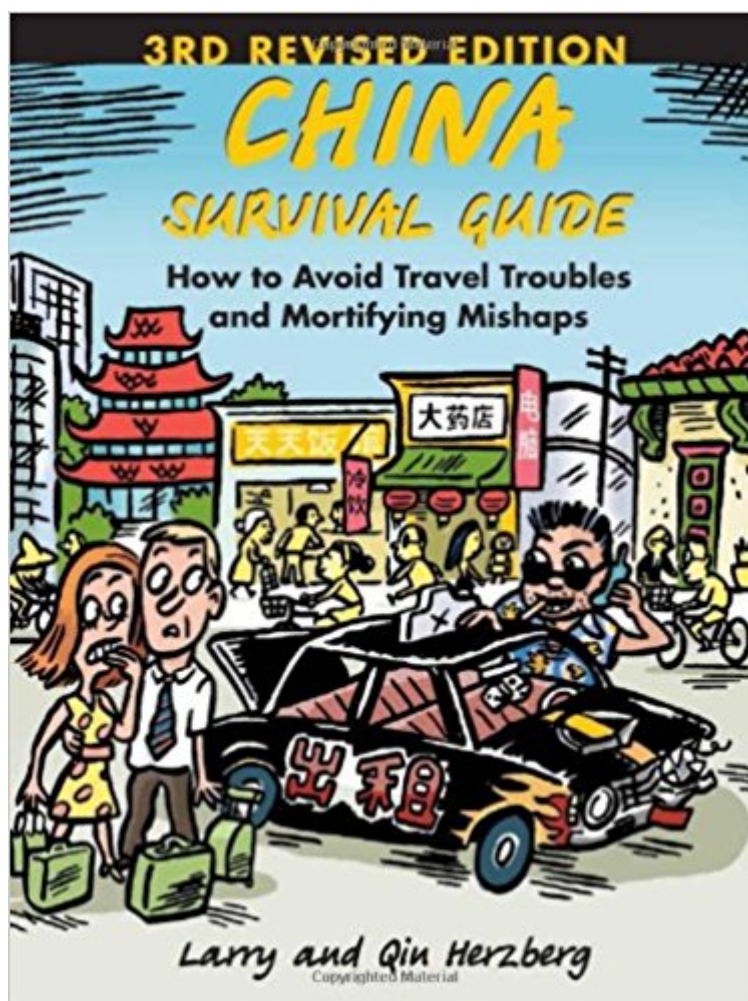


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# China Survival Guide: How To Avoid Travel Troubles And Mortifying Mishaps, 3rd Edition



## Synopsis

• An ideal, pocket-sized, 264 page compendium packed from cover to cover with practical advice, insightful commentary, and invaluable tips on places to go, things to see, what to do, and what to avoid. . . . China Survival Guide should be considered an essential 'take-along' for anyone visiting China for business or pleasure. — Midwest Book Review, May 2014 "Like [having] a professional guide walking alongside you answering your many questions. . . . A must for your next China visit!" — Travel Answer Man Online Compact, affordable, reliable, a delight to read — these qualities are what has made China Survival Guide so popular with first-time and seasoned China travelers. This third edition has a brand new section on train travel, plus updates and fresh recommendations. Includes practical strategies for lodging, walking, haggling, medical and bathroom emergencies, etiquette, crowds, and learning the twin arts of patience and persistence. Frequent China visitors Larry Herzberg and Qin Herzberg are professors of Chinese language and culture at Calvin College in Michigan.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"As I was reading the second edition, I felt as if I was reliving my magical Asian adventure. The Herzbergs use wit, wisdom, and warmth in relaying essential China travel tips on etiquette, cultural history, and traveling frugally but in style." — Sally Starrfield, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, Duke University Talent Identification Program "Thank goodness for Larry and Qin Herzberg! Their book was invaluable in helping me anticipate some of the more foreign aspects of traveling in China, not to mention that the book is hilarious! Travel groups will benefit from their expertise on

surviving in China with grace and humor."#151;Susan Glassburn Larimer, China Travel Coordinator, Indiana University School of Social Work --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Larry Herzberg and Qin Herzberg, a married couple, are professors of Chinese language and culture at Calvin College in Michigan. They travel to China every year, both with students and without, and have been featured travel experts on MSNBC and other outlets. Qin and Larry live in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and are also coauthors of *Basic Patterns of Chinese Grammar: A Student's Guide to Correct Structures and Common Errors* (Stone Bridge Press, 2011) and *Chinese Proverbs and Popular Sayings: With Observations on Culture and Language* (Stone Bridge Press, 2012). Larry Herzberg did his PhD work in Chinese and founded the Chinese language programs at Albion College and Calvin College; he is also a professional violinist. In 2011 Larry was awarded the Presidential Award for Exemplary Teaching, the highest honor that Calvin College bestows on a faculty member. Qin Xue Herzberg, a graduate of Beijing Normal University, has taught Chinese for decades and has been an upper-level Chinese professor at Calvin College for more than ten years.

Not every book for tourists has humor. Lots are coffee table books for armchair tourists. This book has us laughing out loud! Ok, we never thought that the Chinese people carry around their own toilet paper in their bags, but I guess this is so! I asked our Chinese friend and he said that the country feels that toilet paper may be wasted if supplied in each stall (wasted also equals stolen) and that paper stored in the bathroom might not be as clean as that you bring from home. Who would have thought to tell me this before our trip? I've certainly sat down to take care of business before realizing the stall was out of paper! Now I know the toilet paper rolls in China are at the entrance to the restroom and NOT in each stall. We've learned about "black" taxis and due to US travels we know this isn't exclusive to China. But now we are a more educated tourist. Our trip to China is June 2012. We are super excited and I am sure this book will get an update when we return. In the meantime, if you know you are going to China - you will need to know HOW to potty and this book has a great explanation without getting too graphic. Excellent writing! Update from July 2012. We have returned from our nearly 1 month trip to China. To say this was an experience of a lifetime is inefficient. WOW! We loved the parks. People go out at night and dance in the streets, the parks and other community areas. This is a very social time and people move to get some daily exercise. JOIN IN! They love participants. Don't worry about having two left feet, the enjoyment is the most

important part. If you can, use the exercise equipment because it is made for adults and not children. We loved the food. We were able to eat lots of variety. Because we were "honored guests" the Chinese served us a lot of meat. When we ordered on our own we asked for lots of vegetables. We were impressed by the quality of food as well as the amazing flavor. Pork will be the primary meat in China but duck is a close second. Don't leave China without eating Peking Duck. Heavenly!!! Carry a bag. Men and women carry bags. Children carry bags. Don't listen to the GQ men's stigma that bags are just not masculine. You need supplies. Carry a bag. You need to carry your own toilet tissue. These come in packs much like travel facial tissue. If an American did not know any different, the tissue packs will be confused with facial tissues (Kleenex). If you can get to a store find the small travel wet wipes. We found them in most stores but they aren't obvious. They are super helpful. Carry a pack daily. Learn to squat. The best toilets are odor free. The worst smell like an outhouse. Every single toilet facility has an attendant. They mop all the time. It is best to not pee in your shoe so learn to squat low. Most places ask you to throw your tissue in the trash and not flush it. If there is a sign, there is a need to follow the rules. Western toilets are not common but they do tend to have less aroma. Carry cash to China. It is the easiest way to convert to RMB. You can take travelers checks but don't count on your VISA being honored everywhere. If you do use a credit card, get a PIN for it. Cash withdrawals from your US account are not possible unless you have the PIN. If you don't know your PIN get a new one before leaving for China. Take a translating software. We used iPads and an app for translating. The best ones allow the Chinese to write in traditional/simplified/pinyin to communicate back to you. Learn the app before you go. Simple phrases like "I am hungry" or "My room needs more toilet paper" are important. We will not travel to China without our iPads. We didn't expect them to be so helpful, they were actually indispensable! Wear light weight clothing. Summer is hot and wet. Getting dry is important and wearing US weight denim pants won't cut it during the summer, they are too heavy. Take at least 2 pairs of broken in shoes. Your feet will sweat and the shoes will stretch. You will need time for the shoes to dry and shrink again. Socks are very important. Get some for hikers that dry very quickly and will help prevent blisters. If your trip allows, wear sandals. Dumping your summertime extra body heat will help. Take Immodium AD. Don't try to find this in China, just take enough for your trip. A small first-aid kit was very helpful. Minor cuts happened. We were able to clean up on the go. Take Gatorade powder. We opted for the lower sugar G2 version in individual packets. Sweating made electrolytes get out of whack which causes a headache. Building back the appropriate electrolytes was easy with a single bottle of water. Each person in our party used these twice a day. More profuse sweating people used more. Some of us dripped. The change in humidity, heat and

elevation really played with us so we were glad we had Gatorade. Parasols or light colored umbrellas will very handy, they are cooler than hats. Get these in China. Take a good pair of polarized sunglasses if you will spend any time outside. This was critical to our enjoyment. Sunscreen from the US was also key in not getting burned. Plan for fun. Your suitcase will not be big enough to bring home all the things you want to bring. We took 3 to 4 days worth of clothes and did laundry. When we came home we still checked another bag. We visited historic places, current entertainment and learned from the locals how to make a proper tea ceremony with all the show. Plan for fun. We loved our trip!!! Get this book to help cover the basics of how and where and what to expect. Then fill the the rest by your own desire. This book should keep you from the biggest pot holes down the road to an incredible journey. Need more info? Just comment and I'll come back to answer as best I can.

This is my favorite China guide! The book is easy to read and packed full of useful information. (After two trips to China, I can confirm that they know what they are talking about.) They nailed it when it comes to bathrooms and hotels. I very much appreciated their insight into reconfirming flights and immunizations. (After reading the book, I double checked by shot records and noticed I never got my 3rd Hep B shot!) It was the perfect read to get ready for an upcoming trip to China.

This is absolutely the best China travel book I read before my trip. Larry Herzberg wrote this from the perspective of the novice traveler, and included the very things I needed to make my travel in China more predictable.

It was a joy to read this book. I only wished I had know and read about it before my first visit. I laughed several times as I read it remembering some of the troubles that I had during that trip. As they had said in the book, even with these problems, it is still an amazing place to visit. I picked up many pointers that will help me enjoy my next trip even more than the last one. Thank you for sharing your experience and knowledge of traveling to this wonderful country.

this should be the first guide book you read on China. I've traveled abroad extensively, I wish I could have had a guide like this for every place I've been. You can read where to go and what to see books to your hearts content, but none of that matters if you can't get there or are injured or get too sick to enjoy yourself. I truly recommend this as your \*first\* book in planning any trips to China. Use the other ones to fill in the blanks.

I am traveling to China for the first time in a few months, and I wanted a book that would help educate me about the customs and culture, and also what differences to anticipate from American culture. This book delivered exactly what I was looking for. I learned some important bits of information, and it all meshed with what other people and other resources have told me. I know other reviewers tired of the authors' various anecdotes, but I enjoyed reading them, and I felt like they gave me a more personalized perspective. The only thing I can't confirm at this point is how useful and relevant the advice will be once I'm actually there, but if it varies greatly from my expectations, I'll be sure to update this review! At this point, I'd definitely recommend it to anyone traveling to Middle Kingdom for the first time.

I am planning a trip to China and with that I have naturally purchased all of the regular guidebooks; DK Eyewitness, Lonely Planet, etc. Along with the usual tools like this I also had the good fortune to find "Chinese Survival Guide". I read it immediately! I found it to be chock full of useful tips that you just won't find in those other guidebooks. The familiar tone of the book has left me feeling as if I were chatting with good friends. The oft times amusing and self deprecating tales described in the "Chinese Survival Guide" have armed me with with a myriad of tips on how to navigate big cities like Shanghai and Beijing as well as how to conduct oneself off the beaten path. This quick read and at times downright hilarious book is a must read if you are planning a short trip, including just a layover stop or a monthlong trip into the interior. No one guidebook will satisfy all of your questions about a trip to China, but this book decidedly will provide you with all the information you need to keep you safe and avoid any troubles as well as show you how to make the very most of your trip. I cannot endorse this book strongly enough. Happy Trails, fellow Travelers!

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