SWITZERLAND GLOBAL ENTERPRISE

China

Business Travel Guide

Compiled by:

Swiss Business Hub China

Beijing, March 2026

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Visas:

All travellers must hold a passport valid for at least six months from their arrival date in China. Swiss and Liechtenstein citizens generally need a visa to enter unless travelling under a current visa-free regime as described below; failure to have a valid passport or, where required, visa may lead to a fine and immediate deportation.

Visa-free entry:

On 4 November 2025 China extended visa-free entry for Switzerland and Liechtenstein until 24:00 on 31 December 2026. Swiss and Liechtenstein citizens with ordinary passports travelling for business, tourism, visiting relatives/friends, exchanges or transit are exempt from Chinese visas for stays up to 30 days from entry. Travel documents other than ordinary passports (including temporary or emergency documents) do not qualify. The exemption does not cover work, study, news reporting or similar purposes. Paid or unpaid work, internships and most training activities normally require the appropriate work visa and work permit.

Note: We recommend carrying supporting documents - invitation letter, onward/return flight tickets, hotel reservation, etc. - to help verify your purpose of visit upon entry to China. See the link for more details.

Visa application:

Since 15 February 2019, holders of ordinary passports must apply for Chinese visas via the Chinese Visa Application Service Center. The Centre has offices in Bern and Zurich. For current requirements and a step-by-step guide, see the Chinese Visa Application Service Center website.

240-hour visa-free transit in China:

China currently offers 240-hour visa-free transit to nationals of 55 countries, including Switzerland (excluding Liechtenstein). Eligible travellers transiting to a third country may enter visa-free through any of the 65 designated ports across 24 provinces, regions and municipalities and stay within the permitted area for up to 10 days. Requirements: valid travel documents and confirmed onward tickets with departure dates. Permitted activities in the designated area include tourism, business visits and family

reunions. Work, study or press reporting still require prior approval and the appropriate visa. See the link for more details.

Work Visa and Permit + Residence Permit:

Only the Z visa permits foreigners to work legally in China. It is required for entry; the applicant must also obtain a work permit and convert the Z visa into a residence permit within 30 days of arrival. Engaging in work activities while in China on a tourist visa or visa-free entry can lead to fines, deportation or other legal consequences.

China classifies foreigners into three categories - A, B, and C - based on skills, achievements and contributions. Authorities use this to issue the appropriate work permit, which typically takes about 10 days to obtain.

The residence permit allows stays in China and multiple-entry exit and re-entry. It is generally issued in about 7 days.

The residence permit's validity matches the work permit's duration. Renewal can start three months before expiry and must begin no later than one month before the expiry date.

See the links below for more details.

- Check list for Work Visa (Z-Visa) Application
- How to get a work permit
- A Guide to Working and Living In China For Business Expatriates (2025 Edition)

Arrival Card E-Filling Service:

As of 20 November 2025, foreign nationals are able to submit the required entry information online prior to travelling to China. This can be done through the National Immigration Administration's official website or service platform, the "NIA 12367" app, WeChat or Alipay mini programs, or by scanning the designated QR code with a mobile device. See the link for more details.

1. Online Arrival Card Submission Website: Arrival Card Filling
2. QR Code for Arrival Card Submission

Travellers who are unable to complete the information online may do so upon arrival at Chinese ports of entry by scanning the QR code, using self-service kiosks on-site, or filling out a paper Arrival Card. Please note that certain travellers are exempt from this requirement. See the link for more details.

Transfer from the airport to the city center:

- Official taxi (recommended): Upon exiting, you can join the taxi queue directly outside.
  - The average fare to the downtown area from Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) is about CNY100 to CNY120, see the link for more details.
  - The average fare to the downtown area from Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX) is about CNY220, see the link for more details
  - The average fare to the downtown area such as Jing'an Temple from Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) is about CNY185-CNY240, see the link for more details
  - The average fare to the downtown area such as Jing'an Temple from Shanghai Hongqiao Airport (SHA) is about CNY50-CNY70, see the link for more details
  - The average fare to downtown from Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport (CAN) is about CNY120, see the link for more details
- DiDi (the Chinese Uber): The DiDi app is available in English and supports linking foreign bank cards. A DiDi mini-program is also accessible in Alipay and functions the same. If you're new to the city, it's safer to take an official taxi.
- Subway: Most of the big cities have subways from the airport to the city center, you can check the costs and schedules here.

Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR): Special permits - typically arranged through a Chinese travel agency - are required for tourist travel in the TAR. Entering restricted areas without a permit can lead to fines, detention and deportation.

You must register your stay within 24 hours of arrival (via hotel staff or the local police); failure to do so may result in fines and deportation. Local rules require foreigners to carry valid passports and Chinese visas or residence permits at all times. Leave China before your authorized stay expires - overstaying can lead to fines, imprisonment and deportation.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

For visitors and tourists, China does not require any particular vaccines unless you are arriving from a country that has a high risk of yellow fever.

Consult your doctor to determine which vaccines and medications are recommended for you, taking into account your destination, the duration of your stay, your planned activities, and your country of departure if travelling from outside Switzerland. For further reference, please consult the Vaccines and Medicines Guidance published by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and visit the travel medicine platform Healthy Travel for comprehensive information on all travel-related vaccinations.

Mandatory medical insurance: Although travel medical insurance is not a formal requirement when applying for a Chinese visa, it is strongly recommended when travelling to China. Treatment at quality private hospitals can be significantly more expensive than at public facilities, and in the event of a medical emergency in a remote area, costly air evacuation services may be necessary. It is therefore best to be well prepared. When selecting a travel insurance policy, look for a provider that covers translation services, medical evacuation, and access to private hospitals, in order to ensure the highest level of comfort and security throughout your trip.

PUBLIC SECURITY / RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS

For most visitors, China remains a very safe destination. The most common safety risk is road traffic accidents. It should also be noted that the training, capabilities, and responsiveness of the Chinese authorities can vary significantly by region and even from one city to another.

When travelling abroad on business, there is always a risk of becoming a target of foreign intelligence services. This requires particular vigilance in China, given the broad investigative - and in some cases prosecutorial - powers of Chinese security services. Systematic preparation before the trip, followed by a post-trip evaluation, can help identify and mitigate potential risks early.

See FDFA Travel Advice for China for reference.

TIME ZONE

Despite its large geographic area, China has only one time zone: GMT/UTC + 8 hours

Time difference between Switzerland and China

- In summer, China is 6 hours ahead of Switzerland.
- In winter, China is 7 hours ahead of Switzerland.

China does not implement daylight saving time changes.

Daylight Saving Time in Switzerland: Clocks are set forward by one hour on the second Sunday in March and set back by one hour on the first Sunday in November.

BUSINESS HOURS

	Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays and Nationals Holidays
Government Offices	08:00-12:00; 13:30-17:30 (in summer) 08:30-12:00; 13:00-17:30 (in winter)	closed	closed
Banks	09:00 – 17:00	09:00 – 17:00 (only for individuals)	09:00 – 17:00 (only for individuals) Or closed
Shops	10:00 – 22:00	10:00 – 22:00	10:00 – 22:00

The above hours are for reference only. Working hours of government offices, banks and shops may vary from city to city.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

China's public holiday system features two major week-long breaks: Chinese New Year and National Day (1 October). These periods are managed by the State Council, which often adjusts surrounding weekends to create extended holiday blocks - sometimes requiring make-up workdays on Saturdays or Sundays before or after the break.

During these holidays, government offices close and the pace of public life slows considerably. Business activity tends to taper off in the days leading up to each break and typically takes about a week to return to normal once the holiday has ended. It is therefore advisable to avoid travelling to China during these periods - whether for business or leisure - as major cities become heavily crowded with domestic travellers, and reaching Chinese decision-makers can prove particularly challenging.

The Swiss Embassy in Beijing and the Consulates General in Shanghai and Guangzhou are normally closed for up to three days during these holidays.

New Year’s Day	January 01-03, 2026
Spring Festival / Chinese New Year	February 15-23, 2026
Tomb-Sweeping Day	April 04-06, 2026
Labor Day	May 01-05, 2026
Dragon Boat Festival	June 19-21, 2026
Mid-Autumn Festival	September 25-27, 2026
National Day	October 01-07, 2026

NATIONAL TRADE FAIR CALENDAR

The dates of the main trade fairs can be obtained from: AUMA database. You can also check the official websites of the main exhibition venues in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, such as China National Convention Center (CNCC); China International Exhibition Center (CIEC); National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC); Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC); China Import and Export Fair Complex (Canton Fair Complex) and Shenzhen Convention & Exhibition Center (SZCEC).

Please be aware that some English-language websites may offer only limited information.

COMMUNICATION: TELEPHONE AND INTERNET

China's country code is: +86

Local SIM card can be bought at stores operated by China's three major carriers - China Mobile (the largest), China Unicom, and China Telecom - all of which have a widespread presence across the country. Please note that in accordance with Chinese government regulations prohibiting anonymous mobile phone use, a valid passport is required for SIM card registration and activation.

Important phone numbers:

Police	110
Fire department	119
Medical emergency	120
Traffic accident reporting	122

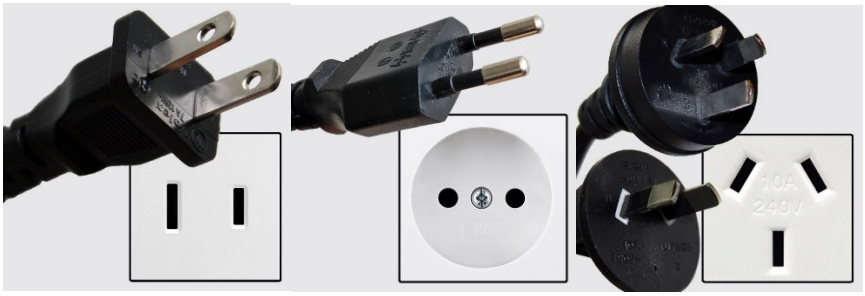
Internet coverage across China is extensive and generally reliable, except in sparsely populated or remote areas. Travellers should be aware, however, that China's "Great Firewall" blocks access to many widely used Western platforms and services - including Google (Maps & Gmail), Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, X (Twitter), and Instagram. These will be inaccessible when connected to local Wi-Fi. Using your Swiss mobile number with roaming data can allow you to bypass these restrictions and access the aforementioned platforms and services.

To access blocked websites and applications on your mobile phone, tablet, or computer while in China, some travellers use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs). Installing any VPN software should be done, if at all, before departing Switzerland, as downloading one once in China may prove difficult. Both free and paid VPN options are available; however, for security and reliability reasons, a paid VPN is advisable. Astrill is currently the most widely used option The use of VPN services in China is regulated, and some services are blocked; travellers should ensure that any VPN use complies with Chinese law and with their employer's internal policies. It is also prudent to avoid carrying unnecessary confidential or sensitive data on electronic devices when entering China.

eSIM cards are becoming an increasingly popular choice among foreign visitors to China. They offer a hassle-free way to access restricted services without the need for a VPN. Prepaid travel eSIMs can be conveniently purchased and set up online prior to departure, ensuring immediate access to high-speed data from the moment you arrive.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Electricity plug and socket: Plug & socket types around the world.



China operates on a standard voltage of 220V with a frequency of 50Hz.

For China, there are three corresponding plug types, types A, C and I. Plug type A is the plug with two flat parallel pins, plug type C is the plug with two round pins and plug type I is the plug with three flat pins in a triangular pattern.

Power Banks: When travelling to China, please note the following regulations regarding power banks:

- Air Travel: Power banks must always be carried in hand luggage - never in checked baggage. They must not exceed 100Wh (typically ≤ 20,000mAh) and must display a valid CCC (3C) certification mark. Since 28 June 2025, power banks without CCC (3C) certification are subject to confiscation at security checkpoints, with enforcement being particularly strict on domestic Chinese flights.

- High-Speed Trains: There are no specific power bank restrictions when travelling by high-speed train.

Most power banks sold internationally do not carry the required CCC (3C) certification for use in China, and non-certified devices are frequently confiscated at security. Travellers are therefore advised to leave such devices at home and instead rent or purchase a compliant power bank upon arrival in China, and to check the latest regulations with their airline or the relevant Chinese authorities before departure.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

China's official currency is the Renminbi (CNY), also commonly referred to as the Chinese Yuan.

Exchange rate as of March 4, 2026: CHF 1 = CNY 8.8089.

Exchange rates fluctuate; for the current CHF–CNY rate, consult your bank or an up-to-date financial-information source.

Travellers entering or leaving China carrying CNY 20,000 or more in cash or other monetary instruments are required to make a written declaration to customs.

Tipping is not a common practice in China; however, it is customary to tip tour guides, drivers, and hotel bellhops as a gesture of appreciation for their services.

Acceptance of methods of payment:

	everywhere	almost everywhere	limited	not accepted
Cash (national currency)	☐	☐	☒	☐
Cash (foreign currency)	☐	☐	☐	☒
MasterCard	☐	☐	☒	☐
Visa	☐	☐	☒	☐
American Express	☐	☐	☒	☐
Diner	☐	☐	☒	☐
Apple Pay	☐	☐	☒	☐
Google/Samsung Pay	☐	☐	☒	☐
Alipay	☐	☒	☐	☐
WeChat Pay	☐	☒	☐	☐

Cash is rarely used in China today, with mobile payments having become the dominant - and in many cases the only - accepted form of payment. Alipay and WeChat Pay together account for over 90% of all online retail transactions.

Since July 2023, both Tencent and Ant Group have enabled international cardholders to link their Visa, Mastercard, Diners Club, or Discover cards to WeChat Pay and Alipay respectively. Travellers are encouraged to set this up before their trip by following the relevant links below.

- Alipay (Taking MasterCard as an example): Travel Cashless in China with MasterCard and Alipay Step-by-step Guide
- WeChat Pay: Guide to Add and Use International Cards with WeChat Pay

In practice, Alipay tends to be the more convenient option, particularly once the in-app wallet function has been activated. Additionally, foreign visitors can receive CNY transfers from individual Chinese citizens' debit accounts, which can then be used for mobile payments across most merchants and services in China.

On 14 March 2024, the People's Bank of China released a Guide to Payment-Services in China to help foreign visitors navigate the country's cashless payment system, focusing on mobile wallets (Alipay/WeChat Pay), bank cards, and cash. The initiative simplifies, and in some cases enables, foreign users to link international cards to local apps.

Key Notes for Linking International Bank Cards:

- Bank Authorization: Your issuing bank must approve the card linking request. Some banks may decline due to system compatibility issues - in this case, contact your bank's customer service or consider using a Chinese bank card as an alternative.
- Transaction Fees: No service fee applies for transactions up to CNY 200. For amounts exceeding CNY 200, a service fee of 3% of the transaction amount will be charged.
- Transaction Limits: An annual limit of USD 50,000 and a single transaction limit of USD 5,000 apply to internationally linked cards.

DOMESTIC TRAVEL, LOCAL TRANSPORT

The most commonly used kind of public transport is Subway within cities. The quality of the services is good. For short distances or when time is limited, the subway is generally the most efficient option, though it can become very crowded during rush hours. For longer journeys within the city, a taxi or Didi is recommended. If you are planning to travel outside the city or have multiple long-distance trips throughout the day, hiring a car with a driver on a full-day basis is the most practical and comfortable solution.

Subway fares typically range from CNY 2 to CNY 8, depending on the distance travelled. City-specific public transportation cards are available for purchase at subway station counters and can be topped up with cash, via ticket vending machines, or in many cities through Alipay, WeChat Pay, or a dedicated app. These cards are valid across all public transport, including buses. Single-ride tickets are also available for occasional users.

For travellers visiting multiple cities, the TU Card (China Transit Union card) is an excellent all-in-one solution. This contactless transit card is accepted across more than 336 cities in China - including Hong Kong and Macao - covering all major modes of public transport, including subway, bus, taxi, and ferry.

Taxi fare for a 15 minutes journey: Taxi fares vary by city and are typically calculated based on a base fare, price per kilometer, and waiting time, with surcharges for long distances and night travel. Using Beijing as an example: the base fare covers the first 3 km (CNY 13), with each additional kilometer at CNY 2.30. Fares increase by 50% beyond 15 km and by 20% between 23:00 and 05:00. Practical tips: 1) As most taxi drivers do not speak foreign languages, carry your destination written in Chinese; 2) Bring small bills (CNY 5/10/20), as drivers may not always have change; 3) Always ensure the meter is activated at the start of the journey. Request a receipt - useful for expense reporting and recovering lost items; 4) Avoid unlicensed taxis, particularly those soliciting passengers at airports outside the official taxi queue.

Main ride hailing apps: In China, taxis and ride-hailing services are most commonly booked through apps such as DiDi, Meituan, and Gaode Dache. For foreign visitors, DiDi is the most accessible option, as it offers an English-language interface and supports payment via international bank cards. DiDi is also available as a mini program within Alipay for added convenience.

Main method of payment for taxi and subways: Alipay, WeChat Pay, cash or transportation card. International credit card are not accepted.

Car rental with/without a driver can be arranged at numerous companies:

- eHi Car Services https://en.1hai.cn/
- CAR Inc. https://www.zuche.com/
- SHOUQI Car http://www.shouqicar.com/

Renting a car independently is not recommended for most foreign travellers, as international driver's licences are not valid in China and a Chinese licence is required. Renting a car with a driver can also be challenging due to language barriers, as most rental companies do not have English-speaking staff. It is advisable to ask your hotel or local Chinese partners to arrange a car with an English-speaking driver on your behalf.

Domestic flights: China's domestic flight network is extensive, connecting major cities and remote regions with modern, often wide-body aircraft. Key carriers include Air China, China Eastern, and China Southern. Tickets can be booked through each airline's own website or app, via third-party platforms such as Ctrip.com, or through hotels, airline ticket offices, and local travel agencies. Travellers should be aware that flights in China are highly weather-dependent, and delays or cancellations are not uncommon.

Rail network: China's railway network is among the largest in the world, offering conventional trains, D-class services (up to 200 km/h), and High-Speed Rail (HSR) G-class trains reaching speeds of nearly 350 km/h. To put this into perspective, the 1,300 km Beijing–Shanghai journey now takes under five hours. HSR services are fast, punctual, comfortable, and clean, with seating available in second class, first class, and business class - advance booking of first or business class is recommended. Tickets can be purchased at railway stations, via the official 12306 website or app (best arranged with the help of a local partner), or through third-party platforms such as www.trip.com. Note that major cities such as

Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou have multiple railway stations, so always verify the correct departure station when booking.

ACCOMMODATION, TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE

High-quality accommodation is readily available across all major Chinese cities, with all leading international hotel chains well represented. Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and other key cities offer an impressive selection of 3- to 5-star hotels that meet Western standards. Reservations can be made directly through each hotel's official website or via various online booking platforms such as www.trip.com; www.booking.com

Short-term, shared, and flexible office spaces are available in all major Chinese cities. Please refer to the links below for further information.

https://www.wework.cn/

https://www.regus.com/en-gb/about-us

https://www.servcorp.com.cn/en/coworking/locations/

LANGUAGES USED FOR BUSINESS

While Mandarin Chinese and English are the primary languages used in business settings, English proficiency remains limited even in China's leading business destinations. A professional translator is therefore essential for negotiations. Prior to any meeting, a preparatory session with the translator(s) is strongly recommended to align on technical terminology and ensure accurate interpretation of key terms and concepts. It is equally important to adapt communication to be culturally appropriate and easily understood from a Chinese perspective - a trial run before important presentations can help avoid misunderstandings.

For day-to-day correspondence with Chinese business partners, WeChat is the recommended communication tool. With over 1.4 billion active users, it is the most widely used app in China for both personal and professional communication and features a built-in message translation function.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

Tips for initiating business contacts:

In China, cold calling and unsolicited emails are rarely effective ways to establish new business contacts. Instead, personal relationships - known as Guanxi - are the cornerstone of business culture. A warm introduction from a mutual contact goes a long way in building trust and credibility. Sharing a meal together is a time-honored way to strengthen these connections and create a comfortable environment for introductions.

When an in-person meeting is not immediately possible, asking your contact to share a new connection's WeChat is a perfectly acceptable and effective alternative, as WeChat serves as a vital social and professional networking tool in China.

Business card:

In China, digital networking via WeChat has largely replaced the traditional exchange of business cards, particularly in fast-paced and modern industries. Sharing a personal WeChat QR code for others to scan is now the standard practice, offering instant and seamless connectivity. That said, printed business cards remain relevant in more formal or traditional settings - such as senior-level meetings, government interactions, or diplomatic engagements - where exchanging a physical card is still regarded as a mark of respect and professionalism.

Scheduling Meetings:

Appointments should be scheduled at least one to two weeks in advance and reconfirmed by phone or email a few days prior. Avoid planning meetings around Chinese New Year and public holidays on 1 May and 1 October. Additionally, senior government officials and top management of state-owned enterprises may occasionally cancel or withdraw from meetings at short notice due to internal commitments that take precedence.

Business attire:

Dress code is increasingly important in Chinese business culture, as appearance is often seen as a reflection of one's status, taste, and professional attitude. The appropriate style will depend on the specific business context, so it is advisable to pack both formal business attire and smart casual clothing to be prepared for any occasion.

Introducing yourself:

A warm handshake and a smile are always a good way to open a business introduction. Making the effort to greet your counterpart with a simple "你好" (Nǐ hǎo - "Hello" in Mandarin) is a small but well-received gesture. Adopting an easy-to-pronounce Chinese name can also be helpful when engaging with non-English-speaking partners. Breaking the ice with observations about your travels in China or your impressions of the city is another effective way to ease into conversation.

While printed business cards are still used, having a WeChat account is equally - if not more - important today, as an increasing number of Chinese business professionals rely on electronic business cards shared directly via the app.

Building trust and personal relationships:

Building trust in China requires a long-term mindset. Make it clear to your Chinese partners that you are committed to a stable and sustainable business relationship - not looking for a quick return. Show genuine interest in the people you work with; remembering personal details, such as the name of a partner's child or asking about their weekend, can go a long way in strengthening rapport.

Being genuinely helpful - without expecting anything in return - is another powerful way to earn trust. If a Chinese business partner needs assistance beyond the scope of your role, making the effort to help will be remembered and appreciated. In Chinese business culture, goodwill and loyalty are rarely forgotten.

Offering and accepting gifts and invitations:

Gift-giving is an important gesture in Chinese business culture. Gifts that reflect the giver's cultural background are particularly appreciated - making this a natural opportunity for Swiss travellers to share something distinctly Swiss, such as premium chocolate and confectionery or the iconic Swiss Army knife, both of which are highly regarded in China. When in doubt, the advice of a Chinese colleague can be invaluable. Do note that certain gifts carry negative symbolism and should be avoided, such as clocks, shoes, umbrellas, and sharp objects. Gifts should be modest in value, with more senior individuals receiving something of greater perceived worth. Gifts are typically presented at the end of an introductory meeting or during a banquet, and it is customary not to open a received gift in front of others unless specifically invited to do so.

It is also common for Chinese business partners to invite you to dinner, drinks, or karaoke following a meeting as a way of strengthening the relationship. If your host insists, it is polite to accept - though it is advisable to be accompanied by a local staff member or interpreter.

Sensitive topics:

When engaging in conversation with Chinese counterparts, certain sensitive topics should be avoided. These include the "Three Ts" - Taiwan, Tibet, and Tiananmen - which are among the most politically sensitive issues for the Chinese government, as well as matters relating to Hong Kong, Xinjiang, the conflict in Ukraine, and any remarks about senior Chinese Communist Party (CPC) leaders.

BUSINESS RISKS

Risk of fraud: Please read S-GE online article China - Treat Unexpected Business Proposals with Caution to learn how to recognize fraud in China and how to deal with the situation.

Corruption: China is ranked 76th in the world according to the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The CPI uses a scale from 0 to 100 (100 is very clean and 0 is highly corrupt).

Currency volatility: China maintains strict control over its onshore currency, the yuan (CNY), which is traded on the mainland. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) manages the yuan through a controlled floating system, setting a daily reference rate (midpoint) each morning against a basket of currencies (USD, EUR, JPY), within which the yuan is permitted to fluctuate within a defined band. Unlike major freely traded currencies, the CNY operates under a managed system - neither fully fixed nor freely floating.

Legal certainty: Recent legislative developments have significantly tightened China's national security framework. The revised Counter-Espionage Law (in force since 1 July 2023) and the revised State Secrets Law (in force since 1 May 2024) broaden the scope of activities that may be deemed unlawful, including the gathering of information related to China's "national security or national interests." In practice, this means that activities conducted in the course of routine audits or inspections could potentially carry legal consequences. These are not merely theoretical risks. Enforcement actions have been taken against prominent Western companies, and there have been reported cases of executive harassment or detention, with some individuals prevented from leaving China for extended periods. Such legal conditions present clear challenges for sound and transparent business practices. That said, in non-sensitive sectors, there is comparatively greater legal certainty for foreign individuals and companies operating in China.

Please refer to SERV's website for the CRC risk classification of China.

Swiss Export Risk Insurance SERV insures political and *del credere* risks involved in exporting goods and services.

Products for exporters

Products for financial institutions

The full range of services and products offered by SERV can be obtained at www.serv-ch.com.

IMPORT OF SAMPLES AND CATALOGUES

Also known as "Merchandise Passports," ATA Carnets are international customs documents that simplify temporary importation procedures. In China, they are accepted for exhibitions and trade fairs, commercial samples, professional equipment, and sporting goods, but cannot be used for consumer goods, agricultural products, or most non-temporary imports. All ATA Carnet data is electronically transmitted to China Customs via CCPIT/CCOIC. Please refer to the link for details.

Goods imported for display or demonstration at trade shows are exempt from customs duty, provided they are re-exported within six months - an extension may be granted by the General Administration of Customs of China. Exhibition organizers must obtain advance customs approval and provide relevant shipping documents and an itemized list of exhibits. Customs officials may also request a deposit or guarantee letter.

It is important to note that "not for sale" food and beverage samples are generally not recognized as exempt by Chinese authorities. Under current regulations, such items remain subject to full tariffs, taxes, and product and label registration requirements. Exemptions may occasionally be granted by exhibition organizers, but these are typically one-time arrangements. Please refer to the link for further details.

USEFUL LOCAL WEBSITES, ADDRESSES, EMAIL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Business news	https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/ https://english.news.cn/ https://www.caixinglobal.com/ https://www.scmp.com/	
Customs hotline	http://english.customs.gov.cn/	+86 12360

ADDRESSES OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATES OF SWITZERLAND

Embassy of Switzerland in China

Sanlitun Donwujie 3, Beijing 100600, China

Tel.: +86 10 8532 8888

E-mail: beijing@eda.admin.ch

Website: www.eda.admin.ch/beijing

Opening times:

Monday to Thursday: 09:00 – 12:00, 14:00 – 16:00

Friday: 09:00 – 12:00, 13:00 – 14:00

Consulate General in Shanghai

22/F, Building A, Far East International Plaza, No. 319 Xianxia Road, Shanghai 200051, China

Tel.: +86 21 6270 0519

E-mail: shanghai@eda.admin.ch

Website: www.eda.admin.ch/shanghai

Opening times:

Monday to Friday: 09:00 – 12:00

Consulate General in Guangzhou

27/F, Kingold Century, No. 62 Jinsui Road, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510623, China

Tel.: +86 20 3833 0450

E-mail: guangzhou@eda.admin.ch

Website: www.eda.admin.ch/guangzhou

Opening times:

Monday to Friday: 08:30 – 12:00

(afternoon only on appointment)

ADDRESSES BILATERAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) - Zurich Head Office

Kappelergasse 158001 Zurich, Switzerland

Tel.: +41 44 421 3888 (9 AM - 5 PM); E-Mail: info@sccc.ch

www.sccc.ch (All offices of SCCC in Switzerland is available here.)

SwissCham Beijing

European Business Center, Unit 309, 3/F, Building 81, No. 4, Workers' Stadium North Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027, China

Tel.: +86 10 8468 3982; E-mail: beijing.members@swisscham.org

SwissCham Shanghai

The Weave, Room 402, 4th Floor, Building 1, No. 277 Wuxing Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai

Tel: +86 21 5368 1237; E-mail: shanghai.members@swisscham.org

SwissCham South China

Room 807, Building 10-B, Shenzhen Bay Ecological Park, Shenzhen 518057, China

Tel.: +86 20 3833 0450; E-mail: southchina.info@swisscham.org

SwissCham South-West China

Huang Shan East Road 68, Building 27, Yubei District, Chongqing 401121, China

Tel.: +86 23 6788 0606; E-mail: southwest.members@swisscham.org

ADDRESSES OF THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATES OF CHINA IN SWITZERLAND

Embassy of China

Kalcheggweg 10, 3006 Bern

http://ch.china-embassy.gov.cn/ger/

Opening times:

Monday to Friday: 09:00-12:00

Consulate General in Zurich

Bellariastrasse 20, CH-8002 Zurich

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