



## ROAD TRAVEL REPORT: PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

- Driving is on the right. However, drivers, cyclists and motorcyclists commonly drive on the left.
- Driving standard is poor. Many sources recommend renting a car and hiring a driver.
- Drive defensively and use seat belts. Road risk is high. Crashes are often fatal.
  - The number of U.S. citizens being fatally or seriously injured in road crashes in Beijing is increasing.



### ROAD REALITIES

#### DRIVER BEHAVIORS

- Common factors in road crashes: speeding, failing to obey traffic signs and traffic lights, driving recklessly, failing to adjust to unexpected traffic situations, not yielding to pedestrians, driving in the wrong lane, passing illegally, driving while under the influence of alcohol, driving while fatigued or distracted and driver negligence.
  - Drink driving is declining sharply due to passage of stricter DWI laws, specifying harsh penalties for violating them and diligent enforcement of the laws.
  - Drivers often run red lights, unless police are present.
- Increasing numbers of drivers are inexperienced. Often results in confusing/unpredictable traffic conditions.
- Poor road safety awareness, poor vehicle condition, poor road conditions and lack of road safety features are also factors in road crashes.
- Many crashes involve drivers of overloaded trucks or buses speeding on wet road surfaces.
- Unless barriers restrict their path, cyclists and motorcyclists are commonly ride in the middle of the road into oncoming traffic.
- Many drivers drive aggressively.
- Road rage seldom occurs.
  - Drivers who assault and seriously injure another road user can be prosecuted. If road rage results in the person's death, the driver may receive the death penalty.
- Be prepared to brake quickly. Drivers seldom use turn signals, and may "dive" into small gaps in traffic.
  - If a driver enters your lane and you hit the side of their vehicle, you will be considered at fault.
- Motorists and cyclists often turn at intersections or merge with traffic without yielding to oncoming traffic. They may enter traffic from side streets, parking lots or alleys without looking.
- At intersections without lights or stop signs, drivers who do not make eye contact with other drivers are indicating that they are taking right of way.
- Drivers may ignore pedestrian crossings and/or use their horn instead of their brakes.
- Drivers may stop in the middle of the road to check a map or call for directions. They may drive on the wrong side of the road or on sidewalks.
- Drivers seldom use seat belts.
- Pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse-drawn carts routinely travel the wrong direction on divided highways. They generally use the shoulder. May travel close to center fence.



- Most traffic injuries involve pedestrians or cyclists.
- China accounts for 13% of global road fatalities.
- China has an average of 3.5 times more road crash-related fatalities than the U.S.



- Bicycles, motorcycles, tractors, etc., may be used to carry or tow excessive amounts of goods. Overloading makes vehicles unstable and difficult to control.
- Cyclists, motorcyclists and some car drivers ignore one-way signs.
- Crashes involving overloaded buses account for many road fatalities.
- Overloaded trucks contribute to rapid deterioration of roads and bridges.

**GENERAL ROAD CONDITIONS**

- Two-thirds of China is mountainous or semi-desert. Harsh climatic conditions and high seismic instability make road construction and maintenance challenging in many regions.
- China has 3.984 million km of roads, including 74,000 km of expressways.
- Construction of new roads and repair and upgrading of existing roads is progressing rapidly.
- Most main roads are paved; secondary roads vary from smooth paved surfaces to rough dirt roads.
- All towns, townships and counties have some level of road access. Road quality is improving. However, many secondary roads are low quality, and provisions for safety are often lacking or inadequate.
- Road network has grown rapidly in past decade. China completed about 2 million km of rural roads and 35,000 km of highways/expressways. However, roads are often congested.
- Condition, maintenance and density of road network varies greatly in different geographical regions. Road conditions may deteriorate rapidly after turning off main roads. Even newly paved roads may have large cracks.
  - Technical quality of many roads is inadequate, especially in western China and rural areas.
  - Roads in mountainous sections of southwestern China are often in poor condition. Road crashes are frequent. Lane markings are often inadequate. Visibility may be poor.
  - Many maps do not distinguish between paved and unpaved roads.
- Traffic jams are common on arterial routes, especially near larger cities and at junctions of major highways. Backups may last a few hours or a few days.
- Traffic signs are international.
- Mixed traffic composition contributes to many crashes. Road mix includes many pedestrians and cyclists, rapidly growing numbers of motorcyclists, personal vehicles, buses and trucks. Heavily loaded freight rickshaws often slow traffic and may contribute to road crashes.

- Provision for vulnerable road users is improving in major cities, but often lacking on inter-city and rural roads.

**Types of roads:**

- Expressways (China National Highways) are high quality roads linking major cities.
  - Generally in good condition and well maintained. Have frequent exits. Exits are well signed.
  - Road signs are in Chinese and English, except on Jingshi Expressway and in some areas of Inner Mongolia where signs are in Mongolian and Chinese.
  - Warning signs, indicating potential dangers, are posted. Few toll gate guards speak English.
  - Bad weather and fog may contribute to road crashes on some expressways.
  - Often have digital displays to inform drivers of upcoming traffic jams, crashes, road construction zones, adverse weather conditions, etc. Most messages are only in Chinese.
  - Service areas and gas stations are frequent on older expressways and are increasingly common on newer expressways.
  - Speed limits are higher than on express routes, except on a few of Beijing's expressways.
  - Speed checks are often signposted.
  - Generally toll roads, except sections in Beijing. Tolls are high.
- Express routes link main cities in a region. Generally in good condition. Speed limits are lower than on expressways.
- Provincial roads are generally in fair condition and are fairly well maintained. May lack a central median, and may be 2-lane.
- Rural roads may be fair to poor condition. Many roads have been upgraded. Roads in mountainous areas are most likely to be in poor condition.
- Township-level roads may be restricted to foreign visitors.
- Asian Highways (AH) are international routes being developed to promote trade and travel within region, with Europe and Middle East. Routes include existing highways being or already upgraded to AH standards. Some sections may be in poor condition. Border crossings on Asian Highways:

Name of Border	AH Route Number	Name of bordering country
Khunjerab Pass	AH 4	Pakistan
Choksum	AH 42	Nepal
Ruili	AH 14	Myanmar



Name of Border	AH Route Number	Name of bordering country
Khunjerab Pass	AH 4	Pakistan
Choksum	AH 42	Nepal
Ruili	AH 14	Myanmar
Daluo	AH 3	Myanmar
Wangding	AH 14	Myanmar
Mengla	AH 3	Lao PDR
Pingxiang	AH 1	Viet Nam
Hekou	AH 14	Viet Nam
Dongxing		Viet Nam
Dandong	AH 1	Democratic People's Republic of Korea

UNESCAP.org, "GENERAL INFORMATION:  
International Border Crossing Points"

### FUJIAN PROVINCE

- Also known as Fukien or Foukien Province.
- Mostly mountainous. Roads through mountainous areas are often steep and winding. Coastline is rugged and has many bays.
- Good roads link larger cities in the province. Roads to neighboring provinces are in good condition.
- Rural villages often lack all-weather connections to the main road network.
  - 10,000 km of rural roads have been improved. Travel time on upgraded roads has decreased 58% and traffic volume has increased 127%.
- Roadside safety barriers are often lacking.
- Truck overloading is becoming less common.
- Expressways running through the Province: Zhangzhou-Zhaoan Expressway and Sanmingshi-Fuzhou Expressway.
- New expressway completed: Yong'an-Wuping Expressway (YWE); a 2-lane divided highway with lighting and rest stops. Links Yong'an with Wuping. Road is an extension of Changchun-Shenzhen Expressway.

### TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION (TAR)

- Efforts to upgrade and expand the road network are ongoing. Major roads linking Tibet with mainland China and other countries have been upgraded:
  - Sichuan-Tibet Highway (Chengdu to Lhasa).
  - Qinghai-Tibet Highway (Xining-Ge'ermu-Lhasa).
  - Xinjinag-Tibet Highway (Yecheng-Burang)
  - Yunnan-Tibet Highway (Xiaguan-Makam)
- All townships and most villages have access to main road network. Road improvements reduced travel times from villages to main cities from days to a few hours.

- Roads linking main cities and many roads to tourist destinations near Lhasa have been paved.
- Roads in remote areas are often unpaved, potholed and in poor condition, dusty in dry season and often impassible in rainy season, except by 4WD vehicles.
- Many roads and cities are affected by landslides, falling rocks, debris flows, avalanches and earthquakes.
- Region is subject to many natural disasters. Roads and bridges are often damaged; may temporarily close.
  - Cities most commonly affected: Lhasa, Xigaze, Linzhi, and Zedang.
  - Roads most often affected: Sichuan-Tibet Highway, Tanu-Dongjiu section; Sino-Nepal Highway, sections near Karu, Resa, Zhangmu and Zhangzangbo.
  - Snow avalanches commonly cause temporary closures of the Sino-Nepal Highway from Nyalam to Zhangmu. Most Common from October to April.
- Tibet Travel Planner" provides online maps of Tibet at [www.tibettravelplanner.com/mapsoftibet.htm](http://www.tibettravelplanner.com/mapsoftibet.htm).

### URBAN TRAVEL

- Condition and maintenance of roads is good in larger cities. Main roads generally are wide and in good condition.
- Major cities are growing more rapidly in population, size and economy, than in any other nation. Congestion and scarce parking are common. Massive road building projects have not kept pace with rapid growth in car and truck ownership.
- Traffic flow on main roads has reached 90% of roads' capacity during peak travel times. Traffic jams and overcrowded public transport vehicles are increasingly common.
- Major cities generally have extensive public transportation networks.
- Transportation hubs are concentrated along eastern coast and cities along major waterways. Development of regional transportation hubs in rural areas is in progress.
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors are available or under construction in several major cities, including Beijing, Dalian, Hangzhou, Kunming, Shanghai.
  - BRT corridors have stops at metro stations. Allows travelers to reach city center without driving.
- Bus stops in larger cities may be on either side or in the middle of roads. Be alert when boarding or disembarking at stops located in the middle of roads. Bus cards are available. The cards lower cost of fares.
- Trams provide transport in Beijing, Dalian, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Jinan, Luoyang, Qingdao, Taiyuan, Shanghai, Tianshui and Wuhan.



- Cities with subways/metro systems: Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Chongqing, Wuhan, Chengdu, Tianjin, Xi'an, Suzhou, Harbin, Shenyang and Changchun.
- Higher traffic levels increase risk for cyclists and pedestrians and contribute to dangerously high air pollution levels. Manhole covers may be lacking.
- Bicycle ownership has dropped 35% in 10 years. In Beijing, bicycles account for only 18% of personal trips.
- Many cycle lanes have been converted into traffic lanes on congested roads. Some cities are restoring or constructing cycle lanes.
  - Physical barriers often separate cycle lanes from other lanes. The lanes generally carry two-way traffic and are used by pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.
  - Drivers of cars may use the lanes to get around traffic jams. May honk at cyclists and pedestrians, warning them to move out of their way.
- Bike sharing programs are common along BRT corridors. Bikes are free for first hour. Can use bikes to tour nearby regions. Return bike to any station.
  - Use Bike Share bikes to reach BRT stops, take BRT buses to metro stations and complete trip by metro.
- Some coastal cities, border cities, and provincial capitals are designated "Special Economic Zones" (SEZs). SEZs focus on tourism, industrial, agricultural and technological development.
  - Road conditions and public transportation are improving in communities developing near SEZs.
- High-speed rail lines: Beijing-Tianjin, Wuhan-Guangzhou, Zhengzhou-Xi'an and Shanghai-Nanjing.

**BEIJING MUNICIPALITY**

**CONDITIONS**

Traffic is heavily congested. Rush hour traffic speed has dropped to an average of 15 mph, and is expected to drop to 9 mph by 2015--close to average bicycling speed.

Inadequate traffic management and increasing numbers of taxis and private vehicles contribute to congestion.

City is a transportation hub. Eleven National Highways radiate out from city. All are major truck routes.

- China National Highway 101 (G101) to Chengde and Shenyang. Exits from Dongzhimen district.
- G102 to Harbin. Exits from Chaoyangmen district.
- G103 to Tanggu. Exits from Fenzhongsi district.
- G104 to Fuzhou. Exits from Yongdingmen district.
- G105 to Zhuhai and Macau. Also exits from Yongdingmen district.
- G106 to Guangzhou. Exits from Yuqanying district.
- G107 to Shenzhen. Exits from Guang'anmen district.
- G108 to Kunming. Also known as Jingyuan Road. Exits from Fuxingmen district.
- G109 to Lhasa in Tibet. Exits from Fuchengmen district.
- G110 to Yinchuan. Exits from Deshengmen district.
- G111 to Heilongjiang Province. Exits from Dongzhimen district.
- G112 begins in Gaobeidan, Tianjin. Forms a long ring road around Beijing.

Speed limit on Beijing's segments of Jingjintang and Jingha Expressways is 90 km/h (56 mph), which is lower than speed limits on other expressways or express routes.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Capital of China; located in northern China. Metropolitan area includes 16 districts and 2 counties. 38% of the city is fairly flat; 62% is mountainous.

Many historic sites are located inside the 2nd Ring Road.

City's older residential areas consist of neighborhoods linked together by many narrow, winding streets. Often called hutongs. Most hutongs are located inside the 2nd Ring Road. Shichahai area has many hutongs.

- Neighborhoods has many courtyard residences, known as siheyuan. Roads are safer for cycling due to less traffic. Be alert for older pedestrians and children.
- Tourists often tour hutongs by pedicabs.

Silk Street market is located along Beijing Subway Line 1. Has an underground link with Yongali Subway Station.

Public buses are chief means of local transport. Often overcrowded, especially during rush hour.

City has over 20 long distance bus stations. Stations in western Beijing serve buses traveling west of the city. Stations in eastern Beijing serve buses traveling east of the city, and so on.

- Long distance buses are modern and comfortable; usually travel on expressways.

Overnight buses often travel on non-toll roads. Road conditions may be poor to fair. Travel times are long. Buses may be uncomfortable.

Local buses provide service in city and suburbs. Service is readily available; fares are low. Obtaining a public transportation card at a metro station reduces fare.

Service on most routes is more frequent on major holidays.



**BEIJING MUNICIPALITY, CONTINUED**

**CONDITIONS**

Six Ring Roads serve the city. The 1st Ring Road is not an actual road, but refers to the original wall around the "Old City." Junctions may be difficult to navigate. Construction on ring roads may cause serious congestion on other arterial routes serving the city.

Travel restrictions:

- Traffic entering city center is restricted; based on last digit of vehicle license plate.
- On week days, vehicles with non-local license plates are not permitted to enter areas within 5th Ring Road during rush hour (7 am to 9 am and 5 pm to 8 pm). Vehicles with special passport-type document are exempt from restrictions. Violators are fined and must leave by a specified route to avoid additional fine.
- Restrictions do not apply to inter-provincial passenger coaches and tourism vehicles. Police cars, military vehicles and ambulances also exempt when in service.

Some roads are one-way during specified hours. Large road signs indicate times roads are one-way.

Intersections with traffic lights generally have zebra crossings. Be alert. Most drivers assume pedestrians will yield to them, even when police are present.

- Some drivers play "chicken" with pedestrians. May blow horn and keep coming.
- Drivers are more likely to stop for large groups of pedestrians crossing a street.

High levels of air pollution are common.

Severe smog is common in summer; less frequent in fall and winter. Dust storms generally occur in spring; may be severe enough to close all forms of public transportation.

Flooding is possible in the city's low-lying central districts during heavy rains.

City is a rail hub with service to many cities in China and neighboring countries. Main train stations:

- Beijing Railway Station (Běijīng Zhàn), in city center near Subway Line 2.
- Beijing West Railway Station. Lacks immediate access to metro.

High-speed rail lines providing passenger transport to and from city:

- Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway; reduces travel time between the cities to 5 hours.
- Beijing-Tianjin Intercity Railway, a express line; reduces travel time between the cities to 30 minutes.

Tourist Trains serve tourist destinations in the region. Leave from Beijing Railway Station, Beijing West Railway Station, Beijing North Railway Station and Beijing South Railway Station. Trains to some locations can be boarded at Pingguoyuan and Qinghuayuan subway stations

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Local bus fleet is being updated. New buses are air-conditioned in summer and heated in winter.

Bus network is difficult to use unless fluent in Mandarin or Chinese. Bus personnel speak little English. Stops are seldom announced in English. Bus stop signs are in Chinese. For assistance, call English-speaking operators at Beijing Public Transportation Customer Helpline. Phone: 96166.

Bus route information:

- Routes 1-300 serve city center. Routes 200-299 are night buses.
- Routes 301-899 link city center with areas beyond the 3rd Ring Road.
- Routes 900-999, link city's urban districts with its rural districts (Changping, Yanqing, Shunyi, etc).

Three Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors are in service, and a fourth line is under construction. BRT Line 1 is most heavily used. Runs along Nan Zhongzhouxian (South Central Axis Line); links Qianmen and Demaozhuang. Qianmen is the common name for Zhengyangmen, a southern gate in "old city's" wall.

Travel on BRT buses may be faster and less crowded than on metro.

Minibuses commonly provide transport in city's rural areas.

Fares are low; based on distance. Available mainly on routes linking train stations and tourist sites. Can be hailed. Passengers can disembark anywhere along route. Are slower than buses due to frequent stops. Fares are slightly higher than bus fares.

Taxis are readily available. Fares are low. Fares increase 20% at night.

Taxis can be hailed or picked up at hotel taxi stands. Most hotels in Beijing have English-speaking dispatchers for taxi stands.

Use metered taxis; be certain meter is turned on before departing. Ask for a receipt.

Use registered taxis when possible. License plates begin letter "B" (京B).

Drivers are generally honest. Trips may take longer than expected, due to congestion. Drivers may take detours due to travel restrictions in central Beijing. Some drivers are new immigrants to the city; do not know the city well.

Drivers seldom speak or read English; bring a map or have your destination written down in Chinese.

Avoid using "black cabs" (unregistered taxis). License plates begin with letters other than "B". Drivers generally wait near tourist attractions or subway stops. Fares are often high for foreign tourists. Agree on fare before boarding. If over-charged, do not argue with driver, especially when alone. Record license number; call police later.



BEIJING MUNICIPALITY, CONTINUED

CONDITIONS

Tourists travel free when purchasing admission tickets for destinations prior to boarding.

- Information in English:  
[www.beijingtrip.com/transport/jaunt-train.htm](http://www.beijingtrip.com/transport/jaunt-train.htm).

Tourist buses provide one-day tours to the Great Wall of China and other popular attractions near the city. Purchase tickets at "Beijing Hub of Tour Dispatch" dispatch centers in Xuanwumen and Tiananmen Square to get lowest price.

Metro system is extensive. Frequent service; often overcrowding is common.

Schedules and signs for subway stops are in English. Transfers between lines are free. Interactive website with maps of and information on Beijing's subway lines: [www.explorebj.com/subway/#s2006,4018](http://www.explorebj.com/subway/#s2006,4018).

Airport Express subway line links the airport and city center. Has only four stops: Dongzhimen, S anyuanqiao, Terminla 1 and Terminal 2.

New subway lines to more remote districts has shortened commute times to city center.

Cycling is popular. Cycling risk is high in heavily congested traffic. Bike lanes reduce risk; are available on some main streets.

- Major roads serving the city are generally congested. National Road 109 also serves the city; is well maintained and lightly traveled. Has steep hills near the city. Is more favorable for cycling.
- Mountain bikes are recommended for city's more rural areas.
- Rental bikes are readily available from hotels, subway stations and popular tourist stops.

USEFUL INFORMATION

"Black cab" drivers may drop foreign tourists at wrong location. In a few cases, have taken tourists to remote locations and robbed them.

Registered taxis may be scarce in more remote areas.

Motorcycle taxis: Drivers may demand high fee; agree on fare before boarding. Not recommended due to high road risk.

Pedicabs are generally 3-wheeled vehicles, powered by bicycle or motor. Provide transport over short distances. Built for two passengers, seated behind driver. Also known as cycle-rickshaws or auto-rickshaws.

Beijing Capital International Airport is located in Chaoyang District, 20km northeast of city-center. Airport Hotline phone: 010-64541100. Website with passenger information in English: <http://en.bcia.com.cn/harbor-guide/index.shtml>.

- Free shuttles provide transport between terminals from 6 am to 10 pm.
- Buses serve routes to city center and many districts. Leave every 10 minutes from 8 am to 8 pm; every 20 minutes other times.
- Airport Shuttle Services provides transport to city on several routes. Leave every 10-30 minutes. Also serve routes to major cities in nearby provinces. Information on routes is available from Airport Shuttle Services Hotline: 010-64594375/76. Sign for Airport Shuttle Services stops: 
- Hotel shuttles often provide transport for guests. Limousine services, also available.
- Airport taxis are available outside Arrivals Area. Taxis are metered; fare includes highway toll.
- Airport Expressway links city center and the airport. Road splits off of the northeastern section of 3rd Ring Road at Sanyuanqiao. Often heavily congested.
- Rental vehicles are available at airport and in the city.

BOHAI ECONOMIC RIM

The "Rim" is a mega-metropolitan area; includes major cities in region near Bohai Sea. A network of expressways and high-speed rail lines links Beijing, Tianjin, Dalian, Shenyang, Jinan, Qingdao, Weihai and other major cities in the region. Cities in the Rim are major manufacturing, science and technology centers.

Existing transport routes in the "Rim" provide rapid transport options. Heavy truck traffic is common on roads linking cities.

DALIAN

CONDITIONS

Northern China's largest port; a major transportation, industrial and tourism center.

Heavy industry is located in an outlying development zone.

Major roads serving the city: Shenda Expressway (Dalian to Shenyang), Changda Expressway (Dalian to Changchun), Hada Expressway (Dalian to Harbin) and Dalian to Dandong Highway. Roads radiate out from Zhongshan Square in city center.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Second largest metropolitan area in Liaodong Province. Located in mountainous region in southern section of peninsula. Many roads are steep. Zhuanghe is city's most rural district. City includes Bingyu Valley and other tourism sites.

Buses are most commonly used form of public transportation. Service is frequent. Begins at 4:30 to 8:00 am; closes at 10:00 pm. Time of operation varies with route.



## DALIAN, CONTINUED

**CONDITIONS**

Traffic is heavily congested.

Traffic includes few bicycles and motorcycles. Sale of motorcycles is prohibited in the city.

Road conditions have improved. Main streets in city center are wide. Often difficult for pedestrians to cross in heavy traffic. Heavily used intersections generally have controlled crosswalks and pedestrian tunnels.

Use caution when walking. Sidewalks may be in poor condition. Be alert for missing manhole covers and clothes lines in front of homes/businesses when walking at night.

Ceramic tile or marble, used on some walking surfaces, is very slippery when wet or snow-covered.

Streets may be slippery in the morning.

Drivers seldom yield to pedestrians, even when pedestrian crosswalk signal is green.

Streets may be severely flooded during heavy rains.

Light-rail (qīng guǐ) links city center with Ganjing and Jinzhou Districts. Provides shorter transport time than going by taxi, especially when Shenda Expressway is congested. May be overcrowded in rush hour. Fare based on distance.

Light rail also links city center with the New Development Zone and Golden Pebble Beach National Resort.

Rail service is available to many cities.

Dalian Central Train Station is 10 km (6.2 miles) north of Victory Square. An express train is available to Shenyang daily. Purchasing tickets requires understanding of Chinese or assistance of local travel agent or hotel staff.

Harbin-Dalian high speed rail line is near completion. Links Harbin, Dalian, Changchun, and Shenyang.

Dalian Metro (commonly called Qinggui) links Dalian Development Zone and Jinshitan with city center.

Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport, located in Ganjingzi District, 10 km (6 miles) northwest of city center.

- Airport buses provide transport to Shahekou Train Station and city's main train station.
- Public buses #701 and #710 have routes with stops at main train station. #701's route ends at Zhongshan Square. #710's route continues to the harbor, Sanba Square and Erqi Square.
- Official airport taxis can be hailed from taxi queue on terminal's eastern side. Provide transport to city center. Few drivers provide transport far from city center.

Ferries provide transport all year. Ridership drops in winter, due to harsh weather.

Passenger ships provide transport to Yantai, Weihai, Tianjin, Penglai and Qinhuangdao, Changhai County, Changhai County and Incheon (South Korea).

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Buses on major routes may be crowded during rush hour.

Signs at bus stops are in English and Chinese.

Most routes charge a flat fare. Exact change required.

Buses generally lack air-conditioning and heat. Even when present, drivers seldom use them.

Long distance buses provide transport to destinations in the province.

Express bus service is available to Beijing and other areas in northeastern China.

Largest bus station is on Jianshe Jie, south of the Train Station. Smaller bus stations are located near the passenger ferry terminal in Shahekou District.

Tourist bus routes:

- #180, circular route serve the train station, People's Square, Xinghai Square, Fujiazhaung Beach, Tiger Beach, Labour Park and Zhongshan Square.
- #801B, links the ferry terminal, Zhongshan Square, Heishijiao, the train station, People's Square and Xinghai Square.
- Binhai Lu buses link the train station, Conference & Exhibition Center, Dalian Seashell Museum, Forest Zoo, FuJiazhuang beach, Yan Woling, Birdsong Forest, Tiger Beach Paradise, Harbour Square and Zhongshan Square. Service is every 40 minutes.

Taxis are readily available, except in rush hour or areas far from city center.

Taxis operate 24/7. Many drivers accept credit cards.

Taxis are metered. Be certain driver uses meter. Drivers may turn meter off during bad weather. Illegal, but not enforced.

- Drivers seldom understand English. Ask hotel staff to write directions to your destination for the driver
- During rush hours, drivers often want to pick up additional passengers traveling to destinations along your route.

Taxis with a blue light on the roof have the highest city rating; taxis with a yellow light have the lowest city rating.

Illegal, "black" taxis also provide transport. They avoid city's heavily patrolled areas. Taxis are metered. Drivers generally charge correct fares, but seldom give receipts.

Motorcycle taxis seldom operate in city center; more common in suburbs, especially in Kaifu and Jinzhou. High road risk. Helmets are not provided.

Rental vehicles and chauffeur-driven vehicles are available.

Tram provide transport. Routes:

- Central Railway Station to Shahekou Railway Station
- Railway Station to Donghai Beach via Russian Street.
- Xi'an Lu Shopping Area to Heishijiao and Xinghai Sq.

Stops may vary on express trams. Check tram's destinations.



## GUANGZHOU

## CONDITIONS

One of China's leading commercial and manufacturing centers. Region includes a Free Trade Zone near International Airport and several "Development Zones."

Road risk is high despite improved compliance with driving laws. Speeding is common.

Honking is less common than in most larger cities.

Traffic is generally congested in central urban from 7 am-9 am and 5 pm-8 pm. Until familiar with driving conditions in the city, foreign visitors are encouraged to use public transportation during rush hour.

Major streets often have 6 lanes or more.

Zhongshan Avenue: Heavily traveled. BRT has reduced congestion and improved safety for motorists and pedestrians

Road mix includes many cyclists. Bike-only lanes are common on larger streets. Traffic in bike lanes may be heavy.

Motorcycles, electric scooters and electric bikes are banned in city center.

Drivers seldom yield to pedestrians. Use pedestrian bridges. When lacking, cross with caution.

Subway system has eight lines.

China's first inter-city subway, Guangfo Line, links Guangzhou and Foshan City. Reduces travel time from 90 minutes to 30 minutes.

A hub for national rail transport. Has many train stations. Check station indicated on ticket. Major stations:

- Guangzhou Huochezhan (Guangzhou Railway Station): Trains to many cities and regions. Metro lines 12 and 5 stop at station.
- Guangzhou Dongzhan (East Railway Station): Trains to Hong Kong and larger cities. Metro line 1 stops at station.
- Guangzhou Nanzhan (South Railway Station): High-speed trains to border between mainland China and Hong Kong. Metro line 2 stops at station. Transport from station to Lo Wu border crossing is by bus. Service is every hour.
- Guangzhou North Railway Station is in Huadu District.

Train station staff may not speak English. Carry a phrasebook or travel with a Chinese speaker when visiting more remote areas of China.

Trains link city to Beijing, Shenzhen, Maoming, Meizhou and Shantou. High-speed trains link city with Wuhan.

Trains link Guangzhou East railway station and Hung Hom KCR station in Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport is located 28 km (17 miles) north of city center in Huadu District.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

China's third largest metropolitan area; capital of Guangdong Province in southern China; gateway to Hong Kong. Guangzhou metropolitan area includes 10 districts and 2 county-level cities.

Formerly known as Canton or Kwangchow.

Population and vehicle fleet are growing rapidly.

Bus service is well developed. Main bus terminals are near train and metro stations, major hotels and universities. Bus stations serving local buses are generally called bus terminals (zongzham). Also called qichezhan, keyunzhan or zhan.

City is replacing older, diesel-fueled buses with (liquefied petroleum gas( LPG)-fueled buses.

Local buses: Have exact change for fare or pay with Yangchengtong (Yang Cheng Tong) card, a rechargeable smartcard, used to pay fares on metro, buses, taxis and ferries in Guangzhou, Foshan, Huadu, Zengcheng and Panyu. May also be accepted by stores, restaurants, parking meters, banks and other establishments.

Inter-city buses have routes to many major cities. Purchase tickets well in advance.

Bus service to Hong Kong is readily available. Many leave from major hotels.

Cross-border bus stations:

- Most commonly used station on Hong Kong border is in Lo Wu.
- Bus station in Zhuhai provides access to Macau.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system is extensive; has helped reduce congestion.

BRT has 31 routes. Route numbers begin with "B". Route B1 links Tiyu Zhongxin and Xiayuan. Occupies two middle lanes of Zhongshan Avenue. Corridor is separated from other lanes by physical barriers or clear road markings. Stations are included in the corridor, and are accessed by pedestrian bridges, at-grade crossings or tunnels.

30 flexible BRT routes run on a section of B1 corridor; remainder of route is on dedicated bus lanes on surface roads.

BRT network has 7 transfer stations: Shangshe, Xueyuan, Tangxiacun, Tianlang Mingju, Huangcun, Zhucun and Shida Jida, and is connected to 17 metro stations.

Pay fare with Yangchengtong (Yang Cheng Tong) card. Service is reliable and frequent. Purchase pass before boarding.

May be overcrowded, especially during rush hour.

BRT's low-floor buses improve accessibility

**Falling hazard: Be alert when stepping across the 45 centimeter (18 in) gap between bottom step of bus and station platform.**



**GUANGZHOU, CONTINUED**

**CONDITIONS**

Airport opened on August 5, 2004; replaced the original Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport. Also known as "New Baiyun" to distinguish it from the older, smaller airport.

- Metro Line 3 links airport, East Railway Station and Tiyu Xilu Metro Station. Service every 7 minutes. Open 6 am to 11 pm.
- Airport Express buses leave outside Arrivals Hall. Depart every 10-15 minutes. Open 7 am until last flight leaves. Lines 1-6 go to central districts; lines 7-11 go to suburbs.
- Airport shuttle buses serve 8 routes in the metropolitan area. Shuttles also have routes between airport and major hotels. Routes and timetables are available on airport's website: [www.cantontradefair.com/ticketing/canairportbus.htm](http://www.cantontradefair.com/ticketing/canairportbus.htm).
- Direct buses provide transport to larger cities in region.
- Metered taxis are available outside Arrivals Hall. Avoid using unregistered taxis.

City is constructing a high-speed commuter line linking Guangzhou, Shunde, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhuhai. Sections of the line are put in service when completed.

Water transport is an important part of city's transport network.

- Ferries to Hong Kong leave from Nansha Ferry Terminal or Lianhua Shan Ferry Terminal; go to China Ferry Terminal in Hong Kong.
- Ferries to Macau leave from Nansha Ferry Terminal; go to Hong Kong's Macau Ferry Pier.
- Ferries are available for crossing city's rivers.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Pedestrians and private vehicles are not permitted to use BRT's B1 route.

Non-BRT buses use short sections of BRT corridors. Routes generally pass through suburbs. Passengers do not transfer to BRT buses.

Taxis are readily available.

Foreigners often use taxis. Fares are inexpensive. Tolls are added to fare.

A fuel surcharge is added to fare. A 50% surcharge is added for journeys longer than 35 km. Keep receipt; it includes taxi's ID number. Makes recovering items left in taxis easier.

Drivers may take circuitous routes and/or give change using counterfeit money.

City is favorable for cycling. New, tree-lined cycle lanes have improved cycling safety. Lanes link with BRT stops.

Bike sharing system is reducing congestion. Can use Yangchengtong card to obtain bike at a bike station, ride to BRT stop and leave bike at nearby bike station. No charge for first hour.

Bike lane are available along entire BRT network. Five secure bike parking areas available; most at western end of B1, near Huajing Xincheng, Shangshe, and Xueyuan Stations.

Folding bikes are permitted on subways and cross-river ferries, but not on buses. Taxi drivers may allow folding bikes in trunk.

- Non-folding bikes are only permitted on cross-river ferries.

Bike theft is frequent. A good quality lock is essential.

Bicycles are not permitted to use Zhujiang Tunnel or Zhujiang Suspension Bridge.

China Import and Export Fair is held annually in October and April. Also known as "Canton Fair." Held in Pazhou Complex. Traffic is congested during the fairs.

**HONG KONG**

**ASIRT HAS A SEPARATE REPORT FOR HONG KONG.**

**HAINAN ISLAND**

**CONDITIONS**

Roads linking main cities are generally in good condition. Roads in remote rural areas are often unpaved and potholed.

Western Expressway (G225), links Haikou with cities on island's western coast and Sanya. A newer road; generally in good condition. Road is generally flat. Unsafe for cycling due to higher travel speeds.

Eastern Highway, an older road; may be in poor condition.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Located in Fujian Province in Taiwan Straits. Haikou is the capital.

In island's urban areas, buses, taxis, motorbike taxis, motorized tricycles and pedal tricycles provide transport.

Buses are the main means of public transport.

Long distance bus transport to mainland destinations is readily available.

Bus transport between Haikou and Sanya is frequent. Leave from south and east stations.



**HAINAN ISLAND, CONTINUED**

**CONDITIONS**

Eastern Expressway (G223), links Haikou with cities on island's eastern coast and Sanya. Newer road; generally in good condition. Shorter than Eastern Highway. Generally flat. Not recommended for cycling due to higher travel speeds.

Haiwen Expressway, serves Haikou Wencheng on island's northeastern coast.

Haiyu Middle Highway, passes through mountainous interior region. Links Qiongzong Town, Five Finger Mountain (Wu Zhi Shan) and Sayna. Travel is slower than on expressways.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Taxis are plentiful in Haikou and Sanya. Fares are higher than on the mainland. Taxis are metered. Bargaining with driver may reduce fare.

High speed Haikou-Sanya train runs near island's eastern coast.

**HAIKOU**

**CONDITIONS**

Traffic is heavily congested in rush hour.

Main roads generally have a side lane, separated from main traffic flow by a median. Side lane is reserved for 2-wheeled vehicles.

Main roads often have high barriers in median to prevent jaywalking.

Few roads have roundabouts. Mainly found on Hai Xiu Road.

Red light cameras monitor most large intersections.

Haidian Island, Haikou's northern suburb, is separated from the city by Haidian River. Four bridges link the suburb with city's Guomao suburb.

Haikou Meilan International Airport is located 26 km (16 miles) from city center. Website:  
[www.mlairport.com/Meilan\\_Airport\\_Web/en/index.aspx](http://www.mlairport.com/Meilan_Airport_Web/en/index.aspx).

- Airport buses provide transport to the city. Service is every 30 minutes. Open 5:30 am to 11:00 pm.
- Buses and taxis provide transport between station and city center.
- An underground transit channel links airport with Hainan Eastern Ring Railway's airport stop.
- Bullet train provides transport to Sanya, a tourist center at island's southern tip. Train is accessible from inside airport. Ten trains daily.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Capital of Hainan Island.

Extensive local bus service is available.

Inter-city buses from Haikou serve most areas of the island.

Local buses serving Haikou are generally air-conditioned. Flat fare for all destinations.

Haikou has a south, east and west bus station. Also has a bus station XinGang passenger port.

Taxis are readily available. Electric motorbikes provide transport in city. Gas-powered motorbikes are banned.

Self-drive rental cars are available. A Chinese driver's license is required. Rental cars with a driver are also available.

Rental bicycles are available at bike stations in the city and at bike shops.

Haikou Railway Station is on Yuehai Dadao, also known as city's Western Ring Road. Station is 20 km from city center. Buses and taxis provide transport between station, city center and Haikou Meilan Airport.

Hainan Eastern Ring Railway, located on Fengxiang West Road. Provides high speed rail service to Haikou Railway Station, Meilan Airport and Sanya. Train stops at most tourist attractions.

Rail service is available to the mainland, via a causeway.

**HUAIYIN DISTRICT IN JINAN CITY, SHANDONG PROVINCE**

**CONDITIONS**

Between 2004 and 2010, road risk decreased from 3.49 fatalities per 10,000 people in 2004 to 2.13 in 2010. Factors contributing to decrease include implementing several road safety initiatives under WHO's direction.

Roads are adequately maintained and monitored to identify "black spots" (road sections with frequent crashes).

Jing Tenth West Road, an arterial route. Formerly a high risk road; has been expanded road to four lanes with traffic lights and speed cameras at 13 intersections.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

An industrial center. Consists of 12 sub-districts and 2 towns. A poor district; includes 80% of Jinan metropolitan area's shanty towns.

In 2008, was designated as China's first "Safe Community." Formed a committee to promote traffic, medical, fire and workplace safety.

Medical care is readily available in the district.



**HUAIYIN DISTRICT IN JINAN CITY, SHANDONG PROVINCE, CONTINUED**

**CONDITIONS**

Road signs indicate speed limits, school zones, "black spots," steep sections of the road and other dangers, "T" intersections and high pedestrian traffic areas.  
Roads have markings, including pedestrian crossings and deceleration zones.  
Command Center monitors traffic. Can redirect traffic flow to minimize backups and dispatch prompt emergency medical response to crashes.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

**JINAN CITY, CAPITAL OF SHANDONG PROVINCE**

**CONDITIONS**

A transportation hub.  
City is served by several expressways:

- China National Highway 104; links Beijing, Fuzhou, Jinan, Xuzhou, Nanjing, Hangzhou and Taizhou.
- China National Highway 220 links Binzhou, Jiyang, Madian, Jinan, Changqing and Heze in Shandong Province and Lankao, Zhongmou and Zhengzhou in Henan Province.
- China National Highway 309 (G309) links Jinan with several cities in Shandong, Hebei, Shaanxi, Ningxia and Gansu provinces.

Jinan Yaoqiang International Airport is 33 km northeast of city center, near town of Yaoqiang. Expressways link Jinan and the airport.

- Bus transport is available.
- Shuttle buses provide transport between city center and the airport. Runs hourly from 6 am to 5 pm.

Main train station is north of city center. Taxis are available; arranging transport may be difficult. When possible, have someone meet you at the station.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Capital of Shandong Province; located south of the Yellow River and north of The Tai'an massif (mountain range).  
City center is relatively small.  
Has two major bus stations. One serves long distance buses, and a second, located near the train station, serves local and regional buses.  
Local buses are often crowded.  
Buses serving city center generally have 2-digit numbers. Buses with 3 digits generally serve routes between city center and the suburbs.  
Buses with numbers beginning with "K" are air-conditioned. Air conditioner may not be working. "K" buses are generally more comfortable and less crowded than non-air-conditioned buses.  
Identifying right bus stop: Sign for each bus stop includes numbers of all buses assigned to the stop. Numbers are in English and Chinese. Bus routes are posted; but only in Chinese.  
Bus 83 serves city center. Bus K51 serves Quancheng Square and Thousand Buddha Mountain.  
Taxis are readily available, except during rush hours (7am-8am and 6pm-7pm).  
Taxis are difficult to use if you do not speak Chinese. Drivers seldom speak English and often are unable to read maps. Have your destination written in Chinese.  
Drivers may charge foreign visitors higher fares, or take circuitous routes. Negotiate fare and destination.  
Motorcycle taxis and other unregulated taxis are not recommended, due to high road risk.

**JINGHONG**

**CONDITIONS**

Gasa International Airport, also known as Jinghong International Airport, is located in Jinghong's Gasa district.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Capital of Xishuangbanna Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province. Located along the Mekong River.  
Local and inter-city bus service is available.



**KUNMING, CITY OF ETERNAL SPRING**

**CONDITIONS**

City is growing rapidly. Traffic is often heavily congested, even during off-peak hours.

Gridlock is common. Construction of new roads is ongoing. Be alert for construction zones.

Serves as a transportation and commerce hub for South and Southwest China. Major roads connect city with Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar.

Main arterial routes in the city:

- Beijing Lu, a north-south arterial route; passes through city center. Becomes Renmin Xi Lu after leaving city. The road is first section of Burma Road.
- Huancheng Lu, first ring road.

Main squares and streets in city center:

- Main squares: Jinma Biji Square, Nanping Square and Dongfeng Square.
- Major streets: Nanping Jie, Jinbi Lu, Renmin Lu, Zhengyi Lu and Jingxin Jie.
- Main commercial areas: Qingnian Lu, Zhengyi Lu, and Renmin Lu.

Roads link the city with cities in Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangxi provinces, and Tibet. Major roads serving city:

- Kunming-Wanding Highway, also known as the Burma Road.
- Yunnan - Tibet Highway, via Dali, Lijiang, and Diqing
- Kunming - Hekou Highway, via the Stone Forest, Kaiyuan and Mengzi
- Kunming - Daluo Highway, via Yuxi, Mojiang, Simao and Jinghong
- Yunnan - Guizhou Highway, via Qujing
- Kunming - Baise Highway, the Stone Forest, Kaiyuan, Yanshan, Wenshan and Funing
- Kunming - Suijiang Highway, via Dongchuan and Zhaolong

Has 2 ring roads. First ring road has 2 parts: the Northern Ring Road and Southern Ring Road. Also known as the city's major ring road.

The ring roads intersect with Kun Shi Highway, providing easy access to Wujiaba International Airport.

Six major rail lines converge in Kunming. Rail service includes passenger lines to Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Chongqing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Beihai and Hanoi in Vietnam.

Kunming Wujiaba International Airport, 5 km southeast of city center. Taxis and buses provide transport. Buses generally operate 6am to 10pm.

Rail lines link Kunming with many cities in China. Main rail lines: Guikun(Guiyang-Kunming), Nankun (Nanning-Kunming) and Chengkun (Chengdu-Kunming).

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Capital of Yunnan Province in southwestern China.

Located in central Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, along Lake Dian's northern shore. Mountains border city to the north, east and west. City's highest elevation is 4,247 m (13,934 ft) above sea level; lowest point is 695 m (2,280 ft) above sea level.

Consists of "Old City," a modern commercial district, residential areas and several industrial "Development Zones."

City center is becoming more pedestrian friendly. Largest pedestrian streets are Nanping Jie, Jingxing Birds-Flowers' Market, and Jinma Biji Fang.

Public buses and taxis are primary means of transport in the city. Bus service is well developed in most sections of the city. Open 6 am to 9:30 or 10:00 pm. Stand near door to get off. Stops may be announced in English.

Buses have assigned routes. Obtain maps of routes from vendors or kiosks. The maps may have errors.

Drivers do not stop at all marked bus stops on their route, only at stops assigned to them.

Fares are higher for air-conditioned buses.

Bus stations near train stations only serve local routes.

City has four major long-distance bus stations, located at the northern, southern, eastern and western fringe of the city. Buses heading west leave from West Bus Station (Xibu Keyun Zhan). Buses heading south leave from South Bus Station, etc.

There are routes to most regional destinations; service is good. Long-distance buses are reliable and comfortable. Fares are moderate.

Classes of buses: Regular and gaokuai (highway express). Fares are higher, and travel is faster on Express buses.

Overnight, sleeper buses are often in poor condition and may be cold in winter. When possible, check bus before purchasing tickets.

Bus service may be available to Laos. Routes end in Vientiane. Buses are generally in good condition, but make frequent stops.

Bus service to Hekou, a city near the Vietnam border, run regularly. From Hekou, buses are available to many destinations in Vietnam.

Bus drivers may speed or stop suddenly.

A common scam at bus stations: Men may offer to carry your baggage and then request payment of a fee. May have false bus company ID and threaten to call police. However, price of ticket includes all fees. Refuse to pay.

City has 6 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors.

Metro lines one and two are under construction. Be alert for construction zones. Completion expected in 2012.



**KUNMING, CONTINUED**

**CONDITIONS**

Rail lines link Kunming with Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Main rail stations:

- Kunming Railway Station, located at the southern end of Beijing Xi Lu. Serves most of rail traffic to other provinces.
- Kunming North Railway Station: Serves trains to and from Hanoi, Vietnam. Travel time, 32 hours.

Cycling is common. Many major roads have bike lanes.

Rental bikes are available at many hotels and hostels. Bikes and scooters may not be parked on sidewalks.

Kunming Wujiaaba International Airport is located 5 km southeast of city center.

- Airport shuttle buses, public buses and taxis provide transport between airport and city center.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

- Line One will link city center and Chenggong New City. Will be extended to the International Airport.
- Line Two runs north to south, linking North Bus Station and Fubao District.

Taxis are readily available. Demand for taxis is highest around 6:30.

Some taxi drivers ask for a flat fee. Flat fees are generally more expensive than fees based on the meter. Ask driver to start meter.

Larger taxis charge higher fares. Passengers must pay fare plus a fuel tax.

Taxis fares increase after 10pm

Taxis are zoned. Drivers are not permitted to operate outside their assigned zone.

**LHASA, CAPITAL OF TIBET**

**CONDITIONS**

Expressways link the city with several main cities in mainland China.

Lhasa-Gonggar Airport Expressway, toll-free, four-lane road, links Lhasa Railway Station and Gonggar Airport.

City's road network is inadequate for rapidly growing vehicle fleet. Private vehicles account for 70% of vehicle fleet.

Traffic is often congested. Road crash rate is increasing 13% annually.

Residents' lack of road safety awareness contributes to high risk for road users and pedestrians.

Traffic lights and pedestrian bridges or underpasses are often lacking. Pedestrian fatalities are common.

Traffic management is inadequate.

Parking is inadequate in city center.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Minibuses provide public transport in the city. Full size buses provide inter-city transport between main cities.

Many buses and taxis are overloaded.

Taxis are available; fares are fixed. Pedicabs also provide transport.

**Rental bikes available at most hostels.**

Western Bus Station is open longer than other bus stations.

Lhasa Gonggar Airport is located 98 km (61 mile) south of the city in Gonggar County in Tibet's Shannan Region. Serves flights to many major cities in China. Flight delays possible in late spring and summer due to sand storms.

- Transportation between city and airport is provided by shuttle buses.

**NANNING**

**CONDITIONS**

A transportation hub.

Traffic is often heavily congested. During rush hour, average travel speed on major roads is about 29 km/h.

Many main roads have been widened.

Several main roads are one way.

Bypassing backups is difficult, due to inadequately developed secondary road network. Most secondary roads have been not been widened.

Drivers of cars and motorcycles often use bus-only lanes, slowing bus transport.

Traffic commonly backs up near construction zones, which are frequent throughout the city.

Traffic mix includes many non-motorized vehicles, pedestrians and motorcyclists.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Capital of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southwestern China. The city is a transportation gateway to and from Vietnam.

China National Highway 210 links city with Baotou in Inner Mongolia. Road also goes through Shaazxi, Sichuan, Chongqui and Guizhou provinces.

City's major bus stations:

- Langdong Bus Terminal is on Mínzú Dàdào (Mínzú Road), east of city center.
- Jiangnan Bus Terminal is on Xingguang Dadao, south of city center.

Yunde Bus Company provides transport between the city and China-Vietnam border. At border, travelers transfer to a Vietnamese owned bus and continue to Hanoi. Direct transport is also available to Haiphong and Ha Long Bay.



**NANNING, CONTINUED**

**CONDITIONS**

Drivers often do not obey traffic laws.  
Pedestrians often jaywalk.  
Parking is scarce.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Local buses serve routes in and near the city.  
Taxis are readily available. Driver adds a surcharge for fuel.  
Train station is north of the city on Chaoyang Road.  
Nanning Wuxu International Airport serves city. Local bus 301 and shuttle buses provide transport to and from airport.  
Taxis are also available. Drivers may refuse to use meter, but do not overcharge.

**SHANGHAI**

**CONDITIONS**

A financial, cultural, educational, industrial, technology, shipping and transport center; has several Development Zones, each dedicated to specific industries.  
A major transportation hub. Expressways link city with Beijing (G2), Haikou (G15), Xi'an (G40), Chengdu (G42), Ningbo, Kunming (60) and Chongqing (G50).  
Central districts have several elevated, limited-access expressways, constructed above main surface-level roads. Route numbers for municipal expressways have an "S" prefix.  
Driving in central districts is not recommended due to complexity of road network, abundance of one-way streets, heavily congested traffic, undisciplined driving culture, heavy pedestrian traffic, inadequate parking and ongoing road and Metro construction projects.  
City uses an auction system to grant new license plates to limit new car purchases.  
Traffic conditions, road and building construction sites and congested walkways make pedestrian travel challenging.  
Pedestrian facilities include zebra crossings, underground passageways or overhead bridges. Pedestrians often jay walk.  
Be alert for pedestrians darting out into traffic, and cyclists and motorcyclists riding without lights turned on at night.  
Electric-bike and electric scooter riders often do not obey traffic laws and may drive recklessly and/or aggressively.  
Shanghai Pudong International Airport is located 40 km east of city. Has two large terminals; linked by free shuttle service. Airport handles most international flights to the city.

- Maglev high-speed trains provide transport to People's Square in city center. Maglev station is located between the terminals. Open 6:45 AM to 9:30 PM daily. Service every 15-30 minutes, depending on time of day. Only stop is at Metro Line 2's Longyang Road Metro Station.
- High-speed train links the airport and Longyang Road Metro Station.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Largest city in China; one of the country's four province-level municipalities. Located in eastern China on a peninsula in the Yangtze River Delta.  
City is divided by the Huangpu River.

- Puxi area, city's historic center, developed west of the river. Includes 8 districts known as Shanghai Proper or the core city. Pudong, city's newer sections, developed east of the river.

City includes Chongming Island and several smaller islands.  
Nanjing Road, city's main shopping street; runs east-west in city center. Traffic is often congested. Traffic jams are common. Street has two sections:

- Nanjing Road East, in Huangpu District. Links The Bund and People's Square. Includes a pedestrianized section.
- Nanjing Road West, links People's Square and Jing'an District.
- Subway Line 2 runs under the street; stops at four stations along street. Line 2 intersects with Line 7 at Jing'an Temple station.

Public transport is well developed. Most transport is via Metro, buses and taxis. Can pay fares on all transport options in Shanghai and surrounding area using the Shanghai Public Transportation Card, also known as jiaotong yikatong. Card is also usable at parking garages, auto repair centers, tourist centers and on expressways. Card is rechargeable. Can also be used in Wuxi Tai and Suzhou.  
City has an extensive bus network. Most buses are newer models, in good condition and air-conditioned.  
Night bus route numbers begin with #3. Provide service after 11:00 pm.  
Route information at bus stops is in Chinese. Announcements given on buses are in Chinese and English.  
Buses are generally crowded during rush hour.  
Taxis serving in the city charge low fares. Avoid giving drivers large bills for short rides. Drivers do not like to give change.  
Drivers do not speak English. For assistance, call phone number displayed in the back of the taxi for assistance in English. Agent will explain your destination to the driver.



SHANGHAI, CONTINUED

CONDITIONS

- Metro Line 2 stops at the airport. Metro trains are short. There may be a 90 minute wait for a train. Hongqiao Railway Station is near the airport.
- Express buses provide transport from both airports to nearby major cities, including Nanjing, Suzhou and Hangzhou.
- Buses, taxis, and shuttles provide transportation between the Bund and the Hongqiao airport.

Major railway stations: Shanghai Railway Station, Shanghai South Railway Station, Shanghai Hongqiao Railway Station. The stations are served by Metro lines.

Jinghu Railway links Shanghai and Beijing. Huhang Railway links Shanghai and Hangzhou.

Hongqiao Station: Serves 3 high-speed trains linking Shanghai with Hangzhou, Nanjing and Beijing.

ZhangJiang Tram provides transport on two lines: ZhangJiang Hi-Tech Park Station to Heqing Town, and ZhangJiang Hi-Tech Park Station to Jinqiu Road. In service 5:45 am to 11 pm. Trams run every 3 minutes.

Bicycles and motorcycles are not permitted on many major roads, in tunnels or on bridges between Pudong and Puxi. Use ferry to cross river. Signs indicate where cycling is not permitted.

50cc motorcycles must be registered; driver's license is not required.

Motorcycles larger than 50 cc must be registered; driver's license is required.

Air pollution levels are often high.

City's average elevation is 4 meters (13 ft) above sea level. Lower lying areas are vulnerable to flooding during prolonged regional rains, typhoons, tropical storms, tsunamis. Severe flooding may close roads and halt all transportation.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Taxis are scarce in rush hour and during rains.

Taxi drivers are not permitted to pick up passengers who are not part of your group. Object if driver attempts to do so.

Taxi colors are strictly controlled and indicate name of taxi company. Avoid dark red and maroon taxis, reserved for small taxi companies; drivers often charge higher fares. Avoid privately-owned taxis. License plates have an "X" in the number; drivers often charge higher fares.

Shanghai Metro uses light rail lines and subways to provide transport in central and suburban districts. Metro network has grown rapidly. Has 12 lines in operation.

Fares are low. Schedules and signs for subway stations and station arrival announcements are in Mandarin and English. Transfers between lines are free.

Metro may be crowded in rush hour. Lines 6 and 8 are often overcrowded. Causes delays at the stations. Avoid in rush hour. Metro workers push commuters into carriages so doors can close.

- Metro has opened new bus routes along most heavily used metro lines, but few commuters use them.

Safety problems with Metro: Inadequately trained operators, mal-functioning doors, faulty signaling and defective windows.

Motorized Two-wheelers

City is favorable for cycling, due to flat terrain except in gentle hills in southwestern section. Rental bikes are available.

Cyclists and riders of motorized two-wheelers should use cycle lanes. Obey pedestrian lights; walk across intersections in pedestrian crosswalks to move through heavy traffic more quickly.

- Separate cycle lanes are available on main secondary roads.

Cyclists often park on sidewalks.

Bike theft is high. Use a good bike lock, especially when parking in less traveled areas. Attended bike parks are available in some heavily traveled areas.

Electric bikes (e-bikes) and electric scooters must be registered. Driver's license is not required. Often stolen. Securely lock when parked.

- E-bikes have a short battery range; must recharge battery after 50 km. Electric scooters have a longer battery range, and are faster and more comfortable.

SHENYANG, ALSO KNOWN AS MUKDEN

CONDITIONS

Jingshen Expressway links city and Beijing. Expressways are available to Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces. Shenda Expressway links city with Dalian and its port.

CONDITIONS

Capital of Liaoning Province; major port and industrial center. Shenhe District ("Old City") is easily walked. Shenyang Qiche Kuaisu Keyun Zhan, main bus station; located on Huigong Jie. Serves long-distance routes to major cities.



**SHENYANG, ALSO KNOWN AS MUKDEN, CONTINUED**

**CONDITIONS**

A rail hub.

- North Train Station is on Beizhan; serves most long-distance trains.
- South Train Station is on Shengli Beijie; serves most trains to northeastern destinations and regional stops.

Trains may stop at both stations; be certain which station your train uses.

Shenyang Taoxian International Airport is located 30 km (19 miles) south of the city. Airport shuttle provides transport to main China Northern Airlines ticket office. Office is located at 117 Zhonghua Road. Service is frequent.

**CONDITIONS**

Office of South Bus Station is on Minzhu Square, near South Train Station. Buses queue up on Minzhu Lu, Minzhu Square and nearby streets. Buses also serve shorter routes to cities in Liaoyang Province. Closes at 6 pm.

Local bus service is well developed. Difficult to use if you cannot read Chinese. Obtain a city bus map at a train station.

Buses of major companies queue up near train stations. Bus 203 provides transport between train stations.

Taxis are readily available. Use taxis with meter mounted on dashboard where easily seen.

Shenyang Metro has one line; runs east-west across city.

**SUZHOU, ALSO KNOWN AS THE VENICE OF ASIA**

**CONDITIONS**

Driving in the city is not recommended, due to aggressive driver behaviors.

Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians often assume they have right of way. Use caution even when walking.

Streets are narrow in historic Suzhou. Traffic may be congested.

Public transport vehicles are often crowded.

High speed Bullet trains link the city with Shanghai and Nanjing. Service is frequent.

Buses providing transport to Shanghai's Hongqiao Airport leave from city center.

**CONDITIONS**

Located in Jiangsu province along shore of Lake Taihu, in Yangtze River delta.

Suzhou metropolitan area includes three cities: Changshu, Zhangjiagang and Kunshan. Also has several development zones, the largest of which are Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP), Suzhou Hi-tech Development Zone and Suzhou New District (SND). Roads in development zones are broader and less congested than in city center.

Long-distance bus service to main destinations is available. Purchase tickets at stations or from travel agents.

Taxis are readily available. Drivers seldom speak English.

**TAIYUAN**

**CONDITIONS**

A transportation hub. Main roads serving the city:

- Datong-Yuncheng Highway, runs north to south.
- China National Highway 208 (G208), runs through Taiyuan Economic and Technological Development Zone (TETDZ). G208 is part of Asian Highway 3 (AH3); gives city access to many cities in China and other countries.
- State Highway No. 307, runs east of TETDZ.
- Taiyuan-Yuci First-rate Motorway.
- Can access Taiyuan-Shijiazhuang-Beijing Expressway 2 km from the city's Taiyuan Economic and Technological Development Zone.

City's main roads are generally in good condition.

Taiyuan Wusu International Airport is located 18 kilometers (11 miles) southeast of city center.

TETDZ is 2 km from Taiyuan Wusu International Airport.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Capital of Shanxi Province.

Also known as Bingzhou, Jinyang and Dragon City.

An industrial center and China's largest coal mining region. Industries are concentrated in northern districts.

Inter-city bus transport:

Buses to Datong leave from Taiyuan Railway Station and Taiyuan Coach Terminal.

Buses to Pingyao leave from Jiannan Coach Station.

Buses to Pingyao Ancient City leave from Coach Station on Yingze Avenue.

Buses to Wutai Mountain leave from Taiyuan Long-Distance Bus Station.

Local buses leave from the Railway Station Square.

Taxis are available; fares are fixed.

Passenger trains serving the city: Taiyuan-Jiaozhou, Beijing-Taiyuan and Shijiazhuang-Taiyuan lines.

Taiyuan Wusu International Airport was upgraded to serve as a supplemental airport for Beijing Olympics.



**TIANJIN**

**CONDITIONS**

Fourteen trunk roads link city with main cities in China.  
 Three ring roads reduce congestion in central districts.  
 Two major roads link the city with Beijing: Beijing-Tianjin Highway and the newer Beijing-Tianjin-Tanggu Expressway.  
 City's Tanggu district, is a large container port. Heavy truck traffic is common on main roads leading to the port.  
 Main train stations:

- Tianjin Station, West Station and North Station
- Tianjin Station, in city center east of Jiefang Bridge.
- North Station, in city's Hebei District.
- West Station, at the northern end of Jinpu rail line.
- South Station, in city's Hedong District.

Tourist trains available to Beijing, Chengde, Jixian and Tai'an.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Local bus transport is well developed.  
 Tourist buses provide transport to popular tourist destinations. Charter buses are available.  
 Taxis are readily available. Fare is based on distance and vehicle type.  
 Registered taxis have a certificate hanging near the meter.  
 Metro has one line serving 8 stations: Xinhualu, Yingkoudao, Anshandao, Haiguangsi, Erweilu, Xinanjiao, Xibeijiao and Xizhan stations. Is being extended from Xinhualu to Xiaobailou, Tucheng, Fuxingmen and Tianjin College of Finance and Economics. Be alert for construction zones along route.  
 Tianjin Binhai International airport is located 13 km (8.8 miles) from city center in Zhangguizhuang section of city's Dongli District;

**XIAMEN, ALSO KNOWN AS AMOY**

**CONDITIONS**

Fuzhou-Xiamen and Zhangzhou-Xiamen Expressways link city with main road network in Fujian Province and neighboring provinces.  
 Gaoji (Gaoqi-Jimei) Causeway and Haicang Bridge link Xiamen Island with mainland.  
 Motorcycles, mopeds and use of vehicle horns are banned in Xiamen.  
 Cars are banned on Gulangyu Island.  
 Most public transport is provided by local buses and city's five Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors.

- BRT buses run on bus-only lanes on expressways. Routes have no traffic lights. Maximum speed for buses is 60 km/h (37 mph). Buses are air-conditioned.
- Shuttle buses provide transport between local areas and BRT stops. Flat fare regardless of distance.

Taxis are readily available.  
 Many residents commute by bike, especially on Xiamen Island.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Major city and port in southeastern China. Located in Fujian Province. Consists of Xiamen Island, Gulangyu Island and four coastal districts, Haicang, Jimei, Tong'an and Xiang'an.  
 Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport is on the northern side of Xiamen Island. Airport shuttle buses provide transport between airport and city center. Tickets available in Domestic Arrivals Hall.

- Bus station is near the airport. Service is provided to Ferry and Train Stations and main cities in neighboring districts.
- Can transfer to inter-city buses at Long-Distance Passenger Transport Stations.
- Taxis are available at the taxi queue outside Arrival Hall. Drivers charge a 50% surcharge for trips longer than 8 km (4.9 miles).
- Taxies to outlying districts of Xiamen, Quanzhou, Shishi and other nearby cities are available at the West Ground-level Car Park.

**ZHANGMU TOWN, ALSO KNOWN AS KASA OR TIBET'S "MOUNTAIN CITY"**

**CONDITIONS**

Growing rapidly. Traffic is often congested, especially in the afternoon.  
 Main road is winding, narrow crowded.  
 City's narrow streets are difficult for trucks to negotiate.  
 Streets are lined by many roadside stores.  
 Parking is scarce. Drivers often park on streets.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

An inland port, near Sino-Nepal border and Mount Everest.  
 Lies across Bhote Koshi River from Kodari, Nepal. Cities are linked by the Sino-Nepal-Friendship Bridge. Area within 18 miles of the border is a free market zone. City is a major trading post.  
 Urban planning is lacking. Residential areas are located on the steep southern slopes of the Himalaya Mountains.



**ZHANGMU TOWN, ALSO KNOWN AS KASA OR TIBET'S "MOUNTAIN CITY," CONTINUED**

**CONDITIONS**

Road linking city with Nyalam Town and Qupo passes through high, steep mountains and deep valleys. Waterfalls frequently cascade down onto the road.

Sino-Nepal Highway serves the city. Trucks transporting goods to Nepal must be unloaded in Zhangu, where goods are transferred to Nepalese trucks. Causes long delays at border crossing.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Houses are linked by steep, narrow streets and stone steps, which are generally slippery.

Bus transport is limited. Bus service links city and Lhasa. Transport is available once on Friday. Trip takes 14 hours.

Minibuses, land cruisers and taxis provide transport to tourist destinations in the area, including Mt. Everest Base Camp.

**RURAL TRAVEL**

- Conditions on inter-city highways and arterial routes are covered in "General Road Conditions" and "Road Information" sections. This section primarily addresses conditions on roads serving small cities, villages and more remote areas.
- Over 3.3 million kilometers of roads serve rural villages and cities. Improvements in rural road network are ongoing.
- Secondary and tertiary roads are often narrow, In areas with heavy truck traffic, yield to trucks and give oncoming truck drivers as much of the road as possible.
- Condition and maintenance of roads is poor to fair.
- The quality of rural roads is often inadequate, especially in western China.
- Road crashes are frequent.
- Risk is high where minor rural roads intersect with main roads.
  - Intersections are often difficult for drivers on arterial routes to see in time to stop.
  - Local road users often lack an understanding of road safety principles.
  - Pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and tractor drivers often do not account for higher speeds typical on main roads.
- Two-wheeled tractors are the most common means of motorized transport. Tractors often lack headlights and are difficult to see at night.
- Be alert for freely wandering livestock. May encounter herds of yak when rounding bends on mountainous routes between Yunnan or Sichuan provinces and Tibet.
- Common factors in crashes in mountainous areas: unsuitable vehicles, poor maintenance and overloading.
- Landslides and falling rocks are common on narrow, mountainous roads. Roads may be severely damaged by heavy rains. Inquire locally about road conditions on planned routes.
- Availability of public transportation is improving. Bus transport is available in most rural villages and cities.

**NIGHT TRAVEL**

- Road risk is high when traveling by road at night, except on expressways.
- Truck drivers and motorcyclists may not use headlights at night. May flash lights on and off to warn others to get out of the way.
- Bicycles seldom have lights and few have reflectors.
- Be alert for cyclists and motorcyclists riding on the wrong side of the road.
- Drivers who do use lights at night generally do not dim lights for approaching cars.
- Pedestrians often wear dark clothing, and may walk down the middle of road with their backs to oncoming traffic.
- In rural areas, may encounter people sleeping on the road.

**PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL**

- Pedestrian risk of being injured in a crash is increasing annually.
- Use caution when crossing streets. Pedestrians do not have right of way.
- Drivers often fail to yield to pedestrians, and seldom slow down when approaching a pedestrian crossing.
- Many drivers do not stop for red lights, even when pedestrians are in a crosswalk.
- Crossing urban streets is most difficult where there are no police or red light cameras.
- Pedestrian bridges and underpasses are often lacking.
- Be alert for unexpected road hazards, such as unmarked open manholes.
- Pedestrians may be fined for crossing against crosswalk signals.
- Pedestrians are often hit by vehicles using the wrong lane.
- Cars and buses often hit pedestrians and cyclists on sidewalks. Use caution when walking near traffic.
- Serious crashes involving pedestrians and electric scooters occur annually. Electric scooters make virtually no noise, increasing risk.



- In a Shanghai study 41% of students violated laws when crossing streets and 48% when riding a bicycle. 42% of the students reported not wearing a seat belt.

## SEASONAL TRAVEL

- Snow and ice removal is good on arterial routes. Police presence is higher when road conditions are poor.
- Heavy snow in central and eastern regions may cause expressway closures and flight cancellations. Trains are less affected by deep snows, but are often overcrowded. Book ahead, especially during Spring Festival.
- In winter, Beijing often has high winds. When temperatures drop near zero, many cyclists and pedestrians travel by car, taxi or bus. Creates a congestion nightmare. Road crashes are often highest in August. Serious road crashes are generally most frequent in January.
- Coastal areas of Hainan, Guangdong, Fujian, and Zhejiang Provinces are subject to typhoons during the summer rainy season; are most frequent in July and August. May cause airport closures. Monitor weather conditions daily.
- In the Yunnan Province, monsoons are most frequent in July through September. Unpaved roads to villages are often impassable, even by tractors.
- Xishuangbanna, an autonomous prefecture in Yunnan Province, has heavy rains June through August. September through February, thick fog is common until late evening.
- Roads through Khunjerab Pass on Karakorum Highway may be hazardous during summer months due to landslides.
- Sand storms are increasing in frequency and intensity in central and eastern sections of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Strong winds/cyclones sweep in from desert areas in western Mongolia and China's Inner Mongolia region. May severely affect road conditions and air quality in many regions of China and neighboring countries, and halt all forms of transportation. May last 2-3 days.
  - Dust devils or clouds of dust blowing across the road can reduce visibility to 100 meters or less.
  - High drifts of sand and sediment may block roads and rail lines. Houses are often partially buried by sand dunes.
  - Severe sandstorms are becoming more common in spring.
- Seasonal travel in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)
  - Extreme temperature changes often occur between daytime and night, regardless of season; may affect driving conditions.
  - In winter, heavy snow often blocks roads in eastern regions. Avalanches are possible. Arterial routes are reopened as quickly as possible.
  - In spring, landslides are common following heavy rains. Main roads temporarily impassible.
  - In southern Tibet, roads may be impassible due to heavy rains in June-September. High winds are common November-May.
  - Average temperature in winter (October through May or June) is below zero.
- Rainy season in the Kham region (eastern Tibet, southern Qinghai, western Sichuan and northern Yunnan provinces).
  - Rainfall highest in late June -August; main roads are generally open. Unpaved roads and trails become muddy or swampy. Areas near rivers and streams, often flooded. Travel is not recommended.
  - Fog, avalanches and landslides are common in mountainous areas.
- Secondary roads from Yunnan or Sichuan Province to Tibet are most easily navigated from April to mid-June and mid-September through October or early November. Road conditions are poor in rainy season (latter part of June-August). Heavy snows are most frequent from December through March.
- Kunming is located near the tropics, but has a temperate climate due to its high elevation, 2,000 meters (6,000 ft) above sea level.
- Shanghai has four seasons. Winter is cold and damp. Affected by northwesterly winds from Siberia; may drop below freezing, but seldom snows. Summers are hot and humid; may have severe thunderstorms. Typhoons may affect the city; often in summer and early autumn. In spring, weather may change rapidly; rains may be frequent. Autumn is generally dry and sunny.
- Road crash injuries and fatalities generally increase during national holidays. National holidays vary by region.
- National holidays Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau have in common include:
  - New Year's Day, Jan. 1
  - Chinese (Lunar) New Year, also known as the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year Day. Lasts 3 days. China's most important family holiday. Occurs in mid-January to late February.\*
  - Labor Day, May 1-3rd in Mainland China  
May 1 in Hong Kong and Macau
  - Buddha's Birthday, in May\*
  - National Day, Oct. 1-5 in Mainland China  
Oct. 1 in Hong Kong and Macau
  - Ching Ming Festival, April 5; also known as Tomb Sweeping Day



- Dragon Boat Festival, in June, also known as Tuen Ng Festival \*
- Mid Autumn Festival, one day holiday\*
- Winter Solstice Festival, December 22; also known as Dong Zhi \*Dates vary.
- Additional holidays celebrated in Hong Kong and Macau, except for Hong Kong SAR Establishment Day: include:
  - Good Friday to following Monday\*
  - Hong Kong SAR Establishment Day, July 1
  - Chung Yeung Festival, in October\*
  - Christmas Day, December 25
  - Boxing Day, December 26 \*Dates vary.
- Additional holidays only celebrated in Macau:
  - All Soul's Day, November 2
  - Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8
  - Macau SAR Establishment Day, December 20
  - Christmas Eve & Christmas Day – December 24-25
- Roads in larger cities are often gridlocked during Spring Festival and Autumn Festival.
- Guangzhou hosts the China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) in April-May and October-November. Well attended events; hotel accommodations are scarce. Public transport vehicles are often overcrowded.
- From May 1 to May 15, 2011, the incidence of drunken driving decreased 82% in Beijing, compared to the same period a year ago.
- Police use check points to detect speeding drivers. Signs posted at speed checkpoints:
  - Radar units: "雷达测速区"
  - Speed cameras: "超速摄像"
- Enforcement of laws prohibiting overloading of transport vehicles is improving. Fines for overloading vehicles are high. Drivers may lose license for overloading.
- Improved enforcement of law against overcrowding buses is reducing high fatality bus crash rates.
- In Shenzhen, police often check for valid driving licenses, especially foreign drivers. Checkpoints are most frequent in Special Economic Zones (SEZs).
- Some regions have command centers that supervise and coordinate police patrols.
- Results of Beijing's improved enforcement of traffic laws:
  - Increased driver compliance with road regulations.
  - Fewer drivers driving without a license.
  - Fewer road crashes and fatalities in Beijing.
  - Fewer tickets issued for passing illegally, speeding, and overloading.

## POLICE ENFORCEMENT

- Police enforcement is improving and is intensified during major holidays.
- New traffic laws have strengthened penalties for many driving offenses, including speeding and driving while under the influence of alcohol. Enforcement of the laws is improving.



## ROAD REGULATIONS

- Driving is on the right in mainland China, but is on the left in Hong Kong and Macau.
- Driver's license requirements to drive in mainland China:
  - Many sources indicate that foreigners are not permitted to drive in China, unless they obtained a Chinese driver's license. However, the law was changed in conjunction with the 2008 Beijing Olympics.
  - Drivers must have a Chinese driver's license or provisional license. International Driver's Permits, Hong Kong-, Macau- and Taiwan-issued licenses are not accepted. Requirements to obtain a provisional license:
    - A valid national driver's license and a short-term visa (a visa valid for no more than 3 months).
    - Brief exam to determine if driver has any physical or visual disability would affect driving skills.
- In larger cities, drivers may be able to convert an IDP to a provisional Chinese license. May be required to take a test.
- In Beijing, provisional licenses are available at the International Airport. Ask information desk staff where to apply. Also available at transportation police stations throughout the city. Application process is short.
- Only foreigners with resident permits can apply for regular Chinese driver's licenses. Getting a regular Chinese license is often difficult. In larger cities, the test is available in many languages.



- In smaller cities, test is generally written in Chinese, and authorities may not give drivers access to a translator.
  - Drivers may get up to 14 days in jail for driving without a license. Seat belts are required. Child safety seats are not required and are not widely available. When traveling with infants and/or young children, bring safety seats with you.
  - Penalties for driving while under the influence of alcohol:
    - BAC level of 0.02% up to 0.08%: fine of CNY 200-500 and 1-3 months license suspension. BAC level of 0.08%, CNY 500-2000 fine, up to 15 days in prison and 3-6 months license suspension.
  - Driving while under the influence of alcohol may result in a five-year suspension of driver's license.
    - Drivers involved in a road crash that results in the injury or death of two or more people will lose their license for life.
    - Drivers who commit severe violations while driving under the influence of alcohol will go to prison.
  - Speed limits on 2-lane roads:
    - Urban roads: 30 km/h (19 mph)
    - China National Highways: 40 km/h (25 mph)
  - Speed limits on major roads with a central median or two yellow lines:
    - Urban roads: 70 km/h (43 mph)
    - Urban expressways: 100 km/h (62 mph)
    - China National Highways: 80 km/h (50 mph)
    - Inter-city expressways: 120 km/h (75 mph)
  - The minimum speed permitted on expressways is 70 km/h (43.5 mph). Increases to 100 km/h to 110 km/h (62 to 68 mph) on some overtaking lanes. Fines are assessed for going under the minimum speed.
  - Drivers can be fined up to 2,000 yuan and may lose their license for exceeding the posted speed limit by more than 50%. "
  - Drivers of military, police and fire department vehicles are not required to obey traffic or parking regulations. They often ignore traffic laws, run red lights, drive the wrong direction or weave in and out of traffic.
  - Right turn on red is legal, unless signs indicate otherwise.
  - Overtaking lanes may only be used for passing. Passing (overtaking) on the right is illegal.
  - Only motor vehicles are permitted to use expressways.
  - Previously prohibited: drivers who have held a driver's license for less than 1 year **are** permitted to use expressways.
  - On expressways, use of paved shoulders is generally restricted to police, fire/rescue and motorists with broken down vehicles.
  - Minimum distance permitted between vehicles is 100 m (328 feet) Avoid tailgating. Distance checks are common on expressways.
  - Cars without rear fog lights cannot use expressways.
  - Using headlights during the day is not legal.
  - Drivers are required to slow down when driving through crosswalks.
  - Third party insurance is required.
  - Minor crashes: When involved in a minor crash, in which no one is injured or killed and damage to vehicles is minor, people generally do not call police. However, failing to call police voids insurance coverage for the crash.
  - Move vehicle to side of road as quickly as possible.
    - Minor crashes are generally resolved by one party paying the other party on the spot. Both parties bargain until agreeing on amount of compensation required. Paying party may or may not admit fault.
    - Drivers may not want to move vehicles, due to new laws imposing harsh penalties for leaving the scene of a crash.
  - If involved in a serious road crash, call Traffic Police. Police take 20 minutes or more to get to a crash scene. Do not leave the scene, move vehicle or disturb crash scene until ordered by police. Police will file a report on the crash and arrange for you to get a copy of the report from nearest police station. Report will be in Chinese. Driver is required to sign it, verifying road crash details. If you are not fluent in Chinese or if report is partially or totally inaccurate:
    - Write a disclaimer on the report stating you cannot read or fully understand the report and therefore cannot attest to its accuracy. State that you are signing the report only because doing so is required or...
    - add your version of the crash in English and state that your signature only attests to the accuracy of the English version.
  - Road crashes often draw a crowd. Remain calm. Crowd may demand payment for damages from the party they consider at fault. They may seem threatening, but assaults on foreigners at road crashes are rare. Be conciliatory while waiting for police. When uneasy, walk to a nearby store or public building and wait for police.
- Police are generally understanding towards foreigners, but instances where police were biased against a foreign driver have occurred. If you believe an officer has taken a bribe from the other driver to find you at fault, indicate your intent to refer the matter to China's Ministry of Supervision or Tourist Complaint Board. Both offices deal harshly with corruption.



- A driver is considered at fault when he/she hits a pedestrian, unless the pedestrian is violating a traffic law.

- Drivers found guilty of a hit-and-run crash, lose their license for life.



## ROAD WATCH

### ROAD INFORMATION

<b>G1 BEIJING–HARBIN EXPRESSWAY</b>
Paved 4-lane dual expressway with broad paved emergency lanes; in good condition. A major transport route; intersects with several expressways and national highways. Links Beijing with Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province. Passes through Beijing, Tangshen and Qinhuangdao in Hebei Province, Jinzhou and Shenyang in Liaoning Province, Siping and Changchun in Jilin Province and ends in Harbin.
<b>BEIJING–SHANGHAI EXPRESSWAY (G2), ALSO KNOWN AS JINGHU EXPRESSWAY</b>
Paved 4-lane dual expressway with broad paved emergency lane; in good condition. Heavily traveled. Some sections may be congested. Links Beijing and Shanghai. Begins at Fenzhongsi Bridge on Beijing’s 3rd Ring Road and ends at Shanghai’s Middle Ring Road. From Beijing, the G2 follows same path as Jingjintang Expressway. After Tianjin, the G2 splits off Jingjintang Expressway and continues to Shanghai. Dense fog may cause closures of the G2’s Jiading section. Section may be closed until mid-morning or later.
<b>BEIJING–TAIPEI EXPRESSWAY (G3), ALSO KNOWN AS JINGTAI EXPRESSWAY</b>
Paved 4-lane dual expressway with broad paved emergency lane; in good condition. Begins at Fenzhongsi Bridge on Beijing’s 3rd Ring Road and ends in Fuzhou in Fujian Province. Completion of Fuzhou-Taipei section is unlikely. Would require building a 100 km long tunnel under Taiwan Strait.
<b>BADALING EXPRESSWAY, ROUTE NUMBER G025</b>
Six-lane divided highway; generally in good condition. After Beijing's Nankou district, road is a four-lane divided highway. Links Beijing with the Badaling section the Great Wall of China. Begins near Madian Bridge on Northern section of Beijing's 3rd Ring Road, and passes through many of Beijing's residential and industrial zones. Due to mountainous terrain, road splits into inbound and outbound sections in Juyongguan. Outbound section has 3 exits to the Great Wall of China; inbound section has none. When traveling inbound, take Exit 20 and follow route to the "Wall." Inbound and outbound sections rejoin after Badaling and continue to Yanqing, where road becomes the Jingzhang Expressway. Some maps include the road in Jingzhang Expressway, a road linking Beijing and Zhangjiakou in Hebei province. Has exits to northern sections of Beijing's 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Ring Roads, Huilongguan, Changping, Nankou, Badaling and Yanqing. Travel conditions on specific sections: Congestion is most common from Madian to Huilongguan, especially near Shangqing Bridge. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often gridlocked from Madian to Jianxiang.</li> <li>• Out-bound traffic often congested from Jianxiang to Qinghe Toll Gate.</li> <li>• Expect long waits at Huilongguan exit during rush hours.</li> <li>• Travel may be slow traffic after Juyongguan, due to mountainous terrain.</li> <li>• On outbound section, fog is common on 49 and 50 km stretches and from Shahe to Xisanqi, especially at night.</li> <li>• Road risk is high on sections in urban and suburban Beijing.</li> </ul>



**BADALING EXPRESSWAY, INBOUND SECTION KNOWN AS THE "VALLEY OF DEATH"**

The 50-55 km section; begins shortly after road splits at Badaling. Section has a high road crash rate.

Speed limit drops to 60 km/h (37 mph) for light-duty vehicles and 40 km/h (25 mph) for trucks, and is strictly enforced. Speed cameras are numerous; fines are high. Section includes a series of switchbacks (tight, downwardly spiraling curves), indicated by a "serial downgrades" sign.

Road safety features include several Emergency "Brake-Fail" areas (upward sloping banks of gravel to slow vehicles that experience a mechanical failure and are unable to slow down or stop). Park near a "Brake-Fail" area when vehicle needs to be checked for any mechanical problems.



**BADALING EXPRESSWAY, EXITS FOR THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA**

Juyongguan Exit (Exit No. 15): Provides access to The Great Wall at Juyongguan Pass.

Shuiguan Exit (Exit No. 16): Provides access to The Great Wall at Shuiguan, a lesser known section of the Wall. Road is extremely steep; allows travelers to see unrepaired sections of the Wall. No return ramp to expressway. Take minor roads back to Juyongguan to continue on expressway.

Badaling Exit (Exit No. 18): Leads to Wall's most well known section. Parking may be available.

**BEIJING, 2ND RING ROAD**

Generally in good condition. No traffic lights; intersections are grade separated. Although heavily congested, road is seldom gridlocked. Traffic backups are common, especially near exit for Airport Expressway. Road is least congested between Caihuying and Zuo'anmen. Access to alternate routes is limited. Road has few connections with Beijing expressways.

Speed limit on the road is 80 km/h, except in section between Xiaojie Bridge and Dongzhimen and other sections with sharp curves. Speed is closely monitored by speed cameras and police officers.

Digital display boards give information on current traffic conditions. Text is in Chinese. Color indicates average travel speed on a road, where yellow = 20-50 km/h; red = under 20 km/h.

Has pedestrian overpasses; used by pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

Located near perimeter of city center; runs along moat that surrounded the "old city" wall. Many exits are named for wall's gates. A large section of Metro, Line 2 runs under the road; has Metro station exits on both sides of the road, except at Andingmen station.

**BEIJING, 3RD RING ROAD**

Heavily congested. Often gridlocked. Intersections with local roads have traffic lights.

**BEIJING, 4TH RING ROAD**

Designed to be a high-capacity transport corridor, linking Jingjintang Expressway, Jingshi Expressway, Badaling Expressway and Capital Airport Expressway.

**BEIJING, 6TH RING ROAD**

A 4-lane, dual expressway; generally in good condition. A toll road; lightly traveled, except near exit at Xishatun, where traffic jams may occur.

Speed limit: Minimum 50 km/h (31 mph), maximum 100 km/h (60 mph).


Truck drivers often drive below speed limit and car drivers frequently exceed speed limit.

Southwestern section, 6th Ring Road: Has no passing lanes. Speed limits:

- Left lane: Minimum 80 km/h(50 mph)- maximum 100 km/h (60 mph).
- Right lane: Minimum 60 km/h (37 mph), maximum 100 km/h (60 mph). Right lane is for cars only.

Western section, 6th Ring Road: Links Liangxiang and Zhaikou. Passes through rugged, mountainous terrain in Beijing's Mentougou District.



<b>BEIJING-TIANJIN-TANGGU EXPRESSWAY</b>
4-lane, Limited access, divided highway with 4 lanes in each direction and paved shoulders. First expressway linking Beijing and Tianjin Metropolitan area and Tanggu, a port on Bohai Sea. Travel is slow, partly due to heavy truck traffic. Also known as Beijing-Tianjin cruise port; seldom used for cruise port transfer.
<b>BEIJING TIANJIN EXPRESSWAY</b>
4-lane dual expressway; frequently used access route for Tianjin's cruise port. Some sections parallel the older Beijing-Tianjin-Tanggu Expressway.
<b>BEIJING-TONGZHOU EXPRESSWAY IN BEIJING</b>
Has a "buses only" lane; reduces commute between Baliqiao and Sihuidong from 20 minutes to 8-10 minutes.
<b>BEIJING-LHASA EXPRESSWAY (G6), ALSO KNOWN AS JINGZANG EXPRESSWAY ##</b>
Passes through sparsely populated, rugged regions in Himalayan Mountains. Links Beijing and Lhasa. Section between Xining in Qinghai Province and Lhasa in Tibet Autonomous Region is incomplete. Alternate routes between the cities include China National Highway 109 and Qinghai-Tibet Railroad.
<b>BEIJING-ZHUHAI EXPRESSWAY</b>
Long traffic jams with many road crashes are common in bad weather.
<b>BEIJING-ZHANGJIAKOU HIGHWAY IN HUAILAI, ALSO KNOWN AS CHINA NATIONAL HIGHWAY 110 (G110)</b>
In August and September, 2010, construction on the route created a 60-mile traffic jam that lasted for weeks. Links Beijing, Zhangjiakou, Hohhot, Baotou, Yinchuan, and Ningxia.
<b>JINGSHEN EXPRESSWAY</b>
3-lane dual highway; links Shenyang and Beijing.
<b>JIQING EXPRESSWAY</b>
Links Jinan, capital of Shandong Province and Qingdao, a port on Yellow River. Intersects with the north-south Expressway.
<b>JICHANG AIRPORT EXPRESSWAY</b>
6-lane, dual expressway; generally in good condition. Heavily traveled. Traffic jams common during rush hour. Toll road; begins on northern section of 3rd Ring Road in Beijing's Sanyuanqiao district. Passes through Sanyuanqiao, Siyuan, Beigao and Xiaotianzu districts; ends at Beijing Capital International Airport. Major exits to 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th ring roads. Beijing.English-China.org, "Visit Beijing: By Car," 6/2/08 Speed limits, are posted as minimum speed required and maximum speed allowed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Left lane: Minimum 100 km/h (60 mph), maximum 120 km/h (75 mph)</li> <li>• Other lanes: Minimum 60 km/h (37 mph), maximum 80 km/h (50 mph)</li> </ul>
<b>GUANGZHOU-KUNMING EXPRESSWAY, G80</b>
Also known as the Guangkun Expressway. Links Guangzhou in Guandong Province and Kunming in Yunnan Province. Section linking Suolongshi, Mile County, Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan to Shilin Yi Autonomous County follows China National Highway 326. Road is not grade separated, but is being upgraded to expressway standards. Be alert for construction zones.


**ROADS LINKING TIBET WITH OTHER REGIONS OF CHINA****Sichuan-Tibet Road**

Main route between Chengdu and Tibet. Part of National Highway 318, which links Shanghai, Chengdu, Lhasa and Katmandu, capital of Nepal.

One of the world's roughest, highest and most dangerous roads. Passes through a mountainous, seismically unstable region. Climate is harsh. Landslides, rock avalanches, and mudslides are common, especially in Linzhi to Basu section. Heavy rains increase risk. Earthquakes are common.

Traffic includes many heavy trucks.

Road crosses many rivers and passes over 14 mountains at elevations of 4,000 to 5,000 meters (13,123 to 3,106 ft) above sea level.

Mountainous sections have many switchbacks (hairturns or sharp curves); often described as zigzagging up and down steep mountains. Trucks and larger buses may have difficulty negotiating switchbacks, especially in winter. Completion of Erlangshan Tunnel eliminated one of route's dangerous mountain passes.

Traffic includes many trucks and buses. Emergency medical response time is slow.

Road conditions vary. Some sections are in poor condition, unpaved, heavily potholed or severely damaged. Upgraded sections are generally in good condition. Slowdowns for construction zones may be frequent.

Road risk is high. Upgrades have reduced risk and decreased travel times on many sections. Travel time from Chengdu to Qamdo County in Tibet is 2.5 days.

Road risk is greatest in Trola Mountain section in southwestern Sichuan Province. Weather conditions are harsh. In winter, heavy snows are common; often cause traffic jams. Wrecked vehicles are often beside the road. Crossing the mountain takes about 2 hours and 10 minutes.

**Dazhou-Shaanxi Expressway**

Four-lane, arterial route in Sichuan province. Links Arong Banner in northeastern Inner Mongolia, with Beihai, a seaport in Guangxi Province in southern China via Shaanxi, Sichuan and Guizhou provinces.

Intersects with Xi'an-Ankang Expressway in the north and Dazhou-Chongqing expressway in the south.

Road is part of an express ring road linking Western China's three main cities, Chongqing and Xi'an.

**Beijing-Tibet Expressway**

A four-lane highway, linking Beijing and Jining in Inner Mongolia. Requires frequent repairs due to high traffic volume and many overloaded trucks. Traffic jams are common, especially near construction zones.

Road is the most direct route for truckers transporting goods to port cities near Beijing.

**Qinghai-Tibet Highway**

Road begins in Xining, capital of Qinghai Province; ends in Lhasa, capital of Tibet Province. It is the most heavily used of the 4 main roads that link Tibet with other areas of China. Carries heavy truck traffic. Over 85% of cargo entering or leaving Tibet is shipped via this road.

Crosses Kunlun and Tangula Mountain Ranges, Gobi Desert and extensive grasslands. Shortest, safest way to reach Tibet. Yangbajain-Lhasa section has been upgraded. Bus service is available along the route.

Xining-Lhasa section passes through desolate regions. Carry satellite phone and GPS.

Road is subject to landslides and cave-ins. Heavy, drifting snow may occur in winter.

Construction of road and nearby railroad adversely affected permafrost regions along route. Increased landslide risk, especially in Chumarhe High Plateau, Xidatan Basin, Wudaoliang Basin, Hoh Xil Hill Region and Beiluhe Basin.

Section in Hoh Xil area in Qinghai Province has traffic lights, which are operated only during antelope migrations (June mid-July and October-November). Lights stop traffic for 20 minutes. Be alert for antelope crossing at other points along the road. Lights only turn red when groups of antelopes are crossing the road.

**Xinjiang-Tibet Highway (Yecheng-Burang), also known as National Highway 219**

Carries heavy truck traffic. Begins in Yecheng in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, enters Tibet, passes near China's border with Nepal and India, merges with China-Nepal Friendship Highway and ends in Lhasa.

Passes through a mountainous region. Many sections are steep and winding. Five of the mountains are more than 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) above sea level. Crosses several high mountain passes.

Jieshan Ridge to Saga County section: Average elevation is 4663 meters (15,298 feet) above sea level. Severe weather conditions. Average annual temperature is -6°C (21.20°F). Also known as "road laid on the top of the clouds."

**ROADS LINKING TIBET WITH OTHER REGIONS OF CHINA, CONTINUED****Xinjiang-Tibet Highway (Yecheng-Burang), also known as National Highway 219, continued**

Road conditions are best from May to early July and September-October. However, may snow in Nagari prefecture in October. Conditions are often poor in the rainy season (July-August). Generally closed due to deep snow in winter and spring. Bus service is limited.

**Yecheng (Kargilik) and Domar section of National Highway 219**

Some sections are paved; may be in poor condition. Long sections may be heavily corrugated (ruts running across the road). Often dusty in the dry season. Frequently used by trucks. May encounter military checkpoints.

May through October, road conditions are best, and repair/construction zones are most common.

Late winter to early spring, road conditions are generally worst.

**ZHAMU-MOTUO HIGHWAY**

Motuo county in Tibet is the last county with no road connection with mainland China. A new road linking Motuo county and Zhamu Village in Bomi County will open after completion of Galongla Mountain tunnel.

Road ends near China-India border. Motuo lies on southern slopes of a section of the Himalayas Mountains. Weather conditions are harsh.

**LHASA TO GONGGAR AIRPORT EXPRESSWAY, ALSO KNOWN AS CHINESE NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 318**

A toll-free, four-lane road, linking Lhasa Railway Station and Gonggar Airport. Reduces travel time from 1 hour to 30 minutes. Road relieves some of the congestion on Chinese National Highway No. 318.

An older section of 318 links Lhasa and Gonggar Airport. Road is narrow and heavily traveled; traffic jams are common. May flood during heavy rains.

**CHINA-NEPAL HIGHWAY, ALSO KNOWN AS FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY (G318) TIBET**

Links Lhasa and Kathmandu, Nepal. Has many mountainous sections.

Altitude sickness may affect ability to drive. Temperatures drop as elevation increases; take warm clothing. Sheer cliffs are common along route. Dense fog may occur in all seasons. Use caution, especially when driving at night. Small waterfalls are plentiful along the route; may drive through cascading water.

Road begins in Lhasa, passes near Yamdrok Lake, goes through Gyantse and Shigatse, follows the Yarlung Zangbo and Brahmaputra rivers, passes near Lhatse and continues to Chapu.

After leaving Chapu, road forks. One branch becomes China National Highway 219 (G219), continues to Gar County in western Tibet. Provides access to sacred circuits of Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar. Mount Everest can be seen from the road.

Second branch retains G318 route number. Goes through many high mountain passes. Travels southwest to Lakpa-La and descends 800 meters to the Arun River in Nepal. Passes Xêgar (New Tingri) and Old Tingri, which lead to Rongbuk Monastery and Mount Everest. Continues to Nyalam, near Tibet-Nepal border.

Road descends sharply through a canyon; reaches Zhangmu and crosses into Nepal via Friendship bridge.

**KUNMING-BANGKOK EXPRESSWAY, ALSO KNOWN AS ASIAN HIGHWAY 3 (AH3)**

An international highway; starts in Kunming and passes through jungles and highlands in southern Yunnan Province.

Links Kunming, Yuxi, Yuanjiang, Mohei, Simao, Xizomenyang and Mohan, which is near China-Laos border.

In Laos, road passes through Boten, Luang-Namth and Ban Houayxay, across the Mekong River from Chiang Khong, Thailand. Bridge linking Ban Houayxay and Chiang Khong is nearing completion.

Road continues to Chiang Rai; ends in Bangkok. Section in Thailand is also known as Thailand Highway 1 or Phahonyothin Road.

Upgrades to sections in China are complete. Upgrades in Laos and Thailand are partially complete or being planned.

Sections in China:

- Kunming - Yuxi, a 6-lane expressway.
- Yuxi - Yuanjiang, a 4-lane expressway. Passes through the steep terrain; includes many bridges and tunnels.
- Yuanjiang - Mohei, a 4-lane expressway.

**KUNMING-BANGKOK EXPRESSWAY, ALSO KNOWN AS ASIAN HIGHWAY 3 (AH3), CONTINUED**

Mohei-Simao Expressway, a 4-lane expressway. Drainage facilities are surfaced with permeable concrete blocks; require less maintenance.

Simao-Xiaomengyang Expressway, 4-lane expressway; passes through rain forests in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province. Has bridges and tunnels for migrating wildlife. Be alert for Asian elephants. They follow traditional routes. If their route lacks a bridge, elephants walk across roads, even in heavy traffic.

Xiaomengyang-Monan Expressway, 4-lane expressway; ends at the Monan/Botan border crossing. Border crossing facilities have been upgraded in Monan; are being upgraded in Botan.

**TONGJIANG-SANYA EXPRESSWAY**

North-south, limited access, toll highway. Heavy truck traffic.

Links major ports on China's eastern coast. Intersects with 2 east-west truck routes and with highways leading to provincial capitals in eastern and central regions.

**SHENDA EXPRESSWAY**

4-lane dual highway in Liaoning Province. Links Shenyang and Dalian's Port on the Bohai Sea.

**ROADS ON HAINAN ISLAND**

**Eastern Highway:** An older road; some sections may be in poor condition.

**Eastern Expressway (G223):** A newer road; generally in good condition. Route is shorter than the Eastern Highway. Road is generally flat. Not recommended for cycling due to higher travel speeds.

**Western Expressway (G225):** A newer road; generally in good condition. Road is generally flat. Not recommended for cycling due to higher travel speeds.

**TARIM HIGHWAY, ALSO KNOWN AS THE SECOND TAKLAMAKAN DESERT HIGHWAY**

Two-lane, paved road with paved shoulders; in good condition. Frequent road crashes.

Grasses planted on road embankments keep sand dunes off road surface. Rest stops and cell towers at regular intervals.

Warning signs indicate where animals are likely to be near or on the road.

Take adequate food and water in case journey is delayed by crashes. Detours are generally lacking for motorized vehicles.

Larger vehicles quickly become mired in sand if driver tries to drive around tie-ups.

Severe sands storms may delay travel, especially in spring.

Links Niya (also known as Minfeng) to Būgūr (also known as Luntai). Travel time between Minfeng to Korla has been reduced from 40 days to 8 hours. Buses provide transport along route.

**HOTAN HIGHWAY (HOTAN-ALAR HIGHWAY)**

Paved road; in good condition. Two-lane, paved road with paved shoulders; in good condition. Follows near Hotan River.

Links Hotan City (also known as Khotan) at the southern edge of the desert with Aksu on the northern edge of the Desert. At Aksu, road joins with Highway 314 and continues along the northern edge of the Taklamakan Desert.

Shortens distance between Hotan and Aksu by 300 km ( miles).

Buses provide transport along the road. Some buses are air-conditioned. May have two drivers so can alternate drivers and avoid driver fatigue.

**QINGDAO–YINCHUAN EXPRESSWAY, COMMONLY KNOWN AS QINGYIN EXPRESSWAY**

A major arterial route. Links cities in Shandong, Hebei, Shanxi, Jing Shaanxi and Ningxia provinces. Lishi District in Shanxi Province is a major hub for the coal industry. Truck traffic is heavy in the region.

**KARAKORUM HIGHWAY, ALSO KNOWN AS "FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY" IN CHINA**

Paved on China's side to the border crossing at Khunjerab Pass. Located in Karakorum Mountain Range. Border crossing is only open from May 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Road is part of China's G314 Highway; generally has an N-35 route sign.

**KARAKORUM HIGHWAY, ALSO KNOWN AS "FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY" IN CHINA, CONTINUED**

Passes through many rugged, mountainous areas. Landslides are common; may block traffic for hours. Generally open in spring through early autumn. In winter, heavy snows may close road for extended times. Monsoons affect the region in July and August; may cause occasional landslides.

Road is temporarily closed in Hunza Valley due to a massive landslide near Karimabad, capital of Hunza Valley. Only detour linking China and Pakistan is by boat. Road expected to re-open in late 2012.

**KHUNJERAB PASS**

Located on Karakorum Highway; includes a border crossing between China and Pakistan. A long, flat pass often snow-covered in winter season. Generally closed Nov. 30 to May 1.

Provides access to Khunjerab National Park in Pakistan. Daily bus service across the pass is available. Links Gilgit in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan Autonomous Region and Kashghar in Xinjiang Province.

**MINTAKA PASS, ALSO KNOWN AS MINGTEKE PASS**

Part of the ancient Silk Road. Open all year. A dangerous route; can be only traveled on foot. More difficult to navigate due to increasing glacier ice in the pass. Located in the Karakorum Mountain Range. Links Pakistan and Xinjiang in China. The pass is the shortest route between China's Tarim Basin and northern India.

**KILIK PASS**

Part of the ancient Silk Road. Open all year. A dangerous route; can be only traveled on foot. Absence of glaciers makes it more accessible than Mintaka Pass. Located in the Karakorum Mountain Range. Links Pakistan and Xinjiang in China. Provides access to northern India from China's Tarim Basin.

**ROAD RECOMMENDATIONS****TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS****BUSES**

- The safety of public transportation is poor to good. Routes and schedules may be confusing, especially if travelers do not speak or read Chinese. Hotel staff may provide assistance.
- Public bus drivers and some private bus drivers speed and drive aggressively.
- Drivers seldom speak English. Tickets and signs at stations are generally in Chinese or a local language. Announcements of stops are in English only.
- Routes are difficult to understand unless traveler speaks Chinese.
- Buses seldom run on time.
- Larger bus stations issue printed tickets. Tickets indicate route number and bus license plate number. Fares are fixed. May be able to purchase at travel agencies in hotels. Purchase tickets well in advance.
- Smaller bus stations seldom issue tickets. Pay when boarding. Fare may be negotiable.

**Local bus transport**

- Older local buses often are in poor condition and break down frequently. Road crashes are common, particularly on winding mountain roads. Generally not

air-conditioned, and have uncomfortable seats. Often overcrowded, especially during major holidays. Driver may not leave until bus is full. Pay fare when boarding. Announcements of stops are in Chinese. Transport is often slow.

- Buses are the only form of transportation available in some rural areas.
- Minibuses mainly serve routes from train stations to tourist sites. Can be hailed; will drop off passengers anywhere along the route. Fares are slightly higher than bus fares. Travel tends to be slower due to frequent stops.
- Newer, modern local buses are air-conditioned; seats are generally comfortable. Often overcrowded in rush hour. In larger cities, announcements of stops may be in Chinese and English. Pay fare when boarding. Fares are higher on newer, modern buses and are highest on routes to suburbs.

**Bus Rapid Transit Systems (BRTs)**

- BRT systems are available or under construction in some major cities, including Beijing, Changzhou, Chongqing, Dalian, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hefei, Jinan, Kunming, Shanghai, Shenyang, Xiamen and Zhengzhou.



- BRT buses run in designated bus lanes, separated from traffic by physical barriers or road markings. Stations are generally located in center lanes of large urban roads.
- Only BRT buses and local buses included in the BRT system can use the lanes. Stops are limited. BRTs provide rapid transport. Are often overcrowded during rush hour.
- BRT systems include a network of local bus routes. Buses gather riders from suburban and rural areas and take them to BRT stops. BRT buses take riders to central districts and Metro or train stations.
- Local bus may use short sections of BRT corridors. Allows local buses to move through congested areas more quickly. Eliminates need to transfer from BRT buses to local buses.
- Trams provide transport in Beijing, Dalian, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Jinan, Luoyang, Qingdao, Taiyuan, Shanghai, Tianshui and Wuhan.
- Trolley buses provide transport in a few larger cities.

#### Inter-city buses

- Inter-city buses are the main transport providers where train service is not available.
- Buses are the most common means of inter-city travel. Regular bus transport is available between major cities. Bus transport services are increasingly common in rural areas.
- Inter-city buses often run late at night when road risk is higher.
- Driver fatigue is common. Distances between main cities are long. Roads are often pass through difficult, mountainous regions. Drivers may drive for extended times or take insufficient breaks.
- Night buses are the primary transportation service in rural China. Regulation of night buses is lax. Road crash risk high.
  - Night buses often have basic, uncomfortable bunk beds instead of seats and generally use secondary roads. Roads may be in poor condition. Ride is roughest in rear bunks. Fares are low.
  - Can be hailed. Drivers drop passengers upon request.
- Night buses originating in coastal provinces are generally newer and more comfortable. Have soft seats or bunk beds. Generally travel on expressways. Fares are higher than on older, rural night buses.
- Tibet has regular bus service between major towns. Frequency of service is limited. Schedules change often.

#### TAXIS AND PEDICABS

- Taxis are the most expensive means of transport, but often are the most convenient.

- In major cities, taxis are readily available. Taxi drivers seldom speak English. Have written directions and a map showing your destination.
- Taxis often lack working seatbelts. Insist on taxis with working seat belts and use them to reduce road risk.
- Taxis can be hailed or picked up at hotels or taxi stands. Be sure meter is turned on before departing.
- Most taxis are metered; fares are set. Extra fees may be charged for time lost in traffic jams. Receipt is given if requested.
- Carry small bills for taxi fares. Some drivers use counterfeit bills to make change. Get a receipt.
- Pedicabs are generally 3-wheeled vehicles, which provide transport over short distances. Built for two passengers, seated behind a driver. May be powered by bicycle or motor. Also known as cycle-rickshaws or auto-rickshaws.
  - Fares may be high. Negotiate fare before boarding. Overcharging tourists is less common due a government crack-down.
  - May be banned on busier streets. Driver may have to take a round about route.
  - Continue to operate late at night. Can travel on narrow streets in older areas of the city where taxis and buses are unable to travel.

#### TRUCKS

- Drivers often speed, overload their vehicles and/or modify the vehicles to carry larger loads.
- Drivers often lack adequate training.

#### TRAINS

- Rail is the primary mode of long distance inter-city travel. Rail network has grown rapidly. Trains generally run on schedule.
- The train network is extensive and reliable. Many old train systems have been replaced or updated.
- High-speed train lines link many cities: Beijing–Tianjin, Wuhan–Guangzhou, Zhengzhou–Xi'an, Shanghai–Nanjing and Shanghai–Hangzhou.
- Commuter rail services are generally lacking except in Beijing and Binhai. Guangzhou-Zhuhai high-speed commuter rail line is under construction.
- Traditional rail service is available through mountainous regions; travel is slow.
- Rail lines have been or are being constructed to underserved regions.

China is improving rail lines linking China and Europe, and between coastal and inland ports in China. A completed line links Chengdu in Sichuan Province and Shenzhen Special Economic Zone in Guangdong.



- Qinghai-Tibet Railway links Golmud in Qinghai Province and Lhasa in Tibet.

### AIR TRAVEL

- China's Civil Aviation Authority is in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards for oversight of China's air carrier operations.
- International class airports are readily available in or near main cities. Cities with most frequently used international airports: Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.
- International flights leaving China are often overbooked. Reconfirming departure reservations and checking in early at the airport is essential.
- Airports are being upgraded or constructed in more remote areas. Flights in and out of the airports may be limited.
  - Ngari Gunsa Airport, located in northwestern section of Tibet's Ngari Prefecture. Flights availability on Tuesdays and Fridays.

### RENTAL CARS

- Rental cars and vans are available in larger cities. Fee includes a driver.
- Self-drive rental vehicles are available.
- Taxi drivers can be hired for inter-city transport or tours. Driver also serves as a guide.
- In Tibet, rental fees may vary by season.

### MOTORCYCLES & BICYCLES

- Heavy traffic levels typical on many main roads increases road risks for cyclists. When planning to ride a bike, scooter or motorcycle, take a regulation helmet with you.
- Roundabouts are difficult to negotiate.
- Cyclists often cut off, swerve, head directly toward others cyclists and seldom use lights at night.
- Main city streets often have bike lanes.
- Bike parking areas are generally available near major intersections, parks, tourist sites, and major stores. Park bike in a posted cycle parking lot with an attendant if possible.
- Bike theft is common. Imported bikes are often stolen. A good theft protection system is essential.
- Traffic regulations apply to cyclists. Enforcement of regulations is more strict for cyclists than other road users.
- Walk your bike on congested streets and in pedestrian zones. Cyclists may be fined for crossing against crosswalk signals.

- To reduce congestion, some larger cities have banned bicycles from major roads or in main traffic lanes. Bike parking may be difficult to find in these cities.
- Some areas of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region are closed to cyclists and hikers. Bus travel is available to tourists. Bus drivers often do not charge for transporting bikes on the roofs of buses.
- Larger cities often have bike sharing programs. Check locally about cost and terms of use. Generally, the first hour is free. Bikes rented at bike stations in the suburbs can be dropped at bike stations near bus, BRT or metro stops. Can reach city center without having to drive. Share bikes can also be used for day trips in the region.
- When renting a bike, make sure the brakes work, tires are properly inflated, and the bike is safe. Use a safety helmet meeting US standards and a bike lock.
- Standard touring bikes are adequate in larger cities. Mountain or hybrid bikes with 18 to 21 gears are recommended for inter-city travel, especially in more remote regions.
- Cycle repair shops are plentiful. Obtaining quality parts is often difficult, except in provincial capitals.

### Electric Bikes & Scooters

- Electric bicycles are increasingly common. May account for 10-20% of two wheeled vehicles in larger cities.
- Electric bicycles have been banned in central business areas of some major cities, such as Guangzhou.
- In some cities, electric scooters are licensed as bicycles. Only a bicycle license is required to ride them.
- Cities may restrict lanes scooter use. Often are banned on fast lanes.
- Electric scooters are targeted for theft. When parked, secure both wheels and battery/batteries. When possible, park in a secure, indoor area.
- Riders seldom use lights at night.

### Motorcycling

- Motorcycling is a high risk travel option due to undisciplined driving culture.
- Motorcyclists must have a Chinese motorcycle license (more difficult to obtain regular driver's licenses), a permit to tour China and insurance to operate a motorcycle in China. Motorcycle must be legally registered and have a license plate.
- Motorcycles are not permitted on expressways and are banned in heavily congested downtown areas of many cities, including Guangzhou, Dongguan, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Hangzhou. Some restrictions apply in Beijing and Shanghai. Riding in prohibited areas can result in fines and confiscation of motorcycle.

Traffic includes many scooters and 3-wheeled motorcycle-powered cargo vehicles.



- Motorcyclists are not required to wear a helmet when riding. Using a helmet is essential for safety reasons. If helmets are not available, a different form of transportation is recommended.

**CRIME & SECURITY**

- Overall crime rate is low. Pick pocketing is the most common form of crime against foreign visitors. Reports of pick-pocketing often increase just before "Spring Festival."
- Violent and nonviolent crime has increased in the past year. Chinese officials have warned that crime rate may continue to increase due to global recession.
- Muggings are rare. Hold ups and roadside assaults have occurred in remote provinces in western and central China, especially on highways near Mt. Everest and Nepal border.
- Gun-related crimes are rare, but are increasing.
- Sexual harassment and crime on trains and overnight buses is increasing.
- Violence against and/or kidnapping of foreigners are rare, but are increasing.
- Only open hotel room door to someone you know well. Do not go to the home of or get into the car of someone you just met.
- Chinese security personnel may place foreign government officials, journalists, and business people having access to advanced proprietary technology, under surveillance. These visitors may be searched without consent; search may be conducted secretly.
- Robberies at domestic airports are increasing, especially in Beijing, Zhengzhou, Shenyang, Dalian, Qingdao and Taiyuan. Only use registered taxis from taxi ranks when traveling to or from airports. Unregistered taxis may drive away with your luggage.
- Most drivers of registered taxis are honest. Disputes over fare or route taken are difficult to resolve. In a few cases, Americans were detained for questioning and not released until fare was paid and an apology given to the driver.
- Pirated (stolen) or counterfeit goods may be available at low prices. Purchasing them is illegal in China and may contribute to slave and child labor, drug trafficking or money laundering. May result in forfeiture of goods and/or fines.

- Terrorism is rare. Occasional bombings and incidents of unrest have occurred throughout China. Bombings are often due to commercial disputes or job layoffs. There have been no acts of terrorism or public violence against foreigners.
- Kidnappings of Americans to extort money have increased recently.
- Tourists may be banned from traveling in some areas of Tibet.
- Verify with a U.S. tour operator that local guides are familiar with medical facilities along route and aware of emergency medical evacuation procedures.
- Americans who become involved in a business or civil dispute may not be permitted to leave China until dispute is settled. China does not enforce contracts set up in America.
- Photocopy passport bio-data pages and Chinese visas. Keep copies in a separate location.
- Taking pictures of military- or security-related objects or people is not permitted.
- In Kunming, there have been reports various scams in barber shops, massage centers and other small shops. The shops provide storage of passports and other personal items in a locked cabinet. Scams generally involve demands for higher fees for services. Demands are made after the service is partially complete. Some tourists have reported being chased from the shops. Their passports and other personal items were not returned.

**Common scams**

- Young people approach English-speaking tourists and ask to have cup of tea or coffee with them to practice their English. Charge for the drinks is extremely high. Protest is futile.
- Use caution in respect to Internet business or personal contacts.
- "Virtual" kidnapping of children: Criminal sends parents a text message, saying they have kidnapped their child and demanding ransom for child's return. Check with Chinese police, the school and the U.S. Embassy before responding to text. No actual kidnappings have taken place.
- Relationship frauds via Internet are increasing. People enter into personal relationships, primarily to get a U.S. visa.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION****TOURIST ASSISTANCE**

- Roadside assistance is generally not available in rural areas. Availability is fair in or near large cities.

National emergency numbers are free from cell phones.



- Emergency numbers on mainland:
  - Patrol Police, 110
  - Traffic Police, 122
  - Fire, 119
  - Ambulance (government owned), 120
  - Ambulance (privately owned), 999. Available in some areas.
  - Traffic emergencies, 122 U.S. Embassy in Beijing,
  - Telephone operator, 114 U.S. Embassy in Beijing,
- Emergency numbers in Hong Kong:
  - All emergencies, 999.
- Consumer Protection Information: 12315
- Modern tourist facilities are becoming more widely available; are most common in major cities.
- Unleaded gas is available throughout China.
- Due to prevalence of counterfeiting, exchanging dollars for RMB anywhere except at banks, hotels or official exchange offices is illegal. Visitors accused of doing so may be delayed for weeks or months while allegations against them are investigated.
- China does not recognize dual citizenship. U.S. Embassy officials are frequently denied access to dual U.S./China citizens who are arrested or detained.
- Chinese citizens who are Lawful Permanent Residents of the U.S. should carry unexpired Permanent Resident Cards (Green Cards) or other documentation establishing that they may re-enter the U.S. Lack of required documentation delays departure.
- Cultural insights:
  - When giving a business card to someone, holding the card with both hands is a sign of respect.
  - If you become involved in a conflict, stay calm and do not raise your voice. Responding with anger is more likely to escalate the conflict than resolve it.
  - Tipping is uncommon in China; is generally seen as extortion or an immoral practice. Tipping is becoming more common in tourist areas, but is not required.
- When visiting Tibet, foreign visitors must travel in groups (currently, at least one other person), get travel permits at least 5 days prior to arrival and be picked up by a local guide and driver. For more information, contact Sichuan China International Travel Service (CITS, Chengdu) Lhasa office; address: A1401#, Tianyi Masion, Jiangxi Street No.27, Chengdu, China. Ph: +86-028-85513929 ; fax: +86-028-85531566; email: [chinawesttour@hotmail.com](mailto:chinawesttour@hotmail.com) and website: [www.tripbus.com/TibetTravelTips/4294324.html](http://www.tripbus.com/TibetTravelTips/4294324.html).
- Maps of China quickly become out of date due to rapid growth of many cities, ongoing construction of new roads and realignment of existing roads. Obtaining two maps gives you a greater chance of navigating larger

cities successfully. Check for maps at tourist shops and subway stations.

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Yunnan and Xinjiang Provinces are prone to earthquakes.
- Information on disaster preparedness is available from FEMA; website is [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## MEDICAL CARE

- In rural areas, medical facilities are generally inadequate. Most facilities are poorly equipped and have few medications available. Doctors and staff often lack adequate training. Many doctors and nurses do not speak English.
- In remote areas, medical facilities may be primitive.
- Rural clinics are often reluctant to assume the responsibility of treating foreign visitors, even in emergencies.
- Medical technology generally is not up to date. Hospital conditions often are not equivalent to United States standards.
- Better medical care is available in larger cities. Medical care is most advanced in Shanghai.
- Medical facilities in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and a few other large cities have international staff members.
- Major hospitals have 24-hour emergency clinics.
- Many hospitals in larger cities have VIP wards (*gaogan bingfangs*), intended for high-ranking government officials. Many of VIP wards also treat foreigners. The hospitals have reasonably up-to-date equipment and laboratories. Physicians are generally well-trained. Some doctors and nurses speak English.
- Care is good but expensive at the few expatriate clinics. Clinics are up to international standards, but may lack adequate supplies of medicines.
- Beijing United Family Hospital provides in-patient and 24-hour emergency care; has advanced medical equipment.
- U.S. Consulate in Chengdu provides information on medical facilities in Sichuan, Guizhou, and Yunnan provinces, TAR, and the Chongqing Municipality. Website: [www.usembassy-china.org.cn/chengdu/cons/medical.html](http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn/chengdu/cons/medical.html).
- Care for road crash victims has improved in main cities.
- Ambulances generally lack sophisticated medical equipment. Emergency medical personnel often have little or no medical training.
- Drivers often fail to yield to ambulances.



- In the event of a road crash or serious illness, travelers may have to take a taxi or other immediately available vehicle to the hospital rather than wait for an ambulance.
  - Doctors and hospitals often require payment for services prior to seeing or treating patients, even in emergency cases.
  - Hospitals in larger cities may accept credit cards. Many doctors and nurses do not speak English.
  - Few hospitals accept medical insurance from the United States. Exceptions include: Hong Kong Adventist Hospital, Beijing United Family Hospital, Beijing Friendship Hospital, International Medical Center in Beijing, Peking Union Medical Center, and Shanghai United Family Hospital.
  - Doctors and hospitals may refuse to provide American patients with complete copies of medical records, x-rays and scans. Many doctors discourage seeking second opinions.
  - There is little legal recourse for victims of medical malpractice.
  - Pharmacies (Yao Dian or Yao Fang or 药房) generally have a sign with a bright green cross.
  - Medications commonly used in the U.S. are seldom available in China. Medications with the same or a similar name may not be the same drug. Take sufficient quantities of required medications and Rx's.
  - At higher elevations, driving ability may be affected until driver becomes accustomed to lower oxygen levels. Most towns and roads in Tibet, western Sichuan, Qinghai and some sections of Xinjiang are at elevations over 3,000 to 10,000 meters (9,842- 32,808 feet).
  - Inquire about the coverage your medical insurance provides in destination country. Carry the contact information for your insurance company with you.
  - Some credit card companies provide health and travel insurance when travelers use their card to purchase airline fares. Inquire about specific coverage provided.
- am -12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-3:00 pm, Mon-Fri, except on holidays.
- U.S. Embassy, No. 55 An Jia Lou Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100600. Phone: (86-10) 8531-3000; website: <http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/>. After hours emergency numbers: When in China, call 86-10-8531 4000. When outside of China, call 010-8531-4000.
    - Consular Section, located in the Embassy. The Embassy's consular district includes Beijing and Tianjin municipalities and the provinces/autonomous regions of Gansu, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Inner Mongolia, Jiangxi, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, and Xinjiang.
    - American Citizen Services office: Enter Embassy's east gate near intersection of Tian Ze Road and An Jia Lou Road. Phone: (86-10) 8531-4000, fax: (86-10) 8531-3300, email: [AmcitBeijing@state.gov](mailto:AmcitBeijing@state.gov); website: <http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html>.
  - U.S. Consulate General in Chengdu, Number 4, Lingshiguan Road, Section 4, Renmin Nanlu, Chengdu 610041. Phone: (86-28) 558-3992 and (86-28) 555-3119, fax is (86-28) 8558-3520, after hours phone: (86-0) 13708001422; email: [ACSchengdu@state.gov](mailto:ACSchengdu@state.gov). Consular district includes the Guizhou, Sichuan Xizang (Tibet), and Yunnan provinces/regions or in Chongqing.
  - U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou, Number 1 South Shamian Street, Shamian Island 200S1, Guangzhou 510133. Phone: (86-20) 8121-8418, after hours emergencies, phone: (86-20) 139-0229-3169, fax: (86-20) (86-20) 8121-8428, email: [GuangzhouACS@state.gov](mailto:GuangzhouACS@state.gov) and website: [http://guangzhou.usembassy-china.org.cn/offices\\_department.html](http://guangzhou.usembassy-china.org.cn/offices_department.html).
    - Consular Section and American Citizens Services Unit, is located at 5th Floor, Tianyu Garden (II phase), 136-146 Lin He Zhong Lu, Tianhe District. Phone: (86)(20) 8518-7605; after-hours emergencies phone: (86)(20) 8121-8000, email: [GuangzhouACS@state.gov](mailto:GuangzhouACS@state.gov).
    - Consular district includes the Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, and Fujian provinces/regions.
  - U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai, Westgate Mall, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1038 Nanjing Xi Lu, Shanghai 200031. Phone: (86-21) 3217-4650, after hours emergencies phone: (86-21) 6433-3936, email: [shanghai\\_acs@yahoo.com](mailto:shanghai_acs@yahoo.com); website: <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/>. Consular district includes the Shanghai, Anhui, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang provinces/regions.

## EMBASSY INFORMATION



- Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States, 3505, International Place, N.W., Washington D.C. 20008. Phone: 202-495-2266, fax: 202-495-2138, email: [chinaembpress\\_us@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:chinaembpress_us@mfa.gov.cn); website: [www.china-embassy.org](http://www.china-embassy.org).
  - The Visa Section, 2201 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20007. Phone numbers: Automated voice system: (202) 338-6688, telephone consulting service: (202) 337-1956, fax: (202) 588-9760, email: [chnvisa@bellatlantic.net](mailto:chnvisa@bellatlantic.net). Hours: 9:30



- U.S. Consulate General in Shenyang, No. 52, 14th Wei Road, Heping District, Shenyang 110003. Phone: 86-(24) 2322-2374, after hours emergencies phone: (86)-(24) 137-0988-9307, email: [ShenyangACS@state.gov](mailto:ShenyangACS@state.gov); website: <http://shenyang.usembassy-china.org.cn/>.
  - Consular district includes the Liaoning, Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces/regions.
- Registering with the Dept. of State's "Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)" provides access to information on current travel conditions in planned destinations. STEP allows Embassy officials to contact you about an impending natural disaster or other emergency, and facilitate your evacuation, if necessary. STEP website: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT)  
12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville MD 20852-1726, USA  
Telephone: (240) 249-0100  
Fax: (301) 230-0411  
Web Site: [www.asirt.org](http://www.asirt.org)  
E-mail: [asirt@asirt.org](mailto:asirt@asirt.org).

**ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey. © ASIRT 2011**

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