

QINGDAO (青岛)



Qingdao, known for its world-famous Tsingtao beer, is a north eastern coastal city, situated in Shandong Province. This beautiful seaside city was once a colony of Germany and Japan and today many German-style buildings stand in amongst those typical of modern day China. Owing to its location, the city is an important port for international trade and is known throughout China for its good air quality, its gorgeous beaches and its greenery. Qingdao is a very popular holiday destination for domestic tourists, as well as a popular spot for foreign expats to settle in.



Attractions

Wusi Square: This translates as May 4th Square and was built in 1997 to commemorate Qingdao's significance in the May Fourth movement initiated by dissatisfied students in 1919. The Square, which faces city government building, is designed to encourage patriotism. A large red monument stands in the square and stands to represent the greatness of the May Fourth Movement and national power.



Getting there: Take bus no.317 or 601 and get off at Wusi Square Station; or take bus no.25, 31 or 316, get off at the Municipal Government Station and walk south.

No.1 Bathing Beach: This is said to be the largest sandy beach in Asia and is known for its clear water and soft sand and was made by the Germans in 1901. The beach is a popular destination for tourists and locals and it's lined with beach huts, restaurants, bars and cafes. It's a great place to sit and watch the world go by and makes for a welcome break from the hustle and bustle of Chinese cities.



Getting there: 6, 15, 26, 214, 223, 304, 311, 312, 316

Badaguan Scenic Area: Badaguan, which means eight passes, is a pleasant scenic area in Qingdao, made up of several avenues, which are home to various European style buildings, beautiful flowers and tall, green trees. The area is free to wander around and makes for a nice stroll.

Getting there: Take bus no. 26, 31, 202, 206, 223, 228, 231, 304, 311, 312, 316, 317, 321, 370, 468, 501, 604 or 605, and get off at Wushengguan Road Station.

Small Qingdao Island: This island is located to the south of Zhang Bridge and is a lovely area of unspoiled natural scenery, where visitors can explore. It's possible to either walk along the coastline to enjoy the gentle ocean breeze, or sit on the beach and enjoy the peace. There are also statues and pavilions dotted around the island.



Getting there: Small Qingdao Island can be reached by taking bus no. 6, 26, 202, 214, 223, 228, 231, 304, 311, 312, 316, 321, 501 and 504 to getting off at Luxun Park Station, and walk along Qinyu Road to its entrance.

Mount Laoshan: Located to the east of Qingdao, this is a tall mountain famed for its beautiful scenery and sea views. There are 3 different routes that visitors can choose to take, along which there is a combined total of 220 scenic spots, including waterfalls, palaces and temples. As the most famous Chinese coastal mountain, this is a must-see for any visitor to Qingdao.



Getting there: Which route you decide to take will determine which bus you should take to get there. Follow [this link](#) for more information.



Zhan Bridge: Zhan Bridge, also known as the Grand Pier, is a paved walkway which stretches 440 meters into the sea. It was originally built as a naval pier, but is now one of Qingdao's most popular tourist attractions. At the end of the bridge, stands the Huilan Pavilion, a beautiful Chinese style building.

Getting there: Take bus no.2, 5, 8, 25, 26,231, 301, 304, 305, 307, 316, 501

Qingdao Beer Museum: This is the first museum of its kind to exist in China and it's become a very popular attraction among both Chinese and foreign tourists. A visit here will allow you to see how the beer is brewed, taste a sample and buy a freshly brewed bottle of Tsingtao.



Getting there: Take bus no.205, 217, 221 or 604 and get off at the museum.

Food

As a seaside city, the local cuisine in Qingdao is dominated by seafood, cooked using various methods to produce deliciously fresh dishes. As a popular tourist and expat city, it's easy to find a wide range of restaurants serving dishes from all over China, as well as popular foreign cuisines, such as Italian, German, Japanese and Korean.

Chili Sautéed clams (la de gala): If you like seafood and can handle spice, this dish is a must-try. When you take your first bite, they don't seem so spicy, but it soon kicks in!



Qingdao Cool Vermicelli Noodles: This dish is made up of slippery, chewy noodles, which are covered in a sauce. They come in all different flavours, so whether you are looking for sweet and sour, spicy or salty you are sure to find something you like. This dish is typically eaten by locals looking to cool down during the hot Qingdao summer.

Pork and Cabbage Baozi: Steamed buns are an extremely popular delicacy throughout Shandong Province and Qingdao is no exception. These pork and cabbage steamed buns make for a delicious snack in between meals and can be purchased for as little as 1-2 RMB.

Seafood Noodles: This great local dish is a noodle soup containing various types of seafood and vegetables and can be found all over the city.

Roast Squid: This can be found on almost every street food stand in the city and makes for a delicious on the go snack. It's basically a piece of squid on a stick, which is barbecued to order and covered in a spicy powder. If you aren't willing to try street food, they can be found in restaurants too.



Qingdao Potstickers (青岛锅贴): This is one of Qingdao's most well-known dishes and is a type of dumpling, which is steamed on one side and pan-fried on the other. They can be ordered with all kinds of fillings, including shrimp, vegetables, lamb, beef or pork and are delicious!



Accommodation

Qingdao Kaiyue International Hostel: This hostel has been around for over 10 years and has recently been refurbished. It is a modern, comfortable hostel equipped with air conditioning and heating and western style bathrooms. Kaiyue Hostel is conveniently located for access to the main tourist attractions and there is a great communal area to relax in after a day of sightseeing.



Wheat Hostel: Owned by a very friendly couple, this hostel is a great place to stay in Qingdao and is located close to the main tourist attractions. Simple, clean private and dormitory rooms with air conditioning and heating are offered. The hostel is only an 11-minute walk from the beach and an 8-minute walk from the Railway Station. Zhan Bridge is only a 5-minute drive away.

Entertainment

Qingdao has quite a lively nightlife and the entertainment district, located in the Shi Lao Ren Tourism Holiday area, is the place to be for anyone looking to go on a night out.

Bars

Honolulu Club, Floor 1, Huiquan Dynasty Hotel, 9 Nanhai Road

Freeman Coffee House, 38 Hubei Road, Shinan District

Music Kitchen, 5 Hong Kong Middle Road

JFK Bar, 2 Zhanghua Road

Hailedi KTV, 109 Jiangxi Road



Qingdao Night Market: This bustling market is a great place to try some local food and do some shopping. Things tend to quieten down quite early in Qingdao and the market is no different - it closes at 10pm.



Beer Street: Located on Dengzhou Road in Shibei District, this street features beer from all over the world in over 60 bars and shops. It's a great place to try some of the local beer and to experience the beer culture of the city.

The Cinema: If you're looking to watch a film, then Huiquan is the place to go. This is an underground cinema close to the beach which has very good facilities and a good selection of films.

Getting around Qingdao

Metro: Qingdao's metro system is under construction and currently has one line in operation. [Metro line 3](#) currently runs between the North Railway Station and Qingdao Railway Station from 06:15 to 21:30 every 7-8 minutes. The city plans to have 10 more lines in operation by 2020, covering most of the city.

Bus: Qingdao is a very hilly city, making public buses the most convenient and quickest mode of travel. It's unusually rare for many people in Qingdao to use motorcycles or electric bikes.

The standard bus fare is 1 RMB and on an air-conditioned bus, it's 2 RMB. If you pay by transportation card (Qindaotong), you will get a 20% discount.

Buses run all along the coast and between the main tourist attractions of the city, making it easy to get around

Taxi: Taxi is another convenient way to travel in the city and most drivers charge by meter for short trips. Meters tend to start on 9 RMB for the first 3km and then increase by 1.5 RMB per km after that.

Sightseeing Boat: Known as "The Blue Sea Pearl", this boat allows passengers to see and access many of the main attractions. It departs from the Olympic Sailing Centre at 10:30 and 15:00 and tickets cost 80 RMB.

Travel

Airport: Located around 23km from the city centre, Liuting International Airport is Qingdao's closest airport. It operates over 400 flights to cities all over the world, including Busan, Frankfurt, Los Angeles, Singapore, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Beijing, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Shanghai and Xi'an.

There are [five shuttle buses](#) running between the airport and downtown, covering most parts of the city.

Railway: Qingdao's train station was built in 1901 by the German's and the architecture makes no secret of that. Having maintained its German appearance through expansion, it stands in stark contrast to most train stations across China.



Trains run from here to cities all over Shandong Province, as well as to places a bit further afield, such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Nanchang, Xuzhou, Zhengzhou, Xian, Lanzhou, Xining, Chengdu, Taiyuan.

Qingdao – Beijing: 5 hours

Qingdao – Shanghai: 7 hours

Qingdao – Jinan: 3 hours

Qingdao – Harbin: 11 hours

Qingdao – Wuhan: 9 hours

Long-distance Bus: Qingdao has eight passenger coach stations, which run regular long-distance buses to cities and regions across China. Shifang Long-distance Bus station (No. 2, Wenzhou Road) is the largest.

Ship: Due to its location, it is possible to travel by sea to South Korea and Japan from the city's passenger port at No. 6, Xinjiang Road, Shibei District. Currently, it's possible to travel by ship to Incheon, South Korea; Shimonoseki, Japan; and Shanghai.