



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

Daniel McCrohan, David Eimer

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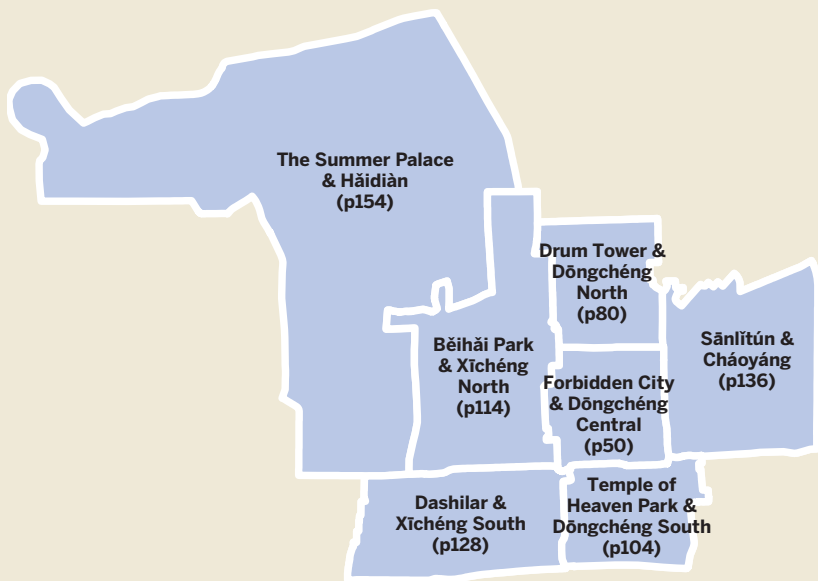
(left) Architectural detail, Forbidden City (p52)

(above) Hòuhǎi Lakes area (p118)

(right) Sīchuān chicken dish and steamed buns (p36)



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Explore Běijīng

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Běijīng Maps

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Buddhist
- Castle
- Christian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery
- Ruin
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo
- Other Sight

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Sports & Activities

- Diving/Snorkelling
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Skiing
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Sports & Activities

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Information

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

Transport

- Airport
- Border Crossing
- Bus
- Cable Car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Monorail
- Parking
- S-Bahn
- Taxi
- Train/Railway
- Tram
- Tube Station
- U-Bahn
- Underground
- Train Station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed Road
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian Overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour Detour
- Path

Boundaries

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

Geographic

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

Hydrography

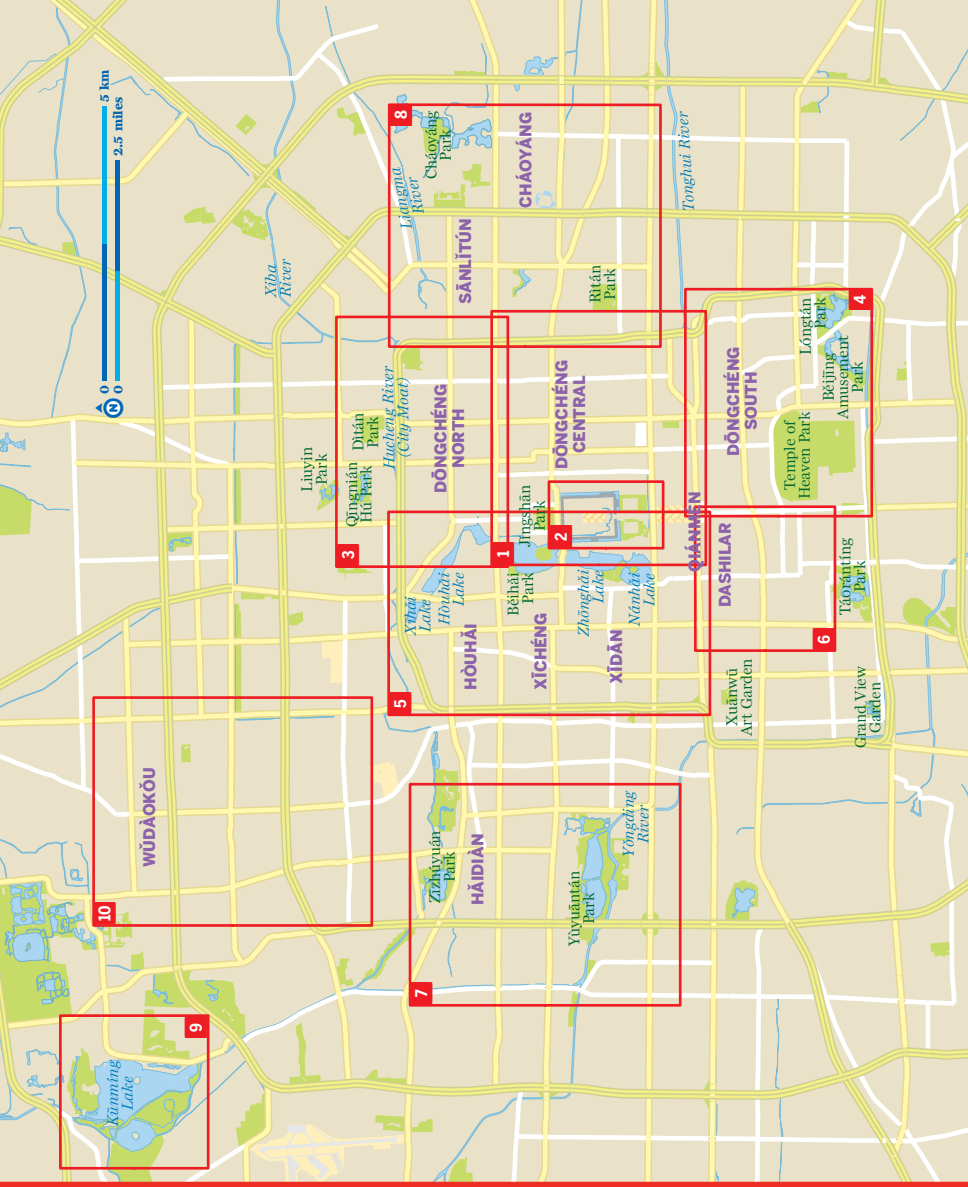
- River/Creek
- Intermittent River
- Swamp/Mangrove
- Reef
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Glacier

Areas

- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Park/Forest
- Sportsground
- Sight (Building)
- Top Sight (Building)

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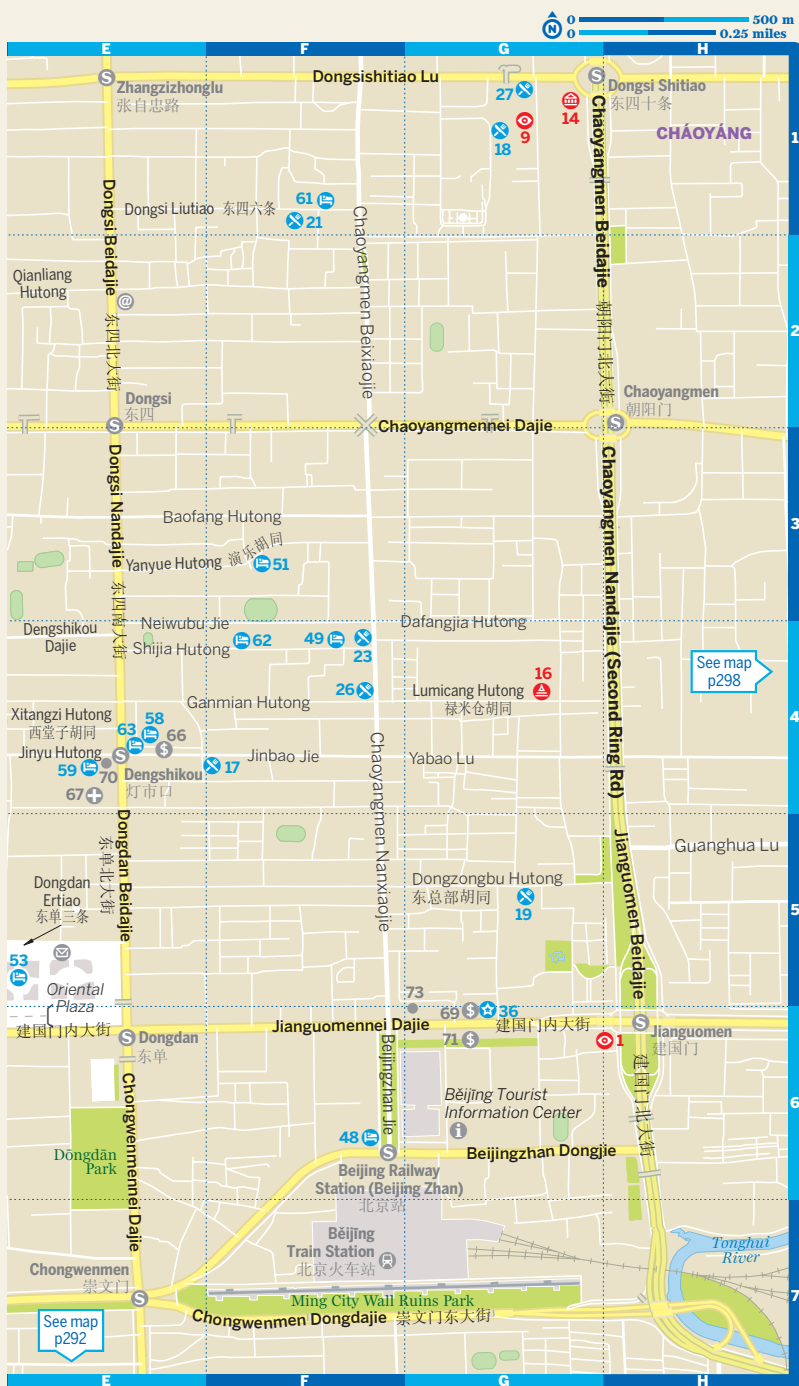
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- 2 Forbidden City (p288)
- 3 Drum Tower & Dongchéng North (p290)
- 4 Temple of Heaven Park & Dongchéng South (p292)
- 5 Běihǎi Park & Xīchéng North (p294)
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- 8 Sanlītún & Cháoyáng (p298)
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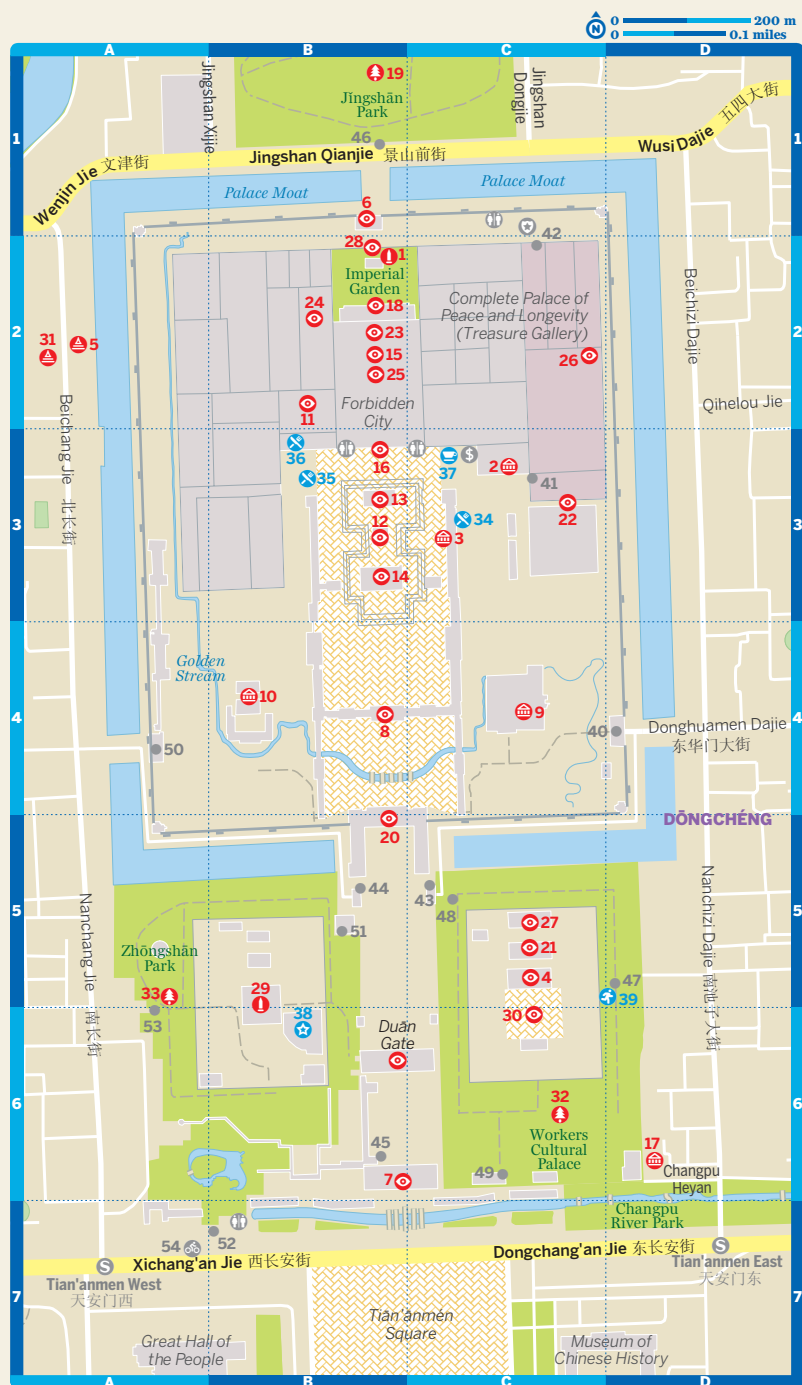


DÔNGCHÉNG CENTRAL

Top Sights	(p52)	Star City	(see 42)
Forbidden City	B3	37 What? Bar	A4
Front Gate (Zhèngyáng Gate Arrow Tower)	B7		
Front Gate (Zhèngyáng Gate)	B7	Shopping	(p76)
Tiān'ānmén Square	B6	38 Arts & Crafts Emporium	D5
		39 Foreign Languages Bookstore	D4
		40 HáoYuán Market	D5
		41 New China Children's Store	D4
		42 Oriental Plaza	D5
		43 Ten Fu's Tea	D5
Sights	(p62)	Sports & Activities	(p77)
1 Ancient Observatory	H6	44 Bike Bèijīng	D3
2 Bèijīng Police Museum	C7	45 Dragonfly Therapeutic Retreat	C4
3 Bèijīng Wángfǔjīng Paleolithic Museum	D5	46 Jīngshān Table Tennis Park	B2
4 Chairman Mao Memorial Hall	B7	47 Mílún Kungfu School	D4
5 China Art Museum	D2	Sleeping	(p191)
Courtyard Gallery	(see 20)	48 Bèijīng City Central International Youth Hostel	F6
6 Dōng'ān Mén Remains	C4	49 Bèijīng Sàgà International Youth Hostel	F4
7 Foreign Legation Quarter	C7	50 City Walls Courtyard	B1
Former French Post Office	(see 28)	51 Côté Cour	F3
8 Hóng Lóu	C2	52 Emperor	C3
9 Imperial Granaries	G1	53 Grand Hyatt	E5
10 Lao She Museum	D4	54 Hilton Bèijīng Wángfǔjīng	D4
11 Legation Quarter	C7	55 Hotel Kapok	C4
12 Monument to the People's Heroes	B6	56 Jīngyuán Hotel	D4
13 National Museum of China	C6	57 Nánjīng Great Hotel	D4
14 Poly Art Museum	G1	58 Park Plaza	E4
15 St Joseph's Church	D4	59 Peninsula	E4
16 Zhìhuà Temple	G4	60 Raffles Bèijīng	D6
		61 Red Capital Residence	F1
		62 Red Wall Garden	F4
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17 Bèijīng Dàdǒng Roast Duck Restaurant	F4	64 Bag Storage for Chairman Mao Memorial Hall	B7
18 Bèijīng Dàdǒng Roast Duck Restaurant	G1	65 Bank of China	D4
19 Chuān Bān	G5	66 Bank of China	E4
20 Courtyard	C4	67 Bèijīng Union Hospital	E4
21 Crescent Moon Muslim Restaurant	F1	68 Bèijīng Wángfǔjīng Pharmaceutical Store	D5
22 Dōnghuāmén Night Market	D4	69 Citibank	G6
23 Dōngzì Lǚròu Huǒshāo	F4	70 CITS	E4
24 Grandma's Kitchen	C5	71 HSBC	G6
25 Hángzhōu Xiǎochī	A4	Watson's	(see 42)
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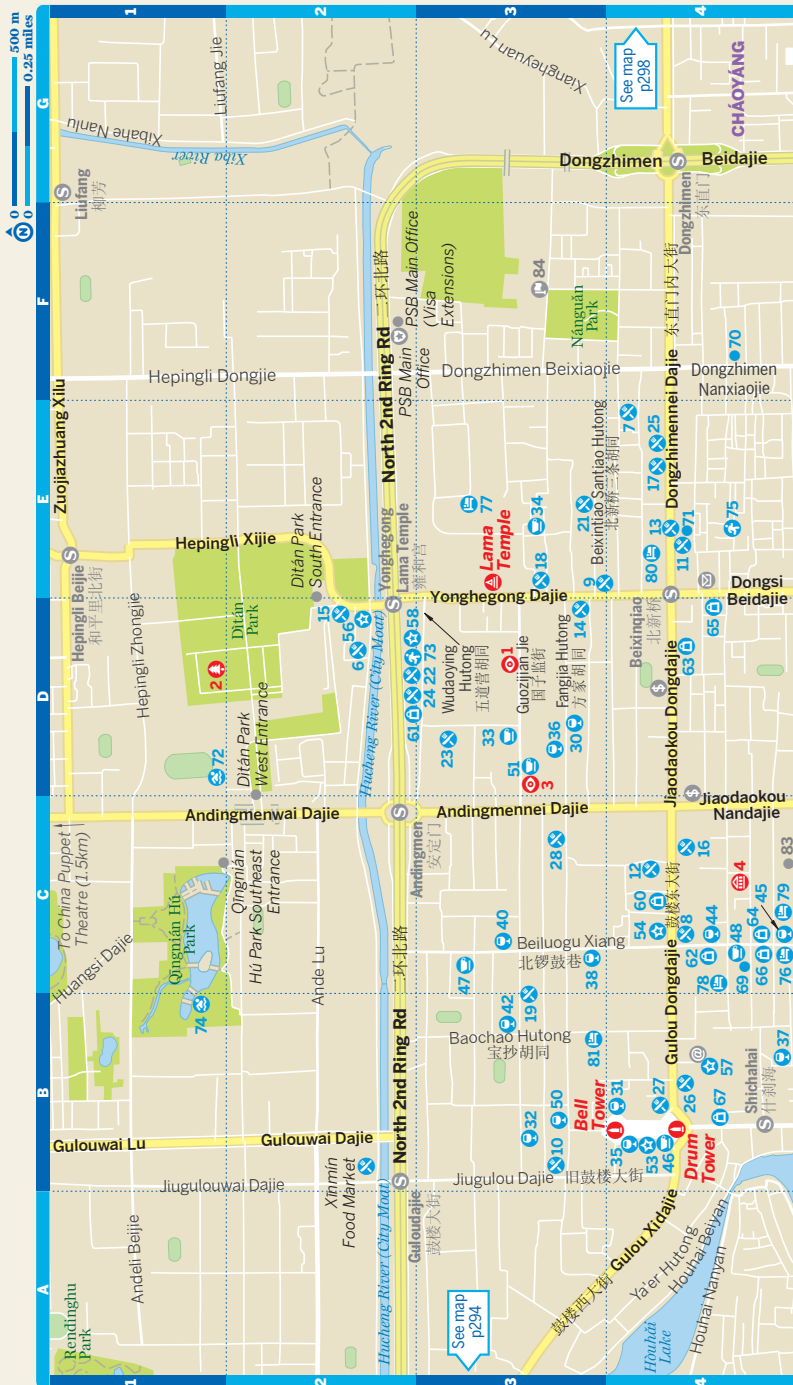


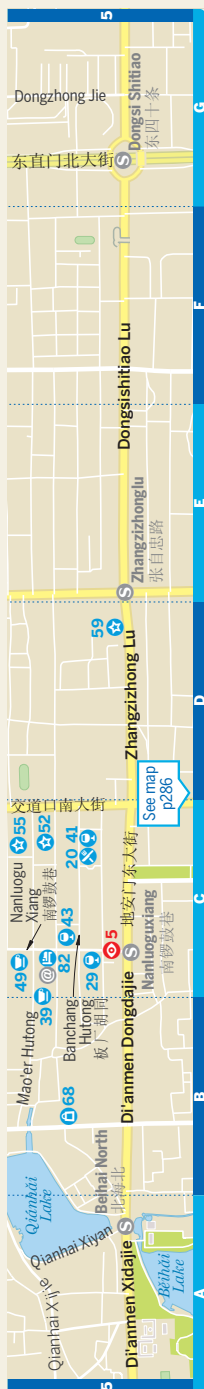


FORBIDDEN CITY

📍 Sights	(p52)	🍴 Eating	(p69)
1 Bronze Elephants.....	B2	34 Restaurant.....	C3
2 Clock Exhibition Hall.....	C3	35 Restaurant.....	B3
3 Diorama of the Forbidden City.....	C3	36 Restaurant.....	B3
4 Front Hall.....	C5		
5 Fúyòu Temple.....	A2	🍷 Drinking & Nightlife	(p74)
6 Gate of Divine Prowess – exit only.....	B1	37 Cafe.....	C3
7 Gate of Heavenly Peace.....	B6		
8 Gate of Supreme Harmony.....	B4	🎭 Entertainment	(p75)
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10 Hall of Martial Valor.....	B4		
11 Hall of Mental Cultivation.....	B2	🏊 Sports & Activities	(p77)
12 Hall of Middle Harmony.....	B3	39 Tennis Courts.....	D5
13 Hall of Preserving Harmony.....	B3		
14 Hall of Supreme Harmony.....	B3	📍 Information	
15 Hall of Union.....	B2	40 Dōnghuá Gate – exit only.....	D4
16 Heavenly Purity Gate.....	B3	41 Entrance to Palace of Complete Peace & Longevity.....	C3
17 Imperial City Art Trading Centre.....	D6	42 Exit of Complete Palace of Peace & Longevity.....	C2
18 Imperial Garden.....	B2	43 Forbidden City ticket office.....	C5
19 Jǐngshān Park.....	B1	44 Forbidden City ticket office.....	B5
20 Meridian Gate – Forbidden City entrance.....	B5	45 Gate of Heavenly Peace ticket office.....	B6
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22 Nine Dragon Screen.....	C3	47 Workers Cultural Palace east entrance.....	D5
23 Palace of Earthly Tranquillity.....	B2	48 Workers Cultural Palace northwest entrance.....	C5
24 Palace of Gathered Elegance.....	B2	49 Workers Cultural Palace south entrance.....	C6
25 Palace of Heavenly Purity.....	B2	50 Xihuá Gate – closed.....	A4
26 Pavilion of Cheerful Melodies – opera house.....	C2	51 Zhōngshān Park northeast entrance.....	B5
27 Rear Hall.....	C5	52 Zhōngshān Park south entrance.....	B7
28 Shùnzhen Gate.....	B2	53 Zhōngshān Park west entrance.....	A6
29 Square Altar.....	B5		
30 Supreme Temple.....	C6	🚗 Transport	
31 Wànshòu Xīnglóng.....	A2	54 Bicycle Stands.....	A7
32 Workers Cultural Palace.....	C6		
33 Zhōngshān Park.....	A5		

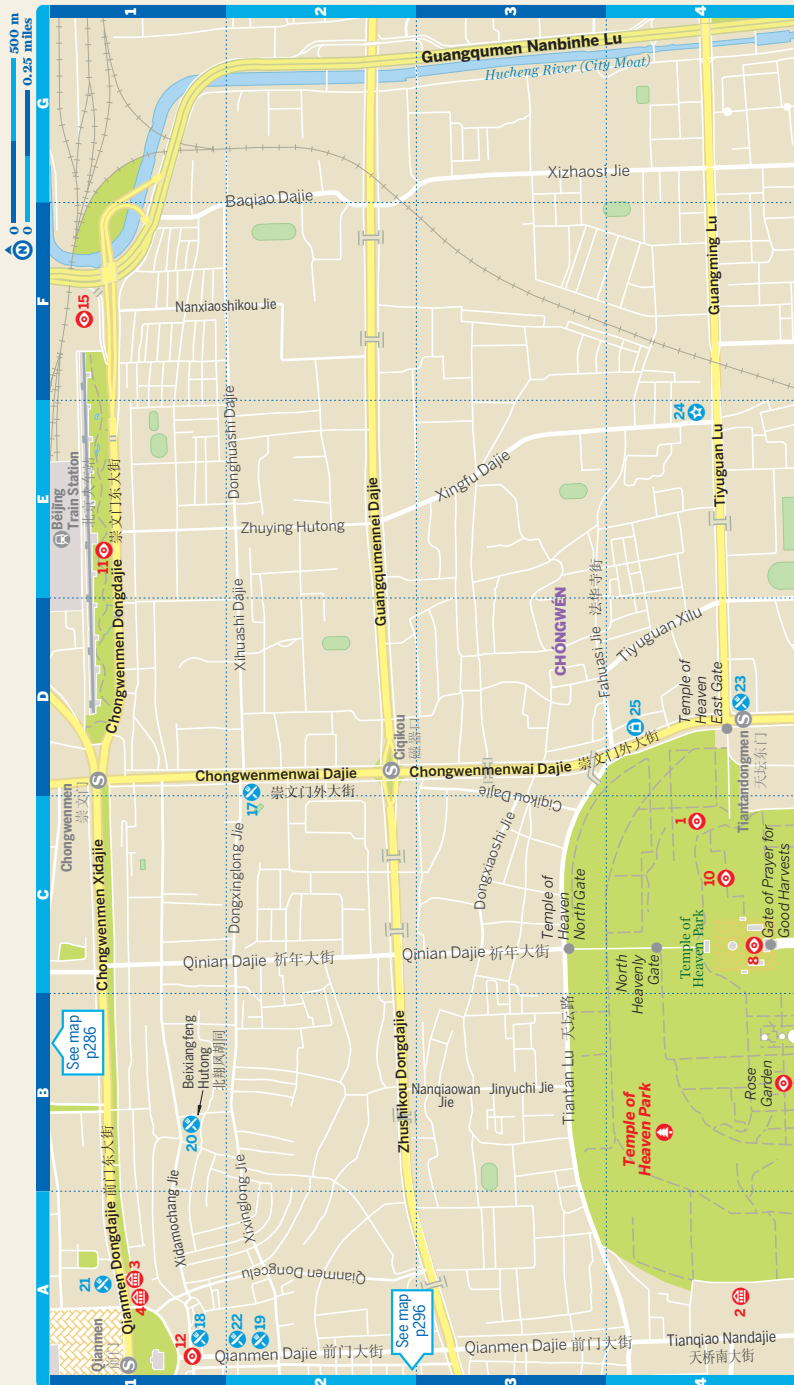
DŌNGCHÉNG NORTH

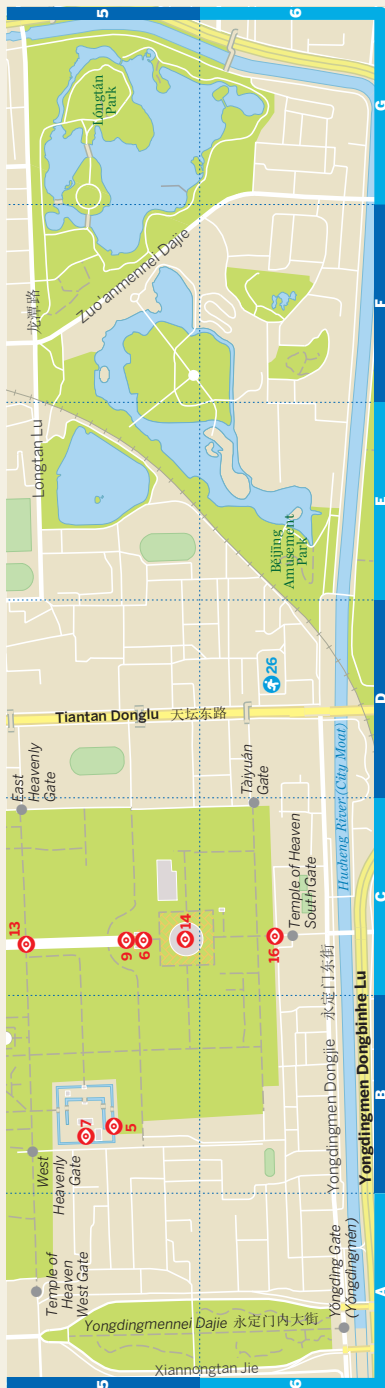




- Top Sights (p82)**
- 13 Ghost Street.....E4
 - 14 Jianbing Savoury.....B4
 - Drum Tower.....B4
 - Lama Temple.....E3
- Sights (p86)**
- 1 Confucius Temple & Imperial College.....D3
 - 2 Ditan Park.....D1
 - 3 Fire God Temple.....D3
 - 4 Mao Dun's Former Residence.....C4
 - 5 Nanluogu Xiang.....C5
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- 6 An Dong Hotel.....D2
 - 7 Baihé Vegetarian Restaurant.....E4
 - 8 Baozi Pu.....C4
 - 9 Café De La Poste.....E3
 - 10 Café Sambal.....B3
 - 11 Chongqing Kongjiang Huoguo.....E4
 - 12 Dalí Courtyard.....C4
- Drinking & Nightlife (p94)**
- 29 12SQM.....C5
 - 30 46 Fangjia Hutong.....D3
 - 31 Ball House.....B4
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- 52 Jiang Hú.....C5
 - 53 Jiang Jin Jiú.....B4
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 - 72 Ditan Sports Centre.....D1
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 - 73 Nàtòkē.....D2
 - 74 Qīngnián Hú Park.....B1
 - 75 The Hutong.....E4
- Shopping (p99)**
- 60 C Rock.....C4
 - 61 Change.....D2
 - 62 Esy Dragon Gift Shop.....C4
 - 63 Giant.....D4
 - 64 Grifted.....C4
 - 65 JH 2nd-hand Bike Shop.. D4
 - 66 Plastered 8.....C4
 - 67 Ruifuxiang.....B4
 - 68 Tian Yi Goods Market.....B5
- Information**
- 83 Dōngchéng Disease Prevention & Control Centre.....C4
 - 84 Russian Embassy.....F3

DŌNGCHÉNG SŌUTH





Top Sights

Temple of Heaven Park..... B4

Sights

- 1 Animal Killing Pavilion..... C4
- 2 Běijīng Natural History Museum..... A4
- 3 Běijīng Planning Exhibition Hall..... A1
- 4 Běijīng Railway Museum..... A1
- 5 Divine Music Administration..... B5
- 6 Echo Wall..... C5
- 7 Fasting Palace..... B5
- 8 Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests..... C4
- 9 Imperial Vault of Heaven..... C5
- 10 Long Corridor..... C4

11 Ming City Wall Ruins Park..... E1

12 Qianmen Dajie..... A1

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13 Red Stairway Bridge..... C5

14 Round Altar..... C5

15 Southeast Corner Watchtower & Red Gate Gallery..... F1

16 Zhàohe Gate..... C6

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17 Biányfāng..... D2

18 Capital M..... A1

19 Dìyìchù..... A2

20 Liqun Roast Duck Restaurant..... B1

Lost Heaven..... (see 21)

21 Maison Boulud..... A1

22 Qiánmén Quánjùdé Roast Duck Restaurant..... A2

23 Wedomé..... D4

Entertainment

24 Red Theatre..... E4

Shopping

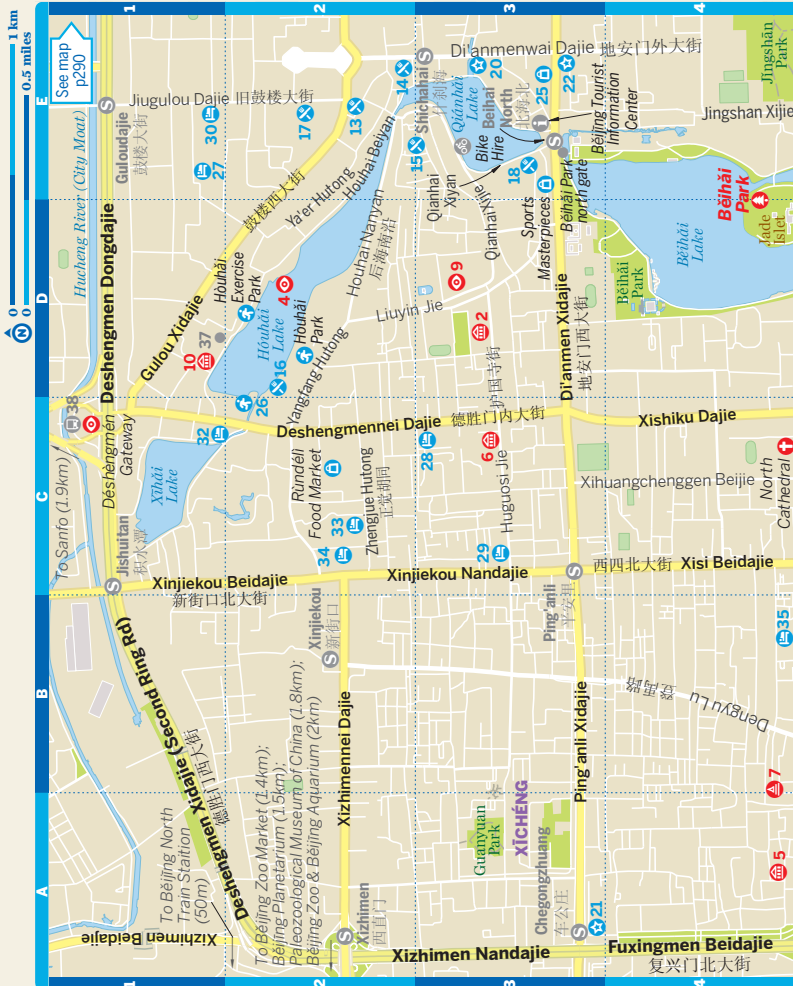
25 Hóngqiáo (Pearl) Market..... D4

Toys City..... (see 25)

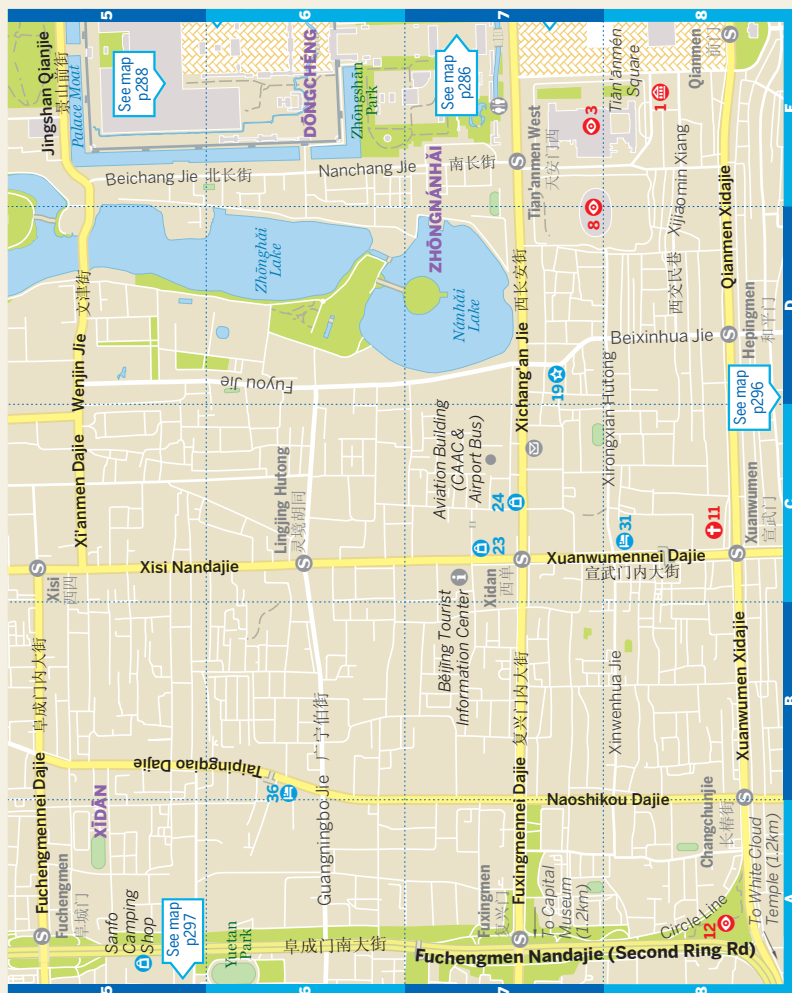
Sports & Activities

26 NTSC Tennis Club..... D6

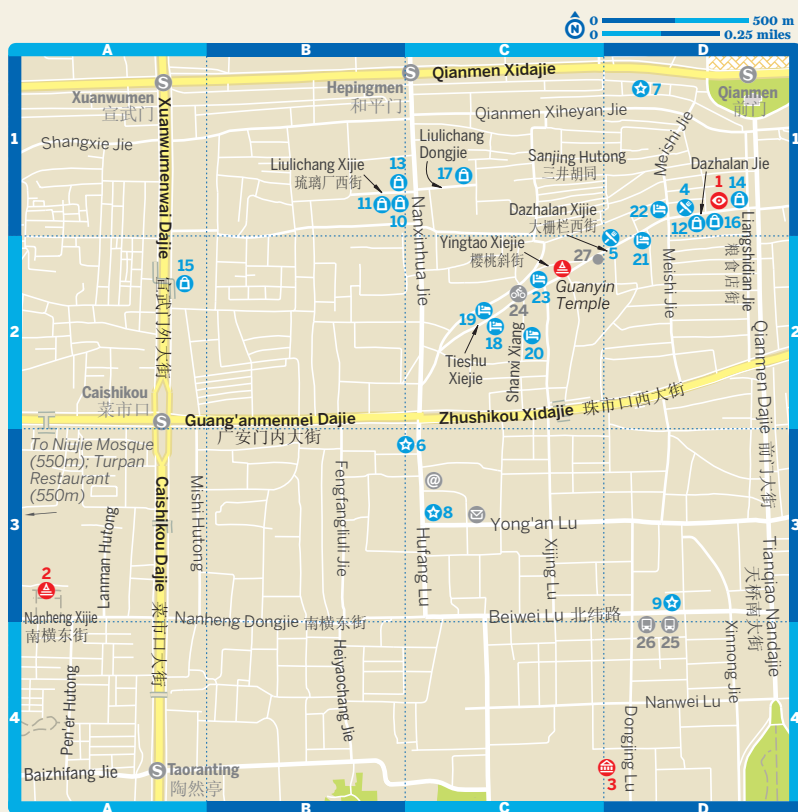
XICHÉNG NORTH



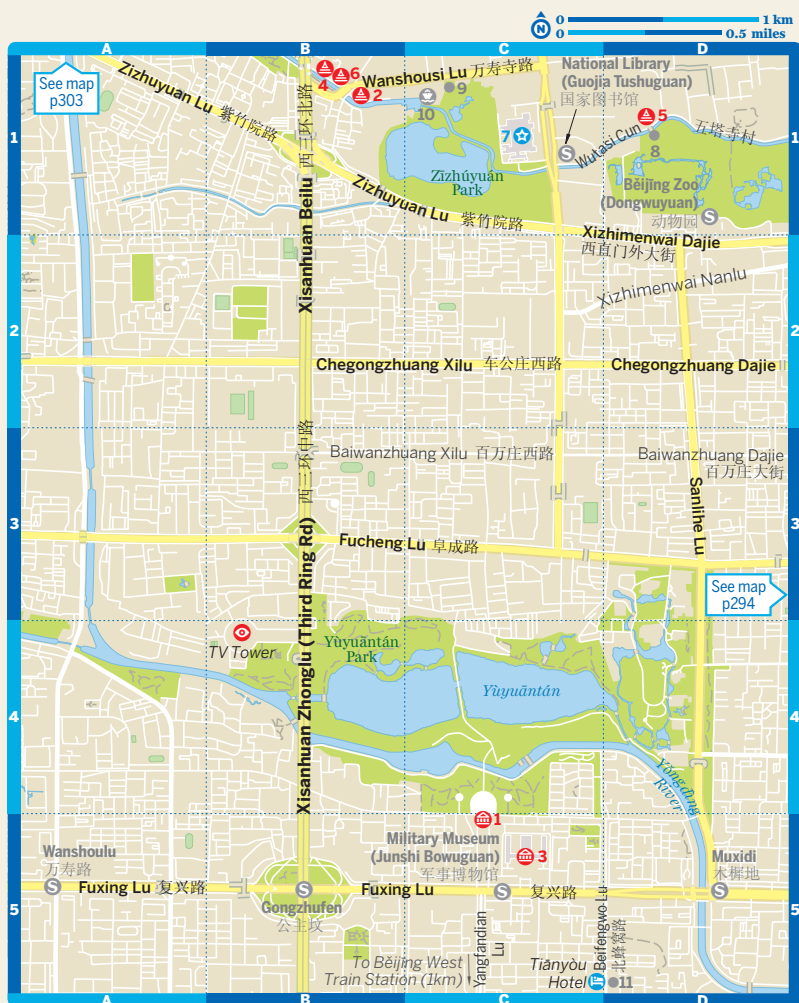
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- 2 Former Fūrén University..... D3
- 3 Great Hall of the People..... E7
- 4 Hòuhài Lakes..... D2
- 5 Lu Xun Museum..... A4
- 6 Mei Lanfang Former Residence..... C3
- 7 Miào'ying Temple White Dagoba..... B4
- 8 National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA)..... D7
- 9 Prince Gong's Residence..... D3
- 10 Song Qingling Former Residence..... D1
- 11 South Cathedral..... C8
- 12 Xibānmén Watchtower..... A8
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- 13 4Corners..... E2
- 14 Běipínggǔ..... E2
- 15 Húfōng Pizza..... E3
- 16 Kǒng Yǐl..... D2
- 17 Le Petit Saigon..... E2
- 18 Yuèlǐ Shānwū..... E3
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- 19 Běijīng Concert Hall..... D7
- 20 East Shore Jazz Café..... E3
- Grand Opera House (see 9)
- 21 Mei Lanfang Grand Theatre..... A3



- National Centre for the Performing Arts (see 8)
22 XP E3
- Shopping** (p126)
23 77th Street C7
24 Beijing Books Building C7
25 Three Stone Kite Shop E3
- Sports & Activities**
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28 Beijing Hóuhái Courtyard Guest House C3
29 Beijing Hùguósi Hotel C3
30 Drum Tower Youth Hostel E1
31 Grand Mercure Beijing Central C8
32 Jinjiang Inn C1
33 Red Lantern House C2
34 Red Lantern House East Yard C2
35 Red Lantern House West Yard B4
36 Ritz-Carlton Beijing, Financial Street B6
- Transport**
37 Bike Hire D1
38 Buses to Badaling Great Wall and the Ming Tombs C1



- Sights (p130)**
- 1 Dashilar D1
 - 2 Fāyuán Temple A3
 - 3 Xiànnóng Altar & Běijīng Ancient Architecture Museum D4
 - 14 Ruifúxiāng D1
 - 15 Sogo A2
 - 16 Tóngréntáng D1
 - 17 Yuèhǎixuān Musical Instrument Store C1
- Eating (p130)**
- 4 Gǒubùlǐ D1
 - 5 Helen's Restaurant & Bar D2
- Entertainment (p132)**
- 6 Húguāng Guild Hall C3
 - 7 Lǎo Shē Teahouse D1
 - 8 Líyuán Theatre C3
 - 9 Tiānqiáo Acrobatics Theatre D3
- Shopping (p133)**
- 10 Cathay Bookshop B1
 - 11 Cathay Bookshop B1
 - 12 Nèiliǎnshēng Shoe Shop D1
 - 13 Róngbǎozhāi B1
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- 18 Far East Hotel C2
 - 19 Far East International Youth Hostel C2
 - 20 Leo Courtyard C2
 - 21 Leo Hostel D2
 - 22 Qiánmén Hostel D1
 - Qiánmén Jiànguó Hotel (see 8)
 - 23 Three-Legged Frog Hostel C2
- Transport**
- 24 Bicycle Rental C2
 - 25 Tiānqiáo Bus Stand D4
 - 26 Tiānqiáo Long-Distance Bus Station D4
 - 27 Train Ticket Office C2



Sights

- 1 Běijīng World Art Museum & China Millennium Monument.....C5
- 2 Dragon King Temple remains.....B1
- 3 Military Museum.....C5
- 4 Wànshòu Temple.....B1
- 5 Wǔtǎ Temple.....D1
- 6 Yánqīng Temple remainsB1

(p158) Entertainment

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

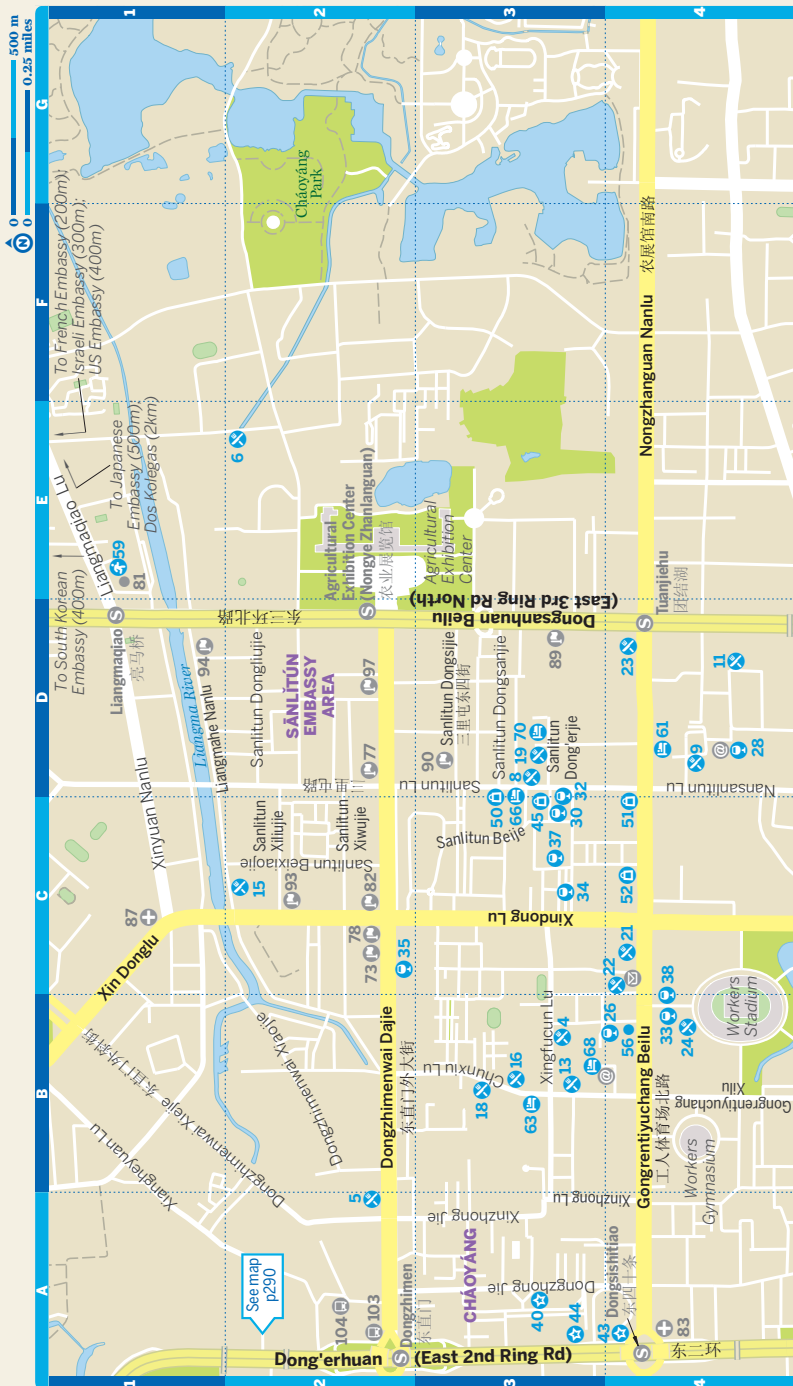
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Information

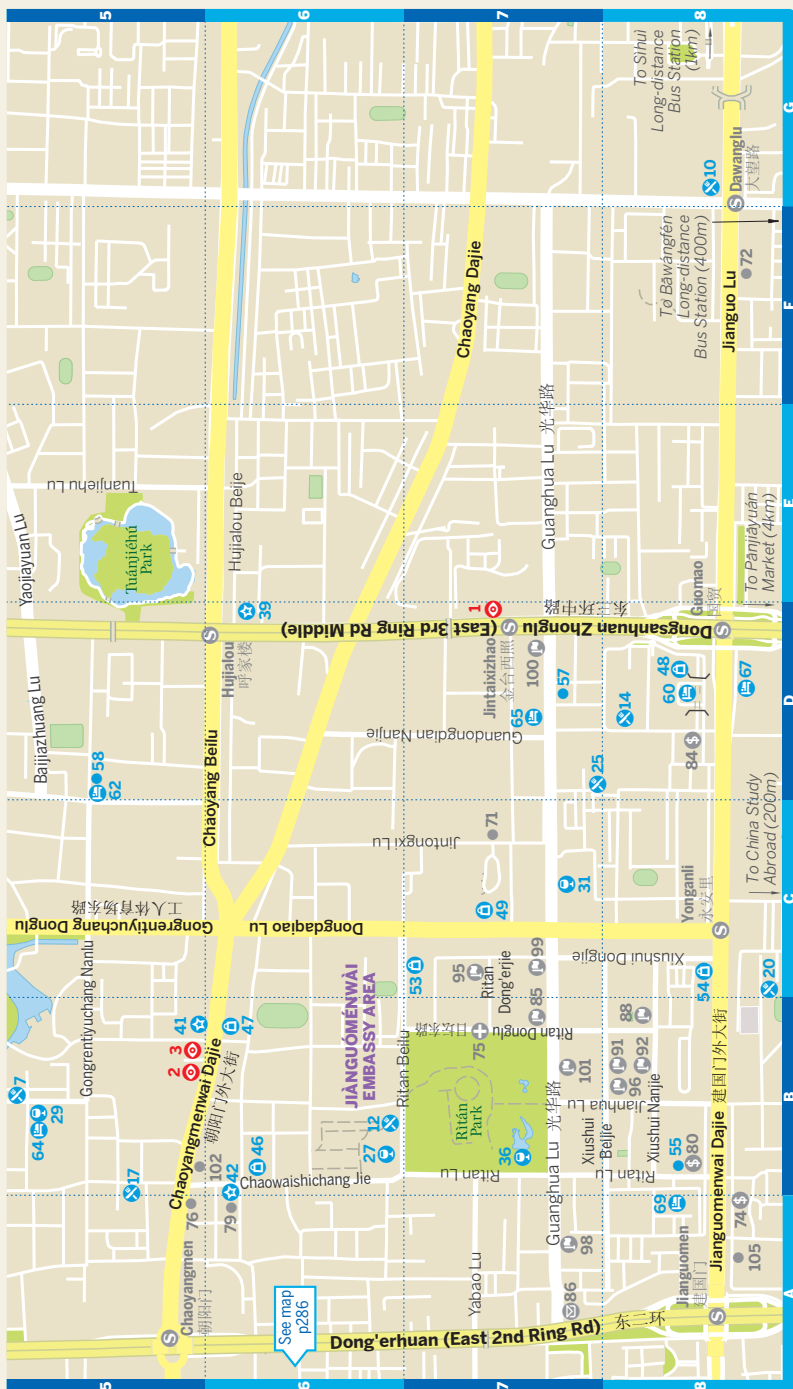
- 8 Běijīng Zoo (North Entrance).....D1
- 9 Zizhúyuán Park North Gate.....C1

Transport

- 10 Boats to the Summer PalaceC1
- 11 CRTSD5



SĀNLÌTÚN & CHÁOYÁNG



SĀNLĪTÚN & CHÁOYÁNG

📍 Sights

- 1** CCTV Building.....D7
2 Dongyue Temple.....B5
3 Jiùtián Púhuá Gōng.....B5

🍽️ Eating

- 4** April Gourmet.....B3
5 Bàodù Huáng.....A2
6 Bǎoyuán Dumpling Restaurant.....E2
7 Bellagio.....B5
8 Bocata.....D3
9 Bookworm.....D4
10 Din Tai Fung.....G8
11 Duck de Chine.....D4
12 Elephant.....B6
13 Fēitáng Yúxiāng.....B3
14 Grill 79.....D8
15 Indian Kitchen.....C2
16 Jingzūn Peking Duck.....B3
17 Jìxiāngniǎo Xiāngcài.....B5
18 Mǎizhōu Dōngpō Jiùlǒu.....D3
19 Middle 8th.....D3
20 Nàijiā Xiǎoguān.....C8
21 Nǎnjīng Impressions.....C4
22 Purple Haze.....C4
23 Rumī.....D4

- 24** Sān Yáng Cǎi.....B4
25 Xiǎo Wáng's Home Restaurant.....D7

🍷 Drinking & Nightlife

- 26** Alfa.....B4
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 Atmosphere.....(see 14)

- 27** Chocolate.....B6
28 d Lounge.....D4
29 Destination.....B5
30 First Floor.....C3
31 Haze.....C7
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- 32** Migas Bar.....D3
33 Mix.....B4
 Nali Patio.....(see 32)
34 Nearby The Tree.....C3
35 Paddy O'Shea's.....C2
 Q Bar.....(see 62)
 Saddle Cantina.....(see 30)
 Second Floor.....(see 30)

- 36** Stone Boat.....B7
37 Tree.....C3
38 Vics.....B4
 Xiù.....(see 67)

- 39** Cháoyáng Theatre.....D6
40 East Gate Cinema.....A3

- MegaBox.....(see 51)
41 Melody KTV.....B5
42 Partyworld KTV.....B6
43 Poly Plaza International Theatre.....A4
44 Universal Theatre (Heaven & Earth Theatre).....A3

🛍️ Shopping

- 45** 3.3 Shopping Centre.....C3
46 Alien's Street Market.....B6
47 Bàinàohuī Computer Mall.....B6
 Big Shoes.....(see 52)
48 China World Shopping Mall.....D8
49 Place.....C7
50 Sānlitún Village (North).....C3
51 Sānlitún Village (South).....C4
52 Sānlitún Yashow Clothing Market.....C4
53 Shard Box Store.....C7
54 Silk Market.....C8

🏃 Sports & Activities

- 55** Berlitz.....B8
56 Bodhi Therapeutic Retreat.....B4
57 Bridge School.....D7
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58 Dragonfly Therapeutic Retreat.....D5
59 Jinghuá Wúshu Association.....E1
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🎬 Entertainment

- 39** Cháoyáng Theatre.....D6
40 East Gate Cinema.....A3

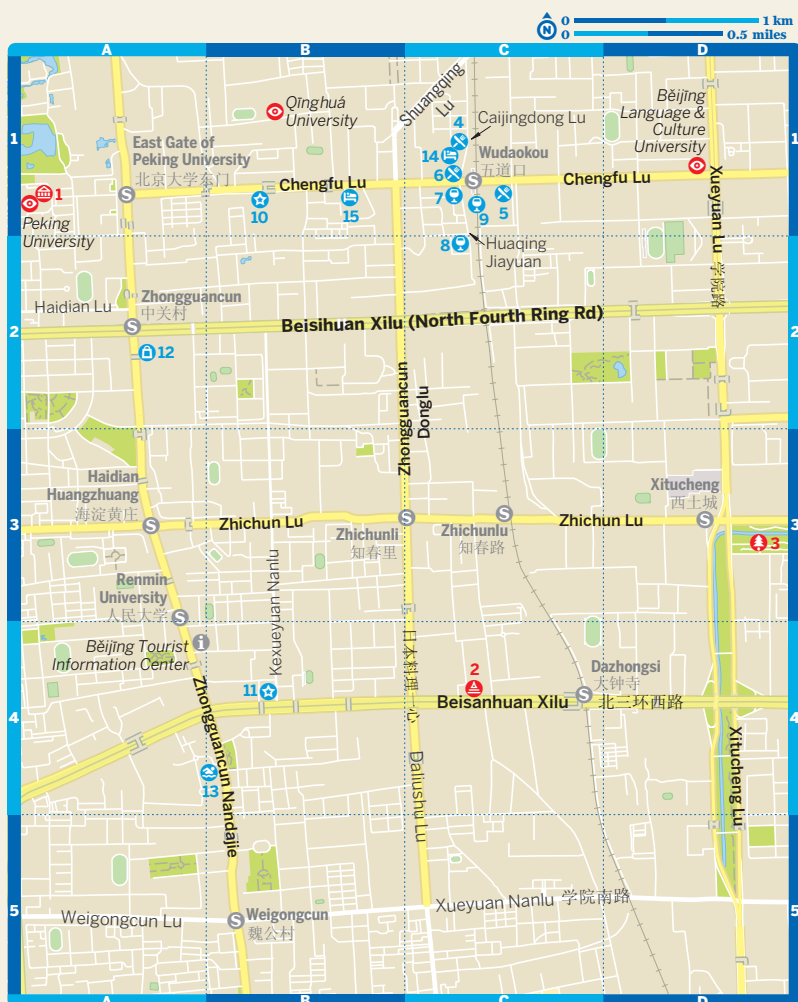
	Sleeping				
60	China World Hotel.....	D8			B8
61	Comfort Inn.....	D4		(see 80)	C2
62	Eastern Inn.....	D5		(see 76)	C7
63	Holiday Inn Express.....	B3			B8
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65	Kerry Center Hotel.....	D7			A7
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67	Park Hyatt.....	D8			D7
68	Sanlitun Youth Hostel.....	B3		(see 81)	(see 60)
69	St Regis.....	A8			B7
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72	Asian Express.....	F8			(see 103)
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76	British Chamber of Commerce.....	A5			
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78	Canadian Embassy.....	C2			D1
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79	China-Australia Chamber of Commerce.....	A6			B8
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81	European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.....	E1			
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82	German Embassy.....	C2			
83	Hong Kong International Medical Clinic.....	A4			
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86	International Post Office.....	A7			
87	International SOS.....	C1			
88	Irish Embassy.....	B8			
89	Italian Embassy.....	D3			
90	Laotian Embassy.....	D3			
91	Mongolian Embassy.....	B8			
92	Mongolian Embassy (Visa Section).....				
93	Nepalese Embassy.....				
94	Netherlands Embassy.....	C2			
95	New Zealand Embassy.....				
96	Singapore Embassy.....				
97	South African Embassy.....				
98	Thai Embassy.....				
99	UK Embassy.....				
100	UK Embassy (Visa & Consular Section) United Parcel Service.....				
101	Vietnamese Embassy.....				

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	Airport Express.....				(see 103)
103	Dongzhimen Transport Hub.....				A2
104	Dongzhimen Wai Bus Stand.....				A2
105	Japan Airlines.....				A8
	Lufthansa Airlines.....				(see 59)



- Sights (p156)**
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 - 2 Buddhist Fragrance PavilionC1
 - 3 Buddhist Temple of the Sea of WisdomB1
 - 4 Cloud Dispelling HallC2
 - 5 Dragon King TempleC3
 - 6 Gate Tower of the Cloud-Retaining EavesB1
 - 7 Jade Belt BridgeB2
 - 8 Long CorridorC1
 - 9 Marble BoatB1
 - 10 Wénchāng GalleryC2
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- 13 Boat HireC3
 - Boat Hire (see 15)
 - 14 BoathousesB1
 - 15 Rowing Boat DockC2
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- Sights (p158)**
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- 4 Isshin Japanese Restaurant C1
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 - 6 Salang-Bang C1
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- 7 Lush C1
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- 10 13 Club B1
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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 Melbourne, London and Oakland, 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, Sānlǐtún & Cháoyáng, The Great Wall, Day Trips from Běijīng

Daniel moved to Běijīng in 2005 and, more significantly, moved into the *hútòng* in 2007. He has made this fascinating network of ancient alleys his home ever since, and now lives with his wife and two children in a small courtyard tucked away behind the Drum and Bell Towers. He can't imagine ever

leaving. Daniel has written more than a dozen Lonely Planet guidebooks. He is also the creator of the smartphone app *Beijing on a Budget*, and the co-host of the television series *Best in China*. Find out more on his website (danielmccrohan.com) or follow him on Twitter (@danielmccrohan). Daniel also wrote the Need to Know, Top Itineraries, With Kids, Like a Local, Běijīng Today, History, Transport and Directory A–Z chapters.

Read more about Daniel at:
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David Eimer

Temple of Heaven Park & Dōngchéng South, Běihǎi Park & Xīchéng North, Dashilar & Xīchéng South, The Summer Palace & Hǎidiàn

David first came to China in 1988, when both Westerners and cars were in short supply. After abandoning the idea of the law as a career, he became a freelance journalist in London and LA, before subsequent return trips to China convinced him to move to Běijīng permanently in early 2005. Now, he contributes to a variety of news-

papers and magazines in the UK. David co-wrote the previous two editions of the Běijīng guide, and worked on the last three editions of the China guide. David also wrote the Welcome to Běijīng, What's New, If You Like, Month by Month, For Free, Eating, Drinking & Nightlife, Entertainment, Shopping, Neighbourhoods at a Glance, Historic Hútòng, Arts and Architecture chapters.

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Top Itineraries

Day One

Temple of Heaven Park & Dōngchéng South (p104)

 You're jet-lagged anyway, so what the heck? Get up at the crack of dawn and head straight for **Temple of Heaven Park**. Běijīng is blessed with some fabulous city parks, but this is arguably the most captivating of all, and early morning, when it's filled with locals rather than tourists, is the best time to visit. Wander around its ancient cypress trees watching Beijingers perform taichi, fly kites or practise their favourite opera songs, then pay a visit to the magnificent **Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests** – Ming-dynasty architectural perfection.



Lunch Sample folk cuisine from Yún-nán province at Lost Heaven (p110).

Forbidden City & Dōngchéng Central (p50)

 Join the crowds of domestic tourists on their pilgrimage-like tour of China's most famous public space, **Tiān'ānmén Square**, before spending the afternoon exploring the immense palace grounds of the **Forbidden City**.



Dinner Běipíngjū (p123) offers excellent-value Peking duck.

Drum Tower & Dōngchéng North (p80)

 Start your evening with cocktails in **Mao Mao Chong**, just a few doors down from the restaurant, before working your way along the numerous bars of **Nan-luogu Xiang** and finishing off with some live music in **Mao Livehouse**.

Day Two

Drum Tower & Dōngchéng North (p80)

 Ease yourself into Day Two with a calming stroll around the incense-filled courtyards of the **Lama Temple** before visiting the equally peaceful **Confucius Temple**. Grab a coffee at nearby **Confucius Cafe** before heading for lunch.



Lunch At Qì Shān Miàn (p90) try delicious Xi'ān-style noodles.

Summer Palace & Hǎidiàn (p154)

 Time to escape the city centre and head to the western outskirts for an afternoon trip to the **Summer Palace**, where the imperial court used to decamp to flee Běijīng's midsummer heatwaves. Built around the cooling waters of the huge Kūnmíng Lake, the palace grounds and its buildings demand at least a couple of hours of your time. Stay too long, though, and you'll miss your date with the **Peking opera**. Head to Húguāng Guild Hall, the most atmospheric of Běijīng's opera venues.



Dinner Dūyìchù (p112) is more refined than your average dumplings joint.

Dashilar & Xīchéng South (p128)

 Join the backpackers – and the *hútòng* vibe – with a drink at Helen's Restaurant & Bar (p132) in Dashilar.

Day Three

Forbidden City & Dōngchéng Central (p50)



Start your day early in another city park. **Jǐngshān Park** is also one of our favourites. It's smaller than Temple of Heaven, but it's usually bursting with colour, thanks to its flower-filled gardens and the ribbon-waving locals who come here to dance the morning away. After joining in with a game of *jiànzi* (keepie-uppies with an oversized shuttlecock), climb Coal Hill for splendid views of the Forbidden City. If you have time, hop over to neighbouring Běihǎi Park for a dash of history and a spot of boating.



Lunch Zuǒ Lín Yǒu Shè (p70) does Běijīng grub in a no-nonsense setting.

Drum Tower & Dōngchéng North (p80)



Catch one of the shudderingly loud drumming performances inside the **Drum Tower** before walking across the square to climb the equally sublime **Bell Tower**. Save some time to walk over to **Pénghào** to enjoy an am-dram show in this small *hútòng* venue.



Dinner Try charming Dǎilí Courtyard (p90) for stylish Yúnnán cuisine.

Drum Tower & Dōngchéng North



Depending on your musical tastes, catch some live music at **Jiāng Hú**, **Jiāng Jìn Jiǔ** or **Yúgōng Yíshān**.

Day Four

Sānlǐtún & Cháoyáng (p136)



Head out to **798 Art District** in the morning (not too early, though; nothing opens before 10am) to immerse yourself in Běijīng's art scene. Wander the galleries, stop for coffee and chat to young artists whilst eyeing up your possible options for lunch.



Lunch 798's first cafe, At Cafe (p144) is still popular with local artists.

Sānlǐtún & Cháoyáng



You're in *the* district for shopping. Either head to the ultra-modern, and ultra-cool, at **Sānlǐtún Village** or dive into the curio chaos at **Pānjiāyuán Market**. Save time to catch an **acrobatics show** before dinner. Cháoyáng Theatre is nearest, but Tiānqiáo Acrobatics Theatre is better.



Dinner Nàjiǎ Xiǎoguǎn (p140) – imperial cuisine with an old-Běijīng vibe.

Sānlǐtún & Cháoyáng



For a rough-and-ready finale, catch a metal band at **Dos Kolegas**. For something more refined, head to the roof terrace at **Migas** or sip cocktails in **Apothecary**.

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