary Museum & The Chinese History Museum

中国革命博物馆是中国目前革命文物收藏量最大的博物馆。展出的4500多件实物、文献、图片、绘画、模型、雕塑生动地再现了自1840年起的中国近、现代史进程。

中国历史博物馆展厅面积约9000多平方米，馆内有文物藏品30余万件，展示了中国自原始社会起至封建社会（1840年前）5000年的文明史。

The Chinese Revolutionary Museum has the largest collection of the revolutionary relics in the country. 4,500 items on show have vividly represented a modern and contemporary China since 1840.

The Chinese History Museum has 9,000 square meters displaying ground. It houses more than 300,000 cultural relics that have well displayed China's 5,000 years of civilization from the Primary Society to the Feudal Society (before 1840).





### 毛主席纪念堂

#### Chairman Mao Zedong Memorial Hall

毛主席纪念堂于1979年开放，每天都有许许多多的人满怀崇敬之心前往瞻仰一代伟人的遗容。

Chairman Mao Zedong Memorial Hall was open in 1979. Everyday, many people will come to pay homage to this great man.

### 人民英雄纪念碑

#### The Monument to the People's Heroes

1958年，为纪念自1840年至1949年百余年间为了中华民族的解放而牺牲的先烈，在天安门广场的中央，建造起碑高37.94米，碑基3000余平方米的人民英雄纪念碑。碑的正面是毛主席题写的“人民英雄永垂不朽”8个镏金大字，背面是周恩来总理题写的碑文，碑座上的8幅大型汉白玉浮雕概括了中国百余年来重要的历史事件。

The Monument to the People's Heroes was set up in 1958 to commemorate martyrs sacrificed for the course of national liberation during the period of 1840 to 1949. There are late Chairman Mao's golden inscriptions of "the heroes of the people are immortal" on the front side. The article on the backside was written by late Premier Zhou Enlai. The eight large marble carvings in relief outline the important historic events happened in Chinese history in more than one hundred years.





天安门广场鸟瞰

A bird's eye view of Tian'anmen Square