

# 🇨🇳 CHINA TRAVEL DECODED: CNY EDITION

Your Complete Guide to a Seamless & Soulful Chinese New Year Journey.

Welcome to Be Our Guest in Canton Chinese New Year 2026!

Traveling to China is an adventure unlike any other. It is highly digital, fast-paced, and culturally deep. To ensure your experience is smooth, please review this guide carefully at least 30 days before departure.

## PART 1: THE VISA & ENTRY (EASIER THAN YOU THINK)

(第一部分：签证与入境 —— 比你想象的更简单)

Great news! China has opened its doors wider than ever. Before you apply for a visa, check if you are on the "VIP List."

- 1. The "Visa-Free" Privilege (15 Days)** Holders of ordinary passports from the following countries can enter China for up to 15 days **without a visa** for tourism:
  - **Europe:** France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg.
  - **Asia/Pacific:** Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand.
  - *Action:* Just show your passport at the border. Ensure it has 6+ months of validity.
- 2. The 144-Hour Transit Visa-Free** If you are from the US, UK, Canada, and 50+ other countries, and you are transiting through Guangdong (via Guangzhou/Shenzhen) to a third country (e.g., USA -> Guangzhou -> Hong Kong -> USA), you may qualify for a 6-day visa-free entry.
- 3. The Standard L-Visa (If required)** If you need a visa, we provide the **"Confirmed Hotel Voucher Package"** covering the tour dates. You simply attach your flight itinerary and submit it to the Chinese Visa Center.
- 4. Real-Name Policy:** China requires real-name verification for almost everything (High-Speed Trains, SIM cards, Museum tickets). **Always carry your physical passport** with you, or at least a clear high-res photo of the ID page on your phone.



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## PART 2: DIGITAL SURVIVAL & APPS — "TOURPAL PHONE"

(第二部分：数字生存套装)

*China has its own digital ecosystem. Prepare your phone BEFORE you fly.*

### 1. Stay Connected (The "Great Firewall")

#### Option A: Roaming eSIM (Highly Recommended) ★

- **Provider:** Airalo / Nomad / Holafly.
- **Why:** These services route traffic through Hong Kong or global servers, automatically **bypassing the firewall**. You can access Instagram, Gmail, and WhatsApp instantly without a VPN.

#### Option B: The TourPal "Concierge Phone" (VIP Service)

- **Don't want the hassle?** Let us know in advance.
- **The Service:** We can prepare a local smartphone for you, pre-loaded with a high-speed local SIM card (5G) and all essential apps (Alipay, WeChat, Maps). You just pick it up upon arrival and return it when you leave.
  - *Note:* Please request this at least 7 days prior to arrival.

#### Option C: VPN (If using your own phone + local Wi-Fi)

- If you connect to hotel Wi-Fi, you **MUST** have a VPN installed *before* you board your flight. (Astrill or LetsVPN are currently the most stable).

### 2. Essential Apps

- **WeChat:** The "Super App." Essential for communication.
- **Alipay:** The king of payments (see Part 3) and Transport.
- **Apple Maps:** Works well in China for iPhone users.
- **Google Translate / DeepL:** Download the "Chinese (Simplified)" language pack for offline use.

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## PART 3: MONEY & TIPPING

(第三部分：支付与小费)

### 1. Go Cashless (Alipay/WeChat Pay)

Cash is rarely used. Even street vendors prefer mobile pay.

- **Setup:** Download Alipay/WeChat -> Add Bank Card -> Link your Visa/Mastercard.

- **Verification:** You may need to upload a passport photo to unlock higher spending limits.
- ## 2. No Tipping Culture
- **Good News:** China does **NOT** have a tipping culture.
  - **Restaurants/Taxis:** No tip required.
  - **Our Crew:** Tipping your Guide/Driver at the end of the trip is appreciated as a gesture of gratitude, but strictly optional.
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## PART 4: PACKING STRATEGY (WEATHER & STYLE)

### (第四部分：行囊 - 天气与着装)

#### 1. The Weather: A Tale of Two Climates

- **Destination A: Guangdong (Our Tour)**
  - **Forecast:** 5°C - 20°C (41°F - 68°F). It's not freezing, but the dampness seeps in.
  - **Feels Like:** The humidity makes 10°C feel much colder.
  - **Pack:** Layers! A light down jacket (Uniqlo style), hoodies, and a waterproof shell.
- **Destination B: Heading North? (Beijing/Xi'an/Harbin Extension)**
  - **Forecast:** -10°C to 0°C (14°F - 32°F). Bone-dry freezing.
  - **Pack:** Heavy winter gear. Thermal underwear (Top & Bottom), heavy wool coat, gloves, beanies, and insulated boots are mandatory.
  - *Warning:* Do not underestimate the Northern wind.

#### 2. The "Red" Code

- It is the Lunar New Year! **Red** symbolizes luck and joy.
- **Suggestion:** Pack at least one red item (Scarf, Sweater, Jacket). You will blend in beautifully with the festive decorations and get great photos!

#### 3. Electrical Power

- **Voltage:** 220V.
- **Plugs:** Type A (Two flat pins 🇺🇸) and Type I (Three angled pins 🇦🇺).
- **Power Bank:** Essential. *Note: Capacity must be marked on the device and under 20,000mAh to fly.*

## PART 5: TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

(第五部分：交通与后勤)

### 1. Our Tour Advantage (The "VIP Bubble") 🚗

- While public transport is efficient, it can be crowded during CNY.
- **Relax:** For "Project Golden Horse," we travel in a **Private Executive GL8 Van**.
- **Zero Hassle:** You never need to drag luggage through train stations or fight for a taxi. We offer door-to-door service throughout the 9 days.

### 2. Exploring Solo with Public Transport? (The Power of Alipay)

If you want to explore during free time, China's public transport is world-class and cashless.

- **Ride Anything:** Open **Alipay** -> Click "**Transport**". A QR code will appear.
- **Subway/Bus:** Scan this code at the turnstile in almost any Chinese city. No tickets are needed.
- **Taxi (DiDi):** Inside Alipay/WeChat, there is a "DiDi" mini-app (China's Uber). You can type addresses in English, and the driver knows exactly where to go.

### 3. Navigation (Apple vs. Amap)

- **iPhone:** Apple Maps works surprisingly well in China.
- **Pro Level:** Download "**Amap**" (**Gaode Ditu**). It is in Chinese, but the visual interface is intuitive. If you show the screen to a taxi driver, they will understand instantly.

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## PART 6: HEALTH, MEDS & HYGIENE

(第六部分：健康、药物与卫生)

### 3. Medicine & Pharmacies

- **Pharmacies:** Marked with a **Green Cross**. Common OTC drugs (cold, flu, stomach) are easy to find.
- **Prescriptions:** If you take specific prescription meds, **bring enough for the whole trip**. Keep them in original bottles with a copy of the prescription to show Customs if asked.

### 4. Drinking Water 💧

- **Rule #1: NEVER drink tap water.** It is not potable.
- **Action:** Always drink bottled water or boiled water (Hotel kettles are standard).



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## 5. The Toilet Situation 🚻

- **Reality:** Modern malls/hotels have Western toilets. Public parks or old restaurants may have **Squat Toilets**.
- **Pro Tip:** Always carry a small pack of **tissues** and hand sanitizer in your pocket. Public restrooms often do not provide toilet paper.

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## PART 7: THE CNY VIBE (WHAT TO EXPECT)

### (第七部分：春节特供注意事项)

#### 1. The Crowds (Embrace the Flow)

- CNY is the world's largest human migration. Popular spots will be packed.
- **Mindset:** Personal space is smaller in China. A gentle nudge in a queue is normal. Keep your bag zipped and in front of you.

2. **Cashless is King** Link your Visa/Mastercard to **Alipay** and **WeChat Pay** before you fly. This works for 99% of transactions, from luxury malls to street sweet potato vendors.

3. **The "Hongbao" (Red Packet) Culture** 🧧 During CNY, you might see people exchanging red envelopes. This is a blessing of luck and money.

- **If you receive one:** It is a gesture of goodwill from a host or elder.
  - *Etiquette:* Receive it with **both hands**. Do not open it immediately in front of the giver. Say "Thank you" (Xie Xie).
  - *Is it a bribe?* No. It is pure blessing.

#### 4. The Noise (Sound of Luck)

• You will hear loud bangs — firecrackers and drums. This is the sound of scaring away bad spirits ("Nian"). If you are a light sleeper, bring **earplugs**.

• **The Advice:** It is safe. It is celebratory. Don't be alarmed; enjoy the "Sound of Peace."

#### 5. Dietary Safety

• We carefully select restaurants. However, if you have severe allergies (Peanuts/Shellfish), please keep your **"Allergy Card"** (we provided) handy at all times.

6. **Temple Visits: It's Okay to Participate** We will visit ancestral halls and temples. You might see locals lighting incense and bowing.

• **Can I join?** Absolutely. Unless you have personal religious objections, lighting incense is viewed as a **cultural act of wishing for good things** (health, peace), not necessarily a religious conversion.

• **The Mindset:** Feel free to make a wish. It is a beautiful ritual of hope.



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## PART 8: THE MAGIC WORDS (LANGUAGE GUIDE)

### (第七部分：魔法词汇 —— 像当地人一样拜年)

English is spoken in hotels, but less so on the streets. Learning these three phrases will make locals fall in love with you instantly.

#### 1. The Universal Greeting:

- **Phrase:** 新年好 (Happy New Year)
- **Pronunciation:** *Shin-Nien-How*
- *Use it:* With anyone you meet during the trip.

#### 2. The "Money" Greeting (Very Cantonese):

- **Phrase:** 恭喜发财 (Wishing you prosperity/wealth)
- **Pronunciation:** *Gong-She-Fa-Tsai*
- *Use it:* When entering shops, receiving a Red Packet, or toasting at dinner. It's the favorite phrase in Guangdong!

#### 3. The Magic Word:

- **Phrase:** 谢谢 (Thank you)
- **Pronunciation:** *Shieh-Shieh*

## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

This guide is just the beginning. The TourPal team is ready to handle the complexities so you can focus on the story. **Check our website: [www.cntourpal.com](http://www.cntourpal.com)**

See you in Canton!

Scan the code to get your Media rate 📄

