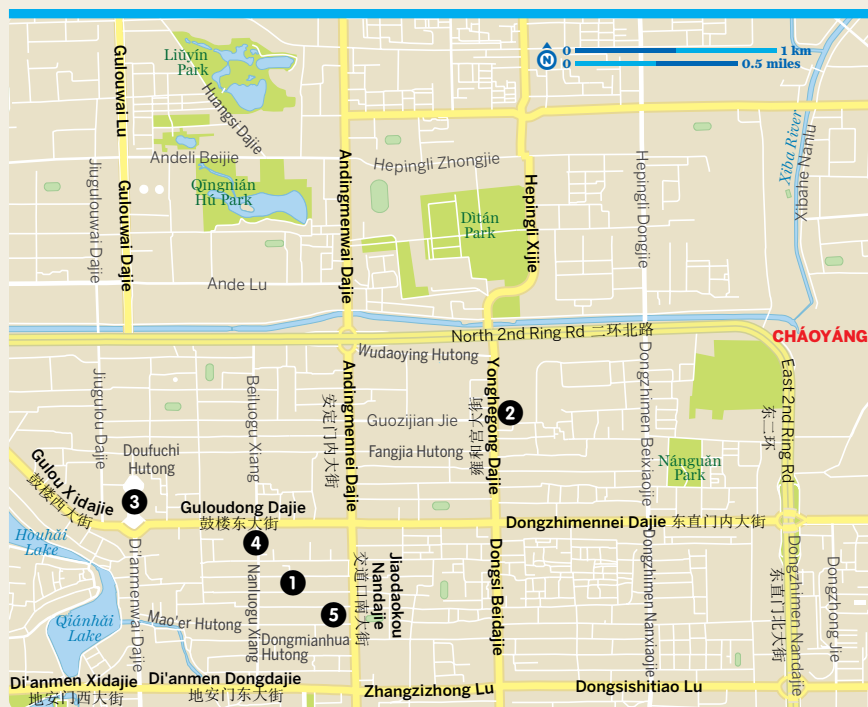


Drum Tower & Dōngchéng North

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Lose yourself in the mazelike network of historic **hùtòng** (alleyways), or follow our **hùtòng** walking tour (p89).
- 2 Stroll the incense-filled halls and courtyards of the **Lama Temple** (p84), Běijīng's largest and most impressive Buddhist temple.
- 3 Listen to a drumming performance inside the magnificent ancient **Drum Tower** (p86) before climbing its equally impressive neighbour, the **Bell Tower** (p87).
- 4 Browse the cutesy boutique shops on **Nanluogu Xiang** (p88), before sneaking into a courtyard cafe for coffee break.
- 5 Catch a local band at one of the many excellent live-music venues in this part of town: **Jiāng Hú** (p101) is a good place to start.



For more detail of this area, see Map p290. ➔

Explore Drum Tower & Dongchéng North

This *hútòng*-rich neighbourhood incorporates the northern section of Běijīng's historic Dongchéng (东城) District and is the most pleasant area in which to base yourself during your stay in the capital. Book yourself into a *hútòng* hostel or a beautifully converted courtyard hotel, and make this most charming of neighbourhoods your new temporary home.

While there are less top-name sights here than in Dongchéng Central, there is still some sightseeing to be done, although the main attraction is the chance to simply wander around the lanes getting lost.

You can shop till you drop in the cute alleyway boutiques of Nanluogu Xiang before putting your feet up in a *hútòng* cafe or settling down for a meal in a converted courtyard.

At night, this neighbourhood is the city's most enjoyable place to drink. Bars here are cool rather than brash and are often tucked away in hard-to-find *hútòng* locations. Some of them double as live-music venues where you can catch the latest local bands.

Local Life

- ➔ **Food** To sample some authentic Běijīng tucker, first check our Běijīng Menu (p95) then head to Yáoji Chǎogān (p93) for some dumplings and pig's liver stew, or to Róng Tiān (p94) for a succulent sheep-spine hotpot.
- ➔ **Music** See what the city's youth are listening to, and playing, at live-music venues such as Jiāng Hú (p101) or Jiāng Jīn Jiǔ (p101).
- ➔ **Parks** Head to Dítán Park (p88) for a spot of kite-flying, before cooling off with the masses at the outdoor swimming complex in Qīngnián Hú Park (p105).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** Lines 8, 2, 6 and 5 all serve this neighbourhood well.
- ➔ **Bus** Bus 107 links the Drum Tower with Dongzhimen Transport Hub. Bus 5 runs south from the Drum Tower, past Běihǎi and Jīngshān Parks, along the west side of the Forbidden City and on to Qiánmén at the south end of Tiān'ānmén Sq. Bus 113 runs south from Andingmennei Dajie then east to the Workers Stadium and Sānlitún.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Rent a bike while you're here, or even buy a cheap secondhand one; you can give it away when you leave. Cycling is the best way to see the city, and is especially good for exploring this area's *hútòng*.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bǎihé Vegetarian Restaurant (p96)
- ➔ Yáoji Chǎogān (p93)
- ➔ Zhāng Māma (p93)
- ➔ Yī Lóng Zhāi (p94)
- ➔ Róng Tiān Sheep Spine (p94)
- ➔ Dàilǐ Courtyard (p98)
- ➔ Ghost Street (p92)

For reviews, see p93. ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Great Leap Brewing (p99)
- ➔ El Nido (p99)
- ➔ Zá Jiǎ (p99)
- ➔ Irresistible Cafe (p100)
- ➔ Other Place (p96)
- ➔ Mài (p100)

For reviews, see p98. ➔

Best Places for Live Music

- ➔ Jiāng Hú (p101)
- ➔ Jiāng Jīn Jiǔ (p101)
- ➔ Yúgōng Yíshān (p101)
- ➔ Temple Bar (p101)
- ➔ Mao Livehouse (p101)

For reviews, see p101. ➔