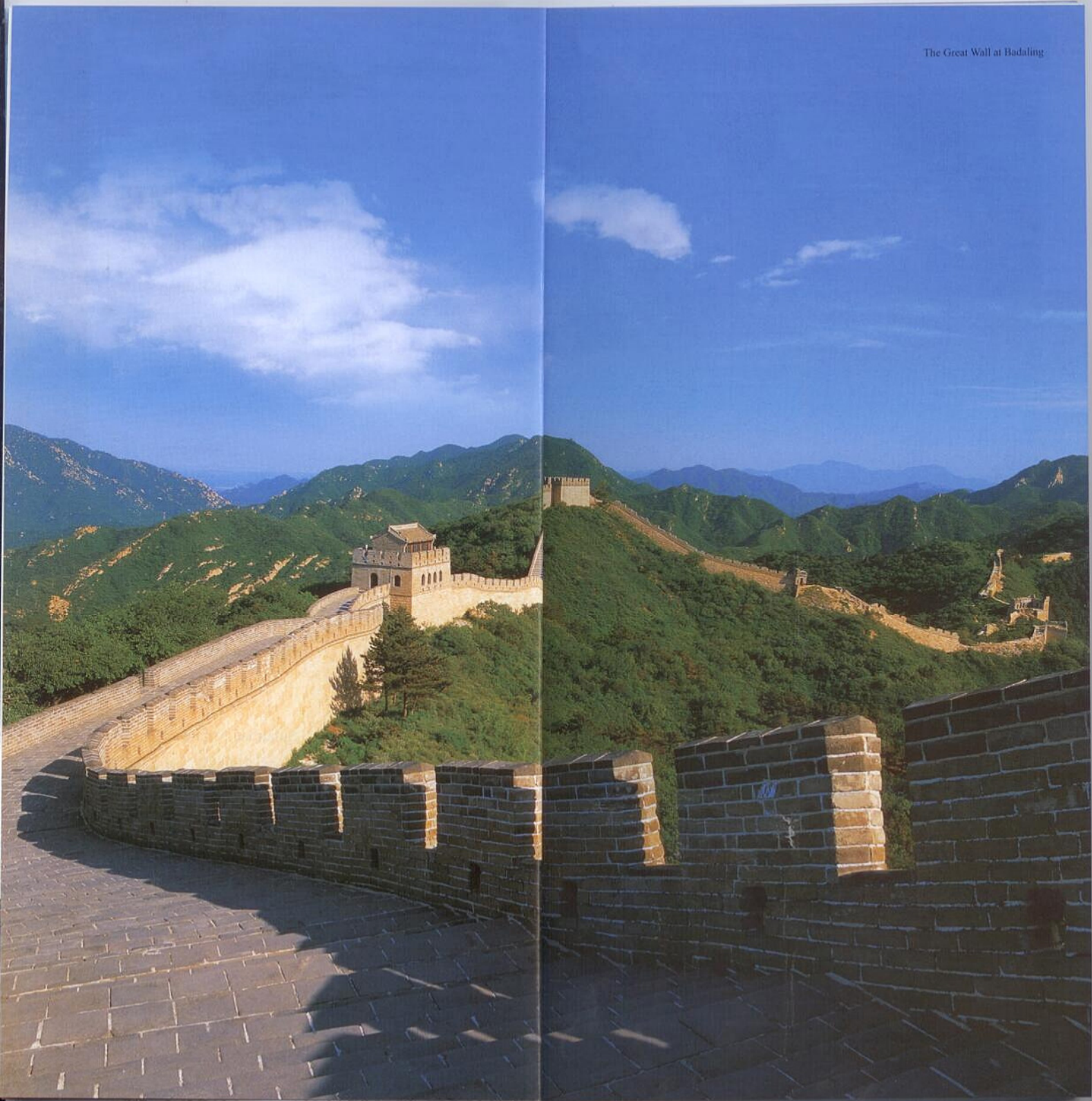
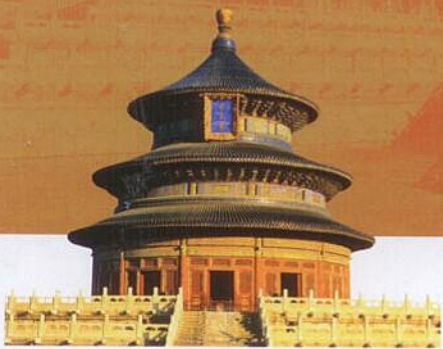


The Great Wall at Badaling





## Introduction



Palace Museum

Beijing, capital of the People's Republic of China, is the nation's political, cultural and international exchange center. Beijing has jurisdiction over 18 districts and counties, with an area of about 17,000 square kilometers and a total population of 17 million. Located in the northern part of the North China Plains, Beijing has a semi-temperate and semi-moist climate with four distinct seasons, short springs and autumns, and long summers and winters.

Beijing is a famous historical and cultural city in the world, and one of the seven ancient capitals in China. Some 700,000 years ago, Peking Man, a type of early man from the Pleistocene age, lived at Zhoukoudian. In 938 Beijing served as the attendant capital of Liao Dynasty (916-1125); and later as the capital of Jin (1115-1234), Yuan (1271-

1368), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, totaling 800 years. Therefore this ancient capital in the East boasts a great number of places of scenic and historic interest, which enjoy a high reputation in the world because of their large sizes and outstanding positions, such as the Palace Museum, the largest complex of palace buildings in the world; the Great Wall, known as one of the eight major scenic wonders in the world; the Temple of Heaven, the largest temple for worshipping Heaven in the world; the Ming Tombs, the densest imperial mausoleums in the world; and the Summer Palace, the largest imperial garden in the world. Like sparkling stars, they are the embodiments of ancient Chinese culture and the nation's feelings, nurturing Beijing's

Beijing Roast Duck



tourism resources with profound connotations.

Surrounded by high mountains, the suburbs of Beijing have beautiful natural scenery, which consists of green trees, ancient temples, flowing streams, overhanging waterfalls, and simple and unsophisticated villages. Hence the suburbs of Beijing are very attractive to Chinese and foreign tourists. In addition, along with the development of urban construction, the cultural spots have sprung up like bamboo shoots after a spring rain, including large-size amusement parks, zoos, botanical gardens, urban plazas and parks. They add radiance, beauty and charm to Beijing, an ancient and modern city.

Beijing is a world-renowned tourist city, and its tourist corresponding facilities are



The giant Buddha at the Yonghe Lamasery

being improved with each passing day. Now Beijing boasts over 650 star-rated hotels, over 790 travel services, a great number of tourist guides who can speak 21 categories of languages, a good environment and high-quality service. Beijing is a city deeply loved by overseas tourists.

Over the past two decades or so, Beijing has developed rapidly, and become a modern metropolis well known in the world. The coming Beijing 2008 Olympic Games is adding boundless opportunities and vitalities to the ancient city. Beijing is welcoming friends from all over the world with its special features of an ancient capital and modern style.

Visit the Temple of Heaven



## Touch Beijing

