



At Nanluo Guxiang, shops are in typical Chinese hutongs.



The newly built The Village is home to the world's largest Adidas shop and Beijing's largest Uniqlo store.



Knick-knacks can make the best souvenirs.

Shop like a Beijinger

Finding your way around Beijing is no easy task. Because of the language barrier and the gigantic size of the city, many of the city's best haunts are never discovered by visitors. Shopping is no exception, as many people wind up at the touristy markets. The outcome: simple copies and high prices.

The rule of thumb is to go where the Chinese go. It is always cheaper to shop in the areas that specialise in one type of good than to visit, say, Silk Market that tries to offer everything under one ceiling.

In all privately owned shops, you can haggle over the price. Many goods are produced nearby and are sold even if the profit is not much. So it is still possible to get a great deal. Low costs guarantee cheap prices on handmade goods such as suits or jewellery.

Asian design should not be underrated. Clothes makers in Beijing get their inspiration from the West as well as Japan and Korea, resulting in clothes that cannot be found in Europe. The Chinese are also very skilled at

Follow the lead of shop-savvy Beijingers, and discover stuff that tourists would otherwise never get close to.

By Jojje Olsson Photos Jesper Lindquist

making copies; for example, electronics and sports equipment made within the country are good value for the money. Do not be afraid of domestic brands!

Getting a real bargain and finding something unique is much more fun than haggling over copies at tourist-crowded markets. So dare to skip Silk Market, and instead shop like the locals. The places listed below are visited by more Beijingers than tourists. And who do you think knows the city best?

Best of Beijing

Dongwuyuan Wholesale Market 动物园批发市场
Owners of small shops go on a pilgrimage here to buy clothes without any middlemen at Beijing's cheapest market. If you are willing to spend a couple of hours, you can find some excellent deals. Unique bags and dresses are crammed in along with plagiarised T-shirts. Lovely winter coats for a couple of hundred kronor can also be found. The enormous basement is recommended.
Xizhimen Wai Da Jie, Xicheng District
Getting there: Subway line 4, Beijing Zoo station

Zhongguancun 中关村, 海龙电子城
"China's Silicon Valley" is home to the city's cheapest electronics. Special bargains are accessories such as external hard drives, which can be built by request. Around half a million people work in the area, either in the shops or the mall. A must for the gadget geeks! Hailong Market sells every computer and camera accessory imaginable on its lively seven floors.
Hailong Market, 1 Zhongguancun Jie, Haidian District
Getting there: Subway line 4, Zhongguancun station

Pan Jia Yuan Antique Market 潘家园旧货市场
The world's largest antique market with 4,000 stores spread over 50,000 square metres. Here you can find everything from jewellery and ornaments made by ethnic minority groups, to statues several metres high and mass-produced communist kitsch. The market is at its biggest early Saturday and Sunday. A great place to get gifts – unbelievably cheap but yet you can haggle on everything.
Panjiayuan Bridge, Chaoyang District
Getting there: Subway line 10, Jinsong station, then walk south for 300 metres

The Village at Sanlitun 三里屯Village
A newly built and well-visited outside shopping street. The world's largest Adidas shop is here, as is China's first Apple store. Many Western brands, but also several big Asian names; see Izzue and Uniqlo in particular. It is popular among middle-aged trend-conscious people because of its large selection of clothes and restaurants, as well as the area's futuristic design.
19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Getting there: Subway line 10, Tuanjiehu station, then walk west for 600 metres

Xidan shopping district 西单, 大悦城
Few tourists make their way to Beijing's largest shopping district. Here there are a handful of gigantic department stores in all price classes. Newly built Joy City houses shops like Zara and H&M on 13 floors. Xidan Shopping Centre is across and is the place to go for copies, accessories and shoes. There is also a huge shopping complex underground. Extremely popular among the Chinese.
Joy City, 131 Xidan Bei Da Jie, Xicheng District
Getting there: Subway line 1, Xidan station

My Tailor 三里屯雅秀服装市场
Some of the city's best-value tailors are at the Yashow clothes market. My Tailor speaks good

English and is skilled at copying images. Can also sew dresses and traditional Chinese costumes. Shirts cost around 15 dollars, suits with two shirts around 150. They also have nice silk fabric here.
Third floor at Yashow Market, 58 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District
Getting there: Subway line 10, Tuanjiehu station, then walk 800 metres to the left

Gulou Dong Da Jie/Nanluo Guxiang 南锣鼓巷
This area has become popular for second-hand and small underground shops featuring local designers. In contrast to Xidan, all the stores are in small Chinese one-story hutongs. Though the selection is small, there are a lot of highly original clothes and souvenirs. Dozens of music shops sell instruments. Authentic Chinese and relaxed atmosphere.
33 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng District
Getting there: Subway line 2, Gulou Dajie station

Uniqlo
Successful Japanese chain that resembles H&M. Innovative Japanese designers deliver simple yet cool clothes and accessories at low prices. Jeans here, which come in several models and colours, are a great deal. Over 800 shops in Asia, of which seven are in Beijing. The largest is in The Village at Sanlitun.
The Village at Sanlitun, Chaoyang district
Getting there: See The Village at Sanlitun

Wu Yu Tai Tea Shop 吴裕泰茶店
You can buy tea for a fraction of the cost here. However many of the large tea markets have turned into expensive tourist traps, and your best bet is one of the big chains where the Chinese themselves go. Wu Yu Tai has been around since 1887 and has a couple hundred shops in Beijing. Slightly more expensive than the smaller chains, but the items are guaranteed to be of top quality. Often has temporary promotions. Free gift-wrapping.
Getting there: On most large streets. Look for a green logo with English text.



Good-value gifts at Nanluo Guxiang.



MY
BEIJING

Anders Karlsson, 36, has lived in Beijing for over five years and works with IT for a Swedish company.

Your family has a day to spend shopping in Beijing. Where would you take them?

First we would head to the area by Houhai and Nanluo Guxiang, where there are loads of small shops selling odd clothes, handicrafts and paraphernalia. Afterwards we would go to The Place, a large, modern shopping centre with many well-known shops. Prices are lower than in Europe, and the entire complex, with its unique design and the world's largest digital TV screen, is well worth a visit. It's nice to spend the evening around Qianmen, just south of Tiananmen Square. The area is home to a 600-year-old shopping centre, which was freshened up for the Olympics. On the nearby small cross-streets, it feels like time has stood still for several centuries.

How are things different in China?

Since everything here is cheaper, one difference is that you go out on the weekends. There is so much to choose from that it's rare to spend the night at home. Though the tempo is higher, there is always something to do and you never get bored. A couple of drawbacks are the traffic and the long distances, which cause you to spend a lot of time in taxis with curious drivers eager to practise their English.

Do you have any tips about an area or club where someone could spend a Saturday night?

At the newly opened The Village at Sanlitun, there are many good-value restaurants with both Western and Asian food. I like Element Fresh, which serves fresh organic food. It's close to the bar Punk, with its great atmosphere and exciting DJs. For people who want to go out clubbing, there are many big places in the neighbourhood. Suzie Wong is a classic, with good partying every day of the week.

What is the easiest way to get around Beijing?

It's often easiest to take a taxi, and taxis are very cheap. But during rush hour, between 4pm and 7pm, the subway is often faster, especially for long distances around the centre. Line 9 opened this summer, and stations are located near most sights and shopping areas. Biking is a good way to explore the city. But avoid the bus unless you can read Chinese.



SAS flies daily to Beijing from Copenhagen. A round-trip ticket costs 80,000 points.