

February 2018

CHINA FACT SHEET FOR TRAVELERS

ACCOMMODATIONS

Information about recommended hotels is available on our website:

https://www.world-of-photonics-china.com/media/website/files/pdf/lac_2018-hotel-list.pdf

CHINESE EMBASSIES

The website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China features contact information for the Chinese Embassy in your country: www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng (Missions Overseas → Chinese Embassies)

CURRENCY/CREDIT CARDS

The official currency in China is the Renminbi (RMB), also called Yuan (¥) or Kuai.

1 Yuan = 10 Jiao = 100 Fen.

There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency that can be brought into China, but it must be declared to customs officials.

Dollars and euros can be exchanged at all international hotels. However, exchange offices and banks offer better rates. The return exchange of RMB to foreign currency is only possible with the exchange receipt. Each individual is permitted to take no more than RMB 6,000 at arrival and departure. Many banks allow you to withdraw cash using your EC card.

The current exchange rate is available at: <http://finance.yahoo.com/currency-converter/>.

1 EUR = 7.6089 ¥ (as of February 12, 2018). We recommend bringing a sufficient amount of cash.

Credit cards (e.g. Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club) are accepted in most international hotels and in tourist stores.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity in China is 220 V, 50 cycles. Two-pin sockets and some three-pin sockets are in use. Most of the hotels have a socket in the bathroom for both 110 V and 220 V. However, outside the bathroom, only 220 V sockets are available.

Although an adapter may be borrowed from the hotel, we recommend bringing your own adapter plug.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants for visas are required to have an **Invitation Letter** from the Chinese authorities. The organizers will coordinate and forward application information to the Chinese authorities that issue the Invitation Letter, which will be ready within seven days and sent to your company by fax or express mail. Upon receipt of this visa authorization, the applicant is required to present his/her **passport**.

Passports must be valid for **at least six months** after the intended date of entry into China. A recent **photograph** and a completed visa **application form** (available from local Chinese Embassy) are needed and must be forwarded to the local Chinese Embassy or Consulate for completion of formalities.

The homepage of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China** (see above) features a link to your country's embassy for downloading and printing the visa application form or for additional information about application procedures.

For Germans: The homepage of the **Chinese Embassy** contains a link for downloading and printing the visa application form for China: www.china-botschaft.de.

For information regarding the visa application and the Invitation Letter, please refer to our website:

Exhibitors:

<https://www.world-of-photonics-china.com/exhibitors/plan-your-stay/visa-service/index.html>

Visitors:

<https://www.world-of-photonics-china.com/visitors/general-information/visitor-services/index.html>

FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN CHINA

The addresses of your own Embassy and Consulate in China is available at www.embassiesinchina.com/.

HEALTH/VACCINATIONS

No particular immunizations are required to enter China, unless the traveller is coming from a yellow fever infected area. No vaccinations are required for direct entry from Europe. We recommend renewing vaccinations for Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Polio and Diphtheria.

In case of emergency, the embassies can give you the contact of English or German-speaking physicians in China. Most hotels have their own first-aid service or can arrange for medical assistance.

In large cities, medical care has reached a high standard. You can even find medical divisions only for foreigners.

Be cautious with unpeeled fruit, ice, ice-cream and water from the tap. We highly recommend getting **accident and medical insurance coverage** for any medical expenses that may arise.

Please also refer to:

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations>

For Germans: Information in German is also available from the **Federal Foreign Office** at <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/Laenderinformationen/00-SiHi/ChinaSicherheit.html>

LANGUAGE/COMMUNICATION

The official language of China is Mandarin (Chinese: pu tong hua).

However, regional dialects vary considerably. English is mainly spoken in tourist centers (e.g. international hotels) and in business circles.

If you take a **taxi**, we recommend taking a business card from your hotel with you or asking for written directions in Chinese at the reception desk.

MAIL/TELEPHONE/INTERNET

- **Mail:** Stamps are available at post offices or at the hotel reception, where postcards and letters will also be mailed for you.
- **Telephone:** The international country code of China is +86. International calls from the hotel are very expensive. Local calls are usually free of charge. Most major cities operate telephone booths, which can be used for international calls with telephone cards. In most cases your mobile phone will work in large cities. You can also use your mobile phone with a Chinese prepaid card, which can be bought in stores.
- **Internet cafes** can be found mainly in large cities and tourist centers.

OPENING HOURS

- **Banks**
Mon. to Fri.: 09:00 to 12:00, 14:00 to 17:00
Sat.: 08:00 to 11:30
- **Offices**
Mon. to Fri.: 08:00 to 12:00, 13:00 to 17:00
- **Stores**
Mon. to Sun.: 08:00 to 20:00, in winter: 10:00 to 21:00 There is no official closing hour.
- **Post offices**
Mon. to Fri.: 08:00 to 19:00
Sat.: 08:00 to 14:00
- **Restaurants**
Mon. to Sun.: 10:00 to 24:00
- **Sights**
Usually 09:00 to 16:00

SAFETY

China is a very safe country. However, when visiting major tourist locations, beware of pickpockets. Therefore, we recommend depositing all valuables in your hotel safe.

For Germans: Additional information in German is available at the homepage of the **Federal Foreign Office:** www.auswaertiges-amt.de.

TIME ZONE

Despite its enormous size, China has only one time zone (Beijing standard time). There is no daylight saving time, i.e. only standardized Central European Time (CET) +7 hours, and European daylight saving time +6 hours.

TIPPING

Although the practice is not officially recognized, tipping is now common in upper-class international hotels and restaurants. However, tipping is still not expected in rural areas. There is no general rule about tipping; it is up to your own judgement (usually about 10% is common). Normally, consumer tax is included in the price on goods, but upper-class hotels and restaurants may add a service charge of 10–15%.

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis are available and are usually the most convenient way to get to the city. It takes about an hour to get to most downtown areas. A sticker on the car door gives information about the rate of the taxi. Ask the driver to use the taxi meter. There is a basic fee (about RMB 11), which increases after 23:00, and then an additional charge that depends on the distance. Taxi drivers rarely understand or speak English, so ask the hotel receptionist to write your destination in Chinese characters and to give you a calling card from the hotel for the trip back. Most taxi drivers do not accept credit cards.

Public transportation: Shanghai has a well connected underground network with sign postings in English. However, during peak hours, public transport can be unpleasantly crowded.

For additional information regarding transportation to SNIEC – Shanghai New International Expo Center, please visit our homepage:

<https://www.world-of-photonics-china.com/about/travel-stay/getting-there/index.html>

USEFUL ADDRESSES IN GERMANY

Botschaft der Volksrepublik China

Märkisches Ufer 54, 10179 Berlin

Tel.: +49 30-27 58 80

Fax: +49 30-27 58 82 21

www.china-botschaft.de

Office hours: Mon.–Fri. 08:30–12:30, 13:30–17:00

Konsularabteilung der Botschaft

Brückenstraße 10, D-10179 Berlin

Tel.: +49 30 27 58 85 72

Fax: +49 30 27 58 85 20

Tue. and Thu.: 15:00–17:00 (service by telephone)

Mon. and Fri.: 09:00–12.00 (open for the public)

USEFUL ADDRESSES FOR GERMANS IN CHINA

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

17 Dong Zhi Men Wai Da Jie, Chaoyang District, CN-100600 Beijing

Tel.: +86 10 85 32 90 00

Fax: +86 10 65 32 53 36.

E-mail: embassy@peki.diplo.de

www.peking.diplo.de/

Consulate General in Chengdu, Hong Kong, Kanton and Shanghai

Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Wolfgang Röhr (Generalkonsul)

181, Yongfu Lu, Shanghai 200031, PR China

Tel.: +86 21-3401 0106

E-mail: info@gk-shanghai.org.cn

www.china.diplo.de/Vertretung/china/de/Startseite.html

China National Tourism Administration (CNTA)

9A Jianguomennei Avenue, CN-100740 Beijing

Tel.: +86 10 65 20 11 14

Fax: +86 10 65 12 20 96.

E-mail: webmaster@cнта.gov.cn

<http://en.cнта.gov.cn/>

German Industry and Commerce (GIC) Shanghai

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