China Trip Checklist

China Easy Mode
chinaeasymode.com

Tick these off before you fly. Most of them take five minutes at home and are hard to fix once you land, because many websites and app stores don't load in China.

ENTRY & DOCUMENTS

- [ ] Passport valid 6+ months, with a blank page
- [ ] Checked whether you need a visa, or qualify for visa-free entry / 240-hour transit **1–2 months before**
  chinaeasymode.com/tools/visa-free-checker/
- [ ] Transit only: onward ticket to a third country booked
  chinaeasymode.com/visa/visa-free-entry/
- [ ] Online arrival card filled in (official site s.nia.gov.cn) **within 72 h of landing**
  chinaeasymode.com/getting-around/arriving-in-china/
- [ ] Photo of your passport saved offline on your phone

MONEY

- [ ] Alipay installed and a foreign Visa / Mastercard linked **1 week before**
  chinaeasymode.com/payments/alipay-foreign-card/
- [ ] WeChat installed, WeChat Pay set up as a backup
  chinaeasymode.com/payments/wechat-pay/
- [ ] Bank told about your trip; two different cards (Visa + Mastercard)
- [ ] Some cash (about ¥500) for emergencies

INTERNET

- [ ] eSIM or roaming plan bought and installed: Google, WhatsApp and Instagram keep working **before you fly**
  chinaeasymode.com/internet/esim-for-china/
- [ ] If you need a VPN, signed up and installed at home (VPN websites are blocked in China)
  chinaeasymode.com/internet/vpn-for-china/
- [ ] Know which of your apps are blocked, and your plan B
  chinaeasymode.com/internet/internet-in-china/
- [ ] Offline translator and key phrases downloaded

APPS & GETTING AROUND

- [ ] Amap (Gaode) or Apple Maps ready: Google Maps is unreliable in China
  chinaeasymode.com/apps/must-have-apps/
- [ ] Didi ready for taxis (in English, inside Alipay)
  chinaeasymode.com/getting-around/didi/
- [ ] Train tickets booked, or you know how to book them (12306 or Trip.com)
  chinaeasymode.com/getting-around/high-speed-train/
- [ ] Hotel address saved in Chinese characters

Stuck on a step? Send a screenshot to a real person who speaks both languages: chinaeasymode.com/get-help/ — free to ask.

Rules change. Check the official sources linked on each guide before you travel. Last updated November 2026.