



Beijing

**“All you’ve got to do is decide to go
and the hardest part is over.**

So go!”

TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER – LONELY PLANET

THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

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Contents

Plan Your Trip

4

Welcome to Běijīng.....	4	Getting Around.....	20	For Free	33
Běijīng's Top 13.....	6	Top Itineraries	22	Eating	34
What's New	15	If You Like	24	Drinking & Nightlife ..	42
Need to Know	16	Month by Month	27	Entertainment.....	44
First Time Běijīng	18	With Kids	30	Shopping.....	46
		Like a Local	31		

Explore Běijīng

48

Neighbourhoods at a Glance.....	50	Temple of Heaven Park & Dōngchéng South.....	106	Summer Palace & Hǎidiàn.....	157
Forbidden City & Dōngchéng Central.....	52	Běihǎi Park & Xīchéng North	116	The Great Wall	170
Drum Tower & Dōngchéng North	82	Dashilar & Xīchéng South	130	Day Trips from Běijīng.....	183
		Sānlǐtún & Cháoyáng...138		Sleeping	191

Understand Běijīng

203

Běijīng Today	204	Historic Hútòng.....	222	Architecture.....	237
History.....	206	Arts	227	Religion & Belief	241

Survival Guide

243

Transport	244	Language	267
Directory A–Z	253	Index	275

Běijīng Maps

282



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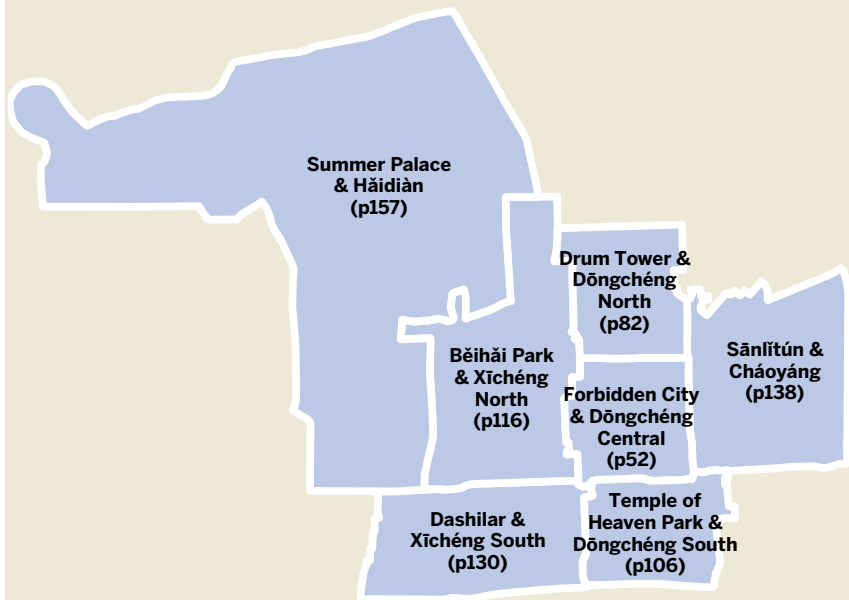
(left) **Food p34** A delicious highlight of any trip to Běijīng

(above) **Chinese tea p77** Traditional tea ceremony

(right) **Forbidden City p54** Dragon relief carving on a city wall



YONGYUAN DAI / GETTY IMAGES ©



Běijīng's Top 13

The Great Wall (p170)

1 China's most famous landmark, and one of the world's superlative manmade sights, the Great Wall snakes its way across northern China for almost 9000km, but nowhere beats Běijīng as a base for mounting your assault. Scattered throughout the municipality are more than a dozen fragmented stretches, from the perfectly chiseled to the charmingly dilapidated. You can get to them by bus, by train, by taxi...even by bicycle. And the adventurous can hike along it for days. GREAT WALL AT JINSHANLǐNG

📍 The Great Wall

Forbidden City (p54)

2 The largest palace complex in the world, the Forbidden City is the be-all and end-all of dynastic grandeur, with imposing halls, splendid gates and age-old relics. No other place in Běijīng teems with so much history, legend and imperial intrigue. You could spend hours wandering its vast squares and high-walled passageways, which lead to delightful courtyards, gardens and minimuseums, and give you plenty of time to contemplate the enormity of shuffling your way around the place that 24 emperors of China called home.

📍 Forbidden City & Dōngchéng Central





3



PETER STICKINGS / GETTY IMAGES ©

4



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Tiān'ānmén Square (p62)

3 The world's largest public square is a vast desert of paving stones at the heart of Běijīng. It's also a poignant epitaph to China's democracy movement, which was quashed by the People's Liberation Army here in June 1989. The stringent security can be off-putting, but such is its iconic status, few visitors leave Běijīng without coming here. Get up early and watch the dawn flag-raising ceremony, or wander by later on to see the surrounding buildings lit up at night. GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE

📍 **Forbidden City & Dōngchéng Central**

Hútòng (p222)

4 The heart and soul of Běijīng are its *hútòng*: the intoxicating alleyways that criss-cross the centre of the city. Still home for many locals, these unique lanes not only tie the capital to its ancient past – some lanes date back almost 800 years – but offer the chance to experience Běijīng street life in all its raucous and cheerful glory. Wandering or cycling the *hútòng* during the day, and returning at night to some of the many bars and restaurants that now inhabit them, is an essential part of any visit to Běijīng.

📍 **Historic Hútòng**

Temple of Heaven Park (p108)

5 The ultimate expression of the eternal Chinese quest for order, Temple of Heaven Park contains sheer geometric perfection: a series of stunning shrines – including the iconic Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests – where the sons of heaven, China's emperors, came to pray for divine guidance. Everything about them – colour, shape, sound – has an esoteric significance that's mind-boggling to contemplate. Surrounding them is a delightfully soothing park, where locals come to stroll, sing and dance, or to just sit under the gnarled cypress trees planted here hundreds of years ago. HALL OF PRAYER FOR GOOD HARVESTS

📍 **Temple of Heaven Park & Dōngchéng South**

Lama Temple (p84)

6 Central Běijīng's largest, most important and most atmospheric Buddhist temple, the serene Lama Temple used to be home to legions of monks from Mongolia and Tibet and was where the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama was determined. These days it is still an active temple, although tourists now outnumber the monks. There are five beautiful central halls, the last of which houses the world's largest sandalwood Buddha.

👁 **Drum Tower & Dōngchéng North**

Summer Palace (p159)

7 The imperial summer playground, the Summer Palace is a beguiling, superbly landscaped collection of temples, pavilions, gardens, lakes, bridges and corridors. Less formal than the Forbidden City, there is still more than enough elegance and beauty in its many structures to take your breath away. Clamber up Longevity Hill, pausing for breath at the various temples that dot it, for splendid views across Běijīng, or promenade around Kūnmíng Lake and imagine what it must have been like to have had this place all to yourself.

👁 **Summer Palace & Hǎidiàn**





TOMM / GETTY IMAGES ©

Peking Duck (p35)

8 You can't leave Běijīng without sampling its most iconic dish. Once reserved for emperors and mandarins, Peking duck began to feature on the menus of the lower orders at the beginning of the 20th century. Now there are a number of specialist *kǎoyā* (roast duck) restaurants and the dish – juicier and more flavoursome than the crispy duck you get back home – is as much a part of Běijīng's fabric as the streets themselves.

 **Eating**



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Drum & Bell Towers (p86)

9 Standing watch over one of the most charming corners of Běijīng (although developers have their eyes on it), these two magnificent ancient towers, facing each other on either side of a small public square, used to be the city's official timekeeper, with drums and bells beaten and rung to mark the times of the day. Climb the Drum Tower to listen to a body-rumbling performance played out on replica drums or climb either tower for a bird's-eye view of the surrounding *húttòng*.

👁️ **Drum Tower & Dongchéng North**

Chinese Performing Arts (p26)

10 Whether it's the chance to experience the intricate, highly stylised Peking opera, or tumbling, spinning and high-wire-walking acrobats, to say nothing of shaven-headed Shàolín monks showing off their supreme fighting skills, Běijīng is a great place to catch a show. There are performances every night of the week, giving you no excuse to miss out. And don't be put off by the language barrier: most shows are easy to follow. Acrobatics in particular is a stunning spectacle. CHÁO-YANG ACROBATIC THEATRE

★ **Arts**

Hòuhǎi Lakes (p120)

11 These three interconnected lakes are one of the great outdoor areas in Běijīng and a prime spot to watch, and join, the locals at play. Ringed by bars and restaurants, the lakes themselves provide much of the entertainment. In the summer, flotillas of pedalos take to the water. During the winter, the lakes are the best place in the capital to ice skate. Then there's fishing, kayaking and swimming (for the brave). But perhaps the most amenable option is simply meandering around them, enjoying the sight of Beijingers letting their hair down. TOURISTS ON A BOAT AT HÒUHǎi LAKE

🏊 **Běihǎi Park & Xichéng North**





11



Pānjiāyuán Market (p154)

12 Save some time at the end of your trip to visit this treasure-filled outdoor market and head home with armfuls of unusual souvenirs. Pānjiāyuán is the best place in Běijīng to shop for arts, crafts and (mostly fake) antiques, and even if you don't want to buy anything, it's fun to wander through the clutter.

 *Sānlitún & Cháoyáng*



MANFRED GOTTSCHALK / GETTY IMAGES ©



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798 Art District (p140)

13 Housed inside the cavernous buildings of a disused electronics factory, 798 has become the city's premier art district. It celebrates its proletarian roots via retouched red Maoist slogans decorating gallery interiors and statues of burly, lantern-jawed workers dotting the lanes, while the voluminous factory workshops are ideally suited to ambitious projects requiring lots of space. Cafes dot the streets, making this a pleasant spot for lunch before you plug yourself in to the world of China's leading artists.

AN ARTIST IN HER STUDIO IN 798 ART DISTRICT

 *Sānlitún & Cháoyáng*

Běijīng Maps

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro/MTR/MRT station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

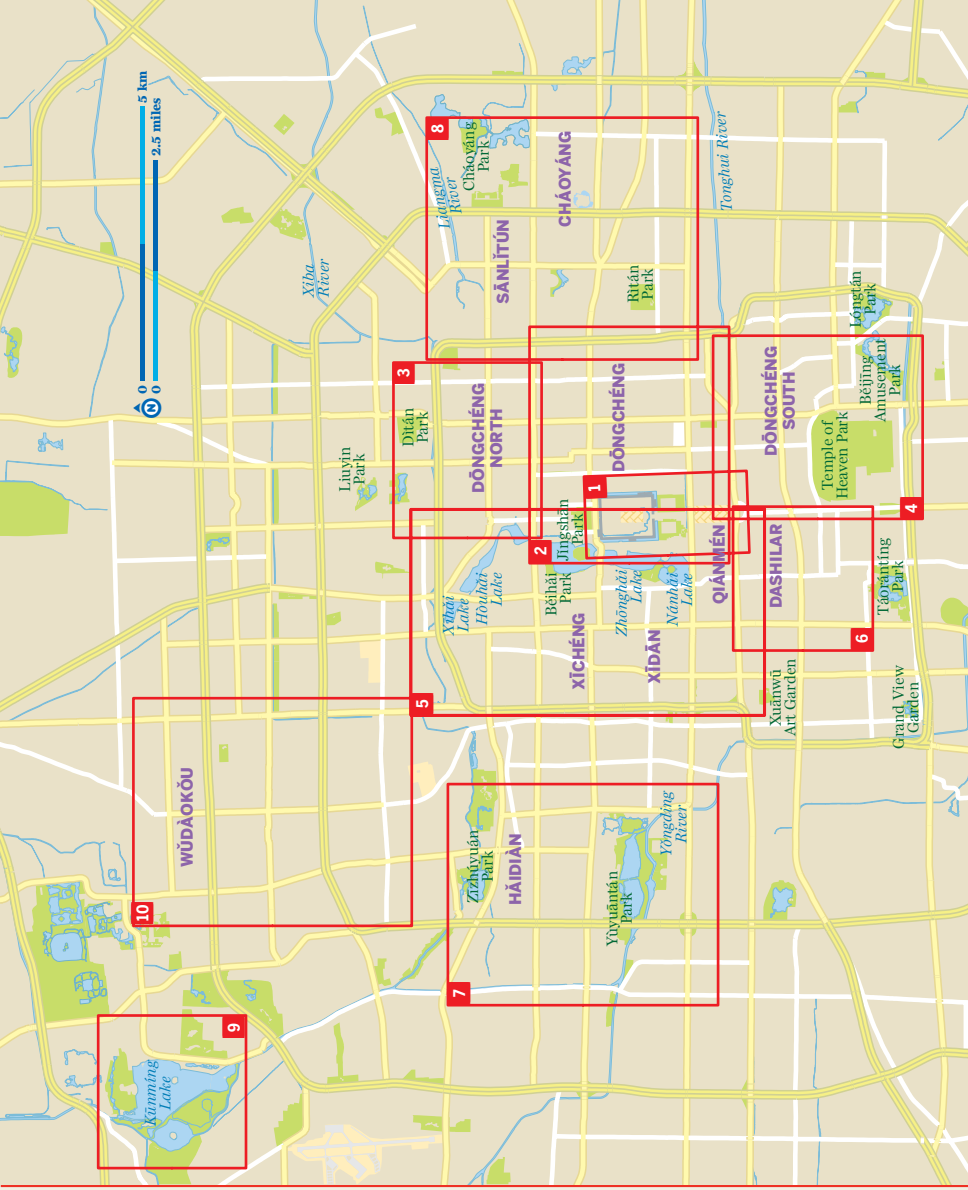
Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

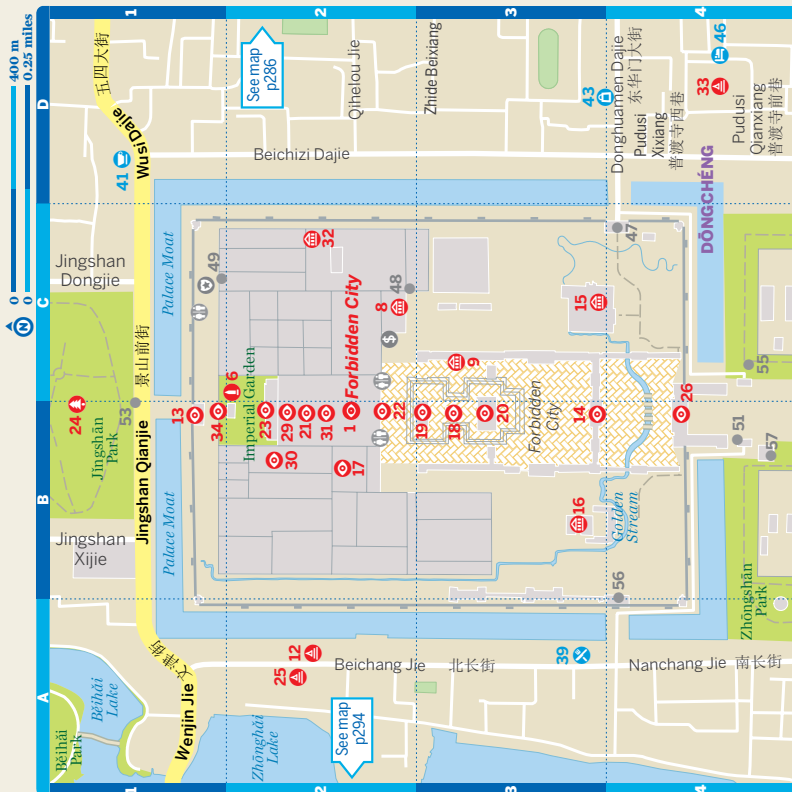
Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book

MAP INDEX

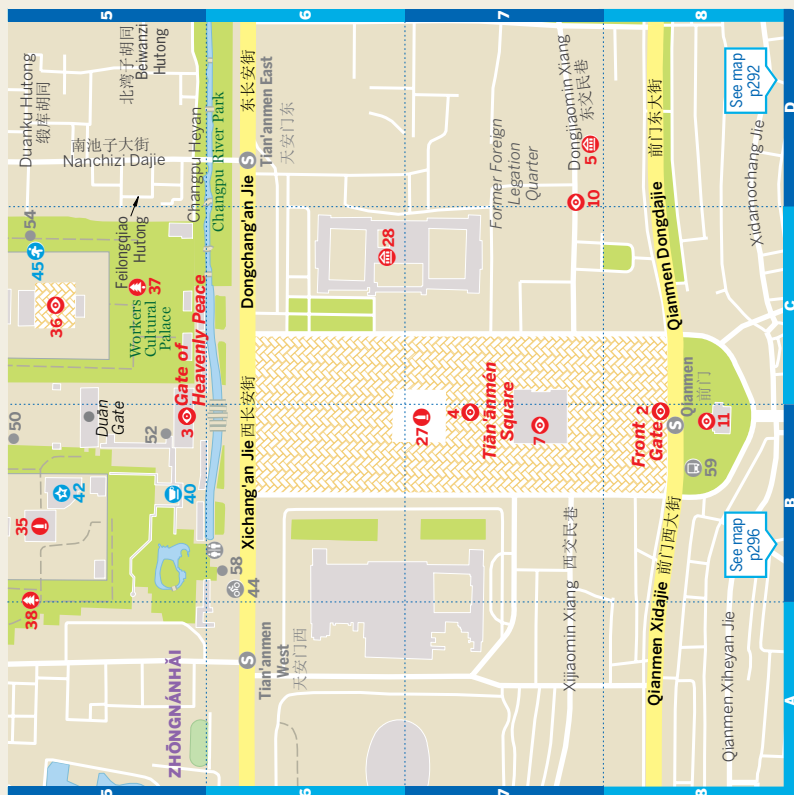
- 1 Forbidden City (p284)
- 2 Dongchéng Central (p286)
- 3 Drum Tower & Dongchéng North (p290)
- 4 Temple of Heaven Park & Dongchéng South (p292)
- 5 Beihai Park & Xíchéng North (p294)
- 6 Dashilar & Xíchéng South (p296)
- 7 Hǎidiàn (p297)
- 8 Sanlǐtún & Cháoyáng (p298)
- 9 Summer Palace (p302)
- 10 Wǔdàokǒu (p303)



FORBIDDEN CITY



- Top Sights (p54)**
- 1 Forbidden City..... B2
 - 2 Front Gate..... B8
 - 3 Gate of Heavenly Peace..... B5
 - 4 Tian'anmen Square..... B7
 - 22 Heavenly Purity Gate..... B2
 - 23 Imperial Garden..... B2
 - 24 Jingshan Park..... B1
 - 25 Longevity & Prosperity Temple..... A2
 - 26 Meridian Gate - Forbidden City entrance..... B4
 - 27 Monument to the People's Heroes..... B7
 - 28 National Museum of China..... C6
 - 29 Palace of Earthly Tranquility..... B2
 - 30 Palace of Gathered Elegance..... B2
 - 31 Palace of Heavenly Purity..... B2
 - 32 Pavilion of Cheerful Melodies - Opera House..... C2
 - 33 Pudu Temple..... D4
 - 34 Shunzhen Gate..... B1
 - 35 Square Altar..... B5
 - 36 Supreme Temple..... C5
 - 37 Workers Cultural Palace..... C5
 - 38 Zhongshan Park..... B5
- Sights (p64)**
- 5 Beijing Police Museum..... D7
 - 6 Bronze Elephants..... C2
 - 7 Chairman Mao Memorial Hall..... B7
 - 8 Clock Exhibition Hall..... C2
 - 9 Diorama of the Forbidden City..... C3
 - 10 Former Foreign Legation Quarter..... D7
 - 11 Front Gate (Zhengyang Gate Arrow Tower)..... B8
 - 12 Fuyou Temple..... A2
 - 13 Gate of Divine Prowess - exit only..... B1
 - 14 Gate of Supreme Harmony..... B3
 - 15 Hall of Literary Glory..... C3
 - 16 Hall of Martial Valor..... B3
 - 17 Hall of Mental Cultivation..... B2
 - 18 Hall of Middle Harmony..... B3
 - 19 Hall of Preserving Harmony..... B3
 - 20 Hall of Supreme Harmony..... B3
 - 21 Hall of Union..... B2
- Eating (p71)**
- 39 Hángzhōu Xiǎochī..... A3

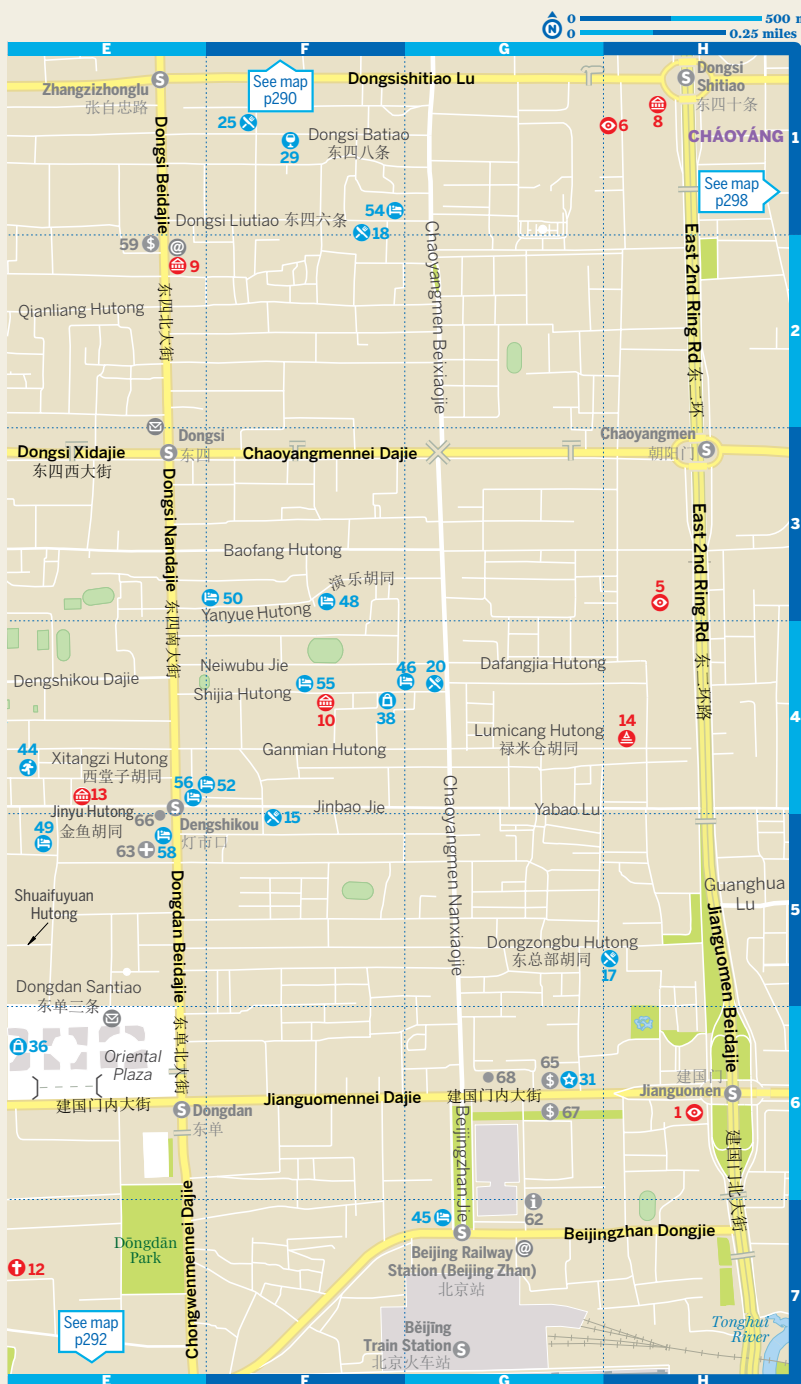


- Drinking & Nightlife (p74)**
- 40 Lǎijīnyǔxuān Teahouse..... B5
- 41 Oasis Cafe..... D1
- Entertainment (p76)**
- 42 Forbidden City Concert Hall..... B5
- Shopping (p76)**
- 43 Celadon Story..... D3
- Sports & Activities (p78)**
- 44 Bicycle Stands..... B6
- 45 Royal Tennis Centre..... C5
- Sleeping (p194)**
- 46 Feel Inn..... D4
- Information (p253)**
- 47 Donghua Gate - Exit Only..... C4
- 48 Entrance to Complete Palace of Peace & Longevity..... C2
- Transport (p244)**
- 59 Beijing Hub of Tourist Dispatch..... B8
- 49 Exit of Complete Palace of Peace & Longevity..... C1
- 50 Forbidden City Ticket Office..... B5
- 51 Forbidden City Ticket Office..... B4
- 52 Gate of Heavenly Peace Ticket Office..... B5
- 53 Jingshan Park South Entrance..... B1
- 54 Workers Cultural Palace East Entrance..... C5
- 55 Workers Cultural Palace Northwest Entrance..... C4
- 56 Xihua Gate - Closed..... B4
- 57 Zhongshan Park Northeast Entrance..... B4
- 58 Zhongshan Park South Entrance..... B6

Key on p288

DŌNGCHĒNG CENTRAL





DŌNGCHÉNG CENTRAL *Map on p286*

📍 Sights

(p64)

- 1 Ancient Observatory H6
- 2 China Art Museum D3
- 3 Dōng'ān Mén Remains D5
- 4 Former French Post Office D7
- 5 Galaxy Soho H3
- 6 Imperial Granaries H1
- 7 Lao She Museum D4
- 8 Poly Art Museum H1
- 9 Shèng Xī Fú Hāi Museum E2
- 10 Shìjiā Hútōng Museum F4
- 11 St Joseph's Church D4
- 12 St Michael's Church E7
- 13 Ten Fu's Tea Culture House E4
- 14 Zhìhuà Temple H4

🍴 Eating

(p71)

- 15 Běijīng Dàdōng Roast Duck Restaurant .. F5
- 16 Brian McKenna @ The Courtyard C5
- 17 Chuān Bān H5
- 18 Crescent Moon Muslim Restaurant F1
- 19 Dōnghuámén Night Market D4
- 20 Dōngzǐ Lǚròu Huǒshāo G4
- Grandma's (see 32)
- 21 Little Yúnnán D2
- 22 Mǎn Fú Lóu B2
- 23 Temple Restaurant C2
- 24 Wángfǔjīng Snack Street D6
- 25 Wǔgē Jìchì F1
- 26 Yuèbīn Fànguǎn D3
- 27 Zuǒ Lín Yòu Shè D2

🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

(p74)

- 28 Alley Coffee C2
- 29 Slow Boat Brewery Taproom F1
- 30 What? Bar A4

🎬 Entertainment

(p76)

- 31 Cháng'ān Grand Theatre G6
- Star City (see 36)

🛍 Shopping

(p76)

- 32 Běijīng apm D5
- 33 Foreign Languages Bookstore D5
- 34 Hányuán Market D5

- 35 Nanluogu Xiang C1
- 36 Oriental Plaza E6
- 37 Shèng Xī Fú Hāi Store D5
- 38 Slow Lane F4
- 39 Wangfujing Dajie D5

🏊 Sports & Activities

(p78)

- 40 Bike Beijing D3
- 41 Dragonfly Therapeutic Retreat C5
- 42 Imperial City Ruins Park D1
- 43 Jīngshān Table Tennis Park B2
- 44 Mílún Kungfu School E4

🛏 Sleeping

(p194)

- 45 Běijīng City Central International Youth Hostel G7
- 46 Běijīng Saga International Youth Hostel . G4
- 47 City Walls Courtyard B1
- 48 Côté Cour F3
- 49 Hilton Běijīng Wángfǔjīng E5
- 50 Hulu Hotel F3
- 51 Jīngshān Garden Hotel C2
- 52 Park Plaza F4
- 53 Raffles Běijīng D6
- 54 Red Capital Residence F1
- 55 Red Wall Garden F4
- 56 Regent Běijīng E4
- 57 Temple Hotel C2
- 58 YMCA Hotel E5

📍 Information

(p253)

- 59 ATM E2
- 60 Bank of China D4
- 61 Běijīng Tourist Information Center D5
- 62 Běijīng Tourist Information Center G7
- 63 Běijīng Union Hospital E5
- 64 Běijīng Wángfǔjīng Pharmaceutical Store D5
- 65 Citibank G6
- 66 CITS E5
- 67 HSBC G6
- Watson's (see 36)

🚉 Transport

(p244)

- 68 CITS - International Train Tickets G6

DRUM TOWER & DÔNGCHÉNG NORTH *Map on p290*

📍 Top Sights (p84)

- 1 Bell Tower A4
- 2 Drum Tower A5
- 3 Lama Temple F3

📍 Sights (p88)

- 4 Arrow Factory E3
- 5 Confucius Temple & Imperial College E4
- 6 Dadu Museum of Art E4
- 7 Ditan Park E1
- 8 Fire God Temple D4
- 9 Mao Dun's Former Residence C6
- 10 Nanluogu Xiang C7
- 11 Qi Baishi's Former Residence B6

🍴 Eating (p93)

- 12 Bǎihé Vegetarian Restaurant G5
- 13 Bāozǐ Pù C5
- 14 Café De La Poste F4
- 15 Café Sambal A4
- 16 Chez Gérard E4
- 17 Chóngqīng Kǒngliàng Huǒguō F5
- 18 Dàlǐ Courtyard C5
- 19 Ghost Street F5
- 20 Jiǎnbīng Savoury Pancake Vendour F4
- 21 Jīn Dīng Xuān F2
- 22 Little Sheep G5
- Noodle In (see 18)
- 23 Róng Tiān Sheep Spine B4
- 24 Source D7
- 25 Stuff'd E3
- 26 Tàn Huā Lamb BBQ F4
- 27 Taste C6
- 28 Vineyard Café E3
- 29 Wǔ Jīn Café E3
- 30 Xiǎo Yú Shān G5

- 31 Xù Xiāng Zhāi Vegetarian Restaurant E4

- 32 Yáng Fāng Lamb Hotpot B5
- 33 Yáoji Chǎogǎn B5
- 34 Yī Lóng Zhāi B6
- 35 Zhāng Māma D6
- 36 Zhāng Māma (Original Branch) D4

🍷 Drinking & Nightlife (p98)

- 37 Ball House B5
- 38 Black-tea Tea Room C4
- 39 Café Confucius E4
- 40 El Nido D4
- 41 Essence A5
- 42 Great Leap Brewing B6
- 43 Hippo G4
- 44 If C4
- 45 Irresistible Café B6
- 46 Mado B4
- 47 Mài C4
- 48 Mao Mao Chong Bar D7
- 49 Modernista B4
- 50 Niǎn Bar C4
- 51 Other Place C3
- 52 Salud C6
- 53 Three Trees Coffee C6
- 54 Zǎ Jiǎ A4

🎮 Entertainment (p101)

- 55 Jiāng Hú D6
- 56 Jiāng Jīn Jiǔ A5
- 57 Mao Livehouse C5
- 58 Pénghào Theatre D6
- 59 Star Live F2
- Tango KTV (see 59)
- 60 Temple Bar B5
- 61 Yúgōng Yíshān E7

🛍 Shopping (p102)

- 62 C Rock C5
- 63 Esy Dragon Gift Shop C5

- 64 Famous Tea of China C5
- 65 Giant E5
- 66 JH 2nd-hand Bike Shop F5
- 67 Jīngchéng Bǎixīng D4
- 68 Plastered 8 C6
- 69 Ruifúxiàng A5
- 70 Tiān Yī Goods Market A7

🏃 Sports & Activities (p104)

- 71 Black Sesame Kitchen C6
- 72 Culture Yard F5
- 73 Drum & Bell Square A5
- 74 Jīnsè Fēilún Bike Shop D5
- 75 Mào'ér Lǎolǐ Health Club C6
- 76 Natooke E3
- 77 Qīngnián Hú Park B1
- 78 The Hutong F5

🛌 Sleeping (p196)

- 79 161 Lama Temple Courtyard Hotel G4
- 80 Běijīng Downtown Backpackers C6
- 81 Confucius International Youth Hostel E3
- 82 Courtyard 7 C5
- 83 DùGé C6
- 84 Nostalgia Hotel E4
- 85 Old Běijīng Square Hotel B4
- 86 Orchid B4
- 87 Peking Youth Hostel C6

📍 Information (p253)

- 88 Dōngchéng Disease Prevention & Control Centre D6
- 89 Russian Embassy H4

Key on p289

DRUM TOWER & DONGCHENG NORTH





TEMPLE OF HEAVEN PARK & DŌNGCHÉNG SOUTH



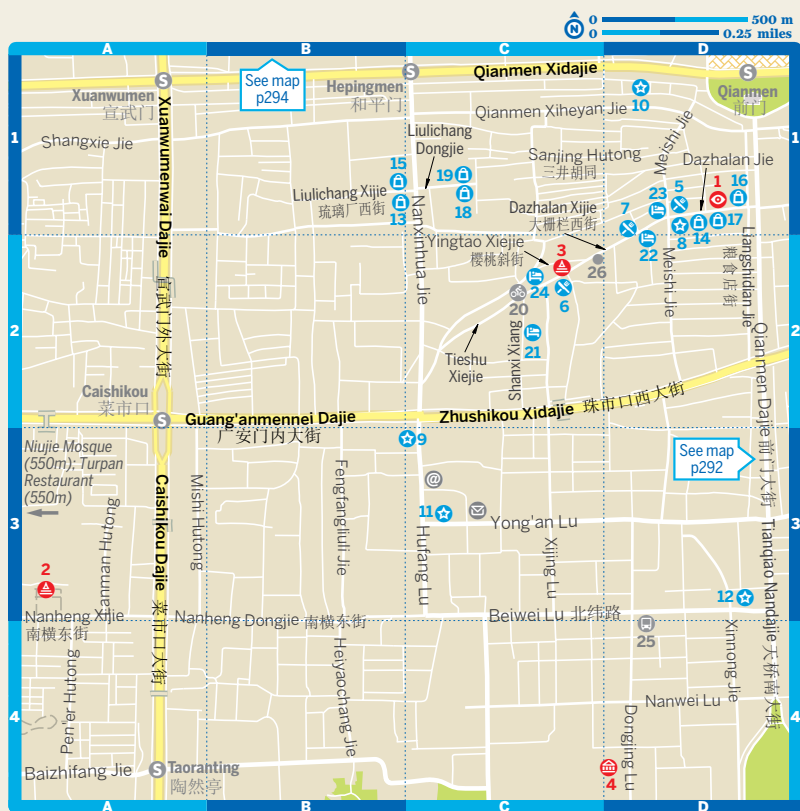


- Top Sights (p108)**
- 1 Temple of Heaven Park..... B4
- Sights (p111)**
- 2 Animal Killing Pavilion D4
- 3 Běijīng Natural History Museum..... A5
- 4 Běijīng Planning Exhibition Hall A1
- 5 Běijīng Railway Museum A1
- 6 Divine Music Administration B6
- 7 Echo Wall C6
- 8 Fasting Palace B5
- 9 Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests..... C5
- 10 Imperial Vault of Heaven C6
- 11 Long Corridor C5
- 12 Ming City Wall Ruins Park..... E1
- 13 Qianmen Dajie A2
- 14 Red Stairway Bridge..... C5
- 15 Round Altar..... C6
- 16 Southeast Corner Watchtower & Red Gate Gallery F1
- 17 Zhāohēng Gate..... C6
- Eating (p113)**
- 18 Biànyifāng D2
- 19 Capital M..... A2
- 20 Dūyìchù A2
- 21 Lìqún Roast Duck Restaurant B2
- 22 Lost Heaven..... A1
- 23 Qiánmén Quánjùdé Roast Duck Restaurant..... A2
- 24 Wedomé..... D5
- 25 Xīn Tiān Yuàn..... A1
- Entertainment (p115)**
- 26 Red Theatre F4
- Shopping (p115)**
- 27 Hóngqiáo (Pearl) Market..... D4
- 28 Toys City..... D4
- Sports & Activities (p115)**
- 29 NTSC Tennis Club D6
- Sleeping (p202)**
- 30 Emperor A2

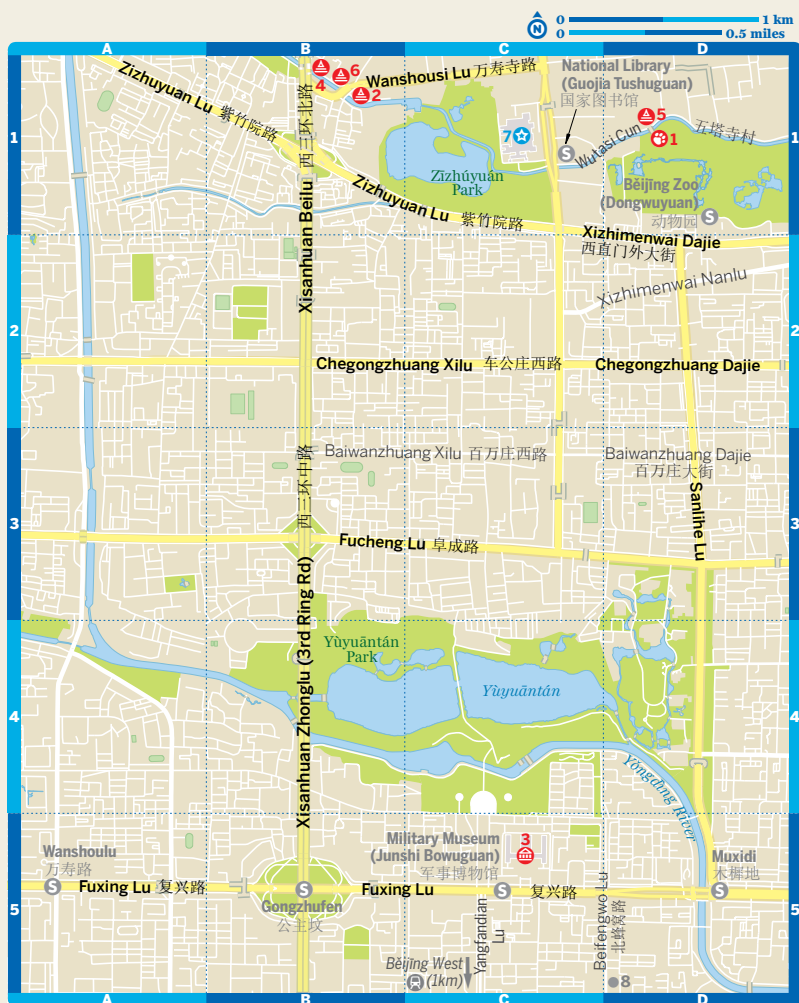


BĚIHǎi PARK & XĪCHÉNG NORTH

- 📍 Top Sights (p118)** National Centre for the Performing Arts.....(see 9)
- 1** Běihǎi Park.....D4
- 📍 Sights (p120)**
- 2** China Numismatic Museum.....D7
- 3** Great Hall of the People.....D6
- 4** Guāngjī Temple.....B4
- 5** Hòuhǎi Lakes.....C2
- 6** Lu Xun Museum.....A4
- 7** Mei Lanfang Former Residence.....C3
- 8** Miàoyīng Temple White Dagoba.....A4
- 9** National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA).....D6
- 10** Nine Dragon Screen.....C3
- 11** Prince Gong's Residence.....C3
- 12** Round City.....D4
- 13** Silver Ingot Bridge.....D2
- 14** Song Qingling Former Residence.....C2
- 15** South Cathedral.....B7
- 16** Temple of Ancient Monarchs.....B4
- 17** White Dagoba.....D4
- 18** Xìbiànmén Watchtower.....A7
- 19** Xitiān Fánjīng.....D3
- 20** Yǒngān Temple.....D4
- 📍 Eating (p126)**
- 21** Guǎnshì Chiba.....D3
- 22** Kǎo Ròu Jī.....D2
- 23** Le Petit Saigon.....D2
- 24** Lìjì Fēngwèi Měishí Cāntīng.....D2
- 25** Royal Icehouse.....D3
- 26** Rùndéli Food Market.....C2
- 27** Wang Pang Zi Donkey Burger.....D2
- 📍 Drinking & Nightlife (p128)**
- 28** Await Cafe.....B4
- 29** Hòuhǎi Bar Strip.....D2
- 30** Le Grenadier.....D3
- 31** NBeer Pub.....B3
- 32** Tánggrén Teahouse.....D3
- 📍 Entertainment (p128)**
- 33** East Shore Jazz Café.....D3
- 34** Mei Lanfang Grand Theatre.....A3
- 📍 Shopping (p129)**
- 35** 77th Street.....B6
- 36** Běijīng Books Building.....B6
- 37** Sanfo (Fuchengmen).....A5
- 38** Three Stone Kite Shop.....D3
- 39** Yandai Xiejie.....D2
- 📍 Sports & Activities (p120)**
- 40** Bike Hire.....D3
- 41** Bike Hire.....C2
- 42** Golden Sail Water Sports Club.....C2
- 43** Hòuhǎi Exercise Park.....C2
- 44** Hòuhǎi Park.....C2
- 📍 Sleeping (p198)**
- 45** Drum Tower Youth Hostel.....D2
- 46** Graceland Yard.....B2
- 47** Intercontinental.....A5
- 48** Red Lantern House.....B2
- 49** Red Lantern House West Yard.....B4
- 50** Ritz-Carlton.....A5
- 51** Shíchàhǎi Sandalwood Boutique Hotel.....C3
- 52** Shíchàhǎi Shadow Art Hotel.....C2
- 53** Sleepy Inn.....C2
- 54** Westin.....A5
- 📍 Information (p253)**
- 55** Běihǎi Park East Gate.....D4
- 56** Běihǎi Park North Gate.....D3
- 57** Běihǎi Park South Gate.....D4
- 58** Běihǎi Park West Gate.....C4
- 59** Běijīng Tourist Information Center.....D3
- 📍 Transport (p244)**
- 60** Běijīng North Train Station.....A2
- 61** Buses to Bādálíng Great Wall and the Ming Tombs.....C1
- 62** Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC).....C6
- 63** Ferry Dock (Jade Island).....D4
- 64** Ferry Dock (Northwest).....C3
- 65** Qianmen Xi Bus Stop (for Bus 901).....D7



- Sights (p132)**
- 1 Dashilar D1
 - 2 Fǎyuán Temple A3
 - 3 Guanyin Temple C2
 - 4 Xiānnóng Altar & Běijīng Ancient Architecture Museum D4
 - 14 Nèiliánshēng Shoe Shop D1
 - 15 Róngbǎozhāi B1
 - 16 Ruifúxiāng D1
 - 17 Tóngréntáng D1
 - 18 Xián Yàn Tāng C1
 - 19 Yuèhǎixuān Musical Instrument Store C1
- Eating (p134)**
- 5 Gǒubùlǐ D1
 - 6 Liú Family Noodles C2
 - 7 Long Table D1
- Entertainment (p134)**
- 8 Dàguānlóu Cinema D1
 - 9 Húguāng Guild Hall C3
 - 10 Lao She Teahouse D1
 - 11 Liyuán Theatre C3
 - 12 Tiānqiáo Acrobatics Theatre D3
- Shopping (p136)**
- 13 Cathay Bookshop B1
- Sports & Activities**
- 20 Bicycle Rental C2
- Sleeping (p199)**
- 21 Leo Courtyard C2
 - 22 Leo Hostel D2
 - 23 Qiánmén Hostel D1
 - Qiánmén Jiànguó Hotel (see 11)
 - 24 Three-Legged Frog Hostel C2
- Transport (p244)**
- 25 Tiānqiáo Long-Distance Bus Station D4
 - 26 Train Ticket Office C2



Sights

- 1 Běijīng Zoo (North Entrance)..... D1
 2 Dragon King Temple Remains..... B1
 3 Military Museum..... C5
 4 Wànshòu Temple..... B1
 5 Wútà Temple..... D1
 6 Yánqíng Temple Remains..... B1

(p161)

Entertainment

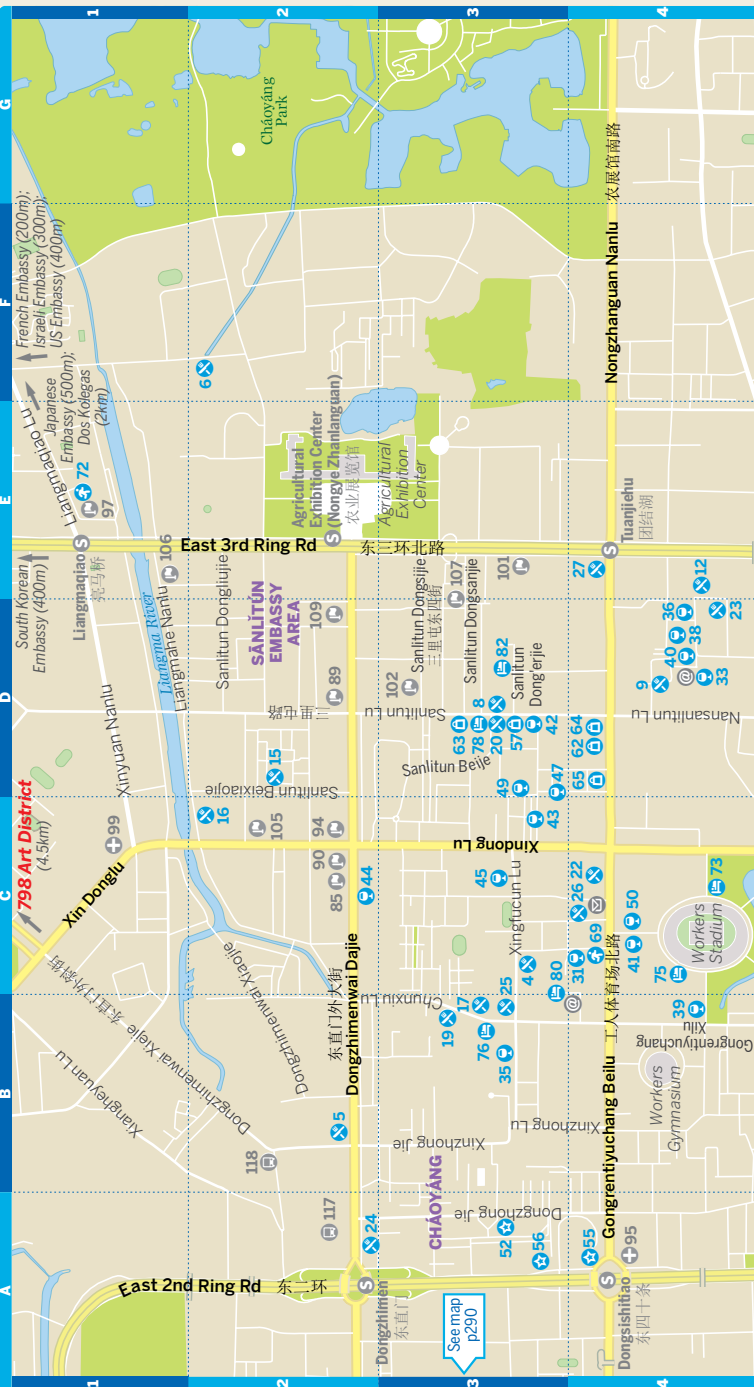
- 7 National Library Concert Hall..... C1

(p168)

Transport

- 8 CRTS..... D5

(p244)



SĀNLĪTÚN & CHÁOYÁNG

Map on p298

📍 Sights

(p141)

1 CCTV Building.....E7

2 Dongyue Temple.....B5

3 Jiutian Puhua Gong.....C5

🍴 Eating

(p144)

4 April Gourmet.....C3

5 Baodü Huang.....B2

6 Baoyuan Dumpling Restaurant.....F2

7 Bellagio.....B5

Big Smoke.....(see 25)

Biteapitta.....(see 42)

8 Bocata.....D3

9 Bookworm.....D4

Carmen.....(see 42)

10 Desert Rose.....B6

11 Din Tai Fung.....G8

12 Duck de Chine.....E4

13 Elephant.....B6

14 Hong Lu.....D5

15 In & Out.....D2

16 Indian Kitchen.....C2

17 Jingzün Peking Duck.....B3

18 Jixiangniao Xiangcài.....B5

19 Méizhōu Dōngpō Jiùlǒu.....B3

20 Mosto.....D3

21 Nàijiǎ Xiǎoguǎn.....C8

22 Nánjīng Impressions.....C4

23 Okra.....D4

24 Olé.....A2

25 O'Steak.....B3

26 Purple Haze.....C4

27 Rumi.....E4

28 Uighur Willow.....B6

29 Xiǎo Wáng's Home Restaurant.....D7

30 Yán Lán Lóu.....C6

🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

(p148)

31 Alfa.....C4

Apothecary.....(see 42)

Big Smoke.....(see 25)

32 Chocolate.....B6

33 d Lounge.....D4

34 Destination.....B5

First Floor.....(see 42)

35 Great Leap Brewing.....B3

36 Home Plate Bar B-Que.....D4

37 Ichikura.....E6

38 Janes and Hooch.....D4

39 Lantern.....B4

40 Local.....D4

Mesh.....(see 78)

Migas Bar.....(see 42)

41 Mix.....C4

42 Nali Patio.....D3

43 Nearby the Tree.....C3

44 Paddy O'Shea's.....C2

45 Parlor.....C3

46 Q Bar.....D5

47 Revolution.....D3

Second Floor.....(see 42)

Spark.....(see 61)

48 Stone Boat.....B7

49 Tree.....D3

50 Vics.....C4

Xiù.....(see 79)

🎮 Entertainment

(p152)

51 Cháoyáng Theatre.....E6

52 East Gate Cinema.....A3

MegaBox.....(see 64)

53 Melody KTV.....C5

54 Partyworld KTV.....B6

55 Poly Plaza International Theatre.....A4

56 Universal Theatre (Heaven & Earth Theatre).....A3

Shopping

(p153) 57 3.3 Shopping Centre D3
58 Alien's Street Market B6
59 Baināohui Computer Mall C6
60 China World Shopping Mall E8
61 Place C7
62 Sanlitūn Village D4
63 Sanlitūn Village (North) D3
64 Sanlitūn Village (South) D4
65 Sanlitūn Yashow Clothing Market D4
66 Shard Box Store C7
67 Silk Market C8

Sports & Activities

(p155) 68 Berlitz B8
69 Bodhi Therapeutic Retreat C4
70 Bridge School D7
71 Dragonfly Therapeutic Retreat D7
72 Jīnghuá Wúshū Association E1
Le Cool Ice Rink (see 60)
Yoga Yard (see 69)

Sleeping

(p199) 73 A Hotel C4
74 Conrad E5
75 Gallery C4
76 Holiday Inn Express B3

77 Hotel Ibis D5
78 Opposite House Hotel D3
79 Park Hyatt D8
80 Sanlitūn Youth Hostel C3
81 St Regis B8
82 Yoyo Hotel D3

Information

(p253) 83 American Chamber of Commerce D7
84 Asian Express G8
85 Australian Embassy C2
86 Bank of China B8
87 Bayley & Jackson Medical Center C7
88 British Chamber of Commerce B5
89 Cambodian Embassy D2
Canada-China Business Council (see 93)
Canadian Embassy C2
90 China-Australia Chamber of Commerce B6
91 China-Britain Business Council A5
92 CITIC Bank B8
European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (see 97)
French Chamber of Commerce & Industry (see 97)
94 German Embassy C2
95 Hong Kong International Medical Clinic A4
96 HSBC D8

97 India E1
98 International Post Office A7
99 International SOS C1
100 Irish Embassy C8
101 Italian Embassy E3
102 Laotian Embassy D3
103 Mongolian Embassy C8
104 Mongolian Embassy (Visa Section) C8
105 Nepal C2
106 Netherlands Embassy E1
107 New Zealand Embassy E3
108 Singapore Embassy B8
109 South African Embassy D2
110 South Korean Embassy D8
111 Thai Embassy B7
112 UK Embassy C7
113 UK Embassy (Visa & Consular Section) E7
114 United Parcel Service D8
115 US-China Business Council B8
116 Vietnam C7

Transport

(p244) Airport Express (see 117)
117 Dongzhimen Transport Hub A2
118 Dongzhimen Wai Bus Stand B2



Top Sights

(p159)

- 1 Summer Palace.....C1

Sights

(p159)

- 2 17-Arch Bridge.....C3
 3 Buddhist Fragrance Pavilion.....C1
 4 Buddhist Temple of the Sea of Wisdom.....B1
 5 Cloud Dispelling Hall.....C2
 6 Dragon King Temple.....C3
 7 Gate Tower of the Cloud-Retaining Eves.....B1
 8 Jade Belt Bridge.....B2
 9 Long Corridor.....C1

- 10 Marble Boat.....B1

- 11 Rowing Boat Dock.....C2

- 12 Wénchāng Gallery.....C2

- 13 West Causeway.....B1

Sleeping

(p201)

- 14 Aman at Summer Palace.....C1

Transport

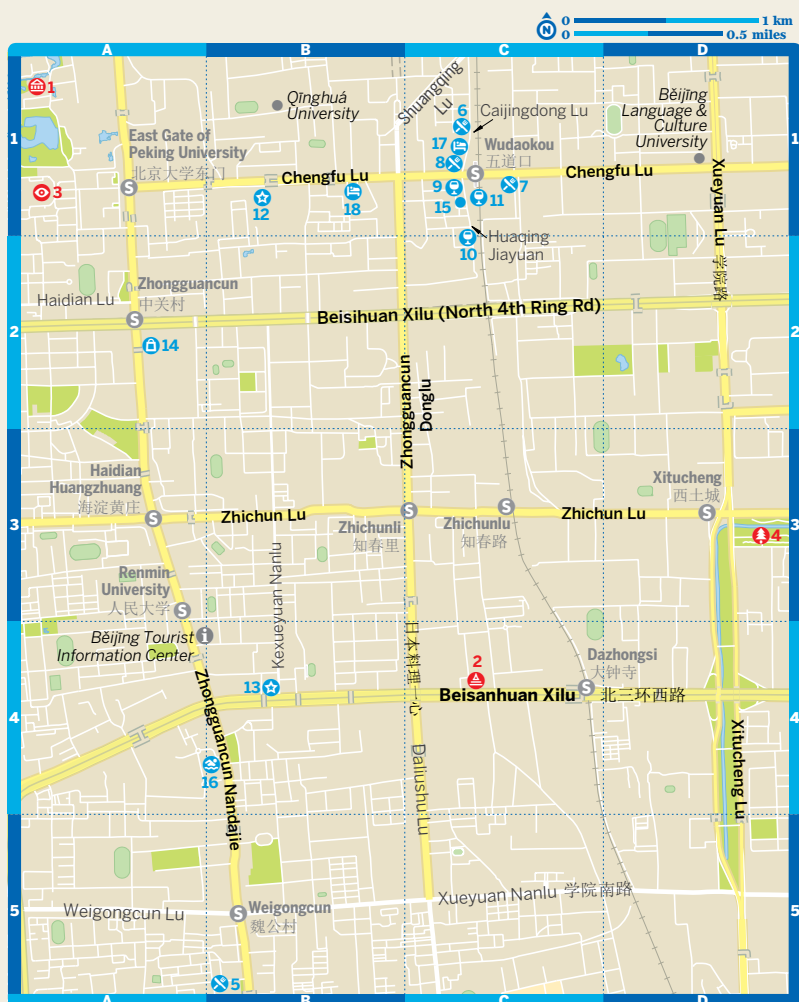
(p159)

- Boat Hire.....(see 11)

- 15 Boat Hire.....C3

- 16 Boathouses.....B1

- 17 Rowing Boat Dock.....B2



- Sights (p161)**
- 1 Arthur M Sackler Museum of Art & ArchaeologyA1
 - 2 Great Bell Temple.....C4
 - 3 Peking University.....A1
 - 4 Yuan-Dynasty Walls Relics Park.....D3
- Eating (p167)**
- 5 Golden Peacock.....B5
 - 6 Isshin Japanese Restaurant.....C1
 - La Bamba.....(see 10)
- Drinking & Nightlife (p168)**
- 7 Lao Chē Jī.....C1
 - 8 Salang-BangC1
 - 9 LushC1
 - 10 PropagandaC2
 - Wū.....(see 7)
 - 11 Wūdàokǒu Beer Garden.....C1
- Entertainment (p168)**
- 12 13 Club.....B1
 - 13 UME International Cineplex.....B4
- Shopping (p168)**
- 14 Centergate ComoA2
- Sports & Activities (p169)**
- 15 China Study AbroadC1
 - 16 Friendship Hotel.....B4
- Sleeping (p201)**
- 17 LTH Hotel.....C1
 - 18 Peking Uni International HostelB1



Our Story

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

Our Writers



Daniel McCrohan

Coordinating author, Forbidden City & Dōngchéng Central, Drum Tower & Dōngchéng North, Běihǎi Park & Xīchéng North, The Great Wall, Day Trips from Běijīng, Sleeping, Plan Your Trip, Běijīng Today, History, Architecture, Religion & Beliefs

Daniel has been living in Běijīng for more than a decade, trying in vain to perfect his ropey Chinese, while developing a taste for raw garlic (there's no better accompaniment to a bowl of noodles, apparently). He is the creator

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David Eimer

Temple of Heaven Park & Dōngchéng South, Dashilar & Xīchéng South, Sānlitún & Cháoyáng and Summer Palace & Hǎidiàn

David first came to China in 1988, when both Westerners and cars were in short supply. After becoming a freelance journalist, and inspired by return trips to China, he moved to Běijīng in 2005 and lived there for seven years. Currently based in Bangkok, David co-wrote the previous three editions of the Beijing guide, as well as working on the last four editions of the China guide. For this book, he also wrote the Historic Hútòng and Arts chapters and the Survival Guide.

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