China travel guide book

Safety and Security:
Tells you how to stay safe while traveling in China. Vital advice about risks are provided for your reference.

Travel Insurance
We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance to cover all the possible overseas medical costs and other mishaps.

China Visa
Information on entry requirements and China visa issues.

Keeping Healthy
Read our tips on how to keep healthy and enjoy a comfortable trip.

Packing
Suggestions on what to pack.

Guide
About tour guides in China and how to meet your guide at airport.

Money and Currency
Questions about the use of your credit card, ATM's, or how to convert your money.

Luggage Allowance

Keeping in Touch
Guide on how you can stay connected with your family in China.

Shopping

Tipping
How to express appreciation for the service you have received?

Food & Dining
Menus in both Chinese and English.

Hotel Facility

Getting Around
How to take a taxi and the procedure for taking train in China.

Photograph

Etiquette

Chinese Dictionary
Extensive list of words and phrases for tourists in China.
Safety and Security

Overall China is a safe country, and most people you meet will be friendly, honest and trustworthy. However, travel and living conditions are different from your home country, so be alert.

Crime
By and large China is safe, but petty crime is on the increase and tourists are particularly vulnerable. Take precautions and use common sense, particularly at night, and particularly around the tourists areas and in crowded places like markets.

Try not to carry large amounts of money or obvious symbols of wealth, and keep your wallet or purse out of sight (back pockets are a big no no). Pickpockets tend to operate in crowded areas, for example the public bus, so in busy areas make sure that you carry your bags where you can see them - for example a backpack, even a small day pack, is extremely vulnerable. Wallets, mobile phones, cameras, jewelry and laptops are tempting targets for thieves. Do not flash a wallet around when paying for purchases and carry some loose change for beggars.

Be alert of some common scams. Be cautious if somebody approaches you and invite you for a drink at a tea house or bar nearby to "practice English". There have been reports of tourist being ripped off in this way. Do not pick up "roll of bills" found on streets. ATM crime is on the rise recently. There are continual reports of ATM scams including using fake ATM's or other methods to steal the user' card. You are advised to use the ATM when accompanied and during daytime.

Valuables
Make sure that you protect your passport, tickets, visa documents etc by carrying them on your person, preferably underneath
clothing in a pouch or money belt. Never leave valuables lying around your hotel room or in your car. And if you are backpacking or staying in hostels buy a padlock so that you can secure your possessions in lockers, or enquire about a safe deposit at the hotel. Carry a photocopy of your passport and other vital documents separately be particularly careful at night. At all times try to stick to busy, well-lit places.

Local laws
Be aware that local laws and penalties, even those which may seem harsh by your home country standards, do apply to you. For example, there are strictly enforced laws which prohibit demonstrations unless they have prior approval from the government. Penalties for drug offences are severe, and include the death penalty, as do certain other serious crimes.

National disaster
The rainy season occurs between March and April in southern and eastern China (eg Guilin, Suzhou, Hangzhou), from June until August in the west (eg Yunnan Province and Tibet), and between May and September for the areas near the Yangtse River (eg, Chongqing and Yichang). During these times severe rainstorms can cause landslides in Shangrila and remote areas in Tibet which may interrupt essential services. Rural areas near the Yangtse River may be subject to flooding. Typhoons can occur during the wet season along the southern and eastern coasts. You should monitor weather reports if traveling in affected areas. If a natural disaster occurs you should follow the advice of the local authorities.
Travel Insurance

Although China Highlights takes all precautions possible to make your trip a safe and secure experience situations sometimes arise that are beyond our control.

We strongly advise that you take out comprehensive travel insurance that will cover any overseas medical costs. Ensure that you insurance covers you for the whole time you will be away and confirm what is included in the policy.

Recommended insurance company

Europe, Australia & New Zealand: If you a resident of Europe, Australia or New Zealand we suggest you to insure your vacation with Globelink. Globelink is a independent insurance agency providing a sensible level of coverage for reasonable costs. Web site: http://www.globelink.uk.com/

United States of America, Canada: For Residents of the United States and Canada we suggest Insuremytrip. Insuremytrip offer a wide range of travel insurance packages. Compare them to choose the best one for you. Web site: http://insuremytrip.com/myquote-6661-0-0-0.html
China Visa

All visitors traveling to mainland China whether for business or pleasure, require a visa. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the duration of your intended stay. Visas are issued through Chinese embassies and consulates overseas. It's very difficult to obtain a China visa at the Chinese border entry points.

Single-entry China visas are usually valid for 3 months after the issue date, and will permit you to stay in China for a maximum of 30 days. This visa will allow you to travel as a tourist or conduct general business activities. Most people need only to apply for a single-entry.

You need to apply for 'double' or 'multiple entry Visa if you need to leave and re-enter mainland China. Please keep in mind that when you leave for Hong Kong, Macao from mainland China, you will need to have 'double' or 'multiple' entry Visa.

No Visa is required prior to entering Hong Kong, a Visa will be issued upon arrival. Travelers leaving for Hong Kong, Macao

from mainland China need a new Chinese visa or a multi-entry visa to re-enter the mainland.

Visas are not required for transit passengers who hold tickets and have booked seats on international airliners flying on route to a third country no more than 24 hours in advance.

You should check with the Chinese embassy in your country of residence for the most up-to-date information.

http://www.chinahighlights.com/embassy/chinese-embassy/
Keeping Healthy

Foreign visitors should check what vaccinations are required or recommended when planning a trip. Your doctor may also be able to provide you with up-to-date information on the status of disease outbreaks in China. Most national governments also run travel advisory websites through their State or Foreign Affairs Departments. Hotels usually have access to a doctor. In the event of a serious condition which requires hospitalization, your tour guide will do everything possible to ensure that you receive that best treatment possible. Please call your China Highlights Travel Advisor so that we can provide assistance.

The major cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou have hospitals that will reach the standard of foreign hospital however the hospital systems differ considerably. Hospitals in other cities may not offer the same standards of hospitals as foreign countries.

On entering hospital all patients are required to pay a substantial deposit before any treatment will be administered. Nursing care in hospital is strictly limited to medical treatments so patients will require a person who can assist with all other activities. No food is supplied.

We highly recommend that all travelers buy comprehensive travel insurance in their home country before departure.
Reminders on how to stay healthy

- Protect yourself from mosquito bites by using mosquito/insect repellant or spray.
- For prevention of Malaria, starting 4-6 weeks before your trip, start taking an anti-malarial drug. (Please ask your doctor which one he/she thinks is best.)
- Bring over-the-counter anti-diarrhea medicine.
- Bring Ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil, or other types of mild pain relievers for headaches, toothaches, muscular aches, backaches, the common cold, menstrual cramps and fever reducers and mild body pain.
- Don't handle animals (especially monkeys, cats, dogs), to avoid the risk of rabies.
- Don't eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Don't swim in fresh water except for well-chlorinated pools to avoid infection with schistosomiasis.
- Wash hands often with soap or water (and/or instant antibacterial hand wash).

Vaccines/Immunizations (4-6 weeks before your trip)

- Hepatitis A or immune globulin (IG)
- Hepatitis B if you might be exposed to blood, have sexual contact with the local population, be exposed through medical treatment, or stay longer than 6 months. (Hepatitis B is recommended for infants and for children 11-12 years of age who did not receive it as infants.)
- Rabies, if you might be exposed to wild or domestic animals.
- Typhoid.
Money & Currency

Money Issue
The official currency in China is the Renminbi (RMB or CNY) or in Chinese "Ren-min-bi", which translates as "the people's money", and is generally used in the same way we use the word 'currency' - the Renminbi exchange rate, for instance. The basic unit is the yuan (also known as "kuai"), which is used to express all quantities including prices in shops etc. The yuan comes in paper notes of 1, 2, 5, 10, 50 and 100 yuan notes, and 1 yuan coins. 1 yuan equals 10 jiao (or mao).

Credit Cards: Credit cards are only accepted at most hotels and some tourist shops and department stores. Expect to pay in cash.

Exchanging Money: Changing Money can be done in a number of ways. Most hotels will have a foreign exchange service and will exchange cash and travelers checks. As with hotels everywhere, the exchange rate will not be the official bank rate. Most large banks will exchange money and travelers checks. It is a requirement that you produce your passport to complete the transaction. Banks will only accept foreign bank notes that are undamaged. Notes that are even slightly torn will be rejected. Travelers Checks can be a secure solution if traveling for a longer time.
Cash withdrawals from Visa and MasterCard: credit/debit card are possible at the main branches of the Bank of China in each city. A small fee is charged by the Bank and charges are also applied by the bank/credit card provider. Bank of China ATM machines are compatible with Cirrus and Pulse so cash withdrawals are easy to complete using these machines. Only use ATM’s that display the Visa and MasterCard symbols. An English menu will appear when you insert your card. The exchange rate that is applicable through ATM’s is good and this can be a very convenient way to organize your money. Locations for ATM’s are available from your card issuer. Limits for withdrawals on each transaction differ but US$250 per transaction is common.

**Western Union** is available in China although fees apply to transactions. Check the Western Union website for locations. http://www.westernunion.com/info/selectCountry.asp

Always carry some small denomination cash (5, 10, 20 yuan) because if you use larger notes there is a small risk that you will be given counterfeit notes in your change at some of the markets or local stalls.

**Local Currency**
The yuan comes in paper notes with denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 50 and 100 yuan notes, and 1 yuan coins. 1 yuan equals 10 jiao (or mao).
See pictures of Chinese money notes

- 100 yuan note (old)
- 100 yuan note (old)
- 100 yuan note (new)
- 100 yuan note (new)
- 50 note (new)
- 50 yuan note (new)
- 50 yuan note (old)
- 50 yuan note (old)
- 10 yuan note (new)
- 10 yuan note (new)
- 20 yuan note (new)
- 5 yuan note (old)
- 2 yuan note
- 2 yuan note
- 1 yuan note
- 1 yuan note
Airline Luggage Allowance

**Carry-on baggage**
The maximum Carry-on baggage allowance for each economy class passenger is 5kg. First class passengers can have 2 pieces of carry on luggage. All other passengers can carry on only one piece. The size may not exceed 20x40x55cm. Carry on baggage in excess of the limit is subject to an excess baggage fee and must be carried as checked baggage.

**Check-in Baggage**
Adults and children are entitled to a free checked baggage allowance of 40kg, for first class, 30kg, for business class, and 20kg, for economy class while traveling on domestic airlines in China. No free baggage allowance is granted to infants. Groups traveling together are able to combine their baggage allowance if they check in together.

**Prohibited Items**
The following items are prohibited and cannot be carried in checked or carry on luggage:- Flammable, explosive, corrosive, poisonous, radioactive, polymerizable and magnetized materials. Passengers are forbidden to carry arms, sharp or lethal weapons during flight. Security inspection Passengers and their baggage (including checked and carry on baggage) are subject to the security inspection before boarding the aircraft. N.B. Bottles; including bottle of alcohol purchased at the airport may not be allowed to be carried as cabin luggage.

Click and read more information on: [China Airlines](#) & [China Airports](#)
Keeping in Touch

Email and Internet

Email facilities are available in most hotels and many have internet connections in the rooms. Internet cafes are plentiful and inexpensive in China.

Telephone

Phone booths are commonly available in major cities but rare in rural areas or in the far west. Cellular phones from other countries work in China. These calls can be expensive so it would be wise to talk to your local provider before leaving your home country. Hotel phones can be very expensive.

International phone calls can be made from most hotels but please be aware that the call rates may be expensive.

Many mobile phones have global roaming which will allow calls to be made as if you are at home. Please check your phone service provider to obtain call rates.

Yangtze River cruises use satellite phone for communications.

Internal call: to make an international call from China please use the following procedure:-

e.g. to dial USA 00 (to get an international line) 1 (country code)
(then area code without any zeros)(then ph number)

00 1 215 999 9999

To Britain 00 44 66 333 3333

Domestic calls: 0773 (area code) - 999 9999 (phone number)
What to Pack

We advise travelers to pack as slightly as possible as most travel necessities can be bought at your in China.

1. The passport with all necessary visas and travel authorities, for identification purposes and the visa.

2. Casual outdoor clothing depending on the time of year that you travel and your destination. A pair of good walk shoes is necessary. Many of the tours can involve plenty of walking, sometimes on hard or uneven surfaces, as well as stairs or steps. Many attractions are also quite exposed to the weather – sun, wind, rain etc; for example the Forbidden City has many large open spaces, and many of the Temples have large courtyards between their halls and pagodas.

3. 'Carry On' luggage for air travel in China is limited to 2 pieces for first class travelers and one piece for business and economy class travelers. The dimensions of each shall not exceed 20X40 X55cm and the total weight of the above two pieces shall not exceed 5 kg. The carry on items in excess of the above mentioned shall be checked-in as checked baggage according to regulations.

4. Wallet.

5. Credit cards.

6. Traveler's checks.

7. Airline, Cruise or Train tickets

8. First-aid kit

10. Hat, Sunscreen, lip creams and sunglasses, depending on the season and your destination. If you will go to places with high elevation such as Tibet, parts of Sichuan, Yunnan and Xinjiang provinces, these items are vital to protect your skin and eyes as the high altitude and the thin atmosphere allows the sun’s solar radiation to strike the earth with unusual intensity.

11. Address and telephone number list. A list of e-mail addresses, mailing addresses and telephone numbers will help keep you in touch. Type them onto a sheet instead of taking a your whole address book. It will save weight.

12. Itinerary with confirmation numbers and addresses and phone numbers of the places you’ll be staying.

13. Insect repellent. Especially for summer months and for travelers who are visiting rural areas.

14. Do not bring expensive jewelry and watches.

15. Medical records; daily necessities such as bathroom requirements are readily available throughout China and you may wish to save space by purchasing these items while you travel.

16. If you are taking a more adventurous trip, it's a good idea to take your own silk sleeping bag liner and lightweight travel towel along with a reasonable supply of tissues, torch, personal toiletries.
Tour Guide

China has tens of thousands of trained and licensed tour guides. Some of them are professors, librarians, and teachers, working part time, but all must pass a strict examination to be qualified to work as a tour guide.

China's travel companies are categorized into three classes. Class 1 can work directly with foreign tour operators. Tour guides working for this class are usually more experienced. English language is the first foreign language spoken by the tour guide. They work according to pre-arranged schedules arranged by the employer.

Generally speaking, tour guides in the less developed areas such as along the Silk Road, in Tibet, in parts of Sichuan and Yunnan are less qualified than those working in the East especially in terms of the quality of their spoken English. Travelers who purchase full packages from China Highlights will receive a comprehensive guide service provided by our company. A guide who speaks your nominated language will meet you at the airport, deliver you to your hotel and accompany you on your tour in that city. They do not fly (or take train or bus) with you from one city to another. You will have a different guide in each city.
Shopping

What to buy?
Most travelers want to take home some bargains or mementos. With so many options available, shopping can be time consuming, confusing and exhausting. The following tips may make it easier for you: Don't buy everything in the first day or two. Each city has its own specialty. Some of the best buys are:
Beijing: Cloisonné; Fresh water pearls
Xian: Replicas of the Terra Cotta soldiers; Tangsancai (Tang Dynasty hand painted China); Antique Furniture
Shanghai: Silk carpets
Hangzhou: Longjing Tea; Silk
Suzhou: Silk
Guilin: Scroll paintings; China Southern Sea Pearls
Yunnan: Mounted Butterflies; Pure tea; Dali Batik (tie-dyed fabric)
Xinjiang: Carpets; jade articles
Tibet: Thang-ka (tanka) (Sheep skin wall hangings)

Shopping is not obligatory
Don't feel obligated to shop. Our guides offer shopping opportunities as a courtesy but if you're not interested, say so. Some of them may be quite enthusiastic, thinking this is what you want, so don't be embarrassed to tell them directly and immediately that
you don’t want to go shopping. You'll often find several attendants trying to help you make a purchase. This doesn't mean you have to buy; it's OK to say no, or just to look.

**Be cautious of fake items**

Shopping is great in China and you can expect to be able to buy many things at a much better price that at home. Please however be warned that if a bargain price for a world famous brand seems too good to be true....... it probably is! Antique buyers should know that many experts have been disappointed to find that their find of a lifetime is beautiful but fake. Antiques should be officially certified to be exported legally. The penalties are severe. Keep all receipts, certificates and official documents that are received when you purchase any antiques. Antiques are those items over 120 years of age.

**Bargaining**

Bargaining is a national pastime in China so you will find that most retailers except for department stores, large shopping malls will be prepared to bargain. You should check the import restrictions in your home country as some items may attract tax on arrival in your home country, especially if it is mailed or shipped separately.
Tipping

Tipping or gratuities are not common practice in most sectors of Chinese life, although it has become the norm to tip the tour guide and driver, hotel bellboy in recognition of their good service. It is not customary to leave tips at local restaurants. Of course you don't have to. However, anything you do give will be much appreciated. For some people foreign books/DVD and music CDs, for others perfume or other small gifts are equally appreciated. As a guide, if you would prepared to give a gift in your home country to a friend, the same gift would be acceptable in China. If you wouldn't give it at home, then it's probably not acceptable here. Products that are "Made in China" are not seen as special.

Where the tour guide and driver are concerned, tipping become a standard part of this culture, even though it may not be in your home country. The guides are paid commission on sales of products at the shops that they take people too. China Highlights control this situation very strictly so that our customers are not continually taken to tourist traps. China Highlights guides and drivers are paid for their services so our customers are under no pressure to tip. However guides and drivers will always appreciate a sign that their services have been appreciated.
Food & Dining

Food has a special meaning to the Chinese people. The 'waste not, want not' ethos means that a surprising range and variety of plants and animals are eaten and every part of a plant or animal is used. This has given rise to a remarkable diversity in the regional cuisine, but to Westerners it can be overwhelming - surprising, fantastic, delicious, horrifying or disgusting but above all, different. Travelers are often surprised that it is not like the Chinese take-away in their home town.

However, China is also a gourmet's paradise, and the food can be outstanding, if you know what to order. It includes a lot of fresh vegetables, meat, noodles, rice, fish, dumplings and regional specialties, with an amazing number of ways to prepare, spice, serve, pickle or preserve the food.

1. Most restaurants provide tea free of charge. This is normally green tea or similar.
2. Cutlery can be ordered if wished.
3. Tipping is not expected, although service charges may be included in the more expensive restaurant.

Do you want to venture out from the tourist area to eat where the locals eat? We have prepared menus in Chinese and English that will give you freedom to escape the hotels or the tourist beat.
### Chinese Common Dishes

#### Drink
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<td>白葡萄酒</td>
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<td>可乐</td>
<td>葡萄酒</td>
<td>梨汁</td>
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<td>花茶</td>
<td>红酒</td>
<td>醋汁</td>
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<td>甘蔗汁</td>
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<td>绿茶</td>
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<td>茶香</td>
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<td>八宝茶</td>
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<td>米酒</td>
<td>&quot;Eight Treasures&quot; Tea</td>
<td>茉莉花茶</td>
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#### Breakfast
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<td>肉丸汤</td>
<td>木耳汤</td>
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<td>豆腐汤</td>
<td>胡萝卜汤</td>
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<td>糖醋排骨</td>
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<td>三杯鸡</td>
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<td>麻婆豆腐</td>
<td>麻婆豆腐</td>
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<td>抚州肉丝</td>
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<td>油炸豆腐</td>
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### Food & Dining
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Hotel Facilities

Hotels in China range from the luxurious five-star on the eastern seaboard to street guest houses with very basic conditions, in remote part of China. As you travel further west to places along the Silk Road or in Tibet, even 3 and 4 star hotels may no have a hairdryer for example, and complimentary drinking water may not be provided. Mini bars are a moving target, sometimes there and sometimes not, and the level of English spoken will vary.

Laundry: Laundry services are available in most hotels. Outside services are not recommended.

Electric Current: China uses a 220 volt 50 Hz cycle system so electric appliances from countries that use 220/240 will operate without any adopter. Appliances requiring 110 volts will need a transformer to operate. Hotels will not always have these. We recommend that you bring a transformer with you. Chinese hotels cater for most plug types.

Bathroom: Western Toilets are generally available except in the remote countryside. Toilet paper is usually supplied.
Getting Around

**Taking a taxi:** Taking a taxi is the most comfortable, easiest and most secure way of getting around. There are many taxis in cities large and small. Simply wave your hand and a taxi will stop for you. Prices vary by city but are usually very cheap. The meter should always be activated. You can order a taxi from your hotel and ask the concierge to write down your destination on a card. Pay the driver upon arrival. Tipping is not the custom.

**Arrivals:** Your guide usually knows which carriage you are on, and meet you on the platform. However, some trains are now so fast (eg D trains travelling at 200 km/h) that no-one is allowed onto the platform until after the train has arrived. In these instances it's hard for the guide to come in quickly against the flow of passenger, so customers should stay put until their guide finds them, usually after the initial hurly-burly. The guide will know where on the platform you can be found, and this will avoid you having to check around 4 or 5 exits, when you could walk up to 4 km getting round them all. Check beforehand whether you should await your guide, or go to the exit.

Your guide can ask the carriage attendant to warn you 5 minutes or so before you arrive at your station. Local trains, eg to Suzhou, may be a through train, stopping only very briefly, about 2 minutes. Be ready!

Sometimes you may need to show your ticket to get off the platform when you arrive, so hang on to it, just in case.
Each carriage is numbered. Each bunk is numbered. These show on your ticket. In the carriage each 4-berth cabin is also numbered. This does not show on your ticket, and can confuse you. Eg You are in Carriage #6, berth 7. Berth 7 will actually be in cabin 2 (Cabin 1 has berths 1-4, Cabin 2 has berths 5-8 etc). Cabin 7 will therefore have berths 25-28.

**Departures**

Procedure: Go to the waiting room (your platform/waiting room are displayed on the boards) in the station, with train number and destination. In large stations this cycles between Chinese and English, like the airports, in the smaller stations you can pick up the train number to see which platform and/or waiting room.

Doors from the waiting room to the platform will be opened when the train arrives, and close 5 minutes before it leaves (note on some of the smaller trains the procedure is different, eg at Suzhou the train only stops for 2-3 minutes, and it's a mad and sometimes dangerous scramble).

Once the doors are open, find the right platform. Don't underestimate this task, it may involve quite a bit of walking, and some stairs. One waiting room may give access to many platforms. Sometimes you can get on early (avoiding the mad scramble) with the help of your guide who can pay a porter a few yuan to give you early access to the platform. The main point is GET THERE IN GOOD TIME.
Taking Photos

There is no problem in taking photos in most areas. Please refrain from taking pictures of the police and government officials. At some tourist areas you may have to pay for the privilege of taking a photo.

Photographs are forbidden inside certain buildings, particularly when using a flash. This usually in Halls with statues of Buddha, fragile murals, .

In Tibet, Jiuzhaigou and areas with Tibetan population, you shouldn't photograph the old folk without permission (which is likely to cost you – it's often assumed that a request to photograph them is an offer to pay – the same in some places on the Silk Road)
Etiquette

Around Tibet, Jiuzhaigou and areas with Tibetan population:

Don’t pat babies on the head, or touch them

Don’t photograph old folk without permission (which is likely to cost you – it’s often assumed that a request to photograph them is an offer to pay – the same in some places on the Silk Road)

Don’t step on the lama’s shadow

In temples: - take off your hat, don’t point directly (if you want to indicate a statue and HAVE to use your hand, palm up, fingers flat and together in that direction

Don’t dip your fingers in the yak butter lamps in the temple, to taste the butter (apart from being highly offensive, it’s also a health risk)

Avoid walking between a person praying to the Buddha and the statue

In the Mosques:

Cover your arms to the elbow, and your legs above the knees as a minimum

Don’t shake hands with the opposite gender

Wearing a scarf over the head is a courtesy, but not obligatory

Along the Silk Road (Kashgar, Urumqi etc):

Don’t order pork in a muslim restaurant (guide can help identify muslim restaurants)

Avoid "sensitive" questions, eg relations between ethnic groups

Alcohol, cigarettes: ask first and then behave in accordance with the answer (generally don't expect alcohol in a muslim restaurant)

In the Xinjiang province the prices are not over the top, so be reasonable when negotiating, rather than the harder bargaining of the eastern seaboard
Others

To eat everything or not? In the old days the “waste not want not” ethic prevailed, and at home mothers encouraged their children to clean their plates. The fridge has changed all that. Now it’s polite to eat everything at home, and among good friends, but at a banquet, or on other formal occasion, distant colleagues leave a little so demonstrate the generosity of their host. Oh, and by the way it’s considered mean only to order 2 dishes for 3 people, especially if no vegetables are included!

Drinking a toast – tap the table twice, and stand up if it’s more formal.

Discussions regarding recent history are still seen as sensitive.

Chinese people are just as proud of their country as visitors are of theirs, and probably more so. They can get a little irritated when customers favor them with criticisms of the country. They know that things are not perfect, and they also know that they, like other countries, are working hard to deal with problems of environment and population and so on. Whilst constructive suggestions, and reasonable discussion is welcomed, destructively negative comments regarding Tibet or Taiwan, for example, or environmental track record, can upset people who suspect it may be a case of “the pot calling the kettle black” – and believe that China is not only aware of the challenges facing the country but doing a great deal to address them.

Lateness is a cultural no-no, in the morning for departure or at any other time. It indicates a lack of respect for the guide, and for fellow travelers.
Chinese Dictionary

Prologue
Chinese is not only a language, it is a culture. The Chinese people are very proud of their long heritage and you cannot expect that everyone you meet will speak English. This has little to do with insufficient education. Areas that have a large tourism industry will have many more English speakers, generally English is not widely spoken by average people. We designed this dictionary as a tool to assist you while you are in China.

Pronunciation
The Chinese language is a tonal language of sound. Many words sound very similar but a slight tonal difference changes the meaning of the word.

Every word has a different Chinese character. In order to differentiate between these syllables it is important to know the right pronunciation. For this, Chinese has 4 different tones.

4 tones
Tone: steady
Tone: falling and rising
Tone: rising
Tone: falling

The most common example is the word "ma", which can have 5 different meaning, depending on the pronunciation.

Mā -- Mother  妈
Mà -- Hemp  麻
Mā -- Horse  马
Mǎ -- to insult  骂
### Dictionary

We have prepared an extensive list of words and phrases that may be useful to you as a traveler in China.

By showing a Chinese person the Chinese Characters matching the English word, you will be able to communicate simple requests or have a short conversation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greetings</th>
<th>Important sayings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good Morning</td>
<td>shí dūlǐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zóoshànghào</td>
<td>是/对</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>早上好!</td>
<td>zhèngquè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello/Good Evening</td>
<td>走好 wǒnùshànghào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nǐhǎo wǒnùshànghào</td>
<td>正确 bùduì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>你好/晚上好</td>
<td>不对!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is your name?</td>
<td>búyòngxié xièxié</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>níngxìng</td>
<td>不用了,谢谢!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>您姓什么?</td>
<td>xièxié</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, thanks</td>
<td>谢谢!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How are you?</td>
<td>bùyòngxié</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nǐhǎo mà?</td>
<td>不用谢!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good bye!</td>
<td>你欢迎 nǐyíngwèn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zàijǐn</td>
<td>你欢迎 nǐyíngwèn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>再见！</td>
<td>你欢迎 nǐyíngwèn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See you tomorrow!</td>
<td>对不起 (打扰一下) dàbāoyíxiá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>míngtiān jiàn</td>
<td>对不起 (打扰一下) dàbāoyíxiá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>明天见</td>
<td>对不起 (打扰一下) dàbāoyíxiá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excuse me</td>
<td>nínshùoshèrme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pardon me?</td>
<td>你说什么？</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could you please speak slower?</td>
<td>kěyǐshuōyǒngyìdúna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not understand.</td>
<td>wòbùyìngwèn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you speak German?</td>
<td>níshūōyìngyuá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nǐshùōyìngyuá</td>
<td>你说英语吗?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you speak English?</td>
<td>wǒshùōyìdūnhǎnyǔ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I speak a little Chinese.</td>
<td>wǒ àibùhǎn yǔ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand.</td>
<td>wǒmíngbáile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like...</td>
<td>wǒyào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like it</td>
<td>wǒxihuan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not like it</td>
<td>wòbùxihuan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No thanks, I do not want to buy it.</td>
<td>bù xièxié wòbùmǎi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much?</td>
<td>duōshǎoqíng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too expensive!</td>
<td>tāiguīle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nǐshùōyìngyuá</td>
<td>你说英语吗?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Important sayings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toilet</td>
<td>cèsuǒ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is the Toilet?</td>
<td>cèsuǒ zài nǎlǐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am thirsty.</td>
<td>wǒ kěle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am hungry.</td>
<td>wǒ ēle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where is the telephone?</td>
<td>diànhuà zài nǎr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is that?</td>
<td>zhè shénme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does it work?</td>
<td>zhè zén me yòng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May I take pictures?</td>
<td>zhě liǎi yì zhě hǎo pǎi hēng ma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I need a permit?</td>
<td>zhě liǎn yi zài nǐ yǒu hǎo pǎi hēng ma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long?</td>
<td>duō jiǔ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>huàliàn wǎng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where can I check my emails?</td>
<td>zài nǐlǐ kǎn de wǒ de xiàn jiàn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Getting Around

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How much is it to...?</td>
<td>dào duōshǎo qián</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxi</td>
<td>chūzūchē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train</td>
<td>huǒchē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airplane</td>
<td>fēijī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>qīchē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bycicle</td>
<td>zìxìngchē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>mótuō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus</td>
<td>gōngjīào chē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway</td>
<td>dìtiě</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Taking a Taxi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bus stop</td>
<td>tíng chē zhàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Train station</td>
<td>huǒ chē zhàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport</td>
<td>fēi jī chǎng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street</td>
<td>jiē dào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>jiān zhù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>jiàn zhù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One ticket to ... please.</td>
<td>qǐng mǎi yī zhǎng dào de piào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which bus goes to...?</td>
<td>yǒu nǎ yì chē dào</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### At the airport

**One flight ticket to... please.**

请 买 一 张 到 ... 的机票

**Where is my Gate?**

入口 在哪里

**What is my time of departure?**

什么时候起飞?

**What is my time of arrival?**

什么时候到达?

### At train station

**When does the train depart?**

什么时候发车?

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Food</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fānguǎn</td>
<td>chīfàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cháguǎn</td>
<td>mǐfàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zhuōzi</td>
<td>miànzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pánzi</td>
<td>nǎozi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bēizi</td>
<td>ròu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hú</td>
<td>zhūròu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuàizi</td>
<td>niúròu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cānjù</td>
<td>niúròu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wǒ yào yì fú cānjù!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### At the Restaurants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>tǔdòu</td>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>tǔdòu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>fānqié</td>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>fānqié</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell peppers</td>
<td>làjiāo</td>
<td>Bell peppers</td>
<td>làjiāo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermelon</td>
<td>xīguā</td>
<td>Watermelon</td>
<td>xīguā</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit</td>
<td>shuǐguǒ</td>
<td>Fruit</td>
<td>shuǐguǒ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spicy</td>
<td>là</td>
<td>Spicy</td>
<td>là</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet</td>
<td>tián</td>
<td>Sweet</td>
<td>tián</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sour</td>
<td>suān</td>
<td>Sour</td>
<td>suān</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the food spicy?</td>
<td>zhècàiálàma</td>
<td>Is the food spicy?</td>
<td>zhècàiálàma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No spicy food please.</td>
<td>qíngbúyǒuálà</td>
<td>No spicy food please.</td>
<td>qíngbúyǒuálà</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>fànshíqiántián</td>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>fànshíqiántián</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer</td>
<td>pǐjiǔ</td>
<td>Beer</td>
<td>pǐjiǔ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### At the Hotel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>jiùdiàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any rooms available?</td>
<td>yǒufángma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will stay ... Nights.</td>
<td>wǒzhù tiān</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How much is a room?</td>
<td>yījiān fángduōshǎo qián</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathroom/shower</td>
<td>yùshì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellboy</td>
<td>ménwéi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would like to exchange money.</td>
<td>wǒyào xiào huán</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please call a taxi.</td>
<td>jià yīliàng chūzū</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could you write down the address for me?</td>
<td>nǐ néng bāng wǒ xiě diànzhǐ ma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Shopping

**Where can I get...?**

Where can I get...?

**Retail Store**

Shopping

**Supermarket**

Chaozhi

**Do you have...?**

You ma

**We do not have.../We are out.**

Meiyou

**I would like to get these films processed.**

Woyaoxiangpian

**Cigarettes**

Yan

**Lighter**

Dahuojij

**I don’t need that**

Buyao

**Book/books**

Shu

**Picture postcard**

Fengjingmingxinpiann

**City Map**

Chengshiditu

### Post

**Post office**

Youzhengju

**Letter**

Xin

**Postcard**

Mingxinpiann

**Stamp**

Youpiao

**How much is a letter?**

Jiyifengxin. Duoshaoqian

**Parcel**

Baguo

**How long does it take?**

Yimaoju

**Airmail**

Hangkongyoujian

### Doctor

**Doctor**

Yisheng

**Hospital**

Yiyuan

**It hurts here.**

Wozhaihong

**Diarrhea**

Fuxi

**Headache**

Touteng

**Fever**

Fashao

**Medication**

Yopin

**Aspirin**

Aospin

**Tablets**

Yopian

**Vaccination**

Diachen

### Time

**What time is it?**

Jidazhongle

**Morning**

Zaozhang

**Noon**

Zhongwu

**Evening**

Wanshang

**Day/Night**

Baitian Wanshang
Doctor

yi sheng 医生
doktor 医生

Hospital

yi yuan 医院
klinik 医院

It hurts here.

wo zhe hai tong 我这里痛
miri 非常痛

Dioamhe

tou tong 头痛
keu 头痛

Headache

fashao 发烧
pyir 发烧

Fever

yaopin 药品
medikamente 药品

Medication

aspi lin 阿斯匹林
aspirin 阿斯匹林

Aspirin

yaopian 药片
tablet 药片

Tablets

dazhen 打针
injektion 注射

Vaccination

Self-introduction

wò 我
nǐ 你
You 你们

He/She/It 他/她/它

women 我们

nimen 你们

You (plural) 你们

nǐ 您

You (formal) 您

shi 是

To be 是

wō shì 我是

My name is... 我叫... My name is...

wō zhè zhài 我在这里... I live in...

wō 我

I am from... 我来自... I am ...

wō suile 我...岁的 I am... years old
**Chinese Dictionary**

**Units**
- Money: 元 (yuán)
- Meter: 米 (mǐ)
- Kilogram: 公斤 (gōngjīn)
- Pound: 磅 (páng)
- Mach/man: 马 (mǎ)

**Months**
- January: 一月 (yīyuè)
- February: 二月 (èryuè)
- March: 三月 (sānyuè)
- April: 四月 (sìyuè)
- May: 五月 (wǔyuè)
- June: 六月 (lǐnyuè)
- July: 七月 (qíyuè)
- August: 八月 (bāyuè)
- September: 九月 (jiǔyuè)
- October: 十月 (shíyuè)
- November: 十一月 (shíyīyuè)
- December: 十二月 (shíèryuè)

**Figures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>一</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>二</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>三</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>四</td>
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<td>五</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>六</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>七</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>十九</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>二十</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Addressing someone**
- Sir/Mister: 先生 (xiānsēng)
- Miss: 小姐 (xiǎojié)
- Misses: 女士 (nǚshì)

**Days**
- Sunday: 星期天 (xīngqītiān)
- Monday: 星期一 (xīngqīyī)
- Tuesday: 星期二 (xīngqīèr)
- Wednesday: 星期三 (xīngqīsān)
- Thursday: 星期四 (xīngqīsì)
- Friday: 星期五 (xīngqīwǔ)
- Saturday: 星期六 (xīngqīliù)
Communicating with hands

China is home to many different dialects. This makes it sometimes difficult even for Chinese people from different regions and provinces to understand each other. Especially for bargaining, try out these gestures to indicate numbers from 1 to 10.

- 一 yī one
- 二 èr two
- 三 sān three
- 四 sì four
- 五 wǔ five
- 六 liù six
- 七 qī seven
- 八 bā eight
- 九 jiǔ nine
- 十 shí ten
China Travel Tools

**China Tours:**
It's definitely not hard to book a China tour either through internet or with the help of a travel company based on your home country but it's not always easy to find the "RIGHT" tours. China Highlights is dedicated to "discovery your way" and commit to help our clients to find their right China experience. We offer over 80 existing China tour packages which showcase the best that China has to offer. If you only have very limited time, check out our single destination tours to make the most use of your time to feel a particular part of China. All our tours can be customized.

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