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Languages

Afrikaans

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Bân-lâm-gú

Беларуская

Беларуская (тарашкевіца)

Български

Буряад

Català

Čeština

Dansk

Deutsch

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□□□

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Article

Talk

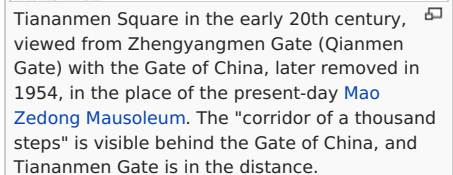
[Edit](#)

Coordinates: 39°54'12"N 116°23'30"E

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In 1860, during the [Second Opium War](#), when British and French troops invaded Beijing, they pitched camp near the gate and briefly considered burning down the gate and the entire Forbidden City. They decided ultimately to spare the Forbidden City and instead burn down the [Old Summer Palace](#). The [Xianfeng Emperor](#) eventually agreed to let the foreign powers barrack troops – and later establish diplomatic missions – in the area, hence there was the [Legation Quarter](#) immediately to the east of the square. When the forces of the [Eight-Nation Alliance](#) besieged Beijing during the [Boxer Rebellion](#) in 1900, they badly damaged the office complexes and

Romanization	'abkai elhe obure duka
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Magyar



Bahasa Melayu

Nederlands



Norsk bokmål



Polski

Português

Русский

Simple English

Slovenčina

Slovenščina

Suomi

Svenska

Tagalog



Türkçe

Українська

Tiếng Việt

Winaray



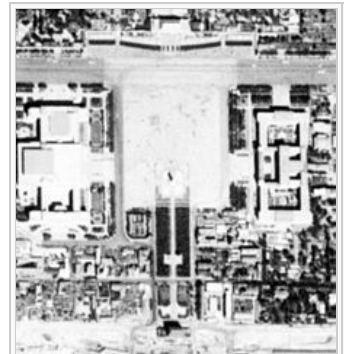
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burnt down several ministries. After the Boxer Rebellion ended, the area became a space for the foreign powers to assemble their military forces.

In 1954, the [Gate of China](#) was demolished, allowing for the enlargement of the square. In November 1958, a major expansion of Tiananmen Square started, which was completed after only 11 months, in August 1959. This followed the vision of [Mao Zedong](#) to make the square the largest and most spectacular in the world, and intended to hold over 500,000 people. In that process, a large number of residential buildings and other structures have been demolished.^[6] On its southern edge, the [Monument to the People's Heroes](#) has been erected. Concomitantly, as part of the [Ten Great Buildings](#) constructed between 1958–59 to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the People's Republic of China, the [Great Hall of the People](#) and the Revolutionary History Museum (now the [National Museum of China](#)) were erected on the western and eastern sides of the square.^[6]

The year after Mao's death in 1976, a [mausoleum](#) was built near the site of the former Gate of China, on the main north-south axis of the square. In connection with this project, the square was further increased in size to become fully rectangular and being able to accommodate 600,000 persons.^[6]

The urban context of the square was altered in the 1990s with the construction of [National Grand Theatre](#) in its vicinity and the expansion of the National Museum.^[6]



Satellite image of Tiananmen Square. (1967-09-20)

Panorama [[edit](#)]



Panorama [image map](#) of **Tiananmen Square** from the north atop [Tiananmen](#)'s gate tower, showing the Square beyond [Chang'an Avenue](#), with the [Monument to the People's Heroes](#) and [Mao Zedong Mausoleum](#) at background center, the [National Museum of China](#) to the left and [Great Hall of the People](#) to the right. (*mouse over for labels*)

Configuration [[edit](#)]

Used as a massive meeting place since its creation, its flatness is contrasted by the 38-metre (125 ft) high Monument to the People's Heroes, and the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong.^[4] The square lies between two ancient, massive gates: the Tian'anmen to the north and the Zhengyangmen (better known as [Qianmen](#)) to the south. Along the west side of the square is the Great Hall of the People. Along the east side is the National Museum of China (dedicated to Chinese history predating 1919). [Chang'an Avenue](#), which is used for parades, lies between the Tian'anmen and the square. Trees line the east and west edges of the Square, but the square itself is open, with neither trees nor benches. The square is lit with large lamp posts which are fitted with video cameras. It is heavily monitored by uniformed and plain-clothes police officers.



The Tian'anmen Square in Beijing

Events [[edit](#)]

Tiananmen Square has been the site of a number of political events and student protests.

Perhaps the most notable events are protests during the [May Fourth Movement](#) in 1919, the proclamation of the People's Republic of China by [Mao Zedong](#) on October 1, 1949, the [Tiananmen Square protests in 1976](#) after the death of [Zhou Enlai](#), and the [Tiananmen Square protests of 1989](#), which resulted in military suppression and the deaths of hundreds, if not thousands, of civilian protestors.^[7] One of the most famous images that appears during these protests was when [a man](#) stood in front of a line of moving tanks and refused to move, which was captured on Chang'an Avenue near the square.

Other notable events include annual mass military displays on each anniversary of the 1949 proclamation until 1 October 1959; the 1984 military parade for the 35th anniversary of the People's Republic of China which

coincided with the ascendancy of [Deng Xiaoping](#); military displays and parades on the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic of China in 1999; the [Tiananmen Square self-immolation incident](#) in 2001; military displays and parades on the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China in 2009, and [an incident in 2013 involving a vehicle that plowed into pedestrians](#)

Access [[edit](#)]

The square, located in the center of the city, is readily accessible by public transport. [Line 1](#) of the [Beijing Subway](#) has stops at [Tiananmen West](#) and [Tiananmen East](#), respectively, to the northwest and northeast of the square on [Chang'an Avenue](#). [Line 2](#)'s [Qianmen Station](#) is directly south of the square.

[City bus](#) routes 1, 5, 10, 22, 52, 59, 82, 90, 99, 120, 126, 203, 205, 210 and 728 stop north of the Square. Buses 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 17, 20, 22, 44, 48, 53, 54, 59, 66, 67, 72, 82, 110, 120, 126, 301, 337, 608, 673, 726, 729, 901, 90, 102, 104 and 107 stop to the south of the Square.

The square is normally open to the public, but remains under heavy security.

Before entry, visitors and their belongings are searched, a common practice at many Chinese tourist sites, although the square is somewhat unique in that domestic visitors often have their identification documents checked and the purpose of their visit questioned. Both plain-clothes and uniformed police officers patrol the area. There are numerous fire extinguishers placed in the area to put out flames should a protester attempt [self-immolation](#).

Gallery [[edit](#)]



[Tiananmen](#) gate to the north of Tiananmen Square



[National Museum of China](#) on the east side of the Square



The [Great Hall of the People](#) on the west side of the Square



[Zhengyangmen](#) Gate Tower marking the south end of Tiananmen Square



[Monument to the People's Heroes](#) and the [Mausoleum of Mao Zedong](#) occupy the center of the Square



[Monument to the People's Heroes](#)



[Mausoleum of Mao Zedong](#)



Monument in front of [Mao's Mausoleum](#) on Tiananmen Square



Iconic image of the Tiananmen Square from the [May Fourth movement](#) of 1919



Students attending the founding ceremony of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949.



A temporary monument in Tiananmen Square marking the 90th anniversary of the [Chinese Communist Party](#) in 2011



National mourning on May 19, 2008 for the victims of the [2008 Sichuan earthquake](#)






Security cameras at Tiananmen Square



Students gather for a demonstration in Tiananmen Square, ca. 1917–1919.

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External links [[edit](#)]



Wikimedia Commons has media related to:
Tiananmen Square
(category)

Categories: Squares in Beijing Visitor attractions in Beijing National squares Tiananmen Square Dongcheng District, Beijing 1415 establishments in China
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