

Tips For China Train Travel

1. Arrive at train stations early.

Arriving early at train stations is crucial due to specific procedures and ticketing policies. In China, passengers typically wait in designated waiting rooms before boarding their trains. Moreover, train tickets are usually valid only for a specific train and departure time. If you miss your scheduled train, you'll have to reschedule or purchase a new ticket for another train. However, availability for the next train is not guaranteed, particularly for long journeys or during peak travel times. To avoid the risk of missing a train and encountering difficulties, it's advisable to arrive at the train station **at least 30-40 minutes** before the scheduled departure time. Please always consider the security check procedure and traffic conditions.

2. Security checks at train stations.

In China, security checks are a common procedure at various locations, including train stations, airports, major museums, key tourist sites, and metro/bus stations. At train stations, both individuals and their belongings are subject to thorough inspections. Passengers are required to remove certain items, such as power banks, from their bags for separate screening. In contrast, at other locations, only baggage screenings are typically conducted.

Items that may not be allowed to accompany you on trains include, but are not limited to, knives (even small ones), power banks without any identification, and sunscreen sprays (even those less than 100ml). If this is your concern, check "Luggage Regulation For Trains"

3. Your passport serves as your ticket. Go to manual check-in point.

After clearing security, check the station screens for your train number and the corresponding waiting room or gate number. Make your way to the designated waiting area and await your train's departure. Typically, the platform gates close 5 minutes prior to the train's departure time.

e.g. Beijing West Station



Beijing West Station is an old station and not a typical new High Speed Railway Station. But it is often the first station for you in China. The following stations are more in order and easy.

This is a waiting gate in Zhengzhou East Station.



Remember to head to the manual check-in point with your passport or seek assistance from station staff if you need help with the check-in process. Below is a sample of a train voucher for your reference. You will receive this small white paper from the local travel agent, which contains your train information.

中国铁路 China Railway

行程信息提示
Trip Information Reminders

Departure date YYYY-MM-DD Departure time
开车时间: 2024年4月6日 09:55

北京西站 G55 西安北站
From Beijingxi To Xi'anbei

Carriage & Seat No.
10车03A号 二等座 微

限乘当日当次车

外国人护照

电子票号: 1110800008032490072512024

订单号: FKW2893010 票价: 577.5元

温馨提示

1. 此凭条不可作为乘车凭证使用, 请您持购票证件进站检票乘车。
2. 为方便您在网上办理行程变更手续, 建议在行程结束后按需领取报销凭证。
3. 欢迎扫码查阅乘车须知、下载铁路12306APP。

请按行程信息提示乘车, 祝您旅途愉快!

出单: 1110800008 2024-03-23 14:07:21

4. Find your carriage.

On your way down the stairs towards the platforms, you will see a screen above in front of you that indicates the location of your carriage.



If you are unsure, you can always ask a fellow passenger or a member of staff for assistance.

5. Facilities.

1. Air Conditioning System.

2. Power Outlets: Most high-speed trains are fitted with 220V AC power outlets.

3. Catering Services: Most trains have dining cars or food vendors that pass through the train cars.

4. Water Dispensers: Water dispensers are available on the train, allowing passengers to access hot or cold water. Some high-speed train water dispensers are equipped with disposable paper cups.

5. Restrooms and Toilets: High-speed trains are equipped with both Western-style and squat toilets, and toilet paper is provided.

6. Luggage Storage: The area for large luggage is located at the connection between train carriages, while small luggage or carry-on bags can be placed on the overhead luggage racks above the train seats.

7. Free Wi-Fi: Some high-speed trains offer Wi-Fi services.

8. Entertainment Facilities: Certain trains may provide entertainment facilities such as on-board TVs or audio systems.

9. Smoke-Free Environment: All high-speed trains are smoke-free, providing a clean travel environment for passengers.

10. Safety Facilities: The trains are equipped with modern safety features, including emergency buttons and smoke detectors.

Here is what the inside of a second-class seat train looks like.



6. Ensure you disembark at the correct station.

1. **Understand the Announcements:** Trains in China typically have digital displays and audio announcements in both Chinese and English that inform passengers about upcoming stations and the train's destination.
2. **Use the Train Schedule:** Before your trip, familiarize yourself with the train schedule and the duration of each leg of your journey. Note the time you are supposed to arrive at your destination.
3. **Check the Station Screens:** As you approach your destination, look for digital screens on the platform or inside the train that display the train number and the station names.
4. **Listen for Announcements:** Pay attention to the announcements made on the train, which will inform you when you are approaching your station.
5. **Ask for Help:** If you're unsure, you can ask fellow passengers or train staff for assistance. Many train staff on high-speed trains speak English, especially on popular routes.

7. Exiting a train station.

Most of the time, you need to show your passport when you exit through the exit gate.

Enjoy your train trips in China!