Welcome to China

China Travel Guide
Contents

Traveling Around China 01-02
Using ili to Help You Shop
Dine Out with ili
Taking a Taxi in China
Riding Trains in China
Situations Where ili Can Help
In Case You Get into Trouble
Make Your Trip More Fun Other ways you can use ili
Make Your Trip More Fun Become friends with locals
5 Chinese Dishes Locals Highly Recommend You To Try
5 Things You Must Do While in China
The top 3 hidden spots in China
5 Things You Should Keep in Mind While in China
How to use ili
ili Troubleshooting
Frequently used phrases Shopping
Frequently used phrases Dining
Frequently used phrases Train & Metro
Frequently used phrases Taking a taxi
Frequently used phrases Asking directions
Frequently used phrases Trouble
China is a massive landscape consisting of metropolitan cities and untouched greenery. Here are a few places we recommend you to visit during your stop in China.

**Chengdu**

Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan Province located in southwestern China. It's a historical city with many well-known spots for tourists to visit: museums, architecture, and the world famous Chengdu Research Base of Big Panda Breeding that comes with 1 day tour.

**Guangzhou**

Guangzhou is a relatively new city compared with Beijing and Shanghai. It is a port city near Hong Kong on the Pearl River with attractive scenery. Significant architecture such as Guangdong Museum and Guangzhou Opera House are two famous landmarks found in the city. Excellent hotels, restaurants, and entertainment facilities can easily be found here too.

If you’re feeling adventurous, you might want to explore the outskirts of China. Make sure to bring ili, you’ll need it.
Beijing

Beijing is the capital of China with thousands of years of history. It is now the most important city in China because it is the political, commercial, historical, military, artistic, and entertainment center of the country.

Tianjin

Tianjin is an important port city in the northeast of China near Beijing. After the 1858 Tianjin Treaties, Western establishment was set up in this city. You’ll see municipal buildings, European-style houses and churches in Wudadao, also called Five Great Avenues. Moreover, there are modern skyscrapers including the Tianjin Radio and Television Tower.

Shanghai

Shanghai is China’s largest city and is playing the role of a global financial hub with vibrant commercial activities running 24/7. Here is where you’ll find a beautiful waterfront promenade with colonial and magnificent buildings. You can also find lots of world famous constructions, loads of entertainment, and catering shops for you to enjoy.
Using ili to Help You Shop

From delicious dumplings to jewelry shops, China has a ton of great things for you to buy and bring back home. You can use ili to make shopping easier.

Is this duty free?  How much does it cost?
Could you have something cheaper?
Could you have different colors?  Can I try this?

ili tip 3 things to know when shopping in China

1. Bargaining
   Bargaining is acceptable in most Chinese stores, except in the supermarket or large shopping malls.

2. Fake items
   Be careful as China is home to many fake goods. Shop with caution and if your gut is telling you no, well…

3. Watch your belongings
   Crowded markets are a pickpocket's haven. If you can, divide your cash up in several places and don’t carry your passport unless you have to.
Dine Out with ili

China is known for its delicious noodles, meats, and desserts. Don’t miss out on recommendations from the locals and use ili to help ask what’s good.

Is this spicy?  Can I have a fork and knife?
Can you remove the wasabi?  I don’t like garlic.
I’m allergic to shrimp.  What do you recommend?

3 things to know when eating in China

1. Serving hours
   Lunch is usually served from 12pm and dinner from 6pm or later.

2. Tipping
   Tipping isn’t widely accepted in China, especially in local restaurants. However, it’s acceptable to tip in high-end or westernized restaurants.

3. Sit down buffet
   In China eating is more of a communal activity. Food is generally ordered dish-by-dish and is shared by those present at the table.
Taking a Taxi in China

You’ll find trains are the easiest way to commute around China. However, sometimes a taxi may be the only option. Here are a few sentences ili can help translate for you to make things easier.

- "It’s cold."
- "Can you turn off the air conditioner?"
- "Can you stop here?"
- "Take me to this address."
- "Can I use American Express?"
- "How long does it take to get there?"

3 things to know when riding a taxi

1. Payment
   Prepare small notes and coins beforehand for easier payment.

2. Get a receipt
   Watch the taxi’s meter and always get a receipt to make sure you weren’t overcharged.

3. Tipping
   You’ll be happy to hear that tipping taxi drivers isn’t necessary.
Riding Trains in China

Chinese trains are extremely convenient and can take you to almost anywhere you want to go. However, if you're new to the transit system, the maps and routes may be a bit confusing. You can use ili to help get around these problems.

Which platform should I go to?  Which line should I take?
How long does it take to get to Beijing?
Is this the train to Beijing?
I don’t know how to buy the ticket.

2 things you need to know when taking public transportation in China

1. Get a card
   The Octopus card, Tourist pass, and other cards can provide easier payment options when riding transportation.

2. Put the food down
   According to the Mass Transit Railway By-Law, eating, drinking, and smoking are not allowed in the paid area of stations or in trains. Offenders will be fined up to 4250 Chinese Yuan.
Situations Where ili Can Help

1. **Conversation starter**
   Need something to help break the ice? Give ili a try and let it do the talking for you.

2. **Ask for recommendations**
   A simple recommendation can go a long way. Use ili to ask the locals where to go, what to eat, and what to do. You might end up discovering something new and exciting.

3. **Ask directions**
   China isn’t the easiest country to navigate, especially in big cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Ask someone if your destination is nearby using ili.

4. **Express gratitude**
   If you find yourself pleasantly surprised with the service in China, why not say so? Use ili to compliment those who helped you and you’ll be remembered forever.

5. **Shop till you drop**
   Most shops in China have little to no English signs. You can use ili to ask where certain items are located and their price. Maybe try asking for a discount while you’re at it too.
In Case You Get into Trouble

China is a relatively safe place. However, here are a few tips in case things don’t go as planned.

1. **Getting lost**
   If you find yourself lost in China, don’t panic. You can always ask for help using ili. Also, it’s always good to bring a physical map since Google isn’t accessible in China.

2. **Backpacks**
   If you’re in crowded or more rural areas, make sure your backpack is sealed and in front of you. Every year, a few tourists find themselves having been pickpocketed, so keep your eyes open.

3. **Cash**
   Always have cash on hand. There are still a lot of shops in China that don’t accept credit cards or traveler’s checks.

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**ili tip**

**Asking for assistance**

1. I’m lost. Do you know how I can get to this place?
2. Can you show me where I am on the map?
3. I forgot my phone. Can you find it?
4. My phone is an iPhone 7. The phone is blue.
5. I don’t have cash. Where is the closest ATM?
Other ways you can use ili

You can use ili for a variety of situations. Our recommendation is to have fun and try saying something new.

**Hug a panda**

Who wouldn’t want to hug a panda? There are various tours that give you a chance to meet and greet the furry creatures. Ask the zookeeper if it’s OK to hug one using ili.

- Can I take a picture?
- I want to see a panda.

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**Tea tasting**

One of China’s best known exports, Chinese tea has a wide range of flavors that are enjoyed throughout the country. Be on the lookout for some Baihao Yinzhen.

- Do you have any samples?
- What is your favorite drink?

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**A night out**

Nightlife in China (especially in Shanghai) is renowned for its vast bars, clubs, and restaurants. Hope you can handle it.

- Are you free tonight?
- Why don’t we go out?
Become friends with locals

Meeting new people is what makes traveling so special. So why not try and use ili to strike up a conversation? Here are a few phrases you can try to catch someone’s attention.

**ili tip** Say something more than just hello

I like your clothes.

Do you want to go drink a coffee?

**ili tip** Say something nice to the waiter/waitress

The food was delicious.

I will come back next time.

**ili tip** Complement the hotel you stayed at

I enjoyed staying here.

I will stay here next time.
5 Chinese Dishes Locals Highly Recommend You To Try

1 Ma-po tofu
Ma-po Tofu is a popular dish found in many restaurants across China. It’s a cuisine people have enjoyed for over 100 years. Ma-po is quite spicy and is served with minced beef and green onion. Just a heads up, the spiciness doesn’t go away for a few hours.

2 Beijing roast duck
Beijing roast duck is considered one of China’s national dishes. The duck is grilled to perfection and is eaten with thin pancakes and green onion.

3 Sweet and sour pork
A common dish that is a fan favorite amongst locals and travelers, sweet and sour pork tastes exactly how the name sounds. The pork can be substituted with beef, chicken or fish fillet.

4 Gong Bao chicken
This dish is made up of sliced pieces of chicken which is cooked with chili and peanuts. The chicken is soft and tender and very delicious due to it absorbing the taste of chili and peanut. Vegetables can also be added.

5 Dumplings
Dumplings were created over 1,800 years ago and are widely available in China. They are made by wrapping thin dough around minced meat and finely chopped vegetables. Dumplings can be steamed, boiled or stir-fried.

ili tip Asking the locals for recommendations
I want to eat Beijing Roast Duck.
Do you know a popular restaurant nearby?
5 Things You Must Do While in China

1. **Walk around the Forbidden City**
   The Forbidden City was the Chinese imperial palace for nearly 500 years. It served as the home for emperors as well as the ceremonial and political center of Chinese government.

2. **Trek across the Great Wall of China**
   The Great Wall is a series of significant structures made of brick, stone, wood and other materials. It was built across the historic borders of northern China to protect the country from invasions. The wall measures an amazing length of 21,196.18 km!

3. **Watch the flag raise in Tiananmen Square**
   Every morning, there is a flag-raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square. It is the largest public square space in the world measured at 440,000 square meters.

4. **Practice Tai Chi**
   You can learn Tai Chi at designated schools offering 2 week courses. If you’re interested, Henan and Shandong provinces are two places in the country where you can sign up for lessons and hone your skills. Henan is also home to the world’s famous Shaolin Temple.

5. **Enjoy a show at Shanghai Circus World**
   This circus occupies a large area of over 22,000 square meters on Gonghexin Road in Shanghai, China’s top commercial city. There are 1,600 seats in the facility showing the wonderful performance by the professional acrobats and dancers that are accompanied by great visual and sound effects.

**ili tip**

Ask a friend to join

What should I do in Shanghai?

Let’s go and see the circus!
The top 3 hidden spots in China

It may surprise you to know that China is a country filled with natural beauty and areas that look like they were taken from a page of a fairy tale fantasy. Here are 3 places we recommend you visit on your next trip.

1. **Dongchuan Red Land**
   
   Near Kunming City in the southern part of China, Dongchuan Red Land has a subtropical climate which allows iron to oxidize in the soil giving it a dark-red color. Described as a color palette, this red land is filled with layered fields, trees, and tracks under a blue sky.

2. **Zhangjiajie**

   Zhangjiajie is a city in the northwestern part of Hunan province. It comprises the district of Yongding, Wulingyuan and counties of Cili and Sangzhi. Within it is located Wulingyuan Scenic Area which was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992.

3. **The Echoing Sand Mountain**

   This mountain consists of magnificent sand dunes and lays across the world famous Silk Road, in the Gobi Desert in the northwest part of China. The sand dunes cover an area of 30 km by 15 km, reaching 250 meters in height.
As with any other country you visit, China has a few rules to abide by. Here are a few we feel you should know.

1. **Tipping**
   As mentioned previously, tipping isn’t common in China. However, for the bellboys and waiters of high-level hotels and western restaurants, tipping is acceptable.

2. **Don’t overstay**
   In China, overstaying at a restaurant after you’ve finished eating should be avoided. Especially the smaller restaurants such as noodle cafes.

3. **Keep it quiet**
   In crowded trains, avoid speaking loudly and place your bag in front of you to save space.

4. **Don’t talk about government politics in public**
   Avoid political topics at all costs. The last thing you want to do is board a plane back home because you said the wrong thing.

5. **Watch where you smoke**
   Smoking is becoming less popular these days in China and it’s best to make sure that if you do need to smoke, that you’re in a designated area.
3 quick steps

Step 1: Hold the Button.
Step 2: While holding the button, begin to talk.
Step 3: After talking, release the button.

One phrase translation

“Where can I find a good restaurant?”

“Um... Where can I find, like you know, a good restaurant?”

Translation tips

**Tips 1** Speak slowly, clearly, and correctly
**Tips 2** Keep the sentence short and simple
**Tips 3** Avoid fillers and slangs
Translation not working well?

Check if ili captured your word correctly by pushing the side button.

Ex. “Where is the bathroom?”

“Where is th...”
Make sure you don’t release the main button until you finish your sentence.

“...is the bathroom?”
Press and hold the button and start speaking after the beep sound.

“Where is the path room?”
Please retry by speaking slower and clearer.

When the recipient doesn’t understand the translation
Please try rephrasing your sentence.

Can’t hear the translation?

Use the repeat function!

If you have any other questions, please contact the user support below.

Email: support@iamili.com

ili isn’t meant for

Business language, medical terms, proper nouns, and technical terms.

Software optimized for traveling
We took the most common travel sentences and added them specifically for travelers such as yourself.
Try some phrases that travelers use when shopping!

How much is this?

Do you have different colors?

Where can I find this?

Do you have any sales today?

I’m looking for a souvenir for my sister.

Do you think this would look good on me?

Can I have this in blue?

Can I use VISA/Master Card/Amex?

I don’t have cash.

Can I have a receipt?

Can I have extra bags?

Can you do the wrapping?

Is this popular here?

Can I mail this to the United States?
What’s your recommendation?

I want to have something that is popular among the locals.

My order hasn’t come yet.

I’ve never tried this.

Can I cook this at home?

What’s the name of this dish?

I can’t use chopsticks.

Do you have a vegetarian menu?

I can’t eat meat.

Check please.

Do you have local beer?

Which wine do you recommend?

Do you think it’s enough for 4 people?

Can I have a glass of water?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I'm having trouble purchasing a ticket.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the fare to reach to this station?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which exit do I take to get here?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long does it take to get to that station?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm looking for the nearest elevator.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Which way is the escalator?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where can I buy train tickets?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>My son lost his ticket.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Which platform should I go to?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Which line should I take?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>How do I go to Shanghai?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do I get to the airport.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are there any bathrooms in the station?</td>
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<tr>
<td>When is the next train?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phrase</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>How long does it take to get there?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can you turn on the air-conditioner?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can you close the window?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I'm in a hurry.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>How much does it cost to get to the airport?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can you put my baggage in the trunk?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can I use my credit card?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is it going to take more than 15 minutes to get there?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can you take me to the airport?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Check please.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to go to Pudong Avenue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can you hurry up?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can you make a right turn?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can you get there by noon?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you show me where I am on the map?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m lost.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can you show me how to get to the station?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Where is the nearest station?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>How can I get to this address?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there an ATM here?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you know where the nearest market is?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I want to go to the park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>I’m looking for a convenience store.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Where is the nearest bank?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I’m looking for a bathroom.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you know any good restaurant near here?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Can I walk to the station from here?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Should I take a taxi?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Try some phrases that travelers use when they’re in trouble!

I lost my passport.

Can I use your phone?

Can you call 110 (in Shanghai)?

I need to file a police report.

Where is the nearest police station?

I missed my flight.

Do you have any stomach medicine?

Please call a doctor.

Where’s the nearest drugstore (hospital)?

Is there doctor who speaks English?

I have a cold.

I feel nauseous.

I have an allergy to eggs.

May I continue my trip?
Have a nice trip with ili!

If you have any other questions, please contact the user support below.

support@iamili.com