

Beijing Survival Guide for SMIC School

Print the first two pages double sided on one piece of A4 paper and keep with you (2017-2)

Emergency Contacts:

Beijing SMIC Private School (+86 010) 6785 3030 -3105 www.bjsmicschool.com

If you are dialing from overseas, add a "00 86" (i.e. international, China).

Address:

Beijing SMIC Private School	北京市中芯学校
No. 9 Liang Shui He 2nd Street	北京经济技术开发区 凉水河二街 9 号
Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area	邮编: 100176
Beijing 100176	
China	(Bei Jing Shi Zhong Xin Xue Xiao)
	(Bei Jing Jing Ji Ji Shu Kai Fa Qu Liang Shui He Er Jie Jiu Hao)

For administrative purposes (visa, forms etc), use the English address for convenience.

For mailing something or travelling (luggage tags, taxi, mapping etc), use the Chinese address for accuracy.

Note: The first time you enter China, you need to register with the police (aka PSB, Public Security Bureau) within 24 hours by checking into your house or asking HR. There are a few registrations we need to do, this is just one of it.

Bus: (Bus line numbers are not unique but there is usually no confusion):

The bus stops to the east of main gate are called 中芯花园 Zhong Xin Hua Yuan (northbound, southbound).

We take the northbound buses to go downtown:

Bus 665: hospital, The Subway, KFC, Merry Mart, subway 亦庄桥南 Yi Zhuang Qiao Nan

Bus 453: hospital, The Subway, gas company

Bus 115: hospital, our main company, KFC, Merry Mart, Yi Zhuang Church, subway 亦庄桥南 Yi Zhuang Qiao Nan

Bus 202: hospital, 荣京东街 Rong Jing Dong Jie, Mr. Pizza, Domino's Pizza

The bus stops to the west of main gate are called 泰河园二里 Tai He Yuan Er Li (westbound, eastbound).

We take the eastbound buses to go downtown:

Bus 578: hospital, The Subway

Bus 580: The Subway

Subway:

Hopping off the bus, our nearest subway station is (referred to as The Subway):

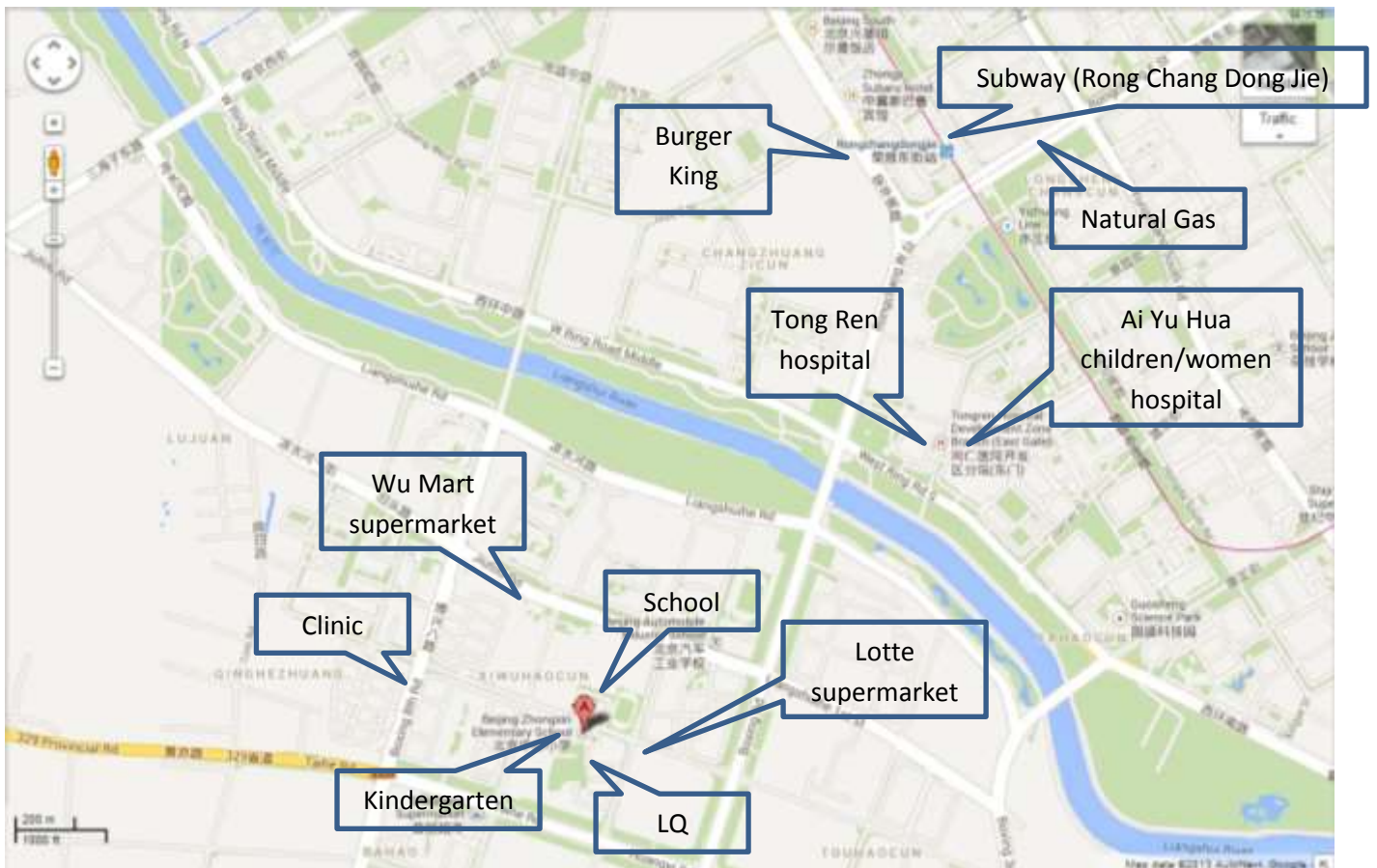
荣昌东街, 亦庄线 (Rong Chang Dong Jie station on the Yi Zhuang line)

Going downtown, the Yi Zhuang line stops halfway, you'll have to get off, follow the crowd and transfer to Line 5 to continue your trip. Coming home is the same, but be careful not to get off too early, there is an adjacent station to the north called 荣京东街 Rong Jing Dong Jie (one character difference).

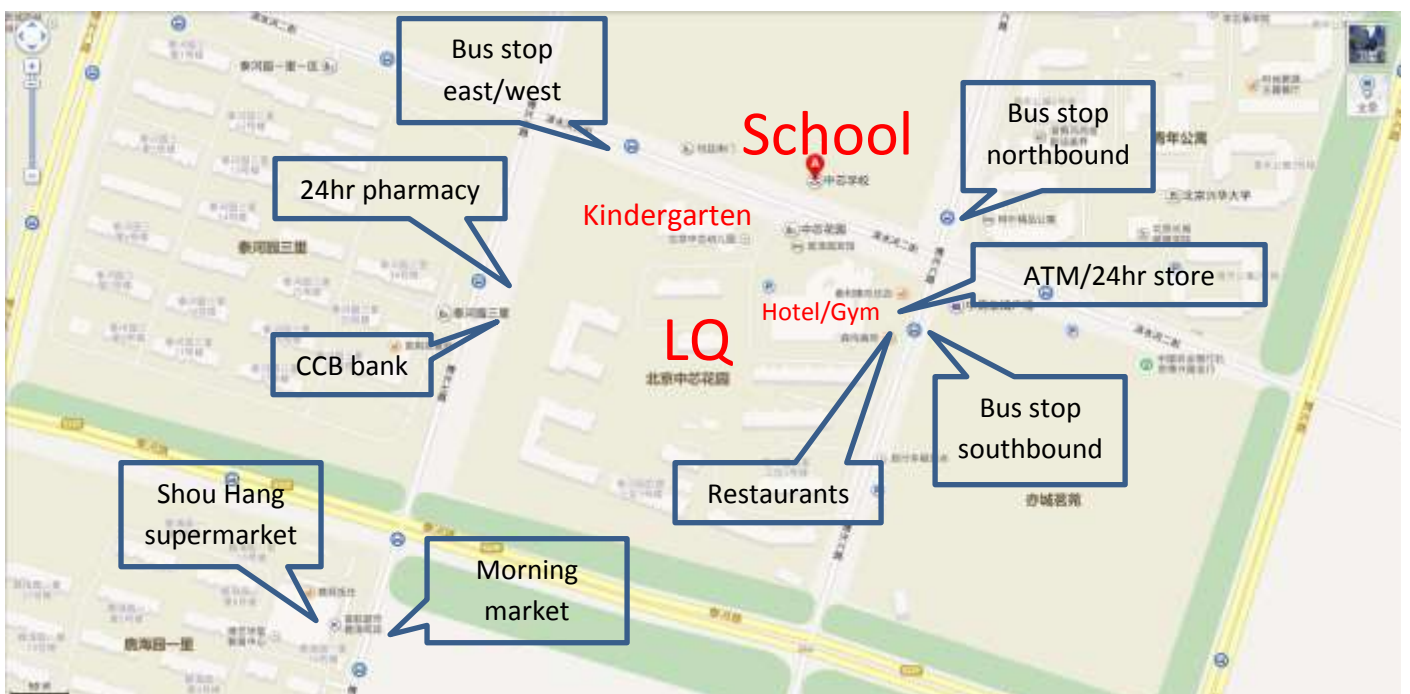
The Beijing public transport card (一卡通 Yi Ka Tong) can be used for the bus, subway and some small purchases. You can add credit at the subway (remember to get fapiao). The bus fare is usually a couple of RMB's. The subway fare can be several RMB's depending on distance. The subway is immune to congestion.

Maps:

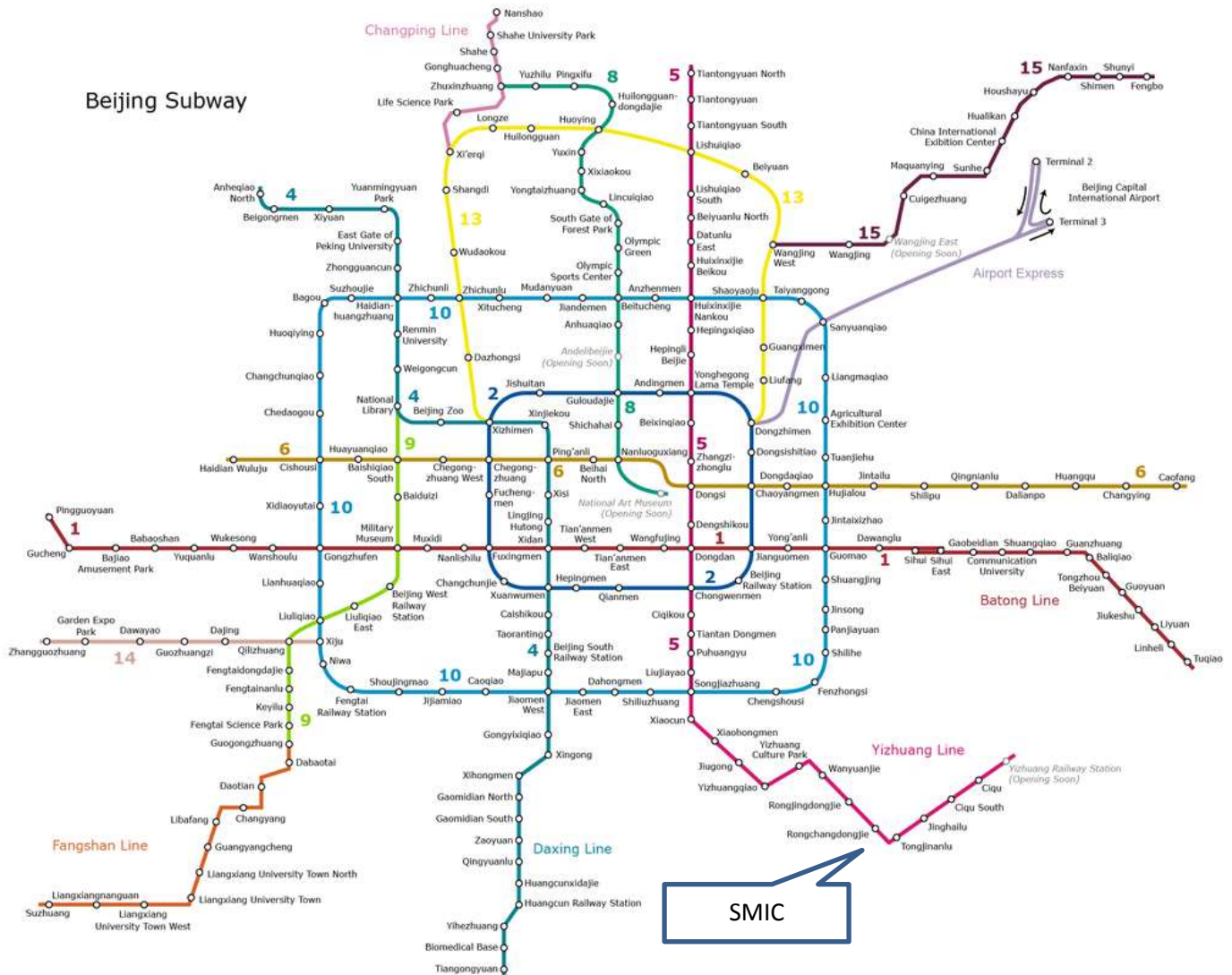
Our residential campus is called the LQ (Living Quarters), it includes the hotel/clubhouse/gym and the kindergarten. The Tong Reng Hospital is about 5 mins away, the Subway is about 10 minutes away (not counting bus waiting time).



Zooming in, we see places accessible by walking (including Wu Mart). We usually use the north/south bus stops.



Zooming out, using a subway map.



We are in the south east corner of Beijing outside the fifth ring (五环 Wu Huan), our area goes by a few names:

- 亦庄 Yi Zhuang (“Zhuang” means town, occasionally transliterated as “e-town”)
- 开发区 Kai Fa Qu (meaning high tech development area)
- 大兴区亦庄 Da Xing Qu Yi Zhuang (Yi Zhuang town is in the Da Xing district of Beijing, most useful)
- BDA

Taxi:

Most locals use an App (Didi) to hail a taxi or a rideshare. The taxis (出租车 Chu Zhu Che) are metered and more expensive but you can get a fapiao. The rideshares (拼车 Ping Che) are pre-priced and cheaper by about 30% but you can’t get a fapiao and availability is a hit or miss. You can also ask a friend to recommend a couple of trustworthy drivers (师傅 Shi Fu) so that you can prearrange trips with less uncertainty.

- Taxi to The Subway is about 15 RMB for 5 km in 10 min. (1 mile = 1.6 km)
- Taxi to Sam’s Club is about 25 RMB for 8 km in 20 min.
- Taxi to Ikea is about 75 RMB for 25 km in 30 min.
- Taxi to Tiananmen (Beijing center) is about 80 RMB for 35 km in 60 min via local road without congestion.
- Taxi to Beijing airport is about 130 RMB for 40 km in 50 min via highway without congestion.

Always get a fapiao when you get off a taxi. Traffic in Beijing can often be congested even during off peak hours.

Phones:

China also uses the slow speed GSM world standard (like AT&T and T-mobile in the USA) which is enough for voice calls and texts. To use your foreign GSM phone, you have to unlock it if it is locked. It may be tricky to unlock your phone. You might have to call your carrier, say that you're taking a trip overseas and request an unlock code, or buy an unlock code online, or bring it to China and unlock it through a street vendor. Once you have an unlocked GSM phone, you just have to buy a local SIM card and a pre-paid card to use your phone. China uses 220V electric outlets, most mobile electronics (phones, laptops) will have dual voltage charges and will work here.

Most locals use a pre-paid phone (instead of a contract phone), you buy a pre-paid card (get a fapiao), scratch it, call a service number and enter the password to add credit to your phone. A 100 RMB credit can typically last one month for just voice/text.

For faster 3G or 4G/LTE internet, you'll have to buy a local phone because local 3G/4G are not compatible with overseas phones. Local brands (Xiaomi, Huawei, ZTE) are cheap and very competitive. Imported brands (Apple, Samsung, Sony, HTC) are slightly more expensive due to import tax. There are three big carriers in China using different incompatible technology, make sure you pick the right phone.

China Mobile 移动 Yi Dong uses TD-SCDMA (largest carrier in the world, maybe better coverage, slower 3G)

China Unicom 联通 Lian Tong uses WCDMA (2nd largest in China, maybe cheaper, faster 3G)

China Telecom 电信 Dian Xing uses CDMA2000 (3rd largest in China, uncommon mobile carrier)

Internet:

Google and many social websites are blocked in China for political reasons. The school has VPN for work use. Please keep personal use to after work hours to save bandwidth. For your home, you could try Astrill or ExpressVPN etc.

Different neighborhoods use different internet service providers (ISP). The LQ area is serviced by Beijing Telecom, to subscribe to internet, ask a Chinese speaker to call 10000 and arrange an installation appointment. Have your passport and cash ready. Internet typically costs 100 RMB/month for 10 Mbps. Most people pay annually to get a discount and more convenience (get a fapiao). To setup wireless internet in your apartment, you can pay the ISP to do it or buy and install a wireless router.

Meals:

Lunch subsidy is 14 RMB, breakfast subsidy is 5 RMB (school pay for it). Taking the cafeteria food home is discouraged because things will get out of control if everyone starts packing food home.

The closest restaurants are the three under the hotel facing the east (go out LQ and turn right) and one across the street from them. Try to get a fapiao for your meal.

KFC is the most popular fast food restaurant in China, the closest one is at 上海沙龙 Shang Hai Sha Long which is 25 min away by bus. Take bus 665 and get off at 天宝家园 Tian Bao Jia Yuan. Or call 400-882-3823 or visit <http://www.4008823823.com.cn> Burger King is north of the roundabout, west of the Rong Chang Dong Jie subway.

McDonald's is a little harder to find, the closest one is at 林肯公园 Link Park which is 35 min away by bus. Take bus 453 to 交通服务中心 Jiao Tong Fu Wu Zhong Xin and change to bus 开发区 Kai Fa Qu 1 (green bus) and get off at 亦庄文化园 Yi Zhuang Wen Hua Yuan (subway station). Or call 400-851-7517 or visit <http://www.4008-517-517.cn>

Sam's Club has a Starbuck's, KFC, two pizza restaurants in the same mall building. Take bus 453 to the final stop at Jiao Tong Fu Wu Zhong Xin and change to bus Kai Fa Qu 1 Wai (green bus) and get off at 经网路 Jing Wang Lu.

There is one bakery at Wu Mart and one at Shou Hang supermarket. Tap water is considered not potable here.

Shopping:

The most popular store is Wu Mart (called Wu Mei by the locals) which is one block west, one block north, then one block west. It is similar to a small Walmart, it sells almost everything such as produce, food, clothes, appliances etc. There is a pharmacy on the same floor as Wu Mart (2nd floor).

The cheapest freshest produce is at the morning market, but please use caution buying processed food there.

The cheapest stores are online, such as <http://jd.com>, <http://amazon.cn> or <http://taobao.com> (which is like eBay, watch out). The former two can usually deliver the next day and also allow you to pay cash on delivery so that you don't have to use a credit card or setup online payment. Have them deliver to the school address (the guardhouse will hold your goodies).

Health:

Both the school and kindergarten have nurse stations during office hours.

The nearest hospital is Tong Ren hospital 同仁医院 a top category public hospital, it is cheap but has long lines. Across the street is Ai Yu Hua hospital 爱育华 a children/women's private hospital, it is more expensive but is much newer and has shorter lines. These two might not have English speaking staff, the nearest international hospital is Beijing Friendship Hospital International Medical Center 北京友谊医院国际医疗部 which is a 45 minutes taxi ride downtown (near Temple of Heaven close to the south 2nd ring).

To see a doctor, bring your passport the first time, open an account at the hospital and add 100 RMB or so of credit. You should then get a hospital card and a medical history booklet. Get a number from either the ER or outpatient window. Then wait to see doctor who might prescribe tests/meds. Take the tests by paying with the hospital card, bring the results back to doctor. If the doctor prescribes meds, go to the pharmacy inside the hospital to buy them using your hospital card. Before leaving, go back to the first window to print a fapiao to use for reimbursement by the insurance company. Some international hospitals are "in-network", you don't have to pay up front.

Some medicines are not available in China, so you should try to bring those that you might need. Some of the very common ones might still be available but it might be using a different name or packaging.

Banking:

The school will setup two bank accounts for you with China Construction Bank (CCB) and HK SinoPac Bank. The former is used for most transactions. The latter is used for USD transactions and to help you transfer money overseas (you can request a percentage of your monthly salary to be deposited into your SinoPac account). The nearest CCB branch is to the west of the LQ: 北京博兴七路支行 open daily 8:30-16:30, phone: 67814286 address: 北京经济技术开发区泰河园四里二区 1 号楼一层. The larger regional branch is south of the Rong Chang Dong Jie subway station: 北京经济技术开发区支行 open Mon-Fri 9:00-16:30, phone 67881772 address: 北京经济技术开发区景园北街 2 号 BDA 企业大道 55 幢.

Useful Phrases:

Good morning	Zao an
How are you?	Ni hao
I am John	Wo shi John
OK	Hao (the opposite is: Bu hao)
I don't understand	Wo bu dong
How much is it?	Duo shao qian?
Thank you	Xie xie

Please send feedback to: changcheng_hsu@bjsmicschool.com