

From Harbin in the North towards **Hong Kong in the South**

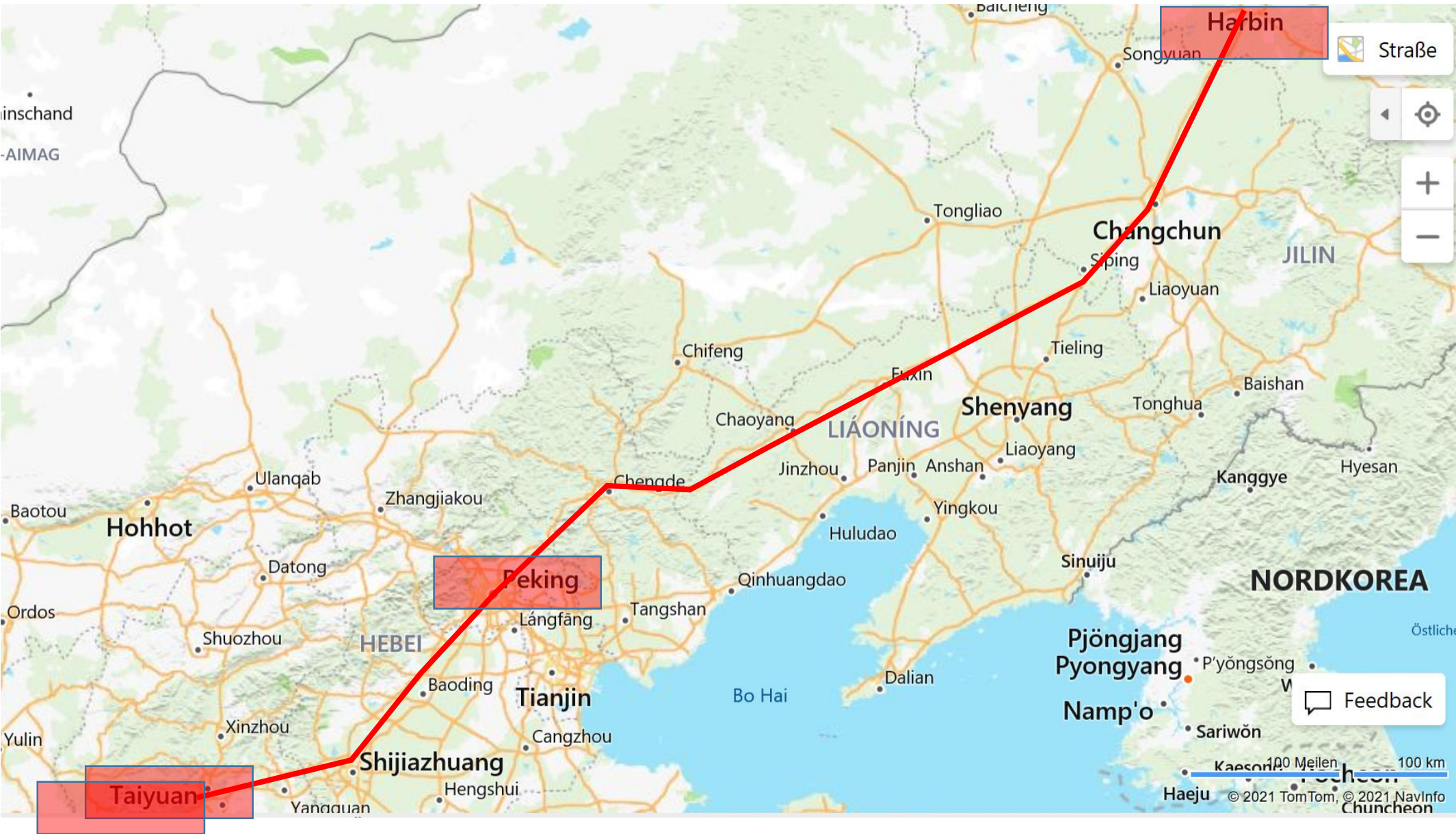
From Harbin in the North towards Hongkong in the South



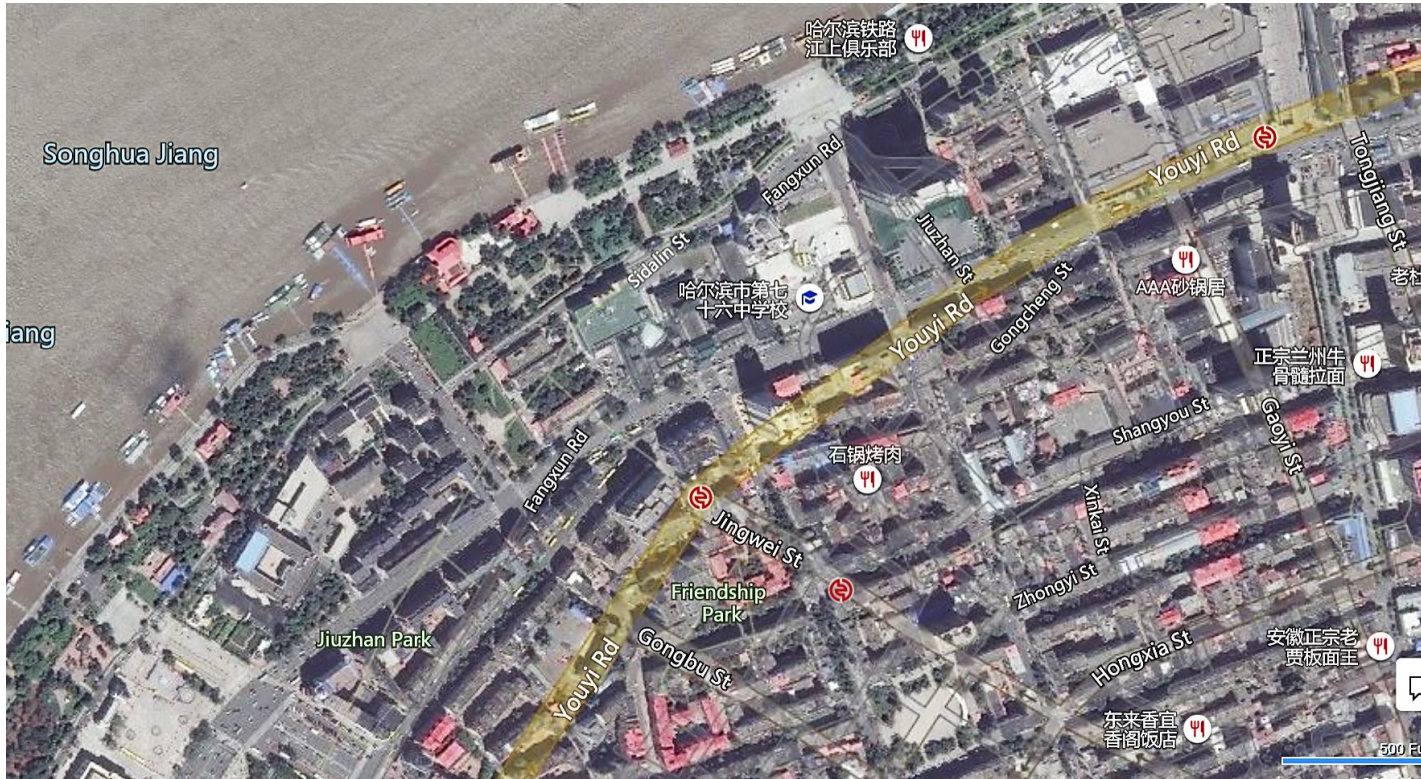
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From Harbin via Beijing to Taiyuan and Pingyao



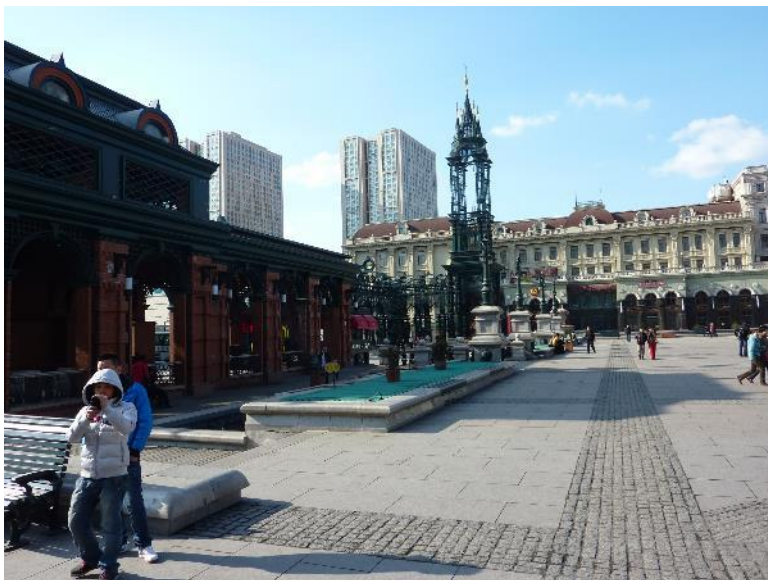
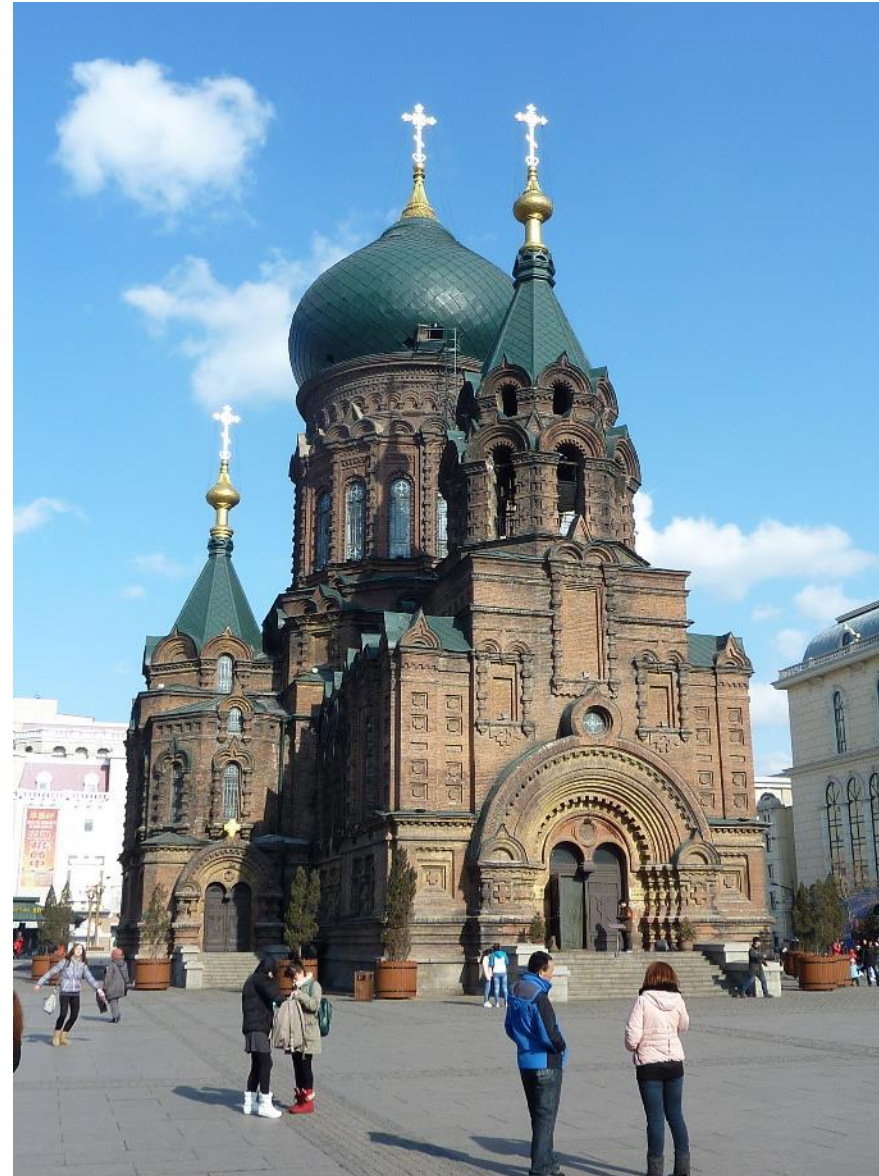
Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING



Harbin, whose name was originally a Manchu word meaning "a place for drying fishing nets", grew from a small rural settlement on the Songhua River to become one of the largest cities in Northeast China. Founded in 1898 with the coming of the Chinese Eastern Railway, the city first prospered as a region inhabited by an overwhelming majority of immigrants from the Russian Empire. With its often harsh winters, Harbin is heralded as the Ice City for its well-known winter tourism and recreations. Harbin is notable for its ice sculpture festival in the winter. Besides being well known for its historical Russian legacy, the city serves as an important gateway in Sino-Russian trade today. In the 1920s, the city was considered China's fashion capital since new designs from Paris and Moscow reached here first before arriving in Shanghai. The city was voted "China Top Tourist City" by the China National Tourism Administration in 2004.

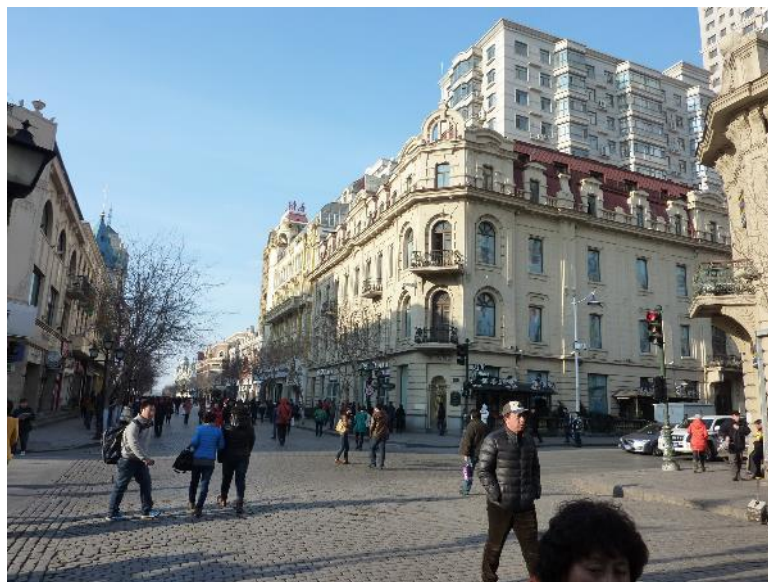
Taken from Wikipedia

Harbin



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

Harbin



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Harbin



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Harbin Ice Festival



Harbin Ice Festival



From Harbin by Train towards Beijing



From Harbin by Train towards Beijing



If you want to see the information about Beijing please go to the separate presentation „City of Beijing and NCEPU-North China Electric Power University“



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING



Taiyuan, also known as Bīng, Jīnyáng is the capital and largest city of Shanxi province, People's Republic of China. It is one of the main manufacturing bases of China. Throughout its long history, Taiyuan was the capital or provisional capital of many dynasties in China, hence the name Lóngchéng. Taiyuan is located roughly in the centre of Shanxi, with the Fen River flowing through the central city.

Taken from Wikipedia

And it is a perfect basis for a one day trip to Pingyao, located about 60 km south of Taiyuan.



Pingyao, officially Pingyao Ancient City, is a settlement in central Shanxi, China, famed for its importance in Chinese economic history and for its well-preserved Ming and Qing urban planning and architecture. Administratively, it comprises the town of Gutao in Pingyao County in Jinzhong Prefecture. It has a population of about 50,000.

The town is first recorded c. 800 BC and has been the seat of local government since at least the Qin. By the 16th century, it was a regional financial hub; some consider it to have been the financial centre of the Qing Empire in the late 19th century. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Taken from Wikipedia

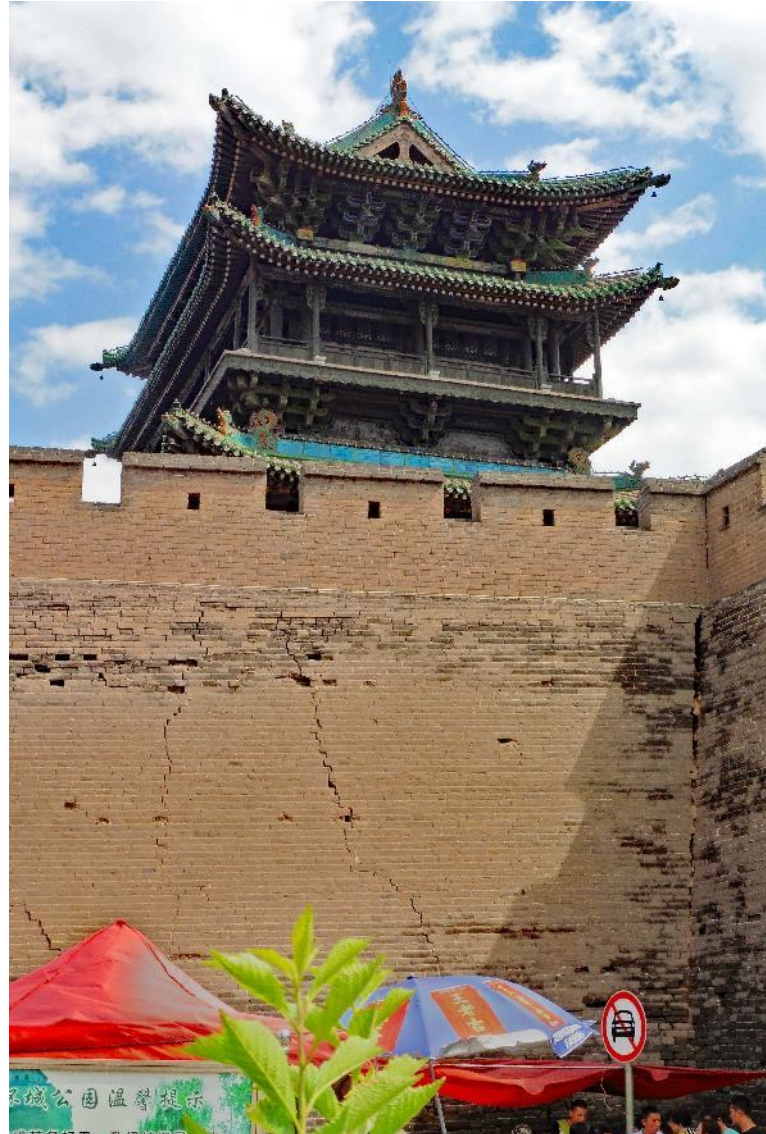
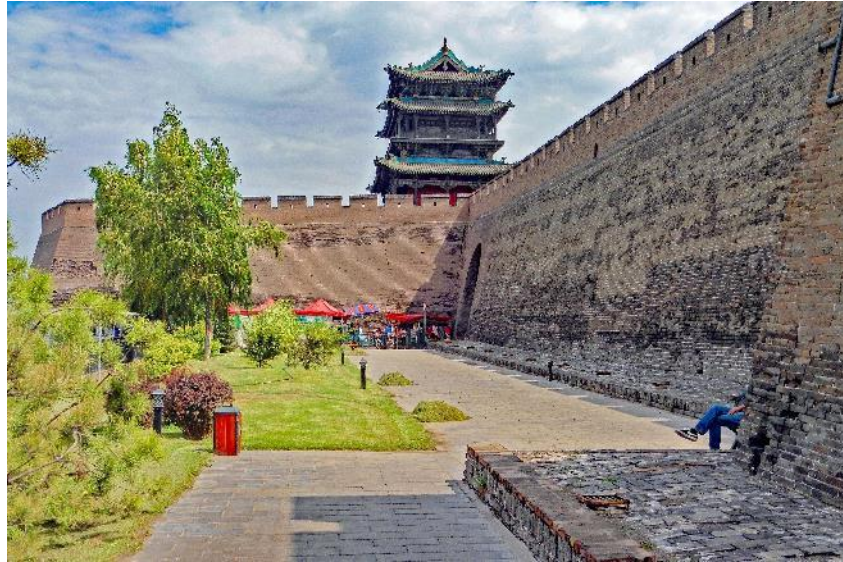
Pingyao

Reaching the old city wall of Pingyao

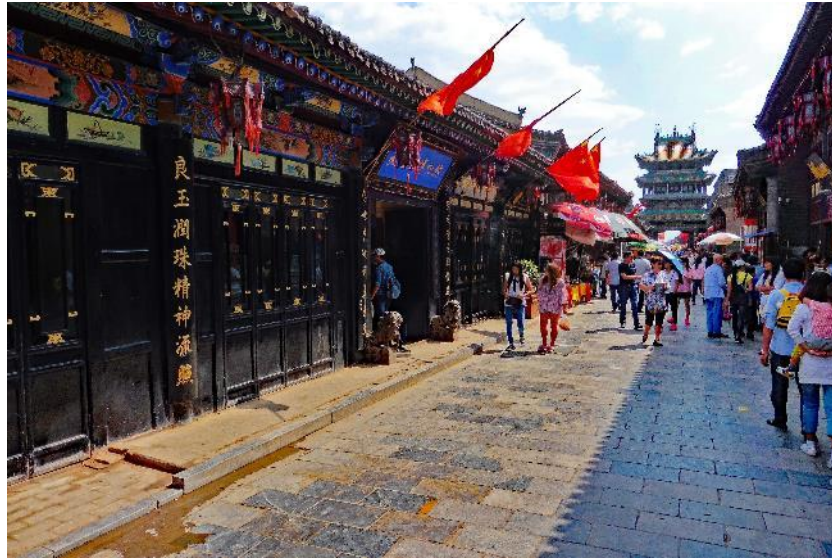


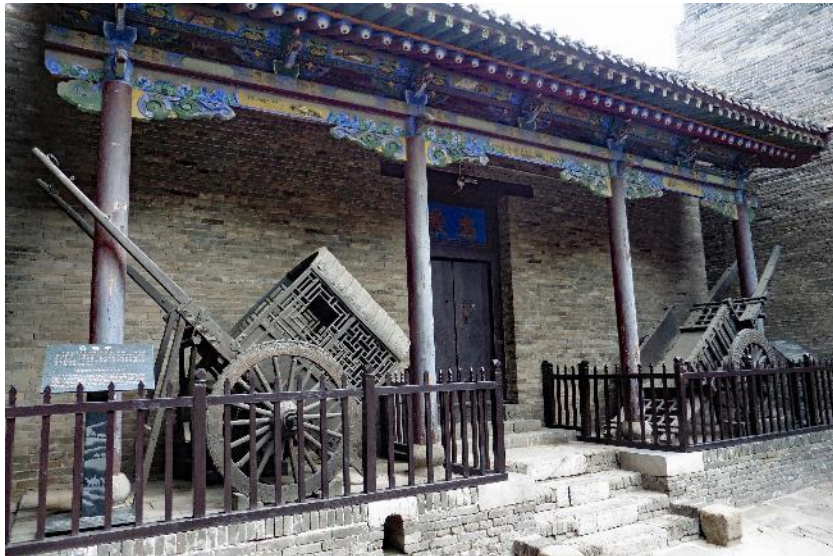
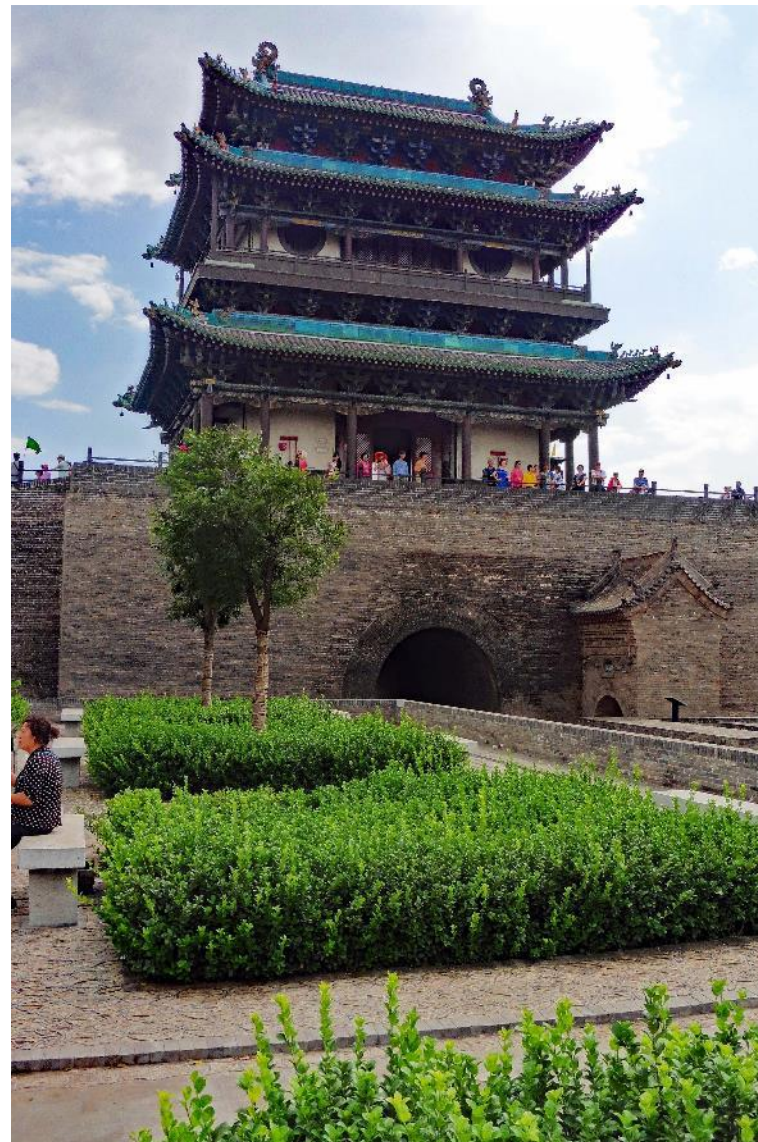
Leaving Taiyuan central station





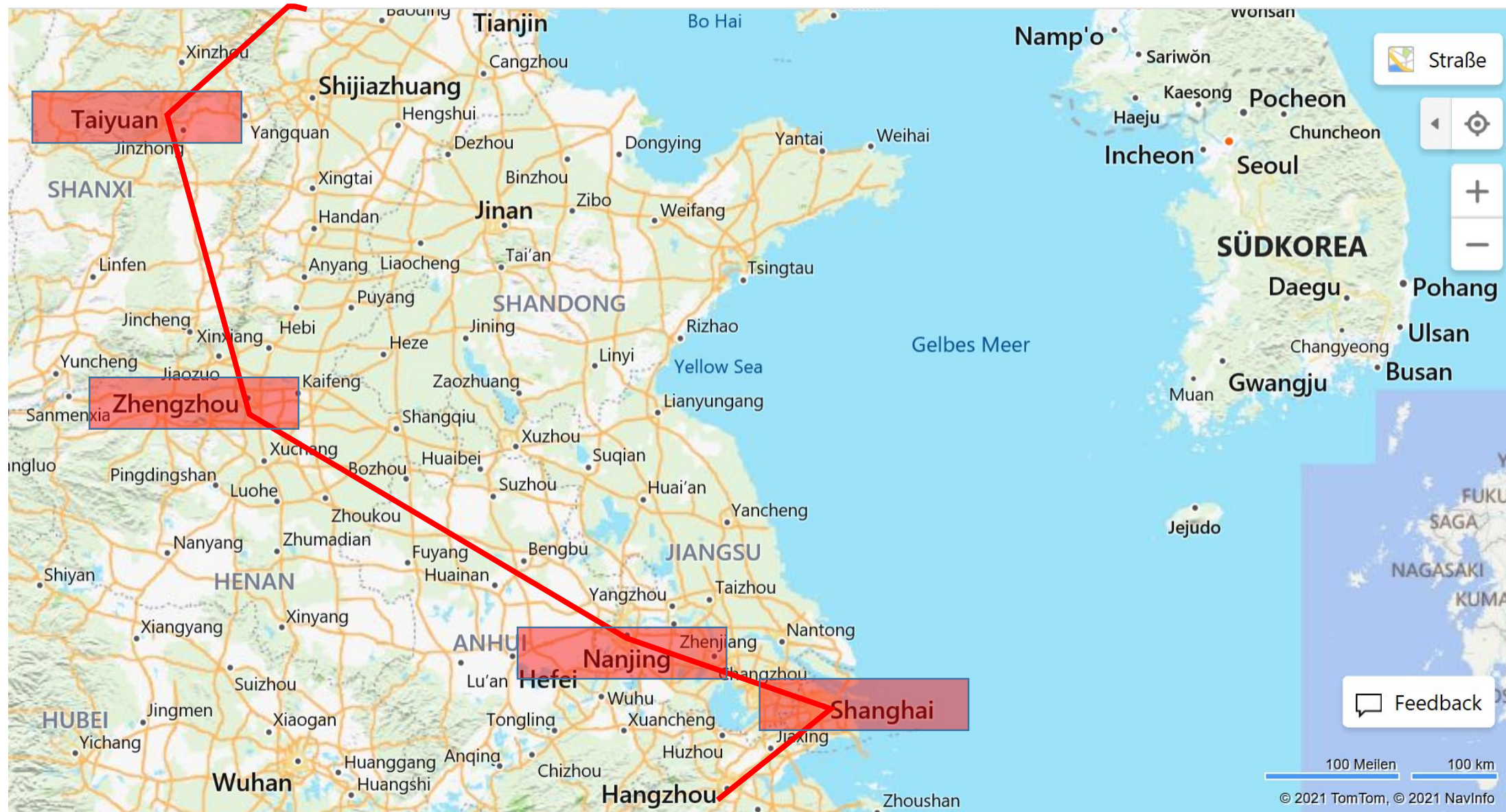


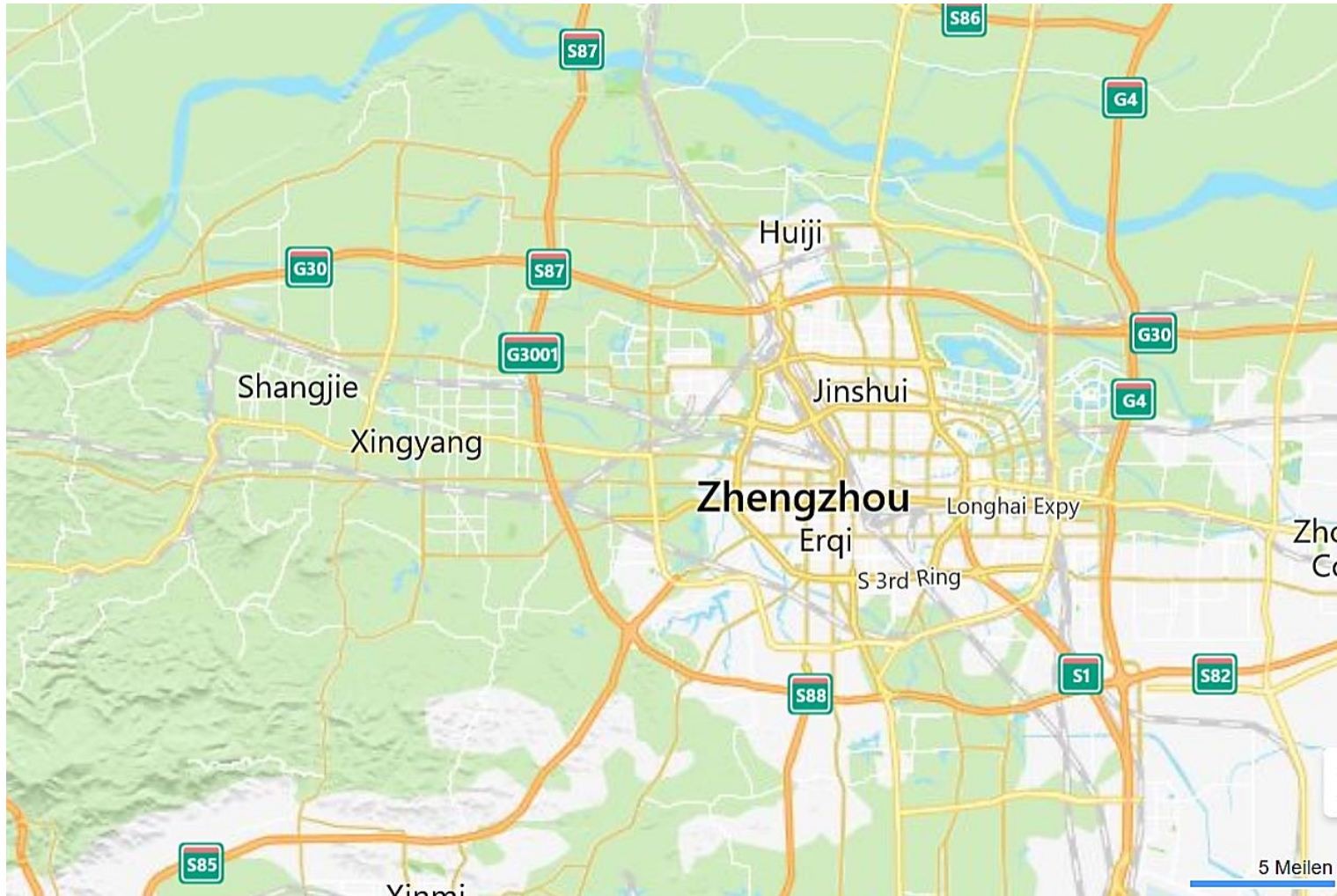






From Taiyuan via Zhengzhou and Nanjing to Shanghai





Zhengzhou is the capital and largest city of Henan Province in the central part of the People's Republic of China. Located in north-central Henan, it is one of the National Central Cities in China, the centre of Central Plains area, and serves as the political, economic, technological, and educational center of the province. The Zhengzhou metropolitan area is the core area of the Central Plains Economic Zone. The city lies on the southern bank of the Yellow River. Zhengzhou is a major hub of China's national transportation network, with railways connecting Zhengzhou to Europe and an international airport. Zhengzhou has a population of 10,120,000 inhabitants. The city is one of the main built-up areas of Henan region. Greater Zhengzhou was named as one of the 13 emerging mega-cities in China and officially named as the eighth National Central City in 2017 by the central government in Beijing.

Taken from Wikipedia

Zhengzhou



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

Zhengzhou



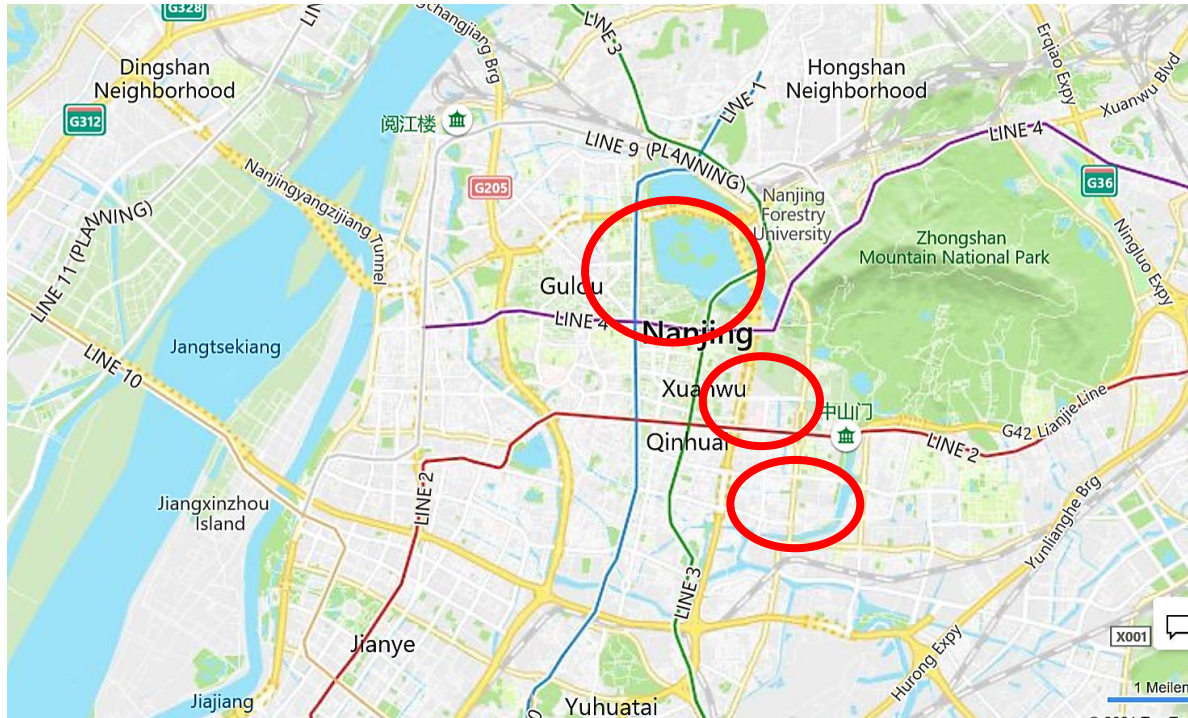
This Tower was not under construction during my visit
in Zhengzhou in the year 2009

Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

Zhengzhou – Yellow River Scenic Area



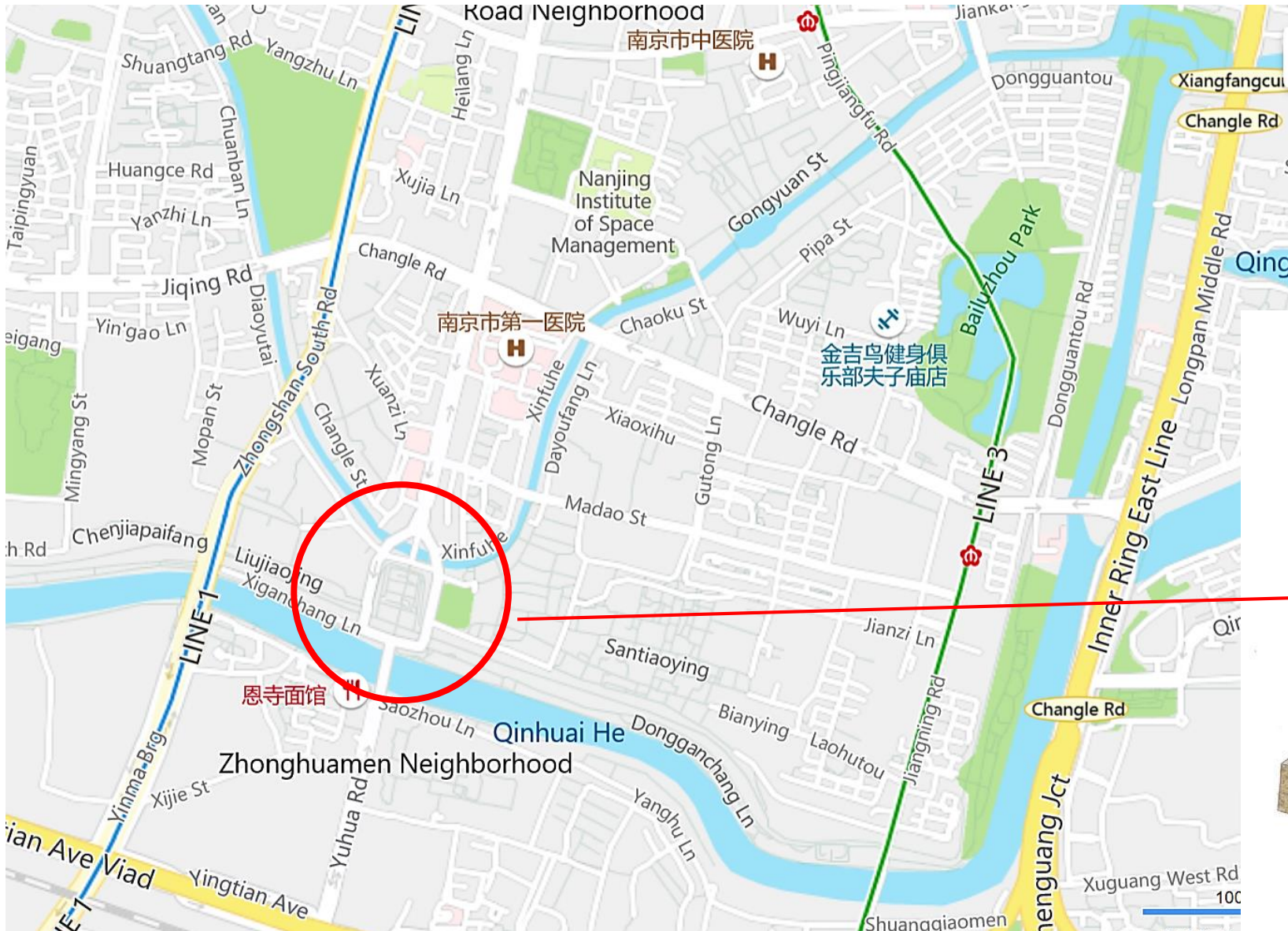
Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



Nanjing is the capital of Jiangsu province of the People's Republic of China and the second largest city in the East China region. With 11 districts, Nanjing, which is located in southwestern Jiangsu, has a total population of 8,505,500 as of 2019. Situated in the Yangtze River Delta region, Nanjing has a prominent place in Chinese history and culture, having served as the capital of various Chinese dynasties, kingdoms and republican governments dating from the 3rd century to 1949. Nanjing has many high-quality universities and research institutes, with the number of universities listed in 100 National Key Universities ranking third, including Nanjing University which has a long history and is among the world top 10 universities. Nanjing, one of the nation's most important cities for over a thousand years, is recognized as one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China. Nanjing served as the capital of Eastern Wu (229–280), one of the three major states in the Three Kingdoms period; the Eastern Jin and each of the Southern dynasties (Liu Song, Southern Qi, Liang and Chen), which successively ruled southern China from 317–589; the Southern Tang (937–75), one of the Ten Kingdoms; the Ming dynasty when, for the first time, all of China was ruled from the city (1368–1421) and the Republic of China under the nationalist Kuomintang (1927–37, 1946–49) prior to its flight to Taiwan by Chiang Kai-Shek during the Chinese Civil War. The city also served as the seat of the rebel Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (1853–64) and the Japanese puppet regime of Wang Jingwei (1940–45) during the Second Sino-Japanese War. It suffered severe atrocities in both conflicts, such as the Nanjing massacre.

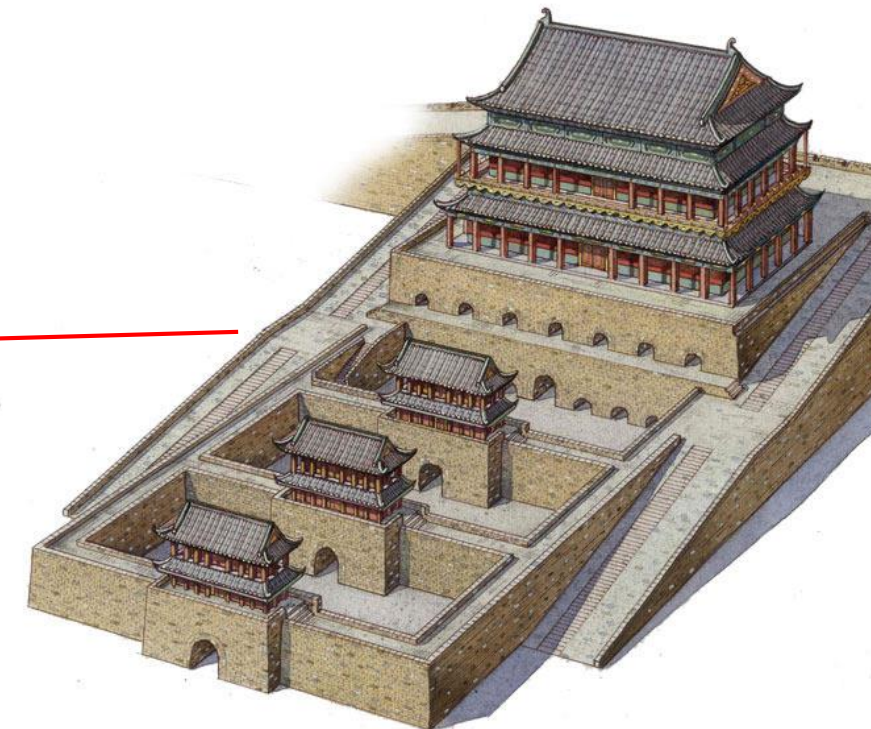
Taken from Wikipedia

Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



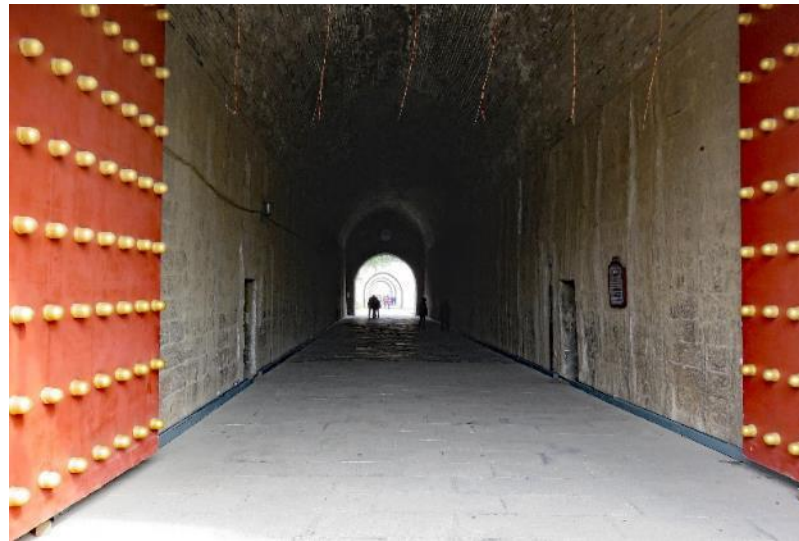
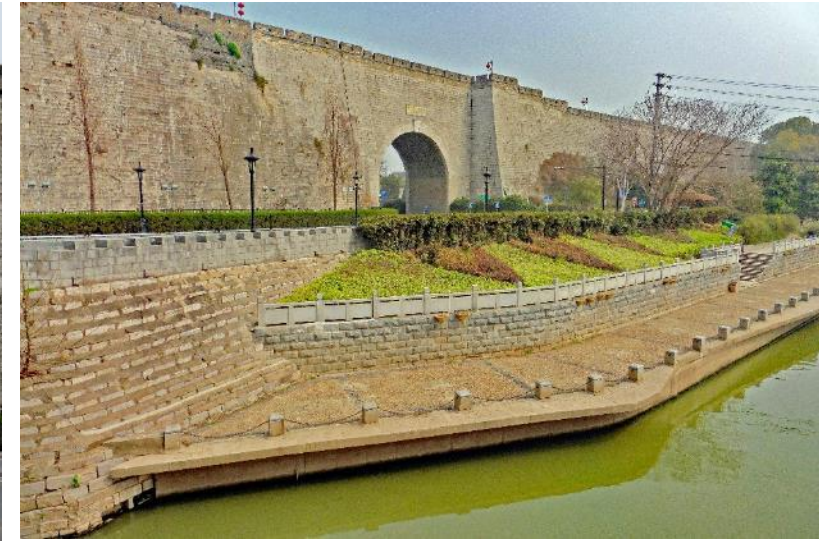
ZhongHua Men the huge former City Gate, protecting the city towards the south

The building in the picture below meanwhile are destroyed



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“

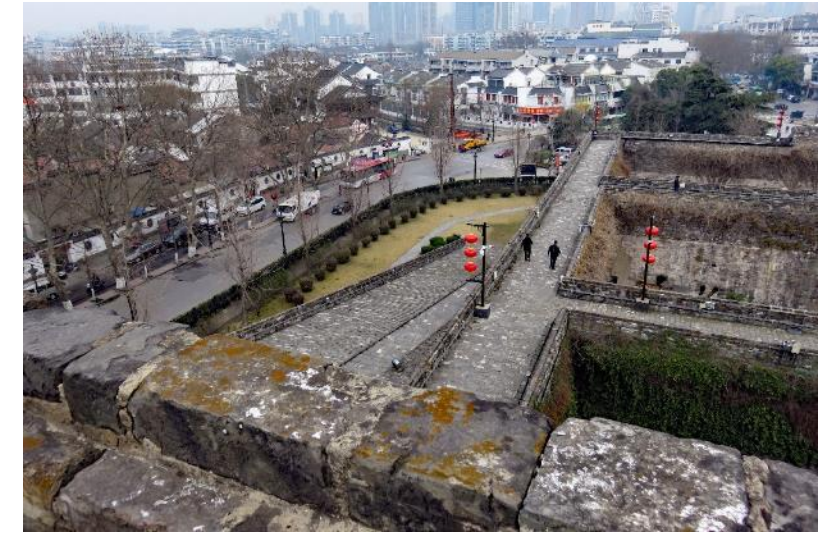
The former entrance into the gate, but today's traffic needs more and larger openings (left / right)



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



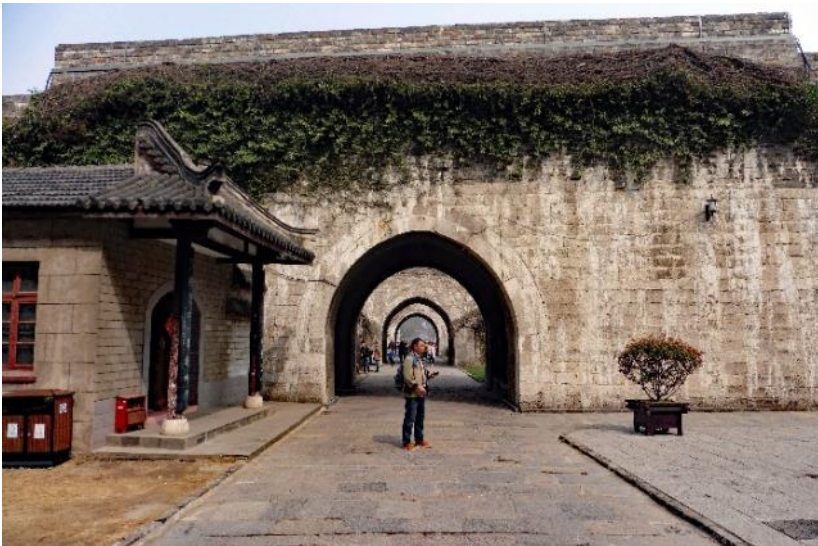
The artilleries on top of the 1st gate, the ramps to bring up heavy loads, the tunnels inside the 1st gate and the places for the soldiers building behind the 1st gate



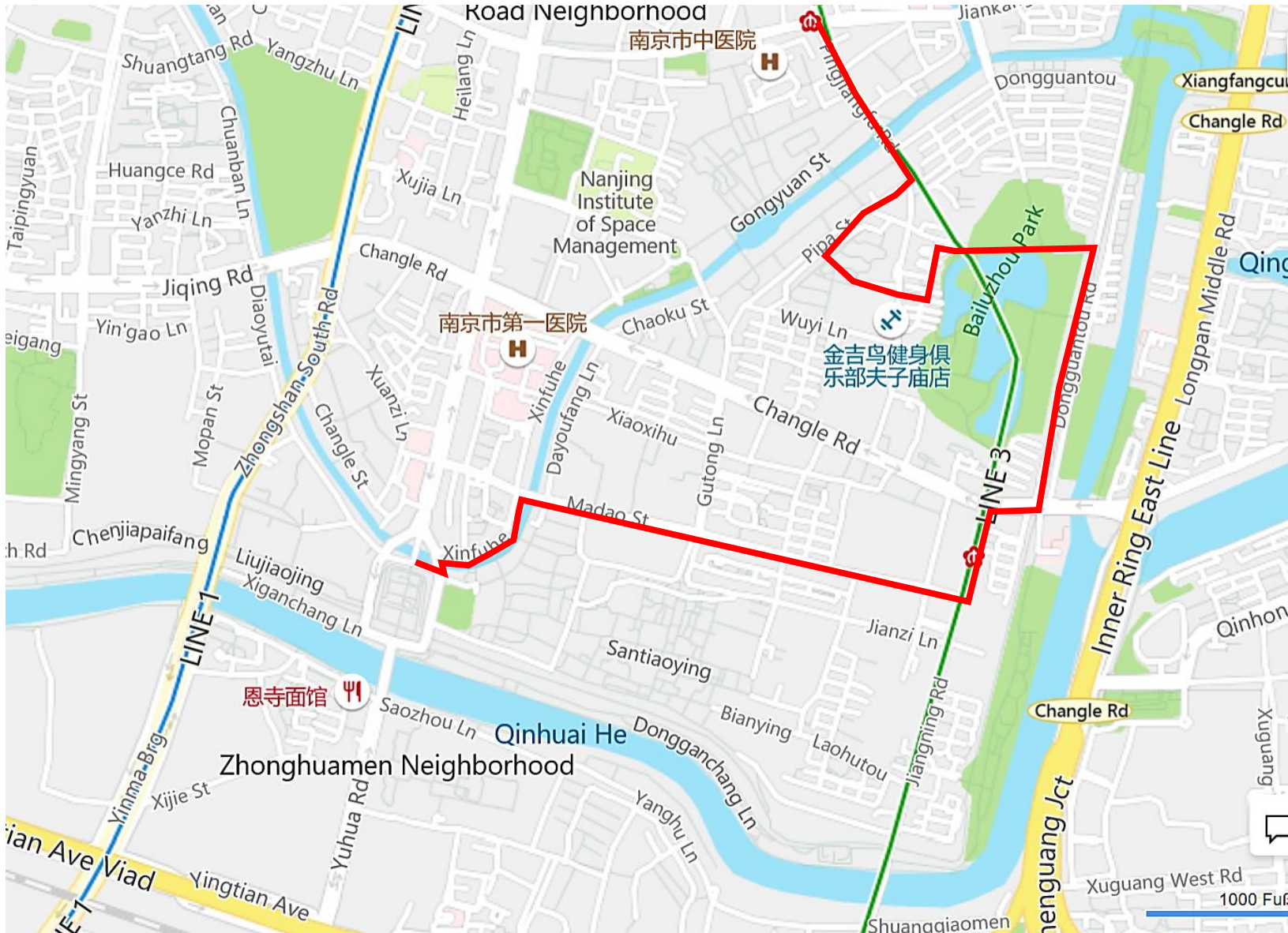
Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



.... and behind the 1st gate,
three other gates tried to keep
the enemies out



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



From ZhongHuaMen through the older parts of NanJing inside the city wall towards Bailuzhou Park and Confucius Temple

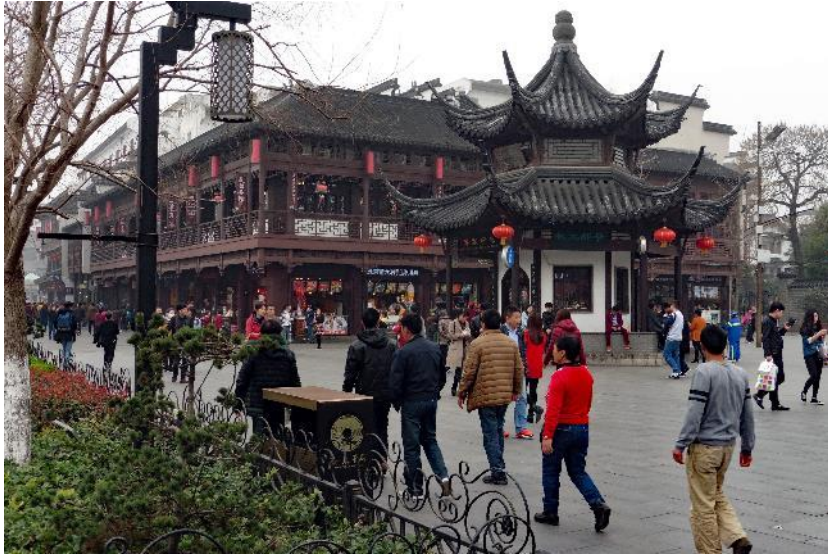
Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



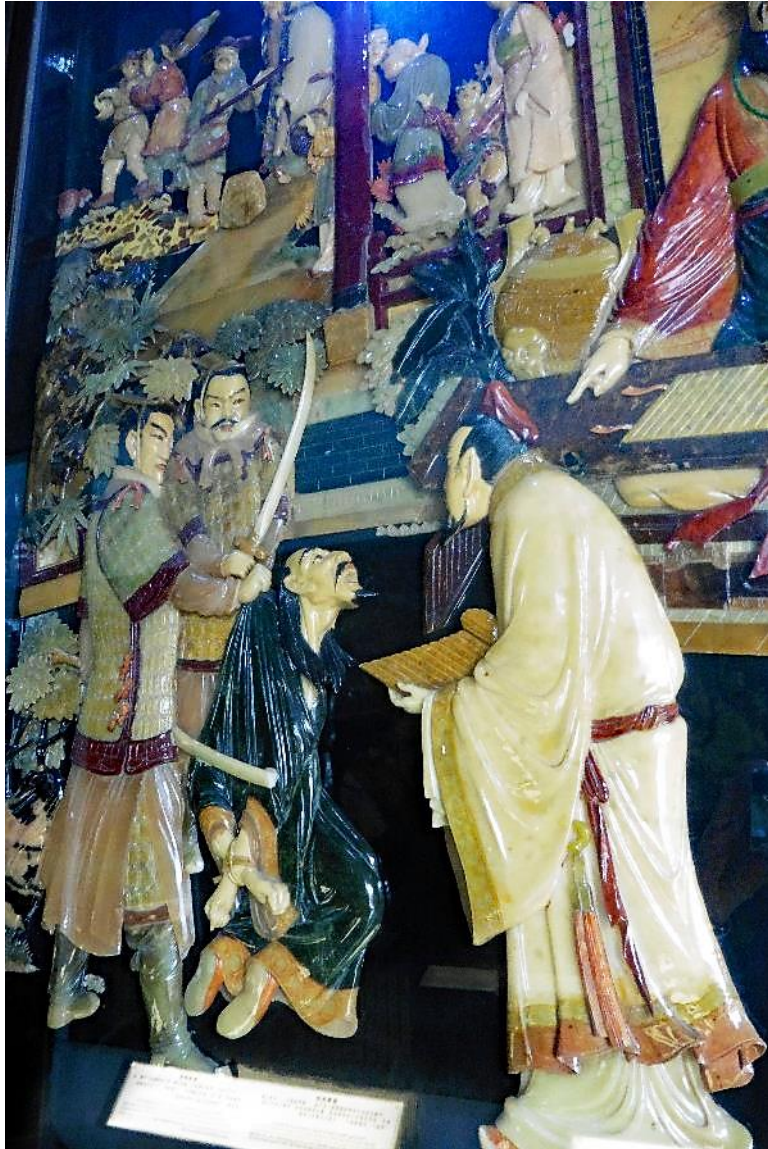
Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



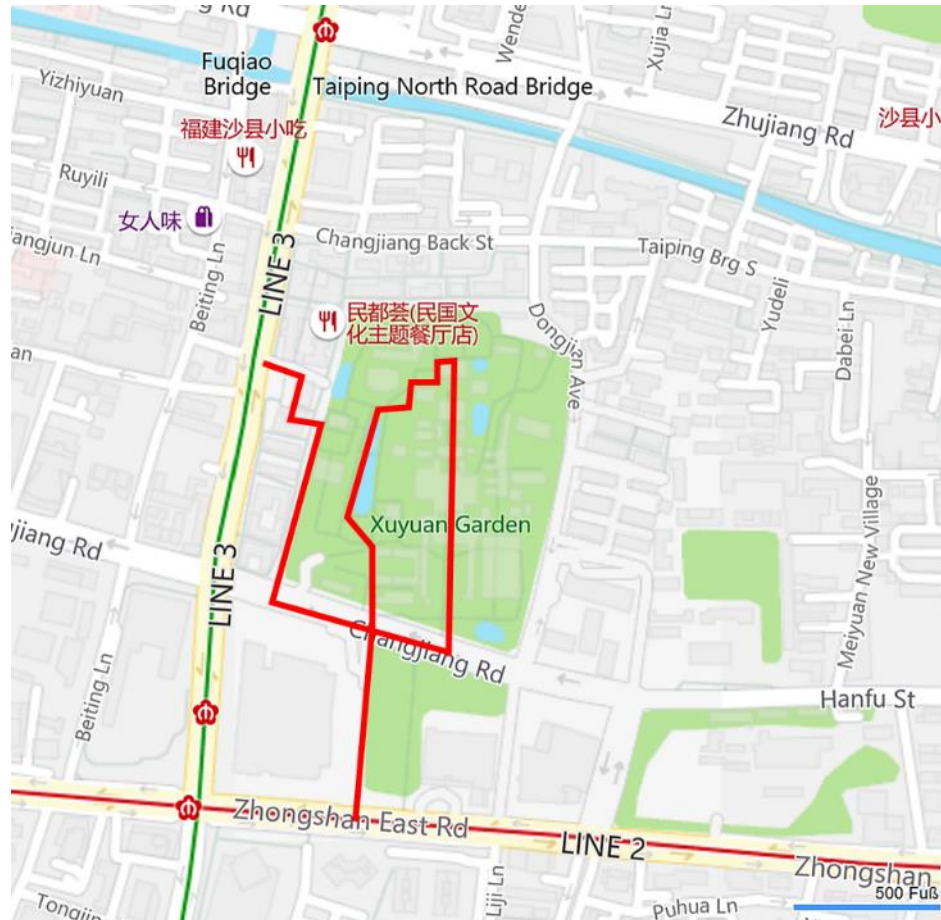
Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



The Palace in Nanjing



In the Ming Dynasty, this palace was built by a duke. In the Qing dynasty, it became the Office of the Viceroy of Two Lower Yangtze Provinces, the chief government official in charge of what is today Jiangsu, Shanghai, Anhui and Jiangxi. When Qianlong visited the Lower Yangtze, he chose this office to be the detached palace together with the Imperial Silk House.

In 1853, Taiping Rebellion forces led by Hong Xiuquan occupied Nanjing. The palace was expanded and converted into a luxurious palace for Hong, called the Palace of the Heavenly King, or the Celestial Palace. In 1864, Qing imperial forces re-took Nanjing. Commander Zeng Guofan ordered to destroy most of the palace by fire. He had a new palatial residence in 1870 and later imposing government buildings for the Qing Governor-General erected in the Neoclassical style, and in accordance with contemporary protocol.

Presidential Palace

After the Xinhai Revolution in 1911, Sun Yat-sen was sworn in at the former Governor-General's palace, now the "Provisional Presidential Palace", as the provisional President of the Republic of China. He kept offices here for a while.

However, China soon fell into the post-revolution Warlord era, and the Palace was not officially used by the Republic of China until 1927, when the Northern Expedition of Kuomintang (KMT) captured Nanjing. During the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945), Chiang Kai-shek's government fled to Chungking, and the Headquarters was occupied by Wang Jingwei, who collaborated with the invading Japanese. Following the Japanese surrender in 1945, Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Government reoccupied the Headquarters—Presidential Palace for governing the Republic of China. In 1947, the Constitution of the Republic of China was promulgated, and the "Headquarters of the Nationalist Government of the Republic of China" was renamed the "Presidential Palace."

In April 1949, near the end of the Chinese Civil War, the Communist forces captured Nanjing and the Presidential Palace. Chiang Kai-shek's government fled to Taipei, Taiwan and Chairman Mao Zedong declared the establishment of the People's Republic of China with capital in Beijing on 1 October 1949. The Presidential Palace building was then used for Jiangsu Provincial Government and functions of the Presidential Palace were moved to Presidential Office Building in Taipei.

Taken from Wikipedia

Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“

The Palace of the Heavenly King



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“

The Palace of the Heavenly King



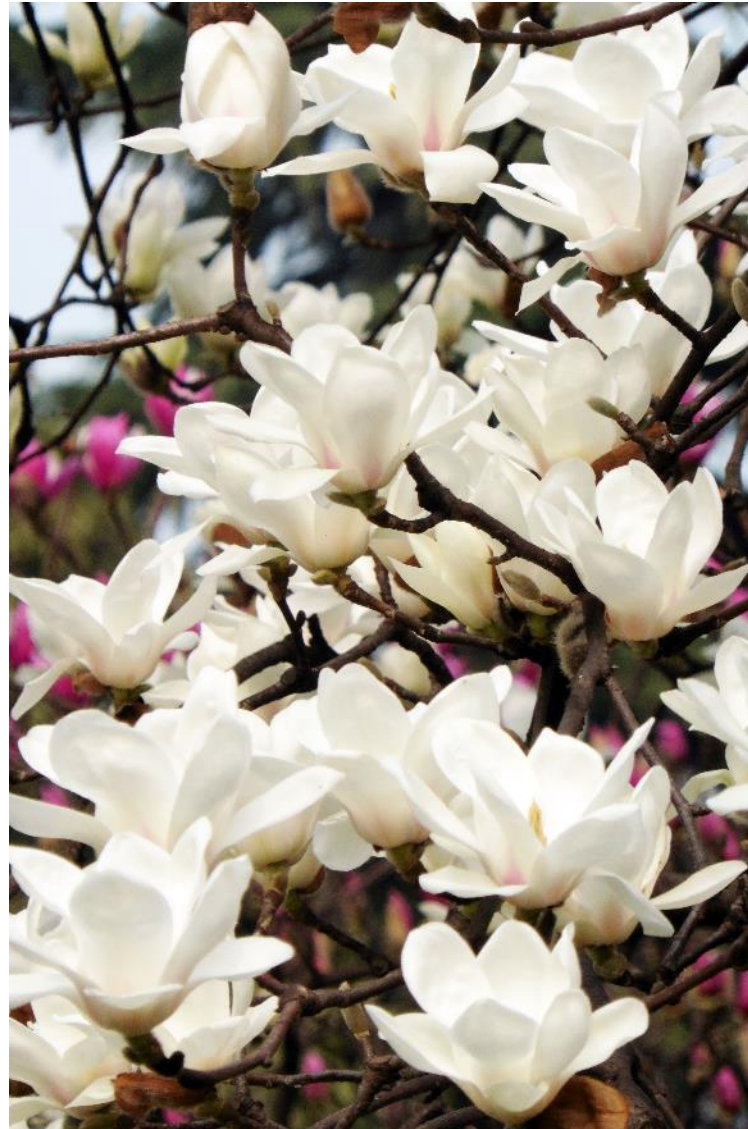
Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



The Presidential Palace inside the Palace garden used by Chiang Kai-shek before he moved to Taiwan



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“

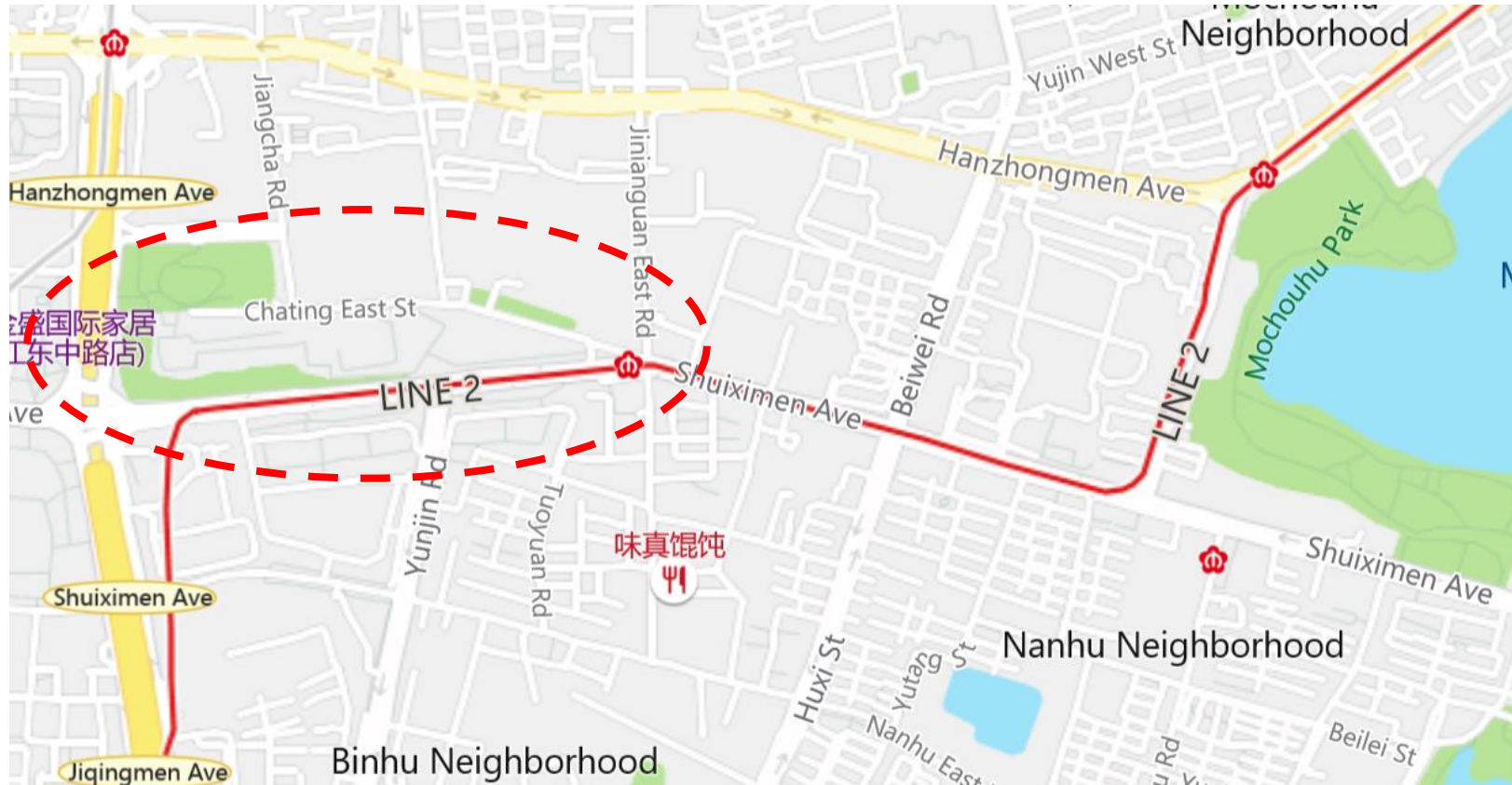


Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“

Now let's move aside the Nanjing Library to see a very dark chapter of Nanjing history in the Nanjing Massacre Museum



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



The Nanjing Massacre Museum

The Nanjing Massacre was an episode of mass murder and mass rape committed by Imperial Japanese troops against the residents of Nanjing, at that time the capital of China, during the Second Sino-Japanese War. The massacre occurred over a period of six weeks starting on December 13, 1937, the day that the Japanese captured Nanjing. Since most Japanese military records on the killings were kept secret or destroyed shortly after the surrender of Japan in 1945, historians have been unable to accurately estimate the death toll of the massacre. In 1946, the International Military Tribunal for the Far East in Tokyo estimated that over 200,000 Chinese were killed in the massacre. China's official estimate is more than 300,000 dead based on the evaluation of the Nanjing War Crimes Tribunal in 1947.



Taken from Wikipedia

Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“

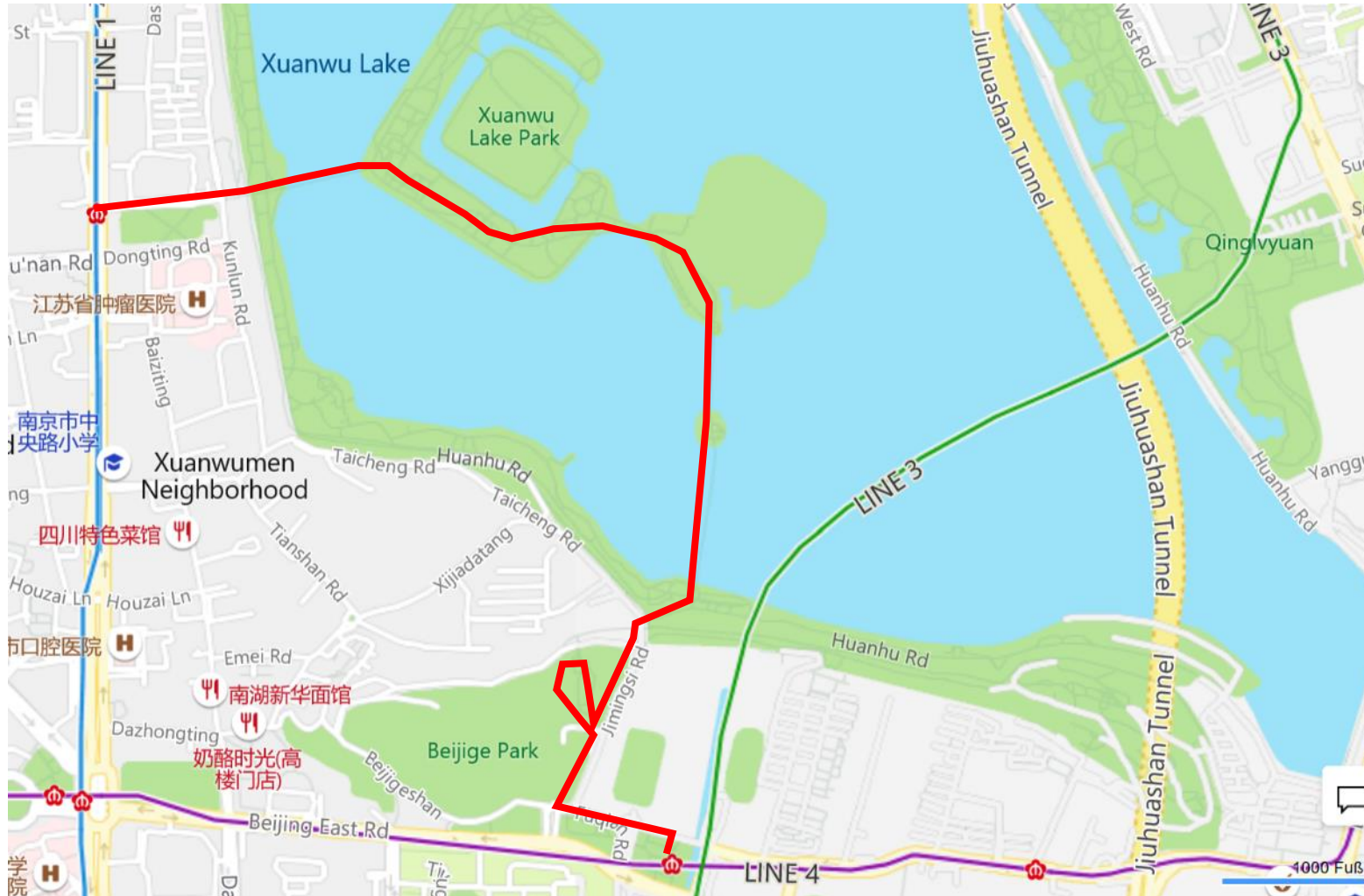


Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“

A final tour through Xuanwu Lake Area

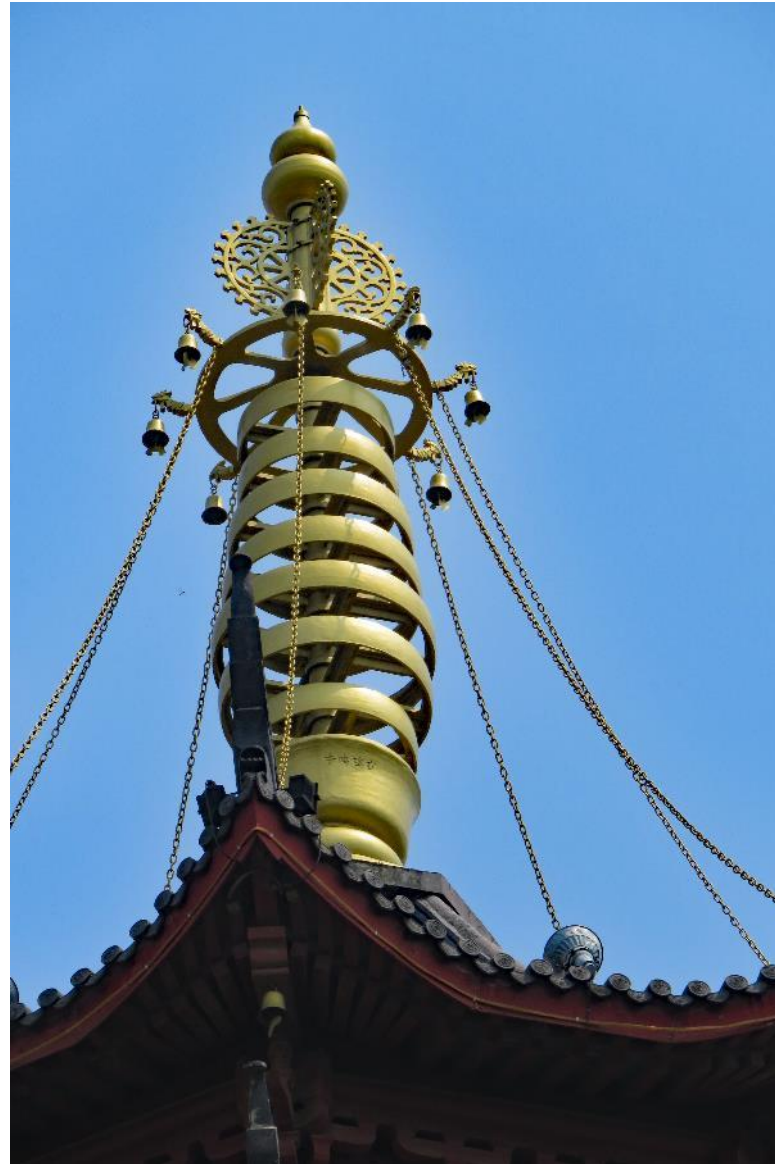


Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



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Nanjing – The „Southern Capital“



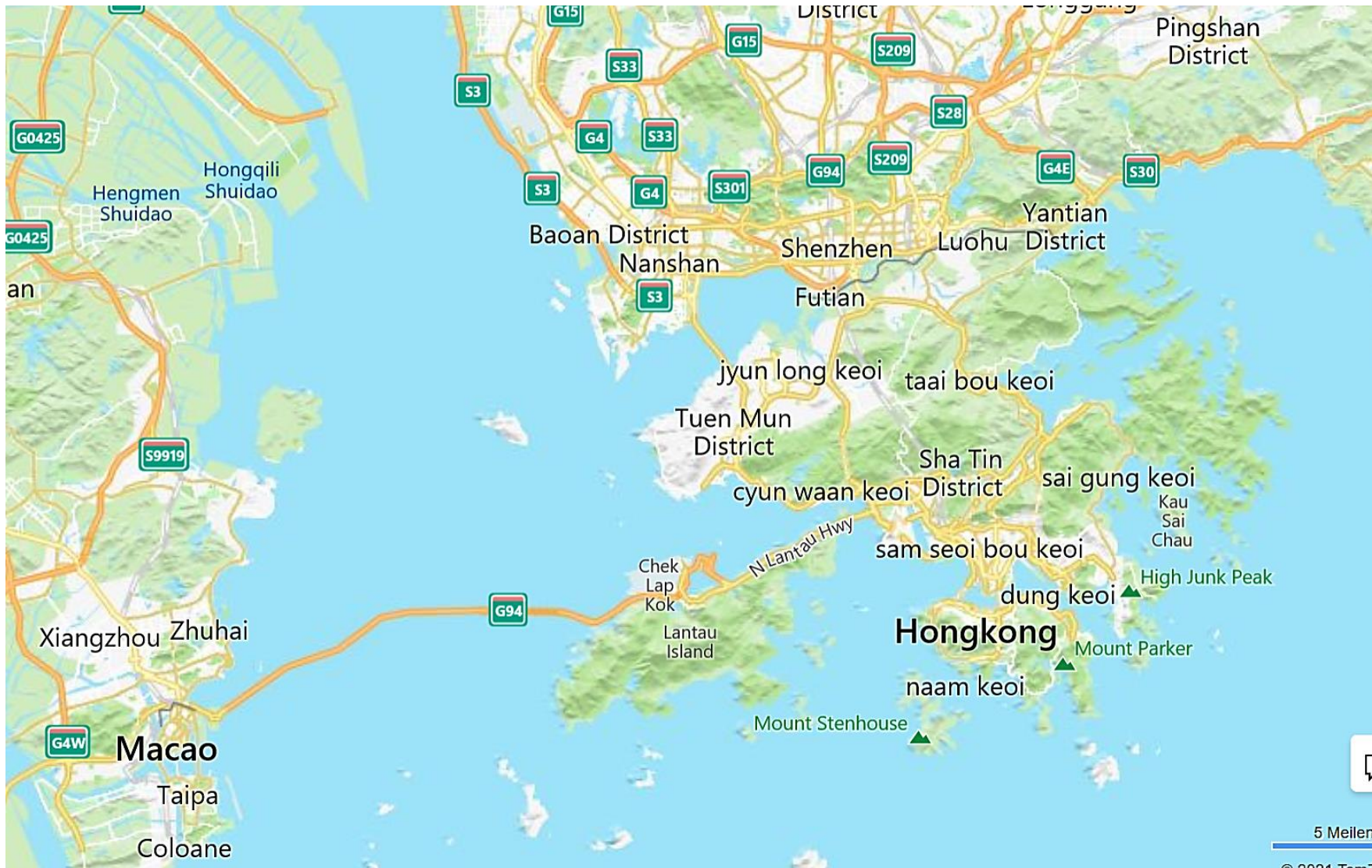
If you want to see the information about Shanghai please go to the separate presentation „City of Shanghai and USST- University of Shanghai for Science and Technology and SUEP-Shanghai University of Electric Power“



From Shanghai to HongKong



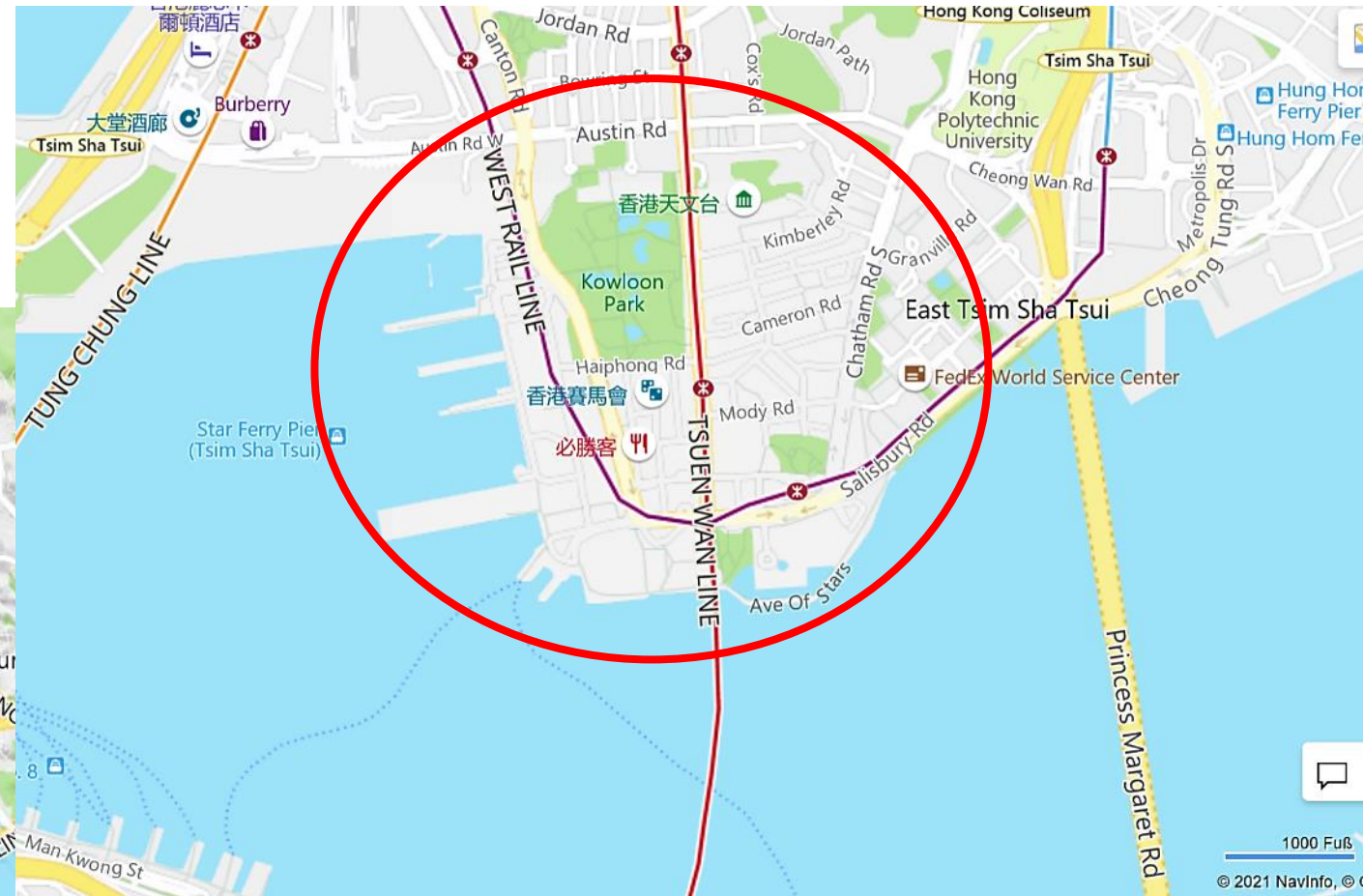
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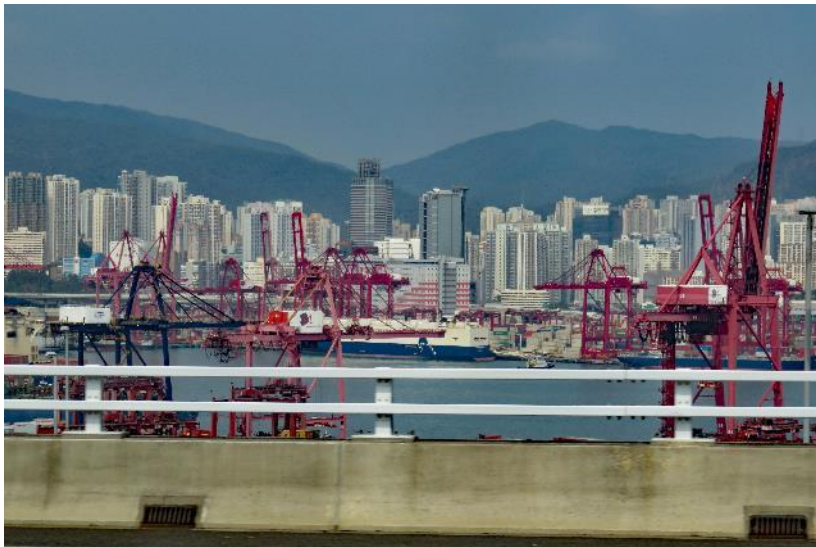
Hong Kong, officially the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR) is a metropolitan area and special administrative region of the People's Republic of China on the eastern Pearl River Delta of the South China Sea. With over 7.5 million residents of various nationalities in a 1,104-square-kilometre territory, Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated places in the world.

Hong Kong became a colony of the British Empire after the Qing Empire ceded Hong Kong Island at the end of the First Opium War in 1842. The colony expanded to the Kowloon Peninsula in 1860 after the Second Opium War and was further extended when Britain obtained a 99-year lease of the New Territories in 1898. The whole territory was transferred to China in 1997. As a special administrative region, Hong Kong maintains separate governing and economic systems from that of mainland China under the principle of "one country, two systems".

Taken from Wikipedia



HongKong – Kowloon, the modern part

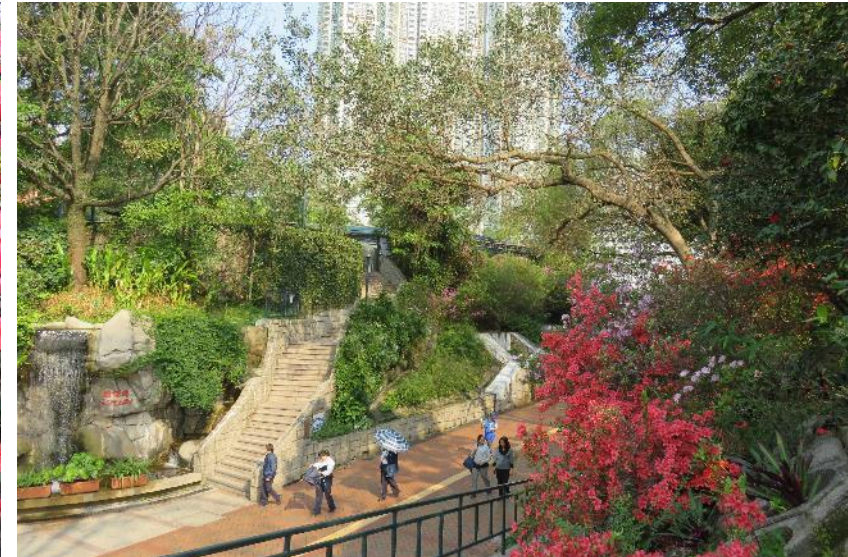
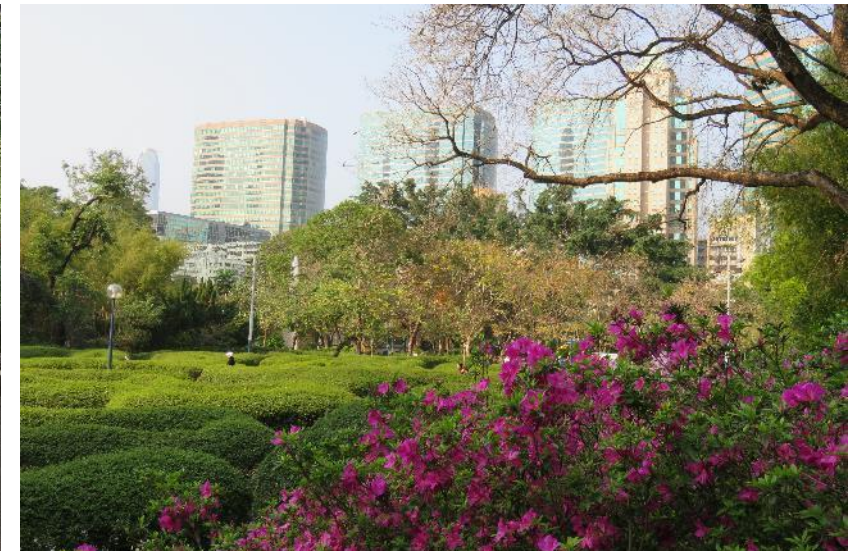


HongKong – Kowloon, the back yard



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

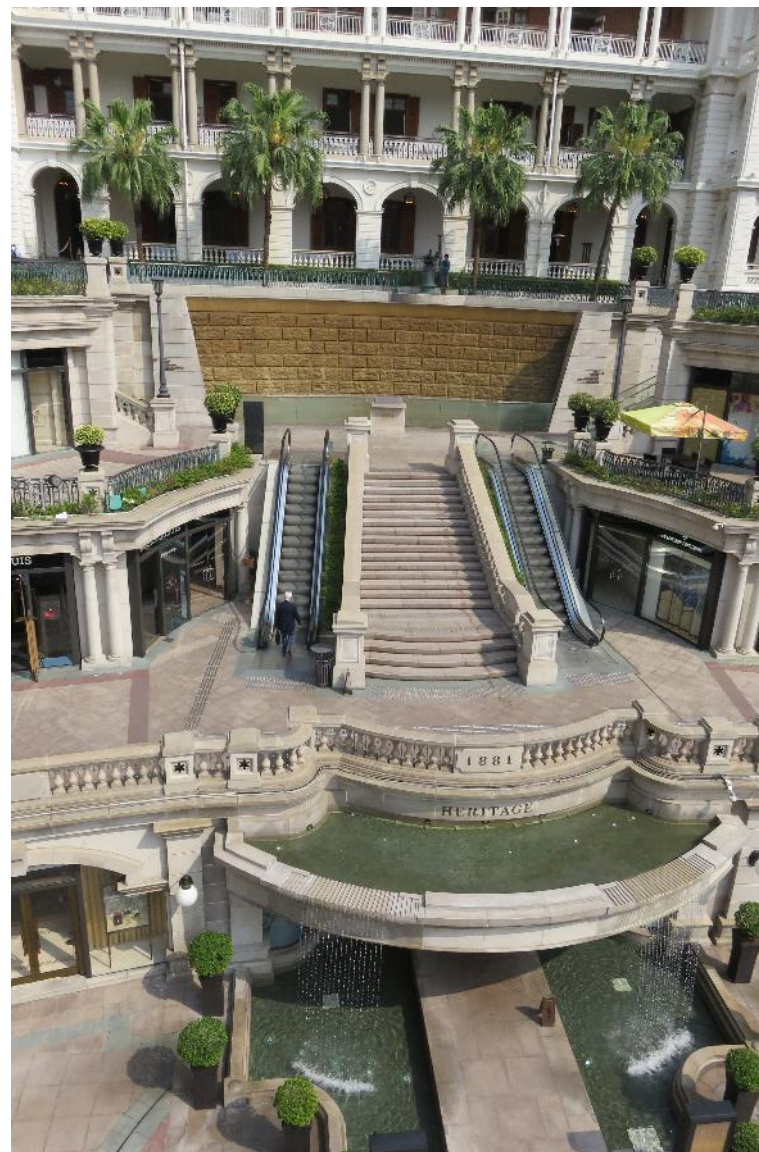
HongKong – Kowloon Park



HongKong – Kowloon Waterfront



HongKong – Kowloon 1881 Heritage



HongKong – the busy North of HongKong Island



HongKong – the busy North of HongKong Island



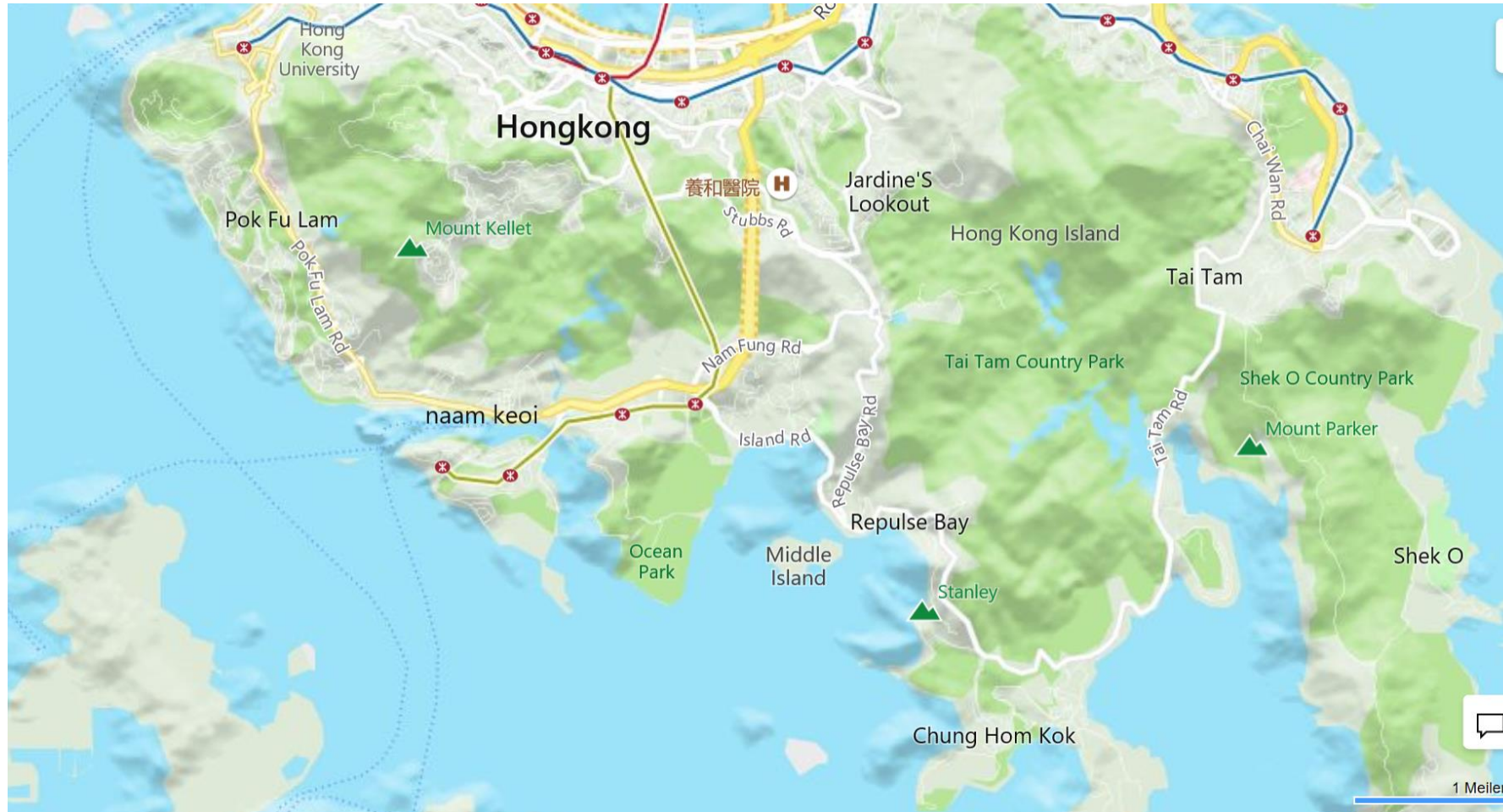
HongKong – the busy North of HongKong Island



HongKong – the busy North of HongKong Island



HongKong – the South of HongKong Island



HongKong – the quite and relaxing South of HongKong Island

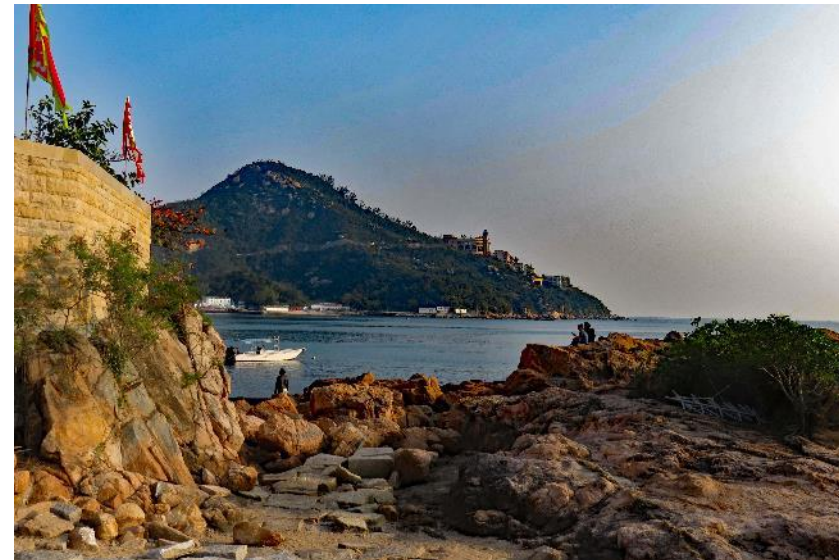


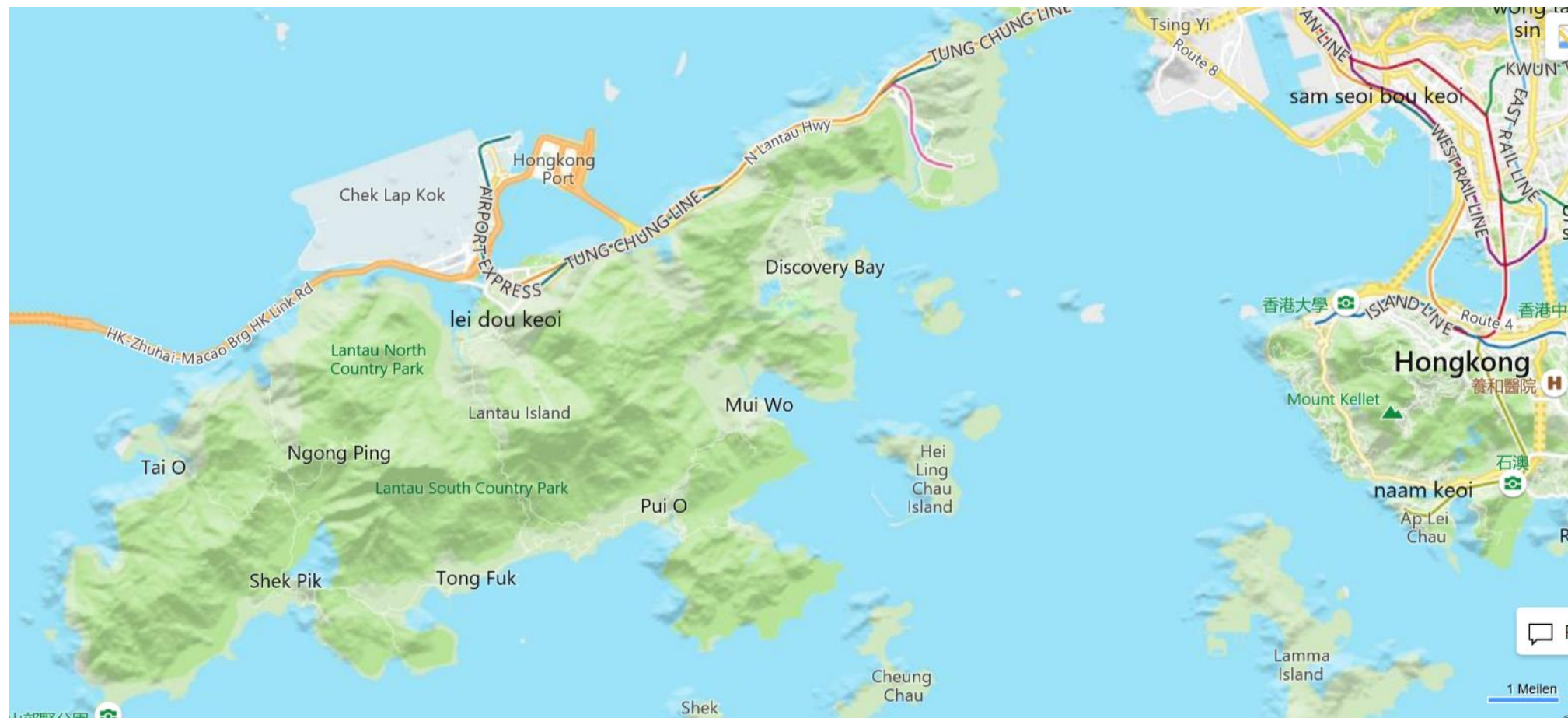
HongKong – the quite and relaxing South of HongKong Island



Pictures taken by Harald Schwarz, maps are taken from BING

HongKong – the quite and relaxing South of HongKong Island

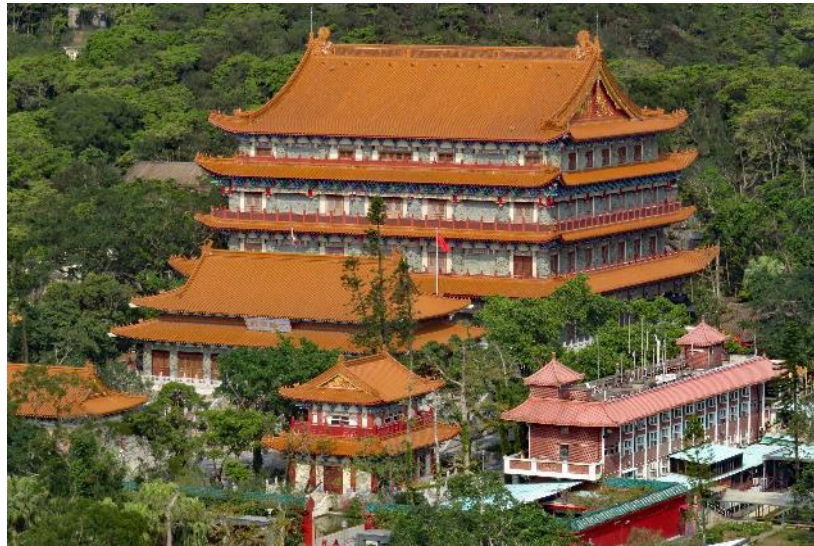




HongKong – Lantau Island



HongKong – Lantau Island



HongKong – Lantau Island



