



# China

The Great Wall, the Forbidden City, pandas and dumplings, in a land that has been writing its own history for more than 3,000 years.

## AT A GLANCE

## Facts to know

### CAPITAL

Beijing

### POPULATION

About 1,405 million (end of 2025), the second largest in the world after India

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Standard Chinese (Mandarin, called Putonghua), set by a law of 2000 as the national common language and written in simplified characters; the constitution itself names no official language

### CURRENCY

Renminbi, counted in Chinese yuan (¥)

### AREA

About 9.6 million km<sup>2</sup>, one of the four largest countries in the world

### GOVERNMENT

One-party socialist republic led by the Communist Party of China, with a president as head of state and a premier leading the government

### HIGHEST MOUNTAIN

Mount Everest (Qomolangma), 8,849 m, on the border with Nepal

### LONGEST RIVER

The Yangtze, more than 6,200 km, the longest river in Asia

### NEIGHBOURS

14 countries by land: North Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam; it also borders Hong Kong and Macau, its two special administrative regions. Across the sea: South Korea, Japan and the Philippines, with Taiwan across the Taiwan Strait

### DRIVES ON THE

Right

### CALLING CODE

+86

### TIME ZONE

One for the whole country: Beijing Time, UTC+8

# A 45-minute trip to China

Everything you need is in this pack. No preparation beyond printing. Adapt the timing to your group.

- |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>0 to 5 min</b>   | Welcome. Show the map page and find China together. Ask: who has been there, or knows someone from there?                                                                                       |
| <b>5 to 15 min</b>  | Read the facts at a glance, then three moments from the story:<br>1250 BC: Shang kings write on oracle bones; 1420: The Forbidden City is completed; 2008: Beijing hosts the Olympic Games.     |
| <b>15 to 25 min</b> | At the table: talk about Peking duck and Jiaozi (boiled dumplings).<br>Idea: bring a small taste (bread, cheese, fruit, tea) if your kitchen can help.                                          |
| <b>25 to 30 min</b> | Say it like a local: practise "N ho" (Hello), "Nín ho" (Hello (polite)), "Xièxie" (Thank you). Everyone says them together.                                                                     |
| <b>30 to 40 min</b> | Quiz: read the questions aloud, or play the big-screen version at <a href="https://worldstroll.com/countries/china/group">https://worldstroll.com/countries/china/group</a> . No scores needed. |
| <b>40 to 45 min</b> | Talk about it (questions page), then stamp or sign everyone's passport page.                                                                                                                    |

## You will need

- This printed pack (one per table, or one each)
- Pens for the quiz
- Optional: a world map or globe, a small tasting, music from the country

# China and its cities



- Beijing (Beijing Municipality): The Forbidden City, The Temple of Heaven, Peking duck, The Great Wall nearby, Hosting both the Summer and Winter Olympics
- Shanghai (Shanghai Municipality): The Bund, The Pudong skyline, Xiaolongbao soup dumplings, Yu Garden
- Xi'an (Shaanxi): The Terracotta Army, The Ming city wall, The Muslim Quarter food street, Roujiamo and biangbiang noodles
- Chengdu (Sichuan): Giant pandas, Mapo tofu and Sichuan pepper, Teahouses in People's Park, Sichuan opera face-changing
- Chongqing (Chongqing Municipality): Spicy hot pot, Yangtze river cruises, A monorail that runs through a building, Night views of the rivers
- Guangzhou (Guangdong): Dim sum and yum cha, The Canton Fair, The Canton Tower, Char siu barbecued pork
- Hangzhou (Zhejiang): West Lake, Longjing green tea, Silk, Lingyin Temple

- Suzhou (Jiangsu): Classical gardens, Canals and old water towns, Silk and embroidery, Tiger Hill pagoda
- Nanjing (Jiangsu): The Ming city wall, The Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, The Ming Xiaoling tomb, Salted duck
- Guilin (Guangxi): Karst limestone hills, The Li River, Rice terraces at Longji, Guilin rice noodles
- Harbin (Heilongjiang): The Ice and Snow Festival, Saint Sophia Cathedral, Russian-style Central Street, The frozen Songhua River

# A short history of China

Chinese history is often told as a chain of dynasties, ruling families that rose, governed for decades or centuries and fell. Early legends speak of even older kings, but the story below starts where writing and archaeology agree, with the Shang kings and their oracle bones.

## **1250 BC**      **Shang kings write on oracle bones**

From about 1250 BC, the kings of the Shang dynasty asked questions of their ancestors by heating ox bones and turtle shells until they cracked, then carved the questions and answers on them. Found near Anyang in Henan, these oracle bones are the oldest known large body of Chinese writing, and many of their characters are still in use.

## **551 BC**      **Confucius is born**

Confucius was born in 551 BC, by tradition, in the state of Lu, in today's Shandong. His teachings on family duty, respect for elders, learning and good government shaped Chinese life for more than 2,000 years.

## **221 BC**      **Qin Shi Huang unites China**

In 221 BC the king of Qin conquered the last rival kingdom and called himself Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor. He made one system of writing, money, weights and measures for the whole empire, joined older walls into a long northern defence and was buried near Xi'an with the Terracotta Army.

## **AD 105**      **Cai Lun presents paper to the emperor**

In 105 AD Cai Lun, an official at the Han court, presented the emperor with an improved way of making paper from tree bark, hemp, rags and old fishing nets. Simple paper existed before him, but his method made it cheap and common.

## **AD 618**      **The Tang dynasty begins**

The Tang dynasty, founded in 618, is remembered as a golden age of poetry, painting and trade. Its capital Chang'an, today's Xi'an, was one of the largest cities in the world and a meeting point for merchants who came along the Silk Road.

- 1271**      **Kublai Khan founds the Yuan dynasty**  
In 1271 Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, proclaimed the Yuan dynasty. By 1279 the Mongols ruled all of China, with their capital at Dadu, on the site of today's Beijing.
- 1368**      **The Ming dynasty is founded**  
In 1368 Zhu Yuanzhang, a former peasant and monk, drove out the Mongols and founded the Ming dynasty, first with Nanjing as its capital. Most of the Great Wall that visitors see today was built under the Ming.
- 1405**      **Zheng He's first voyage**  
In 1405 the admiral Zheng He sailed with a huge fleet of treasure ships on the first of seven voyages. His fleets reached Southeast Asia, India, Arabia and the east coast of Africa.
- 1420**      **The Forbidden City is completed**  
After 14 years of work by more than a million people, the Forbidden City in Beijing was completed in 1420. It was the home of 24 Ming and Qing emperors for almost 500 years.
- 1644**      **The Qing dynasty takes Beijing**  
In 1644 the Manchus of the Qing dynasty, founded in the northeast in 1636, took Beijing and began to rule all of China. The Qing was the last imperial dynasty of China. Men were ordered to wear their hair in the Manchu style, with a long braid called a queue.
- 1839**      **The First Opium War begins**  
In 1839 China tried to stop the British opium trade and war broke out. It ended in 1842 with the Treaty of Nanking, which opened ports to foreign trade and gave the island of Hong Kong to Britain.
- 1912**      **The last emperor gives up the throne**  
After the revolution that began in 1911, the Republic of China was founded on 1 January 1912, and on 12 February the six-year-old emperor Puyi gave up the throne. More than 2,000 years of imperial rule came to an end.
- 1949**      **The People's Republic is proclaimed**  
On 1 October 1949, after years of civil war, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China in Beijing. The Nationalist government of the Republic of China moved to Taiwan. The date is now celebrated as National Day.

**1978**

### **Reform and opening up begins**

In December 1978, two years after the end of the Cultural Revolution, the leadership under Deng Xiaoping began reforms that let farmers and businesses sell for profit and invited foreign investment. In the decades that followed, hundreds of millions of people rose out of poverty.

**1997**

### **Hong Kong returns to China**

At midnight on 1 July 1997, Britain handed Hong Kong back to China, after 156 years of British rule. It became a special administrative region with its own laws and currency. Portugal handed over Macau in 1999.

**2008**

### **Beijing hosts the Olympic Games**

The Summer Olympics opened in Beijing on 8 August 2008, the eighth day of the eighth month, a date chosen partly because eight is a lucky number in China. In 2022 Beijing also hosted the Winter Olympics, becoming the first city to hold both.

# What people eat in China

China has not one cuisine but many, often grouped into eight great regional traditions, among them Sichuan, Cantonese, Shandong and Jiangsu. As a rough rule, the north eats more wheat, as noodles, buns and dumplings, and the south eats more rice. A family meal is not served in courses: several dishes of meat, fish, tofu and vegetables go in the middle of the table at the same time, everyone has a bowl of rice, and people help themselves with chopsticks. In some regions soup comes near the start of the meal, in others at the end. At the New Year's Eve reunion dinner a whole fish is served and some of it is left over on purpose, because yú, fish, sounds like the word for surplus: 'may there be plenty every year'.

## Peking duck)

Beijing

A whole duck roasted until the skin is thin and crisp, carved at the table. You wrap slices of skin and meat in thin pancakes with sweet bean sauce, spring onion and cucumber. It was a dish of the imperial court and is now served at state banquets.

## Jiaozi (boiled dumplings))

Northern China

Half-moon dumplings of thin wheat dough, filled with minced pork and cabbage or other fillings, then boiled, steamed or pan-fried. In the north, families make them together on New Year's Eve, because their shape looks like the old gold and silver ingots used as money.

## Xiaolongbao (soup dumplings))

Shanghai and Jiangsu

Small steamed dumplings with a thin, pleated top, filled with pork and a hot, savoury soup. The Shanghai style comes from Nanxiang, once a village near Shanghai. The soup starts as a solid jelly of meat stock, which melts when the dumplings are steamed.

## Dim sum)

Guangdong (Cantonese cuisine)

Small portions served in bamboo steamers or on little plates with tea, for breakfast or lunch: shrimp dumplings (har gow), open pork dumplings (siu mai), barbecued pork buns and rice noodle rolls. Going out for dim sum with tea is called yum cha, 'drinking tea', in Cantonese.

## Mapo tofu)

Chengdu, Sichuan

Soft tofu in a red, spicy sauce with minced beef or pork, fermented broad bean and chilli paste and Sichuan pepper, which makes the lips tingle. It comes from a small restaurant in Chengdu in the 1800s; the name means 'pockmarked old woman's tofu', after the cook, Mrs Chen.

## Kung Pao chicken)

Sichuan

Stir-fried cubes of chicken with peanuts, dried red chillies and Sichuan pepper in a sauce that is spicy, a little sweet and a little sour. It is said to be named after Ding Baozhen, a governor of Sichuan in the 1800s, whose title was Gongbao, 'palace guardian'.

## Hot pot)

Chongqing and Sichuan (spicy style), also Beijing and many other regions

A pot of simmering broth in the middle of the table, into which everyone dips thin slices of raw meat, fish balls, tofu, mushrooms and vegetables to cook them. The Chongqing style has a fiery broth full of chillies and Sichuan pepper; Beijing's version uses a clear broth for thin slices of lamb.

## Char siu (barbecued pork))

Guangdong (Cantonese cuisine)

Strips of pork marinated in honey, soy sauce and five-spice and roasted until sticky and red at the edges. It hangs in the windows of Cantonese roast meat shops and is served sliced over rice or baked into buns.

## Egg fried rice)

All of China; the famous version with prawns and ham is from Yangzhou

Cooked rice stir-fried with egg and spring onions, a quick home dish that uses up rice from the day before. Yangzhou fried rice, from Jiangsu, adds prawns, ham and peas.

## Tomato and egg stir-fry)

All of China

Soft scrambled eggs cooked with juicy tomatoes into a sweet and savoury sauce. It is one of the first dishes many Chinese people learn to cook and is eaten at home all over the country, spooned over rice.

## Congee (rice porridge))

All of China, especially the south

Rice simmered in plenty of water until soft and creamy, eaten for breakfast or when someone is unwell. It is topped with pickles, spring onions, a fried dough stick or pieces

of fish, chicken or preserved egg.

## **Lanzhou beef noodles)**

Lanzhou, Gansu

Hand-pulled wheat noodles in a clear beef broth with slices of beef, white radish, coriander and red chilli oil. The cook pulls and folds the dough in front of you until it becomes long, thin noodles in about a minute.

## **Roujiamo)**

Xi'an, Shaanxi

A flat bread split open and stuffed with chopped, slow-braised pork. It is the classic street snack of Xi'an and is sometimes called a Chinese hamburger. In the Muslim Quarter of Xi'an it is made with beef or lamb.

## **Mooncakes)**

All of China

Round pastries with a thick, sweet filling of lotus seed or red bean paste, sometimes with a salted egg yolk inside to look like the full moon. They are given and shared at the Mid-Autumn Festival, when families gather to look at the moon.

## **Tangyuan)**

All of China

Balls of glutinous rice flour, often filled with black sesame paste, served in warm water or a light syrup. They are eaten at the Lantern Festival, on the 15th day of the New Year, because their round shape stands for a family together. They are soft and very sticky, so cut them small and eat slowly, especially for children and older people.

## **Longjing (Dragon Well) tea)**

Hangzhou, Zhejiang

A green tea grown in the hills around West Lake in Hangzhou. The leaves are pan-roasted flat by hand, and the tea is mild, fresh and slightly nutty. Tea in China is usually drunk plain, without milk or sugar.

## **GOOD MANNERS**

# **At the table**

- Never stand your chopsticks upright in a bowl of rice: it looks like the incense sticks placed for the dead at funerals. Lay them across your bowl or on the chopstick rest.
- Dishes are shared from the middle of the table, often on a turning glass tray. Take a little at a time, and use the serving spoon or the longer serving chopsticks if

there are any.

- At a formal dinner, drinks are usually taken together during toasts, often started by the host. 'Ganbei' means 'dry glass', and the host usually serves himself or herself last.
- When someone refills your tea, you can thank them without interrupting the conversation by tapping the table twice with two bent fingers.
- Friends and family often argue over who pays the bill, because paying shows generosity. As a guest, offer to pay, and accept graciously if your host insists.
- Wait until the older people or the host start eating before you begin, and turn the glass tray slowly, never while someone is taking food from it.

# Jiaozi (boiled dumplings)

Half-moon dumplings of thin wheat dough, filled with minced pork and cabbage or other fillings, then boiled, steamed or pan-fried. In the north, families make them together on New Year's Eve, because their shape looks like the old gold and silver ingots used as money.

## Ingredients

- About 40 round dumpling wrappers (from an Asian shop)
- 300 g minced pork
- 250 g Chinese cabbage (napa cabbage), finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus a pinch for the cabbage
- 2 spring onions, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
- 2 tablespoons light soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon Shaoxing rice wine or dry sherry
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- For dipping: black vinegar and soy sauce, mixed half and half

## Method

1. Sprinkle the chopped cabbage with a pinch of salt, leave for 10 minutes, then squeeze out as much water as you can.
2. Mix the pork, cabbage, spring onions, ginger, soy sauce, rice wine, sesame oil and salt, stirring in one direction until sticky.
3. Put a teaspoon of filling in the middle of a wrapper, wet the edge with a little water, fold into a half-moon and press the edges firmly together.
4. Bring a large pot of water to the boil, add about 15 dumplings and stir gently so they do not stick.
5. When the water boils again, add half a glass of cold water. Do this twice more. When the dumplings float and the filling is cooked through (cut one open to check that no pink remains), lift them out.
6. Serve hot with the vinegar and soy dip.

# Mapo tofu

Soft tofu in a red, spicy sauce with minced beef or pork, fermented broad bean and chilli paste and Sichuan pepper, which makes the lips tingle. It comes from a small restaurant in Chengdu in the 1800s; the name means 'pockmarked old woman's tofu', after the cook, Mrs Chen.

## Ingredients

- 400 g soft or medium tofu, cut into 2 cm cubes
- 150 g minced beef or pork
- 2 tablespoons doubanjiang (fermented broad bean and chilli paste)
- 1 tablespoon fermented black beans, rinsed and chopped (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic and a small piece of ginger, finely chopped
- 250 ml water or chicken stock
- 1 tablespoon cornflour mixed with 3 tablespoons cold water
- 1 teaspoon ground Sichuan pepper
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 2 spring onions, sliced
- Steamed rice, to serve

## Method

1. Put the tofu cubes into a pan of gently simmering salted water for 2 minutes, then drain. This firms them up so they do not break.
2. Heat the oil in a wok, add the minced meat and fry until browned and crisp.
3. Add the doubanjiang, black beans, garlic and ginger and fry for 1 minute until the oil turns red.
4. Pour in the water or stock, slide in the tofu and simmer gently for 5 minutes. Push the tofu with the back of a spoon rather than stirring.
5. Stir the cornflour mixture, pour it in and cook for 1 minute until the sauce thickens.
6. Sprinkle with Sichuan pepper and spring onions and serve with rice. For a milder dish, use half the doubanjiang.

# Egg fried rice

Cooked rice stir-fried with egg and spring onions, a quick home dish that uses up rice from the day before. Yangzhou fried rice, from Jiangsu, adds prawns, ham and peas.

## Ingredients

- About 400 g cold cooked rice (from 150 g uncooked rice, cooked the day before)
- 3 eggs, beaten with a pinch of salt
- 3 spring onions, sliced
- 100 g frozen peas, thawed
- 1 tablespoon light soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- Salt and white pepper

## Method

1. Break up any lumps in the cold rice with your fingers. Leftover rice should be cooled within about an hour, kept in the fridge, used within 24 hours and reheated only once, until steaming hot.
2. Heat half the oil in a wok, pour in the eggs and stir until just set, then lift them out.
3. Heat the rest of the oil until very hot, add the rice and stir-fry for 3 to 4 minutes, pressing and tossing, until every grain is hot.
4. Add the peas and most of the spring onions and stir-fry for 1 minute.
5. Return the eggs, add the soy sauce, a little salt and white pepper, and toss until everything is steaming hot.
6. Serve at once, with the rest of the spring onions on top.

# Tomato and egg stir-fry

Soft scrambled eggs cooked with juicy tomatoes into a sweet and savoury sauce. It is one of the first dishes many Chinese people learn to cook and is eaten at home all over the country, spooned over rice.

## Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 3 ripe tomatoes, cut into wedges
- 1 spring onion, sliced
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- Half a teaspoon of salt
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- Steamed rice, to serve

## Method

1. Beat the eggs with a pinch of the salt.
2. Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a wok, pour in the eggs and stir gently until they are cooked through and no liquid egg remains. Lift them out.
3. Heat the rest of the oil, add the tomatoes and cook for 3 to 4 minutes, pressing them with a spoon, until they soften into a sauce.
4. Add the sugar and the rest of the salt, then return the eggs and stir for 1 minute.
5. Sprinkle with spring onion and serve over rice.

# Congee (rice porridge)

Rice simmered in plenty of water until soft and creamy, eaten for breakfast or when someone is unwell. It is topped with pickles, spring onions, a fried dough stick or pieces of fish, chicken or preserved egg.

## Ingredients

- 150 g white rice (jasmine is good)
- 2 litres water or light chicken stock
- A thumb-sized piece of ginger, cut into thin strips
- 1 teaspoon salt
- To serve: sliced spring onions, a little soy sauce and sesame oil

## Method

1. Rinse the rice in a sieve until the water runs almost clear.
2. Put the rice, water or stock and ginger in a large pot and bring to the boil.
3. Turn the heat down, half cover the pot and simmer for about 1 hour 15 minutes, stirring now and then so it does not stick, until the grains have broken down.
4. Add more hot water if it gets too thick; it should flow slowly from a spoon.
5. Season with salt and serve in bowls with spring onions, a few drops of soy sauce and sesame oil.

# Useful phrases

## N ho

nee HOW · Hello

## Nín ho

neen HOW · Hello (polite)

## Xièxie

SHYEH-shyeh · Thank you

## Bú kèqi

boo KUH-chee · You're welcome

## Duìbuq

DWAY-boo-chee · I'm sorry

## Méi guānxi

may GWAHN-shee · It doesn't matter, no problem

## Qng wèn

ching WUN · Excuse me, may I ask

## Zàijiàn

dzai-JYEN · Goodbye

## Duoshao qián?

DWAW-shaow CHYEN · How much is it?

## Tài guì le

tie GWAY luh · That's too expensive

## Cèsu zài nr?

TSUH-swaw dzai NAR · Where is the toilet?

## W tīng bu dng

waw TING boo DONG · I don't understand

## Bú yào là

boo yow LAH · Not spicy, please

## **W bù chī ròu**

waw boo chir ROH · I don't eat meat

## **Hochi**

how-CHIR · Delicious

## **Midan**

my-DAH · The bill, please

## **Ganbei**

gahn-BAY · Cheers (literally 'dry glass')

## **Xīnnián kuàilè**

shin-NYEN kwai-LUH · Happy New Year

## **Gongxī fācái**

gong-shee fah-TSAI · Wishing you prosperity

## **Jiù mìng!**

jiuh-MING · Help!

## Things you might not know

1. The Great Wall cannot be seen from the Moon with the naked eye, and from orbit it is barely visible even in perfect conditions. China's first astronaut, Yang Liwei, said in 2003 that he could not see it.
2. The whole of China runs on one time zone, Beijing Time, even though the country is wide enough for five. In the far west, the clock runs well ahead of the sun.
3. As of the end of 2025, China had about 1,405 million people. For centuries it had the largest population in the world, until India overtook it in 2023, according to United Nations estimates.
4. Wild giant pandas live only in the mountains of Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu. About 99 percent of their food is bamboo, and in 2016 the IUCN moved them from Endangered to Vulnerable as their numbers grew.
5. Paper, printing, the compass and gunpowder are known in China as the Four Great Inventions.
6. Before the Chinese New Year, hundreds of millions of people travel home to their families. This travel season, called chunyun, is often described as the largest yearly human migration on Earth. In 2024 UNESCO added the Spring Festival to its list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.
7. As of 2025, China has the longest high-speed rail network in the world, about 50,000 km, more than the rest of the world put together.
8. Fortune cookies are not Chinese. They were made popular in California in the early 1900s, most likely from a Japanese cookie, and are almost unknown in China.
9. Eight is a lucky number because ba, eight, sounds like fa, to become rich. Four is avoided because sì sounds like the word for death, and some buildings have no fourth floor.
10. The Chinese name for China, Zhongguó, is usually translated as 'Middle Kingdom' or 'Central State'.
11. As of 2026, China has 61 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, one of the highest numbers of any country. The newest, added in 2026, are the porcelain workshops and kilns of Jingdezhen.

12. China shares land borders with 14 countries, as many as Russia and more than any other country, and has the longest land borders in the world, about 22,000 km.
13. The Yangtze is the longest river in Asia and the third longest in the world. The Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze is the largest hydroelectric power station on Earth.

#### TALK ABOUT IT

## Questions for the group

- Have you ever been to China, or has someone in your family? What do you remember?
- Have you ever tasted Peking duck or Jiaozi (boiled dumplings)? What is a dish you remember from a trip?
- Reform and opening up begins (1978). Do you remember hearing about it? Where were you then?
- Hong Kong returns to China (1997). Do you remember hearing about it? Where were you then?
- Have you seen The Great Wall at Mutianyu, in person or in pictures? Which famous place would you most like to see?
- If you could spend one day in any city of China, which would it be and why?

## QUIZ

# How well do you know China?

Circle the right answer. The answers are on the last page.

**1. Kung Pao chicken, a dish from Sichuan, is cooked with peanuts.**

- A) True
- B) False

**2. At which festival are mooncakes given and shared?**

- A) The Lantern Festival
- B) The Dragon Boat Festival
- C) The Mid-Autumn Festival
- D) The Qingming Festival

**3. Which city was long known in English as Canton?**

- A) Chongqing
- B) Shanghai
- C) Nanjing
- D) Guangzhou

**4. Visitors need their passport to buy tickets for and board long-distance trains in China.**

- A) True
- B) False

**5. At a market stall, how do you ask 'How much is it?'**

- A) N ho
- B) Duoshao qián?
- C) Cèsu zài nr?
- D) Midan

**6. Which phrase would you shout only in an emergency?**

- A) Midan
- B) Jiùmìng!
- C) Ganbei
- D) Hochi

**7. Who called himself the First Emperor after uniting China in 221 BC?**

- A) Kublai Khan
- B) Confucius
- C) Qin Shi Huang
- D) Puyi

**8. Golden Week, when trains and famous sights are packed, starts on which date?**

- A) 1 August
- B) 1 March
- C) 25 December
- D) 1 October

**9. According to UN estimates, China still had the largest population in the world in 2024.**

- A) True
- B) False

**10. Which is the more polite way to say hello, used for older people and strangers?**

- A) Xièxie
- B) N ho
- C) Nín ho
- D) Zàijiàn

**11. Britain handed Hong Kong back to China in 1999.**

- A) True
- B) False

**12. Which city's name means 'southern capital'?**

- A) Xi'an
- B) Beijing
- C) Nanjing
- D) Guilin

# Quiz answers

## 1. True

True. It is stir-fried with peanuts, dried chillies and Sichuan pepper, so people with a nut allergy should ask before ordering.

## 2. C) The Mid-Autumn Festival

Mooncakes belong to the Mid-Autumn Festival, when families gather to look at the full moon. Tangyuan rice balls are eaten at the Lantern Festival.

## 3. D) Guangzhou

Guangzhou, the home of Cantonese cooking. For centuries it was the main port where foreign merchants could trade with China.

## 4. True

True. Train tickets are issued in your name, and you show the same passport to enter the station and board.

## 5. B) Duoshao qián?

Duoshao qián? means 'How much is it?'. Cèsu zài nǎr? asks where the toilet is, nǐ hǎo is hello and miǎn asks for the bill.

## 6. B) Jiù mìng!

Jiù mìng! means 'Help!'. Hǎo chī means delicious, gān bēi is cheers and miǎn asks for the bill.

## 7. C) Qín Shì Huáng

Qín Shì Huáng, the king of Qin, took the title of First Emperor. He was buried near Xi'an with the Terracotta Army. Puyi was the last emperor.

## 8. D) 1 October

Golden Week starts on 1 October, National Day, and lasts about a week. The other very busy time is the Chinese New Year, in January or February.

## 9. False

False. The United Nations estimated that India overtook China in April 2023. At the end of 2025 China had about 1,405 million people.

## 10. C) Nín hǎo

Nín hǎo uses nín, the polite form of 'you'. Nǐ hǎo is the everyday hello, zàijiàn is goodbye and xièxie is thank you.

## 11. False

False. Britain handed Hong Kong back on 1 July 1997. It was Portugal that handed over Macau, in 1999.

## **12. C) Nanjing**

Nanjing means 'southern capital', and Beijing means 'northern capital'. Nanjing was the first capital of the Ming dynasty.

# China visa page

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Next stops

|                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Country: _____ | Country: _____ | Country: _____ |
| Country: _____ | Country: _____ | Country: _____ |

Play the interactive version, collect a stamp in your passport:

<https://worldstroll.com/countries/china>