



# Shāndōng

POPULATION: 93.44 MILLION

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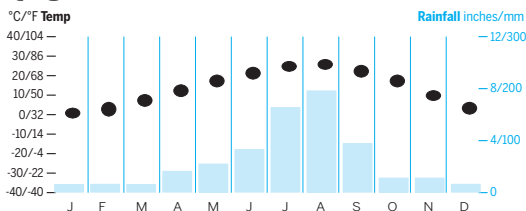
## Why Go?

Steeped in myth and supernatural allure, Shāndōng (山东) is the stuff of legends, where iconic philosophers once pondered. Even the landscape – a fertile flood plain broken by granite massifs and fringed with wild coastline and natural beaches – has a certain strangeness to it, but the region's ancient bedrock is really Confucius, the Yellow River and sacred Tài Shān.

What amateur historian can resist visiting the Apricot Pavilion, where Confucius is said to have taught his students, or the slopes of Tài Shān, where Qin Shi Huang first proclaimed the unity of China? But Shāndōng has modern appeal too. The former concession town of Qīngdǎo ranks as one of the most liveable places and popular beach resorts in northern China. This is the province's real draw: you can climb mountains, explore the cultural legacies of the imperial past and still have time to hit the beach.

## When to Go

### Qīngdǎo



**April** Breezy spring is a perfect time to explore Qīngdǎo.

**October** Famous Tài Shān is shrouded in mists (and tourists).

**December** Some people are crazy enough to climb Shāndōng's mountains in winter. Why not?

## Shāndōng Highlights

- 1 Climb mystical **Tai Shān** (p.138) – get ready for a Stairmaster workout!
- 2 Be charmed by the scenery and friendly residents at the village of **Zhujiayu** (p.134).
- 3 Visit **Qufu** (p.142), hometown of the sage Confucius – his family residence and tomb are there
- 4 Chill out at **Qingdao** (p.146), a great combination of German architecture, breezy seaside and modern comforts – and, of course, it's also home to China's famous beer
- 5 Hike **Lao Shān** (p.155), a lovely jumble of granite slabs and thickets of bamboo and pine
- 6 Slow your pulse by escaping to the former colonial outpost of **Yantai** (p.156)
- 7 Immerse yourself in the legend of the 'Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea' at **Penglai Pavilion** (p.160), also the site of an ancient military naval base



## History

Shāndōng has had a tumultuous history. It was victim to the capricious temperament of the Yellow River's floodwaters, which caused mass death, starvation and a shattered economy, and often brought banditry and rebellion in their wake. In 1899 the river (also aptly named 'China's Sorrow') flooded the entire Shāndōng plain; a sad irony in view of the scorching droughts that had swept the area both that year and the previous year. The flood followed a long period of economic depression, a sudden influx of demobilised troops in 1895 after China's humiliating defeat by Japan in Korea, and droves of refugees from the south moving north to escape famines, floods and drought.

To top it all off, the Europeans arrived; Qīngdǎo fell into the clutches of the Germans, and the British obtained a lease for Wēihǎi. Their activities included the building of railroads and some feverish missionary work, which the Chinese believed had angered the gods and spirits. All of this created the perfect breeding ground for rebellion, and in the closing years of the 19th century the Boxers arose out of Shāndōng, armed with magical spells and broadsword.

Today Jī'nán, the provincial capital, plays second fiddle to Qīngdǎo, a refrain that has been picked up by the other prospering coastal cities of Yántái and Wēihǎi.

### Getting There & Around

There are airports at Jī'nán, Qīngdǎo and Yántái, with international flights to cities in Japan and South Korea from Qīngdǎo and Yántái. Ferries run from Yántái to Dàlián and Incheon in South Korea. There are also boats from Qīngdǎo to

South Korea (Incheon and Gunsan) and Japan (Shimonoseki). Shāndōng is linked to neighbouring and more distant provinces by both bus and rail; a rail-ferry service runs between Yántái and Dàlián, allowing you to book your onward rail tickets from the opposite port.

The provincial rail hub is Jī'nán, with rail connections to all major towns and cities in Shāndōng. Bus connections cover the entire province.

## Jī'nán

济南

 0531 / POP 2.27 MILLION

The provincial capital, Jī'nán is a modern Chinese city that largely serves travellers as a transit point to other destinations around Shāndōng. It's in a constant state of flux, so expect lots of construction, noise and pollution that is almost on a par with Běijīng. Downplayed in the city's tourist pitch are the celebrities who have come from Jī'nán: film idol Gong Li, Bian Que, founder of traditional Chinese medicine, as well as Zhou Yongnian, founder of Chinese public libraries.

Jī'nán is a sprawling city, making navigation arduous. The main train station is in the west of town, south of which lies a grid of roads. The east is more developed; the major landmark here is Dàmíng Lake (Dàmíng Hú), south of which can be found the major shopping zone of Quancheng Lu and Quancheng Sq, decked out with flowers and ornamental trees.

## Sights

### City Parks

PARKS

(公园; Gōngyuán) Strolling around willow-filled parks can be a pleasant escape from Jī'nán's foot-numbing distances. The most central include the sprawling **Bàotū Spring Park** (趵突泉; Bàotū Quán; Gongqingtuan Lu; admission Y40), **Black Tiger Spring** (黑虎泉; Hēihǔ Quán; Heihuquan Donglu; admission free) and **Five Dragon Pool Park** (五龙潭公园; Wǔlóngtán Gōngyuán; Gongqingtuan Lu; admission Y5). The Five Dragon Pool Park offers a lovely study in local life: residents practise calligraphy on stone steps with water, others sing Chinese folk songs and there are more than a few taichi enthusiasts.

### Guāndi Temple & Hui Mosque

TEMPLE, MOSQUES

Just west of Five Dragon Pool Park's entrance survives the small **Guāndi Temple** (关帝庙; Guāndi Miào; admission free) where fortunes are told in Chinese (Y10) and the

## PRICE INDICATORS

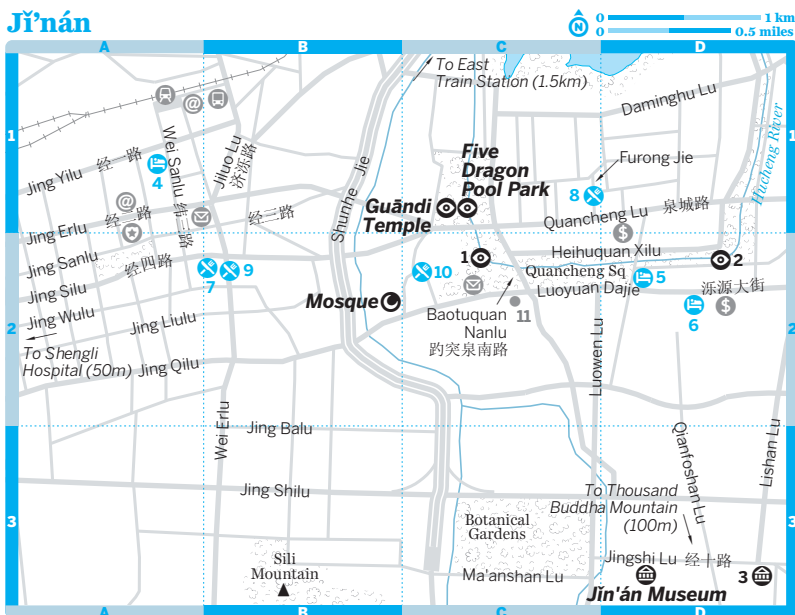
The following price indicators are used in this chapter:

### Sleeping

\$	less than Y200
\$\$	Y200 to Y500
\$\$\$	more than Y500

### Eating

\$	less than Y20
\$\$	Y20 to Y50
\$\$\$	more than Y50



great protector glares out over a row of flickering candles in the main shrine. In the centre of town is a lovely Chinese-style **mosque** (清真寺; Qīngzhēn Sì; 47 Yongchang Jie; admission free) that dates from the late 13th century; a Hui (Muslim Chinese) area stretches north, with butchers, vegetable markets, mosques and kebab stalls.

### Thousand Buddha Mountain

BUDDHIST MOUNTAIN

(千佛山; Qiānfó Shān; 18 Jingshi Yilu; admission Y30; ☀6am-9pm) Adding some Buddhist mystery to Jǐ'nán are the statues in this park to the southeast of the city centre. A **cable car** (one way/return Y20/30) runs up the mountain, though the view coming down is better. If you want an adrenalin rush, barrel down the mountain on a **luge** (one way/return Y25/30). At the peak, look south to spot Tàishān poking out like a giant anthill in the distance...if you can see through the pall of city smog. Bus K51 goes to the park from the train station.

### Jǐ'nán Museums

MUSEUMS

Two museums flank the Thousand Buddha Mountain. West along Jingshi Yilu, the **Jǐ'nán Museum** (济南博物馆; Jǐ'nán Bówùguǎn; admission free; ☀8.30am-4.30pm Tue-Sun) has galleries devoted to painting,

## Jǐ'nán

### 📍 Top Sights

Five Dragon Pool Park.....	C1
Guāndi Temple .....	C1
Jǐ'nán Museum.....	D3
Mosque.....	B2

### 📍 Sights

1 Bào-tū Spring Park .....	C2
2 Black Tiger Spring .....	D2
3 Provincial Museum.....	D3

### 🏠 Sleeping

4 Shāndōng Hotel.....	A1
5 Silver Plaza Quancheng Hotel .....	D2
6 Sofitel Silver Plaza Jǐ'nán.....	D2

### 🍴 Eating

7 Dàguān Gardens.....	B2
8 Furong Jie Food Street.....	C1
Lǚxī'nán Flavor Restaurant.....(see 7)	
9 Wei Er Lu Food Street .....	B2
10 Yinhuachi Jie Food Street.....	C2

### 🚆 Transport

11 Jǐ'nán International Airport Ticket Office.....	C2
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calligraphy and ceramics, statues of Buddhist figures from the Tang dynasty and

a delightful miniature boat carved from a walnut shell.

Five minutes east is the **Provincial Museum** (省博物馆; Shěng Bówùguǎn; Jingshi Yilu; ☎8.30am-4.30pm Tue-Sun), set to reopen by the time you read this. Future exhibits may include fragments of ancient oracle bones, Kong family clothing, Lóngshān pottery and traditional painting and calligraphy.

## Sleeping

Budget hotels are clustered around the main train station. Look at rooms before committing.

**Sofitel Silver Plaza Jī'nán** HOTEL \$\$\$ (索菲特银座大饭店; Suǒfēitè Yínzuò Dàfàndiàn; ☎8981 1611; www.sofitel.com; 66 Luoyuan Dajie; 涿源大街66号; d from Y1400, discounts of up to 50%; 🍷🍷) A 49-floor five-star tower in the heart of the commercial district, we wish the Sofitel's standard rooms – smartly decorated in light-wood furniture – were as large as the light-filled lobby. It has European, Japanese and Chinese restaurants.

**Silver Plaza Quancheng Hotel** HOTEL \$\$ (银座泉城大酒店; Yínzuò Quánchéng Dàjiǔdiàn; ☎8629 1911; 2 Nanmen Jie; 南门街2号; d/tr Y480/680; 🍷🍷) You know you are in a Chinese-business hotel when you get blinded by the faux European bling in the lobby. Expect tight rooms with blue bedding and some rooms with a sink outside the bathroom (go figure). Staff are friendly and the location overlooks Quancheng Sq. A new wing was being renovated so expect spiffy rooms.

**Shāndōng Hotel** HOTEL \$ (山东宾馆; Shāndōng Bīnguǎn; ☎8606 7000; 92 Jing Yilu; 经一路92号; d/tr Y199/249; 🍷🍷) On the corner of Jing Yilu and Wei Sanlu, this old-timer is well used to dealing with budget travellers. The most convenient choice in town, the Shāndōng's rooms have had a recent makeover. Large toilets, and clean but compact rooms. Get rooms facing away from the noisy main road. No discounts.

## Eating

Jī'nán is famed as one of the centres of *lǎocài* (Shāndōng cuisine), but much of the eating here seems to take place on the city's food streets.

**Food Streets** STREET FOOD \$ A little over 1km south of the main train station is **Dàguān Gardens** (大观园; Dàguān Yuán; Jing Silu), a popular area with modern

eateries marked by a large archway. The alley next to it, **Wei Er Lu** (纬二路), is a messy strip of food carts offering up fried noodles, skewers of grilled meats and seafood, lamb soup and pancakes. Y2 for a beer? Who's complaining?

For lamb kebabs and fresh noodles, head to smoky **Yinhuchi Jie** (饮虎池街) in the Muslim Hui minority district east of the mosque. Hawkers toss loads of satay-style skewers on charcoal grills which run for metres along the street.

In the east of town, along the main shopping strip of Quancheng Lu, is **Furong Jie** (芙蓉街), a pedestrian street festooned with hanging lanterns and red banners. Look for the archway, Furong Gang Xiao Chi Guang Chang. The alley next to it, confusingly labelled Furong Jie, also has a large variety of cheap street snacks.

**Lǔxī'nán Flavor Restaurant** SHANDONG \$\$ (鲁西南老牌坊; Lǔxī'nán Lǎopáifāng; ☎8605 4567; 2 Daguang Yuan; dishes Y28-98; 🍷lunch & dinner; 🍷) The place to sample Shāndōng cuisine. Try down-home classics like sautéed Chinese cabbage (sweet-and-spicy cabbage with glass noodles; Y16) and sliced lamb served fried, boiled or sautéed (from Y38), accompanied with sesame cakes (Y1) – not rice – and wash it all down with beer (Y9). BYO facemask – the cigarette smoke in the restaurant can be overwhelming.

## Information

ATMs (自动取款机; Zìdòng Qǔkuǎn Jī) are available in the lobbies of the Sofitel and Crowne Plaza hotels. There are plenty of banks in town.

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; 22 Luoyuan Dajie; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri) Foreign exchange and ATMs that take international cards.

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; 162 Jing Erlu; ☎8am-6.30pm) A red-brick building with pillars, capped with a turret, on the corner of Wei Erlu.

**Internet cafe** (网吧; wǎngbā; Jing Erlu; per hr Y2; ☎7am-midnight)

**Internet cafe** (网吧; wǎngbā; per hr Y3-4; ☎24hr) Beneath the Tianlong Building opposite the train station.

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; 公安局; Gōng'ānjú; ☎8691 5454, visa inquiries ext 2459; 145 Jing Sanlu; ☎8am-noon & 2-5.45pm Mon-Fri) On the corner of Wei Wulu.

**Shěngli Hospital** (省立医院; Shěnglì Yīyuàn; ☎8793 8911; 324 Jing Wulu)

## **i** Getting There & Away

### Air

Jǐ'nán is connected to most major cities, with daily flights to Běijīng (Y630, one hour), Dàlián (Y910, one hour), Guǎngzhōu (Y1590, 2½ hours), Hā'ěrbīn (Y1130, two hours), Shànghǎi (Y760, 80 minutes), Xī'ān (Y880, 1½ hours) and Yántái (Y500, 45 minutes).

The **Jǐ'nán International Airport Ticket Office** (济南国际机场售票处; Jǐ'nán Guójī Jīchǎng Shòupiàochù; ☎8611 4750) is at 66 Luoyuan Dajie. Book tickets at **Shèngxiángyuán Hángkōng Tiěliù Shòupiàochù** (盛祥源航空铁路售票处; ☎8610 9666; 115 Chezhan Jie, 1st fl, Quánchéng Bīnguǎn; ☀8am-6pm) beside the train station, or in the lobby of the **Jǐ'nán Railway Hotel** (济南铁道大酒店; Jǐ'nán Tiědào Dàjiùdiàn), immediately east of the train station.

### Bus

Jǐ'nán has at least three bus stations. The most useful for travellers is the efficient **bus station** (汽车站; qìchēzhàn; ☎8830 3030) opposite the main train station, with regular buses:

**Běijīng** Y124, 5½ hours, eight daily

**Qīngdǎo** Y79, 4½ hours, every 30 minutes (6.30am to 8pm)

**Qūfú** Y39, two hours, every 30 minutes

**Shànghǎi** Y266, 12 hours, two daily (4.30pm and 7pm)

**Tài'ān** Y21, 1½ hours, every 30 minutes

**Tiānjīn** Y85, 4½ hours, four daily

**Yántái** Y140 to Y160, 5½ hours, 7am to 6.30pm

### Train

Jǐ'nán is a major link in the east China rail system. There are two train stations in Jǐ'nán: most trains use the **main train station** (*Jǐ'nán huǒchē zhàn*), but a handful arrive and depart from the **east train station** (*huǒchē dōngzhàn*).

Tickets are available from the train station and travel agents on the train station square. **Shèngxiángyuán Hángkōng Tiěliù Shòupiàochù** (盛祥源航空铁路售票处; ☎8796 6288; 115 Chezhan Jie, 1st fl, Quánchéng Bīnguǎn; commission Y5; ☀8am-6pm) is a reliable choice. No English.

Express D trains:

**Běijīng** 2nd/1st class Y73/114, 3½ hours, 11 daily

**Nánjīng** 2nd/1st class Y82/127, five hours, one daily (1.06pm)

**Qīngdǎo** 2nd/1st class Y55/87, 2½ hours, 11 daily

**Shànghǎi** 2nd/1st class Y115/181, seven hours, one daily (1.06pm)

**Tài Shān** 2nd/1st class Y13/21, 40 minutes, four daily

Local trains also serve the following destinations:

**Běijīng** Y55 to Y200, five to seven hours, 15 daily

**Qīngdǎo** Y41 to Y115, four to five hours, 15 daily

**Shànghǎi** Y94 to Y236, nine to 14 hours, 17 daily

**Tài Shān** Y5 to Y96, one hour, more than 15 daily

**Xī'ān** Y73 to Y529, 15 to 18 hours, five daily

**Zhèngzhōu** Y92 to Y156, eight to 10½ hours, eight daily

## **i** Getting Around

### To/From the Airport

Jǐ'nán's **Yáoqiáng airport** (☎8208 6666) is 40km from the city and can be reached in around an hour. Buses (Y20) run to the airport from the **Yùquán Simpson Hotel** (玉泉森信大酒店; Yùquán Sēnxìn Dàjiùdiàn; Luoyuan Dajie) every hour between 6am and 7pm. A taxi will cost around Y100.

### Public Transport

Bus 84 (Y1) connects the long-distance bus station with the main train station. Bus K51 (Y2) runs from the main train station through the city centre and then south past Bāotū Spring Park and on to Thousand Buddha Mountain.

### Taxi

Taxis start at Y7.50 for the first 3km, and are Y1.50 per kilometre thereafter.

## Around Jǐ'nán

### ZHŪJIĀYÙ

☎0531

朱家峪

With its coffee-coloured soil and unspoiled bucolic panoramas, the charming stone village of **Zhūjiāyù** (admission Y15), 80km east of Jǐ'nán, provides a fascinating foray into one of Shāndōng's oldest intact hamlets. Local claims that a settlement has been here since Shang times (1700–1100 BC) might be something of a stretch, but even though most of Zhūjiāyù's buildings date from the more recent Ming and Qing dynasties, walking its narrow streets is a journey way back in time. Residents are also incredibly proud of the village's role as a sometime Chinese movie and TV-drama set and many older locals now eke out a living playing tour guides (Y10, Chinese-speaking only), hired from inside the wall.

Shielded by hills on three sides, Zhūjiāyù can be fully explored in a morning or afternoon. Pay at the main gate in the restored wall enclosing the northern flank of the village and walk along the Ming-dynasty **double track old road** (双轨古道; *shuāngguī*

*gǔdào*), which leads to the Qing-dynasty **Wénchāng Pavilion** (文昌阁; Wénchāng Gé), an arched gate topped by a single-roofed hall. On your left is **the Shānyīn Primary School** (山阴小学; Shānyīn Xiǎoxué), a series of halls and courtyards, several of which now contain exhibitions detailing local agricultural tools and techniques. Outside the school, a huge painted portrait of Chairman Mao dating from 1966 rears up ahead. The colours are slightly faded, but the image is surprisingly vivid.

The rest of the village largely consists of ancestral temples, including the **Zhu Family Ancestral Hall** (朱氏家祠; Zhūshì Jiācí), packed mudbrick homesteads (many are deserted and collapsing), small shrines and a delightful crop of arched *shíqiáo* (stone bridges). Hunt down the **Lǐjiāo Bridge** (立交桥; Lǐjiāo Qiáo), a brace of ancient arched bridges dating from 1671.

Zhūjiāyù becomes almost Mediterranean in feel when you reach the end of the village and drystone walls rise in layers up the hills. A further 30-minute climb will take you past a statue of Guanyin to the **Kuixīng Pavilion** (魁星楼; Kuixīng Lóu; admission Y2) crowning the hill above the village.

If you want to spend the night, check into the basic **Gūcūn Inn** (古村酒家; Gūcūn Jiǔjiā; ☎8380 8135; d with shower Y60), a lovely old building with a courtyard and a spirit wall decorated with a peacock, 80m from the Lǐjiāo Bridge. The genial owners provide home-cooked dishes from Y10 (go into the kitchen and point at what you want to eat; beer available). For other eats, there are more than a few restaurants in the old village and streetside chefs fry up live scorplings and offer salty chive-stuffed pancakes for peckish visitors.

To reach Zhūjiāyù from Jī'nán, take a bus headed to BóShān (博山; Y26, 1½ hours) from Jī'nán's bus station (directly opposite the train station) and get the driver to drop you off at the mouth of the village, where it's a further 2km walk.

Buses leave from Zhūjiāyù to Míngshuǐ on the hour or so (Y4, 35 minutes). If there aren't any buses, try getting an outbound visitor to give you a ride (Y15 to Y30). Regular minibuses (Y13, 1½ hours, every 15 minutes, 5am to 6pm) return to Jī'nán from the Míngshuǐ long-distance bus station. You can also try to cross the road from the mouth of the village and flag down any bus heading back to Jī'nán.

## Tà'ān

☎0538 / POP 933,760

Gateway to Tàì Shān's sacred slopes, Tà'ān has a venerable tourist industry that has been in full swing since the time of the Ming dynasty. The 17th-century writer Zhang Dai described it as including packaged tours (with sedan chairs for the wealthy), a special mountain-climbing tax (eight *fen* silver), three grades of congratulatory banquets (for having attained the summit) and a number of enormous inns, each with more than 20 kitchens, hundreds of servants and opera performers, and enough courtesans to entertain an entire prefecture.

In comparison, today's Tà'ān is much tamer. Though there's not much to see outside of the magnificent Dài Temple, you will need the better part of a day for the mountain, so spending the night either here or at the summit is advised.

### 👁 Sights

#### Dài Temple

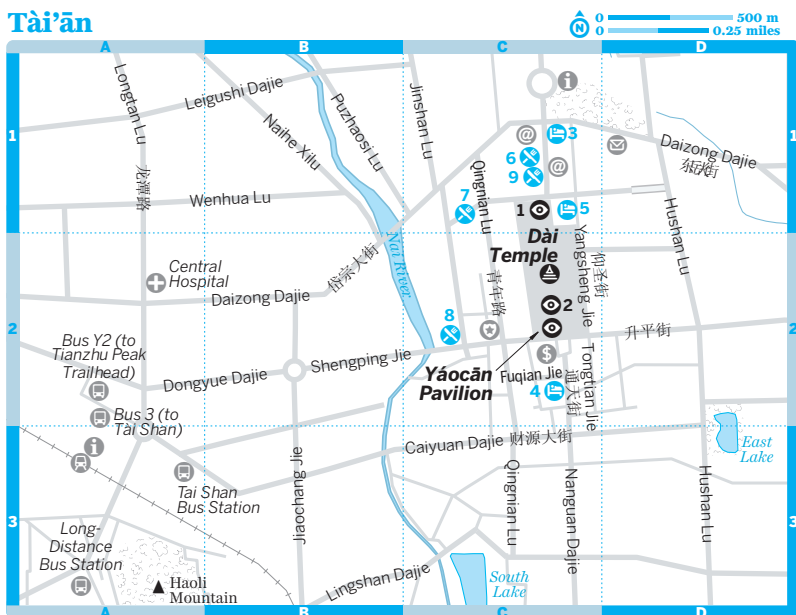
TEMPLE

(岱庙; Dài Miào; Daibeng Lu; admission Y20; ☎8.30am-6pm summer, to 5.30pm winter) With its eternal-looking trees and commanding location at the hub of Tà'ān, this magnificent temple complex was a traditional pilgrimage stop on the route to the mountain and the site of sacrifices to the god of Tàì Shān. It also forms a delightful portrait of Chinese temple architecture, with birds squawking among the hoary cypresses and ancient stelae looking silently on. Most visitors enter by the north gate (岱庙北入口; Dài Miào Běi Rùkǒuchù) at the south end of Hongmen Lu, although entering the complex via the south gate allows you to follow the traditional passage through the temple.

You can scale the walls built above the north entrance: there's a weathered cypress tree that the wall was literally built around. The main hall is the colossal twin yellow-eaved, nine-bay-wide **Hall of Heavenly Blessing** (天贶殿; Tiānkuàng Diàn; slippers Y1), which dates to AD 1009. The dark interior is decorated with a marvellous, flaking, 62m-long Song-dynasty fresco depicting Emperor Zhenzong as the god of Tàì Shān. Among the cast of characters are elephants, camels and lions, but the gloomy interior makes it hard to discern much.

South of the hall are several stelae supported on the backs of fossilised-looking *bāxì* (mythical tortoiselike dragons). Look out for the scripture pillar, its etched words





long lost to the Shāndōng winds and inquisitive hands. In the Han Bai courtyard stand cypresses supposedly planted by the Han emperor Wudi. Near the entrance to the courtyard is a vast *dǎi* with five-inch fangs.

To the south of the **south gate** (正阳门; Zhèngyáng Mén) is the splendid Dàimiào Fāng, a *páifāng* (ornamental arch) decorated with four pairs of heavily weathered lions, and dragon and phoenix motifs. Also south of the temple, the **Yáocān Pavilion** (遥参亭; Yáocān Tíng; admission Y1) contains a hall dedicated to effigies of the Old Mother of Taishan (Taishan Laomu), Bixia and a deity (Songzi Niangniang) entreated by women who want children. Further south still, a final memorial arch stands flanked by two iron lions alongside busy Dongyue Dajie.

## Sleeping

There are many midrange options in town and a lot are clustered around the train station. Look at rooms and bargain before deciding. The Tàì'ān Tourism Information Centre in front of the train station can help you book a room. Basic English is spoken.

## Tàì'ān

### Top Sights

- Dài Temple .....C2
- Yáocān Pavilion.....C2

### Sights

- 1 North Entrance to Dài Temple.....C1
- 2 South Entrance to Dài Temple .....C2

### Sleeping

- 3 Roman Holiday .....C1
- 4 Tàishān International Youth Hostel .....C2
- 5 Yüzuo Hotel.....C1

### Eating

- 6 Ā Dōng Jia Cháng Cài .....C1
- 7 Bèixīn Small Eats Street .....C1
- 8 Night Market .....C2
- 9 Sheng Tao Yang Coffee & Tea.....C1

## Tàishān International Youth Hostel

HOSTEL \$

(太山国际青年旅舍; Tàishān Guójiā Qīngnián Lǚshè; ☎628 5196; 25 Tongtian Jie; 通天街25号; dm Y40-60, d/tw/tr Y228/160/180; 📍📞) Tàì'ān's first youth hostel has clean spartan rooms decked out in pine furnishing and old communist posters, but there are still



teething issues. Dorms are great value but avoid rooms on the 3rd floor as they lack internet access and TVs (same price though!). Bike rental, free laundry and a bar on the 3rd floor complete the picture. Limited English.

### Yùzuò Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(御座宾馆; Yùzuò Bīnguǎn; ☎826 9999; www.yuzuo.cn; 3 Daimiao Beijing; 岱庙北街3号; tw/d/ste Y480/680/780; ⓂⓂ) Pleasantly positioned next to the Dài Temple and attractively trimmed with lights at night, this traditionally styled three-star hotel is run by polite staff and ranges among low-rise, two-storey blocks. The imperial-themed rooms are done up in gold and mahogany, though cheaper rooms are rather ordinary. There's an attached bakery and restaurant (cooking up Taoist dishes).

### Roman Holiday

HOTEL \$\$

(罗马假日商务酒店; Luómǎ Jiàrì Shāngwù Jiǔdiàn; ☎627 9999; 18 Hongmen Lu; 红门路18号; s & tw Y298, d Y398; ⓂⓂ) The small, neat rooms come with see-through showers, glass sinks and striped carpets and wallpaper in this bizarrely named modern four-storey hotel. The location and comfort level are quite good and discounts take prices down to Y158 with breakfast. No Audrey Hepburn. We checked.



### Eating

There are two busy streets offering assorted food. The **night market** (夜市; yè shì; ☎5.30pm-late) located in the centre of town along the Nai River has many hotpot stalls. Pick your ingredients (fish balls, mushrooms, vegetables, noodles etc) then take a seat at a short table by the roadside. A large plastic jug of beer is Y6 and meals should cost Y20 or so. During the day, there's also the **Beixīn Small Eats Street** (北新小吃步行街; Běixīn Xiǎochī Bùxíng Jiē) where you can find savoury breads, roast-meat skewers, fried chicken and more. Avoid the pedestrian food street to the east of the Dai Temple as prices are increased for tourists.

### Ā Dōng Jia Cháng Cài

CHINESE \$

(阿东家常菜; 25 Hongmen Lu; meals from Y10; Ⓜ) This handily located, clean restaurant fills you up with *shuǐjiǎo* (水饺; dumplings), including lamb (Y24 per *jīn* - half a *jīn* is enough for one) and vegetable (Y18 per *jīn*) fillings among other choices. There's also a wide range of regular Chinese dishes.

## Sheng Tao Yang Coffee & Tea

INTERNATIONAL \$\$

(圣涛缘休闲餐厅; Shèngtāoyuán Xiūxián Cāntīng; 29 Hongmen Lu; dishes Y25-150; Ⓜ) The ivory baby grand piano beside the toilet may be overkill but the comfy couches, eager staff and huge 36-page menu are lovely. Yummy pizzas. There's also steak, spaghetti and Chinese dishes with rice. Chinese menu with lots of photos.



### Information

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; Tongtian Jie; ☎8.30am-5pm) The 24-hour ATM accepts foreign cards.

**Central Hospital** (中心医院; Zhōngxīn Yīyuàn; ☎822 4161; 29 Longtan Lu)

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; 85 Qingnian Lu; ☎8.30am-5.30pm)

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; 公安局; Gōng'ānjú; ☎827 5264; cnr Dongyue Dajie & Qingnian Lu; ☎8.30am-noon & 1-5pm Mon-Fri) Visa office is in the eastern side of this huge building.

**Shùyù Píngmín Pharmacy** (漱玉平民大药房; Shùyù Píngmín Dàyàofáng; 38 Shengping Jie; ☎24hr)

**Tà'ān Tourism Information Centre** (泰安市旅游咨询中心; Tà'ānshì Lǚyóu Zīxún Zhōngxīn) Hongmen Lu (22 Hongmen Lu; ☎218 7989; ☎8am-8pm); Train station (☎688 7358; ☎6am-midnight) Both offices do hotel, train and plane ticket bookings.

**Train & Plane Ticket Bookings** (华泰票务; Huátài Pìowù; ☎866 6600; 111 Qingnian Lu) Book air and train tickets (Y5 commission).

**Wǎnjīng Internet Cafe** (万景网吧; Wǎnjīng Wǎngbā; 180 Daizong Dajie; per hr Y1.50; ☎7am-midnight)

**World Net Bar Internet** (大世界网吧; Dàshìjiè Wǎngbā; 2nd fl, 6 Hongmen Lu; per hr Y1.50; ☎24hr)



### Getting There & Away

You can easily move on to most major destinations from Jǐ'nán, 90 minutes to the north. Coming from elsewhere, buses and trains often refer to Tà'ān as Tà'ishān. There are several places that can help with train and plane ticket bookings.

### Bus

Buses leaving from the **long-distance bus station** (长途汽车站; chángtú qìchēzhàn; Panhe Lu), south of the train station:

**Běijīng** Y134, six hours, two daily (8.30am and 2.30pm)

**Jǐ'nán** Y22, 1½ hours, every 30 minutes (6.30am to 6pm)

**Kāifēng** Y98 to Y120, five hours, three daily (6.30am, 9am and 10.30am)

**Qīngdǎo** Y100, 5½ hours, three daily (6am, 8am and 2.30pm)

**Qūfù** Y21, one hour, hourly

**Shànghǎi** Y205, 12 hours, one daily (4.30pm)

**Wēihǎi** Y139, seven hours

**Yāntái** Y123, 6½ hours, one daily (7.20am)

From the **Tài Shān Bus Station** (泰山汽车站; Tàishān Qìchēzhàn; Caiyuan Dajie) there are regular buses to Jǐ'nán (Y20, 1½ hours, every 20 minutes, 6am to 6pm).

### Train

Tickets can be hard to get here, so book early. Regular trains (hard seat/sleeper):

**Běijīng** Y158/296, seven to 10 hours, eight daily

**Jǐ'nán** hard seat Y11, one hour, regular

**Nánjīng** Y92/254, seven to 10 hours, 25 daily

**Qīngdǎo** Y70/140, six to seven hours, 11 daily

**Shànghǎi** Y224/352, eight to 14 hours, 14 daily

Express 'D' trains (hard/soft seat only):

**Běijīng** Y79/176, four hours, four daily

**Nánjīng** Y60/96, 4½ hours, five daily

**Qīngdǎo** Y70/108, 3½ hours, two daily (2.30pm and 7.15pm)

**Shànghǎi** Y90/140, seven hours, five daily

### Getting Around

There are three main bus routes. Bus 3 (三路汽车(往泰山); Y1) runs from the Tài Shān central route trailhead to the western route trailhead at Tiānwài Village (Tiānwài Cūn) via the train station. Buses 1 and 2 also end up near the train station. Bus 4 goes from the train station to the Dai Temple. Bus Y2 (游二路汽车(往天烛峰景区)) goes to the Tiānzhú Peak Trailhead.

Taxis start at Y6 (then Y1.50 per kilometre thereafter). Avoid unmetered three-wheelers.

## Tài Shān

📞0538

Sacred mountains are a dime a dozen in China, but when push comes to shove, the one that matters the most is **Tài Shān** (admission Feb–Nov Y125, Dec–Jan Y100). Worshipped since at least the 11th century BC, the mountain rises up like a guardian of the Middle Kingdom, bestowing its divine sanction on

## 泰山

worthy rulers and protecting the country from catastrophe. Anyone who's anyone in China has climbed it – from Confucius to Du Fu to Mao Zedong – and Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor, chose the summit as the place from which to first proclaim the unity of the country in 219 BC.

It may not be as spectacular as Huángshān or as gigantic as Ēméi Shān, but its history and supernatural allure more than make up for the lack in altitude. Follow the tribes of wiry grandmothers up the steps and into the mist, where temples to the mountain's daughter, the goddess Bixia, and the Jade Emperor await.

The best time to visit is in autumn when the humidity is low; the clearest weather is from early October onwards. In winter the weather is often fine, but very cold. The tourist season peaks from May to October.

Due to weather changes, you're advised to always carry warm clothing with you. The summit can be very cold, windy and wet; army overcoats are available there for hire (Y20 average) and you can buy waterproof coats from vendors.

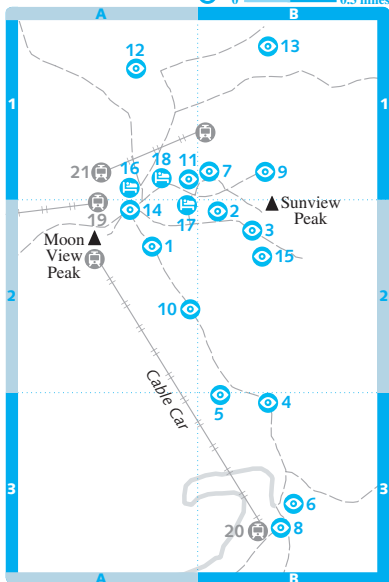
Tài Shān itself is 1532m above sea level, with a walking distance of 7.5km from base to summit on the central route and an elevation change of about 1400m. Although it's not a major climb (there aren't any trails on the main route), with well over 6000 steps to the top, it can certainly be exhausting and should not be underestimated.

Avoid coinciding your climb with major public holidays, otherwise you will share the mountain with what the Chinese call *rén shān rén hǎi* – literally 'a mountain of people and a sea of persons'.

### 👁 Sights & Activities

The climb up Tài Shān is more like one gigantic Stairmaster session than a hiking a trail (though that doesn't seem to stop some visitors from donning their Gore-Tex and CamelBaks). There are three routes up the mountain that can be followed on foot: the main **central route** (sometimes referred to as the east route), the **western route** (often used for bus descents) and the lesser-known **Tiānzhú Peak** route up the back of the mountain. The central and western routes converge at the halfway point (Midway Gate to Heaven), from where it's a final 3.5km of steep steps. Figure on about eight to nine hours round trip (four hours up, one to two hours at the summit, three hours down),

## Tài Shān



## Tài Shān

## Sights

- 1 Archway to Immortality ..... A2
- 2 Azure Clouds Temple ..... B2
- 3 Bridge of the Gods (Xiānrén Qiáo) ..... B2
- 4 Cloud Bridge (Yúnbù Qiáo) ..... B3
- Confucius Temple ..... (see 17)
- 5 Five Pine Pavilion ..... B3
- 6 God of Wealth Temple ..... B3
- 7 Jade Emperor Temple ..... B1
- 8 Midway Gate to Heaven ..... B3
- 9 North Prayer Rock ..... B1
- 10 Opposing Pines Pavilion ..... A2
- 11 Qingdi Palace ..... A1
- 12 Rear Rocky Recess ..... A1
- 13 Rear Temple (Hòushí Wù) ..... B1
- 14 South Gate to Heaven ..... A2
- Welcoming Pine ..... (see 10)
- 15 Zhanlu Terrace ..... B2

## Sleeping

- 16 Nán Tiān Mén Bīnguǎn ..... A1
- 17 Shénqì Hotel ..... A2
- 18 Xiānjū Bīnguǎn ..... A1

## Transport

- 19 Cable Car to Peach Blossom Park ..... A2
- 20 Cable Car to Peak ..... B3
- 21 Cable Car to Rear Rocky Access ..... A1

which includes time to visit the various sights along the way.

If that sounds like too much walking, or if you have bad knees, take a minibus up to Midway Gate to Heaven and then a cable car up to South Gate to Heaven, near the summit area. You can reverse this by climbing up and taking the cable car and then bus down.

As with all Chinese mountain hikes, viewing the sunrise is considered an integral part of the experience. If you want to greet the first rays of dawn, dump your gear at the train station, at a guesthouse in Tàishān or at the foot of the central route and time your ascent so that you'll reach the summit before sundown. Stay overnight at one of the summit guesthouses and get up early the next morning for the famed sunrise.

## CENTRAL ROUTE

中路

This has been the main route up the mountain since the 3rd century BC, and over the past 2000 years or so a bewildering number of bridges, trees, rivers, gullies, inscriptions, caves, pavilions and temples have become famous sights in their own right. Tài Shān essentially functions as an outdoor museum of calligraphic art, with the prize items being the **Rock Valley Scripture** (经石峪; Jīngshí Yù) along the first section of the walk and the **North Prayer Rock** (拱北石; Gǒngběi Shí), which commemorates an imperial sacrifice, at the summit.

Purists can begin their ascents with a south-north perambulation through Dài Temple in Tàishān, 1.7km south of the trailhead, in imitation of imperial custom. Most climbers, however, begin at the **First Gate of Heaven** (一天门; Yītiān Mén), at the end of Hongmen Lu (at the foot of Taishan). Nearby is the **Guandi Temple** (关帝庙; Guāndì Miào), containing a large statue of Lord Guan. Beyond is a stone archway overgrown with wisteria upon which is written 'the place where Confucius began his ascent'.

Further along is **Red Gate Palace** (红门宫; Hóngmén Gōng; admission ¥5), with its wine-coloured walls. This is the first of a series of temples dedicated to Bixia. After this is a large gate called **Wànxiān Lóu** (万仙楼), and the **ticket office** (售票处; Shòupiàochù). Further along is **Dǒumǔ Hall** (斗母宫; Dǒumǔ Gōng), first constructed in 1542 and given the more magical name of 'Dragon Spring Nunnery'. Along the way,

look out for invocation-inscribed ribbons that festoon the pines and cypresses.

Continuing through the tunnel of cypresses known as Cypress Cave is **Huímǎ Peak** (Huímǎ Líng), where Emperor Zhenzong had to dismount and continue by sedan chair because his horse refused to go further. Allow two hours for the climb up to the halfway point, the **Midway Gate to Heaven** (中天门; Zhōng Tiān Mén), where the central and western routes converge. This is where some travellers, after gazing ahead at the steep steps that snake up in the distance, abandon walking for the cable car. Don't be disheartened as it's possible! Rest your legs, buy supplies, allow your pulse to slow and visit the small and smoky **God of Wealth Temple** (财神庙; Cáishén Miào).

Further along is **Five Pine Pavilion** (五松亭; Wūsōng Tíng), where, in 219 BC, Emperor Qin Shi Huang was overtaken by a violent storm and was sheltered by the pine trees. Today, one lone pine stands, its limbs withered and wiry but still growing.

Ahead is the arduous **Path of Eighteen Bends** (十八盘) that eventually leads to the summit; climbing it is performed in slow motion by all and sundry as legs turn to lead. You'll pass **Opposing Pines Pavilion** (对松亭; Duìsōng Tíng) and the **Welcoming Pine** (迎客松; Yíngkè Sōng) – every mountain worth its salt in China has one – with a branch extended as if to shake hands. Beyond is the **Archway to Immortality** (升仙坊; Shēngxiān Fāng). It was believed that those passing through the archway would become celestial beings (we tried, didn't work). From here to the summit, emperors were carried in sedan chairs. Workers who lug up huge boxes of fruit on their backs give some impression of just how hard this task must have been.

The final stretch takes you to the **South Gate to Heaven** (南天门; Nán Tiān Mén), the third celestial gate, which marks the beginning of the summit area. At the summit, bear right and walk along Tian Jie to **Azure Clouds Temple** (碧霞祠; Bìxiá Cí; admission ¥5), with its sublime perch in the clouds, where elders offer money and food to the deities of Bixia, Yanguang Nainai and Taisihan Songzi Niangniang (the latter helping women bear children). The iron tiling on the temple buildings is intended to prevent damage by strong winds, and *chūwén* (orna-

ments meant to protect against fire) decorate the bronze eaves.

Climbing higher, you will pass the Taoist **Qīngdì Palace** (青帝宫; Qīngdì Gōng), before the fog- and cloud-swathed **Jade Emperor Temple** (玉皇顶; Yùhuáng Dǐng) comes into view, perched on the highest point (1532m) of the Tàì Shān plateau. Within is an effigy of the Jade Emperor.

Near the Shēnqì Hotel stands a **Confucius Temple** (孔庙; Kǒng Miào), where statues of Confucius (Kongzi), Mencius (Mengzi), Zengzi and other Confucian luminaries are venerated.

The main sunrise vantage point is the **North Prayer Rock** (拱北石; Gǒngběi Shí); if you're lucky, visibility extends to over 200km, as far as the coast. The sunset slides over the Yellow River side. At the rear of the mountain is the quiet **Rear Rocky Recess** (后石坞; Hòu Shíwù), one of the better-known spots for viewing pine trees, where some ruins can be found tangled in the foliage.

An alternate route to the summit would be to take a detour before the South Gate to Heaven and hit the Azure Clouds Temple. This is a less popular route as it's another long torturous set of steps to the top but it does allow you to avoid the tourist scrum at the main summit gate.

## WESTERN ROUTE

西路

The most popular way to descend the mountain is by bus (Y30) via the western route. If you want to walk, the footpath and road intercept at a number of points, and are often one and the same. Given the amount of traffic, you might prefer to hop on a bus rather than inhale its exhaust. If you choose to hike up or down, you should be aware that unless you walk along the road, the trail is not always clearly marked. Buses will not stop for you once they have left the Midway Gate to Heaven.

Either by bus or foot, the western route treats you to considerable variation in scenery, with orchards, pools and flowering plants. The major attraction along this route is **Black Dragon Pool** (黑龙潭; Hēilóng Tán), which is just below **Longevity Bridge** (长寿桥; Chángshòu Qiáo) and is fed by a small waterfall. Swimming in the waters are rare carp. Mythical tales swarm about the pool, said to be the site of underground carp palaces and of magic herbs that turn people into beasts.

## THE FIRST TEACHER

Born into a world of political instability, Confucius (551–479 BC) spent his life in vain, trying to reform society according to traditional ideals. By his own standards he was a failure, but over time he became one of the most influential thinkers the world has ever known – indeed, Confucius' main teachings and ideals continue to form the core of society in East Asia today.

Following a childhood spent in poverty, Confucius (Kongzi or Kongfuzi, literally 'Master Kong') began an unfulfilling government career in his home state of Lǔ. At the age of 50, he resigned and began travelling from state to state, hoping to find a ruler who would put his ideas into practice. He met with an unending string of setbacks and, after 13 years of wandering, returned home to Qūfù. He spent the remainder of his life here as a private teacher, expounding the wisdom of the Six Classics (*The Book of Changes, Songs, Rites, History, Music* and the *Spring and Autumn Annals*; according to legend he compiled all six). He was, notably, the first teacher in China to take on a large number of students, and his belief that everyone, not just the aristocracy, had the right to knowledge was one of his greatest legacies.

Confucius' teachings were recorded in *The Analects (Lúnyǔ)*, a collection of 497 aphoristic sayings compiled by his disciples. Although he drew many of his ideas from an ancient past that he perceived to be a kind of golden age, Confucius was in fact China's first humanist philosopher, upholding morality (humaneness, righteousness and virtue) and self-cultivation as the basis for social order.

For more on Confucian philosophy, see p936.

An enjoyable conclusion to your descent is a visit to **Pǔzhào Temple** (普照寺; Pǔzhào Sì; Pervading Light Temple; admission Y5; ☺8am–5.30pm). One of the few strictly Buddhist shrines in the area, this simple temple dates to the Southern and Northern dynasties (AD 420–589). Its arrangement of ancient pine trees and small halls rising in levels up the hillside provides a quiet and restful end to the hike.

**TIĀNZHÚ PEAK ROUTE** 天烛峰景区  
The lesser-known route up the back of the mountain through the **Tiānzhú Peak Scenic Area** (Tiānzhú Fēng Jǐngqū) provides more adventurous hikers a rare chance to ascend Tàishān without the crowds. It's mostly ancient pines and peaks back here; visit the mountain's main sights by taking the central route down. Make sure you get an early start; the bus here takes 45 minutes, and the climb itself can take upwards of four hours. To get to the trailhead, take bus Y2 (游2; *yóu'èr*; Y3) from Caiyuan Dajie opposite the train station in Tàishān to the terminus, Tiānzhú Fēng Jǐng (天烛峰景).

## Sleeping & Eating

There are many hotels at the summit area along Tian Jie, catering to a range of budgets from Y160 and *way* up on weekends.

Accommodation prices here don't apply to main holiday periods, when room prices can triple. At other times, always ask for discounts.

There is no food shortage on Tàishān; the central route is dotted with teahouses, stalls, vendors and restaurants. Your pockets are likely to feel emptier than your stomach, but keep in mind that all supplies are carried up by foot and that the prices rise as you do. Water is Y2 to Y3, instant cup noodles Y5, and fruit ranges from Y5 to Y7 *per jin*. Dishes at restaurants are priced on a menu and tend to cost at least double what you'd pay in the city.

**Nán Tiān Mén Bīnguǎn** HOTEL \$\$  
(南天门宾馆; ☎833 0988; 1 Tian Jie; 天街1号; tw with shared bathroom Y880, tw/tr Y1480/1680; ㊟) Located smack bang before you turn into Tian Jie. Ignore the ridiculous asking prices, as we were offered Y1480 rooms and breakfast for Y300 (and a further discount when we looked unsure). Rooms are airy with mod cons and squat toilets.

**Xiānjū Bīnguǎn** HOTEL \$\$  
(仙居宾馆; ☎823 9984; fax 822 6877; 2 Tian Jie; 天街2号; tw Y980, d & tr Y1080; ㊟) Situated on the left just before the *páilou* marking Tian Jie (a signboard in Chinese marks the entrance), this two-star hotel has a decent

selection of rooms. Ask for a room with a window. Discounts bring a twin room down to Y260.

### Shénqì Hotel

(神憩宾馆; Shénqì Bīnguǎn; ☎822 3866; fax 821 5399; d/ste Y1480/2080; 📶📶) The fact that all the important guests to the summit stay here means that prices are inevitably high. It's a reasonably smart hotel with a restaurant (serving Taoist banquets) and a bar, and is reached by steep steps. Rooms are clean with a strange box-like shower hidden in a wooden cubicle.

HOTEL \$\$\$

## Getting There & Away

Bus 3 runs from the Tàì'ān train station to the Tàì Shān central route trailhead via Hongmen Lu (Y1, 10 minutes) and, in the opposite direction, from Tàì'ān's train station to the western route trailhead (Y1, 10 to 15 minutes) at Tiānwài Village (Tiānwài Cūn).

## Getting Around

At Tiānwài Village (天外村; Tiānwài Cūn), at the foot of the western route, minibuses (Y30 each way) depart every 20 minutes (or when full) to the Midway Gate to Heaven, halfway up Tàì Shān. The minibuses operate from 4am to 8pm during high season, less regularly during low season. Frequent buses (旅游客车; Lǚyóu Kèchē) come down the mountain.

The main **cable car** (空中索道; kōngzhōng suǒdào; one way/return Y80/140; ☀7.30am-5.30pm 16 Apr-15 Oct, 8.30am-5pm 16 Oct-15 Apr) is a five-minute walk from Midway Gate to Heaven. The journey takes around 15 minutes to travel to Moon View Peak (Yuèguān Fēng), near the South Gate to Heaven (Nántiān Mén). Be warned: high-season and weekend queues may force you to wait up to two hours.

There is another **cable car** (桃花源索道; táohuāyuán suǒdào; one way/return Y80/140; ☀7.30am-5.30pm 16 Apr-15 Oct, 8.30am-5pm 16 Oct-15 Apr) that takes you from north of South Gate to Heaven down to Peach Blossom Park (桃花源; Táohuā Yuán), a scenic area behind Tàì Shān that is worth exploring. From here you can take a minibus to Tàì'ān (Y25, 40 minutes). You can reverse this process by first taking a minibus from Tàì'ān train station to Peach Blossom Park and then ascending by cable car.

A third, shorter **cable car** (后石坞索道; hòushíwù suǒdào; one way Y20; ☀8.30am-4pm Apr-Oct, closed 16 Oct-15 Apr) comes up from the Rear Rocky Recess (后石坞; Hòu Shíwù) on the back of the mountain.

## Qūfū

☎0537 / POP 85,700

## 曲阜

Hometown of the great sage, Confucius, and his ancestors, the Kong clan, Qūfū is a testament to just how important Confucian thought was in imperial China. The old walled town itself may be small, but everything else here – the temple, residences and even the cemetery – is gargantuan. In 2008 the provincial government revealed plans for a controversial US\$4.2 billion 'cultural symbolic city' to be built nearby, beginning in 2010. As of writing, construction had yet to begin. For now, Master Kong's homestead is still king of the hill here.

The old walled core of Qūfū is small and easy to get around, a grid of streets built around the Confucius Temple and Confucius Mansions at its heart, with the Confucius Forest (and cemetery) north of town. Gulou Beijie bisects the town from north to south, and has at its centre the old Drum Tower (Gǔlōu). The city is increasingly modernising within its facade – expect bright lights, and a slew of Chinese clothing stores in the main shopping drag around Wumaci Jie. The bus station is 6km west of town.

## 👁 Sights

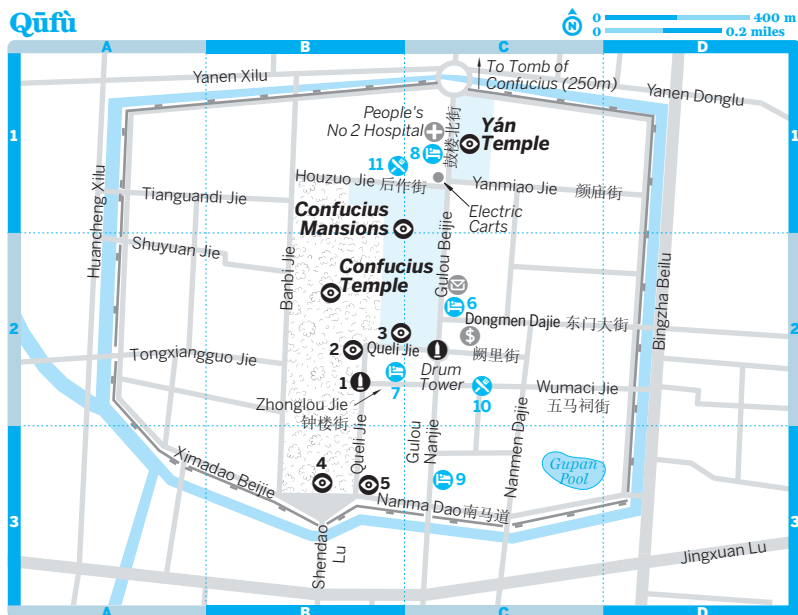
Collectively, the principal sights – the Confucius Temple, the Confucius Mansions and the Confucius Forest – are known locally as the 'Sān Kōng' ('Three Confuciuses'). The main ticket office (售票处; Shòupiàochù) is at the corner of Queli Jie and Nanma Dao, east of the Confucius Temple's main entrance. This is where you should purchase a combined ticket (Y150) to all three sights and can hire an English-speaking guide (Y100). From 16 November to 14 February, tickets are Y10 cheaper than those listed and sights close an hour earlier.

### Confucius Temple

TEMPLE

(孔庙; Kǒng Miào; admission Y90; ☀8am-5.30pm) China's largest imperial building complex after the Forbidden City, the temple actually started out as a simple memorial hall 2500 years ago, gradually mushrooming into today's compound, which is one-fifth the size of the Qūfū town centre. Like shrines to Confucius everywhere, it has an almost museumlike quality, with none of the worshippers or incense-burning rituals that animate religious temples. There is also little in the way of imagery, and the principal disciples and thinkers of Confucian





thought are only paid tribute to with simple tablets, in the wings of the main courtyards. It also seems strange that emperors seem to get more mention here than the actual sage himself!

The main entrance in the south passes through a series of triple-door gates, leading visitors to two airy, cypress-filled courtyards. About halfway along the north-south axis rises the triple-eaved **Great Pavilion of the Constellation of Scholars** (奎文閣; Kuíwén Gé), an imposing Jin-dynasty wooden structure containing faded prints illustrating Confucius' exploits in *The Analects*. Beyond lie a series of colossal, twin-eaved stele pavilions, followed by **Dàchéng Gate** (大成門; Dàchéng Mén), north of which is the **Xingtán Pavilion** (杏坛; Xìng Tán), marking the spot from where Confucius allegedly taught his students.

The core of the complex is the huge yellow-eaved **Dàchéng Hall** (大成殿; Dàchéng Diàn), which, in its present form, dates from 1724; it towers 31m on a white marble terrace. Craftspeople carved the 10 dragon-coiled columns so expertly that they had to be covered with red silk when Emperor Qianlong visited, lest he felt that the Forbidden City's Hall of Supreme Harmony paled in comparison.

## Qūfù

### Top Sights

Confucius Mansions.....	B1
Confucius Temple .....	B2
Yán Temple .....	C1

### Sights

1 Bell Tower .....	B2
2 Dōnghuá Gate .....	B2
3 Entrance to Confucius Mansions .....	B2
4 Entrance to Confucius Temple.....	B3
5 Main Ticket Office.....	B3

### Sleeping

6 Mingya Confucianist Hotel.....	C2
7 Quèlǐ Hotel.....	B2
8 Qūfù International Youth Hostel .....	C1
9 Yíngshì Bīnguǎn .....	C3

### Eating

10 Night Market .....	C2
11 Yù Shū Fáng .....	B1

Inside is a huge statue of Confucius residing on a throne, housed in a red and gold burnished cabinet. Above the sage are the characters for 'wànshì shībǎo', meaning



'model teacher for all ages'. The next hall, the **Chamber Hall** (寢殿; Qǐn Diàn), was built for Confucius' wife and is now undergoing extensive renovations.

East of Dàchéng Hall, **Chóngshèng Hall** (崇聖祠; Chóngshèng Cí) is also adorned with fabulous carved pillars. South of the hall is the **Lǔ Wall** (魯壁; Lǔ Bì), where the ninth descendant of Confucius hid the sacred texts during the book-burning campaign of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. The books were discovered again during the Han dynasty, and led to a lengthy scholastic dispute between those who followed a reconstructed version of the last books and those who supported the teachings in the rediscovered ones.

Exit from the east gate, **Dōnghuá Gate** (東華門; Dōnghuá Mén), south of which is the **Bell Tower** (鐘樓; Zhōnglóu), spanning the width of Queli Jie. Come early to avoid the hordes of megaphone-blaring tour groups that descend upon the complex.

### Confucius Mansions

MUSEUM

(孔府; Kǒng Fǔ; admission ¥60; ☎8am-6pm) Adjacent to the Confucius Temple are the Confucius Mansions, a maze of 450 halls, rooms, buildings and side passages originally dating from the 16th century.

The mansions were the most sumptuous aristocratic lodgings in China, indicative of the Kong family's former power. From the Han to the Qing dynasties, the descendants of Confucius were ennobled and granted privileges by the emperors. They lived like kings themselves, with 180-course meals, servants and consorts.

Qūfǔ grew around the Confucius Mansions and was an autonomous estate administered by the Kongs, who had powers of taxation and execution. Emperors could drop in to visit; the Ceremonial Gate near the south entrance was opened only for this event. Because of this royal protection, huge quantities of furniture, ceramics, artefacts and customary and personal effects survived, but many are kept hidden. The Kong family archives are a rich legacy and also survived. As with many 'cultural sights' in China, the mansion is undergoing a makeover and sometimes it's hard to tell what's original and what's a modern alteration.

The Confucius Mansions are built on an 'interrupted' north-south axis. Grouped by the south gate are the former administrative offices (taxes, edicts, rites, registration

and examination halls). The **Ceremonial Gate** (重光門; Chóngguāng Mén) leads to the **Great Hall** (大堂; Dà Táng), two further halls and then the **Nèizhái Gate** (內宅門; Nèizhái Mén), which seals off the residential quarters (used for weddings, banquets and private functions). The large 'shòu' character (壽; longevity) within the single-eaved **Upper Front Chamber** (前上房; Qián Shàng Fáng) north of Nèizhái Gate was a gift from Qing empress Cixi. The **Front Chamber** (前堂樓; Qián Táng Lóu) was where the duke lived and is interestingly laid out on two floors – rare for a hall this size.

Located east just before the Nèizhái Gate is the **Tower of Refuge** (避難樓; Bìnàn Lóu) – not open to visitors – where the Kong clan could gather if the peasants turned nasty. It has an iron-lined ceiling on the ground floor, a staircase that could be yanked up into the interior, and provisions for a lengthy retreat.

Grouped to the west of the main axis are former recreational facilities (studies, guest rooms, libraries and small temples). To the east is the odd kitchen, ancestral temple and the family branch apartments. The last stop is the garden at the rear, where greenery, flowers and a sense of space (but not quiet) await.

### Confucius Forest

CEMETERY

(孔林; Kǒng Lín; admission ¥40; ☎7.30am-6pm) Around 2km north of town on Lindao Lu is the peaceful Confucius Forest, the largest artificial park and best-preserved cemetery in China.

The pine and cypress forest of over 100,000 trees covers 200 hectares and is bounded by a wall 10km long. Confucius and his descendants have been buried here over the past 2000 years, a tradition that continues today. In summer, wild flowers add a burst of colour amid the sea of green grass which threatens to envelop the hap-hazard arrangement of tombs and burial mounds.

Flanking the approach to the **Tomb of Confucius** (孔子墓; Kǒngzǐ Mù) are pairs of stone panthers, griffins and larger-than-life guardians. The tomb itself is a simple grass mound enclosed by a low wall and faced with a Ming-dynasty stele. Visitors always seem unsure if they should adopt respectful postures or do the whole 'Look at me! I'm at Confucius' tomb' poses.

The sage's son and grandson are buried nearby, and scattered through the forest are dozens of temples and pavilions. A slow circuit through the peaceful gardenlike cemetery should take two to three hours. For those in a hurry, small minibuses do a circuit (one way/return Y10/20).

**Electric carts** (电动旅游车; Diàndòng Lúyóu Chē; Y15 return) run to the temple from the corner of Houzuo Jie and Gulou Beijie, near the exit of the Confucius Mansions. Otherwise take a pedicab (Y3 to Y5) or bus 1 (Y2) from along Gulou Beijie. To reach the forest on foot takes about 30 minutes.

### Yán Temple

TEMPLE

(颜庙; Yán Miào; Yanmiao Jie; admission Y50; ☉8am-5pm) A recent makeover is responsible for the *five-fold* (!) admission increase. The tranquil and little-visited Yán Temple northeast of the Confucius Mansions opens to a large grassy courtyard with some vast stele pavilions sheltering dirty stelae and antediluvian *bixi*. The main hall, **Fùshèng Hall** (复圣殿; Fùshèng Diàn), is 17.5m high, with a hip and gable roof, and a magnificent ceiling decorated with the motif of a dragon head. Outside the hall are four magnificently carved pillars with coiling dragon designs and a further set of 18 octagonal pillars engraved with gorgeous dragon and floral patterns. The architecture is strikingly similar to that of the Confucius Temple.



### Festivals & Events

The Confucius Temple holds two major festivals a year, **Tomb Sweeping Day** (usually 5 April; celebrations may last all weekend) and the **Sage's Birthday** (28 September). There are also two fairs each year in Qūfū – spring and autumn – when the place comes alive with craftspeople, healers, acrobats, peddlers and peasants.



### Sleeping



#### Qūfū International Youth Hostel

HOSTEL \$

(曲阜国际青年旅舍; Qūfū Guójí Qīngnián Lúshè; ☎441 9898; www.yhaqf.com; Gulou Beijie; 鼓楼北街北首路西; dm Y35-45, tw Y100-130, tr Y150; ☉☉☉) A fantastic hostel at the northern end of Gulou Beijie. Rooms are so clean you can smell the fresh linen. English-speaking staff, free internet, bike rental, ticket reservations (Y15 to Y20 commission), a cafe/bar (cocktails are Y15!) serving Chinese and Western meals, and free laundry. Dorms

have five to eight beds with a shared bathroom. Only fault? Wafer-thin mattresses.

### Mingya Confucianist Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(名雅儒家大饭店; Míngyǎ Rújiā Dàfàndiàn; ☎505 0888; 8 Gulou Beijie; 鼓楼北街8号; s & d Y388, discounts of 35%; ☉☉) While we're not sure if the great sage would approve of his name on a hotel banner, we are sure he would like the fab location (smack-bang in the middle of town) and would be more than pleased with the large comfy rooms and well-mannered staff. Free breakfast and discounts offered.

### Quèlǐ Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(阙里宾馆; Quèlǐ Bīnshè; ☎486 6818; www.quelihotel.com; 15 Zhonglou Jie; 钟楼街15号; s Y398-598, tw Y498-568, ste Y1288; ☉☉) The four-star Quèlǐ might be the highest-rated hotel in town, and with its tile roof and ornate decor it looks very much the part as *the* tourist hotel...in reality, it's in dire need of a refurbishment. Rooms are musty and rough round the edges (the door knob nearly fell off when we visited). Even the photos of visiting dignitaries are fading.

### Yingshi Binguan

HOTEL \$\$

(影视宾馆; ☎441 1503; Gulou Nanjie; 鼓楼南街南首路东; d, tw & tr Y168-188; ☉) At the southern end of the old town, this place has definitely been around. The tidy rooms are clean with off-white walls, wooden trimming and at times have the usual faint whiff of smoke. Shower and Western toilets are poky. In low-season, pay Y70 to Y90 for a room if you bargain.



### Eating

Head to either the area around **Shendao Lu** (south of the Confucius Temple), or the **night market** (夜市; Yèshì), off Wumaci Jie, east of Gulou Nanjie. In addition to noodles and skewers of meat, look for sellers of *jiānbǐng guōzi* (煎饼果子; Y2 to Y3), a steaming crêpêlike parcel of egg, vegetables and chilli sauce. If you want a sit-down meal, you can stop at stalls that display raw produce: point at what you want to eat and get the sellers to cook it up. For those with gutsier stomachs, snails and dog meat are available. The **Qūfū International Hostel** also serves up decent Western and Chinese dishes.

### Yù Shū Fáng

CHINESE BANQUET \$\$\$

(御书房; ☎441 9888; 2nd fl, Houzuo Jie; set meals Y128) With private 2nd-floor rooms overlooking the Confucius Mansions, this

is a fantastic place to take a breather after having successfully navigated several kilometres of courtyards. Recharge with some divine oolong tea (铁观音; *tiě guānyīn*) – cup (杯) from Y10, pot (壶) from Y30; or splash out for a banquet meal where nine (!) Kong family dishes are served in quick succession. No English spoken; enter by the door staffed by *qipao*-clad ladies beside the 1st-floor furniture store (the owner is a woodcarver).

## i Information

ATMs accepting international credit cards are along or just off Gulou Beijie. Internet cafes are just off Wumaci Jie (Y3 to Y5 per hour; look out for 网吧). Most hotel rooms have an ethernet cable or PC. Surf the net at Qūfù International Youth Hostel (Y5 per hour).

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; 96 Dongmen Dajie; ☎8.30am-4.30pm) Foreign exchange and ATM.

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; 8-1 Gulou Beijie; ☎7.30am-6.30pm summer, 8am-6pm winter)

**Gūlóu Pharmacy** (二鲁抗大药店; ÈrlǔKàng Dàoyàofáng; ☎442 8167; 12 Gulou Beijie; ☎7.30am-9pm)

**People's No 2 Hospital** (第二人民医院; Dì'èr Rénmín Yīyuàn; 7 Gulou Beijie)

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; 公安局; Gōng'ānjú; ☎443 0049; 1 Wuyuntan Lu; ☎8.30am-noon & 2-6pm Mon-Fri)

## i Getting There & Away

### Bus

Qūfù's **long-distance bus station** (汽车站; Qìchēzhàn; ☎441 2554) is 6km southwest of the walled city. **Left luggage** (Y2; ☎6am-6pm) is available here.

**Běijīng** Y160 to Y180, six hours, four daily (8.10am, 11.20am, 3pm and 5.30pm)

**Jǐ'nán** Y44, three hours, every 30 minutes

**Qīngdǎo** Y125, five hours, five daily (8.30am, 9.30am, 1.30pm, 2.20pm and 4.40pm)

**Tà'ān** Y21, one hour, every 30 minutes

**Yǎnzhōu** Y5, 20 minutes, frequent services

### Train

When a railway project for Qūfù was first tabled, the Kong family petitioned for a change of routes, claiming that the trains would disturb Confucius' tomb. They won and the nearest tracks were routed to Yǎnzhōu (兖州), 16km west of Qūfù. Eventually another **train station** (☎442 1571) was constructed about 6km east of Qūfù, but only slow trains stop there, so it is more convenient to go to **Yǎnzhōu train sta-**

**tion** (☎346 2965), on the line from Běijīng to Shànghǎi. Minibuses connect Yǎnzhōu bus station (walk straight ahead as you exit the train station, cross the car park and turn right; the bus station is 50m on the left) with Qūfù (Y5, 30 minutes, every 15 minutes, 6.30am to 5.30pm). Otherwise, a taxi from Yǎnzhōu train station to Qūfù should cost from Y40 to Y50.

Buy your tickets at the **railway booking office** (火车票票处; huǒchē shòupiaochù; ☎335 2276; 8 Jingxuan Lu; ☎7am-9pm); Y5 commission. The Qūfù International Youth Hostel also books tickets (Y15 to Y20 commission).

**Běijīng** D train, 2nd/1st class Y75/100, 4½ hours, two daily, other regular trains

**Jǐ'nán** Y24, two hours, frequent services

**Nǎnjīng** D train, 2nd/1st class Y50/79, four hours, two daily, other regular trains

**Qīngdǎo** Y48 to Y144, seven to nine hours, 12 daily

**Shànghǎi** D train, 2nd/1st class Y77/123, six hours, two daily, other regular trains

**Tiānjīn** Y56 to Y164, six to 8½ hours, regular services

## i Getting Around

Bus 1 travels along Gulou Beijie and Lindao Lu, connecting the bus station with the Confucius Forest. A taxi from the long-distance bus station to the city should cost Y15 and a pedicab Y5.

Pesky pedicabs (Y2 to Y3 to most sights within Qūfù) infest the streets, chasing all and sundry. Decorated tourist horse carts can take you on 30-minute tours (Y20 to the Confucius Forest from Queli Jie).

## Qīngdǎo

青岛

☎0532 / POP 1.73 MILLION

A breath of (literally) crisp sea air for anyone emerging from China's polluted urban interior, Qīngdǎo is hardly old-school China, but its effortless blend of German architecture and modern city planning puts most Chinese white-tile towns to shame. Its German legacy more or less intact, Qīngdǎo takes pride in its unique appearance: the Chinese call the town 'China's Switzerland'. The beaches may be overhyped and the CBD nothing special, but the dilapidated charms of the hillside villas and old town are captivating and the upbeat modern district is a veritable foodie's delight. In certain areas, one certainly gets the feel of concession Shànghǎi, albeit grittier. Of course, it's also home to 'that' beer...the ubiquitous Tsingtao.

Backing onto mountainous terrain to the northeast and hedged in between Jiāozhōu Bay, Láoshān Bay and the Yellow Sea, central Qīngdǎo (the area of interest for more visitors) is divided into three main neighbourhoods. In the west is the old town (the former concession area), with the train and bus stations, historic architecture and budget accommodation. In the centre is upscale Bādàguān, a picturesque residential area dotted with parks and old villas. In the east is the new city, known as the central business district, where Qīngdǎo's office towers and best hotels soar above the trendy restaurants and bars, innumerable malls and shoppers.

### History

Before catching the acquisitive eye of Kaiser Wilhelm II, Qīngdǎo was an innocuous fishing village, although its excellent strategic location had not been lost on the Ming, who built a battery here. German forces wrested the port town from the Chinese in 1898 after the murder of two German missionaries, and Qīngdǎo was ceded to Germany for 99 years. Under German rule the famous Tsingtao Brewery opened in 1903, electric lighting was installed, missions and a university were established and the railway to Jī'nán was built. The Protestant church was handing out hymnals by 1908, and a garrison of 2000 men was deployed and a naval base established.

In 1914 the Japanese moved into town after the successful joint Anglo-Japanese naval bombardment of the port. Japan's position in Qīngdǎo was strengthened by the Treaty of Versailles, and they held the city until 1922 when it was ceded back to the Kuomintang. The Japanese returned in 1938, after the start of the Sino-Japanese War, and occupied the town until defeated in 1945. Since then, Qīngdǎo's fortunes have risen. It is one of the largest ports in China and a major manufacturing centre (home to both domestic and international brands). Qīngdǎo hosted the Olympic sailing events in 2008.

### Sights

Most sights are squeezed into the old town, though walkers will prefer hilly Bādàguān to the west, which is generally more picturesque and a better area to wander. The Qīngdǎo Municipal Government has put up plaques identifying notable historic buildings and sites.

### St Michael's Catholic Church

CHURCH

(天主教堂; Tiānzhǔ Jiàotáng; 15 Zhejiang Lu; admission Y5; ☉8am-5pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun) Completed in 1934, the twin-spired church, up a steep hill off Zhongshan Lu, is a grand edifice with a cross on each spire. The church was badly damaged during the Cultural Revolution and the crosses were torn off. God-fearing locals rescued them, however, and buried them in the hills. The interior is splendid, with white walls, gold piping, sections of stained glass all around and lots of technicolour murals. Look up the back to see an enormous organ that is still used for services. Put aside time to roam the area around here – a lattice of ancient hilly streets where old folk sit on wooden stools in decrepit doorways, playing cards and shooting the breeze.

### Protestant Church

CHURCH

(基督教堂; Jīdū Jiàotáng; 15 Jiangu Lu; admission Y7; ☉8.30am-5pm, weekend services) On a street notable for its German architecture, this church was designed by Curt Rothkegel and built in 1908. The interior is simple and Lutheran in its sparseness, apart from some delightful carvings on the pillar cornices. You can climb up to inspect the mechanism of its clock (Bockenem 1909). It is also well worth wandering along nearby Daxue Lu for a marvellous scenic view of old German Qīngdǎo.

### Qīngdǎo Yíng Bīnguǎn

CONCESSION BUILDING

(青岛迎宾馆; Qīngdǎo Yíng Hotel; admission summer/winter Y15/10; ☉8.30am-5pm) To the east of Xīnhàoshān Park remains one of Qīngdǎo's most interesting pieces of German architecture – the former German governor's residence and a replica of a German palace. Built in 1903, it is said to have cost 2,450,000 taels of silver. When Kaiser Wilhelm II got the bill, he immediately sacked the extravagant governor. In 1957 Chairman Mao stayed here with his wife and kids on holiday. It's now a museum.

### Huāshí Lóu

CONCESSION BUILDING

(花石楼; Huāshí Bldg; 18 Huanghai Lu; admission Y6.50; ☉8am-5.30pm) The castlelike villa built in 1930 was originally the home of a Russian aristocrat, and later the German governor's retreat for fishing and hunting. The Chinese call it the 'Chiang Kaishek Building' as the generalissimo secretly stayed here in 1947. While most of the rooms in the house are closed, what's open is enough to evoke a sense of the



## Qīngdǎo

## ☉ Top Sights

Protestant Church.....	C3
Qīngdǎo Yīng Bīnguǎn.....	C3
St Michael's Catholic Church.....	B2
Tianhou Temple.....	B3

## ☉ Sights

1 Huílán Pavilion .....	B4
2 Little Qīngdǎo.....	B4
3 Little Qīngdǎo Lighthouse.....	B4
4 Navy Museum .....	B4
5 No 1 Bathing Beach .....	D4
6 No 3 Bathing Beach.....	G4
7 No 6 Bathing Beach.....	A3
8 Qīngdǎo Underwater World.....	C4
9 Tàipíngshān Park.....	F3
10 Tsingtao Beer Museum.....	E1
11 TV Tower .....	F2
Zhan Bridge.....(see 1)	
12 Zhànshān Temple.....	G3
13 Zhōngshān Park .....	E3

## ☉ Sleeping

14 Beach Castle Hotel.....	C3
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15 Big Brother Guesthouse (Main).....	A2
16 Dōngfāng Fàndiàn .....	C3
17 Kǎiyuè Hostelling International.....	B2
18 Oceanwide Elite Hotel.....	B3
19 Qīngdǎo International Youth Hostel .....	D3
20 YHA Old Observatory.....	B2

## ☉ Eating

21 Huángdǎo Road Market.....	B2
22 Jiāngsūn Road Food Street.....	A2
23 Lánzhōu Lǎ Miàn.....	B2
24 Měidá'ěr Barbecue Restaurant.....	B2
25 Měidá'ěr Barbecue Restaurant.....	E1
26 Wángjiē Shǎokǎo .....	B2

## ☉ Drinking

27 Beer Street .....	E1
Old Church Lounge .....	(see 17)

## ☉ Shopping

28 Jímùlù Market.....	B1
29 Parkson Building .....	A3
30 Xīnhuá Bookstore.....	A3
31 Yúngǔ Curios Shop.....	B3

times. Clamber up two narrow stairwells to get to the top of the turret. The surrounding views of the hills behind and the bay in front are stunning. Located at the eastern end of the No 2 Bathing Beach and at the southern tip of Zijinguan Lu.

**FREE Tianhou Temple** TEMPLE

(天后宫; Tiānhòu Gōng; 19 Taiping Lu;

☉7am-7pm summer, 8am-5pm winter) This small restored temple is dedicated to Tianhou (Heaven Queen), Goddess of the Sea and protector of sailors. The main hall contains a colourful statue of Tianhou, flanked by two figures and a pair of fearsome guardians. Other halls include the Dragon King Hall (龙王殿; Lóngwáng Diàn), where in front of the Dragon King lies a splayed pig, and a shrine to the God of Wealth. What's absolutely incongruous and rather amusing are the many temple attendants who hawk joss sticks to visitors and literally command them to pay their respects.

**Little Qingdao** LIGHTHOUSE

(小青岛; Xiǎo Qīngdǎo; 8 Qinyu Lu; admission Y10; ☉7.30am-6.30pm) Poking like a lollipop into Qīngdǎo Bay south of No 6 Bathing Beach, and dominated by its white German-built

lighthouse, this spot along the peninsula is excellent for throwing off the crowds battling it out on the beaches. Set your alarm to catch early-morning vistas of the hazy bay and the town coming to life from the promontory's leafy park.

**Navy Museum** MUSEUM

(海军博物馆; Hǎijūn Bówùguǎn; admission Y50; ☉8am-5pm) Just adjacent to Little Qīngdǎo, this 'museum' is really a rusty submarine and destroyer permanently anchored in the harbour. There are, of course, displays on the Chinese Navy.

**Qingdao Underwater World** AQUARIUM

(青岛海底世界; Qīngdǎo Hǎidǐ Shìjiè; www.qhdworld.com; 1 Laiyang Lu; summer/winter Y120/100; ☉8am-6pm) Kids will love this long-standing aquarium, with its spectacular 82m underwater glass-enclosed tunnel and various underwater performances. Just avoid going on the weekend, when the queues are maddening and you get pushed along, production-line style.

**Tsingtao Beer Museum** MUSEUM

(青岛啤酒博物馆; Qīngdǎo Píjiǔ Bówùguǎn; 56 Dengzhou Lu; admission Y50; ☉8.30am-4.30pm) For a self-serving introduction to China's



## MADE IN TSINGTAO

The beer of choice in Chinese restaurants around the world, Tsingtao is one of China's oldest and most familiar brands. Established in 1903 by a joint German-British beer corporation, the red-brick Tsingtau Germania-Brauerei began its life as a micro-brewery of sorts, producing two varieties of beer (Pilsener Light and Munich Dark) for the concession town, using natural mineral water from nearby Láo Shān. In 1914 the Japanese occupied Qīngdǎo and confiscated the plant, which, as far as the beer was concerned, wasn't such a bad thing: the rechristened Dai Nippon Brewery increased production and began distributing 'Tsingtao' throughout China. In 1949, after a few years under the Kuomintang, the communists finally got hold of the prized brewery, and over the next three decades (marked by xenophobia and a heavily regulated socialist economy) Tsingtao accounted for an astounding 98% of all of China's exports. Today the company continues to dominate China's beer export market and is partly owned by the beer colossus Anheuser-Busch InBev.

You can buy Tsingtao beer by the bag from streetside vendors, but pouring it requires skill. Of course, a visit to the original Tsingtao brewery should be in order too.

iconic beer, head to the original (still functioning) brewery. It's disappointingly comprised of old photos, brewery equipment (the smell of hops has absolutely permeated the place) and statistics, but there are a few glimpses of the modern factory, including a fascinating section overlooking the bottling and packing line. Thankfully, you can stop and sample some product along the way. Alternatively, skip the tour and head straight for Beer St outside the entrance. Bus 221 runs here from Zhongshan Lu; get off at the stop '15中' (*shíwǔ zhōng*). A taxi from the old town will cost Y10.

### Qīngdǎo Beaches

(青岛沙滩: Qīngdǎo Shātān) BEACHES Qīngdǎo is famed for its six beaches, which are pleasant enough, but don't go expecting the French Riviera. Chinese beach culture is low-key, although the main swimming season (June to September) sees hordes of sun-seekers fighting for towel space. Shark nets, life-guards, lifeboat patrols and medical stations are at hand. If you give in to the many touts in the area, you can take a boat ride around the bay for Y10 to Y20 depending on the size of the boat.

Qīngdǎo's largest beach is draped along the shore, way off in the east of town. **Shílǎorén Bathing Beach** (石老人; Donghai Donglu) is a 2.5km-long strip of clean sand and seawater-smoothed seashells, occasionally engulfed in banks of mist pouring in from offshore. The area around the beach has undergone heavy development in recent years, and has lost some of its charm. The beach gets its name from a hunk of rock

sticking out from a rocky strip a few kilometres up the road. If you squint hard enough and have a good imagination, you just might make out a 'Stone Old Man'. Take bus 304 from Zhàn Bridge (Zhàn Qiáo, Y2.50, 45 minutes) or hop in a taxi (Y20). If you take the bus, stop off at the Hǎi'ér Lǐ (海尔) stop and head east. On the way, look out for the dilapidated Qīngdao International Beer City – this once popular amusement park sponsored by the Tsingtao Beer Company now lies in what looks like postapocalyptic ruins.

Close to the train station is the **No 6 Bathing Beach** and neighbouring **Zhàn Bridge** (Zhàn Qiáo), a pier that reaches out into the bay and is tipped with the eight-sided **Huǐlán Pavilion** (Huǐlán Gé), constantly packed to the rafters with tourists. The pavilion is the very same one used on the logo of Tsingtao beer labels.

Near the centre of town, the sand of **No 1 Bathing Beach** is coarse-grained, engulfed in seaweed, and bordered by concrete beach huts and bizarre statues of dolphins. The nearby **Bādàguān** area is well known for its sanatoriums and exclusive guesthouses. The spas are scattered in lush wooded zones off the coast, and each street is lined with a different tree or flower, including maple, myrtle, peach, snow pine or crab apple. This is a lovely area in which to stroll.

Heading out of Eight Passes Area, Nos 2 and 3 Bathing Beaches are just east, and the villas lining the headlands are exquisite. **No 2 Bathing Beach** is cleaner, quieter and more sheltered than No 1 Bathing Beach and probably Qīngdǎo's best beach within



the city limits. It's not uncommon to see dozens of couples dressed in wedding outfits, getting their photos taken. Huāshí Lòu backs onto this beach. You can stroll west along this beach back into town.

### Qīngdǎo Parks

PARKS

Within this area **Zhōngshān Park** (中山公园; Zhōngshān Gōngyuán; admission free; ☺6am-6pm) covers a vast 69 hectares, and with its lakes and trees it's almost Europeanlike. There's an amusement park, cherry blossoms, tulip gardens and walking paths. In springtime (late April to early May), the park features a cherry blossom festival and in summer (August) a lantern festival. Buses 26, 203, 214, 231 and 501 travel to the park.

Connected to the Zhōngshān Park, the mountainous area to the northeast is called Tàipíngshān Park (太平山公园; Tàipíngshān Gōngyuán), an area of walking paths, pavilions and the best spot in town for hiking. In the centre of the park is the **TV Tower** (Diànshì Tǎ), with panoramic views out to the bay. You can reach the tower via **cable car** (one way/return ¥40/50). Also within the park is Qīngdǎo's largest temple, **Zhànshān Temple** (湛山寺; Zhànshān Sì; admission ¥10; ☺8am-5pm). The entrance is marked with a large pavilion and a huge pagoda standing side-by-side. The temple is actually a huge sprawling complex of restored Ming-style structures. There are a number of dramatic sandalwood Buddhas covered in gold foil scattered throughout the place. Worshipers offer incense while monks scamper about on their business. When you get off the cable car at Zhànshān Temple, look for a round concrete dome on the right. This is the entrance to a former German bunker. The Germans used the bunker as a wine cellar, and today the tunnel leads you past some historical displays into, what else but a wine bar! Fantastic!



## Festivals & Events

### Lantern Festival

SPRING FESTIVAL

Held during the Chinese New Year/Spring Festival in Zhōngshān Park, usually in February/March.

### Cherry Blossom Festival

BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

The colourful cherry blossom festival is in April/May.

### International Beer Festival

BEER FESTIVAL

(www.qdbeer.cn) The city's premier party is usually held in August, attracting over three million people.

## Sleeping

The old town has excellent budget and mid-range options. The central business district has no soul – top-end international chains are located there.

### Kǎiyuè Hostelling International

HOSTEL \$

(凯悦国际青年旅馆; Kǎiyuè Guójí Qīngnián Lúguǎn; ☎8284 5450; www.yhaqd.com; 31 Jinling Lu; 济宁路31号; dm/tw/f from ¥25/80/130; ☹@☺) The best hostel in town, with competent staff, a great bar and bike rental in addition to the usual run of services. While we question the taste behind the premium-priced 'Ikea' room, the overall experience will be good for most travellers...one free beer per night! Dorms are roomy; doubles vary in quality. Book in advance.

### Big Brother Guesthouse

HOSTEL \$

(奔之旅青年旅馆; Bēnzǐlǚ Qīngnián Lúguǎn; ☎8280 2212; 6 Baoding Lu; 保定路6号; dm/tw from ¥35/80; ☹@☺) The compact cosiness of the place might have something to do with its name, but cameras or no, this is a neat hostel that has tatami mat and bunk-bed dorms as well as midrange en suite twin and double rooms. Staff speak excellent English and even organise dumpling parties. There's another less-attractive branch on the other side of town at 31 Jiangxi Lu (江西路31号).

### YHA Old Observatory

HOSTEL \$

(奥博维特国际青年旅舍; Àobówéitè Guójí Qīngnián Lúshè; ☎8282 2626; www.hostelqingdao.com; 21 Guanxiang Erlu; 观象二路21号; dm ¥25-35, tw & d ¥168; ☹@☺) Situated on top of a hill in a former observatory with sweeping panoramas of the city and bay, this is one of the best locales in the city...for views, which are hard to appreciate after a sweaty slog up the hill. The comfort level varies but the rooftop cafe in the parkside setting is good – stop by for a beer or coffee. Consider the pick-up service from the train/bus station (¥20) as it's slightly confusing to find. Even the website (ironically) describes this as a 'hidden gem'.

### Qīngdǎo International Youth Hostel

HOSTEL \$\$

(青岛国际青年旅舍; Qīngdǎo Guójí Qīngnián Lúshè; ☎8286 5177; www.youthtaylor.com; 7a Qixia Lu; 栖霞路7号甲; dm from ¥70, tw & tr ¥240/320; ☹@☺) Despite the misleading name, this is more of a cosy midrange hotel than hostel. Set inside a renovated villa, the tidy rooms (and bathrooms) are massive.

There's some yesteryear art deco charm, and the location in the plush Bādàguān neighbourhood is ideal for walks through old Qīngdǎo. There's a shared kitchen and limited dorm rooms. Not much English spoken.

### Oceanwide Elite Hotel

(泛海名人酒店; Fànhǎi Míngrén Jiǔdiàn; ☎8299 6699; www.oweh.com.cn; 29 Taiping Lu; 太平路29号; d without/with sea view Y1160/1560, ste Y2800; ☹) This well-maintained five-floor hotel benefits from a superb location overlooking Qīngdǎo Bay (as long as you opt for the pricier sea-view rooms) in the old part of town. Flat-screen TVs and complimentary snacks place it leagues ahead of the surrounding seafood competition. Low-season prices drop to Y850.

### Beach Castle Hotel

(青岛海滩城堡酒店; Qīngdǎo Hǎitān Gǔbǎo Jiǔdiàn; ☎8287 8131; beachcastle@163.com; 15 Taiping Lu; 太平路15号; d from Y368; ☹☺) This beach-side hotel occupies the grounds of the former Qīngdǎo Prison but we doubt dubbing it Beach Prison Hotel would help its cause much. The standard rooms feature floorboards and basic pine furniture. If you shell out more, you get larger rooms with better furnishing. The location is quite handy as it straddles the Bādàguān neighbourhood and the various sights along Qīngdǎo Bay. The Qīngdǎo German Prison Museum is located on the grounds.

### Crowne Plaza

(青岛颐中皇冠假日酒店; Qīngdǎo Yízhōng Huángguān Jiàrì Jiǔdiàn; ☎8571 8888; www.ichotelsgroup.com; 76 Xianggang Zhonglu; 香港中路76号; d/ste Y1200/2324, discounts up to 40%; ☹☹☹☹☹) At this glittering, 38-floor tower rising above Qīngdǎo's crackling commercial district, you won't be bumping into much old-town charm. Business travellers can content themselves instead with the warm honey-coloured hues of the splendid foyer, the fully equipped rooms, the indoor pool, professional standards of service and a choice of five restaurants – buffets at Café Asia (lunch/dinner Y128/168) are a favourite with expats. Wi-fi in the lobby.

### Dōngfāng Fàndiàn

(东方饭店; ☎8286 5888; www.hotel-dongfang.com; 4 Daxue Lu; 大学路4号; tw/d Y280/500; ☹☺) A well-maintained but wholly dull four-star hotel. Ask for the east-facing top-rooms (same price) which have argu-

ably the best hotel views. Some rooms have PCs with internet access for extra cost.

## ✂ Eating

Qīngdǎo has no problem keeping even the most fickle diners sated. The waterfront area is brimming with restaurants, from No 6 Bathing Beach almost all the way to No 1 Bathing Beach. Side streets are often peppered with family-run restaurants serving up quick meals. Popular local dining choices, however, are in the business district in **Hong Kong Garden** (香港花园; Xiānggāng Huāyuán), which consists of several blocks of jam-packed eateries: Korean, Thai, hotpot, Italian and even Russian are just some of the numerous culinary possibilities. Wander at will, or grab a copy of *Red Star* (try the hostels or foreign restaurants) for extensive listings. For the less adventurous budget-conscious, there are food courts in **Jusco** and **Carrefour**. **Café Asia** (亚洲咖啡) in the Crowne Plaza also gets good reviews.

### Huángdǎo Road Market

(Huángdǎo Lù Shìchǎng; meals from Y5; ☹8am-6pm) A frenetic and fabulous street market chock-a-block with stalls selling raw produce, vegetables and other delights. Every other stall sells food: fried chicken, pancakes, bread, cooked dishes...it's all cheap, so just stop when something catches your fancy. The neighbouring Zhifu Lu has several sit-down kerbside joints serving food and Tsingtao (locals buy it in large plastic bags to takeaway – you can have yours in a glass).

### Jiāngníng Road Food Street

(江宁路小吃街; Jiāngníng Lù Xiǎochī Jiē; meals from Y10; ☹10am-8pm) A small hole-in-the-wall passageway (below an archway that has a plaster motif '1902') off Zhongshan Lu opens up to a small warren of food stalls. While the whole place is rather 'made up', you can get everything from pancakes to barbecued skewers to live seafood cooked anyway you like. Prices are mostly labelled and many joints have picture menus.

### Bellagio

(鹿港小镇; Lùgǎng Xiǎozhèn; ☎8387 0877; 19 Aomen Sanlu; dishes from Y15; ☹10am-midnight) Swish Bellagio serves up excellent Taiwanese cuisine late into the night. There are two equally popular branches in Běijīng, so it must be doing something right! Try the

HOTEL \$\$\$

HOTEL \$\$

HOTEL \$\$\$

HOTEL \$\$

STREET MARKET \$

STREET MARKET \$

TAIWANESE \$\$

three-cup chicken (三杯鸡; *sān bēijī*) and save room for the range of delicious sweets. Picture menu. Near the corner of Donghai Xilu (parallel south to Xianggang Xilu) and Shandong Lu.

### Lánzhōu Lā Miàn

NOODLES \$

(兰州拉面; Sifang Lu; noodles Y5-6; ☺9am-11pm) No-frills noodle restaurant run by a family of Chinese-Muslims. Noodles are all hand-made on the premises and service is quick and efficient. Order the hearty beef noodle soup (牛肉面; *nǐu ròumìàn*) or just point at what the next person's having. You can't go wrong as it's all cheap, cheerful and pretty good. Bottomless refills of soup and raw garlic (that we don't understand) accompaniment if you want it...just don't forget your breath mints.

### Café Yum

INTERNATIONAL \$\$\$

(9 Xianggang Zhonglu; buffet lunch/dinner Y168/228; ☺6am-10pm) Sometimes, you just need a good old burger, or a pig-out-fest at an all-you-can-eat joint. This place in swish Shangri-la in the business district ticks both boxes. Sure, it's a little pricey but service is good and the spread is a veritable feast. As always, we recommend leaving room for dessert. Oh, did we mention the all-you-can-drink beer?

### Wángjiě Shāokǎo

ROAST GRILL \$

(王姐烧烤; cnr Zhongshan & Dexian Lu; lamb skewers Y2; ☺10am-6pm) Sooner or later, Qīngdǎo's legendary meat skewers will require your undivided attention, and where better to start than to join the throng outside this street-side stall. Squeeze your way to the front and order lamb (羊肉串; *yáng ròu chuàn*; Y2), pork (猪肉串; *zhūròu chuàn*; Y4) or cuttlefish (鱿鱼串; *yóuyú chuàn*; Y10). Stand with the rest of the punters by the side of the road, finish your meal and toss the skewers into the bucket by the side. There's a sit-down restaurant by the side for the more civilised.

### Měidá'ěr Barbecue Restaurant

KEBABS \$\$

(美达尔烤肉店; Měidá'ěr Shāokǎodiàn; 4 Yan'an Yilu; lamb kebabs Y2-4, meals Y30; ☺9am-2am) This trusty local chain restaurant just off Beer St serves up lamb (羊肉串; *yáng ròu chuàn*), pork (猪肉串; *zhūròu chuàn*) or seafood kebabs. If you want cold beer, you might be out of luck. Service is patchy too. There's a branch in the old town along Zhongshan Lu.



## Drinking

Qīngdǎo wouldn't be Qīngdǎo without Tsingtao, and the first stop for any serious beerophile might as well be the many shops along **Beer St** (啤酒街; Píjiǔ Jiē), just outside the brewery's doors, where you can sample the delicious dark *yuánjiāng* (原浆啤酒) brew, which is hard to find elsewhere. The rest of the city's bars are concentrated in the business district in the east of town. Check [www.myredstar.com](http://www.myredstar.com) or [www.thatsqingdao.com](http://www.thatsqingdao.com) for current listings.

### Old Church Lounge

BAR

([www.yhaqd.com](http://www.yhaqd.com); 31 Jining Lu; 济宁路31号; beer from Y10) Located on the ground floor of Kǎiyuè International Youth Hostel, this is a chilled-out bar set in an old church. Order an ice-cold Tsingtao or cocktail, say a prayer (bless me father for I have sinned) and continue to get hammered. There's a pool table, sheesha and lots of little private spaces if you're feeling antisocial.

### Club New York

BAR

(纽约吧; Niǚyuē Bā; 2nd fl, 41 Xianggang Zhonglu; beer from Y30) Fuelled by Shakira and company at full blast, this expat favourite is overflowing with late-night revellers on weekends. It's above the lobby of the Overseas Chinese International Hotel in the business district. Out-of-town bands sometimes hold concerts here and there's a cover band from Tuesday to Sunday. Drinks are expensive so come prepared to spend... doesn't seem to stop the expats though!



## Entertainment

### Huáchén Cinema

CINEMA

(华臣影城; Huáchén Yǐngchéng; 8F, 69 Xianggang Zhonglu; tickets from Y50) In the Mykal Department Store in the business district and generally has at least one Hollywood blockbuster playing.



## Shopping

### Yúngǔ Curios Shop

ART

(云古; Yúngǔ; 19 Taiping Lu; ☺10am-6pm) A fab little shop selling hand-cut paper art. Grab a paper portrait of Chairman Mao or pick up a Zodiac animal paper cut. There are also many other more intricate designs of phoenixes, swallows and auspicious words. The owner and artist, Wenxiang, doesn't speak much English but if you ask nicely she can do a quick demo of her craft. Located beside Tianhou Temple.

**Xīnhuá Bookstore**

BOOKS

(新华书店; Xīnhuá Shūdiàn; 10 Henan Lu; ☎9am-7pm) On the corner of Guangxi Lu. Sells maps (Y10) and a good range of Chinese books and magazines. Head to Book City (below) for English books.

**Carrefour**

HYPERMART

(家乐福; Jiālèfú; ☎8.30am-10pm) On the northwest corner of Nanjing Lu and Xianggang Zhonglu. You can buy most everything here.

**Jímòlù Market**

MALL

(即墨路小商品市场; Jímòlù Xiǎoshàngpǐn Shìchǎng; 45 Liaocheng Lu; ☎9am-6pm) A four-floor shop-till-you-drop bargain bonanza. Pearls, purses, clothing, shoes, backpacks, jade – don't forget to haggle.

**Jusco**

SUPERMARKET

(佳世客; Jiāshìkè; ☎9am-11pm) Near the southeast corner of Fuzhou Nanlu and Xianggang Zhonglu. Food court and supermarket.

**Parkson Building**

MALL

(Zhongshan Lu; ☎9am-8pm) Has several floors of shopping and a supermarket in the basement.

**i Information****Internet Access**

Hostels have internet-enabled PCs and wi-fi internet access (网吧). Most hotels have free broadband cables and some have PCs in rooms.

**Book City** (书城; Shū Chéng; 67 Xianggang Zhonglu; per hr Y2; ☎9am-midnight) On the 4th floor of Book City at the junction of Xianggang Zhonglu and Yan'erdao Lu; the evening entrance (after Book City closes) is north on Yan'erdao Lu.

**Hàodú Wǎngbā** (好读网吧; 2 Dagu Lu; per hr Y2; ☎24hr)

**Internet Resources**

**My Red Star** (www.myredstar.com) Online entertainment guide; the same folks also put out the monthly listings mag *Redstar* – look for it in hotels, bars and foreign restaurants.

**That's Qīngdǎo** (www.thatsqingdao.com) Online city guide with listings and news clips.

**Medical Services**

**Qīngdǎo Municipal Hospital, International Clinic** (青岛市立医院国际门诊; Qīngdǎoshì Shìlì Yīyuàn, Guójì Měnzhen; ☎international clinic 8593 7690, ext 2266, emergency 8278 9120; 5 Donghai Zhonglu; ☎8am-noon & 1.30-5.30pm Mon-Sat)

**Money**

ATMs are fairly easy to find in Qīngdǎo; centrally located machines are listed below.

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; 66 & 68 Zhongshan Lu; ☎8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri) On the corner of Feicheng Lu. Foreign-currency exchange. External ATM accepts foreign cards.

**Bank of China ATM** (中国银行自动取款机; Zhōngguó Yínháng Zìdòng Qǔkuǎnjī; Xianggang Zhonglu; ☎24hr) East of Book City in the business district.

**Jusco** (☎8.30am-10pm) On the 2nd floor of Jusco shopping centre. ATM accepts foreign cards.

**Post**

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; 51 Zhongshan Lu; ☎8.30am-6pm) Opposite the large Parkson building.

**Public Security Bureau**

(PSB; 公安局; Gōng'ānjú; ☎9am-noon & 1.30-4.30pm Mon-Fri) East branch ☎8579 2555, ext 2860; 272 Ningxia Lu; Old Town (Zhongshan Lu) For the east branch, bus 301 goes from the train station and stops outside the terracotta-coloured building (stop 14).

**Travel Agency**

**China International Travel Service** (CITS; 中国国际旅行社; Zhōngguó Guójì Lúxíngshè; ☎8389 2065/1713; Yuyuan Dasha, 73 Xianggang Xilu; ☎9am-4pm)

**i Getting There & Away****Air**

There are flights to most large cities in China, including daily services to Běijīng (Y710, 1½ hours), Shànghǎi (Y740, 1½ hours) and Hong Kong (Y1810, three hours). International flights include daily flights to Seoul (Y1400) and Tokyo (Y4300) along with four weekly flights to Osaka (Y2700). For flight information call **Liuting International Airport** (☎8471 5139).

Ticket offices:

**China Southern** (中国南方航空公司; Zhōngguó Nánfāng Hángkōng Gōngsī; ☎8869 8255; Hǎitiān Hotel; 海天大酒店; 48 Xianggang Xilu; ☎8.30am-5pm)

**Civil Aviation Administration of China** (CAAC; 中国民航; Zhōngguó Mínháng) Domestic (☎8289 5577; 29 Zhongshan Lu; ☎8am-6.30pm); International (☎8578 2381; 30 Xianggang Lu; ☎8.30am-4.30pm)

**Dragonair** (港龙航空; Gǎnglóng Hángkōng; ☎400 888 6628; Copthorne Hotel; 青岛国敦大酒店; 28 Xianggang Zhonglu; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Fri)

## BORDER CROSSING: JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA

International boats depart from the **passenger ferry terminal** (青岛港客运站; Qīngdǎogǎng Kéyùnzhàn; ☎8282 5001; 6 Xinjiang Lu). There are twice-weekly boats from Qīngdǎo to Shimonoseki (Y1100, 26 hours, 3.30pm Monday and Thursday) in Japan. For South Korea, Qīngdǎo has boats to Incheon (from Y750, 17 hours, 5pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and Gunsan (Y920, 16 hours, 2.30pm Monday, Wednesday and Saturday). Boats to Incheon are run by the **Weidong Ferry Company** (www.weidong.com; Incheon (☎8232-777 0490; International Passenger Terminal, 71-2 Hang-dong); Qīngdǎo (☎8280 3574; passenger ferry terminal, 4 Xinjiang Lu); Seoul (☎822-3271 6710; 10th fl, 1005 Sungji Bldg, 585 Dohwa-dong, Mapo-gu).

**Korean Air** (大韩航空; Dàhán Hángkōng; ☎8387 0088; Haitian Hotel, 48 Xianggang Xilu)

### Boat

To reach Dàlián by boat, you will have to go from Yántái or Wēihǎi; tickets for these trips can be purchased from CITS.

### Bus

Most out-of-town buses arrive at Qīngdǎo's **long-distance bus station** (长途汽车站; chángtú qìchēzhàn; ☎8371 3833; 2 Wenzhou Lu) in the Sífāng District north of town. Daily buses:

**Běijīng** Y230, nine hours, one daily (8pm)

**Hángzhōu** Y310, 12 hours, two daily (6pm and 6.30pm)

**Héféi** Y180, 10 hours, four daily

**Jī'nán** Y78 to Y113, 4½ hours, every 30 minutes

**Qūfū** Y127, five hours, four daily

**Shànghǎi** Y286, 11 hours, five daily

**Tàì'ān** Y116, six hours, four daily

**Wēihǎi** Y93, 3½ hours, hourly

**Yántái** Y66, 3½ hours, every 40 minutes

### Train

All trains from Qīngdǎo go through Jī'nán, except the direct Qīngdǎo to Yántái and Wēihǎi trains. All prices listed here are for hard seat unless otherwise noted; the express D trains only have 1st- and 2nd-class soft seats. Train tickets can be bought at the train station or for a service charge at several places around town, including a useful **ticket office** (青岛火车航空售票处; Qīngdǎo Huǒchē Hángkōng Shòupiàochù; Feicheng; ☎24hr) on the north side of Feicheng, just round the corner from the station. Regular trains run to numerous destinations, including:

**Tàì'ān/Tài'shān** Y70, six hours, regular services

**Yántái** Y22, 4½ hours, one daily (6am)

**Zhèngzhōu** soft sleeper Y264, 13 hours, six daily

Express D trains:

**Běijīng** Y116, six hours, six daily

**Jī'nán** Y55, three hours, regular services

**Nánjīng** Y137, eight hours, one daily (10.30am)

**Shànghǎi** Y170, 10 hours, two daily (10.25am and 10.30am)

**Tàì'ān/Tài'shān** Y70, 3½ hours, one daily (10.30am)

## **i** Getting Around

### To/From the Airport

Qīngdǎo's **Lǐtíng International Airport** (☎8471 5139) is 30km north of the city. Taxis to/from the airport cost Y50 to Y75. Buses (Y20) leave hourly from the **Green Tea Inn** (格林豪泰商务酒店(机场巴士); Gélín Hāotài Shāngwù Jiǔdiàn (Jīchǎng Bāshì); Zhongshan Lu) in the old town from 5.40am to 7.40pm, and half-hourly from the CAAC office (机场巴士售票处; Jīchǎng Bāshì Shòupiàochù) in the business district from 6am to 9pm.

### Public Transport

Bus 501 runs east from the train station, passing Zhōngshān Park and continuing along the entirety of Xianggang Lu in the central business district. Bus 26 from the train station runs a similar route, although it turns north on Nanjing Lu, just before the start of Xianggang Zhonglu. From the long-distance bus station, bus 221 runs to Zhongshan Lu in the old city and bus 366 runs to the CBD. City bus rides cost Y1. Longer-distance buses have conductors who charge and issue tickets according to your destination.

### Taxi

Flag fall is Y7 for the first 3km and then Y1.20 per kilometre thereafter, plus fuel tax (Y1).

## Láo Shān

## 崂山

Looking at the jumble of massive granite slabs and boulders capping the hilltops and tumbling down to the sea's edge, it's easy to

understand why the stunning landscapes of **Láo Shān** (admission Apr-Oct Y70, Nov-Mar Y50) attracted spiritual seekers throughout the centuries. One of the earliest was the Buddhist pilgrim Faxian, who landed here upon returning from India in the 5th century AD, but the mountain is above all known for its associations with Taoism. Following the establishment of the Quanzhen sect in the 12th century (founded near Yāntái), many adepts later came here to cultivate themselves in the hermitages scattered throughout Láo Shān. Even the emperor Qin Shi Huang ascended the mountain... with the help of a litter party of course.

Today the region is ideal for day hikes, with small dams, temples, thickets of bamboo and pine, and a spectacular coastline in the lower region. There are actually three trails around the mountain, each one leading to a peak. The most picturesque is the **Jūfēng Qū** (巨峰区) trail.

The Jufeng circuit itself takes three to four hours to complete. It's built in the shape of a *báguà*, a Taoist symbol that's supposed to ward off spirits, and there are 'gates' at each of the eight-sided tips of the symbol. Stone steps lead visitors past wind- and water-worked granite. At the peak, there are jaw-dropping views out towards the sea and to the rest of the rocky terrain behind. The trail offers many opportunities to clamber over rocks, stop at temples and a spring, and of course there are many photo opportunities.

There's another trail at **Bāshuǐ Hé** (八水河). It leads up to an old **hermit's cave** (明霞洞; Míngxiá Dòng; admission Y4) at one summit; the route takes a lazy two hours. Alternatively, follow a cliff-side boardwalk a further half-hour down the coast to reach the Song-dynasty **Great Purity Palace** (太清宫; Tàiqīng Gōng; admission Y20), established by the first Song emperor as a place to perform Taoist rites to save the souls of the dead. The Láo Shān park is quite large and merits further exploration – you can easily spend an entire day here.

From Qīngdǎo, bus 304 runs to Láo Shān (Y12, one to two hours). Catch 304 at the Zhàn Qiáo stop by No 6 Bathing Beach from 6.30am; get off at Jūfēng Qū Terminus and get your admission ticket. It's an 8km walk to the cable car station or just shell out for the bus (Guāngguāng chē, 观光车, Y15 return). The **cable car** (suǒ dào; one way/return Y40/80) takes you to the base of

the purpose-built circuit. It's another 2km slog up to the start of the circuit if you want to save money on the cable car. Note that from November through March, bus 304 only runs as far as Liúqīng Hé (流清河; bus ticket Y4.50), from where you'll need to hire a shared taxi (Y15 to Láo Shān, Y30 back to Liúqīng Hé). Returning, the last bus leaves Láo Shān at 7pm.

Tour buses to Láo Shān (Y25 return excluding entrance fees) ply the streets of Qīngdǎo from 6am onwards, but visit at least four other 'sights' on the way to the mountain and back. If you want to take a tour bus, pick a small one and stay in the bus instead of getting off at the various shops. As one tout proclaimed with an appropriate sense of quasi-mysticism: 'You can spend an entire lifetime looking, but you'll never find a bus that will take you straight there'.

At the time of writing, admission prices were set to increase a whopping 40%!

## Yāntái

## 烟台

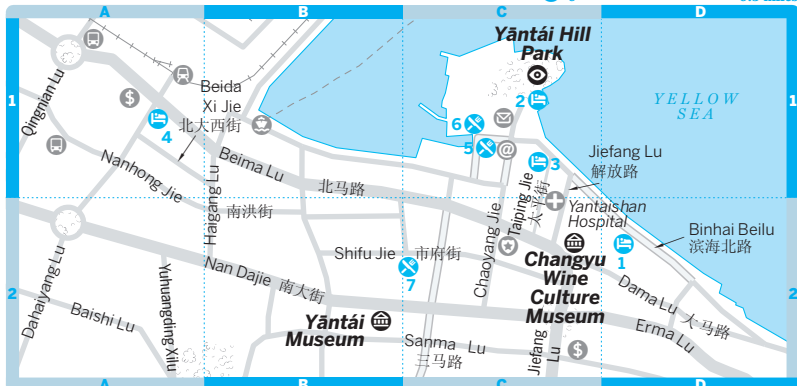
☑0535 / POP 0.8 MILLION

Yāntái claims one of the fastest-developing economies in China, which is no small feat in a country renowned for exponential growth. As the investment yuan flow in from entrepreneurs in South Korea and Japan, the port city has somehow managed to look beyond its busy blue-collar roots, simultaneously transforming into an increasingly popular summer beach resort. Meanwhile, the coastline is soaring with a steady development of shiny new high-rise towers that somehow manages to avoid the architectural faux pas of other similar cities. The old residents are staying firm and you'll easily find a warren of old houses nestled a mere block from the bay to the north and the buzzing city to the south. Good for a day or two, the town makes for a relaxed sojourn, with a sprinkling of foreign concession architecture, popular beaches and Péng-lái Pavilion not far away.

### History

Starting life as a defence outpost and fishing village, Yāntái's name literally means 'Smoke Terrace'; wolf-dung fires were lit on the headland during the Ming dynasty to warn fishing fleets of approaching pirates. Its anonymity abruptly ended in the late 19th century when the Qing govern-





ment, reeling from defeat in the Opium War, handed Yāntái to the British. They established a treaty port here and called it Chefoo (Zhífú). Several other nations, Japan and the USA among them, had trading establishments here and the town became something of a resort area.

## Sights

**Yāntái Hill Park** PARK  
(烟台山公园; Yāntáishān Gōngyuán; admission Y30; ☀7am-6pm) This quaint park is a veritable museum of well-preserved Western treaty port architecture spread upwards across a maze of stone paths and leafy gardens. Containing a Chinese-only visual exhibition on Yāntái's port days, the **Former American Consulate Building** retains some original interior features. Nearby, the former **Yāntái Union Church** dates from 1875, although it was later rebuilt and now serves as the office for a wedding-planning company. The **Former British Consulate** is perched on the edge of the park overlooking the bay, and the **British Consulate Annexe** looks out onto an overgrown English garden.

Heading northwest, you'll find several points at which to look upon the busy industrial port that is home to Yāntái's fortunes. The northernmost tip has a lonely **pavilion** sticking out into the bay. It's not uncommon to see locals clamber down to the rocks below to fish. Next to the pavilion is a **wooden bridge** with hundreds of heart-shaped lockets attached to it. Couples come here to attach these lockets as a promise of everlasting love.

## Yāntái

### Top Sights

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At the top of the hill is the Ming-dynasty **Dragon King Temple**, which once found service as a military headquarters for French troops in 1860 and is now home once again to a statue of the Dragon King himself. Directly behind is a **light-house** (admission Y5) which you can ascend. The wolf-dung fires were burned from the **smoke terrace** above, dating from the reign of Hongwu. In the west of the park, the 1930s-built **Japanese Consulate** is a typically austere brick lump, equipped with a 'torture inquisition room'.

**Yāntái Museum** MUSEUM  
(烟台博物馆; Yāntái Bówùguǎn; 257 Nan Dajie; admission Y10; ☀8.30-11.30am & 1.30-5pm) The current home of the museum is a fabulous guildhall built by merchants and sailors of Fújiàn as a place of worship to Tianhou. Sadly, the museum will be moving into



a modern, less atmospheric building just 100m west along Nan Dajie.

The main hall of the museum is known as the **Hall of Heavenly Goddess**, designed and finished in Guǎngzhōu, and then shipped to Yāntái for assembly. Beyond the hall, in the centre of the courtyard, is the museum's most spectacular sight: a brightly and intricately decorated gate. Supported by 14 pillars, the portal is a collage of hundreds of carved and painted figures, flowers, beasts, phoenixes and animals. The carvings depict battle scenes and folk stories, including *The Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea*. At the southern end of the museum is a theatrical stage that was first made in Fújiàn and then shipped to Yāntái.

### Beaches

BEACHES

Of Yāntái's two beaches, **No 1 Beach** (Diyī Hǎishuǐ Yùchǎng), a long stretch of soft sand along a calm bay area, is superior to **No 2 Beach** (Dì'èr Hǎishuǐ Yùchǎng), which is less crowded, but more polluted. Both beaches can be reached by bus 17.

### Changyu Wine Culture Museum

MUSEUM

(张裕酒文化博物馆; Zhāngyù Jiǔwénhuà Bówùguǎn; 56 Dama Lu; admission Y30; ☎8am-5pm) The surprising Changyu Wine Culture Museum introduces the history of China's oldest and largest Western-style winery (founded in 1892), which produces a barely palatable 'Chinese Cabernet' and a sweet riesling (tasting, down in any icy cellar, is included in admission price).

### ACCW

HISTORIC AREA

East of the Changyu Wine Culture Museum is an attractive but soulless cluster of restored concession buildings, housing a variety of business such as restaurants, clubs, bars and such. It's worth wandering through to have a look at Yāntái's efforts at 'doing' Shànghǎi.

### Sleeping

There are many hotels clustered around the train and bus stations but these are often busy, noisy and dull. A better option would be to find a hotel in and around the northern end of Chaoyang Jie, where a lot of old houses still remain. It's a quiet district with an old-world charm.

### Karen Bayview Hotel

HOTEL \$\$

(凯琳海景酒店; Kǎilín Hǎijǐng Jiǔdiàn; ☎622 6600; 30 Dongtaiping Jie; 东太平街30号; s/d Y300/380; ☎☎) Jutting out at an odd angle

to allow some rooms to *actually* have a view of the bay, this hotel has really cosy (read: compact) rooms built to a high standard. Fit and finish of the toilets and furniture are a cut above typical midrange hotels. Discounts often bring rooms down to Y120, so don't forget to bargain.

### Waitinn

HOTEL \$\$

(维特风尚酒店; Wéitè Fēngshàng Jiǔdiàn; ☎212 0909; www.waitinn.com; 73 Beima Lu; 北马路73号; tw & d Y188-228, tr Y258, discounts of 20%; ☎☎) Opposite the train station, this newly refurbished hotel is the perfect place to 'wait inn'. Brightly coloured murals of iconic Asian actors dress the walls and explain the appeal to the younger set. One can almost forgive the eyesore-purple wallpaper as the rooms are comfortable with large beds and flat-screen TVs.

### Golden Gulf Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(金海湾酒店; Jīnhǎiwān Jiǔdiàn; ☎663 6999; fax 663 2699; 34 Hai'an Lu; 海安路34号; d Y660-1080; ☎☎) The six-storey Golden Gulf has a superb sea and parkside location, and falls prey to the Chinese 'let's spend more money on the lobby than on refurbishing rooms' mentality. There's a bar and 'international'-style restaurant attached. Some English is spoken.

### Eating & Drinking

Taohua Jie, directly north of the old Yāntái Museum, has a handful of popular local restaurants. South of Yāntái Hill Park, the pedestrian streets Chaoyang Jie and Hai'an Jie have a good pick of bars, cafes, local restaurants, an Irish pub and even a Brazilian barbecue joint, though outside of summer some of the places may be closed. The area surrounding the train station has plenty of eating options, and there's a small strip of street food stalls on the east side of the large Parkson building.

### Brazil Barbecue

BARBECUE \$\$

(巴西烤肉主题餐厅; Bāxī Kǎoròu Zhǔtí Cāntīng; ☎661 0185; 22 Hai'an Jie; buffet Y68; ☎lunch & dinner) The Chinese take on Brazilian *churrascaria* means that you'll get pork slathered in garlic, slices of ox tongue and chicken giblets – all served from long skewers. The all-you-can-eat buffet spread gives you one more reason to delay that diet. Staff offering grilled meats come round once only, so don't feel shy to call out if you want more.

**Bǎolóng Hǎixiān Chéng**

SEAFOOD \$\$

(宝隆海鲜城; ☎661 1518; 18 Hai'an Jie; meals from Y50) Enter the special seafood-filled room by the entrance where the squirming, crawling and swimming creatures are on display. Veggie and cold dishes have marked prices per serve. Seafood is charged by *jīn* and weighed in front of you. Order what you want and the kitchen will cook it up. Beer is only Y2. Limited English spoken.

**Lǎoyú Lāmiàn**

NOODLES \$

(老子拉面; 26-7 Taohua Jie; beef noodles Y6-10; ☎24hr) This popular joint runs 24 hours so you'll never go hungry. Grab a seat and join the rest of the patrons slurping down noodles. The menu is in Chinese so you'll have to order by pointing at what the people at the next table are having; or you can always go with the *niúròu lāmiàn* (牛肉拉面; beef noodles).

**i Information**

There are numerous internet cafes (网吧; wǎngbā) along Cháoyáng Jie, south of Yāntái Hill Park. Prices per hour are Y2.

**Bank of China** (中国银行; Zhōngguó Yínháng; 166 Jiefang Lu) ATM accepts all cards. Smaller branch on Beima Lu.

**China Post** (中国邮政; Zhōngguó Yóuzhèng; Hai'an Jie) It's 25m south of the tourist office.

**Chūnhéhéng Pharmacy** (春鹤恒药堂; Chūnhéhéng Yàofáng; Beima Lu) Next to the International Seaman's Super 8 Hotel.

**Public Security Bureau** (PSB; 公安局; Gōng'ānjú; ☎629 7050; 78 Shifu Jie; ☎8-11.30am & 2-5.30pm Mon-Sat) On the corner of Chaoyang Jie. Office for foreigners is on the 5th floor.

**Yāntáishān Hospital** (烟台山医院; Yāntáishān Yīyuàn; ☎660 2028; 91 Jiefang Lu)

**i Getting There & Away****Air**

Book tickets at **Yāntái International Airport Group Air Travel Agency** (航空国际旅行社有限公司; Yāntái Guóqì Lúxíngshè Yóuxiàngōngsī; ☎625 3777; 6 Dahaiyang Lu; ☎8am-6pm) or at **Shāndōng Airlines** (山东航空公司; Shāndōng Hángkōng; ☎662 2737; 236 Nan Dajie, Bihāi Dàshà; ☎8am-5pm).

There are daily flights to Běijīng (Y800, one hour), Shànghǎi (Y900, 1½ hours), Guǎngzhōu (Y2080, three hours) and Seoul (Y1000), and thrice-weekly flights to Osaka (Y2500).

**Boat**

Purchase tickets for fast boats to Dàlián (Y230, 3½ hours, 8.30am, 10am, 1pm and 2pm, May to October only) at the **Yāntái passenger ferry terminal** (烟台港客运站; Yāntáigǎng Kèyùnzhàn; ☎624 2715; 155 Beima Lu) or from numerous ticket offices east of the train station; tickets can only be purchased on the day of travel. There are also numerous slow boats departing daily throughout the year for Dàlián (seat/bed Y125/140, 2nd class Y220, six to seven hours) from 9am to 11.30pm.

**Bus**

From the **long-distance bus station** (长途汽车站; chángtú qìchē zhàn; cnr Xi Dajie & Qingnian Lu) there are buses to numerous destinations:

**Jī'nán** Y139 to Y149, 5½ hours, hourly

**Pénglái** Y18, 1½ hours, every 30 minutes

**Qīngdǎo** Y63 to Y68, 3½ hours, every 40 minutes

**Wēihǎi** Y27, one hour, every 30 minutes  
Sleeper buses also run to destinations further afield:

**Běijīng** Y224, 13 hours, one daily (10.45am)

**Shànghǎi** Y302, 11 hours, one daily (7.15am)

**Tiānjīn** Y184, 11 hours, two daily (10am and 1.30pm)

**BORDER CROSSING: SOUTH KOREA**

Boats to Incheon (from Y960, 16 hours, 5pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday) in South Korea leave from the **Yāntái passenger ferry terminal** (烟台港客运站; Yāntáigǎng Kèyùnzhàn; ☎624 2715; 155 Beima Lu).

The **Weidong Ferry Company** (www.weidong.com; Incheon ☎8232-777 0490; International Passenger Terminal, 71-2 Hang-dong; Seoul ☎822-3271 6710; 10th fl, 1005 Sungji Bldg, 585 Dohwa-dong, Mapo-gu) has boats to Incheon (deluxe/1st/2nd/economy class Y1370/1090/890/750, 15 hours), in South Korea, at 5pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday; check its website for the latest timetables and prices. In Wēihǎi, tickets are available from the ticket office (☎522 6173; 48 Haibin Beilu), south of the passenger ferry terminal (威海港客运码头; wēihǎigǎng kèyùnmǎtóu).

You can also get a boat to Incheon and Busan in South Korea from Qingdao.

## PÉNGLÁI PAVILION

About 65km northwest of Yántái, the 1000-year-old **Pénglái Pavilion** (蓬莱阁; Pénglái Gé; admission Y100; ☀7am-6pm summer, 7.30am-5pm winter) is closely entwined in Chinese mythology with the legend of the Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea.

Perched on a cliff top overlooking the waves, the stately pavilion harbours a fascinating array of temples, and what seems like 600 souvenir stalls. The path leading up to the pavilion is a complex that forms China's most complete ancient military naval base, dating back to the Song dynasty. On misty days, fog rolls in over the buildings, giving it an ethereal, otherworldly feel...until you hear the screeching commentary of the next tour guide taking a group through.

En route to the pavilion, you'll find five temples, each one devoted to a different god. There's an old stage where you can watch a performance for Y6. The pavilion looks rather unassuming from the outside as its architecture is rather similar to the rest of the buildings. What's special is a recently installed art installation created by Zhou Jinyun. It's a stunning textured full-colour retelling of the story of the Eight Immortals. Looking at the display from right to left, you'll be able to see all the characters and their adventures.

Once you've toured the pavilion, you can hop on a cable car (Y20 return) to zip across the bay towards, yes, even more temples and pavilions. The ride is quite stunning as part of it takes you over the water and up a forested hill.

Besides the pavilion, Pénglái draws crowds for its optical illusion that locals claim appears every few years or so. The last took place on 7 May 2006 and lasted for some four hours, revealing what appeared to be a mirror image of Pénglái itself, with buildings, cars and people, hovering above the sea.

Pénglái is easily visited as a day trip from Yántái by bus (Y18, 1½ hours, half-hourly). The pavilion is a 15-minute walk north from the train and bus station. Taxi drivers will want to take you there but will stop you off at several other places prior to the pavilion. The last return bus to Yántái leaves Pénglái at 6pm.

Minibuses to Pénglái (Y18, 1½ hours, 5.30am to 6pm) also depart every 20 minutes from the **Beima Lu bus station** (北马路汽车站; běimǎlù qìchē zhàn; cnr Beima Lu & Qíngnian Lu).

### Train

Trains from Yántái **train station** (Yántái Hǔochēzhàn; ☎9510 5175; Beiman Lu):

**Běijīng** hard seat/soft sleeper Y130/365, 14½ hours, one daily (11pm)

**Jǐ'nán** hard seat/soft sleeper Y67/206, 7½ hours, nine daily

**Qíngdǎo** hard/soft seat Y22/34, 4½ hours, one daily (2.36pm)

**Shànghǎi** hard seat/soft sleeper Y161/490, 22 hours, one daily (9.40am)

**Xī'ān** hard seat/soft sleeper Y176/530, 24½ hours, one daily (3.38pm)

### Getting Around

**Yántái Airport** (☎624 1330) is 20km south of town. Airport buses (Y10, 30 minutes) depart from the long-distance bus station around two hours before flights (bus tickets from the arrival hall next door); a taxi will cost around Y40 to Y50.

Bus 17 runs between the two beaches. Taxi flag fall is Y7, and Y1.50 per kilometre thereafter.

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