



# EHLION Fact Sheet China

Your cheat sheet for business travel in CHINA

## BASICS

<b>Official Name:</b>	People's Republic of China (PRD)
<b>Size:</b>	9.6 million km <sup>2</sup> (3.7m square miles), 2nd largest country by area in the world
<b>Population:</b>	1.4 billion
<b>Capital city:</b>	Beijing (21.54 million)
<b>Largest cities:</b>	Guangzhou, Shanghai, Chongqing, Beijing, Hangzhou
<b>Language:</b>	Mandarin Chinese/Standard Mandarin; 8 national languages; 292 living languages in all of China
<b>Ethnic groups:</b>	Han Chinese 91.51%, 55 other distinct ethnic groups
<b>Philosophy &amp; Religion:</b>	Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism, Buddhism, Mohism



## GEOGRAPHY

<b>Location:</b>	Borders 14 countries on land, 4 maritime borders
<b>Climate:</b>	Very varied; 5 different temperature zones and large temperature amplitudes. In many places: dry seasons & wet monsoons

## ORGANIZATION

<b>Head of state:</b>	PRC President
<b>Key organizations:</b>	The Communist Party of China (CPC) — founding and ruling party; Central Committee leads the party's activities
<b>Executive function:</b>	State Council headed by the Chinese Premier
<b>Legislation:</b>	National People's Congress (NPC) is China's parliament; Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee (CPPCC)



## ECONOMY

World's fastest-growing economy until 2015; GDP growth in 2018 weakest in last 28 years — still 2nd largest GDP in the world

<b>Type:</b>	Socialist Market Economy (SME)
<b>Currency:</b>	Chinese yuan, aka. renminbi (CNY, ¥)
<b>Key financial Institutions:</b>	People's Bank of China (PBC), the Ministry of Finance
<b>Leading industries:</b>	Agriculture (rice, wheat, corn) Mining (coal & oil) Manufacturing (heavy industry, automotive, textiles, electronics)





## TRANSPORT

- Between cities:** High speed railway between major cities; *Maglev* in Shanghai
- Urban areas:** Light rail, tram, bus rapid transit, trolleybus, bike share schemes
- Key airports:** Beijing Capital, Shanghai Pudong, Shanghai Hongqiao, Chengdu Shuangliu, Xian Xianyang, Kunming Changshui, Guangzhou Baiyun, Shenzhen Bao'an
- Ports:** 34 major ports, 2,000 minor ports on seas and rivers

## VISAS

If you plan to visit mainland China you must apply for a visa **before travelling** in the Chinese Embassy or Chinese Consulate. Chinese visa price will depend on:

- type of visa
- length of stay
- number of entries (single entry vs multiple entry visa)

Regardless of visa type you'll need to prepare:

- visa application form (downloadable from your embassy/consulate website)
- an itinerary with hotel and flight confirmations
- headshot photo following the requirements of the Chinese embassy
- passport with 6 months of validity



There are different types of visas for China, each require a different set of documents to submit with your application.

### Visa Type Requirements:

L visa (tourist) — basic requirements listed above

J Visa (journalist) — visa notification letter issued by China's Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and an official letter from your media organization

M Visa (business) — invitation letter issued by your trade partner or fair organizer on the Chinese side

Q1 & Q2 Visa (family visitation) — invitation letter from the Chinese citizen with their residence permit, copies of their passport, and other documentation

S1 & S2 Visa (student) — special form to submit to the study institution; after approval the institution issues letter of invitation for you to submit with the visa application

Z Visa (work visa) — Foreigners Employment Permit and a letter of invitation from the company

### Tips:

- Specific visa requirements may vary depending on your nationality.
- Review the website of the Chinese consulate in your country to make sure you follow the right procedure.
- Allow ample time for processing your application. If you wish you will usually be able to arrange for quicker processing, but it might come with rising expenses.





## IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS

**Chinese New Year:** Jan/Feb. Longest public holiday.

**Mid-Autumn Day:** September.

**Qingming Festival/Tomb Sweeping Day:** April 4th or 5th.

**The Golden Week:** October 1-7th; starts with China's National Day.

**Dragon Boat Festival:** June

## FUN FACTS

- Measuring 8,850 km (5,500 miles) the **Great Wall of China** is the largest man-made structure in the world!
- With an estimated cost of **\$40 billion** the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing were the most expensive in history.
- **Fortune cookies** are not a Chinese custom. They were invented in 1920s in San Francisco by an employee in the Key Heong noodle factory.
- Half of the world's **pigs** reside in China.
- China's annual **instant-noodle** consumption is enough to feed all of Algeria three meals a day for a year.

