BEIJING TOUR GUIDE
Sightseeing
Restaurant
Shopping
Nightlife
Hotel
Editor's Message

In May 1990, CRI's English Service started the bimonthly four-color newsletter "The Messenger" with an eye on strengthening ties with listeners. The publication was delivered to overseas listeners and to foreigners in China who work at embassies or consulates, foreign-owned and joint-venture companies, as well as students, teachers, journalists and tourists, or those who request it. It brought them information about Radio Beijing's (the former name of CRI) activities and future plans. Since then, "The Messenger" has evolved, incorporating a fresher appearance to reflect CRI's tremendous modernization and change over the past decade as well as content devoted to China's breathtaking transformation of late. The current issue prominently features Beijing Tour Guide.

All of the staff working on "The Messenger" will continue to strive for excellence because we believe that is what you deserve. We hope you will continue to share our adventure as we journey down new and exciting paths.

CONTENTS

FEATURE: BEIJING TOUR GUIDE

Information about Beijing 5
Transport Services 7
City Guide 8
Sightseeing 11
Restaurant 14
Shopping 19
Nightlife 20
Hotel 24

BEHIND THE SCENES

To "Heaven" and Back 26
Drifting Down the Rhine-A Morning Spent between Rivers, Castles, Vineyards and Folktales 27
Impression West Lake 30
Hangzhou-Home of China's Tea Culture 31

Learn Chinese Now! 33
Admiration of the Tang Poem 33

FROM OUR LISTENERS

Mailbag 34
Welcome to Beijing

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games give friends from all over the world an opportunity to experience Beijing, the capital city of China.

Beijing is both a tribute to China's proud history and a gateway to China's future. The capital city during the Liao, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, Beijing has long been the political, cultural, and diplomatic center of China. It is now an international metropolis, home to 11 million people from all walks of life.

Alongside 7,300 cultural relics and historical sites and more than 200 scenic spots – including the world's largest palace, the Forbidden City, as well as the Great Wall, Summer Palace, and Temple of Heaven – Beijing boasts an impressive modern skyline, a reflection of its rapid economic development. The recently expanded Beijing Capital International Airport is China's largest and most advanced airport.

August and September mark the end of summer and the beginning of autumn in Beijing, with temperatures ranging from 18 to 30°C. This is the best season to visit, with clear, blue skies allowing visitors to fully witness the charm and vastness of the city.

Source: www.beijing2008.cn
Information about Beijing

Source: www.beijing2008.cn

Weather

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games are taking place in the summer. Daytime temperatures are generally quite high. Midday average temperatures can reach 30 degrees Celsius, or 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Average humidity is 77%. Rain showers and thunderstorms, if any, generally occur in the afternoon, so it would be wise to carry some protection. As the sun can be strong we recommend that you wear sunglasses, protective headgear, use a strong sunscreen, and dress accordingly.

Weather website:
http://www.weather2008.cn
Service Call: (+86 10) 12121.

Lodging

As Beijing will receive large numbers of visitors during the Olympic Games, we recommend that you make accommodation reservations early. Most star-class Beijing hotels provide complimentary toiletries, slippers and towels.

Lodging Info:
http://english.visitbeijing.com.cn/services/ Accommodation/.

Electricity

Beijing power outlets operate at 220 volts. Sockets or outlets generally take plugs with two round-pins, two flat or three flat pins. International visitors are advised to bring plug adaptors for their appliances.

Food

Beijing has restaurants that serve many different international and national cuisines. Regular meals, snacks and a variety of delicacies are all available.


Banks & Money

Beijing is stuffed full of banks, all battling for the custom of a growing middle class with rising incomes. Major domestic banks such as Bank of China (www.boc.cn), China Merchants Bank (www.cmbchina.com) and Industrial & Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) (www.icbc.com.cn) are easily accessible, with multiple branches located in all of the city's districts. Foreigners can open up yuan or US dollar accounts at most branches. All offer local debit cards, internet banking services and currency exchange services, although the latter is not always available at minor branches. It is practically impossible for foreigners to get credit services from domestic banks, but there are several branches of international banks such as HSBC or Citibank; see www.hsbc.com.cn or www.citibank.com for locations.

Foreign currency has to be changed into the local currency RMB at Bank of China branches.

For information on formalities: http://www.boc.cn/en/static/index.html
Bank of China Customer Service Call: (+86 10) 95566

Drinking Water

Beijing tap water is not directly potable, so for your health, you are advised not to drink directly from the tap, unless there is a specific safety label affixed.

Money Exchange

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency(C)</th>
<th>1C= ¥</th>
<th>1 ¥ =1C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>7.57</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro</td>
<td>10.85</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>14.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>5.63</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>5.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>123.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>6.61</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>4.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>4.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>15.17</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>7.42</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Embassies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>6532 2331</td>
<td>6532 2131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>6532 2061</td>
<td>6532 2361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>6532 1736</td>
<td>6532 6182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>6532 3536</td>
<td>6532 1224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>8532 9500</td>
<td>6532 2531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>6532 2431</td>
<td>6532 1203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>8529 8541</td>
<td>6532 0359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>8532 8080</td>
<td>6532 1795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>8532 9000</td>
<td>6532 1131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>6532 1431</td>
<td>6532 2731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>6532 1908</td>
<td>6532 2261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>6532 7788</td>
<td>6532 1125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>6532 2131</td>
<td>6532 1267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>6532 2361</td>
<td>6532 1115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>6532 6182</td>
<td>6532 0290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>6532 1224</td>
<td>6532 1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>6532 2531</td>
<td>6532 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>6532 1203</td>
<td>6532 9790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>6532 0359</td>
<td>6532 2736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>6532 1795</td>
<td>6532 1749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>6532 1131</td>
<td>5192 4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>6532 2731</td>
<td>6532 3831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>6532 2261</td>
<td>6532 1155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Internet Access

Beijing has many Internet bars which provide internet access for a fee. There are also coffee shops and bars that provide free service. Some hotels provide room access. Inquire from hotel staff about fees and methods of activating the service.

## Websites

### Business & Industry
- [www.caijing.com.cn/English](http://www.caijing.com.cn/English) - English-language version of leading financial magazine
- [www.chinahospitalitynews.com](http://www.chinahospitalitynews.com) - Up to date info on China’s hospitality Sector
- [www.chinaretailnews.com](http://www.chinaretailnews.com) - Up to date info on China’s retail industry

### City Information
- [http://english.visitbeijing.com.cn](http://english.visitbeijing.com.cn) - Online city guide from the Beijing Tourism Administration
- [www.ebeijing.gov.cn](http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn) - Official website for the municipality of Beijing
- [www.thebeijingguide.com](http://www.thebeijingguide.com) - Virtual travel guide on Beijing

### Culture
- [www.798art.org/English](http://www.798art.org/English) - Guide to Beijing’s premier art district
- [www.chinesecultureclub.org](http://www.chinesecultureclub.org) - Culture institute and event organizer

### Directories
- [www.cityweekend.com.cn/beijing/listings](http://www.cityweekend.com.cn/beijing/listings) - Community and entertainment listings
- [www.thebeijinger.com/directory](http://www.thebeijinger.com/directory) - Community and entertainment listings
- [www.beijingpage.com](http://www.beijingpage.com) - Links to numerous Beijing-related sites

### Living & Working
- [http://beijing.asiapat.com](http://beijing.asiapat.com) - Expat portal with information, classifieds and forums
- [www.moveandstay.com/beijing](http://www.moveandstay.com/beijing) - Practical guide for those relocating to Beijing
- [www.thebeijinger.com](http://www.thebeijinger.com) - Jobs, real estate, for sale/wanted
- [www.thebeijingpage.com](http://www.thebeijingpage.com) - Useful info for expats

### News & Media
- [www.chinaview.cn](http://www.chinaview.cn) - English-language news service of Xinhua News Agency
- [www.cityweekend.com.cn/beijing](http://www.cityweekend.com.cn/beijing) - Lifestyle articles, listings and blog for expats
- [www.danwei.org](http://www.danwei.org) - Media, advertising and urban life in China
- [www.sexybeijing.tv](http://www.sexybeijing.tv) - Internet TV station with podcasts and videos about Beijing
- [www.crienglish.com](http://www.crienglish.com) - Internet Radio programs and English-based news and info about China and the world.

### Nightlife
- [http://eng.clubzone.cn](http://eng.clubzone.cn) - Party and nightclub information
- [www.beijingboyce.com](http://www.beijingboyce.com) - In-depth guide to Beijing’s drinking scene
- [www.cityweekend.com.cn/beijing](http://www.cityweekend.com.cn/beijing) - Restaurant and bar reviews; expat forum
- [www.zagat.com](http://www.zagat.com) - Restaurant, nightspots and shop reviews

### Online Shopping
- [www.ase-wines.com](http://www.ase-wines.com) - Wide range of wines to buy online
- [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) - Books, CDs, DVDs
- [www.I-matgroup.com](http://www.I-matgroup.com) - Internet grocery store with imported goods
**Visa Matters**

Public Security Bureau, Foreign Affairs  
Section 8402 0101  
2 Andingmen Dongdajie, Dongcheng District

**Telecommunications**

There are public telephones all over the city, on streets, at newspaper kiosks and in retail shops. Payment is usually by an IC card or with cash. Buying an IC card is the cheapest way to make international and domestic long distance calls. IP and IC cards can be purchased at telecommunication services, newspaper kiosks and supermarkets.

International visitors with cell phones must find out from their national service provider or from China Mobile whether or not they can use their cell phones in China and the charge rates. For inquiries about cell prices charges with China Mobile, call (+86 10) 10086.

International and domestic visitors can purchase or rent a cell phone in Beijing. Local SIM and rechargeable cards can be bought at China Mobile stores.

**Tourism**

There are a great many historical sites and interesting things to see in Beijing: the magnificent Imperial Palace, the majestic Great Wall, quiet Beijing courtyard houses and quaint alleys with all give you a sense of the history of this ancient capital.


**Safety**

When you are touring or attending events, please always look after your personal belongings. In an emergency, or for assistance, call 110 for the Beijing Police. If you lose your passport, you may also report this to the Beijing Police at 110, and contact your embassy/ consulate for a passport replacement.

**Transport Services**

**Free Transport with an Olympic Ticket**

Your Olympic ticket provides you with free transport on the day of your event on dedicated Olympic bus lines, the subway and public buses. Note, however, that Olympic tickets do not provide free transport on the shuttle bus between airport and city center, taxis or the express airport rail line.

**Olympic Bus Lines**

During the Games, there are 34 dedicated bus lines serving all competition venues in Beijing. Other city buses are in service from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day from July 20 to Sept 20. Bus Lines with a “K”, meaning fast lines, are available three hours before and 90 minutes after a competition event. For detailed information on routes and stops, please refer to the Appendix “Guide Map for Spectator Services”.

**Subway**

The subway is the fastest way to get to the Olympic venues. During the Olympic Games, seven subway lines will be functioning. They are Subway Line 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 13 and BATONG lines, as well as the express rail between the airport and city center. Subway Line 8 runs directly to the Olympic Green. Disembark at the station marked “Olympic Green” and continue through security for a direct entry to the Green.

Subway Website: [http://www.bjsubway.com/ens/index.html](http://www.bjsubway.com/ens/index.html)  
Service Call: (+86 10) 6834 0565

**City Buses**

Using the city bus system is the cheapest way to get around. There are many lines in Beijing. Some charge a single-price fare of 1 RMB, others charge by distance, starting at 1 RMB. After 12 kilometers, each additional 5 km adds 0.5 RMB to the fare. Discounts are available with a bus IC card. Short-stay visitors have the following options: 10 RMB for a 3-day card with 18 trips; 20 RMB for a seven-day card with 42 trips; 40 RMB for a 15-day card with 90 trips.

The Olympic venues can all be reached by bus. For details, refer to the section, “Getting There” for transport information. During the Games, city bus lines and their schedules may be adjusted. We recommend you make inquiries ahead of time.

Citybus Website: [http://www.bjbus.com](http://www.bjbus.com)  
Bus Service Hotline: (+8610) 96166

**Frequently Used Telephone Numbers**

Beijing's city code: 010  
Call from abroad: +86 10 followed by the Beijing number  
Ambulance service: 120 or 999  
Police: 110  
Fire: 119  
Telephone Directory Information: 114  
International telephone inquiries: 115  
Beijing Entry-Exit Bureau: 8402-0101  
Railway Ticket Reservations Hotline: 962586, 9510-5105  
Railway Information: 962585  
China Airlines Information: 962580  
China Airlines Ticket Reservations: 962581  
Capital Airport Information Desk: 400-810-0999, 6454-1100

**Private Cars**

There may be traffic restrictions around the venues during the Games. Vehicles without a specific access permit will not be allowed to approach the venue. Only the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park and the Triathlon Venue have parking lots for spectators. You are encouraged to use public transport as much as possible.
**Taxis**

Taxi fares start at 10 RMB for 3 km, each additional 1 km costs 2 RMB.

To book a taxi: (+86 10) 96103, 961001
Taxi Complaint Hotline: (+8610) 6835 1150

---

**Bicycles**

All venues have bicycle parking areas. Those who ride to the competition venues must leave their bicycles in the designated areas.

---

**Taxi Companies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jingyuan Taxi</td>
<td>(+8610) 6468 8091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jinjian Taxi Company</td>
<td>(+8610) 6374 1666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shouqi Group</td>
<td>(+8610) 6406 5088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanquansi Taxi Co</td>
<td>(+8610) 6345 3690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yujian Auto Services</td>
<td>(+8610) 8761 1452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuyang Group</td>
<td>(+8610) 8760 6626</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Travel Agents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China International Travel Service (CITS)</td>
<td>(+8610) 6515 7671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Travel Service (CTS)</td>
<td>Domestic Travel: (+8610) 6461 2586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Travel: (+8610) 6512 9933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Youth Travel Service (CYTS)</td>
<td>800 810 8088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ctrip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>eLong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Airlines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beijing Capital International Airport Center</td>
<td>(+8610) 6454 1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aeroflot Russian International Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6500 2412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Canada</td>
<td>(+8610) 6468 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air France</td>
<td>(+8610) 6588 1388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Nippon Airways</td>
<td>(+8610) 6590 9191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asiana Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6468 4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austrian Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6462 2161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Airways</td>
<td>(+8610) 8511 5599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathay Pacific</td>
<td>(+8610) 8486 8532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Northwest Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6656 9144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Southern Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6567 2208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragon Air</td>
<td>(+8610) 6518 2533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6513 0888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLM/Northwest Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6505 3505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean Air</td>
<td>(+8610) 8453 8888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lufthansa Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6468 8838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qantas Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6467 3337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAS</td>
<td>(+8610) 8527 6100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6456 9018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6505 2233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Air</td>
<td>(+8610) 6512 3555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai International</td>
<td>(+8610) 8515 0088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Airlines</td>
<td>(+8610) 6463 1111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**City Guide**

**CBD**

The Central Business District spans from Xidawang Lu in the east to Dongdaqiao Lu in the West. The area is a miniature of Beijing’s business dynamism, as it is home to numerous local offices of multinationals. It also boasts many attractions for city slickers and fashionists to check out, including Kerry Shopping Mall, The Place, China World Shopping Mall, Shin Kong Place, and the Silk Market.

A landmark in CBD is Jianwai SOHO, a mix-use complex with outlandish restaurants and modern apartment buildings.

---

**Yong’anli**

More than half of the foreign visitors to Yong’anli will try their luck on the Silk Market, where they could bargain with multilingual vendors for traditional Chinese souvenirs, jewellery, silk and embroidery. After shopping, they could relax in nearby restaurants like Paul’s Steak & Eggs and Grandma’s Kitchen, which serve fries, pies and burgers. The area is not far from foreign embassies, including U.S. embassy. Besides, the St Regis hotel is popular with foreign diplomats.

---

**Guanghua Lu**

Guanghua Lu is an area frequented by high-end consumers. An eye-catching venue is The Place, a deluxe shopping centre featuring a 250 meter long LED screen hung above the ground. Another is Kerry Centre, which consists of hotel area, shopping mall and sports facilities. A historical site near Guanghua Lu is the Ritan Park, or the Altar to the Sun, where Royal emperors made sacrifices to the gods. These places are not far from the Yong’anli subway station.
Guomao Subway

Guomao subway station is located at the foot of the China World Trade Center, a multi-purpose complex of offices, hotel, conferences, exhibitions, shopping, and entertainment. Jianwai SOHO complex is in the south of the subway station. Stylish restaurants out there include kid-friendly Annie’s and Café Europa with a variety of representative European dishes. Food lovers could also enjoy their meal in darkness in Whale Inside.

Chaoyang

Chaoyang Park is one of the largest of its kind in Beijing, second only to the Olympic Green. There is an amusement park inside, with fancy castle, roller coaster, big wheel and many thrilling games. The park also has several sports venues, including football pitches, ping pong tables and basketball and tennis courts. This summer, the park will attract more international attention, as it is prepared to host the Olympic beach volleyball event.

Chaoyang district in east Beijing is home to most expats living in the Chinese capital. Situated between the Third and Fourth Ring Road, the area boasts everything that a modern metropolis could offer: office buildings, international schools, shopping centers, upscale hotels, catering sites and party venues. Chaoyang Park is the most popular site in the area for large scale activities and the city’s only drive-in movie theatre is also in the district.

Super Bar Street

The Super Bar Street is aimed at providing more choices for nightlife goers. It is near the Kempinski Hotel and houses about 30 bars. Those dwarfed by the Bar Street in Sanlitun in terms of scale and history, the Super Bar Street is equally popular because of some distinctive bars, such as those frequented by locally popular rock bands and Beijing’s only African bar PILIPILI.

Lufthansa Centre

The Lufthansa Center is a multi-storey department store near Liangmaqiao Lu. It is next to the Kempinski Hotel and features many internationally acclaimed brands, including cosmetics, clothes and accessories. The center is home to a 24-hour international medical center and a luxury car dealership. The Kempinski Hotel has various restaurants and they specialize in international cuisine from China, Germany, Italy and Japan. The most famous German restaurant there is Paulaner Brauhaus.
Forbidden City

Once the home of emperors in Ming and Qing Dynasties, the Forbidden City was not open to ordinary people until October 1925. The place had served as imperial residence for nearly 500 years and 24 emperors had lived there. Also known as the Palace Museum nowadays, the Forbidden City consists of three parts. The emperors met and discuss important affairs with his ministers in the outer court. The inner court was the living quarter for emperors, empresses and the garden was the place for the imperial family to enjoy themselves.

Tian’anmen Square

Tian’anmen Square is regarded as the political and geographical center of China. The square is the largest of its kind in the world after its expansion in 1949. It occupies an area of 440,000 square meters and could accommodate 1 million people.

Tian’anmen Square has witnessed numerous significant events in Chinese history. Among them are the May Fourth Movement in 1919, the founding of People’s Republic of China in 1949 and the grand celebration for Beijing’s successful bid for 2008 Olympic Games in 2001.

As the top tourist attraction in Beijing, the square hosts a series of buildings with historical or political importance. On the north of the square is the Tian'anmen Gate Tower, the original entrance to the Forbidden City in Ming and Qing Dynasties. Standing in the center of it is the Monument to the People’s Heroes. To the west is the Great Hall of the People, where China’s top legislative body meets. To the east is the Chinese National Museum that highlights the country’s splendid cultural civilization. Sitting in the south is the Memorial Hall of Chairman Mao and the Qianmen Gate.

Haidian

Haidian district is in the northwest of Beijing. It is regarded as an academic and hi-tech zone of Beijing, because of quality education and research capabilities demonstrated by various institutions there. It is home to dozens of universities, including internationally renowned Peking University and Tsinghua University. Many IT companies have set up their local branches in Zhongguancun, which is dubbed China’s Silicon Valley.

Wudaokou

Wudaokou is a student-friendly area that provides a platform for them to socialize and chill out. To its west and east respectively are Peking University and Beijing Language and Culture University. In the middle is Tsinghua University. The area hosts a lot of stylish bars, restaurants and boutiques with competitive prices. Some of them nestle in Huacing Jiayuan, a complex of apartment buildings. A hot spot in the area is Lush featuring “home away from home” atmosphere for college students.

Zhongguancun

Also known as Haidian Science Park, Zhongguancun is the technology hub of Beijing. Covering an area of about 100 square kilometers, Zhongguancun features dense concentration of scientific and research institutions, including the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Peking University. Some 6,000 high-tech companies operate in the park, 70 per cent of which have their core business in the IT industry.

Zhongguancun is also a paradise for tech savvies who want to DIY their computers. Hot spots in the area include Hailong Market, Guigu Market, Taipingyang Market, Dinghao Market and Kemao Market.

Peking University

Founded in 1898, Peking University is the first national university in modern China. Thanks to its academic capabilities and teaching excellence, especially in human science, the university earns the reputation as “Harvard of China”. The campus is located at the northeast of the Haidian District. Major scenic spots nearby include the Ruins of Yuanmingyuan Park and the Summer Palace.

Houhai

The area of Houhai, Qianhai and Xihai as a whole is often referred to as Shichahai. The water for the lakes comes via canal past the north of Beijing.

Houhai area is between Tian’anmen Square and the northern part of subway line 2. It is home to many former residences of court officials and social celebrities, as it is adjacent to the Forbidden City. Traditional courtyard home, or siheyuan, is another tourist attraction in the area.

If you take a rickshaw tour around the Houhai area, there are several historical spots that are worth mentioning. China’s last emperor, Puyi, was born in a mansion near Houhai. Another courtyard house was the longtime residence of Soong Ching Ling, the late Honorary President of the People’s Republic of China. The Drum and Bell Towers is also a tourist destination when travelers stroll around the old alleyways, or hutong, in this area.

In addition, Yandai Xiejie and Lotus Lane are popular among young party goers, because the two sites harbor many unique bar and restaurants in Houhai. Another hidden gem near Houhai is Nanluoguxiang, a hutong area mingled with bars, boutiques and handicraft shops.

Andingmen Dongdajie

To the north and south respectively of Andingmen Dongdajie are Altar to the Earth and Lama Temple. The former is the place where emperors made sacrifices to the gods, while the latter is a lamasery that houses the largest wooden carving of Buddha in the world.

North of the Third Ring Road

The road is a major traffic artery in northern Beijing. In 2008, the road is much busier as the key Olympic venues are all
located to its north, including the National Stadium (the Bird’s Nest), the National Aquatic Centre (the Water Cube) and Olympic Sports Center.

Lido & 798

Lido area is home to the first group of foreigners who have settled down in Beijing. It is surrounded by the north of the Fourth Ring Road, Juxianqiao Lu and Airport Expressway. The centre of the area is the Holiday Inn Lido, dotted with plenty of shops and restaurants. Foreign schools, international hospitals and large green space make expats’ living more convenient and comfortable.

798 is an emerging art and cultural community. It is located in the Dashanzi area, to the northeast of central Beijing. It was the site of state-owned factories including Factory 798 that produced electronics. Since 2002, with the influx of domestic and international artists, the area has gradually grown into a space featuring “loft living”, contemporary art and urban culture.

Sanlitun

If you ask foreigners where to hang out in the evening in Beijing, eight out of ten will probably mention Sanlitun. It is the oldest bar street in the city and home to miscellaneous bars, restaurants and nightclubs. Situated near the Embassy district between the Second and Third Ring Roads in Chaoyang district, Sanlitun has become an optimal place for city slickers to relax and socialize. It is difficult to single out the most impressive nightlife venues, with the opening and closing of bars nearly everyday. It is common for a newcomer to barhop in Sanlitun, before he eventually finds the very place catering to his need.

Dongzhimen Subway

Dongzhimen subway station is one of the busiest in Beijing, as people working in populous Chaoyang district could easily transfer between Line 2 and Line 13. The newly unveiled airport express train service brings more convenience to time-conscious business people in nearby office buildings.

The South

The southern part of urban Beijing includes Xuanwu, Chongwen and Fengtai districts. The area is not economically prosperous as northern Beijing but therefore preserve some old and attractive flavors of the city.

Qianmen area is a major highlight of Xuanwu district. After one-year renovation, the business street in old Beijing will be fully reopened before 2008 Olympic Games. Located in the south of Tian’anmen Square, the street is expected to be lined with 300 shops, with some 80,000 square meters of commercial space. At least 20 percent of the commercial area will be devoted to traditional shops. The street will rekindle senior citizens’ memory about the city during their childhood, as trolley cars that were used in early 20th Century will return to the area.

The Temple of Heaven in Chongwen district is frequented by people from both home and abroad. Foreigners are mainly attracted by the architectural design of China’s largest sacrificial buildings, while locals often spend the morning time there jogging, dancing and practicing shadowboxing.

The most eye-catching site in Fengtai district is the Lugou Bridge, or the Marco Polo Bridge. It was described by the Italian trader and explorer as one of best of its kind, partly due to its grandeur and figures of lions carved in marble balustrade.

Sightseeing

Heritage Sites

Forbidden City

Add: 4 Jingshan Qianjie, Dongcheng District
Time: 8:30-17:00
Price: ¥ 60
Tel: (+8610) 6523 7344

The Forbidden City is the world’s largest surviving palace complex. It is a rectangle 961 meters from north to south and 753 meters from east to west. It consists of 980 surviving buildings with 8,707 bays of rooms. The Forbidden City was designed to be the centre of the ancient, walled city of Beijing. It is enclosed in a larger, walled area called the Imperial City. The Imperial City is, in turn, enclosed by the Inner City; to its south lays the Outer City. For almost five centuries, it served as the home of the Emperor and his household, as well as the ceremonial and political centre of Chinese government.

Summer Palace

Add: 28 Qinghua Xilu, Haidian District
Time: 6:30-18:00
Price: ¥ 30
Tel: (+8610) 6288 1144
The Summer Palace is the largest and best-preserved imperial garden in China. Its Chinese name, Yiheyuan, translates as "Garden of Nurtured Harmony" or "Garden for Maintaining Health and Harmony". It is virtually a museum of traditional Chinese gardening that uses rocks, plants, pavilions, ponds, cobble paths and other garden styles to create a poetic effect between different scenes. When you stroll around the Summer Palace, you will constantly find the area changing.

**Temple of Heaven**

Add: East of Tianqiao, Tiantanlu, Chongwen District
Time: 8:00-17:00
Price: ¥50
Tel: (+8610) 6702 8866

The Temple of Heaven, literally the Altar of Heaven is a complex of Taoist buildings situated in southeastern urban Beijing. The complex was visited by the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties for annual ceremonies of prayer to Heaven for good harvest. It is regarded as a Taoist temple, although Chinese Heaven worship, especially by the reigning monarch of the day, pre-dates Taoism.

**Aquarium**

**Beijing Aquarium**

Add: 108 Gaoliangqiao Xijie
Time: 9:00-17:30
Price: ¥100
Tel: (+8610) 6212 3910

Beijing Aquarium is the world's largest inland aquarium. By showing varied collections of species to visitors and introducing precious endangered animals, as well as presenting excellent marine animals shows and conducting various science education activities, Beijing Aquarium helps to educate the people on the knowledge about aquatic creatures, learn of oceanic tales, and foster their awareness of the conservation and protection of environment. The tourists can be cultivated and benefited from the visiting experience and become more conscious of "love marine animals and protect the earth of our home".

**Art Galleries**

**798 Photo Gallery**

Add: 4 Juxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
Time: 10:30-18:00
Tel: (+8610) 6438 1784

798 Photo Gallery is the first art gallery dedicated to photography in China, established in April 2003. The gallery aims to discover and collect fine photography works, and provides a platform for cultural and commercial exchange in order to help photographers. It is also the best place in Beijing to find a wide selection of ethnographic and artistic photographic editions.

**National Art Museum of China**

Add: 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District
Time: 9:00-17:00
Price: ¥20
Tel: (+8610) 8403 3500

The National Art Museum of China is a national museum dedicated to the collection, research and exhibitions of modern and contemporary artistic works in China. The museum has held thousands of influential exhibitions of different kinds featuring renowned artists from home and abroad. Apart from influential domestic exhibitions, numerous international exhibitions are as follows: "Original Works Exhibition of 500 Years Collected by Armand Hammer", "Rural Landscape Painting Exhibition of the 19th Century in France".

**Today Art Museum**

Add: Bldg 4, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District
Time: 10:00-17:00
Tel: (+8610) 5876 0600

"Basing upon now and prospecting the future" is the idea of Today Art Museum. Constructing the best contemporary art museum of the world is its goal. It features Chinese contemporary art, art genre and key man, and the finding and supporting of the young artists. At the same time, Today Art Museum develops all kinds of communications with international cultural and art institutions with exhibits and learning communications.

**Capital Museum**

Add: 16 Fuxingmen Waidajie, Xicheng District
Time: 09:00-17:00
Price: ¥20
Tel: (+8610) 6337 0491

Articles exhibited in Capital Museum are mainly past years’ collections and unearthed historical heritages of the Beijing area, combined with the latest research results concerning the history, cultural heritages, archeology and relevant subjects of Beijing. Furthermore, by studying the successful experiences from museums both at home and abroad, modern exhibitions featured by Beijing characteristics are shaped.

**Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art**

Add: 798 Art District, 4 Juxianqiao Lu, P.O. Box 8503, Chaoyang District
Time: 9:00-17:00
Tel: (+8610) 8459 9269

By breaking the outdated mold of how an art center is perceived and showcasing the latest in China’s contemporary art, design, fashion, music and multimedia, Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art aims to be a catalyst for emerging projects and protagonists in the new Chinese cultural scene. It acts as a beacon for the arts in Beijing and in China, as well as a point of reference in the international art scene.
### Parks

#### Beijing Amusement Park
Add: 1 Zuo’anmen Jie, Chongwen District  
Time: 9:00-18:00  
Price: ¥120; ¥80 (Kids 1.1-1.4m); Free (Kids under 1.1m)  
Tel: (+8610) 6714 3611; (+8610) 6714 6909  
Beijing Amusement Park covers 400,000 sq/m (including 115,000 sq/m water areas) and has more than 40 large scale amusements like roller coasters and water rides, which will keep thrill seekers happy. Visitors can also enjoy the regular dance shows and screenings on the 3D and e-motion cinemas.

#### Happy Valley Amusement Park
Add: Wuj Beilu, East of Fourth Ring Rd., Chaoyang District;  
Time: 10:00-17:00  
Price: ¥100-199; ¥50 (Kids 1.2-1.4m)  
Tel: (+8610) 6738 9898; (+8610) 6205 0088  
Happy Valley sprawls out across a square kilometer of land outside the East Fourth Ring Road and offers 40 rides, an IMAX theater, more than 100 games and seven cinemas. The park is divided into a number of themed areas inspired by such civilizations as Mayan Central America, Minoan Greece and Shangri-la – the little kiddies play in Ant Kingdom.

#### Beijing Shijingshan Amusement Park
Add: North of Bajiao Subway Station, Shijingshan District  
Time: 8:30-17:00  
Price: ¥100  
Tel: (+8610) 6887 4060  
In Beijing Shijingshan Amusement Park, there are Gothic Cinderella Castle, Arabic restaurant, Euro style Blue Bridge, Russian gate tower... all of them be filled with exotic fume. Those fantastic games, such as jet tower, gorge drift, big dipper and rocket bungee, also attractive. If that is not enough, come to the 4D cinema, to feel the stimulation.

#### Chaoyang Park
Add: 1 Nongzhanguan Nanlu, Chaoyang District  
Time: 6:00-20:00  
Price: ¥5  
Tel: (+8610) 6595 3972  
Chaoyang Park is the largest afforested metropolitan park built in Beijing, offering numerous attractions and superbly maintained flower and grass areas. It features flower gardens, fairground with rides including a roller coaster and landscaped areas. Cycles and boats may also be hired at various locations. A temporary beach volleyball stadium is constructed there to host the Beach Volleyball events of the 2008 Summer Olympics.

#### Jingshan Park
Add: Jingshanqian Dajie at Forbidden City, Dongcheng District  
Time: 06:00-19:00  
Price: ¥2  
Tel: (+8610) 6404 4071  
Jingshan Park, a beautiful royal landscape garden, is situated in the center of Beijing City. It boasts some charming natural scenery with a planted area in the park of about 1,100 square meters. This park is the biggest peony rose garden in Beijing and during May each year, with the 20,000 peony roses of some 200 varieties in full bloom the park displays a wonderful and colorful scene. Visitors who are interested in flowers will find some rare and famous varieties to please them.

#### Beijing Int'l Sculpture Park
Add: 2 Shijingshan Lu, Shijingshan District  
Time: (Nov. 1-Mar. 31) 8:00-16:30; (Apr. 1-Oct. 31) 6:30-21:00  
Price: ¥10  
Tel: (+8610) 6865 0422  
This is an exquisite park and first-class attraction in Beijing. The total area is about 40 hectares, divided into eastern and western parts. There are more than 200 excellent sculptures and relief works from over 40 countries, arranged skillfully in the rich and colorful landscape.
Restaurant

**[American]**

**Chef Too**  
Tel: (+8610) 6591 8676  
Add: Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu, Chaoyang District  
Price: ¥ 300-399 per couple  
With comfortable, unpretentious decor, spot-on service, and some of the best steaks in Beijing, this place is a rare find. Virtually everything on the menu is terrific, and while the prices may be towards the high side, regulars agree it's worth it considering what shows up on your table.

**Grandma's Kitchen**  
Tel: (+8610) 5869 3055  
Add: 1-2F/Building B Jianwai SOHO, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District  
Grandma's Kitchen is a restaurant that encompassed comfort food for north American expats. You can find both homestyle American cuisine and high-end diner here. It provides shakes, griddles, and mac n cheese. The popular breakfasts are served all day.

**Hooters**  
Tel: (+8610) 6585 8878  
This American institution has finally set up shop in Beijing, bringing with it jugs of beer, buns of hamburgers and yes, hooters. Expect All-American fun in the venue that has been a coming-of-age ritual for young men for almost a quarter of a century.

**Kro's Nest**  
Tel: (+8610) 6553 5253  
Add: Gongti Beimen, Workers' Stadium north gate  
The Kro's Nest's new Gongti location features the same rustic stone walls, dark wood furnishings and table-sized pizzas as the original, yet it's much bigger, set over two floors and even with outside seating. The bubbly crusts and cheesy goodness remind many north Americans of the wonderfully greasy pizzas back home. The restaurant itself is a charming party place filled with booths.

**One East on Third**  
Tel: (+8610) 5865 5000  
Add: Hilton Beijing, Chaoyang District

**Tim's Texas Roadhouse**  
Tel: (+8610) 6461 1141  
Add: 27 Xingba Lu (near Nurenjie)  
Serving up some of the best Tex-Mex this side of the Pacific, along with other great foods like cajun chicken, shrimp creole, po' boys and classic American dishes like chicken fried steak and burgers. Nightly happy hour from 4-8pm Mon-Fri featuring two-for-one frozen margaritas and Tsingdao draft beer. Many TVs show sports all day long.

**[British]**

**Fish Nation 1**  
Tel: (+8610) 6415 0119  
Add: 43 Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang District  
All the classics from the original Fish Nation served up in a larger, airier setting complete with a cute rooftop terrace on which to soak up the sun. The menu features fish and chips, as well as gourmet pizzas, salads, pastas, homemade soups and the Big British Breakfast.

**[Caribbean]**

**Trader Vic's**  
Tel: (+8610) 5869 5336  
Add: 3/F Building C, China International Trade Center, Chaoyang District  
It is tucked away on the second floor of an intimidating office complex and can be a bit hard to find. Though prices are on the high side for many dishes, the food is great, the drinks are stiff, and the staff are friendly. Standards like Hawaiian pork chops, barbecued chicken, crab wontons, and a wide range of desserts are available.

**[Chinese]**

**Baguo Buyi**  
Tel: (+8610) 6400 8888  
Add: 89-3 Dianmen Dongdajie, Dongcheng District  
Delicious local fare made with fresh, natural ingredients is served here in artfully rustic surroundings-dried corn stalks and red peppers hang between photographs of farmhouses and peasant life. There's enough space for privacy, and service is excellent. House specialties include the gelatinous green turtle stewed with taro(yuer shao jia)-a regional delicacy, but not to everyone's taste.

**Bellagio**  
Tel: (+8610) 6551 3553  
Add: 6 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District  
Bellagio is proud of its shaved ice desserts and salty Taiwanese dishes. Bellagio has a strict aesthetic that extends to its staff-everyone sports a short, spiky haircut. The Taiwanese stewed minced pork and dragon beans stir-fried with garlic are recommended.

**Crescent Moon Muslim Restaurant**  
Tel: (+8610) 6400 5281  
Add: 16 Dongsi Liutiao, Dongcheng District  
Price: Less than ¥ 99 per couple  
Possibly the best Xinjiang joint in town, featuring delicious, homemade yoghurt, this king of the kebabs also boasts a friendly all-Uighur staff and is as authentic as it gets. Look out for the moustached manager who's always there sucking on a hookah in this courtyard gem. Perfect for authentic Xinjiang.

**Da Dong Kaoya Dian**  
Tel: (+8610) 5169 0329  
Add: International Plaza 22A Dongsi Shitiao, Dongcheng District  
No hundred years of history or obscure hutong location here, just a crispy-skinned and pleasing roast duck that many say is the best in town. The restaurant claims to use a special method to reduce the amount of fat in its birds, although it seems unlikely that duck this flavorful could possibly be good for you. The birds come in either whole (¥ 98/$12) or half (¥ 49/$5) portions and are served in slices with a wide assortment of condiments (garlic, green onion, radish). Place the duck on a pancake with plum sauce and your choice of ingredients, and then roll and eat.
An excellent plain broth soup, made from the rest of the duck, is included in the price.

**Da Li Courtyard**
Tel: (+8610) 8404 1430  
Add: 67 Xiaojingchang Hutong, Dongcheng District  
Price: Minimum ¥ 100 per person

Located in the heart of Beijing's old hutongs, it serves set menus that favor large groups. The alfresco dining in the central courtyard is wonderful in the summer. The hutong runs off Gulou Dong Dajie.

**Ding Ding Xiang**
Tel: (+8610) 6417 2546  
Add: 1/F, 14 Dongzhongjie, Dongcheng District  
Price: ¥ 300-399 per couple

Classier than many hotpot joints, this restaurant features a spacious dining room of sweaty, red-faced patrons dipping heartily into the delicious sesame sauce. It's one of the cleaner mutton hot pot joints in town, though you'll have to ignore the surly service and noisy neighbors.

**Han Cang**
Tel: (+8610) 6404 2259  
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple

This rustic venue attracts nightly crowds keen for specialties like prawns on a stick baked in salt. Get a table on the second floor and enjoy great views of the lakes. Han Cang attracts a mixed crowd of Houhai hipsters as well as plenty of loving couples.

**Horizon**
Tel: (+8610) 6561 8833  
Website: www.shangri-la.com

Horizon is the answer to all those Cantonese diehards who moan that Beijing is devoid of good dim sum. The all- you-can eat weekday buffet dwarfs crowds with its steamed shrimp dumplings and also Sichuan specialties.

**Huajia Yiyuan**
Tel: (+8610) 6403 0677  
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple  
Add: 235 Dongzhimen Neidajie, Dongcheng District

This restaurant is a hit with the locals and foreigners. The Beijing duck is delicious, as are the other traditional Chinese dishes. They even brew their own beer. Best of all is Huajia's decor and layout. The main location on Dongzhimen Nei's dining room has high ceilings and subtle lighting and a great outdoor hutong courtyard dining patio.

**Kuan Dian**
Tel: (+8610) 8404 0523  
Add: 153 Jiugulou Dajie, Dongcheng District

The tiny restaurant is so popular that you often have to book tables in advance. Their grilled chicken wings are served non-spicy, spicy, and extra spicy.

**Made in China**
Tel: (+8610) 8518 1234  
Add: 1/F, Grand Hyatt Beijing, 1 Dongchang'anjie, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District  
Price: More than ¥ 400 per couple

Open kitchen cooking brings a crisp, modern sensibility to Chinese dining at this classy restaurant. Much beloved by the monied crowd, Made in China features classic specialties from northern China, including a delicious "beggar's chicken." Fans claim this place is one of Beijing's best for Peking duck, made even tastier by a non-smoking section.

**No Name**
Tel: (+8610) 6618 6061  
Add: 3 Qianhai Dongyan, Houhai, Xicheng District

Known as the first bar in Houhai, this laid-back nightspot is still thriving with its southeaste Asian vibe featuring plenty of foliage, bamboo stalks, wicker seating and glass pebbles. The owner prides himself on the bar's eclectic soundtrack, extensive drink menu and genuinely friendly service.

**Noodle Loft**
Tel: (+8610) 5130 9655  
Add: 3 Heping Xijie, Yonghegong, Dongcheng District  
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple

Set foot in this eatery and your eyes are immediately drawn to the flurry of noodle making activity. Patrons can expect hip music and large murals set against al dente Shanxi noodles and fusion dishes. Recommended are the youmian (shell shaped noodles) and the extra long single noodle. Garnish your noodles with some Shanxi vinegar and watch the bustle.

**Paper**
Tel: (+8610) 8401 5080  
Add: 138 Gulou Dongdajie, Gulou, Dongcheng District  
Price: ¥ 300-399 per couple

Health food fans with an appetite rejoice: This trendy eatery done up in stark white specializes in a revolving 11-course "clean-eating" meal of Chinese and Southeast Asian flavors. Take it (and Paper's extensive wine list) in on the first floor's bar and tables, or the second floor's comfy white couches.

**Red Capital Club**
Tel: (+8610) 6591 8888  
Add: 66 Dongsi Jiutiao, Dongsi Shitiao Chaoyang District  
Price: ¥ 300-399 per couple

Housed in a restored Chinese courtyard compound, this kitchsy restaurant proudly boasts a vintage Red Flag limo out front. Pictures of Mao adorn the walls and the furniture is sized to "state banquet" proportions. Gaudy, sure, but Red Capital's still a special spot for hosting out-of-town visitors, who'll be especially pleased that the restaurant's entirely smoke-free.

**Source**
Tel: (+8610) 6400 3736  
Add: 14, Banchang Hutong, Nanluoguxiang, Gulou, Dongcheng District  
Website: www.yanclub.com  
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple

Tastefully remodeled hutong turned swanky restaurant, boasting an outdoor courtyard section and gorgeous private and semi-private rooms. Set menu of Sichuan cuisine is based on number of diners and changes each week.

**South Beauty**
Tel: (+8610) 8447 6171  
Website: www.qiaojiangnan.com  
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

This growing chain caters to a young crowd who recline on the white and beige leather banquettes. Others opt for the private dining rooms separated by glass walls. The most popular dish is the stone grilled beef, with its moist meat slices cooked tableside. Perfect for sophisticated Sichuan.

**Xiongdi**
Tel: (+8610) 6405 6681  
Add: 121 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District

Xiongdi is famous for its basic décor, lax hygiene and stellar Sichuan food. Recommended courses include: kungpao chicken, stir-fried beans, or mala dofu, you won't be disappointed.
[European]

Blu Lobster
Tel: (+8610) 6841 2211
Website: www.shangri-la.com
Add: 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Shangri-la Hotel Beijing, Haidian District
Price: More than ¥ 400 per couple

Don't be fooled into thinking this restaurant is all about seafood: the name belies a restaurant more than capable of offering up innovative delights for all dining enthusiasts. Try a "taster menu" in which you can sample a selection of dishes that resident chef Brian McKenna whips up with seasonal ingredients.

Cafe de la Poste
Tel: (+8610) 6402 7047
Add: 58 Yonghegong Dajie, Yonghegong, Dongcheng District
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

Set inside a restored hutong, this venue's quaint atmosphere comes complete with a chalkboard menu, candlelit tables and a large bar featuring well-selected house wines and lots of pastis. The chef buys and cuts all the meat himself, resulting in some top flight cuts on offer here.

Comptoirs de France
Tel: (+8610) 6461 1525
Website: www.comptoirdsfrance.com
Add: Room L 111-99 Yuxiang Lu, Tianzhu Town, Shunyi

Featuring freshly baked breads, an array of exquisite French pastries and homemade ice cream served up in a chic setting. With over 150 years of history in France, this premium bakery raises the bar for pastry treats in Beijing. Terrific hot chocolate and delectable treats, like the addictive lamb and spinach curry and tasty stuffed naans.

Morel's
Tel: (+8610) 6416 8802
Add: Opposite Workers' Stadium North Gate, Gongti, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 300-399 per couple

This bustling eatery offers filling fare, including some of Beijing's best steaks and mussels. Try a chunk of prime steak topped with meltingly rich pate de foie gras washed down with one of their many varieties of Belgian beer. The wooden dining room has a nice relaxed feeling to it, though you probably won't be feeling so comfortable after all those calories.

Brasserie Flo
Tel: (+8610) 6595 5135
Website: www.flo.cn
Add: 2/F, Rainbow Plaza, 16 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Nuren Jie, north of Pacific Century Plaza, Chaoyang District
Price: More than ¥ 400 per couple

This upmarket brasserie has great décor and serves up delicious and beautifully presented French cuisine. The smoked salmon salad, goose liver with apple and the oysters (imported fresh from France) are pricey but tasty. The excellent service, plush surroundings and consistent quality attract a regular clientele.

Jasmine
Tel: (+8610) 6553 8608
Add: Gongti Donglu, Gongti, opposite gate No. 9 of Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 300-399 per couple

The rich ambiance and decorator's eye for detail far overshadows the food at this fancy restaurant. Built to satiate Beijing's increasingly affluent diners, the cuisine at Jasmine is certainly above average, with a particularly good beef carpaccio and lime teriyaki appetizer.

[Indian]

Ganges Lido
Tel: (+8610) 5135 8553
Add: Shop 5, Hairun International Apartments, Lido, Near Lido Hotel, Chaoyang District

Reasonable food at reasonable prices has made Ganges the most prominent Indian restaurant chain in Beijing. This Indian eatery has made a name for itself in Beijing, serving up an authentic menu of authentic flavors in a colorful, Bollywood-themed décor and all at low prices. The massive menu is filled with delectable treats, like the addictive lamb and spinach curry and tasty stuffed naans.

[Italian]

Alla Osteria
Tel: (+8610) 5900 3112
Add: Shangdu SOHO No. 1112, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Ritan, 200 north of The Place, Chaoyang District

Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

High quality Italian food in simple, unpretentious surroundings. Try their homemade flat breads, their gorgeous Milanese lamb, or their excellent soups and pastas. For those on the run, a three-course lunch set is available for RMB68. Be sure to check out the wine cave in the basement.

Capone's
Tel: (+8610) 6587 1526
Website: www.capones.com.cn

Swanky and sexy, this bar and
restaurant offers some interesting dishes, even if portions are on the small side. You can expect to see some well-heeled Beijingers enjoying sea bass, squid ink ravioli, tiramisu and a good wine list.

[Japanese]

Haiku by Hatsune
Tel: (+8610) 6508 8585
Add: 8 Chaoyang Park Xilu, West Gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District
Website: www.block8.cn
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

With a knack for culinary perfection coupled with award winning service, Haiku's critically acclaimed menus offer what food lovers describe as Japanese fusion at its best. Inspired by travel, experimentation and tradition, the menu offers timeless favorites as well as new creations, including innovative roles and an extensive yakitori menu.

Sorabol
Tel: (+8610) 6590 0630
Add: 2/F Liangmahe Bldg, 8 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

High-end Korean chain popular with locals and Koreans alike. Along with classic dishes like barbecue, this place does great raw beef and Korean banfan. The Lufthansa Center location has high ceilings, bright lighting and noisy patrons.

[Latin American]

A Che
Tel: (+8610) 6417 2201
Add: 28 Dongzhimen Waidajie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

Beijing’s first Cuban restaurant sets out to revolutionize Latin American food in the capital, and if the tapas doesn't get your heart racing, the mean mojitos will. The décor is old Havana town bistro and café and Alexis whips up Spanish dishes with Latin fare.

Alameda
Tel: (+8610) 6417 8084
Add: Sanlitun Beijie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

Alameda brings a touch of Brazilian sass to the streets of Sanlitun. The short menu changes daily with ingredients as fresh as the chef's take on contemporary cuisine.

[Malay}

Athena
Tel: (+8610) 6464 6036
Add: Shop 6, Phoenix Xintiandi, Shuguang Xili, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

This Malaysian eatery is owned in part by the Malaysian Tourism board and offers a large menu of typical Malaysian dishes, including a delicious ginger duck and some of the best satay in Beijing. The stylish interior filled with dark wood and cloth-bound menu, and sports a well-trained staff.

[Mediterd]

Awana
Tel: (+8610) 6462 0004
Add: 32 Tianze Lu, Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple

This Malaysian eatery is owned in part by the Malaysian Tourism board and offers a large menu of typical Malaysian dishes, including a delicious ginger duck and some of the best satay in Beijing. The stylish interior filled with dark wood and cloth-bound menu, and sports a well-trained staff.

[Japanese]

Haiku by Hatsune
Tel: (+8610) 6508 8585
Add: 8 Chaoyang Park Xilu, West Gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District
Website: www.block8.cn
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

With a knack for culinary perfection coupled with award winning service, Haiku's critically acclaimed menus offer what food lovers describe as Japanese fusion at its best. Inspired by travel, experimentation and tradition, the menu offers timeless favorites as well as new creations, including innovative roles and an extensive yakitori menu.

Sorabol
Tel: (+8610) 6590 0630
Add: 2/F Liangmahe Bldg, 8 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

High-end Korean chain popular with locals and Koreans alike. Along with classic dishes like barbecue, this place does great raw beef and Korean banfan. The Lufthansa Center location has high ceilings, bright lighting and noisy patrons.

[Latin American]

A Che
Tel: (+8610) 6417 2201
Add: 28 Dongzhimen Waidajie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

Beijing’s first Cuban restaurant sets out to revolutionize Latin American food in the capital, and if the tapas doesn't get your heart racing, the mean mojitos will. The décor is old Havana town bistro and café and Alexis whips up Spanish dishes with Latin fare.

Alameda
Tel: (+8610) 6417 8084
Add: Sanlitun Beijie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple

Alameda brings a touch of Brazilian sass to the streets of Sanlitun. The short menu changes daily with ingredients as fresh as the chef's take on contemporary cuisine.

[Mediterd]

Awana
Tel: (+8610) 6462 0004
Add: 32 Tianze Lu, Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang District
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple

This Malaysian eatery is owned in part by the Malaysian Tourism board and offers a large menu of typical Malaysian dishes, including a delicious ginger duck and some of the best satay in Beijing. The stylish interior filled with dark wood and cloth-bound menu, and sports a well-trained staff.
has been reincarnated in this swank venue, featuring inviting creme-colored stucco walls, burnt-amber accents and large candelabras. The restaurant houses an impressive collections of fine wines, perfect for sampling together with the delicious tapas and deserts.

**Salt**
Tel: (+8610) 6437 8457  
Add: 1/F, 9 Jiangtai Xifu, Lido, Opposite the Japanese school, west of Rosedale Hotel  
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple  

The restaurant's stylishly lit and furnished interior sets the stage for an eclectic selection of contemporary cuisine that doesn't sacrifice taste in the pursuit of innovation. A non-smoking section makes this an ideal spot for diners who don't want a side of nicotine with their meal.

**[Middle Eastern]**

**Dini's**  
Tel: (+8610) 6461 6220  
32 Tianze Lu, Jiangtai Xiang, near Nuren Jie, Chaoyang District  
Price: ¥ 300-399 per couple  

Beijing's first genuine Kosher restaurant, tucked away near the Israeli Embassy, serves up a wide variety of Jewish foods from across the world. Featuring attentive service in a nice, bright space, Dini's fills a niche long lacking in Beijing. It's also family-friendly, with a children's play area, kid's menu, high chairs and no smoking.

**Sahara**  
Tel: (+8610) 6507 3521  
Add: Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District  
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple  

At first glance, Sahara appears to be no more than another small storefront bakery. Inside, though, it opens up into an expansive, crisp interior. Be sure to hit the hummus (RMB30), moutabel (RMB30), and the Turkish salad with fresh-baked pitas (RMB35), but consider giving the Sahara cocktail a pass (RMB45).

**[Russian]**

**Traktirr Pushkin**  
Tel: (+8610) 8407 8158  
Add: 5-15 Donzhimen Neidajie, west of Dongzhimen subway, Chaoyang District  
Price: Less than ¥ 99 per couple  

A stone's throw from the Russian Embassy, this rustic (and, just as a warning, signless) restaurant offers steaks as big as the plate. Generous portions of Russian classics, such as chicken Kiev, will sober you up after a couple of their ample shots of Stolinichya vodka.

**[Spanish]**

**Mare Nostrum**  
Tel: (+8610) 5907 0088  
Add: 2/F, Commercial Zone, Vantone Center, A6 Chaoyangmen Waidajie, Ritan, Chaoyang District  
Price: More than ¥ 400 per couple  

Every inch of Mare Nostrum speaks of a commitment on the part of its ownership and management to providing the diner with a superior high-end Spanish dining experience. Dishes, from, the appetizers to the desserts, are with very few exceptions uncompromisingly excellent. Order with confidence.

**[Thai]**

**Purple Haze Bistro**  
Tel: (+8610) 6501 9345  
Add: Rm. 201, Bldg 3 China View, C2 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District  
This sequel lives up to the original. Dig into a mouthful of the delicious green curry with chicken, or savor the smooth flavor of the galangal coconut milk while you enjoy live jazz (every Wednesday evening) and a plush, well-appointed interior.

**Banana Leaf**  
Add1: 4 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: (+8610) 6506 8855  
Add2: South Side, B Enter, Zhongguancun Shopping Center, Haidian District  
Tel: (+8610) 5986 3666  
Price: ¥ 130-150 per person  

Claiming the best Thai food in China, Banana Leaf offers a huge menu with pictures and English captions. Customers come here not just for the excellent food but also for the eye candy and entertainment.

**[Vegetarian]**

**Bodhi-Sake**  
Tel: (+8610) 6355 7348  
Add: 10-16 Heiyaochang Jie, Xuanwu District  
Price: ¥ 200-299 per couple  

Standing amidst chuan'r stands and fruit vendors, this spacious, airy eatery (it's actually built in the front courtyard of a Buddhist temple) delights all the senses with soothing lighting, meditative music, courtyard seating and tasty food. Try a few of their imitation meat dishes, you'll swear it's the real thing.

**[Vietnamese]**

**La Maison de Marguerite**  
Tel: (+8610) 6417 8288  
Add: 7 Sanlitun North Street, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District  

This cozy French-Vietnamese lulls diners into a peaceful daze with its soft orange walls, dark wood decorations and soft-breezes brought to you courtesy of their ceiling fans. While some of the French dishes are a little heavy for summer dining, the Vietnamese fare is fresh, light and delicious.

**Muse**  
Tel: (+8610) 6581-5060  
Add: 1/F, Customs Building, Guanghua Lu, CBD/ Guomao, Chaoyang District  
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple  

Formerly known as "Le Hugo", this Guomao bistro covers the gamut of Indochinese cuisine. Whet your appetite with lemongrass chicken skewers and then go for the mouth-wateringly tasty laotian beef. Their popular set lunch menus attract many a ravenous office worker, as do their professional service standards. Perfect for a taste of Indochina.

**Nuage**  
Tel: (+8610) 6401 9581  
Add: 22 Qianhai Lake East Bank, Houhai, near Gulou, Dongcheng District  
Price: ¥ 300-399 per couple  

Beijing's posh-est Vietnamese restaurant may be stunning, but its pricey fare gets mixed reports. Nonetheless, it's a treat to sit in the beautifully refurbished rickshaws while sipping a cocktail, nibbling on grilled la lop leaf beef and gazing out over Houhai. The three-story venue also houses a jazz club in the basement. Perfect for living it up on the banks of Houhai.
A shopping expedition in Beijing can turn from great to awful in minutes. Bargains and hidden gems are everywhere, but to get them, you need to be armed with knowledge and good bargaining skills.

Money can buy almost everything in the capital of China, from the rarest herb to the most prevalent fake Gucci bag. Only a few years ago, shoppers could find only a limited range of products in the markets. Today, the same markets are chock full of products to suit just about every taste and style.

A growing number of billionaires have sprung up in China since the implementation of the reform and opening policy thirty years ago. Retailers are increasingly inclined to cater to their fat wallets. Megamalls bursting with big-name brands are now commonplace in Beijing. The Place shopping plaza in eastern Beijing’s Central Business District boasts Asia’s largest LED screen overhead. Seasons Palace houses the flagship Lane Crawford department store on the Chinese mainland. Shoppers’ increasingly fatter wallets have led to a constant need for retailers to outdo each other.

**Tips**

- **Plastic: Not Fantastic**

In a bid to reduce waste and curb pollution problems, the Chinese government has banned shopkeepers from handing out free plastic bags since June 1, 2008. Shoppers are encouraged to use baskets or reusable cloth bags.

- **Shipping**

Shipping goods home is not difficult, but there are a few restrictions. Buyers are not permitted to take antiques from before 1795 out of the country, and many shipping companies prohibit customers from exporting large quantities of DVDs and CDs.

**What & Where to Buy**

- **Alcohol**

  **Aussino World Wines**

  Established in 1995, Aussino has become one of the leading wine distributors in China. Aussino has an impressive stock of Australian wines. But it also sells wines from across Europe as well as America.

  Website: www.Aussino.net

  Add: 101B, Kunlun Gallery, Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District

  Tel: (+8610) 6508 9008

  **Top Cellar**

  Top Cellar shops provide various wines all over the world. The Bento & Berries outlet hosts tasting events with free canapés and always has helpful staff on hand to introduce wine culture.

  Website: http://topcellar.com.cn/web/

  Add: 1 Guanghu Lu, Kerry Centre Hotel, Chaoyang District

  Tel: (+8610) 5129 2926

- **Books**

  **The Beijing Bookworm**

  Website: www.beijingbookworm.com

  Add: 4 Nansanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

  Tel: (+8610) 6586 9507

  **Xidan Book Building**

  Website: http://www.bjbb.com/index/

  Add: C17 Xichang’an Jie, Xicheng District

  Tel: (+8610) 6607 8477

  **Timezone 8**

  Website: www.timezone8.com

  Add: 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu 798, Chaoyang District

  Tel: (+8610) 8456 0336

- **Clothes**

  **Hotwind**

  Website: www.hotwind.net

  Add: L319 The Place 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

  Tel: 400 820 3310

  **Shanghai Tang**

  Website: www.shanghaitang.com

  Add: 2A Wangfujing, Chaoyang Wenhua Dadao, Chaoyang District

  Tel: (+8610) 6736 6059

- **Baby Items**

  Website: www.frochildren.cn

  Add: Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

- **Bicycles**

  **Dahon Folding Bikes**

  Website: www.dahon.cc

  Add: Minyue Jiayuan, Yuegezhuang Beiqiao, Fengtai District

  Tel: (+8610) 6807 0999

  **Giant**

  Website: www.beijing-diant.com

  Add: 4-8 Jiaodaokou Dongdajie, Dongcheng District

  Tel: (+8610) 6403 4537

- **Art**

  **798 Art District 798**

  Website: www.798.net.cn

  Add: 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu 798, Chaoyang District

  Tel: (+8610) 5129 2926
Areas to Shop

Qianmen Dajie & Dashilan
Qianmen Dajie runs south from the bottom of Tiananmen Square and is intersected by the famous Dashilan Hutong. You can find many good Chinese restaurants, ancient Chinese medicine shops, fine silk clothing and antique handicrafts in this area. Shops are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wangfujing
The 700-year-old Wangfujing Street is one of China’s oldest and most famous commercial areas. It is located in Dongcheng District, and you can get there easily by taking subway line one to the Wangfujing stop. Most of the products sold in the shopping malls along the street are authentic but expensive. Cheaper goods can be found at the north end of the street. Wangfujing Bookstore sells many English-language titles, particularly travel books. You can also find many kinds of traditional Chinese food from different provinces in China all along the street. Shops are open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Xidan
Xidan is a large shopping area frequented by local residents. Here you can find all kinds of things and almost no "specially for tourists" fare. The main focus of the area is three giant malls. They are Juntai, Zhongyou and a newly built shopping mall called Dayuecheng. The products in these three malls are high quality and reasonably priced.

Many small shops sell very cheap clothes nearby. You can bargain in these places, but you must look carefully at the quality of the garments.

Xidan Book Mansion is a main attraction for book lovers. You can find all kinds of books here, including travel books, which are located on the first floor.

Get there by taking subway line one to the Xidan stop. Shops are open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Department Stores

Lufthansa Shopping Centre
Add: 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6465 1188

One World Department Store
Add: 99 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: (+8610) 65267890

Markets

Panjiayuan
Add: 18 Huawei Lu, Panjiayuan Lu, Chaoyang District
Time: 8am-6pm (antique area; daily); 5am-6pm (art area; Saturday and Sunday)

Beijing Curio City
Add: 21 Dongsanhuang Nanlu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 67747711
Time: 09:30-18:00 (daily)

Silk Market (Xiushui)
Add: 8 Xiushui Dongjie, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 5169 8800
Time: 09:00-21:00 (daily)

Yashow & New Yashow
Add: 58 Gongti Beilu, Sanlitun, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6416 8945
Time: 09:00-21:00 (daily)

Nightlife

Alfa Bar / Lounge 阿尔法
Add: 6 Xingfuyicun, Chaoyang District, opposite the north gate of Workers’ Stadium
Tel: (+8610) 6413 0086/85
Time: Weekdays: 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m.-late
Weekends: 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 4:00 p.m.-late
This hopping little dance spot with a sophisticated, fun atmosphere draws in lively
crowds with its great retro dance nights. Look
down at the raucous action below from the
more discreet mezzanine lounge, or in the
summer, sip one of their famous sake cocktails
on the chill patio. Alfa is the best 80s night
in town. It also serves French cuisine until
16:00. Entry is free. Wi-Fi is available.

Angel 唐会俱乐部
Add: West Gate of Workers' Stadium
Tel: (+8610) 6552 8888
Time: 8:30pm-5am
Price: ¥100-199 per couple
Accepts International Credit Cards
A frontrunner in the Gongti series
of nightclubs, Angel earned its reputation
by offering larger VIP rooms, roomier
lounges and more drinking stations than
its competitors. Expect beautiful Chinese
women, the Chivas and dice crowd and
upscale foreigners swinging by to catch the
occasion international DJ.

Butterfly 蝴蝶
Add: Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang District
Time: 6:30-23:00
Tel: (+8610) 6417 6357
Butterfly's only real distinctive feature
is a green lizard, which seems completely
disinterested in house music and lives in a
box downstairs. But the formula of cheap
drinks and creative lighting set it apart from
other places in the bar-packed neighborhood
and people aren't here just to sink doubles
as quick as possible before moving on to a
club. On Fridays and Saturdays, DJ decks
replace the computer and the clientele, as
much Chinese as foreign, can dance away to
whatever time they like.

The Capital Bar 京城俱乐部
Add: 50/F Capital Mansion, 6 Xinyuan
Nanlu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 8486 2225
Dining Rooms: Monday to Friday 7:30-9:30, 11:30-14:00, 18:00-22:00
Saturday 18:00-22:00
Sunday Brunch 11:30-14:00
Sunday Family Dinners 18:30-22:00
Athletic Center: Everyday 6:30-23:00
The Capital Club was conceived,
organized, and designed as a prestigious
private club for the senior business community
of the People's Republic of China. Since its
opening, the Capital Club has earned its place
in the Beijing community as the premier
international business, athletic, and social
club. Members gather to entertain, relax, and
network in their choice of sumptuous dining
rooms, well equipped meeting rooms, or state
of the art recreation and fitness facilities.
From its 50th floor vantage, Members and
their guests can enjoy a 360 degree view of
Beijing that is unmatched anywhere else in
the city.

CD Jazz Café CD爵士俱乐部
Add: 16 Nongzhanguan Lu, East of Third
Ring Rd., Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6506 8288
Time: 4pm-late
Price: Less than ¥99 per couple
Tricked out in jazz memorabilia, this
bar was set up by horn player Liu Yuan, who
used to tour with Cui Jian's band. Previously
a hot spot for all kinds of live music, it is now
totally dedicated to the jazz crowd, cultivating
hushed crowds quietly foot-tapping to the
house jazz band.

Centro 炫酷
Add: 1 Guanghua Lu, 1/F Shangri-la's
Kerry Centre Hotel Beijing, CBD/Guomao,
Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6561 8833/42
Accepts International Credit Cards
Dress to impress, because this upscale
lounge is not a t-shirt and jeans joint. Some
swear Centro is the "it" place in Beijing to
sip champagne. Poshly decorated in golden
yellows with bartenders who know how to
mix a mean cocktail, Centro books live jazz
and regularly attracts a celebrity crowd.

Cloud Nine 九霄云外
Add: Shangri-la Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu,
Haidian District
Tel: (+8610) 6841 2211/2723
Time: 5pm-2am
Accepts International Credit Cards
This upscale bar in the Shangri-La
Hotel has it all-swanky interior, an incredible
drink list, and regular live music. As this
place was certainly designed with Beijing's
elite in mind, dress sharp and be prepared to
leave the mundane world of Beijing behind-
customers will find themselves, if not actually
in heaven, at least on their way.

Club Obiwan 润提啤酒屋
Add: 4 Xihai Xiyan, Xicheng District. 300m
from Jishuitan subway station
Tel: (+8610) 6617 3231
Time: 8:00pm-5am
Weekends 2pm till late
Club Obiwan manages to promote a
gastronomic & nightlife concept of diversity
integrated in one place. During the day a cosy
Cafe and Bistro with relaxed atmosphere,
awesome coffee and soon international home-
style kitchen, at night a chilled Bar/Lounge
and small but intimate Dance Hall, Club
Obiwan offers something for every taste. The
stylish interior design emphasizes Obiwan's
special character and adds to its mutability
therefore making it a comfy and welcoming
alternative to Beijing's bar and club scene.
Being the only three-storied building in
the neighbourhood, the jewel of the Club is
its rooftop patio- with unrivalled view over
Xihai lakeside and the surrounding hutong.

The Den 敦煌西餐厅
Add: 4 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6592-6290
Time: 24H
Price: ¥100-199 per couple
Accepts International Credit Cards
Find an unbeatable, half price happy
hour menu every night until 10 p.m. and a
hot and sweaty dance floor upstairs, where
the party goes till late at this Sanlitun staple.
Sport themes predominate and games are
shown on the numerous television screens.

Drum & Bell 鼓钟咖啡馆
Add: 41 Zhonglouwan Hutong, Dongcheng
District
Tel: (+8610) 8403 3600
Transport Subway: Gulou Dajie
Keyword bar, food onsite, chillout, wi-fi
In the alley between the Drum and Bell
Towers, this bar's staff is among the friendliest
in town. The comfy rooftop terrace is loaded
with couches and armchairs and in summer,
regulars camp out here until closing.

Frank's Place 万龙酒吧
Category: Night Life, Restaurant, Bars/
Night Club, Pubs and Sports Bars, Western
Cuisine,
Add: 4 Workers' Stadium East Rd., Chaoyang
District
Tel: (+8610) 6437 8399
Time: 8:00pm-late (Mon-Sun)
Good for: Dinner
Frank's Place is not only the oldest
established sports pub in Beijing, it is also
the oldest western pub in Beijing, being open
since 1989.
Nowhere else can offer 5 big Lcd
screens and two super projector screens. 5
TV feeds and a Sling box; if Frank's can't get
a particular sport or game, it probably isn't
worth watching.
Frank's has seating for over 70 and
masses of bar space, two pool tables and two dart boards. There is a front patio looking over the tree lined street and a covered back patio for private parties and summer barbecues.

Golden Club
Add: 2/F Tongli Studios, Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6413 2698
Time: 7 Days a Week, 5pm-4am

Golden Club’s Gongti-lite décor, with illuminated Chivas case and plasma screens playing muted hip-hop videos to cheesy house music, seems to target the Chinese dance club set that rarely makes it up to Tong Li’s expat paradise. Nevertheless, this small Chivas-sponsored micro-disco mixes excellent cocktails.

Huxleys 德彼酒吧
Add: 16 Yandaixie Jie, Houhai, Xicheng District
Tel: (+8610) 6402 7825
It’s a cheap bar in Houhai, but with great atmosphere, barman, waitress and costumers.

Jiangjinjiu 疆进酒
Add: 2 Zhongku Hutong, Gulou, Dongcheng District
Tel: (+8610) 8405 0124
Website: www.jiangjinjiu.cn
Time: 12pm-2am

This bohemian Gulou hideaway is a hot spot for acting and folk music jams. Regulars sit for hours nursing beer and tea and everyone seems to know each other. If you’re new, you can get to know everyone by showing up to one of their regular improv shows where the audience is often sucked into the action.

Kai Club 开
Add: Sanlitun Beijie, behind 3.3 Mall, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6416 6254
Time: 6pm-3am

Kai is a node in Sanlitun, drawing in a younger, mainly foreign crowd with RMB10 drinks and a pole in the middle of the dance floor which regularly sees some drunken action. If you’re tired of being squished on the small dance floor, then head up to the comfy couches upstairs.

La Baie des Anges 天使港湾休闲酒吧
Add: 5 Nanguanfang Hutong, Houhai, Xicheng District
Tel: (+8610) 6657 1605
Website: www.la-baie-des-anges.com
Time: 6pm-2am

Upscale wine bar in the winding hutongs behind Houhai owned by two French connoisseurs who know their nectar. Buy imported and domestic vintages off the rotating wine list by the glass or the bottle and chill to delightful French tunes. It’s a node on the hip, young European circuit.

La Cave 乐·卡瓦酒窖
Add: Jiangtai Xilu, Lido, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6437 8399
Time: 5pm-12pm

Wines by the bottle and Mediterranean food draw an upmarket clientele to La Cave. The décor is elegant and stylish – antiques in an old-fashioned wine cellar. Worldwide sources and a quality cave.

LAN 蘭会所
Add: 4/F LG Twin Towers, 12 Jianguomen Waidajie, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 5109 6012/13
Time: 11:00am-03:00am

LAN Club is very luxurious and geared toward the high-end crowd in Beijing. The interior is designed by Philippe Starck. They offer Chinese Sichuan Cuisine mainly, and first-class European Cuisine as well as Canton Cuisine as supplement.

Latinos 拉其诺酒吧
Add: A12 Nanxincang, south-west corner, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6409 6997

The hottest Salsa club in Beijing. Enjoy great cocktails, tasty food, hot atmosphere and of course the best Salsa DJ’s in town.

Lush
Add: 2/F, Bldg 1, Huaqing Jiayuan, Chengfu Lu, Wudaokou, Haidian District
Tel: (+8610) 8286 3566
Website: www.lushbeijing.com
E-mail: rich@lushbeijing.com
Time: 24H

This student stronghold was the first bar in Wudaokou catering to Western foreign students. An eatery by day serving up mouthwatering sandwiches, it becomes a hopping bar at night with special events scheduled throughout the week, including open mic nights, live music and movie nights.

Magic Rock 魔岩酒吧
Add: Zhongguancun Nandajie, 3 Weigongcun Lu, Haidian District
Tel: (+8610) 6845 1142
Time: 6:00pm-3:00am

MAO Livehouse 光芒酒吧
Add: 111 Gulou Dongdajie, behind Nanluoguxiang, east of the Drum Tower
Tel: (+8610) 6402 5080
Website: www.maolive.com
E-mail: maolivehouse@hotmail.com

Bad News, MAO Live has a lot of expertise behind it and which management has used very well, sinking their money into a killer sound system, great stage and a warehouse-like space with beaten up second hand furniture and cheap drinks.

No Name Bar 无名吧
Add: 108 Nanluoguxiang, Gulou, Dongcheng District
Tel: (+8610) 8403 8004
Website: www.passbybar.com/bar/bar.htm
E-mail: bar@passbybar.com
Time: 9:30am-2:00am

Started by a dedicated backpacker turned entrepreneur, this wonderful hutong hideaway attracts locals, backpakers and foreign regulars who quaff wine while digging into excellent and reasonably-priced Italian dishes. With an outdoor courtyard covered by trellised vines a rustic, bohemian decor, and a non-smoking section, Passby is hard to, dare we say it, pass by.

Passby Bar 过客
Add: 3 Qianhai Dongyan, Houhai, Xicheng District
Tel: (+8610) 8403 8004
Website: www.passbybar.com/bar/bar.htm
E-mail: bar@passbybar.com
Time: 9:30am-2:00am

Pepper Bar 辣椒酒吧
Add: West Gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6592 0788; 6506 9588
E-mail: jerry0110@126.com
Time: 7:30pm-5am
Accepts International Credit Cards

Hip, multileveled sister to the original Wudaokou lounge, this swanky bar has a main club area where friendly bartenders go all-out with their Saturday night cocktail shows. Escape house and hip-hop beats
upstairs in the jazz lounge where a chiller crowd sips martinis and puffs on hookahs to the strains of live jazz. Perfect for flaming cocktail spectacular.

Q Bar Q吧
Add: 6/F, Eastern Hotel, Corner of Sanlitun Nanlu and Gongti Nanlu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6595 9239
Website: www.qbarbeijing.com
E-mail: drink@qbarbeijing.com
Time: 6pm-2am

Opened by two serious bartenders, George and Echo, this hopping lounge serves up some fantastic cocktails. The decor is upscale hip and complemented by eclectic house and nu jazz tunes thrown by credible, local laowai DJs. There is a great patio in summer and they've recently added excellent desserts and gourmet bar snacks to their repertoire.

Rickshaw 生活园意大利餐厅
Add: Corner of Sanlitun Nanlu and Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6500 4330
Time: 24H
Accepts International Credit Cards

Sharing owners with Saddle Cantina, Rickshaw enlivens a long-languishing corner of Sanlitun. With a pool table and sports on the big screen TVs, it cultivates a "guy's guy" kind of feeling. But with Wi Fi, good cocktails, "energy salads," and one of the most pleasant balconies in Beijing, it brings in a diverse crowd.

Room 101 友情部落西餐厅
Add: 199 Andingmennei Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: (+8610) 6402 7532
Website: www.room101.cn
E-mail: info@room101.cn
Time: 24H

This European café and pub is open 24/7, and its comfortable at-home ambiance pleases a regular crowd of expats who party with on-tap Hoegaarden and delicious paninis. On the weekends, Room 101 is loud and festive with the jazzy funk of its live acts continuing well past midnight.

Sex& Da City 欲望都市
Category: Night Life, Bars/Night Club,
Add: 15 Lotus Lane, Shichahai Qianyan, Ping'an Jie, Xicheng District
Tel: (+8610) 6612 5046
Time: Open Sun-Thu 2pm-3am; Fri-Sat 4pm-2am

Nightclubs

Babi 芭比俱乐部
Add: 8 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6551 3338
Website: www.babcilub.com
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple

This Sichuan-based brand brings something new to Gongti: a dance floor. Finally clubbers can actually move their feet while slamming back the Chiva's. Its décor, which in some places looks like Kubrick's 2001, stands out from the jagged metallic edges of most of its neighbors as well, helping make Babi Club one of the most pleasant Gongti dance floor experiences.

Stone Boat 石舫酒吧
Add: Southwest corner of Ritan Park, Ritan, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6501 9986
Time: 10am-11pm

This chill bar housed in a faux Qing dynasty boat in Ritan Park is a favorite among journalists and diplomats. Serving up an excellent selection of teas with a carefully selected drink list, Stone Boat hosts regular folk music acts, cultivating a geniality not often seen in Beijing.

The Tree 隐蔽的树-比利时啤酒花园
Add: 100 meters west of Sanlitun North Bar Street
Tel: (+8610) 6415 1954
Website: www.treebeijing.com
Time: 10am-2am
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple
Accepts International Credit Cards

This expansive place gets absolutely packed on the weekends, so arrive early. A wide selection of imported beers (ask which ones are from Belgium) and an extensive drink menu complement their delicious oven-fired, thin crust pizza, some of the best in Beijing. Don't miss the open kitchen.

Writers Bar 作家酒吧
Add: Raffles Beijing Hotel, 33 Dongcheng'an Jie, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District
Tel: (+8610) 6526 3388/4181

Honoring the long association the Raffles Hotel has had with literary giants such as Kipling, Conrad and Coward, this upscale lounge offers over 20 types of wine by the glass, including rare, high-quality Chinese vintages. Also serves niche-market liquors and excellent cocktails. Perfect for finishing your masterpiece.

Babi 芭比俱乐部
Add: 8 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6551 3338
Website: www.babcilub.com
Price: ¥ 99 per couple

This Sichuan-based brand brings something new to Gongti: a dance floor.

Finally clubbers can actually move their feet while slamming back the Chiva's. Its décor, which in some places looks like Kubrick's 2001, stands out from the jagged metallic edges of most of its neighbors as well, helping make Babi Club one of the most pleasant Gongti dance floor experiences.

Babyface West
Add: 1/F, West Lobby, Triumph Plaza, 143A Xizhimen Waidajie, Haidian District
Tel: (+8610) 8801 6848

Babyface West draws in the well-heeled crowds as well as students with money to burn. Sticking to the formula that has proven successful at its dozen locations, Babyface West sees quality breakbeat DJs throw every night with the occasional foreign big name.

Banana 巴那那俱乐部
Add: 1/F, Scitech Hotel, 22 Jianguomenwai Street, Dongsanlu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6528 3636
E-mail: banana-spice@vip.sina.com
Time: Mon-Fri 8:30pm-4:30am; Sat-Sun 8:30pm-5:30am
Price: ¥ 100-199 per couple
Accepts International Credit Cards

Blending a Hollywood theme with that of a luxury space shuttle, this 2000 capacity, 3,000 sq. meters club has made a name as one of Beijing's better megaclubs with a consistent house music policy accent by visits by top international DJs.

Bar Blu 蓝吧
Add: 4/F, 5/F Tongli Studio, Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6417 4124
Time: Sun-Thu 4pm-2am; Fri-Sat 4pm-4am

A solid favorite for Beijing's less choosy clubbers, this bar is multiple levels of good time fun, drawing in a predominantly foreign crowd with decent cocktails, happy hour specials, laowai DJs spinning chart dance hits and regular themed parties. In summer the action spills out onto the upstairs patio.

Block 8 诗景画意
Add: 8 Chaoyang Xilu, West Gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6508 8585
Website: www.block8.cn
E-mail: kristen@block8.cn
Time: 6pm-1pm
Accepts International Credit Cards

This entertainment complex houses three high end restaurants (Haiku, Med and
Cargo Club 酒吧
Add: 6 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6551 6898
Time: 8pm-2am

A spin-off of uber-successful Club Mix, this neon be-decked dance club weathered several re-modelings, both physically and musically, before settling upon a course of mainstream house. Cargo attracts Chinese high rollers, trendy girls and a steady crowd of foreign clubbers.

China Doll (Tongli)
Add: 2/F Tongli Studio, Sanlitun Beijie
Tongli Studios, Chaoyang District
Website: www.clubchinadoll.com
E-mail: event@clubchinadoll.com
Time: 9 pm until everybody leaves

This artsy club, spread out maze-like over three floors of Tongli Studios, is the DJ home-away-from-home in Sanlitun. Bringing in more international breaks, drum 'n' bass and scratch DJs than any other venue in town, Club China Doll's sparsely lit dance floor and VIP booths are an ideal spot to chill until the morning light.

Club 88
Add: 43 Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang District

Club 88 has the only RMB5 Qingdao draft in Sanlitun, but the loud music, green laser beams and dice games suggest the bar imagines itself to be a Gongti den of sin. There’s a great dive bar in here somewhere, but it isn’t worth cutting through the Chiva’s to find it.

Coco Banana
Add: 6 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 8599 9999
Time: 8:30pm-late

Second installment in the Banana clubbing franchise, this glitzy dance club attracts a predominantly Chinese crowd with a techno and hard house music policy. Foreigners show up for the big name DJs who regularly stop in. With a small dance floor dotted with tables, the premium here is on shoehorning in as many clubbers as possible.

Cutie Club 美丽会
Add: 8 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6552 9988
E-mail: cutieclub.com@platformlabs.com
Time: 9pm-3am

Impressively arrayed with neon lights, showy bartenders mixing flaming drinks and disco balls, this flashy club attracts locals looking for cool boys and boys looking for cool girls. Those tired of local DJs spinning house and hip-hop beats head upstairs for the leather couches.

Klubb Rouge
Add: 14/F Block 3 China View, Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6500 3333
Time: 8pm until Late, Daily

With an 18 meter-long bar, flickering candles, cutting-edge house music and a roof deck overlooking Gongti, this seen-and-been club is the height of Beijing's cocktail culture. From the Ginger Melon Martini to its innovative espuma-based cocktails, Klubb Rouge's attentive bartenders mix some of the city's tastiest (and priciest) cocktails.

Mix 密克斯
Add: Inside Workers' Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6530 2889
Website: mixclub@sohu.com
Time: 8pm-2am
Price: ¥100-199 per couple

After hip-hop hit Beijing, this very popular dance club quickly threw its hat into the clubbing ring, gobbling up adjacent venues while gathering a loyal following with its consistent hip-hop phat beats. When not hosting top quality international DJs, Mix is known as a hot spot for the sweaty hook-up.

Song Music Bar and Kitchen
Add: B108, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu, CBD/Guomao, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6877 1311
Website: www.songbeijing.cn
E-mail: song@songbeijing.cn

Chinese electronic music pioneer Neebing teamed up with sculptor Zhong Song for this designer club. Its wood interior layers like rice terraces creating the ultimate restaurant/club for the Beijing's art, design and music cliques. With delicious food, impeccable cocktails and awesome music, Song is the nexus of Beijing cool.

Vic's 威克斯
Add: Inside Workers' Stadium north gate, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 5293 0333
Time: 8:30pm-late

Throwing some of Beijing's earliest hip hop parties, this dance club perfected the booty grind, hook up formula. The well-connected ownership draws in a hipper Chinese crowd, but doesn't stray too far from the tried and true. Recent renovations make it one of the biggest clubs in Beijing.

Yugong Yishan 愚公移山
Add: West courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Gulou, Dongcheng District
Tel: (+8610) 6404 2711
Website: www.yugongyishan.com
E-mail: doro@yugongyishan.com

Yugong Yishan is deservedly hailed as one of Beijing's premier venues for live music. Its new location, with its high stage, stellar sound system, elegant classical design and upstairs lounge will please both those who come for the music and those who come for the scene.

Hotels

You can choose from nearly 800 hotels in Beijing when planning your trip to the historic Olympic host city. There are high-end ones including all of the worldwide big brands, such as Hilton, Shangri-La and Ritz Carlton. Domestic economy hotels also provide simple, clean accommodations for reasonable prices. Many tourist favorites are located in Wangfujing, near the Forbidden City and the Tian'anmen Square. Our recommendations are as followed.

- China World 中国大饭店
Add: 1 Jiangguomen Waidajie, Chaoyang District
Tel: (+8610) 6505 2266
Website: www.shangri-la.com

Located near many foreign embassies and only 45 minutes from Beijing Capital International Airport, the 716-room China World Hotel is a popular meeting place for businessmen. There is Wi-Fi access throughout Aria, the hotel’s renowned restaurant and wine bar.

- Grand Hyatt 东方君悦大酒店
Add: 1 Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng District
Tel: (+8610) 8518 1234
Website: www.beijing.grand.hyatt.com

In the prestigious Oriental Plaza in the centre of Beijing, The Grand Hyatt Beijing is just moments from the Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Wangfujing shopping street. “Made in China” restaurant offers Dongbei cuisine with a modern twist.

- **Hilton 希尔顿酒店**
  Add: 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District
  Tel: (+8610) 5865 5000
  Website: www.hilton.com.cn

  Hilton Beijing hotel is in the Chaoyang business district of Beijing, with direct buses to the airport (20 minutes). Beijing's attractions, from Chaoyang Park to Sanlitun market, are within a 15 minutes' walk.

- **Kempinski 凯宾斯基饭店**
  Add: 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
  Tel: (+8610) 6465 3388
  Website: www.kempinski-beijing.com

  Kempinski Hotel Beijing is located in the heart of Beijing’s diplomatic and business district of Chaoyang and easily accessible from Beijing Capital International Airport. The hotel, opened in 1992, features seven bars and restaurants serving cuisine from all over the world.

- **Kerry Centre 嘉里中心饭店**
  Add: 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District
  Tel: (+8610) 6561 8833
  Website: www.shangri-la.com

  Kerry Centre’s Kerry Centre Hotel sits at the heart of Beijing’s diplomatic, commercial and financial centre just minutes from Beijing’s most popular historical sites. It’s most famous for its bar, Centro, which offers the city’s best cocktails.

- **Peninsula 北京王府半岛酒店**
  Add: 8 Jinyu Hutong, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District
  Tel: (+8610) 8516 2888
  Website: www.beijing.peninsula.com

  Opened in 1989, the Peninsula Beijing is just a short walk away from the Forbidden City, Tian’anmen Square and the Wangfujing shopping district. All guest rooms and suites, which are spacious, feature a 42 inch plasma television, fax machines, and TV in the bathroom.

- **Raffles 北京饭店莱佛士**
  Add: 33 Dongchangan Jie, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District
  Tel: (+8610) 6526 3388
  Website: www.beijing.raffles.com

  Built in the 1900s, Raffles Beijing Hotel has long stood as an icon of Beijing’s historical heritage. It sits in the center of Beijing, has 171 rooms decorated in a mix of Chinese and French design.

- **Regent 丽晶酒店**
  Add: 99 Jinbao Lu, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District
  Tel: (+8610) 8522 1888
  Website: www.regenthotels.com

  The Regent Beijing is just minutes walk from the main commercial and shopping districts, as well as top tourist attractions the Forbidden City and the Tian’anmen Square. Just Opened in 2007, the hotel was among the top 100 hotels in the world, as “Conde Nast Traveler” readers' choice.

- **Ritz Carlton 丽斯卡尔顿酒店**
  Add: Jinchengfang Dongjie, Chaoyang District
  Tel: (+8610) 6601 6666
  Website: www.ritzcarlton.com

  Located on Beijing’s new Financial Street, the hotel is convenient for business travelers to enjoy its 253 well-appointed guest rooms and suites as well as three exceptional restaurants serving Chinese, Italian and all-day dining favorites.

- **Shangri-La 香格里拉饭店**
  Add: 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District
  Tel: (+8610) 6841 2211
  Website: www.shangri-la.com

  Shangri-La Beijing is a landmark in the western part of the city, close to the Summer Palace, State Guesthouse, the Beijing Exhibition Hall, Beijing Zoo and 35 kilometers from Beijing Capital Airport. Its location and fine reputation has made it the choice of business and leisure travelers to Beijing.

- **Softel Wanda 万达索菲特大酒店**
  Add: 93 Jianguo Lu, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, Chaoyang District
  Tel: (+8610) 8599 6666
  Website: www.softel.com

  Sofitel Wanda Beijing is the new flagship Sofitel in Asia Pacific. The striking design draws on Sino-French influences. With a fabulous location in the heart of Beijing, this exclusive 5-star hotel provides easy access to the Exhibition Center, subway and major attractions such as the Tian’anmen Square and the Forbidden City.

- **St Regis 北京国际俱乐部饭店（圣瑞吉斯酒店）**
  Add: 21 Jianguomen Waidajie, Chaoyang District
  Tel: (+8610) 6460 6688
  Website: www.stregis.com/beijing

  St. Regis Beijing was the choice of President Bush and his entourage when they visited in 2002. Superbly situated in the heart of Beijing’s business, shopping and diplomatic districts, the hotel features the excellent Danieli’s restaurant, a natural hot spring spa and a rooftop putting green.

- **Hotel Kunlun 昆仑饭店**
  Add: 2 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District
  Tel: (+8610) 6590 3388
  Website: www.hotelkunlun.com

  The 5-star Hotel Kunlun is located on the banks of the Liangma River, near Embassy Districts, China International Exhibition Center, shopping centers and clusters of office buildings. The restaurant features Shanghai cuisine.

- **Ascott**
  Add: 108B Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District
  Tel: (+8610) 6567 8100
  Website: www.the-ascott.com

  Centrally located in Beijing business and retail district The Ascott Beijing offers you unparalleled levels of luxury and comfort. From The Ascott Beijing, you are just a drive away from the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven and the Temple of the Reclining Buddha. Exquisite examples of Chinese botany and landscaping can be found in the parks of Jingshan, BeiHai and Zhongshan.

- **Jinjiang Inn 锦江之星旅馆**
  Tel: (+8610) 400 820 9999
  Website: www.jinjianginns.com

  Being the largest economy hotel chain in China with a nationwide network, Jinjiang Inn provides professional services to ensure healthy and comfortable stay.

- **Home Inn 如家快捷酒店**
  Tel: (+8610) 400 820 3333
  Website: www.homeinns.com

  Home Innns, founded in 2002, is now a nationwide network of economy hotels. In a Home Inn anywhere in China one can experience professional and courteous service, comfortable rooms, convenient locations, and prices that make sense for individual business and leisure travelers.
I did it. Am not kidding! I went to heaven and back. Yes, I went to ‘Paradise on earth’. To Hangzhou I went, the most beautiful place I have ever been. As the saying goes, “in heaven there is paradise and on earth there are Hangzhou and Suzhou” it quite aptly describe the beauty inherent in this city of Hangzhou.

As the famous explorer Marco Polo said, Hangzhou is “the most beautiful and magnificent city in China”. Its populace down to earth, its culture rich and amazing, scenic spots a wonder to behold, skyscrapers lighting up the night alluringly. It’s a real paradise.

A day begins very early in Hangzhou, with the famous Wushan square filled with city residents, both old and young, professionals etc who turn up as early as 5am for the morning exercise before going to their places of work. This is a must see place in this city whenever you are around, different groups perform different stunts, dances and physical fitness games.

The dawn ritual-like activities are riddled with different games such as Chinese opera, folk dances and Taichi. Taichi is my favorite, I even tried a few moves but to tell you the truth it’s not as simple as it looks. Taichi is an internal Chinese martial art. You need total body coordination, perfect balance and undivided attention. Taichi, as I learnt, it promotes health and longevity.

Wushan square is also very popular as a venue for cultural events i.e tea ceremonies, Taichi demonstration techniques and dancing.

The Hangzhou’s West Lake is another must see. Located at the heart of the city, it is surrounded by the hills and the city buildings. All my fears of mass-volume of waters were overcome after a boat ride on this lake. Just imagine a one-hour boat ride while sipping the most famous Hangzhou tea—the Longjing tea. It was the most relaxing thing I have ever engaged in, cautious at first but I ended up enjoying it all.

The “impression west lake” later in the evening swept me off my feet. I never saw such a thing before. People dancing gracefully in the middle of the lake, on the waters? No! Never! Which dance is this that makes one so light as to walk on the water, I mused. This is an outdoor production where performers hold a giant feature dance in the middle of the lake, on raised platform that gives a simulation of walking on the water.

Moving around the lake is made easier, since free bikes are provided. Just incase you are tired of walking; you can register to get a free bicycle from the designated harbors and ride out to quench your site seeing curiosity. Then return the bicycle later. I know you are wondering, what if someone decides to ride away “indefinitely”? No worries, the bikes ‘got them trackers’.

A visit to Hangzhou is incomplete without sampling their sumptuous delicacies. Ever eaten a beggar’s chicken? I don’t mean that you go begging from a beggar, no; this is a roasted and steamed chicken delicacy with a tale behind it. The legend has it that this sumptuous meal was a beggar’s uncooked chicken. Having no fire to cook it, he wrapped it with mud and buried it in the sand. On checking it later, he realized it had cooked from the heat of the sand.

In Hangzhou, every food served has a story behind it. It’s an art. Its creativity at its best! You eat stories; folklores. You sample the folklore of the people in nearly everything. Even in drinks. In tea, there is a legend. There is the longjing tea shrimp. Why would you boil shrimps in tea? I asked.

I took a relaxation posture as the waiter began to narrate the story about the Longjing tea Shrimps. The story goes like this—There was an emperor who visited a certain hotel here in Hangzhou. He really wanted a meal made of shrimps, and that’s what he ordered. The cook on duty was very nervous as he prepared this meal since he had never prepared a meal for an important guest such as the emperor. So instead of pouring water to the already cooking meal, he poured tea in it. The emperor was already waiting and this chef had no time to undo the mess. He proceeded to serve the meal. The emperor without the knowledge that whatever he was eating was the outcome of the chef’s mistake praised its taste. He said he never had something like that before.” And that’s how Longjing tea shrimp’s meal was born.

Hangzhou is a home of legends, mysteries, all blend in modern lifestyle. You have not been to China is you haven’t been to Hangzhou.
What was revealed before my eyes was a dark evening shrouded by wet river mist, a river-side train station with few passengers around, and a rolling intercity train quickly disappearing into a tiny spot on the shimmering track. In the background, the Rhine flowed north, mighty and calm. The moonlit river with its rattling sound, cast a mysterious mood on bewildered visitors, if they had not been caught by the twinkling lights in the town of Bingen, on the other side of the River.

"So here we are! Rüdesheim!" I said to Rabbit, my companion for my German trip, in an effort to cheer both of us up. It is 9:30 in the evening, though we should have arrived hours earlier. The past day has not been easy for us. We left Heidelberg in the morning and arrived in Mainz only to be welcomed by moderate rain. Rabbit and I toured the city with our backpacks on our shoulders, visited the famous church and crossed the bridge to reach Wiesbaden. We then proceeded to get lost while trudging in the rain and praying for help for several hours until we met a kind-hearted German lady who escorted us to the Wiesbaden train station, or Hauptbahnhof. We then boarded the wrong train which took us to Frankfurt. The series of mistakes and coincidences left us hungry, worn out and, above all, demoralized. The 55-litre package on my back, the once proud mark of the independent traveler, became the greatest impediment to a tourist's lofty ambition.

But anyway! Those experiences are another story for another day. The important thing is that we finally made it to Rüdesheim, our destination of the day and departure point for tomorrow's Rhine river tour! And our innkeeper must have been waiting for us for a long time! Ha! Backpackers from China!

But first, we had to find our hotel. Rabbit and I don't speak German, not a bit. And this language barrier caused us a lot of trouble, as we mainly toured small and middle-sized cities along the Rhine, where not many locals speak English.

The town of Rüdesheim lies immediately on the eastern bank of the Rhine. The flat land is greatly narrowed by the wide Rhine so half of the town spreads long and thin along the river and the other half creeps into the hills.

There are not many streetlamps so the town was half-swallowed by the shadow of the night. The windows of households and a few cafes and bars that were already beginning to put up the shutters were the main source of light for our orientation. But this vague picture of a small river-side town at night was greatly appreciated by both of us. As we walked up the hill and into the town, we got a feeling of walking into 19th century Germany, a typical image that we have sought and probably the best feeling we could have hoped for on our trip.

Walking north, along a street paved by cobblestones shining under lamps and the weak light of the moon, we found a church that looked like it came from the Middle Ages. The scene aroused deep emotions in me. A lofty church standing above a hill and overlooking a cobblestone path narrowed by slope-roofed buildings had impressed me in Qingdao, a coastal city in eastern China's Shandong Province once occupied by Germany. And in Rüdesheim I found myself looking at an identical scene.

A castle in better shape stands above a cliff on the river bank.
The hotel we lodged in, the Zum Bären, lies just a couple of steps behind the church. Our very nice hotel features a restaurant on the ground floor where I noticed several couples dining under romantic candle lights. But no time for careful examinations! I was too tired and the weary travelers had to rest.

The next morning, we got up early having recovered from the previous day’s fatigue. A cheerful early morning stroll in the quiet ancient town led us to the riverbank and we bought two tickets at the ticket station of KD Tour Boat Company. KD stands for Köln and Düsseldorf, two big cities along the Rhine. The company operates a variety of boat tours on the rivers of Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and France. The route we chose to follow, one of the classic routes along the Rhine, started from Rüdesheim and ends in Koblenz, a section of the river running through verdant valleys dotted by towns, castles, and vineyards, without any modern bridges crossing the river to hamper the scenery. The route aims to present visitors with a complete, untainted gallery of the Rhine Valley.

When we returned to our hotel, breakfast was ready! And to our great pleasure, we found our reserved table in a lovely corner, decorated with flowers and a cute teddy bear. A closer inspection revealed a smart tag had been erected to mark the guest’s name, which we both greatly enjoyed.

After finishing breakfast and checking out, we stepped on board our tour boat for the day, the Godsburg. The ship was large and tidy with two floors. The cabin floor was a roomy restaurant that can hold a feast for at least two hundred on board. The walls were made mainly of glass, providing excellent views on all sides. The deck floor was painted in green, and the railing was transparent. A dozen white plastic chairs and tables were arranged on the deck, and guests could enjoy the sunshine and an unblocked, panoramic view of the valley, while sipping tea or enjoying world renowned German beer.

Unfortunately it was early spring when we were there, plus it was morning on the river, so the deck floor was pretty cold. Clean wind, carrying heavy moisture, swept across the river and onto the deck, and no one chose to sit on these river view dining places. But the thrill inside and the beautiful scene outside eventually lured everyone on board to the deck floor, including us.

The scenery was as good as you could imagine. The morning mist was still hanging above the river. The beautiful scenery of the town, especially the spikes of churches and red roofs in the town of Bingen on the left bank, had already emerged out from the fog. There Bingen rested, in peace and quietness and amid the mist and the rattling sound of rushing waters of the Rhine. A few trees dotted a shoal in the body of the River behind our boat, its leaves newly green. Rüdesheim, our departure point on the right bank, was still sleeping in the sweet Sunday morning dream, seemed unaware of the excitement of tourists.

Suddenly, an outburst of exciting cries from those on board disturbed the peace of the morning, as the Godsburg unmoored herself and started leaving the wharf. Two German sailors swiftly handled the thick rope and we bid farewell to Rüdesheim and our one night’s memory of this old town.

Looking downwards, the water was ample and turbulent. But our Godsburg sailed smoothly. The captain offered some words of welcome over a loudspeaker in German, English and Japanese, as there was a Japanese tour group aboard. We could see our first stop, Bingen, which was not far away. Bingen was once home to an influential German woman in the middle ages, and the town gets its name from her. In a matter of minutes, we were anchoring in...
Bingen, where a number of tourists stepped on board. You see, this is how the tour boat works. It sails from one stop to another, picking up as well as dropping off tourists. And, with certain tickets, you can step on and off the ship as many times as you wish and spend some time touring the riverside towns. Of course, you have to wait for another boat to pick you up some time later in the day, as this ship won't wait for you.

This way of doing business sounded very appealing to me. If I had more time, I would surely have taken the opportunity, to travel as free as a bird. But unfortunately, I had already reserved train tickets to Koblenz.

Immediately after leaving Bingen, we saw a white lighthouse called the Mouse Tower on an island between the shores of the river. The tiny smart tower was the mark of a cheerful new chapter of the river tour, as it signaled the first of a series of middle aged architecture of the Rhine River tolling system.

A gorgeous castle emerged on our right. Although the castle was but a ruin, its majestic looks remained intact. Though standing on the mighty, steel-made Godsburg, I still feared that some armor-plated German warriors may abruptly rush out of the castle and rob me of my Euros. Of course, that was my fantasy, but I hope you now understand what these castles are built for and I have to say, they are built very successfully, as their undisputed geographic position means that there is no room to say no to their requests.

Soon we passed the castle, and though most tourists remained in awe, their attention soon turned to the other fine sights on offer along the Rhine. A large-scale farm stretched out on our right while thousands of grapevines crept neatly along the mountain. It was mid April, so the Rüdesheim Rotland, or the Rüdesheim Vineyards, had still not matured, but the green buds and the careful cultivation of its masters left a deep impression on the minds of all on board. Shrouded in white fog and flanked by a time-honored castle, the vineyard won my heart as I uttered the word "beautiful", feebly.

As we drifted down, more and more castles and small towns entered our line of sight, each of them with an irreplaceable beauty of their own.

To our surprise and pleasure, we found the introductions broadcast over the loudspeaker now included Chinese. The captain must have overheard us speaking and kindly added Chinese to the broadcasting system. Cool! However, this was not the first time that we have been impressed by the quality of German service.

As we kept moving, we saw trains running quickly along the riverbank railway, and many barges traveling up or down the river. We came across a group of cyclists riding along the riverside road. Looking on from the boat deck, I envied the lifestyle they enjoyed.

The moving gallery, the picturesque scenery continued until we saw in the distance a giant rock marking a great turn of the river. The rock is called "The Loreley", and marks the narrowest part of the Rhine between Switzerland and the North Sea. A very strong current and rocks below the waterline have caused many boat accidents there.

There is a beautiful tale about the rock: the tale of the Rhine Maidens who lured navigators of this river to their doom with their alluring singing, much as the ancient Greek Sirens did.

When sailing beside the Loreley, the captain broadcast a German Song, a piece from an opera I guess, to give all on board an insight into the great, romantic rock. May I here borrow the poem by the famous 19th century German poet Heinrich Heine, to tell you something about the rock? The version is in English and translated by Clint Andrews.

I don't know what it may signify
That I am so sad;
There's a tale from ancient times
That I can't get out of my mind.

The air is cool as the twilight is
falling,
And the Rhine is flowing quietly by;
The top of the mountain is glittering
In the evening sun.

The loveliest maiden is sitting,
up there wondrous to tell.
Her golden jewelry sparkles,
as she combs her golden hair.
She combs it with a golden comb
and sings a song as she does;
A song with a peculiar,
powerful melody.
It seizes upon the boatman in his small boat
With unrestrained woe;
He only looks up at the heights.
If I'm not mistaken the waters,
Finally swallowed up fisher and boat.
And with her singing
the Lorelei did this.
So, that's the Rhine tale I had to offer.
Space is limited and my article has been lengthy, so it might be wise for me to stop here as I can never fully convey the romance the Rhine has left in my heart. To better discover the beautiful river, you'll have to embark on a trip yourself!
Impression West Lake

Text by Xing Daiqi

A collaboration between famous Japanese musician Kitaro and iconic singer Zhang Liangying, "Impression West Lake" is becoming a major tourist attraction in the city of Hangzhou.

"In heaven, there is paradise; on earth, it's Suzhou and Hangzhou". This popular saying captures very well the charm of Hangzhou.

Situated in China's eastern province of Zhejiang, Hangzhou was once described by the 13th century Italian traveler Marco Polo as "the most splendid and luxurious city in the world". This is most evident in the West Lake area, the city's most prominent scenic spot.

Nestled amid hilly peaks on three sides, the lake has been inspiring poets of great acclaim for centuries.

Following the success of "Impression Liu Sanjie" and "Impression Lijiang", renowned Chinese director Zhang Yimou is now extending his outdoor musical series to the picturesque West Lake. The result is a unique outdoor production titled "Impression West Lake."

Wang Chaoge, co-director of the play, explains their initiative.

"The beauty of the West Lake goes far beyond its natural scenery. Its stories and cultural heritage make the place more appealing. It's meaningless to replicate the plant and hills. Instead, we try to create a space for imagination. It is a great challenge for us to turn real nature into an imaginary fairyland in people's minds."

Zhang Yimo has this to say.

"The preparation involves a lot of research. It's not something you can do by reading a couple of traveling pamphlets. Instead, you have to consult with local scholars and industry officials to understand the essence of the cultural legacy. We have to see what is most representative of the west lake. Otherwise, we wouldn't even know where to start."

The story the production team is looking for is "The Legend of the White Snake", set in the Southern Song Dynasty in the West Lake.

As the story goes, a female white snake demon, Bai Suzhen or Lady White, dreams of becoming a goddess. So she takes on mortal form and steps into the human world. On the broken bridge of the West Lake, she meets a handsome scholar Xu Xian, who saved her life in the previous life. The two fall in love and get married.

A monk intervenes in order to save the scholar's soul and casts Lady White into a deep well at the Leifeng Pagoda.

Over time, the tale has evolved from a horror story to one of romance. Together with other legends of the lake, it rests quietly in every corner within the landscape.

Set around Su Causeway and Curved Yard and Lotus Pool, on the water of Yue Lake, is the musical's natural stage.

When the night falls, colored lighting shrouds the lake, with hills and water as its backdrop.

Lady White walks across the water to meet her lover Xu Xian coming in a small boat. The stage is set three centimeters below the lake and can descend a further half a meter.

When the light fades, we can see fish and lotus lanterns - played by hundreds of actors - glimmer in the dark. And with the help of modern technology, a "bridge of heaven" rises into the sky, uniting the long-separated couple at end of the play.

Audiences from across the world are fascinated by the spectacle.

"I'm from Taiwan. I'm deeply touched by 'The legend of the White Snake'. It is such a splendorous production. I've never seen anything like it anywhere else in the world."

"I'm from Poland. I'm here for the second time. It's so fantastic, so beautiful. I'm coming back once more for sure. Because each time, it's completely different. It's enormous beautify, which I adore so much."

While the play continues to thrill audiences, the production team is finding ways to protect the environment of the West Lake while the show is being staged. Many movie crews have failed to care for the environment during shoots in the past. Over time, breathtakingly beautiful pictures have strongly featured in Chinese blockbusters. Yet there are persistent news headlines...
Behind the Scenes

about production teams not caring for the environment. The stunning beauty caught on camera is in sharp contrast with the destruction outside of it.

Under intense media pressure, Chinese movie professionals are also changing. Zhang Yimo is the pioneer of this green trend. "The environment of the West Lake does not only belong to the city of Hangzhou, or China. It belongs to the whole world. The performance is just a small example when one takes into account the large environmental issue. We've spent a year on environmental protection. Even the route for the audience to enter and exit the site is designed to be environmentally friendly."

Fan Yue is another co-director of the show. "Every night, we are in for a quality performance. But during the day time, removable seats are stashed away, the stage descends under the water and the boat and light pull away. The originality of the West Lake is kept intact. We spare no effort to protect the environment."

As a residential performance, "Impression West Lake" is on show all year round. This visual spectacle is becoming a major draw for visitors in Hangzhou, for everyone to experience the beauty of China.

Hangzhou-Home of China's Tea Culture

Hangzhou, in east China, was once described by the 13th century Italian traveler Marco Polo as "the most splendid and luxurious city in the world".

The fine green tea of Longjing (or 'Dragon Well' tea in English), is one of the "twin wonders" of the city, the other being the magic water of Hupao Spring, (meaning Tiger-Running Spring). When these two natural wonders come together, something very special happens, the brewing of the famous Longjing tea.

Nestled amid the peaks adjoining the West Lake wonderland, China's famous Longjing Tea Plantation hosts the National Tea Museum, an 8000-square-meter monument to the country's deeply-rooted infatuation with what the Chinese call "cha," otherwise known as camellia sinensis.

On entering the exhibition hall, the first thing you see is a water-curtained wall, with a huge Chinese Character for "Tea" carved on it.

Gao Hong, one of the museum staff, explains the design. "This Character, "Tea," is excerpted from the writing of Wang Xizhi, one of the greatest Chinese calligraphers of all time. To infuse water over the character indicates the long history of the Chinese tea culture."

The story of tea begins in China, dating back 5,000 years! Legend has it that the emperor Sheng Nung, a renowned herbalist, was sitting beneath a tree while his servant was boiling water for drinking. Leaves from the tree blew into the water. So the herbalist decided to try the infusion that his servant had accidentally created. The serendipitous result is what we now call tea.

Of course, we cannot absolutely verify the story, but it does establish China's love affair with the brew centuries before it had even been heard of in the West.

"By the time of the Tang Dynasty about 1,000 years ago, tea was the national drink of China, spreading from court circles to become popular throughout Chinese society. It was during this period that tea drinking also became popular in neighboring countries like Japan, India, and Sri Lanka."

The history of tea is imbued with cultural significance - literary, artistic, even religious. For that we have a Chinese scholar to thank by the name of Lu Yu. His fascinating treatise, Ch'a Ching, or the Classic of Tea, is the earliest known book devoted entirely to tea. For Lu, it symbolizes the harmony and tranquility advocated by Taoism.

And tea has been inspiring scholars and artistic types ever since. For example, renowned composer Tan Dun, best known for his music score for the movie Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, even composed an opera with tea in mind.

"The Book of Tea is not about how to taste a cup of tea, but about how tea culture began; how tea was planted; how tea was discovered; how tea became a currency, a medicine, and a gift. Tea becomes a bridge linking all kinds of people and history. It's a masterpiece. And the Book of Tea somehow inspires me so much in thinking about this.
The Chinese say that water is the mother of tea, and the tea-set is the father. To brew a good cup not only requires good water, but also a fine tea-set.

Chinese tea may be classified into five categories according to the different ways in which it is processed. They are: White Tea, Green Tea, Oolong, Red, and Black tea.

And there are many health claims for the drink, too. Red tea, for instance, is said to be good for the stomach; while oolong can purportedly help in weight loss.

"It's recommended to drink different teas in different seasons. Chrysanthemum tea and green tea are suitable for Summer. Red tea and oolong are better choices for Winter."

By the Ming Dynasty, blue and white wares, green pottery, and white porcelain were used to carry the greenish infusion. Later, purple clay teapots rose to popularity because they can better retain the color and flavor of tea.

Chinese tea may be classified into five categories according to the different ways in which it is processed. They are: White Tea, Green Tea, Oolong, Red, and Black tea.

And there are many health claims for the drink, too. Red tea, for instance, is said to be good for the stomach; while oolong can purportedly help in weight loss.

"It's recommended to drink different teas in different seasons. Chrysanthemum tea and green tea are suitable for Summer. Red tea and oolong are better choices for Winter."

The Chinese say that water is the mother of tea, and the tea-set is the father. To brew a good cup not only requires good water, but also a fine tea-set.

"Longjing tea is famous for its aromatic flavor, sweet taste and beautiful shape. It can also improve your vision and inspire your spirit," said Mei Qiuping, a local tea lover, "because the tea bush flourishes in the mountainous area with plenty of rainfall."

Every April, at the height of the picking season, farmers throughout Longjing can be seen stooping over their tea trees, selecting the finest leaves.

Xu Zemei, hostess of the tea ceremony in the museum, has this to say.

"The best Longjing tea is gathered several days before the Qingming Festival, around April 5th every year, when new twigs have just begun to grow and carry 'one leaf and one bud.' Tea leaves picked before Qingming are superbly structured and delicious, and that is why they were reserved for the exclusive use of the imperial household in the past. It was therefore, known as 'tribute tea.' Due to limited production, the best Longjing tea can rake in about $100,000 for one kilogram."

Tea plays a very important part in the life of Hangzhou's people, with hundreds of teahouse dotted throughout the town.

"People take tea with them everywhere they go, even on a stroll in the neighborhood. For people in Hangzhou, we can not live without tea."

Artists of ancient China are said to be inspired either by tea or by wine. Those who preferred tea tended to be sentimental and romantic. And in Hangzhou, one can relive this noble tradition in a peaceful setting among friends.
LEARN CHINESE NOW!

Text by Zhao Pingping

Hi, Da4jia1hao3. Since the Beijing Olympics are rapidly approaching, our topic in this edition will focus on sports.

Ping-pong is the national sport of China. In Chinese, it's known as乒乓球(pīng pāng qiú). Ice hockey, the national sport of Canada, is 冰球(bīng qiú) in Chinese. If you want to ask your friends "Which sports do you like to play?" you can say:你喜欢什么运动? (Nǐ xǐ huan shén me yùn dòng?)

If you want to ask your Chinese friends which sports they like to watch, you can say:你喜欢看什么体育比赛? (Nǐ xǐ huan kàn shén me tǐ yù bǐ sài?) As we mentioned several times before, 你(nǐ), means "you," 喜欢(xǐ huan) means "like," 看(kàn) is "to watch." 运动(yùn dòng) means "sport."

你喜欢什么运动? (Nǐ xǐ huan shén me yùn dòng?) Which sports do you like to play? If you like playing basketball, you can answer 我喜欢打篮球。 (Wǒ xǐ huan dǎ lán qiú)

Baseball fans can reply 我是棒球迷。 (Wǒ shì bàng qiú mí.) 我是(Wǒ shì) means "I am," 棒球(bàng qiú) is the Chinese equivalent of "baseball."

With that, we have come to the end of this edition of "Learn Chinese Now!" For more information, please log on our Web site at http://en.chinabroadcast.cn and click on the "learn Chinese" button. If you have any comments or suggestions, please e-mail us at chinese@cri.com.cn.

Admiration of the Tang Poem

咏 鹅

王骆宾

鹅 鹅 鹅，曲项向天歌。
白毛浮绿水，红掌拨清波。

[Translation]
The Geese!
The geese! The geese! The geese!
Skyward sing through curved necks!
Plumage floating in green streams;
Red paddles stirring up clear ripples.

[About the Poet]
Wang Luobin is one of four well-known writers in the literary world. At the beginning of the Tang Dynasty, Wang Luobin showed his unusual creative genius beginning in childhood. As a child, Wang Luobin received a traditional feudal education, with Confucianism holding the leading position in his mind. When it came to personality, he was forthright by nature, chivalrous, filled with a rebellious spirit.

[Notes to the Poem]

鹅(é): goose
项(xiàng): neck
歌(gē): song
绿(lǜ)水(shuǐ): green stream
红(hóng): red
拨(bō): to move with the hand

This poem was written by Wang Luobin when he was only seven years old. It paints a lively picture of a goose swimming joyfully on the pond.
Dear Staff, Greeting from Emmanuel Alley from Greater Accra Region of Ghana to China Radio International staff and the related countries as a whole. Peace and happiness be unto China Radio International for broadcasting this great up-coming 29th Olympic game event. Thank be to God for granting China this great opportunity to first hold the Olympic Games among the rest of the world. It is a prestige to stand among the rest of the world to win the chance of holing Olympic Games. So it is my prayers to God to boost the morale of China to fulfill all the set up plans towards the 2008 Olympic games. Every blessed day I view the work project on television, you really doing well. It is my belief that truly BOCOG will accomplish its core goal of organizing a high level Olympic Games with distinguishing features. Last but not least I Emmanuel Alley from Ghana will like to urge Chinese people to stay in peace and harmony with related countries involved in the 2008 Olympic Games. May God richly bless you all. Thank you.

Emmanuel Alley
Ghana

As a host country of the 2008 Olympics, China has demonstrated a very high level of excitement, professionalism, openness, and transparency. I wish China great honor and support in the last few months leading up to the events. China, I know you are ready for this and have done an excellent job welcoming the world to your shores!

Mike Jones
USA

I wish that the Olympic Games will show to the world the wonders of China, the hospitality of the Chinese people and the power of the Chinese nation to bring together the eyes of the entire world to focus on Beijing and see the world’s best athletes perform to their best ability. This will bring the whole world a closer and make our common earth safer for all. I look forward to watching the Games be a huge success. All power to the Peoples Republic of China’ the Chinese people and the BOGOC.

Peter Prior
Australia

I have best wishes for all athletes from every country for a successful 2008 Olympics in their respective events. Their hard work, determination and efforts are greatly appreciated as they represent their countries in this auspicious event. I especially congratulate all those Para Olympians for their "unrelenting spirit" in truly transcending their handicaps. I commend all athletes for being excellent role models for aspiring athletes and children throughout the world. China’s slogan is so appropriate and I wish them all the best as they truly pursue and encourage Unity, Friendship, Progress, Harmony, and Participation in the Dream of all athletes. Good luck to everyone.

L. Ronconi
USA

Beijing Olympics is the biggest and mega event not only in China but also in the world, especially for Asian countries because it is our proud and prestige and China is fulfilling all the requirements of games, green and peaceful and high level games. We will see Beijing Olympics with Dance Beijing. I hope I will see and win prize from CRI.

Waqar Younus
Pakistan

Best wishes and heartfelt message for upcoming the Beijing Olympics Games. When China returned to the Olympics Games in Los Angeles in 1984, after a 50 year absence, it marked a great turning point. One of the primary goals of the Olympic Movement, as we know, is to unite the world - the whole world - in peace through sport through the celebration of each and every Gee. When China joined the parade of nations in Los Angeles, the Olympic Movement leaped ahead in its efforts to bring the whole world together in peace and friendship. Now, as China opens the gate and invites the world in to participate in the Olympic Movement, humanity is highly honored to be counted among guests of Chinese. Now we expect this Game at Beijing to be a turning point in the history of the humanity by which human relation is going to improve and common brotherhood of man is going to emerge. I hope and pray that the Olympic game is highly successful in its mission for harmony amongst the people of the world and the slogan “One world, one dream” truly comes of it. I would also like to suggest that CRI coverage should be such that it reaches the common people of the world with news of the maximum number of events. My heartiest warm wishes to Beijing Olympic committee and CRI for their best achievement and progress. Last but not the least I should say “All well that ends well”.

Karuna Kanta Pal
India

Now is the time. Time to come to China with a smile in each face, and a dream in each heart. Time to meet a people that invite friends of the five continents to break barriers and speak one single language. The language of the competition. The language of the peace and understanding. The language of the Beijing Olympics. Now is the time. Time to make this dream a reality.

Joao Loures
Brazil

Every sport fan in the world is looking forward to the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008. I know that China will stage the best Olympic Games ever, and I wish you good fortune and good success.

Paul Needham
UK

I am looking forward to the upcoming Beijing Olympics, being a former architect I am fascinated by the main stadium nicknames the Bird’s nest, and the swimming stadium nicknamed “Water Cube” (designed by an Australian architect firm.)

Tony Stawell
Australia

I was in China, Beijing and Macao, in 1998 as a guest of CRI, and wish I could return to see the remarkable changes that have taken place in the country since then. It was an experience of a lifetime for me then, and I have closely followed developments in the country ever since. I congratulate the Chinese people on hosting the Olympics.
and feel certain that it will be a fantastic and memorable occasion for the country, the visitors, Olympic competitors and spectators around the world who will have their first glimpses of the new dynamic and rapidly developing Peoples Republic of China.

Walt Smyth
USA

You can see friendship, sporting spirit, creative thinking of mankind in Beijing Olympics game 2008.

Chanute Boonyasmith
Thailand

I love the slogan name of the Olympics "One World One Dream. To see the Olympians who work so hard to make their dreams come true.

Gina Chotai
Italy

I'm sure that will be a wonderful event in Beijing, and I really want to come there to see the Olypiad. I have a friend in China, my best friend and she's so smart and intelligent, kind, devote and as busy as a bee. I think that these are the principal qualities of the Chinese people!!!! Good luck China!!!!

George Potrivitu
Romania

I am very glad I "found" you now, because your website will be a great way for me to follow the next Olympics right to the source! I am a great fan of the Olympics; I attended them in Athens in 2004 and adored that. On that occasion I had the chance to meet a delegation from the Beijing Games Organizing Committee who were so kind as to give me and my husband two official Olympics pins! We showed them off to everyone in Italy! Unfortunately Beijing is a bit too far and I'll have to get away with TV and radio this year... Again, many thanks for your attention.

Dott.ssa Francesca Zini
Italy

WOW!!!! It is seldom that I can watch TV and chills go through my body. This is what happened to me yesterday. The view of 200 drummers, children in ornamentals dresses carrying the Chinese flag and the precision of the athletes manuevering the blocks, forming the Great wall then into Beautiful sunflowers: The dancers in their gorgeous costumes doing dances that I had NEVER before seen: 2008 dancers in green whose costumes lit up forming the dove of peace and then the outline of the Olympic stadium: Again; 2008 Tai Che performers. Images on membrane above the 91,000 spectators throughout these performances: Fireworks throughout the four hour event, ending in 8 torch carriers yielding to one that sprinted around the membrane to the once hidden vat that would display the Olympic frame during these games. This was a truly stunning event: I wish I could have been there. China can be proud of the performance. It was, in my opinion THE BEST EVER!!

And.....This is just the beginning!!

Gordon Blom
USA

Congratulations on the opening of the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing!!

Now, the 29th Olympic Games in Beijing has opened at last. I watched the opening ceremony on television last night, and I was so surprised to see such a magnificent ceremony. I hope the Olympic Games will result in great success and contribute to peace and friendship in the world.

Nobuya Kato
Japan

I watched Olympic Opening Ceremony, as well as billions people in the world. It was so beautifully!! I had been watching it during 4 hours and I didn’t regret about it. I think that the next Olympic Games will be not able to be such fantastic as your Olympics. And today I have watched women's gymnastics. I was surprised with superiority of Chinese team. They were excellent, especially He Kexin. I congratulate you on opening your Olympics.

Vesselkov Alexander
Kazakhstan

I wish to thank the Chinese government and the organizers of the Olympic Games for giving me on the only TV channel I can receive, the most, and I should say, the ultimate beauty, that any man can experience. Thank you very much. It was so beautiful I could not stop the tears. I am a pensioner and do not have much money, but I will save up and if the DVD of the opening ceremony becomes commercially available, I will buy it and watch it many times. The music was so beautiful.

Dan Groenewald
South Africa

Hello everybody, I'm listening now to CRI on 17490kHz. It's about the opening ceremony. I've seen the ceremony on television. It was impressive. It was so beautiful. I don't find the words in English to say it on the right way. Sometimes it looked like a computer game but it was real. I could not believe my eyes. Later on I send a reception report in the hope to receive a beautiful QSL-card. I know that CRI is very good for his listeners. Thanks for that. I hope that this will be games of sport and not of politics. Lets enjoy this special event.

Frank Thijs
Holland

Hearty congratulations and best wishes/ On the occasion of opening of/"one world one dream"/ Beijing 2008 Olympics Games/ On 8th august 2008/ To the China Radio International/ Staff and friendly people of/ People's Republic of China/ We wish best of luck and grand success/ And your dreams come true/ In organization of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

DW Listeners Club
Mr. P.V. Ramana Rao
India

I was able to watch the opening ceremony on television in fact I recorded it so I can watch it again. I knew it would be something memorable to watch and we were not disappointed. Very enjoyable and emotional! We have been treated to a feast of programs on TV about China and Beijing since the earthquakes and with the buildup to the games, I will miss it when it finishes, so I intend to watch as much of the Olympics as I can to see all I can of your country in the background, until I can travel there and see it for myself.

Peter Gray
Australia

I did watch the opening this morning at 7 AM Winnipeg time. It is really amazing and China really wants to tell the world who we are as a race covering perspectives from history to culture, religion, arts, and sports. Again, it is a world-class one-hour precise performance and the message is clear - One world, One dream. Happy Olympics opening!

Harry Ong
Canada

I watched some video online. There is only one word to describe the count down of drums and the fire works: MAJESTIC. No, wait; there are two words: MAJESTIC AND MAGNIFICENT! Bravo, Beijing and CHINA!

Catherine Laughlan
USA
Mobile CRI is an easy-to-use, interactive window into China and the world around you. You can access news and views on China, learn Mandarin and enjoy CRI’s radio stations, all from your mobile phone and portable device. Also, explore the capital city of China with your hand-held city guide, Portable Beijing.

To our dear readers, we appreciate your long time support and would like to continue to offer a free subscription of the Messenger.

New readers, send us this form by:
Post: English Service CRI, 16A Shijingshan Road, Beijing, China 100040
Email: themessenger@cri.com.cn

To begin you free subscription, please complete and detach the form below:

Free Subscription Form to The Messenger

First Name: __________________________________________
Last Name: __________________________________________
Country: __________________________________________
City: ________________________________________________
Province: __________________________________________
Postcode: __________________________________________
E-mail: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________

The Messenger is free of charge. For extra copies, further information and sending in your contributions, please contact:
E-mail to: themessenger@cri.com.cn

English Service CRI, 16A Shijingshan Road, Beijing, China 100040
Tel: 86-10-68891617/ 2971
Fax: 86-10-68891121
Email: crieng@cri.com.cn
Website: www.crienglish.com
Publisher: Liu Chi
Editor: Xie Qiao
Executive Editors: Li Yongjing, Shen Siling
Designer: Zhang Nan

Director-General: Wang Gengnian
Director: Yang Lei