

## China factsheet for travellers

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All visa applicants are required to have an **Invitation Letter** from the Chinese authorities. The organizers will coordinate and forward application information to the Chinese authorities who issue the Invitation Letter, which will be ready within seven days and sent to your company by fax or express mail. Upon receipt of this visa authorization, the applicant is required to present his/her **passport**.

Passports must be valid for **at least six months** after the intended date of entry into China. A recent **photograph** and a completed visa **application form** (available from the local Chinese Embassy) are needed and must be forwarded to the local Chinese Embassy or Consulate to complete the formalities.

The homepage of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China** (see above) contains a link to your country's embassy for downloading and printing the visa application form, or for further information on the application procedure.

**For Germans:** On the **Chinese Embassy** homepage there is a link for downloading and printing the visa application form for China: [www.china-botschaft.de](http://www.china-botschaft.de).

Please also see our homepage for information regarding the visa application and invitation letter: <http://cbb.drinktec.com/at-a-glance/services/visa/>

### HEALTH/VACCINATIONS

No particular vaccinations are required to enter China, unless the traveler is coming from an area where yellow fever is present. For direct entry from Europe, no vaccinations are required. We recommend renewing vaccinations for Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Polio, and Diphtheria. In case of emergency, the embassies can give you the contact details of English or German speaking physicians in China. Most hotels offer their own first aid service or organize medical assistance.

The standard of medical care is high in large cities. There are even medical divisions available that cater solely to foreigners.

Be cautious with unpeeled fruit, ice, ice cream, and tap water. It is highly recommended to take out **accident and medical insurance** to cover any medical expenses that may arise.

Please also have a look at: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations>

**For Germans:** Information in German is also provided by the **Federal Foreign Office** at: <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/Laenderinformationen/00-SiHi/ChinaSicherheit.html>

### SAFETY

China is a very safe country. However, when visiting major tourist locations beware of pickpockets. We therefore recommend depositing all valuables in your hotel safe.

**For Germans:** Additional information in German is available at the homepage of the **Federal Foreign Office**: [www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de).

## TIME ZONE

Despite its enormous size, China has only one time zone (Beijing Standard Time). There is no daylight saving time, i.e. only standardized Central European Time (CET) +7 hours (+6 hours during European daylight saving time).

## CURRENCY/CREDIT CARDS

The official currency in China is the Renminbi (RMB), also called Yuan (¥) or Kuai.

- 1 Yuan = 10 Jiao = 100 Fen.

There is no limit on the amount of foreign currency that can be brought into China, but it must be declared to customs.

Dollars and euros can be exchanged in every international hotel. However, exchange offices and banks offer better rates. The return exchange of RMB in foreign currency is only possible with the exchange receipt. One person may take no more than RMB 6,000 upon arrival and departure. You can withdraw cash using your EC card at many banks.

The current exchange rate is available at e.g.: <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency-converter/>.

- 1 EUR = 7.20725 ¥ (as of January 19, 2015). We recommend bringing a sufficient amount of cash.

Credit cards (e.g. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Diners Club) are accepted in most international hotels and in tourist stores.

## ACCOMMODATION

Information about recommended hotels is available on our homepage: <http://cbb.drinktec.com/at-a-glance/services/accomodations-stay/>

## LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION

The official language of China is Mandarin (Chinese: *pu tong hua*).

Regional dialects vary greatly, however. English is mostly spoken in tourist centers (e.g. international hotels) and business circles.

If you take a **taxi**, it is recommended to take a business card from your hotel with you or to ask at reception for written directions in Chinese.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Taxis** are available and usually the most convenient way to the city. Journeys take about an hour to most downtown areas. A sticker on the car door gives information about the taxi's rates. Ask the driver to use the taximeter. There is a basic charge (about RMB 11), which increases after 23:00, and an additional charge depending on the distance. As taxi drivers rarely understand and speak English, ask the hotel receptionist to write your destination in Chinese characters and to give you a business card from your hotel for the trip back. Taxi drivers usually do not accept credit cards.

**Public transport:** Shanghai has a well-connected underground network with sign postings in English. However, during peak hours public transportation can be unpleasantly crowded.

For further information on transportation to SNIEC please visit our homepage:

<http://cbb.drinktec.com/at-a-glance/at-the-fair/venue/>

## MAIL/TELEPHONE/INTERNET

- **Mail:** Stamps are available at post offices or hotel receptions, where postcards and letters will also be mailed for you.
- **Telephone:** The international country code of China is +86. International calls from hotels are very expensive. Local calls are usually free of charge. Most major cities have telephone booths, which can be used for international calls using phone cards. In most cases your cell phone will work in large cities. You can also use your cell phone with a Chinese prepaid card, which can be bought in stores.
- **Internet cafes** can be found mainly in large cities and tourist centers.

## ELECTRICITY

Electricity in China is 220 V, 50 cycles. Two-pin sockets and sometimes three-pin sockets are used.

Most hotels have a socket in the bathroom for both 110 V and 220 V. However, outside of the bathroom, only 220 V sockets are provided.

Although it is possible to borrow an adapter from the hotel, it is recommended to bring your own plug adapter.

## TIPPING

Even though this practice is not officially recognized, tipping is now common in top-class international hotels and restaurants. However, tipping is still not expected in rural areas. There is no general rule about tipping; it is at your own discretion, but usually around ten percent is common. Consumer tax is normally included in the price of goods, although superior hotels and restaurants may add a service charge of 10–15 percent.

## OPENING HOURS

- **Banks**

Monday to Friday: 09:00–12:00, 14:00–17:00

Saturday: 08:00–11:30

- **Offices**

Monday to Friday: 08:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00

- **Stores**

Monday to Sunday: 08:00–20:00; in winter: 10:00–21:00

There is no official closing time.

- **Post Offices**

Monday to Friday: 08:00–19:00

Saturday: 08:00–14:00

- **Restaurants**

Monday to Sunday: 10:00–24:00

- **Sights**

Usually 09:00–16:00

## FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN CHINA

You can find the addresses of your country's embassy and consulate in China at [www.embassiesinchina.com](http://www.embassiesinchina.com).

## CHINESE EMBASSIES

You can find the contact details for the Chinese Embassy in your country on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China: [www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng) (Missions Overseas → Chinese Embassies)

## USEFUL ADDRESSES IN GERMANY

### **Botschaft der Volksrepublik China**

Märkisches Ufer 54, 10179 Berlin

Phone: +49 30-27 58 80

Fax: +49 30-27 58 82 21

[www.china-botschaft.de](http://www.china-botschaft.de)

Office hours: Monday to Friday 08:30–12:30, 13:30–17:00

### **Konsularabteilung der Botschaft**

Brückenstraße 10, D-10179 Berlin

Phone: +49 30 27 58 85 72

Fax: +49 30 27 58 85 20

Tuesday and Thursday: 15:00–17:00 (telephone service)

Monday and Friday: 09:00–12:00 (open to the public)

## USEFUL ADDRESSES FOR GERMANS IN CHINA

### **Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany**

17 Dong Zhi Men Wai Da Jie, Chaoyang District, CN-100600 Beijing

Phone: +86 10 85 32 90 00

Fax: +86 10 65 32 53 36

E-mail: [embassy@peki.diplo.de](mailto:embassy@peki.diplo.de)

[www.peking.diplo.de](http://www.peking.diplo.de)

Consulates General in Chengdu, Hongkong, Kanton und Shanghai

### **Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany**

Dr. Wolfgang Röhr (Generalkonsul)

181, Yongfu Lu, Shanghai 200031, PR China

Phone: +86 21-3401 0106

E-mail: [info@gk-shanghai.org.cn](mailto:info@gk-shanghai.org.cn)

[www.china.diplo.de/Vertretung/china/de/Startseite.html](http://www.china.diplo.de/Vertretung/china/de/Startseite.html)

### **China National Tourism Administration (CNTA)**

9A Jianguomennei Avenue, CN-100740 Beijing

Phone: +86 10 65 20 11 14

Fax: +86 10 65 12 20 96

E-mail: [webmaster@cnta.gov.cn](mailto:webmaster@cnta.gov.cn)

<http://en.cnta.gov.cn/>

**German Industry and Commerce (GIC) Shanghai**

29/F Pos Plaza, 1600 Century Avenue, Pudong, Shanghai 200010, PR China

Phone: +86 21-50812266 (AHK)

Tel.: +86 21-68758536 (GIC)

E-mail: [office@sh.china.ahk.de](mailto:office@sh.china.ahk.de)

<http://china.ahk.de/>