

DOING BUSINESS IN BEIJING



Beijing, China.

Beijing, formerly Peking, is the capital of the People's Republic of China and the second largest Chinese city by urban population after Shanghai. Located in northern China, it is the nation's political, cultural and educational centre and home to most of China's largest state-owned companies' headquarters. A city which continues to serve as a major hub for the national highway, expressway, railway and high-speed rail networks is home to the second busiest airport in the world by passenger traffic, Beijing Capital International Airport.

Beijing is one of the most visited cities in the world due to its business opportunities, rich culture and ancient civilization history.

Home to seven (7) World Heritage sites, travellers are encouraged to visit at least the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Palace Museum and Grand Canal as part of their experience.

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Here is your starting guide to travelling to Beijing for business and leisure.

Visa

Secure a travelling Visa from the Chinese Embassy in your home country. An invitation letter by suppliers is required for business travel.

Transportation

Buy a travel card to commute on buses and the subway. Collect a tourist map to help you move around this busy city. Beijing transportation via buses and the subway is relatively cheap and faster than taxis. Be prepared for congestion on the streets with people and cars.

Communicating

People in Beijing speak the official language of China, Mandarin Chinese. Most hotel staff speak English but communicating on the city's streets is difficult. It is important to have a Mandarin-English translator to accompany you on your trip. Hire a skilled translator who understands the language, dialects, travel routes and customs of the land to assist you in business negotiations and ensure your stay is comfortable.

Accommodation

Choose a hotel that is close to everything on your to-do list. If you are travelling for business, close proximity to your suppliers' factories and showrooms will cut ground transportation costs and reduce time spent in traffic. If you are travelling for leisure, accommodation near to tourist attractions and shopping malls will prove beneficial. Decide if you are looking for an authentic Chinese hotel experience or prefer a western chain. Stay near to subways and bus stations and match your accommodation with your budget and taste. Beijing offers accommodation from four and five star hotels to resorts and budget hotels.

Climate and Clothing

This city has four (4) seasons – spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Spring (April to May) is a windy, dry season frequented by sandstorms. Cold winds are also frequent during these months.

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This is still considered a milder season compared with summer and winter in Beijing and attracts many as a result. Pack mostly lightweight clothing as temperatures will rise rapidly throughout this time. Ensure you bring a few warmer items for the chilly nights.

Summer months (June to August) are extremely hot and humid with heavy rainfall. This is Beijing's rainy season. Heavy rainstorms are common throughout summer and may occur without warning. This can cause unexpected traffic congestion. Most restaurants and subway lines are air-conditioned. Pack light clothing, rain coats and boots.

Autumn (September to October) is the best time to visit this city. There is plenty sunshine and cooler temperatures. However, be prepared for an increase in rain. Pack lightweight clothes, raincoats and umbrellas.

Winter (November to March) is extremely cold with very little rain and sub-zero temperatures. Pack winter clothes including wool sweaters, coats, boots and thermal undergarments.

Currency

The official currency in China and used in Beijing is the Chinese Yuan also known as Renminbi (RMB). Use of foreign currencies is generally not allowed.

No Smoking

Smoking in all public places in the city has been completely banned since June 1st 2015. Persons are prohibited from smoking in almost every public venue including workplaces, shops, public bathrooms, hospitals, bars, restaurants, trains, buses and taxis. There is a fine for breaking this law.

Food & Beverages

Beijing is known for its rich food culture. The epitome of this city's cuisine is Beijing roast duck or Peking Duck. For an authentic Beijing dining experience try Jiaozi (chinese dumplings), Jing Jiang Rou Si (shredded pork in Beijing sauce), Gangou potatoes, Tudou Si (shredded potato) and Zhajiang mian (noodles with soybean paste). Authentic beverages to enjoy are Bubble tea, assorted Chinese teas, plum juices, Baijiu (strong spirits often made from rice) and Pijiu (beer).

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While Beijing is famous for its street food, tourists are advised to avoid its consumption for food safety reasons.

If you are interested in travelling to Beijing for business, here is your scoop on this city's manufacturing capabilities.

Business opportunities

Beijing is known for its strong presence of science and technology and R&D facilities. It is referred to as "China's Silicon Valley". Its industrial sector is dominated by heavy industries, metallurgy, chemicals, telecommunication, transportation, automobiles, pharmaceuticals and non-metallic mineral products.

Manufacturing sectors in Beijing

Heavy Industries & Metallurgy

Heavy industries and metallurgy play a key role in Beijing's industrial sector. Manufacturers in this sector produce high quality alloys, metallurgy products & processing equipment, sheet metal, steel products, injection moulding products, machinery parts, mining machinery, mineral separation equipment, magnetic materials, special powder materials, cell and electronic materials, mineral powders, mine chemicals and plant gums.



Port of Tianjin is the largest port in northern China and main maritime gateway to Beijing.

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Chemicals

Beijing industries specialize in the processing of petroleum, coking (a refinery process to produce coke which is a key raw ingredient used in steel production), nuclear fuel, non-metallic mineral products, raw chemical materials and chemical products.

Technology

Hi-tech industries in Beijing have been developed and promoted to compete with major global superpowers. If you are looking for telecommunication equipment, Beijing is your destination. One will find a range of information and communications technology (ICT) equipment from radio and television broadcasting and communications equipment to cellular phones, computer and network hardware and software, satellite systems and videoconferencing and distance learning equipment.



A team of assemblers work around the clock at the Lenovo factory in Beijing.

Automobiles

Since 2009, annual production of automobiles in China has exceeded that of the European Union or that of the United States and Japan combined. Beijing is China's largest automotive market and viewed by auto manufacturers as a gold mine.

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China's government mandates the development of clean and fuel efficient vehicles to reduce air pollution. Growth in this sector has been driving global demand for automotive parts, services and after-care car products. Currently, Beijing is home to BAIC Automotive Group Co. Ltd (BAIC Group) which is one of the five largest automotive groups in China.

This city is home to manufacturers of military vehicles, SUVs, trucks, buses, alternate fuel vehicles, electric cars, passenger cars and commercial vehicles. Manufacturers continue to engage in automobile research and development on a continuous basis to propel this sector.

At INVENI we can help you do business in Beijing. We offer customised trade tours to China for business delegations to visit factories, observe production processes and meet with manufacturers and suppliers face-to-face. To obtain more information, please contact Michelle Low Chew Tung at michelle@invenitt.com or visit us online at www.invenitt.com.

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