

Discover Beijing, China

Welcome to Beijing, a city rich in history, culture, and modern marvels. As the capital of the People's Republic of China, Beijing has a population exceeding 21 million, making it one of the most populous cities in the world. Located in northern China, the city shares borders with Tianjin, a major port, and is partially surrounded by Hebei Province. As a key transportation hub and gateway to China, Beijing plays a pivotal role in connecting the country to the world.

For over 3,000 years, Beijing has been at the heart of China's political, cultural, and social life. Today, Beijing is a global metropolis that retains its rich heritage while embracing modern development, making it an unforgettable destination. As you explore the city, you'll be captivated by its majestic landmarks and vibrant energy.

Beijing's well-developed transportation system offers efficient ways to get around. The extensive network of subway and buses, as well as taxis and ride-hailing services (such as Gaode map and Didi Chuxing), provide convenient options for navigating the metropolis. Note that Gaode Map and Didi Chuxing allow payment through Alipay, which supports the use of Mastercard and Visa cards. If this option is available to you, make sure to connect your Alipay account to your Mastercard or Visa card before the trip. Otherwise, you can still choose to pay the driver offline with cash. However, this option may be less convenient, as many drivers no longer carry cash.

Below are some of the most iconic landmarks to explore.

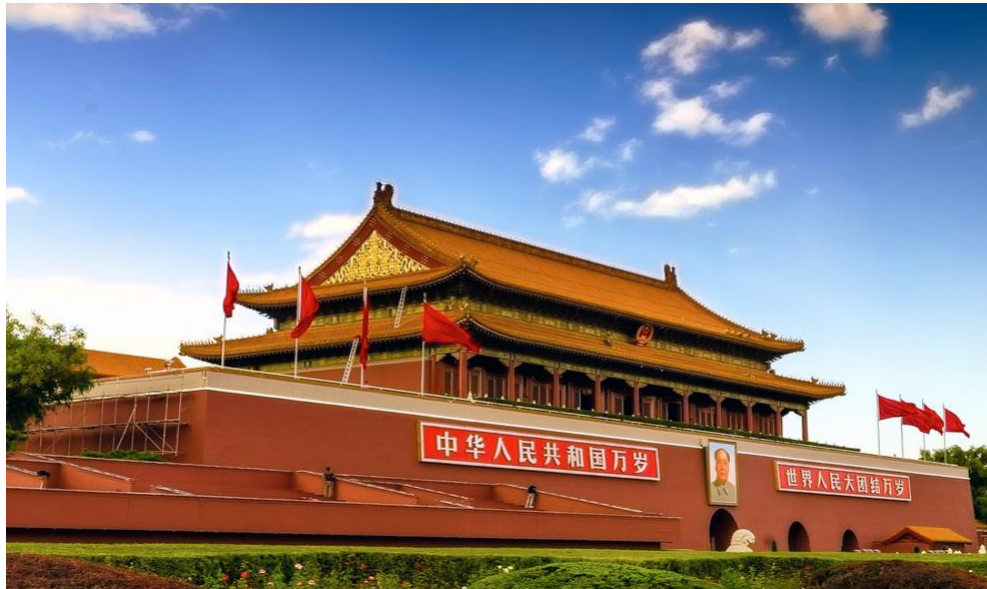
The Forbidden City

At the center of Beijing lies the Forbidden City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most visited landmarks in the world. Once the imperial palace for 24 emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties, it offers an awe-inspiring glimpse into China's royal past. With over 980 buildings and 70 hectares of ancient architecture, the grandeur of its golden rooftops and ornate halls is a must-see. *Note that reservation is required and must be made through its mini program on wechat.*



Tiananmen Square

Adjacent to the Forbidden City is Tiananmen Square, one of the largest public squares globally. It has been the stage for many significant historical events and remains a symbol of modern China. Visitors can witness the daily flag-raising ceremony, explore the National Museum of China, or visit the Mausoleum of Chairman Mao, all within the square's vast expanse. *Note that reservation is required and must be made through its mini program on wechat.*



The Hutongs and Courtyard Homes

For a more intimate look at Beijing's cultural roots, a visit to the city's hutongs (traditional alleyways) is essential. These narrow lanes, lined with siheyuan (courtyard homes), offer a glimpse of life in old Beijing. Wander through areas like the Drum Tower (Gulou), Yangmeizhu Xiejie, Shichahai, Dashilan, or Nanluoguxiang to experience the charm of the hutongs, where history meets everyday life.



Yonghe Temple (Lama Temple)

Yonghe Temple, or the Lama Temple, is a significant Buddhist temple in Beijing, originally built in 1694 as a residence for Emperor Yongzheng. After his reign, it was converted into a lamasery for Tibetan Buddhism. The temple showcases a unique blend of Han Chinese and Tibetan architectural styles, featuring beautifully adorned halls and stunning artworks.



The Great Wall of China

Just outside Beijing lies another of China's most renowned landmarks, the Great Wall. Stretching over 13,000 miles, the wall weaves through rugged mountains and lush landscapes, embodying ancient China's strength and engineering prowess. Popular sections such as Badaling and Mutianyu are easily accessible from Beijing and offer stunning views and a chance to walk on this ancient wonder.



The Summer Palace

A tranquil retreat from the bustling city, the Summer Palace is an expansive imperial garden that served as a royal retreat. Its serene lakes, temples, and pavilions showcase traditional Chinese garden design. Kunming Lake and Longevity Hill form the heart of this UNESCO-

listed site, offering picturesque views and a peaceful atmosphere.



Olympic Park

Beijing's Olympic Park, featuring the Bird's Nest stadium and the Water Cube, stands as a testament to the city's role in hosting the 2008 Olympic Games, symbolizing its forward-looking vision.

