

Transportation

➤ Beijing Capital International Airport

As China's political, economic and cultural center, Beijing is linked to over 50 cities in the world by many regional and international air routes. In addition to domestic airlines, 30 plus foreign airline companies operate regular flights to and from Beijing.

Beijing Capital International Airport is located at the northeast of the city, 35 km to downtown and 25 km to the conference site. It is very convenient to access the city from the Airport by taxi or public transportations.

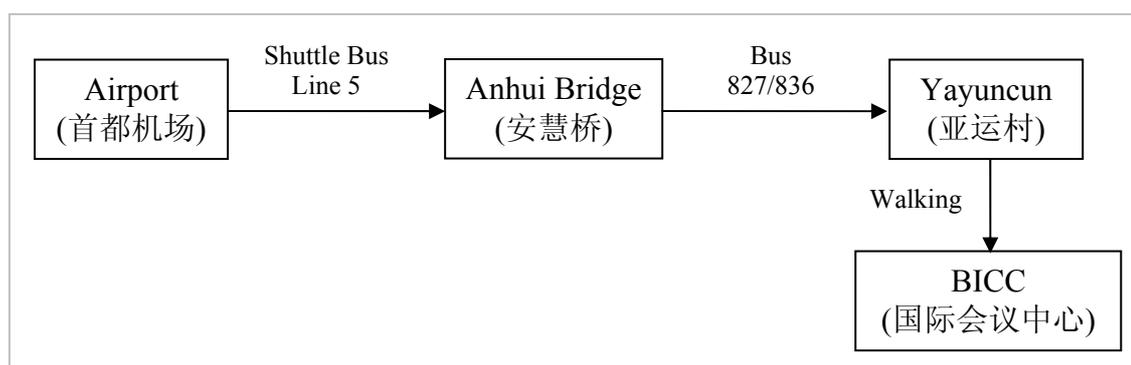
• Taxi

There are official taxi stations outside the Airport terminals. Taxi is always available at the Airport whenever there are flights. The cost of a taxi from the airport to the Beijing International Convention Center (BICC) or conference hotels is about RMB 100-130 (US\$12-16). The price is usually not negotiable. The passengers need to pay the fee shown in the meter and the toll of the express way. It takes about 40 minutes to get to the conference center or hotels from the Airport.

• Airport Shuttle and Public Bus Service

Shuttle buses are also being operated from the Airport to the major points of the city every half hour. The operation time is 8:30am- 21:30pm. The directions to the Conference site and hotels are as follows:

- Take the airport shuttle bus Line 5 to Zhongguancun (中关村), and then get off at Anhui Bridge (安慧桥) station. The typical charge is RMB 16.
- Take city bus No. 827/836 to the Yayuncun (亚运村) station. Beijing International Convention Center will be on the right. The charge from Anhui Bridge station to Yayuncun station is RMB 2.



IROS 2006 will set up a reception desk at the international arrival hall of the Airport from 9:00am to 9:00pm on October 9 and 10, 2006 to assist the conference participants to take taxi or public transportation.

➤ **In the City**

Once in the city, the taxi and public transportation (subway and bus system) offers an easy way to get around the city during the day.

There are 65,000 taxis running on Beijing's streets, and the rate is RMB 2.00 per kilometer. This rate applies only to the starting few kilometers, and 50% additional fee will be added to every kilometer if the travel distance is over a threshold. Since few taxi drivers speak English, please do bring the Chinese address of your destination.

You are advised to check the price table attached inside window and drivers Service Supervisor Card. You need to pay the highway fee and the bridge fee if it is required. It is better to ask for a receipt and remember the plate number of the Taxi while you get off. When taking taxi at the Capital International Airport, please go to the taxi station to take the authorized taxi. Don't forget to take all your belongings when getting off the taxi.

At the conference site, taxi can easily be found. Furthermore, bus services are also available around the site. There are a number of buses going to downtown, the subway stations, shopping plazas and major tourist attractions like the Temple of Heaven. However, since most bus conductors can only speak Chinese, taxi would be the best option for non-native speakers.

On the other hand, subway is another good option to travel around the center city area. There are two subway lines, the circle lines runs underneath the second Ring Road while the straight line runs from Xi Dan to Pingguo Yuan. The traveling time for the circle line takes about 40 minutes. The ticket for subway cost RMB 3.00. So subway is a reasonably priced and convenient transport in Beijing.