

China arrival toolkit

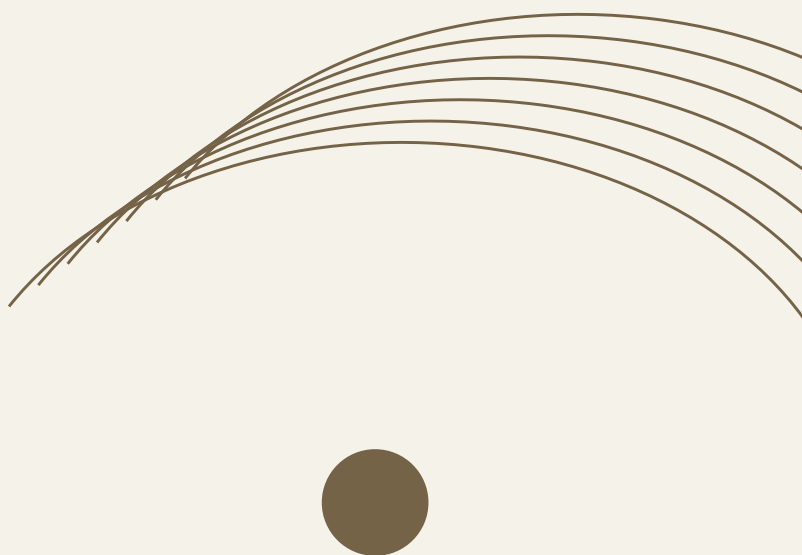
Land in China, prepared

A practical pre-departure and first-48-hours workbook

Independent routes. Practical decisions. Space to explore.

Inside: a usable plan, transport decisions, budget worksheet, Chinese search names and official source links.

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CHINA SIDEWAYS / 01 / WORKBOOK

Before booking | six decisions

Your entry route

Use the National Immigration Administration and the relevant Chinese consular/visa authority to check your passport, purpose, stay length and onward route. Policies for ordinary entry and transit are different. This guide intentionally does not print a nationality list that may become stale.

Your first accommodation

Ask the property to confirm your dates, check-in time and accepted identification. Save the full Chinese address and reception contact. If using a private home or another non-hotel arrangement, check current accommodation registration guidance rather than assuming hotel procedures apply.

Your first transfer

Identify the exact arrival airport/terminal or station. Compare public transport with a licensed taxi or written hotel-transfer quote. Choose the practical route with your luggage. A low ticket price is not useful if the last connection has already finished.

Your phone and money

Choose a connectivity plan before departure and check whether the phone supports it. Keep access to your banking verification/SMS method. Set up eligible payment apps in advance where possible and carry a separate backup card or cash plan.

A realistic first day

Do not put a difficult reservation directly after arrival. Give immigration, baggage, transfer and check-in space. A meal near the hotel and one short walk are sufficient; you can start the destination itinerary after sleep.

Payments | a working setup

Prepare two ways to pay

Official guidance describes mobile payments, bank cards and cash options. Eligible overseas cards can be linked to Alipay or Weixin Pay, subject to issuer and account checks. Follow the current in-app process; linking a card is not a guarantee every merchant or transaction will work.

Before leaving home

Install the official app, set the language if available, complete requested verification and check that the linked card is accepted. Keep the bank's support number available. If linking fails, ask the issuer or app support rather than repeatedly submitting the same attempt without understanding the error.

At the checkout

Check the merchant, amount and currency before confirming. App service fees and your bank's foreign-exchange or card fees are different costs. Read the payment screen for current charges; this guide does not guarantee a universal fee exemption.

Cash and card backup

Use an authorised exchange or an ATM displaying the relevant card network, and check fees before confirming. Keep small denominations for minor purchases. Do not store all cards and cash in one bag. Never let an unofficial helper retain your card or know your PIN.

If a payment fails

Try one alternative method, ask the merchant what they accept and contact the bank/app if necessary. Do not send money to a stranger's personal account simply because someone says it will solve a failed merchant payment.