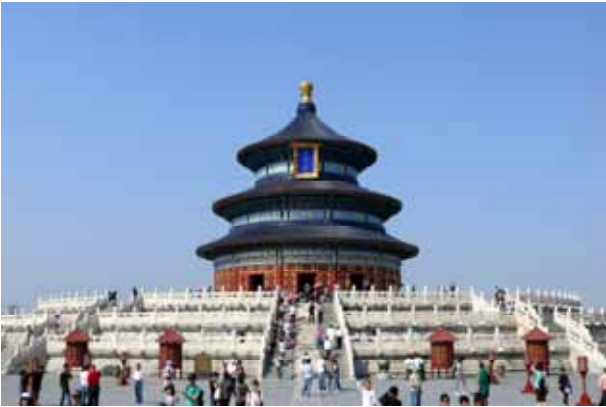




# Temple of Heaven

fact sheet

The Temple of Heaven is located in the southern part of Beijing, and has been one of the most religiously significant places for the whole country for more than 500 years. The Temple of Heaven park comprises of a variety of buildings which were used specifically by the Emperor for religious ceremonies. The buildings, though Imperial, are vastly different in shape and colour to the Imperial Palace.



The Temple of Heaven combines the architectural technology and design of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Shape plays an important part in all of the buildings. The circular buildings signify heaven and the square buildings signify earth. The Emperor would visit the Temple twice a year to pray for good harvest. These practices continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century until the Emperor was overthrown in 1911.



The Temple of Heaven was originally constructed in 1420, and extended in 1530. The building itself is architecturally significant as it is the largest wooden structure in the world which is held together without the aid of a single nail.



The Temple of Heaven park is almost 3km<sup>2</sup>, acting as a relaxing escape from the bustle of Beijing. The park boasts over 3000 cypress trees, including 1 tree which is over 600 years old. The early morning is a great time to see local Chinese people practising their Taichi and various other exercises.