

# China First-Time Visitor Checklist

A practical pre-flight and arrival-day checklist for foreign visitors planning their first China trip.

## Before you fly

- Confirm visa, visa-free transit, or entry eligibility for your passport.
- Save flights, hotels, train tickets, attraction bookings, and insurance offline.
- Keep passport name format consistent across bookings and payment apps.

## Arrival day

- Set up mobile data before leaving the airport or train station.
- Save your hotel name, Chinese address, phone number, and nearest landmark.
- Make one small payment test before relying on mobile payment for the day.

## Payment

- Prepare Alipay as the main wallet and WeChat Pay as a backup if available.
- Carry one physical card for hotels and deposits.
- Keep a small RMB cash backup for taxis, late arrivals, and app problems.

## Apps

- Prepare payment, maps, translation, ride-hailing, and train support.
- Log in before arrival when possible and keep screenshots of key bookings.
- Download offline Chinese translation support before the flight.

## Internet

- Choose roaming, eSIM, SIM card, or pocket Wi-Fi before landing.
- Keep payment, maps, and translation usable even if one app fails.

## Hotel address

- Save the Chinese address as text and screenshot.
- Keep the hotel phone number ready for taxis, ride-hailing, and late check-in.

## Transport

- Check the exact railway station name before booking high-speed trains.
- Arrive 45-60 minutes early at large stations for passport checks and security.
- Keep train number, gate, carriage, and seat details screenshotted.

## Food

- Use camera translation for menus and keep short dietary phrases ready.
- Try simple local meals near your hotel on the first day.

## Packing

- Bring a power bank, adapter, comfortable shoes, tissues, medicine, and a small umbrella.
- Keep luggage light enough for station walks, metro transfers, and train boarding.

## Emergency phrases

- Please help me: Qing bang bang wo.
- I need to go to the hospital: Wo xu yao qu yi yuan.
- Please take me to this address: Qing dai wo qu zhe ge di zhi.