

China Travel Tips for Foreigners in Entering China 2025

Hello, exhibitors and visitors!

Welcome to China! A trip to RX China events guarantees an unforgettable and rewarding experience. Continue reading to ensure a seamless journey:

China announced on a significant relaxation of its visa-free transit policy on December 17th, 2024, extending the permitted stay for eligible foreign travelers from the original 72 and 144 hours to 240 hours, or 10 days. Effective immediately, 21 additional ports have been designated for visa-free entry and exit, and the areas in which transit travelers can stay have been expanded, according to a statement from National Immigration Administration. Please confirm your participation at RX China events early will ensure you have enough time for visa application and get the best rates for hotels and flights. If you are exhibiting with us, you are recommended to get a Chinese-speaking assistant at your stand, just book via our exhibitor manual.

There are no public health restrictions anymore and mask is no longer needed. To enter China, international travellers must have a valid passport and a visa unless they are eligible for a visa-free entry or a visa-on-arrival.

China Entry Requirements:

For your convenience, we consolidated and refreshed China's current official visa policies as follows:

1) Visa-Free Entry Policy for Foreign Tourist Groups Traveling by Cruise Ships.

Any foreign tourist group consisting of two or more individuals, which is organized and received by a Chinese travel agency, may enter China without a visa by a cruise ship via one of the cruise ports in the following 13 cities: Beihai (Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region), Dalian (Liaoning Province), Guangzhou (Guangdong Province), Haikou (Hainan Province), Lianyungang (Jiangsu Province), Qingdao (Shandong Province), Sanya (Hainan Province), Shanghai, Shenzhen (Guangdong Province), Tianjin, Wenzhou (Zhejiang Province), Xiamen (Fujian Province) and Zhoushan (Zhejiang Province). Foreign tourist groups shall continue their journey to the next scheduled ports and depart China with the same cruise ship as scheduled. The tourists concerned are permitted to travel within Beijing and 11 coastal provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government, namely Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Hebei, Jiangsu, Liaoning, Shandong, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Zhejiang. Additionally, tourists covered by this policy may stay in China for a maximum of 15 days.

Source from: <https://en.nia.gov.cn/n147418/n147463/c167150/content.html>

Media: official website of the National Immigration Administration

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2) China Tries Out Unilateral Visa-Free Policy for Nine Countries

BEIJING, Nov. 30 -- China has decided to implement a unilateral visa-free policy for ordinary passport holders from Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Malta, Estonia, Latvia, and Japan on a trial basis, according to the announcement published on the Chinese Foreign Ministry's official website.

From Nov. 30, 2024, to Nov. 29, 2025, holders of ordinary passports from the above nine countries may enter China visa-free for business, tourism, visiting relatives and friends, and transit for no more than 30 days.

People from these nine countries who do not meet the visa exemption requirements still need to obtain a visa before entering China, the statement noted. This policy aims to foster closer people-to-people exchanges, strengthen diplomatic ties, and support high-quality development.

Source: https://www.mfa.gov.cn/wjbzfwfpt/kzx/tzgg/202411/t20241122_11531285.html

Media: Official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China

Date of issue: 2024-11-30

3) China Extends Visa-Free Transit Policy to 54 Countries

China extends visa-free transit to 240 hours, now accessible through 60 ports across 24 provinces, allowing entry from 54 countries, facilitating transit to a third country.

Source from:

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202412/17/content_WS6760e5eac6d0868f4e8ee0b8.html

Media: XINHUANET

Date of issue: 2024-12-17

Requirements for Foreigners to Apply for 240-Hour Visa-Free Transit in China

- a) The applicant must be a citizen of one of the following 54 countries that are eligible for the visa-free transit policy.**

List of Countries Entitled to the 240-Hour Visa-Free Transit	
Europe Countries (40):	Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,

	Switzerland, Monaco, Russia, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Belarus, and Norway.
America Countries (6):	the United States of America, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Chile.
Oceania Countries (2):	Australia and New Zealand
Asia Countries (6):	Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Brunei, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

- b) The applicant must hold a valid international travel document (with a validity of at least three months) and meet the requirements for entering a third country (region).**
- c) The applicant must hold interline passenger tickets or other documents with a specified date and seat to a third country (region) within 240 hours, complete the Arrival Card for Temporary Entry Foreigners, and cooperate with checks and inquiries by exit-entry border inspection authorities.**

Foreigners who meet the above conditions may submit applications to the border inspection authorities at 60 ports of entry in various places, such as Beijing and Shanghai. The border inspection authorities will process their temporary entry procedures, and the stay period specified in the policy begins at 0:00 on the day after the day of entry. Subject to the relevant provisions if applicable to a mutual visa exemption agreement signed with China or China's unilateral visa exemption.

Source from: <https://en.nia.gov.cn/n147418/n147468/c178053/content.html>

Media: official website of the National Immigration Administration

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List of Ports and Allowed Areas For Travellers Under the 240-Hour Visa-Free Transit

City	Name of Port	Destinations for Staying
240-Hour Visa-Free Transit		
Beijing	Beijing Capital International Airport	Beijing Municipality, Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province
	Beijing Daxing International Airport	
Tianjin	Tianjin Binhai International Airport	
	Tianjin Port (Passenger)	
Hebei	Shijiazhuang Zhengding International Airport	
	Qinhuangdao Port (Passenger)	
Liaoning	Shenyang Taoxian International Airport	Liaoning Province
	Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport	
	Dalian Port (Passenger)	
Shanghai	Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport	Shanghai Municipality and Jiangsu Province
	Shanghai Pudong International Airport	
	Shanghai Port (Passenger)	
Jiangsu	Nanjing Lukou International Airport	
	Su'nan Shuofang International Airport	
	Yangzhou Taizhou International Airport	
	Lianyungang Port (Passenger)	

Zhejiang	Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport	Zhejiang Province
	Ningbo Lishe International Airport	
	Wenzhou Longwan International Airport	
	Yiwu Airport	
	Wenzhou Port (Passenger)	
	Zhoushan Port (Passenger)	
Anhui	Hefei Xinqiao International Airport	Anhui Province and Fujian Province
	Huangshan Tunxi International Airport	
Fujian	Fuzhou Changle International Airport	
	Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport	
	Quanzhou Jinjiang International Airport	
	Wuyishan Airport	
	Xiamen Port (Passenger)	
Shandong	Jinan Yaoqiang International Airport	Shandong Province
	Qingdao Jiaodong International Airport	
	Yantai Penglai International Airport	
	Weihai Dashuipo International Airport	
	Qingdao Port (Passenger)	

Henan	Zhengzhou Xinzheng International Airport	Henan Province,Hubei Province and Hunan Province
Hubei	Wuhan Tianhe International Airport	
Hunan	Changsha Huanghua International Airport	
	Zhangjiajie Hehua International Airport	
Guangdong	Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport	Guangdong Province (Exits available at all open ports across the province)
	Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport	
	Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport	
	Nansha Port (Passenger)	
	Shekou Port (Passenger)	
Hainan	Haikou Meilan International Airport	Hainan Province
	Sanya Phoenix International Airport	
Chongqing	Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport	Chongqing Municipality
Guizhou	Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport	Guizhou Province
Shaanxi	Xi'an Xianyang International Airport	Shaanxi Province
Shanxi	Taiyuan Wusu International Airport	Taiyuan City and Datong City
Heilongjiang	Harbin Taiping International Airport	Harbin City
Jiangxi	Nanchang Changbei International Airport	Nanchang City and Jingdezhen City
Guangxi	Nanning Wuxu International Airport	A total of 12 cities: Nanning, Liuzhou, Guilin, Wuzhou, Beihai, Fangchenggang,

	Guilin Liangjiang International Airport	Qinzhou, Guigang, Yulin, Hezhou, Hechi, and Laibin
	Beihai Fucheng Airport	
	Beihai Port (Passenger)	
Sichuan	Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport	A total of 11 cities : Chengdu,Zigong,Luzhou,Deyang,Suining Neijiang, Leshan,Yibin, Ya'an,Meishan, and Ziyang
	Chengdu Tianfu International Airport	
Yunnan	Kunming Changshui International Airport	A total of 9 cities and autonomous prefectures: Kunming, Yuxi, Chuxiong, Honghe, Wenshan, Puer, Xishuangbanna, Dali, and Lijiang
	Lijiang Sanyi International Airport	
	Mohan Railway Port	
Remarks: The blue words are newly added ports, provinces, permitted stay areas.		

Source from: <https://en.nia.gov.cn/n147418/n147468/c178053/content.html>

Media: official website of the National Immigration Administration

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4) China-Samoa Mutual Visa Exemption Agreement to Take Effect

The agreement on mutual visa exemption between the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Independent State of Samoa shall come into effect on April 2, 2025.

According to the agreement, Chinese citizens holding valid diplomatic passports, service passports, passports for public affairs, or ordinary passports, and Samoan citizens holding valid diplomatic, official, or ordinary passports shall be exempt from visa requirement for entry into, exit from, or transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party for a single period not exceeding 30 days and a total stay up to 90 days per 180-day period. Those intending to stay beyond the above specified durations or to study, reside, engage in employment, media activities or other activities which require prior approval from the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party, shall apply for the appropriate visas before entering the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Source:

https://english.beijing.gov.cn/latest/news/202503/t20250314_4034664.html

Media: official website of The People's Government of Beijing Municipality

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5) China updates tax refund policy for foreign tourists

Under the new refund-upon-purchase policy, foreign visitors can instantly claim value-added tax (VAT) rebates at tax-free stores, enabling them to reuse the refunded amount in real time for further shopping. Previously, VAT rebates were only available for withdrawal upon departure.

The policy change, initially piloted in Shanghai, Beijing, Guangdong, Shenzhen, Sichuan and Zhejiang, has now met all operational requirements for nationwide rollout, according to the STA.

Source from:

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202504/09/content_WS67f5c7b1c6d0868f4e8f1860.html

Media: official website of THE STATE COUNCIL THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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6) China and Malaysia signed the mutual visa exemption agreement

During President Xi Jinping's state visit to Malaysia, the two governments officially signed the agreement on mutual visa exemption for holders of official and ordinary passports.

The growth in tourism has been further propelled by reciprocal visa-free policies. Starting in December 2023, both China and Malaysia implemented mutual visa exemptions for short-term travel. In June 2024, China extended its visa-free entry for Malaysian citizens through the end of 2025. In return, Malaysia extended visa-free access for Chinese visitors until the end of 2026.

Source from:

https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/202504/t20250417_11596227.html

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202504/17/WS680065b6a3104d9fd381fe6f.html>

Media: official website of MFA, China Daily

Date of issue: 2025-04-17

7) China to extend visa-free policy to nationals from Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay

Starting June 1, 2025, China's visa-free policy will benefit nationals of Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, with the trial period lasting until May 31, 2026.

Nationals with ordinary passports from the above-mentioned countries will be granted visa-free entry into China. This applies to those visiting for purposes such as business, tourism, visiting relatives or friends, exchange visits or transiting. The visa-free stay is limited to 30 days.

Source from:

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202505/15/content_WS6825a468c6d0868f4e8f2912.html

Media: official website of THE STATE COUNCIL THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

, Xinhua

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8) China-Uzbekistan 30-day visa-free agreement will take effect on June 1, 2025

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, a mutual visa exemption agreement between Uzbekistan and China will take effect on June 1 this year.

Under this new agreement, citizens of Uzbekistan and China will be allowed to enter, exit, and transit through each other's territories without the need for a visa for up to 30 days per visit. The total stay within any 180-day-period must not exceed 90 days.

Source from:

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202505/15/WS6825a7e5a310a04af22bfa3b.html>

Media: China Daily

Date of issue: 2025-05-15