



## Tips for Trips & Study Abroad

# CHINA

**Be smart. Be subtle. Be safe.**

While China is generally considered safe, the country is not without certain risks – especially for student travelers.

Familiarize yourself with Chinese customs and regulations, but understand that the **legal system can be opaque and the enforcement of laws arbitrary**. Above all, China aims to preserve social harmony by **limiting political dissent and unrest**.

**Have no expectations of privacy** in public or private locations, and be prepared for **heightened scrutiny and surveillance**. Hotel rooms, residences, and offices may be accessed without the occupant's knowledge or consent.

## INFO

**Know Before You Go**



## TECH

**Don't Need It?  
Leave It.**



The **Chinese government** has publicly declared that it regularly **monitors private email traffic and Internet browsing**.

**Remove personal and sensitive information** from your devices before you travel. If you must bring laptops or cell phones, **keep them in your possession at all times**.

Do not accept **free thumb drives**, open **suspicious links**, or connect to **unsecured wireless networks**. Protect your electronics with up-to-date anti-virus software.

Understand that **many news and social media websites** (e.g., Facebook, Gmail, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) **are blocked in China**, and plan accordingly.

**Be cautious** (but courteous) **with strangers** who randomly express an interest in speaking with you – such as requesting to “practice English” or “share tea.” **Always ask the price** before enjoying drinks, meals, or other services to avoid exorbitant fares.

**Use only authorized taxis** and **trusted ride-share services**. Have your **destination written down** in English & Chinese.

Know what Chinese money looks like, and **watch for counterfeit currency**. Consider carrying small bills or using exact change, especially when using taxis. **Monitor your financial accounts** for signs of fraudulent activity.

**Be wary of suspicious calls** in which callers pose as police. **Never wire money** to unknown or unverified recipients.

## SCAMS

**Don't Fall for It**



## INTEL

**Reduce Vulnerability**



Be aware that **your conversations and communications are not private**, and **safeguard sensitive information**. Even if you don't consider the **content of your emails, contacts, or calendars** to be “secrets,” foreign intelligence operatives may still find such information valuable.

Be mindful of **strangers and acquaintances who probe you for information** or attempt to get you involved in what could become a **compromising situation**.

**Avoid gossiping** about your fellow classmates **or criticizing** your program or country. Information from these conversations could be used for **exploitation or blackmail**.

**For additional information:**

Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)  
OSAC China Crime & Safety Report: Beijing  
Consular Affairs (Travel.State.Gov)  
State Department: Students Abroad

**U.S. Embassy Beijing**  
No. 55 Anjialou Road, Chaoyang District  
Beijing, China 100600  
Phone: (+86-10) 8531-4000  
(or 011-86-10-8531-4000 from U.S.)

**Police: 110 | Ambulance: 120 | Fire: 119 | Traffic Police: 122 | [List of Available Hospitals](#)**

*U.S. citizens in need of emergency assistance should contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) unit at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.*