

Staying Connected in China

China Internet & VPN Guide

Staying Connected During Your Trip to China

China is one of the most digitally advanced countries in the world. Mobile payments, ride-hailing, food delivery, and travel services are widely integrated into daily life.

To help you stay connected and enjoy a smooth travel experience, please review the following internet and VPN information before traveling to China.

1. Internet Access in China

Internet access is widely available throughout China.

Travelers can access the internet through:

- Hotel Wi-Fi
- Airport Wi-Fi
- High-speed train Wi-Fi (selected routes)
- Local SIM cards
- International roaming services
- eSIM services

Most major cities offer reliable and fast internet connections.

2. Websites & Apps That May Be Restricted

Some international websites and applications may not be accessible in mainland China without a VPN.

Examples include:

Social Media

- Instagram
- Facebook



- X (Twitter)
- Threads
- LinkedIn

Messaging Apps

- WhatsApp
- Telegram

Search Engines & Services

- Google Search
- Gmail
- Google Maps
- Google Drive
- Google Photos

Video Platforms

- YouTube

Some News Websites

Access may vary depending on the service and location.

3. What is a VPN?

VPN stands for:

Virtual Private Network

A VPN allows users to access certain international websites and services that may be unavailable on standard internet connections within China.

Many international travelers choose to install a VPN before arriving in China.

4. Important Recommendation

We strongly recommend:

Install and Test Your VPN Before Arrival

Please ensure your VPN is:

Installed

Activated

Tested

before entering China.

Downloading or setting up a VPN after arrival may be more difficult.

5. International Roaming

Many travelers find that international roaming services provided by their home mobile carrier allow access to some international websites and applications without additional setup.

Availability depends on:

- mobile carrier
- country of origin
- roaming package

Please check with your provider before departure.

6. Recommended Apps for Travel in China

Even without a VPN, these apps are highly recommended for traveling in China.



Communication

- WeChat

Mobile Payments

- Alipay
- WeChat Pay

Transportation

- DiDi

Translation

- Google Translate (download offline language packs before travel)
- Microsoft Translator

Maps

- Apple Maps
- Baidu Maps
- Amap (Gaode Maps)

7. Mobile Payments

China is largely cashless.

Travelers are encouraged to set up:

Alipay

or

WeChat Pay



before arrival.

Both platforms now support many international credit and debit cards.

These apps can be used for:

- restaurants
- taxis
- shopping
- attractions
- public transportation

8. SIM Cards & eSIM

Travelers may use:

Local SIM Cards

Available at:

- airports
- mobile stores

Major providers:

- China Mobile
- China Unicom
- China Telecom

eSIM Services

Many travelers prefer eSIM solutions for convenience.

Benefits include:

Instant activation

No physical SIM card required

Data access immediately upon arrival

9. Hotel & Public Wi-Fi

Most hotels provide complimentary Wi-Fi.

Public Wi-Fi is commonly available in:

- airports
- shopping malls
- cafes
- railway stations

Login procedures may vary.

10. Business Travelers

If your work relies on:

- Gmail
- Google Drive
- Google Meet
- Microsoft Teams
- Slack
- Zoom

please ensure all necessary applications are installed and tested before departure.

A VPN may be required for certain services.

11. Useful Travel Tips

Before arriving in China:

Install your preferred VPN



Download offline maps

Download offline translation packages

Set up Alipay

Enable international roaming if required

Save important documents offline

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use WhatsApp in China?

A VPN may be required.

Can I access Google services?

A VPN may be required.

Can I use Instagram and Facebook?

A VPN may be required.

Can I use WeChat?

Yes.

WeChat works normally throughout China and is highly recommended.



Can I use Alipay as a foreign traveler?

Yes.

Many international cards can now be linked to Alipay.

RedGate DMC Recommendation

For the best travel experience in China, we recommend:

Installing a VPN before arrival

Setting up Alipay

Downloading WeChat

Preparing offline maps and translations

These simple preparations will help ensure a smooth and enjoyable journey throughout China.

Need Assistance?

RedGate DMC is happy to provide guidance on connectivity, transportation, payments, and travel arrangements before your arrival.

We look forward to welcoming you to China.