

China Travel Tips for Foreigners in Entering China 2024

Hello, exhibitors and visitors!

Welcome to China! A trip to RX China events guarantees an unforgettable and rewarding experience. Continue reading to ensure a seamless journey:

China has resumed issuing all types of visas for foreigners since March 2023. Confirm your participation at RX China events early will ensure you have enough time for visa application and get the best rates for hotels and flights. If you are exhibiting with us, you are recommended to get a Chinese-speaking assistant at your stand, just book via our exhibitor manual.

There are no public health restrictions anymore and mask is no longer needed. To enter China, international travellers must have a valid passport and a visa unless they are eligible for a visa-free entry or a visa-on-arrival.



01 China Entry Requirements

For your convenience, we consolidated China's current official visa policies as follows:

1.1 Countries under Visa-free policy

a) China announces visa-free policy for 6 European countries: FM

BEIJING, March 7 (Xinhua) -- China will adopt a visa-free policy for **Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Belgium** and **Luxembourg** on a trial basis, starting March 14, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

Source from: <https://english.news.cn/20240307/8c14fde5361f44459f06c968b5e82529/c.html>

Media: XINHUANET

Date of issue: 2024-03-07

b) China tries out unilateral visa-free policy for six countries.

BEIJING, Nov. 24 -- China has decided to implement a unilateral visa-free policy for ordinary passport holders from **France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain** and **Malaysia** on a trial basis, according to the statement published on the Chinese Foreign Ministry's social media account.

From Dec. 1, 2023 to Nov. 30, 2024, holders of ordinary passports from the above six countries may enter China visa-free for business, tourism, visiting relatives and friends and transit for no more than 15 days, the online statement said.

People from these six countries who do not meet the visa exemption requirements still need to obtain a visa before entering China, the statement said. It further added that this policy will help promote people to people exchanges, and serve high-quality development and high-level opening-up.

Source from: https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202311/24/content_WS656067a2c6d0868f4e8e196d.html

Media: official website of the State Council, the People's Republic of China

Date of issue: 2023-11-24

c) China, Singapore sign mutual visa exemption agreement

BEIJING, Jan. 25 -- China and Singapore signed a mutual visa exemption agreement in Beijing on Thursday, which will come into effect from Feb. 9, according to the Chinese foreign ministry.

Chinese and Singaporean citizens holding ordinary passports will be allowed to enter and stay in each other's countries visa-free for up to 30 days, said Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin at a daily press briefing.

Wang said that the agreement, to take effect on the eve of the Chinese Lunar New Year of the Dragon, is undoubtedly a New Year gift for the people of the two countries. It will further boost people-to-people exchanges and advance China-Singapore relations and cooperation in various fields, he added.

Source from: https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202401/25/content_WS65b25d33c6d0868f4e8e3816.html

Media: official website of the State Council, the People's Republic of China

Date of issue: 2024-1-25



d) China, Thailand sign mutual visa exemption agreement

BEIJING, Jan. 28 -- China and Thailand signed a mutual visa exemption agreement on Sunday, which will come into effect from March 1, according to the Chinese foreign ministry.

By then, Chinese holders of ordinary official passports and ordinary passports and Thai holders of ordinary passports will be allowed to enter and stay in each other's country visa-free for up to 30 days (no more than 90 days per 180 days). Those who enter each other's country for work, study, news reporting, residence and some other activities requiring prior approval and plan to stay in each other's country for more than 30 days shall obtain the corresponding visa before entering each other's country.

Source from: https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202401/29/content_WS65b6e4e7c6d0868f4e8e397d.html

Media: official website of the State Council, the People's Republic of China

Date of issue: 2024-1-28

1.2 NIA Releases Five New Measures to Facilitate Entries of Foreigners

The National Immigration Administration (NIA) has officially implemented five measures on January 11, aimed at simplifying the process for foreign nationals seeking to visit China. The measures are designed to make business activities, education, and tours in China more accessible for foreign nationals. The measures will further eliminate hurdles related to doing business, studying, and traveling in China and better serve China's high-level opening up and high-quality development.

Source from: <https://en.nia.gov.cn/n108/c118324/content.html>

Media: official website of the National Immigration Administration

Date of issue: 2024-01-11

- The first measure has relaxed conditions for foreign nationals applying for port visas.
- The second measure relieves foreign nationals eligible for 24-hour visa-free transit at major hub airports such as Beijing Capital International Airport from the need to undergo inspection procedures.
- The third measure allows foreign nationals already in China to apply for visa extension, renewal, and reissuance at the nearest public security organs.
- The fourth measure allows every foreign national already in China to apply for a multiple-entry visa in cases of need.
- The fifth one minimizes the types of the materials for visa applications for foreign nationals in China.



01 China Entry Requirements

1.3 China extends visa-free transit policy to 54 countries

China expanded its visa-free transit policy on 17th, Nov, 2023 to include citizens from Norway for a 72/144-hour stay, bringing the total number of applicable countries to 54.

Source from: https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202311/17/content_WS6557159dc6d0868f4e8e158c.html

Media: official website of the State Council, the People's Republic of China

Date of issue: 2023-11-17



Requirements for foreigners to apply for 72/144-hour visa-free transit in China

a) He/she must be a citizen of one of the countries entitled to the 72/144-hour visa-free transit

(Please check the table below for the list of the countries entitled.)

List of Countries Entitled to the 72/144-Hour Visa-Free Transit	
European countries (40)	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, Russia, United Kingdom, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Belarus, Norway
American countries(6)	United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile
Oceanian countries(2)	Australia, New Zealand
Asian countries(6)	South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Brunei, United Arab Emirates, Qatar

b) He/she must hold a valid international travel document (valid for no less than three months) that can prove his/her nationality and identity, and meet the conditions for entering a third country/region;

c) He/she must hold a connecting ticket to a third country/region with a confirmed date and seat for departure within 72/144 hours or relevant certificates as per the amount of time applied for the visa-free transit, fill out the Arrival Card for Temporary Entry Foreigners, and accept inquiries from the entry-exit border inspection authority.

Foreigners who meet the above conditions can apply for the 144-hour visa-free transit at the entry-exit border inspection authorities in 20 cities in China, or the 72-hour visa-free transit in three cities. Application is not possible in the cities that have not yet implemented this policy.

Source from: https://english.www.gov.cn/policies/featured/202311/24/content_WS65608167c6d0868f4e8e199f.html

Media: official website of the State Council, the People's Republic of China

Date of issue: 2023-11-24

City	Name of Port	Destinations for Staying	
144-Hour Visa-Free Transit			
Beijing	Beijing Capital International Airport	Beijing Municipality, Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province	
	Beijing Daxing International Airport		
	Beijing West Railway Station		
Tianjin	Tianjin Binhai International Airport		
	Tianjin International Cruise Home Port		
Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province	Shijiazhuang Zhengding International Airport		
Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province	Port of Qinhuangdao		
Shanghai	Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport		Shanghai Municipality, Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province
	Shanghai Pudong International Airport		
	Port of Shanghai		
	Shanghai Railway Station		
Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province	Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport		
Ningbo, Zhejiang Province	Ningbo Lishe International Airport		
Nanjing, Jiangsu Province	Nanjing Lukou International Airport		
Guangzhou, Guangdong Province	Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport	Guangdong Province	
Shenzhen, Guangdong Province	Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport		
Jieyang, Guangdong Province	Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport		
Shenyang, Liaoning Province	Shenyang Taoxian International Airport	Liaoning Province	
Dalian, Liaoning Province	Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport		
Qingdao, Shandong Province	Qingdao Jiaodong International Airport	Shandong Province	
	Port of Qingdao		
Chengdu, Sichuan Province	Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport	Chengdu, Leshan, Deyang, Suining, Meishan, Ya'an, Ziyang, Neijiang, Zigong, Luzhou and Yibin	
Xiamen, Fujian Province	Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport	Xiamen	
	Port of Xiamen		
Kunming, Yunnan Province	Kunming Changshui International Airport	Kunming	
Wuhan, Hubei Province	Wuhon Tianhe International Airport	Wuhan	
Chongqing	Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport	Chongqing	
Xi'an, Shaanxi Province	Xi'an Xianyang International Airport	Xi'an and Xianyang	
72-Hour Visa-Free Transit			
Changsha, Hunan Province	Changsha Huanghua International Airport	Hunan Province	
Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	Guilin Liangjiang International Airport	Guilin	
Harbin, Heilongjiang Province	Harbin Taiping International Airport	Harbin	

KIND REMINDER

The border control authorities will not issue temporary entry permits to a foreigner if:

- a) His/her passport or any other international travel document is expiring in less than three months, or any of his/her travel documents has a rejection stamp by a visa-issuing agency in China;
- b) He/she has a record of illegal entry or exit, illegal residence, or illegal employment within the last five years.

Foreigners under these circumstances are not entitled to the 72/144-hour visa-free transit.



02 Payment in China

Majority of payments in China are made via apps and online. The two app payment giants in China are Tencent's WeChat and Alibaba's Alipay. Both are being used for most things in China: in-store and online shopping, Didi and taxis (with QR code) and food delivery.

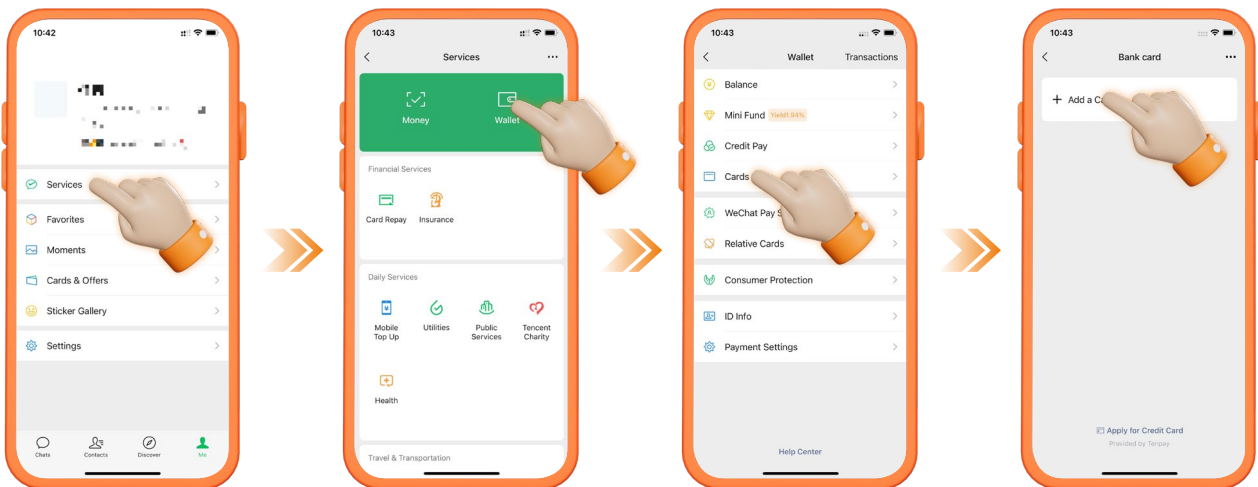
Setting up WeChat and Alipay Payment:

- 2.1** iPhones still offers both on the App Store. Then you will need a China SIM card (so that you have a Chinese number for authentication purposes). If you are using a phone you brought in from abroad, it must be unlocked, i.e., able to use China phone companies' networks via one of their SIMs. Without a Chinese SIM, you will find WeChat/Alipay payments are impossible to set up.
- 2.2** Once you have downloaded the apps (WeChat/Alipay) and get a text message connection, it is time to connect your bank account. Linking your bank card is the key step before moving forward. Any Chinese bank account (anything using UnionPay) would be ideal.
- 2.3** Link your Card with Mobile Payment (WeChat/Alipay):

a) Link with WeChat Payment

Step 1: Open WeChat on your phone, find the "Me" section on the bottom, and then tap "Service" → "Wallet".

Step 2: Select "Cards", then click to "+ Add a Card" to your WeChat Wallet.



Step 3: Enter your card number and general information. This includes your name, passport ID info, phone number, and other details specific to the card.

Step 4: Read the "Service Agreement" and click "agree and link".

Step 5: Enter your phone number again, then fill in the verification code sent to your phone.

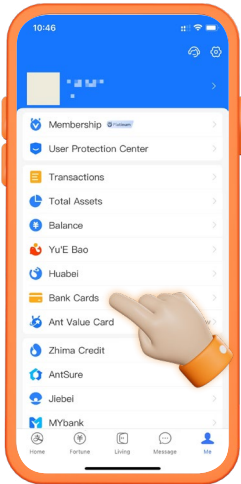
Step 6: Set up your personal password to use when making purchases.



02 Payment in China

b) Link bank card with Alipay

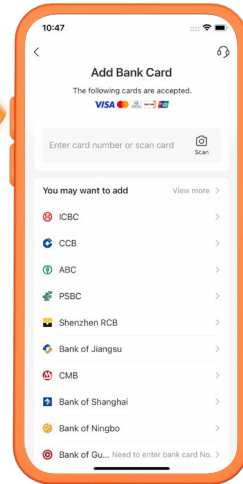
Step 1: Open Alipay, go to "Me", and select "Bank Cards".



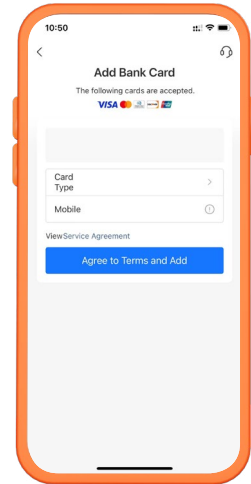
Step 2: Click "+ Add new bank card" to add your card.



Step 3: Enter your debit card number.



Step 4: Enter your mobile phone number registered with your Chinese bank account.



Step 5: Read the "Service Agreement" and click "agree and link".

Step 6: Enter the verification code to verify your phone number. And your card is ready to go.

WeChat and Alipay accept some foreign banks' cards, like HSBC's, in a more limited way.

The Alipay International Version accepts foreign bank cards for top ups of up to 2,000 yuan a time, but only for 3 months with its Tour Pass. With this you can spend in China, but not receive money or transfer the money back to your overseas bank.

WeChat Wallet can also bind foreign cards, but only credit cards work.

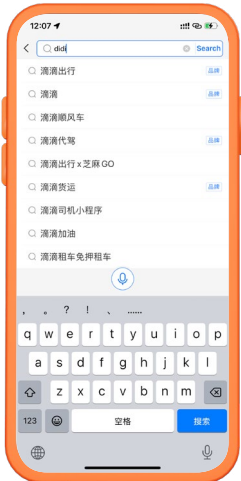
Confirming your identity: You will need to answer some questions, fill in your passport details and upload a photo of your passport and take a photo of yourself to confirm your identity for both WeChat Pay and Alipay usage. Your passport information must match the details held by your bank.



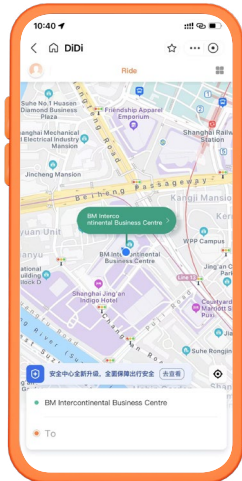
03 Urban transportation

Most people in China use DiDi for taking taxi, you can find DiDi mini program in WeChat and Alipay.

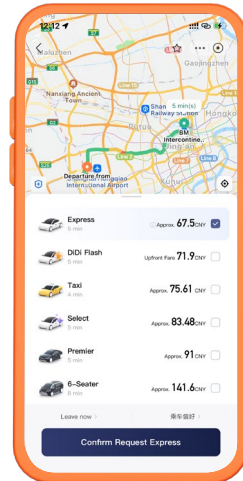
Step 1: Search "DiDi" in your Alipay or WeChat APP.



Step 2: Choose your location and your destination.



Step 3: Choose your preferred type of car. (Taxi, Premier, and Express are recommended)



Step 4: Confirm the request and wait for the driver.

Step 5: The fee will be paid via your Alipay or WeChat account after you get off from the taxi.

04 Dining in China

4.1 Ordering food in restaurant:

Most of the restaurants use Digital Menu for ordering by scanning the QR code on the table via WeChat or Alipay, If you don't want to do so, please ask the waiter for a print menu and take the order.



4.2 Check the bill:

a) Pay with Alipay or WeChat:

This is the preferred mode of payment in China, please set up your Alipay or WeChat payment account in advance.

b) Pay by credit card:

This is available in big/formal restaurants, Master Card or Visa Card are acceptable, please communicate with the waiter in advance if you would like to pay with credit card.

c) Pay by cash:

Please prepare small change and pay for the exact amount as most of the restaurants do not have enough cash on hand.

Last but not the least, there is significant improvement of air quality in China. Instead of using coal, natural gas and electricity are now increasingly being used to generate heating.

We wish you a pleasant journey in China and look forward to welcoming you at RX China events very soon!