FIRST 72 HOURS

Offline arrival pack for first-time visitors to China

USE THIS PACK WHEN YOUR PHONE, DATA OR PAYMENT APP DOES NOT WORK

Print it, save it offline, and complete the hotel card before departure. It is a fallback tool, not a replacement for current airline, immigration, transport, hotel or app instructions.

Hotel address card

Ask your hotel to send its name and full address in Chinese. Show this card to airport staff, a taxi dispatcher or your driver.

Hotel name (English)	
酒店中文名	
Chinese address / 中文地址	
English address / 英文地址	
Hotel phone / 酒店电话	
Check-in / Check-out	
Confirmed landmark / entrance	

Do not write a passport number, payment details, room number or full booking reference on this card. Keep booking confirmations separately and securely.

请带我去这家酒店，谢谢。

Please take me to this hotel. Thank you.

请帮我联系酒店。

Please help me contact the hotel.

Arrival order

Work from the top. Do not troubleshoot every app while you are still in the arrivals hall.

1. Entry and baggage

Complete border formalities, collect bags and follow current Customs instructions.

2. Get one usable connection

Try your primary roaming, eSIM or SIM. If it fails, use saved offline details and move to the network backup order on page 3.

3. Confirm the exact destination

Match the hotel name, Chinese address and branch with your booking. Large chains may have several properties.

4. Choose an official transport point

Follow airport signs to rail, airport bus, the official taxi queue or the app pickup zone. Ignore unsolicited ride offers.

5. Reach the hotel

Before moving, confirm the destination, pickup point and route. Keep the hotel card ready.

6. Check in and reset

Present the passport and booking details requested by the property. Charge the phone, save the hotel location and learn the return route.

7. Test a low-risk payment

Make one small purchase, then keep the backup methods on page 3 available.

Airport to hotel check

[ ] Correct airport and terminal

[ ] Correct hotel branch and Chinese address

[ ] Rail or airport-bus operating hours for this arrival time

[ ] Official taxi queue or correct ride-hailing pickup floor/zone

[ ] Primary route and one fallback route

[ ] Current route estimate and any tolls or surcharges shown before departure

[ ] Hotel reception hours and late-arrival instructions

[ ] One payment backup available before leaving the terminal

Backups in the order you need them

Payment backup order

1. Primary wallet that was verified before the payment is needed
2. Second wallet, only if it was already set up and verified
3. Physical international card where the merchant displays or confirms acceptance
4. RMB cash for an immediate offline payment
5. Official bank, exchange counter or compatible ATM if more cash is needed

Acceptance, identity checks and card linking vary. Follow current in-app instructions and do not rely on one method.

Network backup order

1. Primary roaming, eSIM or SIM
2. Official airport Wi-Fi or an information desk, if available
3. A separately prepared backup connection if you carry one
4. Offline map, screenshots, hotel card and saved bookings until data works

Do not assume a VPN or any specific service will work. Check current provider terms and applicable rules before travel.

Offline phone kit

Prepare these before departure and open each item once while offline:

[ ] Map app with the hotel, airport and first destination saved

[ ] Translation app with the required offline language pack

[ ] Screenshots or PDFs of flight, hotel, rail and attraction bookings

[ ] Hotel name, address and phone in both English and Chinese

[ ] Passport identity-page copy stored securely; keep the original accessible

[ ] Airline, hotel and insurer contact details

[ ] Payment and network backup order from this page

[ ] A charged power bank that meets current airline rules

OFFLINE TEST

Switch on airplane mode. Can you still find the Chinese hotel address, route, booking confirmation stored securely and translation phrase? If not, the pack is not ready.

Emergency and important contacts

Police	**110**	報警
Fire	**119**	火警
Medical ambulance	**120**	急救
Traffic accident	**122**	交通事故报警

In an emergency, give your location first. Ask hotel, airport or transport staff to help call if language is a barrier.

My contacts

Hotel	
Travel companion	
Emergency contact at home	
Insurer / assistance	
Embassy or consulate	

Notes and recovery record

Reference notes

Emergency numbers are checked against official Chinese government visitor guidance. Payment, network and transport sequences are China Travel Toolkit recommendations; current app, airport, carrier, hotel and authority instructions take priority.

Official references checked: NIA visitor handbook · SAFE payment guide · State Council visitor guidance

Full guide and current links: https://www.chinatraveltoolkit.com/first-72-hours-in-china/