

Temple of Heaven Park & Dōngchéng South

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Temple of Heaven Park (p106) Touring a simply stunning collection of halls and altars where China's emperors came to seek divine guidance; the surrounding park is equally special.

2 Peking Duck (p111) Feasting on Běijīng's signature

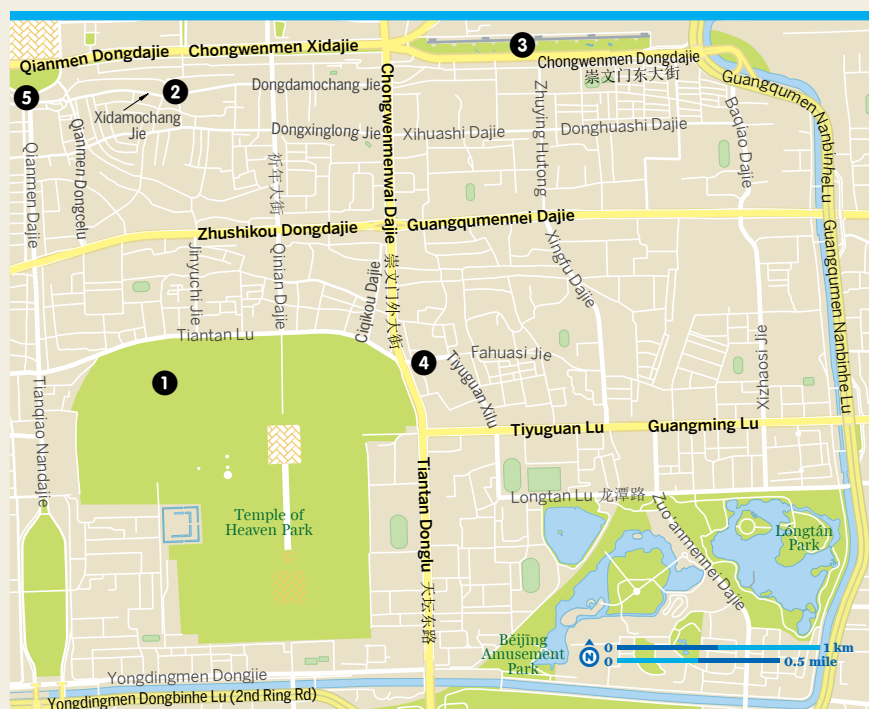
dish at the restaurants where it originated.

3 City Walls (p110) Stepping back in time to imperial China by strolling the last remaining stretch of the walls that once surrounded the capital.

4 Hóngqiáo (Pearl) Market (p112) Trawling for

pearls of all varieties, as well as jewellery and jade.

5 Qianmen Dajie (p111) Joining the crowds of locals exploring the shops and restaurants of this restored Qing dynasty shopping street.



For more detail of this area see Map p276. ➔

Explore Temple of Heaven Park & Dōngchéng South

Ranging south and southeast of the Forbidden City, and encompassing the former district of Chóngwén, this neighbourhood is 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. Nearby are some of Běijīng's oldest and most traditional Peking-duck restaurants, as well as high-class dumplings and upmarket Western eateries.

Local Life

- ➔ **Hútòng** Make sure to spend some time exploring the decaying alleyways and lanes to the east of Qianmen Dajie (p111), still home to many people.
- ➔ **Peking duck** If you want to eat Běijīng's best-known dish where the locals do, try Biànyífāng (p112).
- ➔ **Park life** Serene Lóngtán Park, to the east of Temple of Heaven Park, is one of the capital's best-kept secrets.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** Line 2 stops at Qianmen station and Chongwenmen 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 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 Wángfǔjǐng, 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 of day, and you'll have the jump on the crowds when the sights open at 8am.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Capital M (p111)
- ➔ Dōuyíchù (p111)
- ➔ Old Běijīng Zhájiàng Noodle King (p111)
- ➔ Lìqún Roast Duck Restaurant (p111)

For reviews, see p111. ➔

Best Peking Duck

- ➔ Lìqún Roast Duck Restaurant (p111)
- ➔ Biànyífāng (p112)
- ➔ Qiánmén Quánjùdé Roast Duck Restaurant (p112)

For reviews, see p111. ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Hóngqiáo (Pearl) Market (p112)
- ➔ Red Gate Gallery (p109)
- ➔ Qianmen Dajie (p111)

For reviews, see p112. ➔