

Left: The Sanlitun bar and restaurant district. Photo: Corbis. Above: Fashion Show at Sanlitun. Photo: Getty  
左：三里屯的酒吧及食肆區。上：在三里屯舉行的時裝展。

# High life in the capital

Chaoyang is fast becoming the place to live thanks to its emphasis on eco-friendly features, shopping, dining and entertainment

**B**uzzing with a trendy nightclub scene, environmentally friendly architecture, foreign embassies and the Beijing Capital International Airport, Chaoyang district in northeastern Beijing is fast becoming the place to live.

This year, the 474 sq km hub will play host to the Beijing 2008 Olympics, with its Olympic Park development at the heart of the games.

Satisfying the Chinese government's wish for a "green" Olympics, the park features an attractive landscape and new buildings – often avant-garde in style – that fit in well with the natural features of the area. Environmentally friendly building materials are being used in its construction, with an emphasis on alternative energy sources such as wind and solar energy.

The park will serve as an example of how architects can build modern structures in an environmentally friendly way.

While its main function will be to accommodate the Olympic Games in August, the Olympic Park will also feature office premises, exhibition and exposition venues, and a host of entertainment facilities that will be used and appreciated long after the last medal has been awarded.

The upmarket Green T House restaurant in the Sanlitun area. Photo: Alamy  
位於三里屯內的高消費餐廳。



Left: The Beijing National Aquatics Centre. Photo: AFP. Above: The new Xin Yuan Li residential project makes use of natural light (artist's impression).  
左：北京國家游泳中心。上：新源里住宅項目的設計善用天然光線(模擬相片)。

The Chaoyang district itself features many commercial premises, shopping malls, hotels and diplomatic compounds, and after hours, the Sanlitun area is popular with expatriates and locals alike.

While there is a distinct absence of karaoke, this large entertainment district has about 60 nightclubs and bars, and more than 100 restaurants, reflecting Beijing's modern side. One well-known bar in Sanlitun is Bar Blu, while gourmets can flock to the Le Quai Restaurant, which is popular with the rich and famous for its Sichuan food and Anhui decor.

The Chaoyang area also encompasses art galleries and boutiques. The trendy Beijing Art Now Gallery, for instance, has an international client base, and exhibits work by some of China's most famous artists including Yue Minjun.

Sanlitun is also rich in history. Before 1949, most of the foreign embassies were located in the Beijing Legation Quarter. But after the People's Republic of China was established, the government moved the embassies half a kilometre from Dongzhimen gate out of the inner city, and Sanlitun became the new area for diplomats and their embassies.

Along Gongti Beilu, in the same district, visitors can see the Workers' Stadium, which is a monument to China's sporting history. Another major tourist attraction is the "new and improved" Silk Street – where nearly 2,000 vendors display their traditional Chinese silk items and other wares. Silk Street is popular with tourists and locals, and was opened in 2005.

Near the embassy area, Kerry Properties has appointed a team of Hong Kong designers to work on the Xin Yuan Li residential project. It will feature about 300 units, and the flats will be over 70 square metres. The residential project is aimed at buyers who are looking for premium living. There will be a luxury indoor clubhouse providing all sorts of amenities. The project will be completed by early next year. Kerry anticipates that those interested in buying a unit in this project will include overseas investors and Hong Kong residents.

## 高尚生活 風靡京城

朝陽區位於北京東北，除了是領事館區外，很快就會是一個注重環保，集購物、飲食和娛樂的安居之地。朝陽區還有不少時尚娛樂場所，更是部分奧運場館的所在地。區內面積474平方公里，亦是北京首都國際機場所在，交通方便，是商務客最心儀的居處。

特別為2008年北京奧運而建的奧運公園，是今年最令人雀躍的建設，它貫徹綠色奧運的理念，雖風格抽象，卻又與自然風貌配合得天衣無縫。公園選用環保建材，應用太陽能、風力作能源，它展現了時尚及環保是如何結合。設施均可長期使用，首要要務是迎接八月的奧運。它還有多種功能，包括辦公室、展覽館、博物館及娛樂場。

朝陽區集商業、購物、酒店及使館之大成。下班後，三里屯眾多以酒吧聞名的街道，擠滿國內外人士，酒吧多隱藏於巷口。雖然沒有卡拉OK，但夜總會、酒吧及餐廳卻多得出奇，展現北京時髦的一面。這個頗具規模的娛樂區有60家夜總會和酒吧，100多間餐廳，亦有工藝品及時裝店。藍吧是三里屯著名的酒吧，美食家則嚮往有瓊樓餐廳，出入盡是名人富商，品嚐川菜之餘更可欣賞安徽裝璜。同一建築物內還有時尚的北京現在畫廊，陳列着一些中國著名藝術家，如岳敏君的作品供國際遊客欣賞。

三里屯不曾被歷史遺忘，1949年前的東交民巷曾是主要領事館區，但中華人民共和國成立後，政府欲把舊領事館區遷出內城，離東直門半公里處，三里屯就搖身變作外交及領事館的新據點。沿著工體北路，可見到工人體育館，它見證了新中國運動的歷史。另一個旅遊重點是2005年開幕，深受本地及遊客歡迎的絲街，近2,000小販擺賣傳統中國絲綢和雜貨。

嘉里建設禮聘了一隊著名香港設計師，在領事館區毗鄰，設計新源里住宅項目，內建近300個70平方米以上的單位。對象是崇尚高質生活的買家，設有豪華室內會所提供各類活動設施。工程將於2009年年初完成，嘉里預期買家會有海外投資者及香港居民。