


CN Your First 7 Days in China

The Survival Checklist Every Foreigner Needs

DAY 1: SIM Card

- Go to China Mobile / Unicom / Telecom**
Any shopping mall has one. Bring passport. 15 min.
- Choose plan: ¥88/month**
20GB data + 100 min calls. Enough for first month.
- Test: send SMS to yourself**


DAY 1-2: WeChat Pay

- Download WeChat → Register with Chinese number**
- Me → Services → Wallet → Add foreign Visa/Mastercard**
 Limited: works at stores but NO peer transfers, some mini-programs blocked
- Test: scan any QR code at a convenience store**

DAY 2: Chinese Bank Account

- Go to Bank of China (中国银行) or ICBC (工商银行)**
- Bring: passport + residence form + phone number**
- Say: "我要开一个储蓄账户，请开通网上银行"**
Wǒ yào kāi yīgè chǔxù zhànghù, qǐng kāitōng wǎngshàng yínháng
- Link bank card to WeChat Pay + Alipay**
- Test: transfer ¥1 to a friend**

DAY 3-4: Apartment

- Download: Zillow (自如) — English, verified listings**
- Download: Beike (贝壳) — more listings, use screenshot translate**
- Download: Xianyu (闲鱼) — direct from landlords, NO agent fee**
- Budget: max 30% of monthly income**
- Visit 3-5 apartments in person BEFORE paying anything**
-  **RED FLAG: "Deposit to hold the room" before viewing = 99% scam**

DAY 5: Food & Transport

- Download Meituan (美团) — food delivery, 20-30 min, ¥3-5 fee
- Download Ele.me (饿了么) — backup food delivery
- Download Didi (滴滴) — China's Uber
- Metro: buy card (¥20 deposit) OR use Alipay → Transport QR
- Tip: use photo menu to order — no Chinese needed!

DAY 7: Essential Apps

- Alipay (支付宝) — backup payment + metro QR + utilities
- Amap (高德地图) — Google Maps is useless here. This works.
- Youdao Dict (有道词典) — offline Chinese-English
- Xianyu (闲鱼) — marketplace + local services
- VPN — install BEFORE arriving! (blocked in China)

Emergency

Number	Service
110	Police
120	Ambulance
119	Fire

Survival Chinese

English	Chinese	Pinyin
How do I use this?	这个怎么用?	Zhè ge zěnmè yòng?
How much?	多少钱?	Duōshǎo qián?
I want to go to...	我要去...	Wǒ yào qù...
I don't understand	我不明白	Wǒ bù míngbái
Please help me	请帮我	Qǐng bāng wǒ
English menu?	有英文菜单吗?	Yǒu yīngwén càidān ma?
Where is bathroom?	洗手间在哪里?	Xǐshǒujiān zài nǎlǐ?

 **Want the full 80-page guide?**

China Survival Starter Kit — \$4.99

Bank scripts, apartment hunting in Chinese, regional city guides, 10 editable templates

 [Get the Starter Kit](#)

Free checklist: xlingsecure.gumroad.com/l/china-survival-checklist