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China & Taiwan

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Translation: Liz Bramsen

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Nǐ hǎo Beijing

A visit to Beijing/北京

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www.cnto.org

China is known as the Middle Kingdom or the Central Kingdom and its central point is the capital, Beijing. Chinese culture has developed in the different areas of the nation over thousands of years and since the emperors took up residence in Beijing and made it the capital city, it has been favored with one fantastic building after another. Today, after the fall of the empire, tourists and the general populace are admitted to the opulent palaces, the temples and all the places where the emperors once made their way.

Beijing's vastly rich cultural heritage, from its thousand-year history to the burgeoning economic progress of today, creates an immediate and grand impression on the occasion of a visit to the capital.

One is impressed with it all – from the imperial dynasty's ancient and grandiose structures to the innumerable buildings that have shot up during recent years' explosive growth. Construction is going on everywhere, and things happen so quickly that exciting new locations have sprung up on every new trip to China.

Chinese culture and gastronomy are something most travelers look forward to, and even in the midst of newly-constructed areas, lovely spots with an authentic atmosphere are never far away. To the north, close to Beijing, the Great Wall stretches out and the mountains hide the many burial grounds of most of the earlier emperors. These, too, are things one ought to see in order to get a proper impression of the Chinese society's historical achievements.

Have a good trip!

Historical outline

The Beijing area has been inhabited for thousands of years, all the way back to the time when the Peking man lived in the area around the present city's southwestern suburb of Zhoukoudian. The area was extremely fertile and dwellings flourished over time. The formation of various states took place during the millennium up to the birth of Christ, and in the third century BC, the first Qin Emperor, Qin Shi Huang, united six states into the first major unified state in China. The city of Ji, which lay in the area of present-day Beijing, became the administrative center. Ji's military and strategic role was maintained until the close of the Tang dynasty at the beginning of the tenth century, when the Khitanes from the north conquered the city.

The Khitanes made Ji their second capital, giving the city the name Nanjing, which means 'Southern Capital'. Under the Liao dynasty of the Khitanes, from 926-1125, a number of palaces were built. The city was to be used as the starting point for further expansion towards the rest of the Chinese territory.

From 1125, the Liao dynasty was replaced by the Jin dynasty (1125-1234), which made Nanjing the new capital of their kingdom. Nanjing was renamed Zhongdu, the 'Central Capital'. Zhongdu competed with the Song dynasty to the south, which was ruled from Hangzhou.

Around the year 1150, the Jin emperor undertook a large-scale expansion of Zhongdu. Palaces and numerous large public buildings were constructed. The population of the city grew – it was during this period that it reached one million.

In 1215, the Mongolian army invaded Zhongdu, giving it the status of a provincial capital subordinated to the Mongolian capital of Kaiping. In 1271, Kubla Khan established the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368) and made Zhongdu its capital. It now became known by the Chinese name Dadu, but was

even better known by its Mongolian name, Khanbalik.

Kubla Khan's realm became the greatest in the history of the world so far. The Mongolians also conquered the southern Song dynasty, thus uniting the entire Chinese land area. For the first time, Khanbalik was the capital of all China.

Zhongdu, from the time of the Yin dynasty, was destroyed by a number of fires, and then Kubla Khan founded his new capital northeast of the old center – this was the beginning of Beijing as we know it today. The years 1267-1293 saw the building of the major share of palaces and fortifications.

In the 1360s, Mongolian rule was weakened and in 1368, the Ming army conquered Khanbalik. The city was renamed Beiping and came under Ming rulership from Nanjing. During the reign of the first two Ming emperors, Beiping was a regional center. The great city walls and The Forbidden City were built before Emperor Yonglei moved the capital there in 1421, now calling it Beijing, the Northern Capital.

Beijing's development continued with extensive building projects throughout the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). Construction activities continued under the Manchurian Qing dynasty (1644-1911) and vast gardens and parks were added. Both the Ming and Qing dynasties elaborated on the city plan that had been conceived in Khanbalik times. It was based on a central axis from south to north with the imperial palace as its absolute center.

After the collapse of the Qing dynasty in 1911, the Republic of China was established under the rule of the Koumintang. Nanjing was intended as the capital, but Beijing maintained its position – but only until 1928 when Nanjing became the official capital of the republic. Beijing returned to its former name – Beiping.

In 1937, Beijing became part of the Japanese-controlled Chinese area and became the capital – under the name Beijing. In the time after the Japanese domination from 1945-1949, it returned to its former name of Beiping.

Through the decades, social unrest had grown and in January of 1949, the Chinese rebel army entered the city. A few months later, on 1 October 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China from the Tianamen gate.

Both Beijing's area and its population increased notably during the last half of the 1900s, and especially in Deng Xiaoping's time much construction work was initiated. For a great number of years, development has been almost explosive with construction of new neighborhoods, development of infrastructure, new office buildings, shopping centers and more.

Ancient imperial China meets the new, modern nation in the city, which, at the time of writing, is being extensively enlarged in anticipation of the Olympic Games to be held in Beijing in 2008.

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Tour 1: Beijing

1. Tian'anmen Square /

Tian'anmen Guangchang/天安門廣場



Tian'anmen Guangchang

www.china.org.cn/english/MATERIAL/41524.htm

www.china.org.cn/english/MATERIAL/41532.htm

Metro: Xi Tian'anmen/Dong

Tian'anmen/Qianmen

Tian'anmen Square is without comparison the largest open square in the world with its size of almost half a square kilometer. A mere walk around the outer area of the square would take a very long time. The Square reached its present size in the 1960s. It is now possible to gather half a million people there.

At the middle of the square is an obelisk raised in 1958 in memory of the heroes of China/人民英雄纪念碑. The square's most centrally positioned building, the mausoleum of Chairman Mao/毛主席纪念堂, also stands here. The mausoleum was opened in 1977, the year after Mao's death, and every day thousands of Chinese make their way here from every part of the enormous nation to see Mao's embalmed corpse.

At the southernmost end of the square is the great and impressive Qianmen gate/前门, which was originally the southern entrance to Beijing. The gate,

which consists of two separate buildings, was erected in 1421 and is part of Emperor Yongle's city, which also includes the Forbidden City. The southernmost building is called the Archery Tower, Jianlou, while the northernmost is the main entrance gate, built into a preserved part of the city wall.

The northern end of Tian'anmen Square is surrounded by the Great Hall of the People/Renmin Dahuitang/人民大会堂 to the west, The Historical Museum of China (Zhongguo Lishi Bowuguan) and the Revolutionary Museum of China (Zhongguo Geming Bowuguan) to the east and the Tian'anmen gate with Mao's portrait to the north.

2. The Tian'anmen gate/天安門



Tian'anmen Guangchang

www.china.org.cn/english/MATERIAL/41527.htm

Metro: Xi Tian'anmen/Dong Tian'anmen

The impressive Tian'anmen gate is one of Beijing's landmarks. The gate was originally built in the beginning of the 1400s, but the present version was built in 1651.

The Chinese emperors traveled once a year to Heaven's Temple, Tiantan. On their way there from the imperial palace in The Forbidden City, they stopped at the Tian'anmen gate to make offerings. The emperors would then continue by way of the centermost of the five marble bridges

that face Tian'anmen square. The emperor alone used the central bridge; everyone else had to use the other four.

On 1 October 1949, on the balcony of Tian'anmen gate, Mao was proclaimed founder of the People's Republic of China. Today, the huge portrait of Mao, which is so well-known to the world, hangs under that very balcony looking out over the square.

Today it is possible to take a guided tour of Tian'anmen Gate itself. One can go up onto the balcony and stand where Mao stood, looking out across the colossal square.

3. The Forbidden City/Zi Jin Cheng/ 紫禁城



Tian'anmen Guangchang

www.dpm.org.cn

Metro: Xi Tian'anmen/Dong Tian'anmen

The Forbidden City was the absolute center of power in China for almost 500 years. The building of the complex began in 1404 and in 1421 Ming Emperor Yongle moved in with his court. The emperors of China lived here until the republic was instituted in 1911.

In imperial times, the Forbidden City housed up to 10,000 persons, about 3,000 of which were eunuchs. Despite the numerous inhabitants, there were no problems finding space, as there were more than 8,500 rooms.

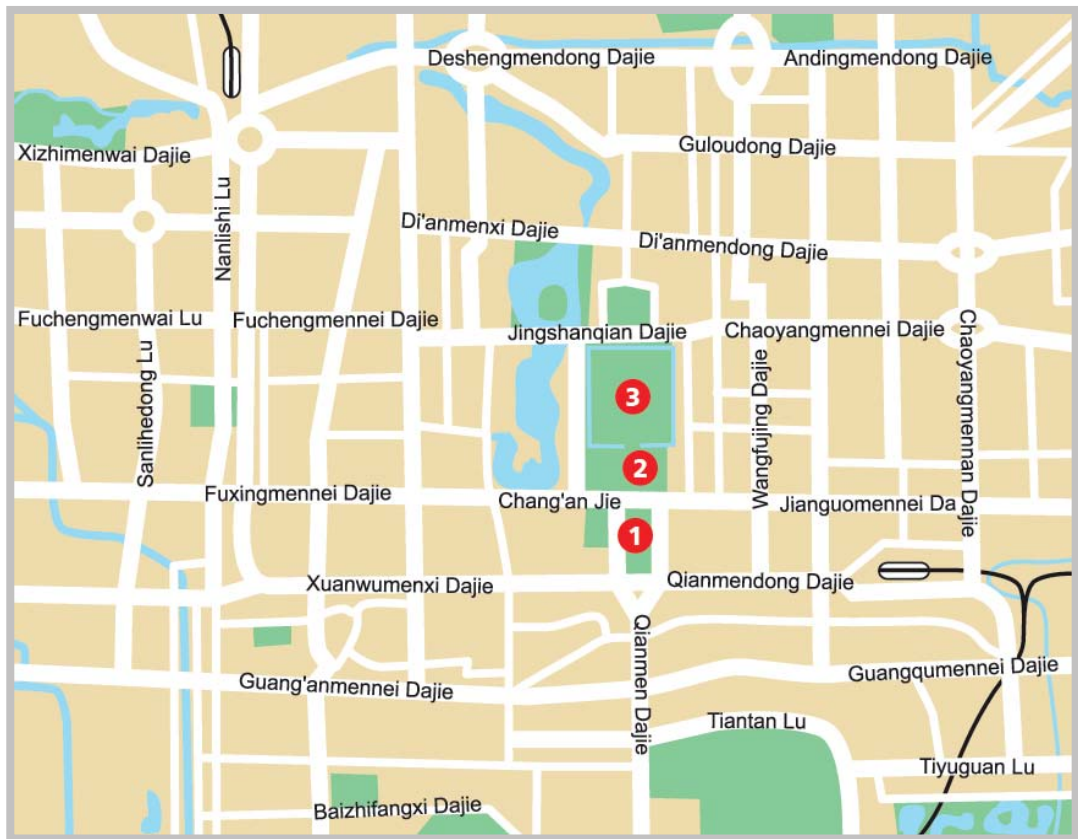
The central part of the Forbidden City is the imperial palace, Gugong, which is placed in the center of Yongle's geomantically designed city. The imperial palace is thus placed on the north-south axis of Beijing and is protected by 10-meter-high walls and a 50-meter-broad moat.

Starting from the moat at the southern end, the first thing one meets is the mighty Meridian Gate, Wumen, which is 35 meters high. Then the landscaped Golden Stream runs in front of the Gate of Highest Harmony. The gate is the entrance to the front courtyard of the complex.

In the courtyard, there are three impressive buildings, which together symbolize both the three Buddhas and the three pure gods of Taoism. The southernmost building, Tauhe Dian, is the Hall of Highest Harmony, within which the Chinese Dragon Throne is placed. It was in this building that the emperor reigned and imperial coronations took place here. The other two buildings are the Hall of Middle Harmony (Zhonghe Dian) and the Hall of Preserving Harmony (Baohe Dian), respectively.

The next building is the Gate of Heavenly Purity, Quanqingmen, which is the entrance to the imperial family's residence. The actual living quarters of the emperor and his family were located in the Palace of Heavenly Purity, Qianqing Gong, and here one can still see some of the original interior, for example, the sleeping quarters.

To the north, we find the pleasant, finely landscaped imperial gardens, after which we leave the Forbidden City by the Gate of Spiritual Courage, Shenwumen. Before exiting, however, one can take a stroll between the buildings to the east and west of the actual axis of the palace. Here one can see a museum that holds relics from the palace and The Wall of Nine Dragons, Jiulongbi.



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Tour 2: Beijing

4. Jingshan Park/景山公园



Wenjin Jie

www.china.org.cn/english/TR-e/41470.htm

Metro: Xi Tian'anmen/Dong Tian'anmen

Jingshan Park, also known as Coal Mountain, lies directly north of the Forbidden City on Beijing's meridian.

The park was once the private garden of the imperial family – the hills in the park were created from soil dug out of the moat when the Forbidden City was built, and the extra earth was brought here, where heaps of coal lay at the foot of the mountain. That is how it got the nickname, Coal Mountain.

In the time of Qianlong, the park was called the Garden of 100 Fruits because of the many fruit trees that grew there. The present park was laid out later and opened to the public in 1928. At the top of Coal Mountain itself, one is rewarded with a fantastic view of the Chinese capital – especially the Forbidden City to the south and the Drum Tower to the North.

If one climbs to the summit via the eastern side, one passes the spot where the last Ming Emperor, Chongzhen, hanged himself in 1644 when an army of peasants under the leadership of Li Zicheng invaded Beijing. A new tree has now been planted to mark the spot.

5. Beihai Park/Beihai Gongyuan/北海公园



Wenjin Jie

www.beihaipark.com.cn

Metro: Xi Tian'anmen

Beautiful Beihai Park was the place where the Mongolian Emperor, Kublai Khan, originally had his winter palace on Jade Island, Qinghuadao.

Today, nothing remains of Kubla Khan's palace. On the spot where it stood, the 44-yard-high White Dagoba Temple, Bai Ta, was built in 1680. The White Dagoba Temple is a Buddhist shrine whose characteristic form can be seen from afar. The style is Tibetan and it was chosen on the occasion of the Dalai Lama's first visit to Beijing.

Across from Jade Island is The Round City, Tuancheng, named after its shape. In The Round City you can see the building called Chenghuang Dian; here, the 1.6-yard-high Buddha in white jade can be seen. In the park we also find the Nine Dragon Wall from 1756 (it was, however, reconstructed in 1885) and the five pavilions, all connected to each other by bridges.

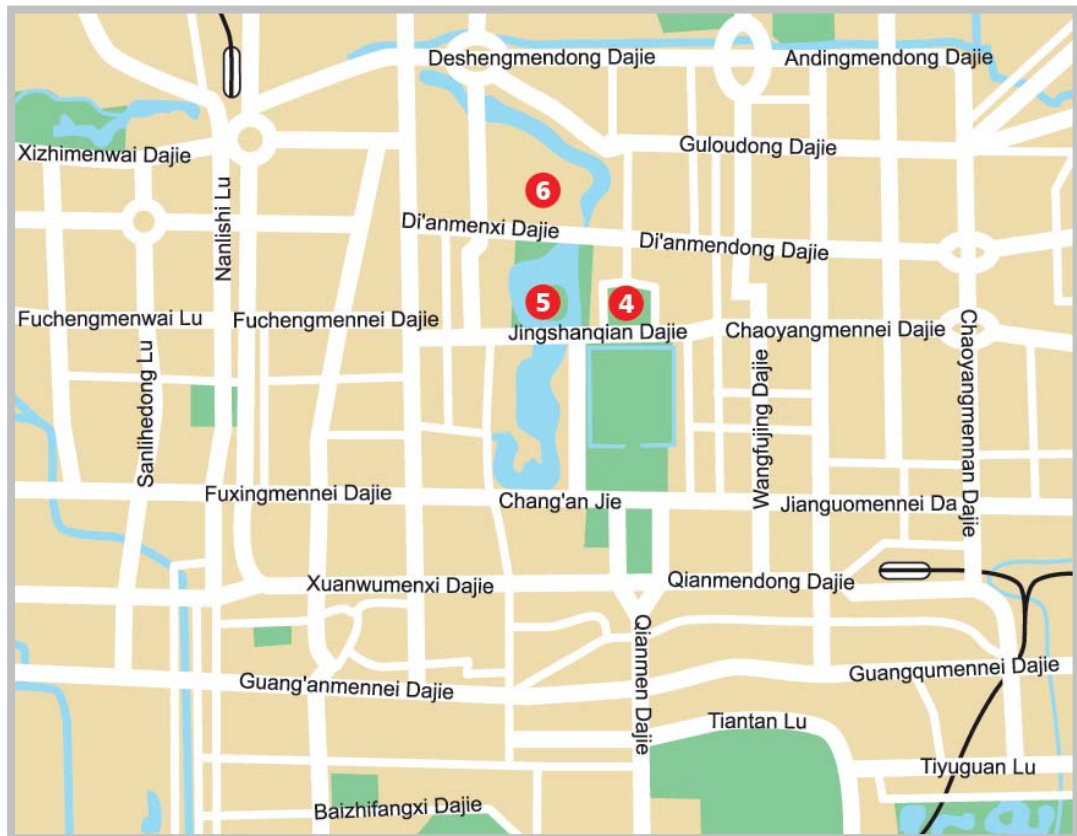
6. Prins Gong's Palace/Gong Wang Fu/恭王府



Qianhai Xijie 17

Metro: Jishui Tan

The Palace of Prince Gong is built on a 14-acre area where the emperor's relatives lived. Prince Gong was Emperor Guangxus' son, and it was he who signed the Peking convention in 1860 when faced with advancing French and English military forces. A replica of the convention is on exhibit, but the beautiful house and the finely sculpted gardens are what make the greatest impression.



Tour 3: Beijing

7. The Temple of Heaven/Tiantan/天壇



Yongdingmen Dajie

www.china.org.cn/english/MATERIAL/41478.htm

Metro: Qianmen

The Temple of Heaven was erected by Emperor Yongle in 1420. The 675-acre area is square towards the south and round towards the north, to symbolize the arch of the heavens and the earth.

The gorgeous, round, 44-yard-high Temple of Prayers for a Good Harvest, Qinian Dian, is a fantastic example of Chinese construction work. The temple was built without the use of nails. The blue tiles symbolize heaven, and the 28 pillars are the four seasons (the large centermost ones), the twelve months, and the twelve two-hour intervals into which the day was traditionally divided in China.

Towards the south of the park area is The Round Altar, Yuan Qiutan, which consists of a row of marble terraces. From the middle, the acoustics are very good – try it for yourself. The same goes for the circular echo wall of the park.

The emperor visited the Temple of Heaven twice a year and performed a number of rituals and sacrifices to wish for a good harvest and give thanks for the previous year's harvest.

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8. The Underground City/Dixia Cheng/ 地下城

Xi Damochang Jie 64

Metro: Chongwen Men

The Underground City is one of Beijing's most unusual sights. A network of tunnels was dug in the 1960s to provide housing for all of the city's six million inhabitants in case of an attack. There is only access to a very small part of the actual network.

9. The National Museum of China/ Zhongguo Guojia Bowuguan/中国国家博物馆

Tian'anmen Guangchang

www.nationalmuseum.cn

Metro: Dong Tian'anmen

The National Museum of China is the common term for two earlier museums: The Revolutionary Museum of China/中国革命历史博物馆, and The Historical Museum of China/中国历史博物馆.

The Revolutionary Museum of China depicts the history of the Communist Party from 1919 until the revolution in 1949. In addition, one can see some of the results that the revolution has produced since that time.

The Historical Museum of China is in the same gigantic building as the Revolutionary Museum. The exhibits compose China's largest collection of historical finds and relics.

10. Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant/ 全聚德

www.quanjude.com.cn

Metro: Dong Tian'anmen

Peking duck is one of the gastronomic specialties of imperial Chinese cuisine. The most traditional place to enjoy this dish is at one of the restaurants with the name: Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant.

The food served here is especially tasty and the way in which the duck is served is an experience in itself. One even receives a numbered certificate to take home afterwards.

11. The Old Observatory/ Gu Guanxiang Tai/古观象台



Jianguo Men Dong Biaobei 2

www.china.org.cn/english/TR-e/41353.htm

Metro: Jianguo Men

Chinese Emperor Yongle had one of the defense towers on the city wall turned into an observatory in 1422. As 'Sons of Heaven', the Chinese emperors always took a great interest in astronomy. In the 1600s and 1700s, Jesuit monks came there and built an observatory, which was modern for those times.

Today, one can see some later Chinese instruments, old navigation maps, portraits of early astronomers, and other effects from the Chinese explorations of the sky.

Tour 4: Beijing

13. Wangfujing Dajie/王府井



Wangfujing Dajie
Metro: Wangfujing

Wangfujing Dajie is Beijing’s modern shopping strip where one can get an impression of the colossal buildings, which have shot up here in such a short period. There are modern shopping centers and office buildings; yet, it is still possible to sense the traditional Chinese atmosphere.

14. Saint Joseph’s Church/ Tianzhutang Dong Tang/天主堂东堂

Wangfujing Dajie 74
Metro: Wangfujing

Along modern Wangfujing Street is a Christian church with an architectural construction that differs notably from the classical Chinese style. The church was originally built in 1665 in Gothic European style. It has, however, been damaged repeatedly and thus rebuilt numerous times since then.

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15. The Drum Tower/Gulou/鼓楼

**Di'anmen Dajie**

www.china.org.cn/english/TR-e/41513.htm

Metro: Gulou

The Drum Tower is placed on Beijing's central axis, as is the northern city gate. The original building from 1272 burned down, as did a rebuilt version in 1297. The present gate building was erected by Yongle in 1420.

The Drum Tower is 46.7 meters high, and is named after the drums that were used here. Today, on an exciting tour up into the tower, one can see numerous drumheads. The tower also provides a good view of the many hutongs in the area.

16. The Bell Tower/Zhonglou/钟楼

**Di'anmen Dajie**

www.china.org.cn/english/TR-e/41513.htm

Metro: Gulou

The Bell Tower lies to the north of the Drum Tower. It was originally erected in 1272, but today's tower was built in 1745. It is 47.9 meters high and contains the largest historical bell in China. The bell weighs 63 tons and was made during Emperor Yongle's reign.

17. The Hutongs/胡同

Di'anmen Dajie

Metro: Gulou

The area between the Drum Tower and the Bell Tower is a good place to begin a tour through Beijing's hutongs. Hutongs are the narrow, winding streets of the original Beijing, built as a labyrinth of inner courtyards in traditional Mongolian fashion. One can go exploring on one's own or join an arranged bicycle tour.

18. The Confucian Temple/Kong Miao/ 孔庙

Guo Zi Jian Jie 13

www.china.org.cn/english/TR-e/41283.htm

Metro: Yonghegong

Kong Miao is China's next largest Confucian temple. It was built in 1306, as was the Imperial Academy, Guo Zi Jian, beside it. The buildings, which are still in use, give a good insight into Beijing's educational and temple culture.

19. The Temple for Peace and Harmony/Yonghe Gong/雍和宫



Yonghe Gong Dajie 12

Metro: Yonghegong

This temple consists of a group of buildings that were constructed in 1694. Initially, Prince Yong lived here. According to the dictates of tradition, he converted the complex to be used as a temple when he took over the throne in 1723.

The temple became Tibetan Buddhist, and in the Falun Dian building, a six-meter-high statue of the founder of the Yellow Hat Sect, Tsongkapa, can be seen. In the Tower of Ten Thousand Happinesses (Wanfu Ge) an extremely impressive 18-meter tall statue of the Future Buddha, Maitreya, is seen. The tall statue is carved out of a single piece of sandalwood.

20. The Temple of Earth/Ditan/地坛



Andingmen Wai

Metro: Yonghegong

The Altar of the Earth was a place where the Ming and Qing emperors made sacrifices to the god of the earth. Once, the large area was enclosed by a circular wall. Today, only the very beautiful western entry gate can be seen. In the area it is possible to see some of the buildings laid out by Emperor Jiajing at the time the park was constructed in 1530.

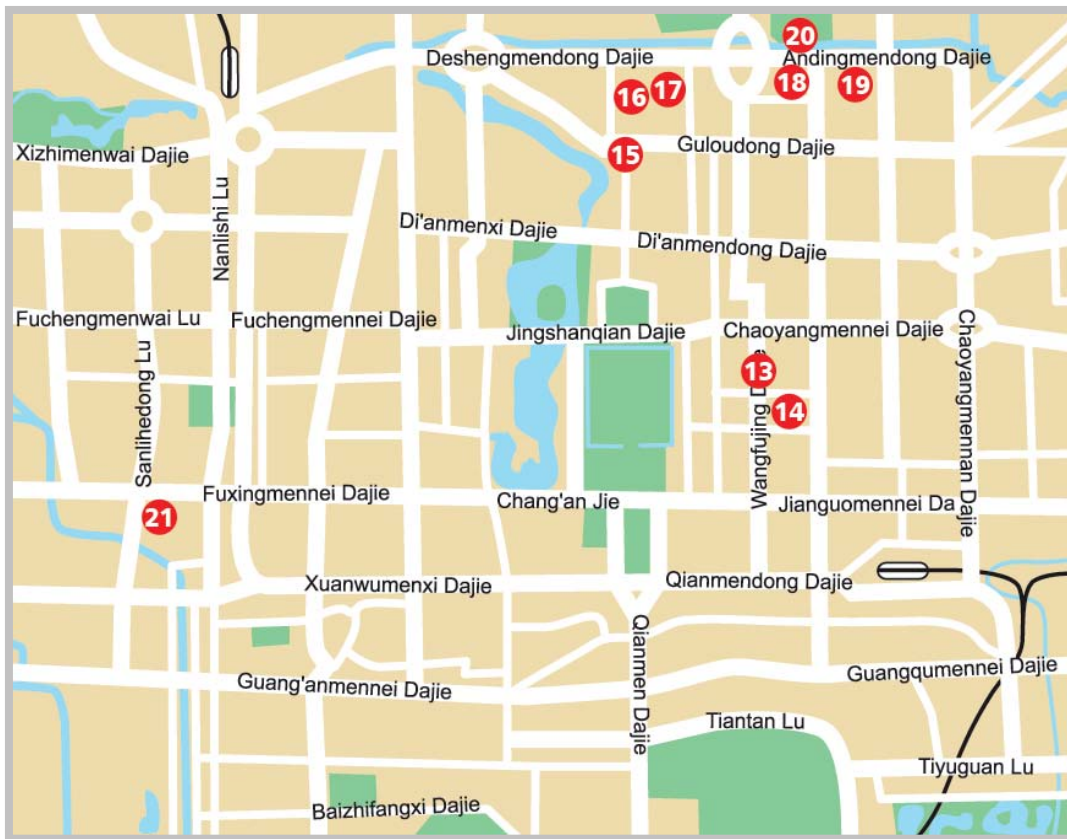
Close to the Temple of Earth, in Ditan Park, one can also visit the first Chinese wax museum. It opened in 1990 and contains models of historical Chinese personalities such as Sun Yat-sen.

21. The White Cloud Temple/Baiyun Guan/白云观

Baiyunguan Jie 6, Xibianmenwai

Metro: Muxidi/Nanlishilu

This temple is one of China's most important, historical Taoist temples. The grounds are thought to have been laid as far back as 739 and the temple is still active. The buildings in the area were built over several centuries, and they form a harmonious and welcoming oasis in the middle of the big city.



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Day Tours from Beijing

22. The Old Summer Palace / Yuanmingyuan/ 圆明园



16 km NW

Beijing's Old Summer Palace was originally an enormous complex covering 3.5 square kilometers (1.35 square miles), composed of palace buildings and gardens built and laid out during the 1700s and 1800s. The greater part of the many buildings was constructed in traditional Chinese style, while the most characteristic buildings were erected in European style during the reign of Emperor Qianlong, who was fond of exotic architecture.

At the close of the second Opium War in 1860, the English set fire to the entire complex, burning it almost completely to the ground. Today, only the ruins of the European palace buildings are left – the European buildings, unlike the Chinese ones, were constructed of stone and were not consumed by the fire (a few Chinese buildings survived as well, but were destroyed in 1900).

Parts of the great gardens, including some streams and lakes, have been reconstructed to look as they did in earlier times. A reconstruction of the buildings is also under consideration.

23. The Summer Palace/Yihe Yuan/ 颐和园/頤和園



18 km NW

www.china.org.cn/english/MATERIAL/41463.htm

The imperial Summer Palace with its incredibly beautiful surroundings was originally an imperial garden created during the reign of Emperor Qianlong in 1750. At the time, the garden consisted of different sections inspired by the different regions of China. The already-existing lake in the area was expanded to become the present-day Kunming Lake, a copy of the Western Lake in Hangzhou, southwest of Shanghai.

After the destruction of the old Summer Palace in 1860, the present palace complex was built according to the plan of Empress Dowager Cixi. Cixi was the actual ruler of China for many years, since she ruled on behalf of the child emperors. When they reached their majority and took over the Dragon Throne, Cixi retreated to the Summer Palace.

In the great complex, there are numerous sights to be seen. Close to the eastern entrance gate, Dongmen, lies the Garden of Virtue and Harmony, Deheyuan, and Empress Dowager Cixi's private theater. Around the theater, a number of exciting effects, for example Chinese porcelain, are exhibited.

On arriving at the banks of the Kunming lake, one has a choice view of the palace with the 60 meter high Longevity Mountain, Wanshou Shan.

Along the shore, the unique Long Corridor, Changiang, is situated. The covered walkway was built back in the middle of the 1700s when the garden was laid out. The Corridor is 728 meters long, constructed in Chinese style with no less than 14,000 pictures painted along its entire length. The pictures illustrate episodes from Chinese literature and history, among other things.

At the end of the Long Corridor is the Marble Boat. The Marble Boat was originally a pavilion built in the 1700s. After its destruction in 1860, the 36-meter boat was reconstructed by Empress Dowager Cixi. The style is European-inspired, and the uppermost parts of the boat are fashioned of wood, painted to make it look like marble.

From the central part of the Long Corridor, one can go towards the top of Longevity Mountain. On the way, one passes the Gate of Scattering Clouds/Paiyunmen and the Temple of Scattering Clouds/Paiyun dian. The next large building is the Pavilion of Buddhist Incense/Foxiangge, which, in reality, is a very large and lovely pagoda. From the pagoda there is a beautiful view of the complex and of Kunming Lake to the South Sea Lake, which is connected to the banks by the characteristic Bridge of 17 Arches/Shiqikongqiao. Behind the Foxiangge Pagoda lies the Temple of Wisdom, Zhihuihai.

24. The Ming Graves/Ming Chao Shi San Ling/明朝十三陵



50 km N

www.china.org.cn/english/kuaixun/75232.htm

North of Beijing lies the great burial ground of the Ming emperors. The place was chosen by emperor Yongle, who moved the capital from Nanjing to Beijing in 1420. Yongle began the construction work by preparing his own mausoleum, and this naturally made him the first emperor to be buried there.

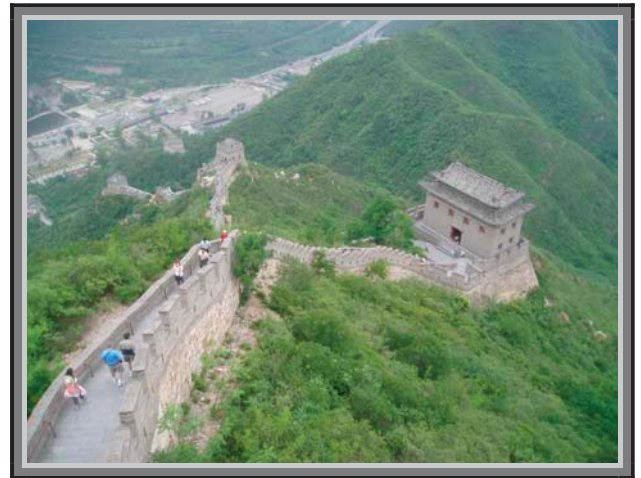
In addition to Yongle, 12 other Ming emperors are buried in the hilly area. The two first emperors of the dynasty are buried in Nanjing, but not the last one, because the Qing dynasty had taken over when he committed suicide in Beijing.

The entire burial ground was selected very carefully according to geomantic principles. The Jundu Mountains protect against evil spirits and winds from the north, and the burial area itself is placed in a peaceful valley with still waters and fertile land.

The area is surrounded by a wall, and entry to the Ming graves is via the 7 kilometer long Way of the Spirits, or Sacred Way/Shendao, which is a sight worth visiting in itself. Here, the stone guardians of the graves stand along the way in the form of human and animal statues.

Today, one can see three grave complexes: the largest, called Chang Ling, is that of Emperor Yongle, who died in 1424. Ding Ling, the underground palace grave of Emperor Zhu Yijun, who died in 1620; and the underground vaults 30 meters down, with the smallest grave – Shao Ling. Each one is greatly interesting with many temple buildings in traditional Chinese style.

25. The Great Wall of China/ Chang Cheng/长城



80 km N

www.china.org.cn/english/MATERIAL/41517.htm

The Great Wall of China is the world's largest construction. It covers a length of no less than 6,350 kilometers and passes through many different natural environments, from flat plains to mountains such as those north of Beijing.

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The Wall was built over several periods. The oldest parts were erected at the end of the Qin dynasty in the third century BC. The next periods in which building activity was carried out were during the Han dynasty in the earliest years AD and during the 1100s under five different dynasties.

The Wall that exists today stems mainly from the time of the Ming dynasty from the 1300s to the 1600s. In comparison to earlier times, it was now built with solid stone as reinforcement on the walls and at the top.

The purpose of the Wall was to keep China's northern border safe from invasion by nomad tribes, who made attacks and carried out raids in the Chinese areas. It was erected with watchtowers along its entire length and with many entry gates.

The Wall was no longer important for the defense of the nation after armies from Manchuria invaded China and set up the Qing dynasty. Now, the country was ruled by the very ones the Wall was supposed to have kept out.

There are many arranged tours available that will take you to one or more places on the Wall. You may also choose to go there on your own. The closest places available for a visit are Badaling/八达岭 and Juyong/居庸關. If one wishes to see the Wall's eastern beginning point, it lies at Shanhaiguan/山海關, 300 kilometers from Beijing.

26. The Luguo Bridge/Lugouqiao/盧溝橋

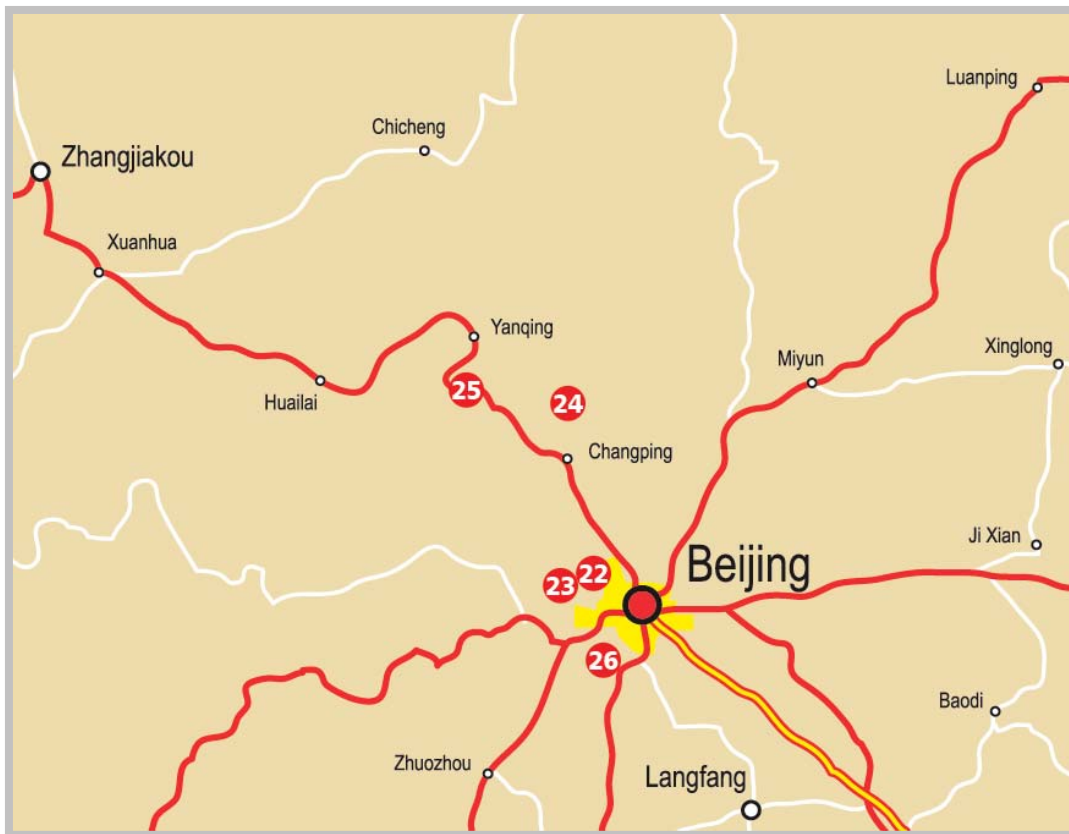
15 km SW

www.china.org.cn/english/TR-e/41515.htm

The interesting Luguo Bridge is also known as the Marco Polo Bridge. It was given this name because Marco Polo mentions it in his description of his travels to the Mongolian dynasty in Beijing in the 1200s. The bridge was built from 1189 to 1192. It is 266.5 meters long and crosses the Yongding River.

The bridge was partially destroyed by a flood in the 1600s and reconstructed immediately afterwards.

The Marco Polo Bridge is decorated with about 500 stone lions and a calligraphy made by Emperor Qianlong in the 1800s.



For Children in Beijing

Beijing Amusement Park (Zuo'anmennei Dajie 1:

www.bap.com.cn (Chinese)

www.bap.com.cn/en (English)

Beijing Planetarium (near Beijing Zoo)

Beijing Zoo/Beijing Dong Wu Yuan/北京動物園
(Gaoliang Qiao Xiejie 218):

www.beijingzoo.com

Chaoyang Amusement Park (Nongzhanguan Nanlu
1)

ExploraScience (The Malls, Oriental Plaza,
Dongcheng):

www.explorascience.com.cn

Milu Park/Milu Yuan/麋鹿苑 (Nan Haizi Milu
Yuan)

Shijingshan Amusement Park:

www.bs-amusement-park.com

World Park/Shijie Gongyuan/世界公園 (Fengbao
Lu 158)

Shopping in Beijing

Wangfujing, Qianmen, Dashilan, Xidanbei Dajie,
Liulichang, Dongsì

Baihuo Shopping Center (Wangfujing Dajie 255)

Friendship Store (Jianguomenwai Dajie 17)

Lufthansa Shopping Center (Liangmaqiao Lu 52,
Chaoyang-qu)

North Star Shopping Center (Anwaiianli Lu 8)

Parkson Department Store (Fuxingmennei Dajie
101)

Dangdai Shopping Center (Haidian Lu 130,
Haidian-qu)

Lafayette Department Store (Donganmen Dajie
19)

Saite Plaza (Jianguomenwai Dajie 22)

Shidu Department Store (Wangfujing Dajie 99)

Shuangan Shopping Center (Beisanhuan Xilu 38,
Haidian-qu)

The Silk Market/Xiushui Shichang (Xiushui)

Xidan Shopping Center (Xidanbei Dajie 120)

Yanjingqianmen Shopping Center
(Qianmendong Dajie 30)

Public transportation in Beijing

Beijing's metro:

www.bjsubway.com

Beijing's airport:

www.bcia.com.cn

Chinese railroads:

<http://train.chinamor.cn.net>

Timetables for trains in China:

[http://treehouse.ofb.net/guide/searchtrain
stations?lang=en](http://treehouse.ofb.net/guide/searchtrainstations?lang=en)

Metro Map



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Nỉ hảo Shanghai



A Visit to Shanghai/ 上海

<http://lyw.sh.gov.cn/en>
www.cnto.org

Shanghai has great historic attraction. It is one of the largest Chinese cities; a lively and interesting metropolis. Shanghai is one of China's economic locomotives, something that shows quite clearly in the city streets, which function as a showcase to the world of Chinese progress and increasing wealth within the global economy. For tourists, this means a number of fascinating skyscrapers and exciting modern architecture, not least along the city's harbor where the Pudong district rises up impressively opposite the old city center.

Shanghai is not just modern glass and steel – on the contrary – it houses buildings and cultural influences from both ancient China and from the colonial powers that have traded here. On the Bund, a street along the waterfront, we find some of Asia's most well-known buildings in European style, for example the Peace Hotel, a structure that oozes 1900s Shanghai atmosphere.

In the streets, one also finds Chinese temples, thus completing the varied impression of new and old elements from different cultures. And if you fly in via Shanghai's airport, you can look forward to it all on the short ride to the center on a train that reaches speeds of more than 400 kilometers per hour – a meeting with modern China right from the start.

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Historical outline

Shanghai's history goes way back. The area was part of the Songjiang province, ruled from nearby Suzhou, before it became a real town. Under the Song dynasty (960-1279) the area began to develop into a small town. Its main function then was as a port.

The year 1553 is regarded as the beginning of Shanghai's existence as a proper town. This was when the town walls were built, creating a structure in the scattered dwellings. The town continued to play an important role as a harbor, but it was not until the 1800s that more extensive development took place. In spite of Shanghai's present size, it is a relatively young city and there are not as many old, traditional Chinese buildings as in, for example, Beijing or Nanjing.

In the 1800s, Shanghai's significance to trade grew due to its good position close to the mouth of the Yangtze River. This made it especially attractive to Western countries, which were otherwise denied access to the closed Chinese harbors.

The first Opium War ended with the signing of the Nanjing Treaty in 1842. China had to hand Hong Kong over to the British and to open some of its harbors to Western traders –including the harbor in Shanghai, which was the most interesting one of them all. Further agreements in the following years expanded the foreign rights in the city and the harbor.

The national Taiping rebellion began in 1859 and continued until 1864. It became one of the bloodiest periods in Chinese history – defeats to foreign powers and natural catastrophes occurred repeatedly, and in the opinion of the rebels, without the proper sort of reaction from the Manchurian Qing dynasty. The areas of Shanghai under foreign domination were kept out of the conflict and

became a goal for refugees fleeing from the many battles that took place in China.

After battles in the Shanghai area in 1853, a city government was established in 1854. The intention was that the foreign areas should have a coordinated leadership, not least due to the increasing numbers of Chinese newcomers.

During the war against Japan in 1894-1895, China had to give up Formosa – now known as Taiwan – and Japan became one more nation ruling over part of Shanghai, just like England, France, Russia, and the USA.

The Japanese were the first to start factories in the city and soon the other foreign powers began to do the same. This became the beginning of the great industrialization of Shanghai, which, in time, made it the absolute economic center of power in the nation. This status was based on more than just the large harbor and the financial sector – which was the largest and most developed in the Far East.

Shanghai's great importance to China began to demand that special measures be taken with regard to the political organization of the city. Until 1927, Shanghai was part of the Jiangsu province, whose capital was Nanjing, but now Shanghai was made into a special administrative zone on the same level as one of China's provinces. In 1930, Shanghai formally became a county and a province on its own, and this provided possibilities for an even better structuring and planning of the future of the city.

In the beginning of the 1930s, the Chinese in Shanghai began to feel a growing desire for independence in this partly foreign city. Japan bombed the city in 1932 and after scattered battles and rebellions, the city was conquered by Japan in 1937. The Japanese occupation lasted until 1945.

During World War II, Shanghai became a refuge for Jews, among others. The city's historical role as a very international and tolerant city continued.

In May of 1949, The Chinese Communist Party took power in the city and as a result, many foreign businesses and trade offices moved away, choosing British Hong Kong as the seat of their activities in the Far East instead.

From the 1950s to the 1960s, Shanghai experienced a great new industrial period of growth. In the times of the People's Republic of China, Shanghai has always been the center of production and trade. The new economic boom in China, which started in the 1980s in the Guangdong province, put Shanghai on the map once and for all as one of the economic giants of Asia.

The development really gathered speed after 1991, when new initiatives aimed at attracting both Chinese and foreign investments were implemented. The leader of the People's Republic, Jiang Zemin, had once been mayor of Shanghai, and he took the lead in establishing the new, impressive city one sees today.

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Tour 1: Shanghai

1. The Old Town District/Nanshi/南市

Nanshi

Metro: Huangpi Lu

For a long time, Shanghai consisted of separate districts, most of them governed by foreign nations. The Chinese district was under Chinese rule until 1949, and thus it was here that one could find a truly Chinese atmosphere. Today, one can still experience some of the narrow, densely built streets that give an impression of the Shanghai of the past. The district lies within the area bordered by the two streets, Zhonghua and Renmin, which were both constructed upon the area of the filled-in moats.

2. The City God Temple/ Chenghuang Miao/城隍庙



Anren Lu 218

Metro: Huangpi Lu

The City God Temple is in Shanghai's old town district and together with the fantastically beautiful Yuyuan Garden/豫园, it presents a fine example of a classical Chinese garden and temple complex.

The garden was laid out in the 1500s during the Ming dynasty. It includes all the elements of a garden of the time – artificial hills, rocks, carp ponds, dragon paintings, zigzagging bridges, and pavilions. In modern Shanghai, it is like entering another world.

Around Yuyuan garden, a market area of great interest for tourists has been built. There are various shops here, and in the middle of the small pond of the area, you will find the Huxingtea tea-house, which is the oldest one in Shanghai.

3. The Bund/Wai Tan/外滩



Zhongshan Dong Lu

Metro: Henan Zhong Lu

The Bund is a street area unique to all of Southeast Asia. Along its 1.5 kilometers there are 52 buildings constructed in various styles: Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, neo-classical and art deco. Thus, it is easy to understand why the Bund is also called an international museum of architecture.

The Bund's history started as an English building project and at the end of the 1800s and the beginning of the 1900s, the great boom in the economy and the construction business made the area an important financial center in East Asia.

The many houses consisted mainly of trade houses and banks from many nations: England, France, Russia, Germany, Japan, and the US. Both a Russian and an English consulate were also placed here.

The buildings came to have new functions once the People's Republic of China was established in 1949.

Today, the Bund is visited extensively, both during the day and the evening. Along the river, there is a lovely promenade from which there is a view of the many interesting houses and of the modern Pudong district on the opposite bank. It is also a good place from which to follow the intense and varied ship traffic. In the evening, there are many activities here and the buildings on both banks of the river are brightly illuminated.

The Monument to the People's Heroes/Renmin Yingxiong Jinianbei stands at the northern end of The Bund, and close to this is The Bund Historical Museum/Waitan Lishi Bowuguan.

3a. The Peace Hotel/Heping Fandian/ 和平饭店

Nanjing Lu 20

www.shanghaipeacehotel.com

The Peace Hotel was built by Victor Sassoon in 1929 as Shanghai's most glamorous hotel – at that time it was called the Cathay Hotel. The hotel came into Chinese hands in 1949 and reopened as a hotel in 1956. The hotel is known for good jazz music and a 1920s-1930s atmosphere. From the roof terrace, there is a choice view over the area and especially of Pudong.

Today, the Peace Hotel consists of two buildings. The northernmost one is the original Cathay Hotel, but the southern one stems from 1906 and stands where the Palace Hotel originally stood.

3b. The Customs House/Haiguan Dalou/ 海關大樓

Zhongshan Dong Lu 13

The Customs House on the Bund was built in 1927 as a replacement for an older Customs House in Chinese style. Its clock tower makes it the Bund's most characteristic structure. The clock tower is called Big Ching and is inspired by Big Ben.

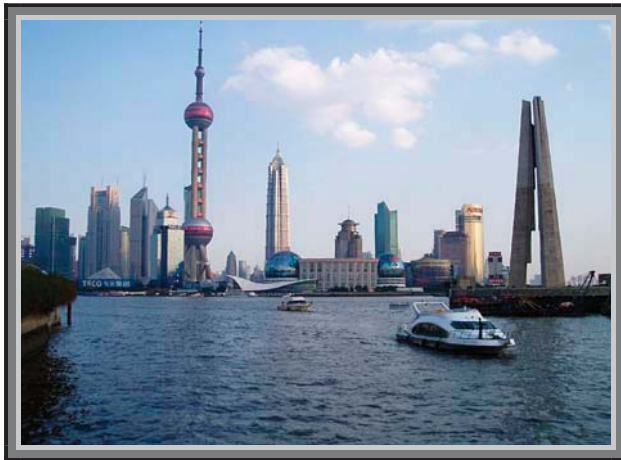
3c. Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank/Huifeng Yinhang/匯豐銀行



Zhongshan Dong Lu 12

The bank building with the large dome beside the Customs House was built in 1923 and now houses the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank. The interior of the building is worth seeing, and in its own day, it was said to be the most luxurious building from the Suez Canal to the Bering Strait.

4. Boat trip in Shanghai's harbor/ 黄浦江遊覽



Zhongshan Dong Lu Metro: Henan Zhong Lu

Along the Bund from Jinling Lu Street, one can take a boat trip on the Huangpu River and the smaller Wusong north of the Bund. A trip on the busy water has a special atmosphere, and it is a great way to see both the Bund and the Pudong district.

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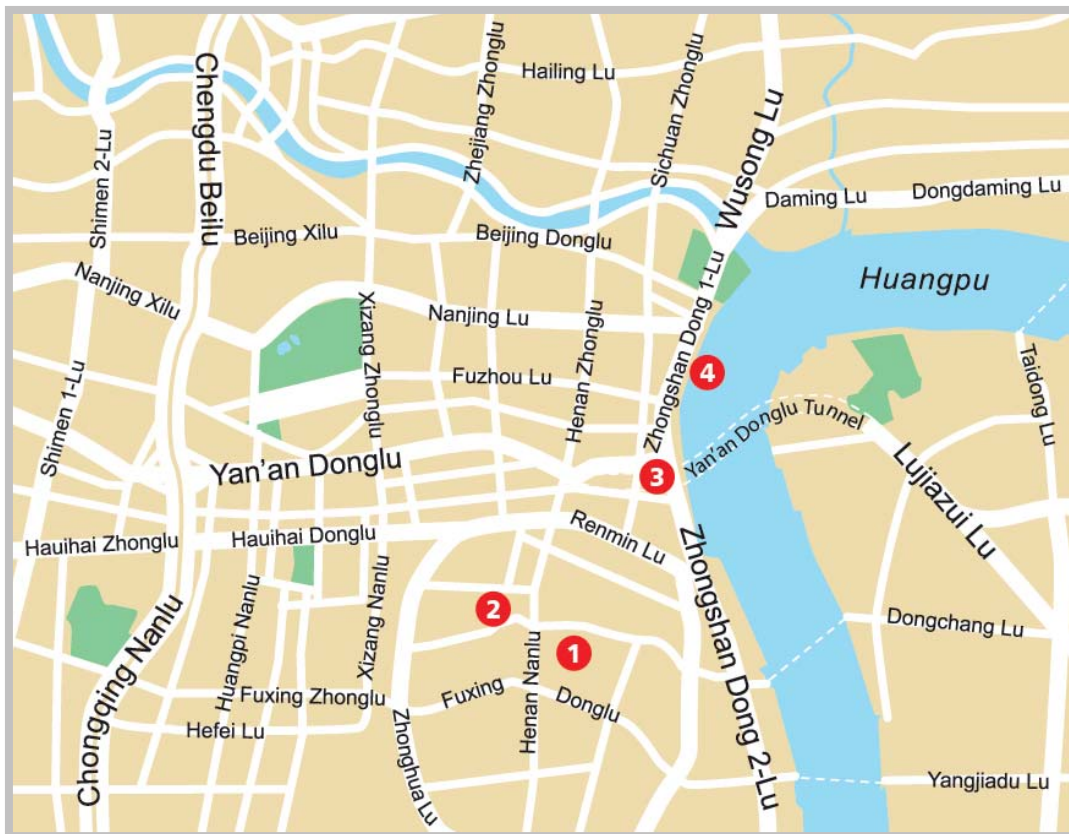
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Tour 2: Shanghai

5. The Pudong District/浦东新区



Pudong

<http://english.pudong.gov.cn>

Metro: Lujiazui

The Pudong district along the eastern bank of the Huangpu River, is Shanghai's most modern district. It shot up out of almost nothing as recently as 1990. The numerous skyscrapers in glass and steel give the city its unique skyline. Pudong is the commercial and financial heart of the city, which in itself is one of Asia's powerhouses – the district is also a sharp contrast to the Bund on the other side. Between the Bund and Pudong, tunnels have been made through which one can go under the river. They provide the easiest route for going back and forth between the two areas.

6. The Oriental Pearl Tower/Dongfang Mingzhu/东方明珠塔

Shiji Da Dao 1

Metro: Lujiazui

The Oriental Pearl Tower is Shanghai's highest building. It is situated in the modern Pudong district. The tower is 468 meters high and it was built from 1991 to 1995.

The tower has three observation decks at 90, 263 and 342 meters. Needless to say, there is a fantastic

view from them all. In addition, there is a rotating restaurant at 267 meters. The tower, which weighs 120,000 tons, also holds a small hotel and a shopping center.

7. The Jin Mao Building/Jin Mao Dasha/金茂大厦



Pudong Da Dao 88

Metro: Lujiazui

The Jin Mao building is one of Pudong's large buildings. It is among the highest in Asia at 420.5 meters. The skyscraper is 88 floors high and was built from 1993 to 1998. The number eight, which is associated with progress in Chinese culture, was used during the planning stages. There are 88 floors divided into 16 segments, which in turn are built around an octagonal concrete core. The core is surrounded by eight so-called super-columns and eight exterior steel columns.

The foundation of the building reaches 83.5 meters down into ground and the construction can withstand typhoons and earthquakes up to 7 on the Richter scale.

Jin Mao holds a great many offices, a shopping center, innumerable restaurants, nightclubs, an observation deck at the top and the very beautifully arranged 5-star Grand Hyatt Hotel. The hotel covers the area from the 53rd to the 87th floor and the hotel's barrel-shaped atrium, which stretches from the 56th to the 87th floor, is a sight in itself.

The diameter of the fascinating room is 27 meters and it is 115 meters high. At the top, on the 87th floor, is the world's highest bar, Cloud 9. From the observation deck of the building on the 88th floor, one can enjoy the sight of the hotel's atrium from above.

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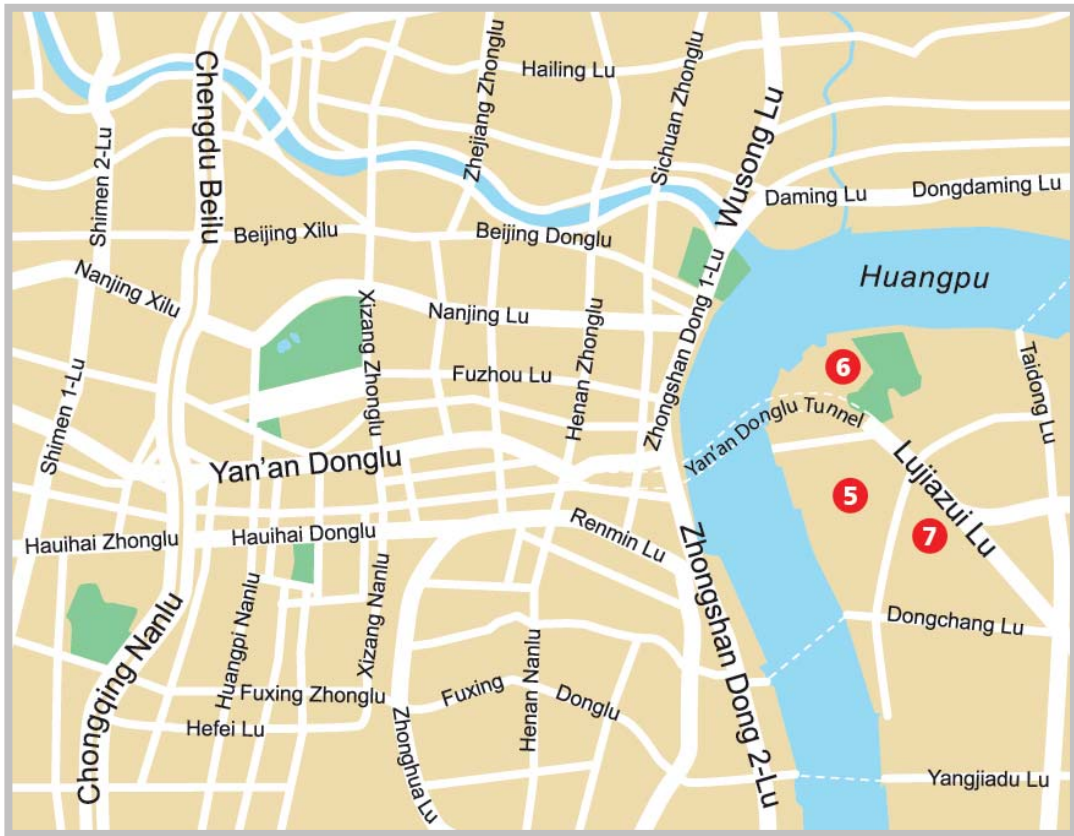
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Tour 3: Shanghai

8. Nanjing Lu/南京路



Nanjing Lu

Metro: Henan Zhong Lu

Nanjing Lu is Shanghai's main street. It is one of the busiest in the world; something one easily can see for oneself when taking a stroll here. Nanjing Lu is packed with shops and shopping centers and there are always crowds of people here.

The street is also an impressive sight in the evenings when the many neon signs and advertisements light up its entire length.

9. The Park Hotel/Guoji Fandian/ 上海国际饭店

Nanjing Lu 170

Metro: Renmin Guangchang

The big Park Hotel is situated near the People's Park. It was built in colonial times in art-deco style. The hotel was one of the leading ones on the Bund in Shanghai together with the Cathay Hotel (now known as the Peace Hotel). These are still wonderful, historical hotels, but now there are also many new, modern hotels all over the city.

10. People's Park/Renmin Gongyuan/人民公園

Nanjing Lu

Metro: Renmin Guangchang

The central People's Park is situated on the large area that once served as the race track for the Shanghai Race Club. Many of the residents of the city use the park as a social meeting place and as an oasis in the heart of Shanghai.

11. The Shanghai Museum/Shanghai Maishuguan/ 上海美术馆

Nanjing Xi Lu 325

www.sh-artmuseum.org.cn

Metro: Renmin Guangchang

The Shanghai Museum has been established in what were once the Shanghai Race Club's buildings. The museum's collection consists mainly of modern Chinese art, in which there is great variation.

12. The Shanghai Grand Theatre/Shanghai Dajuyuan/ 上海大劇院



Renmin Da Dao 300

www.shgtheatre.com

Metro: Renmin Guangchang

Shanghai's impressive Grand Theater is of a modern design inspired by traditional Chinese architectural style. Since its opening in 1998, the theater has carried a broad range of entertainment consisting of opera, musicals, ballets, dramas, and concerts with symphony orchestras and chamber music.

Already upon entering the 2,000-square-meter lobby, one is impressed by the dimensions of the building created by the French architect, Jean-Marie Charpentier.

13. The Shanghai Museum/Shanghai Bowuguan/上海博物馆



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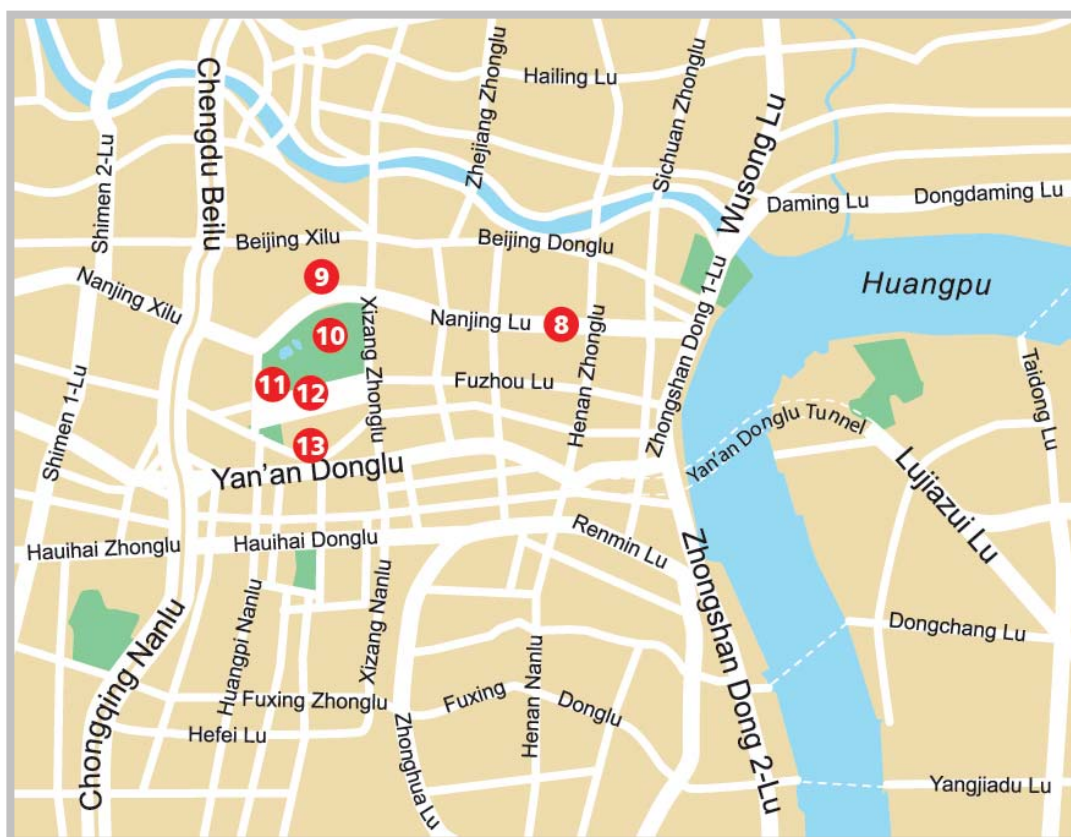
Renmin Da Dao 201www.shanghaimuseum.net**Metro: Renmin Guangchang**

The Shanghai Museum's collection consists of more than 120,000 objects in the following categories:

Bronze works, ceramics, calligraphy, furniture, jade objects, coins, paintings, seals, sculptures and minority art.

The bronze collection is of special interest; it is among the finest in the world. The many objects exhibited at the museum give a fine impression of much of Chinese cultural history, for example through furniture from the different dynasties, not least the Ming and Qing dynasties.

The museum was originally founded in 1952. The present, modern museum building with its interesting architectural style was built from 1993 to 1996. It holds about 40,000 square meters of space in its five floors.



Tour 4: Shanghai

14. Memorial Hall of the Site of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China/Zhonggong Yidahuizhi/中共一大會址



Xingye Lu 78

Metro: Huangpi Lu

The first national congress of the Communist Party in China was held in this house in Shanghai from 23 to 31 July 1921, and it was the first formal step towards the Chinese revolution in 1949. Twelve delegates attended the congress. The house, which is a French mansion, is kept in the style of the 1920s congress.

15. Sun Yat-Sen's Residence/Shanghai Sun Zhongshan Guju/上海孙中山故居

Xianshan Lu 7

Metro: Shanxi Nan Lu

This house was once resided in by Sun Yat-Sen. He was the founder of the Koumintang Party and the first provisional president of the Chinese republic from its founding in 1912. He is one of the absolute main figures behind modern-day China at its transition from the Manchurian Qing dynasty.

The interior of the house has been kept in the original style from 1918-1924 when Sun Yat-Sen lived here. His wife stayed here until 1937.

16. The Longhua Temple/Longhua Gu Si/龍華寺



Longhua Lu 2853

Metro: Shilong Lu

The Longhua Temple was founded in 242. According to legend, King Sun Quan had 13 pagodas built in which to preserve relics consisting of colored stones, which were thought to have been made out of the ashes of the cremated Buddha. The 40.4-meter high, seven-story pagoda in the Longhua Temple is said to be one of these pagodas.

The temple was destroyed at the close of the Tang dynasty and rebuilt during the northern Song dynasty in 977. The temple buildings are in the style of the time of the Song dynasty, but most of them are reconstructions built under the reign of the Qing emperors, Tongzhi and Guangxu.

The five temple halls are built on a north-south axis. In addition, there are a drum tower and a bell tower. The bell in the bell tower was cast in 1382. It is two meters high and weighs 5 tons. In the Maitreya temple hall, one can see a number of statues, including the statues of the 500 Lohan.

Remember to enjoy a stroll in the peaceful temple garden.

17. The Saint Ignatius Cathedral/ Xujiahui/聖依納爵主教座堂



Puxi Lu 158

Metro: Xujiahui

Shanghai's St. Ignatius Cathedral is regarded the leading Catholic church in Asia. The cathedral, with its two towers, was built in 1846 in European Gothic style and holds 2,500 persons.

18. The Jing An Temple/Jing An Si/ 静安寺

Nanjing Lu 1700

Metro: Jing An

The oldest buildings of the Jing An temple were built as early as 247. Until 1216, they were situated at a different location in Shanghai. In that year, the temple was moved to its present location.

The present-day buildings were built in southern Chinese style during the Qing dynasty and are beautifully kept after an extensive renovation in 1983. One can see different temple halls. In the Guanyin hall there is a statue made of camphor wood. The statue, which weighs in at 5 tons, is an impressive sight at 6.2 meters in height. One can also see China's largest Buddha statue in jade in the temple. It is 3.8 meters high.

Other objects of interest are the 3.5 ton Hongwu bell from the Ming dynasty and a collection of stone Buddhas from the time of the northern and southern dynasties around the 500s.

19. The Jade Buddha Temple/Yufo Si/

玉佛禅寺



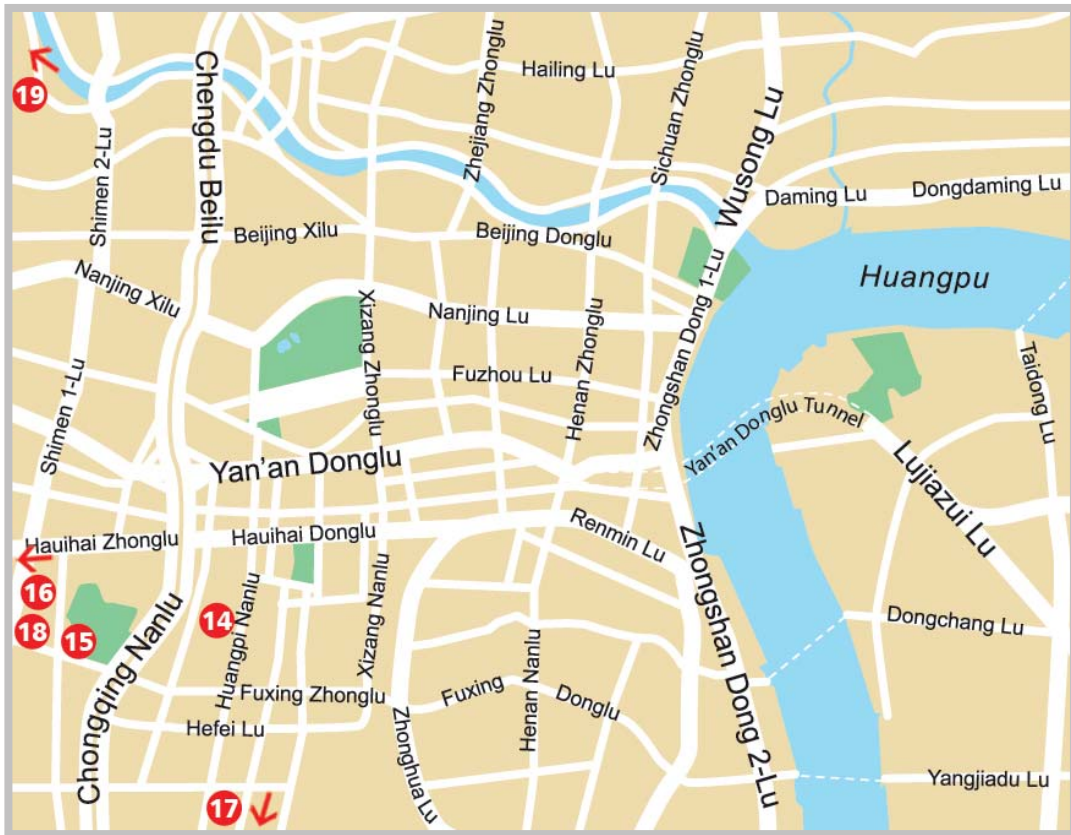
Anyuan Lu 170

www.yufotemple.org

Metro: Hanzhong Lu

This Buddhist temple was founded in 1882 based on what were originally two Buddha statues made of jade. They were sailed here from Burma after a donation made to a Chinese monk. Since the temple's establishment, a larger, similar Buddha and a great many other statues and objects have come to join the collection.

The temple itself is built in traditional Chinese style and includes a cozy yard with large stone lamps.



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The city of Hangzhou, which is one of China's seven ancient capitals, is easily reached by train from Shanghai. The trip takes 2½ hours. Hangzhou was founded more than 2,000 years ago during the Qin dynasty. During the first centuries, the town was only a minor settlement but after the town walls were built in 591, development proceeded rapidly. The city was thus quite well-to-do during the following Tang dynasty from the 600s to the 900s, not least due to its fortifications and its strategically good position at the southern end of the Grand Canal.

Various buildings were planned and built, for example, the dam at the well-known West Lake. Hangzhou's population flourished, reaching almost half a million by the 1100s and this made it one of the world's largest cities.

Marco Polo visited Hangzhou in the 1200s and he described it as the undoubtedly most beautiful city in the world. A great many of the city's historical buildings were ruined in the 1800s, but the sights are still so wonderful that it is one of the most visited cities in China. Here we describe only some of the sights – others include a silk museum and a tea museum.

20a. The West Lake/Xi Hu/西湖

Many Chinese cities have a West Lake, but the one in Hangzhou is the most famous. It was also this one that gave inspiration to the establishment of Kunming Lake at the imperial summer palace in Beijing.

The West Lake is quite large, stretching from the city itself to the forested hills often covered by a mist which creates a special atmosphere. The most characteristic building at the West Lake is the 45-meter-high pagoda built high up on a hill.

20b. The Six Harmonies Pagoda/Liuhe/六和塔

The Six Harmonies Pagoda is thought by many to be the most impressive pagoda in China. It was originally raised in 970 and had a height of more than 100 meters at the time. It collapsed in 1121 and was rebuilt in a beautiful location on the northern banks of the Qiantang River, this time at its present height of 60 meters.

From the outside, the pagoda seems to have 13 floors, but on the inside, there are only seven. In addition to the pagoda itself, one can see a number of exciting objects from Chinese cultural history.

21. Nanjing/南京

Nanjing, 250 km W

www.nju.gov.cn/english

Station: Nanjing

Nanjing lies three hours from Shanghai by train. The city has been the Chinese capital numerous times throughout history. It is one of the four most important capitals of early China, and thus there are many interesting sights to see among the many skyscrapers in the modern city.

21a. Nanjing centrum

Nanjing's old center lay within the long, high city walls, remnants of which can still be seen. The palaces, gardens and other buildings belonging to the imperial court were also here. Today, one can see the Bell Tower/Zhonglou and the Drum Tower/Gulou, both of which stem from the 1380s, during the Ming dynasty. The Xu Yuan garden is also from that time. One can also see the Chaotian Palace/Chaotian Gong from the time of the Song emperors.

21b. Mingxiao Ling/明孝陵

Mingxiao Ling is the burial place of the first Ming emperor, Zhu Yuanzhang. The emperor himself had the complex built. Today, one can see the actual burial building and the fascinating Sacred Way, which leads the way to the grave with its stone soldiers and animals.

21c. Sun Yat-Sen's Mausoleum Zhongshan Ling/中山陵



One of the most important sights in Nanjing is Sun Yat-Sen's mausoleum, which stands high above the center of the city in the Purple Mountains. It was Sun Yat-Sen's own wish to be buried at this spot.

The area covered by the mausoleum is enormous, spreading out over close to twenty acres. One reaches the actual memorial marker with its characteristic blue roof by ascending a set of 392 granite stairs. In the memorial building, which is 29 meters high, a 4.6-meter-high statue of Sun Yat-Sen stands and many of his words and theories are engraved there.

21d. The Yangtze Bridge/Nanjing Changjiang Daqiao/長江大橋

The great Yangtze River runs by Nanjing. For economic reasons, it was important to construct a bridge across the river, which divides China into north and south. Soviet engineers started the construction, but it was halted in 1960 due to disagreements between the Soviet Union and China. The Chinese took over the work, which took eight years to complete.

From the park by the bridge, one can admire the marvelous construction, which measures more than 6 kilometers in length – and, of course, the Yangtze River itself, which has played a great role in the history of the nation.

22. Suzhou/苏州



Suzhou, 80 km W

www.visitsz.com

Station: Suzhou

Suzhou is more than 2,500 years old and its location near the Great Canal has contributed to the development of the city for many centuries. Suzhou was connected to the Yangtze River by way of the canal already in 495 BC and it became a center for the silk trade and for trade with other goods.

Suzhou enjoyed a golden age during the Ming and Qing dynasties and it became quite prosperous.

It was during this time that Suzhou's many lovely gardens were laid out. Some 150 gardens lie spread out all over the city center. The gardens attract many tourists who like to see the small universes the gardens constitute. A tour to Suzhou is a peaceful and wondrous experience. One can look at the gardens, the comfortable, cozy houses and neighborhoods around the city's many small canals and, of course, the Great Canal.

It is also interesting to know that there is a silk museum as well as pagodas and temples.

23. Zhouzhuang/周庄

Zhouzhuang, 60 km W

Station: Zhouzhuang

Zhouzhuang is much visited for its many lakes and canals as well as for its well-preserved, historical residential areas.

The best attraction is the atmosphere by the water. There are 14 stone bridges crossing channels and rivers. The twin bridges, Shide and Yongan, are the most well-known and function as landmarks in Zhouzhuang. The bridges were built around 1600. The Fuan Bridge is older, built in 1355 during the Yuan dynasty.

At the Fuan Bridge, we find the Shen House from 1742. The entire complex of the house is spread out over 2,000 square meters, and it gives a clear impression of the distinguished style during the Qing emperors' reign.

When in Zhouzhang, one ought to visit the Taoist Chengxu Temple, built in 1086-1093 during the Song dynasty.

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Dino Beach/Redai Fengbao Shuishang Leyuan/上海熱帶風暴水上樂園 (Xin Zhen Lu 78):
www.dinobeach.com.cn

Jin Jiang Amusement Park/Jin Jiang Le Yuan/錦江樂園 (Hongmei Lu 201)

Shanghai Zoo/Shanghai Dong Wu Yuan/上海動物園 (Hongqiao Lu 2831)

Shanghai Ocean Aquarium/Shanghai Haiyang Guan/上海海洋館 (Yincheng Bei Lu 158/銀城北路 158 号):
www.aquarium.sh.cn

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Public transportation in Shanghai

Shanghai metro:
www.shmetro.com/english

Shanghai's airport:
www.shanghaiairport.com

China's railroads:
<http://train.chinamor.cn.net>

Timetables for the Chinese trains:
<http://treehouse.ofb.net/guide/searchtrainstations?lang=en>

Metro Map

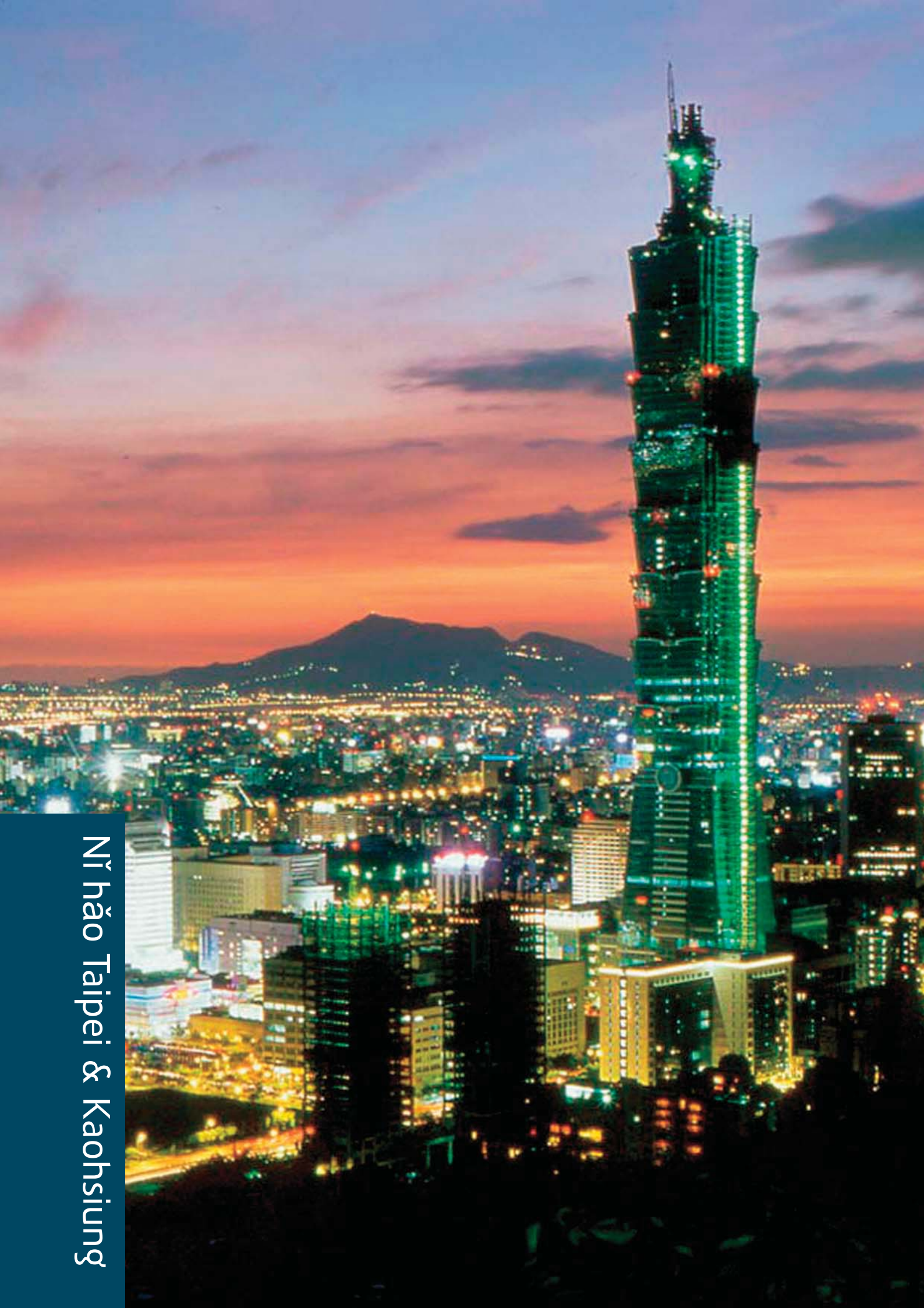


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A collage of images showing office workers and a modern building. The collage includes a person working at a computer, a man holding a document, and two women in business attire. The Oticon logo and website address are visible at the bottom.

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Chinese Taiwan offers magnificent nature, traditional Chinese architecture, exciting museums and a fascinating modern society – and all this can be found in one package on Taiwan Island, which has a perfect size for traveling around a bit and seeing more than just the big cities of Taipei to the north and Kaohsiung to the south.

Taiwan is the place where Chiang Kai-Shek created capitalist China after the people's revolution on the mainland, and of course, it is just as authentically Chinese as is the People's Republic, but with its own special charm.

Museums with extensive collections are found mostly in the capital, Taipei, which also has many large, beautiful public buildings.

Kaohsiung also has a lot to offer, not least modern buildings, a good garden atmosphere and beautiful nature near the center of the city.

It is easy to understand why the Portuguese called Taiwan Formosa, 'The Beautiful Island'. Have a good trip!

Historical Outline

Taipei

During the Yuan dynasty, Chinese from the mainland began visiting Taiwan Island. However, it was not until the Ming dynasty that large numbers of Chinese began to settle there permanently.

In the 1600s, European trade and colonial powers began to exert greater influence on the Southeast Asian area. First, the Dutch came to Taiwan and then the Spanish. This lasted until 1661, when Zheng Chenggong, who was loyal to the emperor, took control of the island and ousted the foreigners. Zheng ruled until 1683 when the Qing dynasty's armies came and took control of Taiwan. From then on, the island was ruled directly from Beijing.

Around the beginning of the 1700s, immigrants – primarily from the province of Fujian – applied to the emperor for permission to establish themselves more permanently in the Taipei area. Due to its favorable position along the most important waterways, the city of Mengjia became the most important trading post. The area developed little by little through the century.

In the 1850s, under Qing emperor Xianfeng, Taiwan's development took a great leap forward. Trade on the seas increased greatly and more and more settlers came to the area. After a little over twenty years, it became necessary to establish an actual organizational and political unit in the area. In 1875, the imperial court established the province of Taipei with a base at Fort Dajiarui, in what is now the Zhongzheng district.

Just a few years later, in 1882-1884, Taipei was laid out in a rectangular shape behind city walls. There were five entry gates. As early as 1885, main roads to the surrounding towns were constructed.

In 1895, Taiwan became part of Japan, and the local Japanese government gathered a number of towns in the Taipei area into one administrative area. In 1897 and in 1901, extensive city planning was begun in the city of Taipei itself. The city plans, the tearing down of the city walls and the new political structure (a large merging of counties in 1920) became the foundation of the big city of today.

Development took place quickly. In 1920 170,000 inhabitants lived here, while an ambitious plan in 1932 increased the number to 600,000 within just a few years.

In 1949, the Koumintang Party established its government in Taipei, and thus a number of new construction projects were started. The city was now to house all the administrative facilities that had once been on the Chinese mainland. Innumerable housing units were also built for the increasing numbers of residents during the following decades. Around 1970, there were 1.5 million residents; in 1990, there were more than 2.5 million.

Taiwan's great investment in the development of trade and industry created a big economic boom from the 1950s onward, and as a government city, Taipei was at the center of much of the development. Fantastic museums, numerous metro lines, some of the world's highest skyscrapers, and beautiful, impressive memorials to the nation's fathers, Sun Yat-Sen and Chiang Kai-Shek, were among what was built.

Kaohsiung

Kaohsiung's history begins in 1405 when settlers came here from the Chinese mainland. There was, however, no real development of townships during the first centuries. The activity in the area was mainly due to the Western colonial powers, especially the Dutch.

When Zheng Chenggong threw the Dutch out and made Taiwan completely Chinese in 1661, an administrative unit was established with Kaohsiung as its main town. In 1664, it changed its name to Wan Nien Chow. It grew quickly as many new Chinese citizens settled there and the name was changed once again, to Takao. The following centuries were marked by different forms of government and a relative stagnation of growth.

In 1895, Taiwan became Japanese. This brought a new period of growth, especially since the town's natural harbor was developed. In 1925, Kaohsiung's status was changed to that of a real city and its industry grew.

After the shift to Chinese government in 1945, Kaohsiung quickly became Taiwan's next-largest city. Its hub was the well-placed natural harbor, which is now the largest on Taiwan and one of the largest in all of Asia. A great deal of Taiwan's many export products are shipped from here. The positive economic situation brought with it the building of numerous skyscrapers and large parks, museums and other cultural developments. Today, more than 1.5 million people live in the busy metropolis.

Tour 1: Taipei/臺北市

1. The Longshan Temple/Longshan Si/ 龍山寺



Guangzhou Street 211, Wanhua

www.lungshan.org.tw

MRT: Longshan Temple

Taipei's Longshan Temple was founded by the Han Chinese, who came from Fujian on the mainland. It was built in 1738 and, in addition to religious purposes for both Buddhists and Taoists, its function was as a social gathering place for those who moved to the city.

Over the years, the temple has been destroyed time and again by earthquakes and fires, but it has been quickly rebuilt every time and today it is one of Taiwan's most important historical buildings.

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2. The Historical Museum/ Guoli Lishi Bowuguan/國立歷史博物館

Nanhai Road 49, Zhongzheng

www.nmh.gov.tw

MRT: Chiang Kai-Shek

The National Museum of History contains finds from large parts of China as well as from Taiwan. The museum was built in 1955. Among the collections are pottery from the Tang dynasty and numerous bronze artifacts.

3. The Presidential Building/ Zong Tong Fu/總統府



Chung-King South Road 122, Zhongzheng

www.president.gov.tw

MRT: Ximen

Taiwan's presidential building was constructed while the island was occupied by Japan. At the time, it served as a residence for the Japanese governor. During World War II, the building was destroyed, but it was rebuilt as early as in 1946. One can take a guided tour of the Presidential building, which is one of Taiwan's characteristic structures.

4. The National Taiwan Museum/Guo Li Taiwan Bowuguan/ 國立臺灣博物館

Xiangyang Road 2, Zhongzhen

www.ntm.gov.tw

MRT: NTU Hospital

The National Taiwan Museum mainly exhibits an exciting natural history collection. The notable building was built in European style in 1915 – a combination of Renaissance and Baroque with Greek pillars.

5. The Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall/Guoli Zhongzheng Jiniantang/ 國立中正紀念堂



Jhongshan South Road 21

www.cksmh.gov.tw

MRT: Chiang Kai-Shek

When Chiang Kai-Shek, the father of Taiwan, died in 1975, a committee was formed to plan the construction of a memorial for him. The result was this impressive memorial hall, mausoleum and park that together form one of Taiwan's biggest attractions. The memorial area was dedicated on April 5th, 1980, the five-year anniversary of his death.

The central, white building with the blue roof is 70 meters high. The doors at the end of the 89 steps going up to the hall itself are 16 meters high and weigh 75 tons. The 89 steps symbolize the age he reached.

In the memorial hall, there is a 25-ton bronze statue of Chiang Kai-Shek; the building also holds a museum. In the surrounding memorial park, which covers about 55 acres, Taiwan's National Theater and the National Concert Hall are situated.

6. The Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall/ Guoli Guofu Jinianguan/ 國立國父紀念館



Jen Ai Road 505

www.yatsen.gov.tw

MRT: Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall

The mighty memorial hall for Sun Yat-Sen, the founder of the Chinese republic, was finished in 1976. Originally, the hall was only intended to depict Sun Yat-Sen's thoughts and deeds at the close of Qing-dynasty China and the establishment of modern China. However, as time went on, a number of different activities came to take place here.

The memorial hall is built as a traditional Chinese building. Inside is a six-meter-high statue of Sun Yat-Sen.

7. Taipei 101/臺北 101

Shifu Road 45

www.tfc101.com.tw

MRT: Taipei City Hall

With its 101 stories and 448 meters, Taipei 101 is the tallest building in the world when the height of antennas and TV towers are not included. The building was completed in 2003 and opened in 2004.

Taipei 101 is unique in many ways. The world's fastest elevators shoot up to the top at a speed of 63 kilometers per hour. In this way, one reaches the observation deck on the 89th floor in only 39 seconds. On the 88th floor, a 660 kilo device has been built in to stabilize the building against earthquakes and typhoons.

Inside of Taipei 101 are a six-story shopping center, restaurants and different activities as well as offices. The building's entire area covers 450,000 square meters.

8. The North Gate/Taipei Bei Men/ 台北北門

Yenping S. Road/Poai Road

MRT: Ximen

In 1879, the magistrate of the province ordered city walls to be built around Taipei. At first, the task seemed impossible to carry out, but a few years later in 1884, a wall almost five kilometers long was finished. It included five city gates. One of these is the North Gate, also called Cheng-En. Of all the city gates, only this one is preserved in its original style from the 1800s.

9. Dihua Road/Dihua Jie/迪化街

Dihua Road

MRT: Shuanglian

For many of Taipei's inhabitants, Dihua Road is one of the best places to buy traditional goods. The street is exciting because many of the old houses in Taipei are found here, so it is like visiting a city of bygone days.

10. The Confucian Temple/

Kong Miao/台北市孔廟

Dalong Street 275

www.ct.taipei.gov.tw

MRT: Yuanshan

The Confucian Temple exudes peace and graciousness through its architecture. It is a building that lives up to Confucius's thoughts on peace and harmony, and it is one of the temples in Taipei most highly recommended for a visit.

11. The Paoan Temple/Paoan

Kung/

保安宮

Hami Street 61, Datong

www.paoan.org.tw

MRT: Yuanshan

The elegant Paoan Temple was founded in honor of Baosheng Dadi, the god of medicine. The temple was built by settlers from Tongan in the province of Fujian on the Chinese mainland. The first temple buildings were completed in 1755. The temple is one of the three major ones in Taiwan.

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12. The Grand Hotel/
Yuan Shan Da Fandian/圓山大飯店



Chung Shan N. Road 1

www.grand-hotel.org

MRT: Jiantan

The Grand Hotel is a modern hotel built in a style modeled after the imperial Chinese style. The building impresses with its large Chinese-style roof, which is the largest of its kind in the world.

13. The Martyrs' Memorial/
Zhong Lie Ci/忠烈祠

Bei-an, Jhongshan 139

MRT: Jiantan

This impressive building complex from 1969, built in the imperial style of Beijing under the Ming dynasty, commemorates all those who were killed in China's wars. The area is studded with pavilions, bell towers, drum towers, palace-like buildings, etc., so it is recommended that you spend some time there.

14. The National Palace Museum/
Guoli Gugong Bowuyuan/
國立故宮博物院



Chih-Shan Road 221

www.npm.gov.tw

MRT: Shilin

The National Palace Museum has one of the world's finest collections of historical Chinese objects and works of art. The large exhibition is part of an entire collection which was divided into two in the 1930s lest the many valuables fall into the hands of the Japanese. When the People's Republic of China was established, this part of the collection was taken to Taipei. The other part is presently on exhibit in the Palace Museum in the Forbidden City in Beijing.

Tour 2: Kaohsiung/高雄

15. The Chichin Lighthouse/ Tsijin Dengta/旗津燈塔

Chihou

The Chichin Lighthouse on Chihou Mountain was built in 1883. The eleven-meter-high lighthouse was extensively renovated in 1918. There is access to the lighthouse for visitors.

16. The Tienhou Temple/Tienhou Kung/ 天后宮

Miaocheng Road 86

The Tienhou Temple is one of Kaohsiung's oldest buildings, built in 1691. The temple is dedicated to the sea-goddess Matsu, who protects sailors and fishermen.

17. The former British Consulate/ Jiu Yingguo Lingshiguan/舊英國領事館

Lian-Hai Road

The building, which once housed the British Consulate, was built in 1858 as the first consulate in Taiwan. In the building, there are a number of historical effects, maps and models exhibited, turning it into a sort of historical and cultural museum.

The consulate building is beautifully placed on a hilltop with a view over the Hsitzu Bay.

18. Shouzhnan Park/Dongwuyuan/ 動物園

Shouzhnan Park

Shouzhnan Park is beautifully located in the hills between Kaohsiung's center and the sea. There are lovely vantage points here, and if one is lucky, one can see some of the Taiwanese monkeys. The city's zoological gardens are also found in the park.

On a stroll through the park one can see the large, beautiful Yuanheng Temple/元亨寺, which is one of Kaohsiung's most important temples. It was originally built in 1697. The present buildings are a reconstruction from 1926.

19. Tour of the harbor

Kaohsiung's harbor is Taiwan's largest and one of the most significant in all of Asia. There is constant activity among the large ships and on the impressive quays. One can also sail along Love River on a sightseeing tour.

20. The Holy Rosary Cathedral/ Tianzhujiao Meiguitang/天主教玫瑰堂

Wu Fu 3rd Road 151

The Holy Rosary Cathedral was first established in 1860 and rebuilt in its present dimensions in 1929. It is Kaohsiung's oldest Catholic church. Inside one can see a statue of the Virgin Mary from 1863.

21. Tuntex 85 Sky Tower/Dong Dishi Jiantai Dalou/東帝士建台大樓



Tzu-Chiang 3rd Road 1

www.gfk.com.tw

Tuntex 85 Sky Tower is Kaohsiung’s highest building and is only surpassed by Taipei 101 on Taiwan. The modern skyscraper is 348 meters high and opened in 1997. The building is architectonically inspired by the Chinese character 高, which is the first part of the city’s name. Inside the tall building there is a hotel which is surpassed in height only by the Jin Mao building in Shanghai.

22. The Sanfeng Temple/ Sanfengkung/三峰觀

Hebei 2nd Road 134

The Sanfeng Temple was built in 1672 as a pioneer construction in the category of two-storey temples. In 1964, the temple was torn down due to an expropriation, and the rebuilt version stood on its present spot in 1972. The temple is built in the imperial style of northern China.

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23. The Grand 50 Tower/Chang Ku World Trade Center/長谷世貿中心

Minzu 1st Road

The Grand 50 Tower is named after its number of stories. When the building was finished in 1992, its 222 meters made it Taiwan's tallest. The Grand 50 Tower takes its inspiration from the Chinese pagoda style and is one of Kaohsiung's most characteristic buildings.

24. The Science and Technology Museum/Kuoli Khehsue Kongyi BowuKuan/國立科學工藝博物館

Chiuju 1st Road 720

www.nstm.gov.tw

This museum is one of Kaohsiung's leading scientific museums. It opened in 1997 and gives curious souls with a hunger for knowledge much good information through exciting exhibits on science and technology.

25. Cheng Ching Lake/ Cheng Tsing Hu/澄清湖

Dabei Road 32, Niaosong

Cheng ching means crystal clear, and this beautiful lake is actually part of Kaohsiung's drinking water supply. The lake is the largest in the area, and in addition to several activities for the many visiting families, the surrounding park contains many historically inspired buildings.

Immediately after the majestic entry gate, there are two large pavilions in imperial Chinese style. One holds a freshwater aquarium, the other a saltwater one. Another aquarium, Ocean World, has been set up in a 200-meter long underground tunnel dug in 1961 as a protection against atomic weapons.

The park's most characteristic building is the 43-meter high, seven-story Chunghsing pagoda. It is possible to go up to the top where there is a wonderful view of the area. At the shore of the lake opposite the entrance to the park, there are three

especially picturesque small pavilions in traditional Chinese style.

26. The Lotus Lake/Lian Hua Hu/蓮花湖



Tsui Hua Road 145

The area around the Lotus Lake in northern Kaohsiung is a big, beautiful recreational area where many of the city's sights are found. It is a lovely oasis after the metropolitan atmosphere of the city center.

26a. The Confucian Temple/Kong Miao/孔廟

Kaohsiung's impressive Confucian temple is the largest one in Taiwan. The architectural style is traditionally Chinese from the time of the Sung dynasty.

26b. The Spring and Autumn Pavilions/ Chun Tsiu Ke/春秋閣

These two great pavilions stand out in contrast to modern Kaohsiung. This complex was built in 1951. Centrally placed, there is a statue of the goddess of mercy, Kuanyin, riding on a dragon. Legend says that Kuanyin was seen above the clouds riding on a dragon, and that believers were to build a monument between the Spring and Autumn Pavilions based on this vision. That is the story of the Pavilions.

26c. The Dragon and Tiger Pagodas/ Long Hu Ta/龍虎塔



The two magnificent seven-story pagodas carry a very beautiful meaning for the Chinese. The entry to the pagodas goes through the throat of the dragon, but the exit goes through the tiger's mouth. This turns misfortune to luck.

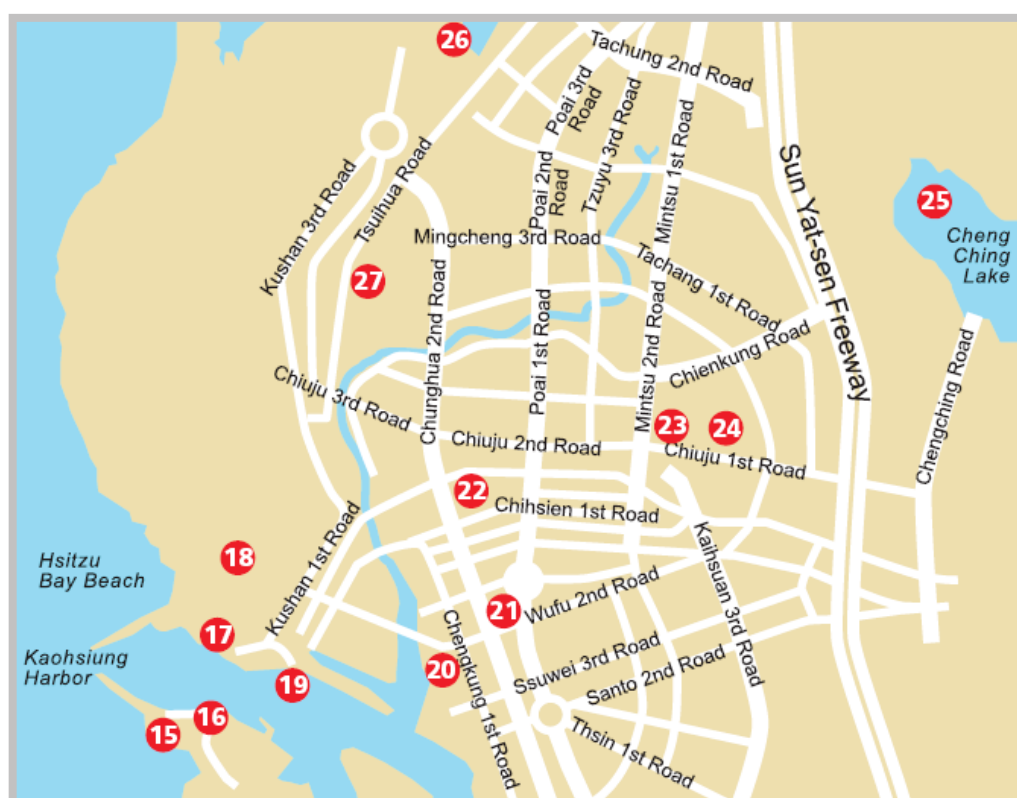
Inside there are portraits of successful and respected Chinese as well as pictures of scenes from both heaven and hell. The idea is to inspire to the performance of good deeds in one's life as well as to give frightening examples of the consequences of evil intentions and deeds..

27. The Art Museum/Mei Shu Kuan/ 美術館網站

Mei Shu Kuan Road 20

www.kmfa.gov.tw

Kaohsiung's art museum has a collection consisting of a number of interesting local works of art, among other things. There are exhibitions with changing themes as well. There is a sculpture park in connection with the museum.



Day Tours from Taipei

28. Tanshui/淡水

Tanshui, 25 km N

Tanshui was the big port of the 1800s on the northern coast of Taiwan. Today, it is a favorite spot for outings among the people of Taipei.

Historical buildings include the old Spanish San Domingo fort, built in 1629. The Dutch captured the fort from the Spanish before it came into Chinese hands at a later date. San Domingo is a very good example of earlier buildings on the island made by the European colonizers.

The impressive Guandu Temple in traditional Chinese architectural style is also one of Tanshui's important sights.

The maritime atmosphere is a sightseeing attraction in itself. Tanshui is known for its innumerable restaurants, which serve fresh fish and shellfish. Take your time when you go there and choose a meal from the many exciting dishes.

29. Shihmen/石門

30 km N

www.necoast-nsa.gov.tw

Shihmen lies at Taiwan's northernmost point, Cape Fuguei/富貴角. The entire coast is most enchanting with its bays and jagged cliffs and Shihmen is really a place worth seeing. Shihmen is a natural cave shaped by the erosion of the tide over time. This spot, with its large, naturally created arch, lies close to both the road and the sea – it is therefore one of the best spots to enjoy a view of the ocean.

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Shihmen can be the starting point for a long drive along the coast in northeastern Taiwan. The entire area is a nature reserve, with small bays, jutting cliffs, green mountains, sandy beaches, rivers and eroded coastlines. Amid the beautiful scenery there are picturesque lighthouses, terraces where rice is grown, and many other exciting things.

30. Keelung/基隆



25 km NE

www.klcc.gov.tw/en

Keelung is one of Taiwan's largest ports. As far back as 1600, it was the home of Japanese pirates. Later the town was conquered by various colonial powers, one after the other, beginning with the Spanish. There are still ruins of a fortress in the mountains which stems from those times.

Keelung's greatest attraction is the 22.5 meter high statue of Kuan Yin, the Buddhist goddess of mercy. One can go up into the statue, from which there is a wonderful view over the ocean and of Keelung's big, busy natural harbor.

30a. The Pingshi Waterfalls/

Pingshi Pubu/平溪瀑布

Just south of Keelung lies the area which holds the greatest concentration of waterfalls in Taiwan. There were once a number of coal-mines here, but now the area has been left to nature and to the tourists, who can take a train ride through the lovely scenery. The broad waterfalls at Pingshi are among the most beautiful.

31. Fulung/福隆

40 km E

At Fulung, on the northeastern coast of Taiwan, is the longest beach on the island. More than three kilometers of wonderful, sandy beach awaits visitors at Yenliao.

The beach has played a role in history – it was here that the Japanese landed when they took over the island at the end of the 1800s. There is a memorial marker here for those who died in the battles.

32. Taiwan's Hot Springs

At various places on the island, there are many hot springs, which, in addition to any healing effects they may have, certainly promote a feeling of well-being. The springs are spread out over the entire area of Taiwan, and there are some in the neighborhood of Taipei – for example in Jiaosi and generally in the Ilan Province southeast of Taipei. The town of Jiaosi has numerous public bathhouses where one can enjoy different types of baths.

33. Sansia/三峡

20 km SW

www.sanshia.tpc.gov.tw

Sansia is a cozy old town and certain parts of it present a sharp contrast to Taipei. In the narrow streets (especially Minquan Street) with their low houses, it is as though one has stepped back in time. There is a wonderful atmosphere and lively activity in the streets and there are many shops and eating establishments.

The Hong Bridge is a favored spot for getting an overview of the town and its beautiful natural surroundings. The bridge itself is 99.3 meters long, crosses the Sansia River and was built under the leadership of a Japanese architect.

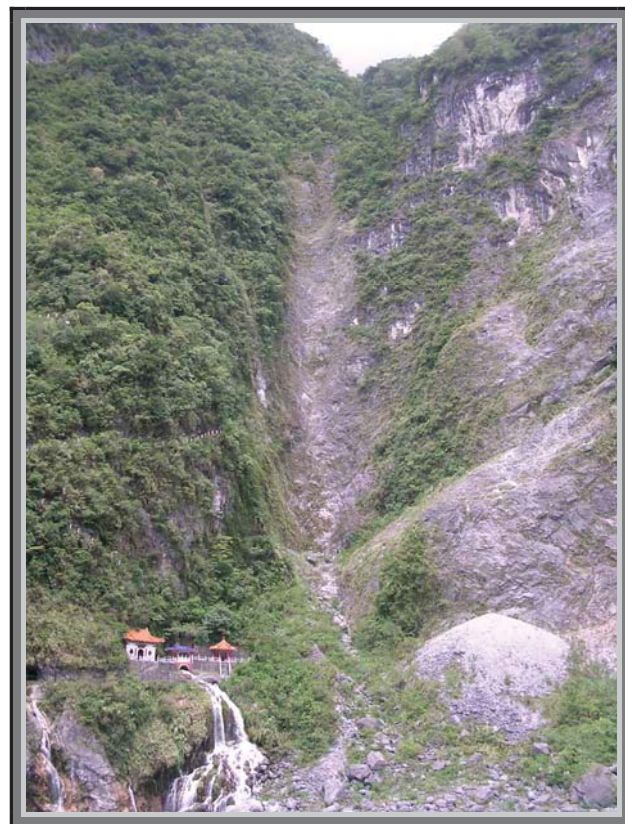
33a. The Qingshui Zushi Temple/Qingshui Zushi Miao/清水祖師廟

Sansia's Qingshui Zushi Temple is one of the world's finest examples of more recent Chinese temple building. The style is inspired by traditional southern Chinese architecture, and it is known for its gorgeous woodcarvings and stone figures.

The richly decorated temple was built in 1769, but has since been through three reconstructions after being destroyed first by an earthquake, then in the Chinese-Japanese War, and finally during World War II. The most recent reconstruction took many decades.

The temple is dedicated to the patron saint of the immigrants who came to the island from Anxi on the Chinese mainland. Throughout the year, different ceremonies are held in the temple.

34. The Taroko Gorge/Taroko Shiagu/太鲁阁峡谷



Siulin, Hualien, 120 km S

www.taroko.gov.tw

The Taroko Gorge is an exceptional location of natural beauty and is one of the most marvelous places in the world. No wonder the name – Taroko, which means beautiful in a local language.

The Taroko area was declared a national park in 1986. Taroko stretches from the coast into the countryside where rocks and gorges lie in a glorious union along the Li Wu River's meandering way. The rocks of Taroko have a high content of visible marble, which makes it a unique experience.

In the park, there is a difference in height from the sea to the top of the Nan Hu Mountain of 3,742 meters, providing visitors with a fascinating trip through Taiwan's flora and fauna.

The same difference in height also expresses itself in the park's many lovely waterfalls.

drives is practically cut right into the rock, so that one feels as though one has become part of the beautiful natural surroundings.

If you have time, a tour through the Taroko Gorge is an unforgettable memory. The road on which one



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Taipei for children

Chung Cheng Aviation Museum/Chung Cheng
Hangkong Bowukuan/中正航空博物館 (Chiang
Kai-Shek-flyplatsen, Taoyuan Hsien)

Janfusun Fancyworld/Janfusun Leyuan/
劍湖山樂園 (Douliou, Yunlin, 220 km SW):
www.janfusun.com.tw

Taipei Zoo/台北市立動物園
(30-2 Hsin Kuang Road):
www.zoo.gov.tw

Window on China/小人國主題樂園
(60-2 Herngangshia, Kaoyuan, Longtan, Taoyuan,
50 km SW):
www.woc.com.tw

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Dihua Street, Jhongsiao E. Road section 4, Sinyi
Road section 5, Jhongshan N Road, Bade Road
section 1

Asiaworld (50 Jungshiau W. Road)

Breeze Center (39 Fusing S Road)

Dayeh Takashimaya (55 Chungcheng Road):
www.dayeh-takashimaya.com.tw

Living Mall (138 Bade Road)

Pacific Sogo Department Store
(45 Jungshiau E. Road)

Shio Kong Mitsukoshi (12 Nanjing W. Road):
www.skm.com.tw

Taipei 101 Mall (45 Shifu Road)

Taipei New World (Chung Hsiao W. Road):
www.taipeinewworld.com

The Mall (203 Duenhua S. Road)

Public transportation in Taipei

Taipei city transport:
www.trtc.com.tw

Taipei Airport:
www.cksairport.gov.tw

Taiwan railways:
www.railway.gov.tw

Kaohsiung for children

Dream Mall (789 ZhongHua 5th Road):
www.dream-mall.com.tw

Shoushan Zoo (Shoushan Park)

Shopping in Kaohsiung

Sanfengchun Street, Yuchu Street,
Hsin-Chueh-Chian

Dream Mall (789 ZhongHua 5th Road):
www.dream-mall.com.tw

Mega'21 Far Eastern (Panchiao)

P262 (262 WuFu 2nd Road)

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www.railway.gov.tw

Metro Map (Taipei)





Nữ hão Hong Kong

A visit to Hong Kong/香港

www.discoverhongkong.com

www.cnto.org

The Hong Kong metropolis is an extremely exciting city to visit and it has fascinated the millions of travelers that go there to experience its many unique contrasts.

Hong Kong is Chinese, but is also influenced by the more than 150 years of British rule, which ended in 1997. Between the skyscrapers, one finds small buildings made in the finest colonial architectural style, providing living proof of the city's history.

Hong Kong offers a colossal range of activities, modern business areas, and beautiful nature. The city is also filled with shopping opportunities, the delicacies of the Cantonese cuisine and ancient Chinese culture.

Hong Kong itself is mainly composed of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, and the two combined offer both metropolitan atmosphere, lovely bathing beaches and wild nature. Nearby is Macau, where the distinct Portuguese touch still left behind from colonial times also creates a unique experience.

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Historical outline

Even in prehistoric times, there were dwellings in the Hong Kong area, but thousands of years were to pass before the area began to develop further. With the opening of the Silk Road, which was at its height from about 200 BC to the year 950, the Chinese territory experienced a general development.

When Genghis Khan invaded China from the north around the year 1200, there was a big increase in the population of Hong Kong due to the numerous refugees from the Mongolian invasion in the other Chinese regions. In 1300, Hong Kong was officially founded as a Chinese city.

The first European to visit Hong Kong was Jorge Álvares, a Portuguese merchant who traded with the Chinese. His trade brought him there in 1513, and from then on, Portuguese traders visited the city regularly.

In 1840, Hong Kong became one of the centers of the Opium War between China and England. The Chinese administration in Peking demanded that the import of opium cease and all the established stores of opium were destroyed.

In response, on January 20, 1841, Charles Elliott declared Hong Kong a British crown colony, began to sell land and thus to re-inhabit Hong Kong Island. After some disputes and difficulties, Henry Pottinger took over the leadership of the island, and under him, the British holdings were expanded to other cities on the Chinese coast; among them was Shanghai. Just as they were about to take over Nanking, a peace agreement was reached and the Opium War ended.

One of the results of the peace agreement of Nanking was that China surrendered Hong Kong to England, and on June 16, 1843, Henry Pottinger was appointed the first British governor of Hong

Kong. During the same year, China got trade rights in Hong Kong.

In 1858, the second Opium War broke out, and, after numerous skirmishes, ended in 1860 with a settlement in Peking giving England the southern part of the mainland, present-day Kowloon.

The last decades of the 1800s were a period of great growth for the city. A cable car network, the Victoria Peak Tram, was built, and railroad connections to Canton were opened. In 1891, the Hong Kong dollar was introduced.

In 1898, the last expansion of Hong Kong's territory took place with the 99-year British lease agreement for the so-called New Territories, consisting of the mainland north of Kowloon and 236 islands. The new additions of land made it possible for the British to develop the city into the modern center that it still is today.

In 1941, Hong Kong was invaded by Japanese troops and after 16 days, the city surrendered. A large part of the population left for Macau. In 1945, Hong Kong's British rule was re-established. Just a few years later, in 1949, when Mao founded the People's Republic of China, supporters of Chiang Kai-Shek left China, many of them for Hong Kong, thus increasing the population of the small land area even further.

In 1956, Hong Kong came under regional home rule, still under the British crown, but with greatly increased local authority.

The following decades saw the beginning of Hong Kong's explosive period of economic growth. It began with the establishment of a large textile industry that could compete with the European producers, especially in terms of hourly wages.

After the textile industry, trade and industry in Hong Kong changed in line with the economic success and a strong financial sector developed. Over a period of only a few years, the city became one of the richest in the world.

During this time, changes also took place in the cultural and social areas, not least due to the overweight of Chinese inhabitants – for example, Cantonese became an official language on the same level as English. The transport sector also benefited from large investments – the metro, MTR, was opened in 1980, and eleven years later came plans for the modern airport, Chek Lap Kok.

In the beginning of the 1980s, China and England began negotiating British withdrawal from the area after the lease agreement expired. In 1984, an agreement was signed returning all of Hong Kong to China in 1997. Under the agreement, Hong Kong's status and system would continue partially unchanged until 2047. However, the city would be subject to Chinese territorial borders, defense rules and foreign policy immediately after 1997.

On July 1, 1997, Hong Kong became Chinese once again, and since then the city has become increasingly integrated into the present unique period of growth in China – for example, heavy investments have been made in Hong Kong's film industry.

Tour 1: Hong Kong

1. The Sheung Wan and Western Districts/上環 och 西環

MTR: Sheung Wan/上環

The Sheung Wan and Western districts hold historical significance for Hong Kong. It was in Possession Street that the English first raised the Union Jack in 1841. During the same year, more and more Chinese immigrants began to settle there and today, the area is still the best example of a traditional Chinatown within Hong Kong.

2. The University of Hong Kong/香港大學

Pok Fu Lam Road

www.hku.hk

MTR: Sheung Wan/上環

The university on Hong Kong Island is the oldest one in Hong Kong. The lovely main building was built in 1912 in colonial style. Among the many famous graduates of the university is Sun Yat-sen, the first president of the Chinese republic.

In the university museum, Chinese antiques and works of art can be seen; among them is the world's largest collection of bronze objects from the Yuan dynasty.

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3. The Western Market Building/西港城

323 Des Voeux Road Central

MTR: Sheung Wan/上環

Hong Kong's market building was built in 1906 in Edwardian style. After a thorough renovation, the market reopened in 1991. A visit here is a must – in the many small shops, one can buy Chinese handicrafts.

4. The Man Mo Temple/ Man Mo Temple/文武廟

124-126 Hollywood Road

MTR: Sheung Wan/上環

The Man Mo Temple is one of Hong Kong's oldest. It was built in 1847. The Temple's name stems from Man (the god of literature) and Mo (the god of war), but the temple itself is a beautiful, peaceful oasis in the midst of the surrounding city environs.

5. The Duddell Street Steps/ 中環都爹利街石階

Duddell Street

MTR: Central/中環

Between Duddell Street and Ice House Street, there is a set of fine stone stairs. All along the sides of the staircase, the last remaining gas lamps in the city are placed. They were set up in 1875 and stand there still, spreading a special, romantic atmosphere from the past and a great contrast to modern Hong Kong.

6. The Governor's Residence/ 香港禮賓府

Upper Albert Road

MTR: Central/中環



In the Mid-Levels Garden Park, the former official residence of the British governor in Hong Kong is situated. The governor's residence was built in 1855 and converted by the Japanese during World War II. Twenty-five British governors lived here until 1997, when Hong Kong was handed over to China.

Today the governor's residence is used for concerts and other entertainment programs. Outside of the residence, one can enjoy the lovely garden with its rhododendrons and azaleas, not to mention many other attractive flowers.

7. The Former French Mission Building/前法國傳道會大樓

1 Battery Path

MTR: Central/中環

Among Hong Kong's skyscrapers in the Central District, one finds this red brick building in colonial style from the 1800s, which was bought by French missionaries in 1915. With its wooden shutters and cast-iron ornaments, the building is typical of French buildings of the time. Today, it houses part of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal.

8. Victoria Peak/太平山頂

Peak Road

www.thepeak.com.hk

www.madame-tussauds.com.hk

MTR: Central/中環

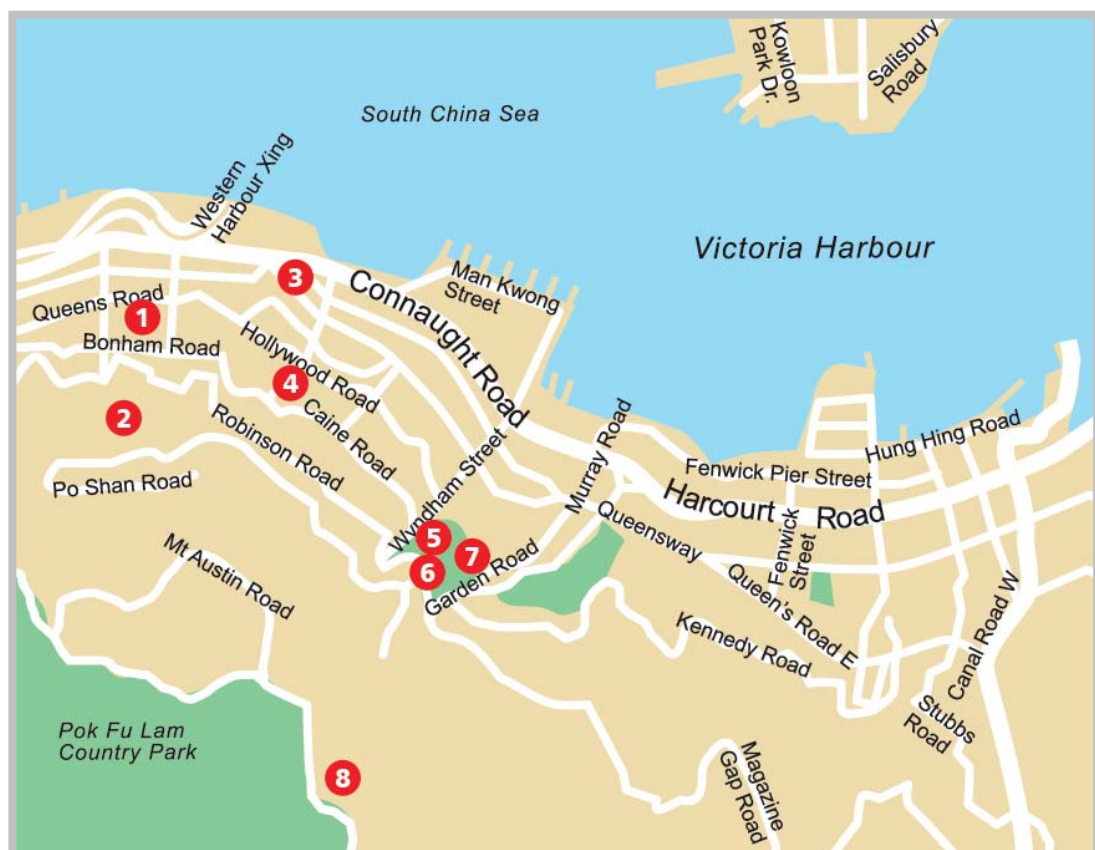


Victoria Peak is one of Hong Kong's most visited spots. Its placement at the top of the mountain on Hong Kong Island provides a fantastic view out over the entire city. It is recommended that one make the journey upwards in the hours just before sunset and then stay on the peak until after nightfall. The view at both points in time is unforgettable.

Victoria Peak is also the starting point for a number of footpaths, which give one the possibility of experiencing Hong Kong outside the metropolis area. One of them gives a fine view of the southern side of the island and the ocean there.

In the unique tower on Victoria Peak itself one finds shops, restaurants and Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum, which contains replicas of about 100 well-known personalities, among them Hong Kong's own Jackie Chan.

The Peak Tram/山頂纜車 takes you to Victoria Peak from the terminal at Garden Road. It is a cable-car route established in 1888. The tram climbs 373 meters upwards, and you get an incredible view looking out from the right side of the wagons.



Tour 2: Hong Kong

9. St. John's Cathedral/聖約翰座堂

4-8 Garden Road

www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk

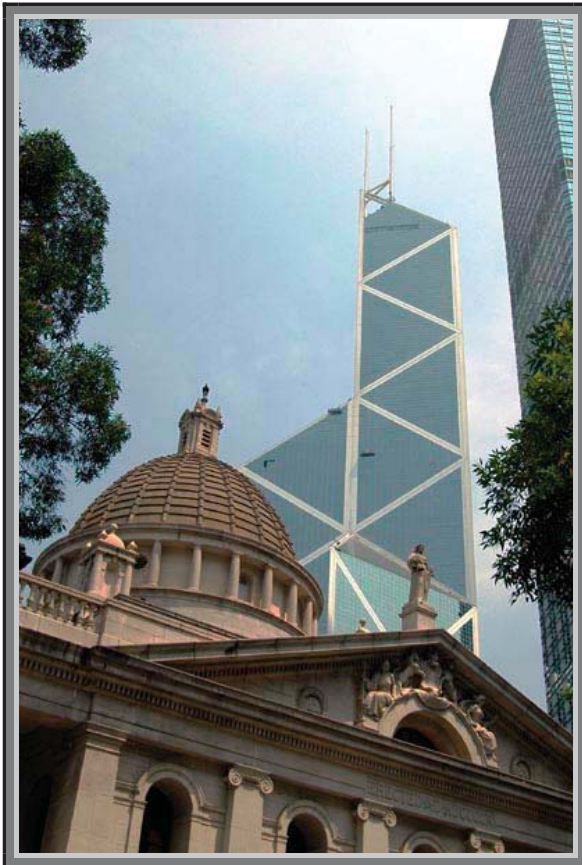
MTR: Central/中環/Admiralty/金鐘

St. John's Cathedral is believed to be the oldest Anglican church in the Far East. It was built in 1849 in a style that blends English architecture of the 1200s with decorated Gothic architecture.

10. The Bank of China Tower/中銀大廈

1 Garden Road

MTR: Central/中環/Admiralty/金鐘



The impressive Bank of China Tower is one of modern Hong Kong's most striking buildings. The architect, I. M. Pei, used bamboo as his inspiration. The building is 70 stories high and recognizable from all the popular vantage points in the city.

11. Flagstaff House/旗杆屋

10 Cotton Tree Drive

www.lcsd.gov.hk/ce/museum

MTR: Admiralty/金鐘

The Flagstaff House mansion in Hong Kong Park was built in 1846 as a residence for the British commander. It held that status until 1932. Today, the lovely house is a museum for tea sets.

12. The Central Plaza Building/中環廣場

18 Harbour Road

www.centralplaza.com.hk

MTR: Wan Chai/灣仔



Central Plaza's 78 stories make it one of Hong Kong's highest buildings. After nightfall, the neon light at the top of Central Plaza changes color every fifteen minutes, thus placing it among the city's most noteworthy modern skyscrapers.

13. The Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center /香港會議展覽中心

1 Expo Drive

www.hkcec.com

MTR: Wan Chai/灣仔



Hong Kong’s unique convention and exhibition center is built on reclaimed land in Victoria Harbor. Its special roof construction makes it one of Hong Kong’s landmarks. It was here that the official ceremony of Hong Kong’s handover to China took place in 1997.

14. The Tin Hau Temple/Tin Hau Temple/天后寺

Tin Hau Temple Road 10

MTR: Tin Hau/天后

The little Tin Hau temple was built in the early 1700s by the Tai family. The temple was originally built to protect a statue of the goddess of the sea, Tin Hau, which the family is said to have found along the coast.

15. The Hong Kong Island cable cars

Hong Kong Island

Hong Kong’s picturesque cable cars have rumbled through the streets of Hong Kong Island since 1904. A tour from east to west provides many impressive sights of the lovely buildings and breathtaking views of natural scenery in these parts.

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Tour 3: Hong Kong

16. Star Ferry/天星小輪

www.starferry.com.hk

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀/Central/中環



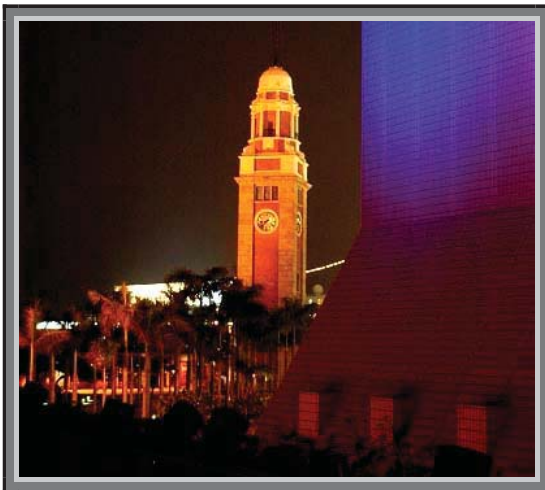
Since 1898, the Star Ferry has sailed the eight-minute route across Victoria Harbor, thus connecting Hong Kong Island to Tsim Sha Tsui.

The tour is a must for every visitor to Hong Kong. The view from the ferry of modern, beautifully situated Hong Kong and the special atmosphere on board are incomparable.

17. The Railway Clock Tower/ 前九廣鐵路鐘樓

Waterfront Promenade

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



The striking Railway Clock Tower at the waterfront near Star Ferries was erected in 1921 as part of the earlier main railway station of the Kowloon-Canton railway. Today, the area near the clock tower is a good starting point for a walk along the pleasant waterfront promenade.

18. The Marine Police Headquarters/前水警總部

Tsim Sha Tsui Hill

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀

Hong Kong's Marine Police have operated out of this building since the beautiful complex was finished in 1884. From the two-storey-high tower in the complex, a signal was given daily at 1:00 pm until 1907, so that the ships could set their clocks correctly.

19. Hong Kong Cultural Centre/ 香港文化中心

Salisbury Road 10

www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkcc

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



Hong Kong's unique cultural center was constructed in 1984. It is the setting of a number of concerts and exhibitions. It also houses a couple of the city museums, including the art museum.

19a. Hong Kong Museum of Art/香港藝術館
www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkma

At the Hong Kong Museum of Art, one finds a very fine collection of works of art. Especially impressive are the works representing early Chinese history during the Han, Ming, and Qing dynasties. There are also galleries of international art at the museum.

20. Waterfront Promenade/
The Avenue of Stars/星光大道

Waterfront Promenade

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



From the Railway Clock Tower, the waterfront promenade goes eastward along the water. In addition to viewing some of Kowloon’s modern buildings, one can see an unforgettable sight – Victoria Harbor and the fascinating skyline of Hong Kong Island. The Avenue of Stars is the first street in Asia where movie stars have placed their names and imprints.

21. The Museum of History/
香港歷史博物館

Chatham Road South 100

www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkmh

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀

Hong Kong’s Museum of History depicts the history of the city and the southern Chinese area throughout the last 6,000 years in its exclusive permanent exhibition. The museum exhibits archaeological finds and has departments for ethnography and natural history, so one gets a lot out of the 7,000 square meters of space the museum holds.

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22. The Peninsula Hotel/半島酒店

Salisbury Road/Nathan Road

<http://hongkong.peninsula.com>

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



The world-renowned Peninsula Hotel with its fantastic lobby was built in 1928 (the tall central building, however, was added later). It is one of the best places in Hong Kong to enjoy a classic English afternoon tea.

23. The Golden Mile/金域

Nathan Road

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀/Jordan/佐敦



In Kowloon's central district, Tsim Sha Tsui, we find Nathan Road, named after the British governor who laid the plan for the street. Nathan Road, with its many neon-lit shops, hotels, restaurants and nightclubs, is known as the Golden Mile. The Golden Mile gives visitors a good impression of the hectic daily life of Kowloon.

24. Kowloon Park/九龍公園

Nathan Road/Austin Road

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀

Kowloon Park is a beautifully landscaped oasis in the middle of the Kowloon district. The park covers about 34 acres and was created in an area that used to house military barracks. In the park, one can see sculptures made by local sculptors, a bronze statue made by Scottish Eduardo Paolozzi, a Chinese garden and an interesting labyrinth. In a corner of Kowloon Park is the Kowloon Mosque and Islamic Centre, built in white marble in Oriental style.

25. The Hong Kong Observatory/ 香港天文台

Nathan Road 134A

www.hko.gov.hk

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀



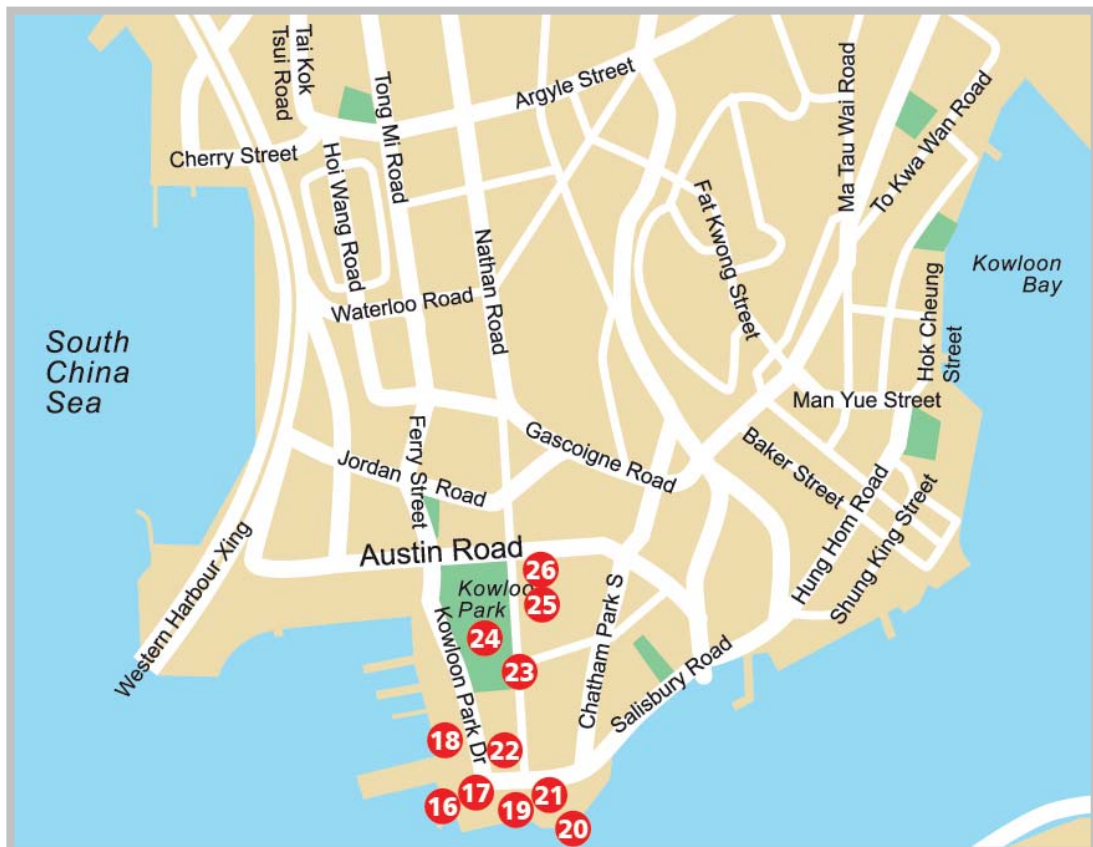
Hong Kong's observatory was built in 1883 in colonial style with arches and verandahs. The area's meteorological measurements continue to be taken from the lovely building. The observatory can be visited by groups if an appointment is made in advance.

26. The Kowloon British School/ 前九龍英童學校

Nathan Road 136

MTR: Tsim Sha Tsui/尖沙咀站

Once a school for English children, the Kowloon British School was built in 1902 in Victorian style. Today, it is used for exhibitions arranged by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.



Tour 4: Hong Kong

27. The Jade Market/玉器市場

Kansu, Canton & Battery Street

MTR: Jordan/佐敦

At Kowloon's renowned jade market, jade of every type is sold. At the many booths, one can purchase jewelry and other objects in an authentic Chinese street-market environment. Nearby is the Tin Hau Temple from the late 1800s.

28. The Mong Kok District/旺角

MTR: Mong Kok/旺角



The Mong Kok district north of Tsim Sha Tsui is one of Hong Kong's most densely populated areas. A stroll here gives a clear impression of the intense atmosphere of this extremely active trading area. In the area, there are a number of different markets, among them the well-known bird market.

29. The Kowloon Walled City / 九龍城寨

Kowloon Walled City Park

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

MTR: Lok Fu/樂富

The Kowloon Walled City was built by the Qing government in 1847 as a military outpost facing south towards the English of the area. The area remained on Chinese hands until 1899, when the English invaded the walled-in city. In 1987, the city contained a large slum area, and a decision was made to tear it down. Today one can see the remains of the city's entrance gates to the east and the south as well as the restored Yamen building.

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30. The Wong Tai Sin Temple/ 齋色園黃大仙祠

Lung Cheung Road

MTR: Wong Tai Sin/黃大仙

Wong Tai Sin is a traditionally built Chinese temple with red pillars, a curved golden roof and colorful decorations in wood. Believers, who wish to seek advice and relief from health problems or financial difficulties, visit the temple.

The present-day Wong Tai Sin Temple was built in 1956, but the painting of the shepherd, Wong Tai Sin, was already brought to Hong Kong in 1915. In the temple, you can have your fortune told.

31. Diamond Hill/鑽石山

Diamond Hill

MTR: Diamond Hill/鑽石山

The beautifully renovated convent, Chi Lin (志蓮淨苑), on Diamond Hill, is kept in traditional Chinese style. The stillness of the place makes a sharp contrast to modern Hong Kong, and the convent is like a living museum of the Tang dynasty, which gave inspiration to its construction. Make sure to visit the Pagoda with the 10,000 Buddhas nearby the convent as well.



Day Tours from Hong Kong

32. The Sam Tung Uk Village/三棟屋 Tsuen Wan

www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk

MTR: Tsuen Wan/荃灣

The square Sam Tung Uk village was built in 1786. The little village was constructed by the Chan clan, and it is fascinating to see the way it is built with walls surrounding it. The village was renovated and opened as a museum in 1987.

33. Tai Po/大埔

Tai Po

Station: Tai Po/大埔

The town of Tai Po in the New Territories is one of the oldest inhabited places in the Hong Kong area. Tai Po was extremely wealthy due to pearl fishing. In recent decades, the town has grown dramatically but even today, it is still a comfortable, homey place where one can meet both traditional and modern China.

33a. The Waterfront Park/大埔海濱公園

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

Tai Po's Waterfront Park is a lovely piece of landscaping. Here we find the 32.4-meter-high futuristic tower, which provides a choice view of the town, the harbor and the surrounding landscape. It is possible to look across the former border between Hong Kong and the rest of China. Note also the unique, fan-shaped arrangement of the flowerbeds made to resemble a large rainbow – this can best be seen from the tower.

33b. The Tai Po Market Station/大埔墟站

www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk

Station: Tai Po Market/大埔墟

The train station at the Tai Po Market is different from the others in the area because it is built in

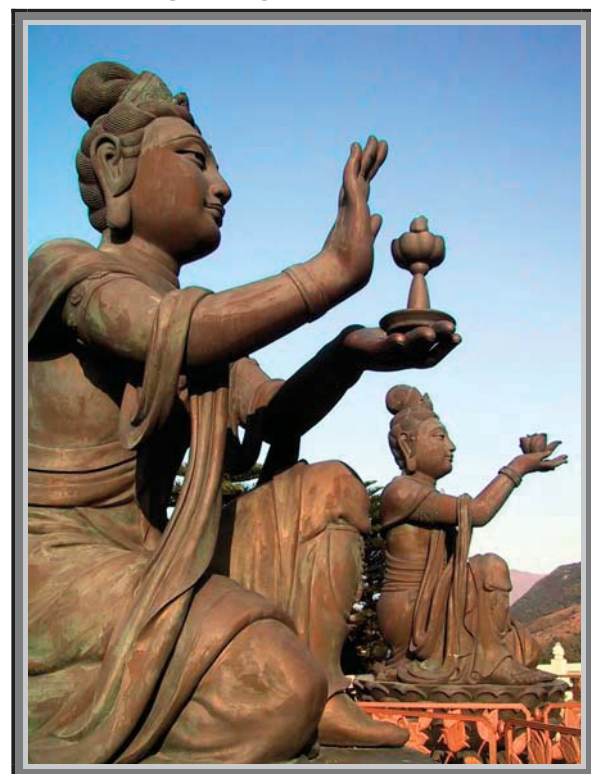
Chinese style. It was built in 1913 and today an exciting railway museum stands here.

34. The Po Lin Monastery/天壇大佛

Ngong Ping

www.plm.org.hk

Station: Tung Chung/東涌



The Po Lin monastery is placed in a beautiful area on Lantau Island, 520 meters above sea level. The monastery is known for its large bronze Buddha from 1993. The Buddha is 26.4 meters high and weighs 220 tons. It is the largest of its kind in the world.

The Po Lin monastery itself is also worth seeing. It is beautiful and gives a fine impression of a Chinese temple complex. One can try to gain information on one's future here – this is done by means of bamboo sticks.

Near the Po Lin monastery, one can walk along the Wisdom Path, a replica of a Buddhist prayer, which is several hundred years old. The Wisdom Path was laid out in 2002.

One can also choose to walk to Lantau Peak – with its 934 meters it is the Hong Kong area's next-highest mountain. From the top, there is a formidable view of the archipelago - in clear weather all the way to Macau.

35. Guangzhou/廣州

Guangzhou

www.cnto.org/guangzhou.asp

Station: Guangzhou/廣州

The metropolis of Guangzhou lies at the mouth of the Pearl River (Xi Jiang). The town used to be called Canton and was founded more than 2,000 years ago. Its geographical placement quickly made it a lively trading port, and in the period from 1757-1842 it was the only Chinese harbor open to foreign trade.

Guangzhou was the place where Sun Yatsen worked and where the national Kuomintang party had its head office. Today, the city is extremely modern and busy and gives a clear picture of the explosive development China has been experiencing in present decades, although it is also filled with historical locations and monuments.

35a. Yuexiu Gongyuan/Yuèxiù Gōngyuán/ 越秀公园

Close to the city's railroad station is the large park called Yuexio Gongyuan. The park is beautifully landscaped with numerous lakes and hills. In the center is the Zhenhailou Tower, which houses the city museum. The museum shows relics from Guangzhou's history. The tower is a memorial to the seafarer Zheng He, who went on many voyages to other countries, including Africa, in the beginning of the 1400s.

35b. The Sun Yatsen Monument and the Memorial Hall/Sūn Zhōngshān Jìniàntáng/ 孙中山纪念堂

The Sun Yat Sen monument is located on a hilltop just south of the Yuexio Gongyuan park. From here, there is a beautiful view over the city and of the Sun Yatsen Memorial Hall. The memorial hall was built in the years from 1925 to 1931 and different cultural arrangements are held there.

**35c. The Catholic Cathedral/
Shíshì Shèngxīn Jiàotáng/石教圣心教堂**



Guangzhou's Catholic Cathedral was built in 1888. After decades of decay, it was restored in the 1980s. Today it belongs to the Chinese Catholic Church

**35d. The Temple of the Six Banyan Trees/
Liù Róng Sì/六榕寺**



This temple is best known for its pagoda, which is one of the city's landmarks. The Pagoda is called the Flower Pagoda/Hua Ta and it was built in 1097. Inside, the pagoda has 17 stories. It is possible to go to the top and thus be rewarded with an interesting view. Here we can truly see a blend of the old and the new China.

**35e. The Chen Family Temple/Chénjiā Sì /
陈家寺**

This large and opulently decorated temple complex was first built in 1894, but rebuilt after the Cultural Revolution. The temple area is in classical style, with pagodas, temple gates, a fine garden and, naturally, the temple buildings themselves.

35f. Shamian Island/Shāmiàn Dǎo/沙面岛

Little Shamian Island by the Pearl River was divided up into foreign concession areas in the mid-1800s. Today, one can still enjoy a look at many of the buildings from colonial times – mainly French ones.

36. Macau/澳門**Macau**

www.macautourism.gov.mo

Access with the jetfoil from Hong Kong



In 1557, Portugal founded the town and the colony of Macau. The town belonged to the Portuguese for 442 years until 1999, when it was handed over to China. Throughout the entire period, Portugal left its cultural and architectural mark on Macau in a very charming way. Today it has a unique atmosphere, which blends Asia with southern Europe.

It is a nice experience to stroll through the streets all over town, including the great Senado Square, Largo do Senado, where the lovely Leal Senado building from 1784 stands. The façade was finished in 1876.





Today, all that is left of the large São Paulo Cathedral from the 1500s is the impressive façade. The big staircase leading up to the façade is perhaps what makes this place the most impressive in Macau.

Near São Paulo is the Monte Fort from the 1620s. In addition to the impressive walls of the fort, this is also where you will find the Macau Museum, which depicts the town's noteworthy history.



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Hong Kong for children

Hong Kong Disneyland/香港迪士尼樂園
(Lantau Island):

www.hongkongdisneyland.com

Hong Kong Science Museum
(Science Museum Road):

www.hk.science.museum

Hong Kong Zoological Garden (Victoria Peak):

www.lcsd.gov.hk/parks

The Hong Kong Railway Museum/香港鐵路博物館
(Shung Tak Street 13, Tai Po):

www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk

A Symphony of Lights/幻彩詠香江 (Avenue of
Stars, Waterfront Promenade):

www.tourism.gov.hk/symphony

Ocean Park/海洋公園 (Aberdeen):

www.oceanpark.com.hk

Shopping in Hong Kong

Nathan Road, Salisbury Road, Tung Choi Street,
Temple Street, Sai Yeung Choi Street

Festival Walk (80 Tat Chee Avenue):

www.festivalwalk.com.hk

IFC Mall (8 Finance Street):

www.ifc.com.hk

Megabox (Kowloon Bay):

www.megabox.com.hk

New Town Plaza (Shatin Centre Street):

www.newtownplaza.com.hk

Ocean Terminal (3 Canton Road):

www.oceanterminal.com.hk

Pacific Place (88 Queensway):

www.pacificplace.com.hk

Public transportation in Hong Kong

Hong Kong city transport:

www.mtr.com.hk

Hong Kong airport:

www.hongkongairport.com

China's railways:

www.train.chinamor.cn.net

Timetables for Chinese trains:

www.treehouse.ofb.net/guide/searchtrains?lang=en

Metro Map



Facts about China



Political

Official name	Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
Capital	Beijing
Form of government	People's republic
Head of state	President Hu Jintao
Head of Government	Prime Minister Wen Jiabao
National Independence Day	1 October
Achieved independence	1 October 1949, People's Republic proclaimed
Primary religions	Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism
Language	Chinese (primarily Mandarin and Cantonese)
Area	9 640 821 km ²
Population (2000)	1 242 612 000

Borders on

North	Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia
South	Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, South China Sea
East	North Korea, Russia, Yellow Sea, East China Sea
West	Kirghizstan, Tadsjikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India

Highest mountains

Mount Everest	8 850 meters
K2	8 611 meters
Lhotse I	8 516 meters
Makalu I	8 463 meters
Cho Oyu	8 201 meters
Gasherbrum I	8 068 meters
Broad Peak	8 047 meters
Gasherbrum II	8 035 meters
Shishma Pangma	8 013 meters
Kamet	7 756 meters

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Largest islands

Taiwan/臺灣省	35 801 km ²
Hainan/海南	33 210 km ²
Chongming	1 041 km ²
Zhoushan	503 km ²
Lantau	146 km ²
Quemoy	145 km ²
Shangchuan	137 km ²

Largest lakes

Qinghai	4 635 km ²
Xingkai Hu (Khanka)*	4 190 km ²
Poyang	3 585 km ²
Dongting Hu	2 820 km ²
Tai Hu	2 250 km ²
Chao Hu	760 km ²
Qiandao	573 km ²
Bayyangdian	366 km ²
Kunming Hu	298 km ²
Dagze Co	260 km ²

* partially located in Russia

Longest rivers*

Chang Jiang (Yangtze)	6 300 km
Huang He (The Yellow River)	5 464 km
Heilongjiang (Amur)	4 444 km
Mekong	4 350 km
Erqisi (Irtysj)	4 228 km
Indus	3 200 km
Saluen	2 980 km
Xi Jiang (Pärlfloden)	2 197 km
Xijiang	1 930 km
Hanshui	1 532 km

* Some rivers flow in part through other countries than China

Largest cities (2002)

Shanghai/上海	9 031 000
Beijing/北京	7 130 000
Hong Kong/香港	7 000 000
Tianjin/天津	4 345 000
Wuhan/武漢	3 958 000
Shenyang/沈阳	3 453 000
Guangzhou/廣州	3 434 000
Harbin/哈爾濱	2 765 000
Xi'an/西安	2 657 000
Chongqing/重慶	2 312 000

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Administrative divisions		
Provinces	Area	Capital
Anhui/安徽	139 400 km ²	Hefei
Fujian/福建	121 400 km ²	Fuzhou
Gansu/甘肅	454 000 km ²	Lanzhou
Guangdong/广东	177 900 km ²	Guangzhou
Guizhou/貴州	176 100 km ²	Guiyang
Hainan/海南	33 920 km ²	Haikou
Hebei/河北	187 700 km ²	Shijiazhuang
Heilongjiang/黑龍江省	460 000 km ²	Harbin
Henan/河南	167 000 km ²	Zhengzhou
Hubei/湖北	185 000 km ²	Wuhan
Hunan/湖南	211 800 km ²	Changsha
Jiangsu/江蘇	102 600 km ²	Nanjing
Jiangxi/江西	166 900 km ²	Nanchang
Jilin/吉林	187 400 km ²	Changchun
Liaoning/遼寧	145 900 km ²	Shenyang
Qinghai/青海	721 000 km ²	Xining
Shaanxi/陝西	205 800 km ²	Xi'an
Shandong/山東	156 700 km ²	Jinan
Shanxi/山西	156 800 km ²	Taiyuan
Sichuan/四川	485 000 km ²	Chengdu
Taiwan/臺灣省	36 200 km ²	Taipei
Yunnan/雲南	394 100 km ²	Kunming
Zhejiang/浙江	101 800 km ²	Hangzhou
Autonomous regions	Area	Capital
Guangxi/广西	236 700 km ²	Nanning
Nei Menggu (Inner Mongolia)/ 內蒙古自治區	1 183 000 km ²	Hohhot
Ningxia/宁夏	66 000 km ²	Yinchuan
Xinjiang/新疆	1 660 000 km ²	Ürümqi
Xizang (Tibet)/ 西藏自治區	1 228 400 km ²	Lhasa

City regions	Area	Capital
Beijing/北京市	16 800 km ²	Beijing
Chongqing/重慶市	82 300 km ²	Yuzhong Qu
Shanghai/上海市	7 000 km ²	Shanghai
Tianjin/天津市	11 900 km ²	Tianjin
Special administrative regions	Area	Capital
Xianggang (Hong Kong)/ 香港特別行政區	1 100 km ²	-
Aomen (Macao)/ 澳門特別行政區	29 km ²	-

De facto leaders of China since 1949

Mao Zedong	1943-1976
Hua Guofeng	1976-1981
Deng Xiaoping	1981-1989
Jiang Zemin	1989-2004
Hu Jintao	2004-

Heads of state since 1949

Mao Zedong	1949-1959
Liu Shaoqi	1959-1968
Soong Ching-ling	1968-1972, 1981-1981
Dong Biwu	1968-1975
Zhu De	1975-1976
Ye Jianying	1978-1981, 1981-1983
Li Xiannian	1983-1988
Yang Shangkun	1988-1993
Jiang Zemin	1993-2003
Hu Jintao	2003-

Prime Ministers since 1949

Zhou Enlai	1949-1976
Hua Guofeng	1976-1980
Zhao Ziyang	1980-1987
Li Peng	1987-1998
Zhu Rongji	1998-2003
Wen Jiabao	2003-

National holidays and remembrance days

1-2 January	New Year
1-3 May	1 st of May celebrations
1 July	Founding of the Communist Party
1 August	Army Day
1-3 October	National Independence Day celebrations

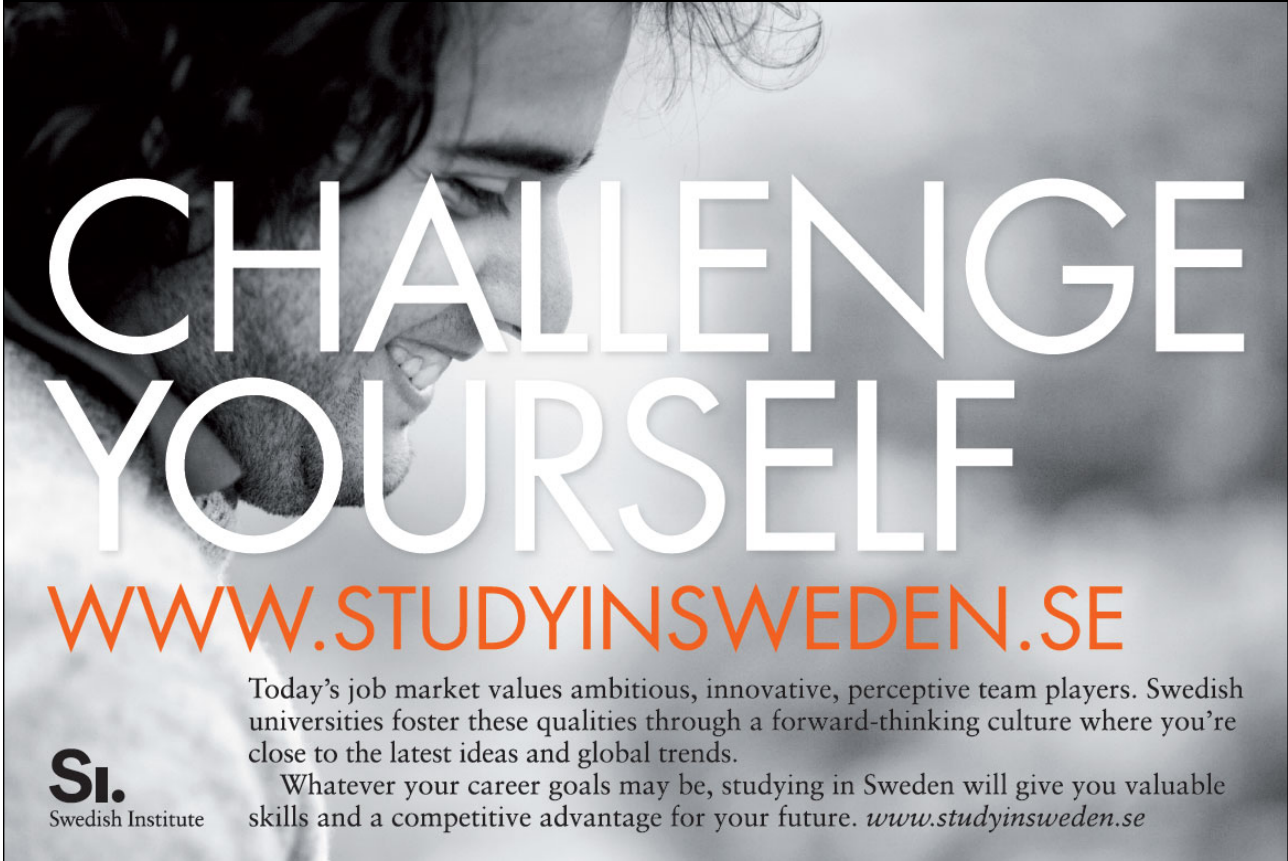
Various facts

Currency	Renminbi/Yuan
Currency code	RMB/CNY
Time zone	China Time/EST (UTC+8)
International postal code	PRC
Internet domain	.cn
Country code	+86

Climate - Beijing	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	-4.6/23.7	4/0.2
February	-1.8/28.8	5/0.2
March	4.7/40.5	8/0.3
April	13.6/56.5	18/0.7
May	20.0/68.0	33/1.3
June	24.4/75.9	78/3.1
July	26.0/78.8	224/8.8
August	24.7/76.5	170/6.7
September	19.8/67.6	58/2.3
October	12.6/54.7	18/0.7
November	3.9/39.0	9/0.4
December	-2.6/27.3	3/0.1

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

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Climate - Hong Kong	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	16.2/61.2	27/1.1
February	16.1/61.0	44/1.7
March	18.4/65.1	75/2.9
April	22.1/71.8	140/5.5
May	26.1/79.0	298/11.7
June	28.0/82.4	399/15.7
July	28.7/83.7	371/14.6
August	28.6/83.5	377/14.8
September	27.9/82.2	297/11.7
October	25.4/77.7	119/4.7
November	21.8/71.2	38/1.5
December	17.7/63.9	25/1.0

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Harbin	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	-19.6/-3.2	4/0.2
February	-15.4/4.3	5/0.2
March	-5.2/22.6	11/0.4
April	6.0/42.8	22/0.9
May	14.1/57.4	43/1.7
June	19.8/67.6	89/3.5
July	23.0/73.4	156/6.1
August	21.3/70.3	117/4.6
September	14.3/57.7	61/2.4
October	5.6/42.1	28/1.1
November	-6.1/21.0	10/0.4
December	-16.0/3.2	5/0.2

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Ürümqi	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	-14.4/6.1	8/0.3
February	-12.1/10.2	10/0.4
March	-1.8/28.8	18/0.7
April	9.9/49.8	30/1.2
May	17.0/62.6	31/1.2
June	21.8/71.2	34/1.4
July	24.1/75.4	21/0.8
August	22.8/73.0	21/0.8
September	16.6/61.9	24/0.9
October	7.4/45.3	26/1.0
November	-3.6/25.5	19/0.7
December	-11.9/10.6	12/0.5

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate - Lhasa	Mean temperature (°C/°F)	Precipitation (millimetres/inches)
January	-1.6/29.1	0/0.0
February	1.2/34.2	3/0.1
March	4.8/40.6	4/0.1
April	8.4/47.1	6/0.2
May	12.4/54.3	24/0.9
June	16.0/60.8	72/2.8
July	15.5/59.9	132/5.2
August	14.7/58.5	128/5.0
September	13.1/55.6	58/2.3
October	8.5/47.3	9/0.4
November	2.6/36.7	1/0.1
December	-1.1/30.0	0/0.0

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Phrase book

Courtesy phrases

Greetings	問候
Good morning	早安
Good day	祝你愉快
Good afternoon	午安
Good night	晚安
Hi/Hey	嗨!
farewell	再會
See you	再見
Others	其他
Thanks	謝謝
Thanks for the help	謝謝你的幫助
Yes	是
No	不
Okay	好
Be so good	非常好
Be so kind	真是太好了
Sorry	對不起
My name is.....	我叫...。
What is your name?	你叫什麼名字?

Question (Inquiring) words

What...?	什麼...?
Where...?	哪裡...?
When...?	何時...?
Who...?	誰...?
How...?	如何...?
Why...?	為什麼...?

Find way

To the right	向右
To the left	向左
Straight on	直行
Back	向後

Where is?	...在哪裡?
Can you show the way to.....?	你能指給我去...的路嗎?
Where am I/we at present?	現在我/我們在哪裡?
How do I reach....?	我如何到達...?
how far is it to.....?	到...有多遠?
Where is the nearest station?	最近的車站在哪裡?
Address	地址
What is the address?	地址是哪裡?

Tourist in the city

Have you a city map?	你有城市地圖嗎?
What shall I see here in this city?	在這個城市裏我應該遊覽什麼?
Can you recommend a sight seeing tour?	你能推薦一個觀光旅行嗎?

Visit to the toilet

Visit to the toilet	去廁所
Toilet	廁所
Have you a toilet?	有廁所嗎?
Do you have some more toilet paper?	還有廁紙嗎?
Can I change the toilet?	我可以換廁所嗎?

Transport for the trip

Railway	鐵路
Underground railway	地下鐵路
Train	火車
Till what time does the train run?	火車要到什麼時間發車?
Time table	時間表
Station (train)	車站 (火車)

Bus and Tram

	公共汽車和電車
Tram	電車
Bus	公共汽車
Till what time does the bus/tram run....?	公共汽車/電車要到什麼時間發車?
At what time is the last bus/tram?	最後一班公共汽車/電車是什麼時間?
Station (bus)	車站 (公共汽車)
Stop	車站

Airway

	空中航線
Airway	空中航線
Airport	飛機場
Check-in	辦理登機手續
Passport	護照

Ship

	船
Ferry	渡口
Port	港口

Automobile

	汽車
Motorcar	汽車
Car rental	汽車租賃
Driving License	駕駛證
I would like to hire a....	我想租用...。
Have you a children's seat?	有兒童座椅嗎?
Does it run on petrol or diesel?	它使用的是汽油還是柴油?
Parking space	停車位
Multi-storeyed car park	多層停車場

Taxi

	出租車
Taxi	出租車
Drive me to this address	請送我到這個位址
I shall go to.....	我將去.....。
How much is it by taxi to?	乘出租車去要多少錢?

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General	一般	Single room	單人房
Cycle	自行車	Double room	雙人房
Motorcycle	摩托車	What is the room number?	房間號碼是多少?
Arrival/arrival time	到達/到達時間	Which floor?	哪一層?
Departure/departure time	離開/離開時間	Where is the elevator?	電梯在哪?
Baggage	行李	No smoking	禁止吸煙
Baggage locker	行李暫存箱	Smoking	抽煙
Entertainment		Have you a vacant room?	有空房間嗎?
Cinema	電影院	What is the cost of a single-/double room?	單人房/雙人房的費用是多少?
Theatre	戲院	Can I order for an extra bed?	可以加床嗎?
Match	比賽	Have you a baby cot?	有嬰兒床嗎?
Concert	音樂會	Where is the breakfast?	哪里吃早餐?
Park	公園	When is the breakfast?	何時吃早餐?
Circus	馬戲團	When shall we check in?	何時辦理登記手續?
Museum	博物館	Where can I park?	哪里可以停車?
Amusement park	遊樂場	Can I call for a taxi?	我可以叫輛出租車嗎?
Casino	娛樂場	Have you a card with the hotel's address?	你有帶有旅館位址的卡片嗎?
Disquothe	Disquothe	Have you a security locker?	你有保險箱嗎?
Night club	夜總會	Is there a swimming pool?	這裏有游泳池嗎?
Aquarium	水族館	Can I ask for a wake up call?	我可以請求喚醒服務嗎?
Zoological garden	動物公園	Can I borrow an ironbox/-board?	我可以借一個鐵盒/板嗎?
Tickets		Can I borrow a hair drier?	我可以借一個電吹風嗎?
Adult	成人	Can I keep my baggage?	我可以保存我的行李嗎?
Child	兒童	Can I request for extra toilet paper?	我可以多要些廁紙嗎?
Pensioner	退養人員		
Student	學生		
Can I get a ticket?	我可以買一張票嗎?		
Can I get a daily ticket?	我可以買一張日票嗎?		
In the hotel			
I/we have a reservation	我/我們已經預訂了房間。		
The name is....	名字是...。		

On shopping

Shopping centre	購物中心
Departmental stores	百貨商店
Main shopping area	主要購物區
Pedestrian street	行人街道
Is it available in large size?	它有大號的嗎?
Is it available in small size?	它有小號的嗎?
What is the cost of this/that?	這件/那件多少錢?
Do you have this/ these in my size?	這件/那件有我穿的型號嗎?
Can you pack this in a gift wrap?	你可以將此包裝成禮品包裝嗎?
Do you accept credit card?	你接受信用卡嗎?
When do you close?	什麼時候打烊??
Open	營業
Closed	停止營業

In the restaurant/café

Breakfast	早餐
Lunch	午餐
Supper	晚餐
May I see the menu card?	我可以看看功能表嗎?
May I see the liquor card?	我可以看看酒單嗎?
Menu for the children	兒童菜單
Vegetarian	蔬食
Well done	全熟
Medium	五分熟
Red (rare)	全生
It must not be very strong	千萬不要太濃烈
I cannot bear....	我不能忍受....
Bill	帳單
May I pay?	我可以付賬嗎?

Can I pay with the credit card? 我可以 استخدام信用卡付賬嗎?

From the menu card

Starters	菜單上 第一道菜
Main course	主菜
Desserts	甜點
Fish	魚
Shell fish	貝類海鮮
Poultry	家禽
Chicken	雞肉
Duck	鴨子
Goose	鵝肉
Turkey	火雞
Pork	豬肉
Beef	牛肉
Veal	小牛肉
Lamb	小羊
Bread	麵包
Butter	奶油
Egg	蛋
Yoghurt	酸乳酪
Soup	湯
Salad	沙拉
Sandwich	三明治
Sausages	臘腸
Hotdog	熱狗
Pizza	比薩餅
Hamburger	漢堡
French fries	薯條
Cheese	乳酪
Ice	冰
Cake	蛋糕
Sugar	糖

Beverages

Milk	飲料
Mineral water	奶
Juice	礦泉水
Soda water	汁
Without ice	蘇打水
Coffee	不加冰
Tea	咖啡
Cocoa	茶
Beer	可哥飲料
White wine	啤酒
Red wine	白葡萄酒
Champagne	紅葡萄酒
Liquor	檳酒
Spirits	酒
	烈酒

Service

Knife	服務
Fork	小刀
Spoon	叉子
Teaspoon	匙
chop stick	茶匙
Glass	筷子
Plate	玻璃杯
Napkin	盤子
	餐巾紙

Bank, post, internet and telephone**Bank and money**

Bank	銀行和金錢
Where is a bank?	銀行
Automatic teller machine	銀行在哪里?
Where can I draw money?	自動櫃員機
Change money	哪里可以取錢?
Where can I change currency?	貨幣兌換
	哪里可以兌換貨幣?

What is the rate of exchange?

兌換率是多少?

Post

Post office	郵政
Where is the post office?	郵局
Post box	郵局在哪里?
Where is a post box?	信箱
Stamp	信箱在哪里?
Do you have an envelope?	郵票
	你有信封嗎?

Internet

Where is the internet café?	網際網路
Do you have internet, which I can use?	網咖在哪里?
	你有我可以使用的網際網路嗎?

Telephone

Can I borrow a telephone?	電話
How do I ring abroad?	能借電話用一下嗎?
How much does it cost to ring to...?	如何撥打國外電話?
	打電話到...的費用是多少?

Alarm and Sickness**Police and Fire**

Help	員警和火災
I have been robbed	救命
Telephone the police	我被搶劫了
Police station	打電話給員警
Theft/stop the thief	警察局
Fire/ the burner	盜竊/捉賊
Ring up the fire fighting service	火災/火爐
	打電話給消防勤務

Doctor and pharmacy

醫生和藥房	醫生和藥房
Ring for an ambulance	打電話叫救護車
Can you fix up an appointment with the doctor for me?	你能為我預約一下醫生嗎?
Hospital	醫院
Doctor	醫生
Pharmacy	藥房
Where is the pharmacy?	藥房在哪里?
I have pain	我感到疼痛
I have pain here	我感到這裏疼痛
I have pain in the head	我頭部疼痛
I have nausea	我感到惡心
I have diarrhoea	我腹瀉
I have pain in the stomach	我胃部疼痛
Have you pills for head ache?	你有治療頭疼的藥丸嗎?
Have you pills for diarrhoea?	你有治療腹瀉的藥丸嗎?
Tablets	藥片

Dentist

牙醫	牙醫
Can you fix up an appointment with the dentist for me?	你能為我預約一下牙醫嗎?
I have tooth ache	我牙痛

Numbers

Zero	零
One	一
Two	二
Three	三
Four	四
Five	五
Six	六
Seven	七

Eight	八
Nine	九
Ten	十
Twenty	二十
Thirty	三十
Fourty	四十
Fifty	五十
Sixty	六十
Seventy	七十
Eighty	八十
Ninety	九十
Hundred	百
Thousand	千
Million	百萬

Calendar and time

Days	日
Monday	星期一
Tuesday	星期二
Wednesday	星期三
Thursday	星期四
Friday	星期五
Saturday	星期六
Sunday	星期天
Yesterday	昨天
Today	今天
Tomorrow	明天
Day after tomorrow	後天

Months	月
January	一月
February	二月
March	三月
April	四月
May	五月
June	六月
July	七月
August	八月
September	九月
October	十月
November	十一月
December	十二月

Time	時間
What is the time?	幾點鐘？
The time is quarter past....	...點鐘過一刻
The time is half past....	...點半
The time is quarter to.....	...點差一刻

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A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train car. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to travelstig@gmail.com (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit www.stigalbeck.com.

Bonne Voyage!