



# Relocating to China Checklist

Thank you so much for reaching the book Destination China and filing for this bonus checklist. I hope this helps you get started on your China journey, and if you have any questions or feedback, please send me a note at [site@michaelmichelini.com](mailto:site@michaelmichelini.com) !

- **Mike Michelini**

## Before You Leave Your Home Country

- Passport
- Extra pages in Passport
- Second form of Identification (Driver's license)
- Proof of Address (utility bill, official bill, within 90 days) for certain banks and account opening requirements
- Apply for a Chinese visa, but can also apply from Hong Kong if not enough time.
- Unlock your phone - most USA mobile phones are locked to their carrier and you need to ask them to unlock it. If not, you may need to buy a new unlocked phone in China. If you need a new phone, and buy Android, make sure to ask them to have a Google enabled Android (so you can get your email)
- Ask your home country's mobile carrier about roaming costs in China. You may be able to get a special plan to use your home country's mobile internet in China and it is awesome.



- ❑ VPN account, as Facebook, and almost every website you use will probably not work, I recommend Astrill.com (if you're already in China and the website is blocked, they setup GetAstrill.com for Chinese viewers)
- ❑ Notify credit card company you are traveling overseas (so they don't block you when you use it in a foreign country)
- ❑ A method for you to have money wired from your home bank to your bank in China. Clearly understand international bank fees from your bank.
- ❑ Add a family member / close friend signed as a power of attorney (POA) for documents in case a document needs signing that is important while you're overseas
- ❑ Some business leads in the city you are planning to relocate to for jobs and/or business
- ❑ Accounts on English expat websites for the city you are traveling to, start engaging with active members
- ❑ (Bonus) Bring some "famous" gifts that represent your home city / country to give to new friends upon arrival.
- ❑ Western medicine - can buy in China but better to have some initial stock so you're not rushing to find a pharmacy and nervous about which brand to buy.
- ❑ Signup for a non Google Gmail account, Google is blocked throughout China - and as much as I love Gmail - you should have a backup email address in case you're not able to get into your Gmail when arriving in China. Set the gmail to forward to this email (and keep a copy in your gmail)



## Once You Arrive in China

- ❑ Be prepared to live out of hotels / AirBnB for at least a couple weeks so you're not rushed into an apartment in the wrong area.
- ❑ Try to not have too many meetings booked in your first couple days, prepare to get over jet lag, get a bit adjusted to the area, and the food (may get food poisoning as well, so be prepared - happened to me and I was not mobile for 2 days!)
- ❑ Get a local China sim card for your unlocked phone
- ❑ If your home country's mobile phone isn't unlocked the China SIM won't work - I suggest just getting a Nokia phone for 100 Chinese Yuan (about 15 us dollars) at an electronics market. But later, I strongly suggest getting a smartphone
- ❑ Install Wechat mobile app, it is like Whatsapp for China, and everyone here uses it - you'll need a Smartphone though -so that Nokia I just recommended won't work - but you can use your home country's phone for internet.
- ❑ Print business cards - Put your new China mobile phone number, and wechat on it. Use this for all your networking.
- ❑ Attend expat networking events from the English language group websites you're a member of.
- ❑ Keep an open mind - you will meet some interesting characters, but that is part of the adventure.
- ❑ Take up meditation, or at the very least, take some quiet time out of your new hectic and stressful days. Try to keep your blood pressure low.