

Health Care and Security

Recommendation for inoculation: protection against tetanus, polio and diphtheria, hepatitis B and A is recommended.

Safety measures: look out for hygienic food and drinking. Tap water is not potable water! However you can use it shortly for brushing your teeth in hotels.

Bird flue: In China the bird flue has occurred too. Please avoid direct contact with the animals and forbear from visiting fowl market places. Poultry meat and products should only be consumed in boiled or fried condition.

Travel Health Insurance: It is heavily recommended to contract a travel health insurance as well as solid repatriation insurance.

Emergency Call: rescue: 120, police: 110; fire department: 119

Entry Requirements and Security



Entry Requirements: A valid visa is required. You get it through your travel agency or through the Chinese embassy. Aliens have to touch in base with the local police station, if their stay is beyond 24hours at one place. (The dispatch has to be made during 24 hours). If you stay at a hotel, the hotel inherits the dispatch automatically.

Customs: When you enter you have to declare amongst others: Foreign exchange and articles of value (watches, jewel and camera). When you leave again you have to show these things together with the certificate of declaration. Subjects to authorisation are cine cameras over 16 mm and exotic souvenirs. It is not allowed to import and export Yuan. You get further information about customs regulations at the Department for Foreign Affairs.

Safety: Look after your valuables (cutpurse) – at the exhibition centre too. When you leave the country bottles you are carrying along with will be controlled on dangerous substance. You may carry in your carry-on-baggage two bottles of max. 500 ml. Alcoholic beverages (max. 500ml) have to be checked in with your luggage.

Important Information: Because of drug smuggling, be aware of taking subjects with unknown content with you. Aliens always have to carry along their passport.

Electric Power Supply

System voltage: 220 Volt, 50 HZ Sockets are not consistent countrywide. You should bring an adapter. plug:  socket: 

Time Difference

To Central Europe (MET): +7h (in the summer time) +8h (in the winter time)

Currency

(updated January 2009)

1 Chinese Yuan (CNY) = € 0,1108

€ 1 = 9,0233 CNY

1 US Dollar = 6,8400 CNY

1 CNY = 0,1462US Dollar

It is not allowed to import or export Yuan. You can carry unlimited foreign currency at your entry into the country.

Finances

It is recommendable to take traveller's cheques or liquid assets with you. Current credit cards are accepted by quite a part of hotels and restaurants. It is possible to draw money from an automated teller machine (ATM) with your credit card and PIN and partly with your EC-Card.

Important Contacts

Before leaving please look for your embassy and the contact details in China. Take this information with you on the trip.



Code of Behaviour

Greeting: For your first greeting it is normal to bow slightly. A firmer handshake is seen as impolite. Generally Chinese are very ceremonial at the greeting. They like to be addressed with their full (academic) title.

Business cards: Especially bilingual business cards are very appreciated. As a sign of respect hand out your business card with both hands. When you get a business card in return, spend time looking at the card and do not write something on it.

Meetings: Formal meetings are likely to be held common and noncommittal. It is important that there is a positive mood throughout the meeting. Also express praise and thanks and underline the good co-operation. Chinese also put emphasis on punctuality.

Conversation:

- Avoid delicate subjects (for instance human rights, Taiwan, Tibet, politics).
- Avoid long eye contact, for them feeling uncomfortable.
- However direct questions concerning income and individual questions are usual.
- It is regarded as impolite and embarrassing to deny someone a request or demand.

Food: Meals are one of the most important activities in China, therefore consider the following:

- Put your chopsticks besides your bowl, otherwise your gesture is interpreted as a sacrifice which amounts to blasphemy.
- Own cigarettes are offered to everybody.
- You should only take your partner to a business dinner when he / she is explicitly invited.
- A big dinner symbolises wealth. You are not expected to finish everything.
- To formal occasions it is normal to clink glasses frequently. Normally with Maotai or other Chinese liquor.
- In China the glass must always be full and will be frequently filled up. Do empty the glass totally and do not refill it yourself.
- To be respectful towards an older or more important person you should hold your glass with both hands when clinking glasses or hold it down a bit.
- Chinese like to receive compliments about their food.

Invitations to dinner should - if possible - be accepted and also should be returned. It is uncommon to talk about business during the meal. Private aspects are here to the fore.

Delicacies: snakes, frogs, turtles and snails are considered as specialities.

Appearance: Casual clothing is not appreciated.

Presents: Do not bring flowers, because this is common in the case of death. Your partner will be pleased with little presents from your home country. However expensive presents cause embarrassing feelings.

Usually the host does not unwrap the present in front of his guests. Red wrapping or envelopes are very welcomed in China, because this colour expresses luck and happiness. However red ink is inappropriate, because it indicates that you want to break up the relationship.

Prestige: Chinese are very aware of prestige. They expect foreign associate partner to be generous. Luxurious cars and expensive hotels are appropriate for the company's status. To earn yourself respect you need accessories like expensive watches, silver business card cases or precious tie pins. Brands and prices are a favourite topic at conversations.

Colours: Positive colours are red (luck and wealth) and yellow (colour of the Chinese emperor), a negative colour is white (sorrow and bad luck)