



Province + Country Intelligence Brief

China

Overall Rating

2.25 - Low

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Hong Kong

China

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FactBox

Location	China
Government Type	Single-party socialist republic (Chinese Communist Party-led)
Population	1.417 billion (2025)
Languages	Official Languages: Mandarin (mainland China); English, Chinese (Hong Kong SAR); Portuguese, Chinese (Macau SAR) Other languages spoken: Yue (including Cantonese), regional Chinese dialects such as Wu (including Shanghainese), Min, Gan, Hakka, Hokkien, Jin, Xiang; Kyrgyz, Mongolian, Tibetan, Uyghur; English; other minority languages like Tai Languages that should be used discreetly: None.
International Country Code	+86
Time Zones	UTC+8
Traffic	Drives on the right
Drinking Water	Not safe to drink

Overview

2.25 - Low

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is a large country in East Asia that spans a vast array of different regions and cultures which are collectively governed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). As the world's most populous country and a leading economic powerhouse, China has become increasingly ambitious on the world stage under its current President Xi Jinping. Beijing's growing assertiveness has led to more fraught relations with some of its international partners, notably the US, with the two countries' battle over market access and advanced technologies likely to continue to generate geopolitical risks in the long term.

Over the last four decades, China has gone through a process of rapid economic development driven by exports and its globally dominant manufacturing industry. China is selectively open to foreign investors. The CCP has pursued a dual-track reform program encouraging private sector growth while maintaining a strong state presence; companies operating in certain strategic sectors are mandated to form joint ventures with local companies. Despite improvements, concerns over effectively protecting intellectual property rights and navigating policies providing advantages to domestic firms remain significant challenges to those seeking to do business in the country.

China's infrastructure is sophisticated in urban areas but is less developed in more rural areas. The primary threats to foreign travelers include petty and opportunistic theft as well as environmental hazards. Ethnic tensions in the Tibet and Xinjiang autonomous regions occasionally cause violence, although they usually do not pose a direct threat to foreigners.

Security

2.25 - Low

While overall crime rates remain generally low, incidents of opportunistic and non-violent crime could affect visitors to main urban centers, which poses the primary threat to foreign nationals. China experiences sporadic civil unrest, driven by various socioeconomic and political grievances, and authorities often respond with a rigorous security response. The terror threat remains insignificant, though heightened vigilance continues in restive regions. Geopolitical tensions with multiple nations over disputed land and maritime borders persist, but are unlikely to escalate to military conflicts in the medium term.

Periods of heightened domestic security sensitivity may coincide with politically significant dates, including National Day (Oct. 1), major Communist Party meetings, high-profile legislative sessions, or anniversaries of historically sensitive events. In peripheral regions, such as Xinjiang and Tibet, authorities may implement increased security measures around religious observances, policy announcements, or in response to perceived separatist or extremist threats. While the overall terrorism threat remains low nationwide, localized security postures and surveillance activity typically intensify during these periods.

Civil Unrest

● 2.00

Current Situation

Public demonstrations in China remain infrequent due to extensive state surveillance, rapid police intervention, and strict controls on public assembly. Most protests are localized and focus on socio-economic grievances, including unpaid wages, labor disputes, housing and property issues, land expropriation, environmental concerns, and dissatisfaction with local government decisions. These incidents are usually small in scale and dispersed quickly by authorities.

Labor protests continue, primarily involving factory workers, construction workers, delivery drivers, and other workers in sectors affected by wage arrears or business closures. Demonstrations by homebuyers protesting delayed or unfinished

residential developments also continue, though at lower levels than during the peak of China's property sector downturn. Rural communities periodically protest land seizures, redevelopment projects, or environmental concerns, though these incidents rarely expand beyond the local area.

Authorities maintain a zero-tolerance approach toward demonstrations perceived as politically sensitive. Security measures are routinely increased around major political events, anniversaries, and meetings of senior Chinese Communist Party (CCP) bodies. Protest activity during these periods is rare due to pre-emptive policing, movement restrictions, and preventive detentions. Although most demonstrations remain peaceful, participants face a high likelihood of police intervention, questioning, detention, or criminal prosecution. Foreign nationals are advised to avoid all demonstrations and areas with a significant security presence, as police may establish cordons and restrict movement with little notice.

Triggers

- Labor disputes involving unpaid wages, factory closures, layoffs, or reductions in employee benefits.
- Financial distress in the property sector, including delayed housing projects or losses involving investment products.
- Land expropriation, forced evictions, redevelopment projects, or environmental incidents affecting local communities.
- Major government policy changes affecting employment, pensions, education, or public services.
- Sensitive political anniversaries or high-profile CCP meetings that prompt increased security measures.
- Incidents involving ethnic or religious tensions in regions such as Xinjiang or Tibet, though access to information is often limited.
- Large industrial accidents, public health incidents, or natural disasters that generate public dissatisfaction with local government responses.

Background

China has a low tolerance for public protest, and demonstrations require official approval, which is rarely granted. Security authorities rely on extensive surveillance systems, censorship, and a large police presence to identify and disperse unauthorized gatherings before they grow. As a result, sustained mass demonstrations are uncommon outside exceptional circumstances.

Most protests are spontaneous and locally organized rather than coordinated through national movements. Common gathering points include government offices, municipal buildings, factories, construction sites, universities, and residential developments. Demonstrations usually seek the resolution of specific local grievances rather than broader political reform.

Independent labor unions and organized political opposition are prohibited. Labor activism is generally organized informally through workers or online networks before authorities intervene. Student activism, once a significant driver of unrest, remains heavily monitored and rarely develops into sustained public demonstrations.

Strikes occur periodically, primarily in manufacturing, logistics, construction, education, and delivery services. Most involve disputes over wages, working conditions, or business closures and remain localized. Although strikes can disrupt production or local transport, they rarely affect national operations.

Political, ethnic, or religious demonstrations carry the highest risk of police intervention. Authorities respond rapidly to any activity perceived as challenging state authority, with organizers and participants facing detention or prosecution. Foreign nationals should avoid demonstrations, refrain from photographing security operations, and promptly comply with law enforcement instructions if they encounter protest activity.

Crime

● 2.25

Crime rates are generally low across China. However, petty crime is a concern for foreign travelers, especially in major urban centers such as Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Shenzhen, due to high population density and socio-economic disparities. Crimes affecting foreigners tend to be opportunistic and non-violent, including the theft of unattended items and bag-snatching/pickpocketing, especially in crowded areas such as markets, transportation hubs, and shopping districts.

Foreigners using unregistered or 'black' taxi cabs have reported either being charged exorbitant fees or having their luggage stolen. There have also been reports of tourists using rickshaws or pedicabs, particularly in the Tiananmen Square and Houhai Park areas of Beijing, being taken through narrow streets and forced to hand over money.

Various financial scams, including credit card, phone, and internet-based schemes, have increasingly targeted foreign travelers. A common tactic involves a young Chinese person with marked proficiency in English befriending foreigners on the street and offering them a drink in a tea house or bar. An exorbitant bill will then be presented, and physical threats will be made to ensure payment.

Violence against foreigners remains rare and mainly occurs outside bars and nightclubs in larger urban cities. Incidents consist mainly of muggings and sexual assaults, often fueled by alcohol, racism, or xenophobic sentiments. There has also been a series of high-profile stabbing and arson attacks over the past few years that were blamed on both mental illness problems amid rapid social change, as well as personal and financial disputes. In some cases, schools and shopping areas have been targeted.

Kidnapping

● 2.00

The threat of kidnapping in China for short-term foreign visitors is low. Kidnappers are more likely to target locals. The most common types of abduction in China include basic opportunistic kidnap-for-ransom, express kidnapping, politically-motivated abductions, and virtual kidnapping. Kidnapping has also been used as a means to settle business or labor disputes, particularly when the aggrieved party is reluctant to involve the police. While kidnappers typically leave victims unharmed upon receiving the ransom, they remain at risk of injury or even death during confinement. Forced labor and human trafficking concerns exist, but mainly affect locals.

Terrorism

● 2.00

The terror threat in major cities remains low and foreigners are not specifically targeted. However, isolated small-scale attacks, including stabbings, linked to personal grievances or mental health issues, have occurred. Such incidents have taken place at various locations, including schools, shopping areas, hospitals, and government offices. In 2018, an individual detonated a bomb near the US Embassy in Beijing. Nevertheless, such incidents remain rare, underscoring the overall security within urban centers.

Historically, terrorism-related activity has been concentrated in China's northwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, where some members of the ethnic Uyghur minority group have been fighting a low-level separatist insurgency. The region has experienced small-scale, sporadic bomb attacks directed at the local government and/or security forces, predominantly attributed to the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM). Some attacks by ethnic Uyghur militants have also occurred outside of Xinjiang, most notably a mass stabbing incident that occurred in Kunming, Yunnan Province, in 2014. Increased security measures have significantly reduced militant activity and the frequency of terrorist incidents in the northwestern region, with no major attacks occurring since 2017.

Armed Conflict

● 2.25

Long-standing political tensions persist across the Taiwan Strait between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the authorities in Taiwan, which operate under the Republic of China (ROC). Following the Chinese Civil War, the ROC government relocated to Taiwan in 1949, where it has continued to maintain its own government, military, and legal system. The PRC claims sovereignty over Taiwan and pursues a policy of national reunification, while Taiwan maintains its existing system of self-government. Relations between the two sides are characterized by limited official engagement, recurring political tensions, and periodic military activity. Regional actors, including the United States, also conduct military operations in the surrounding area. Despite increased cross-Strait tensions since the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) took office in 2016, the likelihood of an escalation into armed conflict in the Taiwan Strait remains low in the near term.

China is involved in overlapping territorial and maritime disputes in the South China Sea with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam. China maintains control over a number of disputed islands and maritime features, while several other claimants also maintain military or civilian presences in parts of the area. In recent years, Beijing has expanded infrastructure on reclaimed features, including ports, airfields, and other facilities, and has increased maritime and air patrols.

China, Japan, and Taiwan also claim sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands (known as the Senkaku Islands in Japan) in the East China Sea. The dispute has periodically resulted in diplomatic tensions and increased maritime and air activity, although the overall security situation has remained relatively stable in recent years. In 2012, the Japanese government's purchase of several of the islands from a private owner prompted widespread protests in China and heightened bilateral tensions.

China and India remain engaged in a long-running border dispute along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The dispute has resulted in periodic military standoffs, including deadly clashes in 2020—the first fatalities along the disputed frontier since the 1970s. Although both sides have taken steps to reduce tensions, the border remains a potential source of instability.

Security Services

● 2.00

The capabilities and responsiveness of security services in China are generally adequate in cities and tourist regions but can be poor in rural and less-developed areas of the country. Although China has a number of different security forces, officers of the Public Security Bureau (PSB) are likely to be the most relevant for foreign nationals and local staff. PSB Officers who are not stationed in popular tourist areas are typically unable to speak foreign languages fluently, but in large cities will almost always be able to procure an English-speaking colleague to assist in any police or security matter. Foreign nationals should avoid contact with military security forces known as the People's Armed Police (PAP) whenever possible and instead liaise with regular PSB police officers or their diplomatic mission.

Infrastructure

2.25 - Low

There are no major safety concerns over air travel in China, although flight delays are frequent and operators and flight crews may not speak English. Rail travel is generally safe and offers a more reliable transport means compared to air travel.

Road travel is hazardous in some areas due to localized extreme weather, dangerous driving habits, and lax enforcement of traffic rules.

The ports in China are efficient and busy.

Water, electricity, and fuel supplies are readily available in most major cities and towns, and communications networks are generally reliable.

Cybersecurity and personal data protection frameworks are consistently evolving, though cybercrime remains a notable concern.

Ground Transport

 2.25

China has a vast network of railway systems connecting major cities within and outside the country. Moscow of Russia, Hanoi of Vietnam, and Pyongyang of North Korea are all accessible by train depending on your departure city. Domestic trains can provide affordable means of transportation throughout the country and prices vary depending on the length of journey and car class. Visitors traveling by train in China may be the target of petty theft. The major routes are from Beijing to Guangzhou, Shanghai, Harbin, Chengdu, and Urumqi.

Road conditions in urban areas and along inter-city routes are generally good, though rural routes may be unpaved or otherwise in poor condition. Driving is often chaotic and road signs are generally treated as arbitrary guidelines. Traffic accidents and congestion are the main concerns in cities.

Overland transport in China faces significant disruption during holidays such as Lunar New Year, and the seven-day Golden Week holiday which occurs on 1 October. During the Golden Week period, millions of people travel to different areas of China. Those who travel during this time can expect overnight queues outside national bus stations and overcrowding on long-distance trains. Road transport is often the worst affected and traffic jams and tailbacks become commonplace on inter-regional routes. The worst affected motorways are usually located in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Guangdong provinces.

Local Buses

 Unrated

Intercity bus travel is available between most major cities. Intercity buses in China have an average safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a moderate threat to travelers. Terrorists have not attacked buses in China in the last decade. Terror warnings are rare on China's intercity bus network.

City buses are available in most urban centers. City buses in China have an average safety record. Petty theft and other criminal activities pose a moderate threat to travelers. Terrorists have not attacked city buses in China in the last decade. Terror warnings are rare on China's city bus networks. Minibuses are available in cities in China and have an average safety record.

Mass Transit

 Unrated

Metro systems are available in most major cities in China. The country's metro systems are generally efficient and safe. Securing personal items onboard metro trains is important, as theft is a standard threat.

Taxis ● Unrated

Taxis are readily available in all major cities in China. Taxis arranged in advance by upscale hotels or trusted business associates are generally more reliable than those hailed on the street. Taxi drivers are prone to overcharging foreigners, so always agree on the cost of the journey, any conditions on multiple passengers, and availability of receipts, if necessary, before entering the vehicle.

Ride-sharing services or vehicles ordered through online apps are available in China.

Train Travel ● Unrated

China has a comprehensive, nationwide rail network with frequent service. Trains generally run on time. Accidents and derailments happen occasionally. Personal safety and property security aboard trains or at train stations is generally adequate.

Vehicles and Roads ● Unrated

Road safety conditions in China are generally adequate. Traffic in China drives on the right, except in Hong Kong and Macau. Heavy traffic congestion is common in major cities. Car rentals are available in most major cities. Foreigners planning to drive in China must have a valid driver's license issued within China.

International Road Travel

China has international road connections with Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Laos, and Vietnam.

Cyber ● 4.50

Geostrategic Concerns

China presents a high-risk cybersecurity environment, driven by pervasive state surveillance, tight digital controls, and aggressive cyber espionage campaigns. State-linked actors routinely target foreign governments, defense contractors, and multinational firms in sectors such as technology, energy, and logistics. Business travelers in China face heightened risks of monitoring, device compromise or tampering, and data exfiltration. The "Great Firewall" enforces extensive censorship and surveillance, restricting information access and ensuring government oversight of nearly all online activity. While China's digital infrastructure is highly resilient, it is designed to secure government rather than private-sector interests.

China's legal framework is comprehensive, but focused on state control. The Cybersecurity Law, Data Security Law, and Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL), enforced by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC), impose strict requirements for data localization, incident reporting, and compliance. Authorities retain broad access to corporate and personal data, and enforcement prioritizes political stability and state security over corporate privacy. Foreign firms face a heavy compliance burden with little assurance that adherence reduces surveillance risks.

Cybercrime

Cybercrime in China is widespread and carried out by state- and non-state aligned threat actors. Criminal networks conduct fraud, phishing, ransomware, and malware distribution, but attribution is blurred where campaigns overlap with state-backed espionage. Intellectual property theft and corporate espionage are particularly acute threats for foreign operators. Enforcement is strong in capacity, but cybercrime laws are often applied selectively. In addition, even strict adherence to compliance laws may not mitigate exposure, making China one of the most complex and high-risk cybercrime environments worldwide.

Maritime

 2.75

China has an effective coast guard and does not have any piracy threats. It has a large and well-equipped maritime infrastructure. However, territorial disputes with Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines may cause disruptions, primarily to fishing vessels.

Air Travel

 2.25

There are no significant safety concerns for international or domestic air travel in and out of China. China's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is rated as category 1 by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), indicating it is compliant with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO's) standards. In its most recent ICAO safety audit from 2024, it met or exceeded the global averages in all eight categories. None of the airlines registered in China are on the list of carriers banned in the EU or UK.

Beijing Capital International (PEK) is the main international airport in mainland China, located approximately 32km (19,9 miles) northeast of downtown Beijing. Other significant airports include Guangzhou Baiyun International (CAN) and Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG). Significant flight delays occur frequently at many airports, particularly Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport (HGH), Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (SHA), PVG, and Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport (SZX). This is often due to airspace restrictions for military use and severe weather. Generally, there is access to public transport from major airports. There is a subway express line, shuttle bus, and regular buses available from PEK.

As of June 2025, China's CAA has banned passengers from carrying spare lithium batteries, like power banks, without Chinese safety certification markings on passenger aircraft. These regulations largely impact domestic flights. All power banks should be marked with the China Compulsory Certification, known as the "3C" certification. Authorities could confiscate uncertified power banks at airports. Passengers are prohibited from charging devices with power banks during flights due to associated smoke and fire hazards. Spare lithium batteries are not allowed in checked baggage in China, and batteries above 160 watt hours (Wh) are prohibited on flights entirely. Devices that contain lithium batteries, such as mobile phones or laptops, are allowed in checked baggage and carry-on luggage, if proper safety regulations are followed.

Check airline websites for further information on prohibited items prior to flying.

Utilities

 2.25

Electricity is readily available in all major cities and throughout smaller towns and villages. Only the most rural parts of the country are without electricity.

The International Direct Dialing (IDD) country code for China is 86. The outgoing international code is 00. Public telephones are becoming less readily available due to the high rates of cell phone use though they are commonly located in post offices and occasionally at roadside kiosks. Pre-paid calling cards are available at most convenience stores and are the cheapest way to call internationally.

China has a sophisticated mobile communications system that covers the entire country. Most major international mobile phone companies have roaming agreements within China. Local prepaid GSM SIM cards can be purchased at China Mobile stores. A passport is required for registration, although some stores may also ask for a Chinese ID when purchasing a sim card. In general, travelers are advised to buy local sim cards at authorized stores.

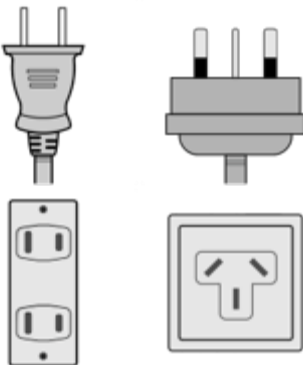
Internet access is readily available in all major cities and throughout the country, although services may be slow in provincial centers. Internet cafes are common in most towns and cities and Wi-Fi is increasingly available in hotels and cafes in major cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Tianjin, and Hangzhou.

Electricity

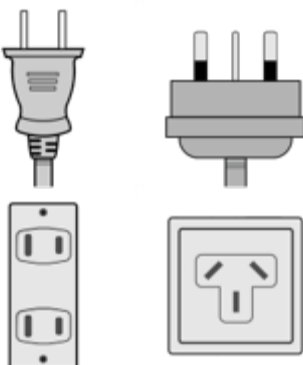
● Unrated

Electricity in China is supplied at 220 V, 50 Hz. China uses Type A and I plugs.

Plug Types



Types de prises



Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Internet service in China is readily available in accommodations and internet cafes. Internet activity is monitored in most areas.

Environment

3.25 - Moderate

Due to its geographical and topographical orientation, some regions of China are prone to a range of natural hazards. The southwest of the country is susceptible to seismic activity and has experienced a number of devastating earthquakes, whilst China's southern and eastern coastal regions are highly susceptible to devastating storms during the rainy season from May to September. Deadly accidents resulting from inadequate safety standards also occur intermittently, while environmental air and water pollution remains a significant concern in major industrialized areas.

Man-Made Hazards

3.00

There are persistent safety concerns throughout China due to customarily poor industrial practices and the lax enforcement of workplace safety and building codes.

Air pollution continues to pose a considerable health hazard in many parts of China, despite recent government-led initiatives to address the problem. Air pollutants, including PM2.5 particles, can cause heart and lung illnesses.

Seismic

3.50

Several parts of China, notably the southwestern region, are highly susceptible to earthquakes as the country is located at the junction of the circum-Pacific seismic belt and the Mediterranean-Himalayan belt. According to government statistics, China annually experiences an average of 19 earthquakes above 5.0-magnitude on the Richter scale, and four tremors that have an intensity of at least 6.0. Although the majority of these earthquakes are considered to be low-to-average in intensity, the level of impact is often exacerbated by poor building standards and insufficient disaster management provisions, particularly in provincial locations. The risk of large numbers of human casualties is also high, as many communities are located in or near seismically-active zones, including at least 11 provincial capitals.

Storm Systems

3.25

Tropical systems can occur year-round in the western North Pacific Basin, but most make landfall over eastern China from July to September, with the southeastern provinces the most susceptible. The storms can cause flash flooding and landslides in low-lying and mountainous terrain, while strong winds can result in significant infrastructural damage. Such events can also result in the loss of telecommunications and power supply outages. It should be noted that rain-triggered floods and landslides can trigger mass evacuations and pose considerable hazards to human life.

Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) is predicting above-average activity of around 25 percent in 2026 due to moderate to strong El Nino conditions. In 2026, El Nino conditions are forecast. Storm formation is likely to shift; countries and islands further east and north, including Micronesia, Guam, Japan, Korea, eastern mainland China, and Taiwan, are likely to see a greater number and higher intensity storms.

Forecast Parameter	Average (based on historical activity 1991-2020) Tropical Storm Risk	
Number of Named Storms	25.5	27
Number of Typhoons	16	18
Number of Intense Typhoons	9.3	11

China's southern and eastern coastlines are also highly vulnerable to storm systems during the East Asian Summer Monsoon May-September. These storm systems have the potential to cause human casualties and mass displacement as well as result in travel and service delivery disruptions. Heavy downpours, strong winds, and associated floods and landslides also frequently cause structural damage and lead to high economic losses. Furthermore, snowstorms during the winter months November-March can pose considerable hazards to human communities and infrastructure as well as result in widespread disruptions, particularly in the north of the country.

Natural Hazards

 3.00

China's climate varies significantly due to its vast size and features a number of distinct climatic eco-zones which result in a range of different weather patterns across the country. Whilst the northeast of China (which includes Beijing) experiences hot, dry summers and freezing winters, the southeast is prone to high levels of annual rainfall, semitropical summers, and warmer winters. This latter region also experiences a wet monsoon season which brings extreme rainfall (known in China as Meiyu) and often causes flooding. Northern China is home to the expansive Gobi Desert, which is dry all year round and experiences daily temperature extremes. Although the government has made efforts to control the expansion of the desert through the planting of barrier tree lines, prolonged drought and poor agricultural practices often result in sand and dust storms shutting down large areas of northern China each spring. Southwest China is characterized by its mountainous terrain along the Himalayan mountain range. In these areas, high altitude can cause negative health effects, whilst melting glaciers have begun to lead to local water shortages.

Air Quality

 Unrated

Air Quality

Air pollution is often severe in China, especially in urban areas. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress ([map](#)).

Health and Medical

 2.75 - Moderate

China has several diseases and health threats, including dengue and Japanese encephalitis. Outbreaks of hand, foot, and mouth disease occur intermittently. The quality of healthcare services is adequate in major urban centers. However, medical infrastructure may be challenged, inadequate, or absent outside major cities and in rural areas. Cash payment upfront is required for all healthcare services rendered. Tap water is unsafe to drink.

Disease and Health Threats

 3.00

Diseases of High Risk

- **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids, and effectively prevented with vaccination. An unexpected medical or dental emergency may place the unvaccinated traveler at risk. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice.

- **Traveler's Diarrhea:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. This is the most common illness in travelers. People who become ill from an infectious agent that causes traveler's diarrhea most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stools despite an empty gastrointestinal tract.
- **Tuberculosis:** Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider obtaining a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, a bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum. Some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite.
- **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice.

Diseases of Moderate Risk

- **Dengue Fever:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mainly during the day. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms of dengue fever include a sudden onset of fever and at least one of the following: severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, muscle and/or joint pain, rash, easy bruising, and/or nose or gum bleeding. Fever and other symptoms generally appear abruptly four to seven days after being bitten. Some people have reported experiencing no symptoms. The risk of infection exists nationwide, except for Xinjiang, Qinghai, Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang, and Jilin; all other provinces have Aedes mosquitoes, making them susceptible to dengue fever. Historically, dengue fever has mainly affected southern provinces such as Yunnan and Guangdong. The risk of infection in most parts of China is highest in the summer and autumn, from August to September. The high incidence season extends from May to November in warmer regions such as Hainan, Guangdong, Guangxi, and parts of Yunnan.
- **Japanese Encephalitis:** Transmitted through mosquito bites. Fewer than 1 percent of individuals infected develop symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they usually develop four to 14 days after being infected. Most individuals develop mild, influenza-like symptoms. However, some infections may progress to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), which can be life-threatening. Risk is greatest for extended time in rural endemic areas and for those involved in agriculture. Japanese encephalitis occurs in all regions of China except Qinghai and Xinjiang, with the risk of infection highest from June to October.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Transmitted by contaminated milk, water, and food. Raw fish and shellfish from contaminated waters are likely to be infected. Symptoms of typhoid fever usually include fever, abdominal pain or discomfort, chills and body aches, weakness, and loss of appetite. The risk of infection is highest in the southwestern and southern regions, especially in rural areas.
- **Rabies:** Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Do not approach unfamiliar animals. Wild and domestic animals pose a threat. The risk of human rabies exposure is highest in Hubei, Hunan, Guangxi, and Guizhou Provinces.
- **Altitude Sickness:** Some locations in China are above 2,440 meters (8,000 feet). Some popular high-altitude destinations are Xining, Lijiang, Shangri-La, and Lhasa. Some people may experience adverse health effects at such altitudes. Ascend gradually to allow acclimatization and remain watchful for signs of altitude sickness or more severe manifestations.
- **Hepatitis E:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.

- **Chikungunya:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, mostly during daytime hours. Bite prevention is essential. Symptoms commonly include fever, joint pain, muscle pain, headache, and rash. People usually develop symptoms three to seven days after being bitten. Most people recover within a week, but joint pain can persist for months.
- **Brucellosis:** Transmitted through ingestion of raw or undercooked animal products or exposure to contaminated blood or tissue from infected animals. Symptoms most commonly include fever, headache, and muscle aches. Brucellosis occurs in pastoral areas of China, primarily among persons involved in livestock production. High-risk provinces include Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Shandong, Gansu, Hebei, and Xinjiang.
- **Hantavirus:** Transmitted through inhalation or ingestion of infected rodent urine or feces. Early symptoms include fever, headaches, muscle aches, stomach aches, dizziness, and chills. Late symptoms include potentially fatal fluid in the lungs and shortness of breath. Late-stage symptoms generally appear four to 10 days after early symptoms. Hikers and campers are most at risk when using cabins or shelters in rodent-infested areas. Most cases occur during spring and summer and in the eastern and northeastern regions.
- **Tick-borne Encephalitis (TBE):** Transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. Bite prevention is essential. In rare cases, people can become infected by consuming unpasteurized dairy products. Early symptoms include fever, fatigue, headache, myalgia, and nausea. These symptoms generally appear two to 10 days after exposure. In some cases, infection can progress to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), which can be life-threatening. The risk of infection is highest in northeastern China, with the highest endemicity in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (Daxing'an Mountains), Heilongjiang Province (Xiaoxing'an Mountains), and Jilin Province (Changbai Mountains). Northwestern China in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region (Tianshan and Altai Mountains) and southwestern China in Yunnan and Tibet provinces were also reported to have transmission. The risk is highest from mid-April to July.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings are conducted using sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of HIV infection, many people, but not all, experience influenza-like illness, including fever, swollen glands, sore throat, rash, fatigue, muscle and joint pains, and headache. These symptoms, also called acute retroviral syndrome (ARS), can last from days to weeks. Without treatment, the infection can lead to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

Diseases of Low Risk

- **Avian Influenza H5N1:** Transmitted through direct contact with poultry, birds, and bird droppings. Symptoms of human H5N1 are usually severe, including high fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The risk of human infection from avian influenza H5N1 is generally low, but it is greater for individuals with frequent, close contact with wild birds and/or live or recently dead poultry. Avian Influenza is endemic in China, and the risk of infection is present throughout the country, especially in agricultural settings, areas where backyard poultry are raised, and live poultry markets.
- **Avian Influenza H7N9:** Transmitted through direct contact with poultry, birds, and bird droppings. It usually does not pass between people unless they have had close contact with an infected person. Such secondary transmission usually affects family members or healthcare providers. Symptoms of H7N9 are often severe and include high fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The risk of human infection with H7N9 is generally low, but it is greater for individuals with frequent, close contact with wild birds and/or live or recently dead poultry.

- Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF):** Transmitted through the bite of an infected tick or exposure to contaminated blood or tissue from infected animals or humans. Prevention of tick bites is essential. Symptoms appear one to nine days after exposure and include fever, neck pain, eyes sensitive to light, severe headache, nausea, confused or aggressive behavior, abdominal pain, and bleeding into the skin, mouth, and internal organs. There is no vaccination to prevent CCHF infection. The risk of infection exists nationwide; however, most cases are reported from the southwest region. Risk is highest from April to September.
- Leishmaniasis:** Transmitted through the bites of sandflies. Risk is greatest from dusk to dawn. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is the most common form of Leishmania infection, causing skin sores that are usually painless. Visceral leishmaniasis is the second most common; typical symptoms include high fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anemia. If left untreated, this form of leishmaniasis is nearly 100 percent fatal within two years. Sporadic cases of Cutaneous leishmaniasis occur in Karamay, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Visceral leishmaniasis was once prevalent in the area north of the Yangtze River.
- Leptospirosis:** Transmitted through exposure or ingestion of water contaminated with the urine of infected animals. Flooding poses an additional risk of contracting leptospirosis. Initial symptoms of leptospirosis typically develop two days to four weeks after exposure. Such symptoms include headache, fever, muscle aches, chills, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Those who may be at high risk can take an antibiotic prophylaxis. Historically, leptospirosis has been recorded in most provinces of China. The disease is primarily distributed along the Yangtze River Basin and regions to the south, such as Zhejiang, Guangdong, Sichuan, Hunan, Fujian, and Anhui. The risk of infection is low, and although leptospirosis can occur throughout the year, it exhibits significant seasonality in China, with most cases occurring in summer and autumn (June-October).
- Schistosomiasis:** Transmitted via small parasite larvae through exposure to contaminated freshwater bodies. Symptoms include an itchy rash, fever, muscle soreness, and cough. Without treatment, schistosomiasis can persist for years, causing abdominal pain, blood in the urine, problems passing urine, blood in the stool, and an enlarged liver. Although eradication programs have been quite successful, schistosomiasis, primarily due to *Schistosoma japonicum*, continues to be reported in various areas, including the Yangtze and Mekong River basins.

Health Requirements

● Unrated

Yellow Fever: Vaccination Required

China is not considered at risk for **yellow fever**. Nevertheless, vaccination is **required** upon arrival for all travelers aged nine months and over who have visited or transited for over 12 hours through an airport in a country with risk of yellow fever transmission, unless traveling exclusively to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) or Macau SAR. Single dose, full-strength yellow fever vaccine is valid for life.

Health Recommendations

● Unrated

Recommended Immunizations for Travel to China

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a healthcare professional at least four to six weeks before the trip. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and the annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID-19 vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses, administered at least six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. It is recommended that all susceptible people traveling for any purpose, frequency, or duration to countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity be vaccinated or receive immune globulin before departure. A booster is recommended for partially vaccinated travelers.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after a complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing the full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours for short-term protection.
- **Japanese Encephalitis:** Unless contraindicated, it is recommended for individuals who are moving to or planning stays of one month or longer in endemic areas, especially in rural areas with rice fields or marshland during the transmission season. It is also recommended for travelers engaging in activities that increase the risk of infection, such as visiting rural areas, hiking or camping, or staying in places without air conditioning, screens, or bed nets. Japanese encephalitis occurs in all regions of China except Qinghai and Xinjiang, with the risk of infection highest from June to October. Widely used formulations require two doses administered 28 days apart. An accelerated series may be available, with the first dose required at least two weeks before travel.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, the WHO and CDC recommend vaccination for individuals who will be performing occupational or recreational activities that increase the risk for exposure to potentially rabid animals, such as animal handlers, field biologists, cavers, missionaries, veterinarians, and some laboratory workers. It is also recommended for travelers who might have difficulty getting prompt access to safe post-exposure prophylaxis. China has reported rabies in domestic and wild animals; thus, most travelers are at risk. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.
- **Tick-borne Encephalitis:** Recommended for individuals trekking, working, or engaging in outdoor activities in high-risk, endemic areas, particularly heavily forested areas where the disease occurs and ticks are likely to be found. Currently, a tick-borne encephalitis vaccine is available in many countries. The initial vaccine consists of three doses and requires six months or more for completion. Tick bite prevention is also essential.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated, including those visiting friends and family in endemic areas, those in contact with an infected person, young children, extended-stay travelers, and individuals visiting areas of poor sanitation. Widely used formulations require between two and four doses, depending on the formulation and the recipient's vaccination history. Depending on the formulation, booster vaccination is required every two or five years. The last dose should be taken at least one week before travel.

Medical Facilities and Services

● 3.00

Healthcare facilities in the country's major population centers are considered adequate for most needs, including emergencies. Those in smaller towns or more rural areas will find facilities lacking, though they may still be adequate for routine needs in some moderately sized towns. Both municipal and private ambulance services remain substandard. Response time is typically prolonged, and transport to the nearest hospital can take a considerable amount of time due to

congested traffic. Most ambulances are poorly equipped, staffed by individuals without English skills, and lack emergency medical training comparable to that found in developed countries. Cash payment upfront is required for all healthcare services rendered.

Medications and Pharmacy

● Unrated

Pharmacies across China are readily available. However, purchasing medication from large pharmacies in major cities is recommended only. Supply of essential medicines is high; however, the risk of counterfeit products is high. Prior to travelling confirm the status of your "over the counter" medicines with accredited foreign government offices of China in your country. Always carry your prescription medication in its original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription and any other relevant documentation.

Mental Health

● 3.00

Mental health service availability is limited and conditions are moderately managed.

Food and Water Safety

● 3.50

Drinking water is generally unsafe in China. Use only bottled, boiled, or otherwise purified water for drinking and cooking. Do not use ice cubes made from unpurified water sources. Eat only thoroughly cooked food served hot, or fruits and vegetables that you have cleaned and peeled; avoid salads. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Avoid street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

Political

2.50 - Moderate

President Xi Jinping further consolidated power after securing a third term at the ruling Communist Party of China (CCP) Congress in October 2022 and is not expected to face any challenges to his leadership in the medium term. The implementation of anti-corruption laws, regulations, and institutions has led to a downward trend in corruption in recent years. In early 2026, President Xi Jinping did not hesitate to purge the Chinese army of some of its highest-ranking generals, a move that surprised observers, weakened the military hierarchy, and strengthened the president's authority over the Chinese armed forces. Although the country's constitution acknowledges the principle of judicial independence, party-linked bodies retain influence on the appointment, promotion, and discipline of judges. There is also a lack of transparency in court proceedings for sensitive cases, such as those involving political dissidents.

Corruption

● 3.00

Bribery is the main form of corruption and is concentrated in personnel appointments, public procurement and contracts, banking, and administrative monopoly industries. Other common forms of corruption are embezzlement and misappropriation of funds.

China has embarked on a major anti-corruption drive over the past decade (with a marked acceleration since 2022), resulting in the arrests and indictments of thousands of government officials, military figures, and politicians. The implementation of anti-corruption laws, regulations, and institutions has led to a downward trend in corruption in recent years.

Government Stability
 1.25

The Chinese political sphere operates under a one-party political system that has been ruled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) since the PRC was founded in 1949. Although the government has liberalized the economy, it still maintains a strong influence over most primary sectors and has firm political control of the country. Leadership positions are determined by an opaque intra-party process, without public participation. Elections are occasionally held at local levels for largely inconsequential municipal posts. The CCP is highly unlikely to face any serious threats to its rule in the coming years.

The current head of the CCP and President of China is Xi Jinping, who has overseen a bold consolidation of power since assuming office in 2012 through an aggressive anti-corruption drive that has felled several hundred senior officials, many of whom were considered opponents of the president. Xi has emerged as one of the most powerful Chinese leaders since Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s and is serving an unprecedented third term. Due to widespread support and no credible challengers to his leadership, Xi has also pursued ambitious economic reforms and military modernization plans.

Rule of Law
 3.25

Police are only moderately effective in providing assistance to foreigners. Many police officers have little formal education and their training is generally below the standards of law enforcement personnel in developed countries. Urban police units are generally better trained, more responsive, and more professional than their rural counterparts.

Response times are generally good in larger cities, but also depends on the type of infraction, incident location, and social status of the complainant; westerners or persons of importance are given higher priority. Under certain instances, local police will act as a mediator between the victim and accused to determine an agreeable compensation.

Some regions of China are subject to high levels of state surveillance where police checkpoints, passport controls, and active CCTV monitoring are commonplace. The northwestern Xinjiang Region is subject to a particularly heavy-handed 'counter-terrorism' regime and travelers have reportedly been subject to temporary periods of detention and examination and/or confiscation of personal electronic items.

Travelers have reportedly been asked to show or provide their mobile phones; individuals refusing to do so may be held for questioning and are typically released after providing additional personal information, or even fingerprints, mugshot, and DNA samples. International media organizations have claimed that Chinese border officers had installed surveillance apps on the phones of tourists entering the region of Xinjiang from Kyrgyzstan.

Some foreign governments like the US maintain there is a risk of arbitrary enforcement of local laws and associated detention, as well as searches and exit bans. In particular, legal actions citing national security concerns has attracted criticism, though Beijing disputes such allegations.

China enforces strict regulations on religious groups and activities that apply to both locals and foreigners. Only state-approved religious organizations may operate legally; involvement in any unauthorized religious activities can lead to detention, imprisonment, fines, or exit bans.

Sanctions
 3.25

There are no UN sanctions on China. However, the US has placed several restrictions and export controls on Chinese individuals, officials, and firms, citing human rights violations, as well as alleged trade malpractices and intellectual

property theft. China has also retaliated with counter-sanctions on US entities as part of a broader economic competition between the two countries. Measures typically involve travel bans, export controls, and special licensing regimes for identified products. Additionally, Chinese exports to the US and vice versa are subject to a tariff regime that is susceptible to changes at short notice, depending on bilateral trade negotiations. Sectors considered primary targets for sanctions include aerospace and defense, as well as advanced and dual-use technologies such as semiconductors.

The US has sanctioned Chinese companies for various reasons: violating restrictions on trade with North Korea aimed to pressurize Pyongyang to denuclearize, alleged human rights abuses against Muslim minorities in China; to oppose crackdowns on political dissent in Hong Kong; maintaining links with the Chinese military, including supporting Russian military action in Ukraine and helping construction in disputed areas of the South China Sea, among others.

The European Union (EU) and the UK also maintain a partial arms embargo on China since 1989, and have sanctioned Chinese firms for supplying military and dual-use technology to Russia.

China implements UN sanctions but also maintains a sanctions list under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs targeting entities accused of interfering with or endangering Chinese interests, and an Unreliable Entity List under the Ministry of Commerce to impose business and investment curbs.

Legal

Unrated

Visitors to China are subject to local laws, which may not mirror, either in whole or in part, those of their home country. Those deemed to be in violation, even unknowingly, may be fined, detained, imprisoned, temporarily or permanently expelled, or tried *in absentia* depending on the nature of the offense. Home-country consular officers are not typically systematically informed of a detention or permitted to provide support services to their detained citizens. When there is no treaty in force, notification and access depend on whether the two countries have direct or indirect diplomatic relations. Consular officers cannot interfere with local judicial proceedings, nor provide legal advice or representation at trial, and are unable to pay legal fees or fines with government funds. The status of dual nationals will be determined by local officials, with all attendant ramifications for access and support.

Emergency Contacts

Unrated

Emergency Contacts

Ambulance 120

Fire 119

Police 110

Embassies and Consulates

Unrated

Canadian Embassy

Address 19 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100600

Tel (86-10) 5139 4000

Fax (86-10) 5139 4435

Email beijing@international.gc.ca

Web Site <https://www.international.gc.ca/country-pays/china-chine/beijing.aspx?lang=eng>

Australian Embassy

Address 21 Dongzhimenwai Street, Beijing 100600

Tel (86-10) 5140 4111

Fax (86-10) 5140 4204

Web Site <http://www.china.embassy.gov.au>

British Consulate-General

Address Suite 2801, Metropolitan Oriental Plaza, 68 Zourong Lu, Yu Zhong District, Chongqing 400010

Emergency Tel (86-23) 6369 1500

Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-general-chongqing>

British Consulate-General

Address The British Centre, 17F Garden Square, 968 West Beijing Road, Shanghai 200041

Emergency Tel (86-23) 6369 1500

Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-general-shanghai>

US Consulate

Address 9/F, Westgate Mall, 1038 Nanjing Xi Lu, Shanghai 200031

Tel (86-21) 8011 2400

Fax (86-21) 6148 8266

Email ShanghaiACS@state.gov

Web Site <https://china.usembassy-china.org.cn/embassy-consulates/shanghai/>

German Embassy

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

Tel (86-10) 8532 9000

Email Contact Form on Website

Web Site <https://china.diplo.de/cn-de> (German)

British Embassy

Address 11 Guang Hua Lu, Jian Guo Men Wai, Beijing 100600

Emergency Tel (86-23) 6369 1500

Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-beijing>

US Embassy

Address 55 An Jia Lou Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100600

Tel (86-10) 8531 4000

Fax (86-10) 8531 3300
Email BeijingACS@state.gov
Web Site <https://china.usembassy-china.org.cn/embassy-consulates/beijing/>

French Embassy

Address 60 Tianze Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100600
Tel (86-10) 8531 2000
Email pekin-amba@diplomatie.gouv.fr
Web Site <https://cn.ambafrance.org/>

US Consulate General

Address No. 52, 14 Wei Road, Heping District,
Shenyang 110003
Tel (86-24) 2322 1198
Email ShenyangACS@state.gov
Web Site <https://china.usembassy-china.org.cn/embassy-consulates/shenyang/>

British Consulate-General

Address 22/F Guangzhou International Finance Centre, 5 Zhujiang Road West, Zhujiang New Town, Guangzhou
510623
Fax (86-20) 8331 2799
Email britishconsulate.guangzhou@fcdo.gov.uk
Web Site <https://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-consulate-general-guangzhou>

US Consulate General

Address 43 Hua Jiu Road, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510623
Tel (86-20) 3814 5775
Fax (86-20) 3814 5572
Email GuangzhouACS@state.gov
Web Site <https://china.usembassy-china.org.cn/embassy-consulates/guangzhou/>

Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com>.

Travelers without a visa exemption must obtain a visa to enter China. Additionally, foreign visitors must submit an online Arrival Card beforehand. The submission is free of cost, and can be carried out through official channels, including the National Immigration Administration website, government service platforms, "National Immigration Administration Government Service Platform 12367" app, WeChat (Alipay) mini-programs, or by scanning the designated Arrival Card

QR code. Authorities have warned of using fraudulent sites that imitate the official submission system. Visitors who are unable to complete the online submission can do so upon arrival in China using on-site devices or hard copies at entry points.

Authorities are exempting travelers on short-term visas from fingerprint collection through Dec. 31, 2026, if their stay in China is 180 days or less. Groups who cannot avail this exemption include applicants for D, J1, Q1, S1, X1, and Z visas, which require obtaining a residence permit after entry.

Restricted Areas

More than 1,200 cities and areas in China are open to visitors without special travel permits, including most major scenic and historical sites.

Special permission to visit any closed areas must be obtained from the region's public security bureau. Travel arrangements booked through Chinese travel agencies will include necessary advance approvals.

Foreign visitors who wish to enter Tibet, whether individually or in tour groups, must obtain a Tibet Travel Permit (TTP) in advance from the Tibet Travel Bureau. Foreign visitors who wish to travel to places other than Lhasa, Shigatze (Xigaze), Naqu, Zedong, and Zhang Muxkhasa must also obtain an Alien's Travel Permit from their local Public Security Bureau office.

Occasionally, visitors have been refused admission or had difficulty entering Tibet from Nepal. In addition, the Kathmandu-Lhasa Highway, which connects Nepal and Tibet, can be washed out in the monsoon season from June through September. Avoid this road during the monsoon. Foreigners have been the victims of robberies on this road.

Pre-Departure

● Unrated

- Travelers should note that a number of Western governments warn their citizens of the risks of "arbitrary detention" and application of national security laws with a broad definition of offenses in China, though Beijing maintains legality of arrests.
- Travelers should identify possible sources of medical support in China, such as the availability of a hotel provided doctor for minor ailments.
- Travelers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from country, and should review contingency operations, business continuity and crisis management plans.
- Travelers should familiarize themselves with local evacuation plans issued by local agencies or relevant authorities.
- Travelers should provide friends and family a copy of their travel itinerary, make a copy of important travel and identification documents, and if applicable, obtain their visa prior to arrival. Travelers should also have information on their host, accommodation, relevant embassies and trusted local contacts easily accessible.
- Travelers should exercise due diligence in protecting private, sensitive, and/or confidential information on electronic devices as a general precaution. Entrants should adhere to Chinese laws, including those that restrict the import of unapproved encryption.
- Travelers should purchase a reputable and approved VPN (Virtual Private Network) service and install the program on their devices service prior to traveling to China. This will allow them to access to restricted websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Google in most locations.

- Travelers should note that China has a zero-tolerance policy on recreational drug use, and the use of lower-class narcotics like marijuana is not considered to be legally distinct from other, stronger substances such as opium, heroin, morphine and cocaine. According to Article 357 of Chinese Criminal Law, the transportation, use and possession of any narcotic is a punishable offense. In the past, foreigners have been prosecuted based on territorial jurisdiction, and some have faced the death penalty.

On Arrival

● Unrated

- Travelers should have a meet and greet procedure in place where practical.
- Travelers have carry a copy of their travel documents, visa and their passport on their person at all times.
- Travelers should confirm the location of evacuation areas, evacuation routes, open spaces, and facilities such as community halls and convenience stores.
- Travelers should observe any travel restrictions imposed by the Public Health Commission in the event of a viral outbreak. They should also follow any further safety information which often includes bans on large public gatherings and the use of face masks.

In Transit

● Unrated

- Travelers should avoid using street taxis and utilize low-profile hotel booked taxis or locally vetted transport providers which have emergency equipment appropriate to the local geography and climatic conditions. Fuel levels in the vehicles should be at least half-full. Travel routes should avoid isolated areas and potential choke points where practical. Travelers should establish the formal identification of the driver before commencing any trip.
- Public transport services in most major cities are increasingly operated through Alipay, a mobile payment application run by Alibaba, which can be downloaded as a mobile app. Travelers are advised to access the service prior to travel on a secure and trusted internet connection if they plan on utilizing the service.

At Your Hotel

● Unrated

- Travelers should leave any electronic equipment at the office or with their hosts and, before retiring, secure valuables and confidential documents. Travelers should be aware that hotel rooms may be accessed without the occupant's knowledge or consent. There are no extraneous measures that should be undertaken at the hotel.
- In the event of a typhoon or tropical storm, travelers should monitor official guidance and announcements via the China Meteorological Agency's [English-language website](#). The site typically provides forecasts and weather warnings for most major coastal cities and provinces.

In the Street

● Unrated

- Travelers should carry their passports at all times and also carry any emergency medical information.

- Although same-sex relations were decriminalized in 1997, negative attitudes and discrimination towards LGBT issues still exist in many parts of China. However, there is a growing presence of LGBT communities in major cities, and outright violence against LGBT individuals is rare.
- Travelers should avoid overt displays of wealth and dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment. Do not display money, jewelry, or valuables, and keep a low profile.
- Travelers should use only small denominations of the local currency, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on their person. Contents of wallets or purses should be reduced, particularly cards that may denote affiliations, memberships, and accounts. Travelers should not use credit or debit cards unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments.
- Travelers should ensure that a mobile phone is carried at all times and that it has sufficient battery life and is programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. The number for police services is 110; although operators may not speak fluent English, travelers should note down or record key emergency phrases in Mandarin Chinese prior to travel.
- Travelers should be aware of their location and surroundings. Avoid high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travelers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
- In crowded situations, travelers should be aware of jostling as this may be a ploy for pick-pockets. Travelers should also be aware of people loitering and that attackers may first pass their victim to attack from behind.
- Travelers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by and avoid getting into arguments in the street.
- Travelers should avoid any demonstrations, protests, and rallies, which may attract security forces and law enforcement officers and present a dynamic and volatile threat environment.
- Travelers should be aware that photographing government buildings or military facilities may result in detention by the authorities. Travelers should ask permission before taking pictures of locals, especially women.
- During periods of heightened sensitivity, such as Chinese National Day or New Year and Golden Week, police officers frequently carry out spot checks on travelers and members of the public in city centers, particularly in Beijing. Officers may also temporarily confiscate bags and personal items for security scanning. Travelers should comply with these requests to avoid detention, but only once they are satisfied that the individuals are genuine state employees.

Culture

Unrated

Standard Hours of Operation

Business: Monday-Friday, generally 08:30-17:30. Private companies, especially in major cities, may operate beyond standard hours depending on workload and sector.

Government: Weekdays during daytime hours, typically Monday–Friday, with schedules that vary by department and administrative level.

Banking: Monday-Friday, with some branches in larger cities offering limited Saturday hours.

Conservative business attire is standard in formal sectors such as government, finance, and state-linked industries. Men typically wear suits and collared shirts, while women wear business suits or conservative dresses. Dress codes are more relaxed in technology, creative, and start-up environments, especially in major urban centers.

Appointments are commonly scheduled during weekday daytime hours, with punctuality expected. Meetings often run longer than planned, particularly in formal or multi-stakeholder settings. Business lunches or dinners are used for relationship-building, and the host usually covers the cost. Alcohol may be served in some settings, but its use varies by region, industry, and seniority and is not universal.

Mandarin Chinese is the primary business language. English is used in multinational companies and export-oriented firms, but proficiency varies. Efforts to use basic Mandarin are generally well-received but not required in most professional environments.

Business cards remain common in formal meetings. They are typically exchanged with both hands and reviewed as a sign of respect. Titles and surnames are used until a more informal address is offered, particularly in government and corporate settings.

A handshake is the standard greeting in professional contexts. A slight nod may accompany the handshake in more formal or traditional settings. Bowing is not part of standard business etiquette and is generally limited to ceremonial or cultural contexts rather than routine meetings.

Gestures

● Unrated

Business cards are widely used and are presented using both hands.

When beginning the meeting, shake hands during introductions. When departing, handshakes may occur again depending on formality and setting, but are not required with every participant.

Use indirect phrasing when speaking with people from China. Direct eye contact is common in business meetings and generally accepted. When addressing someone at a meeting, use their title and last name.

Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or inappropriate in formal settings:

- Pointing with the index finger; use a full hand when indicating direction or objects.
- Using feet to point at something.
- Avoiding appropriate eye contact in business settings.
- Placing chopsticks upright in a bowl of rice, outside of a funeral setting.

Religions

● Unrated

Buddhist 18%, Christian 5%, folk religion 22%, unaffiliated 52%, Other, including Muslim, 3%

Ethnicities

● Unrated

Han Chinese 92%, Other, including Zhuang, Hui, Manchu, Uighur, Miao, Yi, Tujia, Tibetan, Mongol, Dong, Buyei, Yao, Bai, Korean, Hani, Li, Kazakh, Dai and other nationalities, 8%

Significant Dates

● Unrated

2026 Significant Dates

Date	Event
Jan. 1-3	New Year holidays
Feb. 15-23	Lunar New Year holidays
April 4-6	Qing Ming Festival (Tomb Sweeping Day)
May 1-5	Labor Day Holidays
June 4	Anniversary of 1989 Tiananmen protests
June 19-21	Dragon Boat Festival
July 5	Anniversary of 2009 Xinjiang riots
Aug. 1	People's Liberation Army Day
Sept. 25-27	Mid-Autumn Festival
Oct. 1-7	National Day holidays
Dec. 13	Nanking Massacre Memorial Day

Financial

Unrated

Financial systems can differ considerably by jurisdiction. Acceptance of cash, debit, and credit cards also varies across the country. Some locations may only accept cash due to the absence of card-processing machines. Banks or legal money changers typically offer the official exchange rates. While the import and export of both local and foreign currency are authorized, sums should not exceed the amount declared upon arrival.

Currency

Unrated

Currency Name/Code

The official currency of China is the Chinese renminbi (RMB). One RMB is made up of 10 jiao, which is further divided into 10 fen. Other currencies are not generally accepted for transactions.

Currency Convertibility

Banks or legal money changers offer the best exchange rates in China. Larger banks may offer the best exchange rates on average. China forbids foreigners from exiting with local currency in amounts greater than RMB 20,000.

Credit Card

Unrated

Major credit cards are widely accepted in large hotels, restaurants, and shops in major cities. Smaller establishments may not accept credit cards.

Taxes and Tipping

Unrated

It is not customary to tip hotel personnel, wait staff in restaurants, or taxi drivers; there is usually a 10-percent service charge added to the bill.

Bank and ATM

Unrated

ATM Availability

Automated teller machines are widely available in many cities. Always choose a machine located in a secure area, preferably within hotels or other populated, well-lit locations.

Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally Monday through Saturday 0900-1600/1700. Some banks offer extended hours on weekends and evenings. Cash advances on major credit cards issued by foreign banks are permitted.

LGBTQ Security

3.00 - Moderate

China poses an overall moderate threat to LGBTQ individuals. Although same-sex sexual acts are legal across the country, only Macau offers legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Authorities actively enforce censorship laws that restrict the dissemination of LGBTQ content and the portrayal of LGBTQ expression in media. Most LGBTQ organizations have shut down since 2020 or operate underground. In the past two years, Hong Kong courts have issued several pro-LGBTQ rulings that have yet to be codified into law.

LGBTQ Legal Environment

● 3.00

The legal environment poses a moderate threat to LGBTQ individuals across China. China maintains national security and censorship laws that, among others, restrict portrayals and references of same-sex relationships in media content. However, same-sex sexual acts are legal, and the age of consent in the mainland, Hong Kong, and Macau is the same. The law does not recognize same-sex marriage or civil unions. Several specific regions within China offer guardianship agreements for same-sex couples, which grant couples limited rights to inheritance and power of attorney. While Article 33 of China's Constitution outlines equality for all citizens under the law, it does not outline anti-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity. In Macau, the law protects individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation, but only in labor relations, personal data protection, and the Bureau of the Ombudsman. In China, transgender individuals seeking legal gender recognition must first undergo gender-reassignment surgery, which has strict eligibility criteria. These requirements include reaching the age of majority, having a clear criminal record, being unmarried, and obtaining consent from their parents or closest living relative. As of April 2024, Hong Kong requires applicants to provide a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria, hormone therapy for the previous two years, and surgery to remove breast tissue or male genitalia. The individual must also declare to continue living as their preferred gender, and authorities may require the individual to undergo random blood tests to verify adherence to this declaration. In September 2023, the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal ruled against recognizing same-sex marriage but instructed the government to create a framework for legally recognizing same-sex partnerships by September 2025. In Hong Kong, men who have sex with men (MSM) may donate blood after a six-month deferral period. Adoption is restricted to heterosexual couples, although a few court cases have granted some concessions to same-sex couples in recent years. In September 2023, the Hong Kong Court of First Instance ruled that a lesbian couple who conceived through reciprocal IVF was to be given equal parental standing. While the law only recognizes one parent, the judge ruled that making the other mother "parent at common law" would better reflect the parent's legal status in their situation. In 2014, a Beijing court ruled that conversion therapy treatments were illegal, and since then, two other plaintiffs won their cases against conversion therapy in 2016 and 2024. However, China has no countrywide laws or regulations banning conversion therapy, and socially, it is widely promoted as a way to "correct" an individual's sexual orientation.

LGBTQ Enforcement

● 3.00

The enforcement environment poses a moderate threat, as authorities are likely to use laws to target LGBTQ individuals.

China's national security and cybersecurity laws prohibit individuals from speaking out against the government and disseminating information that may contradict the "social order." Authorities frequently use these laws to detain individuals who protest the government's anti-LGBTQ stance. Authorities are also unlikely to investigate crimes reported by LGBTQ individuals and often dismiss LGBTQ individuals' reports of domestic violence as private family matters. Authorities also arrest those who give shelter to LGBTQ individuals fleeing domestic violence, often under the charge of kidnapping. In 2023, police arrested a transgender woman who gave shelter to an underage transgender victim of domestic violence and charged her with "licentiousness." She was subsequently sentenced to two and a half years in prison based on her confession, which she claimed was made under duress during her detention.

LGBTQ Social Environment

● 3.00

The social environment poses a moderate threat to the LGBTQ community, as societal tolerance is mixed throughout the administrative regions and provinces of China. China has a vibrant LGBTQ community that is most prevalent in large cities. LGBTQ individuals report experiencing discrimination throughout the country, although Macau and Hong Kong are generally more accepting of the LGBTQ community. In November 2023, the Gay Games proceeded in Hong Kong after several years of COVID-19 pandemic-related delays. However, homosexuality remains a taboo topic in a culture that values traditional gender roles, particularly in the mainland, and conversion therapy is actively practiced. Investigative reports have shown that individuals undergoing conversion therapy are often subjected to military-style training and doctrines on traditional gender roles of "men who work and women who give birth." LGBTQ individuals have reported either being sexually or physically assaulted or being made to watch another being subjected to such violence. LGBTQ individuals face pressure to enter heterosexual marriages and have children largely due to the country's declining birth rate, and a tradition of sons being relied upon to continue a family's bloodline. LGBTQ individuals often choose to use social media platforms, with their potential for increased anonymity, to discuss and explore the role of sexuality in society. However, the government often censors discussions of nontraditional gender identities and sexual orientations. The work of LGBTQ advocacy groups has also been significantly diminished following the introduction of censorship laws. In 2020, organizers of ShanghaiPride, China's largest pride event, canceled the event and other LGBTQ-related events indefinitely. LGBT Rights Advocacy China, an organization pursuing legal justice for LGBTQ individuals, shut down in 2021 after having operated for 15 years. According to an individual associated with the group, authorities detained the organization's founder and released him on the condition that he shut down the organization. The government also requires that social media companies monitor their platforms for "sensitive terms." LGBTQ activists and advocacy groups report that social media companies have deactivated or shadow-banned their accounts, either in compliance with the enforcement of censorship laws, in cooperation with political crackdowns, or as a show of loyalty to authorities. Anecdotal reports indicate that the government often increases censorship efforts during anniversaries of key political events, such as those of the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square and the founding of the People's Republic of China.

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