A TRAVEL BOOK FOR ONE TRIP

10 days in China: Xi'an, Chengdu & Chongqing

10 days · 3 places



1	**Xi'an** 西安	3 days	
2	**Chengdu** 成都	4 days	
3	**Chongqing** 重庆	3 days	

Everything in here works with no internet. The parts marked ✓ were checked against the official page on the date shown.

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Open this trip, or copy it
chinamapbook.com
/b/9epcuucsmqjz

Checked for you

What we checked for this trip, and what to do before you go.

- 7 things to book or do.

WHAT TO DO, AND WHEN

☐	**Check its page**	Terracotta Army: when tickets open is not checked yet. Book on its official site, with your passport; each of you books under your own name. Its booking pages are in Chinese, and we have not checked them step by step yet.
☐	**Now**	Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding: tickets open 14 days ahead. Book in its WeChat mini program “成都大熊猫繁育研究基地”, with your passport; each of you books under your own name. ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source 成都大熊猫繁育研究基地 In WeChat, tap search and type or paste this name to find its mini program. Its booking pages are in Chinese, and we have not checked them step by step yet.
☐	**Check its page**	Chengdu Museum: when tickets open is not checked yet. Book on its official site. Its booking pages are in Chinese, and we have not checked them step by step yet.
☐	**Now**	Yangtze cable car: tickets open 0 days ahead at 07:45 Beijing time. Book through its WeChat account “长江索道”. Whether you must book ahead is not checked yet — booking is the sure way in. ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source 长江索道 In WeChat, tap search and type or paste this name to find its mini program. Its booking pages are in Chinese, and we have not checked them step by step yet.
☐	**Now**	Alipay takes foreign bank cards — link yours in the app before you fly, then scan to pay wherever Alipay QR codes are accepted. Keep a physical card and some cash as backup. ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
☐	**Now**	WeChat Pay takes foreign bank cards for everyday purchases — add yours under Wallet, then scan to pay where WeChat Pay is accepted. No fee up to 200 RMB per payment, 3% above; red packets and transfers are not supported. ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
☐	**Now**	Travel eSIMs need an eSIM-capable, carrier-unlocked phone — check yours before you buy. ✓ Checked Sun, Oct 4, 2026 · source

YOUR DATES

- Day 1 and Day 10 are planned light, as if you land by early afternoon and fly home in the evening. Landing late or flying early? Keep those days for getting in and out, and move their sights.
  guide

NOT CHECKED YET

We say what we could not check rather than guess.

- Choose your passport and we'll check how you get in.



1

Xi'an 西安

Terracotta Army and the old city walls

3 days here

Where I'm going in Xi'an (9 cards) · Help in Chinese · Emergency

- Terracotta Army is about 1h30 from Xi'an (33 km).
  an estimate
- Huaqing Chi is about 51 min from Xi'an (27 km).
  an estimate
- Xi'an: 陕西省人民医院（主院区）, 西安市友谊西路256号 · ☎ 029-85251331.
  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026
- Xi'an: The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University — 西安交通大学第一附属医院.
  Not yet checked

WHERE I'M STAYING

Good areas: Bell Tower & Muslim Quarter 钟楼—回民街 (22 min to Xi'an North Railway Station 西安北站) · Yongningmen (South Gate) 南门永宁门 (26 min to Xi'an North Railway Station 西安北站)

Hotel name

Address in Chinese

WHAT I'M GOING TO SEE



Giant Wild Goose Pagoda Day 1

Da Ci'en Temple ticket office, south square 大慈恩寺（大雁塔南广场售票处）

Tang-dynasty pagoda built for a travelling monk

HOURS	not checked yet
CLOSED	None — open every day

Not yet checked

Show the driver · Da Ci'en Temple ticket office, south square

大慈恩寺（大雁塔南广场售票处）

Address of this entrance not checked yet — show the name.



Daming Palace

Tang imperial palace, now an archaeological park

Give it: half a day About 15 min by metro from Xi'an (an estimate)

HOURS	not checked yet
CLOSED	None — open every day

Not yet checked

> *Metro Line 4's Daminggong station opens right by the Danfeng Gate side*

> *This is a ruin park — foundations and interpretive buildings, not a rebuilt palace; the free lawns work as a local park*

Show the driver · Daming Palace

大明宫



Great Mosque of Xi'an

Chinese courtyards around a prayer hall

Give it: 1–2 hours About 10 min by foot from Xi'an (an estimate)

HOURS	not checked yet
CLOSED	None — open every day

Not yet checked

> *Sleeveless tops do not fit the setting; the prayer hall itself is for worshippers — visitors stay in the four courtyards*

> *It is a Chinese-courtyard mosque four courts deep with a pagoda-style minaret — walk to the last court before turning back*

Show the driver · Great Mosque of Xi'an

西安清真寺



Terracotta Army Day 2

Thousands of clay soldiers buried for 2,000 years

Give it: half a day About 1h30 by metro from Xi'an (an estimate)

HOURS, PEAK SEASON (MAR 16 – NOV 15)	08:30–18:30 · last entry 17:00
HOURS, LOW SEASON (NOV 16 – MAR 15)	08:30–18:00 · last entry 17:00

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

CLOSED	None — open every day
BOOKING	Required ahead — real-name, with your passport

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

> *A tout selling a secret 'Pit 4' tour is inventing it — your ticket already covers the three numbered pits and the site's other pits*

> *Do the pits in reverse — Pit 3, then Pit 2, then Pit 1 — so each hall tops the last and Pit 1 is the finale*

Show the driver · Terracotta Army

秦始皇兵马俑



Huaqing Chi Day 2

Hot springs that emperors and a modern state both used

Give it: 1–2 hours

HOURS	07:30–18:00

✓ Checked Sun, Oct 4, 2026 · source

HOURS, SUMMER (WHICH MONTHS: NOT CHECKED YET)	07:30–18:00
HOURS, WINTER (WHICH MONTHS: NOT CHECKED YET)	07:30–17:30

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

CLOSED	None — open every day

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

> *The 1936 Xi'an Incident bullet holes are still visible on the Five-Room Building where Chiang Kai-shek was caught*

> *Take the cable car from the West Gate up Mount Li for the beacon-tower outlook, then walk down into the imperial bath ruins*

Show the driver · Huaqing Chi

华清池

Bell Tower of Xi'an Day 3

Wooden tower at the city's centre

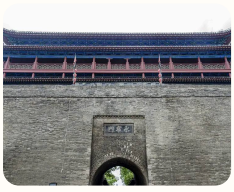
Give it: 1–2 hours

HOURS	not checked yet	CLOSED	None — open every day

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

Show the driver · Bell Tower of Xi'an

西安钟楼



Xi'an City Wall Day 3

South Gate (Yongningmen) 南门（永宁门）

A full Ming wall you can ride around

HOURS	08:00–22:00

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

Show the driver · South Gate (Yongningmen)

南门（永宁门）

Address of this entrance not checked yet — show the name.

Muslim Quarter Day 3

Street food and old Hui neighbourhood

Give it: 1–2 hours About 5 min by foot from Xi'an (an estimate)

HOURS	not checked yet	CLOSED	None — open every day

Not yet checked

> *West of the main lane the branch streets keep the food and lose the crush*

> *Night is the scene — neon and griddles — but breakfast and lunch bring thinner crowds with the same food*

Show the driver · Muslim Quarter

回民街



Epang Palace Day 3

Earthworks of a Qin dynasty palace that was never finished

Give it: 1–2 hours

HOURS	not checked yet
CLOSED	None — open every day
TICKET	Free

Not yet checked

Show the driver · Epang Palace

阿房宫

WHAT I'M GOING TO EAT



肉夹馍

Roujiamo (Chinese pork burger)

Chopped long-braised pork in a crackly baked flatbread, the snack Xi'an is known for first.

Usually contains: pork, wheat (flour, wheat gluten), soy (a guide — always show your allergy card)

Known for it: Fanji cured-pork burger shop 樊记腊汁肉（竹笆市店）

> 您好，一个优质肉夹馍，麻烦皮烤脆一点，谢谢您。

Hello, one premium pork burger, crispy crust please.

羊肉泡馍

Lamb paomo (bread in lamb soup)

You tear the bread by hand, the kitchen pours boiling lamb broth over it, eating it is a ritual not just a meal.

Usually contains: lamb, wheat (flour, wheat gluten), broth (a guide — always show your allergy card)

Known for it: Lao Sun Jia restaurant 老孙家饭庄（东关正街店） · Tong Sheng Xiang restaurant 同盛祥饭庄（钟鼓楼广场店）

> 您好，两碗羊肉泡馍，馍我们自己掰，汤宽一点，谢谢您。

Hello, two lamb paomo, we will tear the bread ourselves, extra broth please.

biangbiang面

Biangbiang belt noodles

Ribbon-wide hand-slapped noodles under chilli, pork or tomato toppings, named for the slapping sound.

Usually contains: wheat (flour, wheat gluten), pork, egg, soy (a guide — always show your allergy card)

> 您好，一碗三合一biangbiang面，辣子正常，谢谢您。

Hello, one biangbiang noodles with three toppings, normal chilli please.

- Spice words are local scale: wei la (mild) in Xi'an still carries real chilli — say bu la (no chilli) if the table is heat-shy.
- The Muslim Quarter is halal: pork roujiamo lives outside it, and beef-lamb versions inside — check the halal sign if that matters to you.

Point at the big Chinese — it is the name on the menu. To order, show the sentence under it.

Also here: Shaanxi History Museum · Small Wild Goose Pagoda · Banpo



2

Chengdu 成都

Pandas, teahouses and the Dujiangyan irrigation works

4 days here | 🚄 from Xi'an: about 3h05 (an estimate)

Where I'm going in Chengdu (8 cards) · Help in Chinese · Emergency

- Xi'an → Chengdu: about 3h05 by train (Xi'an North Railway Station 西安北站 → Chengdu East Railway Station 成都东站).
  an estimate
- Dujiangyan is about 1h34 from Chengdu (60 km).
  an estimate
- Qingcheng front mountain gate is about 1h34 from Chengdu (59 km).
  an estimate
- Chengdu: West China Hospital, Sichuan University - International Medical Center (International Hospital of Sichuan Province) — 四川大学华西医院（国际医疗中心 / 四川国际医院）, 成都市武侯区国学巷37号（主院区） · international department · English spoken · ☎ +86-28-85422408；+86-28-85586698（国际医疗中心预约）；028-85422114（医院总机）.
  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026
- Chengdu: Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital - International Medical Department — 四川省人民医院（国际医疗部·特需）, 四川省成都市青羊区一环路西二段32号 · international department · ☎ 028-87393999（总机）；028-87393928（患者咨询，工作日）.
  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026

WHERE I'M STAYING

Good areas: Chunxi Road–Taikoo Li 春熙路—太古里 (16 min to Chengdu East Railway Station 成都东站) · Kuanzhai Alleys–People's Park 宽窄巷子—人民公园 (25 min to Chengdu East Railway Station 成都东站)

Hotel name

Address in Chinese

People's Park teahouse Day 4

Tea, bamboo chairs, and local life

Give it: 1–2 hours About 10 min by metro from Chengdu (an estimate)

HOURS	not checked yet

Order a gaiwan at the century-old Heming teahouse and settle among the bamboo chairs and mahjong tables — the sunny-afternoon outdoor seat is the classic frame

Try the ear-cleaning masters with tuning forks and long tools — a Chengdu-only street ritual performed right at the teahouse tables

Show the driver · People's Park teahouse

人民公园

Kuanzhai Alley

Three parallel lanes of old Chengdu

Give it: 1–2 hours About 15 min by metro from Chengdu (an estimate)

HOURS	not checked yet

Metro line 4 stops at the block, and the scenic buses to Dujiangyan, Qingcheng and Sanxingdui leave from the same terminal

Daytime teahouse in Wide Alley, evening in Well Alley — the block flips from heritage to nightlife after dark

Show the driver · Kuanzhai Alley

宽窄巷子



Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding

Pandas up close, mostly in the morning

Give it: half a day

HOURS, SUMMER (MAR 1 – OCT 31)	07:30–18:00 · last entry 17:00
HOURS, WINTER (NOV 1 – MAR 1)	08:00–17:30 · last entry 16:30

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

CLOSED	None — open every day
BOOKING	Required — opens 14 days ahead, real-name
TICKET	¥55

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

Be at the gates for opening — pandas eat breakfast outdoors between 07:30 and 10:30 and sleep through midday; the feeding window runs about 09:30-10:00

Enter by the West Gate for the quieter pavilion chain — about three hours, fewer steps than the south side

Show the driver · Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding

成都大熊猫繁育研究基地



Dujiangyan Day 5

Irrigation works still running after 2,000 years

Give it: half a day

HOURS	not checked yet

The core walk runs about 90 minutes — Erwang Temple on the hill, down to Baopingkou's bottle-neck cut; pair with Qingcheng the same day via bus 101

Bullet train Xipu to Lidui Park in 20-30 minutes, then a 10-minute walk or bus 4/5/7/17

Show the driver · Dujiangyan

都江堰



Mount Qingcheng Day 6

Qingcheng front mountain gate 青城前山

Wooded Taoist mountain of mist and pavilions

HOURS	not checked yet

Show the driver · Qingcheng front mountain gate

青城前山

Address of this entrance not checked yet — show the name.

Chengdu Museum Day 7

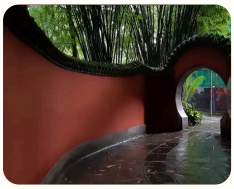
Chengdu's history under one roof

Give it: half a day

HOURS	09:00–17:00 · last entry 16:30		
✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source			
CLOSED	Mondays	BOOKING	Required ahead — real-name, with your passport
✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source			

Show the driver · Chengdu Museum

成都博物馆



Du Fu Thatched Cottage Day 7

A poet's refuge, rebuilt many times

Give it: 1–2 hours

HOURS	09:00–18:00 · last entry 17:00
✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source	
CLOSED	None — open every day
TICKET	¥50
✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source	

Huanhua Stream park and the Sichuan Museum sit adjacent — one ticketed garden plus free parkland makes the half-day

The garden keeps a four-season calendar — plum in spring, lotus in summer, chrysanthemum in autumn, orchid in winter

Show the driver · Du Fu Thatched Cottage

杜甫草堂



Temple of Marquis Wu Day 7

Chengdu shrine to Zhuge Liang

Give it: 1–2 hours

HOURS	09:00–18:00 · last entry 17:00
	Not yet checked
CLOSED	None — open every day
TICKET	¥50

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

Show the driver · Temple of Marquis Wu

武侯祠

WHAT I'M GOING TO EAT



成都火锅

Hotpot

A personal cauldron of red broth in the middle of the table, meat and tripe blanched by the minute, Chengdu's social engine.

Usually contains: beef, offal, sesame, soy, wheat (flour, wheat gluten), alcohol, broth (a guide — always show your allergy card)

Known for it: Yangya Yongya Hexian hotpot 漾亚·雍雅合鲜（桐梓林东路店）

> 您好，两位想吃微辣鸳鸯锅，麻烦您帮我们调个油碟，谢谢您。

Two of us would like a mild half-and-half hotpot — could you set up our dipping bowls, please?



麻婆豆腐

Mapo tofu

The original mapo tofu at its 1862 birthplace, numbing, silken and served still bubbling in a hot stone bowl.

Usually contains: soy, beef, wheat (flour, wheat gluten) (a guide — always show your allergy card)

Known for it: Chen Ma Po Dou Fu 陈麻婆豆腐（青华路店）

> 您好，一份麻婆豆腐，微辣，谢谢您。

Hello, one mapo tofu, mild please.

串串香

Skewer hotpot

Hotpot deconstructed onto dozens of tiny skewers you grab from a fridge, billed by counting the sticks.

Usually contains: beef, pork, offal, sesame, soy, wheat (flour, wheat gluten), broth (a guide — always show your allergy card)

> 您好，两位，先各拿一把荤素串串，微辣锅底，谢谢您。

Hello, two people, we will grab skewers ourselves, mild broth please.

- Chengdu's wei la (mild) still means chilli-oil broth; order the mushroom or plain broth half of a yuanyang pot if the table cannot take heat.
- The sesame-oil dip is the cooling step for hotpot pieces — nothing goes from pot straight to mouth.

Point at the big Chinese — it is the name on the menu. To order, show the sentence under it.

Also here: Jinsha site · Wenshu Monastery · Luodai Old Town



3

Chongqing 重庆

A hilly river city known for its lights and steep streets

3 days here · 🚄 from Chengdu: about 1h02 (an estimate)

Where I'm going in Chongqing (8 cards) · Help in Chinese · Emergency

- Chengdu → Chongqing: about 1h02 by train (Chengdu East Railway Station 成都东站 → Chongqing West Railway Station 重庆西站).
  an estimate
- Chongqing: The First Affiliated Hospital of Chongqing Medical University, International Medical Center (Jinshan Campus) — 重庆医科大学附属第一医院（金山院区国际医疗中心）, 重庆市两江新区金渝大道50号（综合病房楼17–18层） · international department · English spoken · ☎ 023-88955818（国际医疗中心）; +86 18623389261（English）; 023-65659393（金山院区）.
  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026

WHERE I'M STAYING

Good areas: Jiefangbei–Hongyadong 解放碑—洪崖洞 (25 min to Chongqing North Railway Station 重庆北站) · Guanyinqiao 观音桥 (18 min to Chongqing North Railway Station 重庆北站)

Hotel name

Address in Chinese

WHAT I'M GOING TO SEE

Liziba monorail Day 8

A city train that runs through a building

Give it: 1–2 hours About 15 min by metro from Jiefangbei (an estimate)

HOURS 06:32–23:50

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

> *Budget 20-45 minutes to catch one or two trains and land your shot — it is a photo stop, not a half-day*

> *Sunset into night is the show — the lit train threading the lit block — and unlike most Chongqing viewpoints this one stays free*

Show the driver · Liziba monorail

李子坝



Hongyadong Day 8

Stilted buildings lit up over the Jialing

Give it: 1–2 hours

HOURS not checked yet

Hongya Cave is free and best at night — Line 2 Linjiangmen Exit D, or Line 1 Xiaoshizi Exits 6 and 9; the classic full-front angle is from Qiansimen Bridge

Show the driver · Hongyadong

洪崖洞

Ciqikou old town Day 9

A riverside old town of lanes and teahouses

Give it: half a day About 35 min by metro from Jiefangbei (an estimate)

HOURS not checked yet

Arrive before 9 — the lanes are at their emptiest in the early morning, and the light then flatters the timber fronts

This one is original, not a reconstruction — give it a couple of hours for the hilltop temple and the riverside restaurant boats, in on Line 1

Show the driver · Ciqikou old town

磁器口



People's Liberation Monument Day 9

Clock tower at the centre of Chongqing's pedestrian streets

Give it: 1–2 hours

HOURS not checked yet

The Liberation Monument block is Chongqing's Times Square — a pedestrian zone with 3,000-plus stores radiating from the monument

Show the driver · People's Liberation Monument

抗战胜利纪功碑暨人民解放纪念碑



Huguang Huiguan Day 9

Guild hall where merchants from Huguang met

Give it: 1–2 hours

HOURS not checked yet

Show the driver · Huguang Huiguan

湖广会馆

Yangtze cable car Day 10

A cable car across the Yangtze in the city

Give it: 1–2 hours About 10 min by foot from Jiefangbei (an estimate)

HOURS, SUMMER (MAR 1 – NOV 30)	08:00–22:00	HOURS, WINTER (DEC 1 – FEB 28)	08:00–21:00

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

BOOKING	Can be booked 0 days ahead — whether you must is not checked yet

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

> *A five-minute, 1,166-metre crossing above the river - the city sliding past under your feet is half the sight*

> *Ride one way and come back on the metro — sunset crossings have the best views and the biggest queues, early morning the calmest*

Show the driver · Yangtze cable car

长江索道

Three Gorges Museum

The story of the river before the dam

Give it: half a day

HOURS	09:00–17:00 · last entry 16:00		

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

CLOSED	Mondays	TICKET	Free

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

Show the driver · Three Gorges Museum

重庆中国三峡博物馆

Great Hall of the People (Chongqing)

A domed hall above a wide city square

Give it: 1–2 hours

HOURS	not checked yet	TICKET	¥10

✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

Show the driver · Great Hall of the People (Chongqing)

重庆人民大礼堂

重庆小面

Chongqing noodles

One bowl of alkaline noodles under chilli oil, pea-and-meat sauce and pickles, the breakfast the whole city runs on.

Usually contains: wheat (flour, wheat gluten), peanut (and peanut oil), sesame, soy, lard (a guide — always show your allergy card)

> 您好，二两豌杂面，微辣，加个煎蛋，麻烦您了。

Hello, a small bowl with pea and meat sauce, mild spice, add a fried egg please.



重庆火锅

Chongqing hotpot

The mother pot: beef tallow, a brick of dried chillies and a river of offal, sharper and heavier than Chengdu's.

Usually contains: beef, pork, offal, soy, wheat (flour, wheat gluten), sesame, broth (a guide — always show your allergy card)

Known for it: Qiaotou hotpot 桥头火锅（南岸总店） · Pei Jie hotpot (Raffles City) 珮姐老火锅（来福士店）

> 您好，两位要微辣鸳鸯锅，油碟加蒜泥，麻烦您了。

Hello, mild half-and-half pot for two, garlic in the sesame-oil dip please.

梯坎豆花

Step-lane tofu rice

Silky tofu set on a step-side stall, dipped in garlic-chilli-soy and chased with rice, lunch for pocket change.

Usually contains: soy, wheat (flour, wheat gluten), sesame (a guide — always show your allergy card)

> 您好，一份豆花饭，蘸水辣一点，谢谢您。

Hello, one tofu-pudding rice set, spicy dip please.

- Chongqing noodle shops default to full local heat; say wei la for mild or mian la for no chilli oil when ordering.
- Old-style hotpot broth is beef tallow: it clouds and whitens as it cools — that is normal, not spoiled.

Point at the big Chinese — it is the name on the menu. To order, show the sentence under it.

Also here: Fengsheng Town

APPENDIX

The plan, roughly

A sketch, not a schedule — it follows the order and the days above.

Day 1–3	Xi'an
Day 4–7	Chengdu travel day: about 3h05 by fast train (an estimate)
Day 8–10	Chongqing travel day: about 1h02 by fast train (an estimate)
✈	Fly home from Chongqing

When something goes wrong

IN AN EMERGENCY

- **110** Police
- **120** Ambulance
- **119** Fire
- **122** Traffic accident
- **12345** City service hotline
- **12367** Immigration service
- **12328** Transport hotline

A hospital at each stop

- Xi'an: 陕西省人民医院（主院区）, 西安市友谊西路256号 · ☎ 029-85251331.
  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026
- Xi'an: The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University — 西安交通大学第一附属医院.
  Not yet checked
- Chengdu: West China Hospital, Sichuan University - International Medical Center (International Hospital of Sichuan Province) — 四川大学华西医院（国际医疗中心 / 四川国际医院）, 成都市武侯区国学巷37号（主院区） · international department · English spoken · ☎ +86-28-85422408；+86-28-85586698（国际医疗中心预约）；028-85422114（医院总机）.
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IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

When a phone payment fails

- If WeChat Pay says your payments are restricted, it usually means real-name verification is not finished yet; once you complete it, the account is unfrozen and you can pay again.
  1. Tap the notice on the payment screen and add your passport details, full name exactly as printed, phone, address and occupation
  2. Upload a photo of your passport page and a clear photo of your face
  3. Pay with your physical card or cash while you wait

  If that doesn't work Pay with the physical card at a card terminal or with RMB cash - shops that take payment face to face must accept cash.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- To link a foreign card to WeChat Pay, your name and ID number must match the ones your bank account was opened with, the country must match the one on your ID, and your bank texts a code to the phone number it has on file.
  1. Check the name is entered exactly as on your bank account, including spaces and punctuation
  2. Make sure the phone number registered with your bank can receive texts in China
  3. If the wallet still declines the card, try a second card or pay by card at the till

  If that doesn't work Pay with the physical card at a card terminal, or with cash; Bank of China ATMs take Visa, Mastercard, UnionPay, JCB and Amex for RMB.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

- A foreign card in WeChat Pay works for everyday purchases in mainland China but not for red packets or money transfers. Payments of 200 RMB or less carry no fee; above 200 RMB the fee is 3%.
  1. Use the wallet for shop and taxi QR payments
  2. For anything above 200 RMB, a card at the till or cash avoids the 3% fee
  3. Ask friends to settle shared bills with you in cash rather than by transfer

  If that doesn't work Cash or a physical card at a card terminal.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- By rule in force since 1 February 2026, businesses that take payment in person must accept RMB cash and keep reasonable change; self-service setups must post a way to pay in cash.
  1. Offer RMB notes
  2. If refused, point out that cash is legal tender
  3. Keep a receipt or photo; you can report it to the local People's Bank of China branch

  If that doesn't work Pay another way, keep the evidence, and report the refusal to the local People's Bank of China branch.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- Large shopping areas, scenic areas, museums, hotels, transport hubs and hospitals above a set size must be equipped to take mobile payment, bank cards and cash.
  1. At these places, ask to pay by card (look for the Visa, Mastercard or UnionPay signs) if the wallet fails
  2. Or pay in cash

  If that doesn't work Withdraw RMB at a Bank of China ATM and pay in cash.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- Foreign Visa, Mastercard, UnionPay, JCB and Amex cards can withdraw RMB at any networked Bank of China ATM, 24 hours a day; which transactions work depends on your card issuer.
  1. Look for the card-network logos on the ATM
  2. Withdraw RMB
  3. If the machine keeps your card, keep the slip it prints and call Bank of China on 95566

  If that doesn't work Exchange foreign cash at a Bank of China branch with your passport.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- Bank of China branches exchange 38 foreign currencies into RMB; small amounts need only your passport, no account. Authorised exchange desks at hotels and airports take up to 10,000 RMB per person per day.
  1. Bring your passport and foreign banknotes to a Bank of China branch or an airport or hotel exchange desk
  2. Ask for some small notes for taxis and stalls

  If that doesn't work Use a currency exchange machine at the airport or a Bank of China ATM with your card.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- Bank of China accepts UnionPay, Visa, Mastercard, American Express, JCB and Diners cards at its card terminals, by tap, chip or swipe, where the acceptance sign is shown.
  1. Bring two cards on different networks and keep one apart from your phone
  2. At places showing the card signs, pay by tap or chip if the wallet fails

  If that doesn't work Cash from a Bank of China ATM.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

When a hotel won't take a foreign guest

- Any hotel in China registers foreign guests itself at check-in and reports it to the local police; you just show your passport.
  1. Show your passport at the front desk
  2. The hotel completes the registration

  If that doesn't work If the desk is unsure how to register you, call the immigration hotline 12367 (Chinese and English, 24 hours) for guidance.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- Local authorities and booking platforms should not use licence or other qualification requirements to stop hotels from taking foreign guests, and neither platforms nor hotels should post notices that they do not take foreign guests.
  1. Book through a platform; a listing closed to foreign guests goes against the 2024 national notice
  2. If a desk says it lacks a licence for foreign guests, mention that the notice says licence requirements should not keep foreign guests out, and ask them to register you

  If that doesn't work Book another hotel nearby and report the refusal to 12367.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- The immigration hotline 12367 answers in Chinese and English, 24 hours a day, and takes policy questions, enquiries and complaints, including about hotel stays.
  1. From a phone in China, dial 12367 and ask for English
  2. Say which hotel refused you and where
  3. Meanwhile book another hotel nearby

  If that doesn't work Book another hotel nearby.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- Staying in a private home or rental rather than a hotel, you or your host must register with the local police within 24 hours of arrival; since 21 September 2026 this can be done online anywhere in China.
  1. Ask your host to register you in the NIA 12367 app, WeChat or Alipay mini program, or the NIA website - the first time, the host does it
  2. Or go together to the local police station
  3. Keep the registration record in the app

  If that doesn't work Call 12367 for help, or visit the local police station or exit-entry office.

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

Taxis, and when none comes

- Licensed taxis must run the meter and offer a printed receipt; national rules let you decline to pay if the driver will not use the meter or will not give a receipt.
  1. Check the meter is running as you set off
  2. At the end pay what the meter shows, plus any road toll
  3. Ask for the printed receipt and keep it until you have checked you left nothing in the car

  If that doesn't work If a driver names a fixed price before you leave, step out and take the next taxi or book a ride in the DiDi app

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- Drivers may not refuse a ride once they know where you are going, haggle over the price, or take a detour; the route should be a reasonable one to the address you give.
  1. Show the destination written in Chinese
  2. If the driver quotes a price instead of using the meter, say 'da biao' (use the meter) or take the next taxi

  If that doesn't work Note the plate number and report it on 12328, the transport service line

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- At airports, railway stations, coach stations and ports, taxis queue at a marked rank and follow a dispatcher; drivers are not allowed to pick up outside the designated area.
  1. Follow the Taxi signs to the rank
  2. Join the queue and take the car the dispatcher sends
  3. Say no to anyone who offers a car inside the hall or at the exit

  If that doesn't work If the queue is long, use the metro, airport bus or the ride-hailing pick-up area the airport signposts

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- A licensed taxi has a roof light reading 'TAXI' in Chinese and English, a sign showing whether it is free, and its fares, passenger notice, company name and complaint number posted inside.
  1. Wave down a taxi whose sign shows it is free (空车)
  2. Before you get in, check the roof light and the fare card on the window

  If that doesn't work If no taxi stops, book one in the DiDi app, which also dispatches street taxis

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- 12328 is the transport service and complaints line; city transport bureaus point passengers to it for taxis that will not use the meter, overcharge, haggle or refuse a ride.
  1. Keep the receipt or note the plate number, time and route
  2. Call 12328, or ask your hotel's front desk to call for you

  If that doesn't work The taxi company's name and service number are posted inside the car; note them with the plate number and call that number

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- For a ride to a remote area, or out of the city at night, a driver may ask you to come with them to register at the nearest relevant office, and may decline the trip if you do not.
  1. For a late or out-of-town trip, book through the DiDi app or ask your hotel to arrange the car
  2. Carry your passport

  If that doesn't work If no driver will take the trip, ask your hotel's front desk to book a car for you, or stay the night and travel in the morning

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source
- DiDi China, DiDi's app for the Chinese mainland, has an English version: you can register with your own mobile number, message drivers with English-Chinese translation, choose payment options that include international bank cards, and reach English customer service in the app around the clock.
  1. Install DiDi China before you fly and register with your own mobile number
  2. Add a payment method in the app; the options include international bank cards
  3. To book, enter the destination and wait at the pick-up point the app shows

  If that doesn't work If DiDi will not take your card, a taxi from the rank or the street takes cash

  ✓ Checked Wed, Oct 7, 2026 · source

Help in Chinese: cards to show

您好，这是一位外国游客的中国行程册。

WHAT TO SHOW

Checking in at a hotel or guesthouse

Your phone payment will not go through at a shop or stall

You need someone to make one short call for you

At a train or metro gate with a passport, not a Chinese ID

Where I'm going in Xi'an (9 cards)

Where I'm going in Chengdu (8 cards)

Where I'm going in Chongqing (8 cards)

Emergency

Checking in at a hotel or guesthouse

酒店入住

您好，我有预订，姓名是 _____。这是我的护照。麻烦您帮我办理住宿登记，谢谢！
your name

Your phone payment will not go through at a shop or stall

可以用现金吗

您好，我的手机付不了钱，可以用现金吗？或者能麻烦您用自己的手机代我付，我把现金给您吗？谢谢！

You need someone to make one short call for you

请帮我打个电话

您好，能麻烦您帮我打个电话吗？号码是 _____，就说：_____。太感谢了！
phone number　what to say

At a train or metro gate with a passport, not a Chinese ID

人工通道

您好，我用护照买的车票，闸机刷不了。麻烦您带我走人工通道检票。谢谢！

Emergency numbers in China

110	Police	Danger to you or others, or a crime in progress
120	Ambulance	Medical emergency
119	Fire	Fire
122	Traffic accident	Road accident
12345	City service hotline	Public services and complaints including tourism
12367	Immigration service	Visa and entry-stay questions; English spoken
12328	Transport hotline	Taxi or ride-hail dispute or overcharging

这是这位游客在 chinamapbook.com 做的行程册。感谢您的帮助！

Point to where you want to go

Each card asks, in Chinese, for directions or a ride to that one place. Find the one you need and point to it.

XI'AN 西安

← Xi'an

Sight · Da Ci'en Temple ticket office, south square

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

大慈恩寺（大雁塔南广场售票处）

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Daming Palace

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

大明宫

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Great Mosque of Xi'an

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

西安清真寺

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Terracotta Army

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

秦始皇兵马俑

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Huaqing Chi

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

华清池

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Bell Tower of Xi'an

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

西安钟楼

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · South Gate (Yongningmen)

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

南门（永宁门）

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Muslim Quarter

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

回民街

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Epang Palace

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

阿房宫

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

CHENGDU 成都

← Chengdu

Sight · People's Park teahouse

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

人民公园

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Kuanzhai Alley

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

宽窄巷子

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

成都大熊猫繁育研究基地

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Dujiangyan

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

都江堰

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Qingcheng front mountain gate

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

青城前山

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Chengdu Museum

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

成都博物馆

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Du Fu Thatched Cottage

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

杜甫草堂

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Temple of Marquis Wu

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

武侯祠

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

CHONGQING 重庆

← Chongqing

Sight · Liziba monorail

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

李子坝

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Hongyadong

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

洪崖洞

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Ciqikou old town

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

磁器口

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · People's Liberation Monument

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

抗战胜利纪功碑暨人民解放纪念碑

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Huguang Huiguan

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

湖广会馆

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Yangtze cable car

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

长江索道

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Three Gorges Museum

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

重庆中国三峡博物馆

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

Sight · Great Hall of the People (Chongqing)

您好，我是外国游客，我想去

重庆人民大礼堂

您能帮我叫辆车或者指一下路吗？谢谢！

THINGS I DON’T WANT TO FORGET

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