



BEIJING

北
京



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BEIJING

北 京

Beijing is the capital of China and one of the most important cities in the world. It is a city of great history and culture, and it is also a city of great modernity and progress.

Beijing is a city of great beauty and interest. It is a city of great contrast, where the old and the new coexist. It is a city of great energy and vitality, and it is also a city of great peace and harmony.

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BEIJING

北 京

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China and is one of the world's most populous cities.

It is located in the northern part of the country, on the banks of the Yellow River.

Beijing is a major center for politics, culture, and industry.



BELLING

Ancient Oriental culture has always fascinated people around the world. As history strode ever onward great cities rose and fell, some of them leaving not a single trace. But in Northern China there is an ancient city which still preserves all its charms, having the world's largest complex of palace architecture and a wealth of cultural relics—the city of Beijing.

An ancient book describes Beijing to have the “best topography in the world and is indeed the capital of immortal emperors.” Beijing sits at the northwestern edge of the North China Plain, with Mount Yanshan to its north, the Taihang Mountains to the west, the Bohai Bay to the east and vast plains to the south. The Chaobai and Yongding rivers wind through the city. As early as 500,000 years ago Peking Man, one of the earliest ancestors of the Chinese nation, lived here.

Beijing's recorded history starts in the Western Zhou Dynasty (about 11th century B.C. -771 B.C.). Emperor Wu enfeoffed Emperor Huangdi's descendants in Ji, and minister Shi, Duke of Shao, in Yan. Later Yan annexed

Ji, and the city of Ji became the capital of the State of Yan. Through both the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods (770 B. C. -256 B. C.) Yan developed as a large vassal state of the Zhou emperors and its capital—the city of Ji—became a flourishing and powerful city in the north of China.

During a period of over 1,100 years—from the conquest of Yan by the first Emperor of the Qin Dynasty (221 B. C. -206 B. C.) until the end of the Tang Dynasty (618-907)—the city of Ji had under its jurisdiction the prefectures of Youzhou, Youyan and Jixian. An ancient poem describes the city of Ji as being “close to the desert to the north and in a strategic location.” In 938, during the Liao Dynasty (907-1125), Emperor Taizong made the city of Ji (then known as Youzhou) his second capital, renaming it Nanjing (or Yanjing). In 1153 it was again changed to Zhongdu and became the capital of the Jin Dynasty (1115-1234), which ruled the north of China. At the end of the 12th century Mongolian cavalry conquered the Central Plain. When Kublai Khan, who later became Emperor Taizu of the Yuan Dynasty, came to Zhongdu in 1260 he seemed to sense the then devastated city’s extraordinary potential for greatness, and thus ordered in 1267 construction of a new capital in the northeastern section of the original site. It took 18 years to complete this large-scale construction of the new city of Dadu, which became China’s political and trade center and one of the world’s great metropolises of that time. Chinese civilization, with the city of Dadu as the center, became the envy of people the world over. During the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) Dadu was renamed to Beijing, and in 1406 Emperor Chengzu ordered a new imperial palace

to be built in Beijing, 400 meters south of the original site of the Mongolian Yuan palace. In 1420 construction of the Forbidden City, or the Imperial Palace, was completed, including more than 9,000 rooms with a total floor space of 720,000 square meters. For 491 years following the completion of the Forbidden City it was home to 24 emperors.

The imperial palace featuring red walls and yellow glazed tiles is the most typical architectural form in Beijing. The compact layout of the city of Beijing was meant to reflect the emperor's supreme authority under Heaven. The city is centered on the imperial palace, with altars, temples, government offices, monasteries and dwellings placed symmetrically. The streets are flat and broad, and there are four city gates — located in the east, west, south and north, respectively. In addition, there are imperial gardens in the western suburbs. The overall planning and design of the city encompasses the essence of traditional Chinese culture and art, making Beijing “the peak of a great civilization.”

Strongly contrasted with the imperial grandness is the lively and rich flavor of the streets and alleys. The houses of the common people are typically courtyard dwellings situated in unique *hutong* alleys redolent with the timeless traditional culture of Beijing. It is in the *hutongs* that visitors will find the rich and colorful folk culture of Beijing.

Beijing, an ancient yet modern city, will reward each and every visitor with its charm and hospitality.



北京

古老的东方文化一直是人们感兴趣的话题。文明的更迭兴废,使无数繁华一时的大都市随岁月流逝而灰飞烟灭,让后人无迹可考。在中国北方,有一座古城幸运地保存下来,留下了世界上最庞大的宫殿建筑群和完整的文化遗产,这就是北京。“在北纬 40 度上下的世界各大城市,只有北京是历经 3000 年而不衰的都城”。

按照古人的说法,北京“形胜甲天下…… 诚万古帝王之都”。北京地处华北平原西北端,北枕燕山,西依太行,东近渤海,南面平川,潮白、永定二河蜿蜒而过,山川环卫,水甘土厚,是人类生存栖息的天然沃土,早在 50 万年前,即有世界闻名的原始人类“北京人”在这一带繁衍生息,形成了中国古代中原民族的最早族源。

北京有文字记载的历史始于西周(约前 11 世纪-前 771 年)。周武王封黄帝的后裔于蓟,封大臣召公奭于燕,后燕并蓟,就把蓟城设为燕的都城。到了春秋战国时期(前 770 年-前 256 年),燕发展为当时的大诸侯国之一,燕都蓟城也随之称雄北方,“富冠天下”。

从秦始皇灭燕到唐末的 1100 多年间,蓟城一直为历代郡治,称幽州、幽燕、蓟县等。由于它特殊的地理位置,“地扼襟喉趋朔漠,天留锁匙枕雄关”,颇为历代统治者所重视,逐渐发展成为北方的军事、交通重镇;到了辽代(907 年-1125 年),辽太宗于 938 年将幽州升为辽国的陪都,称南京(亦称燕京);金贞元元年(1153 年),北京首次成为正式的国都,定名中都。此时的北京,已跃升为中国北方政治与商业的中心,统治着半个

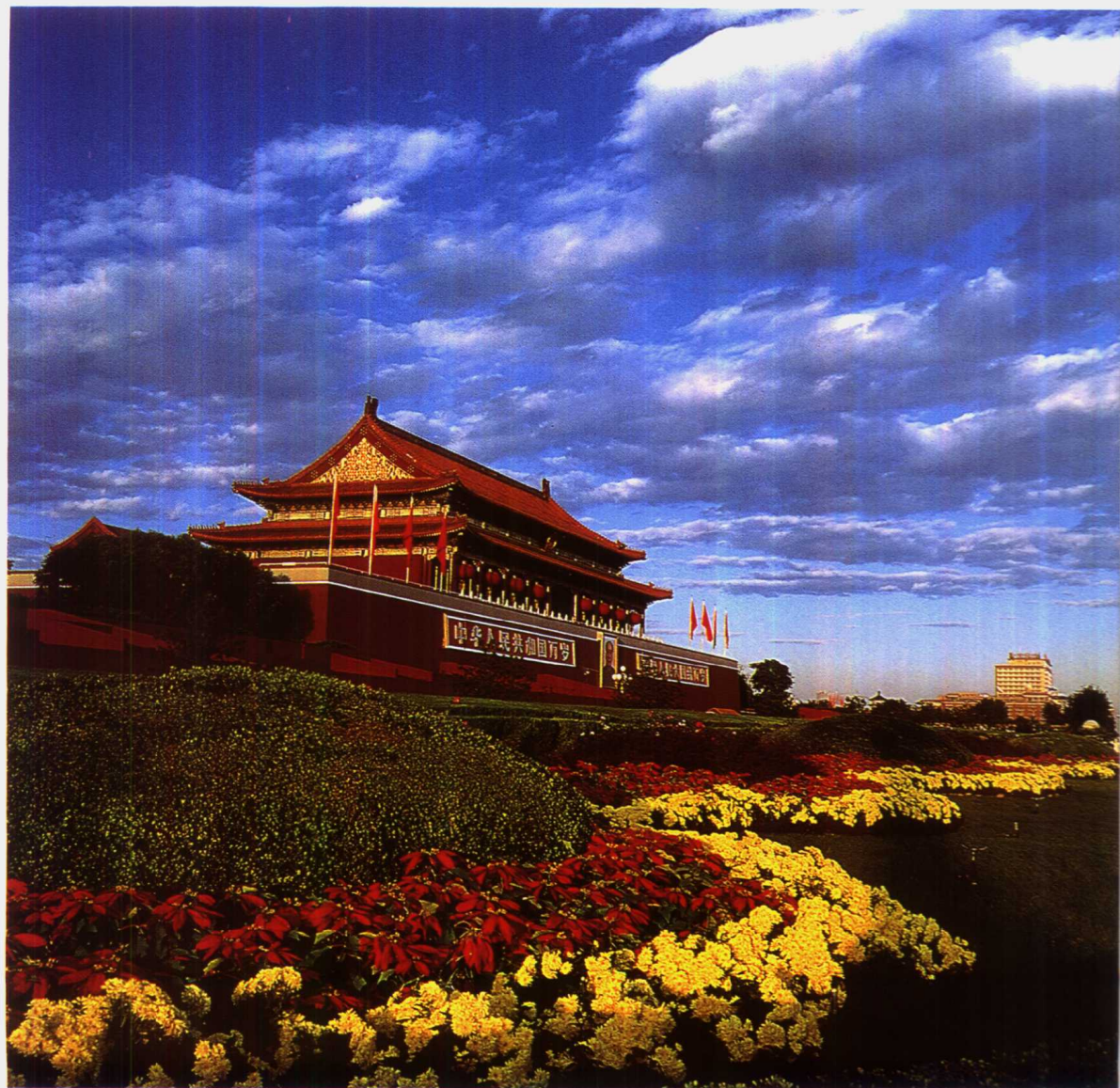
中国。十二世纪末叶，蒙古骑兵大举南下，横扫中原。1260年，当元世祖忽必烈来到被称为“中都”的北京时，面对一片焦土，似乎在冥冥中感到了这座北方城池非同寻常的帝王气势和广阔的发展未来，便于1267年在其旧址东北方，按皇权至上的理想营造皇都。18年后，一座规模空前庞大的城市——元大都诞生了。它不仅成为全国的政治和商贸中心，而且一度成为世界政治的中心，随元世祖称雄欧亚的野心而享誉世界。以元大都为代表的中华文明，引起了当时还未成熟的西方文明的敬仰和崇慕。此后的明（1368年-1644年）清（1644年-1911年）两代，北京一直是都城所在地。明朝永乐四年（1406年），明成祖朱棣下诏在北京营建皇宫，位置由元代宫殿旧址向南推移400米左右。永乐十八年（1420年），一代皇宫紫禁城建成，占地72万平方米，屋宇达9000余间。此后，清朝统治者延用了明代宫殿。紫禁城自建成凡491年、共历经24任皇帝在位掌朝，奠定了它在中国封建统治文化中不可动摇的权威地位。

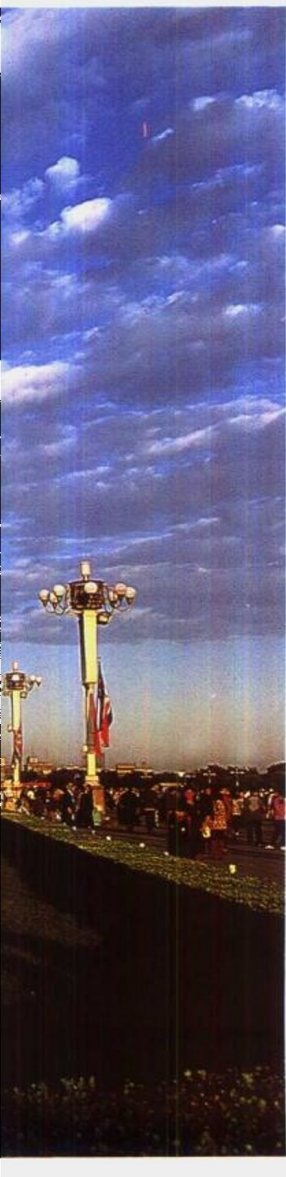
“未观皇居壮，安知天子尊”。在北京城内，以红墙黄瓦为基调的皇家宫苑是最为典型的建筑形式了。严谨的城市布局突出了古代统治者掌天朝大国，居宇宙中心的帝王意识。从北京的内外结构来看，北京外有万里长城拱卫，环以沉劲厚重的城墙；内以皇宫为中心，坛庙苑林、衙署寺观、市井民舍对称排列；街道平直宽阔，整齐严谨；四方城门，东西南北，四面呼应；西郊辟有大片皇家园林，山水相依，堂皇富丽。整个规划设计凝聚了数世纪中国传统文化与艺术的精粹，达到了“一个伟大文明的颠峰”。

与这种帝王气魄形成强烈对比的，是北京街市里巷中透出的活泼的市井风情。以四合院为代表的北京民居，以及富有北京特色的胡同，蕴含了老北京诸多的文化传统。正是这片市井里巷发育了趣味盎然、丰富多彩的民间和民俗文化。深入北京民居，你可以觅到一幅老北京人生动的生活画卷。

世界史就是人类的城市时代史；人类所有的伟大文化都是由城市产生的。孕育了中原文化的北京，承载着传统与现代的文明走向辉煌的未来。相信，每一个游历北京的人都会不虚此行。







A bird's-eye view of Tiananmen Square and the Imperial Palace

Located in the center of Beijing, Tiananmen Square covers a total area of 440,000 sq m, making it the largest public square in the world.

天安门广场和故宫

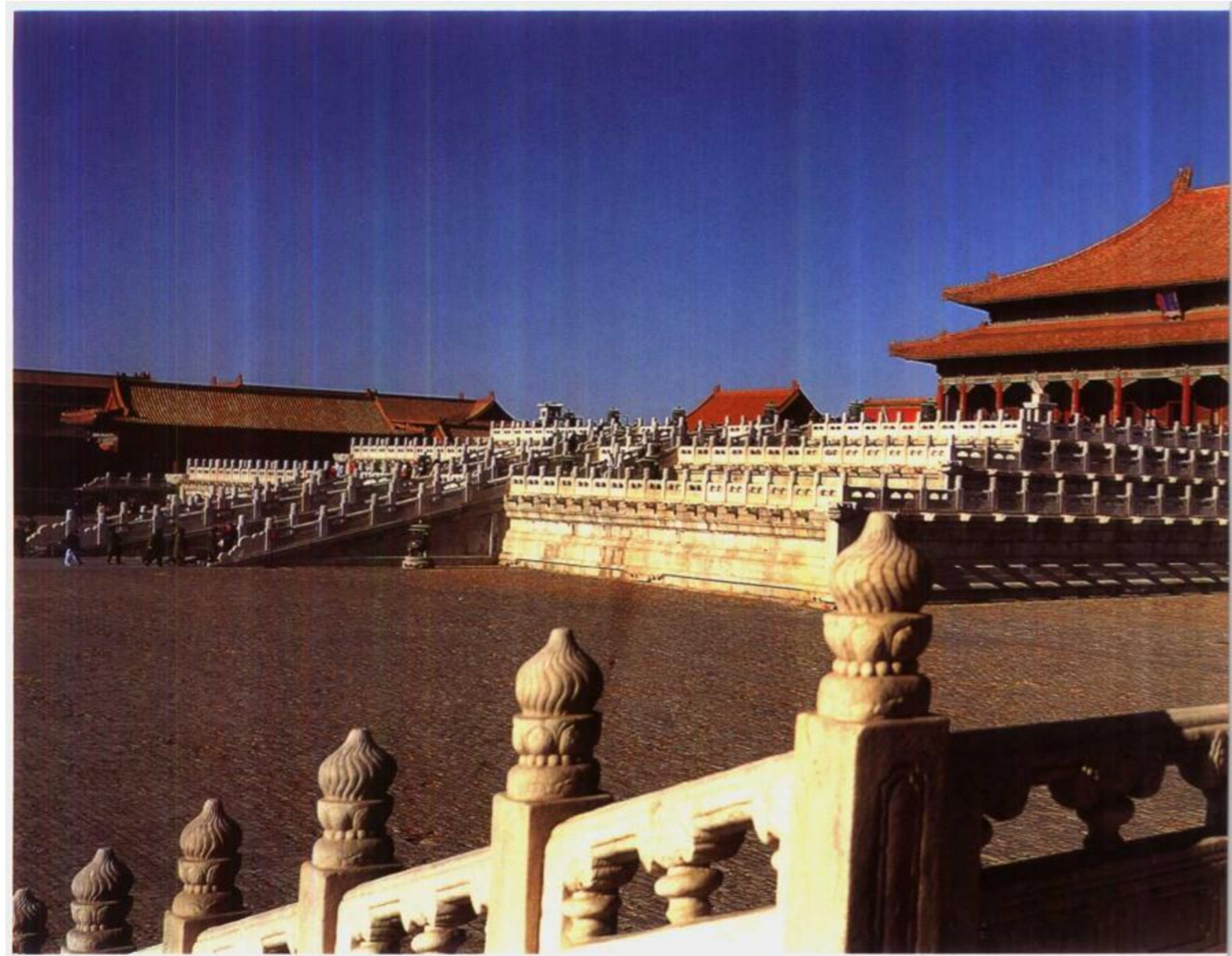
均居于北京城中心,广场面积 44 万平方米,为世界城市广场之最。

◁ Tiananmen (Gate of Heavenly Peace)

First built in 1417 and known as Chengtianmen during the Ming Dynasty, it was the front gate of the Imperial Palace. It was given its present name after reconstruction in 1651. Tourists may mount the rostrum on this 33.7-m-high gate.

天安门

是已拆除的皇城的正门,1417 年初建时名承天门,1651 年重建后改为今名。通高 33.7 米,游人可登临城楼观景。



Taihedian (Hall of Supreme Harmony)

It is the first of the three main halls in the Outer Palace of the Forbidden City (the other two being Zhonghedian and Baohedian), where the emperors held court. It is now the largest wooden structure in China.



故宫太和殿

太和殿、中和殿、保和殿为故宫外朝的三大殿。太和殿是皇帝举行重大典礼的殿堂,因此,其高度、面积皆为全宫之冠,也是中国现存最大的木结构殿宇。

Inside Qianqinggong (Palace of Celestial Purity)

Qianqinggong, Jiaotaidian (Hall of Celestial and Terrestrial Union) and Kunninggong (Palace of Terrestrial Tranquillity) are the three main halls constituting the Inner Palace. During the Ming Dynasty, Qianqinggong was the bed chamber of the emperor and empress. During the Qing Dynasty it became a place where the emperor held court or performed ceremonies.

乾清宫内景

乾清宫、交泰殿、坤宁宫是故宫内廷三大殿。明代乾清宫是帝后的寝宫，清代逐渐成为帝王听政和举行内廷典礼之处。





The court dress of a Qing emperor preserved in the Palace Museum

Numerous priceless treasures are housed in the Palace Museum, which was established in 1925. It is currently the largest museum in China.

宫藏清朝帝王朝服

作为两代王朝的皇宫，故宫内荟集了世间无数的奇珍异宝。1925年在此建立了故宫博物院，目前它是中国最大的国家博物馆。

A bird's-eye view of the Forbidden City

First constructed at the beginning of the 15th century, the Forbidden City has a total of more than 9,000 rooms with a floor space of 720,000 sq m.

俯瞰紫禁城

这座始建于15世纪初期的皇宫占地72万平方米,建有殿宇9000余间,成为北京的“城中之城”。

