



Old Dragon's Head at Shanhaiguan Pass

The Badaling section of the Great Wall





Jiayuguan Pass, at the western end of the Ming Dynasty section of the Great Wall

The Jinshanling section of the Great Wall



Imperial Palace, Beijing (cultural heritage site, 1987)

The Imperial Palace, containing over 980 buildings used by the Ming and Qing dynasty emperors, situated in central Beijing, is also called the Forbidden City. It is the largest and most intact group of ancient imperial buildings in the world, and covers an area of 720,000 sq m. In the south are located the halls of Supreme Harmony, Central Harmony and Preserved Harmony, where the emperors received officials in audience and held important ceremonies. In the north are the residences of the emperors, empresses and imperial concubines.

The buildings of the Imperial Palace are decorated with colors of strong contrast, such as white, red, blue-green and golden yellow, which are extraordinarily striking under the background of the blue sky and white clouds.

A great number of treasures have been collected in the Imperial Palace, including bronzes, articles made of jade, gold and silver, ceramics, paintings and calligraphic works. The cultural relics in the Palace Museum, established in 1952, are mainly those which were collected in the palace during the Qing Dynasty.





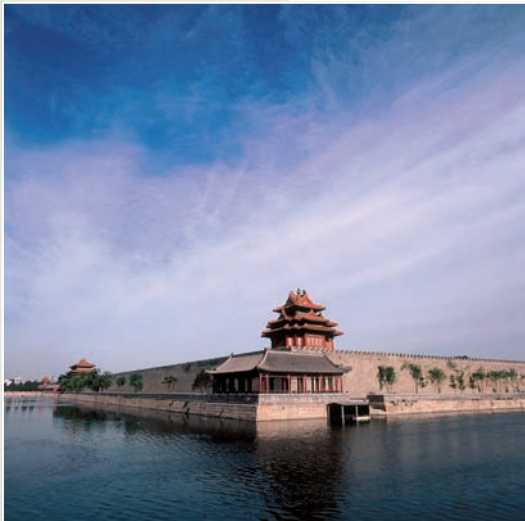
Sunrise over the Forbidden City



The Hall of Supreme Harmony



Wumen (Meridian Gate)
Once served as the “Arch of Triumph”
for some of the Qing emperors



Corner Watchtower