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# 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

Date of issue: 2024-08-02

## 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/wjbzwfwpt/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.** |

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|---|---|
| **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 InternationalAirport | |
| | 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, Qinzhou, Guigang, Yulin, Hezhou, Hechi, and Laibin |
| | Guilin Liangjiang International Airport | |
| | 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 from： https://english.beijing.gov.cn/latest/news/202503/t20250314_4034664.html

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

Date of issue: 2025-3-14

**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

Date of issue: 2025-04-09

**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

Date of issue: 2025-05-15

**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

**9) Gulf states get visa-free travel to China**

China will adopt a visa-free entry policy for Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain.

From June 9, 2025, to June 8, 2026, people from the four countries holding ordinary passports will be allowed to enter China visa-free and stay for up to 30 days.

Source from:

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202505/28/WS6836bf15a310a04af22c2040.html

Media: China Daily

Date of issue: 2025-05-28

**10) Nationals of 47 countries can stay in China for no more than 30 days without visa**

BEIJING, June 10 (Xinhua) -- China this week launched a trial policy that grants unilateral visa-free entry to citizens of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain, expanding its unilateral visa-free access list to 47 countries.

Nationals of 47 countries including Brunei, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Holland, Malaysia, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Australia, Poland, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Slovenia, Slovakia, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Andorra, Monaco, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Korea, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Malta, Estonia, Latvia, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain holding valid ordinary passports can be exempted from visa requirement if entering China for the purpose of business, tourism, family or friend visits, exchange and transit. They can stay in China for no more than 30 days without a visa.

Source from: https://eng.yidaiyilu.gov.cn/p/0GF49AT8.html

Media: Xinhua

Date of issue: 2025-06-10

### 11）China Extends 240-hour Visa-Free Transit Policy Coverage to 55 Countries with New Addition of Indonesia

Starting June 12, 2025, nationals of Indonesia may enter China under the 240-hour visa-free transit policy. This brings the total number of eligible countries to 55.

Source from: https://www.nia.gov.cn/n794014/n794021/c1722989/content.html

Media: National Immigration Administration

Date of issue: 2025-06-12

### 12）China, Azerbaijan to launch visa-free travel

Starting July 16, holders of ordinary passports from China and Azerbaijan will be permitted to travel between the two countries without the requirement of a visa under a new bilateral agreement.

The agreement allows citizens of both countries to enter, exit, or transit through the other country without a visa for up to 30 days per visit, with a maximum cumulative stay of 90 days within any 180-day period.

Individuals who plan to remain longer than 30 days per visit, or those who intend to reside, work, study, or engage in journalism activities, are required to secure the appropriate visa prior to their travel.

Source from: https://english.shanghai.gov.cn/en-Latest-WhatsNew/20250625/fc6134caedf44c24a2f94e16dee51a7d.html

Media: *Department of Consular Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China*

Date of issue: 2025-06-25

### 13）China-Malaysia mutual visa-free agreement comes into force

BEIJING, July 17 -- China's mutual visa-exemption agreement with Malaysia officially took effect on Thursday. Under the policy, Chinese and Malaysian citizens holding valid ordinary passports can enter, exit or transit through the other country for travel without a visa. Each stay should not exceed 30 days, with a cumulative limit of 90 days within any 180-day period.

Source from:

https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202507/17/content_WS6878b7c7c6d0868f4e8f43e0.html

Media: Xinhua

Date of issue: 2025-07-17

**14）China to launch new type of visa for young science, technology professionals**

BEIJING, Aug. 14 -- China will introduce a new visa category for young science and technology talent, following a decision by the State Council.

The new rules will take effect on Oct. 1.

Source from:

https://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202508/14/content_WS689dd0d3c6d0868f4e8f4d1e.html

Media: Xinhua

Date of issue: 2025-08-14

**15）China to trial visa-free policy for Russian citizens**

BEIJING, Sept. 2 (Xinhua) -- China has decided to trial visa-free policy for Russian citizens holding ordinary passports starting from Sept. 15, 2025 to Sept. 14, 2026, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Source from:

http://www.chinaview.cn/20250902/8c374e19fc22427bb801531d140dfa59/c.html

Media: Xinhua

Date of issue: 2025-09-02