

Chinese for Travellers

50 Essential Phrases Before You Go to China

Mandarin Zest · 中文皮 · mandarinzest.com

① The Absolute Basics

1	Hello 你好 <i>Nǐ hǎo</i>	2	Thank you 谢谢 <i>Xièxiè</i>
3	You're welcome 不客气 <i>Bù kèqì</i>	4	Sorry / Excuse me 对不起 <i>Duìbuqǐ</i>
5	Excuse me (get attention) 劳驾 <i>Lǎojià</i>	6	I don't understand 我听不懂 <i>Wǒ tīng bù dǒng</i>
7	Please speak more slowly 请说慢一点 <i>Qǐng shuō màn yídiǎn</i>	8	Do you speak English? 你会说英语吗? <i>Nǐ huì shuō Yīngyǔ ma?</i>

② Getting Around

9	Where is...? ...在哪里? <i>...zài nǎlǐ?</i>	10	How do I get to...? 怎么去...? <i>Zěnmé qù...?</i>
11	Train station 火车站 <i>Huǒchē zhàn</i>	12	Metro / Subway station 地铁站 <i>Dìtiě zhàn</i>
13	Airport 机场 <i>Jīchǎng</i>	14	I want to go to... 我要去... <i>Wǒ yào qù...</i>
15	One ticket please 一张票 <i>Yī zhāng piào</i>	16	Turn left / Turn right 左转 / 右转 <i>Zuǒ zhuǎn / Yòu zhuǎn</i>
17	Go straight 直行 <i>Zhíxíng</i>	18	Stop here please 就在这里停 <i>Jiù zài zhèlǐ tíng</i>

Tip: Show your destination in Chinese characters on your phone — more reliable than speaking an address to a driver.

③ Accommodation

19	I have a reservation 我预订了 <i>Wǒ yùdìng le</i>	20	Check in 办理入住 <i>Bàn lǐ rùzhù</i>
21	Check out 退房 <i>Tuì fáng</i>	22	WiFi password WiFi密码 <i>WiFi mìma</i>
23	Is breakfast included? 包含早餐吗? <i>Bāohán zǎocān ma?</i>	24	Room key 房间钥匙 <i>Fángjiān yàoshi</i>

④ Eating & Drinking

25 A table for two
两个人
Liǎng gè rén

27 What do you recommend?
你推荐什么?
Nǐ tuījiàn shénme?

29 The bill, please
买单
Mǎidān

31 I'm vegetarian
我吃素
Wǒ chī sù

33 Water, please
要水
Yào shuǐ

26 Do you have an English menu?
有英文菜单吗?
Yǒu Yīngwén càidān ma?

28 I'd like this one
我要这个
Wǒ yào zhège

30 Delicious!
好吃!
Hǎochī!

32 No spicy please
不要辣
Bù yào là

34 Beer, please
要啤酒
Yào píjiǔ

Tip: WeChat Pay and Alipay handle almost all payments in China — many vendors no longer accept cash. Set up mobile payment before you go.

⑤ Shopping

35 How much does this cost?
这个多少钱?
Zhège duōshao qián?

36 Too expensive
太贵了
Tài guì le

37 Can you give a discount?
可以便宜一点吗?
Kěyǐ piányí yídiǎn ma?

38 I'll take it
我要这个
Wǒ yào zhège

39 I'm just looking
我只是看看
Wǒ zhǐshì kàn kàn

40 Bigger / smaller size?
有大/小一点的吗?
Yǒu dà / xiǎo yídiǎn de ma?

⑥ Health & Emergencies

Emergency numbers: 110 Police • 120 Ambulance • 119 Fire

41 Help!
救命!
Jiùmìng!

42 Call the police
叫警察
jiào jǐngchá

43 Call an ambulance
叫救护车
jiào jiùhùchē

44 I need a doctor
我需要医生
Wǒ xūyào yīshēng

45 I'm not feeling well
我不舒服
Wǒ bù shūfu

46 Hospital / Pharmacy
医院 / 药店
Yīyuàn / Yàodiàn

47 I'm allergic to...
我对...过敏
Wǒ duì...guòmǐn

48 I've lost my passport
我的护照丢了
Wǒ de hùzhào diūle

⑦ Useful Extras

49 Where is the toilet?
厕所在哪里?
Cèsuǒ zài nǎlǐ?

50 Have a wonderful journey!
旅途愉快!
Lǚtú yúkuài!