China

Information for applicants

China

Since the market reform of 1978, China has been transforming from a centrally planned economy into a market economy. With a population of 1.3 billion, the People’s Republic is the world’s second largest economy and plays a key role in global economic development. Stretching from the Pacific Ocean in the east to the Himalayas in the west, it is a country that conjures up images of magnificent buildings, enchanting temples and state-of-the-art skyscrapers.

Medical care

China does not have a system of general practitioners. Instead, health care provision centres around hospitals. While the major cities have very large hospitals with the latest equipment, medical care can still be very basic in rural areas. The language barrier and an unfamiliar medical culture are the main challenges for foreigners.

Living locally, finding accommodation

The cost of living in Chinese cities has been rising steadily over time. Foreigners generally pay higher rents than their Chinese neighbours. Subject to your own budget, you are free to choose where you live. The local GIZ office will assist you with finding accommodation.

Shops and services

Chinese supermarkets stock a full range of food and daily essentials. Paying for goods and services in China is straightforward. You can withdraw cash from any of the numerous ATM machines of the major Chinese banking institutions (Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, etc.), with a withdrawal fee of up to EUR 4 for Maestro/debit cards.

Climate

China’s climate is continental in the north and subtropical in the south.

Schools

Many major Chinese cities now have international schools and kindergartens. The language of instruction is usually English, though there are two German schools in Beijing and Shanghai and it is possible to take subjects in German at international schools in other cities such as Suzhou, Wuxi and Qingdao.

Childcare

There is appropriate kindergarten provision.
Find out more

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