



北京 Beijing



General Survey

Lying in the northern part of North China Plain, Beijing is surrounded by mountains on the west, the north and the northeast. The northeastern part of the city is high while the south western part is low topographically, with a southeastern plain tilted gradually downward to the Bohai Sea.

As the capital of China, Beijing is one of the world's truly imposing cities, with a 3 000-year history and 15.3 million people (2005). Covering 16 808 square kilometers in area, it is the political, cultural and economic center of the People's Republic.



Situated in northeast China, Beijing adjoins the Inner Mongolian Highland to the northwest and the Great Northern Plain to the south. Five rivers run through the city, connecting it to the eastern Bohai Sea. Administratively, the Beijing municipality equals the status of a province, reporting directly to the central government.

Rich in history, Beijing has been China's primary capital for more than seven



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centuries. At Tiananmen Square, besides the old Forbidden City Palace of the emperors in the past, there stand the Great Hall of the People's Congress building and the Mausoleum of Chairman Mao Zedong.

The old city walls have been replaced by ring roads, and many of the old residential districts of alleys and courtyard houses have been turned into high-rise hotels, office buildings, and department stores. Beijing, a dynamic city where the old and new intermingle, remains a magnet for visitors from inside and outside China.

Major rivers flowing through Beijing include Yongding River, Chaobai River, North Canal and Juma River that mostly originated in the northeastern mountainous areas of Beijing. These rivers flow through rugged mountains towards southeastern plain of Beijing and in the end join the Bohai Sea.

Beijing has a continental monsoon climate with four distinct seasons. Spring and autumn are short while winter and summer are long.

Beijing occupies a total area of 16 807.8 square kilometers. Around 10 417.5 square kilometers are mountainous areas, which constitute 62 percent of the total space of Beijing. The plain area of Beijing covers 6 390.3 square kilometers, which accounts for 38 percent of the city's total area. Beijing municipality has 16 subordinate districts and 2 counties.

By the end of 2004, Beijing has a total of 11 595 000 people who are registered permanent ones.

Among them, 5 853 824 men and 5 741 161 women. The population density of Beijing is about 850 people per square kilometer.

With the founding of People's Republic of China on October 1st, 1949, Beijing became the capital of the new republic and has since developed itself into a political and cultural center of China and international exchange hub.

History and Development

Some half a million years ago, Beijing man lived in Zhoukoudian, in the southwestern suburbs of Beijing. The climate of that time was warmer and more humid than it is today. Forests and lakes in the area supported large numbers of living creatures. The fossil remains of Beijing man, his stone tools and evidence of use of fire, as well as later tools of 18 000 years ago, bone needles and article of adornment from the age of Upper Cave Man are the earliest cultural relics on record in China today.

A city plan was first laid out in the Yuan Dynasty. Yet only after extensive reconstruction during the Ming and Qing, did the city emerge as an architectural



masterpiece fit to serve as the capital of the Chinese empire. A north-south axis bisects the city with the Imperial Palace was known as Danei (The Great within).

In the Ming Dynasty, it was renamed the Forbidden City (Zijincheng), and more recently it has come to be called the Palace Museum (Gugong Bowuyuan). Designed with thousands of halls and gates arranged symmetrically around a north-south axis, its dimensions and luxuriance are a fitting symbol of the power and greatness of traditional China.

After the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in 1911, China fell prey to the Northern Warlords and Kuomintang, Beijing suffered the same fate as the rest of China, hobbling along like an old camel without a sense of direction. The Chinese People's Liberation Army formally entered Beijing on January 31 1949, opening a new chapter in the long history of the city. It was in Tian'anmen Square on October 1st, 1949, that Chairman Mao Zedong proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China, with Beijing as its capital.

Current Situation

Beijing is a city of broad boulevards, now full of traffic and pulsating to the rhythms of commerce and entertainment. Museums and parks abound, including the Palace Museum of the Forbidden City and Beihai Park in the center of town. Nearby, the China Fine Arts Museum (Zhongguo meishuguan) exhibits the work of contemporary artists. China's ancient past and recent history are on view at the Museum of Chinese History and Chinese Revolution at Tian'anmen. Antiques, crafts, and books calligraphy and paintings can be found at Liulichang, an old antique market district remodeled in the 1980's to reflect the style of the old city. Some of the spirit of Old Beijing is also preserved at Qianmen, south of Tian'anmen, with stores that date to the early 20th century and beyond, including the Tongrentang Traditional Medicine shop, first established in 1669. Beijing Opera performances and acrobatic troupes keep those traditional entertainment forms vital, while contemporary music clubs and discos thrive in an era of liberalization and prosperity.

Tian'anmen Square is still the center of Beijing, Chang'an Boulevard now running 38 kilometers from Shijingshan in the west to Tongzhou District in the east. The palaces and city towers along both sides have been designated cultural relics for national protection. Former imperial residences and gardens have been opened for public viewing.

New buildings like the International Post Office and Bank of China have been



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built along the Second Ring Road, the former line of the Inner City wall. Old living quarters and blocks of traditional Beijing-style buildings, such as Liulichang Culture Street, have been restored. Large-scale construction has been undertaken along the Third Ring Road and the Fourth Ring Road.

Future development in Beijing will continue to preserve the symmetry of the old city layout while integrating modern architectural design into the over-all plan.

Local Specialities

Cultural relics in Beijing like the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, Zhoukoudian Beijing Man Relics, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace and the Ming Tombs are World Cultural and Natural Heritages approved by the United Nations. There are a total of 7 309 historical and relic sites in Beijing among which 60 are classified as national cultural heritages and another 234 are Beijing cultural heritages.

In Beijing, the sumptuous courses at a meal of flavor are very captivating. Here there are all kinds of delicious dishes from both the south and north of China. There are French, Russian, American Western-style food and national style meal too. Beijing Roast Duck is fragrant and crisp and delicate that nearly all the tourists would eagerly want to taste. Medicated diet has been developed to some extent too with the efficiency of health care and eliminating illness in recent years.

There are many kinds of snacks in Beijing, and quick-boiled tripe, enema, jellied bean curd, fermented bean drink, fry liver, seasoned millet mush, sheep head meat, bitter melon, burn, end nest, honeyed fried dough twist, fry cakes, pea flour cake, etc., are everywhere.



北京 Beijing



自然概况

北京雄踞华北大平原北端,西部、北部和东北部则是群山环绕。从地势上看,整个城市的东北部高,西北部低,东南部还有一片缓缓向渤海倾斜的平原。





用英语说中国——名城
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中国首都北京是世界上最令人神往的城市之一。这是一座具有 3 000 多年历史,1 530 万人口(2005 年统计数据),占地面积 16 808 平方公里的城市,是中华人民共和国的政治、文化和经济中心。

北京位于华北平原北端,西接内蒙古高原,南接华北平原。有五条河流从城市穿过,流入东边的渤海。北京市是中央直辖市,其行政权限相当于一个省,接受中央政府直接领导。

北京历史悠久。700 多年以来,北京一直是中国的主要都城。天安门广场上除了古老的紫禁城宫殿外,还耸立着人民大会堂和毛泽东主席纪念堂。

古老的北京城墙已经被环城路所取代,许多旧住宅区的胡同和四合院已经变成了高层次宾馆、办公大楼和百货商店。北京是一座生气勃勃、充满活力、古老风貌和现代风格相融合的城市,她一直吸引着国内外千百万游客。



穿过城市的主要河流包括永定河,潮白河,北运河和拒马河。它们大多源于北京东北部的山脉地区。这些河流穿过起伏绵延的大山,流向北京东南部的平原,最终汇入渤海。

北京的气候为大陆性季风气候,四季分明,春季秋季短促,冬季夏季漫长。

北京全市土地面积 16 807.8 平方公里,其中山区面积 10 417.5 平方公里,是城市总面积的 62%。北京的平原面积 6 390.3 平方公里,占全市总面积的 38%。北京市辖 16 个区和 2 个县。截至到 2004 年底,全市共有户籍人口 1 159.5 万人,其中男性 5 853 824 人,女性 5 741 161 人。城市的人口密度大约为每平方公里 850 人。

自 1949 年 10 月 1 日中华人民共和国成立以来,北京即成为新中国的首都并从此发展成为中国的政治、文化中心和国际交流中心。



历史沿革

大约 50 万年前,北京人居住在北京西南郊的周口店。那时的气候比现在的更温暖更潮湿,当地的森林湖泊也促进了大量生物的成长。北京人的化石遗骸,他们的石头工具和用火痕迹,以及后来大约 18 000 年前用过的工具,还有山顶洞人时期用过的骨针和装饰品都是中国如今史料记载的最早的文化遗物。

北京的城市规划始于元朝。然而,直到明朝和清朝年间大兴土木、整修重建之后,城市才初现出适合成为中国王朝首都的杰出建筑。一道南北向的中心轴把城市一分为二,其皇宫被称作大内。

到了明朝,皇宫被更名为紫禁城。近年来它又开始被称为故宫博物院,围绕着一个南北向的中心轴,数千个厅堂、门落对称地排列着,其宏大的规模和奢华的装饰都体现了古代中国权力和威严的象征。

1911 年清朝崩溃之后,中国又落入北方军阀和国民党的虎口。与中国其他地方一样,北京也惨遭厄运,像一只没头没脑的老骆驼一样蹒跚前行。1949 年 1 月 31 日,中国人民解放军正式进入北京,在城市悠久的史册上翻开了新的篇章。1949 年 10 月 1 日,毛泽东主席在天安门广场郑重宣告了中华人民共和国的成立,并以北京为首都。

城市现状

北京是一座拥有宽广林荫大道的城市,如今,这座城市车水马龙,正伴随着商业和娱乐业的节拍跃动。北京有许多博物馆和公园,其中有坐落在城市中心的故宫博物馆和北海公园。在此附近,中国美术馆里陈列着当代美术家的作品。坐落在天安门东侧的中国革命历史博物馆向人们展示着中国的古代史和现代史。

琉璃厂古玩市场是 20 世纪 80 年代为反映北京的古老风貌而重修的一个古玩市场。这里有古董、工艺品和书籍字画交易。天安门广场南面的前门大街依然保留着古老北京的一些特色,这里的商店的历史可以追溯到 20 世纪初期甚至更远,包括始建于 1669 年的同仁堂中药店。京剧表演和马戏团等传统娱乐形式依然保留着活力,而现代音乐会和迪斯科也在环境宽松、繁荣的区域流行起来。

如今,天安门广场依然是北京的中心。眼下的长安大道从西部的石景山到东部的通州区长达 38 公里。大道两旁的宫殿和塔楼已被指定为国家保护的文化遗产。昔日的皇家住宅和花园已经对公众开放。

如今,二环路沿线,也就是原先的内城墙沿线,已经建起了诸如国际邮局、中国银行等新的建筑。旧式的老北京住宅群和传统的北京风格建筑小区,诸如琉璃厂文化街,都已经被修复。大规模的建设正在三环路和四环路沿线实施。

北京的未来发展在把现代化建筑设计融入城市总体规划的同时,将依然会保



留老城区对称布局的风格。

地方特色

北京有着许多文化遗产,其中紫禁城,长城,周口店北京人遗址,天坛,颐和园和十三陵被联合国指定为世界文化和自然遗产。城市里共有7 309处历史文物遗址,其中60处被定为国家级文化遗产,另外还有234处为北京市文化遗产。

北京的风味肴饌十分诱人,这里荟萃了南北大菜,风味齐备。也有法式、俄式、美式等西餐和民族风味餐。北京烤鸭香酥细嫩,几乎是所有旅游者一尝为快的风味。药膳近年来也有所发展,有祛病保健功效。

北京小吃品种极多,爆肚、灌肠、豆腐脑、豆汁、炒肝、面茶、羊头肉、卤煮火烧、艾窝窝、蜜麻花、炸糕、豌豆黄等应有尽有。



天津 Tianjin

General Survey

Tianjin is China's third largest city, an independent municipality with a population of 9.5 million (among which 4.6 million are urban) that is a major commercial and industrial center as well as the biggest port in north China. 137 kilometers (85 miles) southeast of Beijing, Tianjin is situated at the confluence



of five tributaries of the Haihe River, 50 km from the Gulf of Bohai. The municipality has 15 subordinate districts and 3 counties.

Tianjin is best known for its streetscapes of colonial era buildings, a residue of



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its status as a Treaty Port after 1858. Now a center of multinational businesses concentrated in the new satellite city known as TEDA (Tianjin Economic Development Area), Tianjin has an extensive modern infrastructure, and is known for the high quality of its industrial products.

Tianjin lies in the low reaches of Haihe River, extending across both sides of it. Within the area of Tianjin, there are Haihe River, Ziya New River, Duliujian River, Yongding New River, Chaobai New River and the Ji Canal, etc. They run through the city and down to the sea. The center of the city is 50 kilometers from the coast, 120 kilometers from Beijing, Capital of the country. It is the strategic thoroughfare from the sea to Beijing, and it has been serving as a very important town and the door of the Capital ever since ancient times. Still, Tianjin is a hub of communications, joining the three northern areas of China: the North, the Northeast and the Northwest of China. The straight distances from Tianjin to Shenyang in the Northeast of China, to Baotou in the Northwest, to Xuzhou and Zhengzhou in the South are less than 600 km. What's more, Tianjin is a vital communication line of a dozen of provinces in North China to the sea and it has the largest artificial harbour in North China—Tianjin Harbour. The harbour has over 30 waterways to more than 300 international ports. It is the major passage from the other shore of the Pacific Ocean to the inland of Eurasia and the main access to the sea of the Asia-Europe Transcontinental Bridge. Thus, Tianjin has a prominent geographical advantage, and its strategic position is very important.

History and Development

Early settlement in the Tianjin region dates back to the Warring States period, but Tianjin's later prominence was primarily tied to the rise of nearby Beijing as the capital of northern nomadic dynasties and later of the country as a whole. Tianjin served primarily as a storage, sale, and distribution center for agricultural products from the south as early as from the 12th century.

Tianjin's prosperity proved a lure for Western trading nations. In 1856 British and French troops used the boarding of a British ship by Chinese troops in search of pirates as an excuse to attack the forts guarding the Haihe River. The defeated Chinese were forced to sign the 1858 Treaty of Tianjin, which opened the port to foreign trade and the sale of opium. Other European nations and Japan followed, establishing distinctive independent concessions on the riverside areas, each with a distinctive architectural style—variously English Victorian, Italian Roman style streets, French chateaux styles, and German Bavarian villas.



Tianjin became a center of urban modernization and internationalism in the early years of the 20th century. Hotels like the Astor received famous guests such as Herbert Hoover and Sun Yat-sen, and one of China's first elevators was installed there in 1924.

Meanwhile, heavy silting of the Haihe River led to construction of a new port at Tanggu, 50 km downriver, as Tianjin lost its character as a major port city. The 1976 Tangshan earthquake caused extensive damage to the city, and it was closed to foreign visitors until repairs were completed. The establishment of the Tianjin Economic and Development Area was a major spur to investment and economic revitalization.

Current Situation

It is no exaggeration to say that Tianjin bears a splendid historical background. However, it was desecrated by foreign invaders long before the founding of the People's Republic of China. Tianjin was shared by nine countries: Italy, Germany, France, Russia, Great Britain, Austria, Japan and Belgium. This marked an extremely hard period for Tianjin and her people because those imperialist countries left permanent marks in her body, most notable of which were thousands of villas. Today those villas provide an exotic flavor to Tianjin, enhancing the beauty of the entire city.

Getting in and out of the city is convenient because of the well-planned transportation system. If you want to come by water, there are series of international and domestic sea routes in the port of Tianjin, which is the biggest man-made port in China. If you plan to arrive by air, Tianjin Binhai International Airport offers excellent service. Planes have routes that reach most of the major cities in China and also cities in Europe and America. Of course, arriving in Tianjin by land is another option, while trains or long-distance buses are yet another alternative.

Local Specialities

There are many historic ruins in Tianjin, and the unearthed relics are abundant. There are 40 national-level and city-level Key Cultural Relic Units, among which is Dule Temple, a large-scale timber structured temple built in the Sui Dynasty with a history of more than 1 000 years. The Great Wall of Huangyaguan of Ji County also lies here in Tianjin, the total length of which is 41 kilometers. More than 1 000 ancient platforms of many different models are steep, grand, and have the praise of North Key of Ji. The Winding Mountain, which enjoys the praise of "the first Mountain in the East of Beijing", is extremely grand and



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beautiful, one layer piling on another. The buildings and natural mountains and rivers become an organic whole.

In addition of all these, there is Tianhou Palace, Confucian Temple, Grand Sorrow Fane, Great Mosque, Tianzun Pavilion, Tiancheng Temple, Dagukou emplacement, Wanghailou Church, Guangdong Assembly Hall and the Memorial to Zhou En-lai's revolutionary activity in Tianjin.

The buildings of Tianjin have the characteristics of ancient buildings coexisting with modern architecture, and owing to this fact, Tianjin enjoys the title of "Universal Museums of Buildings". There still remain more than one thousand of different buildings of various countries both of the East and West that were built from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century, characterized by small buildings of western style.

The four major folk arts of Tianjin are world-famous. The painted sculpture art of clay figurine by the Zhang's is well-known throughout the country and enjoys great prestige in the world. The drawings by the youth of Yangliu has a long history and is favored by foreign friends. The kites by the Wei's obtained gold medal in Panamanian International Fair of 1914 where as brick carver Liu's expertise is well-known, too.



天津 Tianjin

自然概况

天津市是中国第三大城市,也是中央直辖市之一,总人口为 950 万(其中城市人中 460 万)。天津是华北地区重要的商贸和工业中心,也是该地区最大的港口。天津距北京东南 137 公里(85 英里),位于海河水系五大支流汇合处,距渤海湾 50 公里,下辖 15 个区和 3 个县。

天津以其 1858 年后殖民时期通商口岸遗留的建筑街景而著称。如今,天津已成为“天津经济开发区”新兴卫星城市的多国商贸业云集的中心,拥有广泛的现代化基础设施,且以其工业产品的高品质而闻名于世。

天津位于海河下游,地跨海河两岸,境内有海河、子牙新河、独流减河、永定新