

# Currency

The official name for the currency of China is Renminbi (RMB). It is denominated into Yuan (元) or Kuai (块). Foreign currency can be exchanged for RMB at the airport, banks and hotels. Major credit cards are honored at most hotels. Banks usually open at 9:00 in the morning and close at 17:00 in the afternoon all working days.

# Transportation

Beijing has subways, taxis, buses for public transportation. Subway is convenient for most of the time. Avoid taking taxis / buses to the urban area (inside 3rd ring) during rush hours (typically around 8:00 and 18:00). You can get the route by public transportation on Google Maps.

To drive a car in China, you need a local driving license. Foreign driving license / international driver's license are not accepted in China. It is possible to obtain provisional driving license at Car Service Center, Beijing Airport Terminal T3-C, opposite to Gate 7 on Floor 1, the procedure may not be very easy though. Three 1-inch photos with white background are needed. Tel: 86-10-64530010 (Chinese only) / 86-10-12122.

# Climate and Clothing

Late July in Beijing is both summer and the start of tourist season in Beijing. The average temperature in Beijing is 25°C - 35°C . Generally, summer clothes such as shorts and dresses are enough for this time in Beijing. The sunlight may be very strong in the afternoon, so do prepare some sun-tan oil, lotion, cream if you are going to go outdoors. You may also pack a raincoat or umbrella for any sudden rain during travel.

# Electricity

Electricity is supplied at 220V, 50Hz AC throughout China. Major hotels usually provide 115V outlet for razor.

# Attractions

Over the 5,000 years history of China, Beijing has been the capital for many dynasties, Jin, Yuan, Ming, Qing, etc. It has many historical attractions. As the capital of China, Beijing is also a modern city with 20 million population. There are abundant place to visit in Beijing. You can get to most of the places listed below by subway except The Great Wall and Ming Tombs. If you take a taxi, show the Chinese characters to the driver.

For more information, see <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/beijing/>.

# Visa Information

Conference participants may need a Chinese visa to enter China. Specifically, those who are not Chinese citizens, need a Chinese visa. Participants can apply for a visa at the Chinese embassy or consulate in the region in which they live. For most attendees, it is easier to apply for a Tourist ("L") visa; an invitation letter is not required for obtaining a Tourist visa. To avoid uncertainty, participants will be advised to apply for a visa as early as possible. It is recommended that they apply for a Chinese visa at least 1 month in advance.

For more information regarding the requirements and procedure for obtaining a visa to China, please see <https://www.visaforchina.org/>, if your country is not listed on that website, please search for embassy or consulate in your region.

For example, Embassy of China in USA is at <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/visas/>.