












China - Moderate



China Country Map

-  POLITICAL
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-  MARITIME AND PIRACY
-  HEALTH
-  ENVIRONMENTAL
-  TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 06 January 2026

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Security risks to travellers in China are generally low, with China having low crime rates. Travellers should nonetheless be mindful of elevated levels of petty and opportunistic crime in areas frequented by foreigners. While violent crimes targeting

foreigners have occurred in the past, such incidents remain rare, with organised criminal groups tending to target wealthy Chinese nationals. Widespread civil unrest is uncommon due to the government's strict control over demonstrations. Government permits, which are rarely granted, must be applied for prior to any demonstrations and security forces will quickly deploy aggressive tactics to disperse any unofficial protests.

There is a high risk of corporate espionage targeting business travellers in China. Travellers working in sensitive industries are most at risk of being targeted. Methods include physical surveillance, elicitation and the use of eavesdropping devices. Additionally, actors can remotely monitor communications and access sensitive data through remote interception, with methods including monitoring via communications providers and cyber-attacks (which can be remotely conducted with the use of fake Wi-Fi networks, the exploitation of Bluetooth vulnerabilities, and simulated wireless carrier cell towers called 'stingrays'/IMSI catchers). Travellers should ensure they employ strict counter-espionage measures when travelling to China.

While there is increasing international awareness of domestic terrorist activity, especially in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in the northwest of the country, there remains a limited impact on foreign business travel. Chinese security, intelligence and surveillance in major cities is extensive, and any major terrorist operation is likely to be disrupted. There is an increasing threat from lone-actor individuals with grievances against the state or personal issues carrying out unsophisticated attacks, most often involving vehicle ramming, mass stabbings, or rudimentary homemade devices, with some of these attacks resulting in high levels of casualties. Key flashpoints for such attacks are public transport networks, banks, government offices and shopping malls; a higher degree of vigilance should be maintained when in the vicinity of such areas.

Foreign travellers have fallen foul of local authorities by engaging in politically sensitive topics such as Taiwanese independence, ongoing security operations in Xinjiang, Tibet, and the Hong Kong protests. Criticism of government policy can result in punitive measures from the authorities that can severely impede business operations. It is advised to avoid discussing controversial topics and ex-

pressing political views in general, including on personal social media accounts, as there have been instances of foreigners entering China having their social media accounts inspected by immigration authorities.

China is susceptible to natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods and typhoons. The southwestern regions lie on an active fault line and are especially prone to earthquakes, while annual flooding is common in central, west and south China. Rapid urbanisation in the country's main cities has presented heightened flood risk due to inadequate drainage systems and limited infrastructure; such flooding can result in significant travel disruption and additional safety concerns.

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Cultural Tips

- The official language in China is Standard Chinese, known in the West as Mandarin. There are six other major Chinese dialects including Yue (Cantonese), Wu (Shanghaiese) and Minbei (Fuzhou). Minor dialects and minority languages also exist. Approximately 70 per cent of the population speaks Standard Chinese.
- Chinese culture generally tends to stress the importance of the family and elders are usually treated with the utmost respect.
- Introductions are usually formal and use people's full titles. A person is either addressed by the full name or by a title and family name.
- A polite nod or slight bow is used when greeting. A handshake is also acceptable, especially in formal situations.
- Public displays of affection are considered inappropriate.
- Punctuality is important when invited to an event.
- Due to China's geographic size, cultural norms and practices may vary considerably throughout the country.
- Homosexuality is legal in China, and many large urban centres such as Beijing and Chengdu have established LGBTQ communities. However, as noted above cultural norms can vary widely across the country, and some areas may hold more conservative views.
- English is not widely spoken, especially in rural areas and areas seldom visited by foreigners.

KEY FACTS	
CAPITAL	Beijing
CAPITAL CITY PHONE CODE	Beijing: 10
COUNTRY PHONE CODE	86
CURRENCY	Yuan (Also known as Renminbi [RMB])
ELECTRICITY	220 V, 50 Hz
GMT	+8
LANGUAGES	The national language of China is Mandarin Chinese. There are also a number of other local languages and dialects
LEADERSHIP	President Xi Jinping
OFFICE WORK WEEK	Monday - Friday Many businesses shut down for a few hours in the afternoon. Some businesses are closed on Wednesday afternoons, but offer hours on Sunday mornings
OFFICIAL COUNTRY NAME	People's Republic of China
PLUG STYLES	Types A, C and I

KEY FACTS	
RELIGION	Officially atheist. Unaffiliated 52.1%, Folk Religion 21.9%, Buddhist 18.2%, Christian 5.1%, Muslim 1.8%, Other 0.9%
TIME ZONE OFFSET	UTC +8
TYPE OF GOVERNMENT	Communist State

RISK SUMMARY

Political - Moderate

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is an authoritarian, one-party state ruled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). There are no freely elected national leaders, political opposition is suppressed, all religious activity is controlled by the CCP, and dissent is treated harshly. No major opposition to the ruling Communist Party exists.

Xi Jinping has been the "paramount leader" of China since 2012. Xi is both the President of China and the General Secretary of the CCP, the latter role being the more domestically significant. Xi has successfully consolidated his control over the executive and the Party, and his rule has been characterised by multiple campaigns to root out "corruption" and other moves which have considerably reduced the influence of other political currents inside the Party.

Xi Jinping's presidency has been marked by an increasingly assertive foreign policy ("Major Country Diplomacy"). China has simultaneously pursued greater direct economic engagement with global partners and a more confrontational stance towards regional and global rivals. The Belt and Road Initiative, launched in 2013, has remained the centrepiece of Xi's global economic engagement strategy, sponsoring infrastructure projects across more than 140 countries.

China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea has led to more fraught relations with some regional powers. Beijing claims much of the South China Sea via its long-standing "Nine Dash Line" framework. Countries including the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia all contest Chinese territorial and maritime jurisdiction claims. Since the 2010s, China and other regional powers have driven an increasing militarisation of the South China Sea, characterised by the construction of artificial islands in disputed waters and the militarisation of some existing islands.

Territories in China's periphery have remained sources of political instability. China has governed Tibet since its annexation in 1950. A persistent independence movement continues to exist in the province despite considerable efforts by the central government to suppress it and to dispossess local communities. Likewise, Chinese rule over the majority-Muslim Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has been characterised by severe repression justified as counterterrorism measures. Since 2014, local and international observers have recorded severe human rights abuses targeting the local Uyghur population, including the use of mass internment camps, forced sterilisation, sexual violence, and indoctrination. Multiple pro-independence groups operate in Xinjiang.

Corruption exists at all levels of public institutions, from policing to high-level government, though it has decreased in recent years due to anti-corruption crackdowns. Criticism of government policies is likely to invite punitive measures from the authorities. Foreigners attempting to engage in politically controversial issues risk being detained and having their visas revoked.

Armed Conflict - Low

The overall armed conflict risk level in China is low. Nevertheless, territorial disputes between China and neighbouring countries, as well as the unresolved issue of Taiwan's sovereignty, continue to drive geopolitical tensions with risks of armed conflict.

The PRC has a stated vital interest in taking control of Taiwan and has not ruled out using military force to achieve this objective. Under the One China policy, China officially considers Taiwan to be part of its sovereign territory and has threatened to invade the island in the event of a unilateral declaration of indepen-

dence from Taiwan. China regularly carries out large-scale military exercises near Taiwanese waters, and Chinese vessels and military aircraft have repeatedly entered Taiwanese waters and airspace. In recent years, Chinese drills close to Taiwan have increased in frequency, with Taiwanese officials claiming, in March 2024, that China runs on average one military exercise every 7-10 days. For example, in May 2024, China conducted its yearly Exercise Joint Sword, which it described as a "punishment" following Taiwan's election of President Lai, largely perceived as an anti-Beijing candidate. In October 2024, a record 153 aircraft and 36 vessels were deployed by Beijing around Taiwan in a single day. Such exercises are almost certain to continue, and Xi Jinping stated on 31 December 2025 that the reunification of China and Taiwan is "unstoppable". In the event of a full-scale invasion of Taiwan, the risk posed by armed conflict in China would almost certainly significantly change.

China is additionally engaged in a border dispute with India. Conflict periodically breaks out between Chinese and Indian military personnel at the disputed sections of the border, although these clashes are almost exclusively characterised by melee combat. In 2020, one of these clashes in the Aksai Chin region led to at least 20 Indian soldiers being killed. The Chinese military did not disclose its casualty figures. Currently, however, both sides remain committed to resolving the dispute through diplomacy and the limited nature of these border clashes, with the avoidance of deploying firearms, is almost certainly reflective of a desire to keep the border dispute sub-threshold for escalation into war.

Other disputes are primarily a result of Chinese territorial claims in the South and East China Seas. These areas include the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, Taiwan, and the South China Sea islands and atolls. These areas are contested by multiple countries, and engagements between vessels involving tactics such as boat ramming frequently take place, particularly with the Philippines. Due to the mutual defence treaty between the United States and the Philippines, concerns are frequently raised regarding the risk of escalation should these intensifying vessel clashes result in fatalities.

Terrorism - Low

There is a low terrorism threat in China. The most notable threat is posed by organised extremist Uyghur separatist groups operating in the Xinjiang region. In

2014, for example, Uyghur separatists attacked civilians in Yunnan province (over 3,500km from Xinjiang), killing 31 and injuring more than 140. Civilians were also attacked at the main train station in Guangzhou, China's third-largest city. Uyghur separatist groups include the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) and the East Turkestan Liberation Organisation (ETLO). Propaganda by the Islamic State (IS) often points to China as a target for attacks.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in lone-actor attacks perpetrated without a clear ideological motive. Multiple attacks of this kind were recorded in 2024, for example: in May, a knife attack at a hospital in Shanghai resulted in two deaths and at least 21 injuries; in June, four US college instructors were stabbed and wounded in a public park in the province of Jilin; on the eve of National Day in October, a man carried out a mass stabbing attack in Shanghai; in November, three notable attacks occurred: a vehicle attack in Zhuhai, Guangdong, which killed at least 35 and injured 45; a stabbing attack at a school in Jiangsu province, which killed eight and injured 17; and, two days after the Jiangsu attack, a vehicle attack occurred at a primary school in Changde, injuring an unspecified number of people. In all of these cases, the attackers used unsophisticated methods, targeted high-traffic but usually low-visibility locations, and did not make clear ideological statements to justify or explain their actions.

Crime - Low

The most likely crimes to impact foreign travellers in China are petty and opportunistic crimes. Major tourist sites and areas frequented by foreigners attract thieves and pickpockets. The number of thefts can increase in the weeks leading up to the Chinese New Year and during other cultural events. Petty crime is also more common in overcrowded areas such as on public transport and in busy shopping centres.

Fraud and scams occur, with travellers more likely to be targeted. An infamous example is the 'Shanghai Tea House' scam; young individuals, generally female, with good English, approach foreigners and invite them for tea or a drink. After arriving at the recommended establishment, accomplices will overcharge the victims and possibly threaten them if refused payment. Other common scams include taxis overcharging foreign passengers, and online scams, such as the sale of fake tickets for local tourist attractions or counterfeit items.

There are certain actions Chinese authorities may define as 'endangering national security', upsetting social order, or damaging public interest, that would not be considered offences in other countries. These can include activities that occur outside of China. If you are suspected of committing a crime, Chinese authorities can prevent you from leaving China and can detain you for up to 37 days without charges.

There is a generally low risk of kidnapping in China, although there have been cases of foreign nationals being arbitrarily detained by authorities described as 'hostage diplomacy'. There have also been cases of child abduction in China, although such crimes have not specifically targeted foreign nationals. Some areas are poorly policed, including Xinjiang province and Chinese border areas, and the risk of kidnapping is higher in these areas.

Areas bordering Siberia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Laos, and Burma are poorly policed. In Yunnan Province, drug smuggling and other crimes are increasing. Police response services in China can be limited, especially in rural areas.

Civil Unrest - Low

Civil unrest is uncommon and typically heavily suppressed. The Chinese government controls much of the media and censors large parts of the internet. During periods of elevated tensions, the government may block news reporting, access to text messages, the internet, and international telephones. Most protests and demonstrations against the state are illegal. Foreign journalists have been detained for reporting on demonstrations.

There have been several anti-Japan demonstrations in recent years, generally outside diplomatic missions or Japanese companies. If a Japanese national or affiliated with a Japanese company or organisation, exercise a higher degree of caution during travel to China. This threat is further pronounced since late 2025, with a dispute between China and Japan being described as the most significant between the two countries in years. Increased negative sentiment against foreigners in general can occur as a result of stories in the Chinese press, which are known to be prejudiced against foreign nationals.

Political and ethnic tensions have caused unrest and violent protests in Tibet. This historically included multiple self-immolations, used to protest the Chinese occu-

pation of Tibet.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, incidents of civil unrest increased across China due to protests against the stringent restrictions imposed, indicating the persistent potential for civil unrest despite the comprehensive security apparatus. For example, in 2022, anti-lockdown protests erupted on the Sitong Bridge in Beijing and in Zhengzhou, Henan. Riot police are typically dispatched to the scene of such protests, and may deploy crowd dispersal methods such as tear gas.

Maritime and Piracy - Low

There are multiple Traffic Separation Schemes (TSSs) in places near or in Chinese territorial waters. Vessels are required to enter and exit TSSs and pre-determined points. Due to high shipping traffic and the presence of vessels not utilising Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), there is a concern of vessel collisions in Chinese territorial waters. A particularly high risk is in the areas near fishery farms.

Foreign vessels are required to fly the Chinese National Flag when entering inland waters, ports and anchorages of the People's Republic of China (PRC). A number of vessels have been punished by the China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) in recent years for failing to fly, improperly flying, or flying damaged or non-compliant Chinese flags. Mariners should ensure they familiarise themselves with the requirements set out by the MSA prior to maritime travel to China.

The East and South China Seas are the scene of escalating territorial disputes between China and its neighbours, including Japan, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Areas of particular conflict are the Scarborough Shoals, the maritime areas around Taiwan, and the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands. China has been accused of dredging in the South China Sea. This is the process wherein Chinese trawlers expand existing landmasses, thereby allowing China to build military installations on the new land. Clashes between Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) vessels and vessels associated with authorities from rival claimants, particularly the Philippines, have dramatically increased in recent years. Common tactics deployed by these vessels include ramming, water cannons, encircling, and military-grade lasers.

Storm systems regularly impact maritime conditions in the South China Sea, particularly during the Pacific typhoon season, which begins in April and ends in November.

There have also been incidents of piracy in the South China Sea region. These are generally unsophisticated and involve pirates robbing small amounts from anchored vessels. However, reports indicate that piracy in the area is increasing.

Health - Moderate

There is a moderate health risk level in China. This is due to the presence of endemic diseases, varying healthcare quality levels, and other factors such as poor air quality in major cities.

Medical care in China is generally good, especially in major cities. The medical providers in rural areas are not as comprehensive, and medical evacuation to major cities may be required. Healthcare in the country can be expensive; travellers should ensure that they have appropriate health and travel insurance. Certain medicines may not be available in China, so pre-visit preparation may be required. There have been reports of fake medication being prescribed. It is strongly advised to take spare prescription medication when travelling, if legal to bring into the country.

There are also occasional incidents of influenza being transmitted to humans from animals, notably birds and pigs. Outbreaks are usually confined to rural areas. Dengue fever is present in some parts of China, mainly during the rainy season. There has recently been a large increase in cases of dengue in Guangdong Province.

High levels of air pollution can occur in major industrialised areas, causing aggravation in existing respiratory conditions in children and the elderly. Tap water is generally unsafe, so only bottled water should be consumed. Extreme altitude in areas such as Tibet, parts of Xinjiang and Qinghai Province can lead to altitude sickness.

Environmental - Moderate

The typhoon season in China typically runs from May to October, affecting the southern and eastern coastal regions of China, although climate change has likely led to the season being increasingly extended into later months. Typhoons make landfall in China annually and can cause severe disruptions. For example, in September 2025, Super Typhoon Ragasa impacted multiple major cities, particularly in Guangdong Province. In anticipation of the typhoon, authorities evacuated approximately 1.9 million people from high-risk areas. This highlights China's high disaster resilience, with the impact of the powerful tropical cyclone being almost certainly mitigated by comprehensive preparedness measures and effective mass evacuations. Nonetheless, typhoons can result in citywide shutdowns, which may severely disrupt business travel. Moreover, despite China's disaster resilience, powerful tropical cyclones still pose a significant threat to life, and travellers should ensure they follow all official directives.

Due to the presence of multiple fault lines, China is highly seismically active. While most earthquakes are low magnitude and do not cause notable damage, there are occasional high magnitude earthquakes which can cause considerable damage. For example, in September 2022, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck the Sichuan province of China, killing 93 people. Due to both earthquakes and poor-quality building maintenance, buildings across China have collapsed in recent years, which can cause high levels of casualties.

Flooding and landslides are common during the monsoon season (May to November). There are also occasional fires during the hotter summer months. Rural China is particularly vulnerable to these environmental threats, as remote locations are less accessible to disaster response. Tibet, Qinghai, western Sichuan, and parts of Xinjiang are located above 3,000 metres, increasing the likelihood of altitude sickness.

There are many mountainous regions in China where avalanches are possible. For example, in January 2023, 17 people were killed following an avalanche in Nyingchi.

Transportation - Low

China's air network is extensive and growing. The civil aviation fleet is expected to triple in size over the next two decades. However, this growth in speed has meant

that there is a shortage of qualified pilots to fly the planes, among other issues. As such, China experiences some of the highest levels of flight delays in the world. For internal flights, planes will also significantly vary in terms of quality. Remember to keep your baggage receipt label on your ticket as you will need to show it when you collect your luggage. Air China is considered the largest and one of the most reliable airlines, along with China Southern Airlines and Shenzhen Airlines. The main international gateways into China are Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou.

The ticketing system in China is different from many other countries. For example, a return is simply twice as expensive as a one-way flight. Discounts are very common from CAAC (China's Civil Aviation Authority) offices which are in most major cities. Purchase tickets from branches of the CAAC nationwide, airline offices, travel agents or the travel desk of your hotel; travel agents will usually offer a better discount than airline offices.

Travelling by train is cheaper than by air and China has a new and extensive high-speed railway system which reaches most major cities. There has been a huge investment in rail infrastructure in recent years. You can enter China by railway from multiple neighbouring nations such as Russia, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and North Korea. Trains are generally highly punctual in China and are usually a safe way to travel. Travelling on sleeper berths at night means you can frequently arrive at your destination first thing in the morning. There are many different kinds of tickets depending on the type of travel. Tickets are best booked in advance, particularly in summer or during the Chinese New Year period. The Trans-Mongolian Express trains are known for smuggling. Petty theft is also more common on overnight trains.

Long-distance bus services are extensive and cheap and allow you to reach places you cannot reach by train; with the increasing number of intercity highways. Most major routes and companies have modern buses but due to the size of the country, they can take a long time. For longer journeys, sleeper buses are often available.

Hiring a car in China is often highly challenging for foreign visitors and it is currently limited to Beijing and Shanghai, cities that both experience high levels of traffic congestion. Taxis are plentiful and cheap in most cities but can be slow due to the high volume of traffic. Avoid travelling in unmarked or unmetered taxis due to the increased risk of robberies and sexual assaults.

Using underground networks or light rail is fast, efficient and cheap; most networks are either very new or relatively recent and can be found in a rapidly growing number of cities, including; Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqing, Dalian, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hong Kong, Kunming, Shanghai, Shenyang, Shenzhen, Suzhou, Tianjin, Wuhan and Xi'an.

EMERGENCY DETAILS	
IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL 24/7 OPERATIONS CENTRE AT +44 (0)1202 795 801. LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES CAN BE REACHED BY DIALLING: POLICE – 110, AMBULANCE – 120, FIRE - 119.	
POLICE NUMBER	110
AMBULANCE NUMBER	120
FIRE NUMBER	119
EMERGENCY DETAILS	English speakers rarely work on the national hotlines. 999 should be used for all of the above services in Beijing and Shanghai, but it is privately operated.

TRAVEL

TRAVEL ADVICE

Visas must be obtained prior to entering China. This includes travel to Hainan Island and mainland China, but not Macao or Hong Kong. Some visa exemptions

may be made for large tour groups, although this will need to be confirmed by the tour operator. Authorities may collect biometric data, such as fingerprints and photos, upon entry to China. Travellers must register their place of residence with the local Public Security Bureau within 24 hours of arrival. If staying in a hotel, this is typically fulfilled by the hotel.

Information technology is heavily monitored and restricted in China. Many internet-based messaging services and social media websites are blocked in the country.

There is a high risk of corporate espionage targeting business travellers in China. Travellers working in sensitive industries are most at risk of being targeted. Methods include physical surveillance, elicitation and the use of eavesdropping devices. Additionally, actors can remotely monitor communications and access sensitive data through remote interception, with methods including monitoring via communications providers and cyber-attacks (which can be remotely conducted with the use of fake Wi-Fi networks, the exploitation of Bluetooth vulnerabilities, and simulated wireless carrier cell towers called 'stingrays'/IMSI catchers). Travellers should ensure they employ strict counter-espionage measures when travelling to China. These include the use of wiped loaner devices or burner phones, multi-factor authentication (MFA), and avoiding public Wi-Fi networks. Travellers should limit the amount of propriety data they bring into China which could be compromised. Business travellers should establish red lines for what information they are willing to share and bring in-country to achieve the objective of the business trip. As a default, business travellers should always assume that they are being targeted and implement the appropriate security protocols and countermeasures.

Beijing International Airport has been reported to have a high level of petty crime, which often targets foreigners. This primarily concerns theft and robbery. There is a risk to health in Beijing due to smog and air pollution. This can lead to citizens being urged to stay indoors for periods of time. This is conveyed via state news channels. Queues on public transport can be long, traffic delays are a regular occurrence in most Chinese cities and a hotspot for pickpocketing. Queues can be disorderly and pushing is to be expected.

Travellers should consider installing Alipay or WeChat on their phones, as cash-based transactions are becoming rare. Users can link their Chinese bank accounts, as well as Visa, MasterCard and JCB.

You can only travel to the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) on an organised tour and you must get a permit first through a specialised Chinese travel agent.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

FEBRUARY 16, 2026

- **Spring Festival Eve:** China - National

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

- **Chinese New Year:** China - National

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

- **Spring Festival Golden Week holiday:** China - National

MARCH 03, 2026

- **Lantern Festival:** China - Observance

MARCH 08, 2026

- **International Women's Day:** China - National

MARCH 12, 2026

- **Arbor Day:** China - Observance

MARCH 20, 2026

- **March Equinox:** China - Seasonal

SIGNIFICANT DATES

- **Zhonghe Festival:** China - Observance

APRIL 05, 2026

- **Qing Ming Jie:** China - National

MAY 01, 2026

- **Labour Day:** China - National

MAY 04, 2026

- **Youth Day:** China - National

JUNE 01, 2026

- **Children's Day:** China - National

JUNE 19, 2026

- **Dragon Boat Festival:** China - National

JUNE 21, 2026

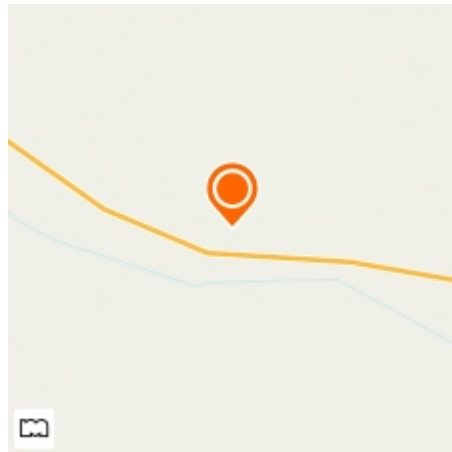
- **June Solstice:** China - Seasonal

JULY 01, 2026

- **CPC Founding Day:** China - Observance

RECENT ALERTS

MAGNITUDE 5.5 EARTHQUAKE DETECTED EAST SOUTHEAST OF DIANGA



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** High

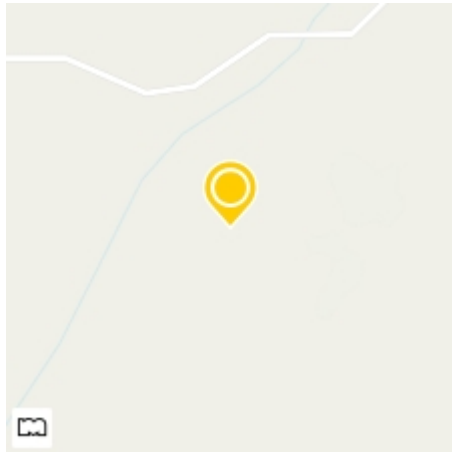


26-Jan-2026 07:18

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has detected a magnitude 5.5 earthquake 9 kilometres east southeast of Dianga, China. The tremor occurred at 06:56 UTC at a depth of 10.0 kilometres. There have been no reports of any casualties or damages at this time. Aftershocks remain possible.

MAGNITUDE 5.2 EARTHQUAKE RECORDED SOUTHWEST OF ZHAOTONG

RECENT ALERTS



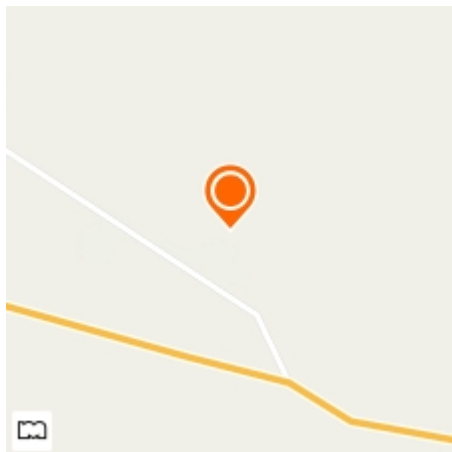
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



19-Jan-2026 11:50

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has recorded a magnitude 5.2 earthquake 38 kilometres southwest of Zhaotong, China. The tremor occurred at 11:32 UTC and at a depth of 10.0 kilometres. There have been no reports of any casualties or damages as of yet. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

LARGE EXPLOSION REPORTED AT STEEL FACTORY IN THE JIUYUAN DISTRICT OF BAOTOU, INNER MONGOLIA



RECENT ALERTS

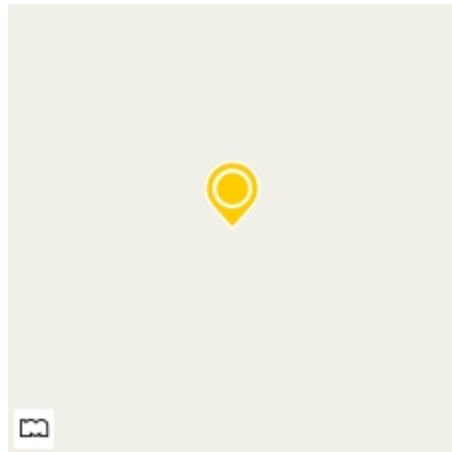
Category: Caution - **Risk:** High



18-Jan-2026 10:02

According to local officials, a large explosion has occurred at the Baogang steel factory in Jiuyuan District, Baotou, Inner Mongolia. The blast reportedly took place at approximately 15:05 local time and produced a tall column of grey smoke. The cause remains unclear. Emergency services are responding at the scene and have reportedly rescued at least five people. At this stage, there are no confirmed reports of casualties. We are continuing to monitor the situation and will update if there are any further developments.

MAGNITUDE 5.0 EARTHQUAKE RECORDED SOUTH OF DUNHUANG, CHINA



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



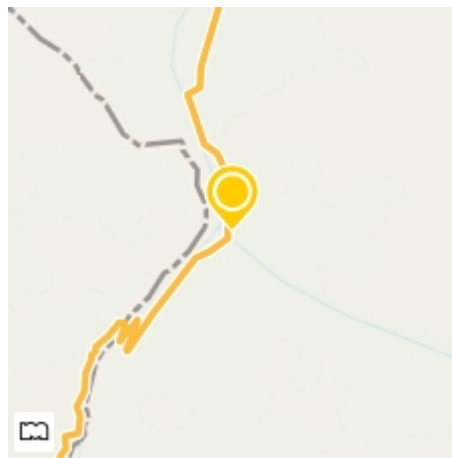
14-Jan-2026 23:40

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has recorded a magnitude 5.0 earthquake 282 kilometres south of Dunhuang, China. The tremor occurred at

RECENT ALERTS

23:18 UTC and at a depth of 10.0 kilometres. There have been no reports of any casualties or damages as of yet. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

LARGE WILDFIRE PROMPTS BORDER CROSSING CLOSURE IN CHINA'S NYALAM-KHASA AREA



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate

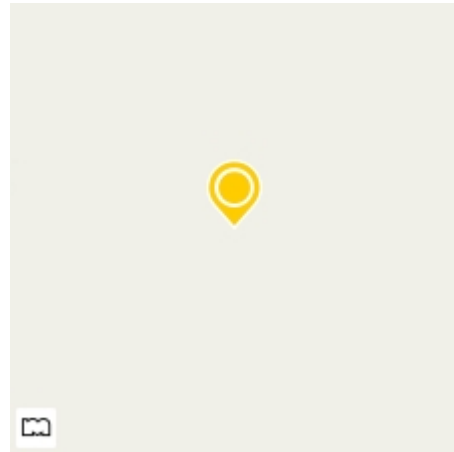


12-Jan-2026 18:26

Local media has reported that a large wildfire has prompted the closure of the border crossing between China and Nepal. The wildfire is located in the Nyalam-Khasa area with no containment of the fire being reported. Significant ashfall has been reported in the skies of Liping, Tatopani and the surrounding areas. It is unclear the extent of the fire and emergency services efforts however we will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

MAGNITUDE 5.0 EARTHQUAKE DETECTED 109 KILOMETRES WEST NORTHWEST OF KORLA, CHINA

RECENT ALERTS



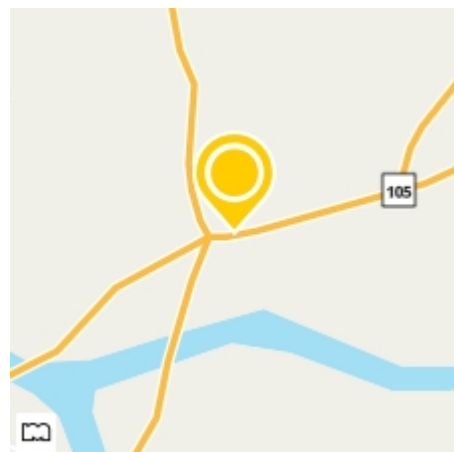
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



04-Jan-2026 08:57

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has detected a magnitude 5.0 earthquake 109 kilometres west northwest of Korla, China. The tremor occurred at 0830 UTC at a depth of 10.0 kilometres. No casualties or damages have been reported. Aftershocks remain possible.

CHIKUNGUNYA OUTBREAK REPORTED IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE



Category: Health - **Risk:** Moderate

RECENT ALERTS



18-Dec-2025 10:48

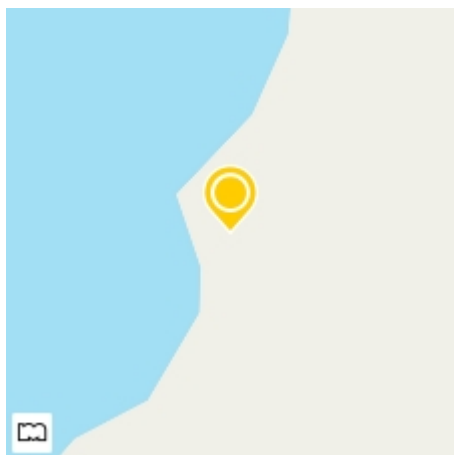
A "Level 2 Travel Health Notice – Practice Enhanced Precautions" is in place in response to an outbreak of the mosquito-borne virus, Chikungunya, in China. According to the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the outbreak is in the province of Guangdong, a coastal province of south-east China bordering Hong Kong and Macau. The country has seen more than 10,000 cases since July 2025, when the outbreak was first reported, which, according to media reports, is the largest outbreak of this disease to ever be recorded in China. Local authorities have implemented "mosquito eradication measures" in an effort to curb the spread of the virus. The World Health Organization's update on the global situation during 2025, published in October, reported that "a resurgence of chikungunya virus (CHIKV) disease was noticed in some countries, including some that had not reported substantial case numbers in recent years".

They go on to say that whilst more than 400,000 cases have been confirmed globally in 40 countries, some regions are "experiencing significant increases in case numbers compared to 2024, although others are currently reporting lower case numbers. This uneven distribution of cases across regions makes it challenging to characterise the situation as a global rise; however, given the ongoing outbreaks reported globally in 2025, the potential for further spread remains significant." According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC), the chikungunya virus is transmitted to people primarily by the bite of an infected mosquito, and if infected, a person may spread the virus to a mosquito when bitten, and "rarely to other people". The most common symptoms of the virus are fever and joint pain, and the best prevention measure is bite avoidance. Vaccination is available and recommended for some travellers.

Information sourced from the CDC and WHO.

MAGNITUDE 5.1 EARTHQUAKE RECORDED IN WESTERN XIZANG

RECENT ALERTS



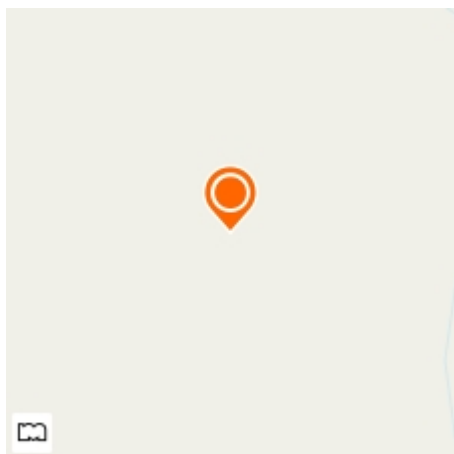
Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



11-Dec-2025 12:21

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has detected a magnitude 5.1 earthquake in western Xizang. The tremor occurred at 11:59 UTC at a depth of 10.0 kilometres. There have been no reports of any casualties or damages at this time. Aftershocks remain possible.

MAGNITUDE 5.8 EARTHQUAKE RECORDED NORTH NORTHWEST OF TUMXUK, CHINA



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** High

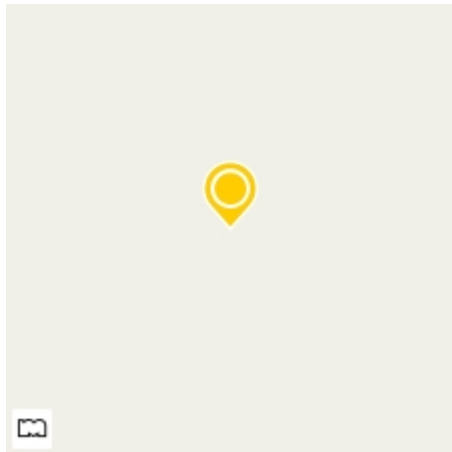
RECENT ALERTS



04-Dec-2025 08:03

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has detected a magnitude 5.8 earthquake located 138 kilometres north northwest Tumxuk, China. The tremor occurred at 07:44 UTC at a depth of ten kilometres. No casualties or damages have been reported at this time. Aftershocks remain possible.

MAGNITUDE 4.8 EARTHQUAKE RECORDED EAST NORTHEAST OF NAGQU, TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION



Category: Environmental - **Risk:** Moderate



02-Dec-2025 12:01

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has detected a magnitude 4.8 earthquake 99 kilometres east of Nagqu. The tremor occurred at 10:56 UTC at a depth of 10 kilometres. No casualties or damages have been reported at this time. Aftershocks remain possible.

FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 12/10/2025 12:44:40

Warnings and insurance

This travel advice covers mainland China. See travel advice for the Special Administrative Regions, [Hong Kong](#) and [Macao](#).

Typhoons

The typhoon season in China normally runs from May to November, affecting southern and eastern coastal regions. Air travel and other forms of transport can be affected. Monitor the progress of approaching storms on the [Japan Meteorological Agency](#) and the [China Meteorological Administration](#) websites.

See [guidance on tropical cyclones](#) for advice about what to do if you are caught in a typhoon.

Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)
- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about risks of travel to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow ECDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full [‘British citizen’ passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of China’s current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in China set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact the [Chinese Embassy in the UK](#).

Immigration authorities may collect biometric data, including scanned fingerprints and photos, to register your entry into China.

Medical screening on arrival or during your time in China

You may need to pass through medical screening on entry into China. This may be body temperature scanning, or more rarely testing such as throat or nasal swabs, blood tests or medical examinations. Recent changes to China’s ‘Frontier Health and Quarantine Laws’ means you may be refused entry into China if you do not comply with the screening measures.

Passport validity requirements

To enter China, your passport must have an ‘expiry date’ at least 6 months after the date you arrive and 2 blank pages for visas and stamping.

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

If you renew your passport while you are in China, contact your local exit and entry office or call the national immigration service hotline on 12367, before or immediately upon receipt.

Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

Chinese-British dual nationals

China does not recognise dual nationality. If you were born in China to a Chinese national parent, you will be:

- considered by the Chinese authorities to have Chinese nationality
- treated as a Chinese citizen, even if you used a British passport to enter China

If you enter China on a Chinese passport or identity card, the British Embassy will not be able to offer you help. If you have formally renounced Chinese citizenship, you should carry clear evidence that you have done so. See [guidance on nationality in China](#).

If you're a former Chinese citizen, Chinese authorities may:

- treat you as a Chinese citizen
- refuse you access to UK consular services

This can happen even if you entered China on a UK or other foreign passport and you:

- haven't renounced your citizenship according to Chinese law
- haven't formally advised the Chinese authorities of your UK citizenship
- continue to maintain a Chinese passport or household registration

Authorities may not allow certain categories of Chinese citizens, such as state officials, to renounce their Chinese nationality under Chinese law.

You should get professional legal advice if you're unsure of your citizenship status under Chinese law.

Visa requirements

You must have a visa to visit mainland China.

You can visit Hainan without a visa if you fly directly from an approved country or transit point. Check the [Hainan Authorities website](#) for more information.

Depending on your travel plans, visa free transit options are available, including staying in China for up to 10 days. Read the [Chinese Embassy's visa website](#) or the [Chinese National Immigration Administration website](#) for further information.

Visa requirements for [Hong Kong](#) and [Macao](#) are different.

Applying for a visa

If you're 14 to 70 years old, you must apply for a visa online and then go in person to a [visa for China application centre](#). Officials will take a scan of your fingerprints as part of your application. There are visa application centres in London, Manchester, Belfast and Edinburgh. If you're aged 13 or under, or 71 or over, you do not have to attend in person, but someone will need to submit your application on your behalf.

The Chinese Embassy has further information on [visa categories and how to apply](#).

If you visit Hong Kong from mainland China and want to return to the mainland, you need a visa that allows you to make a second entry into China.

Check your visa details carefully and do not overstay your visa. The authorities carry out regular checks and may fine, detain and deport you.

If you want to stay in China longer than 6 months, you may need to get a residence permit.

Teaching visas

Teachers have been detained and deported for working on the wrong visa. It is your responsibility to check you're working on the correct visa.

Working in China

You can only work in China if you have a work visa (Z visa). Tourist and business visas do not allow you to work. You must also hold a valid work permit. The local police regularly carry out checks on companies and schools. If you do not follow Chinese immigration laws, there can be serious penalties, including:

- imprisonment
- fines
- deportation
- an exit ban, which stops you from leaving China
- an exclusion order, which stops you from returning

Before you leave the UK, contact the [Chinese Embassy in the UK](#) to check Z visa requirements. When submitting your application, and when you receive your work permit, check the details are correct, including the location you'll be working in. If the details are incorrect – even if your employer or others submitted the application on your behalf – the authorities can detain you, fine you or deport you.

If you are going to change employer once you're in China, or change location in China with an existing employer, check with the Chinese authorities whether you need a new visa and work permit before doing so.

Vaccine requirements

To enter China, you must have a certificate to prove you've had a yellow fever vaccination if you're coming from a [country listed as a transmission risk](#).

For full details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's China guide](#).

Registering with the authorities

You must register your place of residence with the local Public Security Bureau within 24 hours of arrival. Chinese authorities enforce this rule with regular spot-checks of foreign nationals' documentation. If you're staying in a hotel, they will register you when you check in.

Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into or out of China](#). You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.

Safety and security

This guide also has safety advice for [regions of China](#).

Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

Terrorism in China

Terrorist attacks in China cannot be ruled out.

Although foreigners have not been specifically targeted, attacks may happen in places visited by foreigners. Take particular care during national holidays and at public transport hubs, and always follow the advice of the local authorities.

Risks under Chinese national security laws

Chinese national security laws have broad scope, and you can be arrested without having intended to break the law. See advice in the Laws and cultural differences section below for more information.

Political situation

China is ruled by a single political party. Though China is open to foreign visitors, be aware of political and cultural sensitivities.

Avoid any demonstrations or large gatherings. The Chinese authorities enforce public order strictly, and you may face arrest, detention and deportation. Foreign

journalists have been intimidated, assaulted or detained for trying to report on demonstrations.

You may risk becoming a target when there is an anti-foreign feeling or attitude in China. Keep informed of developments and follow the advice of the local authorities. During periods of tension, the authorities may block:

- news reporting
- access to text-messaging
- the internet
- international telephone lines

Posting, publishing or supporting political statements critical of China or the Chinese authorities could be viewed as illegal.

Crime

Serious crime against foreign nationals is relatively rare, but incidents can happen. Take care of your belongings at major tourist sites and other busy places, particularly where foreign nationals gather.

Indiscriminate attacks using vehicles as a weapon, and knife attacks, have occurred in public places including at schools, supermarkets and hospitals. Although rare, there have been isolated violent attacks that have impacted foreign nationals.

Drink spiking and sexual assault

Do not leave drinks unattended or accept drinks from strangers. Personal attacks and sexual assaults are rare, but they can happen, including through drinks being spiked. Women, travelling alone or with female friends, could be at higher risk.

Scams

Beware of scams in popular tourist areas. A common example is the 'tea tasting' or 'massage' scam. Friendly strangers may invite you to visit a bar, to drink tea or have a massage, and the establishment then demands a large fee. This can be followed by threats, violence or credit card fraud.

Inspect the QR code stickers on rental bicycles carefully before using them. The legitimate barcode can be replaced with a false code, which redirects money to a

different account.

Commercial disputes

Before entering a commercial contract in China, take legal advice, both in the UK and in China. Contracts agreed in the UK are not always recognised by Chinese courts.

If you're involved in or connected to a business or civil dispute, the Chinese authorities may impose an exit ban, which means you cannot leave China until the matter is resolved. British nationals have been detained against their will, intimidated and forced to pay money.

Violence is rare, but it can be threatened. Report any threats of violence to the Chinese police.

Laws and cultural differences

Personal ID

Always carry your passport with you. Police carry out random checks, especially during periods of heightened security and major sporting or political events. They do not accept printed copies. Failure to produce your ID can lead to a fine or detention.

National security laws

There is a risk of detention for alleged breaking of national security laws

China's authorities have detained foreign nationals who break national security laws. Both 'national security' and 'national interest' appear regularly in Chinese legislation and have broad scope. You may be detained without having intended to break the law. Activity that happened outside of mainland China – including online activity – could fall under the scope of mainland legislation. There is a risk of arbitrary detention, including of British nationals.

If you're detained on grounds of national security, you may be held for up to 6 months before formal arrest and denied legal representation before charges are brought.

Travelling to sensitive areas

All foreign nationals travelling to or around 'sensitive' areas might attract more attention from the authorities, including when:

- taking photographs
- engaging with political groups or charities
- engaging with ethnic minority populations

Sensitivities can change over time and may heighten around particular dates or events.

There are restricted military areas, where foreigners can be detained, fined or deported if found without prior authorisation. Signs typically indicate where these areas are, but it may not always be clear.

You may attract additional scrutiny while travelling around mainland China if you're a current or former employee of:

- foreign governments
- media outlets
- NGOs

This list is not exhaustive and may change over time. This is particularly relevant when travelling to areas with large ethnic minority populations, including but not limited to Xinjiang. See [Regional risks](#) for more information.

Religious activities and materials

The Chinese authorities formally recognise five religions: Buddhism, Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism and Taoism. Only officially registered religious organisations are permitted to carry out religious activities. Even officially registered organisations must observe restrictions on some religious activities, including preaching and distributing religious materials.

Updated [religious legislation](#) (Chinese language only) entered into force on 1 May 2025, setting out rules that foreigners must abide by when practicing religion in China. The paragraph below summarises some of the key information included in the link, but local legal advice should be sought for full and further detail.

Foreigners may participate in religious activity that complies with Chinese law in registered temples, churches, or other approved temporary locations. Foreign nationals may invite Chinese religious professionals to hold baptisms, weddings,

funerals, dojos, pujas, and other religious ceremonies for them. Foreigners wanting to hold religious activities or events in approved locations must meet the specific requirements and use the correct application procedures. One of these requirements (Article 10) is that Chinese religious professionals should preside over religious activity. Another (Article 16), is that group religious activities held by foreigners in China are limited to participation by foreigners in China. Collective religious events involving Chinese citizens are prohibited unless officially approved by the Chinese government. There are also rules for foreign religious professionals visiting China to give lectures or sermons, and those bringing in religious materials.

The Falun Gong movement and others that the authorities consider as 'cults' are banned in China.

Criminal proceedings

Chinese laws and procedures relating to the arrest, detention and trial of criminal suspects are different from in the UK. For example:

- if you're detained, only your legal representatives and consular staff from the British Embassy are allowed to visit you until your sentence is passed
- there is no trial by jury, the presiding judge or judges will reach a verdict and then pass sentence if they find the accused guilty
- if a case goes to trial, the conviction rate is 99%
- if an offence does not meet the threshold for criminal proceedings, the police still have the right to sentence someone for up to 15 days administrative detention without trial

The granting of bail is rare, and the criminal process can often last at least a year before a verdict is passed. If bail is granted the accused will not be permitted to leave China.

If you're suspected of a crime, the Chinese authorities can stop you from leaving China by:

- withholding your passport
- applying an exit ban
- detaining you for up to 37 days without charge

The thresholds for detention and prosecution in China differ from those in Hong Kong.

Exit bans

Foreign nationals can be subject to exit bans. Exit bans can:

- be put on people involved in commercial or private disputes to stop them from leaving mainland China
- relate to investigations into an individual, their family or an employer
- be used in criminal and civil matters, including business disputes

An exit ban can last for months or years or until a legal process is complete. You may not be aware you are subject to an exit ban until you try to leave mainland China.

Money

Cashless payments through smartphone apps such as WeChat Pay or Alipay are extremely common, especially in major cities.

Outside major cities, credit cards are not always accepted and ATMs are limited. It is not possible to exchange Scottish or Northern Irish banknotes.

Counterfeit banknotes (especially 100 renminbi notes) are common, including from ATMs. Banks will not replace them. Check notes carefully before accepting them.

Illegal drugs penalties and prison sentences

Possession, trafficking and manufacture of any illegal drugs, including cannabis, are serious offences in China. The Chinese authorities have a zero-tolerance policy and those caught face heavy fines, lengthy prison sentences, or the death penalty.

Airports in China have security equipment and procedures in place for scanning and detecting illegal items, including cannabis. This is also used to scan all the baggage of transiting passengers.

The Chinese authorities can randomly test foreign nationals for drugs, including on entry to the country. Police can also raid homes as well as nightclubs and

bars. If you're in a bar that's raided, you will be subject to on-the-spot testing and immigration checks. This may involve:

- being kept at the location, or another location, for several hours
- giving hair and urine samples
- passport and visa checks

If you test positive, the Chinese authorities can prosecute you regardless of where or when you took drugs. Testing positive for drugs, or being found in breach of your visa conditions, can lead to heavy fines, detention and deportation.

Internet access

The Chinese authorities control internet access. Internet access can be limited around key political events and dates. Some services are permanently blocked, including:

- Google
- Facebook
- YouTube
- X

Other websites may sometimes be blocked.

China's cybersecurity laws state that online products and services (for example, VPNs) need to be licensed by the Chinese government. See the [Ministry of Industry and Information Technology](#) (in Mandarin). Make sure you stay informed and follow Chinese law.

Building safety

Fire protection standards in Chinese accommodation are not always the same as in the UK. You should:

- check fire precautions, including access to fire exits
- make sure your accommodation has a working fire alarm
- regularly check fire exits are not blocked

Make sure your accommodation has a working carbon monoxide alarm. People have died of carbon monoxide poisoning due to incorrectly installed gas equipment.

Energy UK has [advice on how to stay safe and the symptoms to look out for](#).

Teaching in China

Thoroughly research the school or university that is hiring you in China and make sure you're confident they are following the law.

LGBT+ travellers

Same-sex relationships are legal in China, but public attitudes are less tolerant than in the UK. Showing affection in public may receive negative attention. There's no Chinese law guaranteeing freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Read more [advice for LGBT+ travellers](#).

Outdoor activities and adventure tourism

Hiking

Do not hike alone in isolated areas, including on the Great Wall, due to unpredictable weather conditions and the chance of injuries. Even when hiking in a group, leave your itinerary, mobile number and expected time of return at your hotel or with a third party.

Transport risks

Road travel

You must have a Chinese driving licence and valid insurance to drive in China. There are harsh penalties for driving without these, including fines and detention.

Drive with caution in China. Accidents are common due to:

- the poor quality of roads
- high volumes of traffic
- low driving standards

If you're involved in a serious traffic accident, call the police. Do not move your vehicle until they arrive but make sure you and your passengers are in a safe place. If there are injuries, you may be held legally responsible for medical costs. You will also be held responsible if you hit a pedestrian.

There are harsh penalties including fines, detention and imprisonment for driving under the influence of alcohol, even at very low levels.

Rail travel

You must show your passport to buy a ticket and to board a train in China.

Trans-Mongolian Express trains (Beijing-Moscow via Ulaanbaatar) are known for smuggling. Petty theft on overnight trains is common. Search your compartment and lock the cabin door before the train leaves.

Sea travel

Mariners should avoid the disputed territory between China and other countries in the East China Sea and the South China Sea. There have been incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the area. [ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre](#) has further information about piracy and armed robbery.

Taxis

Avoid travelling in unmarked or unmetered taxis, as there have been incidents of sexual assault and robbery against foreign nationals. In marked taxis, make sure someone knows where you are and try to take a note of the taxi's number.

Disputes over taxi fares can quickly escalate. Any physical altercation could lead to detention regardless of who is to blame. Insist on paying the metered fare and ask for a receipt. The receipt should have the taxi number on it.

Extreme weather and natural disasters

Find out what you can do to [prepare for and respond to extreme weather and natural hazards](#).

Earthquakes

China is in an active seismic zone and can experience major earthquakes. Learn [what to do before, during and after an earthquake](#) from the US Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Typhoons

The typhoon season in China normally runs from May to November, affecting southern and eastern coastal regions. Air travel and other forms of transport can be affected. You should monitor the progress of approaching storms on the [Japan Meteorological Agency](#) and the [China Meteorological Administration](#) websites.

See [guidance on tropical cyclones](#) for advice about what to do if you are caught in a typhoon.

Flooding

Flooding and storms are common between May and November. You should monitor [local weather reports](#) and follow the advice and instructions of local authorities, including any evacuation orders.

Regional risks

This section has safety advice for regions of China. It only covers regions where [FCDO](#) has specific advice.

You should also read [FCDO's overall travel advice](#) and [safety and security advice](#).

Tibet and the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)

You must get a permit to travel to Tibet and the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) through a specialist travel agent in China. You must also travel on an organised tour. The Chinese authorities sometimes stop issuing permits without notice or restrict travel to Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures (TAPs) in neighbouring provinces, even if you have a permit. Check with tour operators or travel agents and other media for information.

Once in Tibet, avoid large public gatherings. Political and ethnic tensions have historically generated violent protests. Security measures will be tight.

Unauthorised gatherings may be dispersed by force. Do not film or take photographs of public security forces or any altercations.

Local authorities will react negatively if you're found carrying letters or packages from Tibetan nationals to be posted in other countries.

You must ask before you take photographs in Buddhist monasteries.

The ability of the British Embassy to help British nationals in the TAR is limited.

Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

Violent unrest in Xinjiang has resulted in deaths. There are allegations that police use lethal force to disperse protests.

The Chinese authorities have a significant security presence throughout Xinjiang, both as a visible demonstration of state control and to respond quickly and harshly to any unexpected demonstrations or outbreaks of violence.

There have been widespread arbitrary arrests and extra-judicial detentions in Xinjiang, mainly affecting the local population, particularly Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities. You may be at increased risk if:

- you're of Turkic descent
- you have lived previously in Xinjiang
- your appearance or practices are perceived to be Muslim
- you publicly participate in Islamic religious practices
- you're a foreign national

Expect airport-style security measures, including passport and security checks, at shopping centres, markets and parks. You may need to give the security forces your phone number, have your photograph taken and explain why you are travelling. Organisations monitoring facilities in Xinjiang are at risk of harassment and detention.

Always carry your passport and avoid all protests and large crowds. Do not photograph or film protests, large crowds, security officials or installations, or anything of a military nature. Mosques and other religious sites are also considered 'sensitive' by the authorities.

The ability of the British Embassy to help British nationals in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is limited.

China-Myanmar border

There is continuing violence on the Myanmar side of the China-Myanmar border, which has occasionally spilled over into China. In early 2024, the Chinese authorities reported artillery shells from Myanmar had injured residents and

damaged structures within its territory in Yunnan province, prompting increased armed patrols along the border.

Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

Emergency medical number

Call 120 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccine recommendations for China](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

Altitude sickness is a risk in parts of China. Read more about [altitude sickness on TravelHealthPro](#).

See [what health risks you'll face in China](#), including:

- avian influenza
- dengue – present in Guangdong Province and some parts of China, mainly during the rainy season from May to November

Tap water is generally not safe to drink. Only drink bottled water.

Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

If you're take prescription medication, make sure you bring enough with you or have access to a supply in China. Certain medicines may not be available and you may be not allowed to bring others into the country. For more information, check with your GP and the [Chinese Embassy](#) before travelling.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

Healthcare in China

Healthcare is not free in China and can be very expensive. Make sure you have appropriate travel and medical insurance covering healthcare and medical evacuation and repatriation. For more information, see [medical treatment in China](#).

[ECDO](#) has a list of [doctors and medical facilities in China](#) where some staff will speak English.

Travel and mental health

Read [ECDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office ([ECDO](#)) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

Emergency services in China

Ambulance: 120

Fire: 119

Police: 110

Traffic Police: 122

Maritime Search and Rescue Centre: 12395

Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

Support from FCDO

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in China
- dealing with a [death in China](#)
- being [arrested or imprisoned in China](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

Contacting FCDO

Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

If your passport is lost or stolen, go to the nearest police station or Public Security Bureau and get a report of the incident.

Help in the UK

You can call [FCDO](#) in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow [FCDO](#):

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk service offers [information and advice for British companies operating in China](#) on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to

attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

STAY SAFE: Hotels



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence alerts within your vicinity.

SAFE TRAVEL: Health Tips

See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.

Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.

First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.

Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.
Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

THINK SAFE: Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information ([gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)).

DOCUMENT SAFE: Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself.

You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport

- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email SGR@solaceglobal.com for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact support@solaceglobal.com.

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