



WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS (25M) BEIJING 2026

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 **Beijing, People's Republic of China**
Beijing National Aquatics Centre (Water Cube)

GLOBAL PARTNERS



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A. INTRODUCTION

1. WELCOME MESSAGE

China is located in East Asia and is one of the largest and most populous countries in the world, with a history spanning more than 5,000 years and a rich cultural heritage. Its capital is Beijing, its official language is Mandarin Chinese. China has well-developed infrastructure, including extensive high-speed rail networks and comprehensive air and urban public transportation systems. Together, they provide convenient and efficient travel for domestic and international visitors.

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China and serves as the country's political and cultural centre, as well as a centre for international exchanges and scientific and technological innovation. An international metropolis with a history of more than 3,000 years as a city and over 800 years as a capital, Beijing is home to world-renowned cultural heritage sites such as the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace, as well as modern landmarks including the National Indoor Stadium, the National Aquatics Centre and the National Stadium (Bird's Nest). The city has well-developed facilities and abundant commercial resources. English is widely used at international airports, major hotels, key tourist attractions and venues hosting major international sporting events.

Beijing observes China Standard Time (CST, UTC+8) throughout the year and does not observe daylight saving time. The official currency is the renminbi (RMB/CNY). Mobile payment services, including WeChat Pay and Alipay, are widely used, while international credit and debit cards are also accepted at most hotels, shopping centres, restaurants, and tourist attractions.

Beijing is a safe city. It has a comprehensive public transportation network, including the subway, buses, taxis and ride-hailing services, which provides convenient travel for residents and visitors. The city also has well-developed healthcare facilities and services, providing international visitors with reliable access to medical care.

In case of an emergency, call one of the following numbers:

110: Police

120: Emergency medical services (first aid)

119: Fire

122: Traffic accident police

Welcome to Beijing, China! We hope you enjoy a safe, trouble-free, enjoyable and memorable stay.

B. ENTRY VISA POLICIES BY COUNTRY/REGION

1. CHINA'S UNILATERAL VISA-FREE POLICY

Who is eligible?

Nationals holding valid ordinary passports of 50 countries, namely Brunei, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Australia, Poland, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Slovenia, Slovakia, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Andorra, Monaco, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Korea, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Malta, Estonia, Latvia, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Russia, Sweden, Canada and UK are exempted from visa requirement if coming to China for the purpose of business, tourism, family or friends visits, exchange, sports competitions and transit. They can stay in China for no more than 30 days without a visa.

How long will the visa waiver be effective?

Currently, there is no expiration date for the unilateral visa-free policy applicable to ordinary passport holders from Brunei. The policy for ordinary passport holders from Russia remains in effect until December 31, 2027, while the policy for ordinary passport holders from the other 48 countries remains in effect until December 31, 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions on Visa-free Entry into China

For further inquiries, please refer to the "FAQs on Visa-free Entry into China" (Bilingual Version) available on the China Consular Service.

https://cs.mfa.gov.cn/gyls/lsgz/fwxx/202511/t20251110_11749824.shtml

2. COUNTRIES/REGIONS REQUIRING VISAS FOR ENTRY INTO CHINA

Participants from other countries/regions who are travelling to China to compete should consult the visa instructions published on the official website of the relevant Chinese embassy or consulate.

C. VISA INVITATION LETTER

The Visa Invitation Letters will be issued to all participants registered for the event, including participants who do not require a visa to enter China.

To receive an Invitation Letter, participants must ensure that their registration in the GMS has been **submitted and approved**.

[General Management System \(GMS\)](#)

Participants are therefore strongly encouraged to complete and submit their registration as early as possible and to ensure that all information provided, particularly passport and personal details, is **complete, accurate, and consistent with their passport**.

Participants should also regularly check the status of their registration in the GMS and promptly provide any additional information or corrections requested during the approval process.

Please note: Participants who require a visa to enter China are strongly advised to ensure that their registration is approved and their Invitation Letter is available **at least 40 calendar days before their scheduled visa appointment** at the relevant embassy or consulate. Participants should allow sufficient time for the visa application process and should not wait until the registration deadline to complete their registration.

Participants entering China visa-free are also advised to carry their Invitation Letter when travelling, as it may be requested by immigration officers as supporting documentation to facilitate entry clearance.

D. VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. APPLICATION PROCESS

- a. **ONLINE APPLICATION:** Create an account using your email address and log in to the online visa application website. Complete and submit the visa application online.

There are currently two main official online systems for Chinese visa applications. To determine which one to use, **visit the official website of the Chinese embassy or consulate in your place of residence**, check the latest notices under “Consular Services” or “Visa”, and select the correct online application system according to the official instructions. There is usually a clearly marked “Apply Online” portal.

China is gradually moving visa applications to a unified new online system, although visa application service centres in some regions continue to use the previous platform. The two systems are as follows:

- a. China Online Visa Application (Primary System):

<https://consular.mfa.gov.cn/VISA/>

This new system was launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and is now being adopted by an increasing number of embassies and consulates. You will need to create an account, complete the application form online and upload all required documents. Once your application passes the preliminary online review, the system will display a “Passport to Be Submitted” notification. You must then take your original passport and other required documents to the relevant embassy, consulate or visa centre for submission and fingerprint collection, and complete the remaining procedures.

- b. Website of Chinese Visa Application Service Centre (Legacy Platform):

<https://www.visaforchina.cn/>

This online application form platform was widely used in the past. During the transition period, some embassies and consulates continue to use it or require applicants to select the relevant visa centre through this website before applying.

- b. **AWAITING REVIEW:** After the application is submitted, the embassy or consulate will take several working days to conduct a preliminary review. It may ask you to provide additional documents or contact you to verify further details. Please check the email account provided in your application regularly and ensure that you can be reached at the telephone number provided.
- c. **IN-PERSON DOCUMENT SUBMISSION:** Once your online application has been approved, follow the notification and visit the designated location to submit your original passport and have your fingerprints collected, unless you qualify for an exemption.

2. REQUIRED OCUMENTS

The documents listed below are for reference only. Please follow the specific requirements published on the official website of the embassy or consulate in your place of residence.

- a. Original passport, valid for more than six months and containing blank visa pages.
- b. A recent full-face passport photograph, taken without a hat or head covering.
- c. Originals or copies of any other application documents required by the embassy or consulate.

3. FEES

Visa fees vary according to the applicant's nationality. Please refer to the official website of the Chinese embassy or consulate in your place of residence for the applicable amount.

E. IMPORTANT NOTES AFTER VISA ISSUANCE

When collecting your visa, carefully check all information on the visa page before leaving, including your name, passport number, date of birth and other personal details, as well as the visa validity period, number of entries and permitted duration of each stay. If you find any errors, immediately contact the Chinese embassy or consulate that issued the visa to request a correction or reissuance.

When entering China, you are advised to carry the supporting documents submitted with your visa application, such as the Invitation Letter, round-trip flight booking and hotel reservation, in case Chinese immigration officers request to review them. The immigration authorities may require travellers to present additional documents to verify the purpose of entry.

Even if you enter China visa-free, you are advised to carry the Invitation Letter so that you can provide supporting information if asked by immigration officers, thereby facilitating smooth entry clearance. Therefore, please make sure you complete the City and the Country where you would apply for a VISA in GMS.

F. SPECIAL VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDIA PERSONNEL

Media personnel travelling to China must complete their registration in the GMS and provide all information and documentation required for media accreditation and visa processing.

To receive an Official Invitation Letter, media personnel must ensure that their **GMS registration and media accreditation have been submitted and approved by World Aquatics**. Participants are strongly encouraged to complete their registration as early as possible and to ensure that all information provided is **complete, accurate, and consistent with their passport and supporting documents**

- a scanned copy of your passport home page (PDF)
- press card (PDF)
- proof of employment produced by your working organization
- media accreditation approval email from World Aquatics

Participants should regularly check the status of their registration in the GMS and promptly provide any additional information or corrections requested during the approval process.

Please note: Official Invitation Letters will only be issued to media representatives whose media accreditation has been approved by World Aquatics. Media personnel who require a visa to enter China are strongly advised to ensure that their registration and accreditation process is completed sufficiently in advance of their visa appointment. To allow sufficient time for visa processing, all media participants requiring an Invitation Letter should complete the required registration and documentation **before 8 October 2026**. After the deadline, the LOC will be unable to assist with the visa application.

G. INQUIRIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions, please contact the LOC at:

- a. Telephone: +86-10-65301584
- b. Office hours: 09:00-17:30 on working days
- c. Email: wchbjsw26@163.com

Please use “Visa Invitation Letter Inquiry” in the email subject line.

H. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Are there any other documents needed for entering China besides the passport?

It is recommended to take documents such as invitation letters, air tickets and reservations of accommodation as a proof corresponding to the purposes of entry into China. Visa waiver does not apply to those who come to China for work, study, news coverage or purposes alike.

2. How to calculate the duration of stay of 30 days?

The duration of stay without a visa is calculated from the next day of entry and lasts for 30 calendar days.

3. I have only been confirmed to participate in the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) - Beijing 2026 at the last minute. How can I obtain a visa in such a short notice?

To avoid delays in visa processing, all participants who may potentially travel to China for the Championships are strongly encouraged to submit their personal information by 8 October 2026. Based on the information submitted, the Beijing Organizing Committee can prepare draft invitation letters in advance, ensuring sufficient time for visa processing once participation is confirmed. Participants are also advised to apply for a visa at their local embassy or consulate as early as possible. The applicable visa procedure and processing time will depend on the relevant embassy or consulate's review and decision.

Reminder: The information above is for reference only. The final visa requirements and procedures are governed by the official rules and decisions of the embassy or consulate in your place of residence. Please plan ahead and allow sufficient time for processing.