

Talk in China

Expectation

- You don't need to know Chinese to have a good time in China.
- Younger people and staff at hotels may speak some English
- In smaller cities or street markets, expect very little English
- Be polite but direct — Chinese communication style is often straightforward



Practical Tips



Print Your Hotel Address in Both Chinese and English

Keep a paper copy or screenshot on your phone



Have Internet Access for On-the-Go Help

Use an eSIM, pocket Wi-Fi, or a Chinese SIM card



Download a Translation App with Offline Mode

Microsoft translator or Apple translate



Take Photos of Important Signs

Snap a picture of your hotel sign, nearby landmarks, or metro station



Use Translation Apps at Restaurants

Use the camera translation feature to read menus



Learn a Few Key Phrases

Simple phrases go a long way

Common Phases

Essential Phrases for Travelers

BASIC POLITENESS

English	Chinese	Pinyin	English Pronunc.
Hello	你好	Nǐ hǎo	nee how
Thank you	谢谢	Xièxiè	shyeh shyeh
You're welcome	不客气	Bú kè qì	boo kuh chee
Excuse me / Sorry	对不起	Duì bu qǐ	dway boo chee
Goodbye	再见	Zàijiàn	dzai jyen

GETTING AROUND

English	Chinese	Pinyin	English Pronunc.
Where is ...?	...在哪儿?	... zài nǎr?	... dzai nar?
I want to go to...	我要去.....	Wǒ yào qù...	wuh yow choo...
How much is ...?	...多少钱?	... duōshǎo qián?	... dwor-shaow chyen?
Please take me here	请带我去这里	Qǐng dài wǒ qù zhèlǐ	ching dye wuh choo juh-lee

AT THE HOTEL

English	Chinese	Pinyin	English Pronunc.
Do you have a room?	有空房吗?	Yǒu kòngfáng ma?	yo kong-fahng ma?
I have a reservation	我有预订	Wǒ yǒu yùdìng	wuh yo yoo-deeng
What time is checkout?	几点退房?	Jǐ diǎn tuìfáng?	jee dyan tway-fahng?

EMERGENCIES

English	Chinese	Pinyin	English Pronunc.
Help!	救命!	Jiùmìng!	jyoh-ming!
I'm lost	我迷路了	Wǒ mílù le	wuh mee-loo luh
Call the police	叫警察	jiào jǐngchá	jyaow jing-chah
I need a doctor	我需要医生	Wǒ xūyào yīshēng	wuh shoo-yaow ee-shung