

## Tianjin, China



Traditional Chinese music drifts from an open window. As the delicate sounds of stringed instruments fills a studio, an artist paints a woodblock print with vibrant pinks, blues, yellows, and greens. Strung with red lanterns, the street below elegantly links a historic neighborhood with the cosmopolitan surroundings of a great metropolis. Rising around the banks of the Haihe River and the Grand Canal, Tianjin combines the comforts of a modern city with the delights of a historic destination that clings to its revered cultural heritage. Encounter the classical pagodas, European mansions, and unrivaled natural settings of this distinctly international locale.

### Memorable Experiences

#### On the Waterfront

Gaze at spectacular architecture lining the Haihe River on a river cruise.

#### Inspiring Ride

Soar high above the city with a 30-minute ride on the Tianjin Eye.

#### Exceptional Views

Dine atop the Tianjin TV Tower and watch the city light up at dusk.

#### Outdoor Splendor

Stroll among exotic flora at the Tianjin Tropical Plant Garden.

### Distinctive Details

The sound of a jinghu drifts across the stage and the voice of a dazzlingly costumed emperor rises to meet its melody. A prestigious Chinese art form, Beijing Opera is an integral part of Tianjin culture.

### Starwood Preferred Guest Recommends


#### Xiangsheng

Speaking, imitating, teasing, and singing are four skills that combine in xiangsheng. A comedic form of dialogue rich in puns and delivered in a rapid style, xiangsheng was often performed in Tianjin markets in the early 20th century.


### Destination Information

**Country** China  
**Elevation** 3 meters  
**Population** 11,760,000  
**Language** Mandarin

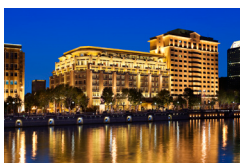
 **Area Code:** 22  
**Country Code:** 86

 **Tianjin Binhai International Airport (TSN)**

 **Transportation:**  
Taxi, Metro, Train, Bus

 **Renminbi (Chinese Yuan)**

### Nearby Luxury Collection Hotels and Resorts



#### The Astor Hotel, Tianjin

33 Taier Zhuang Road  
Tianjin, Tianjin 300040  
Phone: (86)(22) 2303 2026



## Culture

Art, architecture, and nature converge in settings of unparalleled enrichment.

## Family

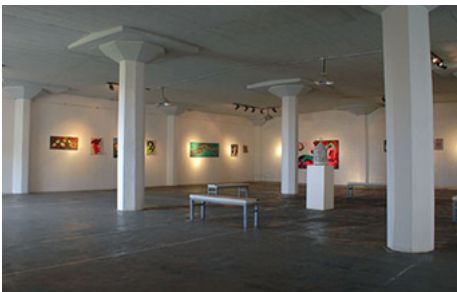


### Tianjin Water Park

Pink blossoms burst from delicate branches in spring, while orange maples gently shed their leaves in fall. In winter, a blanket of white snow covers the ground, and during the warm months of summer, rowboats ply the lakes. With its goldfish ponds, arched footbridges, and groves of weeping willows, Tianjin Water Park is an oasis of tranquility during any season. A singular destination where the grace of Chinese culture mingles with the magnificence of nature, the park features rides for children as well as an island covered in scenes from Buddhist stories.

**Address: 33 Water Garden North Road, Nankai District**  
**Phone: (86)(22) 23350095**

## Highly Recommended



### Huitai Art Center

Wide canvases hang on the freshly painted walls of a former warehouse. Colorful paintings glow in the light, attracting the eye with their electric hues of lemon, fuchsia, and lime green. This inspiring industrial space, once home to Jardine Matheson, Tianjin's largest foreign export company, dates back to 1861. Tall beams support the brick ceilings of exhibition spaces where the vibrant works of some of the world's most innovative artists are displayed. A centerpiece of the city's burgeoning No. 6 Art Zone, this acclaimed gallery hosts a diverse program.

**Address: 3rd Floor, Building E, No.6 Art Zone, Taierzhuang Road, Heping District**  
**Phone: (86)(22) 28352525**

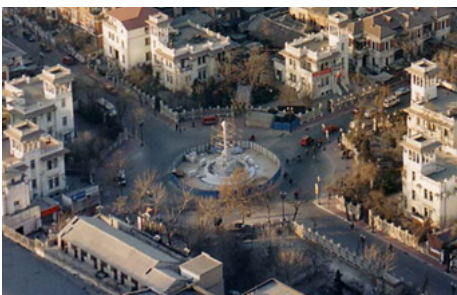


### Tianjin Museum

Pale blue glass curves against the darkening sky. Illuminated as night approaches, the majestic architectural landmark reflects in the waters of a still lake. Resembling a graceful swan with wings outstretched, this vivid museum houses a vast trove of unparalleled artifacts from the Tianjin region's extraordinary past. The history of Chinese calligraphy unfolds in a hall devoted to the intricate art form, while exquisite jade dragons and tortoise shells carved with Shang Dynasty inscriptions lie among the splendid artifacts in the Hall of Treasures.

**Address: 31 Youyi Road, Hexi District**  
**Phone: (86)(22) 58793000**

## Neighborhoods



### Italian Quarter

Grand Italianate villas line elegant streets. Gothic towers crown a former church. Atop a towering Romanesque column, a victorious angel holds her laurel wreath high. Dating from the early 12th century, Tianjin's Italian quarter is filled with picturesque buildings where the city's scholars and aristocrats once dwelled. Recently renovated, the district begins around Yigong Round Square, once known as Marco Polo Square, in a gracious cityscape of stone buildings and refined landscaping. Stroll beneath the leafy trees of this distinctive neighborhood.

**Address: The Southern part of Hebei District in downtown Tianjin**



## Shopping

Atmospheric boutiques and market stalls offer authentic treasures of art and antiquity.

## Local Specialty



### Music Street

Graceful notes merge with the exuberant rhythms of a band of Dagu drummers performing on Tianjin's Music Street. Dozens of stalls set up outside offer an assortment of musical delights while inside, a spirited melody drifts from shops filled with traditional instruments. The four-stringed pipa, with its graceful pear-shaped body, lies alongside a sanxian, a type of lute with a long neck and a wooden box wrapped in snakeskin. In one of the myriad boutiques brimming with musical treasures, a child taps the strings of a yangin, filling the room with enchantment.

**Address: Near the Tianjin Conservatory of Music, Hedong District**

## Neighborhoods



### Ancient Culture Street

Beyond a tall gate ornately adorned with vivid patterns of blue and gold, a historic road emerges. Evocative buildings, styled after traditional Qing Dynasty architecture are defined by tiled roofs and carved wooden balconies. Beneath strings of red lanterns, street vendors sell regional handicrafts alongside picturesque storefronts overflowing with fine goods. Folkloric scenes in bright shades of pink and aqua cover the walls in Chinese New Year poster shops, while tiny bearded men in flowing robes line the shelves of stores dedicated to Clay Figure Zhang.



### Yangliuqing Town

Morning sunlight shines on the open street, filtering through a delicate canopy of green leaves. Tranquility pervades this cool avenue as dozens of market vendors open their small wooden shacks for business. Framed paintings faded by time, trays brimming with antique watches, and well-crafted furniture spill out onto the sidewalk. A table neatly arranged with clay pots and porcelain teacups leads to a long row of regal swords. Dancing ladies hand-painted upon fans of silk enliven a nearby stall while Chairman Mao gazes out from his portrait next door.

**Address: 15 kilometers west of Tianjin City Center**



### Shenyang Street Market

Morning sunlight shines on the open street, filtering through a delicate canopy of green leaves. Tranquility pervades this cool avenue as dozens of market vendors open their small wooden shacks for business. Framed paintings faded by time, trays brimming with antique watches, and well-crafted furniture spill out onto the sidewalk. A table neatly arranged with clay pots and porcelain teacups leads to a long row of regal swords. Dancing ladies hand-painted upon fans of silk enliven a nearby stall while Chairman Mao gazes out from his portrait next door.

**Address: Shenyang Street, Heping District**



## Cuisine

Elements of culinary tradition and modernity combine in Tianjin's varied kitchens.

### Acclaimed



#### C'est La Vie

The simple elegance of a third-floor dining room sets a minimalist scene for a feast of tantalizing French fare. Over the rim of a footed white bowl, melted gruyere cheese forms an exquisite soupe a l'oignon gratinee. Typical French sandwiches combine authentic European elements like Emmentaler cheese, smoked salmon, and ham on crusty baguettes. Specialty entrees include a terrine de foie gras and a dish of tender veal. Renowned as one of Tianjin's most exceptional French restaurants, C'est La Vie offers a distinguished wine list to match its singular menu.

**Address: Building D, 3rd floor, Joy Downtown, Tianta Rd, Nankai District**  
**Phone: (86)(22) 23419808**

### Indigenous Flavors



#### Eight Great Bowls

A collection of porcelain bowls emerges from the kitchen. The steaming concoctions of traditional Chinese delicacies are arranged upon the table in a wonderfully symmetrical circle of eight. One of the northeast coastal region's most historic and authentic dishes, the eight great bowls come in two varieties. The smooth group includes options like fish file, boiled shrimp, and beef shredded Sichuan style. While the rough group usually features fried shrimp, boiled chicken, and seared carp. Often served at banquets, the eight great bowls are perfect for groups.

### Local Specialty



#### Baozi

Pillowy dough encases the minced delight that lies within. Pinched at the top, abundant forms swell like overfilled purses. Bite into soft outer skin and let the salty ginger spiced pork overwhelm the senses. Baozi, or steamed buns are an essential element of national cuisine throughout China, and most every region has developed a slight variation on the standard. In Tianjin, the specialty dumplings are known as Goubuli Baozi, or "Go Believe" in English. Developed over one hundred years ago by a young local chef, they were favored by the Empress Cixi.

### Neighborhoods



#### Nanshi Food Street

Gilded dragons cling to shiny red pillars. Silken tassels dangle from elaborate lanterns. A culinary paradise where all manner of Chinese delicacies are on offer, this magnificent village of classical buildings combines the simplicity of street food with the glamour of old fashioned eateries. Palm-sized dumplings known as goubuli baozi, one of Tianjin's most renowned specialties, are placed in their own individual bamboo steamers. Rolls of dough are twisted, sweetened with sugar and ginger, and fried to form ma hua. Grand feasts emerge from fine kitchens.

**Address: Nanshi, downtown Tianjin**



## Noteworthy

Enchanting locales near and far offer afternoons of astonishing delight.

## Day Excursions



### Panshan Mountain

Intriguing granite formations jut out from among conifer forests. Pine-scented breezes drift among the myriad tiers of inspiring pagodas. A radiant sanctuary, enriched by the serenity of an unparalleled natural landscape, this exquisite peak is celebrated as one of the most extraordinary mountains in all of China. Rising to a height of eight hundred sixty-four meters above sea level, this verdant oasis abounds with delightful sites. Over one hundred historic temples dwell amidst crystal streams and charming gardens, forming a panorama of calm enrichment.

**Address: 100 kilometers north of Tianjin; 12 kilometers northwest of Jixian County**



### Great Wall at Huangyaguan Pass

A gentle mist clings to mossy green peaks, hovering within deep valleys. Crenellated towers rise above the lavender haze. Linked by long ribbons of gray stone, they form part of the impressive fortress, the Great Wall of China. Named for the yellow-tinged cliffs nearby, this ancient stretch is known as the Huangyaguan Great Wall. A powerfully moving site built during the sixth century, and restored under the Ming Dynasty, the exceptional structure winds dramatically through the mountain range, meandering up and down the steep ridges of the terrain.

**Address: Ji County, 126 kilometers north of Tianjin**

## Highly Recommended



### Tianhou Palace

Ribbons of smoke unfurl in graceful tendrils from the saffron and crimson sticks of an incense altar. The ethereal aroma of sandalwood fills the inner sanctuaries of a vibrant palace. An arched entrance, flanked by red lanterns, beckons toward the ancient halls, temples, and pavilions of Tianhou Palace. Here, statues of mythological immortals reside among stone lions and brass dragons. Built in 1326, this rare palace, devoted to the Queen of Heaven, is one of the oldest of its kind in China.

**Address: Ancient Culture Street, Nankai District**