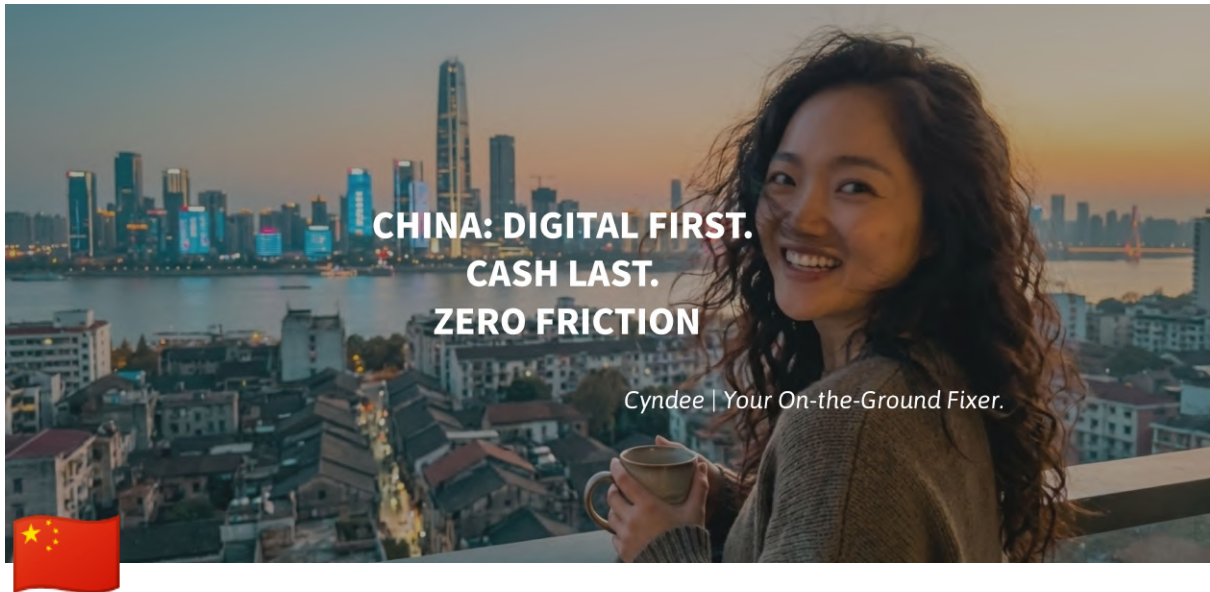




THE 24-HOUR CHINA ARRIVAL CHECKLIST



Goal: Land connected, able to pay, and properly checked in.

Updated August 2026 · Curated by Cyndee / *Lost in China*

SAVE THIS CHECKLIST OFFLINE BEFORE YOU FLY

Download it to your phone and screenshot the driver card in Part 2. Your goal is simple: arrive with one working option and one backup for mobile data, payment, and transport.



START HERE: YOUR SIX GREEN LIGHTS

Do not leave these until the airport.

- ☐ Passport and any entry documents required for your trip
- ☐ Hotel name, full address, and phone number saved in Chinese
- ☐ Mobile data plan installed or arranged
- ☐ Alipay or Weixin Pay set up before flying
- ☐ Backup bank card plus some RMB cash
- ☐ Power bank checked against your airline's current rules



THE RULE

One working option is not a system. For payment, data, and transport, prepare one primary route and one backup.

What this checklist covers

- Getting from the airport to your hotel
- Testing your first payment
- Completing your first-night system check

What you must recheck before travel

- Visa and entry eligibility
- Airline, airport, and battery rules
- Train, attraction, and hotel availability
- Opening times and booking requirements



PART 1: 48 HOURS BEFORE TAKEOFF

Build the setup before the airport

The goal is not to download every China app. It is to remove the four failures that can block your first day.



1. Set up mobile data

- ☐ Install your travel eSIM profile before departure, or confirm where you will buy a local SIM.
- ☐ Keep your home SIM active if you need bank verification texts.
- ☐ Switch off data roaming on your home SIM to avoid an unexpected roaming bill.
- ☐ Save your eSIM provider's installation and troubleshooting instructions offline.



2. Prepare payment + a backup

- ☐ Install **Alipay** and/or **Weixin Pay**.
- ☐ Register with your phone number and follow the in-app identity and card-binding steps.

- ☐ Complete any verification requested by your card issuer.
- ☐ Bring a second bank card in case your primary card is declined or blocked.
- ☐ Carry some RMB cash as an emergency backup.

China supports multiple payment routes, including mobile payment, bank cards, and RMB cash. Mobile payment is convenient, but it should not be your only option.



3. Save the exact hotel destination

- ☐ Screenshot the booking confirmation showing the **Chinese hotel name**.
- ☐ Save the **full Chinese address**.
- ☐ Save the hotel's phone number.
- ☐ Confirm the correct arrival airport or railway station terminal.
- ☐ Save all four details in both your photo album and notes app.

Do not rely on the English hotel name alone. A translated name may point to the wrong branch or be difficult for a driver to identify.



4. Install only the apps you need

Payment

- Alipay
- Weixin Pay

Airport transport

- **DiDi** Greater China
- The ride-hailing service inside **Alipay** or **WeChat**
- **Trip.com** as a booking and airport-transfer backup

Intercity train travel

- Official China Railway 12306 website or app

If you plan to travel by train, create your account and complete passport verification early. The official English 12306 service supports passport-based ticket purchases after identity verification.



POWER BANK: CHECK THE REAL RULE

Carry power banks in your hand luggage and confirm your airline's current capacity, quantity, storage, and in-flight use restrictions. For **domestic flights within China**, the Civil Aviation Administration of China requires power banks to have a clear CCC mark and excludes recalled models or batches. CE or FCC marks do not replace CCC for this rule.

Battery rules can change. Recheck your airline before each trip.

PART 2: LANDING — HOUR 0 TO 3

Land, connect, and leave by an official route

Slow down in the arrivals hall. Your first job is to get online and confirm the exact pickup point, not to accept the first transport offer.

1. Connect before moving

- ☐ Turn on your travel eSIM or mobile data plan.
- ☐ Confirm that messaging and maps work.
- ☐ Keep data roaming switched off on your home SIM.
- ☐ If your data plan fails, connect to airport Wi-Fi and ask the staffed information desk or an official telecom counter for help.

Airport Wi-Fi and verification procedures vary, so do not depend on one specific login method.

2. Choose an official airport exit

Follow airport signs to one of these official routes:

- **Official taxi queue:** 出租车
- **App-based ride pickup area:** 网约车

Ignore unsolicited ride offers inside the terminal.

If you order a ride through an app:

- ☐ Confirm the exact pickup floor and zone.
- ☐ Match the license plate in the app before entering.
- ☐ Check that the destination shown in the app is your correct hotel branch.

3. Show the destination (not your pronunciation)

Open the saved Chinese hotel name and address before the car moves. Keep the address visible until the driver confirms it.



SCREENSHOT THIS DRIVER CARD

你好，请送我到这个地址。请按导航走，谢谢。

Hello, please take me to this address. Please follow navigation. Thank you.

酒店中文名 / HOTEL NAME:

中文地址 / CHINESE ADDRESS:

联系电话 / PHONE NUMBER:



IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE

Return to a staffed information desk or official transport queue.

- Police: **110**
- Fire: **119**
- Ambulance: **120**

PART 3: HOTEL — HOUR 4 TO 24

Check in, test the system, then breathe

Do the first tests in a low-pressure place. You want to discover problems while staff, cash, and daylight are still available.



1. Complete accommodation registration

If you are staying at a hotel

- ☐ Present your passport or valid travel document at reception.
- ☐ Allow the hotel to complete the required accommodation registration.

The hotel is responsible for registering foreign guests and submitting the required information to the local public security authority.

If you are not staying at a hotel

If you stay in a private home or other non-hotel accommodation, you or your host must complete accommodation registration within 24 hours.

Online registration is available only in certain regions as of August 2026. Check current National Immigration Administration guidance or ask the local police or your host.



2. Run one small payment test

Do not test your payment setup for the first time at a busy metro gate.

- ☐ Go to a convenience store or another low-pressure location.
- ☐ Buy water or another inexpensive item.
- ☐ Try your primary mobile payment method.
- ☐ Confirm that the payment is completed in the app.
- ☐ If it fails, use your backup cash or card and troubleshoot without a queue behind you.



3. Prepare tomorrow's first movement

- ☐ Save your first destination in Chinese.
- ☐ Confirm its opening time.
- ☐ Check tomorrow's route tonight.
- ☐ Confirm any booking or ticket requirement.
- ☐ If you are taking a train, complete passport verification and confirm the correct departure station.



FIRST-NIGHT SYSTEM CHECK

- ☐ Mobile data works outside the hotel Wi-Fi.
- ☐ At least one payment route works.
- ☐ Backup cash or card is easy to reach.
- ☐ The hotel's Chinese address is saved in photos and notes.
- ☐ Tomorrow's route and first booking are confirmed.
- ☐ Phone and power bank are charging.

GREEN LIGHT

If those checks are complete, stop troubleshooting and rest. Your first day is operational.

HOUR 25: BUILD THE REST OF YOUR TRIP

Your first day is covered. What happens next?

Arrival is only the first layer.

The rest of your trip still depends on:

- Keeping payment and mobile data working
 - Understanding local transport and railway systems
 - Using essential apps without guessing
 - Finding workable backup options when your first plan fails
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Want the full setup order?

The **China Digital Access MasterKit** is a self-guided system for independent travelers who want payment, internet, transport, essential apps, and backup options prepared before arriving.

It is designed for travelers who want a standard setup system they can follow themselves.

It does **not** include personal booking, account operation, or one-to-one itinerary planning.

[ [**VIEW THE CHINA DIGITAL ACCESS MASTERKIT - \\$19.90**](#)]

OFFICIAL SOURCES USED FOR THIS UPDATE

Checked 23 August 2026

- [China government guide: payment, transport, accommodation, and emergency numbers](#)
- [National Immigration Administration: accommodation registration](#)
- [Civil Aviation Administration of China: CCC power-bank rule for domestic flights](#)
- [IATA: passenger guidance for travelling with lithium batteries and power banks](#)

- [China Railway: official 12306 English FAQ](#)



KEEP IT CURRENT

Flight, entry, app, payment, and transport rules can change. Recheck official sources before departure.

This checklist provides practical travel guidance. It is not legal, immigration, medical, or emergency advice.

This PDF is an offline snapshot.

Check for updates before your trip.



[[VIEW THE LATEST CHECKLIST](#)]

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