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When it comes to travel, there are very few tools that are as powerful as our smartphones. Maps, dictionaries, train schedules and more are just a few taps away...as long as you know which apps to use.

That's where this guide can help!

Based on almost a decade of experience and speaking with countless travelers, we've determined that there are at least 5 apps that the modern traveler MUST have.



#1 WeChat



Name: WeChat Cost: Free Use: Messaging, video calls, social connection

In the world of China social media, WeChat is king. WeChat is not only the largest social platform in China, it's also not blocked (which is nice). If you want to stay in touch with anybody while in China or make reservations at a hostel or travel agency, using WeChat is almost always better than placing a call.

Click to Download WeChat on:



HAD Baidu Maps





Name: Baidu Maps Cost: Free Use: Location services

Because Google Maps doesn't work in China and Apple Maps doesn't have much information on China, the Baidu Maps app is a must. Although there is no English, it can pinpoint your location and tell you up-to-date info on roads and public transportation that you can find anywhere else.

Click to Download Baidu Maps on:



Hora China Hora China Train





Name: China Train Booking Cost: Free Use: Checking China train schedules & ticket booking

Checking train schedules and ticket availability on the go is a huge advantage for any China traveler. This app gives you the info you need in English and even allows you to buy the train tickets from the app where you can pick them up at the train station or have them delivered to your hotel (for a fee).

Click to Download China Train Booking on:



#4 iTranslate



Name: iTranslate Cost: US\$4.99 Use: Translation Services

Dictionary apps are great for the student but barely help the average China traveler. With this iTranslate app you just speak what you need to say and it will translate with surprising accuracy. Translation can go both ways, which means you can have a Chinese person speak into the app for translation.

Click to Download iTranslate on:



#5 VyprVP



Name: VyprVPN Cost: Free (3 days) Use: Accessing Facebook, Twitter, etc.

If you need to check your email or post photos to Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, a VPN in China is a must-have. VyprVPN offers a 3-day free tiral and is one of the best and most userfriendly VPN apps available on the App store. Once you finish your 3 days, monthly plans are cheap and easy.

Click to Download VyprVPN on:



Bonus Resources

On TravelChinaCheaper.com, we aim to provide the most accurate, up-to-date information you need as you prepare for your travel to China! In addition to these helpful apps for you phone, you might find these other resources to be incredibly useful:

