

Von Europäern, die in China leben – via LinkedIn

When you are taking a taxi, you should always take the address in Chinese, a cellphone and the phone number of the place you are going. Taxis in Beijing don't have GPS and most of the times they don't know how to get where you are going only by the address. Also always take with you the name of your hotel in Chinese.

If somebody bowed to you, remember to bow back.

Bring plenty of business cards to give away (and always use both hands when giving them). If you have time translate your card into Chinese and have it printed on the back that would be better.

No need to bring a lot of cash, ATM machines are everywhere. "Union Pay" is the most popular network here over Visa/Mastercard so while large malls, restaurants and hotels will gladly accept Visa/Mastercard you will need cash for shopping at the places mentioned in 2) above

During business meals with clients you will of course be introduced to the national beverage, Bai Jiu. This is a potent spirit with an average alcohol content of about 40% so take care as everyone will want to have a toast with you. At these banquets, be willing to try everything as you may be introduced to interesting oddities such as sea cucumber, shark fin soup or an array of internals from every sort of creature imaginable.

I assume you will have airport pickup (either through the hotel, your company or clients). If not you will arrive in Terminal 3, you will need to ignore any rogue taxi drivers (they are less and less these days) and go directly to the taxi queue and as mentioned above be prepared to have the hotel name and address written down in Chinese to give to the taxi driver. Depending where you are going (most likely East side of town) the fare should be less than 100RMB. I live in CBD and it costs about 90RMB. If you are going to the financial street toward the West side it will be more.

To avoid international roaming charges, you may want to consider bringing an unlocked GSM mobile phone and buying a SIM card when you arrive. If you plan to make regular trips to China, this card can be used when you come back so you will be connected from minute one next time. Please keep in mind that the "pay as you go" type SIM cards have an expiration date, so you will want to charge it each time you are back (or have someone do it for you here in country) to keep the expiration date pushed out.

You must experience some authentic Chinese cuisine, too much good stuff to mention here but in Beijing I would make sure you try Beijing Roast duck (everyone has their favorite place but Quanjude or Ya Wang are both very popular) and also hot pot.

The traffic here is terrible so if you are traveling around seeing the sights on your own, you may want to consider using the metro as the network is both very large and reliable. I will assume that either your company or your client will be shuttling you to meetings, this would be for "off time".

Lastly, bring an open mind and be prepared for sights, sounds and smells you have never experienced before.

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