

Temple of Heaven Park & Dōngchéng South

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Absolutely unmissable, the **Temple of Heaven Park** (p108) is a unique, simply stunning collection of halls and altars where China's emperors came to seek divine guidance. The surrounding park is equally special.

2 Gorge yourself on **Pe-king duck**, the capital's

signature dish, in the **res-
taurants** (p113) where it originated.

3 Step back in time to imperial China by strolling the sole remaining stretch of the old **City Walls** (p111).

4 Hunt for pearls of all varieties in **Hóngqiáo (Pearl) Market** (p115).

5 Browse with the locals on the restored shopping street of **Qianmen Dajie** (p112).



For more detail of this area, see Map p292. ➔

Explore Temple of Heaven Park & Dōngchéng South

Ranging south and southeast of the Forbidden City, and encompassing the now defunct district of Chóngwén, this neighbourhood is far less fashionable than the rest of Dōngchéng (东城) – it's a nightlife desert – and has always been home to the *lǎobǎixìng* (common people).

Start at Temple of Heaven Park. After touring the sights, amble through the park itself before heading north to the Qiánmén area. Alternatively, shopaholics can hit the Hóngqiáo Market, a few hundred metres north of the park's east gate, where five floors of pearls, jewellery, jade and more await. The roof terrace offers fantastic views across the Temple of Heaven Park.

The last remaining stretch of Běijīng's city walls are a brief subway ride north of the Temple of Heaven. From there, wander west through the surviving *hútòng* (alleyways) of the neighbourhood towards Qiánmén, where museums and the popular pedestrian shopping street of Qianmen Dajie await you. Nearby are some of Běijīng's oldest and most traditional Peking duck restaurants, as well as an increasing number of Western fine-dining options. Be sure to check out 23 Qianmen Dongdajie, home to imposing, European-style buildings that formerly housed foreign embassies.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hútòng** Make sure to spend some time exploring the decaying alleyways and lanes to the east of Qianmen Dajie (p112), still home to many locals.
- ➔ **Peking duck** If you want to eat Peking duck where the locals do, try Biànyífāng (p115).
- ➔ **Park life** Serene Lóngtán Park, to the east of Temple of Heaven Park, is one of Běijīng's best-kept secrets.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** Line 2 stops at Qianmen subway station and Chongwenmen subway station, where the north–south Line 5 intersects with it. For Temple of Heaven Park take Line 5 direct to the Tiantandongmen stop; get off at Chongwenmen for the Ming City Ruins Park and Southeast Corner Watchtower. Qianmen subway station serves Qianmen Dajie and the area around it.
- ➔ **Bus** Bus 20 journeys from Běijīng South Train Station via the Temple of Heaven and Qiánmén to Wángfǔjīng, Dōngdān and Běijīng Train Station.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Do as the locals do and rise early to get to Temple of Heaven Park when it opens at sunrise. Not only will you see Běijīng's senior citizens at play – practising taichi and formation dancing – but the park is a superb, tranquil experience at this time and you'll have the jump on the crowds when the sights open at 8am.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lost Heaven (p113)
- ➔ Capital M (p114)
- ➔ Dūyīchù (p113)

For reviews, see p113. ➔

Best Peking Duck

- ➔ Lìqún Roast Duck Restaurant (p113)
- ➔ Biànyífāng (p115)
- ➔ Qiánmén Quánjùdé Roast Duck Restaurant (p114)

For reviews, see p113. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Hóngqiáo (Pearl) Market (p115)
- ➔ Qianmen Dajie (p112)
- ➔ Toys City (p115)

For reviews, see p115. ➔