

Guide to Entering China

To help foreign friends start their trip to China smoothly, this entry guide covers aspects such as pre-trip preparation, food and accommodation, travel and communication, and carefully answers various questions, allowing you to easily integrate into China's customs and culture.



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一、Preparation of Necessary Tools Before Entry

1 Mobile Payment Activation Guide

When downloading overseas international apps, search, download and install them in the Google Play Store for Android devices and in the App Store for iOS devices. If you cannot access Google Play, you can download it through third-party app stores (such as APKMirror), but you need to pay attention to security.



① Installation and Registration Process of Alipay International

Step 1: Download the app, register and log in

- Open the app, select "Register New Account", and enter your international mobile number (must support receiving SMS verification codes).
- Enter the 6-digit verification code received to complete the mobile number verification.
- Set a 6-digit payment password (for subsequent payment verification).

Step 2: Real-name authentication (key step)

- Path: Click "My" → "Settings" → "Account and Security" → "Identity Information" → "Verify Now".
- Document Type: Select "Passport", take a photo of the passport information page (including name, passport number, expiration date) and upload it.
- Review Time: Usually 1-3 working days, after successful verification, "Verified" will be displayed on the right side of the account.

Step 3: Bind overseas bank card

- Path: Click "My" → "Bank Card" → "Add Bank Card".
- Supported card types: Visa, MasterCard, JCB and other international credit/debit cards.
- Enter information: card number, expiration date, CVV code and payment password to complete the binding.

Step 4: Recharge and use (optional)

- TourPass function: Enter "TourPass" in the "Search" bar, enter the mini program and bind the Shanghai Bank prepaid card.
- Recharge rules: Minimum 100 yuan per time, maximum 2,000 yuan, total limit 2,000 yuan, valid for 90 days, and the balance will be refunded in the original way upon expiration.
- Exchange rate: Based on the real-time exchange rate of Shanghai Bank, recharge only charges credit card handling fee (exempted during some periods).

② WeChat International Installation and Registration Process

Step 1: Download the app, register and log in

- Open the app, select "Register", and enter an international mobile phone number (must support receiving SMS verification codes).
- Select the country code (such as +1 for the United States), enter the mobile phone number and click "Get Verification Code".
- Enter the 6-digit verification code received to complete the mobile phone number verification.

Step 2: Set account information

- Set a WeChat login password (it is recommended to contain letters and numbers, and the length should be 8-16 characters).
- Set a nickname (you can use your real name or a personalized name).
- Upload an avatar (optional, but it is recommended to improve the credibility of the account).

Step 3: Real-name authentication (optional, but affects the use of functions)

- Path: Click "Me" → "Payment" → "Three dots in the upper right corner" → "Real-name authentication".
- Authentication method: Select "Verify Mainland China ID" (if you have a Chinese ID) or "Other documents" (such as passport, driver's license, etc., you need to upload photos according to the prompts).
- Note: Non-mainland China ID card authentication may limit some functions (such as red envelopes, transfers).

Step 4: Bind bank card (optional)

- Path: Click "Me" → "Payment" → "Wallet" → "Bank Card" → "Add Bank Card".
- Supported card types: Some international cards (such as Visa, MasterCard) may be supported, but it is recommended to bind a bank card in China first to obtain full functionality.
- Input information: card number, cardholder name, ID number (must be consistent with the bank card reserved information).

③ Alipay/wechat International Version Comparison and Notes

Step	Alipay International	WeChat International
Download Difficulty	Need to switch the app store area, the operation is slightly complicated	Same as Alipay, requires US ID or third-party channel
Registration Process	Real-name authentication + bank card binding is required, which requires many steps	Registration is simple, real-name authentication is not mandatory
Payment Function	Supports TourPass prepaid cards, suitable for short-term use	Need to bind a Chinese bank card or international card (limited functions)
Language Support	Support English interface, friendly operation	Default English, can switch to multiple languages
Usage Scenarios	Offline payment, travel (bus/subway), e-commerce	Social, payment, life services (bank card binding required)

Notes:

- Network environment: A stable network is required when registering to avoid failure to receive the verification code due to network problems.
- Document information: Make sure your passport or ID card is valid and the photo is clear and legible.
- Payment security: Set a complex payment password to avoid being the same as your login password, and check your account transaction records regularly.
- Functional restrictions: If the WeChat international version is not authenticated by real name, core functions such as red envelopes and transfers may not be available.
- Customer service support: Alipay provides English customer service (contact through "My" → "Settings" → "Help and Feedback"), and WeChat needs to submit a work order through the official website.

Remark:

- To apply for a UnionPay card as a supplement, you can apply at an overseas UnionPay partner bank or a domestic bank. You need to bring your passport and fill out an application form stating the purpose of the application. After identity verification and password setting, you can complete the account opening. You can usually withdraw the card on the spot (some require 1-2 working days). After receiving it, you can deposit RMB at an ATM or transfer funds through international transfer.

2 Network Usage Plan

① Domestic Mobile Phone Number Application

Step 1: Arriving in China, looking for a mobile business hall

- When you get off the plane at an international airport in China, look for the mobile operator's business hall in the airport, which is usually clearly marked. The main operators include: China Mobile, China Unicom, and China Telecom.



Step 2: Prepare the necessary materials

- Passport: Make sure you bring a valid passport, which you will need to show when applying for a mobile phone number.
- Other documents (if necessary): Some operators may require other identification, so it is recommended to confirm in advance.

Step 3: Choose a carrier

- Compare carriers: Choose a suitable carrier based on your needs (such as coverage, package content, etc.). You can ask the staff for detailed information about each package.

Step 4: Apply for a temporary mobile phone number

- Apply for a temporary mobile phone number: At the selected operator's business hall, tell the staff that you need to apply for a temporary mobile phone number.

- Fill in the application form: Fill in the relevant application form as required and provide personal information (such as passport number, contact information, etc.).

Step 5: Select a package and pay the fee

- Package selection: Ask and select a package that includes data. There are usually multiple options, which are relatively affordable and suitable for short-term use.
- Payment method: Pay the corresponding fee according to the selected package. Usually cash, credit card or mobile payment (such as Alipay, WeChat Pay, etc.) are supported.
- Note: Confirm the data included in the package, call duration and validity period to ensure that it meets your needs.

Step 6: Activate mobile phone number

- Activation process: After completing the payment, the staff will assist you in activating your mobile phone number. Make sure your phone can receive signals normally.
- Test function: Test the new mobile phone number in the business hall to ensure that you can make calls and send text messages.
- If you are traveling with multiple people, one person can apply for a package with sufficient data and turn on a mobile hotspot for others to use, saving costs.

Notes:

- Receiving verification codes: Temporary mobile phone numbers are convenient for receiving verification codes, ensuring that important information can be received smoothly during use.
- Validity period: Understand the validity period of temporary mobile phone numbers to avoid unnecessary trouble during use.
- Customer service support: If you have any questions, you can contact the operator's customer service at any time for consultation and help.

② How to Use Buy VPN

Step 1: Choosing a VPN service provider

- Research and Compare: Check out reviews and comparisons of different VPN service providers, focusing on factors such as speed, security, privacy policy, server locations, and price.
- Recommended VPNs: Some well-known VPN services include NordVPN, ExpressVPN, Surfshark, CyberGhost, etc.



Step 2: Register an account and make a payment

- Visit the official website: Go to the official website of the VPN service provider you choose. Most VPNs offer different subscription packages (such as monthly payment, annual payment), choose the package that suits you.
- Create an account: Fill in the necessary information and create an account, usually you need to provide an email address.
- Choose a payment method: Most VPNs support a variety of payment methods, including credit cards, PayPal, cryptocurrencies, etc. Follow the instructions to complete the payment process.

Step 3: Download and install the VPN client

- Download the software: Download the VPN client for your device (Windows, macOS, iOS, Android, etc.) from the VPN provider's website. Follow the prompts to install the VPN client package.

Step 4: Login to connect and use VPN

- Login to your account: Open the VPN client and log in using the account information you registered.
- Select a server to connect to: Select a server location as needed (for example, select the United States, the United Kingdom, etc.). Click the Connect button to establish a VPN connection.
- Browse the Internet: Once connected, your network traffic will be encrypted through the VPN server to protect your privacy.
- Disconnect: When you are finished using it, you can choose to disconnect in the client.

Notes:

- Make sure the VPN service provider you choose has a clear privacy policy and avoids logging user activity. Once connected, you can run a speed test to ensure that the VPN is not significantly slowing down your Internet speed.

3 Electronic Equipment Adaptation Preparation

- Plug type: The common plugs in China are Type A (two-pin flat type) and Type B (two-pin flat type with grounding pin), with a voltage of 220V, 50Hz. If the plug of the device you carry does not match, you need to prepare a conversion plug in advance.
- Carrying a power bank: When taking a plane, the capacity of the power bank does not exceed 20000mAh, and it must be carried with you and cannot be checked in. It is recommended to carry a lightweight power bank to facilitate charging when using your mobile phone outside.
- Appliance compatibility: Check whether the appliance you bring supports a wide voltage of 100-240V. If it only supports 110V, you need to prepare an additional transformer to avoid damage to the appliance.



4 Payment Scenario Usage

Mobile payment has fully covered life scenarios. In restaurants, when checking out, you show your Alipay/WeChat payment code and it will be scanned, while at snack stalls, you will actively scan the stall owner's QR code and enter the amount to pay;

When shopping, supermarkets show payment codes, and convenience stores scan codes to complete transactions. Some merchants support automatic deductions for discounts;

In the transportation field, it covers bus scanning codes for riding, subway scanning codes for entering and exiting stations, and automatic deductions on online car-hailing platforms; Tickets for attractions can be purchased by scanning official QR codes or travel apps (such as Ctrip), and some tickets support scanning codes for entry. Bind bank cards or biometric

verification throughout the process, and the system pushes notifications in real time to achieve a convenient payment experience.

Dining Scene

When you finish dining in a restaurant, you can tell the waiter to use mobile payment and present the payment code of Alipay "Pay" or WeChat "Receive and Pay" for scanning. Your phone will receive a notification after payment. You can also scan the code to pay at street food stalls, enter the amount to confirm, and then pay with a password or fingerprint/face.

Shopping Scene

When shopping at shopping malls, supermarkets, convenience stores, etc., you can show the payment code or scan the code to pay. Some merchants have mobile payment discounts and other discounts, and the system will automatically deduct them when you pay.

Traffic Scene

When taking a bus, you can check whether the station supports mobile payment. If it does, you can use the corresponding city bus code in Alipay's "travel" or WeChat's "transportation" to scan and ride the bus; on the subway, you can scan the code to buy tickets or scan the code directly to enter and exit the station to deduct fees; to take a taxi, place an order through the online car-hailing platform and pay online after arrival using the binding method.

Attraction Ticket Purchase Scenario

At the entrance of the scenic spot, if there is an online ticket purchase channel, open the "Scan" function on Alipay or WeChat, scan the official ticket purchase QR code of the scenic spot, select the ticket type (such as adult ticket, child ticket) and quantity, fill in the tourist information, submit the order and pay. You can also search for the corresponding scenic spot on the travel app (such as Ctrip, Fliggy), select the appropriate ticket package, and use mobile payment to purchase. Some tickets support scanning code entry, without the need to exchange for physical tickets.

Notes:

Before departure, you can exchange about 1,000 yuan at a local regular bank or currency exchange point, and store them in different places such as wallets and backpack pockets to avoid centralized storage to prevent loss. At the same time, you should understand the anti-counterfeiting features of 100 yuan, such as watermarks, security lines, light-changing numbers, etc., so that you can identify the authenticity when receiving cash. In addition, some international credit card mobile payments have single or single-day limits. It is recommended to contact the bank in advance for details to avoid inconvenience caused by limit issues.

二、Daily Diet and Lifestyle

1 Use of Chinese Tableware

& Dining Tips

Chopsticks are the most commonly used tableware in Chinese restaurants. If you are not familiar with the use of chopsticks, you can try the basic grip first. Place one chopstick between your ring finger and pinky finger, use your middle finger to hold the middle of the chopstick, and naturally hold the top of the chopstick with your thumb and index finger; the other chopstick is controlled by the thumb, index finger and middle finger, and the food is picked up by opening and closing the fingers.

If you really can't adapt to using chopsticks, don't worry. At this time, you can politely explain your needs to the waiter, such as saying "Hello, can you give me a pair of knife and fork?" The waiter will usually provide it to you in time. In some buffet restaurants, knives and forks may be placed in the tableware area and you can use them yourself.



& Characteristics of the Eight Major Chinese Cuisine

Shandong cuisine ——— A model of imperial cuisine

- Ingredients: Good use of poultry, livestock and seafood, and focus on the processing of dried goods.
- Flavor: Salty and fresh, highlighting the original flavor, paying attention to "scallion fragrance" and "garlic fragrance" to enhance the flavor, and less spicy.
- Representative dishes: scallion-fried sea cucumber, nine-turn large intestine, sweet and sour carp.



Sichuan cuisine ——— Spicy and fresh flavors are the essence

- Ingredients: Ordinary ingredients are used to create special features, and seasonings such as chili, pepper, ginger, and garlic are used, and fermented products such as kimchi and bean paste are used.
- Taste: The flavors are diverse, with the core being "spicy", but there are 24 flavors such as fish-flavored, kung pao, hot and sour, and peppery, with layers of spicy flavor.
- Representative dishes: Mapo tofu, boiled fish, and kung pao chicken.



Cantonese cuisine ——— Fresh and tender

- Ingredients: A wide range of ingredients are used, including seafood, poultry, and seasonal vegetables, and they emphasize "freshness" (for example, steamed fish must use live fish), and even include special ingredients such as "three birds" and "snakes and insects".
- Taste: Fresh and tender, light but not bland, focusing on "original flavor", seasonings are mostly oyster sauce, light soy sauce, and Chu Hou sauce, less greasy.
- Representative dishes: white-cut chicken, roast goose, steamed grouper, and old-fashioned soup.



Su cuisine ——— The best food in Southeast China

- Ingredients: Mainly fresh food from rivers, lakes, and seasonal fruits and vegetables, with an emphasis on "eating in season".
- Taste: Fresh and mild, moderately salty and sweet, with an emphasis on "light but not bland, rich but not greasy".
- Representative dishes: Braised lion's head, Yangzhou fried rice, squirrel mandarin fish.



Fujian cuisine ——— A blend of sweet and sour

- Ingredients: Eat what you can get from the mountains and eat what you can get from the sea. Make good use of seafood (such as shrimp, crab, clams), bamboo shoots, mushrooms, and special seasonings (such as shrimp oil and red fermented rice).

- Taste: moderately sweet and sour, fresh and fragrant, some dishes have a "fermented rice aroma" and "wine aroma", and the soup is particularly mellow.
- Representative dishes: Buddha Jumps Over the Wall, Lychee Meat, Steamed Sea Bass.



Zhejiang cuisine ——— Jiangnan style, focusing on seasonality

- Ingredients: Freshwater fish, shrimp, bamboo shoots, tea, and mushrooms are the main ingredients, with an emphasis on "seasonal freshness" (such as bamboo shoots in spring and crabs in autumn).
- Taste: Fresh, crisp, tender, sweet and sour, less spicy, and highlights the original flavor of the ingredients.
- Representative dishes: West Lake vinegar fish, Longjing shrimp, and Dongpo pork.



Hunan cuisine ——— Spicy, fresh and fragrant

- Ingredients: mainly livestock, poultry, freshwater fish, peppers, fermented black beans, and cured meat.
- Flavor: "spicy" is the core, and it emphasizes "fresh and spicy", "fragrant and spicy", and "sour and spicy". The spicy taste is strong and direct, and it is paired with fermented black beans and garlic to enhance the flavor.
- Representative dishes: chopped pepper fish head, stir-fried yellow beef, and steamed cured meat.



Hui cuisine ———Wild delicacies, heavy oil and color

- Ingredients: relying on the resources of Huangshan and Dabie Mountains, making good use of wild game, game and dried goods.
- Flavor: salty, fresh and slightly spicy, heavy oil and color (soy sauce, sugar seasoning), pay attention to "original flavor", thick soup.
- Representative dishes: stinky mandarin fish, hairy tofu, ham stewed turtle.



Other cuisines

- Beijing cuisine: A fusion of Shandong cuisine and palace flavors, with Beijing roast duck and shabu-shabu mutton as representative dishes.
- Shanghai cuisine: Thick oil and red sauce, with sweet and salty flavors, such as braised pork and eight-treasure duck.
- Northwest cuisine: Mainly noodles and beef and mutton, such as Shaanxi biangbiang noodles and Xinjiang big plate chicken.
- Yunnan and Guizhou cuisine: Sour, spicy and fresh, good use of wild mushrooms, such as Yunnan cross-bridge rice noodles and Guizhou sour soup fish.

Notes:

When ordering food in a restaurant, you can choose dishes according to your taste preferences. For example, if you prefer light flavors, you can choose steamed or blanched dishes; if you like strong flavors, you may try braised or stewed dishes.

It is especially important to note that if you are sensitive to spicy food, you must clearly explain your tolerance to spiciness to the waiter in advance. For example, you can say "Please make this dish slightly spicy, just a little spicy", or directly tell "Please make this dish non-spicy, thank you". In this way, the waiter can communicate with the kitchen in time to adjust the spiciness of the dishes to avoid affecting the dining experience due to taste incompatibility. In addition, some dishes may contain spicy seasonings, and you can also actively ask the waiter "Is there chili in this dish?" to make a more accurate choice.

& Dining Etiquette Taboos

Taboos and behavioral norms of dining etiquette of the Han nationality

- Use of tableware: In addition to known taboos, chopsticks cannot be placed horizontally on the bowl (symbolizing "stopping chopsticks" or "offering sacrifices"); the spoon cannot be turned upside down on the table, but must be placed flat or hung on the edge of the bowl.
- Eating etiquette: Keep your mouth closed when chewing, and try not to make a smacking sound; use a spoon to drink soup, and avoid holding the bowl and looking up; drop food must be picked up quietly, and do not make a big fuss.
- Hospitality: The host must wait for the oldest guest to start eating before eating; use public chopsticks to persuade people to eat, and avoid directly picking up food for others; guests must "eat up" the main course to show respect, but cannot force the plate to be cleared.



& Ethnic Minority Dining Etiquette

1. Hui nationality: Ningxia, gansu, etc.

- Dietary Taboos: Strictly follow Islamic rules, prohibit eating pork, dead animals, blood, and meat that is not slaughtered by chanting; it is forbidden to use non-Muslim utensils to cook halal food.
- Dining Ceremony: You must recite "Bismillah" (starting in the name of Allah) before eating; use public spoons when eating together, and avoid blowing cold food directly with your mouth; wash hands after eating, and avoid touching the Quran without washing hands.
- Hosting Features: Serving guests with "Youxiang" (fried dough cakes), and when breaking them, you must tear them from the edges, not cut them with a knife; tea must be hot, and cold tea is not allowed.

2. Mongolian: Inner mongolia

- Food characteristics: Traditionally, people serve guests with hand-grabbed meat, cut with a knife before eating, and avoid using chopsticks to pick up a whole piece of meat; when drinking milk tea, hold the cup with the right hand and support the bottom with the left hand, and avoid drinking it all in one gulp.
- Toasting etiquette: Offer "Deji" (the first cup of wine) to elders or guests, and when receiving the wine, dip the wine with the ring finger and flick it to the sky (to honor the sky), the ground (to honor the earth), and the front (to honor the ancestors), and then take a sip; to refuse the wine, you need to clink the glasses with both hands, and you cannot refuse directly.
- Tableware symbolism: Silver bowls for wine represent nobility, and eating with horse-head fiddle accompaniment reflects nomadic culture.

3. Miao: Guizhou, hunan and other places

- Sour soup culture: "Sour soup fish" is the core of the banquet. The first spoonful of sour soup must be scooped by the elders to the guests, and it is forbidden to taste it first; the seasoning Litsea cubeba must be crushed and sprinkled in, and it is forbidden to chew it directly.
- Etiquette of long table banquet: Many people eat at a long table, and the seats are arranged according to seniority, with the younger generation sitting on the outside; the dishes must be passed counterclockwise, and it is forbidden to pass in the opposite direction; when leaving the table, you must wait for the elders to get up, and you cannot leave first.

2 Drinking Water and Hygiene Habits

& Dining Etiquette Taboos

Precautions for drinking water

China's tap water is raw water. It is not recommended to drink it directly without professional filtration or boiling. Bottled water is a good choice for daily drinking. Bottled water of different brands and capacities can be easily purchased in large supermarkets, convenience stores (such as 7-11, FamilyMart, etc.), or small shops on the street. When purchasing, please check the production date and shelf life.

If you stay in a hotel, you can also use the electric kettle in the room to boil tap water before drinking - boiling can effectively kill microorganisms in the water and ensure the safety of drinking water. In addition, some high-end hotels will provide free bottled mineral water in the guest room (usually placed on the bedside table or desk), and you can drink it without paying extra when you check out.



Bathroom supplies preparation

When using public toilets (such as public toilets in scenic spots, subway stations, shopping malls, pedestrian streets, etc.), you need to prepare supplies in advance. Most public toilets do not provide toilet paper. It is recommended to carry portable tissues with you to avoid inconvenience when needed. Some public toilets may not be equipped with hand sanitizer or soap. To keep your hands clean, you can bring your own small bottle of hand sanitizer (note that the capacity meets security inspection standards and is easy to carry) or individually packaged disinfectant wipes, and clean your hands in time after going to the toilet or touching public items.



Garbage disposal regulations

Please maintain environmental hygiene when you go out. The generated garbage (such as food packaging, beverage bottles, waste paper, etc.) must be placed in the designated trash cans. Trash cans in different places may have classification labels (such as "recyclables" and "other garbage", etc.). Try to put them in accordance with the classification requirements; if there is no clear classification, you must also put them in the nearest trash can. Do not throw them on the ground, in the grass, or in the corners of public places at will, and work together to maintain a clean public environment.



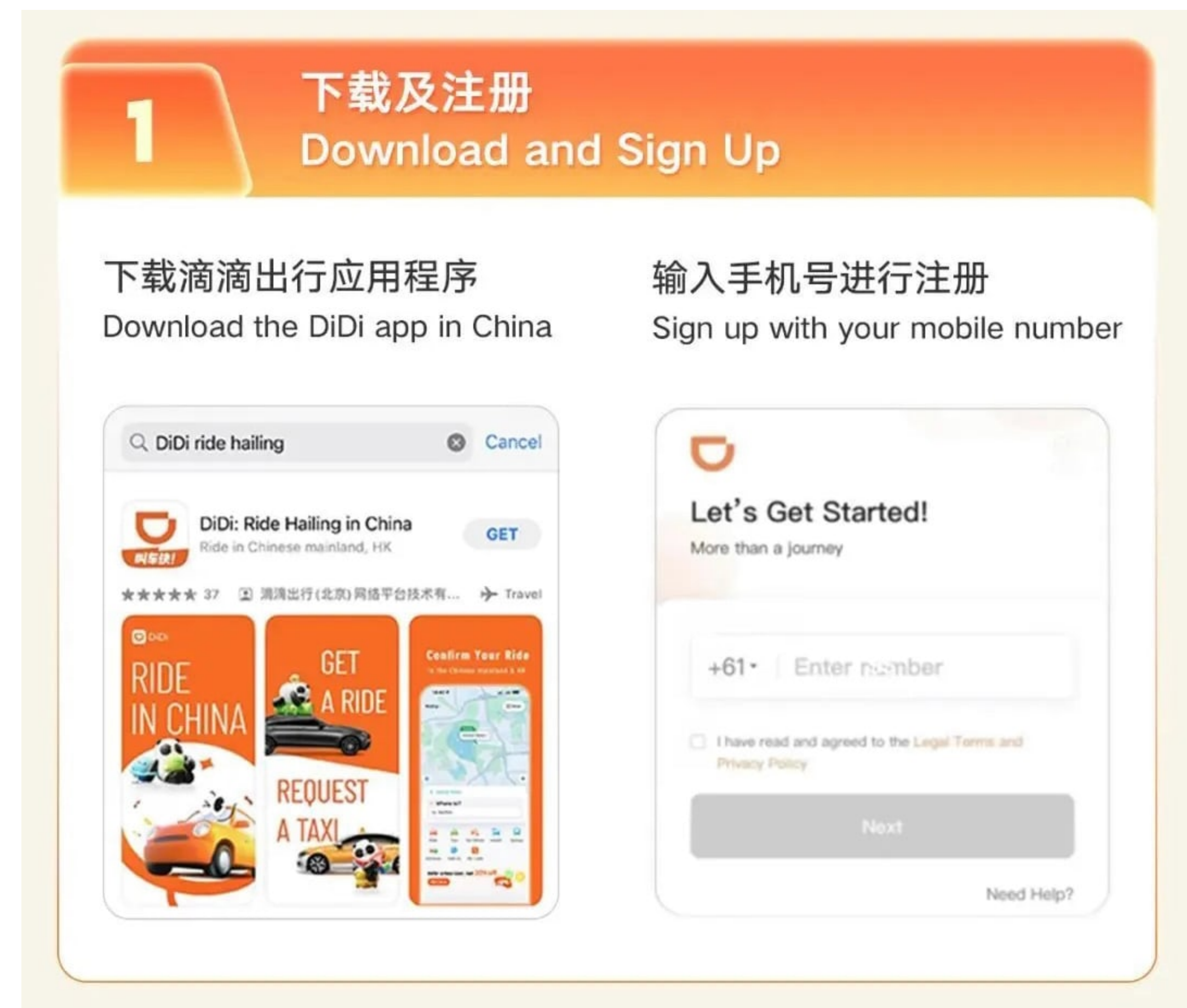
三、Travel and convenience services

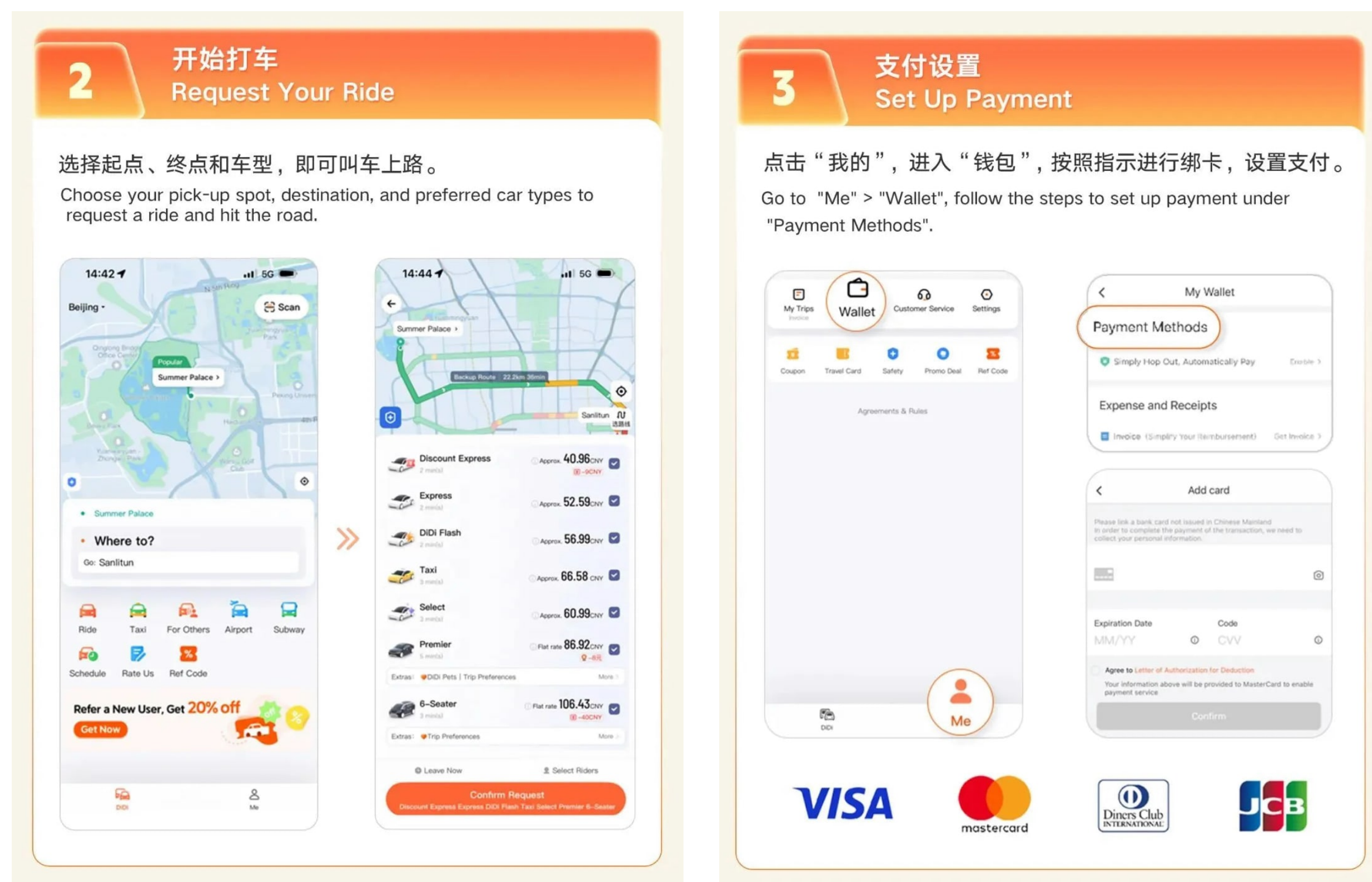
1 Transportation

& Taxi-Hailing Apps

It is recommended to use the "Didi Chuxing" APP

- Preparation in advance: It is recommended to download "Didi Chuxing" in the App Store before departure, and bind the commonly used payment methods after registering an account (supporting mobile payments such as Alipay and WeChat, or bank cards such as international credit cards) to avoid delays due to payment problems after taking a taxi.
- How to use: After opening the APP, the system will automatically locate the current location, fill in the destination in the input box, select the car model (such as express, private car, etc.), and click "Call" to wait for the driver to accept the order. The order page will display the estimated journey, cost and driver information (name, license plate number, contact information) for easy communication.
- Advantages: The APP supports English interface, which can be operated smoothly even if the language is not fluent; drivers usually drive strictly according to the navigation route to reduce the risk of detours.
- Alternative plan: If you do not use the taxi app, you can also stop a taxi on the roadside (the body of the taxi generally has obvious signs, such as the word "taxi" or the top light), but it should be noted that taxis in some areas may not use meters and ask for prices at will. It is recommended to confirm whether the meter is used before getting on the car, and give priority to vehicles of regular taxi companies.





You can also search for the Didi Chuxing mini-app on WeChat or Alipay App to hail a ride.



& Navigation Software

The commonly used navigation software in China are "AutoNavi Map" and "Baidu Map", which are comprehensive and practical, and are important tools for travel.

- Applicable scenarios: Supports navigation for multiple modes of travel, such as walking, bus, subway, and driving. For example, when querying bus routes, it will display specific bus routes, departure times, arrival reminders, and walking routes to the platform; when navigating by car, it can update road conditions in real time, avoid congested sections, and provide an estimated arrival time.
- Language support: Both software have English versions or English interface switching functions. When entering the destination, you can directly use English addresses or scenic spot names, which is convenient for foreign users.
- Additional functions: In addition to navigation, you can also query surrounding facilities (such as restaurants, toilets, gas stations, etc.), scenic area opening hours, parking lot locations and other information to meet the diverse needs of travel.



& High-Speed Rail Travel

China's high-speed rail is famous for its high speed, frequent service and wide coverage (connecting major cities and scenic spots across the country), making it an efficient choice for long-distance travel.

The advantages of taking the high-speed rail are obvious: high speed (250-400 km/h, such as 5 hours from Shanghai to Beijing); high punctuality rate, less affected by weather conditions; comfortable seats that can be laid flat; cheaper and more stable fares than flights and self-driving; equipped with Western-style toilets, dining cars, power supplies, Wi-Fi and other facilities; and large windows for enjoying the outdoor scenery.



① Understanding China Train Numbers

Generally speaking, China's trains are divided into high-speed trains and ordinary trains, with different speeds, facilities and names.

China High-Speed Trains ("G", "D" and "C")

China has three types of high-speed trains, distinguished by the letters G/D/C and a few numbers. They usually look like bullets (hence China High-speed Trains are also called China Bullet Trains), are fast, clean, well-equipped and have good service.

G Series High-Speed Trains - China's Fastest and Most Advanced Trains

G Series trains (Pinyin: Gaotie, 高铁) are the fastest of all China's high-speed trains, typically running at 250-400 km/h. Currently, more than 500 railway stations in major Chinese cities (about 113 cities) are connected to China's vast railway network via G Series high-speed trains. Compared with D and C Series trains, G Series trains make fewer stops along the way, so it takes less time to reach your destination. G Series trains are usually equipped with air conditioning, dining cars, Western-style toilets, large luggage racks, power plugs, and visual systems. Fuxinghao is China's latest generation of G Series high-speed trains, with faster speeds, more comfortable seats, and more space inside the car. It also provides wireless Internet.

D Series High-Speed Trains - Electric Multiple Units (EMU) and China's Second Fastest High-Speed Trains

D Series EMUs are China's second fastest high-speed trains, usually running at speeds between 200 km/h and 250 km/h. They are an early version of China Railway High-Speed Trains (CRH). D Series EMUs can reach not only large cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Wuhan, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Suzhou, but also small Chinese cities

such as Luoyang, Pingyao, Guilin, and even some small towns along the railway. In China, only D Series EMUs operate night high-speed trains. The facilities of D Series EMUs are very similar to those of G Series EMUs.

C Series High-Speed Trains - High-Speed Trains Running Between Two Neighboring Cities

C Series trains (C stands for Intercity) usually connect provincial capitals, such as Chengdu-Leshan, Leshan-Emeishan, or two neighboring cities, such as Beijing-Tianjin, Guangzhou-Shenzhen, etc. Their speed is usually less than 200 km/h. As of May 2018, C Series trains have been launched to more than 260 railway stations.

China's Regular Trains

High-speed buses are usually blue, red or green in color and are marked with Z/T/K/L/Y/S followed by a number or just a few digits (without letters). High-speed buses run slower than express buses but run day and night. Facilities are usually of lower standard, for example, toilets are mostly squat-style. Due to their relatively low prices, high-speed buses are usually the choice of economy travelers.

Standard trains are an older version of China's railway system and rarely exceed 140 km/h. Although less common now than before the advent of high-speed rail, you can still see these standard trains in some small cities or less developed areas in China.

Usually, these trains are divided into "soft sleeper", "hard sleeper", "hard seat" and sometimes "soft seat". These trains may not be equipped with Western-style toilets or air conditioning, but they are cheaper.

China's regular trains are marked with the letters Z/T/K/L/Y/S followed by a few digits (e.g. K145, Z23, T660...). They are usually green, have a large number of carriages, and run at speeds below 160 km/h. Conventional trains were very common in China before the high-speed rail was opened. The number of conventional trains is decreasing now, but there are still a large number of such trains in operation, especially on railways to small towns. Conventional trains have three types of seats: hard seats, hard sleepers, and soft sleepers. Compared with high-speed trains, conventional trains are much cheaper, but less comfortable and take longer. Conventional trains do not have Western-style toilets. Only some trains are equipped with air conditioning.

② China High-Speed Rail Facilities and Services

- Air conditioning: All high-speed trains in China are equipped with air conditioning. The carriages are completely sealed and smoking is prohibited even in the restrooms.
- Luggage racks: There are luggage racks above the seats in first-class and second-class carriages for you to place small and normal-sized luggage. You can also place larger luggage (such as a 28-inch suitcase) in the lockers at the end of each carriage.
- Train toilets: There are Western-style toilets and squat toilets on high-speed trains. There are also toilets for the disabled and toilets for mothers with babies. Tissues are provided in the toilets, but you'd better bring some of your own as they may run out quickly. Hand sanitizer and soap are only available on some trains.
- Dining: Every Chinese high-speed train has a dining car, usually in Carriage 5, where you can buy Chinese-style packaged meals of different sizes (15 yuan to 65 yuan). The crew will also bring some food and snacks to each carriage for sale. You can get free drinking water at the water dispenser at the connection between the two carriages. Some beverages are also sold on the train.
- Technology: There is a 220V power plug under the front seat, but you need to bring your own adapter. Each car has multiple TV screens, but only Chinese videos are available. The latest Fuxing trains offer Wi-Fi.



③ Which Class of Seat to Take

Second class, first class, and business class are the three common types of seats on most Chinese high-speed trains. A few trains have only second class, or second class and first class. These trains usually serve short-distance rail routes. Some night high-speed trains also offer soft sleepers. The difference between these seats is the size of the seat and the personal space allowed.

Second Class Seats

Second class seats are the cheapest seats on Chinese high-speed trains and are usually arranged in carriages 2 to 8, so generally speaking, more than 90% of the seats on high-speed trains are second class. Second class carriages have two seats on the aisle side and three seats on the other side of the aisle. The seats are about 43 cm (17 inches) wide, relatively comfortable, and can recline 5 to 24 degrees. There is plenty of legroom and it feels more like economy class on an airplane. There is a 220V power plug under the front seat, but you need to bring your own power adapter.

First Class Seats

First class seats are slightly more expensive than second class seats and are usually located in the first carriage along with business class seats. First class usually has 28 seats, usually 4 seats on each side of the aisle. The seats are wider and can recline 5 to 32 degrees. Each seat is equipped with a folding tray table (foldable into the armrest), headphone jack (under the armrest) and footrest. Charging service is available. Compared with second class, first class is more spacious and quieter.

Business Class Seats

After first and second class seats, business class is more luxurious and comfortable, with leather upholstery and can fully recline, just like business class on an airplane. Business class is a great choice for those who want to enjoy a relaxing journey on long-distance train travel in China. Business class is usually 5 egg-shaped multi-functional seats located in a private space at the back of the carriage (in front of the first class carriage), which can be tilted down 180 degrees for sleeping. You can also rotate the seat to face the window and enjoy the scenery along the railway. Snacks, drinks and food are provided free of charge on the train (only during meal times). Business class fares are the highest, about twice the first class fare, and sometimes even higher than the plane fare.

Sleeping Cars

Some D-series Chinese high-speed trains also offer different types of sleeping berths for overnight passengers. These high-speed trains usually run long-distance railway routes, such as Beijing-Shanghai, Shanghai-Xi'an, Beijing-Guangzhou, Beijing-Shenzhen, Shanghai-Chengdu, etc. Currently, there are three main types of sleeping berths on high-speed trains: dynamic sleeper, soft sleeper and premium dynamic sleeper.

④ How to Book China Train Tickets

Currently, you can only book China train tickets 15 days in advance. You can book through the official website of China Railway or some online travel agencies, or go to any train station in China to buy tickets. Whether you book online or at the train station, you need to bring your passport.

Book Train Tickets Online

The English version of the ticket purchase website <https://www.12306.cn/en/index.html> allows foreign passengers who do not understand Chinese to register and purchase train tickets by themselves. It should be noted that the English version currently only supports registration with a valid foreign passport. When registering an account and adding passengers, the English version only requires an email address, and no Chinese phone number is required. The website supports a variety of payment methods, such as VISA, MasterCard, JCB and Diners.

Book Train Tickets at the Train Station

If you are already in China, you can go to any train station ticket office near you to book tickets. You need to bring your original passport and cash to buy tickets. If the train station is far away from you, you can also try to book tickets at small ticket offices on some main streets in big cities. A booking fee of 5 yuan is required. These ticket offices are only open from 9 am to 6 pm.

Let Your Hotel Book for You

If you are staying at a luxury hotel in China, such as JW Marriott, Mandarin Oriental, Inter-Continental, St. Regis, Ritz-Carlton, you can ask the hotel to book the train ticket and charge it to your room bill.

How to Get Your Ticket

In China, passengers need a paper ticket to take the train, and there are currently no electronic tickets. If you book your ticket at the train station, you can pick it up immediately. If you book your ticket online, you can pick it up at the ticket counter at any train station in China at any time, such as booking a train ticket from Shanghai to Chengdu in your home country, you can pick it up at the counter at Beijing Railway Station. You need to show your original passport and the ticket collection number to the staff at the ticket office (you will get the number after successfully booking the ticket online, such as E123456789/EA12345678...).

If you collect your ticket on the day of departure, it is best to arrive at the station at least 1~1.5 hours in advance to allow enough time to collect the ticket and check in.

If you book your flight ticket through a third party such as Ctrip, you can use the ticket delivery service to save time. If you choose HelloChinaTrip, we can book and deliver the ticket for you, or you can choose a local tour guide to collect the ticket for you.



出发地

上海

目的地

北京

出发日

2018-06-22

日期日

2018-05-24

学生

车次类型

高铁

G-高铁/动车

D-动车

Z-直达

T-特快

K-快速

其他

发车时间

出发车站

上海虹桥

上海

I--> 北京 (6月22日 周五) 共计45个车次

您可使用铁路12306功能, 查看途中换乘一次的部分列车余票情况。

显示积分兑换车次

车次	出发站	到达站	到站时间	列车等级	一等座	二等座	商务座	软卧	硬卧	硬座	无座
G102	上海虹桥	北京南	06:26	06:03 当日到达	13	有	有	-	-	-	-
G104	上海虹桥	北京南	06:40	05:53 当日到达	有	有	有	-	-	-	-
G6	上海	北京南	07:00	04:38 当日到达	无	无	无	-	-	-	-
G106	上海虹桥	北京南	07:12	06:01 当日到达	有	有	有	-	-	-	-
G108	上海虹桥	北京南	07:22	06:01 当日到达	13	有	有	-	-	-	-
G110	上海虹桥	北京南	07:28	06:10 当日到达	10	有	有	-	-	-	-
G120	上海虹桥	北京南	07:51	05:42 当日到达	有	有	有	-	-	-	-
G8	上海虹桥	北京南	08:00	04:24 当日到达	10	有	有	-	-	-	-
G112	上海虹桥	北京南	08:05	06:03 当日到达	13	有	有	-	-	-	-
G115	上海虹桥	北京南	08:15	05:58 当日到达	13	有	有	-	-	-	-

⑤ How to Interpret Important Information on Your Flight Ticket

After you get your ticket, you can get a lot of important information on a small piece of paper.

- Boarding gate (on the right side of Line 1): The upper right corner shows your boarding gate. For example, A21/B21 ticket means you should go to Gate A21 or B21 to check in.
- The boarding gate is located in the upper right corner of the ticket and is the exact location where you will board the train after entering the train station. Not every ticket has gate information on it (although most do). If there is no gate information, you should check the large LED screen as soon as you pass through security after entering the station.
- Departure and arrival stations (Lines 2 and 3): Both are written in Chinese characters, for example, "Chengdu East" means "Chengdu East Station" and "Xi'an North" means "Xi'an North Station". Below the Chinese characters is the Chinese pinyin, not the English name.
- Train type and number: The train number usually starts with G, D, or C. For example, D1920 represents a D series high-speed train; G represents a G series high-speed train, and C represents a C series high-speed train.
- Departure date and time (4th row, left): For example, 2018-05-17 09:19 means the departure date and time is 2018-05-17 09:19 AM.

- Carriage/Seat/Class (4th row, right): The departure date and time are followed by your car and seat numbers. For example, "1 car 4F" means your seat is in car 1, 4F (row 4). Below your car and seat numbers is your class. For example, "First Class", "Second Class", "Business Class".
- Ticket price (5th row): Your ticket price is shown on the 5th row. It is shown in RMB only. For example, ¥ 397.0 means your ticket price is RMB 397.
- Your identity information (7th row): On the left side of this row is your passport number. The last two letters (or numbers) are blocked by mosaics.

Please note that there are two types of paper tickets: blue tickets and red tickets. The only difference between the two tickets is that red tickets can only be checked manually, while blue tickets can be checked through automatic entry.



⑥ Departure Procedure at the Railway Station

China's train stations, especially the newly built high-speed railway stations, are usually huge. Some train stations, such as Beijing South Railway Station, Chongqing West Railway Station, Chengdu East Railway Station, are even larger than some large international airports. But don't be scared by the intricate halls, doors, floors and waiting areas. In fact, boarding and getting off at Chinese train stations is much simpler than taking a plane. Generally, large train stations are very user-friendly and equipped with English signs. Here are the basic steps to boarding at Chinese train stations:

- 1) Prepare your passport. Passengers from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan need to bring a valid Mainland Pass.
- 2) Arrive at the right train station in advance: Please note that a city usually has multiple train stations, and some large cities even have 3 or more, such as Beijing (Beijing South Railway Station, Beijing West Railway Station, Beijing North Railway Station...), Chengdu

(Chengdu Railway Station, Chengdu South Railway Station, Chengdu East Railway Station...). Therefore, please find the right train station before your trip. In addition, due to the traffic congestion on the roads leading to the train station, remember to leave early to catch the train. Usually you should arrive at the train station at least 30 minutes in advance. Train stations in most large cities can be reached by subway, taxi and bus.

- 3) Pick up your ticket at the train station. If you booked your ticket online, you can pick it up at the ticket hall, which is usually located outside the main entrance of the station.
- 4) Show your ticket and passport: Once you enter the main station, you will find some queues for ticket inspection. Please show your ticket and passport to the staff, who will check whether the identification information on your ticket and passport is exactly the same.
- 5) Security and luggage check: This process is very quick and takes 1 to 2 minutes to complete. Just place your luggage and bags on the security device and go through the security check. There is no need to take off your shoes, jackets and belts. The security staff will then perform a physical check on you using a metal detector to ensure that you are not carrying any dangerous items.
- 6) Find the right waiting room: Check the waiting hall (gate) on the upper right corner of your ticket or on the large LED screen at the train station. Find a seat and wait for check-in.
- 7) Boarding: The train ticket gate is usually opened 15 to 20 minutes before departure, and you can leave your waiting seat with your belongings at this time. After arriving at the ticket gate, hand your ticket to the conductor for inspection. After confirming that the train number and seat information are correct, follow the signs to walk to the corresponding platform. The platform is very close to the train, and you can reach the carriage in a few steps. After finding a seat, put your luggage away and wait for departure. I wish you a safe journey and a comfortable journey!



⑦ How to Handle Luggage

It is totally fine to travel with luggage on Chinese trains. It is easier to carry luggage if you take the high-speed rail because there is plenty of space for luggage and there are many ways to transport luggage.

Luggage Allowance Policy

According to the China Railway Safety Management Regulations, passengers who have purchased tickets can carry a certain amount and volume of luggage on Chinese trains for free. Each adult passenger can carry 20 kg (44 lbs) of luggage, and each child (with a ticket) can carry up to 10 kg (22 lbs). The sum of the length, width and height of each piece of luggage must not exceed 160 cm (63 inches), and the length of pole-shaped luggage must not exceed 200 cm (79 inches). But in fact, these official regulations are usually not enforced. Generally speaking, if your luggage can be carried on and can pass the security machine, you can board the plane. But don't bring items that are too large or too long, otherwise you may be denied boarding. Don't bring prohibited items such as weapons, knives, live animals, etc.

Where to Put Your Luggage

After boarding the train, find a luggage rack to place your luggage. If you take the high-speed train, large luggage can be placed in the luggage locker at the junction of two carriages, or in the empty space behind the last row of seats in your carriage. Carry-on luggage or small luggage can be placed on the luggage rack above your seat. Generally speaking, first-class, business and soft sleeper carriages have more luggage storage space than second-class carriages. If you take a regular train, luggage can only be placed on the luggage rack above your seat, or on the luggage rack under your seat.

If your luggage is large or heavy, you can check it in at the train station. If you have too much luggage, you can also hire a red-hatted porter at the station to help you carry your luggage.



⑧ What to Eat and Drink on the High-Speed Train

Food, snacks and drinks are available on the high-speed train. However, if you are a Westerner and do not like Chinese food, these meals may not suit your taste. If your train leaves in the afternoon, you can have lunch at the hotel or local restaurant before boarding. If you are traveling long distances, you can also bring some food with you. Large stations usually have them. You can find some food at KFC, McDonald's and some snack stalls at the train station.

Dining Car

The dining car is usually in carriage 5 and is usually a small kitchen with a counter. Some dining cars have tables and seats, while others do not. There are several Chinese box lunches on the menu of the dining car, ranging from 15 to 65 yuan, which are only served during meal times. The dining car does not provide Western food. Some packaged snacks such as potato chips, biscuits, bread, nuts, dried fruits, etc. are sold on the counter. Instant noodles are not available on the high-speed train. Breakfast is usually bread, milk, porridge, eggs, steamed buns, etc. The types of meals and snacks are usually different on different lines.

If you are traveling in business class or first class, you can order meals from the crew in the carriage. If you are travelling in Business Class, meals and drinks are free. Sometimes the cabin crew will also push a trolley to sell food, snacks and drinks.

Drinks

The dining car offers some common drinks, such as cola, juice and bottled water. You can get hot water from the water dispenser at the end of the carriage.



⑨ **Train toilet**

Western-Style and Square Toilets Available

High-speed trains have both Western-style toilets and squat toilets. The number and location may vary depending on the type of train. These toilets are usually modern and clean. The attendants clean the toilets frequently. Toilet paper is provided in the toilets, but it runs out easily. You can bring some of your own. Smoking is not allowed in the toilets. The toilet doors are closed when the train enters the station. You can check if the toilet is available by the sign on the toilet door - a red "occupied" sign means the toilet is occupied, and a green "unoccupied" sign means the toilet is not occupied. The LED screen above the aisle also shows whether the toilet in your carriage is occupied.

Accessible Toilets for Disabled People and Infants

Most high-speed trains in China have accessible toilets, usually located in carriage 5. It is designed for disabled passengers. There is a small platform inside the toilet for mothers to change diapers for their babies. The toilet has a large automatic door with Chinese and English signs on it. The toilet interior is spacious and has a western-style toilet design with a large wash basin, handrails and mirror. Toilet paper is provided.



⑩ **Arrival at Destination**

China's high-speed trains usually arrive at the terminal on time, just a few minutes. There is no need to leave your seat in a hurry and squeeze into the crowded crowd to get off. The conductor will not rush you to get off. You can sit for another two or three minutes to check whether all your luggage is packed properly before getting off.

The exit passage is usually not long and there are not many forks. Just follow the flow of people. Before exiting the station, you need to show your ticket for ticket inspection.

No passport is required this time. If your ticket is blue, please go through the automatic gate. If your ticket is red, please go through the manual gate.

At present, most railway stations have subways connected to the city center, such as Beijing South Railway Station, Chengdu East Railway Station, Chongqing North Railway Station, Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station, Hangzhou East Railway Station, Xi'an North Railway Station, etc. You can easily take the subway to the city center at the railway station. Some railway stations even have special areas in the station for passengers to take taxis to their destinations.



2 Life Service Platform

& Food Delivery Platform

Food delivery platform: a "one-click butler" for a convenient life

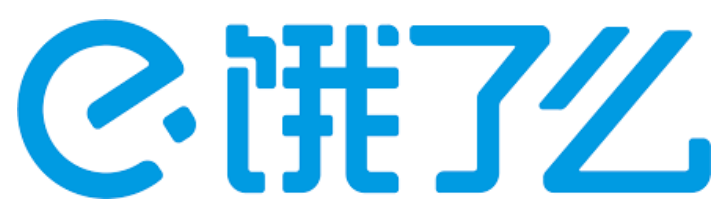
The mainstream food delivery platforms in China are "Meituan" and "Ele.me", which are not only the first choice for food ordering, but also can meet the needs of multiple scenarios.

Covered categories: In addition to all kinds of Chinese food, Western food, fast food and other catering, it also supports the delivery of fresh fruits, daily necessities, medicines, flowers and other commodities, from breakfast to midnight snacks, from emergency medicines to daily necessities, basically achieving "everything is delivered to your home".

Advantages of use: The coverage is extremely wide, whether it is the core business district of a bustling city or the residential areas of a small and medium-sized city, it can provide services; the delivery efficiency is high, short-distance orders are usually delivered within 30-60 minutes, and some cities support "minute delivery" service; the operation is friendly,

and it supports English interface switching. After binding Alipay, WeChat or international credit cards, you can complete the payment, and the order status (accepting the order, delivering, delivered) will be updated in real time in the APP.

Tips: When placing an order, you can note special requirements (such as "less spicy" and "number of tableware"), and some merchants will offer discounts such as full discounts and discount coupons. You can pay attention to receive them before settlement.



& Shared Bikes

A flexible companion for short trips in the city

In first- and second-tier cities and some popular tourist cities, shared bicycles are an efficient choice to solve the "last mile" problem. Brands such as "Mobike" and "Hello" are easy to use and can be used to travel to the destination.



& Emergency Phone

"Safety Line" at Critical Moments

Emergency numbers: Remember 110 (police), 120 (first aid), and 119 (fire). These numbers are free to call. Once the call is connected, you can explain your location and situation. Some operators can provide simple English services. Try to use simple words to describe key information (such as "Fire", "Help", "Address"). If communication is difficult, seek help from people around you.

110
Call the Police

120
First Aid

119
Fire Alarm

四、Basic Language Communication Support

1 Common Chinese Phrases and Pinyin

1) Daily Greetings and Polite Expressions

In daily communication, mastering some basic Chinese terms can greatly facilitate travel and life. The following is sorted and supplemented by scenario, with pinyin and usage scenario instructions attached to facilitate understanding and application.

- Nǐ hǎo: a general greeting, suitable for any occasion (such as entering a store, asking for directions, and greeting people), can be accompanied by a smile to express a friendly attitude.
- Xiè xie: used when receiving help, service, or receiving items, such as after the waiter serves the food or after someone shows you the way, it is the most commonly used polite expression.
- Bú kè qì: a common phrase to respond to others' "thank you", similar to the English "you're welcome", concise and natural.
- Zài jiàn: used when saying goodbye, suitable for leaving a store, restaurant, ending a conversation, etc., can also be simplified to "goodbye", relaxed and natural.
- Good morning (zǎo shang hǎo)/Good evening (wǎn shang hǎo): greetings are given according to time periods, which is more considerate;
- Trouble you (má fan le): used after asking for help, with an extra layer of apology than "thank you", such as "trouble you show me the way".

2) Key Terms for Dining Scenes

- Excuse me, is there a menu? (qǐng wèn yǒu cài dān ma): When you enter a restaurant and don't know how to order, ask politely for the menu. "Excuse me" shows politeness and is applicable to any dining place.

- How much is this? (zhè ge duō shao qián): Ask the price of a dish, drink or snack when pointing to it, especially useful in stalls without clear price tags.
- I want this? (wǒ yào zhè ge): After confirming the order, point to the menu or the object and say this sentence. It is simple and direct, without complicated expressions.
- Don't want spicy? (bù yào là): If you are sensitive to spicy food, clearly inform the kitchen to avoid the dish being too spicy and affecting the taste. It can also be expanded to "slightly spicy? (wēi là)" and "slightly spicy? (shǎo là)".
- Please ask where the restroom is (qǐng wèn xǐ shǒu jiān zài nǎ lǐ): You can ask this question when you need to use the restroom during a meal;
- Can I take away the food? (kě yǐ dǎ bāo ma): If you want to take away the food, ask if you can take it away;
- Please hurry up (qǐng kuài diǎn): If you are in a hurry, you can politely urge the food to be served, and pay attention to a gentle tone.

3) Essential Terms for Travel Scenarios

- Please tell me how to get to XX (qǐng wèn qù XX zěn me zǒu): When you want to go to a certain place (such as a tourist attraction, hotel, or station), ask passers-by or staff for directions. "How to get there" includes walking, taking a car, etc., and the other party will give you directions according to the situation.
- Is this the bus to XX (zhè shì qù XX de chē ma): When taking a bus, subway, or taxi, confirm whether the vehicle is going to the destination to avoid taking the wrong bus.
- I'm lost (wǒ mí lù le): When you don't know where you are or can't find your destination, ask the police or store clerk for help, and you can show the address (such as a hotel business card) to facilitate the other party's assistance.
- How much does it cost to XX (dào XX duō shao qián): Ask for the estimated fare when taking a taxi to avoid detours or random charges;
- Where is the next stop (xià yī zhàn shì nǎ lǐ): When taking a bus/subway, confirm whether the next stop is the destination;
- Is there a subway station nearby (fù jìn yǒu dì tiě zhàn ma): When you want to transfer to the subway, ask if there are any stations nearby.

4) Key Words for Help-Seeking Scenarios

- Please help me (qǐng bāng zhù wǒ): Applicable to any scenario where assistance is needed (such as dropped items, unable to operate equipment, etc.), directly expresses needs and is

easy to be understood.

- I need a doctor (wǒ xū yào yī shēng): When you are unwell or injured, clearly express the need for medical assistance, and can be accompanied by gestures (such as pointing to the painful area) so that the other party can quickly understand.
- I lost my things (wǒ de dōng xī diū le): When you lose your wallet, mobile phone and other items, explain the situation to the staff or the police, and then add details such as "it is a black wallet (shì yī gè hēi sè qián bāo)".
- Please call the police (qǐng jiào jǐng chá): When encountering danger or suspicious situations, ask others for help to contact the police;
- I don't understand (wǒ tīng bù dǒng): When the other party speaks in dialect or speaks too fast, explain frankly to avoid misunderstanding;
- Can you help me translate (kě yǐ bāng wǒ fān yì ma): When there is difficulty in communicating with local people, politely ask for translation help.



2 Recommended Translation Tools

Commonly used apps: Baidu Translate, Youdao Translator, Google Translate, etc. are good helpers for language communication. They are comprehensive and support real-time voice translation, which can instantly translate each other during conversations; photo translation can easily interpret menus, road signs and other texts; text translation is also a piece of cake. You can also download offline language packs in advance, so you can use them smoothly even without a network, solving translation needs in various scenarios.

Tips: When communicating with locals, you can turn on the voice translation function of the translation app and let the other party speak and then translate directly to reduce communication barriers. When encountering text information such as menus and road signs, you can use the camera translation function.



五、Legal Policies and Codes of Conduct

1 List of Prohibited Items

- Items that are absolutely prohibited from entering the country: drugs, weapons, ammunition, counterfeit currency, pirated goods, pornographic materials, printed materials and audio-visual products that endanger national security, etc.
- Restricted items: Some medicines (such as those containing anesthetic ingredients or psychotropic drugs) must carry a prescription certificate issued by a doctor; animals and plants and their products must comply with quarantine regulations, and fresh fruits, meat, etc. should be avoided; cash exceeding RMB 20,000 or the equivalent of USD 5,000 must be declared.
- Entry declaration: When entering the country, if you carry items that need to be declared, you must actively declare them to the customs, fill out the declaration form and accept inspection to avoid being fined or having your items confiscated for not declaring.



2 Special Area Taboos

- No photography areas: Military facilities, government buildings, border ports, some exhibits in museums, Buddha statues in temples, etc. are usually prohibited from taking photos. There will be obvious signs and you must comply with the regulations, otherwise you may face legal liability.
- Etiquette in religious places: When entering religious places such as temples and churches, you must comply with relevant regulations, such as dressing appropriately (no shorts, short skirts, vests, etc.), not making noise, and not touching religious items.

六、Cultural Etiquette and Taboos

1 Public Behavior Norms

- In all kinds of public occasions, observing basic etiquette is a respect for others and an important prerequisite for maintaining public order.**
- Keep quiet: When taking public transportation such as subways, buses, and high-speed trains, avoid making loud phone calls, playing music, or laughing and making noises. Especially in carriages, theaters, libraries, and other quiet environments, the sound should be controlled within the range that does not affect others; when dining in restaurants, try to lower the volume of conversations and do not disturb the neighboring tables.
 - Maintain environmental hygiene: It is forbidden to spit, litter fruit peels, paper scraps, cigarette butts, etc., carry garbage bags with you, and classify waste into designated trash cans; in outdoor places such as scenic spots and parks, do not arbitrarily climb and break flowers and trees, or trample on the lawn to protect the natural landscape.
 - Observe public order: In places where you need to queue (such as buying tickets, security checks, and using the toilet), queue up consciously, do not cut in line, do not crowd, and take the initiative to give way to the elderly, pregnant women, children, and people with limited mobility; when taking the escalator, follow the convention of "standing on the right", leave the left fast lane for people in a hurry, and avoid standing side by side to block the lane.

- Photography etiquette: When taking photos, you must take into account the feelings of others and the public interest, avoid disputes caused by improper behavior, and respect the privacy of others: Do not take photos of strangers without permission, especially children, the elderly, the disabled, and law enforcement officers (such as police and customs officers). Taking photos of others may involve privacy infringement. If you need to record a specific scene, you should first politely ask "Can I take a photo?" and then take photos after getting consent.



2 Cultural Taboos

Understanding and avoiding cultural taboos in daily behavior can show respect for local customs and avoid offending others.

- Taboos in daily behavior: Do not point at people or objects with your feet, which is considered impolite; use both hands when passing objects, and passing with one hand may be considered disrespectful; do not stick chopsticks in rice when eating, and do not knock on dishes with chopsticks.
- Taboos in gift giving: When giving gifts, avoid giving clocks (homonymous with "send the end"), umbrellas (homonymous with "scatter"), pears (homonymous with "leave"), etc.; do not open the gift in front of the person when receiving it, which is considered impolite in some areas.
- Etiquette of giving and receiving: When giving gifts, hand them out with both hands to express sincerity; when receiving gifts, do not open them in front of the person (especially in the elderly or traditional families, it will be considered as eager to check the value and

appear utilitarian), you should thank them first and keep them properly, and open them after the guests leave; when giving gifts in return, avoid returning them in the same condition (if the other party gives wine, it is not appropriate to give the same brand of wine in return), and you can choose items of equal value but different types.

七、Legal Policies and Codes of Conduct

1 Discuss Content Tips

- Politics and religion: Avoid discussing sensitive topics such as China's political system, leaders, and religious policies. Different people may have different opinions, which can easily lead to disputes.
- Territorial issues: Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang are an integral part of China. Avoid making any remarks that split the country or question their sovereignty.
- Culture and society: Do not criticize China's cultural traditions, social customs, and lifestyles at will. Communicate with respect and understanding.

2 Cultural Evaluation Suggestions

- Communication attitude: When talking about Chinese culture, if you have different opinions, you can use euphemisms, such as "I think this custom is different from our country, it's very interesting", to avoid direct denial or accusation.
- Learning and asking for advice: If you have questions about Chinese culture, you can ask the locals for advice and express your willingness to learn and understand, which will make it easier to get a friendly response.



八、Holiday Travel Tips

1 Avoid Peak Hours

China's "Golden Week" is the peak travel season, including the three statutory holidays of Spring Festival (around the first day of the first lunar month, usually 7 days off), May Day (around May 1, 5 days off), and National Day (around October 1, 7 days off). At this time, major scenic spots are crowded with people, and sightseeing becomes watching the crowds; in terms of transportation, high-speed rail and air tickets are in short supply and hard to get, and highways are often congested for a long time; hotel prices have not only risen sharply, but even a room is hard to find, and the service quality may also decline due to excessive passenger flow, and the overall travel experience will be greatly discounted, so it is recommended to avoid traveling during these periods.

Winter and summer vacations (July-August, January-February) are also peak tourist seasons. July-August is the summer vacation for students, and January-February includes the winter vacation. Students and families with children travel together. Popular scenic spots, theme parks, parent-child attractions, etc. are often overcrowded, queuing time becomes longer, and travel efficiency is reduced. Choosing to travel during off-peak hours can make the trip more comfortable and smooth.

2 Holiday Transportation Arrangement Tips

Buy tickets in advance: During holidays, train and air tickets are very tight and need to be purchased in advance. High-speed rail tickets can be pre-sold 15 days in advance, and air tickets can be booked 1-2 months in advance. Choose the "12306" APP or a regular ticket purchasing platform to avoid buying tickets through scalpers.

Itinerary planning: During holidays, you need to reserve enough time. For example, it is recommended to go to the airport 2-3 hours in advance and go to the train station 1-2 hours in advance to avoid delays due to traffic congestion or security queues. Accommodation must also be booked in advance and the cancellation policy must be confirmed so that the itinerary can be adjusted flexibly.



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