



## Tips for Foreign Visitors Traveling in China

### 1. Communication

#### 1.1 Using International Roaming with Foreign SIM Card

**Before Your Trip to China:** Contact your mobile provider to verify China roaming compatibility (calls, texts, data) and associated costs.

**When in China:** Dial +86 before local phone numbers.

**Important:** Please be aware that the roaming compatibility may restrict access to certain international applications. Therefore, it is recommended to download and install a VPN prior to your arrival.

#### 1.2 Purchasing a Local Chinese SIM Card

**Upon Arrival in China:** Purchase a local SIM card if you will not use international roaming.

**Where to Purchase:** Airports, China Mobile/China Unicom/China Telecom stores, or mobile phone stores in major shopping malls.

**Required Documentation:** Passport (some locations may request a hotel address).

**Important: Access to International Applications:** Using a local Chinese SIM card may restrict access to certain international applications. Therefore, it is recommended to download and install a VPN prior to your arrival.

### 2. Payment

#### 2.1 Cash Exchange

**Exchange locations:** Airports, banks (e.g. Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China), hotel front desks, or authorized currency exchange points.

**Recommended amount:** It is recommended to exchange 500-1000 RMB in cash for emergencies, as most places now support electronic payment.

#### 2.2 Bank Card Usage

**Supported card types:** International credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are generally accepted in large hotels, shopping malls, and upscale restaurants.

**Scope of application:** small shops, restaurants, and taxis may not support international credit cards, so it is recommended to use cash or mobile payment.

#### 2.3 Mobile Payment

WeChat Pay and Alipay are widely used in China.

Foreign visitors can bind international credit cards to use some functions, but some services may be limited. It is recommended to register and bind bank cards in advance.



### 3. Daily Life

#### 3.1 Language Issues

Daily communication in most parts of China is mainly in Chinese. Here are some suggestions:

- **Translation tools:** Download translation applications (such as Google Translate, Pleco) in advance, and download Chinese offline packages.
- **Common phrases:** Learn some simple Chinese phrases (such as "Hello," "Thank you," "Where is the restroom?") with Duolingo.
- **Hotel assistance:** When checking into a hotel, ask the front desk to write down your destination or request in Chinese to facilitate communication with drivers.

#### 3.2 Daily Life

##### Navigating Elevators in China:

- In Chinese buildings, including hotels and shopping malls, the ground floor is consistently designated as "1". This differs from some Western conventions.
- Basement levels are indicated with negative numbers. Therefore, the first basement level is marked as "-1", the second as "-2", and so on. This is important to remember when navigating underground parking or subway access within buildings.

##### Understanding Toilet Facilities:

- Hotels in China, particularly those catering to international guests, typically provide Western-style sitting toilets in their rooms.
- However, it is common to encounter squat-style toilets in public restrooms, such as those in train stations, airports, restaurants, and many public spaces.

#### 3.3 VPN Important

WhatsApp requires VPN assistance for use in China. It is recommended to download it on your phone in advance.

Other contact methods include email, WeChat, and international SMS.

### 3.4 Power adapters.

Chinese Socket:



Adapters:



### 3.5 Payment

Alipay card binding process:

**支付宝**  
ALIPAY

**外国朋友来中国**  
**全国可用支付宝**

Welcome to China!  
Travel Around with Alipay

**两步用上支付宝**  
Get started with Alipay in 2 steps

**1 下载和注册**  
**Download and register**

下载支付宝App, 点击【注册账号】, 选择【国际版】  
Download Alipay App, tap "sign up" to register, choose international version

alipay

Alipay - Simplify Your Life

GET

Sign up

**2 绑定银行卡**  
**Add bank card**

点击【立即添加】进入绑卡页面, 按照页面提示, 即可完成绑卡操作  
Tap "Add now" and follow on-page prompts to complete the process

这些银行卡都支持  
Eligible bank card types

VISA, mastercard, Diners Club International, DISCOVER

**去哪都能用支付宝**  
Pay with Alipay wherever you go

**支付方式一**  
**Option 1**

点击【扫一扫】, 扫描商家的二维码  
Tap "Scan", scan the merchant-presented QR code

**支付方式二**  
**Option 2**

点击【收钱/付钱】, 出示你的二维码  
Tap "Pay/Collect", present your QR code to the merchant

Option 1: Scan merchant's QR code

Option 2: Present your payment code



## Other:

### Sichuan Region Travel Resources

#### Sichuan Tourism Administration Official Website:

- <http://www.tsichuan.com/>
- Offers multilingual travel guides on transportation, attractions, dining, and other essential travel information.

#### Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport (CTU)

- Provides currency exchange, SIM card sales, and tourist information desks for international visitors.

#### Recommended Travel Agencies (Multilingual Services Available)

- China International Travel Service Sichuan
- Chengdu Overseas Tourist Co., Ltd.

## Contact

### Contact person

It is recommended to carry a **hotel business card or address** with you for assistance when needed.

In case of emergency, please contact Li Yixuan (Alicia Li)

- Phone: 15680726216
- Email: [liyixuan@my.swjtu.edu.cn](mailto:liyixuan@my.swjtu.edu.cn)

## Emergencies

Emergency numbers:

- Police: 110
- Medical emergency: 120
- Fire: 119