



China arrival checklist

10 checks for the week before you fly and your first hour on the ground

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1

ENTRY

Check the rule for your passport and travel purpose on an official Chinese embassy or immigration website. Save your return/onward ticket and first accommodation address offline.

2

PASSPORT

Confirm validity, blank pages and the name used on every booking. Keep an encrypted digital copy and one paper copy separate from the original.

3

CONNECTIVITY

Install and activate an eSIM or roaming plan before departure. Download offline maps and save your hotel's name and address in Chinese.

4

PAYMENTS

Set up Alipay with your international card and complete identity verification. Add a second card and carry some RMB as backup.

5

ESSENTIAL APPS

Install Alipay, WeChat, Trip.com and a translation app. Sign in, verify your phone number and test each app before flying.

6

TRANSPORT

Save the airport-to-hotel route. For trains, use the exact passport details from your travel document and allow time for identity checks.

7

MEDICINE

Pack enough prescription medication in original packaging and carry the prescription or doctor's letter. Verify restricted medicines before travel.

8

INSURANCE

Choose cover valid for mainland China and your planned activities. Save the assistance number and policy certificate for offline access.

9

FIRST HOUR

After landing: connect your phone, message your accommodation, withdraw a small cash backup if needed, then use the official taxi queue, metro or a pre-booked transfer.

10

LOCAL CONTACT

Share your itinerary with someone at home. Save your hotel, insurer and local host in your contacts; keep the emergency number 110 for police and 120 for ambulance.

Need a plan checked by someone on the ground?

guideshenzhen.com/contact.html | ricky@guideshenzhen.com | WeChat: TheRealRB