



China Travel Tips for Foreigners

• Payment in China

Majority of payments in China are made via apps and online. The two app payment giants in China are Tencent's WeChat and Alibaba's Alipay. Both are being used for most things in China: in-store and online shopping, Didi and taxis (with QR code) and food delivery.

1. WeChat: Also known locally as Weixin, occupies 55% of the phone payment market. Its popularity heightened with its dual function as a social media, communication, and entertainment platform. It's used by over 90% of the Chinese populace, and more than 80% use it for peer-to-peer and retail transactions.
2. Alipay: A.k.a. Zhifubao, accounts for 40% of mobile payments. Integrated within Alipay are various other apps like Didi for rides and Taobao for shopping. More than 70% of China's population makes payments via Alipay. While many establishments display QR codes for both payment systems, do note that some smaller entities might only offer WeChat payment.

Setting up WeChat and Alipay Payment:

From July 2023, both WeChat and Alipay allowed foreign credit cards to be linked. Once you've done this, these apps will be your main payment gateway while in China. It's much more convenient. Here are some easy-to-follow steps for setting up.

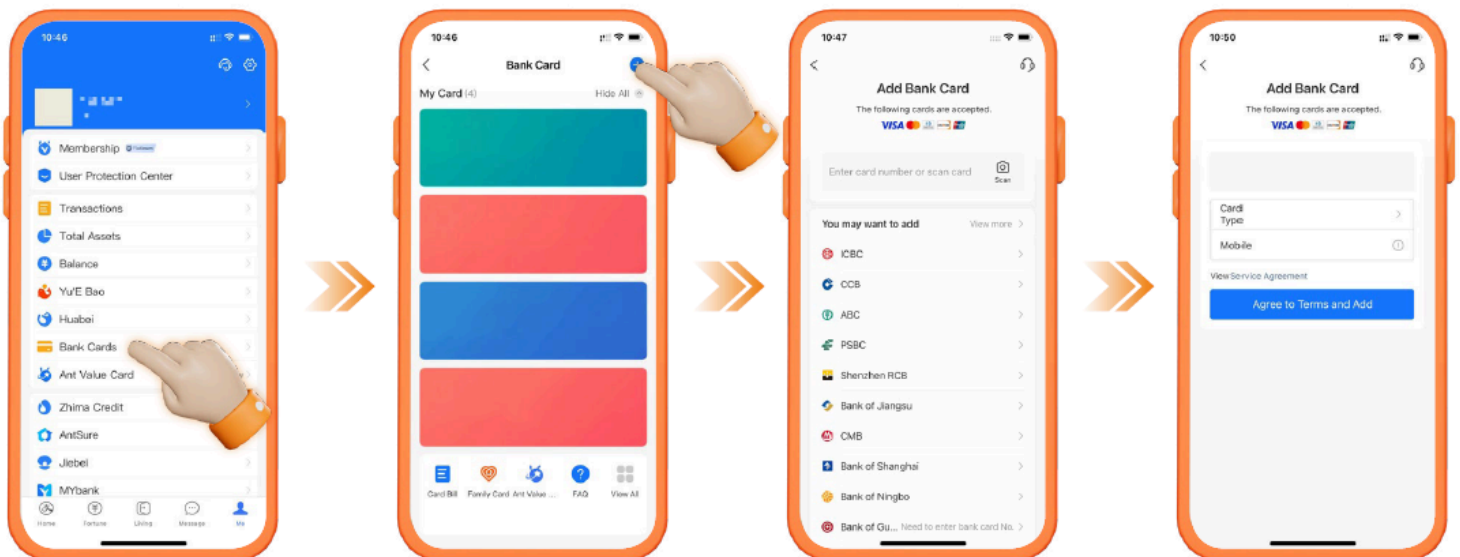
Download The App: Simply download the app at your Apple or Google Play store.

Register An Account: Click "Sign Up" or "Register" and provide your mobile number (even a foreign one)

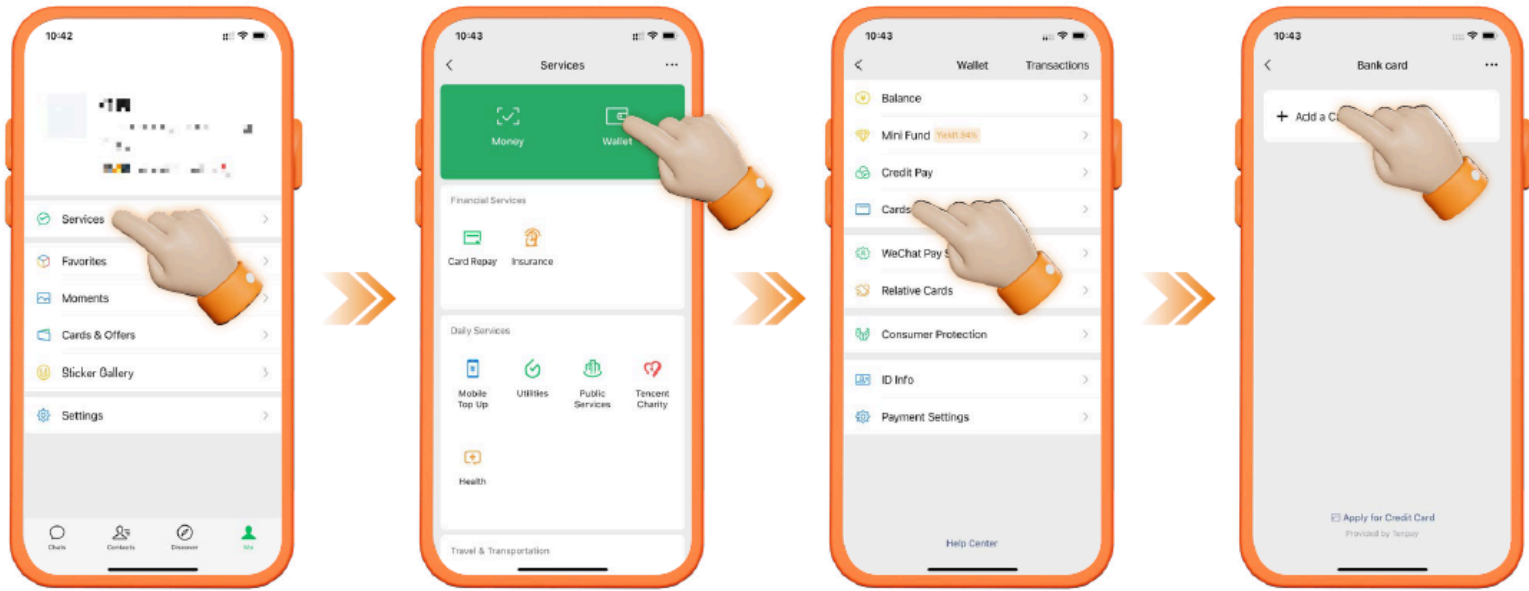
Verify Your Identity: Follow through with the verification process. You will need to answer some questions, fill in your passport details and upload a photo of your passport and take a photo of yourself to confirm your identity for both WeChat Pay and Alipay usage. Your passport information must match the details held by your bank.

Linking Your Foreign Credit Card:

- **Alipay:** Open the app, click on "Me", then "Bank Cards", and finally "+" to add your card.



- **WeChat:** Go to "Me", then "Services", "Wallet", "Cards", and "+ Add a Card".



Thankfully, both apps do not charge transaction fees for amounts below 200 RMB. For transactions over 200 RMB, a 3% fee is applied. Refunds are processed proportionately to transaction fees.

For those intending to stay in China for an extended period, you should consider getting a local phone and bank card to access the full range of Alipay or WeChat payment services.

Paying by QR Code

Payments using WeChat or Alipay can be done in 2 ways:

Scan the merchant's QR code using your app, input the payment amount, and your password.

Let the merchant scan your payment QR code.

Finding your payment QR code is simple. On Alipay, it's under the homepage's search box. On WeChat, it's under "Me", then "Wallet", and "Money".

If faced with a slow network connection, adjust your phone's positioning or connect to the establishment's Wi-Fi.

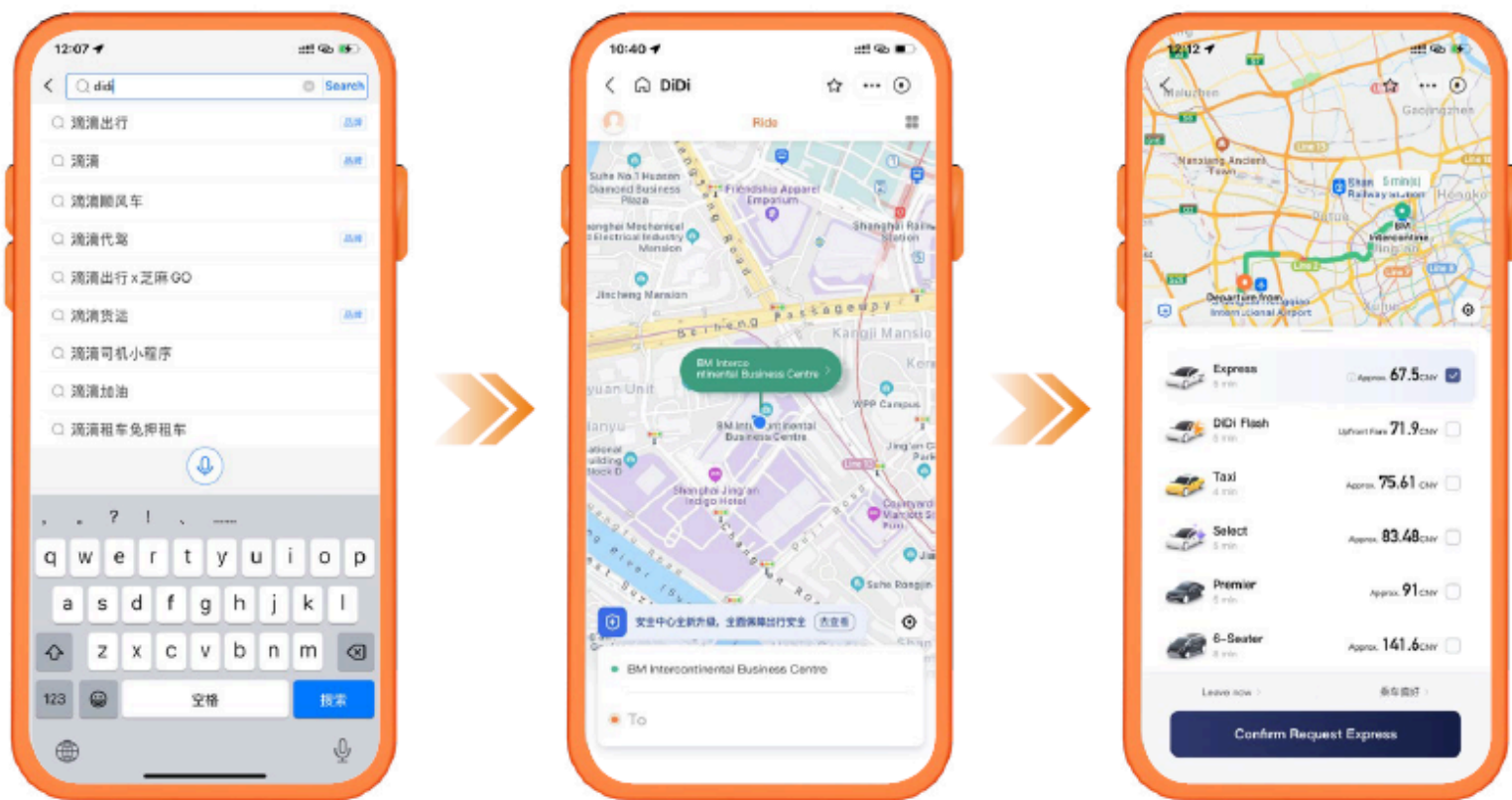
• Urban transportation

Most people in China use DiDi for taking taxi, you can find DiDi mini program in WeChat and Alipay.

Step 1: Search "DiDi" in your Alipay or WeChat APP.

Step 2: Choose your location and your destination.

Step 3: Choose your preferred type of car. (Taxi, Premier, and Express are recommended)



Step 4: Confirm the request and wait for the driver.

Step 5: The fee will be paid via your Alipay or WeChat account after you get off from the taxi.

• Dining in China

Ordering food in restaurant:

Most of the restaurants use Digital Menu for ordering by scanning the QR code on the table via WeChat or Alipay,

If you don't want to do so, please ask the waiter for a print menu and take the order.

Check the bill:

- Pay with Alipay or WeChat:

This is the preferred mode of payment in China, please set up your Alipay or WeChat payment account in advance.

- Pay by credit card:

This is available in big/formal restaurants, Master Card or Visa Card are acceptable, please communicate with the waiter in advance if you would like to pay with credit card.

- Pay by cash:

Please prepare small change and pay for the exact amount as most of the restaurants do not have enough cash on hand.

We wish you a pleasant journey in China and look forward to welcoming you at LFS GROUP 2024 AGM soon!

