

CHINA TRIP NOTES

China is so vast, and has such diversity of terrain and culture that it is impossible to see all the many highlights in one trip. While this might seem a bit disappointing at the outset, once you fall under China's spell, planning a repeat trip will be a pleasure.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

US citizens must obtain a visa prior to arrival and have a passport with at least six months' validity. Asia Answers recommends applying for a ten-year multiple entry visa, useful for repeated travel, or trips to Hong Kong or Macau with returns to China.

Please contact the Embassy of China for further information www.china-embassy.org/eng/visas

MEDICATIONS & INNOCULATIONS

No shots are required for US visitors entering China. Malaria is present in some areas of China. Please check with your travel clinic for their recommendation based on your personal health history.

CURRENCY

The renminbi is the official currency of the People's Republic of China. The yuan (sign: ¥) is the basic unit of the renminbi, but is also used to refer to the Chinese currency generally. One yuan is subdivided into 10 ji, and a ji in turn is subdivided into 10 fēn.

A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

CREDIT CARDS

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so. ATMs are easily found in major shopping areas. Cash is needed to shop at smaller markets.



TIME DIFFERENCE

Beijing and Shanghai are 13 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time and 16 hours ahead of US Pacific Standard Time.

SHOPPING

Beware of buying fake jewelry, especially jade. Even certificates which state that the jewelry is real can be fake! Knock off items such as purses and watches are sold at markets, and the quality ranges from almost impossible to discern from the real thing, to patently fake. Items sold in museum gift shops are reliably authentic.

ELECTRICITY

China operates on 240 volts and the plug type is I.

For more information on plugs and voltage, please visit
<http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

LANGUAGE

Mandarin is spoken by 70% of the population, but there are as many as 292 living languages in China. English is spoken by people on the tourist sector in major cities, especially by younger people, but is not generally understood in rural areas, or by older people.

CLIMATE

In the north, the climate is temperate, around 70F in summer, with very cold winters. In the south, it is subtropical with very hot summers and mild winters. In the summer, monsoons blow huge rain showers in from the east, while in the winter, dry and cold winds come from the northwest.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

Tipping is expected and appreciated. As a guideline, a private guide receives \$5 per day from each person in your party, a group or local guide receives \$2 per day from each person in your party, and a driver receives \$1 per day from each person in your party.

Porters and hotel housemaids receive \$1.

ETIQUETTE

Chinese people generally dislike being touched by strangers. Clicking fingers or whistling is considered rude. Never put your feet on a desk or a chair. To beckon a Chinese person, face the palm of your hand downward and move your fingers in a scratching motion. Never use your index finger to beckon anyone. Chinese point with an open hand. Never point with your index finger.

This information is provided by Asia Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting, and is up to date to the best of our knowledge. Further information is available to you at this website -
<https://www.travelchina.org.cn/en/index/index.shtml>