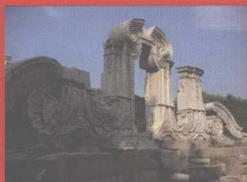
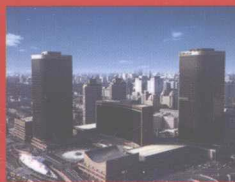


# Beijing TOURISM MANUAL

■ Mier W. Wang



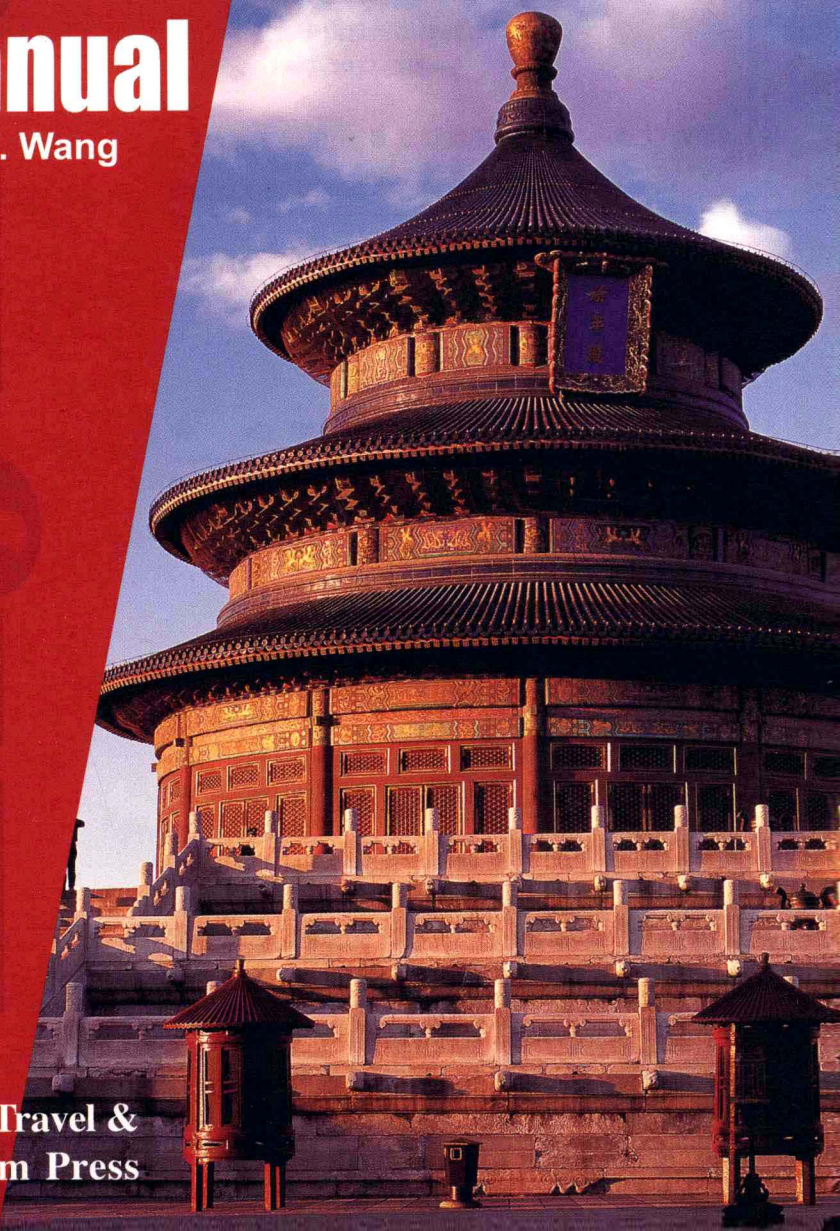
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Mier W. Wang

China Travel &  
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# Preface

The capital of the People's Republic of China is one of the world's most diverse cities. Surviving over 5000 years of history, it is now complemented with (what I liked to call) "an economy on steroids" making it the most attractive location for people to see in China.

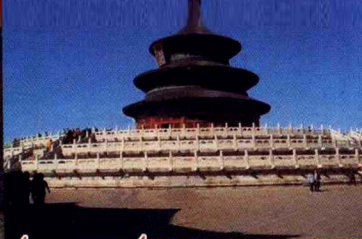
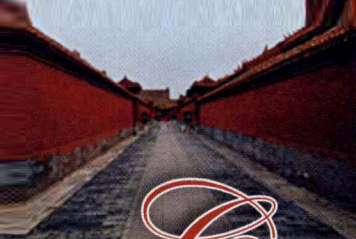
Spread all across Beijing, the numerous attractions give more than enough reasons to explain why Beijing is hosting the 2008 Olympics. Massive construction projects have changed the landscape, and the political, economic, cultural and communication centers of the country have prepared themselves for one of the greatest events in history.

Stepping out of Capital Airport in Beijing, I watched as the crowded road flooded with more and more ambitious taxi drivers. As I took more time to observe the Beijing atmosphere, the fast-pace market and the dreadful driving practices showed me that I wasn't in Kansas anymore.

After an entire summer exploring the capital, the city proved to be a lot more tireless than tourists might think. I remember how I was instantly flabbergasted by the opening of the plane doors; the outside air filled the airplane cabin, and I said to myself "Man is this place HOT!"

This Beijing Handbook will help readers to fully intake the numerous sites that Beijing has to offer. Whether you intend on visiting The Forbidden City or sampling genuine Chinese cuisine, this handbook will reveal many of the cultural differences that commonly shock tourists.

by Mier W. Wang  
On September, 2007,  
in Portage, Michigan, USA



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# About Beijing

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. This metropolis is the second largest city in the country next to Shanghai, and it is the political, economic, educational, and cultural center of China.

## 1-1 Geography

---

As a tourist, the responsibility rests on your shoulders to know at least the fundamentals to the location of where you are traveling; that makes it my responsibility as your guide to tell you some basics to the geographic location of Beijing. So here we go...

Beijing is located in China, on the West coast of the Pacific Ocean. The Yanshan Mountains surround the capital in the North, East, and West side (61% of the city is occupied by mountainous terrain), while Yongding River flows in the South. As you can see, tourists can easily enjoy the luscious mountainside views of Beijing one day and meet the roaring seas the next; this is a perfect location for those who enjoy "all-in-one" vacations.

Beijing is 39% flat land and the other 61% is quite mountainous. The center of the city is situated at 39°56' North Latitude and 116°20' East Longitude. For those looking for fascinating facts, Beijing is situated approximately the same latitude as Philadelphia of the United States and Madrid of Spain!



## 1-2 Climate

One of the most important tips that I can give you about the climate is to DRESS ACCORDINGLY. Beijing is full of surprises when it comes to the weather, especially for tourists.

### Winter

The air in Beijing during winter is extremely dry. For those who aren't afraid of the cold, winter can be a very fascinating time to explore the city. Many layers of clothing are highly recommended to fend off the biting cold winds.

### Spring

The spring in Beijing is very brief and dry. For tourists who are vacationing during this season, the thing to pay most attention to is what the Chinese like to call "Yellow Wind." Beijing springs are known to be EXTREMELY DUSTY. High winds carry sand particles all the way from the Gobi Desert to pester people walking outside. Today, many tree-planting renovations have commenced to minimize the effects of these winds.

### Summer

The summer temperatures in Beijing can be scorching. Other than light clothing, it's hard to prepare for this type of condition, so the best advice would be to bring a lot of sunscreen and bug spray (there can be a lot of mosquitoes). Something else to look out for is the warm and humid monsoon winds blowing in from the southeast: this is what brings in most of Beijing's annual precipitation. The capital offers a healthy dose of heavy thundershowers especially in the afternoons; don't forget your umbrella!

### Autumn

Beijing's autumn is the most comfortable time to visit. With only a little precipitation, the climate is neither too dry nor too humid, making it just right.

Here's a chart for visual learners

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
High	34°F 1°C	39°F 4°C	52°F 11°C	70°F 21°C	81°F 27°C	88°F 31°C
Low	14°F -10°C	18°F -8°C	30°F -1°C	45°F 7°C	55°F 13°C	64°F 18°C
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High	88°F 31°C	86°F 30°C	79°F 26°C	68°F 20°C	48°F 9°C	37°F 3°C
Low	70°F 21°C	68°F 20°C	57°F 14°C	43°F 6°C	28°F -2°C	18°F -8°C

## 1-3 Population and Ethnicity

One of the eye-openers for an average tourist is the uncountable number of people walking on the streets of Beijing everyday. Here's some information about the city's population.

The actual city is almost 17,000 sq. km, and its boundaries extend up to 80 km. Over fifteen million people occupy this large area with plentiful stores, delicious restaurants, and arrays of services for your convenience.

- Beijing's population grew to fifteen million at 2005, almost four times the census in 1949.
- Approximately, 50,000 newborns are born each year.
- Beijing has 11.8 million permanent residents and over 3 million transient populations.
- The population of people who use public transportation is close to four million.
- China's 56 ethnic groups are all recognized in Beijing. The majority (96.5%) of the city's population is of the Han ethnic group. About 300,000 people of the population account for the other 55 minorities.

## 1-4 Area and Districts

The Municipality of Beijing governs a total of 16 urban districts and 2 rural counties:





## 1-5 History of Beijing

As early as 400,000 years ago	The first caveman born in China was nicknamed the "Peking Man." He lived in Zhoukoudian, in the southwestern suburbs of Beijing.
1045 B.C —	A small town was formed southwest of present day Beijing. It was named JI, but later was renamed YAN. It became a major city in northern China. The recorded history of Beijing as a city can date back to more than 3,000 years ago.
907 —	Qidan people founded the Liao Dynasty. They occupied and established Beijing, which was renamed as "Jiuzhou."
1153 —	Jin Dynasty, which controlled North China, chose Beijing as the official capital, naming it "Jin Zhong Du".
1215 —	Jin Zhong Du fell to Mongolian warlord Genghis Khan during the Mongolian campaign to build a vast empire. After a seven-year siege, the city was destroyed. Genghis Khan's grandson Kublai Khan rebuilt the city in 1267 to replace Jin Zhong Du and named it Dadu. By 1279, Kublai had conquered all of China, becoming the ruler of largest country in history. This era is known as the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368).
1368 —	Zhu Yuanzhang led an uprising against the Mongol Empire and seized Khan's great city. This began the Ming Dynasty. Under Zhu's control, the city changed name to Beiping — meaning "Northern Peace."
1644 —	The Manchu ended the Ming Dynasty, establishing the new Qing Dynasty. Under the new rulers, Beijing was modernized with the construction of the Yuanmingyuan Park (Old Summer Place) and the Summer Place.
1911 —	The Qing Dynasty finally collapsed in 1911. In 1928, the Nanjing-based nationalist government of the Republic of China designated Beijing as the Beiping Special Municipality. In 1930, the municipality was renamed as Beiping City.
1949 —	In September 27, 1949, the Chinese People's Political consultative Conference decided that the newborn People's Republic of China would base its capital in Beiping and renamed the city as Beijing.



## 1-6 Beijing Culture

Because of China's extended history, it is a treasure cave of cultural heritage and legendary artifacts. In addition to the various cultures, Beijing is also rich in religion. All around Beijing, adorned temples reveal ancient religious practices of the Chinese civilization. But of course, Beijing is also filled with magnificent architectural feats, such as the Forbidden City, Ming Tombs, the Great Wall, and even Hutongs. The many landmarks in Beijing offer more than enough for tourists to fill a day's schedule. But, these unbelievable accomplishments reveal only a sample of Beijing's countless wonders. Beijing, in fact, also holds art at high-esteem as well. Tourists frequently visit popular theater houses to enjoy unique Beijing operas, acrobatic shows, and traditional Chinese dramas. While preserving historic remnants, Beijing persistently undergoes change and renovation, making it a different city everyday.

## 1-7 Beijing City Flowers and Trees



**Chrysanthemum**



**Chinese rose**



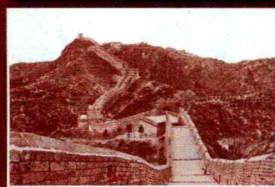
**Guohuai**



**Oriental Arborvitae**



With thousands of years of history, Beijing also has thousands of tourist attractions. From arduous hikes on the Great Wall to the glorious memories in the Forbidden City, Beijing has got them all. Many of these sites are on the prestigious list of the United Nations' World Culture Heritage Sites, which shows Beijing's role as a tourist magnet. Bustling with economic revolutions and constantly feeding hungry people, Beijing offers a collection of sites that will bring unforgettable experiences to picture-perfect sceneries. Also offering a taste of the Chinese culture and history, Beijing's numerous tourist hot spots are have-to-see stops on your itinerary.





Chapter

2

# Tourist Attractions



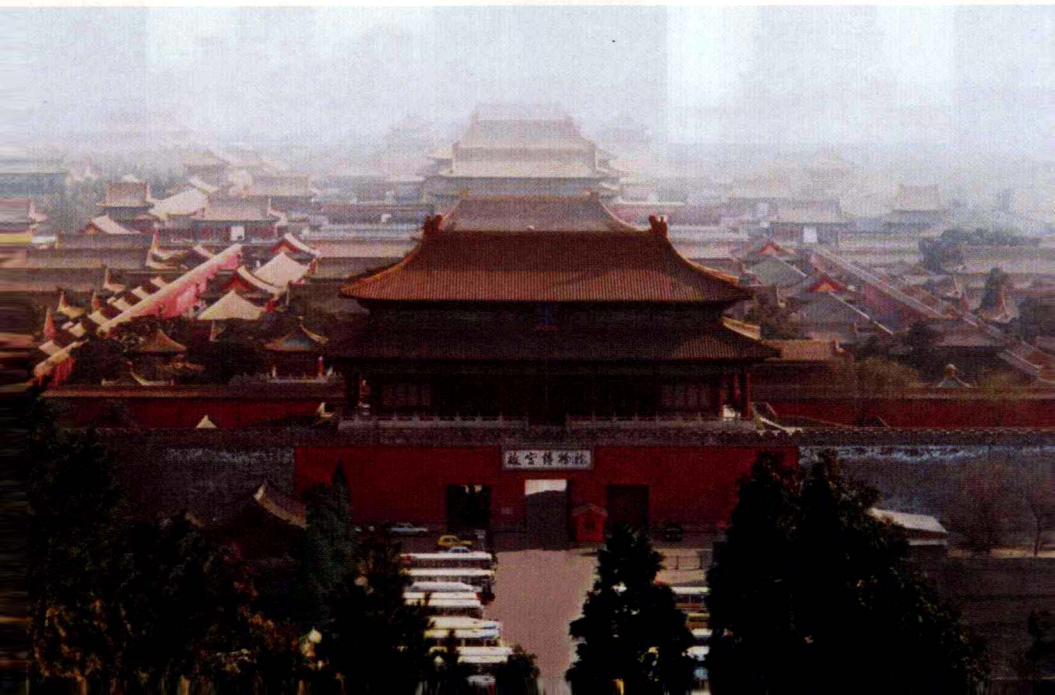


## 2-1

# Forbidden City

Forming the heart of Beijing, the Forbidden City, or Gugong in Chinese, has survived the rule of 24 emperors, lasting over 500 years. All the way until 1924 (the royal family was removed that year), this was the imperial palace where emperors and governments wrote history and made national decisions. During the 500 years, officials forbade the public from entering Gugong, which led to its

**The Forbidden City's Full View take from Jingshan Park**

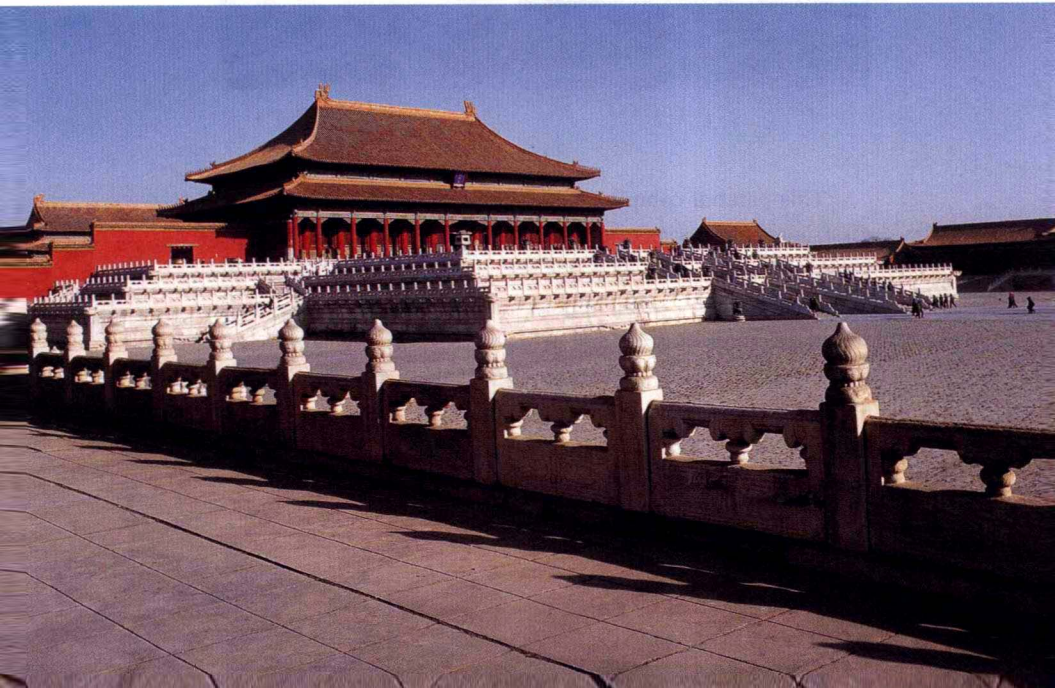




**Wumen(Meridian Gate)**

name the “Forbidden City.” Taking 15 years and millions of workers to complete, the gigantic Gugong was built with exactly 9,999 rooms (10,000 being a sacred number only to be used by gods), and it offered housing to almost everyone, including the imperial family, servants, officials, consorts, concubines, eunuchs, and many more.

**Taihedian (Hall of Supreme Harmony)**







This palatial complex has suffered through many losses. First, Japanese troops controlled Gugong for a duration of time, leading to unforeseen damages and losses. Then on the eve of Communist victory, defeated Kuomintang members transported countless crates of relics and artifacts to Taiwan, where today, these historic goods are exhibited in Taipei's National Palace Museum. Despite these surviving remnants, many rare books, paintings, calligraphy, and other historic valuables have been lost throughout Gugong's long history.