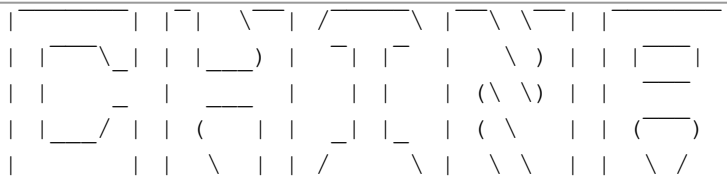


China: The Forbidden City FAQ/Walkthrough

by Shotgunnova

Updated on Apr 24, 2017

This walkthrough was originally written for China: The Forbidden City on the PSX, but the walkthrough is still applicable to the PC version of the game.



T H E F O R B I D D E N C I T Y

FAQ/Walkthrough by Shotgunnova (P. Summers)

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I. CONTROLS [CNTR]

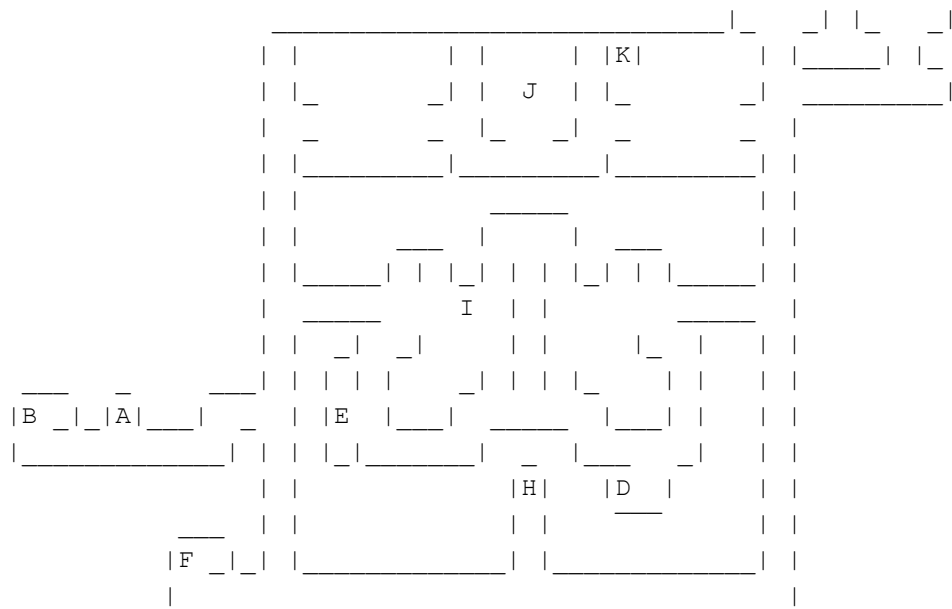
The controls are pretty basic in the point-and-click game. Circle toggles the inventory menu; X-button is the "accept" button for puzzles, menus and inventory navigation. Controls cannot be changed, though one can toggle the speed of camera movement (via Omni3D technolog option) in the field.

Of more interest are changes to the main cursor, which reflects opportunities for players. The main ones are:

Arrow	Default icon for changing camera POVs	
Diamond	Designated location can be used in conjunction w/ a second item	
Eye	Item can be seen in more detail when inspected	
Finger	Player can proceed in the given direction	
Hand	Designated item/object can be taken or operated	
Mouth	Designated NPC can be spoken to	

II. WALKTHROUGH [WLKT]

The entire game takes place within the Forbidden City. The inventory screen's compass icon displays the "world map," although it's very cluttered and many places are never visited or unimportant. The ASCII map below should simplify progress a bit. Certain locations can be fast-travelled to once visited -- a godsend compared to some of Cryo Interactive's other point-and-click games.



LEGEND \				
A	Starting Point			
B	Wang's Office			
C	Imperial Gardens			
D	Prince's Upper Study			N
E	Internal Petitions			
F	Imperial House			W ---+--- E
G	Concubine Area			
H	G. of Celestl. Purity			S
I	Tiger Cave		L	
J	H. of Great Fertility			
K	Eunuchs' Lodgings			
L	Supreme Harmony Room			

The game begins with Anjing (the protagonist) being asked by the emperor to investigate the death of Wang, a chief eunuch. The search for the culprit'll span the entire game, so it's best to break the guide down into digestible morsels. The walkthrough will be as spoiler-free as possible. A few notes before beginning:

- Forget what to do? Talk to nearby guards or NPCs to see if they have any pertinent info to give. (To talk, move arrow icon to their face until it becomes a mouth icon.) The plot's progress is also recorded in the "notes" icon of the inventory, above the compass.
- A big part of the game is showing items to people. To do this, select the item in the inventory, move the cursor above the inventory (that part of the screen will disappear) and select the person to show. This may seem extremely basic, but unlike similar games, there is NO icon change to reflect they can interact with it. Button-mashing over their head or body usually works.
- Some puzzles draw upon current items or info listed in the main menu's documentation section. Remember to check the latter if need be.

[1.1] THE FIRST CONFESSION

Superintendent Anjing begins at point "A" on the above map. Players can walk around at leisure to add areas as fast travel points, though some places are currently off-limits. Starting inventory: Imperial Mandate 1.

- Enter Wang's Office
- Question Chief Ma (sitting)
- Question Chou (standing by doorway)
- Visit the Office of Internal Petitions (point "E" on map)
- Speak to Director Li (at desk) to get the "Imperial Mandate 2"

The Imperial Gardens can now be accessed.

- Try entering the gardens' front entrance
- Speak to the guard manually
- Show "Imperial Mandate 2" to the guard
- Enter the gardens
- Approach and speak to the Dowager Empress, Douarière

She will give some of the dead eunuch's belongings: Posthumous Letter from Wang and Wang's Key.

- Return to Wang's Office, either by walking or fast-travelling
- Talk to Chief Ma until Anjing mentions the Bodhisattva statue
- Turn and look at the red-colored cabinet
- Unlock its front clasp
- Take the Hammer from within the top drawer
- Take the Chisel and Screwdriver from within the middle drawer
- Use Wang's Key to unlock the bottom drawer
- Inspect the Bodhisattva

To solve the puzzle, press the two blue buttons on the statuette's front, then the three red ones. (Only those five can be pressed, so there's no way to mess it up. Exit the screen to reset the puzzle.) The solution to this is alluded to in the posthumous letter.

- Take the "First Confession of Wang" inside
- Take the "Clue for the Second Confession" inside

[1.2] THE SECOND CONFESSION

Asking Chief Ma about the clue deduces that it refers to Wei, the Imperial tutor to Prince Sixteen. He takes lessons in the upper study, i.e. point "D" on the ASCII map.

- Enter the upper study
- Talk to Wei
- Present the "Clue for the Second Confession" when he asks
- Move toward the study's blue seats (near entrance)
- Inspect the go board

To solve the puzzle, one must replicate the Chinese character shown on the "Clue for the Second Confession" parchment, in the upper-right hand corner. This can be done in any order. Solution: <http://i.imgur.com/Zn3aShP.png>

- Take "Second Confession of Wang" from within go board
- Take "Clue for the Third Confessoin" from within go board

[1.3] THE THIRD CONFESSION

- Return to Office of Internal Petitions
- Show "Second Confession of Wang" to Director Li

Players learn they need to verify Wang's findings, but aren't told where to go explicitly. Returning to previous NPCs for updated info is a common tactic

in this game, as seen below.

- Show the second confession to Chief Ma
- Show the second confession to Master Wei
- Visit the Imperial House
- Enter left-hand office
- Inspect wall shelf by desk
- Select any row of books, then the ledgers (obtain List of Imperial Gifts)
- Revisit Office of Internal Petitions
- Present "List of Imperial Gifts" to Director Li (obtain Imperial Mandate 3)

Access to the Palace of Profound Purity -- where the concubines are -- is now available. It's right near the Imperial Gardens' entrance on the east side.

- Talk to the eunuch guard at the palace gate
- Show him the "Imperial Mandate 3"
- Pass into the palace courtyard
- Speak to the guard in front of the biggest building
- Present "List of Imperial Gifts" when asked

The three gifts will be brought out.

- Inspect the leftmost box
- Open box
- Use Screwdriver on box's bottom
- Take the stolen Originals from within
- Show new item to Director Li at the Internal Petitions office
- Speak to Master Wei (upper study)
- Present Originals to Master Wei

As hinted in the "Clue for the Third Confession," it's time to pass a wet brush over the jacket.

- Take a Brush from the glass
- Dab Brush in the sake cup of water
- Inspect recovered Originals
- Inspect rightmost Original with the brush

The hidden text suggests going to the Gate of Celestial Purity. On the ASCII map, this is point "H". Approach it from the outer street, not the interior courtyard. (This is a fast travel point, by the way.)

- Approach and inspect the gate
- Inspect the left-hand door's bottom half further
- Use Chisel on this gold icon: bottom row, third from left
- Use Hammer on placed Chisel
- Inspect object underneath the gold icon
- Flip all cylinders to "Affix his seal," opening a hidden compartment
- Take the "Third Confession" from within
- Take the "Clue for the Fourth Confession" from within

[1.4] THE FOURTH CONFESSION

- Show third confession to Director Li at the Internal Petitions office
- Show third confession to Master Wei at the upper study
- Revisit Wang's Office
- Speak to Chou

Ma's whereabouts are currently unknown. The only thing to do is canvas the neighborhood. Make sure to do the next series of steps as written -- doing

them out of order won't work.

- Speak to 1st set of guards in front of Room of Spiritual Nourishment
- Exit area into the next (eastern) street
- Turn around and speak to 2nd set of guards
- Advance north once
- Speak to the 3rd sentry pair guarding the Court of Celestial Purity
- Exit east into said Court
- Turn around and question the 4th set of gate guards
- Advance east once into the lower courtyard
- Approach the two golden braziers to find the Tiger Cave ("I" on map)

If done correctly, an FMV plays in the Tiger Cave and the "Stamps of the Imperial Seals" are obtained. Trying to get into the cave, or skipping steps related to the guards, isn't doable. Anjing automatically returns to the Internal Petitions office afterward.

- Show Director Li the new stamps (obtain Imperial Mandate 4)
- Try entering the northern Court of Great Fertility (either gate)
- Show "Imperial Mandate 4" to gate guard
- Enter the northern Court of Great Fertility
- Enter the central building
- Speak to Chief Wen
- Present the "Stamps of the Imperial Seals" to the eunuch with Wen

This next part is a small matching game. Examine the seals, observe their pattern, dip them in red ink, and match the symbols. (This is easy and the game won't let one stamp the incorrect square anyway.) When finished, "Wax Found on the Seals" is obtained.

- Present the wax to Yang (at Li's desk) in the Imperial Petitions office
- Revisit to the Hall of Great Fertility's central room
- Speak to the eunuch
- Enter the eastern eunuch lodgings (point "K" on map)
- Inspect floor trunk twice
- Use Chisel on floor tile underneath
- Inspect items within the hidden compartment
- Exit lodging for an FMV
- Return to Yang at the Imperial Petitions office.

Like before, the next series should be done as written with no detours. Start by leaving the Imperial Petitions office to the interior courtyard.

- Question a gate guard (any, on either side) about Li
- Leave courtyard through eastern gate
- Turn around and question either of the exterior gate guards about Li
- Head north up the street
- Question the eunuch guarding the Imperial Gardens
- Enter said Gardens
- Enter the back cave for another FMV

The "List of Director Li" will be obtained automatically and the cave can be explored further.

- Inspect the window grille nearby
- Use the Screwdriver on the grille's top, left, right, and bottom parts

The grille will be removed. Note that it's hard to see what's happening in the PS1 version, so instead listen for a distinctive 'ting' that denotes a success.

Inspecting the weird box reveals another puzzle. The solution is actually hinted at in the game's documentation (main menu option) that speaks about cosmology, as well as the fourth confession clue.

To solve the puzzle, rotate the three rings so the northernmost icons are Tortoise, Black, and North. (As the cosmology article mentions, each cardinal direction is associated with a color and animal.) If done right, the puzzle board's face will briefly sink in, letting the colors be pressed like buttons. The fourth confession clue hints at the right sequence: yellow, grey, purple, blue.

- Take the "Fourth Confession" and "Fourth Clue" from within the puzzle box
- [Optional] exit cave for automatic conversation with a guard
- [Optional] Speak to Lady Fu in the Gardens

[1.5] UNRAVELING THE PLOT

- Speak to Yang at the Imperial Petitions office
- Return to the Palace of the Concubines (near Imperial Gardens, remember)
- Speak to the gate-guarding eunuch
- Enter the courtyard
- Speak to eunuch guarding the easternmost house
- Visit the Imperial House (point "F" on map; fast-travellable)
- Enter inside for an FMV

Anjing will automatically visit the Imperial Petitions office afterward.

- Revisit the Palace of the Concubines
- Speak to the gate-guarding eunuch about Hua Bao
- Enter the courtyard
- Speak to the eunuch guarding the easternmost house
- Enter the easternmost house's reception room
- Speak to Hua Bao (Blank Letter obtained)
- Use the Blank Letter on the reception room's candle (becomes "Rebus Clue")

The pictures revealed show a fire jar and a tree planter.

- Reenter the courtyard
- Approach westernmost house
- By the tree planter, inspect the fire jug (brazier)
- Inspect the rectangular piece at the jug's base
- Use Chisel on the piece
- Take item inside ("Key Found in a Jar")
- Approach easternmost house again
- Inspect tree planter by its steps
- Inspect false decorative plate on planter base
- Use "Key Found in a Jar" to unlock drawer behind it
- Take the Seals within ("Wax Found on the Seals" obtained as well)

As before, do the stamping "game" to verify the seals' authenticity.

- Present the Seals to Yang at the Imperial Petitions office
- Return to Palace of the Concubines' courtyard yet again
- Speak to the eunuch guarding Shouxiu's eastern house
- Enter the reception room, then Shouxiu's personal chambers
- Speak to Shouxiu
- Inspect bamboo planter near window

This puzzle involves fake bamboo with twistable symbols. The solution is to

make the front side show only real animals of the Chinese Zodiac. (This info is made plain in the game's documentation section via the main menu, if it's not already known.) Going from left to right, the correct symbology is:

- 1st: Serpent, Cockerel
- 2nd: Tiger, Dog, Horse, Wild Boar
- 3rd: Hare, Ox, Monkey
- 4th: Rat, Dragon, Goat

When done right, the bamboo's base opens a secret compartment.

- Take "False Proclamation of Succession"
- Speak to Shouxiu (automatic)
- Speak to Yang at the Internal Petitions office (automatic)
- Revisit the Imperial House
- Enter the right-hand office
- Use the Hammer on the attacker
- Inspect the ornate clock

To solve this puzzle, all three clock faces must be aligned correctly. The top one's big and small hands go to 5 and 8 positions, respectively. The bottom two, from left to right, go to 3 and 9, respectively. (For reference, these numbers correspond to the blue paperweight on the nearby desk.)

- Take "Plan of an Infernal Mechanism" from within the clock's compartment
- Take "False Edict of Regency" from within the clock's compartment

Players can immediately go to the Hall of Supreme Harmony in the far south of the map, or show Yang (Internal Petitions office) the mechanism plans first. The hall is a fast travel point by this time, so there's no need to walk all the way there.

- Enter the Hall
- Approach the throne
- Inspect throne
- Remove wooden plank with hole in it
- Remove the four metal crossbars around the needle
- Inspect lower contraption area
- Turn the two small crank cogs
- Disconnect red tube (×3) using the Screwdriver
- Use Screwdriver to remove protective bracket from poison vial
- Take vial out of mechanism
- Repeat the last two steps on the 2nd vial
- Inspect anywhere after it's disarmed

That's the end! Enjoy the ending FMV and post-mission character summary.

V. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[FAQZ]

[Q] - Is this game worth getting?

[A] - It's actually pretty fun, yeah, and the Forbidden City (and Chinese culture in general) is always ripe for a good historical take. It's certainly better than, say, Atlantis: The Lost Tales.

[Q] - Is this game region-locked?

[A] - Yes. As a PAL-only game, NTSC players will need a PAL console, a NTSC

console modded to play PAL games, or a "Swap Magic"-style disc to fool NTSC consoles into playing PAL games.

[Q] - Is this game better on PC?

[A] - From what I can see, yeah -- the loading times are far quicker and the graphics are a bit less artifact-ridden. However, the PS1 version still fares pretty well and may be a bit easier to work with nowadays. (This game isn't available on Steam, as of April 2017, anyway.)

[Q] - Do I need to bother researching the culture (via info nodes) or...?

[A] - No, those "nodes" just give extra background on China and the Forbidden City itself, and aren't integral to gameplay. Cryo Interactive games often have an aspect like this, playing up the edutainment angle.

[Q] - Does picking an emblem at the game's beginning do anything important?

[A] - Not that I've noticed. Might just be for extra flavor.

[Q] - I can't unlock the bottom drawer in Wang's Office!

[A] - For some reason, it's inaccessible until Ma is asked about Wang's Bodhisattva statue. This can occur regardless of whether the posthumous letter is read, but may require an extra conversation to play.

[Q] - I can't inspect the shelf in the Imperial House!

[A] - Make sure you show the second confession to both Wei and Ma. For some reason, learning about the ledgers from just one isn't good enough to do the inspection.

[Q] - Chou won't help me find the missing eunuch!

[A] - Show the third confession to both Director Li and Master Wei. Both will direct Anjing to the correct location, but the speech option with Chou won't appear until both are informed.

[Q] - I can't speak to the concubine's guard about Hua Bao!

[A] - He won't have a speech option until one learns Hua Bao is Shouxiu's lady-in-waiting. The easiest way to do this is talking to the eunuch who guards the Palace of the Concubines' gate.

[Q] - I can't inspect the planter in the palace courtyard!

[A] - Only the easternmost can be checked; the western one does nothing and has nothing.

VI. UPDATES & CONTRIBUTORS

[UPDT]

4-23-17 -----+ Started walkthrough

4-24-17 -----+ Finished walkthrough

THANKS TO...

- Sailor/Ceej, for hostin' my crap
- Cryo Interactive, for not including annoying woodwind music this outing!

VII. LEGALITY

[LGLT]

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