

WELCOME TO

BEIJING

BEIJING is one of the best city's to explore China's diverse culinary scene – but its immense size does mean that the more planning you do, the better. Designed by the foodies behind UnTour Food Tours, this guide will give you great dining tips along with practical travel information & hotel recommendations to help make the most of your trip.




FOR BREAKFAST

Beijing's favorite breakfast can be found at **Qingfeng Steamed Dumpling** shop – a great bet for your morning baozi. The selection is more narrow than some, but there's still a good variety – the majority of which are meat-based, like pork & onion (猪肉大葱 zhūròu dàcōng) or pork with pickled vegetables (猪肉梅干菜 zhūròu méigān cài). There's one veg bun (素三鲜 sù sānxiān).

Get there early before you start your day exploring, and by all means, avoid the typical hotel buffet breakfast.

Inside Beihai Park, 1 Wenjin Jie, Xicheng district. 西城区文津街1号北海公园里面.

 **Subway:** Line 6 – Beihai Park North.
Hours: 9am-6pm.


TOUR TIP


UnTour Food Tour's Beijing Hutong Breakfast walk takes place at 8 am on Wednesdays and Sundays or by private request. Explore the city's hidden culinary scene with a friendly, bilingual guide. [More info](#)



FOR THE BEST YUNNAN LUNCH

Within walking distance of the Forbidden City to the north, tucked away on a tree-lined avenue, **Little Yunnan** is a perennial favorite amongst locals and expats in the know. Yunnan cuisine is arguably China's most interesting region for visitors who might not typically associate the regional flavors with Chinese cuisine. Many of the country's minority groups live in the area, offering up some of China's biggest flavors, most biodiverse food and a plethora of mushrooms.

 **Order:** Shrimp in tea leaves (哈尼茶香虾 hāní chá xiāng xiā), pineapple rice (菠萝饭 bōluó fàn), crossing the bridge noodles (过桥米线 guòqiáo mǐxiàn), pan-fried Yunnan goat cheese (香煎水乳饼 xiāngjiān shuǐrǔbǐng)
28 Donghuang Chenggen Beijie, Dongcheng district. 东城区东皇城根北街28号.

 **Subway:** Line 6 & 8 – Nanluoguxiang.
Hours: Noon-9pm.
Menu: Chinese & English.

FOR PEKING DUCK DINNER



Head to **Bianyifang** for some of the city's finest duck. Back in the 1300s, the emperor was said to have eaten a duck per day, and his chefs were constantly trying to think of new ways to prepare the ducks to please him and gain favor. The most successful of these attempts hung each duck in a small, closed oven, sealing in the juices as the duck roasted. It was ordered so regularly by the emperor that it became popular

throughout his court and eventually the city. Don't miss this culinary masterpiece best enjoyed in Beijing.

Corner of Qianmen Dajie and Xianyukou Street 前门大街东侧鲜鱼口老字号餐饮一条街. Last order 9pm.

 **Subway:** Line 2 – Qianmen.


TOUR TIP

UnTour Food Tour's most popular offering is the Old Beijing Dinner Tour, which runs nightly at 7pm. 20+ tastings including unlimited beer and local spirits makes for a delicious and fun night out eating shoulder to shoulder with locals. Skip the touristy night markets at Wangfujing! [More info.](#)

FOR A UNIQUE TASTE OF BAIJIU – CHINA'S NATIONAL SPIRIT

Capital Spirits educates drinkers about the world's most consumed liquor from their cozy hutong location. You can try sample flights that encompass the liquor's diverse flavors from around the country and also try their baijiu cocktail concoctions.

16 Xin Si Hutong, Dongcheng district. 东城区辛寺胡同16号.

 **Subway:** Line 5 – Zhangzi Zhong Lu.
Tel: 6409 3319.

FOR A GREAT WALL DRIVER

English speaking coordinator **Patrick** helps organize a private car to the wall for affordable prices and can accommodate groups up to 10 people. Trusted by Embassy staff!
Email: 13501267887@139.com

FOR A FAB ART DISTRICT

798 is a Chinese contemporary art district with studios, galleries, shops and cafes housed in decommissioned military factories.

 **Taxi Directions:** Jiuxianqiao Lu, near Jiuxianqiu Bei Lu. 798 艺术院酒仙桥路近酒仙桥北路. No close metro.

DINE BY CUISINE



FOR DUMPLINGS

Baoyuan Jiaozi Wu Many colored dumplings in homestyle setting.

Recommendations: mutton with sour cabbage dumplings (羊肉酸菜饺子), kungpao chicken dumplings (宫保鸡丁饺子), purple crispy rice dumplings (紫甘蓝锅巴馅饺子), five-color eggplant (五彩茄子)

Tel: 6586 4967. 6 Maizidian Jie, Liangmaqiao, Chaoyang district. 朝阳区亮马桥麦子店街6号.

FOR SICHUAN CUISINE

Zhang Mama There is no English and often a line at this basic, homestyle restaurant, but it's worth the wait. Use the recs below to order.

Recommendations: Twice cooked pork (回锅肉), dandan noodles (担担面), bell dumplings (钟水饺), mapo tofu (麻婆豆腐), pickled lotus root (凉拌藕片), 蒜蓉西兰花 (garlic broccoli)

5 Fensiting Hutong, near Andingmen Inner Street. 安定门内大街分司厅胡同5号 (方家胡同西口对面)

FOR FANCY PEKING DUCK

Da Dong One of the best versions of the city's signature dish.

Recommendations: 'lean' roast duck (酥不腻烤鸭), brined duck liver (咸水鸭肝), braised eggplant (董事烧茄子), prawns in spicy sauce (宫爆虾)

Tel: 5169 0329. Building 1-2, 22A Nanxincang Shangwu Dasha, Dongsishitiao. 东城区东四十条甲22号南新仓商务大厦1-2楼

FOR XIBEI CUISINE

Zhen Ai Zhongguo Hidden Xi'an eatery with picture menu.

Recommendations: pork "burger" (肉夹馍) garlic crushed eggplant (元霸茄子), Chang'an fried chicken (长安葫芦鸡), qiugong noodles (狄公面)

Tel: 6712 1234. 5F, North Building, China Overseas Plaza, 8 Guanghua Dongli, Chaoyang district. 朝阳区光华东里8号院中海广场北楼5楼.

FOR CANTONESE CUISINE

Lei Garden Excellent Hong Kong style bbq.

Recommendations: roasted pork (冰烧三层肉), honey bbq pork (蜜汁叉烧), bbq goose (烤鹅), shrimp dumplings (虾饺), custard bun (流沙包)

Tel: 8567 0138. 2F, Building C, China Central International Trade Center, 6A Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang district. 朝阳区建国门外大街甲6号中环世贸中心C座2楼.

DINE BY CUISINE

FOR JAPANESE CUISINE

Okra Modern Japanese-influenced, fish-heavy menu .

Tel: 6593 5087. 2F, 1949 The Hidden City, Courtyard 4, 10 Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang district. 朝阳区南三里屯路10号.

FOR SPANISH CUISINE

Migas Restaurant, rooftop club, bubbly brunch spot – all in one.

Tel: 5208 6061. 6F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang district. 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园6层. **Subway:** Line 10 – Tuanjiehu.

FOR NORDIC CUISINE

The Georg High-end Scandinavian dining in a gorgeous setting.

Tel: 8408 5300. 45 Dongbuyaqiao Hutong, Dongcheng district. 东城区地安门东大街东不压桥胡同45号

FOR EUROPEAN CUISINE

Temple Restaurant Good for brunch (or any meal), TRB is one of Beijing's best.

Tel: 8400 2232. 23 Shatan Bei Jie, off Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng district. 东城区五四大街沙滩北街23号.

FOR COFFEE

Zarah Excellent al fresco spot for a cup of coffee, quick snack and decent wifi.

Tel: 8403 9807. 42 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng district. 东城区鼓楼东大街42号

FOR MEXICAN CUISINE

Taco Bar The name says it all for this cheap restaurant.

Tel: 6501 6026. Courtyard 4, 10 Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang district. 朝阳区南三里屯路10号4号院北京机电院内.

NIGHTLIFE



FOR COCKTAILS

1) Tiki Bungalow Rum drinks with a taste of Polynesia.

46 Fangjia Hutong, next to Peiping Taphouse on Jiaodouko Bei Santiao Hutong. 东城区方家胡同46号

2) Mei Bar Great whiskey options at Rosewood Hotel.

5F, Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang District. 朝阳区呼家楼京广中心北京瑰丽酒店5层

FOR A BREWERY

1) Great Leap Burgers & pizza meet excellent craft beers. 东城区春秀路新中街乙12号.

Tel: 6416 6887. **Pizza location:** 45-1 Xinyuan Jie, Chaoyang district. 朝阳区新源街45-1号. **Tel:** 5947 6984.

2) Jing A Taproom One of Beijing's original craft breweries, Jing-A is still one of the best. Expect a range of draft beers and good bar food (plus a popular brunch on weekends). Happy hour is 5-7pm Tuesday to Friday.

Building B, 1949 The Hidden City, Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District. 北京市朝阳区工体北路4号院1949大院内 京A Taproom

FOR A VIEW BAR

Atmosphere Sunset spot + good cocktails.

Tel: 6505 2299 x 6432. 80F, China World Summit Wing, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. 朝阳区建国门外大街1号北京国贸大酒店80层.



BEIJING BASICS

CURRENCY

Yuan, also known as renminbi (RMB) or kuai. Current exchange rates are 6.65 to the US\$ and 7.81 to the Euro.
Dialing code The country code for China is +86.

TAXIS ONLY

Hail taxis by waiting in the official taxi line at airports and train stations. Never respond to anyone who approach you – you are GUARANTEED to be scammed. Have your hotel address written in Chinese as well as in English. From Pudong International Airport to central Shanghai takes about an hour and costs RMB 180-220, depending on traffic.

Metro Subway stations are convenient, easy to navigate and include English signs. Ticket kiosks have a button in the upper-right corner to change the interface into English. Ticket prices range from RMB 3-5.

INTERNET & FIREWALLS

You'll find out that Youtube, Facebook, Twitter & The New York Times and many others are blocked – you MUST download

a VPN before arriving to access them, which enables access to blocked sites. [We recommend ExpressVPN.](#)

TEA SCAM

Young, friendly people will approach a tourist, engage them in conversation or ask them to take their picture. After exchanging pleasantries, they'll then inquire if they would like to drink tea, or go to a teahouse and talk further. After leading the visitor to an unlicensed café or simple living room to sample tea or coffee, the foreigner is presented with a bill that is much more expensive than it should be (sometimes into the thousands of RMB).

TIPPING

Tipping is not expected nor is it customary. Taxi drivers and waiters will generally not take tips. In high-end hotels and restaurants there is often an automatic 15% service charge added, and nothing is expected beyond this. Five-star hotel staff are accustomed to receiving tips. Local Chinese almost never voluntarily tip, so there is little risk of causing great offense.

3 MUST DOWNLOAD APPS

You should download these apps **BEFORE YOU LEAVE** in your home country's store so that you can use foreign payment methods.

OFO

China has been swept up in bike-sharing programs – if you don't want to rely on subways or taxis (often hard to hail on the street) this app is super convenient as you can rent a bike and leave it anywhere. There are over one million shared bikes on Shanghai's streets.

[Download on iTunes](#)

[Download on Google Play](#)

EXPRESS VPN

If you want access to most of the internet's top sites like Google, Gmail, Youtube, Twitter, Facebook & many more, you'll need to set up a VPN before arriving. There are many on the market, but we recommend setting up ExpressVPN before arriving China for your computer and tablet devices. [Download here](#)

DIDI CHUXING

The local version of Uber is now available in English, and is a great tool in your arsenal for when taxis are busy, rainy periods, or when the subway is closed.

[Download on iTunes](#)

[Download on Google Play](#)

WHERE TO STAY

FOR A GOOD DEAL

HAPPY DRAGON
COURTYARD HOSTEL

Happy Dragon Courtyard Hostel is a solid choice for an affordable glimpse into Old Beijing hutong life. Coupled with an amazing location next to a subway stop, food, bars & more, you've got a solid cheap option. They'll help with tours and logistics as well. [More info.](#)

FOR A STYLISH STAY



THE ORCHID HOTEL

The Orchid Hotel Beijing is a more upmarket take on the hutong experience, giving guests a chance to experience authentic architecture in traditional surrounds, but also with the modern comforts a discerning traveler expects. You'll be in the thick of the city's best area for hitting the tourist hotspots. [More info.](#)

FOR A 5-STAR EXPERIENCE



THE ROSEWOOD

The problem with staying here is that you might just never want to leave your hotel. Relax by the fabulous pool, dine and drink in the award-winning restaurants or just luxuriate at the spa. Just don't forget to get out and actually visit the Great Wall, too. [More info.](#)