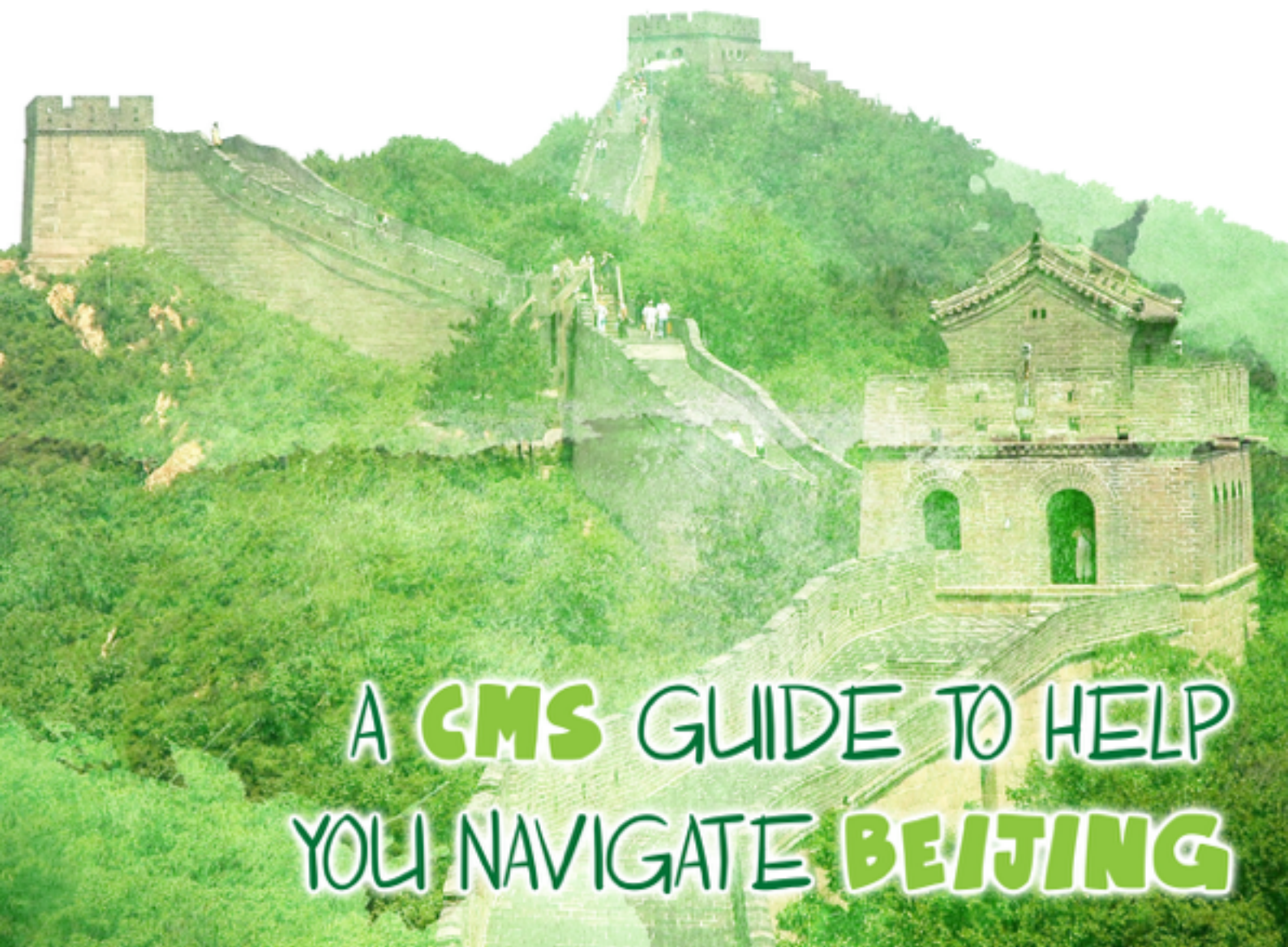


APPS AND OTHER USEFUL **INFO**

- CARDS (TRANSPORTATION, SIM, BANK)
- USEFUL APPS IN BEIJING
- 'MUST TRY AT LEAST ONCE' FOOD
- OTHER TIPS



A **CMS** GUIDE TO HELP
YOU NAVIGATE **BEIJING**



CARDS

METRO, SIM & BANK

TRANSPORTATION SMART CARD



This card is a good way to save time and money. Renting it costs **CNY 20** and can be used by everyone on **all subway lines and most city buses** in the city. It offers a **50% discount when taking the bus**, and can be returned at no loss if the card is well-preserved.

How to use the card:

The card is tactile. When taking buses, the card should be swiped twice: **once getting on and once getting off the bus** (keep at least CNY 1 storage in the card). When taking the subway, users swipe the card on the read machine when entering the station and then again when exiting. The **price is based on travel distance** and it starts at CNY 3 for first 6 km (keep at least CNY 3 storage in the card).



北京地铁线路图 Beijing Subway Map



SIM CARD



Go with China Unicom. It has 3G / HSPA+ that **works with international mobile phones** and the coverage is almost as good as the leader, China Mobile. (China Mobile has a weird 3G CDMA standard that normally ONLY works with phones purchased in China.)

China Unicom Pre-paid Sim-Card Plans:

Basic 3G Voice/Data SIM

- 66RMB, monthly prepaid
- Billed the same regardless of where you are in China
- 50 minutes of outgoing calls, 240 outgoing SMS and 300MB of 3G data
- Additional outgoing calls are 0.2 RMB/minute anywhere in China.
- Additional data is billed at 0.3 RMB/MB, or 30RMB per 100MBs.

To buy the SIM card, go to any China Unicom storefront, or a mobile phone vendor. Ask for **“3G Plan A, 66RMB”**. If you go to an official China Unicom store, usually someone will speak English, or just point to the brochure where it lists “3G Plan A, 66RMB”. **You will need to bring your passport!**

The **best option for topping up your SIM card is to use WeChat / Alipay**. Under the “wallet” section, there is an option to top up your mobile phone. You could also ask a Chinese friend to help you out with this, since any Wechat / Alipay account can be used to top up any phone number (just type it in and pay). Data refills usually go for about 50 RMB for 1 GB of data.

Suspending your plan

Officially **all 3 major carriers require you to cancel your plan when you leave** to avoid being blacklisted. Account termination must be done in person.

If you leave the country without properly terminating your plan and account, you will not be able to re-register a new SIM/phone number on subsequent visits to China. **Plan termination of a prepaid SIM/account require you showing up at one of the branded stores of the operator with the original ID used to registered the SIM**. Otherwise the system will draw your balance through monthly plan deductions, until the balance reaches zero and will release your number 90 days later. If you return to China at a later day and wish to register and activate another prepaid SIM/phone number, you will be required to pay the 90 days worth of monthly fee of the offending prepaid account, for the period when your account is sitting at zero balance prior to your number being released.

If you let your SIM/account lapse in this fashion 2 or more times, you will be blacklisted and not able to registered future SIMs through the normal proper channels. Cancellation of prepaid plan is only allowed if your account balance is 25 RMB or less, and it doesn't matter if you wish to forfeit the balance.

BANK CARD

Foreigners can open bank accounts at any major bank **with a passport and filled out form from the bank.**

The form asks basic questions and although it may be in Chinese, **usually at least one banker speaks very basic English**, if in a major city. You sign a few documents, create a PIN, and receive a debit card on the spot. You might also receive a USB device you plug into your computer for enhanced encryption when making online purchases.

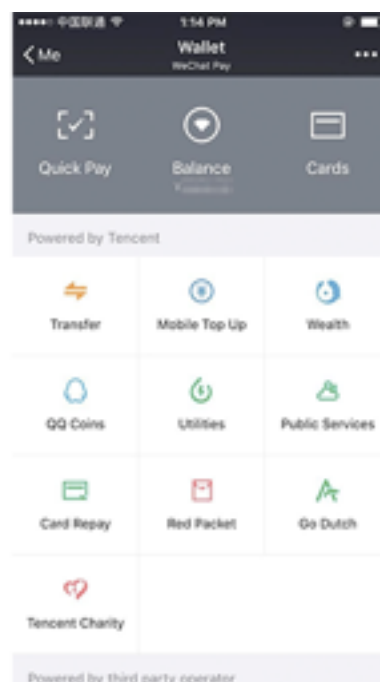
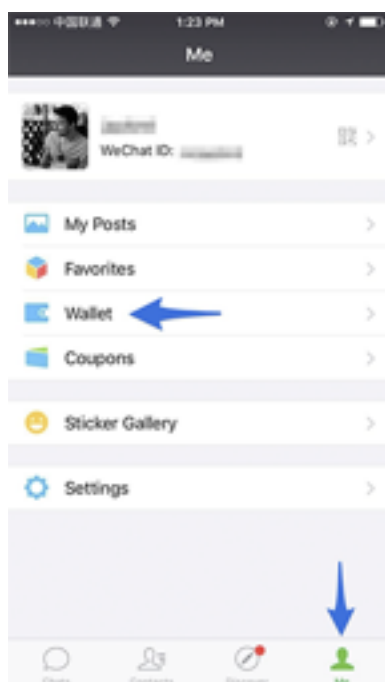


We have found that opening one in the China Construction Bank (中国建设银行) is quite easy and quick. More so than doing it in the Bank of China.

Why would I want a Chinese debit card?

If you stay in China for a while, you might want to consider getting one, though you may not use it physically, you can still link it with various apps that allow for mobile payment. The most common examples are AliPay and WeChat.

This makes shopping (both physical and online), getting tickets (movies, train, plane) and getting taxis much easier. Here is an example on WeChat:





APPS




TO DOWNLOAD IN
BEIJING

USEFUL APPS IN BEIJING

Before coming to Beijing you should consider downloading some of the following apps, as it will make life much easier once you arrive in China:



VPN's

Some apps don't work in China, for example Google, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter are not useable unless you have a VPN downloaded onto your phone or computer. As such we recommend the following:

	<p>BETTERNET</p> <p>Betternet VPN is a free and unlimited VPN (Virtual Private Network) proxy for your Android and iPhone. No registration is needed to use it and there is no time limit before you have to switch to premium.</p>
	<p>STAR VPN</p> <p>Star VPN is a free and unlimited VPN proxy for your Android and iPhone, that also works great on your computer. No registration is needed to use it and there is no time limit before you have to switch to premium.</p>
	<p>HOXX VPN</p> <p>Hoxx VPN is a free and unlimited VPN proxy plugin for your computer, that works on Chrome and Firefox. In order to use it, one needs to register first. To download it go to https://hoxx.com/download/</p>

MAPS

To help you to explore new places, navigate through one of the biggest countries in the world and avoid getting hopelessly lost during your travel in Beijing, it is best to download a few maps first:

	<p>MAPS.ME</p> <p>Maps.me is a free, fast, detailed and entirely offline maps app with turn-by-turn navigation. You simply need to download the map for the city you wish to visit beforehand.</p>
	<p>BEIJING SUBWAY</p> <p>The Beijing Subway app shows a detailed and up-to-date subway map. You can search station, plan your route and get the time and price information. This app works offline.</p>



TRANSPORT

To help you to navigate through one of the biggest countries in the world and avoid getting hopelessly lost during your travel in Beijing, it is best to download a few maps first

	<p>DIDI 滴滴出行</p> <p>Through DIDI, passengers are able to get a taxi ride more easily. They just need to send a ride request through DIDI's APP and a taxi will pick up the passengers no matter where they are.</p>
	<p>BLUEGOGO</p> <p>Check the BlueGoGo app for bikes near you. Once you find it, scan the QR code or enter the bike ID to unlock the bike. BlueGoGo requires an initial CNY 100 deposit and charges 0.5 RMB per hour. You can pay via WeChat. The app is only in Chinese.</p>


SOCIAL & PAYMENT

In China, mobile payments, serve as the primary tool for consumers to pay for goods and services, both offline and online

	<p>WECHAT</p> <p>WeChat is a very popular mobile messaging and social networking platform. It has also become a medium for payment in Beijing – accepted almost everywhere. You can also use it to buy any kind of tickets and various other things as well.</p>
	<p>ALIPAY</p> <p>Alipay is China's longest-running mobile payment app, which means that it has the most customers and compatibility with businesses and electronic banking features. For example, using Alipay you can link directly to Taobao, whereas WeChat cannot.</p>

DICTIONARIES

When it comes to choosing a Chinese-English app, there are a lot of choices out there. Here are the ones we think are the most useful and accurate:

	<p>PLECO</p> <p>Pleco is one of the most popular Chinese-English dictionaries. It features a clean, fairly intuitive, easy-to-use design. You can type either pinyin for Chinese phrases, or English words. The app is smart and immediately ranks the most commonly used and searched for phrases at the top.</p>
	<p>KTDICT C-E</p> <p>KTDict is quite similar to Pleco, but it's free version also includes the Reader (translations of characters in imported Chinese texts) and the OCR (recognition and translation of pictures of printed Chinese texts, using optical character recognition) features. It also has German (C-D) and French (C-F) versions.</p>



FOOD

YOU MUST TRY AT
LEAST ONCE

MUST TRY AT LEAST ONCE' FOOD



1. Peking Roast Duck

Beijing's most famous dish, Peking roast duck is crispy on the outside and juicy on the inside, and served sliced. You'll be given light pancakes, into which you pile a slice of duck and accompanying sides like fermented bean paste, cucumbers and spring onions.

Recommended: Dadong Restaurant



2. Beijing Hot Pot

Chinese hotpot, also known as Chinese fondue, is one of the most popular meals in China. It consists of a simmering metal pot with broth at the center of a table, and all raw ingredients placed beside the metal pot, so people can add and cook whatever they like in the broth.

Recommended: Haidilao



3. Barbecue Skewers

Beijing has adopted the Chinese-Muslim lamb skewer from Xinjiang and evolved it. Now everything can be skewered and roasted at street hawker stands. Point to what you want and they'll baste and barbecue it, stopping only to ask if you like it spicy (*lā*) or not (*bùlā*).



4. Ròu jiā mó (肉夹馍)

Roujiamo, meaning "meat burger" or "meat sandwich," is a street food originating from Shaanxi Province and now widely consumed all over China. The meat is most commonly pork, stewed for hours in a soup containing over 20 spices and seasonings.

5. Dumplings

Dumplings generally consist of minced meat, fish, shrimp and finely chopped vegetables wrapped into a piece of dough skin. They can come in a variety of different forms:



Zhǔ jiǎozi 煮饺子 (Boiled)

Jiaozi are a kind of Chinese dumpling, commonly eaten in China and other parts of East Asia. They are one of the major foods eaten during the Chinese New Year and year-round in the northern provinces.



Zhēngjiǎo 蒸饺 (Steamed)

The filling of this dumpling from eastern Guangdong, can include dried shrimp, chopped peanuts, dried radish, garlic chives, mushrooms, cilantro, and jicama —bringing together crunchy, tender, and stringy chews in every bite. The variety of mouthfeel extends to the highly elastic skin (made from wheat and tapioca starch) and its rubbery frill.



Guōtiē 锅贴 (Pan-fried)

Guotie are shallow-fried in a wok (Mandarin "guo"). A small quantity of water is added and the wok is covered. While the base of the dumplings is fried, the upper part is steamed and this gives a texture contrast typical of Chinese cuisine.

6. Flatbread (pancakes)

Golden-toasted flatbreads and pastries come in many tasty forms in China's capital and make a filling street food cooked on the spot or a shareable restaurant starter. The most common bǐng served up in Beijing include:



Cōng yóu bǐng 葱油饼

This is the most commonly found flat bread, taking the form of a disc shaped crepe laced with spring onions. It is fried, and boasts a deliciously chewy and flaky texture. Often sliced into pieces and shared among friends.



Xiànbǐng 馅饼

If you like minced lamb, you can't go past this thin and crispy crust stuffed with lamb and spring onions. Yum!



Jiānbǐng 煎饼

This breakfast food is a large crepe folded to form a hot pocket, which is cooked, and then covered with garlic, chili, soybean paste. Your vendor will put a scattering of coriander and spring onions on the 'hot pocket' before serving it up to you.



Shāobǐng 烧饼

This is a sweet pastry sprinkled with sesame seeds, and filled with red bean or black sesame paste (you can also sometimes find savoury meat stuffing). Wash it down with a glass of tasty mung bean juice!



OTHER TIPS

YOU MIGHT FIND USEFUL

OTHER TIPS

1. MIND YOUR CHOPSTICKS

Never leave your chopsticks sticking upright in your rice bowl. In China, it symbolises that someone has died and is a way to honor the deceased. A safe resting place is together on your plate or lying across the top of the bowl. Other things to avoid doing with your utensils: licking them, pointing with them at others, and stabbing your food (or your table-mate's).

2. DON'T BE SHY IN RESTAURANTS

Chinese waiters and waitresses aren't as proactive as you may be used to, so **don't be afraid to throw your hands up and call for the FU-WU-YUAN if you want service.**

Also be aware that conventional western service is hard to come by. Don't be surprised if your starter, main, and dessert all arrive at once while your friend still waits for their first dish.

3. CORIANDER EVERYWHERE

If you do not like the taste of coriander, we suggest you **ALWAYS remind the waiter not to add it.** Chinese are very fond of it and as such, it is included in many different dishes.

4. DON'T TIP IN CHINA

The Chinese do not tip, and you aren't expected to either.

5. BRING TOILET PAPER

Most Chinese toilets do not provide toilet paper. Hotels and nicer restaurants will have it available, but it's always a good idea to **carry a roll of toilet paper or a box of tissues.**

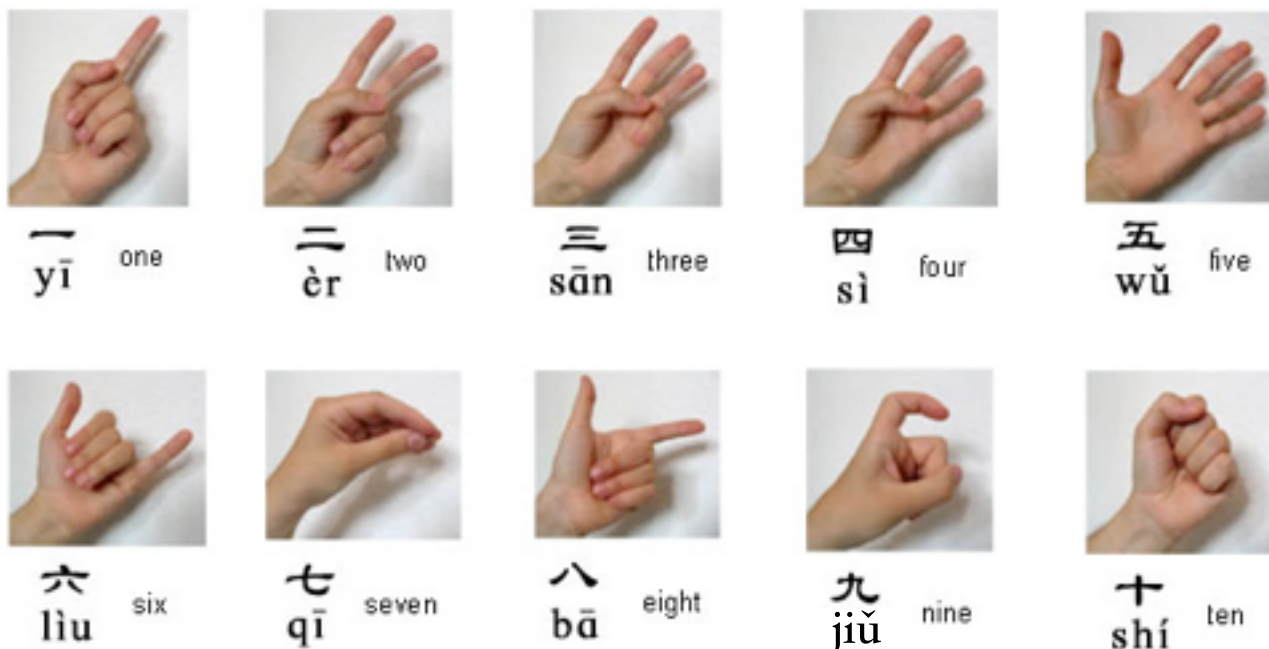
6. BARGAIN... BUT NICELY

Outside of chain stores and boutiques, it's totally possible to practice your haggling skills. Never accept the marked price or first price offered. **It's always safe to begin at a quarter of the "retail price" and find a meeting ground from there.** The owner of the store or stall may act offended — he really isn't. It's simply a way to get you to back down.

Just remember to **SMILE** as you do it and whatever happens, don't get mad or lose your temper. If you aren't seeing eye to eye, simply walk away.

7. USING SIGN LANGUAGE FOR NUMBERS

Like most cultures, China tends to use hand gestures to represent numeric value—but not in the same way westerners do. While numerals 1-5 are represented the same way on one hand, the Chinese have developed an ingenious way to do all ten numbers on one hand.



As a note, 10 or 十 can also be represented by a crossing of the index and middle finger just as you would for good luck or by crossing your two index fingers as if you were warding off a vampire...

8. SPITTING

The Chinese do not use handkerchiefs and tissues to clear their noses, and instead spit. While this can be a bit confronting when you first visit China, they're similarly affronted when they see us blowing our noses and keeping it.

9. BE CAREFUL WHEN CROSSING THE STREET

For someone trying to cross the road, even in a place like Beijing, **car drivers do not always give the right of way to a pedestrian crossing the street.**

Even when the green man is showing, **cars turning right** (or left if the traffic lights are set that way), will still be traversing the zebra crossings, thankfully usually at reduced speed, though they will not stop for pedestrians unless they absolutely have to.

Ultimately, when in doubt, you should **look to see what local people** do when they are crossing the road. Follow their example (if it's a good one), and try to stick close to large groups of people. If you see a driver speeding up to get through an intersection, **don't try to beat them** — wait for them to pass, then cross when you're certain that the road is clear.

10. USING THE ATMS

Take into account that **not all the ATMs accept foreign bank cards**. The easiest way to solve this problem is finding a **Bank of China ATM**, as it accepts most, if not all bank cards.

Once you have a suitable ATM identified, consider the keypad. Carefully. These may be dimly-lit, or have a guard over them obscuring the numbers, but you need to be careful. Sometimes the numbers run from zero to nine, sometimes from nine to zero, so don't assume you can start tapping in numbers in accordance with habit. **Enter the number wrongly three times, and you're likely to lose your card.**

Also make note that once you take out the money and have finished all other transactions, **you have around 60 seconds to take your card out of the ATM**. If you don't do so in the designated time, the ATM will keep the card and it will take at least week to take it back out again

11. BRING YOUR OWN MEDICINE

It is wise to take a medical travel kit with you so that you are well prepared during your trip abroad. Consider taking the following:

- Painkillers (e.g. paracetamol or aspirin)
- An anti-diarrhoea drug for short-term use
- Sunscreen
- Travel sickness tablets
- Antibiotics

If you take specific prescript medicines, check with your doctor before you come to China. Always keep the medicine in its original container, and bring a prescription from your doctor.

12. DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRAVEL BY YOURSELF

If you need to buy plane or train tickets, we recommend using the website www.ctrip.com, it has an English version and **accepts MasterCard and VISA**.

FAKE MONEY



The 100 Yuan note's new edition of 2015 and the 2005 original are both in circulation. The general tones and patterns have not changed, but the individual ones are slightly different.

1.

On the front of the note you can see the holographic magnetic windowed security thread. The value can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe. When you tilt the banknote, the colour should change to green.



2.

When you hold the note and tilt it, the big 100 in the middle should change colours between green and gold.



3.

The watermark of Mao Zedong's head should only be visible when holding it up to the light. If you can see it when it's not held up to the light, that means that it's on the outside of the bill.



4.

When you hold the banknote against the light, the missing areas of the number 100 can be seen, thereby completing the picture.



5.

The two-coloured serial number on the left has four red and six black characters. The serial numbers on the left and on the right must match.



6.

When you hold the banknote against the light, a white denomination watermark appears. It should show the number 100 on an 100RMB bank note



7.

Another way to detect a fake Chinese banknote is to scratch the areas marked with a 7. You can feel the pattern on a real banknote. But on a fake banknote, the pattern can not be felt.

For example:

- a) The words “中国人民银行” will have a slight bumpy feeling.
- b) The pattern in Mao Zedong’s collar as well as his hair will be textured.
- c) The building on the back of the banknote will have a similar feeling.

