



THREE DAYS IN BEIJING

TASTE A SAMPLE OF FC'S THREE DAYS IN BEIJING

The Vietnamese restaurant – *Nuage* 庆云楼 offers one of the best views – with a rooftop dining area that looks out on to the *Drum and Bell Towers* 钟鼓楼 and *No Name* Yunnanese restaurant 无名云南餐厅, has another rooftop area and a well priced menu. Search out the tiny European wine bar, *Les Baie Des Anges* 尼斯的天使湾.

But don't overlook the fast developing Chinese wine industry - *Grace* vineyard 怡园酒庄 in Shanxi province is making some the best of the currently available Chinese wines.

Choose your time of visit carefully. Make sure it is not during May Week – the traditional workers holiday throughout China and first week of October – known as Golden Weeks, in the country. And keep in mind that the weather is very cold from the end of October until April.

Make sure you always carry the address - written precisely in Mandarin **AND** telephone phone number of your destination. All taxi drivers have phones and will check. Even the best-detailed addresses can be hard to find. The best bet is to hire a car and driver to go to out of town destinations like *Great Wall* 长城. As long as you don't require a Rolls Royce or book through your hotel, you can hire a moderate car for around 500RMB per day, such as with *Black Taxi* 黑的士 13501151378

DAY ONE

Explore the Ancient Heart of the Kingdom

HISTORY WALK

Tiananmen Gate 天安门

Best place to view the square.

Open daily 8.30am – 4.30pm, Entrance fee 15 RMB

North End *Tiananmen Square* 天安门广场北端

Chang'an Jie 长安街

Dongcheng District 东城区

Try to catch the Flag Lowering ceremony in the square at sunset every day.



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Legation Quarter 东交民巷

From *Tiananmen Gate* 天安门 walk southeast on Qianmen Dong Daijie 前门东大街 (meaning “front gate”) to the *Legation Quarter* at no. 23 (bordering *Dongjiaominxiang*).

Wander round this former site of the U.S. Legation to the Qing dynasty during the 1900’s, undergoing redevelopment as a luxury precinct boasting six haute cuisine restaurants – including *Maison Boulud* 米其林餐厅, an art gallery, theatre and designer retail shops.

23 Qianmen Dong Daijie 前门东大街23号

Tel. 6522 4848

www.legationquarter.com

Turn back into *Dongjiaominxiang* (“East Diplomatic Alley”) to glimpse some of the best remaining examples of European-influenced architecture in the city.

See the old French, Austro-Hungarian, Belgian, Japanese, Italian and British legations (*Yokohama Specie Bank* 横滨正金银行, *Citibank* 花旗银行 now site of the Beijing Police Museum 北京警察博物馆), *Calyon Bank* 东方汇理银行, *Russo-Asiatic Bank* 华俄道胜银行, the International Club; and Gothic-style *St. Michael’s Catholic Church* 圣弥额尔天主堂(北京西堂).

LUNCH

Tian di Yi Jia 天地一家

Imperial cuisine a stone’s throw from the *Forbidden City*.

Hark back to Colonial days in a grand, nobleman’s courtyard house of cool, dark rooms with antique latticed windows and a myriad of screened private alcoves, overlooking an inner water feature and courtyard. Enjoy the fine art collections of calligraphy and water paintings, a large Tang dynasty mural and Ming and Qing style furniture.

A peaceful place to digest a perfectly balanced meal of traditional food and service, (although the food can be a little oily for Western palates), with a reasonable wine list.

The menu includes both Imperial and Cantonese cuisine – with all the high status foods such as *Shark’s Fin Soup*, *Abalone*, *Fois Gras*, *Excellent Vegetarian dumplings*, *Poached Assorted Seafood*; *Crispy Beef with Chilli & Garlic* 68 RMB. An interesting choice on the dessert menu is the restaurant’s signature *Shang bu Jan* – of sugar, egg yolks and lard.



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Accompany your meal with a glass of Loire white wine and a glass of Longjing tea - traditionally served in a wineglass in order to observe the quality of the long leaves.

FC is amused at the very practical gesture of the charming waitress of tucking the napkin under the plate!

Open daily 11am – 2pm
Dinner 5pm – 9.30pm
140 Nanchizi Daije
Dongcheng 东城区南池子大街140号
Tel. 85115557

GALLERIES

Beijing Art Museum of the Imperial City 北京皇城艺术馆

Across the road from the restaurant, wander down a winding path in a narrow park beside an original moat along the South wall of the Imperial City to Tiananmen Gate - to a contemporary art museum, housed in an original courtyard building.

This gallery offers a taste of both old and new China, with an intricate scale model of the ancient Imperial city based on the Beijing City Panorama of 1750, and a UNESCO World Heritage List plaque behind the last remnants of the imperial city wall, plus its exhibitions of established masters and emerging talent from China and around the globe.

Open Tuesday to Sunday 9am - 4pm, Entrance fee RMB 20
9 Changpuheyuan
Nanchizi Daije
Dongcheng 东城区南池子大街菖蒲河沿9号
Tel. 6523 9146
www.bamoic.info

Wanfung Gallery 云峰画苑

Cross Nanchizi Daije 南池子大街 for a look at the oldest surviving Imperial Archival vault in China, located behind a Hong Kong owned gallery of immense scale – established in 1986, before the current global craze for Chinese art. Wander into the ancient courtyard to view *Huang Shi Cheng* 皇史晟. It was built to hold veritable records, Imperial charts & genealogies, the Yong Le encyclopaedia compendium of Qing Law and collection of the Imperial General's seals in 1534, during the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Note the exquisite animal and people sculptures on the roof.