

TimeOut

新旅行

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Beijing

SORTED!

Your National Day
holiday plans.
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NATION BUILDING

The buildings that define
60 years of Beijing

*With contributions from
Norman Foster, Zhu Pei,
Paul Andreu and more*

SHOWTIME! Modern Sky and Midi festivals + The biggest opera ever

Get involved

Greening the Beige



In 2007, Carissa Welton was browsing a *Time Out Beijing* 'Get Involved' column about plastic bag waste, and, well, got involved. 'There's a lot of criticism about Beijing's environmental problems, but not enough positive events or programmes,' she says. Mobilising volunteers to collect over 2,000 plastic bags, she helped make trees out of recycled steel and 'white pollution', as an installation piece for America's Burning Man art festival, and then decided to turn her energies to the city she now calls home. 'My goal is to connect creative art with sustainability projects that focus on improving the environment.'

And so Greening the Beige (GtB) was born. A platform to promote environmental awareness and education through the arts, GtB holds an annual event and hosts a website on which people share resources and ideas. However, the Saturday 24 International Day of Climate Action shows how broad GtB's reach really is. This month they hook up with

Roots & Shoots (from the Jane Goodall Institute), the China Youth Climate Action Network and the Green Long March for a Climate Action Carnival. The event is supported by the US-based group 350.org, whose name refers to a movement that calls for reducing global carbon emissions. To that end, GtB and their partners have planned an elaborate day that begins with 350 cyclists meeting, taking a ride, and ending up at the Beijing City International School to launch the afternoon carnival, which is open to the public. The carnival features Roots & Shoots student activists hosting games and displaying projects, but guests can also see workshops, exhibits and activity booths.

How you can help:

You can be one of the 350 riders, or 20-odd station managers who will distribute the route information and take charge of bicycle safety for their designated post. GtB is also seeking corporate sponsorship and volunteers for marketing and publicity. Next month GtB holds their annual arts/environment event (Re-Energise Beijing); as always, the group is seeking translators, editors, web designers and content managers, and anyone else willing to help get the word out, or to donate gifts for the charity auction. For more information on either event, contact carissa@greeningthebeige.org or see their website at www.greeningthebeige.org.

Where to buy

Juggling balls and fixed-gear bikes



Natooke is the brainchild of two friends, Ines and Federico, who have quite unique hobbies; namely trick biking and circus skills. The shop is the first of its kind in China and is a great place to stop by. The owners are incredibly friendly and helpful, and it's also a great place to have your bike converted or upgraded. All the circus equipment is imported from Italy and includes

fire poi (250RMB), diabolo (60-100RMB) and rola bola (250RMB) alongside a wide selection of juggling balls, all of the highest quality. Choosing your own juggling balls really comes down to personal preference, so they recommend having a go before deciding.

Alongside the extensive array of juggling equipment, the shop is also home to a number of fixed-gear bikes, which as well as doing impressive skids and going backwards, don't break down much and are perfect for Beijing's flat streets. Natooke also provides bike rentals: a half day (five hours) is 25RMB while a full day (24 hours) comes in at 50RMB. Both Ines and Federico run their own clubs and events in their respective fields, and welcome all levels.

Natooke 19 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng district (8402 6925; www.natooke.com). Open Mon-Fri 10am-7pm; plus other times upon request. 东城区五道营胡同19号