

Jetset Journals


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# BEIJING

3 Days

Cityguide



a travel guide

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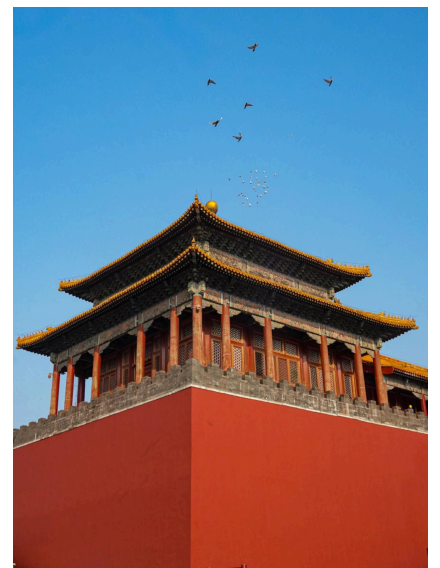
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# INTRO

Beijing—China’s capital—boasts a long and fascinating history, some of the country’s most famous landmarks, a pleasant, peaceful atmosphere in the traditional hutongs, and excellent cuisine.

There are several direct flights to Beijing from Europe. From the airport in Beijing, as in almost all Chinese cities, it’s easy and affordable to take a Didi (the Chinese equivalent of Uber), which will take you to the city center in about 30 minutes.

Didi is also the best choice for getting around the city.

It’s important to download the two main payment apps, Alipay and WeChat, in advance and link your credit card to them.

In addition to the three apps mentioned above, I can also recommend the eSIM from Airalo, which includes a VPN, because without a VPN, you won’t be able to use many Western apps like WhatsApp, Instagram, or Google Maps in China.

The alternative to Google Maps in China is AMap.

You should plan to spend at least three days in the Chinese capital.

During these three days, you can enjoy the city’s historical and culinary highlights and also visit the Great Wall of China, one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. The trip there takes 1–2 hours, depending on which section you plan to visit.

# HIGHLIGHTS



**01.**

## **Forbidden City**

The Forbidden City is certainly a name familiar to just about everyone, and it got its name because access to the vast temple complex was “forbidden” to the common people.

Today, you can visit the various palaces and gardens spread over an area of more than 700,000 square meters, but you should arrive as early as possible before it gets too crowded. Also, tickets must be purchased at least one week in advance.



**02.**

## **Temple of Heaven**

The Temple of Heaven is also one of Beijing’s most famous attractions. In the past, the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties prayed here for a bountiful harvest.

Today, the beautifully decorated blue temple and its lovely surrounding gardens are well worth a visit. You can also purchase tickets for the Temple of Heaven in advance online through the usual platforms; your passport serves as your ticket.



**03.**

## **Great Wall**

Although sections of the Great Wall can be found throughout the country, the best way to plan a visit is from Beijing.

The three most popular sections are Badaling, Mutianyu, and Jinshanling, which are progressively farther from the city center; however, Jinshanling is the quietest of the three.

You can reach this wonder of the world by taking a guided tour or using Didi to be more flexible.



## 04.

### Wangfujing Street

Wangfujing Shopping Street is home to some of the city's largest malls and department stores, making it well worth a visit if you're looking for local or international products.

## 05.

### Lama Temple

The Lama Temple is another interesting temple complex. Here, you can watch followers of Lamaism and monks as they pray.

## 06.

### Summer Palace

The Summer Palace is located just outside the city, but it's perfect for a half-day or full-day visit if you have time to enjoy the beautiful lakes and gardens surrounding the temple and take a stroll.

## 07.

### Jingshan Park

It's also worth climbing up to Jingshan Park, as it offers beautiful views in all directions—especially of the Forbidden City from above. Admission is very affordable.



## 08. Tian`anmen Square

Another well-known site in Beijing is Tiananmen Square, or the Square of Heavenly Peace. Located in the heart of the city, it is the largest enclosed square in the world, covering 40 hectares. It is bordered by the National Museum and Mao Zedong's Mausoleum. The flag-raising ceremony takes place here every morning and evening.

## 09.

### Hutongs

The hutongs, where many Chinese people live, are also part of Beijing. Scooters, cars, and bicycles squeeze their way through the narrow alleys here. The Wudaoying and Nan Luo Gu Xiang hutongs are particularly worth visiting, with their many good restaurants and cafés. We were really surprised by the quality of the coffee in China.



## 10.

### Food

But Beijing has a lot to offer not just when it comes to coffee, but also in terms of food, and I've listed the best restaurants for you below.

Here you can enjoy classic Chinese dishes like dumplings, noodle dishes, and soups.

The highlight of Beijing cuisine, however, is undoubtedly Peking duck, served with delicious sides.



# DAY TO DAY

**Day 1** - After landing early in the morning on our first day and taking a Didi to the hotel, we headed straight to Nan Luo Gu Xiang Hutong, where we grabbed a coffee at Stillwater Café.

From there, we strolled through the hutong's alleys, past the Bell and Drum Towers, and on to the Lama Temple.

On the way, we stopped for a quick lunch at the Xianlaoman Restaurant. After enjoying the view from Jingshan Hill that afternoon, we found a place to have dinner near our hotel—Lanzhou.

**Day 2** - On the second day, we started with a morning visit to the Forbidden City. After taking our time there, we drove to the Qianmen district for a snack and a coffee at People's Cafe.

Around noon, we visited the Temple of Heaven and its surrounding park.

For a late lunch, we went to Siji Minfu, where we tried Peking duck.

At 5:30 p.m., we had booked a spot for the flag-raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square, and afterward we had dinner on Wangfujing Street.

**Day 3** - We had saved one more highlight for our last day in Beijing—we took a Didi (which we had booked through our hotel, including the return trip) early in the morning to the Jinshanling Great Wall.

When we got back in the afternoon, we had lunch at Fangzhuanchang 69, then spent the rest of the afternoon in Wudaoying Hutong having coffee at Metal Hands, and had dinner at Yin & Out that evening.

**Day 4** - The next day, we set off early for Xi'an.

# WHERE TO EAT

\* check AMap for Location

## Restaurants:

### ★ Siji Minfu

Amazing Peking Duck (2 Stores)  
32 Dengshikou W St, Dongcheng, Beijing

### ● Xianlaoman Restaurant

Very good Dumplings/Gyozas  
316 Dongsu N St, 东四 Dongcheng, Beijing

### ● Fangzhuanchang No.69\*

Typical noodle meals, nice dessert  
Beijing, Dongcheng, 方砖厂胡同69号院



### ● Huifeng Old Dumpling

Another good spot for dumplings  
Xicheng District, 西四北大街乙199号 邮政编码:

### ● Yin & Out Lijiang Theme

Various chinese dishes  
1 Sanlitun N St, 使馆区 Chaoyang, Beijing



## Cafés:

### ● Jingshui StillWater Café\*

Nice and stylish café, good coffee  
Gulou East Street (Check on AMap)

### ● Metal Hands Coffee

Café in Wudaoying Hutong, nice style  
61 Wudaoying Hu Tong, 国子监 Dongcheng

### ★ People Café\*

Delicious coffee & lemonades  
Qianmen Branch (Check on AMap)

In Beijing—and in China in general—you shouldn't rely on Google reviews. We've personally tested all of the recommendations here and can vouch for them; some of them can only be found on AMap, not Google Maps.

# WHERE TO SLEEP

Beijing also has a variety of excellent hotels and accommodations.

During our stay, we chose the

**Happy Dragon City Culture Hotel**

and were very satisfied.

The hotel was centrally located in a hutong, offered free water, and the staff were very friendly and helpful.

Click here for hotel:



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