

People from 74 nations can now enter China visa free

10th July 2025



China has made a big change to its visa system. More people can now visit the country without a visa. Citizens of 74 countries now have visa-free access to enter for up to 30 days. In addition, citizens from 54 countries can stay in-transit for 240 hours, but they

must have a ticket to a third country. China's government is slowly expanding its visa-free entry process, so it can grow its tourism industry and its economy. It started allowing visitors from more countries in 2023. Almost every European country and many nations from South America, Asia, and the Middle East have been added since then. More than 20 million foreign visitors entered China without a visa in 2024.

The number of Chinese tourists at sights in China still greatly outnumbers international tourists. However, the country is preparing for a big increase in the number of overseas travellers. Tour companies are trying to find guides and staff, to help more and more customers. Gao Jun, an English-speaking tour guide with 20 years of experience, is very busy. He said: "I'm flooded with tours, and I'm struggling to keep up." He has started a new business to train new tour guides. Jenny Zhao, a director of the luxury WildChina tour company, said: "The new visa policies are 100 per cent beneficial to us." She said business was up by 50 per cent compared to before the pandemic.

Sources: apnews.com / macaonews.com / gulfnews.com

Writing

No one should need a visa to visit any country. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

China / big changes / visa / countries / transit / ticket / tourism / industry / visitors / sights / overseas / guides / tours / experience / busy / tour guides / wild / luxury

True / False

- 1) China has made a few small changes to its visa system. T / F
- 2) Citizens of 74 countries can spend 2 months in China without a visa. T / F
- 3) Visitors from 54 countries can stay in-transit in China for 10 days. T / F
- 4) Not all citizens from European countries can visit China visa free. T / F
- 5) International tourists now outnumber Chinese tourists at sights in China. T / F
- 6) Tour companies in China are in need of tour guides. T / F
- 7) A tour guide said he experienced floods on a recent tour. T / F
- 8) A director of a luxury tour company said visas were bad for business. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. system | a. increasing |
| 2. citizens | b. trying hard |
| 3. expanding | c. process |
| 4. allowing | d. very much |
| 5. foreign | e. letting |
| 6. greatly | f. snowed under |
| 7. staff | g. passport holders |
| 8. flooded | h. helpful |
| 9. struggling | i. overseas |
| 10. beneficial | j. workers |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the most famous places in China to visit?
- c) How would the world be different without visa regulations?
- d) What are the bad things about travelling overseas?
- e) What are the best sights in your country?
- f) What do you think of the job of a tour guide?
- g) What do you know about overtourism?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a tour guide in China?

Phrase Match

1. have visa-free access to
 2. stay in-
 3. China's government is slowly expanding
 4. the Middle
 5. 20 million foreign visitors entered China
 6. the country is preparing
 7. an English-speaking tour guide with
 8. I'm struggling to
 9. The new visa policies are 100 per cent
 10. She said business was
- a. its visa-free entry process
 - b. beneficial to us
 - c. without a visa in 2024
 - d. for a big increase
 - e. transit for 240 hours
 - f. up by 50 per cent
 - g. East
 - h. 20 years of experience
 - i. enter for up to 30 days
 - j. keep up

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know about China?
- b) Where in China would you like to go?
- c) What do you think of visas?
- d) What are the good things about travelling overseas?
- e) What do you think of lots of tourists coming to your country?
- f) How important is the tourism industry in your country?
- g) How many countries have you visited?
- h) Which countries would you like to visit?

Spelling

1. a big change to its visa symtes
2. cnziseit of 74 countries
3. have visa-free csseca
4. stay in- rtnitsa for 240 hours
5. so it can grow its tourism sdinrtuy
6. More than 20 million figroen visitors
7. greatly runutobems international tourists
8. the country is preparing for a big eacneisr
9. I'm oefdold with tours
10. The new visa eioispcl
11. 100 per cent eicefanilb to us
12. mapdcore to before the pandemic

Answers – Synonym Match

1. c	2. g	3. a	4. e	5. i
6. d	7. j	8. f	9. b	10. h

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	For how long can citizens from 74 countries visit China without a visa?
2.	For how long can citizens from 54 countries visit China in-transit?
3.	What does China want to grow besides its economy?
4.	When did China start allowing more tourists into the country?
5.	How many overseas visitors went to China in 2024?
6.	What does the article say outnumbers international tourists at sights?
7.	What are tour companies trying to find?
8.	What did a tour guide say he was flooded with?
9.	What kind of tours does the company WildChina offer?
10.	By how much has business increased at WildChina since the pandemic?

Speaking – Sights

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- The Great Wall of China
- The Pyramids
- The Parthenon
- Sydney Opera House
- Big Ben
- Taj Mahal
- Niagara Falls
- Mount Fuji

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.