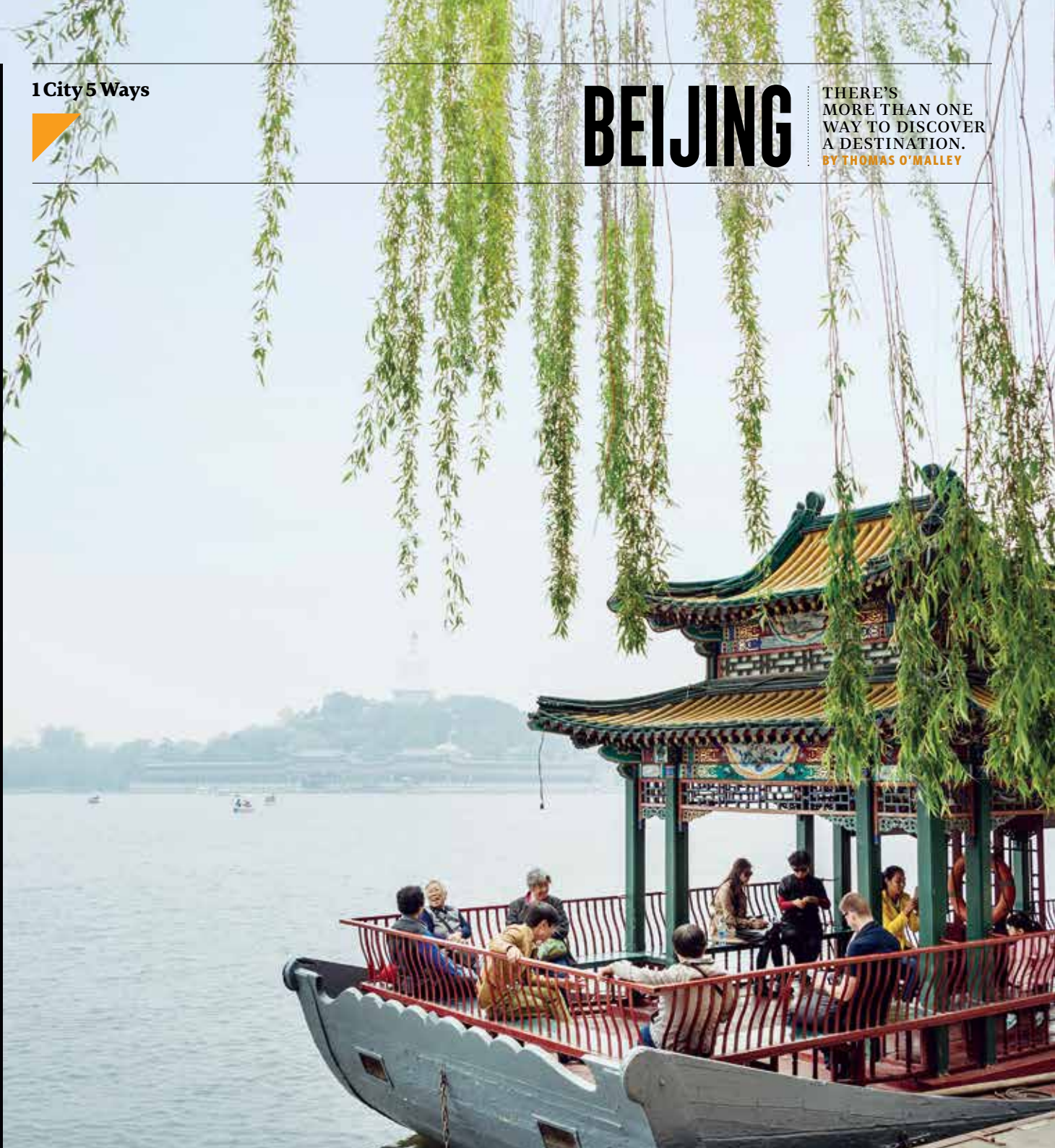




BEIJING

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO DISCOVER A DESTINATION.
BY THOMAS O'MALLEY



BEIJING CAN BE A CONFOUNDING CAPITAL—at once ancient and futuristic, Communist yet creative, East meeting West and all the rest. What this means, of course, is that the city has something to offer many different types of travelers, whether you're after five-star luxury or gruff *hútòng* alleyway hospitality. In lifestyle terms, the Chinese capital is slowly but surely catching up to chic sibling Shanghai, and culturally, few other cities can match Beijing's bevy of palaces, temples, triumphant Socialist monuments and a rather great wall, snaking through the mountains that shelter Beijing from the wilds beyond.

BEIJING

HARMONY SEEKER



◀WHERE TO STAY Graceland Yard Hotel

Slumber in the vestiges of a 500-year-old temple deep within Beijing's *hutong* alleyways, where eight mismatched rooms are styled with wooden furnishings and serene Buddhist décor. Order room service or head to nearby *hutongs* for tasty treats. graceland-yardhotel.com

MORNING ▶ Tang Massage

The traditional treatments here will help your qi flow freely; try moxibustion, a needle-free alternative to acupuncture where dried mugwort is burned near the skin. The heat of the "moxa" expels cold, or yin, and warms your meridians, leading to well-being. [8 Jiaodaokou Dajie](http://8.Jiaodaokou.Dajie)



◀LUNCH Country Kitchen

With your yin expelled, time to feast on yang, or warming food. Lamb is particularly yang, so head to the rustic-chic restaurant at the Rosewood Beijing for its northern Chinese-style leg of lamb—salted, spiced and roasted over a fruit wood fire. rosewoodhotels.com/en/beijing

AFTERNOON ▶

Temple of Confucius

A short walk from the incense and crowds at the Lama Temple, Beijing's Temple of Confucius is comparatively serene, a sanctuary shaded by ancient cypresses and populated by thousands of stone stele inscribed with the names of scholars past.



DINNER King's Joy

This elegant vegetarian eatery serves the cuisine enjoyed by Buddhist monks for generations—with a dash of culinary magic courtesy of chef Pan Jianjun, a former Buddhist disciple himself. kingsjoy.cn

REVOLUTIONARY

WHERE TO STAY ▶

China Great Hall Hotel

Located near the Great Hall of the People (China's parliament), this building was strictly for government cadres until recently, when it opened as a public hotel. Pull back the curtains to gaze out on Tiananmen Square. chinagreathallhotel.com



MORNING ▶

Chairman Mao Memorial Hall

Watch the dawn flag-raising ceremony from your room, then skip out to Tiananmen to line up with other faithful to view the embalmed corpse of Mao, draped in the red flag of the Chinese Communist Party.



AFTERNOON TEA

Beijing Hotel NUO

Feast on finger sandwiches and scones with clotted cream at Beijing's original grand dame, formerly the century-old Grand Hotel de Pekin'. Mao was even said to have cavorted on the dance floor in the Writer's Bar. nuohotel.com/changan



◀AFTERNOON The Story of Communism in China

This guided tour skips across the capital to reveal the party's roots, the early years of Mao and the lives of the Soong sisters, China's most famous revolutionary spouses. bespoketravelcompany.com

DINNER ▶ TRB Hutong

Modern European dishes and the city's best wine list unfold in the environs of Zhizhuzi, a Buddhist temple. Take a stroll after eating; the temple served as a TV factory post-1949, and faded Maoist slogans are still visible. trb-hutong.com



OLD BEIJINGER



◀WHERE TO STAY

The Orchid Private Residences

These serviced rooms put guests in intimate proximity with the real Beijing. Apartments come with kitchenettes, but you can still breakfast at The Orchid Hotel, just a stroll away. theorchidbeijing.com



◀MORNING

Jingshan Park

Rise early and join your fellow *lao* (old) Beijingers in the capital's most happening hangout for the over-60 crowd. Then clamber up the hill to Wanchun Pavilion to see the sun warming the arched rooftops of the Forbidden City.

LUNCH Wang Pang Zi

Wang Pang Zi (Fatty Wang's) is Beijing's most famous purveyor of donkey-meat sandwiches, or *liuou huoshao*, a local favorite. The braised meat is diced with crunchy green peppers and crammed in a crisp, toasted bun. 80 Gulou Xidajie

AFTERNOON ▶ Panjiayuan Flea Market

Dig through this magpie's nest of Chinese curios and you might find Little Red Books, cigarette posters or faded photos of old Beijing residents. Avoid buying anything claiming to be from earlier dynasties, though—chances are it's a fake.



◀DINNER Bianyifang

Beijing Bianyifang Roast Duck Group Co. claims to have been roasting fowl since 1416. Their antique method results in juicier meat with softer skin, which eaters stuff into hollow sesame rolls, though pan-cakes and duck sauce are available. bianyifang.com

VIP PARTIER

WHERE TO STAY ▶

Vue Hotel Hou Hai

This new boutique bolthole next to Houhai Lake knows how to party. Moon Bar, a swish cocktail terrace, boasts its own Jacuzzi—or take the party to your suite, where the hotel will lay on a private DJ and free-flowing wine and Spanish canapés. vuehotel.com.cn/houhai



LUNCH ▶ Unico Beijing

Lounge on the all-white Perrier-Jouët terrace and drink in the killer skyline views with your champagne and Latin beats, as the sweet aroma of grilling lobsters reminds you that it's probably time to eat something. Life is hard. unicobeijing.com



AFTERNOON ▶

Parkview Green

Browse through Beijing's trendiest shopping mall, a futuristic glass pyramid of designer wares from the likes of Stella McCartney and Sandro, along with playful sculpture and fabulous restaurants. parkviewgreen.com



EVENING Club Sir.teen

Party with Beijing's *fuerdai* (wealthy second-generation Chinese) at this outrageously glitzy megaclub—all lasers, Chivas Regal and Russian models. The EDM-synched lightshow is something else, and if you order enough champagne, you'll get special attention. 6 Gongti Xilu

LATE-NIGHT EATS ▶ Bellagio

Head to this Taiwanese eatery on the Gongti Xilu club strip to get your fix of *sanbeiji* (three-cup chicken), XO mushrooms and mango shaved ice. 6 Gongti Xilu



BEIJING PUNK



WHERE TO STAY P. Loft Youth Hostel

Formerly a military weapons depot, this industrial-styled hostel is popular with young Chinese for the cheap dorm beds, bar and basketball court. Best of all, it's a short stagger to School Bar, hands-down Beijing's best punk club. ploft.cn

◀MORNING Gulou Dong Dajie

Ground zero for Beijing punks, this hip street has record stores (check out Indie Music), vintage clothing emporiums and countless shops hawking cheap Chinese electric guitars. Cap it off with a rhythmic recital in the Qing-era Drum Tower.



◀LUNCH

Punk Rock Noodles

Originally opened by Lei Jun—the much-loved frontman of Beijing rockers Misandao, who passed away in 2015 at age 40—this memorabilia-filled diner attracts local rockers for noodle-centric tribute fare. 25 Donggong Jie



◀AFTERNOON

Dongyue Temple

With its life-sized diorama depictions of Taoist hell and its incongruous downtown locale, this is one of Beijing's most hard-core temples—and potentially a source of lyrical inspiration for that song you're working on. 141 Chaowai Dajie



◀LATE NIGHT

Temple Bar

A Gulou institution, Temple serves as both a live rock venue and a late-night booze den for scenesters, with dozens of amusingly titled shooters poured at the bar. 206 Gulou Dongdajie