

DIGITAL ARRIVAL CARD FOR FOREIGNER TRAVELERS ENTERING CHINA

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On November 20, 2025, China launched a Digital Arrival Card system (DAC) to replace paper arrival card for all foreign travelers except for seven specific exempt groups. Under the new system, you complete the arrival card digitally on your mobile device or your computer and receive a QR code receipt before your arrival. You will then provide the QR code receipt to the immigration officer to complete the immigration and customs process. If you have not completed the arrival card digitally before your arrival, you can use a kiosk or scan a QR code posted at the border to complete the process; however, this may slightly delay the immigration process.

The process is straightforward and the form is self-explanatory. It takes only 5-10 minutes if you have the required information on hand. You can only complete the form within 72 hours of arrival.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- **Do NOT confuse Arrival Card with Visa.** Arrival Card is not visa, and it will not exempt you from entering China without a valid visa if it is required.
- The digital arrival card is free and is administered by National Immigration Administration of China. **Please be aware of third-party websites that may charge you a fee, collect your personal information, and potentially delay the process.**

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at sivayam@usccc.org or +1-312-368-9030.

SPECIFIC EXEMPT GROUPS

The seven specific exempt groups that do not need to fill out the digital arrival card are:

- Holders of a Chinese permanent resident ID
- Holders of Hong Kong or Macao travel permits
- Travelers with group visas or eligible for group visa-free entry
- Travelers in direct transit within 24 hours without leaving the port area
- Passengers entering and exiting on the same cruise ship
- Travelers using fast-track lanes
- Foreign employees of entry-exit transport vehicles

THE PROCESS

You can complete the Arrival Card only within 72 hours before arrival through one of the channels:

- Desktop: <https://s.nia.gov.cn/ArrivalCardFillingPC/>
- Mobile: <https://s.nia.gov.cn/ArrivalCardFillingPhone/> or scan the following QR code
- Apps: NIA 12367
- Mini-Programs: WeChat or Alipay – scan the following QR code or search for “12367” under Mini Programs



If you have not completed the DAC before you arrive in China, you can use one of the following to fill out the information:

- Using one of the kiosks – please note that there are a limited number of them and the line could be long.
- Scan the QR code posted at the entry port and complete the form.

THE PROCESS

1. Collect the following:
 - Personal data on the information page of your travel document/passport
 - Visa information
 - Arrival flight/train/vessel
 - City of entry
 - Purpose of this trip
 - Date of entry
 - Cities intended to visit in China
 - Address or hotel name while in China
 - Phone number
 - Yes/No - Invitation from China? Return trip already arranged?
2. Access the App or the Website and select your language
3. Upload the information page of your travel document and confirm the accuracy of the data that are automatically extracted. Make sure that the image of your travel document is not blurry or cropped.
4. Fill out the information.
5. Review, agree, and submit.
6. Receive a QR code that is unique to the information you have submitted; save/screenshot the QR code immediately; print a backup copy if possible as backup; present the QR code to the immigration officer upon entering China.

ABOUT US

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U.S.-China Chamber of Commerce, 134 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2038, Chicago, IL 60602
Ph: (312) 368-9911 • Fax: (312) 368-9922 • E-mail: info@usccc.org • Website: www.usccc.org