

# Tianjin city guide

## Where to Stay

Tianjin has the usual range of international hotel chains, as well as some local hotels. For business travellers it is worth investigating the availability of broadband before booking local hotels.

### Downtown:

#### **Marriott**

The Marriott is a 5 star hotel right in the centre of the old concession area (see below). At present, building work is ongoing for the new metro station across the road.

Address: Renaissance Tianjin, 105 Jianshe Road, Heping District, Tianjin, 300042, China. Telephone: 00 86 (0)22 23026888; Fax: 00 86 (0)22 23023888.

#### **Hotel Nikko Tianjin**

Like the Marriott, this new hotel which only opened in 2007, is based in the old concession area, closer to the French area. It is 5 Star and Japanese owned.

Address: No.189 Nanjing Road, Heping District, Tianjin 300051, China Telephone: +86-22-8319-8888  
Fax: +86-22-8319-2266

#### **Sheraton**

Located a ten minute drive from the city centre, this 5 star Sheraton is on the edge of a peaceful park.

Address: Sheraton Tianjin Hotel, Zi Jinshan road, Hexi District, Tianjin, 300074, China. Telephone: 00 86 (0)22 23343388.

#### **Hyatt**

A 4 star hotel beside the river and on the edge of the old British concession.

Address: Hyatt Regency Tianjin Hotel, 219 Jiefang North Road, Tianjin, 300042, China. Telephone: 00 86 (0)22 23301234; Fax: 00 86 (0)22 23311234.

### In TEDA

The Tianjin Economic & Technological Development zone is a forty minute drive from the city centre. There is a choice of hotels in TEDA.

## **Marriott**

A 5 star Renaissance hotel is co-located with its own conference centre in TEDA.

Address: Renaissance Tianjin TEDA Hotel, 29 Second Avenue, TEDA, Tianjin 300457.

## **Holiday Inn**

Newly opened. Address: Holiday Inn, Binhai, 86 First Avenue, TEDA, Tianjin 300457. Telephone: 00 86 (0)22 66283388; Fax: 00 86 (0)22 6628 3399.

## **Eating Out**

Every westerners' favourite Chinese restaurant seems to be Yue Weixian. This is a charming mix of styles and experiences. On the outside, it looks like a western house. Inside, it looks more like a museum than a restaurant. It is a honeycomb of small rooms, all graced with fascinating antiques and artefacts. It serves good Chinese food at reasonable prices.

### **Yue weixian Restaurant**

283 Hebei Road

Tel: (0) 22 23146666

Fax: 23309930

Email: ywx@ywxgroup.com

As with most Chinese cities, there are lots of restaurants. Because of the heavy bias towards Japanese and Korean investment in Tianjin, there are many restaurants to cater for their expats. A good Japanese chain is Lianwa Jia. They have restaurants in the Dickson Hotel, the International Building and in TEDA (Tianjin's development zone). The food is very reasonably priced.

### **Lianwa Jia**

1/F Dickson Hotel

18 Binshui Road

Hexi District

Tianjin

Tel: (0) 22 2813 0537

There is also a branch in TEDA:

1/F youyi shopping Centre

19 Huanghai Road

## **TEDA**

Good quality Shanghainese food is available in a small restaurant, set in a western style house with a pretty courtyard garden which is used for dining in the summer.

### **Garden Villa**

117 Kunming Road

Tel: 2331 1117/2313 9888

Thai food is becoming popular. Try the **Golden Elephant** almost opposite MacDonald's.

78 Guangdong Road

Tel: 2328 7801

## **Bars and Nightlife**

Most western hotels have a band and some have discos. Outside the hotels, the choice is growing.

### **Cosy Café & Bar**

Has live bands some nights and a beer garden. Also serves food.

68 Changde Road

Heping District

Tel: 23126616/23126659

Tianjin has a bar street (Youyi Road) and, most of the bars are located here. If you want a cocktail, you might want to go to Broadies Tavern (currently the only bar run by a westerner). Tel: 8837 0933.

**Bar Street**, Youyi Road (opposite the Friendship Store).

There is a sports bar called the Upper Deck which has a large screen showing sports all day and evening. It also has a games room:

107 Meijiang Street

Hexi District

Tel: 8836 9177

Fax: 8836 9077

There are also coffee bars – seven Starbucks at the latest count.

## **Shopping**

For food and daily goods there are plenty of supermarkets in Tianjin: Carrefour, Homeworld, Hualian and Hymall (partnered with Tesco).

For fashions and cosmetics the Friendship Store is a very smart department store (Youyi Road). There is also a branch of the Friendship store in TEDA.

For tourist items one should try Ancient Culture Street. It is anything but ancient, being newly built, but it has been constructed to look like an old Qing dynasty street (much like Liu Lichang in Beijing).

On Thursday mornings there is an old antique market on Shenyang Dao, near the West bank of the Haihe River in Heping District.

## **Scenic Spots**

Because Tianjin was a treaty port, it still has a European air about it. One of the most interesting things to do is to wander around the district called the 'Five Avenues'. This is the area of the old British and French concessions.

At no. 317 Hebei Road (formerly Wellington Road) you can visit the Tianjin museum of modern history, a private collection of memorabilia from the time of the nine European concessions. Here you can get a map of the district and go in search of the British Club, a French church and a hotel where many famous westerners stayed.

Get outside the city and you can find Yellow Cliff Pass (one of the least busy parts of the Great Wall) or Pan Mountain, just two hours away by car.

One of the most interesting historic spots is Yang Liuqing. It is the preserved home of a wealthy merchant official of the 19th century. It is an intricate puzzle of courtyards, drawing rooms, dining rooms, and bedrooms. It even has its own school and theatre. It is also where the famous Chinese New Year paintings are produced.

### **Yang Liuqing Museum**

47 Guyi Street

Yang Liuqing

Xiqing District

Tel: 2739 1617

If you are a keen golfer, Tianjin and TEDA have around 10 Golf courses between them. The best is the Warner International Golf club at TEDA. The Clubhouse has accommodation, if you are staying over a weekend.

1 Nanhai Road,

TEDA

Tel: 2532 6009.

## **Special Tips**

Some westerners have described Tianjin as a more 'Chinese' experience than other big cities like Beijing or Shanghai (one of the Standard Life staff compared it with Edinburgh v. London). Because of this, it is fun to see it by bike. So, buy a bike (only £20 from the supermarket, so give it to someone at the end of your stay). Beware of the traffic!

If you are going to be spending a lot of time in Tianjin, it is worth subscribing to Jin, the English language expatriate magazine published in conjunction with the American Chamber of Commerce in Tianjin. It's full of useful information about what's on and where to go. [www.expatriate-jin.com](http://www.expatriate-jin.com) or email: [publish2@expatriate-jin.com](mailto:publish2@expatriate-jin.com)

This article is updated from time-to-time but, if you find anything out-of-date, or have any useful additional information, please do let us know.