

Gateway Běijīng

北京

In China, all roads and railways lead to Běijīng. There are flights to just about every domestic city of note, as well as air links to most major cities around the world. Unsurprisingly, many people choose to start or end their trip to China in the political and cultural capital, home to some of the country's most essential sights. It's here that you'll find the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, while close by is the Great Wall. Even if you're only in the city for a couple of days, that's enough time to get a taste of Běijīng. If you do decide to return, Lonely Planet's *Beijing* city guide will point you in the right direction.

A vast, sprawling city at first sight, Běijīng is actually a fairly easy place to get around. Five ring roads cut through the city, subway lines and overland rail links connect the centre to the far-flung suburbs, and buses and taxis are cheap and plentiful. Běijīng has some of the best restaurants in the country, a huge array of shops to stock up on essentials for your trip and an ever-improving selection of bars and nightlife. Short-term travellers should stay in the area bordered by the third ring road. Sānlítún in Cháoyáng District is home to embassies and a wide range of hotels, restaurants, shops and bars. To the west of Sānlítún is Dōngchéng District, the heart of old Běijīng with most of the city's remaining *hútòng* – ancient alleyways that crisscross the area. At the southernmost end of Dōngchéng is Wángfǔjīng, Běijīng's premier shopping district. The areas of Qiánmén and Chóngwén, south of Tiananmen Sq, are convenient for many of Běijīng's most famous sights, but less so for restaurants and nightlife.

The climate in Běijīng is harsh. Summers are hot and humid, while the winter is bitterly cold. Severe air pollution is a problem all year round, but especially at these times, and spring is sandstorm season. The short autumn is the most pleasant time to visit.

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Foreign Languages Bookstore (外文书店; Wàiwén Shūdiàn; ☎ 6512 6911, 6512 6838; 235 Wangfujing Dajie; 王府井大街235号; ☎ 9am-10pm; 📍 Wangfujing) An ever-increasing range of English-language novels, nonfiction books and some Lonely Planet guides are available here, as well as maps of Běijīng and beyond.

Wangfujing Bookstore (王府井书店; Wángfǔjīng Shūdiàn; ☎ 6525 2592; 218 Wangfujing Dajie; 王府井大街218号; ☎ 9am-9pm; 📍 Wangfujing) The ground floor of this vast place has a good selection of maps. On the 3rd floor there's a limited range of English-language novels.

Emergency

Ambulance (☎ 120)

Fire (☎ 119)

FAST FACTS

- Area code: ☎ 010
- Population: 15.38 million
- Area: 16,808 sq km

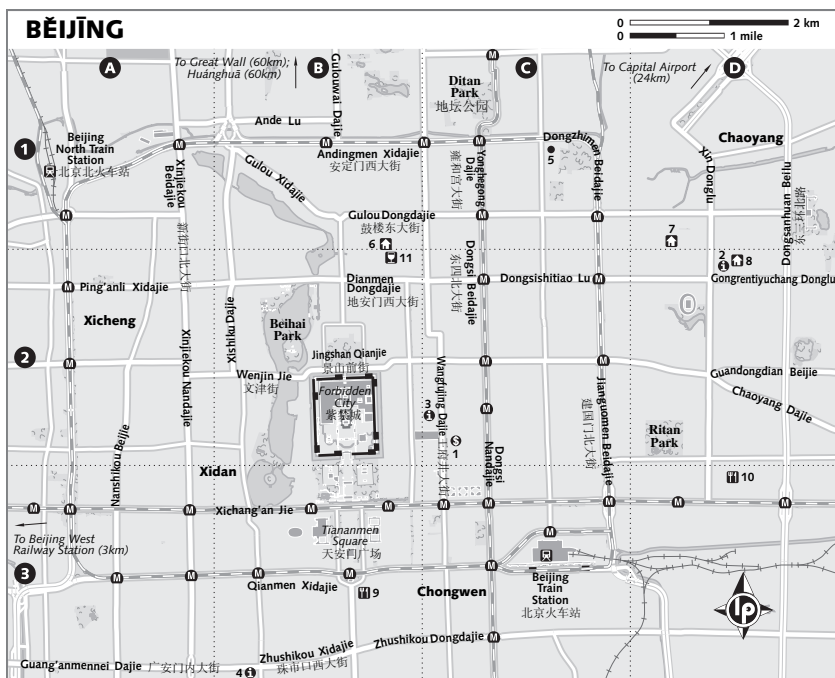
Police (☎ 110)

Public Security Bureau (foreigners' section; ☎ 8402 0101)

Internet Access

You can access the internet at any number of places around town. Most cafés and some bars have wi-fi access.

Beijing Huohu Shiji Internet Café (Běijīng Huóhú Shìjī Wǎngbā; Chunxiu Lu; ☎ 8am-midnight)

**INFORMATION**

- Bank of China Sundongan Plaza 中国银行新东南市场...1 C2
 Beijing Tourist Information Centre - Chaoyang
 北京旅游咨询服务中心.....2 D2
 Beijing Tourist Information Centre - Dongcheng
 北京旅游咨询服务中心.....3 C2
 Beijing Tourist Information Centre - Xuanwu
 北京旅游咨询服务中心.....4 B3
 PSB Main Office (Visa Extensions) 公安局.....5 C1

SLEEPING

- Peking Downtown Backpackers Accommodation
 东堂客栈.....6 B1
 Red House Hotel 瑞秀宾馆.....7 D1
 You Yi Youth Hostel 友谊青年酒店.....8 D2

EATING

- Qianmen Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant
 前门全聚德烤鸭店.....9 B3
 Xiao Wang's Home Restaurant 小王府.....10 D3

DRINKING

- Passby Bar 过客.....11 B2

Maps

Free maps can be found at the various Beijing Tourist Information Centres (opposite) around town, as well as at most big hotels. The best English-language map is the *Beijing Tourist Map* (Y7).

You can buy a *Beijing Tourist Map* at the Foreign Languages Bookstore and also the Wangfujing Bookstore (p79).

Media & Internet Resources

There are a number of free English-language entertainment-listings magazines in Beijing, offering the latest on the city's bar, club, music and restaurant scene. The best of them are *That's Beijing* (www.thatsbj.com) and *Time Out Beijing*.

www.beijingpage.com General information on Beijing and some useful links.

www.ebeijing.gov.cn The capital's official website.

www.newsinchinese.com Chinese news in brief, with word-by-word English translations.

Medical Services

Should you need medical advice or treatment, Beijing has some of China's finest medical facilities.

Beijing Union Hospital (北京协和医院; Xiéhé Yiyuàn; ☎ 6529 6114, emergency 6529 5284; 53 Dongdan Beidajie; 东单北大街53号) The best Chinese-run hospital in town. Open 24 hours with a wing for foreigners in the back building.

International SOS (国际 SOS 救援中心; Guójì SOS Jiùyuán Zhōngxīn; ☎ clinic appointments 6462 9112, dental appointments 6462 0333, 24hr alarm centre 6462 9100; www.internationalsos.com; Bldg C, BITIC Leasing Center, 1 Xingfu Sancun Bei Jie Chaoyang) High-quality but expensive clinic with English-speaking staff and foreign doctors.

Money

Obtaining or changing money in Běijīng is not a problem. The ATMs of the Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank (ICBC) both accept foreign bank and credit cards. ATMs can be found at the airport, inside most top-end hotels, in many department stores and shopping malls, as well as on most main streets. One useful one to note is the Bank of China branch next to the main entrance of Sundongan Plaza on Wangfujing Dajie.

Foreign currency and travellers cheques can be changed at large branches of the Bank of China, ICBC, CITIC Industrial Bank and China Construction Bank, and at the airport, hotels and several department stores if you show a passport. Advances on credit cards can be obtained at the Bank of China branch at Sundongan Plaza, but there is a 4% commission. Only tourist hotels and upmarket restaurants and shops will accept credit cards.

Citibank (16th fl, Tower 2, Bright China Chang'an Bldg, 7 Jianguomennei Dajie) ATM.

HBC (ground fl, block A, COFCO Plaza, 8 Jianguomenwai Dajie) Twenty-four hour ATM.

Tourist Information

Visitor assistance in Běijīng lies in the somewhat shaky hands of the **Beijing Tourist Information Centres** (北京旅游咨询服务中心; Běijīng Lǚyóu Xúnwèn Fúwù Zhōngxīn; ☎ 9am-5pm). The staff's English skills can be limited, but you'll be able to pick up a free tourist map of Běijīng, lots of leaflets detailing local attractions and at some branches, such as the Cháoyáng one, you can book train tickets. There is also a **Beijing Tourism Hotline** (☎ 6513 0828; ☎ 24hr), which has English-speaking operators available to answer questions. Useful information centre branches:

Capital Airport (☎ 6459 8148)

Chaoyang (朝阳; ☎ 6417 6627, 6417 6656; chaoyang@bjta.gov.cn; 27 Sanlitun Beilu; 三里屯北路27号)

Dongcheng (东城; ☎ 6512 3043, 6512 2991; dongcheng@bjta.gov.cn; 10 Dengshikou Xijie; 灯市口西街10号)

Xuanwu (宣武; ☎ 6351 0018; xuanwu@bjta.gov.cn; 3 Hufang Lu; 虎坊路3号)

Travel Agencies

Elong (www.elong.net) Popular English-language travel website that offers car, hotel and flight deals.

Kingdom Travel Beijing (Běijīng Wángguó Lǚxíngshè; ☎ 5870 3388; 1815 Shangdu International Centre, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat; ☎ Chaoyangmen) Located near the Landao Shopping Centre, this efficient English-speaking agency can organise air tickets as well as tailor-made packages.

Visas

For visa extensions, head to Běijīng's main **Public Security Bureau** (PSB; 北京市公安局出入境管理处; Gōngānjú; ☎ 8402 0101; 2nd fl, 2 Andingmen Dongdajie; 安定门东大街2号; ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Sat).

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Běijīng is an extremely safe place when compared with most similarly sized cities around the world, however, pickpockets do operate on the buses, subways and trains. Be wary of 'students' who try to lure foreigners to overpriced art exhibitions, or to watch traditional tea ceremonies that can cost hundreds of dollars.

SIGHTS

Běijīng's parks are oases in what's a largely concrete city and Běijīngers flock to them from the moment their gates open. **Beihai Park** (北海公园; Běihǎi Gōngyuán; admission Y5, through ticket Y20; ☎ 6.30am-8pm, buildings to 4pm; ☎ Tiananmen Xi, then bus 5), northwest of the Forbidden City, is a great place to amble around, grab a beer and a snack, rent a rowing boat, or just people watch. Originally part of Kublai Khan's palace, Beihai is home to a number of interesting temples, including the **White Dagoba**. It's a short hop north from here to **Houhai**, a popular restaurant and bar area centred around another lake. To get to Houhai, head out of the park's northern entrance and cross Di'anmen Xidajie.

With permanent displays of ancient bronzes, Buddhist statues, jade, calligraphy, paintings and ceramics, as well as occasional high-profile exhibitions from abroad, the modern and slickly designed **Capital Museum** (中国首都博物馆; Zhōngguó Shǒudū Bówùguǎn; ☎ 6337 0491; www.capitalmuseum.org.cn; 16 Fuxingmenwai Dajie; 复兴门外大街16号; admission Y20; ☎ 9am-5pm Tue-Sun; ☎ Muxidi) stands out from the rest of Běijīng's rather disappointing museums.

When the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties were ruling China from the **Forbidden**

City (紫禁城; Zǐjìn Chéng; ☎ 6513 2255; www.dpm.org.cn; adult Nov-Mar Y40, Apr-Oct Y60, Clock Exhibition Hall & Hall of Jewellery each additional Y10; 🕒 8.30am-4pm May-Sep, to 3.30pm Oct-Apr; 📍 Tiananmen Xi or Tiananmen Dong), so-called because the price of uninvited admission was death, it was home to concubines, eunuchs and mandarins as well as royalty. Now, anyone can get into this stunning collection of the best-preserved ancient buildings in China. With 800 buildings and 9000 rooms, it's a vast place (although less than half of it is open to the public) and you could spend days here, but it's possible to explore it in a few hours. There's a good audio tour available for Y40.

It was Mao who said 'he who has not climbed the Great Wall is not a true man'. The Chairman was right. A day trip to the **Great Wall** (长城; Chángchéng) remains an essential part of any visit to Beijing. Many hotels and hostels run trips to the Wall and some of them come highly recommended, such as those run by Beijing Saga International Youth Hostel (opposite) and Peking Downtown Backpackers Accommodation (opposite). Otherwise, the handiest tours depart from the **Beijing Sightseeing Bus Centre** (北京旅游集散中心; Běijīng Lǚyóu Jísàn Zhōngxīn; ☎ 8353 1111; tickets including admission to the Wall Y90-125), northeast and northwest of Qiánmén alongside Tiananmen Sq. The round-trip takes about nine hours. Watch out for tours that include side-trips to jewellery exhibition halls and traditional Chinese medicine centres, where you'll be pressured into buying gems or 'cures'. Some tours also take in the Ming Tombs; if you don't want to go there, check the itinerary before you book a ticket.

Bādǎling is the most easily accessible section of the Wall from Běijīng, but it's also the most touristy. **Mùtiányù** is less commercial and has a cable car. **Sīmàtái** is more dramatic and less visited, but walking this section is not for the faint-hearted; it's very steep and rather precarious in places. **Huánguā** can be even more hairy, but the views are fantastic.

If you want to visit the Wall under your own steam, then, for Bādǎling, take bus 919. It leaves from a stop 500m east of Jishuitan subway station and costs Y5 for the two-hour journey. For Mùtiányù, take either bus 916 or 980 from the long-distance bus station next to Dongzhimen subway stop to Huáiróu (Y8), then change to a minibus to Mùtiányù (Y25). To get to Sīmàtái, take bus 980 (Y10) from the long-distance bus station by Dongzhimen subway and change to a minibus for Sīmàtái

at Miyún. For Huánguā, take bus 916 or 980 (Y8) from the long-distance bus station by Dongzhimen subway to Huáiróu and get off at Míngzhū Guǎngchǎng. Then cross the road and take a minibus to Huánguāchéng (Y5).

Wandering through Běijīng's **hútòng** is a fascinating way to spend a day. Many of the city's residents still live in these ancient alleyways and to plunge into them is to leave the modern Běijīng of skyscrapers behind. Dating back to the Yuan dynasty (1206-1368), thousands of them run east-west through the heart of the capital and they're home to Běijīng's most vibrant street life.

Most **hútòng** can be found in Dongcheng District. A good place to start is the **Drum Tower** (鼓楼; Gǔlóu; Gulou Dongdajie; 📍 Gulou). Head south down Dianmenwai Dajie and then turn left into any of the alleys and you're in the heart of Běijīng's **hútòng** district. Alternatively, you can tour the **hútòng** from the comfort of a pedicab with the **Beijing Hutong Tour Co Ltd** (☎ 6615 9097, 6400 2787; 🕒 tours 8.50am, 1.50pm and 6.50pm May-Oct). Tours depart from a point 200m west of the northern entrance to Beihai Park. Hotels and hostels also organise **hútòng** tours. Typically, they last for three hours and cost around Y180.

Lama Temple (雍和宫; Yōnghé Gōng; 28 Yonghegong Dajie; 雍和宫大街28号; adult Y25, audio guide Y20; 🕒 9am-4pm; 📍 Yonghegong), Běijīng's biggest Buddhist temple, is also its most magnificent. There are five elaborately decorated main halls. The final one, **Wanfu Pavilion**, has a stupendous 18m-high sandalwood statue of the Maitreya Buddha in his Tibetan form.

Home to the capital's main concentration of contemporary art galleries, as well as bars, cafés and restaurants, the **798 Art District** (798 艺术区; Qǐjiūbā Yìshùqū; ☎ 6438 4862; 2 & 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu; 酒仙桥路2 & 4号; admission free; 🕒 galleries 10am-6pm; bus 403 or 909 from Dōngzhīmén subway station) makes for a good break from ancient monuments. The art on display is a mixed bag, with the genuinely innovative mingling with the stereotypical. Note that many galleries are closed on Monday.

Summer Palace (颐和园; Yíhé Yuán; ☎ 6288 1144; 19 Xijian Gongmen, Haidian; 海淀区新建宫门19号; admission Y40-50, audio guides Y30; 🕒 8.30am-5pm; 📍 Wudaokou then bus 375, or direct on bus 303, 330, 332, 333, 346, 362, 718, 801 & 808), the summer retreat for the old imperial court, is a lovely collection of pavilions, temples, lakes, gardens and corridors and is one of Běijīng's finest sites. Located in the far northwest of the city, it's dominated by Kunming Lake. The most

notable sights are the **Long Corridor** and on **Longevity Hill**.

The 267-hectare **Temple of Heaven Park** (天坛公园; Tiāntán Gōngyuán; Tiantan Donglu; 天坛东路; low season Y10-30, high season Y15-35, audio tour available at each gate Y40; ☞ park 6am-9pm, sights 8am-6pm; ☞ Chongwenmen or Qianmen) originally served as the vast stage for the solemn rites performed by the Son of Heaven, as he sought good harvests, divine clearance and atonement for the sins of the people. The temples, altars, walls and halls in the park are a perfect example of Ming dynasty architecture.

The largest public square in the world, the 440,000 sq metres of **Tiananmen Square** (天安门广场; Tiān'ānmén Guǎngchǎng; ☞ Tiananmen Xi, Tiananmen Dong or Qianmen) lie at the heart of Běijīng. Designed as a celebration and projection of Maoist power, the square will forever be associated with 4 June 1989 and the crushing of the democracy movement. The square is at its best early in the morning – there's an elaborate flag-raising ceremony at sunrise – or at night, when it is illuminated.

SLEEPING

Beijing's hotels have improved out of all recognition in recent years. But there's still a shortage of decent budget accommodation, while many of the city's midrange hotels are distinguished only by their uniform blandness. For budget travellers, the centrally located youth hostels are a good bet. If you want to splurge, Beijing has plenty of excellent top-end hotels to choose from. Rooms in the more popular places go quickly in peak season, so booking ahead is advisable.

Chóngwén & South Cháoyáng

Leo Youth Hostel (广聚元大饭店; Guǎngjùyuán Dàfàndiàn; ☞ 6303 1595; 52 Dazhahan Xie; 大栅栏西街52号; 12-bed/4-bed dm Y45/70, d without toilet Y140-160, with toilet Y200-240; ☞ Qianmen; ☑) Popular bargain hostel in a good location for the sights. OK dorm rooms, simple but passable doubles and a small but lively bar. It's advisable to book ahead here.

Beijing Saga International Youth Hostel (北京实佳国际青年旅社; Běijīng Shíjiā Guójī Qīngnián Lǚshè; ☞ 6527 2773; sagayangguang@yahoo.com; 9 Shijia Hutong; 史家胡同9号; dm Y55, d with/without bathroom Y198/180, tr Y210; ☞ Dengshikou; ☑) Modern, very popular hostel located in a historic *hutòng*. The rooms are well maintained and there's a common rooftop area, a bar, table football and washing machine (Y10 a load). It runs trips to the Great Wall.

Eastern Morning Sun Youth Hostel (北京东方晨光青年旅舍; Běijīng Dōngfāng Chéngguāng Qīngnián Lǚshè; ☞ 6528 4347; www.hostelsbeijing.com; fl B4, East Bldg, Oriental Plaza, 8-16 Dongdantsiantiao; 东单三条8-16号; 5-bed dm Y60, d Y120-140, tr Y180, q Y240; ☞ Wangfujing; ☑) No prizes for the windowless, cramped, claustrophobic rooms here, but the convenient location, late checkout and cheap prices appeal to some. The clean toilets and showers are communal.

Home Inn (如家快捷酒店; Rújiā Kuàijié Jiùdiàn; ☞ 6317 3366; www.homeinns.com; 61 Liangshidian Jie, Dazhahan; 大栅栏粮食店街61号; d Y178-218; ☞ Qianmen; ☑) There are 16 branches of this budget-midrange chain scattered around town, but this one's prime location a short walk south of Tiananmen Sq makes it handy for the sights. Double rooms are small but clean. There's a small restaurant.

Tiánshuǐ Lǚguǎn (甜水旅馆; ☞ 6527 9284; 45 Datianshuijing Hutong; 大甜水井胡同45号; d with/without bathroom Y198/180; ☞ Wangfujing or Tiananmen Dong; ☑) The location in a *hutòng* makes this a pleasant choice; rooms have air-con, TV and shower, but no phone. Room rates drop to Y130 in the slow season. The staff doesn't speak much English.

Cui Ming Zhuang Hotel (翠明庄宾馆; Cui Míng Zhuāng Bīnguǎn; ☞ 6513 6622; www.cuimingzhuanghotel.com.cn; 1 Nanheyuan Dajie; 南河沿大街1号; d/stc Y600/1200; ☞ Tiananmen Dong) Quiet three-star hotel close to the Forbidden City and the shopping area of Wangfujing.

Peninsula Palace (王府饭店; Wángfǔ Fàndiàn; ☞ 8516 2888; www.peninsula.com; 8 Jinyu Hutong; 金鱼胡同8号; d Y1920; ☞ Dengshikou; ☑ ☑) Top-class restaurants, super-exclusive shops and suitably luxurious rooms make this one of Běijīng's best hotels. You can get a *hutòng* tour here with a Tsinghua University professor as a guide, as well as trips to unrestored sections of the Great Wall.

Grand Hyatt Beijing (北京东方君悦大酒店; Běijīng Dōngfāng Jūnyuè Dàjiùdiàn; ☞ 8518 1234; www.beijing.grand.hyatt.com; 1 Dongchang'an Jie; 东长安街1号; d Y2150; ☞ Wangfujing; ☑ ☑) Elegant and stylish, the Hyatt is located in the heart of the Wangfujing shopping area and is just 10 minutes' walk from the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Sq. The rooms are attractive, if not that spacious, there's wi-fi access, and the hotel boasts several top-notch bars and restaurants.

Dōngchéng

Peking Downtown Backpackers Accommodation (东堂客栈; Dōngtáng Kèzhàn; ☞ 8400 2429; www.backpackingchina.com; 85 Nanluoguxiang; 南锣鼓巷85号; 4-/3-bed dm Y65/75, d with/without window Y80/60, all incl breakfast; ☞ Andingmen; ☑) For backpackers, this place is hard to beat. Located in the lively

hùtòng of Nanluoguxiang, the staff is helpful, the rooms are tidy and there's free breakfast and pickup from the airport (you pay the toll fee). Bike rental costs ¥20 a day. Its trips to the Great Wall come recommended.

Bamboo Garden Hotel (竹园宾馆; Zhúyuán Bīnguǎn; ☎ 5852 0088; www.bbgh.com.cn; 24 Xiaoshi-qiao Hutong; 小石桥胡同24号; s ¥380, d ¥680-880, ste ¥980; 📍 Gulou) Cosy courtyard hotel close to the Drum and Bell Towers, Houhai Lake and some of Běijīng's most atmospheric *hùtòng*. The buildings date back to the late Qing dynasty. Singles are small and ordinary; the double rooms are much more pleasant. The staff can be a little erratic.

Cháoyáng

You Yi Youth Hostel (友谊青年酒店; Yǒuyì Qīngnián Jiǔdiàn; ☎ 6417 2632; fax 6415 6866; 43 Beisanlitun Nan; 北三里屯南43号; dm/d ¥70/180; 📍 Dongshihitiao; 📍 📍) Located in the heart of Sanlitun's bar ghetto, this decent hostel offers clean and comfortable rooms with air-con (doubles have TV and a phone). There's free breakfast and laundry.

Red House Hotel (瑞秀宾馆; Ruìxiù Bīnguǎn; ☎ 6416 7500; www.redhouse.com.cn; 10 Chunxiu Lu; 春秀路10号; s/tw ¥350/400, ste ¥600; 📍 Dongzhimen) Close to Sanlitun's bars and restaurants, this place is slightly gloomy but has solid, clean rooms with good bathrooms and offers free breakfast and laundry. You can also rent a bike for ¥30 a day.

EATING & DRINKING

Beijing's restaurants are one of the great things about the city. Roast duck may be Beijing's best known dish, but chefs from all around China gravitate to the capital and you can find every genre of Chinese cuisine here. There are an ever-increasing number of foreign eateries providing a taste of home too. Nor will eating out break the bank. It's possible to eat very well very cheaply here and with tens of thousands of restaurants to choose from, you won't have a problem getting a table.

Chóngwén & South Cháoyáng

Megabite (Dàshìdài; basement, Oriental Plaza, 1 Dongchang'an Jie; 东长安街1号东方广场; dishes from ¥10; 📍 Wangfujing) A busy fast-food emporium that has Cantonese, Yúnnán, Sìchuān, teppanyaki, clay pot, Korean and Indian outlets all under one roof. You can eat well for ¥20. You don't pay in cash here; instead, buy a card from the kiosk at the entrance (available in denominations of ¥30 upwards) and credits are deducted for each dish you order.

Xiao Wang's Home Restaurant (北京小王府; Xiǎowáng Fǔ; ☎ 6594 3602, 6591 3255; 2 Guanghua Dongli; 光华东里2号楼; meals from ¥70; 📍 11am-

2pm & 5-11pm; 📍 Guomao or Yongnanli) This bustling and big restaurant is great for home-style Běijīng cuisine. The chicken wings (¥35) and deep-fried spare ribs with pepper salt (¥48) are excellent, but there's a huge selection of other things to try too. English menu.

Qianmen Quanju Roast Duck Restaurant (前门全聚德烤鸭店; Qiánmén Quánjùdé Kǎoyādiàn; ☎ 6511 2418; 32 Qianmen Dajie; 前门大街32号; half duck ¥84, scallions & sauce ¥5; 📍 11am-1.30pm & 4.30-8.30pm; 📍 Qianmen) Běijīng's oldest and most famous, if not its best, Peking duck restaurant is a vast place that attracts hordes of domestic and foreign tourists. But the duck isn't bad, even if it's a little pricey.

Liqun Roast Duck Restaurant (利群烤鸭店; Lìqún Kǎoyādiàn; ☎ 6702 5681; 11 Beixiangfeng Hutong; 北翔凤胡同11号; roast duck ¥98; 📍 10am-10pm; 📍 Qianmen) Tucked away in a maze of *hùtòng* that are disappearing by the day, this might be Běijīng's best duck restaurant. Always busy, it's best to book ahead. The duck is roasted in fruit tree wood-fired ovens and is delicious.

Cháoyáng

Middle 8th (中捌楼餐厅; Zhōngbālóu Cāntīng; ☎ 6413 0629; Sanlitun Zhongjie, Zhongba Lu; 东三里屯中八楼; dishes from ¥12; 📍 11am-2pm & 5.30-11.30pm; 📍 Dongshihitiao then bus 701 heading east) Hip Yúnnán eatery with an authentic, wide-ranging menu. Signature dishes include drunken shrimp (¥22) and braised rice with pineapple in a bamboo shoot (¥12). Rice wine is ¥6 a glass. English menu.

Bookworm (书虫; Shūchóng; ☎ 6586 9507; Bldg 4, Sanlitun Nanlu; 三里屯南路; lunch set menu ¥78, dinner set menu ¥108; 📍 9am-1am; 📍 Dongshihitiao then bus 701 heading east) Part bar, café, library and restaurant, the Bookworm serves up sandwiches (from ¥35) and pasta dishes (from ¥45), as well as more substantial fare. You can buy English-language books, including Lonely Planet guides, and magazines here. There's a pleasant roof terrace and wi-fi access.

Pure Lotus Vegetarian (净心莲; Jìngxīnlián; ☎ 6592 3627; inside Zhongguo Wenlianyuan, 10 Nongzhanguan Nanlu; 农展馆南路10号 中国文联院内; meals from ¥100; 📍 9.30am-10pm; 📍 Dongshihitiao then bus 431 heading east; 📍) The monks who run this place consistently come up with the tastiest and most creative vegetarian food in Běijīng, but they charge a lot for it.

Dōngchéng

Passy Bar (过客; Guòkè; ☎ 8403 8004; www.gk01.com; 108 Nanluogu Xiang; 南锣鼓巷108号; beer from ¥20, meals from ¥40; 📍 9am-2am; 📍 Andingmen) Something of an institution amongst travellers, this friendly place serves up western and Chinese food. The

setting is pleasant, the staff helpful and you can pick up Lonely Planet guides here.

Café Sambal (☎ 6400 4875; 43 Doufuchi Hutong, off Jiu Gulou Dajie; 豆腐池胡同43号, 旧鼓楼大街; dishes from Y35, set lunch Y50; ☎ noon-midnight; 📍 Gulou) Cool Malaysian restaurant located in a cleverly converted courtyard house at the entrance to Doufu Hutong. This place is especially pleasant in summer when you dine under the stars and satellites.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

A number of airlines fly to Chéngdū, Chóngqìng, Kūnmíng and other destinations in China's Southwest. See the Transport chapter for further details (p486).

All trains to China's Southwest depart from **Beijing West Train Station** (北京西站; Běijīng Xī Zhàn; ☎ 6231 6263; East Lianhuachi Rd; 莲花池东路).

There are three trains a day to Chéngdū, leaving at 11.29am, 4.35pm and 10.48pm. Depending on the train, the journey takes between 26 and 32 hours. A hard-seat ticket is Y231, soft-seat Y366. Hard-sleeper tickets cost Y391/405/418 (top/middle/bottom bunk). Soft sleeper tickets are Y615/642 (top/bottom bunk).

Two trains a day run to Chóngqìng, at 4.26pm and 9.28pm. The journey takes between 24 and 30 hours. Hard-seat tickets are Y238, soft-seat Y376. A hard sleeper costs Y401/416/430 (top/middle/bottom bunk); soft sleepers are Y631/658 (top/bottom).

One train runs daily to Kūnmíng, leaving at 6.40pm for the 39-hour trip. A hard-seat ticket costs Y320, soft seat Y509. Hard sleeper tickets are Y539/558/578 and soft sleepers Y852/890.

There is a 24-hour foreigners' ticket office at Beijing West Station on the 2nd floor. Tickets can be bought online at www.china.tripadvisor.com and www.china-train-ticket.com, or through hotels and travel agents, but it's cheaper to get them at the station.

There are no buses from Běijīng to Chéngdū, Chóngqìng or Kūnmíng.

GETTING AROUND

The subway (*ditiě*) is the best way to get around central Běijīng. The underground dragon moves much faster than the traffic. There are only four lines in existence at the moment, but another five are set to open in the next couple of years. Tickets cost Y3, or Y5 if you are transferring from Line 1 or 2 to Line 13.

Line 1 runs from east to west, cutting through the centre of town. Line 2 is a circle line. Line 13 loops through the north of Běijīng. The Batong Line runs through the eastern suburbs. There are interchange stations between all the lines.

Buses are plentiful and cover much more of the city than the subway, but they make slow progress in the Běijīng traffic. They're best for short hops. Tickets are Y1; you pay the conductor rather than the driver. The routes on bus signs are in Chinese rather than English, so you need to know how many stops you need to go before boarding.

Taxis are everywhere and finding one is only a problem during (infrequent) rainstorms and rush hour. They cost Y10 for the first 3km and then Y2 per kilometre after that. Between 11pm and 6am there is a 20% surcharge added to the fare. All taxis should have and use a meter. Most Běijīng taxi drivers speak little English, but are generally honest.

Bikes are a good way to see central Běijīng, especially the *hútòng* districts, but heavy traffic on the roads means it can be perilous riding around. Bikes can be hired at Beijing Saga International Youth Hostel (p83), Peking Downtown Backpackers Accommodation (p83) and Red House Hotel (opposite).

To/From the Airport

Běijīng's Capital Airport is 27km northeast from the centre of town, or about 40 minutes to one hour by car. A rail link between the airport and Dongzhimen subway station will be open by the time of the Olympics. Public bus 359 runs from Dongzhimen to the airport (Y3). There are also several express bus lines that run to the airport; all cost Y16. The most useful are Line 3 and Line 2. Both start running at 7.30am, leaving every 15 minutes, and continue until the last flight has arrived in the evening. Line 3 runs from the **Beijing International Hotel** (北京国际饭店; Běijīng Guójí Fàndiàn; 9 Jianguomennei Dajie; 建国门内大街9号) and Beijing Train Station via Chaoyangmen. Line 2 runs to the Aviation Building in Xidan via Dongzhimen.

A taxi from the airport should cost between Y80 and Y100, including the airport expressway toll (Y10). Avoid the taxi touts at the airport who will try and get you into an illegal taxi that will cost Y300 for the trip into town.

Gateway Shànghǎi

上海

No-one visits Shànghǎi with visions in their heads of steep, muddy rice terraces or ethnic minorities circle dancing. Say 'Shànghǎi' to someone, and they're much more likely to imagine something closer to the captivating swirl of sex, fashion, money and neon lights that the city came to stand for in the pre-communist days. And even if reality doesn't always equate with the brand image, Shànghǎi's pulsing metropolis somehow demands a stopover – this is the 21st century, PRC style. So leave the yak in Sichuān, slip on your best shoes and get ready to do some urban exploring – there's more here to see than you might think.

See Lonely Planet's *Shanghai* guide for additional information.

FAST FACTS

- Area code: ☎ ###
- Population: ###
- Stat

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Foreign Languages Bookstore (外文书店; Wàiwén

Shūdiàn; ☎ 6322 3200; 390 Fuzhou Rd; 福州路390号;

☎ 9.30am-6pm, to 7pm Fri & Sat; (M) Middle Henan Rd)

The best spot to stock up on reading material.

Emergency

Ambulance (☎ 120)

Fire (☎ 119)

Police (☎ 110)

Public Security Bureau (PSB; 公安局; Gōngānjú;

☎ 6854 1199; 1500 Minsheng Rd; 民生路1500号;

☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat; (M) Shanghai Science & Technology Museum) Near Jinxiu Rd (锦绣路).

Internet Access

Internet cafés are all over town, but there's a frequent turnover of locales. You'll need your passport for ID in most places.

Maps

English maps of Shànghǎi are available at the Foreign Languages Bookstore (see above), major hotel bookshops and occasionally from street hawkers (most of the latter are Chinese-only).

The bilingual *Shanghai Tourist Map*, produced by the Shanghai Municipal Tourism

Administration, is free at hotels and Tourist Information Centres (see opposite).

Media & Internet Resources

If you're looking for entertainment ideas, the first thing to do is to grab a free copy of the monthly *That's Shanghai* from a top-end hotel, followed swiftly by issues of *City Weekend*, *Shanghai Talk* or the weekly *SH (8 Days)*. These offer an instant plug into what's on in town, from art exhibitions and club nights to restaurant openings.

The best local websites are listed below.

www.cityweekend.com.cn A good listings site with archived articles.

www.shanghaiist.com Quirky local news blog.

www.smartshanghai.com For fashion, food, fun and frolicking.

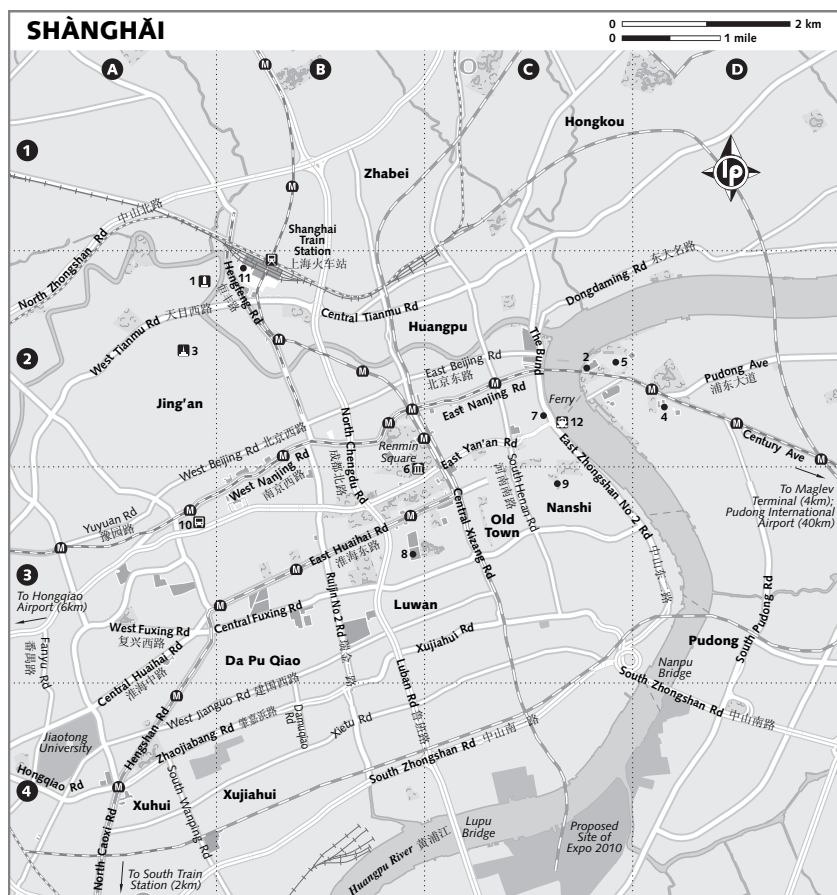
www.thatssh.com Always on top of what's happening in Shànghǎi entertainment.

Medical Services

Huashan Hospital (华山医院; Huáshān Yīyuàn; ☎ 6248 9999, ext 2351; 12 Central Wulumuqi Rd; 乌鲁木齐中路12号; (M) Jing'an Temple) Hospital treatment and out-patient consultations are available at the 15th-floor foreigners' clinic; a 24-hour pharmacy is located outside the hospital.

Money

Almost every hotel has money-changing counters. Most tourist hotels, restaurants and banks accept major credit cards. ATMs at various branches of the Bank of China and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) accept most major cards.



SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

50 Moganshan Road Art Centre 莫干山路 50号	.....1	A2
China Sex Culture Museum 中华性文化和性健康教育展	.....2	C2
Jade Buddha Temple 玉佛寺	.....3	A2
Jinmao Tower 金茂大厦	.....4	D2
Municipal Historical Museum 上海城市历史发展陈列馆	.....(see 5)	
Oriental Pearl Tower 东方明珠广播电视塔	.....5	C2
Shanghai Museum 上海博物馆	.....6	B3
Three on the Bund 外滩三号	.....7	C2
Xintiandi 新天地	.....8	B3
Yuyuan Gardens & Bazaar 豫园	.....9	C3

TRANSPORT

Airport City Terminal 机场城市航站楼	.....10	A3
Longmen Hotel Ticket Office 龙门宾馆火车票售票处	.....11	B2
Tour Boats 黄浦江游览船	.....12	C2

Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank (HSBC; 汇丰银行; Hui Feng Yinhang) has ATMs in the Shanghai Centre (上海商城) on West Nanjing Rd, at Pudong Airport arrivals hall and at 15 East Zhongshan No 1 Rd (中山东一路 15号) on the Bund.

Tourist Information

Tourist Information and Service Centres (旅游咨询服务中心; Lǚyóu Zìxún Fúwù Zhōngxīn) are located near several major tourist sights. The standard of English varies from good to nonexistent and the centres primarily function to book hotel rooms, put you on a tour and sell you souvenirs, but free maps and some information are available.

Useful branches include **Century Square** (世纪广场; ☎ 5353 1117; 561 East Nanjing Rd; 南京东路561号; M Middle Henan Rd) and **Jing'an** (静安寺; ☎ 6248 3259; 1699 West Nanjing Rd; 南京西路1699号; M Jing'an Temple), across the road from the Airport City Terminal and Jing'an Temple.

The international arrivals hall of Hongqiao Airport has a tourist information booth with staff who give out maps and are helpful. There was no comprehensive tourist information booth at Pudong International Airport at the time of writing, but plans were afoot to install one. The useful **Shanghai Information Centre for International Visitors** (上海国际访问者中心; Shànghǎi Guójí Fāngwènzhě Zhōngxīn; ☎ 6384 9366; No 2, Alley 123, Xingye Rd; 兴业路123弄2号新天地; M South Huangpi Rd) is at Xintiandi (right).

Travel Agencies

China International Travel Service (CITS; 中国国际旅行社; Zhōngguó Guójí Lǚxíngshè) East Jinling Rd (☎ 6323 8770; 5th fl, Guangming Bldg, 2 East Jinling Rd; 金陵东路2号); West Beijing Rd (☎ 6289 4510, 6289 8899; 1277 West Beijing Rd; 北京西路1277号; M Middle Henan Rd) Can book air and train tickets. The East Jinling Rd branch is located near the south Bund; the West Beijing Rd branch is the head office.

Shanghai Spring International Travel Service (春秋国际旅行社; Chūnqiū Guójí Lǚxíngshè; ☎ 6351 6666; www.china-sss.com; 342 Central Xizang (Tibet) Rd; 西藏中路342号; M People's Sq) Centrally located, IATA-bonded and good for air tickets.

STA Travel (☎ 6353 2683; www.statravel.com.cn; Suite 305, 158 Hanzhong Rd; 汉中路158号; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-3.30pm Sat; M Hanzhong Rd) Sells train and air tickets, and can issue ISIC cards.

Visas

Public Security Bureau (PSB; 公安局; Gōngānjú; ☎ 6854 1199; 1500 Minsheng Rd; 民生路1500号; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat; M Shanghai Science & Technology Museum) Handles visas and registrations; 30-day visa extensions cost around Y160. Near Jinxiu Rd (锦绣路).

SIGHTS

Most first-time visitors gravitate towards the **Bund** (外滩; Wàitān; M Middle Henan Rd), the picturesque waterfront promenade that embodies old Shanghai. Walk the strip, take a cruise on the Huangpu River (see p91) or relax at some fabulous restaurants and bars with views of futuristic Pudong across the river – the most popular address of late is the swish **Three on the Bund** (外滩三号; Wàitān Sānhào; www.threeonthebund.com).

Renmin Square (人民广场; Rénmín Guǎngchǎng; M People's Sq), or People's Sq, is home to the top museums in the city, including the must-see **Shanghai Museum** (上海博物馆; Shànghǎi Bówùguǎn; ☎ 6372 3500; 2 Renmin Ave; 人民大道2号; adult/child & student Y20/5; ☎ 9am-5pm Sun-Fri, to 7pm Sat), which showcases the most impressive collection of traditional Chinese art in the country. It's not to be confused with the **Shanghai Art Museum** (上海美术馆; Shànghǎi Měishùguǎn; ☎ 6327 2829; 325 West Nanjing Rd; 南京西路325号; adult/student Y20/10; ☎ 9am-5pm, last entry 4pm), the modern art gallery housed in the former racecourse club.

The **Old Town** (南市; Nánshì) is slowly succumbing to the pressures of real estate development, but has retained enough charm (and temples) to make for some great strolls. A good starting point is the perpetually crowded **Yuyuan Gardens & Bazaar** (豫园; Yùyuan; ☎ 6326 0830; 218 Anren Street; 安仁街218号; adult/child Y30/10; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm), a 16th-century garden surrounded by souvenir hawkers of all ages. Near the garden's entrance are the justifiably famous Nanxiang Steamed Bun Restaurant (see opposite) and **Huxinting Tea House** (湖心亭茶馆; Húxīntíng Cháguǎn; ☎ 6373 6950; ☎ 6am-9.30pm).

Further west is the delightful **French Concession** (法国租界; Fǎguó Zūjiè), whose leafy boulevards are bursting with boutiques, hip bars and chic restaurants. The epicentre of it all is style-conscious **Xintiandi** (新天地; www.xintiandi.com; cnr Taicang Rd & Madang Rd; 太仓路和马当路的路口; M South Huangpi Rd), several blocks of renovated traditional *shikūmén* houses, low-rise tenement buildings built in the early 1900s.

Across the river from the Bund is unmistakable **Pudong** (浦东; M Lujiayui), former farmland now forested with towers both bizarre and breathtaking, including China's tallest buildings, the **Shanghai World Financial Center** (上海环球金融中心; Shànghǎi Huánqiú Jīnróng Zhōngxīn; 100 Century Ave; 世纪大道100号) and the **Jinmao Tower** (金茂大厦; Jīnmào Dàshà; ☎ 5047 5101; 88 Century Ave; 世纪大道88号; adult/child Y70/35, audio tour Y15; ☎ 8.30am-10pm). Choose between the observation deck (88th floor) or drinks in the Cloud 9 Bar (87th floor). Other notable sights include the excellent **Municipal Historical Museum** (上海城市历史发展陈列馆; Shànghǎi Chéngshì Lìshǐ Fāzhǎn Chénlìguǎn; ☎ 5879 1888; basement, Oriental Pearl Tower, 1 Shiji Dadao; 世纪大道1号; admission Y35; ☎ 8am-9.30pm) and the eye-opening **China Sex Culture Museum** (中华性文化和性健康教育展; Zhōnghuá Xíng Wénhuà hé Xíng Jiànkāng Jiàoyùzhǎn;

2789 Riverside Ave; 滨江大道2789号; admission Y20; ☎ 8am-10.30pm Mon-Thu, to 10pm Fri-Sun).

Further afield are the **Jade Buddha Temple** (玉佛寺; Yúfó Sì; ☎ 6266 3668; 170 Anyuan Rd; 安远路170号; admission Y20; ☎ 8.30am-4.30pm) and the nearby galleries at the **50 Moganshan Rd Art Centre** (Mògānshānlù Wúshí Hào; 50 Moganshan Rd; 莫干山路50号; admission free), the nexus of the city's art scene.

SLEEPING

Rooms are often marked down considerably; make sure to ask for a discount.

The Bund & Renmin Square

Easy Tour Youth Hostel (上海易途青年酒店; Shànghǎi Yítú Qīngnián Jiǔdiàn; ☎ 6327 7766; 57 Jiangyin Rd; 江阴路57号; dm/s/d Y50/180/220; 🏠 People's Sq) The setting and location – just west off Renmin Sq in a building with a bit of history – are up there with the best, but it's a bit drab and some rooms are damp.

Ming Town Hiker Youth Hostel (明堂上海旅行者青年旅馆; Míngtáng Shànghǎi Lǚxíngzhě Qīngnián Lǚguǎn; ☎ 6329 7889; 450 Central Jiangxi Rd; 江西中路450号; dm from Y55, d Y200; 🏠 Middle Henan Rd; 🗺️) A short hike from the Bund, rooms include tidy four- and six-bed dorms with pine bunk beds and three good-value luxury doubles.

Captain Hostel (船长青年酒店; Chuánzhǎng Qīngnián Jiǔdiàn; ☎ 6323 5053; www.captainhostel.com.cn; 37 Fuzhou Rd; 福州路37号; dm Y70, d Y450-1200; 🏠 Middle Henan Rd; 🗺️) An old turn-of-the-century building off the Bund, the Captain has clean dorms with bunk beds, OK double rooms and a top-floor bar for rum, drunken sailors and long views over the Huangpu River.

Pujiang Hotel/Astor House Hotel (浦江饭店; Pújiāng Fàndiàn; ☎ 6324 6388; www.pujianghotel.com; 15 Huangpu Rd; 黄浦路15号; dm Y80, d Y580-1280; 🏠 Middle Henan Rd) This historic hotel is at the north end of the Bund with loads of stylish midrange rooms. There is also one dorm room, but it's generally full.

Jinjiang Inn (锦江之星旅馆; Jīnjiāng Zhīxīng Lǚguǎn; ☎ 6326 0505; www.jj-inn.com; 33 South Fujian Rd; 福建南路33号; s/d Y199/239; 🏠 Middle Henan Rd) This central branch of this hotel chain has bright, airy doubles with shower rooms, some with pleasant views over parkland on the noisier Fujian Rd side.

East Asia Hotel (东亚饭店; Dōngyà Fàndiàn; ☎ 6322 3233; fax 6322 4598; 680 East Nanjing Rd; 南京东路680号; d from Y420; 🏠 People's Sq) Renovated in 2005, the two-star East Asia Hotel is a popular and long-standing fixture on the cheap Shànghǎi room circuit. Reception is on the 2nd floor through a clothing shop.

Westin Shanghai (威斯汀大饭店; Wēisītīng Dàfàndiàn; ☎ 6335 1888; www.westin.com; 88 Central Henan Rd; 河南中路88号; d from Y2915; 🏠 Middle Henan Rd; 🗺️) A stylish component of the Bund Center, this is the best hotel in the district. Home to several top restaurants and the Banyan Tree spa.

French Concession

Mason Hotel (美臣大酒店; Měichén Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎ 6466 2020; www.masonhotel.com; 935 Central Huaihai Rd; 淮海中路935号; s/d Y900/1080; 🏠 South Shaanxi Rd) From its discreet outward appearance to the small and well-proportioned lobby (with Art Deco-style motifs and casual black leather furniture), this boutique-style hotel is both relaxed and intimate.

Jinchen Hotel (金晨大酒店; Jīnchén Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎ 6471 7000; www.jinchenhotel.com; 795-809 Central Huaihai Rd; 淮海中路795-809号; s & d from Y980; 🏠 South Shaanxi Rd) Arranged over seven floors, the small, brick Jinchen is excellent, offering clean, tastefully furnished rooms.

Ruijin Guesthouse (瑞金宾馆; Ruijīn Bīnguǎn; ☎ 6472 5222; www.shedi.net.cn/outedi/ruijin; 118 Ruijin No 2 Rd; 瑞金二路118号; s & d Y1200; 🏠 South Shaanxi Rd) The Ruijin has elegant grounds and a series of old mansions converted into rooms. Some of the city's most romantic and stylish restaurants and bars charmingly nestle in the gardens.

Pǔdōng

Captain Hostel Zhangyang Rd (船长青年酒店; Chuánzhǎng Qīngnián Jiǔdiàn; ☎ 5836 5966; www.captainhostel.com.cn; 527 East Laoshan Rd; 崂山东路527号; dm Y60, s/d Y198/450; 🏠 Dongchang Rd; 🗺️) The Pǔdōng location is less than ideal, though the Captain runs a tight ship.

Grand Hyatt (金茂凯悦大酒店; Jīnmào Kǎiyuè Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎ 5049 1234; www.hyatt.com; 88 Century Ave; 世纪大道88号; d from Y2590; 🏠 Lujiiazui; 🗺️) No place for those with vertigo, the Grand Hyatt shoots up 33 stylish storeys from the 54th floor of the Jinmao Tower.

EATING

If you're on a budget, look for the innumerable food courts (such as Megabite; 大食代; Dàshídài) in malls everywhere. For a more sophisticated culinary experience, head to the ultra-chic Three on the Bund (see opposite) or the Xintiandi complex (opposite), where choices range from traditional Shanghainese to Thai and Italian.

Nanxiang Steamed Bun Restaurant (南翔馒头店; Nánxiāng Mántóudiàn; ☎ 6355 4206; 85 Yuyuan Rd; 豫园路85号; meals Y10-20; ☎ 7am-10pm) This eatery serves up the city's most famous dumplings (小笼包).

Vegetarian Life Style (枣子树; Zǎozǐ Shù; ☎ 6384 8000; 77 Songshan Rd; 嵩山路77号; mains Y20-38; **M** South Huangpi Rd) For light and healthy Chinese organic vegetarian food, with precious little oil and creative chefs.

Bǎoluó Jiǔlóu (保罗酒楼; ☎ 5403 7239; 271 Fumin Rd; 富民路271号; mains Y20-50; **M** Changshu Rd) Join Shanghainese night owls queuing down the street to get into this amazingly busy place. Open till 6am, it's a great place to get a feel for Shànghǎi's famous buzz.

Ajisen (味千拉面; Wèiqiān Lāmian; ☎ 6360 7194; 327 East Nanjing Rd; 南京东路327号; meals Y30; **M** Middle Henan Rd) Choose from among mouthwatering Japanese noodle dishes via easy-to-use photo menus. Handy branches throughout town.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

Shànghǎi has two airports: most international flights operate out of Pudong airport in the southeast, while domestic flights fly out of Hongqiao airport in the west (with occasional exceptions).

Daily domestic flights connect Shànghǎi to every major city in China's Southwest (and usually leave several times a day). Prices for these include Chángshā (Y890), Chéngdū (Y1610), Chóngqìng (Y1490), Guǐlín (Y1310), Guìyáng (Y1600), Kūnmíng (Y1900), Lǐjiāng (Y2430), Nánníng (Y1660), Yìchāng (Y1080) and Zhāngjiājiè (Y1330), but most travel agencies will normally offer discounted fares of up to 40%.

Boat

At the time of writing, boat cruises up the Yangzi River were no longer departing from Shànghǎi. Most cruises now only run between Chóngqìng and Yìchāng (Húběi).

Train

Shànghǎi is reasonably well connected to the Southwest via rail, though journeys can be epic in duration. The easiest option for buying tickets is at the **Longmen Hotel ticket office** (龙门宾馆火车票售票处; Lóngmén Bīnguǎn huòchēpiào shòupiàochù; ☎ 6317 9325; ☎ 8am-9pm), a short walk west of the **Shanghai train station** (上海站; Shànghǎi zhàn; **M** Shanghai Train Station). You can book sleepers up to nine days in advance here, with a Y5 service charge. You can also buy tickets at the much more chaotic ticket office that is to the southeast of the train station (no service charge). Be aware that some trains may depart from the

South train station (上海南站; Shànghǎi Nánzhàn; **M** Shanghai South Train Station).

Hard sleeper prices for major destinations include: Chángshā (Y272, 18½ hours), Chéngdū (Y259 to Y452, 35 to 45 hours), Chóngqìng (Y475, 42 hours), Guǐlín (Y341, 26 hours), Guìyáng (Y405, 32½ hours), Kūnmíng (Y502, 43½ hours) and Nánníng (Y387, 33 hours).

GETTING AROUND

Your best bet for getting around the city is the metro system (tickets Y3 to Y6; for map see <http://urbanrail.net/as/shan/shanghai.htm>); Lines 1 and 2 cover everywhere of importance, with the exception of the Old Town.

Taxis are also reasonably cheap and easy to flag down, but try to avoid rush hours between 8am and 9am, and 4.30pm and 6pm. The cost is Y11 for the first 3km and Y2.10 for each kilometre thereafter. From 11pm, there's a 10% surcharge.

To/From the Airport

Always check your ticket to be sure which airport you're arriving at or departing from. Buses run from 7am to 11pm.

Hongqiao Airport (虹桥机场; Hóngqiāo Jīchǎng; ☎ 6268 8918) is 18km from the Bund; getting there takes about 30 minutes if you're lucky, or over an hour if you're not. You can take bus 925 from Renmin Sq to the airport. A CAAC bus (Y5) goes from the northeast corner of Central Yan'an Rd and North Shaanxi Rd in the French Concession. Both buses leave the airport from directly in front of the domestic departure hall. Taxis from the centre of town cost from Y50 to Y70, depending on the route taken, traffic conditions and the time of day. Hongqiao Airport is famous for its astonishing taxi queues; sometimes it takes around an hour to get in a taxi.

Pudong International Airport (浦东国际机场; Pūdōng Guójī Jīchǎng; ☎ 3848 4500) is 30km southeast of the city. **Airport bus 1** (☎ 3848 4500; Y30) runs between Hongqiao and Pudong airports, bus 2 (Y19) runs from Pudong International Airport to the **Airport City Terminal** (机场城市航站楼; Jīchǎng Chéngshì Hángzhānlóu; **M** Jing'an Temple) near Jing'an Temple on West Nanjing Rd, and bus 5 (Y18) goes from the Pudong International Airport to the Shanghai train station via Pūdōng. A taxi to Pudong International Airport from the city centre (one hour) costs around Y140.

The **Maglev train** (☎ 2890 7777) runs from the Pudong airport to its terminal near the Longyang Rd metro station (one way/return Y50/80). Trains from here run every 20 minutes from 8.30am to 5.30pm and hit warp speed at 430km/h.

Boat

The Huangpu River offers some stirring views of the Bund and the riverfront activ-

ity. Most **tour boats** (黄浦江游览船; huángpújiāng yóulǎnchuán; ☎ 6374 4461; 219-239 East Second Zhongshan Rd; 中山东二路219-239号; 1hr cruise Y25-Y50, 3½hr cruise Y70-120) depart from the Bund's dock, near East Jinling Rd. Popular 30-minute **cruises** (Y40-70; ☎ 10am-8pm) depart hourly from the Pearl Dock in Lujiazui, Pǔdōng.

For an abbreviated boat tour, catch the **Bund-Pǔdōng ferry** (Y0.50, air-con Y2), which shuttles regularly across the Huangpu River.

Gateway Hong Kong

香港

Hong Kong, a pulsating fusion of two cultures, is like no other city in China, and time has done nothing to diminish its ability to astonish. Even a decade after the return of Hong Kong from British to Chinese sovereignty, this 'meeting of east and west' continues to shake and stir into an invigorating cocktail of colour and aroma, taste and sensation. Hong Kong has something for everyone: shopping malls with bargains galore; romantic vistas across Victoria Harbour or down from the Peak; museums with rich collections devoted to local history and culture; stunning modern architecture; and a seemingly endless choice of restaurants and cuisines. And, despite its size and rapid urbanisation, Hong Kong has a surprising number of accessible beaches and natural retreats for lovers of the great outdoors. It's the perfect place from which to kick off or end a trip to China's Southwest.

For a whole lot more details, see Lonely Planet's *Hong Kong & Macau* guide.

FAST FACTS

- Telephone code: ☎ ###
- Population: ###
- Stat

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Hong Kong Book Centre (☎ 2522 7064; basement, On Lok Yuen Bldg, 25 Des Voeux Rd, Central; ☎ 9am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to 5.30pm Sat, 1-5pm Sun Jul & Aug only; MTR Central) Sister store to Swindon Books.

Swindon Books (辰衝; ☎ 2366 8001; 13-15 Lock Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 9am-6.30pm Mon-Thu, to 7.30pm Fri & Sat, 12.30-6.30pm Sun; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui) Swindon is one of the best 'real' bookshops in Hong Kong.

Emergency

Hong Kong is generally very safe but, as with anywhere, things can go wrong.

Ambulance, Fire & Police (☎ 999)

Police Crime Hotline (☎ 2527 7177)

Rape Crisis Line (☎ 2375 5322)

Internet Access

With the plethora of places offering low-cost or free wireless access, including most hotels and all of Hong Kong International Airport, you'll have no trouble accessing the internet with your own laptop. If you didn't bring yours

along, outlets of the Pacific Coffee Company, including its **Central branch** (☎ 2537 1688; www.pacificcoffee.com; ground fl, the Work Station, 43 Lyndhurst Tce, Central; ☎ 7am-midnight Mon-Thu, to 1am Fri & Sat, 8am-11pm Sun; bus 13 or 40M), offer free access with a purchase.

Maps

Decent tourist maps are easy to come by in Hong Kong, and even better, they're usually free. The Hong Kong Tourism Board hands out copies of the bimonthly (and somewhat limited) *Hong Kong Map* at its information centres (see opposite).

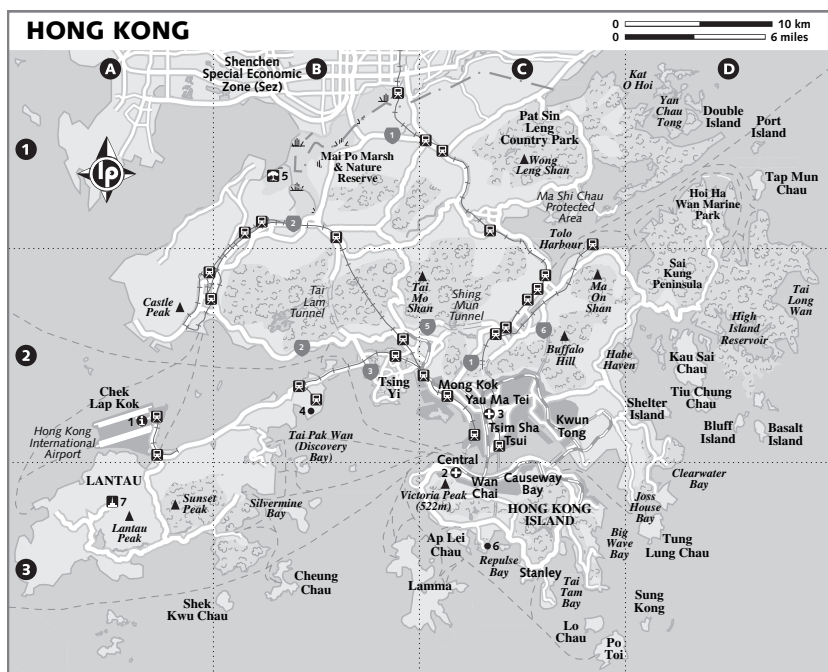
Universal Publications (www.up.com.hk) produces many maps of Hong Kong, including the 1:80,000 *Hong Kong Touring Map* (HK\$22) and the 1:9000 *City Map of Hong Kong & Kowloon* (HK\$25), available at most bookshops. **HK City Map** (www.hkcitymap.com) has detailed maps of Hong Kong down to street level, printable from the internet.

Media & Internet Resources

HK Magazine (www.asia-city.com) is a comprehensive free magazine of entertainment listings available Fridays at restaurants, bars, shops and hotels. The free *bc magazine* (www.bc magazine.net), a biweekly guide to Hong Kong's entertainment scene, is less useful.

Good local websites:

www.12hk.com Hong Kong's 'unofficial guide', with excellent links.

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Queen Elizabeth Hospital.....	3 C2

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

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Hong Kong Wetland Park 香港濕地公園.....	5 B1
Ocean Park 香港海洋公園.....	6 C3
Tian Tan Buddha 天壇大佛.....	7 A3

www.hkac.org.hk The Hong Kong Arts Centre's site includes *Artslink*, a monthly listing of performances, exhibitions and art-house film screenings.

www.hkclubbing.com Mandatory surfing before a night out on the town.

www.hkoutdoors.com Hong Kong's answer to the call of the wild.

www.hongkongnews.net Good start for local news.

Medical Services

Medical care is generally of a high standard, but public hospital facilities are stretched and private hospital treatment is expensive. The hospital general inquiry number is ☎ 2300 6555. The hospitals, right, have 24-hour accident and emergency departments or clinics.

Hong Kong Central Hospital (☎ 2522 3141; 1b Lower Albert Rd, Central; MTR Central) Private hospital on Hong Kong Island.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital (☎ 2958 8888; 30 Gascoigne Rd, Yau Ma Tei; MTR Yau Ma Tei) Public hospital in Kowloon.

Money

The unit of currency is the Hong Kong dollar (HK\$), which is divided into 100 cents. Travelers can withdraw funds from home accounts using just about any of the numerous ATMs scattered around the territory. The most widely accepted credit cards are Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club and JCB.

Tourist Information

The **Hong Kong Tourism Board** (HKTB; www.discoverhongkong.com) distributes useful pamphlets and publications and has branches at Hong Kong International Airport (see p96; open 7am to 11pm), the Star Ferry Concourse (p96; open 8am to 8pm) in Tsim Sha Tsui, and near Exit F of the Causeway Bay MTR station (open 8am to 8pm). Alternatively, call the **HKTB Visitor Hotline** (☎ 2508 1234) between 8am and 6pm.

Travel Agencies

Concorde Travel (☎ 2526 3391; www.concorde-travel.com; 1st fl, Galuxe Bldg, 8-10 On Lan St, Central; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat; MTR Central) A long-established and highly dependable agency owned and operated by expats.

Phoenix Services Agency (☎ 2722 7378; info@phoenixtrvl.com; Room 1404, 14th fl, Austin Tower, 22-26 Austin Ave, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat; MTR Jordan) One of the best places in Hong Kong to buy air tickets, get China visas and seek travel advice.

Visas

Hong Kong visas are not required for citizens of the UK for stays of up to 180 days. Citizens of other European Union (EU) countries, Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and the USA can stay for 90 days without a visa, while visitors from South Africa are allowed 30 days. Those holding other passports should check visa regulations on www.immd.gov.hk/ehhtml/hkvisas_4.htm beforehand. See the Directory chapter (p477) for information on getting a China visa in Hong Kong.

SIGHTS

From **Central** (中環) your first port of call should be the **Victoria Peak** (山頂); at 552m it's the highest point on Hong Kong Island. The best way to get there is via the thrilling **Peak Tram** (山頂纜車; ☎ 2522 0922; www.thepeak.com.hk; one-way/return adult HK\$22/33, child & senior HK\$8/15; ☎ 7am-midnight), a funicular running every 10 to 15 minutes from the lower terminus behind St John's Building at 33 Garden Rd, Central, to the recently renovated **Peak Tower** (凌霄閣) at the top. The views in clear weather and at night can be spectacular.

The **Hong Kong Zoological & Botanical Gardens** (香港動植物公園; ☎ 2530 0154; www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks/hkzbg; Albany Rd, Central; admission free; ☎ terrace gardens 6am-10pm; bus 12 or 40M) is a pleasant assembly of fountains, sculptures, greenhouses, a zoo and aviaries. In nearby **Hong Kong Park** (香港公園; ☎ 2521 5041; www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks/hkp/en/index.php; 19 Cotton Tree Drive, Admiralty; admission free; ☎ 6am-11pm; MTR Admiralty) you'll find the splendid **Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware** (茶具文物館; ☎ 2869 0690; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Mon) in a colonial structure built in 1846.

Other must-see destinations in Central are the 800m-long **Central Escalator** (中環至半山自動扶梯; ☎ 2523 7488; admission free; ☎ 6am-midnight; MTR Central), the longest in the world, which transports pedestrians up to the Mid-Levels

in 20 minutes and, to the west, **Man Mo Temple** (文武廟; ☎ 2540 0350; 124-126 Hollywood Rd, Sheung Wan; admission free; ☎ 8am-6pm; bus 26), one of the oldest Chinese houses of worship (1847) in Hong Kong. Don't miss **Lan Kwai Fong** (蘭桂坊) by night, Hong Kong's best and most complete bar strip. More of a restaurant scene is nearby **Soho**.

The southern coast of Hong Kong Island is dotted with decent beaches and other recreational facilities, especially at **Stanley** (赤柱). Here you'll also find busy **Stanley Market** (赤柱市集; Stanley Village Rd; ☎ 9am-6pm; bus 6, 6A, 6X or 260), a covered maze filled with cheap clothing, toys and bric-a-brac. To the west at **Aberdeen** (香港仔) is **Ocean Park** (香港海洋公園; ☎ 2552 0291; www.oceanpark.com.hk; Ocean Park Rd; adult/child HK\$185/93; ☎ 10am-6pm; bus 6X, 73 or Ocean Park Citybus 629), a huge amusement park and educational theme park, complete with roller coasters and other rides, the world's largest aquarium and an impressive atoll reef.

Start exploring **Kowloon** from **Tsim Sha Tsui** (尖沙咀) at the peninsula's southern tip. Renowned for its shopping, particularly along **Nathan Road** (彌敦道), this area also boasts the lion's share of Hong Kong's best museums, including the **Hong Kong Museum of Art** (香港藝術博物館; ☎ 2721 0116; http://hk.art.museum; 10 Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; adult/child & senior HK\$10/5, admission Wed free; ☎ 10am-6pm Sun-Wed & Fri, to 8pm Sat; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui), with Chinese antiques, historical paintings and contemporary art, and the **Hong Kong Space Museum** (香港太空館; ☎ 2721 0226; http://hk.space.museum; 10 Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; adult/child & senior HK\$10/5, admission Wed free; ☎ 1-9pm Mon & Wed-Fri, 10am-9pm Sat & Sun; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui), with exhibition halls and a planetarium called Space Theatre (adult HK\$24 to HK\$32, child and senior HK\$12 to HK\$16) showing between Omnimax films.

The waterfront **Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade** (尖沙咀海濱長廊), whose **Avenue of the Stars** pays homage to the Hong Kong film industry, leads to **Tsim Sha Tsui East** (尖東) and the **Hong Kong Museum of History** (香港歷史博物館; ☎ 2724 9042; http://hk.history.museum; 100 Chatham Rd South, Tsim Sha Tsui East; adult/child & senior over 60 HK\$10/5, admission Wed free; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon & Wed-Sat, to 7pm Sun; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui), which takes visitors on a fascinating wander through Hong Kong's past.

In **Yau Ma Tei** (油蔴地), the **Jade Market** (玉器市場; Kansu & Battery Sts, Yau Ma Tei; ☎ 10am-6pm; MTR Yau Ma Tei) has scores of stalls that sell all varieties and grades of jade. Nearby is the

famous **Temple St Night Market** (廟街夜市; Temple St btwn Jordan Rd & Man Ming Lane, Yau Ma Tei; ☎ 4pm-midnight; MTR Jordan or Yau Ma Tei), the liveliest place in town to bargain for cheap clothes, fake name-brand goods and knockoff CDs and DVDs.

Further north in **Mong Kok** (旺角) is the delightful **Yuen Po Street Bird Garden** (園圃街雀鳥花園; Flower Market Rd, Mong Kok; ☎ 7am-8pm; Mong Kok KCR East Rail), where birds are 'aired', preened, bought and sold.

If time allows, consider an excursion further afield, perhaps to one of the Outlying Islands or the New Territories. **Lantau** (大嶼山), Hong Kong's largest island, is home to some fine beaches, excellent hiking trails and sights as disparate as the **Tian Tan Buddha** (天壇大佛; Ngong Ping; admission free; ☎ 10am-5.30pm; Lantau ferry to Mui Wo & bus 2), the largest outdoor Buddha statue in the world, and **Hong Kong Disneyland** (香港迪士尼樂園; ☎ 1-830 830; www.hongkongdisneyland.com; adult/child Mon-Fri HK\$295/210, Sat & Sun HK\$350/250; ☎ 10am-9pm Apr-Oct, to 7pm Nov-Mar; MTR Disneyland Resort). A worthwhile destination in the New Territories, a mixed bag of congested 'New Towns' and some surprisingly unspoiled areas and country parks, is **Hong Kong Wetland Park** (香港濕地公園; ☎ 2708 8885; www.wetlandpark.com; Wetland Park Rd, Tin Shui Wai; adult/child HK\$30/15; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Mon), a large ecological park near the mainland border with trails, viewing platforms and bird hides as well as cutting-edge exhibition galleries. To get there, take the KCR West Rail to Tin Shui Wai then Light Rail 705 or 706, or catch bus 967 from Admiralty station.

SLEEPING

It's not a hard-and-fast rule but the greatest choice of budget accommodation is in Kowloon.

Hong Kong Hostel (香港旅館; ☎ 2895 1015; www.wangfathostel.com.hk; Flat A2, 3rd fl, Paterson Bldg, 47 Paterson St, Causeway Bay; dm HK\$120-150, s/d/tr HK\$340/400/500, with shared bathroom HK\$250/340/480; MTR Causeway Bay; ☎ ☎) This excellent series of ever-expanding hostels and guesthouses with 120 rooms is just about the best deal on Hong Kong Island. It's quiet and clean and most of the rooms have private phones, TVs and fridges.

Rent-a-Room (港龍酒店; ☎ 2366 3011; www.rentaroomhk.com; Flat A, 2nd fl, Knight Garden, 7-8 Tak Hing St, Tsim Sha Tsui; dm HK\$155-220, s/d/tr/q from HK\$360/460/710/920, with shared bathroom from HK\$310/370/490/615; MTR Jordan; ☎ ☎) This fabulous

place has 50 positively immaculate rooms just around the corner from the Jordan MTR station. Each room has shower, safe, TV, telephone and fridge.

The Salisbury (香港基督教青年會; ☎ 2268 7000; www.ymcahk.org.hk; 41 Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; dm HK\$230, s HK\$760, d HK\$860-1060; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) If you can manage to book a room at the YMCA-run Salisbury, you'll be rewarded with professional service and excellent exercise facilities, including a six-lane swimming pool and fitness centre. The 365 rooms and suites are comfortable but simple so keep your eyes on that five-star harbour view.

Alisan Guest House (阿里山賓館; ☎ 2838 0762; http://home.hkstar.com/~alisanhg; Flat A, 5th fl, Hoito Ct, 23 Cannon St, Causeway Bay; s HK\$280-350, d HK\$320-410, tr HK\$390-500; MTR Causeway Bay; ☎ ☎ ☎) The 21 well-equipped rooms in this family-run place are spotlessly clean and the multilingual owners are always willing to please.

Booth Lodge (卜維廉賓館; ☎ 2771 9266; http://boothlodge.salvation.org.hk; 11 Wing Sing Lane, Yau Ma Tei; s & d incl breakfast HK\$420-1500; MTR Yau Ma Tei; ☎ ☎) Run by the Salvation Army, this 53-room place is austere and clean but excellent value, especially off-season. Reception is on the 7th floor.

Bishop Lei International House (宏基國際賓館; ☎ 2868 0828; www.bishopleiht.com.hk; 4 Robinson Rd, Mid-Levels; s HK\$600-1040, d & tw HK\$720-1210; bus 23, 40; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) This 203-room hotel is hardly luxurious but it's just a short walk to the Zoological & Botanical Gardens and it has its own swimming pool and gym.

Stanford Hillview Hotel (仕德福山景酒店; ☎ 2722 7822; www.stanfordhillview.com; 13-17 Observatory Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; s & d HK\$1000-1600; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ ☎ ☎) This 163-room hotel at the eastern end of Knutsford Tce is a very good choice. It's set back from Nathan Rd in a quiet, leafy little corner of Tsim Sha Tsui, but is close to bars and restaurants.

Hotel LKF (蘭桂坊酒店; ☎ 2850 8899; www.hotel-kf.com.hk; 263 Hollywood Rd, Central; s & d HK\$3000-4500; MTR Central; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) This stunning 95-room boutique hotel boasts an enviable location just above Lan Kwai Fong (thus the name). Corner rooms (ending in 09) overlook Government House and its gardens and are among the best.

EATING

If you're on a budget, head for the noodle shops of Wan Chai on Hong Kong Island or the Indian 'messes' in Chungking Mansions (36-44 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; metro Tsim Sha Tsui) over in Kowloon. For a more up-market dining experience and greater choice, check out the Soho neighbourhood. There the world really is your oyster.

Branto Pure Vegetarian Indian Food (☎ 2366 8171; 1st fl, 9 Lock Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; dishes HK\$30-59; ☎ 11am-3pm & 6-11pm; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui; ㉿) This cheap and cheerful Indian club is where to head if you want to try South Indian vegetarian dishes. Order a *thali*, a steel tray of *idlis* (soft rice cakes) and *dosas* (rice pancakes) with dipping sauces.

Sprink Deer (鹿鳴春飯店; ☎ 2366 4012; 1st fl, Lyton Bldg, 42 Mody Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; mains HK\$60-320; ☎ 11.30am-3pm & 6-11pm; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui) This is probably Hong Kong's most famous Northern Chinese restaurant and serves some of the crispiest Peking duck (HK\$280) in town.

Yung Kee (鑪記酒家; ☎ 2522 1624; 32-40 Wellington St; mains HK\$78-180; ☎ 11am-11.30pm; MTR Central) This institution is probably the most famous Cantonese restaurant in Hong Kong. Yung Kee's roast goose has been the talk of the town since 1942, and its dim sum is excellent.

Lin Heung Tea House (蓮香樓; ☎ 2544 4556; 160-164 Wellington St, Central; meals HK\$125; ☎ 6am-11pm; MTR Central) This old-style Cantonese restaurant is definitely worth a visit for the tableau it offers visitors – old men reading the newspaper, extended families kibitzing and noshing – and for the authentic dim sum served from trolleys.

Café Too (☎ 2820 8571; 7th fl, Island Shangri-La Hong Kong, Pacific Place, Supreme Court Rd, Admiralty; buffet lunch/dinner Mon-Sat HK\$258/358, Sun HK\$298/398; ☎ 6.30am-1am; MTR Admiralty) This beautifully designed food hall has a half-dozen kitchens preparing dishes from around the world and one of the best buffets in the territory.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

While neighbouring Guangdong province is well served by bus, train and ferry from Hong Kong, the only way to reach China's Southwest directly is by airplane.

Air

At least one flight a day links Hong Kong International Airport with every major city in China's Southwest. Sample round-trip fares, excluding tax and fuel surcharge (for which you should add about HK\$480 return), are Chéngdū (HK\$2400), Kūnmíng (HK\$2100), Chóngqíng (HK\$2400) and Guílín (HK\$1480). There are also cheaper deals, depending on when and whom you fly, length of stay etc, but fares will be cheaper still – at least 50% less than those in Hong Kong – if you travel to Guǎngzhōu or Shēnzhèn over the border in Guǎngdōng province. Shēnzhèn's Huangtian International Airport in particular is easily

reached by bus from Hong Kong and has flights to just about everywhere in China's Southwest.

Bus

Several transport companies in Hong Kong offer bus services to Guǎngzhōu (HK\$80 to HK\$100) and Shēnzhèn airport (HK\$110), where you can board flights to the Southwest. These include **CTS Express Coach** (☎ 2365 0118, 2261 2472; <http://ctsbus.hkcts.com>) and **Eternal East** (☎ 3412 6677, 2261 0176; www.eebus.com).

Train

Reaching Shēnzhèn over the border in mainland China is a breeze from Hong Kong. Just board the Kowloon–Canton Railway's East Rail at Hung Hom station and ride it for 40 minutes to Lo Wu (1st/2nd class HK\$66/33); Shēnzhèn is a couple of hundred metres away. Its airport is 36km west of the city; a taxi will cost Y150.

The **Kowloon–Guangzhou express train** (www.krc.com) departs from the Hung Hom station a dozen times per day; the journey takes 1¼ hours and costs passengers from HK\$180. Tickets can be booked in advance at KCR stations in Hung Hom, Kowloon Tong and Sha Tin; from China Travel Service (CTS; 中国旅行社) agents; or over the phone through the **Intercity Passenger Services Hotline** (☎ 2947 7888).

GETTING AROUND

The easiest way to get around Hong Kong is via the **MTR** (Mass Transit Railway; ☎ 2881 8888; www.mtr.com.hk) metro system. Tickets cost HK\$4 to HK\$26 (slightly less if purchased with a stored-value Octopus card). Trains run every two to 10 minutes from around 6am to sometime between 12.30am and 1am daily on seven lines, including the Airport Express (see opposite).

The **Star Ferry** (☎ 2366 2576; www.starferry.com.hk) was once a cheap and easy way to cross between Central and Tsim Sha Tsui. It's still the former (HK\$1.70/2.20 on the lower/upper deck), but having moved to a new home at Pier 7 of the outlying islands ferry terminal in late 2006 it is no longer very convenient.

Hong Kong taxis are a bargain. Flagfall on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon is HK\$15 for the first 2km and HK\$1.40 for every additional 200m. It's slightly less elsewhere in the territory.

To/From the Airport

Airport Express (☎ 2881 8888; www.mtr.com.hk) trains depart from Hong Kong station (HK\$100) in Central every 12 minutes from about 6am to just before 1am daily, calling at Kowloon station (HK\$90) in Jordan and at Tsing Yi Island (HK\$60) en route; the full trip takes 24 minutes.

Most major areas of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, the New Territories and Lantau

are connected to the airport by bus. Buses A11 (HK\$40) and A12 (HK\$45) serve major hotel and guesthouse areas on Hong Kong Island, and the A21 (HK\$33) does similar areas in Kowloon. Buses run every 10 to 30 minutes from about 6am to between midnight and 1am; the 'N' buses follow the same routes after that.

A taxi from the airport to Tsim Sha Tsui/Central costs around HK\$270/340.

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