



**5th Meeting of the Virtual Laboratory Management Group
Beijing, China, 12-14 July 2010
Seminar on Training Matters, Beijing, 15-16 July 2010**



Beijing local climate in July

- Beijing has a continental climate. The weather in July is hot with frequent rain, with a daily minimum of about 21.6 °C, and a daily maximum of about 30.8 °C. The mean monthly total precipitation is 176 mm and the mean number of precipitation days of 14.



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Beijing Capital International Airport

- Beijing Capital International Airport is one of the largest airports in China. It is 27 kms from the city centre and takes about 60 minutes from the airport to CMATC. The taxi fare into the city is about RMB 100-120 and in addition there is a RMB 10 highway toll the passenger is expected to pay.
- Arriving passengers should avoid the “taxi touts” who lurk in the arrival hall. The taxi queue is immediately outside the arrival hall.
- In addition to taxis, an airport shuttle bus is also available at the airport from 7:00 to 22:30. Outside the arrival hall, there are several shuttle buses going to different places in the city with the unified price of RMB ¥ 16. Please choose the line from the airport to “Gong Zhu Fen” (the Princess’s Tomb), which is No. 4 line shuttle bus. If you want to go to Hubei Hotel, please get off the bus at “You Yi Bin Guan” (Friendship Hotel) stop and then take a taxi to the hotel. The shuttle bus price is RMB ¥ 16 Yuan and the taxi fare is around RMB ¥ 10 Yuan. If you want to go to Shen Zhou International Hotel, please get off the bus at “You Yi Bin Guan” (Friendship Hotel) stop and then take a taxi to the hotel.
- The last airport shuttle ends after the last flight in the day no matter how late the flight delays. But after 2230, it only leads to Xidan direction. Xidan area is in the city centre and you can easily get a taxi (24 hours) to go to places you like.



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Taxis

- Taxis are available any time day or night and the normal way to get one is to hail them in the street. Empty taxis can be identified by a red lit meter that is on the top of the dashboard and can be seen from the front. The basic flag-fall is RMB 10 Yuan for the first three kilometres then, RMB 2 Yuan per km. After 11pm the flag-fall becomes RMB 11. There are also additional charges for highways e.g. the airport highway toll fee is RMB 10 Yuan.
- Taxi drivers do not accept credit cards.
- Passengers should ensure the meter is turned on, and pay what is on the meter. Always get a receipt (fapiao) as this also includes the phone number of the taxi company in case you wish to recover an article left behind or to lodge a complaint.



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Bank and Exchange Rate

- Bank of China is located to the north of CMA main (west) gate, about 5 minutes' walk.
- China Construction Bank is located within CMA compound, on the north side of the main road leading to CMA west gate.
- Foreign Exchange Rates: The currency in China is the RMB. The current rate is:US\$1= RMB ¥ 6.8 Yuan.



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How to make international phone calls

- You can buy IP phone cards
- IP cards are available in small grocery store or newsstand everywhere on the street. After the discount, one RMB 100 IP card usually costs RMB 38-40. If it costs RMB 5 per minute for you to call from Beijing to your home country, the total time for one IP card is therefore 20 minutes.



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Sights

Beijing has been the capital of China for 500 years, and as a city is a lot older than that. There are many historical and cultural attractions in and around the city. The major attractions are:

- The Great Wall The closest section of the Wall are Badaling and Mutianyu. It is possible to visit each of these sections with a half day (they are about 1.5 hours driving time)
- The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square
- The Temple of Heaven
- The Summer Palace



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Shopping

- Carrefour supermarket It is to the south of CMA compound, just opposite to New Century Hotel. It takes about 25 minutes to walk from CMA to the supermarket.
- Guomei Electronic Store - The Carrefour supermarket is on the ground floor, and this store is on the second floor, where a diversity of electronic productions is available, such as cell phones, mp3, and computers.
- Shangpin Discount Department Store - It is on the third floor, just above Guomei Electronic Store.
- Silk Market Siushui Dongjie, Chaoyang District (close to the US and New Zealand embassies) - Clothes galore – bargain like you mean it.
- Ya Xiu Clothing Market - 58 Gong Ti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District - Bargain like you mean it.
- Hongqiao Market - Northeast of Temple of Heaven - Pearl necklaces, curios, handicrafts, leather clothing, briefcases, handbags, clocks and farm produce.