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**Beijing** ([Template:Zh](/wiki/Template:Zh); [postal](/wiki/Postal_romanization): **Peking**)[[1]](#cite_note-1) is the capital of [China](/wiki/China) and the world's [third most populous city proper](/wiki/List_of_cities_proper_by_population). The city, located in [northern China](/wiki/North_China), is governed as a [direct-controlled municipality](/wiki/Direct-controlled_municipality_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China) under the [national government](/wiki/Government_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China) with [16 urban, suburban, and rural districts](/wiki/List_of_administrative_divisions_of_Beijing).<ref name=figures>Figures based on 2006 statistics published in 2007 National Statistical Yearbook of China and available online at [2006年中国乡村人口数 中国人口与发展研究中心](http://www.chinapop.gov.cn/wxzl/rkgk/200806/t20080629_157020.htm) ([archive](https://web.archive.org/web/20090310163630/http://www.chinapop.gov.cn/wxzl/rkgk/200806/t20080629_157020.htm)). Retrieved 21 April 2009.</ref> Beijing Municipality is surrounded by [Hebei](/wiki/Hebei) Province with the exception of neighboring [Tianjin](/wiki/Tianjin) Municipality to the southeast; together the three divisions form the [Jingjinji](/wiki/Jingjinji) [metropolitan region](/wiki/Metropolitan_regions_of_China) and the [national capital region](/wiki/National_capital_region) of China.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Beijing is the second largest Chinese city by [urban population](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_the_People's_Republic_of_China_by_urban_population) after [Shanghai](/wiki/Shanghai) and is the nation's [political](/wiki/Politics_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China), [cultural](/wiki/Chinese_culture), and [educational](/wiki/List_of_universities_and_colleges_in_Beijing) center.[[3]](#cite_note-3) It is home to the headquarters of most of [China's largest state-owned companies](/wiki/List_of_the_largest_companies_of_China), and is a [major hub](/wiki/Transport_in_Beijing) for the [national highway](/wiki/China_National_Highways_of_Beijing), [expressway](/wiki/Expressways_of_Beijing), [railway](/wiki/Rail_transport_in_the_People's_Republic_of_China#Current_network), and [high-speed rail](/wiki/High-speed_rail_in_China) networks. The [Beijing Capital International Airport](/wiki/Beijing_Capital_International_Airport) is the [second busiest in the world by passenger traffic](/wiki/World's_busiest_airports_by_passenger_traffic).[[4]](#cite_note-4) The [city's history](/wiki/History_of_Beijing) dates back three [millennia](/wiki/Millennium). As the last of the [Four Great Ancient Capitals of China](/wiki/Historical_capitals_of_China), Beijing has been the political center of the country for much of the past eight centuries.[[5]](#cite_note-5) The city is renowned for its opulent palaces, temples, parks, gardens, tombs, walls and gates,[[6]](#cite_note-6) and its art treasures and universities have made it a center of culture and art in China.[[6]](#cite_note-6) [*Encyclopædia Britannica*](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica) notes that "few cities in the world have served for so long as the political headquarters and cultural centre of an area as immense as China."[[7]](#cite_note-7) Beijing has [seven](/wiki/List_of_World_Heritage_Sites_in_China) [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) [World Heritage Sites](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site) – the [Forbidden City](/wiki/Forbidden_City), [Temple of Heaven](/wiki/Temple_of_Heaven), [Summer Palace](/wiki/Summer_Palace), [Ming Tombs](/wiki/Ming_Tombs), [Zhoukoudian](/wiki/Zhoukoudian), [Great Wall](/wiki/Great_Wall), and the [Grand Canal](/wiki/Grand_Canal_(China)).[[8]](#cite_note-8) Beijing hosted the [2008 Summer Olympics](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympics) and was chosen to host the [2022 Winter Olympics](/wiki/2022_Winter_Olympics), which will make it the first city to ever host both events.[[9]](#cite_note-9)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Over the past 3,000 years, the city of Beijing has had [numerous other names](/wiki/Names_of_Beijing). The name **Beijing**, which means "Northern Capital" (from the [Chinese characters](/wiki/Chinese_characters) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) for *north* and [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) for *capital*), was applied to the city in 1403 during the [Ming Dynasty](/wiki/Ming_Dynasty) to distinguish the city from [Nanjing](/wiki/Nanjing) (the "Southern Capital").[[10]](#cite_note-10) The English spelling is based on the [pinyin](/wiki/Pinyin) [romanization](/wiki/Romanization_of_Chinese) of the two characters as they are pronounced in [Standard Mandarin](/wiki/Standard_Mandarin). An older English spelling, **Peking**, is the [postal romanization](/wiki/Postal_romanization) of the same two characters as they are pronounced in [Chinese dialects](/wiki/List_of_Chinese_dialects) spoken in the southern port towns first visited by European traders and missionaries.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Those dialects preserve the [Middle Chinese](/wiki/Middle_Chinese) pronunciation of [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) as *kjaeng*,[[12]](#cite_note-12) prior to a phonetic shift in the northern dialects to the modern pronunciation.[[13]](#cite_note-13) The single Chinese character abbreviation for Beijing is [Template:Linktext](/wiki/Template:Linktext), which appears on automobile license plates in the city. The official [Latin alphabet](/wiki/Latin_alphabet) [abbreviation](/wiki/Standardization_Administration_of_China) for Beijing is "BJ".[[14]](#cite_note-14)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Early history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

The earliest traces of human habitation in the Beijing municipality were found in the caves of [Dragon Bone Hill](/wiki/Dragon_Bone_Hill) near the village of [Zhoukoudian](/wiki/Zhoukoudian) in [Fangshan District](/wiki/Fangshan_District), where [Peking Man](/wiki/Peking_Man) lived. [*Homo erectus*](/wiki/Homo_erectus) fossils from the caves date to 230,000 to 250,000 years ago. [Paleolithic](/wiki/Paleolithic) [*Homo sapiens*](/wiki/Homo_sapiens) also lived there more recently, about 27,000 years ago.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Archaeologists have found [neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) settlements throughout the municipality, including in [Wangfujing](/wiki/Wangfujing), located in downtown Beijing.

The first [walled city](/wiki/Ancient_Chinese_urban_planning) in Beijing was [**Ji**](/wiki/State_of_Ji), a city-state from the 11th to 7th century BC. Within modern Beijing, Ji was located south of the present [Beijing West Railway Station](/wiki/Beijing_West_Railway_Station).<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> This settlement was later conquered by the [state of Yan](/wiki/State_of_Yan) and made its capital under the name [**Yanjing**](/wiki/Yanjing).[[16]](#cite_note-16)

### Early Imperial China[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Tianning_Temple_Pagoda.jpg) [Tianning Pagoda](/wiki/Pagoda_of_Tianning_Temple_(Beijing)), built around 1120. After the [First Emperor](/wiki/Qin_Shi_Huang) [unified China](/wiki/Qin's_wars_of_unification), Beijing became a [prefectural capital](/wiki/Zhou_(region)) for the region.[[17]](#cite_note-17) During the [Three Kingdoms period](/wiki/Three_Kingdoms_period), it was held by [Gongsun Zan](/wiki/Gongsun_Zan) and [Yuan Shao](/wiki/Yuan_Shao) before falling to [Cao Cao's](/wiki/Cao_Cao) [Wei Kingdom](/wiki/Cao_Wei). The AD 3rd-century [Western Jin](/wiki/Jin_Dynasty_(265–420)) demoted the town, placing the prefectural seat in neighboring Zhuozhou.

During the [Sixteen Kingdoms](/wiki/Sixteen_Kingdoms) period when northern China was conquered and divided by the [Wu Hu](/wiki/Five_Barbarians), Beijing, as [**Jicheng**](/wiki/Jicheng_(Beijing)), was briefly the capital of the [Xianbei](/wiki/Xianbei) [Former Yan](/wiki/Former_Yan) Kingdom.<ref name=Rene>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

After China was reunified during the [Sui Dynasty](/wiki/Sui_Dynasty), Beijing, known as **Zhuojun**, became the northern terminus of the [Grand Canal](/wiki/Grand_Canal_(China)). Under the [Tang Dynasty](/wiki/Tang_Dynasty), Beijing as [**Fanyang**](/wiki/Fanyang), served as a military frontier command center. During the [An-Shi Rebellion](/wiki/An-Shi_Rebellion) and again amidst the turmoil of the late Tang, local military commanders founded their own short-lived Yan Dynasties and called the city [**Yanjing**](/wiki/Yanjing), or the "Yan Capital." In 938, after the fall of the Tang, the [Later Jin](/wiki/Later_Jin_(Five_Dynasties)) ceded [the entire northern frontier](/wiki/Sixteen_Prefectures) to the [Khitan](/wiki/Khitan_people) [Liao Dynasty](/wiki/Liao_Dynasty), which renamed the city [Nanjing](/wiki/Liao_Nanjing), or the "Southern Capital", one of four secondary capitals to complement its "Supreme Capital", Shangjing (modern [Baarin Left Banner](/wiki/Baarin_Left_Banner) in [Inner Mongolia](/wiki/Inner_Mongolia)). Some of the oldest surviving structures in Beijing date to the Liao period, including the [Tianning Pagoda](/wiki/Pagoda_of_Tianning_Temple_(Beijing)). [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:颐和园佛香阁.jpg)[Longevity Hill](/wiki/Longevity_Hill) in Beijing where [Kublai Khan](/wiki/Kublai_Khan) wrote his poem. The Liao fell to the [Jurchen Jin dynasty](/wiki/Jin_dynasty_(1115–1234)) in 1122, which gave the city to the [Song Dynasty](/wiki/Song_Dynasty) and then retook it in 1125 during its [conquest of northern China](/wiki/Jin_campaigns_against_the_Song_Dynasty). In 1153, the Jurchen Jin made Beijing their "Central Capital", called **Zhongdu**.[[17]](#cite_note-17) The city was besieged by [Genghis Khan's](/wiki/Genghis_Khan) invading [Mongolian army](/wiki/Mongol_Empire) in 1213 and [razed to the ground](/wiki/Battle_of_Zhongdu) two years later.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Two generations later, [Kublai Khan](/wiki/Kublai_Khan) ordered the construction of [**Dadu**](/wiki/Khanbaliq) (or Daidu to the Mongols, commonly known as Khanbaliq), a new capital for his [Yuan dynasty](/wiki/Yuan_dynasty) to be located adjacent to the Jurchen Jin ruins. The construction took from 1264 to 1293,[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18)[[19]](#cite_note-19) but greatly enhanced the status of a city on the northern fringe of [China proper](/wiki/China_proper). The city was centered on the [Drum Tower](/wiki/Drum_Tower_and_Bell_Tower_of_Beijing) slightly to the north of modern Beijing and stretched from the present-day [Chang'an Avenue](/wiki/Chang'an_Avenue) to the [Line 10 subway](/wiki/Line_10,_Beijing_Subway). Remnants of the Yuan [rammed earth](/wiki/Rammed_earth) wall still stand and are known as the Tucheng.[[20]](#cite_note-20)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Ming dynasty[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|One of the corner towers of the](/wiki/File:BeijingWatchTower.jpg) [Forbidden City](/wiki/Forbidden_City). In 1368, soon after declaring the new [Hongwu era](/wiki/Hongwu_Emperor) of the [Ming dynasty](/wiki/Ming_dynasty), the [rebel](/wiki/Red_Turban_rebellion) leader [Zhu Yuanzhang](/wiki/Zhu_Yuanzhang) sent an army to Khanbaliq and conquered it.[[21]](#cite_note-21) Since the [Yuan](/wiki/Northern_Yuan_dynasty) continued to occupy [Shangdu](/wiki/Xanadu,_China) and Mongolia, however, a new town was established to supply the military garrisons in the area.[[22]](#cite_note-22) This was called **Beiping**[[23]](#cite_note-23) and under the Hongwu Emperor's feudal policies it was given to [Zhu Di](/wiki/Zhu_Di), one of his sons, who was created "[Prince of Yan](/wiki/Prince_of_Yan)".

The early death of [Zhu Yuanzhang's](/wiki/Zhu_Yuanzhang) heir led to a [succession struggle](/wiki/Jingnan_Campaign) on his death, one that ended with the victory of [Zhu Di](/wiki/Zhu_Di) and the declaration of the new [Yongle era](/wiki/Yongle_Emperor). Since his harsh treatment of the Ming capital Yingtian (Nanjing) alienated many there, he established his fief as a new co-capital. The city of [Beiping](/wiki/Beiping) became [Shuntian](/wiki/Shuntian_Prefecture)<ref name=WDL1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> in 1403.[[10]](#cite_note-10) The construction of the new imperial residence, the [Forbidden City](/wiki/Forbidden_City), took from 1406 to 1420;[[18]](#cite_note-18) this period was also responsible for several other of the modern city's major attractions, such as the [Temple of Heaven](/wiki/Temple_of_Heaven)[[24]](#cite_note-24) and [Tian'anmen](/wiki/Tian'anmen) (although the [square facing it](/wiki/Tiananmen_Square) was not cleared until 1651[[25]](#cite_note-25)). On 28 October 1420, the city was officially designated the capital of the [Ming Dynasty](/wiki/Ming_Dynasty) in the same year that the Forbidden City was completed.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Beijing became the empire's primary capital (**Jingshi**) and Yingtian [Template:Ndash](/wiki/Template:Ndash) or called [Nanjing](/wiki/Nanjing) [Template:Ndash](/wiki/Template:Ndash) became the co-capital. (A 1425 order by Zhu Di's son, the [Hongxi Emperor](/wiki/Hongxi_Emperor), to return the capital to Nanjing was never carried out: he died, probably of a heart attack, the next month. He was buried, like almost every Ming emperor to follow him, in an [elaborate necropolis](/wiki/Ming_Dynasty_Tombs) to Beijing's north.)

By the 15th century, Beijing had essentially taken its current shape. The [Ming city wall](/wiki/Beijing_city_fortifications) continued to serve until modern times, when it was pulled down and the [2nd Ring Road](/wiki/2nd_Ring_Road) was built in its place.[[27]](#cite_note-27) It is generally believed that Beijing was the largest city in the world for most of the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The [first known church](/wiki/Christianity_in_China) was constructed by [Catholics](/wiki/Jesuit_China_Missions) in 1652 at the former site of [Matteo Ricci's](/wiki/Matteo_Ricci) chapel; the modern [Nantang Cathedral](/wiki/Cathedral_of_the_Immaculate_Conception_in_Beijing) was later built upon the same site.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The capture of Beijing by [Li Zicheng's](/wiki/Li_Zicheng) peasant army in 1644 ended the dynasty, but he and his [Shun court](/wiki/Shun_dynasty) abandoned the city without a fight when the [Manchu](/wiki/Manchu_people) army of Prince [Dorgon](/wiki/Dorgon) arrived 40 days later. [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Qing dynasty[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Hata-men_Gate.jpg)[Chongwenmen](/wiki/Chongwenmen), a gate to the inner walled city, c. 1906 [Dorgon](/wiki/Dorgon) established the [Qing Dynasty](/wiki/Qing_Dynasty) as a direct successor of the Ming (delegitimizing [Li Zicheng](/wiki/Li_Zicheng) and his followers)[[30]](#cite_note-30) and Beijing became China's sole capital.[[31]](#cite_note-31) The Qing emperors made some modifications to the Imperial residence but, in large part, the Ming buildings and the general layout remained unchanged. Facilities for Manchu worship were introduced, but the Qing also continued the traditional state rituals. Signage was bilingual or Chinese. This early Qing Beijing later formed the setting for the [Chinese novel](/wiki/Four_Great_Classical_Novels) [*Dream of the Red Chamber*](/wiki/Dream_of_the_Red_Chamber).

During the [Second Opium War](/wiki/Second_Opium_War), Anglo-French forces captured the city, looting and burning the [Old Summer Palace](/wiki/Old_Summer_Palace) in 1860. Under the [Convention of Peking](/wiki/Convention_of_Peking) ending that war, Western powers for the first time secured the right to establish [permanent diplomatic presences](/wiki/Beijing_Legation_Quarter) within the city. In 1900, the attempt by the "[Boxers](/wiki/Boxer_Rebellion)" to eradicate this presence, as well as Chinese Christian converts, led to Beijing's reoccupation by [foreign powers](/wiki/Eight-Nation_Alliance).[[32]](#cite_note-32) During the fighting, several important structures were destroyed, including the [Hanlin Academy](/wiki/Hanlin_Academy) and the (new) [Summer Palace](/wiki/Summer_Palace). [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Republic of China[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|Peking filmed in 1937](/wiki/File:1937_Peking,_China_VP8.webm) The fomenters of the [Xinhai Revolution](/wiki/Xinhai_Revolution) of 1911 sought to replace Qing rule with a republic and leaders like [Sun Yat-sen](/wiki/Sun_Yat-sen) originally intended to return the capital to Nanjing. After the Qing general [Yuan Shikai](/wiki/Yuan_Shikai) forced the abdication of the last Qing emperor and ensured the success of the revolution, the revolutionaries accepted him as president of the new [Republic of China](/wiki/Republic_of_China_(1912–1949)). Yuan maintained his capital at Beijing and quickly consolidated power, declaring himself emperor in 1915. His death less than a year later[[33]](#cite_note-33) left China under the control of the warlords commanding the regional armies. Following the success of the [Nationalists'](/wiki/Kuomintang) [Northern Expedition](/wiki/Northern_Expedition_(1926–1927)), the capital was formally removed to Nanjing in 1928. On 28 June the same year, Beijing's name was returned to Beiping (written at the time as "Peiping").[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[34]](#cite_note-34) During the [Second Sino-Japanese War](/wiki/Second_Sino-Japanese_War),[[3]](#cite_note-3) Beiping fell to Japan on 29 July 1937[[35]](#cite_note-35) and was made the seat of the [Provisional Government of the Republic of China](/wiki/Provisional_Government_of_the_Republic_of_China_(1937–1940)), a [puppet state](/wiki/Puppet_state) that ruled the ethnic-Chinese portions of Japanese-occupied [northern China](/wiki/North_China).[[36]](#cite_note-36) This government was later merged into the larger [Wang Jingwei government](/wiki/Reorganized_National_Government_of_China) based in Nanjing.[[37]](#cite_note-37)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### People's Republic of China[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:PRCFounding.jpg)[Mao Zedong](/wiki/Mao_Zedong) proclaiming the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949 [thumb|A scene from the opening ceremonies of the](/wiki/File:Beijing_Olympics_2008.jpg) [2008 Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympic_Games). In the final phases of the [Chinese Civil War](/wiki/Chinese_Civil_War), the [People's Liberation Army](/wiki/People's_Liberation_Army) seized control of the city peacefully on 31 January 1949 in the course of the [Pingjin Campaign](/wiki/Pingjin_Campaign). On 1 October that year, [Mao Zedong](/wiki/Mao_Zedong) announced the creation of the [People's Republic of China](/wiki/People's_Republic_of_China) from atop [Tian'anmen](/wiki/Tian'anmen). He restored the name of the city, as the new capital, to Beijing,[[38]](#cite_note-38) a decision that had been reached by the [Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference](/wiki/Chinese_People's_Political_Consultative_Conference) just a few days earlier.

In the 1950s, the city began to expand beyond the old walled city and its surrounding neighborhoods, with heavy industries in [the west](/wiki/Shijingshan_District) and residential neighborhoods in [the north](/wiki/Hepingli_Subdistrict,_Beijing). Many areas of the [Beijing city wall](/wiki/Beijing_city_fortifications) were torn down in the 1960s to make way for the construction of the [Beijing Subway](/wiki/Beijing_Subway) and the [2nd Ring Road](/wiki/2nd_Ring_Road).

During the [Cultural Revolution](/wiki/Cultural_Revolution) from 1966 to 1976, the [Red Guard](/wiki/Red_Guard_(China)) movement began in Beijing and the city's government fell victim to one of the first purges. By the fall of 1966, all city schools were shut down and over a million Red Guards from across the country gathered in Beijing for eight rallies in Tian'anmen Square with Mao.[[39]](#cite_note-39) In April 1976, a large public gathering of Beijing residents against the [Gang of Four](/wiki/Gang_of_Four) and the Cultural Revolution in Tiananmen Square [was forcefully suppressed](/wiki/Tiananmen_Incident). In October 1976, the Gang was arrested in [Zhongnanhai](/wiki/Zhongnanhai) and the Cultural Revolution came to an end. In December 1978, the [Third Plenum of the 11th Party Congress](/wiki/Third_Plenary_Session_of_the_11th_CPC_Central_Committee) in Beijing under the leadership of [Deng Xiaoping](/wiki/Deng_Xiaoping) reversed the verdicts against victims of the Cultural Revolution and instituted the ["policy of reform and opening up."](/wiki/Chinese_economic_reform)

Since the early 1980s, the urban area of Beijing has expanded greatly with the completion of the 2nd Ring Road in 1981 and the subsequent addition of the [3rd](/wiki/3rd_Ring_Road_(Beijing)), [4th](/wiki/4th_Ring_Road), [5th](/wiki/5th_Ring_Road) and [6th Ring Roads](/wiki/6th_Ring_Road).[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41) According to one 2005 newspaper report, the size of newly developed Beijing was one-and-a-half times larger than before.[[42]](#cite_note-42) [Wangfujing](/wiki/Wangfujing) and [Xidan](/wiki/Xidan) have developed into flourishing shopping districts,[[43]](#cite_note-43) while [Zhongguancun](/wiki/Zhongguancun) has become a major center of electronics in China.[[44]](#cite_note-44) In recent years, the expansion of Beijing has also brought to the forefront some problems of urbanization, such as [heavy traffic](/wiki/Traffic_congestion), [poor air quality](/wiki/Air_pollution), the loss of historic neighborhoods, and a significant influx of migrant workers from less-developed [rural areas](/wiki/Rural_area) of the country.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Beijing has also been the location of many significant events in recent Chinese history, principally the [Tiananmen Square protests of 1989](/wiki/Tiananmen_Square_protests_of_1989)[[46]](#cite_note-46) and the [2008 Summer Olympics](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympics). This city was awarded to host the [2015 World Championships in Athletics](/wiki/2015_World_Championships_in_Athletics).[[47]](#cite_note-47)[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Large_Beijing_Landsat.jpg)[Landsat 7](/wiki/Landsat_7) Satellite image of Beijing Municipality with the surrounding mountains in dark brown

Beijing is situated at the northern tip of the roughly triangular [North China Plain](/wiki/North_China_Plain), which opens to the south and east of the city. Mountains to the north, northwest and west shield the city and northern China's agricultural heartland from the encroaching desert steppes. The northwestern part of the municipality, especially [Yanqing County](/wiki/Yanqing_County) and [Huairou District](/wiki/Huairou_District), are dominated by the Jundu Mountains, while the western part is framed by *Xishan* or the [Western Hills](/wiki/Western_Hills). The [Great Wall of China](/wiki/Great_Wall_of_China) across the northern part of Beijing Municipality was built on the rugged topography to defend against nomadic incursions from the steppes. Mount Dongling, in the Western Hills and on the border with [Hebei](/wiki/Hebei), is the municipality's highest point, with an altitude of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). [thumb|right|Remnants of the](/wiki/File:GreatWall6.jpg) [Great Wall of China](/wiki/Great_Wall_of_China) in the mountains north of the city.

Major rivers flowing through the municipality, including the [Chaobai](/wiki/Chaobai_River), [Yongding](/wiki/Yongding_River), [Juma](/wiki/Juma_River_(China)), are all tributaries in the [Hai River](/wiki/Hai_River) system, and flow in a southeasterly direction. The Miyun Reservoir, on the upper reaches of the Chaobai River, is the largest reservoir within the municipality. Beijing is also the northern terminus of the [Grand Canal](/wiki/Grand_Canal_of_China) to [Hangzhou](/wiki/Hangzhou), which was built over 1,400 years ago as a transportation route, and the [South–North Water Transfer Project](/wiki/South–North_Water_Transfer_Project), constructed in the past decade to bring water from the [Yangtze River](/wiki/Yangtze_River) basin.

The urban area of Beijing, on the plains in the south-central of the municipality with elevation of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), occupies a relatively small but expanding portion of the municipality's area. The city spreads out in concentric [ring roads](/wiki/Ring_Roads_of_Beijing). The [Second Ring Road](/wiki/Second_Ring_Road_(Beijing)) traces the [old city walls](/wiki/Beijing_city_wall) and the [Sixth Ring Road](/wiki/Sixth_Ring_Road) connects satellite towns in the surrounding suburbs. [Tian'anmen](/wiki/Tian'anmen) and [Tian'anmen Square](/wiki/Tian'anmen_Square) are at the center of Beijing, directly to the south of the [Forbidden City](/wiki/Forbidden_City), the former residence of the emperors of China. To the west of Tian'anmen is [Zhongnanhai](/wiki/Zhongnanhai), the residence of China's current leaders. [Chang'an Avenue](/wiki/Chang'an_Avenue)， which cuts between Tiananmen and the Square, forms the city's main east-west axis.

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

Beijing has a monsoon-influenced [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Dwa*), characterized by higher humidity in the summers due to the East Asian [monsoon](/wiki/Monsoon), and colder, windier, drier winters that reflect the influence of the vast [Siberian anticyclone](/wiki/Siberian_anticyclone).[[48]](#cite_note-48) Spring can bear witness to sandstorms blowing in from the [Gobi Desert](/wiki/Gobi_Desert) across the [Mongolian steppe](/wiki/Mongolian-Manchurian_grassland), accompanied by rapidly warming, but generally dry, conditions. Autumn, like spring, is a season of transition and minimal precipitation. The monthly daily average temperature in January is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), while in July it is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). [Precipitation](/wiki/Precipitation_(meteorology)) averages around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) annually, with close to three-fourths of that total falling from June to August. With monthly percent possible sunshine ranging from 47% in July to 65% in January and February, the city receives 2,671 hours of bright sunshine annually. Extremes since 1951 have ranged from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on 22 February 1966 to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on 24 July 1999 (unofficial record of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) was set on 15 June 1942).[[49]](#cite_note-49) Beijing implemented a number of air improvement schemes for the duration of the Games, including halting work at all construction sites, closing many factories in Beijing permanently, temporarily shutting industry in neighboring regions, closing some gas stations,[[54]](#cite_note-54) and [cutting motor traffic by half by limiting drivers to odd or even days (based on their license plate numbers)](/wiki/Road_space_rationing_in_Beijing),[[55]](#cite_note-55) reducing bus and subway fares, opening new subway lines, and banning high-emission vehicles.<ref name=octpoll>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref><ref name=polluteban>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The city further assembled 3,800 [natural gas](/wiki/Natural_gas)-powered buses, one of the largest fleets in the world.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Beijing became the first city in China to require the Chinese equivalent to the Euro 4 [emission standard](/wiki/Emission_standard).[[57]](#cite_note-57) Coal burning accounts for about 40% of the [PM 2.5](/wiki/Particulates) in Beijing and is also the chief source of nitrogen and sulfur dioxide.[[58]](#cite_note-58) Since 2012, the city has been converting coal-fired [power stations](/wiki/List_of_major_power_stations_in_Beijing) to burn natural gas[[59]](#cite_note-59) and aims to cap annual coal consumption at 20 million tons. In 2011, the city burned 26.3 million tons of coal, 73% of which for heating and power generation and the remainder for industry.[[59]](#cite_note-59) Much of the city's air pollutants are emitted by neighboring regions.[[58]](#cite_note-58) Coal consumption in neighboring Tianjin is expected to increase from 48 to 63 million tons from 2011 to 2015.[[60]](#cite_note-60) Hebei Province burned over 300 million tons of coal in 2011, more than all of Germany, of which only 30% were used for power generation and a considerable portion for steel and cement making.[[61]](#cite_note-61) Power plants in the coal-mining regions of Shanxi, Inner Mongolia and Shaanxi, where coal consumption has tripled since 2000, and Shandong also contribute to air pollution in Beijing.[[58]](#cite_note-58) Shandong, Shanxi, Hebei and Inner Mongolia, respectively rank from first to fourth, among Chinese provinces by coal consumption.[[60]](#cite_note-60) There were four major coal-fired power plants in the city to provide electricity as well as heating during the winter. The first one (Gaojing Thermal Power Plant) was shut down in 2014.<ref name=ChinaDaily/>[[62]](#cite_note-62) Another two were shut in March 2015. The last one (Huaneng Thermal Power Plant) would be shut in 2016.<ref name=ChinaDaily>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Between 2013 and 2017, the city planned to reduce 13 million tons of coal consumption and cap coal consumption to 15 million tons in 2015.<ref name=ChinaDaily/>

The government regularly uses [cloud-seeding](/wiki/Cloud-seeding) measures to increase the likelihood of rain showers in the region to clear the air prior to large events[[63]](#cite_note-63) as well as to combat drought conditions in the area.

Beijing air quality is often poor, especially in winter. In mid-January 2013, Beijing's air quality was measured on top of [the city's American embassy](/wiki/Embassy_of_the_United_States,_Beijing) at a PM2.5 density of 755 micrograms per cubic meter, which went off the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's air quality index. It was widely reported, originally through a Twitter account, that the category was "crazy bad". This was later changed to "beyond index".[[64]](#cite_note-64) On 8 and 9 December 2015 Beijing had its first [smog](/wiki/Smog) alert which shut down a majority of the industry and other commercial businesses in the city.[[65]](#cite_note-65) Later in the month another smog "red alert"was issued.<ref name=abc-2nd-red>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

##### Readings[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

Due to Beijing's high-level of air pollution, there are various readings by different sources on the subject. Daily pollution readings at 27 monitoring stations around the city are reported on the website of the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau (BJEPB).[[66]](#cite_note-66) The American Embassy of Beijing also reports hourly [fine particulate (PM2.5)](/wiki/Particulates) and [ozone](/wiki/Ozone) levels on Twitter.[[67]](#cite_note-67) Since the BJEPB and US Embassy measure different pollutants according to different criteria, the pollution levels and the impact to human health reported by the BJEPB are often lower than that reported by the US Embassy.<ref name=Demick>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news) (login required)</ref> [thumb|900px|center|2015 Air pollution in Beijing as measured by](/wiki/File:2015_Air_pollution_in_Beijing.svg) [Air Quality Index (AQI)](/wiki/Air_quality_index#Mainland_China) [Template:Columns-start](/wiki/Template:Columns-start) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Column](/wiki/Template:Column) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Legend](/wiki/Template:Legend) [Template:Columns-end](/wiki/Template:Columns-end)

#### Dust storms[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

Dust from the erosion of deserts in northern and northwestern China results in seasonal [dust storms](/wiki/Dust_storm) that plague the city; the [Beijing Weather Modification Office](/wiki/Beijing_Weather_Modification_Office) sometimes artificially induces rainfall to fight such storms and mitigate their effects.[[68]](#cite_note-68) In the first four months of 2006 alone, there were no fewer than eight such storms.[[69]](#cite_note-69) In April 2002, one dust storm alone dumped nearly 50,000 tons of dust onto the city before moving on to Japan and Korea.[[70]](#cite_note-70)

## Politics and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Municipal government is regulated by the local [Communist Party of China](/wiki/Communist_Party_of_China) (CPC), led by the Beijing [CPC Secretary](/wiki/CPC_Secretary) ([Template:Lang-zh](/wiki/Template:Lang-zh)). The local CPC issues administrative orders, collects taxes, manages the economy, and directs a standing committee of the Municipal People's Congress in making policy decisions and overseeing the local government.

Government officials include the [mayor](/wiki/Mayor_of_Beijing) ([Template:Lang-zh](/wiki/Template:Lang-zh)) and vice-mayor. Numerous bureaus focus on law, public security, and other affairs. Additionally, as the capital of China, Beijing houses all of the important national governmental and political institutions, including the [National People's Congress](/wiki/National_People's_Congress).[[71]](#cite_note-71)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Beijing Municipality currently comprises 16 administrative [county-level subdivisions](/wiki/County-level_division) including 16 urban, suburban, and rural [districts](/wiki/District_of_China). On 1 July 2010, [Chongwen](/wiki/Chongwen_District) and [Xuanwu](/wiki/Xuanwu_District,_Beijing) were merged into Dongcheng and Xicheng, respectively. On 13 November 2015 [Miyun](/wiki/Miyun_District) and [Yanqing](/wiki/Yanqing_District) were upgraded to districts.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Administrative divisions of Beijing** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| [**Division code**](/wiki/Administrative_division_codes_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China)[**[72]**](#cite_note-72) | **English name** | [**Simp. Chinese**](/wiki/Simplified_Chinese) | [**Pinyin**](/wiki/Pinyin) | **Area in km2**[**[73]**](#cite_note-73) | **Population 2010**[**[74]**](#cite_note-74) | **Seat** | **Postal code** | **Divisions**[**[75]**](#cite_note-75) | | | | | | | |
| [**Subdistricts**](/wiki/Subdistrict_(China)) | [**Towns**](/wiki/Town_(China)) | [**Township areas**](/wiki/Town_(China)) | [**Townships**](/wiki/Townships_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China) | [**Ethnic townships**](/wiki/Ethnic_townships_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China) | [***other townships***](/wiki/Ethnic_townships_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China) | [**Residential communities**](/wiki/Residential_community) | [**Villages**](/wiki/Villages_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China) |
| **110000** | **Beijing Municipality** | [**Template:Nobold**](/wiki/Template:Nobold) | **Běijīng Shì** | **16411.0** | **19,612,368** | [**Dongcheng District**](/wiki/Dongcheng_District,_Beijing)[**Tongzhou District**](/wiki/Tongzhou_District,_Beijing) | **100000** | **128** | **126** | **41** | **15** | **4** | **4** | **2538** | **3857** |
| **110101** | [**Dongcheng District**](/wiki/Dongcheng_District,_Beijing) | 东城区 | Dōngchéng Qū | 40.6 | 919,253 | [Jingshan Subdistrict](/wiki/Jingshan_Subdistrict,_Beijing) | 100000 | 17 |  |  |  |  |  | 216 |  |
| **110102** | [**Xicheng District**](/wiki/Xicheng_District) | 西城区 | Xīchéng Qū | 46.5 | 1,243,315 | [Jinrong Street Subdistrict](/wiki/Jinrong_Street_Subdistrict) | 100000 | 15 |  |  |  |  |  | 259 |  |
| **110105** | [**Chaoyang District**](/wiki/Chaoyang_District,_Beijing) | 朝阳区 | Cháoyáng Qū | 470.8 | 3,545,137 | [Chaowai Subdistrict](/wiki/Chaowai_Subdistrict) | 100000 | 21 |  |  | 20 | 1 |  | 358 | 5 |
| **110106** | [**Fengtai District**](/wiki/Fengtai_District) | 丰台区 | Fēngtái Qū | 304.2 | 2,112,162 | [Fengtai Subdistrict](/wiki/Fengtai_Subdistrict) | 100000 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 3 |  |  | 254 | 73 |
| **110107** | [**Template:Nowrap**](/wiki/Template:Nowrap) | 石景山区 | Shíjǐngshān Qū | 89.8 | 616,083 | [Lugu Subdistrict](/wiki/Lugu_Subdistrict) | 100000 | 9 |  |  |  |  |  | 130 |  |
| **110108** | [**Haidian District**](/wiki/Haidian_District) | 海淀区 | Hǎidiàn Qū | 426.0 | 3,280,670 | [Haidian Subdistrict](/wiki/Haidian_Subdistrict) | 100000 | 22 | 2 |  | 5 |  |  | 603 | 84 |
| **110109** | [**Mentougou District**](/wiki/Mentougou_District) | 门头沟区 | Méntóugōu Qū | 1331.3 | 290,476 | [Dayu Subdistrict](/wiki/Dayu_Subdistrict) | 102300 | 4 | 9 |  |  |  |  | 124 | 179 |
| **110111** | [**Fangshan District**](/wiki/Fangshan_District) | 房山区 | Fángshān Qū | 1866.7 | 944,832 | [Gongchen Subdistrict](/wiki/Gongchen_Subdistrict) | 102400 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 6 |  |  | 108 | 462 |
| **110112** | [**Tongzhou District**](/wiki/Tongzhou_District,_Beijing) | 通州区 | Tōngzhōu Qū | 870.0 | 1,184,256 | [Beiyuan Subdistrict](/wiki/Beiyuan_Subdistrict,_Beijing) | 101100 | 4 | 10 |  |  | 1 |  | 40 | 480 |
| **110113** | [**Shunyi District**](/wiki/Shunyi_District) | 顺义区 | Shùnyì Qū | 980.0 | 876,620 | [Shengli Subdistrict](/wiki/Shengli_Subdistrict,_Beijing) | 101300 | 6 | 12 | 7 |  |  |  | 61 | 449 |
| **110114** | [**Changping District**](/wiki/Changping_District) | 昌平区 | Chāngpíng Qū | 1430.0 | 1,660,501 | [Chengbei Subdistrict](/wiki/Chengbei_Subdistrict,_Beijing) | 102200 | 2 | 12 | 3 |  |  |  | 180 | 303 |
| **110115** | [**Daxing District**](/wiki/Daxing_District) | 大兴区 | Dàxīng Qū | 1012.0 | 1,365,112 | [Xingfeng Subdistrict](/wiki/Xingfeng_Subdistrict) | 102600 | 3 | 14 |  |  |  | 2 | 64 | 547 |
| **110116** | [**Huairou District**](/wiki/Huairou_District) | 怀柔区 | Huáiróu Qū | 2557.3 | 372,887 | [Longshan Subdistrict](/wiki/Longshan_Subdistrict,_Beijing) | 101400 | 2 | 9 | 3 |  | 2 | 2 | 27 | 286 |
| **110117** | [**Pinggu District**](/wiki/Pinggu_District) | 平谷区 | Pínggǔ Qū | 1075.0 | 415,958 | [Binhe Subdistrict](/wiki/Binhe_Subdistrict,_Beijing) | 101200 | 2 | 14 |  | 2 |  |  | 23 | 275 |
| **110118** | [**Miyun District**](/wiki/Miyun_District) | 密云区 | Mìyún Qū | 2335.6 | 467,680 | [Gulou Subdistrict](/wiki/Gulou_Subdistrict,_Miyun) | 101500 | 2 | 17 | 1 |  |  |  | 57 | 338 |
| **110119** | [**Yanqing District**](/wiki/Yanqing_District) | 延庆区 | Yánqìng Qū | 1980.0 | 317,426 | [Rulin Subdistrict](/wiki/Rulin_Subdistrict) | 102100 | 3 | 11 |  | 4 |  |  | 34 | 376 |

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Beijing_Shichahai_view.jpg)[Shichahai](/wiki/Shichahai), in the [Xicheng District](/wiki/Xicheng_District), is traditionally considered one of Beijing's most beautiful and charming scenic areas.

#### Towns[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Beijing's 16 county-level divisions (districts) are further subdivided into 273 lower third-level administrative units at the [township level](/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China#Township_level): 119 [towns](/wiki/Town_of_China), 24 [townships](/wiki/Townships_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China), 5 [ethnic townships](/wiki/Ethnic_township) and 125 [subdistricts](/wiki/Subdistricts_of_China). Towns within Beijing Municipality but outside the urban area include (but are not limited to): [Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Changping](/wiki/Changping_District) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Huairou](/wiki/Huairou) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Miyun](/wiki/Miyun) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Liangxiang](/wiki/Liangxiang,_Beijing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Liulimiao](/wiki/Liulimiao) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Tongzhou](/wiki/Tongzhou_District,_Beijing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Yizhuang](/wiki/Yizhuang,_Beijing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Tiantongyuan](/wiki/Tiantongyuan) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Beiyuan](/wiki/Beiyuan,_Beijing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Xiaotangshan](/wiki/Xiaotangshan) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)

[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end) Several place names in Beijing end with *mén* ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), meaning "gate", as they were the locations of gates in the former [Beijing city wall](/wiki/Beijing_city_fortifications). Other place names end in *cūn* ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), meaning "village", as they were originally villages outside the city wall.

#### Neighbourhoods[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|upright|The](/wiki/File:Niujie_Mosque_-_CIMG3671.JPG) [Niujie Mosque](/wiki/Niujie_Mosque) is an important historical attraction [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Neighbourhoods may extend across multiple districts. Major neighbourhoods in urban Beijing include:

[Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Qianmen](/wiki/Qianmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Tian'anmen](/wiki/Tian'anmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Di'anmen](/wiki/Di'anmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Chongwenmen](/wiki/Chongwenmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Xuanwumen](/wiki/Xuanwumen_Station_(Beijing)) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Fuchengmen](/wiki/Fuchengmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Xizhimen](/wiki/Xizhimen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
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* [Andingmen](/wiki/Andingmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Sanlitun](/wiki/Sanlitun) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Dongzhimen](/wiki/Dongzhimen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Chaoyangmen](/wiki/Chaoyangmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Yongdingmen](/wiki/Yongdingmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Zuo'anmen](/wiki/Zuo'anmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [You'anmen](/wiki/You'anmen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Guangqumen](/wiki/Guangqumen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
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* [Huashi](/wiki/Huashi,_Beijing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
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* [Gongzhufen](/wiki/Gongzhufen) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Fangzhuang](/wiki/Fangzhuang) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Guomao](/wiki/Guomao,_Beijing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Hepingli](/wiki/Hepingli_Subdistrict,_Beijing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Ping'anli](/wiki/Ping'anli) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Beixinqiao](/wiki/Beixinqiao_Subdistrict) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Jiaodaokou](/wiki/Jiaodaokou) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Kuanjie](/wiki/Kuanjie) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Wangjing](/wiki/Wangjing,_Beijing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Wangfujing](/wiki/Wangfujing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Dengshikou](/wiki/Dengshikou) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Wudaokou](/wiki/Wudaokou) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [Xidan](/wiki/Xidan) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Dongdan](/wiki/Dongdan,_Beijing) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Zhongguancun](/wiki/Zhongguancun) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Panjiayuan](/wiki/Panjiayuan_Station) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Beijing CBD](/wiki/Beijing_CBD) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
* [Yayuncun](/wiki/Yayuncun) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)
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### Judiciary and procuracy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

The [judicial system](/wiki/Judicial_system_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China) in Beijing consists of the [Supreme People's Court](/wiki/Supreme_People's_Court), the highest court in the country, the Beijing Municipal High People's Court, the [high people's court](/wiki/High_people's_court) of the municipality, three [intermediate people's courts](/wiki/Intermediate_people's_courts), one intermediate [railway transport court](/wiki/Railway_Transport_Court_(People's_Republic_of_China)), 14 [basic people's court](/wiki/Basic_people's_court) (one for each of the municipality's districts and counties), and one basic railway transport court. The Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court in Shijingshan oversees the basic courts of Haidian, Shijingshan, Mentougou, Changping and Yanqing.[[76]](#cite_note-76) The Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court in Fengtai oversees the basic courts of Dongcheng, Xicheng, Fengtai, Fangshan and Daxing.[[76]](#cite_note-76) The Beijing No. 3 Intermediate People's Court in Laiguangying, is the newest of the three intermediate people's courts and opened on 21 August 2013.[[76]](#cite_note-76) It oversees the district courts of Chaoyang, Tongzhou, Shunyi, Huairou, Pinggu and Miyun.[[76]](#cite_note-76)<ref name=BJcourts>(Chinese) ["北京市高级人民法院关于我市中级人民法院管辖调整有关问题的规定（暂行）"](http://bjgy.chinacourt.org/article/detail/2013/08/id/1043607.shtml) 2 August 2013</ref> Each court in Beijing has a corresponding [people's procuratorate](/wiki/Supreme_People's_Procuratorate).

### Diplomatic missions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) About [163 countries have embassies in Beijing](/wiki/List_of_diplomatic_missions_in_the_People's_Republic_of_China#Embassies), which are concentrated in Jiangguomenwai, [Sanlitun](/wiki/Sanlitun) and [Liangmaqiao](/wiki/Liangmaqiao) in Chaoyang District.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Wangfujing_street,_Beijing.JPG)[Wangfujing](/wiki/Wangfujing) Street is one of the oldest and busiest shopping streets in Beijing with nearly 100,000 visitors daily (August 2008). The sale of consumer goods both retail and wholesale accounted for about ⅛ of Beijing's economic output in 2013.[[77]](#cite_note-77)

Beijing's economy ranks among the most developed and prosperous in China. In 2013, the municipality's [nominal gross domestic product (GDP)](/wiki/Nominal_GDP) was [CN￥](/wiki/Chinese_yuan)1.95 trillion (US$314 billion), about 3.43% of the [country's total output](/wiki/Historical_GDP_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China), and ranked [13th](/wiki/List_of_Chinese_administrative_divisions_by_GDP) among [province-level administrative units](/wiki/Administrative_divisions_of_China).[[78]](#cite_note-78) [Per capita GDP](/wiki/Per_capita_GDP), at CN￥93,213 (US$15,051) in nominal terms and [Int$](/wiki/Geary–Khamis_dollar)21,948 at [purchasing power parity](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity), was 2.2 times the national average and ranked [second](/wiki/List_of_Chinese_administrative_divisions_by_GDP_per_capita) among province-level administrative units.[[79]](#cite_note-79) The economy tripled in size from 2004 to 2012,[[80]](#cite_note-80) and grew at an annual rate of 7.7% in 2013.[[77]](#cite_note-77) Due to the concentration of [state owned enterprises](/wiki/List_of_State-owned_enterprises_in_China) in the national capital, Beijing in 2013 had more [Fortune Global 500](/wiki/Fortune_Global_500) Company headquarters than any other city in the world.[[80]](#cite_note-80) Beijing ranks 9th in the world in the International Financial Centres Development Index published by the [Xinhua News Agency](/wiki/Xinhua_News_Agency), [Chicago Mercantile Exchange](/wiki/Chicago_Mercantile_Exchange) and [Dow Jones & Company](/wiki/Dow_Jones_&_Company),[[81]](#cite_note-81) and 23rd in the world in the [Global Financial Centres Index](/wiki/Global_Financial_Centres_Index) published by [Z/Yen](/wiki/Z/Yen) and the [Qatar Financial Centre](/wiki/Qatar_Financial_Centre) Authority.<ref name=GFCI>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The city also ranked No. 1 in the number of billionaire more than Moscow, New York and Hong Kong. In 2012, [PricewaterhouseCoopers](/wiki/PricewaterhouseCoopers) rated Beijing's overall economic influence as No. 1 in China.[[82]](#cite_note-82)

### Sector composition[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Sanlitun_at_dusk.jpg) [Taikoo Li Sanlitun](/wiki/Taikoo_Li_Sanlitun) shopping arcade is a popular destination among locals and visitors The city has a [post-industrial economy](/wiki/Post-industrial_economy) that is dominated by the [tertiary sector](/wiki/Tertiary_sector_of_the_economy) (services), which generated 76.9% of output, followed by the [secondary sector](/wiki/Secondary_sector_of_the_economy) (manufacturing, construction) at 22.2% and the [primary sector](/wiki/Primary_sector) (agriculture, mining) at 0.8%.

The services sector is broadly diversified with financial services, wholesale and retail, information technology, commercial real estate, scientific research, and residential real estate each contributing at least 6% to the city's economy in 2013.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The single largest sub-sector remains industry, whose share of overall output has shrunk to 18.1% in 2013.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The mix of industrial output has changed significantly since 2010 when the city announced that 140 highly-polluting, energy and water resource intensive enterprises would be relocated from the city in five years.[[83]](#cite_note-83) The relocation of [Capital Steel](/wiki/Shougang_Corporation) to neighboring Hebei province had begun in 2005.[[84]](#cite_note-84)[[85]](#cite_note-85) In 2013, output of automobiles, aerospace products, semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and food processing all increased.[[77]](#cite_note-77) In the farmland around Beijing, vegetables and fruits have displaced grain as the primary crops under cultivation.[[77]](#cite_note-77) In 2013, the tonnage of vegetable, edible fungus and fruit harvested was over three times that of grain.[[77]](#cite_note-77) In 2013, overall acreage under cultivation shrank along with most categories of produce as more land was reforested for environmental reasons.[[77]](#cite_note-77)

### Economic zones[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Beijing_CBD_2008-8-23.jpg)[Beijing CBD](/wiki/Beijing_CBD) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Central_Beijing4.jpg)[Zhongguancun](/wiki/Zhongguancun) is a technology hub in [Haidian District](/wiki/Haidian_District) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Beijing_Financial_Street_(overlook).jpg)[Beijing Financial Street](/wiki/Beijing_Financial_Street), the financial center of Beijing

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) In 2006, the city government identified six high-end economic output zones around Beijing as the primary engines for local economic growth. In 2012, the six zones produced 43.3% of the city's GDP, up from 36.5% in 2007.[[86]](#cite_note-86)[[87]](#cite_note-87)The six zones are:

1. [Zhongguancun](/wiki/Zhongguancun), China's silicon village in Haidian District northwest of the city, is home to both established and start-up tech companies. As of the second quarter of 2014, of the 9,895 companies registered in one of the six zones, 6,150 were based in Zhongguancun.[[88]](#cite_note-88)# [Beijing Financial Street](/wiki/Beijing_Financial_Street), in Xicheng District on the west side of the city between Fuxingmen and Fuchengmen, is lined with headquarters of large state banks and insurance companies. The country's leading financial regulatory agencies including the [central bank](/wiki/People's_Bank_of_China), [bank regulator](/wiki/China_Banking_Regulatory_Commission), [securities regulator](/wiki/China_Securities_Regulatory_Commission), and [foreign exchange authority](/wiki/State_Administration_of_Foreign_Exchange) are all located in the neighborhood.
2. [Beijing Central Business District (CBD)](/wiki/Beijing_CBD), is actually located to the east of the city centre, near the embassies along the eastern Third Ring Road between Jianguomenwai and Chaoyangmenwai. The CBD is home to most of the [city's skyscraper office buildings](/wiki/List_of_tallest_buildings_in_Beijing). Most of the city's foreign companies and professional service firms are based in the CBD.
3. [Beijing Economic and Technological Development Area](/wiki/Beijing_Economic_and_Technological_Development_Area), better known as [Yizhuang](/wiki/Yizhuang,_Beijing), is an industrial park the straddles the southern Fifth Ring Road in Daxing District. It has attracted pharmaceutical, information technology, and materials engineering companies.[[89]](#cite_note-89)# Beijing Airport Economic Zone was created in 1993 and surrounds the [Beijing Capital International Airport](/wiki/Beijing_Capital_International_Airport) in Shunyi District northwest of the city. In addition to logistics, airline services, and trading firms, this zone is also home to Beijing's automobile assembly plants.
4. Beijing Olympic Center Zone surrounds the [Olympic Green](/wiki/Olympic_Green) due north of the city centre and is developing into an entertainment, sports, tourism and business convention center.

[Shijingshan](/wiki/Shijingshan), on the western outskirts of the city, is a traditional heavy industrial base for steel-making.[[90]](#cite_note-90) Chemical plants are concentrated in the far eastern suburbs.

Less legitimate enterprises also exist. Urban Beijing is known for being a center of [infringed](/wiki/Copyright_infringement) goods; anything from the latest designer clothing to DVDs can be found in markets all over the city, often marketed to expatriates and international visitors.[[91]](#cite_note-91)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations)

In 2013, Beijing had a total population of 21.148 million within the municipality, of which 18.251 million resided in urban districts or suburban townships and 2.897 million lived in rural villages.[[77]](#cite_note-77) Within China, the city ranked [second in urban population](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_China_by_population) after Shanghai and the [third in municipal population](/wiki/Direct-controlled_municipalities_of_China) after Shanghai and Chongqing. Beijing also ranks among the most populous cities in the world, [a distinction the city has held for much of the past 800 years](/wiki/List_of_largest_cities_throughout_history), especially during the 15th to early 19th centuries when it was [the largest city in the world](/wiki/List_of_largest_cities_throughout_history).

About 13 million of the city's residents in 2013 had local [*hukou* permits](/wiki/Hukou_system), which entitles them to permanent residence in Beijing.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The remaining 8 million residents had *hukou* permits elsewhere and were not eligible to receive some social benefits provided by the Beijing municipal government.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The population increased in 2013 by 455,000 or about 7% from the previous year and continued a decade-long trend of rapid growth.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The total population in 2004 was 14.213 million.<ref name=2004pop>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The population gains are driven largely by migration. The population's [rate of natural increase](/wiki/Rate_of_natural_increase) in 2013 was a mere 0.441%, based on a [birth rate](/wiki/Birth_rate) of 8.93 and a [mortality rate](/wiki/Mortality_rate) of 4.52.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The [gender balance](/wiki/Human_sex_ratio) was 51.6% males and 48.4% females.[[77]](#cite_note-77) Working age people account for nearly 80% of the population. Compared to 2004, residents age 0–14 as a proportion of the population dropped from 9.96% to 9.5% in 2013 and residents over the age of 65 declined from 11.12% to 9.2%.[[77]](#cite_note-77)[[92]](#cite_note-92) According to the 2010 census, nearly 96% of Beijing's population are ethnic [Han Chinese](/wiki/Han_Chinese).[[93]](#cite_note-93) Of the 800,000 ethnic minorities living in the capital, [Manchu](/wiki/Manchu_people) (336,000), [Hui](/wiki/Hui_people_in_Beijing) (249,000), [Korean](/wiki/Korean_people_in_Beijing) (77,000), [Mongol](/wiki/Mongol) (37,000) and [Tujia](/wiki/Tujia_people) (24,000) constitute the five largest groups.<ref name=2010minorities>(Chinese) [北京市少数民族人口状况](http://www.bjstats.gov.cn/lhzl/rkpc/201201/t20120109_218572.htm) 30 May 2011</ref> In addition, there were 8,045 Hong Kong residents, 500 Macau residents, and 7,772 Taiwan residents along with 91,128 registered foreigners living in Beijing.<ref name=2010census>(Chinese) [北京市2010年第六次全国人口普查主要数据情况](http://www.bjstats.gov.cn/xwgb/tjgb/pcgb/201105/t20110504_201364.htm)</ref> A study by the Beijing Academy of Sciences estimates that in 2010 there were on average 200,000 foreigners living in Beijing on any given day including students, business travelers and tourists are not counted as registered residents.[[94]](#cite_note-94) From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of city residents with at least some college education nearly doubled from 16.8% to 31.5%.[[93]](#cite_note-93) About 22.2% have some high school education and 31% had reached middle school.[[93]](#cite_note-93)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|upright|The](/wiki/File:Ancient_Beijing_observatory_14.jpg) [Old Beijing Observatory](/wiki/Beijing_Ancient_Observatory) [thumb|A scene from a](/wiki/File:BeijingOperaProduction.jpg) [Peking opera](/wiki/Peking_opera) [thumb|A Chinese](/wiki/File:Cloisonneqing.jpg) [cloisonné](/wiki/Cloisonné) dish from the Qing dynasty

People native to urban Beijing speak the [Beijing dialect](/wiki/Beijing_dialect), which belongs to the Mandarin subdivision of [spoken Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_spoken_language). This speech is the basis for [*putonghua*](/wiki/Putonghua), the standard spoken language used in mainland China and [Taiwan](/wiki/Taiwan), and one of the four official languages of [Singapore](/wiki/Singapore). Rural areas of Beijing Municipality have [their own dialects](/wiki/Jilu_Mandarin) akin to those of Hebei province, which surrounds Beijing Municipality.

Beijing or [Peking opera](/wiki/Peking_opera) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), *Jīngjù*) is a traditional form of Chinese theatre well known throughout the nation. Commonly lauded as one of the highest achievements of [Chinese culture](/wiki/Chinese_culture), Beijing opera is performed through a combination of song, spoken dialogue, and codified action sequences involving gestures, movement, fighting and acrobatics. Much of Beijing opera is carried out in an archaic stage dialect quite different from Modern Standard Chinese and from the modern Beijing dialect.[[95]](#cite_note-95) [Beijing cuisine](/wiki/Beijing_cuisine) is the local style of cooking. [Peking Roast Duck](/wiki/Peking_Roast_Duck) is perhaps the best known dish. [Fuling Jiabing](/wiki/Fuling_Jiabing), a traditional Beijing snack food, is a pancake (*bing*) resembling a flat disk with a filling made from [*fu ling*](/wiki/Fu_Ling), a fungus used in traditional [Chinese medicine](/wiki/Chinese_medicine). [Teahouses](/wiki/Teahouse) are common in Beijing.

The [cloisonné](/wiki/Cloisonné) (or *Jingtailan*, literally "Blue of [Jingtai](/wiki/Jingtai_Emperor)") metalworking technique and tradition is a Beijing art specialty, and is one of the most revered traditional crafts in China. Cloisonné making requires elaborate and complicated processes which include base-hammering, copper-strip inlay, soldering, enamel-filling, enamel-firing, surface polishing and gilding.[[96]](#cite_note-96) Beijing's [lacquerware](/wiki/Lacquerware) is also well known for its sophisticated and intrinsic patterns and images carved into its surface, and the various decoration techniques of lacquer include "carved lacquer" and "engraved gold".

Younger residents of Beijing have become more attracted to the nightlife, which has flourished in recent decades, breaking prior cultural traditions that had practically restricted it to the upper class.[[97]](#cite_note-97)

### Places of interest[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Qianmen_Street_1.jpg)[Qianmen Avenue](/wiki/Qianmen_Avenue), a traditional commercial street in Beijing At the historical heart of Beijing lies the [Forbidden City](/wiki/Forbidden_City), the enormous palace compound that was the home of the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties;[[98]](#cite_note-98) the Forbidden City hosts the Palace Museum, which contains imperial collections of Chinese art. Surrounding the Forbidden City are several former imperial gardens, parks and scenic areas, notably [Beihai](/wiki/Beihai_Park), [Shichahai](/wiki/Shichahai), [Zhongnanhai](/wiki/Zhongnanhai), [Jingshan](/wiki/Jingshan_Park) and [Zhongshan](/wiki/Zhongshan_Park_(Beijing)). These places, particularly Beihai Park, are described as masterpieces of [Chinese gardening](/wiki/Chinese_garden) art,[[99]](#cite_note-99) and are popular tourist destinations with tremendous historical importance;[[100]](#cite_note-100) in the modern era, Zhongnanhai has also been the political heart of various Chinese governments and regimes and is now the headquarters of the Communist Party of China and the State Council. From Tiananmen Square, right across from the Forbidden City, there are several notable sites, such as the Tiananmen, [Qianmen](/wiki/Qianmen), the [Great Hall of the People](/wiki/Great_Hall_of_the_People), the [National Museum of China](/wiki/National_Museum_of_China), the [Monument to the People's Heroes](/wiki/Monument_to_the_People's_Heroes), and the [Mausoleum of Mao Zedong](/wiki/Mausoleum_of_Mao_Zedong). The [Summer Palace](/wiki/Summer_Palace) and the [Old Summer Palace](/wiki/Old_Summer_Palace) both lie at the western part of the city; the former, a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](/wiki/UNESCO_World_Heritage_Site),[[101]](#cite_note-101) contains a comprehensive collection of imperial gardens and palaces that served as the summer retreats for the Qing imperial family.

[thumb|Beijing's](/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_137-009044,_Peking,_Himmelstempel.jpg) [Temple of Heaven](/wiki/Temple_of_Heaven) as photographed in the early 20th century Among the best known religious sites in the city is the [Temple of Heaven](/wiki/Temple_of_Heaven) (*Tiantan*), located in southeastern Beijing, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site,[[102]](#cite_note-102) where emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties made visits for annual ceremonies of prayers to Heaven for good harvest. In the north of the city is the [Temple of Earth](/wiki/Temple_of_Earth) (*Ditan*), while the [Temple of the Sun](/wiki/Temple_of_the_Sun) (*Ritan*) and the [Temple of the Moon](/wiki/Temple_of_the_Moon_(China)) (*Yuetan*) lie in the eastern and western urban areas respectively. Other well-known temple sites include the [Dongyue Temple](/wiki/Beijing_Dongyue_Temple), [Tanzhe Temple](/wiki/Tanzhe_Temple), [Miaoying Temple](/wiki/Miaoying_Temple), [White Cloud Temple](/wiki/White_Cloud_Temple), [Yonghe Temple](/wiki/Yonghe_Temple), [Fayuan Temple](/wiki/Fayuan_Temple), [Wanshou Temple](/wiki/Wanshou_Temple) and [Big Bell Temple](/wiki/Big_Bell_Temple). The city also has its own [Confucius Temple](/wiki/Beijing_Temple_of_Confucius), and a [Guozijian](/wiki/Guozijian_(Beijing)) or Imperial Academy. The [Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception](/wiki/Cathedral_of_the_Immaculate_Conception_in_Beijing), built in 1605, is the oldest Catholic church in Beijing. The [Niujie Mosque](/wiki/Niujie_Mosque) is the oldest mosque in Beijing, with a history stretching back over a thousand years. [thumb|Inside the Forbidden City](/wiki/File:Hall_of_Supreme_Harmony,_Forbidden_City,_Beijing,_with_tourists_2.jpg)

Beijing contains several well-preserved pagodas and stone pagodas, such as the towering [Pagoda of Tianning Temple](/wiki/Pagoda_of_Tianning_Temple_(Beijing)), which was built during the Liao Dynasty from 1100 to 1120, and the [Pagoda of Cishou Temple](/wiki/Pagoda_of_Cishou_Temple), which was built in 1576 during the Ming Dynasty. Historically noteworthy stone bridges include the 12th-century [Lugou Bridge](/wiki/Lugou_Bridge), the 17th-century [Baliqiao](/wiki/Baliqiao) bridge, and the 18th-century [Jade Belt Bridge](/wiki/Jade_Belt_Bridge). The [Beijing Ancient Observatory](/wiki/Beijing_Ancient_Observatory) displays pre-telescopic spheres dating back to the Ming and Qing dynasties. The [Fragrant Hills](/wiki/Fragrant_Hills) (*Xiangshan*) is a popular scenic public park that consists of natural landscaped areas as well as traditional and cultural relics. The [Beijing Botanical Garden](/wiki/Beijing_Botanical_Garden) exhibits over 6,000 species of plants, including a variety of trees, bushes and flowers, and an extensive [peony](/wiki/Peony) garden. The [Taoranting](/wiki/Taoranting_Park), [Longtan](/wiki/Longtan_Park), [Chaoyang](/wiki/Beijing_Chaoyang_Park), [Haidian](/wiki/Haidian_Park), [Milu Yuan](/wiki/Milu_Yuan) and [Zizhu Yuan](/wiki/Purple_Bamboo_Park) parks are some of the notable recreational parks in the city. The [Beijing Zoo](/wiki/Beijing_Zoo) is a center of zoological research that also contains rare animals from various continents, including the Chinese [giant panda](/wiki/Giant_panda).

There are 144 museums and galleries (as of June 2008) in the city.[[103]](#cite_note-103)[[104]](#cite_note-104)[[105]](#cite_note-105) In addition to the Palace Museum in the Forbidden City and the National Museum of China, other major museums include the [National Art Museum of China](/wiki/National_Art_Museum_of_China), the [Capital Museum](/wiki/Capital_Museum), the [Beijing Art Museum](/wiki/Wanshou_Temple), the [Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution](/wiki/Military_Museum_of_the_Chinese_People's_Revolution), the [Geological Museum of China](/wiki/Geological_Museum_of_China), the [Beijing Museum of Natural History](/wiki/Beijing_Museum_of_Natural_History) and the [Paleozoological Museum of China](/wiki/Paleozoological_Museum_of_China).[[105]](#cite_note-105) Located at the outskirts of urban Beijing, but within its municipality are the [Thirteen Tombs of the Ming Dynasty](/wiki/Ming_Dynasty_Tombs), the lavish and elaborate burial sites of thirteen Ming emperors, which have been designated as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site [Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties](/wiki/Imperial_Tombs_of_the_Ming_and_Qing_Dynasties).[[106]](#cite_note-106) The archaeological [Peking Man](/wiki/Peking_Man) site at [Zhoukoudian](/wiki/Zhoukoudian) is another World Heritage Site within the municipality,[[107]](#cite_note-107) containing a wealth of discoveries, among them one of the first specimens of [*Homo erectus*](/wiki/Homo_erectus) and an assemblage of bones of the gigantic [hyena](/wiki/Hyena) [*Pachycrocuta*](/wiki/Pachycrocuta) *brevirostris*. There are several sections of the UNESCO World Heritage Site [Great Wall of China](/wiki/Great_Wall_of_China),[[108]](#cite_note-108) most notably [Badaling](/wiki/Badaling), [Jinshanling](/wiki/Jinshanling), [Simatai](/wiki/Simatai) and [Mutianyu](/wiki/Mutianyu).

### Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|City skyline looking east from the Financial Street](/wiki/File:View_of_Beijing.jpg) Three styles of architecture are predominant in urban Beijing. First, there is the traditional architecture of imperial China, perhaps best exemplified by the massive [Tian'anmen](/wiki/Tian'anmen) (Gate of Heavenly Peace), which remains the People's Republic of China's trademark edifice, the [Forbidden City](/wiki/Forbidden_City), the [Imperial Ancestral Temple](/wiki/Imperial_Ancestral_Temple) and the [Temple of Heaven](/wiki/Temple_of_Heaven). Next, there is what is sometimes referred to as the "Sino-Sov" style, with structures tending to be boxy and sometimes poorly constructed, which were built between the 1950s and the 1970s.[[109]](#cite_note-109) Finally, there are much more modern architectural forms, most noticeably in the area of the [Beijing CBD](/wiki/Beijing_CBD) and [Beijing Financial Street](/wiki/Beijing_Financial_Street).

In the early 21st century, Beijing has witnessed tremendous growth of new building constructions, exhibiting various modern styles from international designers. A mixture of both 1950s design and [neofuturistic](/wiki/Neofuturistic) style of architecture can be seen at the [798 Art Zone](/wiki/798_Art_Zone), which mixes the old with the new.

Beijing is famous for its [*siheyuans*](/wiki/Siheyuan), a type of residence where a common courtyard is shared by the surrounding buildings. Among the more grand examples are the [Prince Gong Mansion](/wiki/Prince_Gong_Mansion) and [Residence of Soong Ching-ling](/wiki/Former_Residence_of_Soong_Ching-ling_(Beijing)). These courtyards are usually connected by alleys called [*hutongs*](/wiki/Hutong). The *hutongs* are generally straight and run east to west so that doorways face north and south for good [Feng Shui](/wiki/Feng_Shui). They vary in width; some are so narrow only a few pedestrians can pass through at a time. Once ubiquitous in Beijing, *siheyuans* and *hutongs* are rapidly disappearing,[[110]](#cite_note-110) as entire city blocks of *hutongs* are replaced by high-rise buildings.[[111]](#cite_note-111) Residents of the *hutongs* are entitled to live in the new buildings in apartments of at least the same size as their former residences. Many complain, however, that the traditional sense of community and street life of the *hutongs* cannot be replaced,[[112]](#cite_note-112) and these properties are often government owned.[[113]](#cite_note-113)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Gfp-china-beijing-worshipping-at-lama-temple.jpg)[Yonghe Temple](/wiki/Yonghe_Temple) was built in 1694

The religious heritage of Beijing is rich and diverse as [Daoism](/wiki/Daoism), [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism), [Confucianism](/wiki/Confucianism), [Islam](/wiki/Islam) and [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) all have significant historical presence in the city. As the national capital, the city also hosts the [State Administration for Religious Affairs](/wiki/State_Administration_for_Religious_Affairs) and various state-sponsored institutions of the leading religions.<ref name=religion1>(Chinese) [北京的宗教文化 china.com.cn](http://www.china.com.cn/sports/zhuanti/2008ay/2008-07/11/content_15993221.htm) 11 July 2008</ref> In recent decades, foreign residents have brought other religious faiths to the city.[[114]](#cite_note-114) According to the Chinese General Social Survey of 2009, Christians constitute 0.78% of the city's population.[[115]](#cite_note-115) According to a 2010 survey, Muslims constitute 1.76% of the population of Beijing.[[116]](#cite_note-116)

#### Taoism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

The [Chinese Taoist Association](/wiki/Chinese_Taoist_Association) and Chinese Taoist College are based in the [White Cloud Temple](/wiki/White_Cloud_Temple), which was founded in 741 and rebuilt numerous times. The [Huode Zhenjun Temple](/wiki/Huode_Zhenjun_Temple), also known as the Fire God Temple, is another center of Taoist worship in Beijing. The [Beijing Dongyue Temple](/wiki/Beijing_Dongyue_Temple) outside Chaoyangmen is the largest temple of the [Zhengyi School](/wiki/Zhengyi_School) in northern China. The Beijing Taoist Association is located in the [Lüzu Temple](/wiki/Lüzu_Temple) near Fuxingmen.[[117]](#cite_note-117)

#### Buddhism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

The [Buddhist Association of China](/wiki/Buddhist_Association_of_China), the state's supervisory organ overseeing all [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhist) institutions in mainland China, is headquartered in the [Guangji Temple](/wiki/Guangji_Temple), a temple founded over 800 years ago during the [Jin dynasty (1115–1234)](/wiki/Jin_dynasty_(1115–1234)) in what is now Fuchengmennei. The Beijing Buddhist Association along with the Buddhist Choir and Orchestra are based in the [Guanghua Temple](/wiki/Guanghua_Temple_(Beijing)), which dates to the Yuan Dynasty over 700 years ago. The Buddhist Academy of China and its library are housed in the [Fayuan Temple](/wiki/Fayuan_Temple) near Caishikou. The Fayuan Temple, which dates to the Tang Dynasty 1300 years ago, is the oldest temple in urban Beijing. The Tongjiao Temple inside Dongzhimen is the city's only Buddhist nunnery.

The West Yellow Temple originally dates to the Liao Dynasty. In 1651, the temple was commissioned by the [Qing Emperor Shunzhi](/wiki/Shunzhi_Emperor) to host the visit of the [Fifth Dalai Lama](/wiki/5th_Dalai_Lama) to Beijing. Since then, this temple has hosted the [13th Dalai Lama](/wiki/13th_Dalai_Lama) as well as the [Sixth](/wiki/Lobsang_Palden_Yeshe,_6th_Panchen_Lama), [Ninth](/wiki/Thubten_Choekyi_Nyima,_9th_Panchen_Lama) and [Tenth](/wiki/Choekyi_Gyaltsen,_10th_Panchen_Lama) [Panchen Lamas](/wiki/Panchen_Lama). The largest Tibetan Buddhist Temple in Beijing is the Yonghe Temple, which was decreed by the [Qing Emperor Qianlong](/wiki/Qianlong_Emperor) in 1744 to serve as the residence and research facility for his Buddhist preceptor of [Rölpé Dorjé](/wiki/Changkya_Rölpé_Dorjé) the third [Changkya](/wiki/Changkya_Khutukhtu) (or living Buddha of Inner Mongolia). The Yonghe Temple is so-named because it was the childhood residence of the [Yongzheng Emperor](/wiki/Yongzheng_Emperor), and retains the [glazed tiles](/wiki/Chinese_glazed_roof_tile) reserved for imperial palaces.

The Lingguang Temple of Badachu in the Western Hills also dates to the Tang Dynasty. The temple's Zhaoxian Pagoda was first built in 1071 during the Liao Dynasty to hold a tooth relic of the [Buddha](/wiki/Gautama_Buddha). The pagoda was destroyed during the Boxer Rebellion and the tooth was discovered from its foundation. A new pagoda was built in 1964. The six aforementioned temples: Guangji, Guanghua, Tongjiao, West Yellow, Yonghe and Lingguang have been designated [National Key Buddhist Temples in Han Chinese Area](/wiki/National_Key_Buddhist_Temples_in_Han_Chinese_Area).

In addition, other notable temples in Beijing include the Tanzhe Temple (founded in the [Jin dynasty (265–420)](/wiki/Jin_dynasty_(265–420)) is the oldest in the municipality), [Tianning Temple](/wiki/Tianning_Temple_(Beijing)) (oldest pagoda in the city), [Miaoying Temple](/wiki/Miaoying_Temple) (famed for Yuan-era white dagoba), the Wanshou Temple (home to the Beijing Art Museum) and [Big Bell Temple](/wiki/Big_Bell_Temple). [Template:Buddhist temples in Beijing](/wiki/Template:Buddhist_temples_in_Beijing)

[thumb|right|The headquarters of the](/wiki/File:Islamic_Association_of_China_20150613.jpg) [Islamic Association of China](/wiki/Islamic_Association_of_China) near Niujie in Xicheng District.

#### Islam[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

Beijing has about 70 mosques recognized by the [Islamic Association of China](/wiki/Islamic_Association_of_China), whose headquarters are located next to the [Niujie Mosque](/wiki/Niujie_Mosque), the oldest and most famous mosque in the city.[[118]](#cite_note-118)[[119]](#cite_note-119) The Niujie Mosque was founded in 996 during the Liao Dynasty and is frequently visited by Muslim dignitaries. Other notable mosques in the old city include the [Dongsi Mosque](/wiki/Dongsi_Mosque), founded in 1346; the Huashi Mosque, founded in 1415; Nan Douya Mosque, near Chaoyangmen; Jinshifang Street Mosque, in Xicheng District; and the Dongzhimen Mosque.[[120]](#cite_note-120) There are large mosques in outlying Muslim communities in Haidian, [Madian](/wiki/Madian,_Beijing), Tongzhou, Changping, [Changying](/wiki/Changying,_Beijing), Shijingshan and Miyun. The China Islamic Institute is located in the Niujie neighborhood in Xicheng District.

#### Christianity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Beijing_-_Xishiku_church_-_16.jpg)[Church of the Saviour](/wiki/Church_of_the_Saviour,_Beijing), also known as the Xishiku Church, founded in 1703.

##### Catholicism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

In 1289, [John of Montecorvino](/wiki/John_of_Montecorvino) came to Beijing as a [Franciscan](/wiki/Franciscan) missionary with the order from the Pope. After meeting and receiving the support of [Kublai Khan](/wiki/Kublai_Khan) in 1293, he built the first Catholic church in Beijing in 1305. The [Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association](/wiki/Chinese_Patriotic_Catholic_Association) (CPCA), based in [Houhai](/wiki/Houhai) is the official oversight body for Catholics in mainland China. Notable Catholic churches in Beijing include:

* the Nantang or [Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception](/wiki/Cathedral_of_the_Immaculate_Conception,_Beijing) also known as the Xuanwumen Church, which was founded in 1605 and whose current Archbishop [Joseph Li Shan](/wiki/Joseph_Li_Shan) is one of the few bishops in China to have the support of both the Vatican and the CPCA.
* the Dongtang or [St. Joseph's Church](/wiki/St._Joseph's_Church,_Beijing), better known as the Wangfujing Church, founded in 1653.
* the Beitang or [Church of the Saviour](/wiki/Church_of_the_Saviour,_Beijing), also known as the Xishiku Church, founded in 1703.
* the Xitang or [Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel](/wiki/Church_of_Our_Lady_of_Mount_Carmel,_Beijing) also known as the Xizhimen Church, founded in 1723.

The National Seminary of Catholic Church in China is located in Daxing District.

##### Protestantism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

The earliest Protestant churches in Beijing were founded by [British and American missionaries](/wiki/Protestant_missions_in_China_1807–1953) in the second half of the 19th century. Protestant missionaries also opened schools, universities and hospitals which have become important civic institutions. Most of Beijing's Protestant churches were destroyed during the [Boxer Rebellion](/wiki/Boxer_Rebellion) and rebuilt. In 1958, the 64 Protestant churches in the city were reorganized into four and overseen by the state through the [Three-Self Patriotic Movement](/wiki/Three-Self_Patriotic_Movement). In the last 30 years, a number of new Protestant churches have opened in the city, including some by foreign expatriats. [left|thumb|Gangwashi Church Church](/wiki/File:Gangwashichurch.jpg) The London Missionary Society founded the Gangwashi Church in Xizhimen in 1863 and the Mishi Church in Dongdan in 1865. The Gangwashi Church was briefly renamed the *Xi Tang* or "West Church" in 1958. The Mishi Church which closed in 1958 but reopened in 1973, was for a time the only church in the city open to foreigners. In 1982, the congregation of the Mishi Church joined the Chongwenmen Church. The London Missionary Society Hospital, built near the Mishi Church, became part of the [Peking Union Medical College Hospital](/wiki/Peking_Union_Medical_College_Hospital). In 1907, the Church of England founded the [Holy Saviour's Cathedral](/wiki/Holy_Saviour's_Cathedral_(Beijing)), which no longer functions as a church but the architecture remains. Anglicans also founded Chongde Middle School (now No. 31 Middle School) and Duzhi Middle School (now Luxun Middle School). [thumb|Zhushikou Church](/wiki/File:Zhushikou-Church.jpg) The [American Methodist Episcopal Mission](/wiki/American_Methodist_Episcopal_Mission) founded eight churches in Beijing including the Zhushikou Church (renamed the *Nan Tang* or "South Church" in 1958), [Kuanjie Church](/wiki/Kuanjie_Protestant_Church) (renamed *Bei Tang* or "North Church" in 1958), the Chongwenmen Church and Huashi Church. The first three remain active houses of worship. The Huashi Church, like many other churches, was converted to other use and razed in 2004. The American Methodists also founded the [Tongren Hospital](/wiki/Beijing_Tongren_Hospital), [Huiwen Middle School](/wiki/Beijing_Huiwen_Middle_School), and Muchen Methodist Middle School for Girls (now No. 125 Middle School).[[121]](#cite_note-121)[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Haidian_Christian_Church_in_Beijing.jpg)[Haidian Christian Church](/wiki/Haidian_Christian_Church) The [American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions](/wiki/American_Board_of_Commissioners_for_Foreign_Missions), representing the [Congregational Church of America](/wiki/Congregational_church), founded the Dengshikou Church (renamed the *Dong Tang* or "East Church" in 1958) and the [Haidian Church](/wiki/Haidian_Christian_Church). The Dengshikou Church was destroyed in 1966 during the Cultural Revolution. The Haidian Church now based in Zhongguancun was expanded in 2007. The Congregationalist missionaries also founded the Luhe Hospital, Yu Ying Boys' School (now No. 25 Middle School), Bridgeman Girls' School (now No. 166 Middle School), and Tongzhou Luhe Middle School.

The [American Presbyterian Mission in China](/wiki/Presbyterian_World_Mission) founded founded churches at Jiaodaokou and Gulou, which no longer exist. But the Chongci Girls' School (now No. 165 Middle School), Chongshi School (now No. 21 Middle School) continue in Jiaodaokou, and the [Douw Hospital for Women and Children](/wiki/Deborah_Matilda_Douw) is now Beijing No. 6 Hospital. In addition, the Reverend Yasuzo Shimizu, a U.S.-educated Japanese Presbyterian missionary, founded the [Chongzhen Vocational and Grammar School for Girls](/wiki/Beijing_Chen_Jing_Lun_High_School) outside Chaoyangmen in 1921.[[122]](#cite_note-122) [Yenching University](/wiki/Yenching_University), whose campus is now [Peking University](/wiki/Peking_University), was established through the merger of colleges founded by American Methodists, American Congressionalists and the London Missionary Society and with the support of the American Presbyterian Mission China. The Yanjing Theological Seminary formerly the theology department of the Yenching University is now based in Qinghe.

The [Salvation Army](/wiki/Salvation_Army) founded churches in Qianmen, Deshengmen, and Yuyou Hutong but none have survived as religious institutions.

In 2003, Three-Self Patriotic Movement opened the Chaoyang Church, the first new church opened under its jurisdiction since 1949. Newer Protestant churches that serve foreign expatriat community include the Beijing Baptist Church, Beijing International Christian Fellowship, Capital Community Church, Congregation of the Good Shepherd and the The River of Grace Church.[[123]](#cite_note-123)

##### Eastern Orthodox[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

There were a significant amount of Orthodox Christian in Beijing. Orthodox has come to Beijing along with [Russian prisoners](/wiki/Albazinians) from [Albazino conflicts](/wiki/Sino-Russian_border_conflicts) in the 17th century.[[124]](#cite_note-124) In 1956, Viktor, the bishop of Beijing returned to the Soviet Union, and the Soviet embassy took over the old cathedral and demolished it. In 2007, Russian embassy has rebuilt a new church in its garden to serve the Russian Orthodox Christian in Beijing.

## Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

### Television and radio[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[right|thumb|The](/wiki/File:CCTV-new-building.jpg) [China Central Television Headquarters building](/wiki/China_Central_Television_Headquarters_building) [Beijing Television](/wiki/Beijing_Television) broadcasts on channels 1 through 10. Three radio stations feature programmes in English: *Hit FM* on FM 88.7, *Easy FM* by [China Radio International](/wiki/China_Radio_International) on FM 91.5, and the newly launched *Radio 774* on AM 774. [Beijing Radio Stations](/wiki/Beijing_Radio_Stations) is the family of radio stations serving the city.

### Press[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

The well-known [*Beijing Evening News*](/wiki/Beijing_Evening_News) (*Beijing Wanbao*, 北京晚报), covering news about Beijing in Chinese, is distributed every afternoon. Other newspapers include [*Beijing Daily*](/wiki/Beijing_Daily), *The Beijing News* (*Xin Jing Bao*, 新京报), the *Beijing Star Daily*, the *Beijing Morning News*, and the [*Beijing Youth Daily*](/wiki/Beijing_Youth_Daily) (*Beijing Qingnian Bao*), as well as English-language weeklies *Beijing Weekend* and [*Beijing Today*](/wiki/Beijing_Today). The [*People's Daily*](/wiki/People's_Daily), [*Global Times*](/wiki/Global_Times) and the [*China Daily*](/wiki/China_Daily) (English) are published in Beijing as well.

Publications primarily aimed at international visitors and the expatriate community include the English-language periodicals *Time Out Beijing*, [*City Weekend*](/wiki/City_Weekend), [*Beijing This Month*](/wiki/Beijing_This_Month), *Beijing Talk*, [*That's Beijing*](/wiki/That's_Beijing).

## Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[right|thumb|Fireworks above](/wiki/File:2008_Summer_Olympics_opening_ceremony_-_Fireworks.jpg) [Olympic venues](/wiki/Venues_of_the_2008_Summer_Olympics) during the [opening ceremony](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympics_opening_ceremony) of the [2008 Summer Games](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympics) [right|thumb|](/wiki/File:Martial_arts_-_Fragrant_Hills.JPG)[Tai chi (Taijiquan)](/wiki/Taijiquan) practitioners at the [Fragrant Hills](/wiki/Fragrant_Hills) Park

### Events[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

Beijing has hosted numerous international and national sporting events, the most notable was the [2008 Summer Olympic](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympics) and [Paralympic](/wiki/2008_Summer_Paralympics) Games. Other [multi-sport](/wiki/Multi-sport_event) international events held in Beijing include the 2001 [Universiade](/wiki/Universiade) and the [1990](/wiki/1990_Asian_Games) [Asian Games](/wiki/Asian_Games). Single-sport international competitions include the [Beijing Marathon](/wiki/Beijing_Marathon) (annually since 1981), [China Open of Tennis](/wiki/China_Open_(tennis)) (1993–97, annually since 2004), [ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating](/wiki/ISU_Grand_Prix_of_Figure_Skating) [Cup of China](/wiki/Cup_of_China) ([2003](/wiki/2003_Cup_of_China), [2004](/wiki/2004_Cup_of_China), [2005](/wiki/2005_Cup_of_China), [2008](/wiki/2008_Cup_of_China), [2009](/wiki/2009_Cup_of_China) and [2010](/wiki/2010_Cup_of_China)), [WPBSA](/wiki/World_Professional_Billiards_and_Snooker_Association) [China Open for Snooker](/wiki/China_Open_(snooker)) (annually since 2005), [Union Cycliste Internationale](/wiki/Union_Cycliste_Internationale) [Tour of Beijing](/wiki/Tour_of_Beijing) (since [2011](/wiki/2011_Tour_of_Beijing)), 1961 [World Table Tennis Championships](/wiki/World_Table_Tennis_Championships), [1987 IBF Badminton World Championships](/wiki/1987_IBF_World_Championships), the [2004 AFC Asian Cup](/wiki/2004_AFC_Asian_Cup) (football), and [2009 Barclays Asia Trophy](/wiki/2009_Barclays_Asia_Trophy) (football). Beijing will host the [2015 IAAF World Championships in Athletics](/wiki/2015_World_Championships_in_Athletics).

Beijing's [LeSports Center](/wiki/LeSports_Center) will be one of the main venues for the [2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup](/wiki/2019_FIBA_Basketball_World_Cup).[[125]](#cite_note-125) The city hosted the second [Chinese National Games](/wiki/National_Games_of_China) in 1914 and the first four [National Games of China](/wiki/National_Games_of_China) in 1959, 1965, 1975, 1979, respectively, and co-hosted the 1993 National Games with [Sichuan](/wiki/Sichuan) and [Qingdao](/wiki/Qingdao). Beijing also hosted the inaugural [National Peasants' Games](/wiki/National_Peasants'_Games) in 1988 and the sixth National Minority Games in 1999.

In November 2013, Beijing made a [bid](/wiki/Beijing_bid_for_the_2022_Winter_Olympics) to host the [2022 Winter Olympics](/wiki/2022_Winter_Olympics).[[126]](#cite_note-126) On 31 July 2015, the International Olympic Committee awarded the 2022 Winter Olympics to the city.[[127]](#cite_note-127)

### Venues[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

Major sporting venues in the city include the [National Stadium](/wiki/Beijing_National_Stadium), also known as the "Birds' Nest",[[128]](#cite_note-128)[[129]](#cite_note-129) [National Aquatics Center](/wiki/Beijing_National_Aquatics_Center), also known as the "Water Cube", [National Indoor Stadium](/wiki/Beijing_National_Indoor_Stadium), all in the [Olympic Green](/wiki/Olympic_Green) to the north of city center; the [MasterCard Center](/wiki/MasterCard_Center) at [Wukesong](/wiki/Wukesong_Station) west of the city center; the [Workers' Stadium](/wiki/Workers_Stadium) and [Workers' Arena](/wiki/Workers_Indoor_Arena) in [Sanlitun](/wiki/Sanlitun) just east of city center and the [Capital Arena](/wiki/Capital_Indoor_Stadium) in Baishiqiao, northeast of the city center. In addition, many universities in the city have their own sport facilities.

### Clubs[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

Professional sports teams based in Beijing include: [Template:Colbegin](/wiki/Template:Colbegin)

* [China Baseball League](/wiki/China_Baseball_League)
  + [Beijing Tigers](/wiki/Beijing_Tigers)
* [Chinese Basketball Association](/wiki/Chinese_Basketball_Association)
  + [Beijing Ducks](/wiki/Beijing_Ducks)
  + [Beikong Fly Dragons](/wiki/Beikong_Fly_Dragons)
* [Women's Chinese Basketball Association](/wiki/Women's_Chinese_Basketball_Association)
  + Beijing Shougang
* [Chinese Super League](/wiki/Chinese_Super_League)
  + [Beijing Guoan](/wiki/Beijing_Guoan_F.C.)
* [China League One](/wiki/China_League_One)
  + [Beijing Renhe](/wiki/Beijing_Renhe_F.C.)
  + [Beijing BG](/wiki/Beijing_Enterprises_Group_F.C.)
* [China League Two](/wiki/China_League_Two)
  + [Beijing BIT](/wiki/Beijing_Institute_of_Technology_F.C.)
* [Chinese Women's National League](/wiki/Chinese_Women's_National_League)
  + Beijing BG

[Template:Colend](/wiki/Template:Colend) The [Beijing Olympians](/wiki/Beijing_Olympians) of the [American Basketball Association](/wiki/American_Basketball_Association_(2000–present)), formerly a [Chinese Basketball Association](/wiki/Chinese_Basketball_Association) team, kept their name and maintained a roster of primarily Chinese players after moving to [Maywood, California](/wiki/Maywood,_California) in 2005.

[China Bandy Federation](/wiki/China_Bandy_Federation) is based in Beijing, one of several cities in which the potential for [bandy](/wiki/Bandy) development is explored.<https://www.chinabandy.org>

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Beijing_Railway_Station_01.jpg)[Beijing Railway Station](/wiki/Beijing_Railway_Station), one of several rail stations in the city [thumb|Traffic jam in the](/wiki/File:Modern_Beijing_Traffic.jpg) [Beijing CBD](/wiki/Beijing_CBD) [thumb|right|Terminal 3 of the](/wiki/File:Beijing-Capital-International-Airport.jpg) [Beijing Capital International Airport](/wiki/Beijing_Capital_International_Airport) [thumb|A](/wiki/File:Beijing_Metro_Type_SFM04.JPG) [Line 1](/wiki/Line_1,_Beijing_Subway) train on the [Beijing Subway](/wiki/Beijing_Subway), which is among the longest, busiest and most affordable [rapid transit](/wiki/Rapid_transit) systems in the world. [thumb|An articulated](/wiki/File:BK6150K_64669_20120317.jpg) [Beijing bus](/wiki/Beijing_bus). [thumb|Bicyclists during rush hour at the Chang'an Avenue](/wiki/File:Changan_Avenue_(4011960012).jpg) Beijing is an important [transport hub](/wiki/Transport_hub) in [North China](/wiki/North_China) with five [ring roads](/wiki/Ring_roads_of_Beijing), nine expressways, eleven National Highways, nine conventional railways, and two high-speed railways converging on the city.

### Rail and high-speed rail[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

Beijing serves as a large rail hub in [China's railway network](/wiki/Rail_transport_in_the_People's_Republic_of_China). Ten conventional rail lines radiate from the city to: [Shanghai (Jinghu Line)](/wiki/Beijing-Shanghai_Railway), [Guangzhou (Jingguang Line)](/wiki/Beijing–Guangzhou_Railway), [Kowloon (Jingjiu Line)](/wiki/Beijing–Kowloon_Railway), [Harbin (Jingha Line)](/wiki/Beijing-Harbin_Railway), [Baotou (Jingbao Line)](/wiki/Beijing-Baotou_Railway), [Qinhuangdao (Jingqin Line)](/wiki/Beijing-Qinhuangdao_Railway), [Chengde (Jingcheng Line)](/wiki/Beijing–Chengde_Railway), [Tongliao, Inner Mongolia (Jingtong Line)](/wiki/Beijing–Tongliao_Railway), [Yuanping, Shanxi (Jingyuan Line)](/wiki/Beijing–Yuanping_Railway) and [Shacheng, Hebei (Fengsha Line)](/wiki/Fengtai–Shacheng_Railway). In addition, the [Datong–Qinhuangdao Railway](/wiki/Datong–Qinhuangdao_Railway) passes through the municipality to the north of the city.

Beijing also has three [high-speed rail](/wiki/High-speed_rail) lines: the [Beijing-Tianjin Intercity Railway](/wiki/Beijing-Tianjin_Intercity_Railway), which opened in 2008; the [Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway](/wiki/Beijing-Shanghai_High-Speed_Railway), which opened in 2011; and the [Beijing–Guangzhou High-Speed Railway](/wiki/Beijing–Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong_Kong_High-Speed_Railway), which opened in 2012.

The city's main railway stations are the [Beijing Railway Station](/wiki/Beijing_Railway_Station), which opened in 1959; the [Beijing West Railway Station](/wiki/Beijing_West_Railway_Station), which opened in 1996; and the [Beijing South Railway Station](/wiki/Beijing_South_Railway_Station), which was rebuilt into the city's high-speed railway station in 2008. As of 1 July 2010, Beijing Railway Station had 173 trains arriving daily, Beijing West had 232 trains and Beijing South had 163. The [Beijing North Railway Station](/wiki/Beijing_North_Railway_Station), first built in 1909 and expanded in 2009, had 22 trains.

Smaller stations in the city including [Beijing East Railway Station](/wiki/Beijing_East_Railway_Station) and [Qinghuayuan Railway Station](/wiki/Qinghuayuan_Railway_Station) handle mainly commuter passenger traffic. The Fengtai Railway Station has been closed for renovation. In outlying suburbs and counties of Beijing, there are over 40 railway stations.[[130]](#cite_note-130) From Beijing, [direct passenger train service](/wiki/Passenger_rail_transport_in_China) is available to most large cities in China. International train service is available to [Mongolia](/wiki/Mongolia), Russia, [Vietnam](/wiki/Vietnam) and [North Korea](/wiki/North_Korea). Passenger trains in China are numbered according to their [direction](/wiki/Railroad_direction) in relation to Beijing.

### Roads and expressways[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Beijing is connected by road links to all parts of China as part of the National Trunk Road Network. Nine [expressways of China](/wiki/Expressways_of_China) serve Beijing, as do eleven [China National Highways](/wiki/China_National_Highway). Beijing's urban transport is dependent upon the five "[ring roads](/wiki/Ring_Roads_of_Beijing)" that concentrically surround the city, with the [Forbidden City](/wiki/Forbidden_City) area marked as the geographical center for the ring roads. The ring roads appear more rectangular than ring-shaped. There is no official "1st Ring Road". The [2nd Ring Road](/wiki/2nd_Ring_Road) is located in the inner city. Ring roads tend to resemble [expressways](/wiki/Controlled-access_highway) progressively as they extend outwards, with the [5th](/wiki/5th_Ring_Road) and [6th Ring Roads](/wiki/6th_Ring_Road) being full-standard national expressways, linked to other roads only by interchanges. Expressways to other regions of China are generally accessible from the [3rd Ring Road](/wiki/3rd_Ring_Road_(Beijing)) outward. A final outer orbital, the [Capital Ring Expressway (G95)](/wiki/G95_Capital_Regional_Greater_Ring), is being built and will extend into neighbouring [Tianjin](/wiki/Tianjin) and [Hebei](/wiki/Hebei).

Within the urban core, city streets generally follow the checkerboard pattern of the ancient capital. Many of Beijing's boulevards and streets with "inner" and "outer" are still named in relation to gates in the city wall, though most gates no longer stand. Traffic jams are a major concern. Even outside of rush hour, several roads still remain clogged with traffic.

Beijing's urban design layout further exacerbates transportation problems.[[131]](#cite_note-131) The authorities have introduced several bus lanes, which only public buses can use during rush hour. In the beginning of 2010, Beijing had 4 million registered automobiles.[[132]](#cite_note-132) By the end of 2010, the government forecast 5 million. In 2010, new car registrations in Beijing averaged 15,500 per week.[[133]](#cite_note-133) Towards the end of 2010, the city government announced a series of drastic measures to tackle traffic jams, including limiting the number of new license plates issued to passenger cars to 20,000 a month and barring cars with non-Beijing plates from entering areas within the Fifth Ring Road during rush hour.[[134]](#cite_note-134) More restrictive measures are also reserved during major events or heavily polluted weather.

### Air[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

Beijing's primary airport is the [Beijing Capital International Airport](/wiki/Beijing_Capital_International_Airport) ([IATA](/wiki/IATA): PEK) about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) northeast of the city center. The airport is the [second busiest airport in the world](/wiki/World's_busiest_airports_by_passenger_traffic) after [Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport](/wiki/Hartsfield-Jackson_Atlanta_International_Airport).[[4]](#cite_note-4) After renovations for the 2008 Olympics, the airport now boasts three terminals, with Terminal 3 being one of the largest in the world. Most domestic and nearly all international flights arrive at and depart from Capital Airport. It is the main hub for [Air China](/wiki/Air_China) and a hub for [China Southern](/wiki/China_Southern) and [Hainan Airlines](/wiki/Hainan_Airlines). The airport links Beijing with almost every other Chinese city with regular air passenger service.

The [Airport Expressway](/wiki/Airport_Expressway_(Beijing)) links the airport to central Beijing; it is a roughly 40-minute drive from the city center during good traffic conditions. Prior to the 2008 Olympics, the [2nd Airport Expressway](/wiki/2nd_Airport_Expressway) was built to the airport, as well as a [light rail](/wiki/Light_rail) system, which now connects to the [Beijing Subway](/wiki/Beijing_Subway).

Other airports in the city include Liangxiang, [Nanyuan](/wiki/Beijing_Nanyuan_Airport), Xijiao, Shahe and Badaling. These airports are primarily for military use and are less well known to the public. Nanyuan serves as the hub for only one passenger airline. A second international airport, to be called [Beijing Daxing International Airport](/wiki/Beijing_Daxing_International_Airport),[[135]](#cite_note-135) is currently being built in [Daxing District](/wiki/Daxing_District), and is expected to be open by 2017.[[136]](#cite_note-136) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), tourists from 45 countries are permitted a 72-hour visa-free stay in Beijing. The 45 countries include Singapore, Japan, the United States, Canada, all EU and EEA countries (except Norway and Liechtenstein), Switzerland, Brazil, Argentina and Australia. The programme benefits transit and business travellers[[137]](#cite_note-137) with the 72 hours calculated starting from the moment visitors receive their transit stay permits rather than the time of their plane's arrival. Foreign visitors are not permitted to leave Beijing for other Chinese cities during the 72 hours.<ref name=Beijing>["Beijing 72-hour Visa-free" ChinaTour.Net](http://chinatour.net/news/visa-free-beijing/) Accessed 6 June 2014</ref>

### Public transit[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

The [Beijing Subway](/wiki/Beijing_Subway), which began operating in 1969, now has 18 lines, 334 [stations](/wiki/List_of_Beijing_Subway_stations), and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of [track](/wiki/Standard_gauge) and is the [second longest subway system in the world](/wiki/List_of_metro_systems) and [first in annual ridership](/wiki/Metro_systems_by_annual_passenger_rides) with 3.41 billion rides delivered in 2014. In 2013, with a flat fare of [¥](/wiki/Renminbi)2.00(0.31 [USD](/wiki/United_States_dollar)) per ride with unlimited transfers on all lines except the [Airport Express](/wiki/Airport_Express,_Beijing_Subway), the subway was also the most affordable [rapid transit in China](/wiki/Rapid_transit_in_China). The subway is undergoing rapid expansion and is expected to reach 30 lines, 450 stations, [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in length by 2020. When fully implemented, 95% residents inside the [Fourth Ring Road](/wiki/4th_Ring_Road) will be able walk to a station in 15 minutes.[[138]](#cite_note-138) The [Beijing Suburban Railway](/wiki/Beijing_Suburban_Railway) provides commuter rail service to outlying suburbs of the municipality.

On December 28, 2014, the Beijing Subway switched to a distance-based fare system from a fixed fare for all lines except the [Airport Express](/wiki/Airport_Express,_Beijing_Subway).[[139]](#cite_note-139) Under the new system a trip under 6 [km](/wiki/Kilometre) will cost [¥](/wiki/Renminbi)3.00(0.49 USD), an additional [¥](/wiki/Renminbi)1.00 will be added for the next [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and the next [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) until the distance for the trip reaches [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[139]](#cite_note-139) For every [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) after the original [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) an additional [¥](/wiki/Renminbi)1.00 is added.[[139]](#cite_note-139) For example, a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) trip would cost [¥](/wiki/Renminbi) 8.00.

There are nearly 1,000 [public bus](/wiki/Beijing_Bus) and [trolleybus](/wiki/Beijing_Tram_and_Trolleybus) lines in the city, including four [bus rapid transit](/wiki/Bus_rapid_transit) lines. Standard bus fares are as low as ¥1.00 when purchased with the [*Yikatong*](/wiki/Yikatong) metrocard.

### Taxi[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

Metered [taxi](/wiki/Taxicab) in Beijing start at ¥13 for the first [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), ¥2.3 [Renminbi](/wiki/Renminbi) per additional [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and ¥1 per ride fuel surcharge, not counting idling fees which are ¥2.3 (¥4.6 during rush hours of 7–9 am and 5–7 pm) per 5 minutes of standing or running at speeds lower than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) . Most taxis are [Hyundai Elantras](/wiki/Hyundai_Elantra), [Hyundai Sonatas](/wiki/Hyundai_Sonata), [Peugeots](/wiki/Peugeot), [Citroëns](/wiki/Citroën) and [Volkswagen Jettas](/wiki/Volkswagen_Jetta). After [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), the base fare increases by 50% (but is only applied to the portion *over* that distance). Different companies have special colors combinations painted on their vehicles. Usually registered taxis have yellowish brown as basic hue, with another color of Prussian blue, hunter green, white, umber, tyrian purple, rufous, or sea green. Between 11 pm and 5 am, there is also a 20% fee increase. Rides over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and between 23:00 and 06:00 incur both charges, for a total increase of 80%. Tolls during trip should be covered by customers and the costs of trips beyond Beijing city limits should be negotiated with the driver. The cost of unregistered taxis is also subject to negotiation with the driver.

### Bicycles[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

Beijing has long been well known for the number of bicycles on its streets. Although the rise of motor traffic has created a great deal of congestion and bicycle use has declined, bicycles are still an important form of local transportation. Large numbers of cyclists can be seen on most roads in the city, and most of the main roads have dedicated [bicycle lanes](/wiki/Bicycle_lanes). Beijing is relatively flat, which makes cycling convenient. The rise of [electric bicycles](/wiki/Electric_bicycles) and [electric scooters](/wiki/Electric_scooters), which have similar speeds and use the same cycle lanes, may have brought about a revival in bicycle-speed two-wheeled transport. It is possible to cycle to most parts of the city. Because of the growing traffic congestion, the authorities have indicated more than once that they wish to encourage cycling, but it is not clear whether there is sufficient will to translate that into action on a significant scale.[[140]](#cite_note-140)

## Defense and aerospace[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

[thumb|Chinese President](/wiki/File:Korea_President_Park_China_Welcoming_Ceremony_20130627_01.jpg) [Xi Jinping](/wiki/Xi_Jinping) and a military honor guard welcomes South Korean president [Park Geun-hye](/wiki/Park_Geun-hye) in June 2013. The command headquarters of China's military forces are based in Beijing. The [Central Military Commission](/wiki/Central_Military_Commission_(China)), the political organ in charge of the military, is housed inside the [Ministry of National Defense](/wiki/Ministry_of_National_Defense_of_the_People's_Republic_of_China), located next to the [Military Museum of the Chinese People's Revolution](/wiki/Military_Museum_of_the_Chinese_People's_Revolution) in western Beijing. The [Second Artillery Corps](/wiki/Second_Artillery_Corps), which controls the country's [strategic missile](/wiki/Intercontinental_ballistic_missile) and nuclear weapons, has its command in [Qinghe](/wiki/Qinghe_Subdistrict,_Beijing), Haidian District. The headquarters of the [Beijing Military Region](/wiki/Beijing_Military_Region), one of seven nationally, is based further west in Gaojing. The Beijing Military Region oversees the Beijing Garrisons as well as the [27th](/wiki/27th_Army_(People's_Republic_of_China)), [38th](/wiki/38th_Army_(People's_Republic_of_China)) and [65th Armies](/wiki/65th_Army_(People's_Republic_of_China)), which are based in Hebei.

Military institutions in Beijing also include academies and thinktanks such as the [PLA National Defence University](/wiki/PLA_National_Defence_University) and [Academy of Military Science](/wiki/PLA_Academy_of_Military_Science), military hospitals such as the [301](/wiki/301_Military_Hospital), 307 and the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, and army-affiliated cultural entities such as the 1 August Film Studios and the [PLA Song and Dance Troupe](/wiki/Chinese_People's_Liberation_Army_Naval_Song_and_Dance_Troupe).

The [China National Space Administration](/wiki/China_National_Space_Administration), which oversees country's [space program](/wiki/Chinese_space_program), and several space-related state owned companies such as [CASTC](/wiki/China_Aerospace_Science_and_Technology_Corporation) and [CASIC](/wiki/China_Aerospace_Science_and_Industry_Corporation) are all based in Beijing. The [Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Center](/wiki/Beijing_Aerospace_Command_and_Control_Center), in Hadian District tracks the country's [manned](/wiki/Shenzhou_program) and unmanned flight and other space exploration initiatives.

## Nature and wildlife[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

Beijing Municipality has 20 nature reserves that have a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[141]](#cite_note-141) The mountains to the west and north of the city are home to a number of protected wildlife species including [leopard](/wiki/Leopard), [leopard cat](/wiki/Leopard_cat), [wolf](/wiki/Wolf), [red fox](/wiki/Red_fox), [wild boar](/wiki/Wild_boar), [masked palm civet](/wiki/Masked_palm_civet), [raccoon dog](/wiki/Raccoon_dog), [hog badger](/wiki/Hog_badger), [Siberian weasel](/wiki/Siberian_weasel), [Amur hedgehog](/wiki/Amur_hedgehog), [roe deer](/wiki/Roe_deer), and [mandarin rat snake](/wiki/Mandarin_rat_snake).[[142]](#cite_note-142)[[143]](#cite_note-143)[[144]](#cite_note-144) The Beijing Aquatic Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center protects the [Chinese giant salamander](/wiki/Chinese_giant_salamander), [Amur stickleback](/wiki/Amur_stickleback) and [mandarin duck](/wiki/Mandarin_duck) on the Huaijiu and Huaisha Rivers in [Huairou District](/wiki/Huairou_District).[[145]](#cite_note-145) The [Beijing Milu Park](/wiki/Milu_Yuan) south of the city is home to one of the largest herds of [Père David's deer](/wiki/Père_David's_deer), now extinct in the wild. The [Beijing barbastelle](/wiki/Beijing_barbastelle), a species of [vesper bat](/wiki/Vesper_bat) discovered in caves of [Fangshan District](/wiki/Fangshan_District) in 2001 and identified as a distinct species in 2007, is [endemic](/wiki/Endemic) to Beijing. The mountains of Fangshan are also habitat for the more common [Beijing mouse-eared bat](/wiki/Beijing_mouse-eared_bat), [large myotis](/wiki/Large_myotis), [greater horseshoe bat](/wiki/Greater_horseshoe_bat) and [Rickett's big-footed bat](/wiki/Rickett's_big-footed_bat).[[146]](#cite_note-146) The city flowers are the [Chinese rose](/wiki/Chinese_rose) and [chrysanthemum](/wiki/Chrysanthemum).<ref name=cityflowertree>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The city trees are the [Chinese arborvitae](/wiki/Chinese_arborvitae), an evergreen in the [cypress](/wiki/Cypress) [family](/wiki/Cupressaceae) and the [Pagoda Tree](/wiki/Pagoda_Tree), also called the Chinese scholar tree, a [deciduous](/wiki/Deciduous) tree of the [*Fabaceae*](/wiki/Fabaceae) family.[[147]](#cite_note-147) The oldest scholar tree in the city was planted in what is now [Beihai Park](/wiki/Beihai_Park) during the [Tang Dynasty](/wiki/Tang_Dynasty), 1,300 years ago.[[148]](#cite_note-148)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

* [2045 Peking](/wiki/List_of_minor_planets:_2001–3000#001)—the name of an asteroid
* [Beijing city fortifications](/wiki/Beijing_city_fortifications)
* [Historical capitals of China](/wiki/Historical_capitals_of_China)
* [Large Cities Climate Leadership Group](/wiki/Large_Cities_Climate_Leadership_Group)
* [List of hospitals in Beijing](/wiki/List_of_hospitals_in_Beijing)
* [List of mayors of Beijing](/wiki/List_of_mayors_of_Beijing)
* [List of twin towns and sister cities in China](/wiki/List_of_twin_towns_and_sister_cities_in_China)

## Notes and references[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* Cammelli, Stefano *Storia di Pechino e di come divenne capitale della Cina*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2004. ISBN 978-88-15-09910-5
* Chen, Gaohua: *The Capital of the Yuan Dynasty.* [Dadu or Khanbaliq]. Silkroad Press, 2015. ISBN 978-981-4332-44-6 (Print); ISBN 978-981-4339-55-1 (eBook)
* Harper, Damian, *Beijing: City Guide*, 7th Edition, Oakland, California: Lonely Planet Publications, 2007.
* Harper, Damian, [*Beijing: City Guide*](https://books.google.com/books?id=QOdNuHHTSowC&printsec=frontcover), 6th Edition, Oakland, California : Lonely Planet Publications, 2005. ISBN 1-74059-782-6.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Beijing Government website](http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn/) [Template:Zh icon](/wiki/Template:Zh_icon)
* [Economic profile for Beijing](http://info.hktdc.com/mktprof/china/mpbei.htm) at [HKTDC](/wiki/Hong_Kong_Trade_Development_Council)
* [Visit Beijing Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/BeijingChinaOfficial)
* [Photograph of *The approach to Peking – outside the walls*](http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PH-Y-00302-E/4) taken in 1890 by [Sir Henry Norman](/wiki/Sir_Henry_Norman,_1st_Baronet)

[Template:S-start](/wiki/Template:S-start) [Template:S-bef](/wiki/Template:S-bef) [Template:S-ttl](/wiki/Template:S-ttl) [Template:S-aft](/wiki/Template:S-aft) [Template:S-bef](/wiki/Template:S-bef) [Template:S-ttl](/wiki/Template:S-ttl) [Template:S-aft](/wiki/Template:S-aft) [Template:S-bef](/wiki/Template:S-bef) [Template:S-ttl](/wiki/Template:S-ttl) [Template:S-aft](/wiki/Template:S-aft) [Template:S-end](/wiki/Template:S-end) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control) [Template:Portal bar](/wiki/Template:Portal_bar)

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