

General Information

Beijing

Beijing has been the capital of China for over 800 years dating back from Yuan Dynasty, and home to 34 emperors who ruled China's vast territory. Its unique history, culture and characteristics bequeathed many famous historic sites of great aesthetic and cultural value. A walk through the city reveals dozens of places worth more than just one visit: The Great Wall, The Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, The Summer Palace, Yonghegong Lamasery, Daguanyuan, The Ruins of Yuanmingyuan, Lugouqiao, The Bell Tower and The Drum Tower, many of which are recognized as World Cultural/Heritage Sites by the United Nation.

Today, Beijing remains the center of national politics, economics, culture and tourism. While preserving its historical and cultural heritage, the city has been transforming itself into a world-class city. With connections to over 60 cities worldwide and advanced transportation network to link up different corners of its nation, the city is the host of 2008 Olympic Games, demonstrating its vigor and youthfulness to the world. IROS 2006 offers its participants a great opportunity to see and feel the city where one should never miss its unique and harmonious mixture of ancient civilization and modern accomplishments while enjoying high quality conference program.

The entire area of Beijing within the city limits is - in many ways - one great historic museum. The original city plan was divided in four. The innermost rectangle is the Forbidden City, now a museum and public park, but formerly the residence of the Ming and Qing emperors. The second rectangle forms the boundaries of the Imperial City, enclosing residences and parks for the former senior government officials. The outer rectangle forms the outer city with its markets and old residential districts. The Imperial Palace, lying inside the Forbidden City and surrounded by a high wall and broad moat, is probably China's greatest surviving historical site. Dating from the 15th century, the Palace was home to a total of 24 emperors and, today, its fabulous halls, palaces and gardens house a huge collection of priceless relics from various dynasties. The surviving city walls are impressive monuments, as are the traditional hutongs, enclosed neighborhoods of alleys and courtyards. Other points of interest are the Coal Hill (Mei Shan), a beautiful elevated park with breathtaking views; Beihai Park, the loveliest in Beijing; Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world, surrounded by museums, parks, the zoo and Beijing University; the Temple of Heaven, an excellent example of 15th-century Chinese architecture; the Summer Palace, the former court resort for the emperors of the Qing Dynasty reconstructed in traditional style in the early 1900s after Western attacks, looking out over the Kunming Lake; the Great Wall (see below), the section at Badaling being some 72km (45 miles) from Beijing; and the Ming Tombs, where 13 out of the 16 Ming emperors chose to be buried. Two magnificent tombs here have been excavated, one of which is open to the public.

Attractions

- **Tiananmen Square**

Located at the center of Beijing City is Tiananmen Square, where you can visit Tiananmen Tower, Monument to the People's Heroes, Great Hall of the People, Mao Zedong Memorial Hall and see the national flag-raising ceremony. Thousands of people come to the Square every day.



- **Forbidden City**

The Forbidden City (known officially as the Imperial Palace Museum) was commissioned by the third Emperor of the Ming Dynasty, Emperor Yong Le. The palace was built between 1406 and 1420, but was burnt down, rebuilt, sacked and renovated countless times, so most of the architecture you can see today dated from the 1700's and on wards. The Forbidden City was the seat of Imperial power for 500 years, and is now a major tourist attraction in China. The total area of the complex is 183 acres, so it takes quite a while to walk through, especially if you want to have a close look at everything. All together there are 9,999 1/2 rooms in the Museum, not all of which can be visited.



- **Great Wall**

A symbol of ancient Chinese civilization, the Great Wall has stood for more than 2,000 years. The wall was built in stages from the 5th century BC up to the 16th century AD as protection against northern nomadic tribes. Stretching from the coast of the Bohai Bay in the east and ending at the Jiayu Pass in the west, it snakes along the back of mountains, deserts and valleys for 6,350km (3900 miles). It is said to be 1 of the only 2 human engineering projects visible by astronauts from space with the naked eye. Built of huge granite slabs and special sized bricks, the Great Wall at Badaling 75km (47 miles) north of Beijing is most typical of the Wall during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). There the wall is wide enough for 5 horsemen to ride abreast or 10 men to walk side by side.



- **Summer Palace**

Summer Palace is a favorite among tourists sightseeing in Beijing. Indeed, it is one of the best parks in the city. Originally it was a retreat for emperors to escape from the scorching summer heat of Beijing. The Summer Palace was used by emperors for 800 years, but fell into disuse in the



18th century. Then in the 19th century, the Empress Dowager Cixi made massive renovations and restored many buildings using money funneled out from the state treasury.

- **Temple of Heaven**

China's largest temple and altar complex, the Temple of Heaven in the southern part of Beijing covers an area of 270 hectares. The Temple of Heaven is an exquisite and extraordinary example of Chinese religious architecture. Construction of the temple began in 1420 and at the temple emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties worshipped heaven and prayed for abundant harvests.



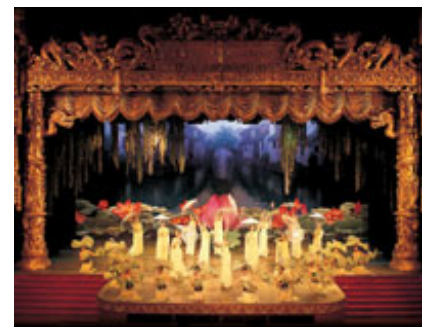
- **Hutong Tour**

This tour takes you back to the old days of Beijing. Hutong is the Chinese name for the ancient city alleys and narrow lanes originally built in the Yuan Dynasty, where neighborhoods are made up of traditional courtyard-style homes. Ride in an old-fashioned pedicab through the Hutong district during this guided tour.



- **Beijing Night Show**

Beijing Night Show Beijing Night offers a show named The Great China, which is a performance displaying traditional Chinese historical culture. The show is composed of 6 scenes and each one tells a famous historic story by the splendid and wonderful performance. 3 of them are named Ceremony of the Imperial Palace, Romance of White Snake and The Splendor of the Forbidden City. Guests from home and abroad give high praises for the performance of The Great China.



- **Peking Opera**

An art genre that is more than 200 years old, Peking opera dazzles the eyes with elaborate make-up and costumes, enchants the ears with beautiful melodies and grabs the hearts with complicated dramas. This performing art lures those who are keen to learn about the Chinese culture.



For further information, please visit <http://www.bjta.gov.cn>

Weather

Beijing has a warm and temperate climate, featuring four distinctive seasons with short spring and autumn and long winter and summer. Summer is hot and humid in Beijing, with temperatures in July averaging at 32 degrees Celsius (90 F). It's fairly cold in winter when the air is dry, with an average temperature of -10 degrees Celsius (14F) in January.

The best tourist season in the Chinese capital is autumn. With blue sky and crisp air, which make the mild weather in Beijing even more pleasant, the temperatures in September and October range between 15 to 20 degrees Celsius (59-68 F).

Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Mean Temp. (C)	-4.4	-2.1	4.7	13.0	17.2	18.9	23.6	25.6	24.0	19.1	12.2	4.3

Tourist Information

Free maps, brochures, tourist information and advice, are available on the official website of Beijing Tourism Administration (BTA), <http://english.bjta.gov.cn/> . Moreover, the Beijing Tourist Information Center has more than 20 service stations across Beijing, the contact information can be found at <http://english.bjta.gov.cn/btic/>

The IROS 2006 authorized tours company, China CYTS Tours Holding Co. Ltd will set up an information desk at the registration area to assist the conference participants to arrange their tours and to book their tickets.

Beijing International Convention Center (BICC)

Beijing International Convention Center (BICC) is the second largest convention facility in Beijing, specializing in hosting national and international conferences, exhibitions and other large events. It has simultaneous interpretation systems, television projection receivers, film and slide projectors, stereophonic sound systems and stage lighting.



It comprises more than 60 conference halls and meeting rooms as well as dozens of offices to serve a wide variety of purposes: plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, round-table talks, and small-group meetings.

Its indoor exhibition halls and other exhibition space can accommodate 300 international standard exhibition booths, and will be used for poster sessions and exhibition of books. Its spacious registration hall, public and VIP lounges and bar located on each floor are all designed to ensure an enjoyable stay for congress participants.

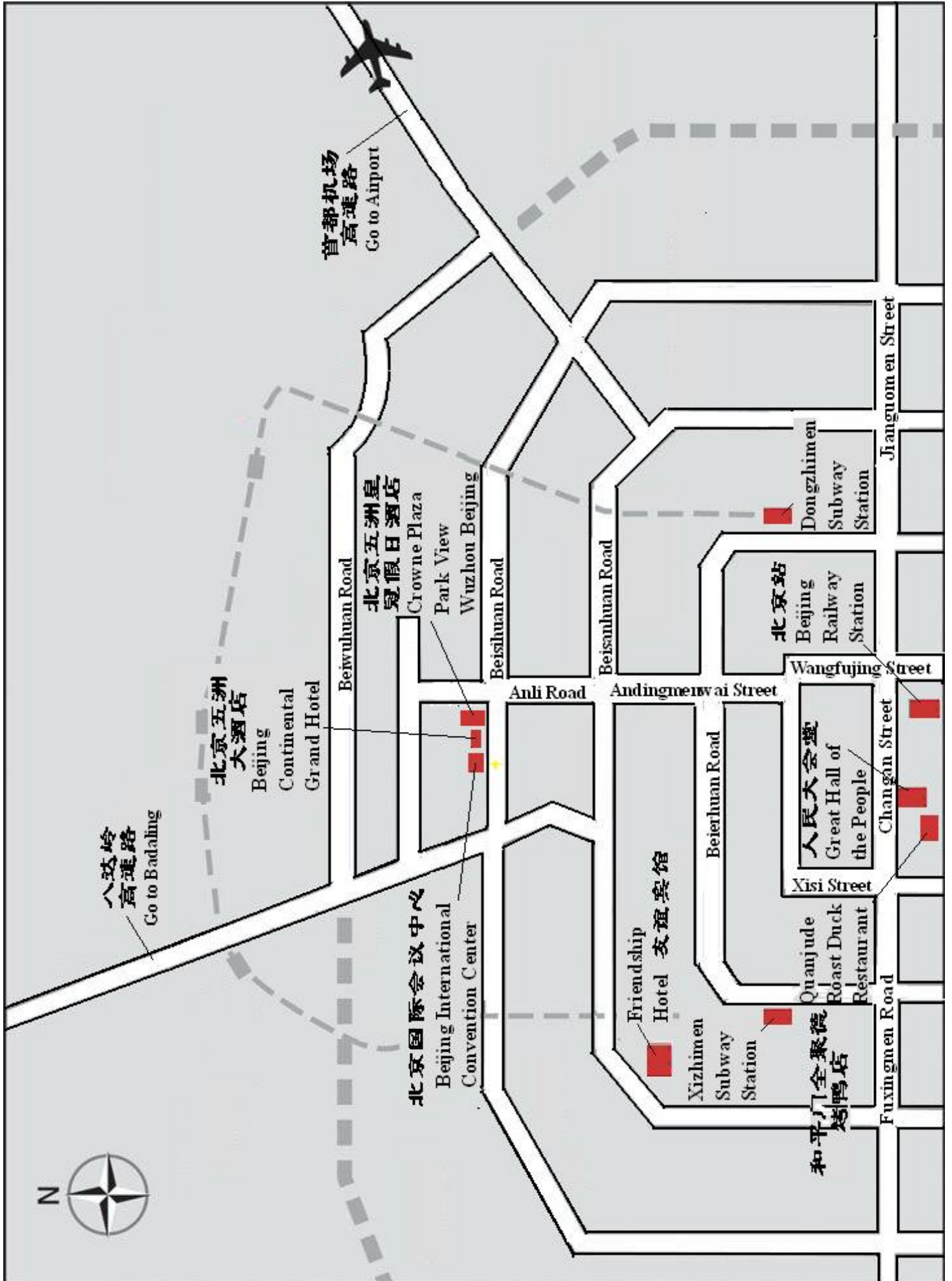
BICC is complemented by a wide range of service facilities within a walking distance. A shopping center, a post office, a recreational club with bowling, swimming pool and billiards, and quite a few restaurants and fast-food outlets and stores are just close by.

The Great Hall of the People

The Conference Banquet of the IROS 2006 will be held at the Main Auditorium of the Great Hall of the People, which is the home of China's governing body, People's Congress. Located on Tiananmen Square, it is a venue for large-scale meetings, conventions and banquets when the People's Congress is not in session. The Main Auditorium can seat an audience of 10000.



Shuttle buses will be served from the Beijing International Convention Center to the Great Hall of the People on October 12 for the Conference Banquet. Detailed schedule can be checked at the conference registration desk.



八达岭
高速路
Go to Badaling

首都机场
高速路
Go to Airport

北京五洲
大酒店
Beijing
Continental
Grand Hotel

北京五洲皇
冠假日酒店
Crowne Plaza
Park View
Wuzhou Beijing

北京国际会议中心
Beijing International
Convention Center

友谊
酒店
Friendship
Hotel

西直门
地铁站
Xizhimen
Subway
Station

和平门全聚德
烤鸭店
Qianjude
Roast Duck
Restaurant

人民大会堂
Great Hall of
the People

北京站
Beijing
Railway
Station

东直门
地铁站
Dongzhimen
Subway
Station

建国门街
Jianguomen Street

王府井街
Wangfujing Street

西四街
Xisi Street

福兴门街
Fuxingmen Street

北三环
Beisuanhuan Road

北二环
Beishuan Road

北四环
Beiwuhuan Road

安立路
Anli Road

安定门内大街
Andingmenwai Street

北二环
Beierhuan Road

Transportation

➤ Beijing Capital International Airport

As China's political, economic and cultural center, Beijing is linked to over 50 cities in the world by many regional and international air routes. In addition to domestic airlines, 30 plus foreign airline companies operate regular flights to and from Beijing.

Beijing Capital International Airport is located at the northeast of the city, 35 km to downtown and 25 km to the conference site. It is very convenient to access the city from the Airport by taxi or public transportations.

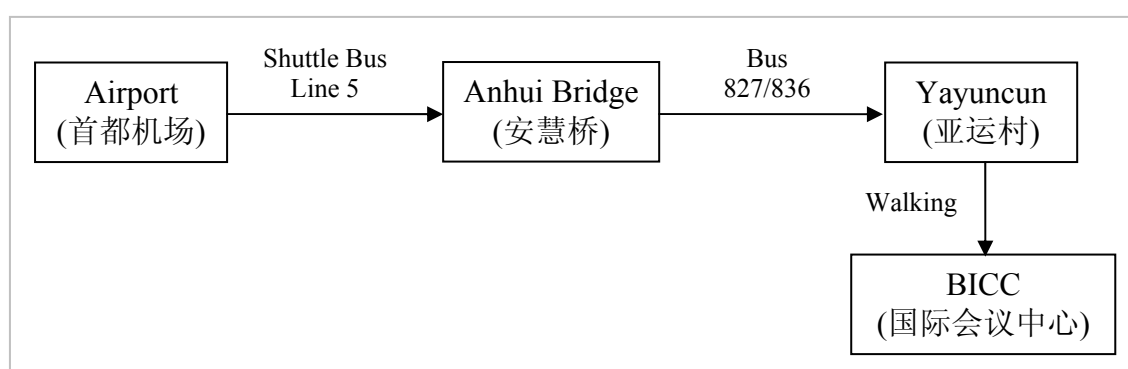
• Taxi

There are official taxi stations outside the Airport terminals. Taxi is always available at the Airport whenever there are flights. The cost of a taxi from the airport to the Beijing International Convention Center (BICC) or conference hotels is about RMB 100-130 (US\$12-16). The price is usually not negotiable. The passengers need to pay the fee shown in the meter and the toll of the express way. It takes about 40 minutes to get to the conference center or hotels from the Airport.

• Airport Shuttle and Public Bus Service

Shuttle buses are also being operated from the Airport to the major points of the city every half hour. The operation time is 8:30am- 21:30pm. The directions to the Conference site and hotels are as follows:

- Take the airport shuttle bus Line 5 to Zhongguancun (中关村), and then get off at Anhui Bridge (安慧桥) station. The typical charge is RMB 16.
- Take city bus No. 827/836 to the Yayuncun (亚运村) station. Beijing International Convention Center will be on the right. The charge from Anhui Bridge station to Yayuncun station is RMB 2.



IROS 2006 will set up a reception desk at the international arrival hall of the Airport from 9:00am to 9:00pm on October 9 and 10, 2006 to assist the conference participants to take taxi or public transportation.

➤ **In the City**

Once in the city, the taxi and public transportation (subway and bus system) offers an easy way to get around the city during the day.

There are 65,000 taxis running on Beijing's streets, and the rate is RMB 2.00 per kilometer. This rate applies only to the starting few kilometers, and 50% additional fee will be added to every kilometer if the travel distance is over a threshold. Since few taxi drivers speak English, please do bring the Chinese address of your destination.

You are advised to check the price table attached inside window and drivers Service Supervisor Card. You need to pay the highway fee and the bridge fee if it is required. It is better to ask for a receipt and remember the plate number of the Taxi while you get off. When taking taxi at the Capital International Airport, please go to the taxi station to take the authorized taxi. Don't forget to take all your belongings when getting off the taxi.

At the conference site, taxi can easily be found. Furthermore, bus services are also available around the site. There are a number of buses going to downtown, the subway stations, shopping plazas and major tourist attractions like the Temple of Heaven. However, since most bus conductors can only speak Chinese, taxi would be the best option for non-native speakers.

On the other hand, subway is another good option to travel around the center city area. There are two subway lines, the circle lines runs underneath the second Ring Road while the straight line runs from Xi Dan to Pingguo Yuan. The traveling time for the circle line takes about 40 minutes. The ticket for subway cost RMB 3.00. So subway is a reasonably priced and convenient transport in Beijing.

Chinese Address Cards

- **Beijing International Convention Center**

北京国际会议中心
Beijing International Convention Center

北京国际会议中心
地址：中国北京市朝阳区北四环中路 8 号
Tel: (86-10) 8498 5588
Fax: (86-10) 8497 0107

- **Beijing Continental Grand Hotel**

北京五洲大酒店
Beijing Continental Grand Hotel

北京五洲大酒店
地址：中国北京市朝阳区北四环中路 8 号
Tel: (86-10) 8498 0105
Fax: (86-10) 8497 0106

- **Crowne Plaza Beijing - Park View Wuzhou**

北京五洲皇冠假日酒店
Crowne Plaza Beijing - Park View Wuzhou

北京五洲皇冠假日酒店
地址：中国北京市朝阳区北四环中路 8 号
Tel: (86-10) 8498 2288
Fax: (86-10) 8499 2933

- **The Great Hall of the People**

人民大会堂
The Great Hall of the People

人民大会堂宴会大厅

Useful Information

- **Language:** Official language is Mandarin and most people also use their local dialect. The standard spoken Chinese is Putonghua. English can be understood by many young people and is used in hotels and big restaurants. In all tourist hotels, staff can speak in English, Japanese and other languages. They can also write down addresses or instructions in Chinese for taxi drivers or others. In addition, roads in major cities are signposted in Pinyin, the official Romanization system of the Chinese characters, which makes it quite easy to get around with the help of a map.
- **Currency:** Renminbi (RMB) is the only currency to be used in China. RMB is also called Chinese Yuan. The unit of Renminbi is yuan and with smaller denominations called jiao and fen. The conversion among the three is: 1 yuan = 10 jiao =100 fen. Paper notes are issued in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 50 and 100 yuan; 1, 2 and 5 jiao; and 1, 2 and 5 fen. Coins are issued in denominations of 1 yuan; 5 jiao; and 1, 2 and 5 fen.

Money exchanges by cash or traveler's cheques can be made at the branches of Bank of China at Beijing International Airport, hotels and tourist stores. Please remember to keep the receipt to exchange back to foreign currency when leaving China.

- **Credit Cards:** Visa, MasterCard and American Express are the most commonly used in China. Cards can be used in most middle to top-range hotels, Friendship and department stores, but they cannot be used to finance your transportation costs.
- **Time:** GMT + 8 hours (the whole of China is set to Beijing time)
- **Electricity:** Electricity is 220 Volts, 50 AC; plugs can be three-pronged angled, three-pronged round, two flat pins or two narrow round pins.
- **Water:** Bottled mineral water can easily be bought in all stores and street kiosks for RMB 3. And sometimes hotels provide it free of charge. Furthermore, potable water is only available in a few 4 to 5 star hotels, while water in thermos flasks in rooms is usually non-potable tap water.
- **Measurement:** In Metric system.
- **Tipping:** Tipping is not customary outside of the foreign joint-venture hotels and is officially discouraged. But hotel bellboys usually expect RMB 2-5 per bag.
- **Attention:** Smoking is prohibited in public places in Beijing, such as hospitals, office buildings, theatres, cinemas, museums, planes, and trains
- **Hotlines**
110: Police 119: Fire 120: Ambulance
6525 5486: Foreigners Section of the Beijing Public Security Bureau
6513 0828: Tourist Hotline
6590 3419: International SOS Assistance

Social Events

The social events organized by the IROS 2006 include the conference reception, the awards presentation luncheon, the conference banquet, the farewell party, etc.

Conference Reception

The Conference Reception will be held from 18:30 to 21:00 on October 10, 2006 at the lawn garden in the front of the Crowne Plaza Beijing - Park View Wuzhou and the Beijing Continental Grand Hotel. All the conference participants are welcome to join this event.

Awards Presentation Luncheon

The Awards Presentation Luncheon will be held at the Conventional Hall No.1, the Beijing International Convention Center from 12:30 to 14:00 on October 11, 2006. The Best Conference Paper Award and other awards will be presented during the luncheon. All the conference participants are welcome to join.

Conference Banquet

The Conference Banquet will be held at the Great Hall of the People from 19:00 to 22:00 on October 12, 2006. The Great Hall of the People is the National Congress Hall of China, located at the Tiananmen Square, the center of the city. The ticket for the banquet has already been included for the regular registrants who have paid the regular registration fee. Additional banquet tickets can be purchased at the registration desk for USD90 or RMB720. Shuttle buses will be served from the Beijing International Convention Center to the Great Hall of the People. The shuttle buses will depart at 17:10.

Farewell Party

The Farewell Party will be held from 18:00 to 19:30 on October 13, 2006 at the Beijing International Convention Center. All the conference participants are welcome to join.

RAS Young Professionals Lunch

This event is organized by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society and will be held at the Convention Hall No.1, Beijing International Convention Center from 12:15 to 13:15 on October 12, 2006. Ken Goldberg, Vice-President of Technical Activities, with other Society officers, will highlight recent developments and describe our 21 Technical Committees (TCs) and also our Distinguished Lecturer (DL) Program. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions, talk with TC chairs, sign up to join TCs, and meet fellow young professionals in the Society. Free box lunch will be available on a first-come, first-served basis to the first 200 IROS attendees under 45 years old.

Conference Registration

A conference registration desk will be set up and opened at the Beijing International Convention Center during the following hours:

October 9, 2006:	16:00 - 18:00
October 10, 2006:	8:30 - 18:00
October 11, 2006:	7:30 - 18:00
October 12, 2006:	8:00 - 17:00
October 13, 2006:	8:00 - 16:00

Industrial Exhibition

IROS 2006 has, jointly with the Robotics Program of the National High-Tech Development (863) Projects of China, organized a small robotics exhibition during the conference period, i.e. from October 11 to October 13, 2006. Over 20 companies and institutes from all over the world will exhibit their products or research activities. The exhibitors include Evolution Robotics Inc., Microsoft Corporation, ATI Automation, Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai Robotics Live-in Industry Co., Ltd., Shandong Luneng Intelligence Technology Co., Ltd., Guangzhou Tianhe Double Dragon Co., Ltd., Nanjing Ziguang Science Education Instruments Co., Ltd., Arexx Intelligence Centre, Hangood Co., Ltd., Universal Pioneering Technology Co., Ltd., etc.

The robotics exhibition is held at the Exhibition Hall 2 on Level 1 of the Beijing International Convention Center. It is free for the IROS 2006 participants to visit.

Internet Access

Free Internet access will be provided during the conference period, to the IROS 2006 participants at the Exhibition Hall 2 on Level 1 of the Beijing International Convention Center. Broadband Internet access services are also provided at the conference hotels for a fee. For the fee information, please contact the hotel you are staying directly.