

实用信息 PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Dear Esteemed PCST Suzhou Symposium 2024 Participant,

We extend our warmest welcome to Suzhou, China, for our upcoming symposium. To ensure a seamless and enriching experience during your stay, please acquaint yourself with the following travel, accommodation, and local guidance.

1. Airport and Transportation:

Airport Selection:

Participants are recommended to arrive at Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) or Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (SHA), both well-connected internationally.

- Don't forget to fill in an arrival card. This is mandatory for every foreigner entering China. You need to present a completed card alongside your passport to the immigration inspection. It may also be required to collect your fingerprints.

Transportation to Suzhou by Train:

- From both Shanghai airports, the most convenient way to reach Suzhou is by a high-speed train.

From PVG Airport:

- Participants arriving at Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) can take Line 2 of the subway to Hongqiao Railway Station. From there, they can transfer to the train to Suzhou Railway Station.
- From Suzhou Railway Station, participants can reach the hotel by subway or taxi.

From SHA Airport:

- For participants arriving at Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport (SHA), the railway station is within the airport complex. They can directly take the train to Suzhou Railway Station.
- From Suzhou Railway Station, participants can reach the hotel by subway or taxi.

Where to Buy Train Tickets:

- Train tickets can be purchased online two weeks in advance through platforms such as China Railway Official Website (<https://12306.cn>), Ctrip, or Qunar.
- If you have WeChat Pay or Alipay installed, you can also book train tickets through these apps.
- Participants can also purchase tickets physically at the railway station ticket counters.
- You will always need your passport to book tickets and board a train. As a foreign traveler, when boarding the train, you should always line up in the row where you can find a train official.

Subway Ticket Purchase:

- At subway stations, they can purchase subway tickets through ticket machines using cash or by scanning the QR code of WeChat at ticket machines.

Subway Navigation in Suzhou:

- From Suzhou Railway Station, participants can reach the hotel by subway or taxi.
- If choose to take the subway, take Line 2 from Suzhou North Station or Suzhou Station to Sanxiang Square Station. Exit from Exit 1 and walk 200 meters to the Jinling Aster Hotel.
- Please beware that some subways close after 23:00.

By Taxi from Shanghai:

- Taxis are readily available at both Shanghai airports.
- From Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) and Hongqiao International Airport (SHA), it will cost approximately 600 RMB for a direct transfer to the hotel.

Other Transportation Options:

Upon landing on Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG), participants can take the airport shuttle bus at the long-distance bus station on the east side of B1 floor, alight at Times Square in SIP, and then take a cab for 25-30 RMB to the hotel.

Local Navigation and Taxi Services:

- Utilize Amap or MAPS.ME, reliable navigation apps, for ease of travel within Suzhou.
- DiDi, available in app store or through Alipay, is a convenient and safe mode of transportation within the city.

Please plan your transportation accordingly, and feel free to reach out to our PCST Suzhou Symposium 2024 organizers for any assistance or additional information.

2. Currency and Payments:

- The official currency is the Chinese Yuan (CNY). Stay informed about current exchange rates.
- Please try to configure your debit card to be able to use in China.
- Credit cards are widely accepted, but having some cash on hand is advisable.
- Optimize your payment experience by linking your WeChat and Alipay accounts to your debit or credit card for secure transactions. Here's a guide on how to connect your bank card to WeChat: <https://l1l-chengdu.com/wechat-pay-for-foreigners/>

Alipay Tour Pass:

- Alipay offers a Tour Pass that allows non-Chinese users to access Alipay services for 90 days without requiring a Chinese bank account.

Please ensure you have both WeChat and Alipay installed on your mobile device for communication and secure transactions during your stay in Suzhou. If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to contact our PCST Suzhou Symposium 2024 organizers.

3. Accommodation:

- Confirm your hotel reservation before your arrival.
- Familiarize yourself with the hotel's amenities, services, and emergency procedures during check-in.

4. Language:

- English is prevalent in tourist areas, but learning a few basic Mandarin phrases is beneficial.
- Utilize translation apps such as [Baidu Translate](#), [Pleco](#), [Dear Translate](#), [Google Translate](#) for effective communication. Please ensure you have a translation app better with an offline Chinese language pack installed on your mobile device to assist with language translation during your stay in Suzhou.

5. Cultural Considerations:

- Respect local customs and traditions. A courteous greeting and cultural awareness go a long way.
- Avoid discussions on sensitive topics such as politics or religion.

6. Food and Dietary Preferences:

- Explore the diverse Chinese cuisine. Communicate any dietary restrictions to restaurants.
- Opt for bottled water and avoid tap water.

7. Health and Safety:

- Be familiar with local emergency contact numbers.
- Carry necessary medications and health-related documentation.
- Adhere to safety guidelines and regulations.

8. Mobile Network Roaming, VPN Usage, and WeChat Installation:

- Enable international roaming for your mobile network.
- Due to restrictions, some international apps may require a VPN for unrestricted access.
- Paid VPN services like [Astrill](#), [Shadowrocket](#), and [Clash VPN](#) are popular choices and can be used to ensure seamless access to international websites and apps. Apps like NordVPN and Feixun have not worked recently in China.
- Ensure you have [WeChat](#) installed on your mobile device for communication and secure transactions.

Please note that VPNs and subscriptions need to be arranged before traveling to China, as it will not be possible once on the Chinese mainland.

SIM Card Purchase:

- Obtain SIM cards at the airport or local providers such as China Unicom and China Mobile for a local number and data access.
- Please ensure you have a local SIM card to stay connected during your stay in Suzhou.
- Some companies offer specific data packs when traveling to China. Please contact your local data provider for more information. It is also possible to buy an eSIM. Please verify whether your phone allows such sims to be installed. Some options are: Holafly, Nomad, Alosim, Airalo.

9. Networking Opportunities:

- Engage with fellow participants, speakers, and organizers.
- Exchange contact information for potential collaborations.

10. Departure:

- Check out of your hotel on time and settle any outstanding bills.
- Plan your departure in advance, considering transportation to the airport and potential traffic.

We trust these comprehensive guidelines will enhance your experience at PCST Suzhou Symposium 2024. For further assistance or queries, please do not hesitate to contact our symposium organizers.

Safe travels, and we look forward to your participation in the symposium!

Sincerely,

PCST Suzhou Symposium 2024 Organizing Committee