

APPENDIX

-Basic information of Tianjin

Briefing

Tianjin is the third largest city in China.

The name “Tianjin” first came into use in 1404. It means "a port for the emperor." With an average altitude of 2-5 meters above sea level, Tianjin is the lowest city in China. The Jiushanding Mountain in the north is the highest peak in Tianjin at 1,078.5 meters above sea level.

With an area of 11,946 square kilometers (0.124% of the total Chinese territory), and a population of 15.6 million (around 1% of the national population in China), Tianjin is one of the four municipalities directly under the administration of China's central government (The other three are Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing).

After more than 600 years of development, Tianjin is the economic and logistics center as well as a key hub of sea-land-air communications in North China. It is attracting more and more attention from the world due to its rapid development during the recent years. In 2012, the Economist Intelligence Unit named Tianjin in the list of World's Most Competitive Cities.

The area of Tianjin began to be inhabited when the Grand Canal was completed in Sui Dynasty (581-618). The name of “Tianjin” first came into use in 1404 when the Emperor Yongle of Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) ordered the construction of city walls and the setting up of defenses. Thus was born a city that served as a stronghold and gateway for Beijing.

Tianjin is now divided into sixteen Districts: Heping, Hexi, Nankai, Hebei, Hedong, Hongqiao, Dongli, Xiqing, Jinnan, Beichen, Wuqing, Baodi, Ninghe, Jinghai, Jizhou and Binhai New Area.

Climate

Most of China experiences monsoons with cold dry winds from the north in winter and warm humid winds from the south and southeast in summer.

Tianjin has a semi-humid continental monsoon climate in the warm Temperate Zone. Tianjin features four distinct seasons with an average annual rainfall of 500 millimetres and 200 frost-free days per year. The average wind speed throughout the year is 2-4m/s.

Below is a chart which best describes the average temperature and climate in Tianjin/Beijing during the four seasons.

Season	Months	Temperature	Notes
<i>Winter</i>	<i>Nov. – Mar.</i>	<i>(-)1°C – 8°C</i>	<i>Snow/Dry/Smog</i>
<i>Spring</i>	<i>Apr. – May.</i>	<i>3°C - 13°C</i>	<i>Windy/Dry</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>Jun. – Aug.</i>	<i>19°C - 29°C</i>	<i>Hot/Rain/Humid</i>
<i>Fall</i>	<i>Sept. – Oct.</i>	<i>15°C - 25°C</i>	<i>Fine/Cool</i>

Currency

The basic money unit is the “Yuan” (元), which in daily oral language is referred to as “Kuai” (块). It is divided into 10 “Jiao” (角) more commonly referred to as “Mao” (毛). The smallest sub-division is the “Fen” (分) or Cent.

1 Yuan (Y) = 100 fen (cents)

1 Jiao (mao) = 10 fen

Notes are issued in denominations of: ¥100, ¥50, ¥20, ¥10, ¥5, ¥1; 5 Jiao, and 1 Jiao. Coins are issued in six denominations. The ¥1 coin is made of polished nickel with a smooth edge. It is marked ¥1 Yuan and shows the numeral 1. The 5 Jiao coin is worth 50 Fen or half a Yuan. It is made of brass and inscribed with Wu Jiao and the numeral 5. There are two 1 Jiao coins worth 10 Fen or 1 Mao. One is aluminium with the numeral 1 and the other is larger with an octagonal pattern around the edge, also made of aluminium. It is marked with the numeral 1 and Yi Jiao. There are coins for 5 Fen, 2 Fen and 1 Fen.

Electrical voltage

Electricity in China is 220 volts, 50 Hz AC. Electrical sockets come in at least four designs: three-pronged angled sockets (UK/Australia), three-pronged round sockets (Hong Kong), two-pronged flat sockets (US) and two-pronged narrow round sockets (Europe).

Conversion plugs, battery chargers, and industrial converters for larger appliances, such as computers, are easily available at IT and electric appliances shops in Tianjin. You can also buy via e-shopping.

Language

The official “common language” of China is Pǔ tōng huà (普通话) or Mandarin as it is called in English. Tianjin has its local dialect, but Pǔ tōng huà is widely used in daily work. Pinyin is the name given to the written script using Roman letters to represent the pronunciation of characters. Sounds are as they are pronounced in English but with a few exceptions:

c is pronounced ‘ts’ as in “its”

q is pronounced ‘ch’ as in “choose”

x is pronounced ‘sh’ as in “short”

z is pronounced ‘ds’ as in “bids”

zh is pronounced as the initial ‘j’

Local time

One standard time operates across all of China. Tianjin is eight hours ahead of GMT and thirteen hours ahead of EST.

Security

The crime rate in China is low, and in Tianjin it is even lower. Although crimes against expatriates are uncommon, common sense should prevail and normal precautions should be

observed. Identification or a copy should be carried with you at all times.

IMPORTANT: According to the regulations from the Public Security Bureau (PSB), if a non-Chinese passport holder lives in or moves to an accommodation other than hotels or serviced accommodations, within 24 hours after arrival, he/she shall apply for a Residence Registration Card (Bèi chá kǎ 备查卡) at the living quarters district's PSB office. This is compulsory and not negotiable and it is a must later when applying for your residence permit or extending your visa. **E-SMART** will assist our clients with such applications.



Television

Public satellite TV programs are available in most decent hotels and serviced accommodations. Individual satellite TV system can be subscribed if you live in private accommodations. Chinese Central Television (CCTV) airs in five foreign language channels: English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian, with news, cultural, current affairs and general entertainment programs.



Tipping

It is not a local custom to tip although tipping is becoming a common practice at places frequently used by expatriates such as restaurants, hotels, taxi service and travel services. A 10-15% service surcharge is automatically added to your bill in hotel restaurants, so in this case tipping is not customary.

Weights and measures

China has converted to the metric system but a domestic system is also in use. For example:

Weight: 1 Jin = 0.5 Kilogram

Length: 1 Li = 0.5 Kilometer

Area: 1 Mu = 0.0667 hectare (15 Mu equal to one hectare)

-Chinese festivals and public holidays

Each year, there are eleven days of statutory holidays in mainland China, besides Saturdays and Sundays.

Date	Festival	Chinese name	Holidays
January 1 st	The New Year's Day	yuán dàn jié 元旦节	one day
The last day of the last lunar month, the 1 st and 2 nd day of the first lunar month	The Spring Festival (the Chinese New Year)	chūn jié 春节	three days
April 4 th or 5 th or 6 th (the 15 th day after the Spring Equinox)	Qing Ming Festival (Tomb-sweeping Day)	qīng míng jié 清明节	one day
May 1 st	The Labor's Day	láo dòng jié 劳动节	one day
The 5 th day of the fifth lunar month	Duan Wu Festival (Dragon Boat Festival)	duān wǔ jié 端午节	one day
The 15 th day of the eighth lunar month	Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Cake Festival)	zhōng qiū jié 中秋节	one day
October 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd	The National Day	guó qìng jié 国庆节	three days

The most important Chinese festival is “the Spring Festival” which is also called “The Chinese Lunar New Year”. It is similar to Christmas in its importance. Every year the date of the Chinese Lunar New Year falls between the end of January and early February according to the Chinese lunar calendar, as the lunar calendar month is usually around one month later than the Gregorian calendar month. It is a celebration with many great banquets and may last for more than 15 days. Fireworks and firecrackers have been forbidden in Tianjin since 2018.

By working extra on the weekends before or after the Spring Festival and the National Day, the working class can enjoy two full weeks of holidays per year, which is called the “Golden Week”.

Most restaurants and shops remain open during these holidays. This is the golden business seasons for entertainment, retail and transportation services.

The Chinese people also celebrate the following traditional festivals, although they are not statutory holidays yet.

Date	Festival	Chinese Name
The 15 th day of the first lunar month	Yuan Xiao Festival/ Lantern Festival	yuán xiǎo jié/shàng yuán jié 元宵节/上元节
The 7 th day of the seventh lunar month	Double-Seventh Day/ Chinese Valentine's Day/ Skill Acquisition Festival/	qī xī jié/què qiáo huì/ qī qiǎo jié/nǚ ér jié 七夕节/鹊桥会/

	Girls Festival	乞巧节/女儿节
The 9 th day of the ninth lunar month	Chong Yang Festival/ Double Ninth Festival	chóng yáng jié/ lǎo rén jié 重阳节/老人节
December 21 st or 22 nd or 23 rd	Dong Zhi Festival	dōng zhì jié/dōng jié 冬至节/冬节
The 8 th day of the twelveth lunar month	La Ba Festival	là bā jié 腊八节

-How to apply for the Dog Registration Certificate

As stipulated in the law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry-Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine, each expat is allowed to bring one dog when entering China. The dog bearer shall provide a valid immunization record file and a valid vaccination certificate issued by an official animal quarantine agency of the region or the country where the dog comes from.

Tianjin Inspection and Quarantine Institution shall examine the dog at the Customs. The dog that can pass the examination shall be kept in quarantine for 30 days at an appointed place.

A dog keeper shall apply for an annual **Dog Registration Certificate** and have it renewed each year.

1. Dog can/can't obtain Registration Certificate

- (1) Miniature ornamental dog if he/she is lower than 45cm in height. (Such as Pekingese, Pomeranian, Chihuahua, Pug, Papillon etc.)
- (2) Ferocious dog can't get the Certificate. (Such as Mastiff, German Doberman, Saint Bernard, Great Dane, Great Pyrenees etc.)

2. The following documents are needed:

- (1) Passport of the dog keeper and the copy of passport
- (2) Residence Registration Card
- (3) Proof of an independent accommodation, such as a lease agreement
- (4) Copy of the leased property's ownership certificate
- (5) Dog immunization record file
- (6) 2 pieces of 2-inch colour photographs of the dog
- (7) Entrust Letter to your agent is required if the application can't be handled in person

The documents' requirement may have small difference, please contact your living quarter district before going for application.

3. Contact numbers of Pet Certification Offices

District	Telephone number
Heping	58929215
Hexi	23249800
Nankai	27419428
Hedong	24162218
Hongqiao	26370051
Jinnan	88637866
Wuqing	82132265
Binhai New Area	65270570

-How to apply for the local Driving License

A Chinese Local Driving License can be obtained either by attending a local driver's training school and passing the examinations or by applying in the same Chinese city where your Residence Permit is issued, using your driving license from another country.

The application procedures are:

1. Verify your foreign driver's license is acceptable.

Please bring your following documents to Tianjin TMB Vehicle Administration Office to verify your foreign driving license is accepted.

- Original Passport,
- Residence Registration Card
- Original foreign driving license

If your driving license can't be verified by Tianjin TMB Vehicle Administration Office, you will need to provide a certification from your embassy.

Tianjin Traffic Management Bureau (TMB) Vehicle Administration Office

tiān jīn shì gōng ān jiāo tōng guǎn lǐ jù chē liàng guǎn lǐ suǒ
天津市公安交通管理局车辆管理所

Add: Near the cross of Zhenli Dao and Jingjiang Lu, Hebei Dist.

hé běi qū zhēn lǐ dào yǔ jìng jiāng lù jiāo kǒu fù jìn

河北区真理道与靖江路交口附近

Tel: 26021615

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-17:00

2. Translation of the passport and the foreign driving license:
 - (1) Documents needed: original passport and driving license
 - (2) What needs to be translated: the first page of the passport with your photograph, and the front & back page of the foreign driving license. AT (Automatic Transmission) or MT (Manual Transmission) shall be indicated
 - (3) Requirement: to be translated and certified by an authorized translation company
 - (4) Time needed: one day
 - (5) Translation service company for reference:

Tianjin Tianwai Translation Co., Ltd.

tiān jīn shì tiān wài fān yì yǒu xiàn gōng sī

天津市天外翻译有限公司

Add: 6th Floor, Zhongfu Building, cross of Youyi Bei Lu and Shaoxing Dao, Hexi Dist.

hé xī qū yǒu yì běi lù yǔ shào xīng dào jiāo kǒu zhōng fú dà shà 6 lóu

河西区友谊北路与绍兴道交口中孚大厦 6 楼

Tel: 23240847

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-17:30

e-mail: tianwaitrans@126.com

Charges for reference: RMB200-520/set

3. Physical examination:

- (1) Documents needed: the original passport, original registration card (with Chinese name), one set of translation documents listed in Clause 1
- (2) Physical examination items: height, eyesight, etc. (no special requirement)
- (3) Time needed: around 10 minutes and the report is immediately available

- (4) Physical examination hospital for reference:

Gongan Hospital Physical Examination Center

gōng ān yī yuàn tǐ jiǎn zhōng xīn

公安医院体检中心

Add: No. 78, Nanjing Lu, Heping Dist.

hé píng qū nán jīng lù 78 hào

和平区南京路 78 号

Tel: 23142782

Hours: 08:00-11:30, 13:30-16:30

Charges for reference: RMB20

4. Application at Tianjin TMB Vehicle Administration Office:

- (1) Documents needed:

- One set of translation documents listed in Clause 1
 - The physical examination report listed in Clause 2
 - Original and a photo copy of:
 - . Driving License
 - . Passport front cover page
 - . Visa entrance stamped page
 - . Resident Permit
 - . Residence Registration Card
 - . 5 copies of 1-inch colour photographs with white background (There is a *photograph* taking service on site charging RMB25/set.)
 - Local Driving License Application Form (can be obtained at the white house next to the License Application Hall inside the Administration Office)
- (2) Present all the documents at the reception counter in the License Application Hall
 - (3) Pay the driving license examination fee RMB70 at the reception counter after the application is accepted

5. Making an examination appointment at the License Application Hall

The examination venue is:

Rm. 206, Subject One Examination Building

kē mù kǎo shì (yī) dà lóu 206 shì

科目考试（一）大楼 206 室

Tel: 26020087

6. Taking the examination:

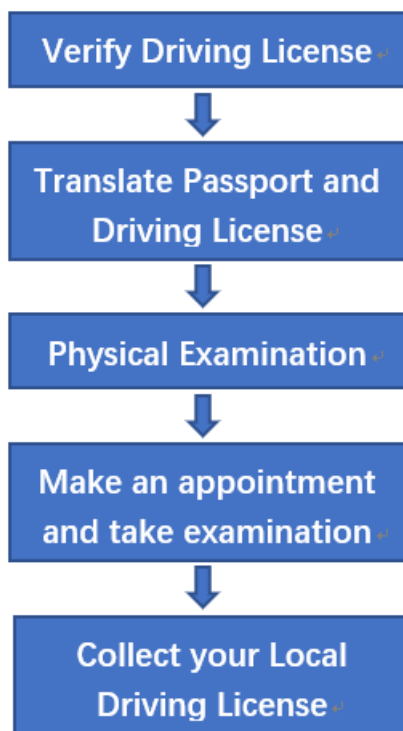
- (1) Tuesdays and Fridays are examination days, 08:30-10:30, 13:30-15:30
- (2) 45 minutes, 100 questions online examination (in English, German, French and Spanish) on a computer. Passing scores above 90 is needed
- (3) If passed, submit the examination report card and all the documents listed in Clause

at the reception counter in the License Application Hall

- (4) If failed, another appointment can be made to re-sit for the examination, there is no limit to the number of tries

7. To collect the local driving license

- (1) You can collect (no need in person) the local driving license once you receive the Collection Notice
- (2) Fee: RMB10
- (3) Time needed: one day. Once you pass the required examination, the license will be issued immediately



- How to pay for the utility fees

E-SMART consultants will provide detail guidance to each client regarding utility payment upon check-in. The following information is for your reference only.

Electricity

Service hotline for Tianjin City: 95598

Service hotline for TEDA: 25202526

Electricity charges are prepaid. Both the electricity IC card and the paper certificate are necessary when processing the pre-payment at the branch shops of the State Grid listed below.

Pre-payment can also be dealt via Alipay and WeChat. E-SMART staff can assist you in setting this up.

From July 1, 2012, a tiered electricity pricing structure has been implemented with a household smart electricity meter.

<i>Annual Consumption (KW/H)</i>	<i>Unit Price (RMB)</i>
≤ 2640	0.49
2641~4800	0.54
≥ 4801	0.79

NOTICE: When there is less than RMB10 of electricity left in the meter, the power supply will be shut off, as a reminder. When this happens, insert the IC card and it will re-start the power supply. Pre-payment for electricity should be purchased ASAP.

Branch shops in Tianjin City

Downtown area

State Grid - Heping Branch

tiān jīn diàn lì gōng sī hé píng yíng yè tīng

天津电力公司和平营业厅

Add: Cross of Xizang Lu and Wanquan Dao, Heping Dist.

hé píng qū xī zàng lù yǔ wàn quán dào jiāo kǒu

和平区西藏路与万全道交口

Tel: 27319905

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-17:00

Sat-Sun: 09:00-16:30

Water Park area

State Grid - Nankai Branch

tiān jīn diàn lì gōng sī nán kāi gòng diàn yíng yè tīng

天津电力公司南开供电营业厅

Add: 1st Floor, Building 6, Sai De Plaza, No. 278, Hongqi Lu, Nankai Dist. (opposite Tianjin Infection Diseases Hospital)

nán kāi qū hóng qí lù 278 hào sài dé guǎng chǎng 6 hào lóu 1 lóu (tiān jīn shì

chuán rǎn bìng yī yuàn duì miàn)

南开区红旗路 278 号赛德广场 6 号楼 1 楼（天津市传染病医院对面）

Tel: 27626423

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-17:00

Sat-Sun: 09:00-16:30

Meijiang area and Original County

State Grid - Hexi Branch

tiān jīn diàn lì gōng sī hé xī yíng yè tīng

天津电力公司河西营业厅

Add: No. 68, Heiniucheng Dao, Hexi Dist.

hé xī qū hēi niú chéng dào 68 hào

河西区黑牛城道 68 号

Tel: 28353056

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-17:00

Sat-Sun: 09:00-16:30

State Grid - Jinnan Shuanggang Branch

tiān jīn diàn lì gōng sī jīn nán shuāng gǎng yíng yè tīng

天津电力公司津南双港营业厅

Add: Next to Jiulongjie Clinic, Shuanggang Town, Jinnan Dist.

jīn nán qū shuāng gǎng zhèn jiǔ lóng jiē wèi shēng yuàn páng

津南区双港镇九龙街卫生院旁

Tel: 28580132

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-17:00

Sat-Sun: 09:00-16:30

Branch shops in TEDA

State Grid - TEDA Branch

tiān jīn diàn lì gōng sī tài dá gōng diàn yíng yè tīng

天津电力公司泰达供电营业厅

Add: Cross of the 2nd Ave. and Tengfei Lu, TEDA

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū dì èr dà jiē yǔ téng fēi lù jiāo kǒu

天津经济技术开发区第二大街与腾飞路交口

Tel: 66251012

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-12:00, 13:00-16:30

Sat-Sun: 09:30-12:00, 13:30-16:00

TEDA Management Committee

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū guǎn wěi huì

天津经济技术开发区管委会

Add: Holding Hall, Section B, 1st Floor, TEDA Management Committee, No. 19, Hongda Jie,

TEDA

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū hóng dá jiē 19 hào kāi fā qū guǎn wěi huì 1

lóu B qū kòng gǔ tīng

天津经济技术开发区宏达街 19 号开发区管委会 1 楼 B 区控股厅
Tel: 25202535, 25202527
Hours: Mon-Fri: 09:00-12:00, 13:30-17:00

Gas

Service hotline for Tianjin City: 23006777

Service hotline for TEDA: 25326936

Most gas meters use a pre-payment system. Both the gas IC card and the paper certificate are necessary when processing the prepayment. The gas shops are listed below.

From November 1, 2015, a tiered gas pricing structure has been implemented with a household smart gas meter.

<i>Annual Consumption (M³)</i>	<i>Unit Price (RMB)</i>
≤ 300	2.5
301-600	3
≥ 601	3.75

NOTICE: Prepaid. When there is less than 10M³ of gas left, “Di, Di...” will beep in the meter. When there is less than 1.9M³ of gas left, the power supply will be cut for reminding; At this time, to insert the IC card can re-start the power supply. But more gas should be purchase ASAP.

Branch shops in Tianjin City

Downtown area

Tianjin Gas Group - Heping Branch

tiān jīn shì rán qì jí tuán hé píng yíng yè tīng

天津市燃气集团和平营业厅

Add: No. 66, Yichang Dao, Heping Dist.

hé píng qū yí chāng dào 66 hào

和平区宜昌道 66 号

Tel: 23379579

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-20:00

Water Park area

Tianjin Gas Group - Huayuan Branch

tiān jīn shì rán qì jí tuán huá yuàn yíng yè tīng

天津市燃气集团华苑营业厅

Add: Next to building 21, Changhua Li, Yashi Dao, Huayuan, Nankai Dist. (beside the railway)

nán kāi qū huá yuàn yǎ shì dào cháng huá lǐ 21 hào lóu páng (tiě dào páng)

南开区华苑雅士道长华里 21 号楼旁（铁道旁）

Tel: 23726545

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-17:00

Meijiang area and Original County

Tianjin Gas Group - Hexi Branch

tiān jīn shì rán qì jí tuán hé xī yíng yè tīng

天津市燃气集团河西营业厅

Add: Commercial Section, No. 6, Shuyuan Li, Nanbei Dajie, Tucheng, Hexi Dist.

hé xī qū tǔ chéng nán běi dà jiē shū yuàn lǐ dǐ shāng 6 hào

河西區土城南北大街書苑里底商 6 號

Tel: 28229998

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-20:00

Tianjin Gas Group - Tianlian Co., Ltd

tiān jīn shì rán qì jí tuán tiān lián gōng sī

天津市燃气集团天聯公司

Add: No. 5, Chilong Jie, Jinnan Economic Development Area

jīn nán kāi fā qū chì lóng jiē 5 hào

津南開發區赤龍街 5 號

Tel: 28187475

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-20:00

Branch shops in TEDA

TEDA Management Committee

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū guǎn wěi huì

天津經濟技術開發區管委會

Add: Holding Hall, Section B, 1st Floor, TEDA Management Committee, No. 19, Hongda Jie, TEDA

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū hóng dá jiē 19 hào kāi fā qū guǎn wěi huì 1 lóu B qū kòng gǔ tīng

天津經濟技術開發區宏達街 19 號開發區管委會 1 樓 B 區控股廳

Tel: 25202535, 25202527

Hours: Mon-Fri: 09:00-12:00, 13:30-17:00

Tianjin Gas Group - TEDA Branch

tiān jīn shì rán qì jí tuán tài dá yíng yè tīng

天津市燃气集团泰达营业厅

Add: The 2nd Ave., TEDA (west of Renaissance TEDA Hotel)

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū dì èr dà jiē (tài dá wàn lì jiǔ diàn xī cè)

天津經濟技術開發區第二大街（泰达萬麗酒店西側）

Tel: 400-081-7668, 66216377, 25293657

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-12:00, 13:00-16:30

Sat-Sun: 09:00-16:00

Water

Service hotline for Tianjin City: 96655

Service hotline for TEDA: 66200001

Most water meters use a pre-payment system. Both the water IC card and the paper certificate

are necessary when purchasing water. The water shops are listed below.

From November 1, 2015, a tiered water pricing structure has been implemented with a household smart water meter.

<i>Annual Consumption (Ton)</i>	<i>Unit Price (RMB)</i>
≤ 180	4.9
181-240	6.2
≥ 241	8.0

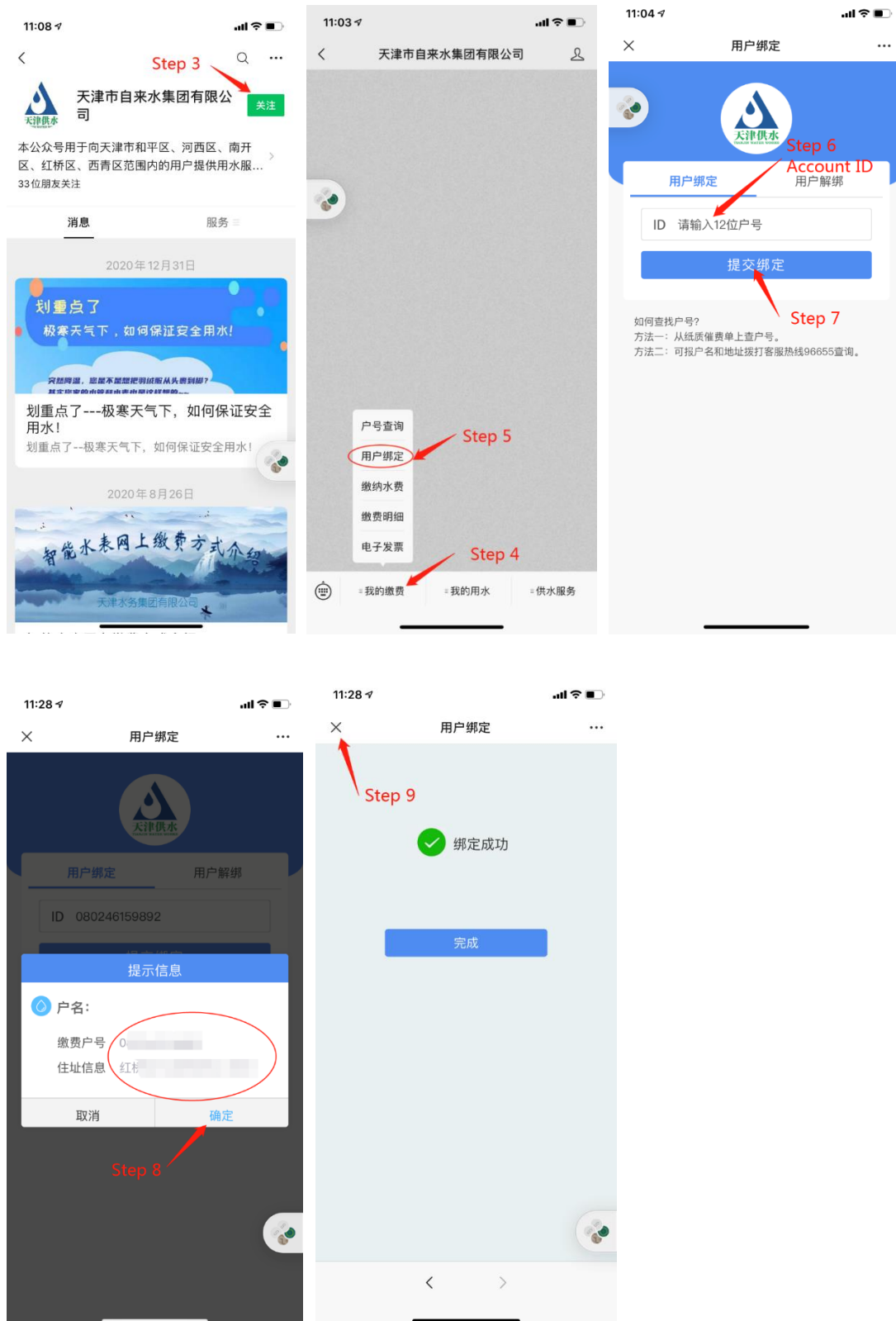
NOTICE: When there is less than 2 tons of water left in the meter, the water supply will be shut off, as a reminder. When this happens, insert the IC card and it will restart the water supply. Pre-payment for water should be purchased ASAP.

1. How to pay for water account by WeChat

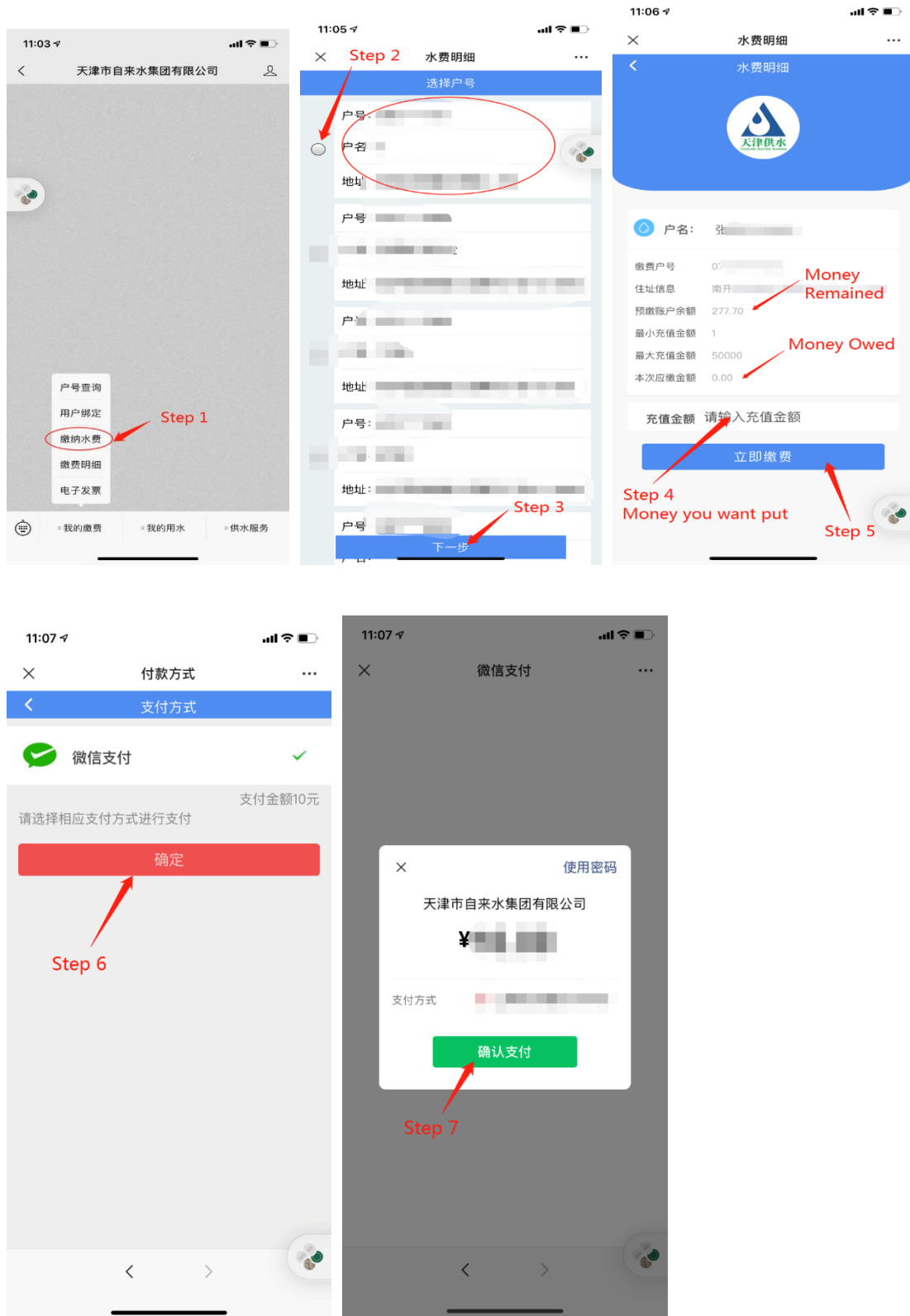
(1) How to bind an account?

NOTICE: If the water meter in your apartment has been changed to a smart meter, you can pay the water bill buy WeChat. Firstly, you should copy the Chinese character “天津市自来水集团有限公司” for **Step 2**. In addition, you should also get your account ID for **Step 6**, which is a 12-long number.





(2) How to put money into an account?



2. Branch shops in Tianjin City

Downtown area

Tianjin Water Supply Company - Hexi Branch

tiān jīn zì lái shuǐ gōng sī hé xī yíng yè tīng

天津自来水公司河西营业厅

Add: No. 175, Shaoxing Dao, Hexi Dist. (Commercial Section, Shengrui Apartment)

hé xī qū shào xīng dào 175 hào (shèng ruì gōng yù dǐ shāng)

河西区绍兴道 175 号 (盛瑞公寓底商)

Tel: 23262695

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-18:30

Sat-Sun: 08:30-17:00

Water Park area

Tianjin Water Supply Company - Nankai Ling'ao Lu Branch

tiān jīn zì lái shuǐ gōng sī nán kāi líng ào lù yíng yè tīng

天津自来水公司南开凌奥路营业厅

Add: No. 2, cross of Hongqi Nan Lu and Lingbin Lu, Nankai Dist.

nán kāi qū hóng qí nán lù yǔ líng bīn lù jiāo kǒu 2 hào

南开区红旗南路与凌宾路交口 2 号

Tel: 88377065

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-18:30

Sat-Sun: 09:00-17:00

Meijiang area and Original County

Tianjin Water Supply Company - Meijiang Branch

tiān jīn zì lái shuǐ gōng sī méi jiāng yíng yè tīng

天津自来水公司梅江营业厅

Add: Commercial Section, Building 3, Tianlan Yuan, Huandao Xilu, Meijiang Residential Area, Hexi Dist.

hé xī qū méi jiāng jū zhù qū huán dǎo xī lù tiān lán yuán 3 hào lóu dǐ shāng

河西区梅江居住区环岛西路天澜园 3 号楼底商

Tel: 88162310

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-18:30

Sat-Sun: 08:30-17:00

Tianjin Water Supply Company - Shuanggang Xinjiayuan Branch

tiān jīn zì lái shuǐ gōng sī shuāng gǎng xīn jiā yuán yíng yè tīng

天津自来水公司双港新家园营业厅

Add: Cross of Jingang Express Way and Lishuang Lu, Jinnan Dist.

jīn nán qū jīn gǎng gāo sù yǔ lí shuāng lù jiāo kǒu

津南区津港高速与梨双路交口

Tel: 88828930

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:00-17:00

Sat-Sun: 08:00-12:00, 13:30-17:00

Branch shops in TEDA

TEDA Management Committee

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū guǎn wěi huì

天津经济技术开发区管委会

Add: Holding Hall, Section B, 1st Floor, TEDA Management Committee, No. 19, Hongda Jie,
TEDA

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū hóng dá jiē 19 hào kāi fā qū guǎn wěi huì 1
lóu B qū kòng gǔ tīng

天津经济技术开发区宏达街 19 号开发区管委会 1 楼 B 区控股厅

Tel: 25202535, 25202527

Hours: Mon-Fri: 09:00-12:00, 13:30-17:00

TEDA Water Supply Company

tài dá zì lái shuǐ gōng sī

泰达自来水公司

Add: Commercial Section, Dongfangmingju, The 2nd Ave., TEDA

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū dì èr dà jiē dōng fāng míng jū dǐ shāng
天津经济技术开发区第二大街东方名居底商

Tel: 25329837

Hours: Mon-Fri: 08:30-06:30

Sat-Sun: 09:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00

Phone

You can either keep a credit balance on your home phone and mobile phone accounts, or remember to pay the phones' bills every month at the branch shops of the three different telecommunication service providers, at a post office, or at a bank. The telecommunication branch shops are listed below.

NOTICE: The phone service terminates and the home phone number deleted, if the bill is overdue for a certain period. The Internet access will be affected if it is packaged together with the home phone plan.

<i>Service provider</i>	<i>Service hotline</i>	<i>Business scope(s)</i>	<i>Segment numbers</i>
<i>China Mobile</i>	<i>10086</i>	<i>- Mobile phone - Home phone and internet</i>	<i>134~139, 144, 147, 150~152, 157-159, 172, 178, 182-184, 187, 188, 198, 195004, 195823, 195828 and 195829</i>
<i>China Telecom</i>	<i>10000</i>	<i>- Mobile phone (CDMA) - Home phone and internet</i>	<i>133, 153, 173, 177, 179, 180, 181, 189, 191 and 199</i>
<i>China Unicom</i>	<i>10010</i>	<i>- Mobile phone - Home phone and internet</i>	<i>130~132, 155, 156, 166, 175, 176, 185 and 186</i>

China Mobile

zhōng guó yí dòng

中国移动

Service hotline: 10086

Branch shops in Tianjin City

Downtown area

Add: 1st Floor, No. 235, Nanjing Lu, Heping Dist.

hé píng qū nán jīng lù 235 hào 1 lóu

和平区南京路 235 号 1 楼

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-18:00

Water Park area

Add: No. 9, Section B, Ao Cheng Commercial Plaza, Binshui Xi Dao, Nankai Dist.

nán kāi qū bīn shuǐ xī dào ào chéng shāng yè guǎng chǎng B qū 9 hào

南开区宾水西道奥城商业广场 B 区 9 号

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-18:00

Meijiang area and Original County

Add: No. 47-13-14, Commercial Section, The Sixth Hill, Jiefang Nanlu, Hexi Dist. (beside Mcdonald's)

hé xī qū jiě fàng nán lù dì liù tián yuán dǐ shāng 47-13-14 hào (mài dāng láo páng)

河西区解放南路第六田园底商 47-13-14 号（麦当劳旁）

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-18:00

Branch shop in TEDA

Add: East area Financial Street, No. 20, Guangchang Donglu, The 3rd Ave., TEDA

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū dì sān dà jiē guǎng chǎng dōng lù 20 hào jīn

róng jiē dōng qū

天津经济技术开发区第三大街广场东路 20 号金融街东区

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-18:00

China Telecom

zhōng guó diàn xìn

中国电信

Service hotline: 10000

Branch shops in Tianjin City

Downtown area

(1) Add: No. 217, Chengdu Dao, Heping Dist.

hé píng qū chéng dū dào 217 hào

和平区成都道 217 号

(2) Add: No. 35, Baoding Dao, Heping Dist.

hé píng qū bǎo dìng dào 35 hào

和平区保定道 35 号

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-18:30

Water Park area

Add: A4-2, Ao Cheng Commercial Plaza, Binshui Xidao, Nankai Dist.

nán kāi qū bīn shuǐ xī dào ào chéng shāng yè guǎng chǎng A4-2
南开区宾水西道奥城商业广场 A4-2

Hours: Mon-Sun: 09:00-19:00

Meijiang area and Original County

Add: Commercial Section, Building 11-12, Lianshui Yuan, cross of Youyi Nan Lu and
Zhujiang Dao, Hexi Dist.

hé xī qū yǒu yì nán lù yǔ zhū jiāng dào jiāo kǒu lián shuǐ yuán 11-12 hào
lóu dī shāng
河西区友谊南路与珠江道交口涟水园 11-12 号楼底商

Hours: Mon-Sun: 09:30-19:30

Branch shop in TEDA

Add: 1st Floor, Building E5C2, East area Financial Street, No. 20, Guangchang Dong Lu, The
3rd Ave., TEDA

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū dì sān dà jiē guǎng chǎng dōng lù 20 hào jīn
róng jiē dōng qū E5C2 zuò 1 lóu
天津经济技术开发区第三大街广场东路 20 号金融街东区 E5C2 座 1 楼

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-18:00

China Unicom

zhōng guó lián tōng

中国联通

Service hotline: 10010

Branch shops in Tianjin City

Downtown area

Add: No. 62, Chifeng Dao, Heping Dist.

hé píng qū chì fēng dào 62 hào
和平区赤峰道 62 号

Hours: Mon-Sun: 09:00-18:00

Water Park area

Add: Commercial Section, Aoxiang Yuan, No. 150, Weijin Nan Lu, Nankai Dist.

nán kāi qū wèi jīn nán lù 150 hào ào xiáng yuán dī shāng
南开区卫津南路 150 号奥翔园底商

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-17:30

Meijiang area and Original County

(1) Add: No. 101, Meijiang Dao, Hexi Dist. (opposite to the security bureau)

hé xī qū méi jiāng dào 101 (ān quán jú duì miàn)

河西区梅江道 101 号（安全局对面）

Hours: Mon-Sun: 09:00-18:00

(2) Add: Opposite Haihe Hospital, Shuanggang Town, Jinnan Dist.

jīn nán qū shuāng gǎng zhèn hǎi hé yī yuàn duì miàn

津南区双港镇海河医院对面

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-17:30

Branch shop in TEDA

Add: Cross of Xincheng Donglu and Shengda Jie, TEDA (Behind TEDA International Cardiovascular Hospital)

tiān jīn jīng jì jì shù kāi fā qū xīn chéng dōng lù yǔ shèng dá jiē jiāo kǒu

(tài dá guó jì xīn xuè guǎn bìng yī yuàn hòu miàn)

天津经济技术开发区新城东路与盛达街交口（泰达国际心血管病医院后面）

Hours: Mon-Sun: 08:30-17:30

-Useful telephone numbers

E-SMART Relocation Consultants Co., Ltd.	28360997, 13902119790
Clinic and Hospitals	
Raffles Medical Tianjin	23520143
Tianjin United Family Hospital	58568500, 4008-919191
Schools	
International School of Tianjin (IST)	28592001
TEDA Global Academy	66226158
Tianjin International School (TIS)	83710900
Wellington College International Tianjin	87587199
Emergency	
Emergency: Ambulance	120 Chinese speaker
Fire	119
Police	110

-An expat's recommendation

by Christopher Boobier(博一夫)

Restaurants, bars and hotels

你吃了吗?

Pronunciation: *nǐ chī le mā*

Direct translation: Have you eaten?

入乡随俗

When in Rome...

Recommended Chinese Restaurants in downtown Tianjin:

Nobody enjoys exploring on an empty stomach, and so luckily for you, there are plenty of places in Tianjin to experience the wonders of Chinese cuisine. In no particular order of preference, here is a list of some of the most pleasing, interesting, friendly and memorable independent eateries located in the downtown region. And take it from someone who knows – there are many, many others...

- 鼎泰豐 (dǐng tài fēng)

A classy taste of Taiwan, known across the world for their Xiao Long Bao (小笼包).

- 砂锅李 (shā guō lǐ)

Local Tianjin food, with the best pork ribs (排骨肉) in the city.

- 新疆风味餐厅 (xīn jiāng fēng wèi cān tīng)

Dishes from Xinjiang. Recommended to all lamb lovers.

- 一坐一忘 (yī zuò yī wàng)

The most authentic Yunnan cuisine to be found this side of the Yangtze.

- 百饺园 (bǎi jiǎo yuán)
A hundred dumpling heaven – need more be said. Famous for 猪肉三鲜, or Pork and Shrimp dumplings.
- 青年餐厅 (qīng nián cān tīng)
Plenty of tasty dishes with friendly service. Perfect after a long stroll down the river.
- 来顺成饭庄 (lái shùn chéng fàn zhuāng)
Traditional Tianjin hot pot, with home brewed beer. A rowdy option if you are in the mood for real Tianjin.

举头望明月，低头思故乡 (李白)

Lift your head and gaze and the bright moon, look down and think of home (Li Bai, Tang Dynasty poet)

Recommended Foreign Restaurants in downtown Tianjin

For those days that Chinese cuisine simply does not float your boat, however, the following locations offering foreign cuisines come with my personal recommendation also. Pop their name in on Baidu to access the address in Chinese and English.

- Steak & Wine (Previous Name: Gang Gangs)
- YY Beer House
- GebaGeba Restaurant
- Brasserie Flo
- Drei Kronen 1308
- Blue Frog
- Pizza BIANCA

今朝有酒今朝醉

Drink today while ye may...

Bar culture in Tianjin takes a slightly different form to what is on offer for our friends in Beijing, but professional mixologists and imported beverages lurk in the many nooks and crannies that are scattered all around the inner city area of the Ford of Heaven. Listed below are a few places where one might whet one's whistle, and have a few swift drinks:

- Le Procope Lounge
- The Live Show
- YY Beer House
- Dublin Irish Pub

锦衣玉食

The Luxury Option

Residents in Tianjin are truly spoilt with quite exceptional and diverse five-star hotels that boast splendid eateries and exuberant surroundings for that elusive date night you promised your better half, or indeed for that coziness that you might from time to time crave during the winter

chill or the summer scorch. Here are some of my recommendations of downtown hotels that would cater for your every need and whim, allowing a momentary escape from the concrete jungle outside...

- The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin
- Shangri-La Hotel, Tianjin
- The Astor Hotel, Tianjin
- The Westin Tianjin
- The St. Regis Tianjin
- Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel
- Yan Yuan International Hote
- Tangla Hotel Tianjin

Top 10 tips for Tianjinese tasting sessions:

- Take your Chinese friends and colleagues out to eat, on their recommendation.
- Start early, finish late. Kitchens close at 9pm in many local eateries.
- Use your chopsticks with confidence, but feel free to ask for a knife and fork.
- If you are a lefty, don't sit next to a righty. Take it from one who knows!
- Meat and/or vegetables first, rice and soup second.
- Tipping tends to cause confusion and occasionally embarrassment - out of courtesy, be subtle.
- The host sits in the seat facing the door, as does the one who foots the bill. You have been warned.
- Shouting "Fu Wu Yuan" (服务员) is neither big nor clever. Wherever possible, try to avoid it.
- "Cheers" in Chinese, "GanBei" quite literally means "empty glass" (干杯)—drink sensibly.
- Pick up a business card on your departure, for your return journey.

Impress your Chinese hosts with a few choice phrases during dinner:

- 饭后百步走活到九十九
Pronounced "Fan Hou Bai Bu Zou, Huo Dao Jiu Shi Jiu", meaning "After eating, walk one hundred steps and you will live until you're 99 years old." This can be said after finishing dinner, discussing how walking home might be a good idea...
- 吃不了兜着走
Pronounced "Chi Bu Liao Dou Zhe Zou," meaning "Whatever you do not finish, you must carry home with you." This can be said if you have not finished everything on the table. Be careful with this phrase, as it can alternatively refer to someone getting more than they have bargained for.
- 眼大肚子小
Pronounced "Yan Da Du Zi Xiao," meaning "Eyes bigger than stomach." This can be said if you have accidentally ordered too much food. In which case, you might consider using 吃不了兜着走.

Bon appetit!

慢慢吃!

Western literature on China

by Christopher Boobier(博一夫)

There really is no shortage of foreign accounts of China – both ancient and modern. But here is a few – listed in no particular order or with no specific categorization, that might prove insightful, entertaining, or both.

- **The Ford of Heaven** by Brian Power

Dedicated to the people of Tianjin, this beautifully written memoir of a childhood spent in Tianjin during the early twentieth century reflects “a real place and a real past” of Chinese friends and Chinese stories. Highly recommended!

- **The Siege at Peking** by Peter Fleming

Containing many references to the Foreign Concessions in Tianjin, this book brings to light a transformative time in China’s modern history.

- **The Jews in Tianjin** by Anna Song

A beautifully produced book that sheds light on a very important chapter of Tianjin history. Full of photographs and images, this book paints a moving record of the history of Jews in Tianjin.

- **The Workers of Tianjin, 1900-1949** by Gail Hershatter

As today we are surrounded by migrant workers working manual jobs, this is an account that documents the laborers that helped shape the identity of Tianjin as one of the major industrial centres of North China.

- **Twilight in the Forbidden City** by Reginald Johnston.

Written by the tutor to Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, this book was the basis to the movie ‘The Last Emperor’.

- **Midnight in Peking** by Paul French

“How the murder of a young Englishwoman haunted the last days of old China” – a fascinating read, with plenty of reference to the old Tientsin Grammar School.

- **Scramble for China: Foreign Devils in the Qing Empire** by Robert Bickers

Written by a prominent British historian, this book attempts to analyse the attitudes and approaches to China adopted by various foreign powers, which ultimately resulted in the Opium Wars. Tianjin features often in this well-sculpted and superbly written historical account.

- **Bomb, Book and Compass: Joseph Needham and the Great Secrets of China** by Simon Winchester

The story of how one man’s interest developed into one of the greatest investigations into the development of Chinese invention and innovation throughout the ages. Known as “the man who loved China,” this biographical portrait of the life of Joseph Needham paints an astounding picture of the diversity and technological advancement of an ancient civilisation. A must-read for all scientists!

- **The Immobile Empire** by Alain Peyrefitte
This widely debated account of the first British diplomatic mission to China – Sir George Macartney's meeting with Emperor Qianlong during the Qing dynasty, which chooses to highlight cultural misconception and miscommunication as having set the precedent for the diplomatic relations that lasted for the subsequent two hundred years.
- **The Soong Dynasty** by Sterling Seagrave
Another contentious text, Seagrave's account documents the importance of the Soong family in the forming of US-Asia and Chinese policy during the 20th century.
- **On China** by Henry Kissinger
Kissinger's book provides us with historical perspective on Chinese foreign affairs from the first statesmen to the present day. A must-read for all aspiring diplomats!
- **Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother** by Amy Chua
A must-read for all educators among us – a fascinating perspective on parenting.
- **The Good Woman of China** by Xinran
A heartrending and inspiring account written by the former host of a state-run radio station, this book is a document of how one woman helped improve the life of so many others in a rapidly changing country.
- **Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China** by Leslie T. Chang
Written by a former correspondent for the Wall Street Journal in Beijing, this is a look into the everyday lives of female migrant workers in a modern, industrial China.
- **The Search for Modern China** by Jonathon Spence
For those seeking an introduction to the modern history of China as a whole.
- **The Penguin History of Modern China** by Jonathon Fenby
A guide to one of the most remarkable transformations of a country the world has seen in the modern era. This book concentrates on the last 150 years of Chinese history.
- **River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze** by Peter Hessler
Another must-read for all working in the education sector. This book documents the experiences of a young teacher living in the heart of rural China.
- **China Road** by Rob Gifford
The story of one man's journey along the Chinese Route 66 from Shanghai to the far west of China, this wonderful book looks at the rich mosaic that is today's China.
- **Mr. China** by Tim Clissold
A hugely entertaining account of how to lose loads of money in a rising China.
- **Pearl Buck in China: Journey to the Good Earth** by Hilary Spurling
One of the most important figures, Buck was one of the first figures in the modern era to make China accessible to the West. Frankly, any of Pearl Buck's books are definitely worth a read.

- **Shadow of the Silk Road** by Colin Thubron
Covering seven thousand miles in eight months, this is an epic account of travel writing along one of the most ancient trade routes on the planet.
- **Red Star over China** by Edgar Snow
Written by the first Western man to meet with Mao Zedong, this is a story of the men and woman responsible for China's revolution.
- **Foreign Devils on the Silk Road** by Peter Hopkirk
A historical account of how 'foreign devils' travelling on the Silk Road provided the rest of the world with the ancient treasures of the Chinese civilization. A must-read for anyone who enjoys a good museum!
- **The Opium War** by Julia Lovell
Discussing the causes and consequences of the events that resulted in the Opium Wars, Lovell's novel talks about how this pivotal time in history still plays such a major part in contemporary Chinese attitude towards the West.
- **The Travels of Marco Polo** by Marco Polo
One of the classics. Sit back and drift off into a bygone era of camel trains and Khans, and listen to the story of one of the most famous explorers of all time.
- **Genghis Khan: life, death and resurrection** by John Man
One of the better accounts of a man whose legend still lives on, who is known across the world as a tyrant, a hero and a great leader. Man writes a brilliant narrative that explores areas of China and Mongolia, searching for the real story behind this now immortal figure.

Chinese literature - a VERY brief introduction and a few recommendations

by Christopher Boobier(博一夫)

For those of you with a deeper interest in China as a nation, here are some recommendations of excellent Chinese books and authors – some old, some new, all relevant, all insightful. There are so, so many of great writers all throughout Chinese history, but here are the ones that I have been recommended by my Chinese friends, my former professors and teachers, and also that I have picked up off the shelf myself. If you can read them in Chinese, then please feel free to give yourself a big pat on the back!

- **Lu Xun(鲁迅)**
One of the most revered writers in contemporary China, 'The Diary of a Madman'(狂人日记), 'Kong Yiji'(孔乙己)and 'The Story of Ah-Q'(阿 Q 正传) are some of his more well-known short stories. 'Wild Grass'(野草)and 'A Call to Arms'(呐喊) are two more well-known collections of his short stories, known all across China.
- **Lao She(老舍)**
One of the most significant figures of 20th century Chinese literature, Lao She is most well-known internationally for his novels 'Rickshaw Boy'(骆驼祥子), the witty 'Mr. Ma and Son'(二马) and the dystopian 'Cat Country'(猫城记). His play 'Teahouse'(茶馆)documents a

changing China at the turn of the century, and when not being performed at theatres in Beijing or Tianjin, can be found on DVD with subtitles.

- **Yu Hua (余华)**
'Brothers' (兄弟) and 'To Live' (活着) are two of the most noteworthy novels written by a man who grew up during some tough times in China. Not bad for a former dentist!
- **Qian Zhong Shu (钱钟书)**
Best known for his novel 'Fortress Beseiged' (围城), this former Oxford and Paris University scholar has gained worldwide fame for his satirical and poignant writing. 'Men, Beasts and Ghosts' (人兽鬼) is one of his other books that I would suggest that you take a look at.
- **Ba Jin (巴金)**
One of the most significant writers of the 20th century, I recommend a read through his novel, 'The Family' (家). The short story 'Dog' (狗) is also worth a mention, but anyone with a growing interest in Chinese literature really should pay close attention to this chap.
- **Mo Yan (莫言)**
Merging notions of folk, history and the contemporary, Mo Yan was the former recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature. His novels 'Red Sorghum' (红高粱家族), 'The Garlic Ballads' (天堂蒜薹之歌), 'Big Breasts & Wide Hips' (丰乳肥臀) and 'The Republic of Wine' (酒国), among many others, come highly recommended.
- **Wang Xiao Bo (王小波)**
A renowned contemporary essayist and novelist, 'Wang in Love and Bondage: Three Novellas by Wang Xiaobo,' was his first work translated into English.
- **Lu Yao (路遥)**
His novels 'Life' (人生) and 'Ordinary Life' (平凡的世界) are Lu's most well-known novels, with the latter thought to be one of the most influential novels written in modern times.
- **Mao Dun (茅盾)**
Originally with a pen name that quite literally meant 'contradiction,' Mao Dun most famously wrote 'Spring Silkworms' (春蚕) and 'Midnight' (子夜), and throughout his life had over one hundred publications. The Mao Dun Literature Prize is one of the most prestigious awards for literature in China.
- **Sanmao (三毛)**
Being known predominantly as a travel writer, the very international Sanmao is best known for her autobiographical work 'The Stories of the Sahara' (撒哈拉的故事), which documents her time spent living in the Sahara desert with her Spanish husband. This former German teacher and philosophy major is well known across the female community of China.
- **Eileen Chang (张爱玲)**
Known predominantly for writings that deal with the tensions between men and woman in love, Chang is known to be one of the most important writers of her time. Many of her works exist authentically in English translation, with 'Love in a Fallen City' being one of the most widely read.

- **Xiao Hong (萧红)**

Xiao Hong is most widely known for her novel 'Tales of Hulan River' (呼兰河传) written in 1942, later translated into English by Howard Goldblatt. Goldblatt also deserves a mention here for being one of the modern greats of translation, with his most recent translations being for Nobel Prize winner Mo Yan.

- **Blogging and the Internet**

As is the case outside of China, blogging and online publications has become the new norm also, with authors and bloggers gaining worldwide recognition for their poetry, essays, short stories and novels. **Han Han**(韩寒)has over the last decade risen to fame, particularly throughout China's youth, and besides racing cars and writing songs, he has published a number of very popular novels and essays – I enjoyed 'One Degree Below Freezing' (零下一度), 'Press Release 2003' (通稿 2003), 'Three Doors' (三重门) and 'Riot in Chang'An City' (长安乱), but there are many, many more.

- **Ancient Literature – philosophers and poets**

Great Chinese poets are also not a rarity. In reference to the ancients, **Li Bai** (sometimes known as Li Po) and **Du Fu** are two of the most widely read across China. In reference to modern poets, **Hai Zi** and **Ai Qing** are two that immediately spring to mind. Compilations of poetry are available in English translation at many major bookshops across Tianjin, as well as online. With poetry being such a major part of imperial China, the resources are truly huge in volume.

- Some of the most famous thinkers and philosophers in China – many of whom will no doubt already be known to you, are Confucius (孔子), Mencius (孟子), Zhuangzi (庄子) and Laozi (老子). Of course, Sun Zi's **The Art of War** (孙子兵法) is one of the most famous texts ever written, for very good reason. A set of classical books – all produced in Chinese, has been published in a series (entitled 中华经典藏书) for those of you who have a really keen interest in ancient Chinese literatures and texts.

The most famous of all novels in China today are, without doubt, **Journey to the West**(西游记), **Dream of Red Chamber**(红楼梦; *otherwise known as 'The Story of the Stone'*), **Outlaws of the Marsh**(水浒传)and **Romance of the Three Kingdoms** (三国演义). All have been made into movies and TV series, with Journey to the West, Outlaws of the Marsh and Romance of the Three Kingdoms existing as children's books, and even computer games. If you can read one of the 'Four Great Novels' in Chinese, you will be able to experience the China that you might have come here to seek, providing you with a topic of conversation for every conversation that you ever have with any Chinese person you will ever meet.