Basic Beijing â€“ 5 Things You Should Know when Studying Chinese in China by Maureen Hayes

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Beijing has been constantly in the news as the countryâ€™s economic growth and rapid development is fast placing the nation on the road to becoming the worldâ€™s new 21st century superpower. This is return has caused great excitement, as Chinaâ€™s growth is unprecedented in terms of pace and power. For this reason many students from around the world are now flocking to Beijing to study Chinese in China.

Beijing is one of the fastest developing cities in the world and is a city which provides an appealing and exotic place to study Chinese in China. It has all the excitement and culture shock you might want, whilst also being comfortingly familiar thanks to its modern infrastructure and facilities. For anyone coming from a large Western city, it can be quite easy to fit in once you know your way around. Here are five facts for those who plan on studying Chinese in China, in particular Beijing, that will reduce that initial culture shock for you and allow you to settle in more easily when arriving for your Global Language arranged courses.

1. Beijing is BIG! The entire municipal area is some 6,487 square miles, and whilst this is far larger than the area than you will be travelling, it is important to understand that this is one of the biggest cities in the world. It is also one of the most densely populated, so be prepared for crowds in most places. This is a concept which can be related to any city when you Study Chinese in china.

2. Traffic, Traffic, Traffic. Beijing has over 5 million cars, and traffic can be bad. Although limits have been put on new car buying, getting around can be tough and so it is important to live close to where you spend most of your time. If you are studying, then it is definitely worth living close to where your college for convenience. If not close to your area of study, make sure you are close to the metro.

3. Weather. Beijing can get very cold in winter (-10C) and very hot in summer (35C and above). Combined with the pollution, it is important to be prepared for extremes of temperature. That being said, it rains very infrequently and there are many days of blue sky each year. Not only this, China is the leading country in green environment research. They are efficiently addressing pollution problems, so when you study Chinese in China, rest assured that you are in a nation which minds the word â€œgreen.â€• None the less, be prepared for cold winters and hot summers.

4. Prices. Some things are still very cheap in Beijing. Compared with many places in the US or Europe you will likely find it a cheap alternative. With Global Language arranging your accommodation and schooling, you will have saved money already! However, if you want to maintain your Western habits, eat foreign food and experience nightlife, then prices are comparable to most major developed cities in the world.

5. History and Modernity. Despite some of Beijingâ€™s drawbacks, it is arguably one of l the greatest city in China, and probably in the whole of Asia. It has an amazing amount of history â€“ from the quiet hutongs to the imposing Tiananmen Square and Forbidden City. It is also a truly modern metropolis with top-class facilities, all your favourite international brands and everything else you could possibly want in a cosmopolitan city.

When you study Chinese in China, it is important to understand both the good and bad aspects of the city you choose. At Global Language we donâ€™t want to give you a false impression of where you will be studying, and understanding these five features of Chinaâ€™s capital will help you make the

choice that is right for you.

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Maureen Hayes - About Author:
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