

Ever since Marco Polo published his wide-eyed report on Khanbalaigh or Cambaluc, the city of the Mongol khans, Peking—as Beijing has been known for most of the past 300 years—has captured the Western imagination as few other ancient cities have. *Beijing Walks* presents six detailed walking tours of the most important historic quarters of the Chinese capital—the Forbidden City, the former Legation Quarter, Beihai Park, the Temple of Heaven, the Confucius Temple, and the Summer Palace.

All tours are placed in their imperial contexts and enlivened with drawings and photographs. *Beijing Walks* offers vital information on everything from *fung shui*, Pekingese dogs, and Peking duck to Peking Opera and the emperors' private lives, evoking the sights, sounds, and smells of old Peking, its pleasures and its grandeur.

Don Cohn lived in Beijing for five years in the early 1980s and has visited the city over 200 times since then. As a China scholar, he has written, edited, or translated over 50 books, articles, and reviews on many aspects of Chinese culture. He now divides his time between New York, Beijing, Shanghai, Tokyo, and Hong Kong.

- All the charm of life in imperial times
- Peppered with pithy observations by early visitors
- Fascinating 19th century engravings
- Walk-related hotels and restaurants
- A Beijing aficionado to guide you
- 384 pages
- 172 color photographs
- 45 maps

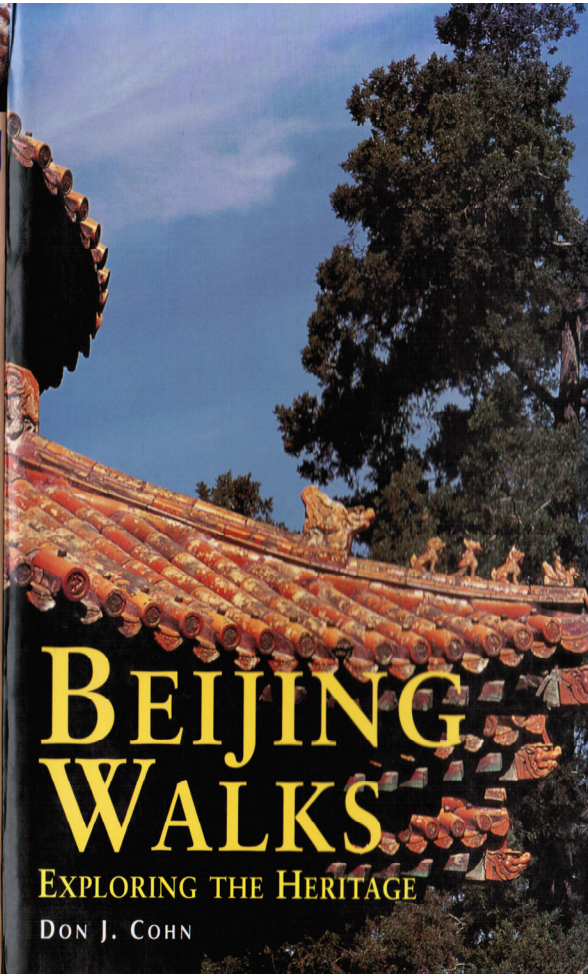


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BEIJING WALKS

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BEIJING WALKS

EXPLORING THE HERITAGE

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BEIJING AND CHINA ON THE WEB

The internet has changed forever the way we read, communicate and learn—even the way we think. The internet also changes the way we travel, supplying vast amounts of instant, yet not necessarily up-to-date, information on transportation, accommodation and sightseeing, often with commercial strings attached. Yet with all its virtues, the internet cannot replace this book, although you now may be reading it on a cell phone, personal organizer device, or some form of magic paper not yet invented as of this writing.

The following websites provide (in English) endless details and virtual touring:

Courtesy of the United States Government, see the Consular Information Sheet on China at <http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/china.html> (best and deepest “non-commercial” background coverage available) and also the Tips for Travelers to the People’s Republic of China, accessible from the same site.

The government of the United Kingdom offers similar parcels of fresh information at www.fco.gov.uk and then search China.

The Australian equivalent can be found at www.smarttraveller.gov.au and then search China.

Commercial websites for consideration include:

www.beijingpage.com

www.beijingtraveltips.com

www.thatsbj.com

www.thebeijingguide.com

www.travelchinaguide.com

www.btmbeijing.com (official web site of the Beijing Tourism Authority)

www.economist.com/cities/citiesmain.cfm?city_id=BJS (An online guide to travel in Beijing, including tourist sites, restaurants, nightlife, travel information and the latest news about the capital. An extraordinary satellite map of Beijing can be found on <http://maps.google.com/maps>).

For excellent customized tours of Beijing’s colorful *hutongs* and excursions to other off the beaten track locations, check out www.stretchaleg.com.

VISAS

Go to www.china-embassy.org/eng (Chinese government site for visa information)

www.travel.state.gov/travel/china.html

Most holders of foreign passports must have a visa in their passports in order to enter China. Visas can be obtained at Chinese embassies and consulates abroad and through travel agents. At present, Japanese tourists do not need visas for entry.

Tourist visas are generally valid for six months after the day of issue, for a single visit of one month’s duration. Tourist visas can be extended for an additional month at the Foreign Affairs section of any office of the Public Security Bureau. Visitors in Beijing must go to the Exit and Entry Management Section, Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, No. 2 Dong Da Jie, Andingmen, Dongcheng District, tel: 8402 0101. Multiple-entry visas valid for one or two years are also available from Chinese embassies and consulates. Passport photographs and fees are required for citizens of most countries.

If you are traveling to China with a group of ten or more people who will enter and exit China together, the travel agent may obtain a group visa. With group visas, individual passports will be sighted but not stamped by Immigration officials upon entry and exit.

CLIMATE, DRESS AND TIME OF TRAVEL

Although Beijing can claim to have four seasons, the finest days of the year are limited to a few fleeting weeks in spring and fall. Winters are very cold and dry, summers hot and sometimes rainy with varying humidity. The famous dust storms of March and April that have plagued the city for centuries color the atmosphere yellow and sometimes orange with silt from the Mongolian plains and dirt from the many construction sites. The storms can be depressing, terrifying and choking, as well as a great bother, as the dust lands everywhere, even seeping its way into sealed closets. Peking dust is so fine it seems to be able to penetrate glass, and your lips.