

44 Things

You Must Know
Before Traveling to

CHINA





WELCOME TO CHINA!

Thank you for downloading this quick list of helpful tips. I know you'll find them useful as you prepare for your upcoming trip to China.

My name is Josh and I first moved to China in 2006. It was my first time to Asia and when I stepped off the plane I didn't know a single phrase of Mandarin. I was about as fresh as they come! Everything was new, different, and frankly... a bit scary since I wasn't well-prepared.

I've learned a lot since then, and that's what I hope to share with you here. These China travel tips are just a small part of an entire book I've written to help you prepare for your trip. If you find this download helpful, grab a copy of my China Travel Handbook on Amazon. You won't be disappointed.

"This book is an absolute treasure chest of helpful, practical information for China travel."

- Amazon Review from Thomas



[CLICK HERE](#)

Best of luck with your trip planning and stay safe!

Josh Summers
Founder of Travel China Cheaper



LANGUAGE



01

THERE ARE DIFFERENT DIALECTS OF MANDARIN CHINESE ACROSS CHINA

Not everybody in China speaks the same Chinese! Your best bet is to learn "Beijing Mandarin" but don't expect to understand what everybody says anywhere you go.

02

LEARNING A SMALL BIT OF CHINESE GOES A LONG WAY

Whether you are haggling for a good price or asking somebody on the street for help, everybody is friendlier to somebody who at least attempts to speak their language.

03

CONSIDER A TRANSLATOR APP INSTEAD OF A HEFTY PHRASEBOOK

Instead of carrying around another book in your pack, take advantage of the new voice translator apps available for your phone. Not only will this save space, it's also much easier to use. Here are a few of [my favorite voice translator apps](#).

04

ALWAYS HAVE THE BUSINESS CARD FOR YOUR HOTEL ON HAND

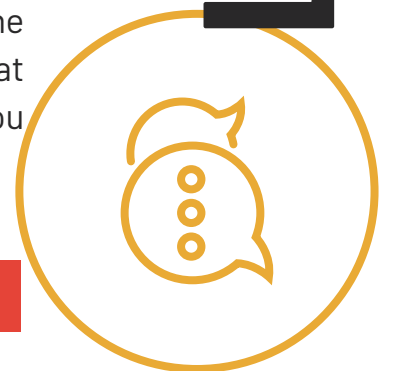
When checking in at the front desk of your hotel, take one of the business cards and put it in your wallet/purse. They work great to give to taxi drivers instead of attempting to explain where you need to go.



BONUS

Looking for a good phrase book?

[CLICK HERE](#)



Language





05 IN CHINA, CASH IS STILL KING FOR TOURISTS

While China has quickly adopted mobile payment systems like WeChat, it's not available for foreign tourists. You'll need to be prepared to pay for everything with cash since credit cards aren't readily accepted.

06 ATMS ARE YOUR BEST FRIEND IN CHINA

Instead of banks (which have long lines), look for ATMs to get cash. It shouldn't be hard - they are on pretty much every street corner nowadays. Look for the Visa or Mastercard logo on the ATM.

07 BRING YOUR DEBIT CARD... AND KNOW YOUR PIN

Pulling cash on a credit card can be expensive! It's best to use your debit or ATM card, just make sure you know your PIN before you leave for China.

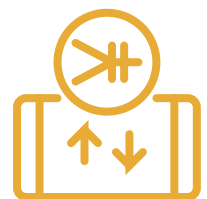
08 ALERT YOUR HOME BANK OF YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

Before you leave for China, call your bank and tell them to put a note on your account that you're traveling. Trust me, it's a pain to have your account frozen while in China!

→ BONUS Want to try WeChat mobile payment?

[CLICK HERE](#)

Money in China





Passports & Visas



09

VISAS MUST BE ARRANGED PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

While China does offer a 72-hour and 144-hr visa on arrival in select cities, most travelers will be required to arrange your visa before arrival. Here's more info on the [China visa-free transit](#).

10

KEEP A COPY OF YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS IN A DIFFERENT BAG

In case your bag gets stolen, you want to have a copy of your passport, visa and any other important documents in another bag.

11

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW YOUR VISA ITINERARY

Remember that itinerary they made you submit for your visa application? Yea...you don't have to follow it. Not at all. Go where the wind takes you!

12

VERY FEW PLACES REQUIRE "SPECIAL PERMISSION" TO VISIT

With the exception of Tibet and border regions around Xinjiang, there are very few places that require a special permit to explore. Your visa will allow you anywhere else in the country.



BONUS

Need help with your China visa?

CLICK HERE





13 TAP WATER IN CHINA IS NOT DRINKABLE

For the sake of your health, only drink water or brush your teeth with water that has been boiled or bottled water you can easily drink at the store. Even the Chinese don't drink tap water.

14 AIR POLLUTION IS A SERIOUS ISSUE

In the big cities, keep an eye on the pollution levels either online or with a phone app. Be careful or wear a mask if levels are particularly high. Here are some recommended air masks to use.

15 TRAVEL INSURANCE IN CHINA SHOULDN'T BE OPTIONAL

Hopefully, you won't need to visit a hospital in China and I'm sure you're incredibly healthy, but that's not the point. Travel insurance covers unexpected health events and emergency evacuation that is extremely costly. If you can't afford travel insurance, you can't afford to travel.

16 AVOID CHINESE HOSPITALS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE

If you must visit a hospital, do your best to find an international hospital. While China's healthcare is improving, it's still not up to international standards and they're hard to navigate if you don't speak Chinese.

➔ BONUS Confused by travel insurance?

CLICK HERE





17

SQUATTY POTTIES ARE COMMON IN CHINA

While most hotels will offer seated Western toilets, most restaurants and non-tourist areas will only have squatty toilets available. Don't be scared...you can do it!

18

ALWAYS CARRY EXTRA TOILET PAPER IN YOUR BAG

Most toilets you'll find apart from your hotel will not have toilet paper. It's absolutely essential that you bring your own, and you can find tissue at most stores in China.

19

ALWAYS CARRY HAND SANITIZER IN YOUR BAG

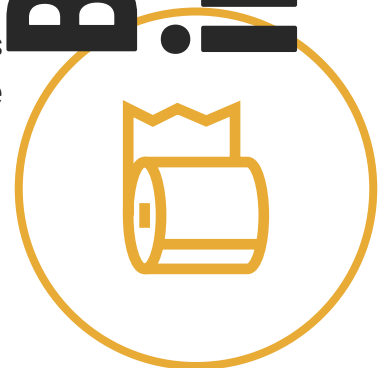
Like toilet paper, soap is another thing you're likely not to find in a normal Chinese bathroom. Bringing your own hand sanitizer should do the trick.

20

SOME BATHROOMS HAVE AN ENTRANCE FEE

It seems odd, but don't be surprised if some public bathrooms require a fee for you to enter. They don't look any cleaner but the fee is usually only pennies.

Bathrooms in China



BONUS

Curious about squatty potties?

[CLICK HERE](#)





21 THERE'S A 50/50 CHANCE YOU'LL HAVE A FLIGHT DELAY

It's so common you should almost expect it. Some travelers keep toiletries and an extra pair of clothes in their carryon just in case.

22 BOOKING THROUGH LOCAL SITES IS CHEAPER THAN INTERNATIONAL

This isn't the case 100% of the time, but often you'll get a cheaper ticket booking through domestic OTAs like Trip instead of international sites like Expedia or Orbitz. Check [pricing on Trip.com](#)

23 CHINA DOMESTIC FLIGHTS HAVE DIFFERENT LUGGAGE LIMITS

Even though your international flight might have allowed you 23 kg (50 lbs) for your checked baggage, keep in mind that all Chinese domestic flights limit you to 20 kg (44 lbs) for checked luggage. Pack accordingly!

24 MOST ALL DOMESTIC FLIGHTS SERVE FOOD

Almost any flight you take in China over an hour will serve a meal. Sometimes it's best to skip this meal for the sake of your stomach, but that's your own choice.

 **BONUS** Looking to save money on flights?

[CLICK HERE](#)

Flying in China





25

TRAINS ALMOST ALWAYS RUN ON TIME

In contrast to flights, trains are almost always on time. In China, it's often the most convenient and punctual form of transportation you can take.

26

ALL TICKET PURCHASES REQUIRE YOUR PASSPORT

Planes, trains, buses - in China they use a "real name" system to avoid scalping, so you'll have to have your passport for every ticket you buy.

27

TAXIS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO USE THEIR METERS

Some drivers may try to convince you that they don't have to start the meter and will quote you a flat rate. If you can, don't take it. They're not allowed to do that.

28

CHINA DOESN'T RECOGNIZE INTERNATIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSES

If you want to rent and drive a vehicle in China, you'll have to pass a Chinese test for a license - whether long-term or temporary. It's not worth the hassle for most travelers.



BONUS

Download my free transport guides.

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Other Transportation in China





29

BE FOREWARNED: CHINESE STILL SPIT IN PUBLIC

It's mostly the older generation that does this. Try not to get offended - it's thankfully a (slowly) dying tradition in China.

30

THE IDEA OF STANDING IN LINE IS STILL FOREIGN IN CHINA

It may be common to see people standing in line in China but it's just as common to see other people jump to the front or ignore the line altogether. Bite your lip and let it go.

31

BEWARE THE "MASSAGE" AT CHINESE HOTELS

If you get a phone call asking if you want a massage, understand that usually they aren't offering massages, they're offering, well... other services. To avoid these calls, unplug your phone when you check into your room.

32

REAL CHINESE FOOD IS DIFFERENT THAN THE WESTERN VERSION

In fact, it's mostly unrecognizable. Be adventurous and try some new things - the real Chinese food is so much better than what you'll find at western Chinese buffets.



BONUS

Not sure what to eat in China?

[CLICK HERE](#)

Chinese Culture





33

ALWAYS ATTEMPT TO PAY THE BILL

If you're being treated to a meal by a Chinese local, it's polite to at least try to pay. Even locals do this to the point of mock "fighting" for the bill. It's part of the culture.

34

BE PREPARED FOR VERY PERSONAL QUESTIONS

What might be considered taboo in the West is common topic of conversation in China. Your salary? Age? Religion? Weight? Don't take it personally, it's acceptable here.

35

NEVER ARRIVE AT A HOME EMPTY-HANDED

If you get invited to a Chinese home, try not to arrive empty-handed. Items such as fruit, nuts or small candies make excellent housewarming gifts.

36

NEVER ACCEPT A GIFT WITHOUT REFUSING FIRST

Similar to paying the bill at a restaurant, it is polite to refuse a gift before eventually accepting. Likewise, don't be offended if locals at first refuse any gift you try to give.



BONUS

Giving a gift to a Chinese person?

[CLICK HERE](#)



Chinese Hospitality





37

YES, YOU CAN USE YOUR PHONE IN CHINA

You can either use international roaming on your phone network plan or, if you have an unlocked phone, you can buy a Chinese SIM card. You can purchase SIM cards on arrival, but it's best to pre-purchase a China SIM card.

38

EMAIL, FACEBOOK, TWITTER, INSTAGRAM...ALL BLOCKED

China has taken steps backwards over the past few years when it comes to internet censorship. Don't expect easy access to any of these sites while in China. Here's a [list of all the blocked websites in China](#).

39

USING A VPN WORKS WONDERS

A VPN (Virtual Private Network) allows you to access blocked websites like Facebook and Gmail. A good VPN costs a little bit of money, but it's completely worth it!

40

YOU MIGHT NOT NEED A PLUG ADAPTER

Nowadays, most phone, iPad and small electronic chargers can be used in China's 220V sockets. If your computer has a 3-prong plug, though, you'll need an adapter.



BONUS

Want to unblock China's internet?

[CLICK HERE](#)





China's Tourism Industry



41

BEWARE THE COMMON TOURIST SCAMS

They happen all too often but they're easy to avoid if you know what they look like. Reading up on the most common scams is the best way to avoid being the victim of one.

42

NOT ALL KNOCK-OFFS ARE GREAT BUYS

Sure it may be fun to buy that fake Rolex, Adidas or other Gucci product, but don't expect those items to last long. Your money is better spent elsewhere.

43

DON'T TAKE PHOTOS OF THE MILITARY OR POLICE

The best way to get your camera confiscated is to point it at police. This is true everywhere, but even more so in places like Tibet and Xinjiang.

44

NOT ALL CHINA TOURS ARE EQUAL...CHOOSE WISELY.

Joining a tour isn't a bad thing as long as you choose wisely. Ask if they make additional "shopping" stops.
Remember: if their prices are too good to be true, there's probably a good reason for that.



BONUS Avoid common tourist scams!

[CLICK HERE](#)





More Great China Travel Tips



"It's not often that a purchase pays for itself in the first few minutes you use it; this little guide did!"

[READ AMAZON REVIEWS](#)



FIND HELP WITH

[Getting a China visa](#)

[Figuring out what to pack](#)

[How to take local transportation](#)

[How to deal with money in China](#)

[How to stay connected in China](#)

[How to find the best accommodations in China](#)

FINALLY...A CHINA TRAVEL GUIDE THAT ANSWERS "HOW" INSTEAD OF "WHAT"!

Sit down with a travel expert who can teach *how* to effectively travel to China, practical advice that as one Amazon reviewer calls it, "information that saves both time and money". It doesn't matter if you're traveling with a group or traveling solo, this is a must-have China travel resource!

A word from the author:
"I guarantee you'll love it or I'll personally refund you the cost of the guide."

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE ON AMAZON](#)



THANK YOU!