

# Liáoníng 辽宁



Beaches, borders and bridges – those are the highlights of a visit to Liáoníng, the gateway to China’s northeast, in the region formerly known as Manchuria.

For beaches, head to the seaside city of Dàlián, where stretches of sand lure sun-seekers and restaurants specialise in fresh seafood. Nicknamed ‘Hong Kong of the North’, fast-growing Dàlián is managing to retain some grand early-20th-century buildings and peaceful parklands even as skyscrapers continue to sprout up. Shopping is a favourite pastime here, with modern malls all around town.

For borders, go east, where Liáoníng meets North Korea. Dāndōng, just across the river from the North Korean city of Sinuiju, draws visitors hoping for a peek at the closed society on the opposite bank. There’s not much to look at, but Dāndōng itself offers a mix of Chinese and Korean culture, and just outside the city is the easternmost stretch of the Great Wall, a restored section that still sees comparatively few tourists.

If it’s bridges you’re after, both Dāndōng and the provincial capital of Shěnyáng oblige. In Dāndōng, a bridge to North Korea ends suddenly mid-river, the result of US bombing in the 1950s. In Shěnyáng, bridges take on a more light-hearted tone, at least if you swing on the hilarious suspended ones in the Shenyang Botanical Garden. Though it’s a frenzied modern metropolis, Shěnyáng also lures history buffs with its majestic Imperial Palace; its serene temples, tombs and pagodas; and its intriguing museum about the Japanese occupation of Manchuria in the 1930s.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Sleep on a warship, hang out at the beach or explore the northeast’s most modern city in dynamic **Dàlián** (p363)
- Climb the easternmost stretch of the Great Wall, little-touristed **Tiger Mountain Great Wall** (p370), near Dāndōng
- Take a peek at North Korea across the river from bustling bicultural **Dāndōng** (p369)
- Hike among the rocky peaks in the peaceful **Bingyu Valley**, Liáoníng’s ‘Little Guilin’ (p368)
- Swing, balance or teeter across the 50 suspended bridges in the **Shenyang Botanical Garden** (p360)



■ POPULATION: 42.1 MILLION

■ [www.liaoning-gateway.com](http://www.liaoning-gateway.com)

## History

The region formerly known as Manchuria, including the provinces of Liáoníng, Jílín and Hēilóngjiāng, plus parts of Inner Mongolia, is now called Dōngběi, which simply means ‘the northeast’.

The Manchurian warlords of this northern territory established the Qing dynasty, which ruled China from the 1640s until the early 20th century. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, when the Western powers were busy carving up pieces of China for themselves, Manchuria was occupied alternately by the Russians and the Japanese.

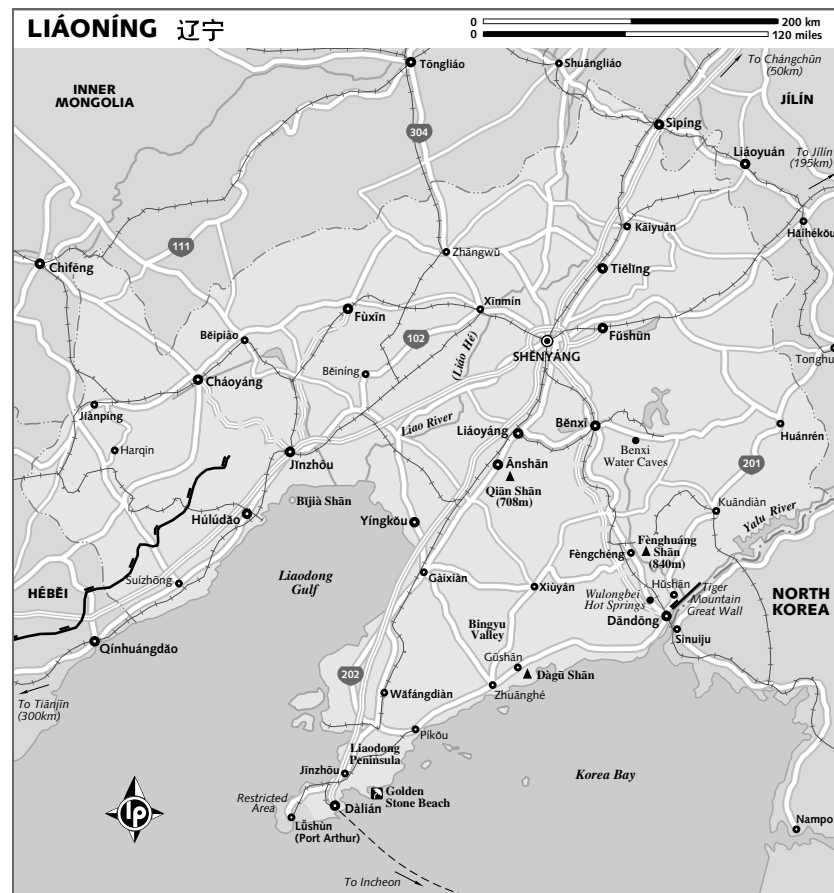
These occupations have helped to shape the region’s architecture along with its consciousness.

## Getting There & Around

Getting around Liáoníng is easy. In addition to the rail lines that crisscross the region, a network of highways between the major cities make bus travel a speedy, comfortable alternative.

Shěnyáng, the province’s transport hub, is a convenient starting point for exploring the northeast. Extensive rail connections link Shěnyáng with cities south and north, and you can fly to Shěnyáng from many other Chinese cities, from South Korea or from the Russian Far East.

Alternatively, travel by sea or air to Dàlián, and from there head north by bus or train. Boats connect Dàlián with Shànghǎi, Tiānjīn and several cities in Shāndōng province, while



## RUSSIA'S INFLUENCE IN LIÁONÍNG

To the outrage of Russia's Tsar Nicholas II, Japan gained control of the Liaodong Peninsula at the southeastern tip of Liáoníng province after defeating the Chinese in the Sino-Japanese War (1894–95). Japan's strength alarmed other foreign powers, and with French and German support, Nicholas II managed not only to get the Japanese to withdraw from Dàlián, but also to gain possession of it as a Russian concession in 1898. The Russians were also permitted to begin building a railway across Manchuria from Vladivostok to Port Arthur (now Lüshùn), near present-day Dàlián. The Russians moved troops in with the railway, and for the next 10 years effectively controlled northeastern China.

Russia's reign over Liáoníng province was short-lived, however, ending with the Russo-Japanese War (1904–05). Besides the railway network, little visible evidence of this Russian era remains today, except for a touristy 'Russian street' on the north side of Dàlián.

frequent flights link Dàlián with Běijīng and other major cities.

## SHĚNYÁNG 沈阳

☎ 024 / pop 6,500,000

Take a sprawling metropolis, add packs of aggressive drivers, throw in some bad air and, depending on the season, crippling humidity or bone-chilling cold – that's Shěnyáng at a glance. To rein in some of the urban chaos, the city recently launched an antijaywalking campaign, but that's done nothing about the manic drivers who career along the walkways!

Yet once you navigate through the urban sprawl, traffic anarchy and challenging weather, well-preserved relics of the Manchu era hide amid the grey socialist-era buildings, as do modern museums that illuminate the northeast's more recent history. Tranquil temples and a large botanical garden offer relief from the city's hubbub.

## History

Shěnyáng was a Mongol trading centre as far back as the 11th century, becoming the capital of the Manchu empire in the 17th century. With the Manchu conquest of Běijīng in 1644, Shěnyáng became a secondary capital under the Manchu name of Mukden, and a centre of the ginseng trade.

Throughout its history Shěnyáng has rapidly changed hands, dominated by warlords, the Japanese (1931), the Russians (1945), the Kuomintang (1946) and the Chinese Communist Party (1948).

## Orientation

The north train station (*běizhàn*), south train station (*nánzhàn*), Shěfú Guǎngchǎng (Government Sq) and Zhōngshān Guǎngchǎng

(Zhongshan Sq) with its towering Mao Zedong statue all serve as transport hubs and landmarks within the city.

## Information BOOKSHOP

**Northern Book Town** (Běifāng Túshūguǎn; 2nd fl, 43 Zhonghua Lu) Has a small selection of English-language books, mostly classics and 19th-century fiction.

## CD BURNING

**Photo shop** (☎ 2273 3494; 45 Huigong Jie; CDs Y10) Just north of Shifú Guǎngchǎng.

## INTERNET ACCESS 网吧

**Internet café** (Wǎngbǎ; lower level, north train station; per hr Y3; ☎ 9am-midnight)

**Internet café** (Wǎngbǎ; main level, south train station; per hr Y3; ☎ 24hr)

**Internet café** (Wǎngbǎ; Shengli Beijie; per hr Y3; ☎ 24hr) One block from the south train station, near the Héping Bīnguǎn (Peace Hotel).

## MONEY

ATMs accepting foreign cards can be found near the train stations, Zhōngshān Guǎngchǎng and Shifú Guǎngchǎng. Most large hotels change money.

**Bank of China** (Zhōngguó Yínháng) Shifú Guǎngchǎng (☎ 2285 6666; 253 Shifu Dalu; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-4pm Mon-Fri); South train station area (96 Zhonghua Lu; ☎ 8am-noon & 1-4pm Mon-Fri) Both branches have 24-hr ATMs and will change travellers cheques.

## POST

**Post office** (Yóujú; 78 Beizhan Lu; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri) Near the north train station.

## PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU

**PSB** (Gōngānjú; ☎ 2253 4850; Zhōngshān Guǎngchǎng)

## TELEPHONE

**China Telecom** (Zhōngguó Diànxìn; 185 Shifu Dalu) A short walk west of Shifú Guǎngchǎng.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

**Liaoning Tourism Bureau** (Liáoníng Shěng Lǚyóujú; ☎ 8680 7316; fax 8680 9415; 113 Huanghe Dajie) Near the North Tomb, this office has English-language maps and brochures of the province's attractions.

## TRAVEL AGENCY

**China International Travel Service** (CITS; Zhōngguó Guójī Lǚxíngshè; ☎ 8680 9383; fax 8680 8772; 113 Huanghe Dajie) In the same building as the Liaoning Tourism Bureau.

## Sights & Activities

### IMPERIAL PALACE 故宫

Shěnyáng's main attraction is this sprawling **palace** (Gùgōng; ☎ 2282 1999; 171 Shenyang Lu; admission Y50; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm) complex, which resembles a small-scale Forbidden City. Constructed between 1625 and 1636 by Manchu emperor Nurhachi (1559–1626) and his son, Huang Taiji, the palace served as the residence of the Qing-dynasty rulers until 1644.

Don't miss the octagonal **Dazheng Hall** (at the rear of the complex) with its coffered ceiling and elaborate throne, where Nurhachi's grandson, Emperor Shunzhi, was crowned. The central courtyard buildings include ornate ceremonial halls and imperial living quarters, including a royal baby cradle.

The palace is in the oldest section of the city. Take bus 237 from the south train station, or bus 227 from the North Tomb via the east side of the north train station.

### THE 'MANCHURIAN INCIDENT'

On 18 September 1931 a bomb damaged a Japanese-controlled railway outside Mukden, the present-day city of Shěnyáng. Although the Japanese blamed Chinese nationalists, historians believe that Japanese troops actually triggered the explosion as an excuse to invade the region. That night, Japanese troops marched into Shěnyáng and occupied the city. By 21 September all of what is now Jilin province was also under Japanese control. The following year, the Japanese established what became known as the puppet state of Manchukuo and ruled Manchuria until the end of WWII.

## NORTH TOMB 北陵

Another Shěnyáng highlight is the **North Tomb** (Běi Líng; ☎ 8689 6294; 12 Taishan Lu; admission park/tombs Y6/30; ☎ 6am-6pm) in Beiling Park. This extensive tomb complex, which took eight years to build, is the burial place of Huang Taiji (1592–1643), the founder of the Qing dynasty. The tomb's animal statues lead up to the central mound known as the Luminous Tomb (Zhāo Líng).

Take bus 220 from the south train station or bus 217 from the north train station. Bus 227 from the Imperial Palace via the east side of the north train station also travels to and from the North Tomb.

## EAST TOMB 东陵

Also known as Fú Líng, this smaller **tomb** (Dōng Líng; 210 Dongling Jie; admission Y30; ☎ 8am-5pm) is the resting place of Nurhachi and his mistress. It's 15km east of the city centre. Take bus 218 (45 minutes) from the Imperial Palace.

## 18 SEPTEMBER HISTORY MUSEUM

### 九一八历史博物馆

This striking modern **museum** (Jiū Yī Bā Lìshǐ Bówùguǎn; ☎ 2389 2316; 46 Wanghua Nanjie; admission Y20; ☎ 8.30am-4pm) is named after the date when Shěnyáng was captured by the Japanese in 1931. The exhibits, including more than 800 photographs, explore the Japanese occupation of Manchuria. Guesome examples of torture on display include a 'rolling cage' (a long metal tube lined with spikes in which prisoners were rolled to death).

Although the exhibits are grim, this is the most comprehensive museum in China dedicated to this period of Chinese history.

Bus 325 from the north train station stops in front of the museum.

## LIAONING PROVINCIAL MUSEUM

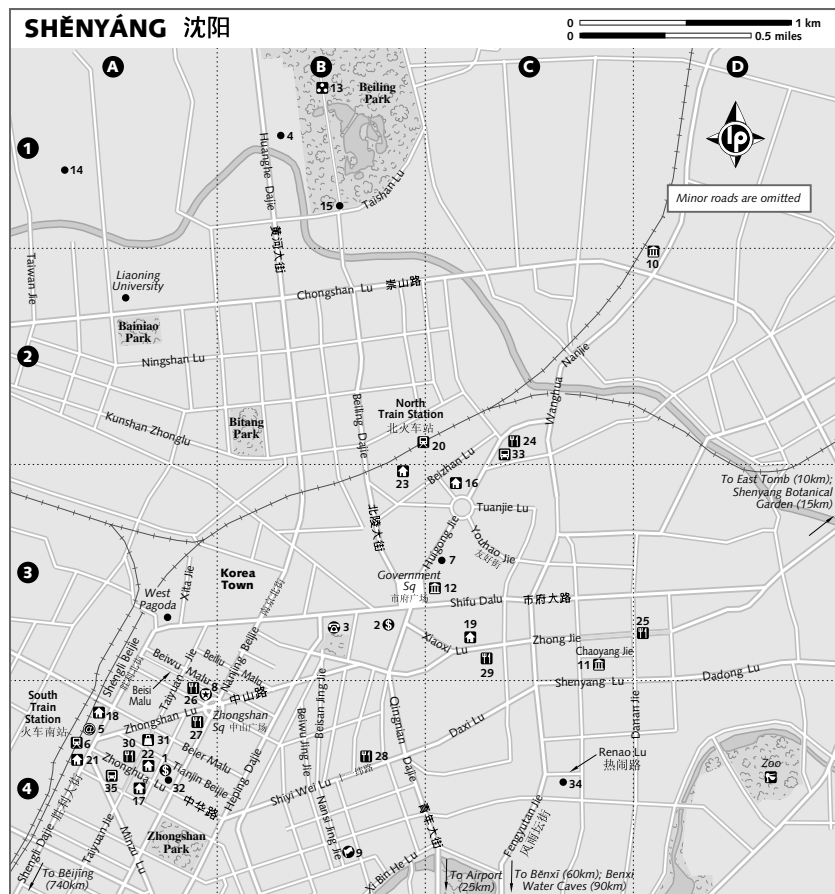
### 辽宁省博物馆

Elements of the province's more peaceful history are on view in this art-filled **museum** (Liáoníng Shěng Bówùguǎn; ☎ 2561 3333; Shifú Guǎngchǎng; admission Y20; ☎ 9am-5pm), in a contemporary building facing Government Sq. Liao-dynasty ceramics, ancient Chinese money and carved stone tablets that illustrate the evolution of Chinese calligraphy are among the exhibits.

## PAGODA OF BUDDHIST ASHES

### 无垢净光舍利塔

This 13-storey brick **pagoda** (Wúgòu Jìngguāng Shěli Tǎ; ☎ 8678 1651; 22 Taiwan Jie; admission Y4; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm)



dates back to AD 1044. A small museum on the peaceful grounds includes relics removed from inside the pagoda.

Take bus 205 from the North Tomb or the south train station and get off at the corner of Taiwan Jie and Ningshan Lu. Walk north, cross the bridge and turn right. The pagoda is a three-minute walk north of here. Look for a red gate on the right.

#### SHENYANG BOTANICAL GARDEN

沈阳植物园

These **gardens** (Shěnyáng Zhíwù Yuán; admission ¥50; ☎ 9am-9pm summer, 9am-5pm winter) are filled with plants and flowers native to northeast China. Special exhibitions highlight tulips (May), peonies (June) and chrysanthemums (October).

Even more entertaining than the vegetation are the nearly 50 bridges suspended across a shallow river that visitors try to traverse. There are narrow log bridges – like over-water balance beams – as well as rolling barrels, swinging bridges, floating rafts and more. Cross if you dare; you'll likely end up in the water!

Trains run about once an hour from the north and south stations to the Botanical Garden (Y3, 30 minutes), about 20km east of the city centre.

#### Sleeping BUDGET

**Méishān Bīnguǎn** (Main Sun Hotel; ☎ 2273 5538; fax 2272 8048; 48 Xiaoxi Lu; 小西路48号; s ¥60-100, d ¥120-160) This small hotel is one of Shěnyáng's best-

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#### SLEEPING

尚姆泰欧宾馆

金三角饭店

和平宾馆

梅杉宾馆

沈阳大酒店

沈阳站宾馆

商贸饭店

邮政大厦

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value options. Don't expect lots of space, but most rooms have wooden floors and cosy duvets.

**Shěntiě Shěnzhan Bīnguǎn** (Shenyang Railway Station Hotel; ☎ 2358 5888; 2 Shengli Dajie; 胜利大街2号; s ¥80, d ¥218/60 with/without bathroom; ☎) Voyeurs will love the standard doubles at this quirky inn next to the south train station – the bathrooms have glass walls! Some of the small rooms without bathrooms have no windows, so look before you book if daylight matters.

**Héping Bīnguǎn** (Peace Hotel; ☎ 2349 8202; fax 2349 8202; 104 Shengli Beijie; 胜利北街104号; d/q ¥100/¥160, s/tr with bathroom ¥190/¥280, d with bathroom ¥190-380; ☎) A former budget behemoth, this hotel near the south train station has revamped to be more upscale. There's a range of rooms, from basic to almost chic. The with-bathroom rates include a breakfast buffet.

#### MIDRANGE

**Yóuzhèng Dàshà** (Shenyang Post Hotel; ☎ 2259 3333; fax 2259 3077; 78 Beizhan Lu; 北站路78号; d ¥120, d with bathroom ¥268-328, tr with bathroom ¥180; ☎) Situated near the north station, this hotel has updated rooms.

**Fashion Motel 128** (Shàngmù Tǎi'ou Bīnguǎn; ☎ 2253 7777; 5 Youhao Jie; 友好街5号; d ¥128, d with bathroom ¥328-358; ☎) If you don't mind the lurid wall colours – peach, lime green, purple – try this quiet low-rise located between the north train station and the long-distance bus station. Discounts put rooms with bathroom under ¥200,

including breakfast; they have broadband internet connections too. The hotel entrance is on Beizhan Er Lu, off Youhao Jie.

**Shěntiě Dàjiǔdiàn** (Railway Hotel; ☎ 6223 1058; fax 6223 2888; 102 Beizhan Lu; 北站路102号; d incl breakfast ¥368-386; ☎) Bargain for discounts to about ¥180 at this surprisingly quiet hotel within the north train station building. Many of the well-kept doubles have modern furnishings and upscale amenities like hair dryers; even older ones (that could use a sprucing-up) are still good value.

**Golden Triangle Hotel** (Jīnsānjiǎo Fàndiàn; ☎ 2329 2288; fax 2329 2188; 43 Zhonghua Lu; 中华路43号; d incl breakfast ¥368-418; ☎) The best rooms in this contemporary tower are the salon-sized doubles with modern furnishings and free internet access (including an in-room computer).

#### TOP END

**Traders Hotel** (Shāngmào Fàndiàn; ☎ 2341 2288; www.shangri-la.com; 68 Zhonghua Lu; 中华路68号; d ¥690-740 plus 15% service charge; ☎) Owned by the Shangri-La chain, this coolly modern hotel delivers top-notch service. The do-anything-for-you staff speak English and there's wireless internet access in the lobby.

#### Eating

Both the north and south train stations are cheap restaurant zones.

**Sūiyìshāo Kāoróu Zhuānméndiàn** (As You Please BBQ; ☎ 2383 6974; 24 Beisi Malu; dishes ¥5-18; ☎) lunch

& dinner) Cook your own pork belly, beef and other meats 'as you please' at this family-run BBQ joint. Sit under the space-age metallic fixtures and ask for *suāncài* (酸菜; pickled cabbage) or sliced potatoes to add to your tabletop grill.

**Lǎobiān Jiǎoziguǎn** (Lao Bian Dumpling Restaurant; ☎ 2486 5369; 206 Zhong Jie; dumplings Y8-16; 🍴 lunch & dinner) Of course, the dumplings are good – this old-favourite has been in business since 1829 – but don't neglect the fresh vegetable dishes and tasty cold plates.

**View & World Vegetarian Restaurant** (Kuān Xiàngzi Sùcǎiguǎn ☎ 2284 8678; 202 Shiyi Wei Lu; dishes Y8-28) Even 'seafood' hotpot and 'lamb' skewers are meat-free at this nearly-vegan paradise, where the artfully presented dishes are decorated with flowers. If you're looking to romance a vegetarian, take a table tucked into a private nook. English menu.

**Xiǎo Tūdōu** (Small Potato; ☎ 2291 5040; 37 Xiaoxi Lu; dishes Y10-15; 🍴 lunch & dinner) This *dōngběi* (northeastern) eatery is packed with families, couples and groups of all ages who come here for the eponymous potato dish that is anything but small; it's a hearty and delicious stew of spuds and greens in a meaty broth (Y10).

**Suiyuan Home-Like Restaurant** (Suiyuán Jiācháng Cǎiguǎn; ☎ 2340 4121; Zhōngshān Guǎngchǎng; dishes Y12-20; 🍴 lunch & dinner) Traditional Chinese furnishings and widely spaced tables give this *dōngběi* restaurant a classy feel, but the hearty fare and moderate prices do make it 'home-like' – at least if your mother used to prepare cold meat platters, greens with Sichuan peppercorn and crispy fried breads. The entrance is in the lane behind the Liaoning Hotel.

Inside the **Zhongxing Shenyang Commercial Building** (86 Taiyuan Jie), near the south train station, there's a decent supermarket on the 2nd floor. At the **Carrefour Supermarket** (Jiālèfú; Beizhan Lu), near the long-distance bus station, you can pack a picnic for your travels or grab a quick bite from the food court (dishes Y5 to Y15).

## Drinking

Korean restaurants, karaoke bars and coffee shops line the brightly lit (if slightly seedy) Xita Jie. A more upscale choice is **Jia Music, Food & Drinks** (Jiā; ☎ 2387 6655; 43 Zhonghua Lu), a stylish lounge in the same building as the Golden Triangle Hotel.

## Shopping

Near the south train station is Taiyuan Jie, one of Shěnyáng's major shopping streets, with a bustling night market. Below Taiyuan Jie is an extensive underground shopping street. Above ground, Taiyuan Jie and nearby Zhonghua Lu are lined with department stores, from Wal-Mart to Parkson's.

Zhong Jie, near the Imperial Palace, is another pedestrian street, where the mix of Japanese architecture and flashy neon makes it an interesting stroll.

## Getting There & Away

Large hotels can book airline and train tickets. The travel offices at the **Héping Binguǎn** (☎ 2340 2066) and the **Traders Hotel** (☎ 2341 2288, ext 6457) are particularly helpful; the latter can usually rustle up an English-speaker to help.

## AIR

You can fly from Shěnyáng to a huge number of domestic destinations, including Běijīng (Y710, one hour and 10 minutes), Shànghǎi (Y1300, two hours) and Guǎngzhōu (Y2310, 3¾ hours).

China Southern Airlines (see p957) and **Korean Air** (☎ 2334 1880; www.koreanair.com; 206 Nanjing Beijing) both have daily service to Seoul (Y2900, 1¾ hours). **S7 Airlines** (☎ 2480 8579; www.s7.ru; Yōnglún Dǎjiūdiàn, 58 Renao Lu) flies to Irkutsk, near Russia's Lake Baikal, on Thursdays and Sundays from May through October (US\$210 to US\$270, three hours).

## BUS

The **long-distance express bus station** (qīchē kuàisù kèyùnzhan; Huigong Jie) is south of Beizhan Lu, about a five-minute walk from the north train station. See the table on opposite for information.

As you come out of the south train station, cross Shengli Dajie and bear right onto Minzu Lu and you'll be confronted with a line of buses – this is the departure point for the south long-distance bus station. The station itself is further south on Minzu Lu. There are regular departures to Ānshān (鞍山; Y25, 1½ hours), Běnxī (本溪; Y19, one hour) and Huánrén (桓仁; Y54, six hours).

## TRAIN

Shěnyáng's major train stations are the north and the south stations. Many trains arrive at one station, stop briefly, then travel to the next.

## SHĚNYÁNG BUS TIMETABLES

Destination	Price	Duration	Frequency	Departs
Běijīng	Y190	7½hr	6 daily	8am-10pm
Chángchūn	Y75	3½hr	hourly	7am-6pm
Dāndōng	Y65	3hr	every 30min	6am-7pm
Hǎerbīn	Y140	6½hr	6 daily	8am-3.30pm
Jílín	Y96	4½hr	6 daily	7.30am-4.30pm

However, when departing this isn't always the case, so confirm which station you need. If you're planning to buy sleeper tickets, purchase your ongoing ticket as soon as possible.

The south station has services departing for Hǎerbīn (Y53 to Y76, five to seven hours), Chángchūn (Y28, four to six hours), Dāndōng (Y24, four hours), Běijīng (seat/sleeper Y110/215, eight to 10 hours) and Dàlián (Y55, four to five hours). Express trains from the north train station travel to Běijīng (seat/sleeper Y110/215, eight hours), Guǎngzhōu (seat/sleeper Y305/552, 30 hours) and Shànghǎi (seat/sleeper Y206/373, 27 hours).

## Getting Around

A new subway system is under construction in Shěnyáng, scheduled to open in 2008 or '09. Meanwhile, you can get most anywhere in this sprawling city by bus, although you may need to make at least one transfer. Maps of the bus routes (Y5) are sold at the train stations.

Buses 203 and 602 run between the north and south train stations. Bus 227 runs between the North Tomb, the north train station and the Imperial Palace. Bus 207 runs east-west across Government Sq.

Taxis cost Y7 for the first 4km.

The airport is 25km south of the city. Taxis to the airport cost around Y80.

## AROUND SHĚNYÁNG

### Benxi Water Caves 本溪水洞

Inside these **caves** (Běnxī Shuǐdòng; admission Y85, plus Y5 for tram from ticket office to cave entrance; 🍴 8am-5pm), 30km east of Běnxī (which is 60km south-east of Shěnyáng), is a forest of stalactites and stalagmites. You take a boat along the 'Milky Way' (45 minutes), a river that zigzags through caves of differing sizes. Pink, green and blue lights illuminate the formations, making the place feel like a movie set, but the rock shapes are dramatic despite the hokey

lighting. The formations' evocative names – Seal Playing with a Pearl, Tiger's Mouth, Ginseng Baby – are entertaining too.

Coats are provided for the boat journey through the caves, which maintain a constant (chilly) temperature of 10°C.

A direct bus to the caves leaves Shěnyáng's south long-distance bus station at 7.30am and departs the caves at 2.30pm (Y25 each way, 2½ hours).

## DÀLIÁN 大连

☎ 411 / pop 2,695,000

A recent survey named Dàlián China's 'most liveable city', and if you linger on its beaches, explore its modern museums or stroll through its shopper-thronged pedestrian areas, you'll see why. Perched on the Liaodong Peninsula bordering the Yellow Sea, Dàlián is one of China's most prosperous cities. And even as many flashy towers are being built, this lively, relaxed city retains some early-20th-century architecture and refreshing acres of grass.

Several beaches surround the city, and relaxing by the sea is one of the main reasons travellers visit Dàlián. Dàlián's extremely successful football (soccer) team also lures many fans.

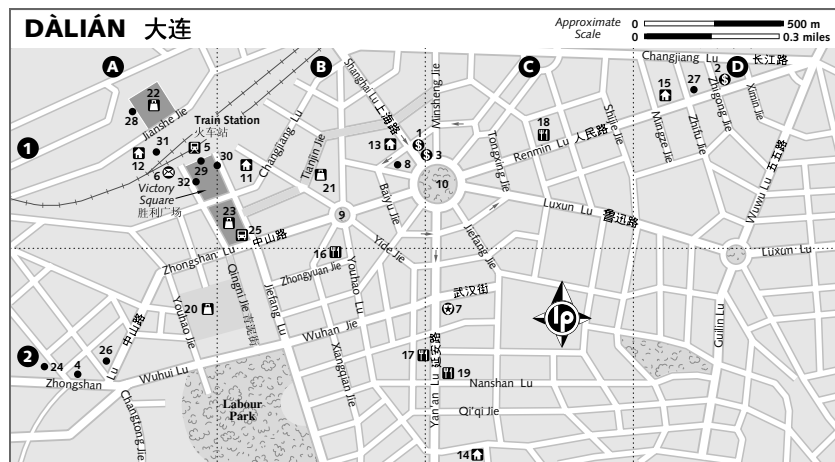
## Orientation

The city's hub is Zhōngshān Guǎngchǎng (Zhongshan Sq). Dàlián train station is west of Zhōngshān Guǎngchǎng, facing Shengli Guǎngchǎng (Victory Sq); the ferry terminal is to the northeast. Beaches dot the coast south and west of the centre. Further south, at the end of the peninsula, is Lǚshùn; a military base there is considered a sensitive zone, with much of the area off-limits to foreigners.

## Information

### BOOKSHOP

**Xinhua Bookshop** (Xīnhuá Shūdiàn; Map p364; 96 Tongxing Jie) Near Tianjin Jie.



### INTERNET ACCESS 网吧

**Internet café** (Wǎngbā; Map p364; Lower level, train station; per hr ¥3) To find this spiffy internet café, exit the train station and turn right. The entrance is on the west side of the building, downstairs.

### INTERNET RESOURCES

**Daliannews** (www.daliannews.com) English-language local news and tourist information.

**Shide-global** (www.shide-global.com/sports.htm) Background and contact information for the local football (soccer) team.

### MONEY

**Bank of China** (Zhōngguó Yínháng; Map p364; ☎ 8280 5711; 9 Zhōngshān Guǎngchǎng; ☎ 8.30-11.30am & 1-7pm Mon-Fri) Around the corner on Shanghai Lu is a 24-hour ATM.

**China Merchants Bank** (Map p364; Shengli Guǎngchǎng) ATM; opposite the train station, off Jiefang Lu.  
**HSBC** (Map p364; cnr Renmin Lu & Zhigong Jie) ATM; accepts Cirrus, Plus, MasterCard and Visa cards.

### POST

**Post office** (Yóujú; Map p364; Changjiang Lu, at Shengli Guǎngchǎng; ☎ 8am-6pm) To the right as you exit the train station.

### PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU

**PSB** (Gōngānjú; Map p364; ☎ 8363 2718; 16 Yan'an Lu; ☎ 8-11.30am & 1-4.30pm Mon-Fri)

### TRAVEL AGENCY

**CITS** (Zhōngguó Guójí Lǚxíngshè; Map p364; ☎ 8367 8019; www.citsdl.net; 145 Zhongshan Lu; ☎ 8.30am-

5.30pm Mon-Fri) On the 2nd floor of the Central Plaza Hotel (Xiāngzhòu Dàfàndiàn).

### Sights & Activities

#### ZHONGSHAN SQUARE 中山广场

**Zhongshan Sq** (Zhōngshān Guǎngchǎng; Map p364) is Dàlián's hub: grand buildings, most dating to the early 1900s, encircling a huge roundabout. Dàlián Binguǎn, a dignified hotel on the square's south side, appeared in the movie *The Last Emperor*. The square (actually, a circle) is busiest at night, when young people hang out or play hacky sack. An even larger crowd comes to watch the Dàlián Shide football stars on the square's giant TV screen.

#### FRIENDSHIP SQUARE 友好广场

West of Zhongshan Sq, **Friendship Sq** (Yǒuhǎo Guǎngchǎng; Map p364) is a traffic circle that surrounds a landmark – a vast spheroid that's illuminated like a giant disco ball at night.

#### LABOUR PARK 劳动公园

In the centre of this hilly park (Láodòng Gōngyuán; Map p364; admission ¥10; ☎ 7am-7pm) is a giant football, further testimony to the sport's popularity. Take the chairlift (¥40) to the TV Tower (Map p368) for excellent city views and come down via the hilarious 'land slide', a chute that winds down the hill.

#### DALIAN MODERN MUSEUM

大连现代博物馆  
With exhibits like 'Dalian: A City Without Traffic Jams', this gleaming museum (Dàlián

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Xiàndài Bówùguǎn; Map p368; ☎ 8480 1052; 10 Huizhan Jie; admission ¥30; ☎ 9am-5pm Apr-Oct, 9am-4.30pm Nov-Mar) resembles a regional public-relations campaign, but it's still a fascinating look at the city's recent (and forthcoming) urban developments.

The museum is near Xinghai Sq, in the southwest of the city. Take bus 23 to the Exhibition Centre stop, about a 20-minute ride from Zhongshan Sq.

### BEACHES

Five kilometres southeast of the city centre is **Bàngchuidǎo Jīngqū** (Map p368; admission ¥20), a secluded sandy beach on the grounds of Bàngchuidǎo Bīnguǎn, a hotel complex that's a long-time favourite with top-ranking Communist Party members. Unfortunately, there's no bus service to this area; a taxi from town will cost about ¥20.

Another good swimming spot is **Fujiazhuang Beach** (Map p368; admission ¥5; ☎ 6am-11pm), a deep bay with pebbly sand. Take bus 401 (¥1, 20 to 30 minutes) from the northwest corner of Jiefang Lu and Zhongshan Lu.

**Tiger Beach Park** (Lǎohūtān Lèyuán; Map p368) has a massive carved-marble tiger sculpture, a small beach and a honky-tonk amusement park. On either side of the park the coastal road provides excellent views of the ragged cliffs and crashing waves. Buses 30 and 712 from Zhongshan Sq travel to Tiger Beach Park (¥1, 20 to 30 minutes).

**Golden Stone Beach** (Jīnshítān), 60km north of Dàlián, is an attractive beach with splendid coves and rock formations. There's also a golf course, an amusement park and even a mu-

seum of Mao badges! A light-rail line runs to Golden Stone Beach about every 15 minutes from the depot on Triumph Plaza, behind the Dàlián train station (¥8, 50 minutes).

### Sleeping

**Dalian Sea Rhyme International Youth Hostel** (大连海韵国际青年旅舍; Dàlián Hǎiyùn Guójí Qīngnián Lǚshè; Map p368; ☎ 8239 4400; fax 8239 4400; Warship 104, 669 Jiefang Lu; 解放路669号; dm ¥45) Dàlián's most unusual accommodation is this warship-turned-hostel docked in the harbour near Tiger Beach. The only windows in the basic two- and four-bed dorms are tiny portholes, and the bathrooms are a little musty, but don't complain – you're on the water! Take bus 712 from Zhongshan Sq to the Polar Aquarium, then walk southwest (with the water on your left) about 10 minutes. To tour the ship without staying here costs ¥20.

**Broadway Hotel** (Sifāng Shèngshì Jiùdiàn; Map p364; ☎ 6262 8988; fax 6262 9959; 26-28 Jianshe Jie; 建设街26-28号; d ¥98-198) The best budget choice in the city centre is this new guesthouse behind the train station. The rooms aren't large, but they're neat as a pin. You'll get some street noise when you open the windows though.

**Dalian University of Foreign Languages Hotel** (Dàwài Bīnguǎn; Map p364; ☎ 8280 1199; fax 8280 1211; 94 Yan'an Lu; 延安路94号; d ¥240-300) At this friendly hotel on the University of Foreign Languages campus, rooms are fraying but pleasant. Take bus 23 down Yan'an Lu to its terminus and then, heading west, take the second left on Qilindong Xiang. Go up the hill (past lots of cheap eateries); the hotel is on the right, just before the street curves sharply.

## COMMUNISTS VS KUOMINTANG IN MANCHURIA

The Japanese occupation of Manchuria, which had begun in 1931, ended during WWII. When the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki forced the Japanese government to surrender, Soviet armies moved into Manchuria. With American assistance, Kuomintang troops moved north to oversee the Japanese retreat and regain control of northern China.

At the same time, however, the communists marched to Manchuria, picking up arms from abandoned Japanese depots en route. Other communist troops headed north by sea from Shāndōng. In November 1945 the Kuomintang attacked the communist fighters.

The communists occupied the Manchurian countryside, and their land-reform policies quickly built up support among the peasants. Soon the 100,000 that had marched into Manchuria had tripled in size, as peasants and ex-soldiers of the Manchurian armies eagerly joined the ranks. Within two years the Red Army had grown to 1.5 million combat troops and four million support personnel.

In 1948, in Manchuria, the communists made their move. Three great battles led by Lin Biao decided the outcome. In the first, in August 1948, the Kuomintang lost 500,000 people. In the second battle, from November 1948 to January 1949, whole Kuomintang divisions went over to the communists. The final battle was fought in and around Běijīng and Tiānjīn. Tiānjīn fell on 23 January and another 500,000 Kuomintang troops switched sides, sealing the Kuomintang's fate and allowing the communists to drive southwards.

**Dàlián Fāndiàn** (Map p364; ☎ 8263 3171; fax 8280 4197; 6 Shanghai Lu; 上海路6号; s/d Y320/380) This brick building near Zhongshan Sq houses a simple hotel with cosy rooms. Discounts put doubles in the budget range.

**Bohai Pearl Hotel** (Bóhǎi Míngzhū Jiùdiàn; Map p364; ☎ 8882 8333; fax 8881 8158; 8 Shengli Guǎngchǎng; 胜利广场8号; d Y758-988, tr Y1080, incl breakfast; ☎ ☎ ☎) Despite the high posted prices, this 30-storey tower facing the train station is an excellent midrange option, since the staff readily offer discounts of 50% or 60%. The rooms have such upscale amenities as hairdryers and minibars, and an ample buffet breakfast is served in the kitschy revolving restaurant.

**Furama Hotel** (Fùlǐhuá Dàjiùdiàn; Map p364; ☎ 8263 0888; www.furama.com.cn; 60 Renmin Lu; 人民路60号; d Y898 plus 15% service charge; ☎ ☎) A top international hotel, this glitzy pair of towers has sleek Asian-fusion-style rooms with high-speed internet connections and gracious staff.

## Eating & Drinking

You'll find lots of small eateries on the roads leading off Zhongshan Sq and Friendship Sq. The New-Mart Shopping Mall (see opposite) has a huge food court (dishes Y5 to Y8) on the 5th floor and a well-provisioned supermarket on the lower level.

**Dàbáicài Gùtōu Guǎn** (Map p364; ☎ 8263 6656; 21 Zhongyuan Jie, btwn Youhao Lu & Xiangqian Jie; dishes Y14-

28; ☎ lunch & dinner) Friendly, loud and smoky, this informal eatery serves fresh seafood and fiery northern-style fare. Try baby octopus with scallions (Y20) – or point to appealing dishes on display – and cool off with a local beer (Y5 to Y10).

**I-55 Coffee Stop & Bakery** (爱伍伍美式咖啡站; Àiwúwú Měishì Kāfēizhàn; Map p368; ☎ 8369 5755; 67 Gaoerji Lu; sandwiches & mains Y20-38, coffee Y19-23; ☎ breakfast, lunch & dinner; ☎) With a library of English-language books, a stack of games, and treats that range from quiche to fresh-squeezed orange juice to oatmeal cookies, this contemporary café is a popular expat hang-out. English menu, English-speaking staff and free wireless internet access too.

**Yixin Kǎo Róu** (Yixin Roast Meat Restaurant; Map p364; ☎ 8265 5878; 56 Yan'an Lu; dishes Y16-45; ☎ lunch & dinner) Make like a chef on the tabletop grills at this busy BBQ joint. In spite of the name, you can cook your own shellfish or vegetables (as well as meat).

**Tiān Tiān Yú Gǎng** (Map p364; ☎ 8280 1111; 41 Yan'an Lu; dishes Y28-80; ☎ lunch & dinner) Choose your meal from the many sea creatures swimming in the tanks at this upscale seafood restaurant. Great veggie dishes too. There's another branch at 10 Renmin Lu (☎ 8280 1118).

The streets around Friendship Sq and the University of Foreign Languages (particularly Qí'qí Jie and Yan'an Lu) are lined with small bars. For a sleazier scene, head for

the nightclubs on Changjiang Lu, north of Zhongshan Sq.

## Entertainment

**Noah's Ark** (Nuóyà Fāngzhōu; Map p368; ☎ 8369 2798; 32 Wusi Lu) Local bands play at this long-standing but still cool bar. It's just south of People's Sq, on the western side of the flower market.

## Shopping

It seems as if a new mall opens in shopping-crazed Dàlián nearly every week. Qingni Jie, south of Victory Sq, is a pedestrian plaza lined with upscale department stores, including the **New-Mart Shopping Mall** (Map p364; Youhao Jie btwn Zhongshan Lu & Wuhui Lu). Tianjin Jie, a more-pedestrian pedestrian street, has a summer night market. Opposite the train station there's an enormous underground shopping centre below Victory Sq. Another shopping area behind the station is around and below Triumph Plaza (Kǎixuán Shāngchǎng).

## Getting There & Away

### AIR

Airport shuttles leave from the office of the **Civil Aviation Administration of China** (CAAC; Zhōngguó Mínháng; Map p364; ☎ 8361 2888 domestic reservations, 8361 2222 international reservations; 143 Zhongshan Lu; ☎ 8am-6pm); check with CAAC for times.

Domestic flights include Běijīng (Y710, one hour), Hǎerbīn (Y840, 1½ hours), Shànghǎi (Y1060, 1¼ hours), Guǎngzhōu (Y2050, 3½ hours) and Hong Kong (Y3030, 3½ hours).

**Dragonair** (Map p364; ☎ 8271 8855; www.dragonair.com; 15th fl, 68 Renmin Lu) has an office near the Furama Hotel. **Japan Airlines** (JAL; Map p364; ☎ 8369 2525; 147 Zhongshan Lu) and **All Nippon Airways** (Map p364; ☎ 8360 6611; 147 Zhongshan Lu) are both in the Senmao Building, near the CAAC. International destinations include Tokyo (Y5250, 2¼ hours), Osaka (Y4480, two hours and 20 minutes) and Seoul (Y2390, one hour).

In summer you can fly from Dàlián to Vladivostok and Khabarovsk (Russia). **Vladivostok Avia** (☎ 8277 9100; fax 8277 9300; www.vladavia.ru) travels to Vladivostok (two hours) several times a week, and **Dal Avia** (www.dalavia.ru) flies to Khabarovsk (2½ hours) on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

### BOAT

The Korean-run **Da-In Ferry** (☎ 8270 5082; www.dainferry.co.kr) to Incheon in South Korea departs

from Dàlián on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 3.30pm (Y920 to Y1850, 18 hours).

Several daily boats go to Yāntái; fast boats make the crossing in under four hours (Y350), while slower boats take six to seven hours (Y50 to 250). Daily boats to Weihái (Y150 to Y720, seven hours) depart at 8.30am, 9am and 9pm. If you really love boat travel, you can go to Tiānjīn (Y172 to Y720, 12 to 15 hours) or Shànghǎi (Y660, 37 hours).

Buy ferry tickets at the passenger ferry terminal in the northeast of Dàlián or from a counter in front of the train station. To the ferry terminal, take bus 13 from the Dàlián train station or bus 708 from Zhongshan Sq.

### BUS

Long-distance buses leave from Victory Sq (in front of the train station) and from behind the station (near the light-rail depot). The trick is to find the correct ticket booth for your destination.

Tickets for fast buses to Dāndōng (Y81, 3½ hours) are sold from a booth on the west side of Victory Sq, where eight buses depart daily between 6.20am and 2.40pm. The ticket booth for buses to Běijīng (Y220 to Y280, nine hours, 1am and 9pm) is also on the square's west side.

Buses to Shěnyáng (Y73 to Y81, 4½ hours, hourly) depart from the east side of Victory Sq. The same booth sells tickets to Běnxī (Y60 to Y95, five hours, 9am and 3pm).

Frequent buses to Zhuānghé (Y34, 2½ hours) leave from behind the train station.

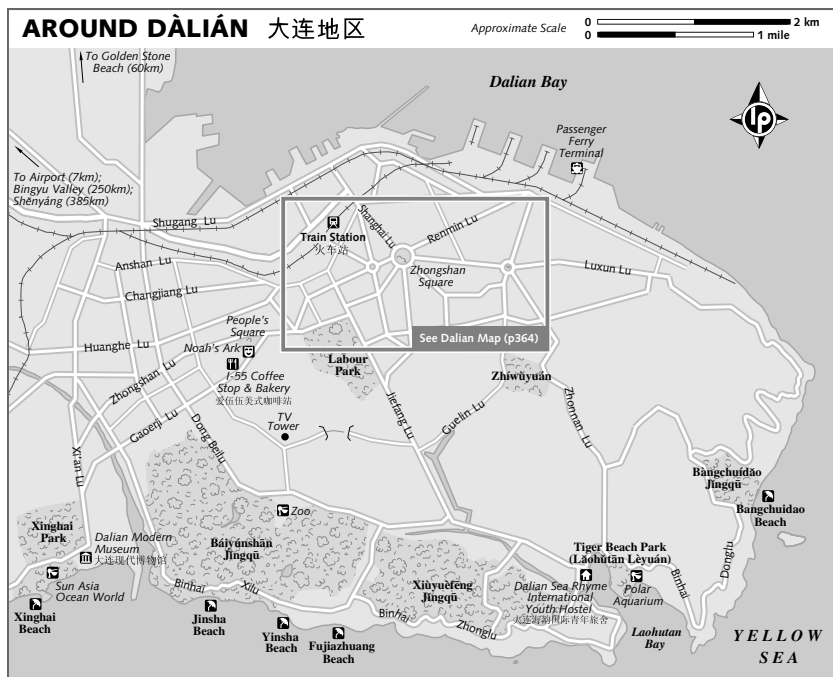
### TRAIN

Be prepared for chaos at the always jammed Dàlián train station. Try to buy your ticket as early as possible.

Several daily trains run to Shěnyáng (Y55, four hours). Other destinations include Běijīng (seat/sleeper Y140/290, 10 to 12 hours), Hǎerbīn (seat/sleeper Y125/231, 10

### WARNING

Before attempting to visit Lūshùn, at the end of the Liaodong Peninsula, check with Dàlián's PSB (see p364). This area, considered a sensitive military zone, has historically been off limits to foreigners, and the PSB continues to insist that foreign travellers stay away.



hours), Chángchūn (seat/sleeper Y99/171, eight to 9½ hours) and Tōnghuā (seat/sleeper Y71/143, 11 to 12 hours).

At the time of writing, train service to Dāndōng had been discontinued and a new train-ferry link between Dàlián and Yántái was under construction.

### Getting Around

Dàlián's central district is not large and can generally be covered on foot. The airport is 12km northwest of the city centre. Buses 701 and 710 run between Zhongshan Sq and the airport (Y1). A taxi from the city centre will cost about Y30.

Bus 23 runs south down Yan'an Lu. Bus 13 runs from the train station to the passenger ferry terminal. Taxis start at Y8 during the day and Y10 between 11pm and 5am.

### AROUND DÀLIÁN

If you can't travel south to Guílín, get away to 'Little Guílín' – the **Bingyu Valley** (冰峪沟; Bingyù Gōu; admission Y100; ☎ May-Oct), a riverfront park area about 250km northeast of Dàlián. Boats take you along the river,

where rock formations rise steeply along the banks, and you can hike up or around several of the peaks. While the cliffs may not be as dramatic as their Guílín counterparts, they're pretty, and a day here makes a relaxing getaway.

On summer weekends there's a direct bus (Y220 return, including park admission) from Dàlián to the Bingyu Valley. It departs at 7am from Victory Sq opposite the train station and returns to Dàlián in the late afternoon. Otherwise, catch the bus to Zhuānghé (Y34, 2½ hours, 15 daily, 6.30am to 4.30pm) behind Dàlián station. From Zhuānghé, minibuses to Bingyu Valley's east gate (Y8, one hour) leave about once an hour.

There are several small guesthouses just outside the east gate. Inside the park, the boxy-looking **Bingyu Furama Hotel** (冰峪富丽华度假村; Bingyù Fúhuá Dūjiǎcūn; ☎ 8922 6237; d Y240-300) is nothing like its glitzy counterpart in Dàlián, but it has large rooms overlooking the river. The Furama's restaurant (dishes Y18 to Y38) is quite good; ask for *dàgūjī* (大骨鸡), a local chicken stew made with several varieties of mushrooms. The boat

from the park entrance will bring you to the hotel dock.

Buses from Zhuānghé leave for Dàlián about every 20 minutes until 4pm. To Dāndōng, buses depart Zhuānghé (Y25, three hours) at 6.29am, 7.16am, 8.17am and 1.18pm; leave the park early if you want to catch the last Dāndōng bus.

If you get stuck in Zhuānghé, **Hóngguāng Binguǎn** (红光宾馆; ☎ 8981 2684; 369 Xinhua Lu; 新华路369号; d Y100) has clean, simple rooms. Turn right as you exit the bus station; the hotel is one block ahead on the right.

### DĀNDŌNG 丹东

☎ 0415 / pop 643,000

Just across the Yalu River (Yalu Jiāng) from North Korea, Dāndōng draws visitors hoping for a brief peek at the Hermit Kingdom. You can't see much, but the contrast between Dāndōng's lively riverfront and the desolate stretch of land along the Korean side is a bit eerie. Outside the city you can visit the easternmost stretch of the Great Wall, which also parallels the border.

Besides its border tourism business, Dāndōng is a hub for trade between China and North Korea. Officially, trucks rumble across the Sino-Korean Friendship Bridge between the two countries, and, unofficially, North Koreans regularly cross the riverfront border to buy food and other supplies. In an effort to reduce this cross-border traffic following North Korea's 2006 underground nuclear test, the Chinese government began erecting a fence between the two countries north of Dāndōng. Whether this fence will be extended along the roughly 1300km frontier that China shares with North Korea – and its effect on trade between the two nations – remains to be seen.

Check with CITS (right) if you want to join a tour to North Korea. You will need to have arranged your visa in advance (most likely at the North Korean embassy in Běijīng). At the time of writing, Israeli and South Korean nationals were not being issued North Korean visas; visas for US citizens have been available on an extremely limited basis for special-event tours.

### Orientation

The river is about 500m southeast of the train station. The 'Business and Tourism District' (Shāngmào Lǚyóuqū), lined with riverfront

restaurants, is southwest of the Yalu River bridge. The main shopping district is just east of the station.

### Information

**Bank of China** (Zhōngguó Yínháng; ☎ 213 7721; 60 Jinshan Dajie; ☎ 7.30-11.30am & 1-5pm) There's also a 24-hour ATM in the Business and Tourism District.

**CITS** (Zhōngguó Guójí Lǚxíngshè; ☎ 213 5854; fax 214 1922; 20 Shiwei Lu at Jiangcheng Dajie; ☎ 8am-5pm)

**Internet café** (Wǎngbā; 15 Jiangcheng Dajie; per hr Y2)

**Post office** (Yóujú; 78 Qiwei Lu; ☎ 8am-5.30pm)

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; Gōngānjú; ☎ 210 3138; 15 Jiangcheng Dajie; ☎ 8am-12.30pm & 1.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri)



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## Sights & Activities

### NORTH KOREAN BORDER 北朝鲜边界

For views of the **border** (Běi Cháoxiǎn Biānjiè), stroll along the riverfront **Yalujiang Park** that faces the North Korean city of Sinuiju.

In 1950, during the Korean War, American troops ‘accidentally’ strafed the original steel-span bridge between the two countries. The North Koreans dismantled the bridge as far as the midriver boundary line – all that’s left on the Korean side is a row of support columns. You can wander along the **remains of the original bridge** (Yǎlújiāng Duàn Qiáo; admission ¥20; ☀ dawn-dusk), which still shows shrapnel pockmarks and ends abruptly midriver. The Sino-Korean Friendship Bridge, the official border crossing between China and North Korea, runs parallel to the old one.

To get closer to North Korea, take a **boat cruise** (*guānguāng chuán*) from the tour boat piers on either side of the bridges. The large boats (¥20, 20 minutes) are cheaper than the smaller speedboats (¥35, 10 minutes, from dawn to dusk), but you have to wait for them to fill up with passengers. Either way, you cruise – briefly – along the river right up along the North Korean side. Apart from some locals, a never-moving Ferris wheel and

the odd smokestack, there isn’t much to see. Nevertheless, if you want to visit North Korea, at least you’ll be pretty close.

### MUSEUM TO COMMEMORATE US AGGRESSION 抗美援朝纪念馆

With everything from statistics to shrapnel, this **museum** (Kàngmèi Yuánchào Jìniànguǎn; ☎ 387 6322; admission ¥30; ☀ 8am-5pm) offers Chinese and North Korean perspectives of the war with the United States (1950–53). Look for the ‘last letters home’ from American soldiers killed in the conflict. The adjacent North Korean War Memorial Column was built 53m high, symbolising the year the war ended.

Take Bus 3 from just north of the train station and get off at the stadium. Cross the train tracks, walk west towards the Memorial Column and climb the stairs to the museum plaza.

### TIGER MOUNTAIN GREAT WALL 虎山长城

About 25km northeast of Dāndōng, this steep, restored stretch of the **Great Wall** (Hǔshān Chángchéng; admission ¥30), built during the Ming dynasty, parallels the current North Korean border. Unlike other sections of the wall, this one still sees comparatively few tourists.

## ONE STEP ACROSS Carolyn B Heller

The North Korean soldier began sprinting towards us, across the fields to the narrow stream that marked the border between his country and China. His bulky, olive-drab coat flapped behind him, and his rifle, slung over his shoulder, bounced as he ran.

Standing on the China side of the riverbank with my 11-year-old twins and two Chinese students, I cautiously eyed the young soldier as he approached. He ran right up to the edge of the stream, near enough that I could see his smooth cheeks. Instinctively, I put my arms around my daughters’ shoulders.

We were just behind the Tiger Mountain Great Wall near Dāndōng, at the point known as Yībùkuà (‘one step across’) where the Yalu River between the two countries trickles down into a narrow creek. When the soldier reached the shore, he called out something in Mandarin. I didn’t catch what he said and looked quizzically at the students.

‘Cigarettes,’ one of them translated. ‘He wants cigarettes.’

We shook our heads, and the students said, ‘Méiyǒu.’ Don’t have. But one student signalled to the soldier to wait. He jogged over to a vendor selling drinks and snacks, returning with a pack of smokes.

The soldier gestured for the student to follow a path of small rocks that led partway across the stream. The student picked his way across the stones and threw the cigarette pack to the opposite bank. After a furtive glance around, the soldier clambered down and scooped it up. Then he called again.

‘Knife?’

‘Knife?!’ I repeated. Again, we shook our heads.

Then, without another word, the young soldier scooted under a rope hung with tin cans – a makeshift border alarm that clattered as he passed – and made his way back across the fields.

You can hike up the wall, view a short unrestored section and look out over the surrounding countryside. The restored wall ends at a small but worthwhile **museum** (admission ¥10). Back near the entrance, a point called Yībùkuà – ‘one step across’ – marks an extremely narrow part of the river between the two countries.

To return to the entrance, either hike back over the wall or follow the riverfront path. The riverfront trail ends about halfway back, where you have to climb up a short stretch of rocks to a metal walkway, which leads to Yībùkuà. In summer, boatmen often wait near the museum to row you back along the river (¥15, 10 minutes). The river marks the border, so even if it seems unguarded, don’t attempt to cross to the other side. A gun-toting soldier may suddenly appear.

Buses to the wall (¥5, 45 minutes) run about every 30 minutes from the Dāndōng long-distance bus station.

## Sleeping

**Lǚyān Bīnguǎn** (☎ 212 7777; fax 210 9888; cnr Shiwei Lu & Sanjing Jie; 三经街, 十纬路; dm ¥35-40, d/ste ¥298/400 incl breakfast; ☺) At this friendly guest-house conveniently located between the train station and the river, rooms range from reasonable three- or four-bed dorms to standard doubles and spacious suites.

**Yóudiàn Fāndiàn** (Post & Telecommunications Hotel; ☎ 216 6888; fax 216 6888; 78 Qiwei Lu; 七纬路78号; s ¥368, d/tr ¥298-468, q ¥320, all incl breakfast; ☺) Recent renovations have added modern furnishings and new carpets – as well as higher prices – to this old standby. Still, if you can negotiate a room for under ¥200, it remains a good deal.

**Oriental Cherry Hotel** (Yíngtáo Dàjiùdiàn; ☎ 210 0099; 2 Liuweil Lu; 六纬路2号; d ¥318 incl breakfast; ☺) Spiffy rooms with contemporary cherry-hued furniture give this tower a touch of class. It’s a half-block from the river, and high-floor rooms (especially those on the even-number side) have great river views. High-speed internet connections too.

## Eating

For fresh seafood and good Korean fare, explore the riverfront on either side of the bridges.

**Àiláng Xiǎnzū Fèngwèi** (Arirang Korean Restaurant; ☎ 212 2333; Binjiang Lu; dishes ¥12-22; ☀ lunch & dinner) For typical Korean fare, especially seafood, try this popular restaurant opposite Yalujiang

Park. The fish stews, garlicky greens and fiery clams go well with the local Yalu River beer.

**Pyeongyang North Korean Restaurant** (Píngyǎng Gāoli Fāndiàn; ☎ 221 1555; Bawei Lu; dishes ¥12-42) The staff seem a bit flustered to see foreigners at this North Korean-run restaurant, but if you ask for grilled beef and local fish you’ll dine well. Tables concealed behind screens add to the intrigue.

**Zhōnglián Měishíchéng** (United Gourmet City; ☎ 253 1888; 13 Wujiang Jie; dishes ¥18-28; ☀ lunch & dinner) A mind-boggling array of northeastern dishes, from fresh seafood to hotpot to vegetable stews, are on display in this cavernous restaurant. The woody wild mushroom soup is delicious.

## Getting There & Away

### AIR

Flights to and from Dāndōng are limited; check with CITS (p369) for schedules and bookings. At the time of writing, there were four flights a week to Běijīng (¥960, 1½ hours) and five to Shànghǎi (¥1200, two hours and 20 minutes).

### BOAT

The **Dandong International Ferry Co** (☎ 710 0228; www.dandongferry.co.kr) runs a boat to Incheon in South Korea, departing on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday (¥970 to ¥1800, 16 hours). CITS can arrange tickets.

### BUS

The **long-distance bus station** (98 Shiwei Lu) is near the train station. See the box on p364 for departure information.

### TRAIN

The train station is in the centre of town, north of the river. A lofty Mao statue greets arriving passengers.

Destination	Price	Duration
Běijīng	¥143/254 (seat/sleeper)	14hr
Chángchūn	¥72/136 (seat/sleeper)	9-10hr
Qíngdǎo	¥214 (sleeper)	24hr
Shěnyáng	¥24	4hr

The K27 train from Běijīng to Pyongyang stops at Dāndōng at 7.30am on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday (Dāndōng to Pyongyang takes 11 hours). If you have the necessary visas (normally requiring that you travel with a tour group), you can hop aboard.



#### DĀNDŌNG BUS TIMETABLES

Destination	Price	Duration	Frequency	Departs
Dàlián	Y81	3½hr	8 daily	6am-2.50pm
Hāerbīn	Y154	12hr	daily	10am
Huánrén	Y40	5hr	2 daily	8am & 10.10am
Jǐ'ān	Y43	6½hr	daily	8.30am
Shěnyáng	Y64	3hr	every 30min	5.30am-6.30pm
Tōnghuā	Y46	8hr	2 daily	6.30am & 8.50am

### AROUND DĀNDŌNG

**Fènghuáng Shān** (凤凰山; Phoenix Mountain), about 52km northwest of central Dāndōng near the town of Fèngchéng, is 840m high and dotted with temples, monasteries and pagodas

from the Tang, Ming and Qing dynasties. A mountain temple fair in April attracts thousands of people. Buses to Fèngchéng leave from Dāndōng's bus station every 10 minutes between 6am and 5.30pm (Y10, one hour).