

■ Visa-Free Entry Guide to China

Still struggling with visas to China? China has implemented a visa-free entry policy for citizens of several countries! This means that those holding valid passports from these countries can embark on an unforgettable trip to China with greater ease and convenience!

*This document was updated on August 13, 2025

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 —、Unilateral Visa Exemption Policy

(一) Core Content of the Policy

(1) Applicable Scenarios

Foreign citizens holding ordinary passports who come to China for the following activities and stay for no more than 30 days can enter China visa-free

Business

Tourism

Visiting Relatives and Friends

Exchange Visits

Transit

Notes:

Work, study, and news reporting purposes are not eligible and require a visa in advance.

(2) Document Requirements

While it's not necessary to declare your visa in advance at a Chinese embassy or consulate abroad, it's recommended that you bring supporting documentation related to your purpose of entry (such as a business invitation letter, airfare and hotel reservations, itinerary, etc.) for border inspection.

Failure to provide supporting documentation may affect entry efficiency, but will not result in a visa denial (this policy does not mandate it)

(3) Entry Rules

- **Minors:** The requirements are the same as for adults. They must hold an ordinary passport valid for their trip to China and may enter independently or as part of a tour group.
- **Port of Entry:** Minors may enter China from any country/region through all sea, land, or air ports open to foreigners. If using their own transportation (e.g., yacht or private aircraft), they must complete the relevant formalities in advance.








- **Multiple Entries:** Multiple entries are permitted, with no restrictions on the number of entries or total length of stay. However, each stay may not exceed 30 days.
- **Overstay Processing:** Overstays exceeding 30 days require a visa in advance or a residence permit from the public security authorities upon entry. Activities inconsistent with the purpose of entry are prohibited.

(二) Applicable Countries (46 Countries)



















Remark:

The following is the complete list of countries added to the Chinese government website in July 2025.

Asia (7 countries)

 Brunei	 Japan	 South Korea	 Saudi Arabia
 Oman	 Kuwait	 Bahrain	

Europe (32 countries)

 France	 Germany	 Italy	 Spain
 Netherlands	 Switzerland	 Ireland	 Hungary
 Austria	 Belgium	 Luxembourg	 Poland
 Portugal	 Greece	 Cyprus	 Slovenia
 Slovakia	 Norway	 Finland	 Denmark
 Iceland	 Andorra	 Monaco	 Liechtenstein

 Bulgaria

 Romania

 Croatia

 Montenegro

 North Macedonia

 Malta

 Estonia

 Latvia

Oceania (2 countries)

 New Zealand

 Australia

South America (5 countries)

 Brazil

 Argentina

 Chile

 Peru

 Uruguay

二、240-Hour Transit Visa-Free Policy

(一) Core Content of the Policy

(1) Implementation Time and Scope of Application

The National Immigration Administration (NIA) has issued an announcement comprehensively relaxing and optimizing its transit visa-free policy, extending the maximum stay for foreign nationals granted transit visa exemption from 72 hours and 144 hours to 240 hours (10 days). Furthermore, 21 new ports of entry and exit have been added, and the designated areas for transit visa exemption have been further expanded.

Eligible nationals from 55 countries, including Russia, Brazil, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada, transiting through China to a third country (region), can enter China visa-free at any of 60 open ports in 24 provinces (autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government), with a maximum stay of 240 hours within the designated areas.

(2) Applicable Conditions

- **Document Requirements:** Valid international travel documents and a connecting ticket (including air, ferry, or train tickets) with confirmed dates and seats within 240 hours.
- **Itinerary Requirements:** Transit through a third country (region), with the country of origin and destination different.
- **Activities:** Travelers may engage in tourism, business, visits, or family visits. Work, study, or news reporting activities require a visa in advance.

(3) Transit Visa-Free Stay Area

17 provinces open to the virus: Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Liaoning, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Shandong, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong, Hainan, Chongqing, and Shaanxi

Provinces with some cities open to the virus:

Shanxi: Taiyuan and Datong

Heilongjiang: Harbin

Jiangxi: Nanchang and Jingdezhen

Guangxi: Nanning, Guilin, Liuzhou, and other 12 cities

Sichuan: Chengdu, Leshan, Deyang, and other 11 cities

Yunnan: Kunming, Lijiang, Yuxi, and other 9 cities and prefectures

Not applicable to the virus: Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Tibet, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, and Xinjiang



(5) Entry application process (taking Guangzhou Baiyun Airport as an example)

Category 1 (Travel to a third country/region, including Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan):

Foreign nationals from 54 countries on the list of countries covered by the 240-hour transit visa-free policy who enter through Guangzhou Baiyun Airport and depart through any open ports in Guangdong Province, including Baiyun Airport, or ports in 23 provinces eligible for the 240-hour transit visa-free policy, can remain in the administrative region of a third country (including Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan) for up to 10 days, visa-free, starting from the day after their entry.

If your itinerary includes business jet travel and you are unable to provide a connecting ticket, you can submit a written certificate from the business jet company detailing your passenger identity, flight number, route, and entry and exit dates.

Upon entry, you can apply for a temporary entry permit from the Baiyun Border Inspection Station with your valid international travel document and a connecting ticket (including air, ferry, or train tickets) with a confirmed date and seat to a third country (region) within 240 hours. Upon review and approval, you will be granted visa-free entry for a period of 10 days from the day after your entry..

Category 2 (Travel to Hong Kong and Macau):

Applicants can apply for a temporary entry permit from the Baiyun Border Inspection Station by presenting their valid international travel document and a bus ticket with a confirmed date and seat to Hong Kong and Macao within 240 hours (or an air ticket to other regions via Hong Kong and Macao, a hotel reservation in Hong Kong and Macao, or a receipt for participation in an event, etc., which can prove that they have left the country for Hong Kong and Macao within 240 hours of entry). Upon review and approval, they can enter the country visa-free. The visa-free stay period is 10 days from the day after their entry.



(6) Are there any restrictions on the origin and destination when applying for a 240-hour transit visa exemption?

The 240-hour transit visa exemption policy applies to foreigners transiting through a third country or region. This means that the country or region of origin and the country or region of departure must be different. For example, if you are arriving in Guangzhou from Tokyo, Japan, the third country or region you are transiting through must be a country or region other than Japan.



(7) Key Points

Period of Stay Calculation: Calculation begins at midnight on the day following entry. For example, if you enter the country on January 1, 2025, you must exit the country by midnight on January 11, 2025.

Overstay Handling: If you need to extend your stay due to force majeure, you must apply to the public security bureau at the county level or above for a residence permit. Unauthorized overstays or exceeding the designated area will be treated as illegal residence.

Accommodation Registration: Hotel accommodation is registered by the hotel; other accommodations must be registered within 24 hours by yourself or through a proxy.

Prohibited Circumstances: Temporary entry permits will not be issued to those with passports valid for less than three months or a record of illegal entry, exit, residence, or employment within the past five years.

Ticketing Tips: Connecting tickets must include departure time and destination information. The "Multi-trip" option on China Southern Airlines' official website can meet these requirements.

(8) 240-Hour Transit Visa-Free Ticket Purchase Tips

If you plan to take advantage of the 240-hour transit visa-free policy and enter China through the Baiyun Border Inspection Station, please carefully read the following ticket purchase tips:

Connecting ticket requirements: You must hold a connecting ticket (including air, ferry, or train tickets) to a third country (region) with confirmed dates and seats within 240 hours. Ticket information must be clear and complete, including key information such as departure time and destination. Either a paper or electronic ticket is acceptable, but it is recommended to print out a paper receipt in advance. When purchasing connecting tickets on China Southern Airlines' official website, please select the "Multi-journey" option. China Southern Airlines' official website supports both connecting and open-jaw bookings, allowing you to flexibly plan your itinerary and easily meet the transit visa-free ticket requirements.

Round Trip

One Way

Multi-pass

Itinerary 1

Departure place

Amsterdam

⇒

Destination

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport

Departure Date

2025-08-01

Itinerary 1

Departure place

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport

⇒

Destination

New York

Departure Date

2025-08-09

No More Than
240 Hours Between

+ Add Itinerary

Clear Itinerary

Number of Passengers

1 Adult

+ Add Coupon Code

Inquire Now

(二) Applicable Countries (55 Countries)

Notice:

Starting from June 12, 2025, Indonesian citizens can enjoy the 240-hour transit visa-free policy to travel to China conveniently. The scope of countries applicable to China's 240-hour transit visa-free policy has increased to 55.

European(40 countries)

Austria	Belgium	Czech Republic	Denmark
Estonia	Finland	France	Germany
Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Italy
Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta
Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Slovakia
Ireland	Cyprus	Bulgaria	Romania
Ukraine	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden
Switzerland	Norway	Russia	United Kingdom
Serbia	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Montenegro
North Macedonia	Albania	Monaco	Belarus

Americas (6 countries)

 United States

 Canada

 Brazil

 Mexico

 Argentina


 Chile


Oceania (2 countries)


 New Zealand


 Australia


Asia (7 countries)


 South Korea


 Japan

 Singapore

 Brunei

 United Arab Emirates

 Qatar

 Indonesia

(三) Stay Areas and Exit Ports

Province	Airport Name	Permitted Stopover Cities/Areas
Beijing	Beijing Capital International Airport Beijing Daxing International Airport	Beijing
Tianjin	Tianjin Binhai International Airport	Tianjin
Hebei	Shijiazhuang Zhengding International Airport	Hebei Province
Liaoning	Shenyang Taoxian International Airport Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport	Liaoning Province
Shanghai	Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport Shanghai Pudong International Airport	Shanghai

Jiangsu	Nanjing Lukou International Airport Sunan Shuofang International Airport Yangzhou Taizhou International Airport	Jiangsu Province
Zhejiang	Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, Ningbo Lishe International Airport, Wenzhou Longwan International Airport, Yiwu Airport	Zhejiang Province
Anhui	Hefei Xinqiao International Airport Huangshan Tunxi International Airport	Anhui Province
Fujian	Fuzhou Changle International Airport, Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport, Quanzhou Jinjiang International Airport, Wuyishan Airport	Fujian Province
Shandong	Jinan Yaoqiang International Airport, Qingdao Jiaodong International Airport, Yantai Penglai International Airport, Weihai Dashiubo International Airport	Shandong Province
Henan	Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport	Henan Province
Hubei	Wuhan Tianhe International Airport	Hubei Province
Guangdong	Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport, Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport	Guangdong Province (Departures from all open ports in the province)
Hainan	Haikou Meilan International Airport Sanya Phoenix International Airport	Hainan Province
Chongqing	Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport	Chongqing
Guizhou	Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport	Guizhou
Shanxi	Taiyuan Wusu International Airport	Taiyuan and Datong
Heilongjiang	Harbin Taiping International Airport	Harbin
Guangxi	Nanning Wuxu International Airport, Guilin Liangjiang International Airport, Beihai Fucheng Airport	Nanning, Liuzhou, Guilin, and 12 other cities
Sichuan	Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport Chengdu Tianfu International Airport	Chengdu, Leshan, Deyang, and 11 other cities

Yunnan	Kunming Changshui International Airport Lijiang Sanyi International Airport	Nine cities and prefectures, including Kunming, Lijiang, and Yuxi
Shaanxi	Xi'an Xianyang International Airport	Shaanxi Province

三、Visa-Waiver Agreement Policy

(一) Stay Areas and Exit Ports

(1) Applicable Scenarios

China has signed bilateral visa-free agreements with 29 countries, covering non-official travel scenarios such as short-term trips and business visits. These agreements aim to simplify cross-border personnel movement between the two countries and promote people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

(2) Core Rules

Visa Exemption: Citizens of these countries holding valid passports (including official and diplomatic passports for some countries) can enter China within the stipulated period of stay under the agreement without applying for a Chinese visa in advance.

Duration of Stay: Most countries have a 30-day stay period (starting from the day after entry), though some countries have specific restrictions. For example:

Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania may not stay in China for more than 90 days in a 180-day period;

Citizens of Kazakhstan may stay for no more than 30 days per visit, with a total stay of no more than 90 days per year.

Scope of Activities: Travelers may move freely throughout the country (excluding military administrative areas, restricted border areas, and other special areas requiring prior approval). Activities must be consistent with the purpose of entry (e.g., tourism, business, visiting relatives, etc.). Activities requiring approval, such as work or study, still require separate visas.












(3) Special Notes

The visa-waiver agreement is a two-way policy. However, ordinary Chinese passport holders traveling to Ecuador are temporarily required to apply for a visa in advance, which is not affected by the bilateral visa-waiver agreement.

If your stay exceeds the period stipulated in the agreement, you must apply for a visa in advance from a Chinese embassy or consulate abroad, or apply for a stay permit from the exit-entry administration department of the public security agency after entering the country in accordance with regulations.

(二) Applicable Countries (29 countries)

Asia (11 countries)

-  United Arab Emirates
-  Georgia
-  Kazakhstan
-  Qatar
-  Maldives
-  Thailand
-  Uzbekistan
-  Singapore
-  Armenia
-  Azerbaijan
-  Malaysia

Europe (5 countries)

-  Albania
-  Belarus
-  Bosnia and Herzegovina
-  Serbia
-  San Marino

North America (5 countries)

-  Antigua and Barbuda
-  Barbados
-  Bahamas
-  Dominica
-  Grenada

South America (2 countries)

 Ecuador

 Suriname

Africa (2 countries)

 Mauritius

 Seychelles

Oceania (4 countries)

 Fiji

 Samoa

 Solomon Islands

 Tonga

四、Policy Coordination Notes

(一) Principle of Multiple Policy Application

Some countries meet multiple policy requirements, including unilateral visa-free, mutual visa-free, and 240-hour transit visa-free. Citizens of these countries can choose the policy that best suits their itinerary when traveling to China. The specific criteria are as follows:

- If you plan to stay for less than 30 days and travel nationwide, unilateral visa-free or mutual visa-free policies are preferred.
- If you are transiting through a third country (region) for a stay of no more than 10 days, you can choose the 240-hour transit visa-free policy.
- If there is no conflict between these policies, simply inform the border control authorities upon entry of the policy you intend to apply.

(二) 35 Countries Prioritized for Unilateral Visa Exemption

Europe (30 countries)

 Austria

 Belgium

 Denmark

 Estonia

 Finland

 France

 Germany

 Greece

 Hungary

 Iceland

 Italy

 Latvia

 Luxembourg

 Malta

 Netherlands

 Poland

 Portugal

 Slovakia

 Slovenia

 Spain

 Switzerland

 Norway

 Ireland

 Cyprus

 Bulgaria

 Romania

 Croatia

 Montenegro

 North Macedonia

 Monaco

Oceania(2 countries)

 New Zealand

 Australia

Asia (3 countries)

 South Korea

 Japan

 Brunei

Applicable Rules

- **Period of Stay:** 30 days from the day after entry into China;
- **Scope of Activities:** Nationwide (excluding special areas requiring prior approval);
- **Restrictions:** Not applicable for activities requiring prior approval, such as work, study, and news coverage; such activities require separate visas.

(三) 7 Countries Prioritized for Mutual Visa Exemption

Europe (4 countries)



Asia(3 countries)



Duration of Stay:

- Citizens of Serbia, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Belarus may stay for 30 days, starting from the day after their entry into China.
- Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania may stay in China for a maximum of 90 days within any 180-day period.
- **Scope of Activities:** Nationwide (excluding special areas requiring approval).

Advantages: Compared to unilateral visa exemption, the mutual visa exemption policy is a bilateral, reciprocal arrangement that covers more passport types (such as official passports from certain countries) and eliminates the need for additional supporting documents such as invitation letters.

(四) 35 Countries Prioritized for Unilateral Visa Exemption

By clarifying the applicable rules for multiple policies, foreigners traveling to China can conveniently choose the optimal solution. For example:

- South Korean citizens are eligible for both unilateral visa-free travel (30 days nationwide) and 240-hour transit visa-free travel. For a five-day itinerary from Seoul to Beijing to Paris, they can opt for transit visa-free travel. For a 20-day stay in Beijing, unilateral visa-free travel is more convenient.
- Singaporean citizens are eligible for both mutual visa-free travel (30 days) and 240-hour transit visa-free travel. Both policies cover most short-term trips, eliminating the need for additional visas and significantly improving entry efficiency.

This flexible policy coordination mechanism ensures standardized entry and exit management while maximizing the convenience of personnel exchanges between China and foreign countries, providing solid support for exchanges and cooperation in the economic, cultural, and tourism sectors.

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