

FREE TRAVEL TOOL / OFFLINE EDITION

The 24-Hour China Arrival Checklist

Land connected, able to pay, and ready to reach your hotel - with a backup for the things that matter.

YOUR ARRIVAL SYSTEM

01 Connected

02 Able to pay

03 At the right hotel

One working option is not a system. Prepare one primary route and one backup.

SAVE THIS COPY OFFLINE BEFORE YOU FLY

Download it to your phone and screenshot the driver card on page 5. This PDF is a dated offline snapshot; return to the web page where you downloaded it for the current version.

VERIFIED 30 AUGUST 2026 · CURATED BY CYNDEE | LOST IN CHINA

Documents + destination

Make everything you will need at the border and in the taxi available without internet.

☐ **Confirm the entry permission that applies to your passport and trip.**

Visa-free entry, transit permission, and visa requirements are not interchangeable. Check official guidance for your nationality and itinerary.

☐ **Complete China's Arrival Card online, or plan to complete it at the port.**

Official online filling has been available since 20 November 2025. Some travelers are exempt.

☐ **Save offline copies of your passport identity page, entry document, flight, and hotel confirmation.**

Keep the originals secure. An image is a backup, not a substitute for a required original.

☐ **Save the hotel's Chinese name, full Chinese address, phone number, and correct branch.**

Keep the details in both your photo album and notes app. Do not rely on an English name alone.

☐ **Confirm your arrival airport or railway station and the exact terminal.**

Large cities may have multiple airports, stations, terminals, and hotel branches with similar names.

☐ **Save this checklist and your first route offline.**

Screenshot the driver card on page 5 before departure.

Build the digital system

For mobile data, payment, and transport, prepare one primary route and one backup.

- ☐ **Install your travel eSIM before departure, or confirm where you will obtain a local SIM.**

Save the provider's installation and troubleshooting instructions offline.

- ☐ **Keep your home SIM available if your bank or apps send verification texts.**

Check roaming charges and turn off home-SIM mobile data if necessary.

- ☐ **Install Alipay and/or Weixin Pay and follow the in-app registration steps.**

Supported foreign cards can be linked, but acceptance, limits, verification, and fees may vary by product and issuer.

- ☐ **Complete any identity or card verification requested by the app or your card issuer.**

If binding fails, contact the payment product or issuing bank before departure.

- ☐ **Bring a second bank card and some RMB cash.**

Mobile payment is convenient, but it should not be your only payment route.

- ☐ **Install one ride-hailing route.**

Use DiDi Greater China or ride-hailing inside Alipay or WeChat; register before departure.

- ☐ **If you will use trains, create your official 12306 account and complete passport verification early.**

- ☐ **Carry power banks in hand luggage and check your airline's current rules.**

For domestic flights within China, power banks without a clear CCC mark, with an unclear mark, or from recalled batches are prohibited.

Capacity, quantity, storage, and onboard-use rules can change. Recheck before every flight.

Connect, then move

Slow down in the arrivals hall. Get online and confirm the exact pickup point before moving.

- ☐ **Turn on your travel data plan and test messaging and maps before leaving the terminal.**

If it fails, use airport Wi-Fi and ask a staffed information desk or official telecom counter for help.

- ☐ **Use the official taxi queue or designated app-based ride pickup area.**

Official taxi: 出租车 · App-based ride: 网约车. Ignore unsolicited offers inside the terminal.

- ☐ **Confirm the exact pickup floor, zone, and vehicle plate in the app.**

Do not enter a vehicle until the plate matches.

- ☐ **Check that the destination in the app is the correct hotel branch.**

- ☐ **Show the driver the Chinese hotel name and address before the car moves.**

Keep the address visible until the driver confirms it.

- ☐ **If something feels wrong, return to a staffed desk or official transport queue.**

Emergency numbers: Police 110 · Fire 119 · Ambulance 120.

FIRST ARRIVAL RULE

Do not test every system under pressure. Get connected first, take an official route, and use the details you saved.

Your driver card

Fill in the hotel details before departure. Show this page to the driver before the car moves.

你好，请送我到这个地址。请按导航走，谢谢。

Hello, please take me to this address. Please follow navigation. Thank you.

酒店中文名 / HOTEL NAME

中文地址 / CHINESE ADDRESS

联系电话 / PHONE NUMBER

HOTEL · HOUR 4 TO 24

- ☐ **Present your passport or valid travel document at hotel reception.**

Hotels register foreign guests and submit the required accommodation information.

- ☐ **If you are staying outside a hotel, complete accommodation registration within 24 hours.**

You or your host can use the official online service or follow local public-security instructions.

Test the system, then rest

Find problems while staff, cash, and daylight are still available - not at tomorrow morning's metro gate.

☐ **Run one small payment test in a low-pressure place.**

Buy water or another inexpensive item. Confirm completion in the app; if it fails, use your backup and troubleshoot away from a queue.

☐ **Confirm that mobile data works away from hotel Wi-Fi.**

☐ **Save tomorrow's first destination in Chinese and check the route tonight.**

☐ **Confirm opening times and any ticket, reservation, or passport requirement.**

Opening times and booking rules can change. Check the venue or operator directly.

☐ **Charge your phone and power bank, and place backup cash or card within reach.**

GREEN LIGHT

If data, payment, destination, and tomorrow's route are working, your first day is operational. Stop troubleshooting and rest.

Your first day is covered. What happens next?

Arrival is only the first layer. The rest of your trip still depends on keeping the same systems working.

DIGITAL FIRST. CASH LAST. ZERO FRICTION.

China Digital Access MasterKit

A self-guided setup system for independent travelers who want payment, internet, transport, essential apps, and backup options prepared before arriving.

US\$19.90 · VIEW THE MASTERKIT

Scope: It does not include personal booking, account operation, or one-to-one itinerary planning.

OFFICIAL SOURCES USED FOR THIS UPDATE

- China government: payment, transport, accommodation, and emergency guidance
- National Immigration Administration: Arrival Card information
- National Immigration Administration: accommodation registration
- Civil Aviation Administration of China: CCC power-bank rule for domestic flights
- China Railway 12306: official English service
- IATA: international passenger power-bank guidance

KEEP IT CURRENT. Entry, airline, battery, app, payment, transport, opening-time, and booking rules can change. Recheck official sources before departure. This checklist is practical travel guidance, not legal, immigration, medical, or emergency advice.

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