

China Visa-Free Policy Q&A

As of September 28, 2025

Based on information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Immigration Administration

As of September 28, 2025, nationals of 47 countries holding valid ordinary passports may enter China without a visa for business, tourism, visiting relatives or friends, exchanges, or transit, with a maximum stay of 30 days per entry.

Q: Which foreign nationals are eligible for the unilateral visa-free policy to China?

A: Eligible countries include:

- **Europe (32 countries):**
 - Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland.
- **Asia (7 countries):**
 - Brunei, Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain.
- **South America (5 countries):**
 - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay.
- **Oceania (2 countries):**
 - Australia, New Zealand.
- **Other (1 country):**
 - Russia (policy validity period differs from other European countries).

Q: Do foreign nationals eligible for visa-free entry need to make a prior declaration to Chinese embassies or consulates?

A: Eligible foreign nationals do not need to make any prior declaration to Chinese embassies or consulates before entering China under the visa-free policy.

Q: How do Chinese border inspection authorities verify the purpose of entry, and what documents are required upon arrival?

A: Chinese border inspection authorities will examine the purpose of entry in accordance with the law. Those with purposes aligning with the visa-free policy (business, tourism, family visits, exchanges, or transit) will be allowed entry, while those with inconsistent purposes or other legally prohibited circumstances will be denied entry. It is recommended to carry supporting documents such as invitation letters, flight itineraries, and hotel reservations. The visa-free policy does not apply to those coming to China for work, study, or journalistic activities.

Q: Are there additional requirements for minors eligible for visa-free entry?

A: The visa-free requirements for minors are the same as those for adults, with no additional conditions.

Q: What are the requirements regarding the type and validity of entry documents?

A: Foreign nationals must hold a valid ordinary passport with sufficient validity to cover their intended stay in China. Those holding travel documents, temporary, or emergency documents instead of ordinary passports are not eligible for visa-free entry.

Q: How is the 30-day stay duration calculated?

A: The 30-day stay period under the visa-free policy is calculated starting from the day after entry and allows for a continuous stay of 30 calendar days.

Q: Can eligible foreign nationals depart for China from a country other than their country of nationality?

A: Yes, eligible foreign nationals may depart for China from any country or region outside China.

Q: Does the visa-free policy apply to modes of entry other than air travel?

A: The visa-free policy applies to all sea, land, and air ports open to foreign nationals (unless otherwise specified by laws, regulations, or bilateral arrangements). Those arriving by private transport must comply with relevant Chinese laws and regulations regarding entry and exit procedures for their vehicles.

Q: Does the visa-free policy apply to tour groups?

A: Yes, eligible foreign nationals, whether traveling in tour groups or individually, may enter China under the visa-free policy.

Q: If the intended stay exceeds 30 days, can the duration be extended?

A: Those planning to stay in China for more than 30 days should apply for an appropriate visa in advance at a Chinese embassy or consulate. If, after visa-free entry, an extension is required for legitimate reasons, they may apply for a stay permit from the immigration authorities of the public security organs.

Q: Are multiple entries allowed? Are there any restrictions on the number of entries or total stay duration?

A: Currently, there are no restrictions on the number of visa-free entries or the total duration of stay. However, foreign nationals must not engage in activities inconsistent with their declared purpose of entry.

Official Information Channels

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China website, National Immigration Administration website, and Chinese embassies and consulates abroad.