

# A Look at Beijing



photo by Peter Krumme

## Mini Fact:

There are many ways to get around and explore Beijing, including pedicabs.

Beijing, China, has been in the news lately since the Winter Olympics are coming up. This week, The Mini Page takes a look at the largest capital city in the world.

## Capital

Beijing is the capital of China, which is in Asia. About 21 million people live in Beijing, with about 18 million living in urban districts or suburban townships.

Beijing has a very large number of billionaires living in the city and is known as the “billionaire capital of the world.”

One of the oldest cities in the world, Beijing has a combination of traditional and modern architecture. Gardens, palaces, temples, parks and tombs are spread through the city. Some popular tourist stops are the Temple of Heaven, Forbidden City, Ming Tombs, Summer Palace, Zhoukoudian, and sections of the Great Wall and Grand Canal. These places are all also United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites.



photo by Marc Thevenard

## Transportation

The subway is a popular way to travel in Beijing. The network of subways is the longest and busiest in the entire world. Beijing Subway is made up of 23 lines that span 434.5 miles, and it has more than 404 stations. And it’s still expanding!

Public buses, trolleys, bicycles, taxis and pedicabs are also popular modes, or types, of transportation.

A **pedicab** is a three-wheeled vehicle that is operated by a person who pedals. It has room for passengers to sit in a small carriage that is attached.



photo by doubleleaf chen

## Names

“Beijing” is the 16th name of the city. Many people have sought power throughout Beijing’s long history, and because of this, it has had many names.

The name “Beijing” means “Northern Capital,” and it was given this title in 1403 to differentiate it from Nanjing, the Southern Capital, by the Ming dynasty.

The city was originally called “Ji,” or “Jicheng.” Other former names of the city are: Dadu (The Great Capital); Yanjing (The Yan Capital); Zhongdu (The Central Capital); and Beiping (Central Peace).

## Food options

Those visiting or living in Beijing have many choices when it comes to **cuisine**, or food.

Beijing has several “snack streets,” which are lined with places selling food.



photo by gmacfadyen

A popular way for a family to spend an evening in Beijing is by going for a walk to a snack street. Family members will purchase items from **vendors**, or people who sell food, continue strolling as they finish what they eat, and then stop at another vendor for something else. This process continues until no one in the family is hungry any longer.

Beijing’s history is lengthy, and because of this, there are lots of different types of food to try.

Popular dishes in this city include: Beijing hotpot (thinly sliced meat and vegetables cooked in a large pot of broth); gangao potatoes (potato slices cooked in an iron pot with crispy pork and chilies, served on top of onions); Jiaozi (dumplings); Beijing roast duck; and spring rolls.

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPBeijing](https://bit.ly/MPBeijing)

### At the library:

- “Beijing: A Symmetrical City” by Dawu Yu and Yan Liu
- “The Apple Tree” by Jane C. Thai

## Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of Beijing are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ASIA, BEIJING,  
CAPITAL, CHINA,  
FOOD, GARDEN,  
MING, NORTHERN,  
PALACES, PARKS,  
PEDICAB, PORK,  
SNACK, SUBWAY,  
TEMPLES, TOMBS,  
VEGETABLES.

S E L P M E T P C N A N I H C  
A S N G N I J I E B E S T J E  
A E G V M D F N N D H W M N A  
K C A N S K Z O O Y I M I N G  
L A T I P A C R G O H C A K Y  
M L S P O R K T Y O D I A A A  
B A B Z D V D H I D S L U B W  
L P M O V E G E T A B L E S B  
K H O F H S K R A P E I K S U  
M F T M T I Q N N E D R A G S

## Cook’s Corner

### Chinese Sesame Vegetables

#### You’ll need:

- 1 (10-ounce) bag frozen broccoli
- 1 (8-ounce) can sliced water chestnuts, drained
- 1 (14-ounce) can bean sprouts, drained
- 3 tablespoons toasted sesame seeds

- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder



#### What to do:

1. Cook broccoli according to the directions on the bag, then pour broccoli into a big bowl.
2. Add water chestnuts and bean sprouts into the big bowl; stir.
3. In a small bowl, combine sesame seeds, soy sauce and garlic powder.
4. Pour soy sauce mixture over vegetables. Mix well. Serves 4.

\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. you use it to buy things (5) \_\_\_\_\_
2. something you don't tell (6) \_\_\_\_\_
3. big black bird (5) \_\_\_\_\_
4. where the pilot sits (7) \_\_\_\_\_
5. what you see in a theater (5) \_\_\_\_\_
6. take it easy (5) \_\_\_\_\_
7. yummy (9) \_\_\_\_\_

EY	MO	REL	VEN
SEC	ICI	RET	COC
KP	RA	OUS	DEL
AX	IT	VIE	MON

Answers: money, secret, raven, cockp, relax, delicious.



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## Mini Jokes



**Peter:** What’s one way we know the ocean is friendly?  
**Penelope:** It waves!

## Eco Note



One of the world’s rarest birds of prey appears to be taking a hemispheric grand tour after being spotted almost half a world away from its typical home in Far East Russia, China and Japan. The lone Steller’s sea eagle has so far been spotted this year by birdwatchers in Alaska, Texas and the Canadian Maritime provinces. Experts believed it migrated the wrong way, was blown off course or is just looking for a better home.

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## For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about Beijing.

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