

GUIDE TO CHINA TOUR

TEAM TIBET

Team Tibet Extended Tour: Sept 2013

China, September, 2013

A VENTURE THROUGH PARTS OF IMPERIAL CHINA

All rights would normally be reserved except that the contents have
been shamelessly lifted from other peoples' web sites!

Canberra, 2013

National Library No: pending copyright proceedings

This guide brought to you by:

motorcyclemeaders.com®

TOUR OF CHINA

Table of Contents

Chongqing	4
Yangtze River Cruise	5
Yichang	5
Shanghai	6
City Map	6
Maglev Train	6
The Bund	6
Pudong: Shanghai World Financial Centre	7
Nanjing Road.....	7
Former French Concession	7
Nanshi – the Old City	8
Dongtai Road “Antique Street”	8
Xintiandi	8
Xi’an.....	9
Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses	9
Ancient City Wall	10
Big Wild Goose Pagoda	10
Small Wild Goose Pagoda.....	10
Bell and Drum Towers.....	11
Forest of Steles	11
The Great Mosque and Muslim Quarter	12
Beijing	13
Map of Central Beijing	13
Ming Tombs	13
Great Wall of China	14
Forbidden City.....	15
Tiananmen Square.....	15
Zhengyang Gate	16
Hutongs	16
Summer Palace	16
Temple of Heaven	16
Old Legation Quarter	17
Epilogue: The Boxer Rebellion: <i>55 Days at Peking</i>	18

Chongqing

Chongqing is a provincial level municipality. It's equivalent to a province and comes under direct control from the central government. (There are only four cities that have this status. The others are Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin.)

The city of Chongqing is situated on the confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing Rivers and is the administrative centre for the municipality.

Chongqing was formerly spelt Chungking and is often called that in World War II references. It has acquired significant fame for, inter alia, being the first inland commerce port open to foreigners (1890s)



with the establishment of several foreign consulates; the provisional capital of the Republic of China under Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang Government during the Japanese invasion of China (1938-47); a joint American/Chinese HQ directing local forces in support of the Allies; a target for massive Japanese bombing raids during WWII; the meeting place for negotiations between Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong over the future of China (post 1945); the HQ of the Kuomintang until it fell to the Communists in 1949; and, more recently, the power base of the disgraced politician Bo Xilai (whose wife is accused of poisoning the British businessman Neil Haywood).

Some key sights to take in are:

- Ciqikou Old Town – an historic Chinese old town with traditional style buildings and local flavour. It was built in 998 during the Song Dynasty.
- Three Gorges Museum which has exhibits on the Ba culture and the area of the three gorges down river from Chongqing, as well as exhibits on life in Chongqing during the Qing dynasty, the early republic, and the World War II era.
- Red Rock (or Red Crag) – Hongyan – Village, which is the location of the Chongqing Negotiations between Mao Zedong and Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek).

Yangtze River Cruise

We start the cruise from Chongqing.

Highlights of the cruise include:

- Fengdu Ghost City situated on the north bank of the Yangtze River. Fengdu's Mount Mingshan's demon temples date back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). They display hellish images and torture devices and reflect the belief that good people will be treated well in the afterlife and bad people will be dispatched to hell. So be afraid!
- The Stone Treasure Fortress of Shibaozhai.
- Town of Wanzhou, a long-established trading port.
- City of the White Emperor (Baidi Cheng), resembling a fortified island and named after a ruler of the Eastern Han Dynasty (AD25-220).
- The three Gorges (Sanxia) begin at Baidi Cheng and run for about 109km. The gorges are: Qutang Xia, the shortest but most spectacular; Wu Xia, (Witches Gorge) steeped in legends about troublesome dragons being turned into stone; and Xilin Xia, the longest and most dangerous of the three gorges.
- Shennong Stream, a small tributary of the Yangtze noted for its deep gorges, steep ridges and peaks, and thick vegetation and wild flowers. It's into sampans for this excursion!
- Three Gorges Dam and Locks, which are located at Sandouping in the middle of Xiling Gorge



Yichang

Lying on the northern bank of the Yangtze River, Yichang is an ancient city and its history can be traced back 4,000 years.

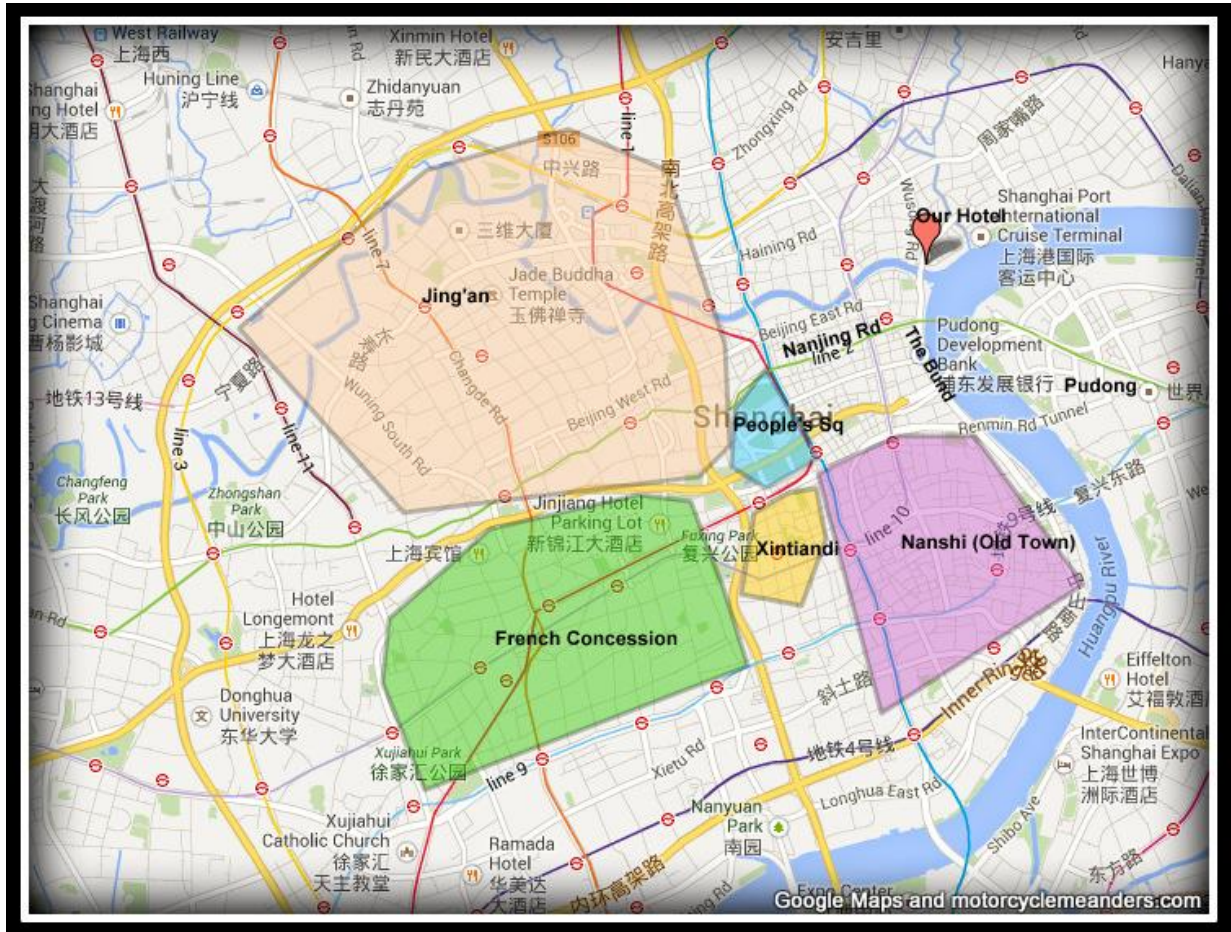
During what is known as the Spring and Autumn Periods (770 BC-476 BC), Yichang was regarded as a city of great strategic importance. Many famous battles took place here. Relics of these battles can still be found in the area.



Located in the middle of China, Yichang is a transportation centre which connects the eastern and the western parts of China. .

Shanghai

City Map



You can interact with the map here: <http://goo.gl/maps/V9uFS>

Maglev Train

The magnetic-levitation train ride from the international airport to the city is the perfect metaphor for Shanghai. The train reaches speeds of 430 km/hr, and the trip takes less than eight minutes.

The Bund



The Bund (Waitan) is one of the most noted architectural symbols of Shanghai. The word "Bund" derives from an Anglo-Indian word for an embankment along a muddy waterfront. The Bund in Shanghai was first used when the first British company opened an office there in 1846. The Bund, or the waterfront, is now surrounded by about 50 various buildings of different architectural styles including Gothic, Baroque, Romanesque, Classicism and the Renaissance

Pudong: Shanghai World Financial Centre

There is no other place in Shanghai than the top floor of the Shanghai World Financial Centre for an excellent overview of the city. It takes approximately one minute from the first floor to the 95th floor by elevator with a speed of ten metres per second. In the 100th viewing pavilion, visitors can see the peak of Oriental Pearl TV Tower and Jinmao Tower. In the 55m long viewing gallery, visitors can see cars and passersby clearly through three transparent glass floors. The observation bridge at the top of the building is the highest outdoor observation deck in the world. This tower has 104 floors (101 floors above ground level and 3 floors underground) and it stands at a height of 492m. It is currently the fourth-tallest building in the world.



Nanjing Road

Nanjing Road is one of the most important commercial and tourist streets in Shanghai. It is regarded as the first commercial road in Shanghai. The 5.5-km long Nanjing Road is the most bustling and prosperous street in Shanghai. It was first built in 1851. It is said that there were only four department stores along the street. Now Nanjing Road has turned into the number one site for shopping in the city.

Its eastern end stretches from The Bund to The People's Park. Between Henan Rd and Xizang Rd it's been transformed into a pedestrian mall.

The People's Square and Park are considered the heart of Shanghai. The square and park feature three museums, a theatre and an underground shopping mall. The main highlight here is the Shanghai Museum – a 'must see'.

Further west, Nanjing Road continues as an ultra-upscale shopping street with the city's fanciest malls. Nanjing Rd West leads into the district of Jing'an, Shanghai's most expensive shopping Mecca.

Former French Concession

South of Jing'an is the former French Concession. It was a foreign concession in Shanghai from 1849 to 1946, and it was progressively expanded between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The concession period ended in 1943 when the Vichy French government signed it over to the pro-Japanese puppet government in Nanjing (Nanking). The area covered by the former French Concession in the 20th century was the premier residential and retail districts of Shanghai, and was also the centre of Catholicism in Shanghai.



Despite rampant re-development over the last few decades, the area retains a distinct character, and is a popular tourist destination. There're lots of interesting buildings, bars, cafes, crafts shops, design studios, galleries and boutiques.

Huaihai Rd leading into the former French Concession is another popular shopping street of Shanghai.

Nanshi – the Old City



This is the area that used to be surrounded by the old city walls and moats. During the concession period, Nanshi remained under Chinese law and administration. It's noted for its narrow lanes and quaint neighbourhoods. A good place to wander through, noting, in particular, Yuyuan Garden and Yuyuan Bazaar. Lots of curio shops and eating places including the city's oldest tea house,

Dongtai Road “Antique Street”

This small road, west of Nanshi, is lined with stalls and shops selling all that is junk and treasure in chinoiserie. You can find all kinds of items including Mao memorabilia, porcelain, old wooden rice buckets and brightly painted opera masks. It's worth a wander just to see what's on offer but don't forget your bargaining skills.

Xintiandi



A little further west towards the former French Concession is Xintiandi. Tourists and locals alike walk along its streets of day and night. Xintiandi is divided into the North and South Blocks. The South Block is more modern and one of China's first major shopping centres lies there. The North Block provides the old shikumen architectural style in contrast to the modern style of the South Block. Some of the shikumen houses now serve as book stores, cafes, restaurants, and shopping malls. Xintiandi has an

active nightlife on weekdays as well as weekends and it is considered as one of the first lifestyle centres in China. Xintiandi is also the location of the first congress of the Chinese Communist Party

Xi'an

"China" began in Xi'an, when the Emperor of Qin (from whom China gets its name) united the warring states in 221 BC and made his capital in Xi'an (or Shaan), historically known as Chang An.

Xi'an served as China's capital for most of the dynasties: ten dynasties spread intermittently over a 1,100 year period, most notably the Han Dynasty (206 BC–220 AD) and the Tang Dynasty (618–907), golden ages in China's history.

Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses

Ying Zheng, the man who would become the first emperor of China, became the King of the state of Qin at the age of 13 in 246 BC. By the age of 22, he had assumed full powers and set about conquering the six neighbouring states that, together with Qin, constituted what would come to be known as China.

By 221 BC, Zheng had subjugated the other states and set up the first feudal and centralised empire in Chinese history, calling it the Qin Dynasty and declaring himself Qin Shi Huangdi, meaning *the First Emperor of China*.

Qin Shi Huangdi was emperor of only 11 years until his death in 210 BC. The Qin Dynasty lasted only another 5 years before his son was overthrown and several years of civil strife followed before a new dynasty – the Han Dynasty – was set up to rule for the next 400 years.



Despite Qin Shi Huangdi's short-lived reign, he introduced several political, economic and cultural reforms. He drew on laws of other states in setting up a unified legal code; he standardised coinage and metrology; he unified Chinese characters in writing. He also ruthlessly suppressed scholars who were not to his liking. One other notable legacy was to have the already existing defensive works that individual states had built joined up to make a single stretch of wall, thus creating the forerunner to the later Great Wall of China.

Somewhere in all this, he prepared his mausoleum with all its trappings and riches for his sojourn in the after-life. This, of course, included the terracotta army, discovered in the mid 1970s, almost 2,200 years after his death.

Ancient City Wall



Walls had been built in some of the early incarnations of Xi'an. The most lasting remnant had been the wall built under the old Tang Dynasty (618-907); but the current wall was constructed in 1370 during the Ming Dynasty.

It covers 13.7km with a deep moat surrounding it. Every 120m there is a rampart which extends out from the main wall. Altogether, there are 98 ramparts, which were built to defend against enemy attacks. Each rampart has a sentry building.

The distance between ramparts is just within the range of an arrow shot from either side. On the outer side of the city wall, there are 5,948 crenulations.

Because the gate of the city wall was its most vulnerable spot, complicated gate structures were built within the wall. In Xian, the city wall includes four gates and they are named as Changle (meaning eternal joy) in the east, Anding (harmony peace) in the west, Yongning (eternal peace) in the south and Anyuan (forever harmony) in the north. The south gate, Yongning, is the most decorated one.

Big Wild Goose Pagoda

The Big Wild Goose Pagoda is one of the most famous Buddhist pagodas in China. It was originally built in 652 during the reign of Emperor Gaozong of the Tang Dynasty (618-907); and functioned to collect Buddhist materials that were taken from India by the Buddhist adventurer, Xuanzang.



Xuanzang started off from Chang'an (ancient Xian), along the Silk Road and through deserts, finally arriving in India, the cradle of Buddhism. Over 17 years and 100 countries, he obtained hundreds of Buddhist statues, scripture and other relics. The pagoda was destroyed by war during the downfall of the Tang Dynasty and the halls and rooms we see today were built in the Ming Dynasty.

In 1556, a massive earthquake heavily damaged the pagoda and reduced it by three stories, to its current height of seven stories. It was extensively repaired during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644) and renovated again in 1964.

Small Wild Goose Pagoda

Small Wild Goose Pagoda is located inside Jianfu Temple. The temple was first built in 684 AD in honour of the second emperor of the Tang Dynasty, Emperor Gaozong on the hundredth day after his death.

Small Wild Goose Pagoda was erected in the period 707 to 709 AD. It was named after its larger predecessor, Big Wild Goose Pagoda, five kilometres away. The building was originally a multi-eave, square-brick 45 metre-tall structure, with 15 storeys. An earthquake in 1556 reduced it to the present

13 storeys. The 13-storey structure later suffered countless other earthquakes, yet it is still remarkably well-preserved.

Small Wild Goose Pagoda is part of Xi'an Museum. The museum exhibits about 130,000 items relating to the history and culture of Xi'an and China.

Bell and Drum Towers



The Bell Tower is a stately traditional building that marks the geographical centre of the ancient capital. It was built in 1384 by Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang as a way to dominate the surrounding countryside and provide early warning of attack by rival rulers.

When it was first built in 1384, it stood near the Drum Tower on the central axis of the city; and continued to mark the centre of the city from the Tang Dynasty. As the city grew, however, the geographical centre changed. Therefore, in 1582, the Tower was moved 1,000m east of the original site. Except for the base, all parts are original.

Originally, the northwest corner of the tower housed the famous Jingyun Bell from the Tang Dynasty. Legend has it that the Jingyun Bell fell silent during the Ming Dynasty, so the current bell, a much smaller one weighing only 5 tons, was cast. The original one can now be seen in Forest of Stone Steles Museum.

The Drum Tower is located northwest of the Bell Tower across the Bell and Drum Tower Square. Both of them are called the 'sister buildings' or 'morning bell and dark drum'.

In ancient China, especially from the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the drums were used to signal the running of time and on occasion were used as an alarm in emergency situations.



The Drum Tower was initially built in 1380 during the reign of Emperor Hongwu of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), and was renovated twice in 1699 and 1740 in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The architectural style of the Drum Tower is a combination of the styles of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and the Qing Dynasty. However, it also has some innovative features. For example, there is no iron nail used anywhere in the Tower.

Forest of Steles

The Forest of Stone Steles Museum is a themed museum focusing on displays of stone steles, epigraphs and stone sculptures from past dynasties. The museum was built to preserve the Kaicheng Classics (a group of stone tablets) and the Filial Piety Classics. The collection has grown and now includes 11,000 relics, including three thousand stone steles or epigraphs that are housed in seven separate exhibition rooms.

Compared to other museums, the outstanding characteristic of the Forest of Stone Steles Museum is its collection of inscribed tablets. Tablet inscriptions tell us about the religions, life styles and historical facts of ancient times in a vivid way. They provide tourists with a grasp of the general outline of Chinese history and the interaction of China and other countries. For the fans of Chinese calligraphy, these inscriptions are of great interest as they are fine examples of the diverse styles of Chinese characters.

The Great Mosque and Muslim Quarter

The Great Mosque in Xian is one of the oldest, largest and best-preserved mosques in China.

According to historical records engraved on a stone tablet inside, it was built in 742 during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). This was a result of Islam being introduced into Northwest China by merchants and travellers from Persia and Afghanistan during the mid-7th century when some of them settled in China and married women of Han nationality.

The Muslim Quarter surrounds the mosque. This neighbourhood was the starting point of the Silk Road in the 1st century BC. During the 8th century AD, Xi'an was the largest city in the world with over one million inhabitants, among which one third of them were foreigners, including the early Muslim settlers.

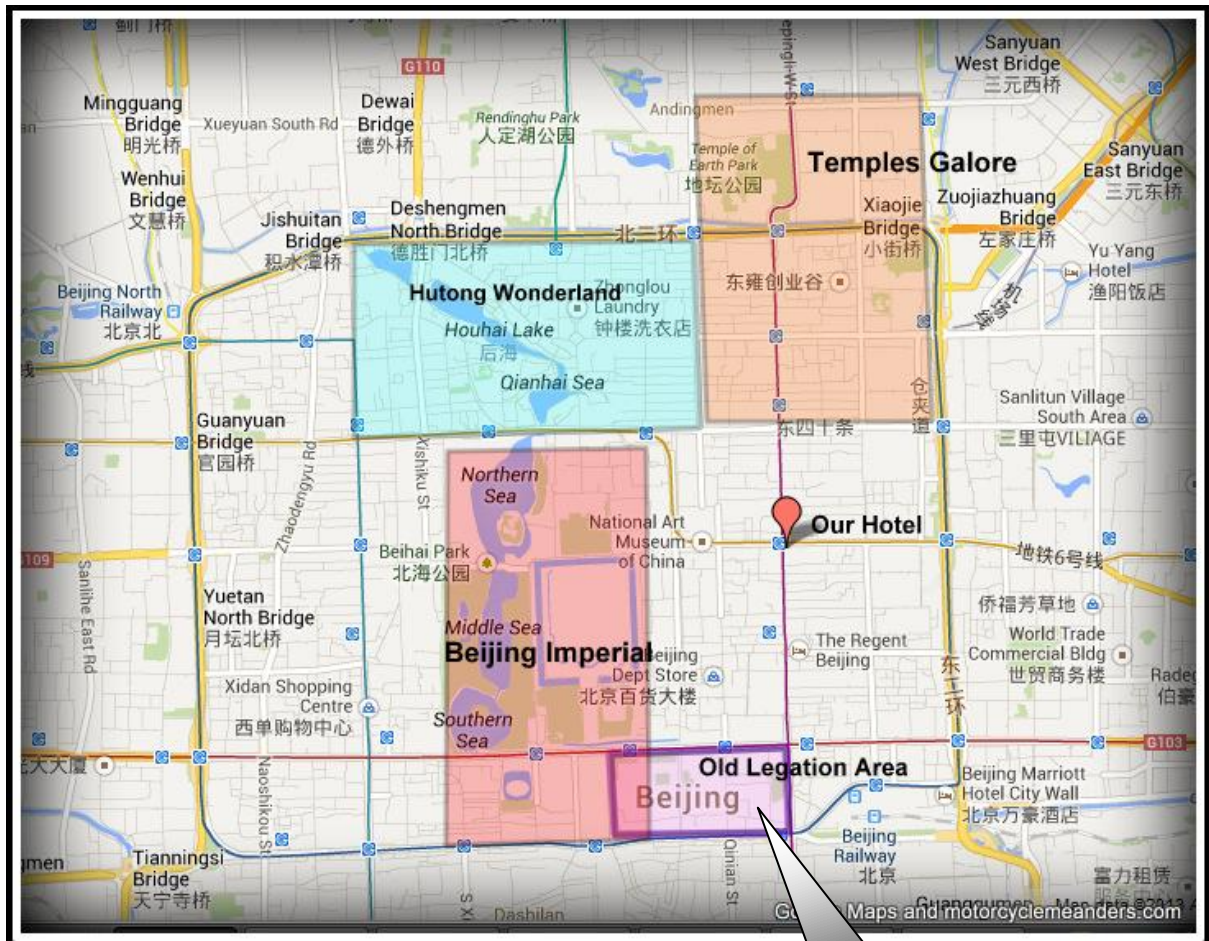


The Muslim quarter is a fascinating area where you can find exotic food, interesting people and great souvenir stalls. You can taste many authentic Islamic snacks. The restaurants and eateries here have 'budget prices.'

One of the unique characters of Muslim quarter is its diversity of buildings' architectural designs from various periods and influenced by various ethnicity from the East and West or the Middle East. For example, the Great Mosque has the Chinese architectural design with Muslim customs from the Middle East.

Beijing

Map of Central Beijing



You can interact with this map here: <http://goo.gl/maps/WtuA4>

Setting of the movie "55 Days at Peking"

Ming Tombs

The Ming Tombs are a complex of 5 of the mausoleums of thirteen emperors of the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644). In 1409, Zhu Di, the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty, built his Changling Tomb here; and the succeeding twelve emperors had their tombs built around Changling over the ensuing 230 years.

The layout and arrangement of all the thirteen mausoleums are very similar, but they vary in size as well as in the complexity of their structures. All but one of the tombs after Zhu Di stretch out on the two sides of Changling Tomb in a fan shape. From site selection to design, great attention was paid to the harmony and unity with nature, reflecting the philosophy 'the unity of heaven and humanity'.

At present, only the Sacred Way, Changling Tomb, Zhaoling Tomb and Dingling Tomb are open to the public.

The Sacred Way, also known as Changling Sacred Way, is the approach to the Changling Tomb. The Changling Tomb is the largest, original and the best preserved among the thirteen tombs, and has three courtyards in the front and a Treasure City in the round rear part. Dingling Tomb is the mausoleum of Emperor Zhu Yijun, the thirteenth emperor of the Ming Dynasty, and his two empresses. Zhaoling Tomb is where the 12th emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Emperor Zhu Zaihou and his three empresses were buried.



Great Wall of China

The section of the Great Wall most commonly visited by tourists is at Badaling. We're going to visit two less frequented sections: Mutianyu and Jinshanling.



The Wall we see today was mostly built during the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644). The Great Wall was originally built in the *Spring and Autumn* and *Warring States* periods as independent walls for defensive fortification by the three states: Yan, Zhao and Qin; and did not become the "Great" wall until Emperor Qin Shihuangdi had the walls joined together to fend off the invasions from the Huns in the north. Even then it was really only the fore-runner of what would become the

Great Wall of China.

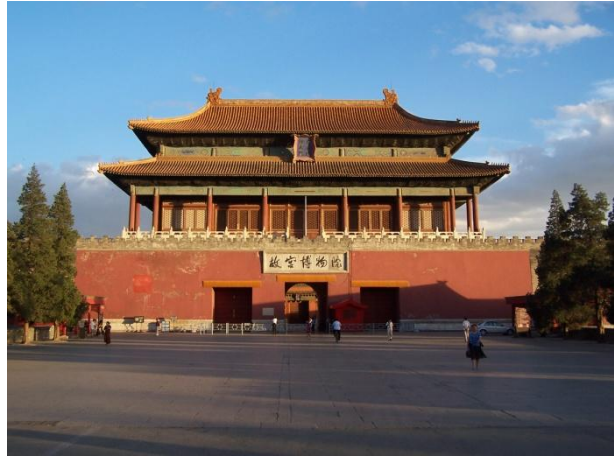
Mutianyu Great Wall winds 1.4 miles through lofty mountains and high ridges, many sections of which are made of granite. The unique structure makes the wall almost indestructible. It measures 23 to 26 feet high and four to five yards wide. Both of the wall's inner and outer sides have parapets to defend against enemies coming from the two sides.

The Jinshanling Great Wall is the best preserved, having many original features. Based on huge stone bars, the wall was then made by huge bricks, each of which weighed about 12 kilograms. It has five main passes and 67 watchtowers. Every 100 metres, there is a watch tower each of which is about ten metres high.

Forbidden City

The “Forbidden City” was the imperial palace for twenty-four emperors during the Ming and Qing dynasties. It was first built over 14 years during the reign of Emperor Chengzu in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It was forbidden to enter without special permission of the emperor.

Now known as the Palace Museum, it is north of Tiananmen Square. It is the world's largest palace complex, covers 74 hectares and is surrounded by a 52-metre-wide moat and a 10-metre-high wall. The wall has a gate on each side. The palace is divided into two parts. The southern section, the Outer Court, was where the emperor exercised his supreme power over the nation. The northern section, the Inner Court, was where he lived with his royal family.



Until 1924, when the last emperor of China was driven from the Inner Court, fourteen emperors of the Ming dynasty and ten emperors of the Qing dynasty had reigned here. Having been the imperial palace for some five centuries, it houses numerous rare treasures and curiosities.

Tiananmen Square

Tiananmen Square is composed of the national flagpole (spectacular flag ceremony) in the north; the Monument to the People's Heroes and the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong in the middle and the Zhengyang Gate in the south.

Surrounding the Square is the Gate of Heavenly Peace (the entrance to The Forbidden City) to the north, Chinese National Museum to the east, the Great Hall of the People (China's parliament) to the west and Qianmen (Archery Tower) to the south. (Qianmen is colloquial for Zhengyang.)



Zhengyang Gate

Zhengyang Gate was originally built in 1420 during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) as the southern gateway to the inner city of the new Ming capital of Beijing; and was part of the old city walls. During the Ming and subsequent Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) it was exclusively for the use of the emperor.

The gate complex once consisted of the gatehouse proper and an archery tower, which were connected by side walls and together with side gates, formed a large barbican.

The gatehouse was burnt down during the Boxer rebellion but later restored.



Hutongs



In Beijing, hutongs are alleys formed by lines of traditional courtyard residences. Many neighbourhoods were formed by joining one courtyard residence to another to form a hutong, and then joining one hutong to another. The word hutong is also used to refer to such neighbourhoods.

Following the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, many of the old hutongs of Beijing disappeared, replaced by wide boulevards and high rises. However, many of Beijing's ancient hutongs still stand offering a glimpse of life in the capital city as it has been for generations. This is notably the case in the vicinity of the Bell Tower and Drum Tower and Shichahai.

The hutongs are also today noted for lots of small restaurants, bars and inns.

Summer Palace

The Summer Palace is the largest and most complete imperial garden existing in China. Once a summer retreat for emperors, this 290 acre park is still a retreat for tourists, who can relax here or walk around ancient pavilions, mansions, temples, bridges and huge lake. The Summer Palace mainly consists of Longevity Hill (Washou Shan) and Kunming Lake. Much of it is covered by Kunming Lake. With masterly design and artistic architecture and integrating the essence of Chinese garden arts, the Summer Palace has a title of "Imperial Garden Museum".

Temple of Heaven

The Temple of Heaven Park was the place where emperors of the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644) and Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911) held the Heaven Worship Ceremony. It is China's largest and most representative masterpiece among China's ancient sacrificial buildings.

It was first built in 1420, the 18th year of the reign of Emperor Yongle of the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644). It was enlarged and rebuilt during the reigns of the Ming emperor Jiajing and the Qing emperor Qianlong.



In 1988, the Temple of Heaven was opened to the public as a park, showing ancient philosophy, history and religion. Its grand architectural style and profound cultural connotation give an insight into the practices of the ancient Eastern civilization.

Covering an area of 2,700,000m², the Temple of Heaven is larger than the Forbidden City. As the 'Sons of Heaven', Chinese emperors were precluded from building a dwelling for themselves that was greater than the earthly

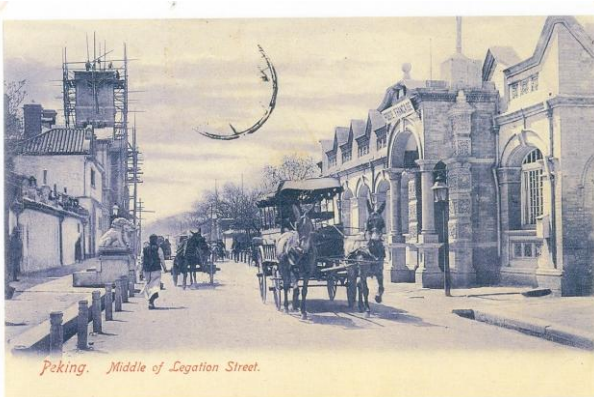
residence dedicated to Heaven: hence the difference in overall size of the two complexes.

The temple is enclosed by a long wall. The northern part within the wall is semicircular symbolizing the heavens; and the southern part is square symbolizing the earth. The northern part is higher than the southern part. This design shows that the heaven is high and the earth is low and the design reflected an ancient Chinese thought of 'the heaven is round and the earth is square'.

Old Legation Quarter

This will be a real treat. Most tourists will have never heard of it, let alone experience it.

Located on Dongjiaomin Lane, once called Legation St., the tree-lined Legation Quarter is Beijing's oldest embassy area, dating back to the end of the Second Opium War. It was an aftermath of the opium wars that foreign governments acquired the right to establish embassies in Peking.



The Legation Quarter is now a classy cluster of elegantly restored legation buildings towards the west end of Dongjiaomin Xiang. The commercial quadrant is home to several exclusive restaurants (including Maison Boulud), shops and an art gallery. Several of the buildings are restored old foreign embassies.

The Legation Quarter was also a focus for anti-foreigner sentiment in the years leading up to the Boxer Rebellion; and was famously under siege

during the uprising itself.

The Boxers, the 55 day siege, the relief of that siege by the Eight Powers Allied Army and their subsequent looting of Peking were the great convulsive acts of 1900 that fundamentally changed the Legation Quarter. After the siege the Quarter was encircled by a wall and all Chinese residents in the area were ordered to move out. the Quarter became a walled city; a city within a city exclusively for foreigners.

Epilogue: The Boxer Rebellion: 55 Days at Peking

Beginning in 1897, groups of peasants in northern China began to band together into a secret society known as Yihetuan ("Righteous and Harmonious Fists"), called the "Boxers" by Western press. Their



anger was aimed at the Qing dynasty and the presence of foreigners. This was against a background of grievances that included foreign political and military incursions, such as the Opium Wars and the growth of foreign spheres of influence (foreign concessions), as well as the spread of Christian missionaries. The Qing had been ineffective in dealing with these developments.

In 1898, conservative, anti-foreign forces gained control of the Government and persuaded the Boxers to drop their opposition to the Qing dynasty and unite with it in destroying the foreigners.

In June 1900, Boxer fighters, convinced they were invulnerable to foreign weapons, converged on Beijing with the slogan, "Support the Qing, exterminate the foreigners." They forced foreigners and Chinese Christians to seek refuge in the **Legation Quarter**. In response to reports of armed foreign landings and demands, the initially hesitant Empress Dowager Cixi, urged by the conservatives of the Imperial Court, supported the Boxers and on June 21 authorized war on foreign powers.

Diplomats, foreign civilians and soldiers, and Chinese Christians in the Legation Quarter were under siege by the Imperial Army of China and the Boxers for 55 days.

An Eight-Nation Alliance brought 20,000 armed troops to China, defeated the Imperial Army, and captured Peking on August 14, lifting the siege of the Legations. Uncontrolled plunder of the capital and the surrounding countryside ensued, along with the summary execution of those suspected of being Boxers.



However, the Boxer Rebellion weakened the Qing dynasty's power and hastened the Republican Revolution of 1911 that overthrew the boy emperor and made China a republic.



Drawn from Wikipedia, About.com, and Britannica