

Life in Guangzhou

1. About Guangzhou

1) Brief introduction

Guangzhou, also known as Canton, Yangcheng and flower city, is the capital of Guangdong Province in southern China. It is one of the most populous and vibrant cities in China, with a rich history dating back over 2,200 years. As a major port and trading hub, Guangzhou has long been an important center of commerce and cultural exchange.

Guangzhou is a modern metropolis with a booming economy and a thriving manufacturing and trading industry. It serves as a crucial transportation hub, connecting China to the rest of the world through its international airport and extensive railway network.

Guangzhou is renowned for its stunning architecture, showcasing a blend of modern skyscrapers and traditional Chinese structures. It is home to several iconic landmarks, such as Canton Tower, Guangzhou Opera House and the Five Rams Statue in Yuexiu Park. Its bustling streets are filled with shopping malls, markets and a diverse range of culinary delights, making a paradise for food enthusiasts.

Additionally, Guangzhou hosts the Canton Fair since 1957, the largest trade fair in China, attracting thousands of international buyers and exhibitors twice a year. The city's rich cultural heritage is also evident in its numerous temples, museums and historical sites, providing visitors with a glimpse into its ancient past.

All in all, Guangzhou is a megalopolis with a combination of tradition and modernity. With its advanced transportation system and prime geographical location, it offers easy accessibility to the rest of the world.

2) Weather/Climate

Located in the Pearl River Delta, Guangzhou experiences a unique climate influenced by both the ocean and the continent. Bordered by the Nanling Mountains in the north and the South China Sea in the south, the city enjoys an oceanic climate with average annual temperatures ranging from 21.7°C to 23.1°C.

Guangzhou's climate is characterized by a Subtropical Monsoon Climate. In March and April, warm and humid air from South China collides with cold air from Siberia, resulting in the formation of quasi-stationary fronts in the southern region. This often leads to cloudy and highly humid weather, accompanied by light rain or fog. This phenomenon, known as *huinanian* in Chinese, creates an atmosphere of intense humidity, with everything around appearing damp and soggy, and water seemingly appearing everywhere.

3) Attractions

Guangzhou, known as the "City of the Five Rams" and the "City of Flowers," boasts a rich history spanning over 2200 years, offering a plethora of historical sites and cultural attractions to discover and explore.

a. Canton Tower

The Canton Tower (Chinese: 广州塔), alternatively referred to as the Guangzhou TV Astronomical and Sightseeing Tower (Chinese: 广州电视台天文及观光塔) and affectionately nicknamed the "tiny waist", stands as an iconic landmark in Guangzhou. Soaring to a height of 600 meters, it holds the distinction of being China's tallest sightseeing tower and the second tallest in the world.

b. Haixin Bridge

The Haixin Bridge, an impressive curved-girder, cable-stayed bridge, stretches over 198 meters of water, with a total length of 488 meters and a width of 15 meters. It was constructed in 2021 and holds the distinction of being Guangzhou's first pedestrian bridge to span across the Pearl River. Additionally, it proudly claims the titles of having the world's largest span and widest bridge deck. Recognizing its excellence, the bridge was honored with the prestigious "Outstanding Pedestrian Bridge" award by the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) in 2022, along with the "Asia Lighting Design Awards-Light of Asia" and a gold medal in

the 2023 World Pedestrian Bridge Award.Guangdong Museum

c. **Chen's Lineage Hall**

The Chen Clan Ancestral Hall, also known as the Chen Clan Academy, is one of the largest surviving traditional buildings in Guangzhou. It proudly holds the titles of being the largest, best-preserved, and most beautifully decorated hall-type building in China, earning it the revered designation of "the pearl of Lingnan architectural art." Notably, the ancestral hall boasts rich decorations both inside and outside the halls, showcasing intricate wood carvings, stone carvings, brick carvings, pottery, plasterwork, and iron engravings. It serves as a remarkable collection of various artistic mediums, adorning beams, ridges, walls, and columns throughout the building.

d. **Yuexiu Park**

Yuexiu Park is the largest comprehensive park in Guangzhou. Covering an area of 690,000 square meters, it is made up of seven hills of Yuexiu Mountain and three artificial lakes. The main places of interests include Five Rams Sculpture, Zhenhai Tower, Yuexiu Stadium and Pavilion of Regaining. And Five Rams Sculpture is the landmark of Guangzhou.

4) Cuisine

Guangzhou is renowned for its diverse and delectable cuisine. Cantonese cuisine, characterized by fresh ingredients and delicate flavors, is highly popular. Some must-try dishes include dim sum, roast goose, steamed fish, and the famous Cantonese-style barbecue. Don't forget to explore the local street food scene, which offers a wide variety of snacks and delicacies.

2. **Banking**

1) Chinese Currency

| Name | Nickname | Paper Denominations |
|------|----------|-----------------------|
| Yuan | kuai | 100,50,20,10,5,2and 1 |
| Jiao | mao | 5,2 and 1 |

2) Currency Exchange

Under the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Foreign Exchanges, foreign currencies cannot be used for circulation, pricing, or account settlement within China. Nevertheless, you can convert several currencies, such as the US Dollar, Pound, Euro, Canadian Dollar, Hong Kong Dollar, Macao Pataca, and Franc, into Chinese Yuan (RMB) at designated banks like the Bank of China and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

3) Bank Account

Having a Chinese bank account can greatly enhance your convenience and simplify your life in China. International students can apply for a bank card by taking their passport and admission notice to the bank and submitting the application. Typically, it takes approximately one week to receive the card after successfully submitting the application.

4) ATM

For international students studying in Guangzhou, accessing cash and managing their finances is essential. Fortunately, the city offers a well-developed network of ATMs that cater to the needs of international students. ATMs in Guangzhou are widely available and can be found in various locations, including major shopping centers, commercial areas, and near university campuses. International students can use these ATMs to withdraw cash, check account balances, and perform other banking transactions.

Major international and Chinese banks, such as Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), China Construction Bank, and Agricultural Bank of China, have ATMs in Guangzhou. These ATMs typically accept

international bank cards, including Visa, Mastercard, and UnionPay.

When using ATMs as an international student, it is important to be aware of any fees or charges associated with your transactions. Some banks may charge a nominal fee for international card usage, so it's advisable to check with your home bank about any potential fees before using ATMs in Guangzhou.

It's also a good idea to inform your home bank about your study abroad plans and ensure that your card is enabled for international use. This will help avoid any unexpected issues with your card while in Guangzhou.

In addition to ATMs, there are other options available for international students to manage their finances in Guangzhou. Many banks offer online and mobile banking services, allowing you to check account balances, transfer funds, and make payments conveniently from your smartphone or computer.

Overall, Guangzhou provides international students with convenient access to ATMs, ensuring easy cash withdrawals and banking transactions. By familiarizing yourself with the locations and services offered by ATMs in the city, you can efficiently manage your finances during your study abroad experience.

5) Bank Card Loss Report

In case of a lost or stolen bank card, promptly report it to your bank. Keep a record of your card details and emergency contact numbers to facilitate the reporting process. Most banks have a 24/7 hotline for reporting lost or stolen cards.

| Name | Hotlines |
|---|----------|
| Bank of China | 95566 |
| Industrial and Commercial Bank of China | 95588 |
| China Construction Bank | 95533 |
| Postal Savings Bank of China | 95580 |
| Agricultural Bank of China | 95599 |

6) Bank on campus

| Name | Location | Work Time | Tel. |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|------|
| Industrial and Commercial Bank of China | The first floor of 1A | 9:00am-5:00pm | |

7) Bank near campus

| Name | Location | Work Time | Tel. |
|----------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------------|
| Bank of China | No.254, Dongchong Town, Nansha District, Guangzhou | 8:30am-5:00pm | 020-84907830 020-84907880 |
| Agricultural Bank of China | No.4, Peixiandonglu, Dongchong Town, Nansha District, Guangzhou | 9:00am-5:00pm | 020-84906447 |
| China Construction Bank | No.174, Nangonglu, Dongchong Town, Nansha District, Guangzhou | 9:00am-5:00pm | 020-84905643 |

3. Payment

Wechat: WeChat is a popular mobile payment platform widely used in China. It allows you to make payments, transfer money, and even pay utility bills using your linked bank account or WeChat wallet.



Alipay: Alipay is another popular mobile payment platform in China, similar to WeChat. It offers similar features and allows you to make payments, transfer money, and even invest in various financial products.



4. Telecommunication

In China, the three main telecommunications service providers are China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom.



1) How to buy a SIM card


a. Purchase a PrePaid SIM Card

If you know for sure that your phone is unlocked, you can purchase a Chinese SIM card prior to your arrival in China.

b. Purchase a SIM Card in China

If you're already in China or if it's too late to purchase a prepaid China SIM card, you can always visit a local service provider in China to get one.

| Service Provider | Website | Address | APP |
|------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| China Mobile | 10086.cn | 1) No.16, Dongxinger Road, Dongchong Town, Nansha District 2) No.25, Huan Shi Da Dao Zhong, Nansha District |  |
| China Telecom | chinatelecom.com.cn | 1) No.11, Dongxingyi Road, Dongchong Town, Nansha District 2) No.25, Huan Shi Da Dao Zhong, Nansha District |  |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---|---|
| China Unicom | chinaunicom.com | 1) 33 Dongxinger Road, Dongchong Town 2) Unit C2-103 at Nansha Wanda Plaza |  |
|--------------|-----------------|---|---|

2) How to top up China SIM cards

a. Top Up at a Local Store

You can go to your mobile carrier's store, give them your phone number and cash, and they will add more credit to your China SIM card.

b. Top up through Alipay or WeChat Pay

While this is arguably the easiest and fastest way, you need a local Chinese bank account or money in your Alipay/WeChat Pay wallets to top up. If you don't have a Chinese bank account, you can always hand a Chinese friend some cash and they can top up your Chinese SIM card.

c. Top Up Online

If you can't use WeChat/Alipay, the easiest way to top up is online through 3GSolutions if you purchased your SIM card from them. You can visit the [website](#), choose the amount of credit you want to add, and pay using Paypal or a credit card.

5. Mailing Services

1) Mail companies

a. EMS

EMS is an international express mail service offered by postal operators around the world. It is a reliable and cost-effective way to send documents and parcels to over 190 countries and territories.

b. SF Express

SF Express is a leading logistics and delivery services company based in China, with a rapidly expanding international presence. It offers a wide range of shipping and delivery solutions, including express shipping, freight services, and e-commerce solutions.

c. Fedex

FedEx is a global shipping and logistics company that provides a wide range of services including express shipping, freight services, e-commerce solutions, and business services. It has a vast network of transportation and distribution facilities around the world, serving customers in over 220 countries and territories.

d. DHL

DHL Express is a global logistics and express courier company that provides international shipping and delivery services. It offers a range of shipping options and is known for its reliable and efficient delivery services, serving customers worldwide.

e. Cainiao

Cainiao Station is an innovative logistics platform that has transformed the delivery and fulfillment process in China. Established by Alibaba Group in 2013, Cainiao Station aims to address the challenges faced by the logistics industry and provide efficient and reliable services. Through the integration of technology and data, Cainiao Station optimizes the entire logistics chain, from warehousing and distribution to last-mile delivery. As an international student, you may benefit from Cainiao Station's services when shopping online or receiving packages. With its advanced technology and vast network, Cainiao Station ensures timely and hassle-free deliveries, making it a trusted choice for businesses and consumers alike.

2) Shipment

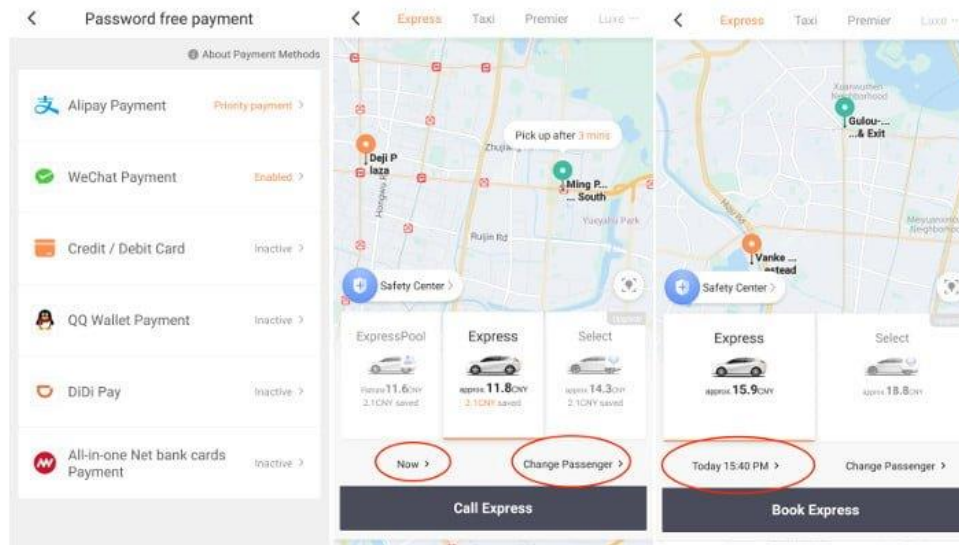
To place an order with EMS, SF Express, FedEx, DHL or Cainiao, you can visit their app or mini programs on the Wechat to create a shipment, input your package details, and choose your preferred shipping options. You can also drop off your package at the designated location or schedule a pickup. To track your shipment, simply use the tracking number provided when you placed your order. Enter the tracking number on the relevant website or app, and you will be able to view the real-time status and location of your package as it travels to its destination.

6. Transportation

1) Car hailing

There are many online car-hailing apps in China, which greatly meets customers travel needs. Popular car-hailing platforms in China includes DIDI Chuxing, T3Chuxing, CAO CAO Chuxing, Meituan Dache and so on.

Taking DIDI Chuxing as an example, here is an introduction of how to hail a car in online car-hailing apps. DiDi chuxing is the name of a cell phone app which makes it possible to contact both taxis and private cars with professional drivers. In other words it's like a local Ube



- Quick guide on how to take a trip in ten steps

- ① Download “滴滴出行(DiDi Chu Xing)” and register with your cellphone number.
- ② Insert your starting point or confirm your location on DiDi through GPS.
- ③ Insert your destination in Chinese characters or in English.
- ④ Choose the type of car you want to use and how many seats you’ll need if you choose Express Pool.
- ⑤ Confirm the call.
- ⑥ Wait for your car assignment. During busy times, you'll be given your place in line and an estimated wait time, but it may not be very accurate.
- ⑦ Check if the driver has sent you a message in the “message” section.
- ⑧ If you’ve changed your mind, cancel within two minutes of an assignment.
- ⑨ Take the ride.
- ⑩ Confirm payment only once you’ve arrived at your destination and check that the driver ends the ride on his App.

2) Metro

Guangzhou Metro owns 16 lines in operation with a length of 621km and 302 stations.

a. Lines in Operation

★ ➤ Line 1: Guangzhou metro line 1 is made up of 16 stations. It is a very important vehicle to go to the Guangzhou East Railway Station.

Operating Hours: 06:00-00:00

➤ Line 2: There are 24 stations along the metro line 2. This line running from north to south could take you to the Guangzhou South Railway Station quickly.

Operating Hours: 06:00-00:23 next day

- ▶ Line 3: The line 3 is formed with one north-south main rail and a northeastward branch. This line has reached Guangzhou Baiyun Airport from downtown area directly.

Operating Hours: 06:00-00:08 next day

- ▶ Line 4: Starting from Huangcun in the north to Nansha Passenger Port in the south, Line 4 boasts 24 stations in total, one of which is under construction – Guanqiao station.

Operating Hours: 06:00-00:21 next day

- ▶ Line 5: The Guangzhou metro line 5 is an artery connecting the eastern and western parts of the city and passing the Guangzhou Railway Station. It covers some major business and residential districts.

Operating Hours: 06:00-00:10 next day

- ▶ Line 6: Guangzhou metro line 6 is U-shaped, running between Xunfenggang and Xiangxue.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:56

- ▶ Line 7: Metro line 7 connects Meidi Avenue in Foshan and Higher Education Mega Center South via Guangzhou South Railway Station.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:57

- ▶ Line 8: Guangzhou subway line 8 serves in the shape of "L", linking Jiaoxin, Shayuan and Wanshengwei. Its north extension began to be constructed in 2023.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:54

- ▶ Line 9: This metro line runs through Huadu District from Fei'eling to Gaozeng.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:38

- ▶ Line 10: Running in northeast - southwest direction, Line 10 links 19 stations in total such as South China Normal University, Shipaiqiao, Sun Yat-Sen University, Shixi and Dongxiaonan. It is expected to be available in 2024.

- ▶ Line 11: This is the first loop line of Guangzhou metro system, linking 31 stations such as Fangcun, Shachong, Pazhou, Yuancun and South China Normal University. It will be available at the end of 2023 at the earliest.

- ▶ Line 12: This is one of the diagonals of Guangzhou metro system, stretching from northwest to southeast area. 25 stations include Xinshixu, Baiyun Culture Square, Yunxi Ecological Park, Ersha Island and Lingnan Square. Line 12 will be put into use in 2024.

- ▶ Line 13: This line runs from Yuzhu to Xinsha via 11 stations. It covers 27 km through Huangpu and

Zengcheng Districts, and it is planned to cover Baiyun, Liwan, Yuexiu, and Tianhe Districts as the line 13 stretches westward to Chaoyang.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:44

▶ Line 14: The main line connects Jiahewanggang and Dongfeng. The Knowledge City branch line of line 14 links Xinhe and Zhenlong via 10 stations.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:37

▶ Line 18: The main section of metro line 18 runs between Guangzhou East Railway Station and Wanshengwei via other seven stations such as Xiancun, Longtan, Shaxi, Nancun Wanbo and Panyu Square. The section between Guangzhou East Railway Station and Xiancun can be expected in 2024.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:51

▶ Guangzhou-Foshan Line: GuangFo Line is the first intercity underground rail in China, connecting Guangzhou City and Foshan City.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:56

▶ Line 21: Line 21 runs between Yuancun and Zengcheng Square. Major stations along it include Tianhe Park, Huangcun, Suyuan, Zhongxin, Kengbei, Fenggang, Zhucun and Shantian.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:55

▶ Line 22: It connects Chentougang and Panyu Square in north - south direction, passing by South Railway Station and Shiguang Road.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:25

▶ Automated People Mover System (APM): Zhujiang New Town Automated People Mover System (APM) is only 4 kilometers in length, which is the world's first underground and unmanned rail.

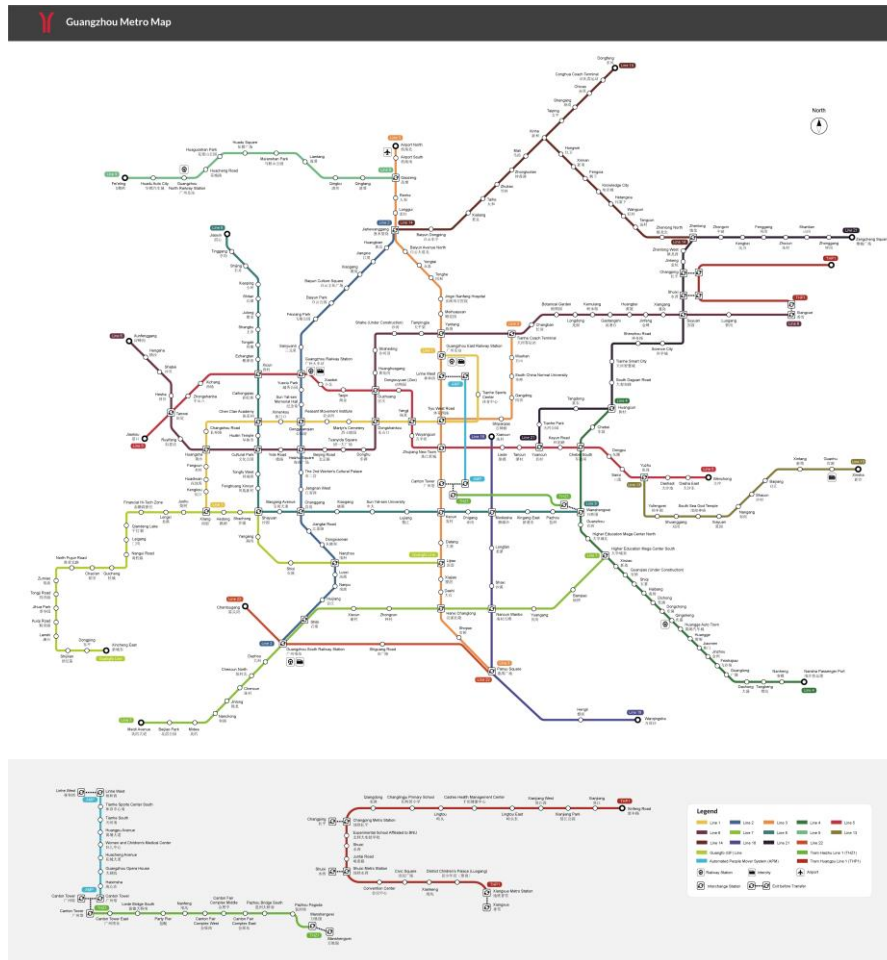
Operating Hours: 07:00-23:38

▶ Young Tram Haizhu Line 1 (THZ1): THZ1, only 7.8 kilometers long, connects Canton Tower and Wanshengwei overground.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:05

▶ Young Tram Huangpu Line 1 (THP1): THP1 is in a rough direction from Xiangxue Metro Station in the west to Xinfeng Road in the east, 14.4 kilometers long with 19 stations in total.

Operating Hours: 06:00-23:17



b. Ticket Fare

Except of the APM's ticket of CNY2, the metro utilizes a stage fare system. The longer the journey the more you pay.

- ① For the first 4 kilometers (2 miles), the ticket fare is CNY2.
- ② During 4 kilometers (2 miles) to 12 kilometers (7 miles), passengers pay CNY1 for each additional 4 kilometers (2 miles).
- ③ During 12 kilometers (7 miles) to 24 kilometers (15 miles), CNY1 is paid for each additional 6 kilometers (4 miles).
- ④ When more than 24 kilometers (15 miles), CNY1 is paid for each additional 8 kilometers (5 miles).

c. Ticket

- Single-trip ticket

Find the TVM (Ticket Vendor Machine) according to the signs in the Guangzhou metro station → Choose the station you're going to reach on the machine's screen → Make sure how many tickets you want to buy → Pay for the ticket according to the amount of the money shown on the screen → Get the ticket and the change.



- Guangzhou Transportation Smart Card

Guangzhou Transportation Smart Card (called Yang Cheng Tong in Chinese), the holders can enjoy a 5% discount when they take it. The card costs CNY20 and then you can add value to it. The leftover value in the card is not refundable. If you want to recharge your card, you can go to the customer service centers.



- Guangzhou Metro Mini Programme

Passengers can pay for subway tickets with the help of a WeChat mini program, scanning the QR code to enter subway stations.

- ① Search “广州地铁乘车码” in the Wechat.

使用过的小程序



广州地铁乘车码

本地宝
Bendibao.com

② Click “同意协议并开通”



③ Enable password-free payment.

< 开通免密支付



④ scan the QR code to enter subway stations.



3) Bus

In Guangzhou, there are around 450 bus lines, more than 40 of which circulate during the night (between nine o'clock at night and six o'clock in the morning).

a. Bus Lines

The bus system in Guangzhou is very extensive and is necessary for getting to many places, as the subway doesn't yet cover many parts of the city well. [Click here to see all bus lines in the city.](#)

- Tourist Bus Lines

▶ Tourist Line 1

Jiakou Bus Station – Zhongshan 8 Road – Liwan Intersection - Ancestral Temple of the Chen Family – Zhongshan 7 Road – Ximenkou (Zhongshan 6 Road) – Liurong Road – Guangzhou First People's Hospital – Panfu Road – Sanyuan Palace – Yingyuan Raod – Xiaobei Huaquan – Xiaobei – Guangshi Hotel – Luhui Park – White Cloud Immortals Temple - Yuntai Garden Terminal

Operating Hours: 06:00 – 22:00 every 15 minutes

Ticket Fare: CNY2/person

▶ Tourist Line 2:

Pearl River Dijingyuan Community Terminal – Chigang Tower – Xinhong Park Community – Guangzhou Bridge – Pearl River Square – North Gate of Sun Yat-sen University – North Gate of Sun Yan-sen University West – Pearl River Swimming Pool – East Binjiang Road – Dashatou Port – Dashatou – Dongdi – Tianzi Port – Haizhu Square – Changdi – Aiqun Building – Cultural Park – South Kangwang Road – Hualin Temple – Middle Kangwang Road – Ancestral Temple of the Chen Family – Liwan Intersection – Shiluji – Zhongshan 8 Road –Guangfo Intersection – Fangcun Avenue West Terminal

Operating Hours: 06:00 - 22:00

Ticket Fare: CNY2/person every 15 minutes

Tourist Line 3

Zhongcheng Road Terminal – Zhongcheng Intersection – Jingxi Intersection – Yunjing Park Community – Jingxi Road - 15th Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou General Hospital of Guangzhou Military Region – Meihuayuan – Meiyuan New Village – Jijingkeng – Wuxianqiao – Xinghua Intersection – Xinghua Road – Guangzhou East Railway Station – West Linhe Road – North Tianhe Road – East Tianhe Road – Tianhe South – Liede Avenue North Station – Jinsui Road – Middle Xiancun Road – Liede – Liede East – Modie Shalu Station – Haigang Park Community – Canton Fair Complex – Pazhou – Pazhou Bridge South – Pazhou Village – Wanshengwei – Wanji Village Entrance – South Entrance of Huangpu Village – Pazhou Shiji Village Terminal

Operating Hours: 06:00-21:30 every 10 minutes

Ticket Fare: CNY3/person

b. Guangzhou Bus Schedule

The buses like Downtown Regular Lines, Special Lines and Panyu Lines are generally in service during 06:00 and 22:00. The night buses usually run from 22:40 to 05:40 in the next morning. The operating hours of Express Lines are 07:00 - 08:20 & 17:00 - 18:30 on weekdays. Passengers can take BRT Lines at 07:00-22:00.

c. Bus Fare & How to Pay

All bus routes are charged by distance. The bus fare is between CNY2 and CNY6/person. Children under 1.2 meters (3.9 feet) can ride buses and rail transit for free. In addition, the Guangzhou Transportation Smart Card can be used. Coin boxes are also installed on the bus for passengers who use cash. The fare generally is stated on the coin boxes.

| Distance | 0-4 km | 4-12 km | 12-24 km | Over 24 km |
|----------|--------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Fare | CNY2 | CNY1 added every 4 km | CNY 1 added every 6 km | CNY1 added every 8 km |

4) Train

a. Train Station

In Guangzhou, there are six train stations, the three main stations are the following:

Qingsheng Railway Station is located in the Nansha district, can be reached via subway line 4 (stop: Qingsheng Railway Station, 庆盛站). It is adjacent to the Qingsheng station on the high-speed Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. It takes just 30 minutes to travel there from the Hong Kong West Kowloon railway station.

Guangzhou South Railway Station, is located in the Panyu district, and can be reached via subway line 2, 22 and 7 (stop: South Railway Station, 广州南站). This station is a station for transboarding between the bullet train lines between Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong, Guizhou-Guangzhou, Guangzhou-Zhuhai, and Nanning-Guangzhou. In addition, it is the terminus station for the largest bullet train line in the world, that of Beijing-Guangzhou.

Guangzhou East Railway Station, is the largest station in the city and is found in the Tianhe district. It can be reached via subway lines 1 and 3 (stop: Guangzhou East Railway Station, 广州东站). From here leaves the line that connects Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong, and therefore, it has an immigration office. In addition, it is the main hub for bullet trains in the city, as well as for K-type trains (normal speed) heading to main urban centers in the north, such as Beijing, Harbin, Changchun, or Shenyang.

b. Types of Trains

China operates different types of trains, including:

- High-speed trains (G-category, D-category, and C-category): These are the fastest trains in China, reaching speeds up to 350 km/h (217 mph).
- Conventional trains (Z-category, T-category, and K-category): These are slower than high-speed trains but cover a wide network, including remote areas.

c. Buying Train Tickets

There are two main ways to buy train tickets in China:

- Book at China Railway's official website (<https://www.12306.cn/index/>)

The 12306.cn website provides information query and ticket refund services 24 hours a day, and the ticket sales and endorsement services from 5:00 to 1:00 the next day (5:00 to 23:30 on Tuesday). After buying tickets for a passenger "to be verified" with foreign passports in the My Passengers List on 12306.cn, you need to take the valid original passport used to buy the ticket to the ticket counter at the station for ID verification. When the status has been changed to "ready to be verified," you can pick up the paper ticket.

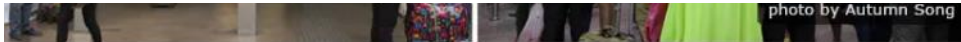
Now foreign passengers can log in to the 12306 website or its App, fill in their name, nationality, passport number to complete verification online automatically. You can also submit a photo of your passport information page

online, which will be manually verified.

The railway department reminds that foreign passengers can purchase tickets and take train only after passing the identity verification. Passengers holding foreign passports are asked to check the identity verification status in time and complete the identity information verification as soon as possible to avoid affecting the purchase of tickets and travel. More service information can be inquired through the 12306 website.

- Buy tickets at a train station

Train stations sell tickets 15 days before departure. Here are some tips for buying tickets at train stations: Bring all the passengers' original passports; Expect long queues in front of the counters, especially during holidays; Your preferable train can be fully booked, especially for popular routes or during peak season (including Spring Festival, National Holiday, Mid-autumn Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, etc); Skip the Self-service ticket machines as they can accept Chinese ID only.



d. Endorsement

Endorsement refers to the procedures to take when passengers change the date of travel, train number, or seat (berth). The railway department reminds passengers that endorsement can only be handled when there is enough capacity (i.e., available tickets). Endorsement or change of destination station is available to one ticket for only one time.

- The rules of ticket endorsement

More than 48 hours (not included) before the train departure time, you can endorse your ticket to that of another train available within the pre-sale period. Within 48 hours before the train departure time, you can endorse your ticket to travel by another train scheduled to depart before the original train, or after the original train but before 24:00 of the date of departure of the original train; it is not possible to endorse the ticket to a train scheduled to depart the next day or later. After the train has departed, passengers can still get the ticket endorsed to another train scheduled to depart on the same date, but only at the departure station of the original ticket, and the endorsed ticket cannot be refunded.

A ticket whose destination station has been changed cannot be endorsed. If the ticket is endorsed or if the destination station of the ticket is changed between 48 hours to 8 days before the train departure time, to another train scheduled to depart at least 8 days later, 5% refund fee shall be charged for the endorsed/changed ticket even if the ticket is refunded at least 8 days before train departure. If the train for ticket endorsed or ticket with its destination station changed is scheduled to depart within the Spring Festival peak season, the refund service fee will be uniformly charged as 20% of the ticket price.

- Destination Changing

If there are tickets available, passengers can change their destination through 12306.cn or at a designated ticket window at the station at least 48 hours ahead of the departure time of the original train.

e. Refund

Passengers can get a ticket refund via the 12306.cn website ahead of train departure. Passengers who have registered on the 12306.cn and completed the facial identity verification via mobile APP can also get a refund on the website for their own tickets purchased via ticket window at the station, ticketing machine, ticket agency, and by other people on 12306.cn. For e-tickets purchased by cash or with reimbursement receipt printed, passengers can apply for a refund on the 12306.cn and get the refund at the station ticket window with the passengers' original ID card within 180 days after successfully apply for the refund online. Passengers shall return the reimbursement receipt if it is already printed.

5) Plane

a. Guangzhou's airport

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, where both domestic and international flights arrive. Flights from Baiyun International Airport (CAN) connect the city with more than 150 domestic cities and over 70 international cities. The domestic flights go to Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Kunming, Chongqing, Haikou, Chengdu, Hangzhou, etc. The direct international flights are to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Osaka, Seoul, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Tokyo, Jakarta, Taipei, Hong Kong, Sydney, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Paris and New York, etc.

b. Airport Transportation

- Airport Shuttle Bus

There are 15 shuttle bus lines supplying convenient transportation for passengers between Baiyun Airport and the downtown area, including the special lines to Zengcheng and Guangzhou South Railway Station. The boarding spots are located at Gate B10-B13 of Zone B, T1; and the Bus Station west to the transportation center of T2.

- Metro Line 3

From the underground floor of the terminal building, one can take the metro line 3, which runs to downtown Guangzhou, passing East Railway Station, South China Normal University, and Canton Tower.

Hours: 6:00 to 00:08

Frequency: 2-3 minutes in rush hours; not more than 7 minutes in off-peak hours

- Taxi

Last of all, you can also take a taxi. The trip from downtown should cost a little more than 100 Yuan.

c. Booking and using an e-ticket

- ① Log in an airline reservation system and inquire;
- ② Fill in the reservation form with accurate information of the passenger;
- ③ Confirm the order and pay on line through the bank website;
- ④ Receive a message for verification within a half hour after payment and then e-ticket will be sent to your e-mail box;
- ⑤ Go to the airport e-ticket counter and get your boarding pass with your ID card or passport;
- ⑥ Pass the security check; fetch a receipt for reimbursement from the airline or the agency if needed.

d. Missing, mistaking a flight

If passengers miss a flight at their own fault, they can choose to take the follow-up flight or refund their tickets (refunding fee will be charged), which can be dealt with either at the departing airport or at the original booking site. If it is airlines' fault, passengers can also choose to take the following flight or have their tickets refunded free of charge.

If passengers mistake a flight at their own fault, passengers can catch the earliest flight to their destination with airlines help; however, their tickets cannot be refunded. If it is airlines' fault, passengers will also be arranged to catch the earliest flight to get their destination; if passengers want to have their tickets refunded, no refunding fee will be charged.

d. Airport Inquiry Hotline

(+86) 020-96158 (Mandarin, Cantonese and English languages are available.)

7. Shopping

Guangzhou is a shopper's paradise with a wide range of shopping options. Some popular shopping areas include Beijing Road, Shangxiajiu Pedestrian Street, Tianhe Teemall, and Grandview Mall. These places offer a mix of local and international brands, department stores, and boutiques.

Shopping mall near the campus:

| Name | Location | Open Time |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Nansha Uni Park | Phonix Avenue, Nansha | 9:00-21:00(Monday-Friday) 8:30-21:30(Saturday-Sunday) |
| Nansha Wanda Plaza | No.3 Shuangshan Avenue, Nansha District | 10:00-22:00 (Sunday-Thursday) 10:00-22:30(Friday-Saturday) |
| Coco Park | Jingang Avenue, Nansha District | 10:00-22:00 (Sunday-Thursday) 10:00-22:30(Friday-Saturday) |
| Panyu Teemall | No.180 Wanbo Road, Panyu District | 10:00-22:00 (Sunday-Thursday) 10:00-22:30(Friday-Saturday) |

8. Religion

Regulations on religious activities in China

Foreigners can participate in religious activities in Temples, Palaces, Mosques, Churches, and other religious venues in China. Lectures, preaching, religious gatherings, and other activities are not allowed in non-religious venues.

Foreigners conducting religious activities in China shall abide by Chinese laws and regulations. They shall not set up religious organizations, religious offices, places for religious activities, or religious institutions in China. They shall not develop believers, appoint religious staff or conduct other missionary activities among Chinese citizens.

Religious articles such as religious books and periodicals, religious audio-visual products, and religious electronic publications are not allowed to be produced or sold, and religious propaganda materials are not allowed to be distributed.

Regulations on religious activities in China universities

The regulations of the management of institutions of higher education state that schools should adhere to the principle of separation of education and religion. Institutions of higher education shall respect the national customs and religious beliefs of international students, but shall not provide venues for religious activities. No religious activities such as missions and religious gatherings are allowed in the school. No organization or individual may conduct religious activities in schools.

As can be seen from the above, Chinese universities respect religious beliefs but do not allow religious-related activities to be held in schools, because Chinese university campuses are places of study. So if you want to participate in religious-related activities, you can go to Mosques, Churches, and other places off-campus, instead of on the university campus. Regarding special religious holidays, Chinese universities also do not have those holidays. The only holidays in China are national statutory holidays, such as the Dragon Boat Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival, and so on.

Religious Institutions in Guangzhou

Guangzhou boasts a long history of religion. The world's top five religions, Buddhism, Taoism, Islamism, Catholicism, and Christianity, all have a presence here. Further nearly 10 major temples, mosques and churches are distributed along Guangzhou's former axle, outlining the unique human landscape integrating the religious cultures and Guangzhou's historical culture and adding much to the charms of Guangzhou as a famous historic and cultural city.

a. Major Buddhism sites

- Baode Temple
- Hualin Temple
- Dafo Temple
- Liurong Temple (Six Banyan Temple)
- Guangxiao Temple
- Luofeng Temple
- Haitong Temple
- Zizheng Temple
- Dafu Temple

b. Major Catholicism sites

- Longdong Catholic Church
- Sacred Heart Cathedral (Siaksat Cathedral)
- Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel

c. Major Christianity sites

- Dongshan Christian Church
- Henan Christian Church
- Zion Christian Church
- Fangcun Christian Church
- Shahe Christian Church
- Guangxiao Christian Church
- Shamian Christian Church

d. Major Islam sites

- Haopan Mosque
- Mausoleum of Ancient Islamic Sage
- Huaisheng Mosque (Lighthouse Mosque)

e. Major Daoism sites

- Chunyang Daoist Temple
- Renwei Daoist Temple
- Xiaopengxian Celestial Hall
- Nanhaishen Temple
- Five Immortals Daoist Temple
- Sanyuan Daoist Temple

9. Hospital

Guangzhou has a very efficient healthcare network, and some hospitals are staffed with foreign doctors. Here you can have information on Guangzhou's major medical organizations and medical services.

a. How to access medical services

Hospitals offer various types of appointment services (e.g. through Guangzhou Health Link app, hospitals' official websites, WeChat public account, telephone hotline 12320 etc.).

Patients can also go to the outpatient clinic to register on their own. The procedure to see a doctor is:

registration and triage — waiting for your turn — doctor's consultation — fee payment, and then examination/test (If needed. Some examinations need to be booked separately)—prescribing directly or prescribing after having examination/test results — fee payment — collecting medicine.

b. Public Hospitals

Public hospitals are not as fancy as private hospitals but the standards of care and cleanliness are excellent, and public hospitals are much cheaper than private or international hospitals.

You can sometimes find English-speaking doctors, but don't expect this to be the norm. You will likely need a translator if you are not fluent in Mandarin.

There is [a complete list of public and private hospitals](#) on China Daily and [a hospital contact list](#) created by the Embassy of Australia. Here are few choices we recommend as they are popular with expats in Guangzhou:

- Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital

No. 106, Zhongshan 2nd Road, Yuexiu District

Appointments: Wechat official account 'Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital'

Tel: (+8620) 8388 2222, 020-12320, 400-6677-400

Grade 3 Class A hospital, which is the highest ranking in the Chinese medical system. This is the hospital to go to when you don't know where to go because they have everything. They are considered the best in Guangzhou for all-round quality medical care at a low cost.

- Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hospital

107 Yanjiang West Road, Yuexiu District

Tel: (+8620) 8133 2199

With more than 2000 inpatient beds, this huge hospital is the oldest western medical hospital in all of China, having been around since 1835, it is considered a pioneer and heads most medical research in the country.

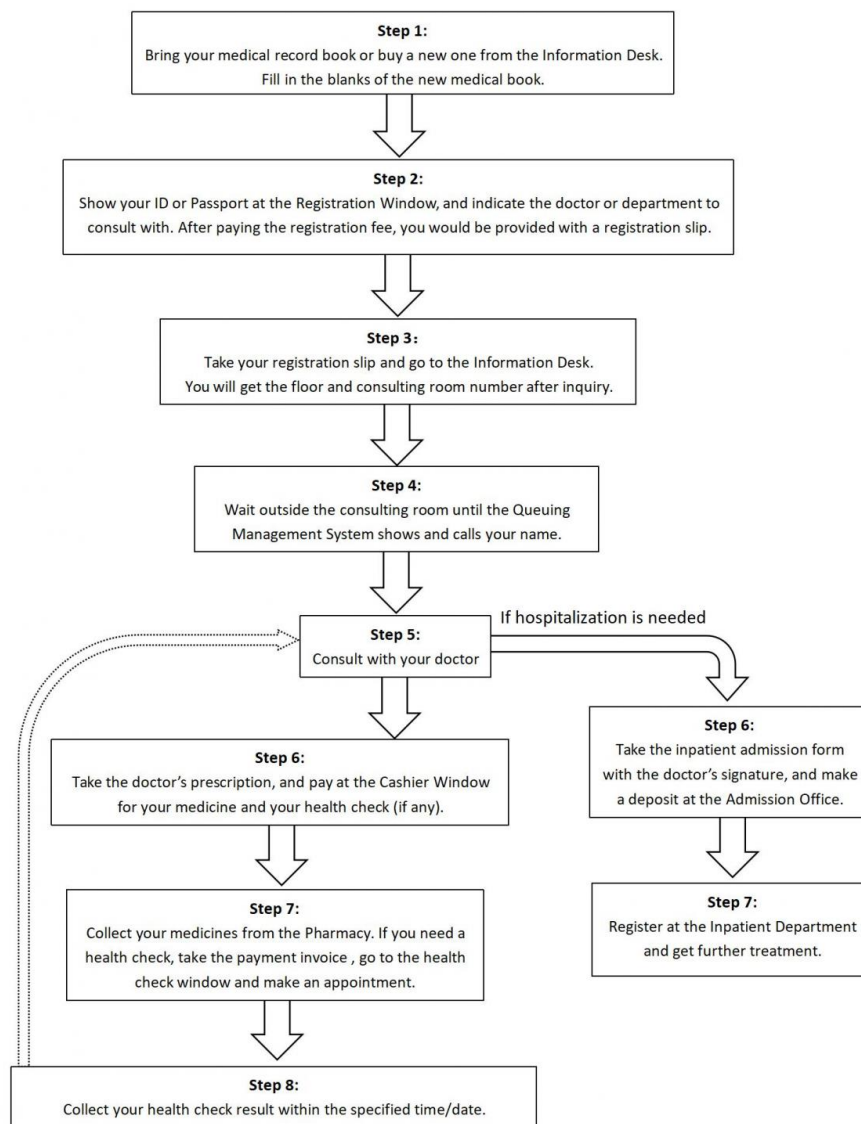
- The First Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University (Nansha Division)

The west side of Hengli Island, Mingzhuwan, Nansha District

Contact: 020-89998001

c. Visiting a Public Hospital – Steps

How to See a Doctor



Hope you recover soon :-)

d. Private Clinics and Hospitals

You will be able to easily navigate the hospital and communicate easily in English. However, the price will be as high as it can get, for sometimes the same level of expertise as in public hospitals.

• Clifford Hospital

3 Grand Road, Panyu District

Tel: (+8620) 8471 8123

Emergency: (+8620) 8451 8999 (24H)

With a Capacity of 3000 inpatients, Clifford specializes in TCM, gynecology and obstetrics, acupuncture and

massage, gastroenterology, and preventive medicine. They have direct billing to some international health insurance companies.

- Eur Am International Medical Center

1/F, Ocean Pearl Building, 15 Hua Li Road, Zhu Jiang New Town

Tel: (+8620) 3758 5328

Emergency: 13710413347

This hospital is popular for TCM and physiotherapy, with several departments dedicated to sports injuries. They have practitioners from China, France, the United States and Singapore. They do direct billing to some international health insurance companies and offer a membership card for 500 RMB per year to get a 20% discount on healthcare services and a 10% discount on dental services.

- United Family Guangzhou Clinic

No. 31 Pazhou Avenue, Haizhu District

Tel: 4008-919191 or: (+8620) 3610 2333

The most popular choice with expats in Guangzhou because of their solid reputation around China. They offer easy to access online consultation and bookings. They have family medicine, dermatology, rehabilitation, TCM, 24-hour emergency care, intensive and neonatal intensive care units, and a great birthing center.

10. Useful Apps

- WeChat 微信



WeChat is a mobile social network application with more than a billion users. Developed by Chinese technology giant Tencent, it is the Chinese version of WhatsApp and the most popular instant messaging service in China. Users can send voice messages, photos, videos and text messages, make audio and video calls, chat in groups, and share their real-time location with friends. Users can also post updates, photos or videos on the app's social function, or 'pengyouquan'. WeChat Pay is also one of the top online payment options in the world.

- Meituan 美团



Although food delivery is its core business, Meituan is an on-demand platform that covers a wide range of services, including gourmet recommendations, takeaway food orders, delivery of daily necessities and medicines, hotel booking, discounts on tourist products, and customer ratings. It helps make the lives of its users more convenient, and has become a must-have app for many people.

- Dianping 大众点评



A Chinese equivalent of TripAdvisor and Yelp, Dianping not only provides users with business information, consumer reviews and discounts, but also offers 'online-to-offline' trading services such as group-buying, restaurant reservations, on-demand delivery and electronic membership cards. Users can make an informed decision on a purchase after scrolling through a large number of genuine customer reviews.

- Eleme 饿了么



Similar to Deliveroo, this app enables people to buy food, search for nearby takeaways, make a reservation, or even update the takeaway delivery at any time.

Users can also add their favorite restaurants to collection lists, and enjoy discounts.

- Taobao 手机淘宝



Similar to Amazon, it meets the needs of users' daily consumption and online shopping, including daily necessities, cosmetics, entertainment, books, and electronic appliances. Many brands, such as Uniqlo, have opened digital flagship stores on it.

- Alipay 支付宝



As one of the leading independent third-party payment platforms in the world, Alipay provides users with secure and fast electronic payments, online payments, mobile payments, transfers, payments of water, electricity and gas fees and credit card repayments, as well as Yu'eobao, an internet-based money market fund.

- Pleco



Pleco is a Chinese dictionary app with several functions, and one of the most widely used and highly-acclaimed products in its field. Users can query in Chinese, English, Pinyin, handwriting, and glyph. It has abundant word explanations and provides a large number of references on related phrases while listing similar-looking Chinese characters.

- Ctrip 携程旅行



A Chinese equivalent to Expedia and Priceline, Ctrip provides many kinds of travel services including accommodation reservation, transportation ticketing, package tours, corporate travel management, guides to attractions and hotels, and food recommendations.

- 12306 China Railway 中国铁路



This is the country's official high-speed train app. It's where you look up timetables and buy train tickets.

- Gaode maps 高德地图



China's equivalent to Google Maps, the Alibaba-backed map service provider Gaode offers precise positioning and can recommend the best route to your destination. It will provide a corresponding travel plan depending on the means of transportation you choose. Users can also get information about traffic restrictions and toll fees on it.

- DiDi Chuxing 滴滴出行



DiDi Chuxing is a mobile transportation platform, offering a full range of commuting options, including taxi hailing, private car hailing, Hitch (social ride-sharing), chauffeur services, shuttle buses, test drives, car rental, travel solutions for businesses, and bike-sharing.

- China Daily 中国日报



China Daily is the largest English portal in China, providing domestic and international news, and has columns including China, World, Opinion, Business, Sports, Watch this, Culture, Travel, and Lifestyle.

11. Basic Chinese

a. Common Chinese Phrases To Greet People

- 你好! Nǐhǎo – Hello!
- 你好吗? Nǐhǎo ma? – How are you?
- 很好 Hěn hǎo – Good
- 还好 Hái hǎo – Pretty good
- 不太好 Bù tài hǎo – Not so good
- 早上好 Zǎoshang hǎo – Good morning
- 晚上好 Wǎnshang hǎo – Good evening
- 晚安 Wǎn'ān – Good night

b. Common Chinese Phrases For Getting To Know People

- 你叫什么名字? Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi? – What’s your name?
- 我叫__ Wǒ jiào__ – My name is...
- 你多大? Nǐ duō dà? – How old are you?
- 我三十岁 Wǒ sānshí suì – I’m thirty (years old)
- 你来自哪里? Nǐ láizì nǎlǐ? – Where do you come from?
- 我来自中国 Wǒ láizì zhōngguó – I come from China.

c. Common Chinese Phrases For Being Polite

- 谢谢! Xièxiè! – Thank you!
- 非常感谢! Fēicháng gǎnxiè! – Thank you so much!
- 不用谢 Bù yòng xiè – You’re welcome (literally, “no need for thanks”)
- 不客气 Bù kèqì – You’re welcome (literally, “no need to be so polite”)
- 不好意思 Bù hǎoyìsi – Excuse me, sorry (To get attention, for getting past, for mild apologies)
- 对不起 Duìbuqǐ – Sorry (A more emphatic apology)
- 请问...? Qǐngwèn...? – Could I ask...? (A polite way to preface a question)
- 麻烦你了 Mǎfan nǐ le – Sorry to bother you
- 没问题 Méi wèntí – No problem
- 好的! Hǎo de! – OK!

d. Common Chinese Phrases To Say: “I Don’t Understand!”

- 听得懂吗? Tīngdedǒng ma? – Do you understand?
- 听得懂 Tīngdedǒng – I understand
- 听不懂! Tīngbudǒng – I don’t understand!
- 你会说英文吗? Nǐ huì shuō yīngwén ma – Do you speak English?
- 我不会说中文 Wǒ bù huì shuō zhōngwén – I don’t speak Chinese
- 可以说得慢一点吗? Kěyǐ shuō de màn yīdiǎn ma? – Could you speak more slowly?
- 什么意思? shénme yìsi? – What does it mean?
- ____怎么说? ____zěnmē shuō? – How to say __?
- 我不知道 Wǒ bù zhīdao – I don’t know.

e. Common Chinese Phrases For Asking For Directions

- __怎么走? __zěnmē zǒu? – How to go to the __?
- __在哪儿? / __在哪里? __zài nǎr? / __ zài nǎlǐ – Where is the __?

- 我要去__ Wǒ yào qù__ – I want to go to __

d. Common Chinese Phrases For Eating Out

- 几位? Jǐwèi? – How many people?
- 一位 Yīwèi – One person (i.e. “a table for one”)
- 两位 Liǎngwèi – Two people
- 我想看一下菜单 Wǒ xiǎng kàn yíxià càidān – I’d like to look at the menu
- 点菜 Diǎn cài – (I’m/we’re) ready to order
- 我要... Wǒ yào... – I’ll have...
- 服务员! Fúwùyuán! – Waiter!
- 买单! Mǎidān! – The bill, please!

e. Common Chinese Phrases For Shopping

- 我要这个 Wǒ yào zhège – I’ll take this one
- 多少钱? Duōshao qián? – How much is it?
- 太贵了! Tài guì le! – Too expensive!
- 便宜一点儿! Piányi yídiǎnr! – A bit cheaper! (To ask for a better price)
- 可以刷卡吗? Kěyǐ shuākǎ ma? – Can I use a card?

f. Common Chinese Phrases For Solving Problems

- 可以帮个忙吗? Kěyǐ bāng ge máng ma? – Could you help me?
- 我迷路了 Wǒ mílù le – I’m lost
- 我要去医院 Wǒ yào qù yīyuàn – I need to go to the hospital
- 我生病了 Wǒ shēngbìng le – I’m sick
- 我受伤了 Wǒ shòushāng le – I’m hurt/injured
- 这里疼 Zhèlǐ téng – It hurts here

g. Common Chinese Phrases For Special Occasions

- 恭喜恭喜! Gōngxǐ gōngxǐ! – Congratulations!
- 生日快乐! Shēngrì kuàilè! – Happy Birthday!
- 干杯! Gānbēi! – Cheers! (Literally, “dry cup!”)
- 新年快乐! Xīnnián kuàilè! – Happy New Year! (For both Chinese New Year and the other one)
- 恭喜发财! Gōngxǐ fācái! – May you be prosperous! (A traditional greeting at Chinese New Year)
- 祝你好运! Zhù nǐ hǎoyùn! – Good luck!

h. Common Chinese Phrases To Talk About Transport

- 机场 Jīchǎng – Airport
- 火车站 Huǒchēzhàn – Train station
- 地铁站 Dìtiězhàn – Metro/subway/underground station
- 公交车站 Gōngjiāochēzhàn – Bus stop/station
- 出租车 Chūzūchē – Taxi