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If you have more questions, do not hesitate to contact us!

FLOWER FAIRY FESTIVAL



China Guide



Introduction

Currently, holders of ordinary passports from the following 7 countries: France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Malaysia, can travel to China **WITHOUT A VISA** for business, tourism, family visit and transit purposes for up to 15 days. Welcome to travel and study in China 🌞 ! Below are our answers to some questions foreigners may have when coming to China.



Resources recommended for Chinese

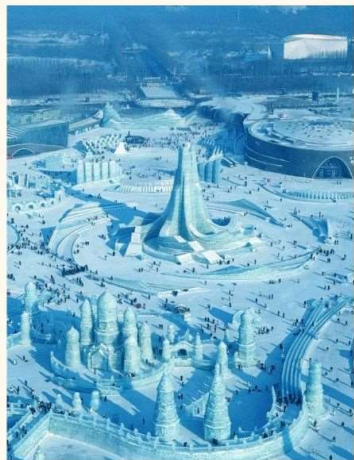
SCAN ME



Please scan the QR code to connect to Chinese resources.



Travel



ice and snow world (Harbin)



History meets modernity
(Suzhou)

How to book each attraction or activity? (general method)

- 1) Search for the official Wechat account or app used by each attraction on WeChat or Dianping, select the booking service and fill in the information to make a booking. Not all attractions have the same number of visitors and require different reservations.
- 2) Select the attraction you want to visit on Baidu Maps to make a reservation and buy tickets (similar to how Google Maps works).

What documents do you need to visit museums, and do you need to make reservations and buy tickets in advance?

Use your passport to make a reservation on the official website of the corresponding museum or their official WeChat accounts.



Administrative

How do I buy a SIM card in China?

- 1) Take your passport to the service offices of the three main operators (China Mobile, China Unicom, China Telecom). The SIM card must be associated with your real name.
- 2) Select the package you wish to buy on "Nihao mobile" and indicate the delivery address after payment. Once you have received your SIM card, use your passport and follow the instructions to activate it.

How do I apply for a bank card?

Bank card applications require a long-term visa or residence permit! Bring your passport or other valid identification, and remember if your name includes hyphens or spaces.

Can foreign bank cards be used in China?

Visa Mastercard can be used in brand-name shops in major cities, but cannot be used in other cases.

Health check to enter China

French passport holders are not required to undergo a health check if they are travelling to China without a visa for less than 15 days. For long-term stays in China, such as study or work, a medical examination is required before applying for a visa.

- 1) Foreign students must first go to a government-designated medical examination agency in mainland China, submit medical examination documents and pay the corresponding fees.

2) Then, the foreign student must undergo a number of examinations according to the requirements of the medical examination institution, including physical examination, blood examination, ultrasound examination, CT scan examination, X-ray examination, etc.

- 3) Based on the results of the medical examination, the medical examination establishment issues a biopsy certificate, which is a necessary document for foreign students to apply for a visa.

General knowledge



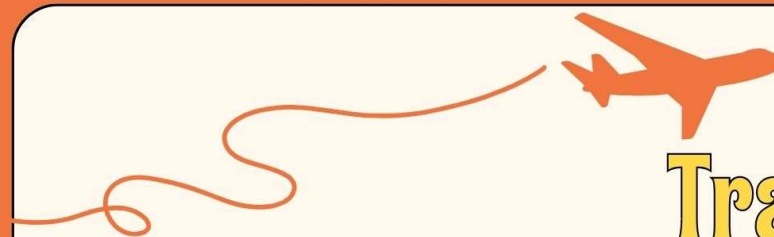
Rent prices and salary levels in different cities

In major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, the average salary is about RMB 10,000 (1282 euros) per month and renting a flat is around RMB 3,000 to 4,000 (385–513 euros) per month, while the average salary in other cities is RMB 5,000 to 8,000 (641–1026 euros) per month and renting a flat is RMB 2,000 (256 euros) per month.



Is it necessary to bring cash to China? What are the preferred methods of payment? What is the current use of cash in China and what can be done about it?

It is advisable to have some cash on hand when you arrive in China. The Chinese rarely use cash or credit cards. The main payment methods are Alipay and Wechat pay with QR codes. Foreigners coming to China can use the international version of Alipay, which can be used in conjunction with a foreign bank card. In some cities, you can use Visa and MasterCard credit cards.



Travel

How can I check whether the hotel accepts foreign tourists?

At the time of booking, the hotel will display internal and external guests, which means that a hotel marked with internal guests can only receive Chinese tourists; if it is marked with external guests, it can receive foreign tourists. In general, five-star hotels can welcome foreign tourists. In China, only certain qualifications are required to welcome foreign tourists.



The Great Wall in Beijing

How do I book a hotel or accommodation when travelling abroad?

APP Ctrip / Trip

These are the same app: one is the Chinese version and the other is the international version.

China has hotels / B&Bs that accept foreigners and others that don't. In principle, the options you see on Trip should be those in which foreigners can stay, so you can be sure that you can book your accommodation directly on Trip.

If you're booking on the Chinese version of Ctrip, you'll need to filter out the options that can accommodate foreigners.

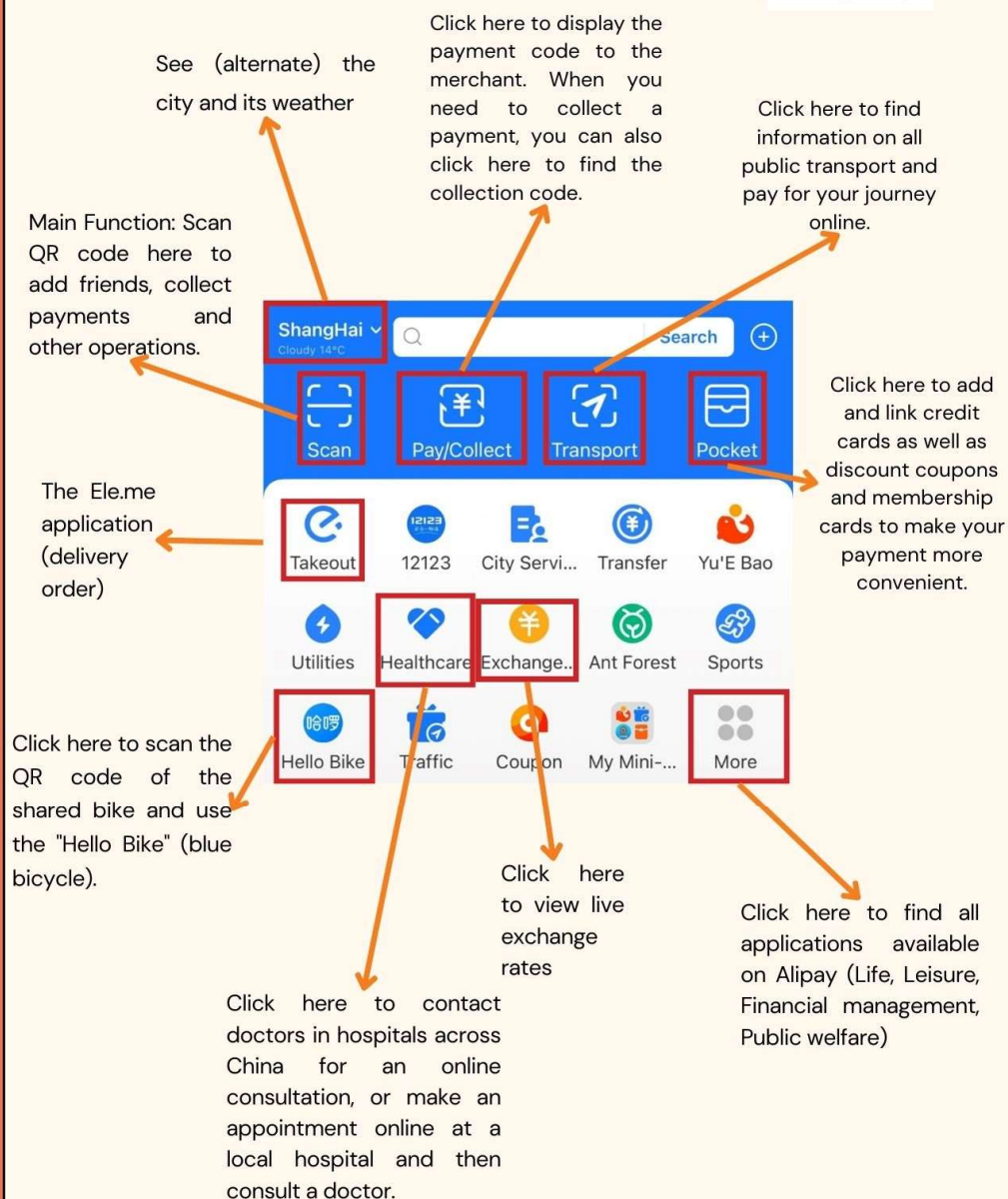
Prices are roughly the same for both versions, but you can compare them to see which is cheaper.



Jing'an Temple, located in the center of Shanghai



Detailed use of Alipay (each function)



Public transports

for navigation/maps

APP ☒ GoDe Maps or Baidu Maps

Both maps are very accurate, but Gaode Maps has an English version and Baidu Maps only has a Chinese version.



Gaode Maps

Baidu Maps



How do I buy plane tickets?

You can buy tickets at the airport or on the websites of the major airlines with valid identification such as your passport.

Choice of airline:

(China) Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines

(France) Air France



How do I buy TGV tickets and what documents do foreigners need?

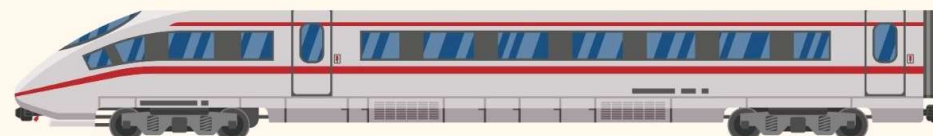
APP ☒ 12306/ ☒ Ctrip

Tickets for trains and high-speed trains can be purchased using the 12306/Ctrip application 15 days before the departure date, because the system generally starts selling tickets 15 days before the date.

Passengers must use valid identification documents such as passports to make purchases. When taking the TGV, you must present your passport and the QR code from your ticket to enter the station at the manual ticket office.



12306



Public transports



How do I buy tickets for each city?

APP ☒ Alipay / ☒ Wechat

Currently, a total of 59 cities in mainland China have opened 11,232.65 kilometres of urban rail lines. Public transport has become the primary mode of travel for Chinese residents.

Alipay and WeChat can be used directly at transport turnstiles via an Alipay and WeChat QR Code if you have a bank card linked to them.

OR On-the-spot purchase at ticket machines

Staff at the metro service centre can help you buy tickets or travel cards.



Shanghai Metro



滴滴出行



How do I take a taxi locally (taxi fares, selecting a taxi app)?

APP ☒ DiDi (taxi en ligne)

If you have a Chinese phone number, you can directly use this app to take a taxi online after authentication, just like Uber.

OR use the DiDi mini app in Alipay and pay using the card you've linked to Alipay!

If you want to take a taxi, first check that the light is green, which means that the taxi is empty. If the light is red, it means that the taxi is not taking any customers or already has a customer. Taxi fares vary from city to city. In Shanghai, they start at around 14 RMB for three kilometres, followed by 2.7 RMB per kilometre. In other cities, the price is lower. The price of an online taxi is automatically calculated according to mileage, and for the same mileage online taxis are slightly cheaper than taxis.

Commonly used apps

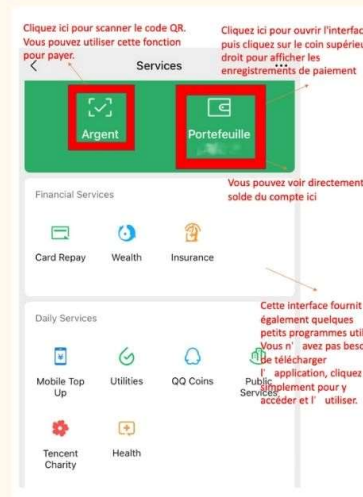


Detailed overview of WeChat

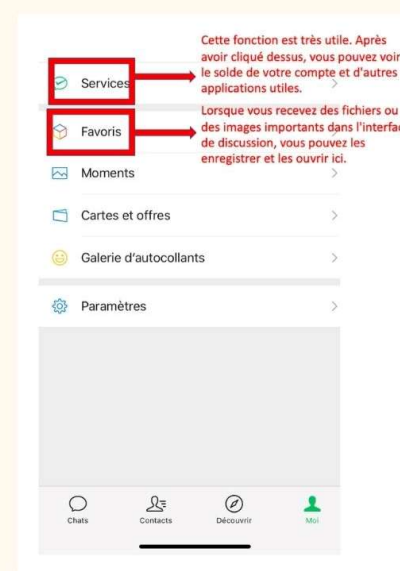
One app for all daily needs in China!



- Convenient functions: Wechat mini-program or Wechat official account (allows you to use other applications on WeChat, concentrating the functions on a single application)



- WeChat Wallet (can be used for everyday payment (utility and telephone bills, purchasing plane and train tickets, online shopping, credit card repayment), financial management (refund insurance), making appointments for medical visits and medical examinations)
- WeChat Card Pack can be used to add membership cards, transportation cards, discount coupons, tickets and medical cards to WeChat).



Catering



How do I choose a Chinese restaurant?

- 1) For large restaurant chains, use applications such as Meituan and Dianping to find the best-rated restaurants. (Restaurants that have been open for more than five years and have an overall rating of 3.5–4.5 are generally recommended by locals).
- 2) For specialist restaurants around the world, there are many reviews and shared experiences on Little Red Book (like INS) that can be used as a reference.

Shopping



Where can I go shopping?

Chinese cities have many shopping centres, which are good places to buy designer clothes. For souvenirs and other small items, you can go to the pedestrian streets and various bazaars in the cities, where you will find good quality products at low prices.



How to use online shopping applications and their features

Chinese shopping applications are basically the same as Amazon and other international online shopping platforms: you choose your favourite items online, pay for them by entering the delivery address and the carrier will deliver the parcel to the relay point and then ask you to collect it. Every year, on 11/11 and 18/06, Taobao, Jingdong and other platforms organise large-scale promotional activities.

Taobao: the overall price is slightly lower than in shopping centres, the variety is great but the quality varies. Many shops offer the usual promotional offers.

Pinduoduo: the price is lower than that of other platforms, but the quality is uneven.

Jingdong: the overall price is about the same as Taobao, with less variety, but the quality is guaranteed, generally less favourable.

Culture, Study and career

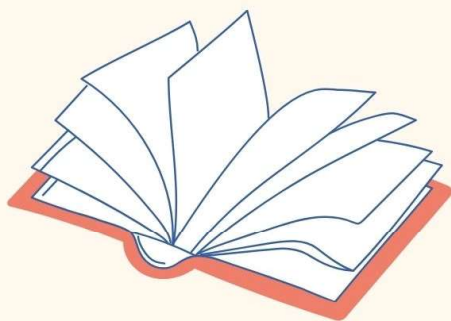
The level of English and foreign languages in China

The level of English is higher on university campuses, more young people know English and people living in large cities such as Beijing or Shanghai have a higher level of English.



French and English-speaking organisations to contact

Alliance française (French-speaking organisations)



Exchange students or international students looking for part-time work in China

Foreign students cannot sign an employment contract with a company while they are studying at a higher education establishment, i.e. they cannot hold a job. They may, however, take part in work-study activities (work-study is not an employment contract). They may also undertake a work placement of up to 6 months.

Catering



Restaurant culture and characteristics of the different regions of China

The "potluck" system of sharing food and drink at the same table. The cuisine of Sichuan and Wuhan is spicy, that of Jiangsu and Shanghai is sweet, that of Guangdong is lighter, and the north prefers flour-based dishes such as noodles, naan, brioche and so on.



A few recommendations for types of restaurant likely to appeal to foreigners



Jiangsu & Zhejiang cuisine is sweet: pork with caramel, fish with sweet and sour mandarin. Cantonese cuisine is lighter and sweeter: prawn dumplings, glazed pork, Cantonese-style roast duck. Shaanxi cuisine: noodle dishes, Chinese bao. Xinjiang cuisine features a variety of ethnic flavours and emphasises the taste of the food: roast beef and lamb, naan bread, salted milk tea.