



Brief Introduction of China

🚩 Population & Land Area

China is situated in the eastern part of Asia on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean. It is the third largest country in the world which has an area of about 9.6 million square kilometers which comprises about 6.5 per cent of the world total land area. Its population of more than one billion accounts for 23 per cent of the world's population.

🚩 Multi National Country

China is a unified, multi-national country, comprising of 56 nationalities. The Han people make up 91.02% of the total population, leaving 8.98% for the other 55 ethnic minorities.

🚩 Language

Spoken by over one billion people Chinese is indeed the greatest language in the world. But rather than one language China has many “languages” or “dialects” that are based on the same written language. With seven major language groups (Mandarin, Cantonese, Hakka, Xiang, Min, Gan & Wu) the Chinese languages are strongly associated with individual dialects and different geographical locations. What is spoken in the North may not be easily understood in the South.

🚩 Weather

China has a continental and seasonal climate. Most parts are in the temperate zone but southern areas are in the tropical or subtropical zone while northern areas are in the Frigid Zone. Climates in different areas are complicated. For instance, northern Heilongjiang Province has a winter climate the year round without summer, while Hainan Island has a summer climate the year round without winter.

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Housing and Rentals

The cost of living in China is dramatically lower than that in the US, Australia, and Western Europe. A nice two bedroom, one bath apartment with wooden floors and marble counters in the kitchen will run around 4,500 RMB a month.

Utilities

Utilities are shockingly low, thanks to the government's continued subsidy. In the aforementioned apartment, one could expect to pay an additional 300 RMB in utilities per month.

Food & Dining

The cost of food in China is also very low, should you choose to cook at home rather than dine out. A bag of seven apples, for example, is about RMB 8. The price of essential food is controlled in China, keeping this expense manageable.

Should you choose to dine at one of the nicer Western or Asian restaurants in any major city in China, you can expect to pay about RMB 40-80 per plate.

Transportation

Public Transportation

Public bus in cities are the most common and popular form of public transport. Public bus fares in China are extremely cheap and usually cost a flat RMB1 or RMB 2. You pay the same price regardless of the distance you travel.

Underground trains can be found in large cities of China such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Shenzhen, etc. The fare range roughly is from RMB 2 to RMB 6.

Taxi Service

Taxis are easily flagged in the street and are generally clean and comfortable. Depending on the city you are in, fares starts from RMB 5 to RMB 12 and runs on taxi-meter.

Railway Trains

China has an extensive railway system and train fare is cheap and is very punctual. Railway stations are usually in a busy part of town. Some large cities such as Beijing or Shanghai may have as many as 4 railway stations. Be certain which station you need to go to as each station may serve different destinations.

Healthcare

Should you require a doctor or dentist in China, you have two options as an expat. First, you could attempt to negotiate your way into a local hospital, though authorities will be loath to admit you without a translator. Second, you could head to an expat clinic, where costs are enormous and the care subpar. Chinese cities are dotted with pharmacies where you can self-medicate cheaply.

Expat insurance is affordable, but used primarily for major medical concerns. In all, prepare to budget between RMB 100-200 a month for healthcare.

Telephone & Internet

The telecommunications industry in China is dominated by three state-run businesses: China Telecom, China Unicom and China Mobile.

Mobile phone fee costs between RMB 50 to RMB 200 per month. A broadband internet connection at home will cost you around RMB 60 per month. For cable TV connection you can estimate about RMB 20 – 40 per month.

Income Taxes

The first RMB4,800 of an expatriate's earnings in China is tax free (there are benchmarks at local tax bureaus on what a reasonable salary is in certain industries and this could vary with position, educational background and nationality).

Whenever you need assistance or whatever you would like to consult, please do not hesitate to contact your permanent and sincere friend "Wanco Manpower Pte Ltd". We are always here ready for you.