

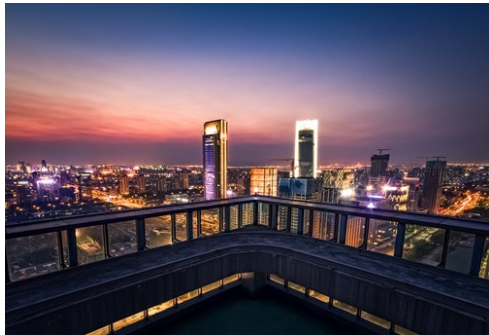


Ningbo

Photo: hxdyl/Shutterstock.com



Bambara/Shutterstock.com



HelloRF Zcool/Shutterstock.com



HelloRF Zcool/Shutterstock.com

Discover Ningbo, one of China's oldest cities and a vibrant international hub with a rich history. The birthplace of the Neolithic Hemudu culture, Ningbo translates from Mandarin as "the Serene Waves". Located on the shores of Hangzhou Bay, it is a long-established international trading port. With the Hangzhou Bridge, the longest trans-oceanic link in the world, Ningbo is now directly connected to Shanghai. Perhaps Ningbo's greatest distinction is the Tianyi Pavilion — the oldest library in all of China.

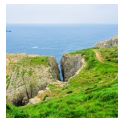
Featured



Shipuzhen /
Step back in time in Shipuzhen, a charming village with over 600 years of hi...



Tiantong Temple & Forest P...
Tiantong Temple, a Buddhist spiritual destination located in a hilly area ab...



Yushan Island /
For a scenic day trip, head to the beautiful and secluded Yushan Island. Tou...

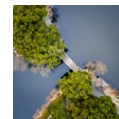


Ningbo Museum /
The museum itself is a wonderful piece of art and has won several internatio...

Top 5



Tianyi Ge /
The city's main attraction and a huge source of pride, the Tianyi Library is...



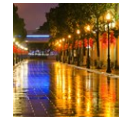
Moon Lake Park /
Yuehu, which literally means Moon Lake, is in the south-west of Ningbo, was ...



Drum Tower /
Constructed during the Tang Dynasty, the Drum Tower is the only remaining ci...



Tianfeng Pagoda /
Tianfeng Pagoda predates Ningbo city by 120 years. In ancient times, it serv...



Old Bund /
Step back in time at the Old Bund (Laowaitan), where the architectural legac...

THE CITY



HelloRF Zcool/Shutterstock.com

Ningbo's city centre is sandwiched between the ocean to the northeast and low-lying mountains to the southwest, with coastal plains and valleys in between. The Xinjiang Bridge straddles the most interesting sections of Ningbo and serves as a useful landmark for finding your way around the city. On the eastern bank is the Old Bund, or Laowaitan area, already popular with visitors by day. After sundown, the quarter transforms into the city's major nightlife hub. Stretching from the Catholic Church are old warehouses, now transformed into riverside bars and restaurants. Behind them are modern skyscrapers that complete the business district.

On the other side of the river are the Town Hall and the Drum Tower, where the remaining architecture from China's imperial times offers visitors a glimpse into the city's glorious past. Further south lie the scenic Moon Lake (月湖), Tianyi Square (perhaps the city's busiest commercial hub), and the Tianfeng Pagoda, dating back to the 7th-century Tang Dynasty.

DO & SEE



HelloRF Zcool/Shutterstock.com

Many of Ningbo's attractions lie outside the city limits. The countryside boasts an abundance of scenic natural areas, home to striking Buddhist temples that are perfect for a day trip. Tiantong and Baoguo temples are among the most popular with visitors. Venture even further out to the unspoiled Yushan Island. Inside Ningbo, must-see sights include China's oldest library, Tianyi, the historic Drum Tower and surrounding area, and the Laowaitan neighbourhood at night.

Tianyi Ge /



The city's main attraction and a huge source of pride, the Tianyi Library is the most historical library in Asia. The library complex contains multiple historic artefacts and is a pleasure to simply walk around and admire the ancient building while strolling through tranquil gardens and courtyards.

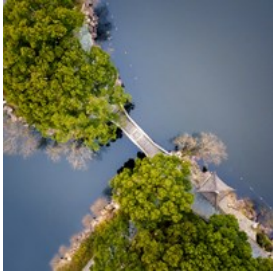
Photo: Claudio Zaccherini/shutterstock

Address: Tianyi Street, Haishu District, Ningbo

Internet:

www.chinadiscovery.com/zhejiang/ningbo/tianyi-pavilion.html

Moon Lake Park /



Yuehu, which literally means Moon Lake, is in the south-west of Ningbo, was first turned into a cultural and academic centre during the Song and Yuan Dynasties. Nowadays it is the main recreation area for many locals who come to play chess, practise the martial art of Tai Chi, dance or just enjoy the beautiful views.

Photo: HelloRF Zcool/shutterstock

Address: Yuehu Park, Zhenming Lu, Haishu District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8758 2626

Internet: www.yuehussp.com

Drum Tower /



Constructed during the Tang Dynasty, the Drum Tower is the only remaining city gate tower in Ningbo. Atop the tower stands a six-metre-high Romanesque bell tower, a later addition from the Republic period. The base of the tower is surrounded by a commercial area, with buildings reconstructed in the traditional style.

Photo: 4045/shutterstock

Address: 2 Gongyuan Lu, Haishu District, Ningbo

Tianfeng Pagoda /



Tianfeng Pagoda predates Ningbo city by 120 years. In ancient times, it served as a lighthouse, guiding passing ships. Today, visitors can climb the stairs to the top and enjoy panoramic views of the city.

Photo: QinJin/shutterstock

Address: 258 Dashani Street, Jiangxia Street, Haishu District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8730 2635

Internet: www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/zhejiang/ningbo/tianfeng-pagoda.htm

Old Bund /



Step back in time at the Old Bund (Laowaitan), where the architectural legacy of Ningbo's cosmopolitan past comes alive. English, French, German, and Dutch-style buildings evoke memories of the 1930s and 1940s in this once-bustling international hub. Today, the area offers a variety of evening venues, many of which operate primarily during the summer months.

Photo: HelloRF Zcool/shutterstock

Address: North bank of Three Rivers Junction, Ningbo

Yushan Island /



For a scenic day trip, head to the beautiful and secluded Yushan Island. Tourist infrastructure is limited here, with only a few resorts and a picturesque lighthouse set against the backdrop of crystal-blue seawater. At night, you might even witness the magical blue tears, a phenomenon of mysterious blue lights spotted along Yushan Island's shores, caused by small crustaceans that are washed up on the island's beaches by the rising tides.

Photo: HelloRF Zcool/Shutterstock.com

Address: Xiangshan County, Ningbo

Tiantong Temple & Forest Park /



Tiantong Temple, a Buddhist spiritual destination located in a hilly area about an hour's bus ride from Ningbo city, is a perfect venue for

a day trip. This temple is a vast complex, with dozens of ochre-coloured plaster and red-painted wooden buildings ascending the mountainside. You can't miss the reconstructed Wanfo Pagoda! Hiking uphill is a pleasant experience, with the clarity of the air, scenic views, and multiple smaller temples along the way.

Photo: HelloRF Zcool/shutterstock

Address: Tiantong Scenic Resort, Yingzhou District, Ningbo

Internet: www.topchinatravel.com/china-attractions/tiantong-temple.htm

Shipuzhen /



Step back in time in Shipuzhen, a charming village with over 600 years of history, perched on a hillside overlooking the sea. Constructed on a

hill with one side open to the sea, the village wall traces the mountainside, winding up and down.

Near the port, a whole street of seafood restaurants awaits, offering the freshest seafood and the most authentic Ningbo dishes.

Photo: fan joo/pexels

Address: Xiangshan County, Ningbo

Ningbo Museum /



The museum itself is a wonderful piece of art and has won several international architecture prizes. The most interesting part of the

exhibition would be the folk culture hall, where a whole street featuring shops of traditional handcrafted art was created inside the building. This place will take you back in time and offer a closer look at the old Ningbo City.

Photo: Judy Beth Morris/unsplash

Address: 1000 Shounan Zhong Lu, Yinzhou District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8281 5588

Internet: www.nbmuseum.cn

DINING



06photo/Shutterstock.com

Ningbo cuisine is renowned for its generous use of seafood, though regional favourites like dumplings and noodles are also widely available. A variety of eateries can be found throughout the city. Cuisines range from local Chinese to Turkish, Lebanese, Indian, and European. Note that many local restaurants may not offer English menus. In such cases, use the photo illustrations to help you decide on your order.

Shipu Seafood /



This seafood restaurant enjoys a spotless reputation in Ningbo, and some say it even makes the cut as one of the top contenders for best seafood restaurant nationwide. Take a pick from the display on the ice and have your favourite seafood dish freshly prepared within minutes.

Photo: monofaction/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tianyi Square, 155 Qizha Jie, Haishu District, Ningbo
Phone: +86 574 8728 1818

Feast (Meiyan) Modern Restaurant /



Located in a renovated ancient Chinese mansion, Feast Modern Restaurant offers local fare with a sophisticated twist. The menu is in Chinese, but very well-illustrated. This one is, indeed, a dining experience rather than just a meal — all in a 20th-century Shanghai-style interior.

Photo: Martin Rettenberger/Shutterstock.com

Address: 87 Huaishu Lu, Jiangbei District, Ningbo
Phone: +86 574 8735 1111

Ganesha Indian Restaurant /



Ganesha, an incredibly popular Indian eatery, serves curries and fresh, fluffy naan bread that keeps patrons coming back for more. Don't be put off by the modest interior; the famously delicious meals and incredibly friendly staff more than compensate for the simple surroundings.

Photo: HLPhoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: 336 Zhenming Lu, Haishu District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 189 6822 7174

Grandma's Home /



With its many locations around Ningbo, Grandma's Home is a must-visit eatery serving authentic Zhejiang Dishes. You will be served with a wide variety of dishes in southern culinary style, which is light and delicate. Be aware that the menu is only in Chinese so better to go with a Chinese person who can order for you.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tianyi International Shopping Center, 166 ZhongShan Dong Lu, Haishu District, Ningbo
Phone: +86 574 8768 4068

Zaozishu Vegetarian Restaurant /



Discover the diverse world of plant-based cuisine at Zaozishu, a vegan and vegetarian restaurant in Ningbo's old town that will even tempt carnivores. Located in the heart of the old town, Zaozishu is easy to find and offers a refreshing take on meat-free dining.

Photo: Viktor Hanacek/Shutterstock.com

Address: Xinhui Tiandi, 568 Zhenming Lu, Haishu District, Ningbo
Phone: +86 574 8730 1333

Blue Eye Turkish Restaurant / Blue Eye



For a taste of authentic Turkish cuisine in Ningbo, head to Blue Eye, a reputable restaurant with a diverse menu and English-speaking staff.

Enjoy a variety of hot and cold mezze, kebabs, pide, hummus, salads, and many more delicious staples of Mediterranean and Turkish cuisine. Please note that alcohol is not served.

Photo: lz89/Shutterstock.com

Address: 112 Renmin Lu, Jiangbei District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8848 2112

Gangyagou /



Ancient grains of rice were discovered at the Hemudu Site, once home to a Neolithic culture that inhabited the Ningbo area, which makes

Ningbo the city with the longest history of rice cultivation. Rice is put to good use in countless ways here, tangyuan being, perhaps, the most famous of all.

Tangyuan are essentially glutinous rice balls that come with all kinds of fillings. These can be sweet and salty, hot and cold, served dry or with soup. With all these different combinations, there is plenty of room for choice.

Apart from tangyuan, nian gao, the year cake, which is made of rice, is also popular and can be served in all different kinds of shapes and cooked in hundreds of ways.

Photo: HelloRF Zcool/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tianyi Square, Haishu District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8908 9126

CAFÉS



taa22/Shutterstock.com

The long-time presence of expatriates in the city means that there is no stranger to a good cup of coffee. Coffee shops and western-style cafés serving pancakes and waffles aren't at all rare, neither are authentic Chinese tea houses.

Mon Epoque



Heralded as the best bakery in Ningbo, Mon Epoque offers a truly varied selection of freshly baked bread and pastries. You'd be hard-pressed to

find an establishment that can compete. Light meals like sandwiches and salads are also served.

Photo: Viktor Hanacek/Shutterstock.com

Address: Diamond Business Plaza, 29 Daqing Nan Lu, Jiangbei District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 189 5784 6506

Ancient Coffee /



It is hard to miss Ancient Coffee when you enter the Laowaitan Area. The owner of Ancient Coffee is one of the first professional coffee

makers in China. The coffee shop is equipped with a Giesen roasting machine that allows them

to roast their own coffee beans. Their signature coffee is Hartmann Black Winey which is imported from Panama.

Photo: PatrikV/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ningbo Old Bund Tourist Service Center, 157-159 Zhongma Lu, Jiangbei District, Ningbo

Hug Coffee



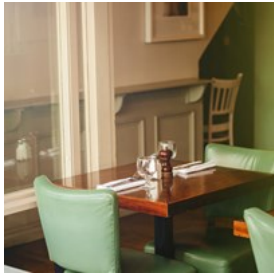
Hug Coffee shares the same owner as Ancient Coffee, which can be seen as all but a guarantee of high quality. This café is located in the Drum

Tower commercial street and has only several seats, but they do offer great coffee such as flat white, cold brew Kenyan pour over, and more.

Photo: Rawpixel/Shutterstock.com

Address: 44 Gongyuan Lu, Haishu District, Ningbo
Phone: +86 133 8664 5051

HoneyWood Cafe /



Honeywood Cafe is simple and cosy, and will make you feel like you're visiting a friend. They have both professional equipment and

professional coffee makers from Shanghai, and their milk tea is a must-try.

Photo: Hadrian/Shutterstock.com

Address: Binjiang Commercial Plaza, 420 Taoyuan Street, Yinzhou District, Ningbo
Phone: +86 574 8734 1136

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Dimdok/Shutterstock.com

The definitive location for a pub crawl in Ningbo is the Laowaitan area, a stretch of bars and pubs (and even several night clubs) right by the waterfront. Most serve imported beers alongside the iconic Tsing Tao and have a local DJ spin tunes late into the night. Expats frequent a few of the local haunts, and it isn't uncommon to run into English speakers on a night out.

Lao Wai Tan /



At night, head to the popping riverside area of Laowaitan. It is packed with restaurants, bars and nightlife venues to the brim - establishments

dot the neighbourhood, and one is never too far away from a watering hole. Locals, expats and tourists all flock here after sundown.

Photo: HelloRF Zcool/shutterstock

Address: North bank of Three Rivers Junction, Ningbo
Opening hours: 24/7
Phone: +86 574 8738 1842

Bar Constellation /



For a sophisticated evening in Ningbo, head to Bar Constellation, an upscale bar with a classic interior and an extensive selection of fine drinks and cigars. Relax in a monumental armchair and soak in the elegant atmosphere, enhanced by the white-gloved, bow-tied staff. The bar offers a wide array of cocktails, whiskies, wines, and cigars to satisfy even the most discerning connoisseur. The staff can speak English.

Photo: Jag_cz/Shutterstock.com

Address: 46-14 Caihong Bei Lu, Yinzhou District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8831 2978

O'Reilly's Irish Pub / O'Reilly's



This Irish pub has been around since 2006 and attracts both locals and tourists. The lively and happy atmosphere invites people from all around

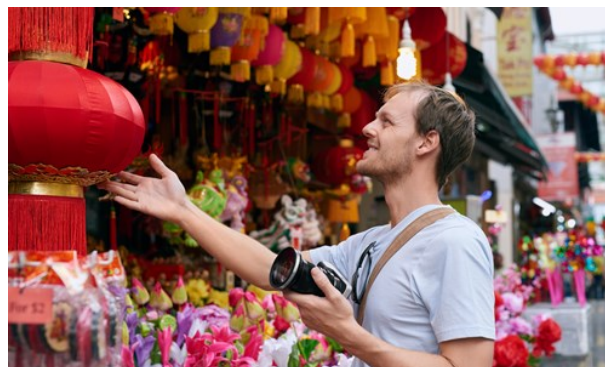
the world to have a beer and a chat with new friends. If you are hungry, grab a bite to eat from their menu with sandwiches, burgers, pizza and fries. Staff speak English.

Photo: Deborah Kolb/Shutterstock.com

Address: 46-10 Caihong Bei Lu, Yinzhou District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8770 4282

SHOPPING

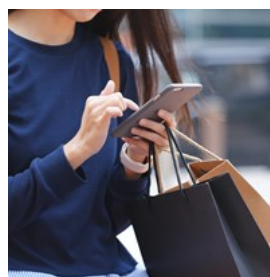


Daxiao Productions/Shutterstock.com

Those seeking goods with local flavour can explore a number of markets selling a variety of products, from bamboo carvings and traditional artwork to exotic local snacks and fresh seafood. Local handicrafts include bone and woodwork, gold and silver embroidery, Zhujin wood carvings, bamboo engraving, colourful mire gold paint, and special straw mats.

Ningbo also boasts a large number of modern shopping malls. Tianyi Square is the prime location for brand-name shopping.

Tianyi Square /



Called the Saloon of Ningbo, Tianyi Square is one of the busiest places and most fashionable shopping district of the city. Here you can find

boutiques, restaurants, coffee bars and entertainment centres. The Square's series of fountains light up at night, making for a majestic outdoor show.

Photo: leungchopan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Tianyi Square, Haishu District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8768 3088

Ningbo Yinzhou Wanda Plaza /



Wanda Plaza encompasses a variety of shopping malls with both local and Western stores, including Walmart, a wide selection of restaurants, and entertainment destinations. Wanda Plaza is an ideal destination for a family outing. With its vast array of shopping options, Wanda Plaza caters to visitors of all ages and interests.

Photo: Tom Wang/Shutterstock.com

Address: 999 Siming Zhong Lu, Yinzhou District, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8808 6009

Intime Department Store /



Ningbo boasts several Intime shopping centres, the most popular of which is located in one of the city's busiest areas — Tianyi Square. With a multitude of stores and boutiques, these shopping centres offer a convenient one-stop shopping experience.

Photo: Ariwasabi/Shutterstock.com

Address: 188 Zhongshan East Road, Haishu District, Ningbo

Gu Lou /



Located right by the Drum Tower, Gu Lou is a traditional commercial street with multiple small shops selling various knick-knacks, artworks,

leather goods, and local snacks like traditional roasted chestnuts. Chinese lanterns linger from the sky as local cafés invite shoppers for a quick break.

Photo: Etaphop photo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Fuqiao Lu, Haishu District, Ningbo

Incity Plaza /



Here you can find food, bars, cinema and of course, local stores alongside international brands. The place is located in the city centre, making it an easy stop for copious numbers of visitors.

Photo: Sonpichit Salangsing/Shutterstock.com

Address: 288 Qianhu Bei Lu, Yinzhou District, Ningbo

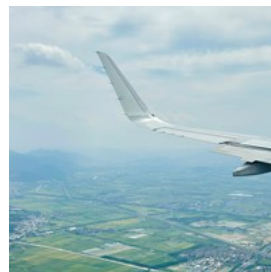
Phone: +86 574 8282 9988

TOURIST INFORMATION



photobyphotoboy/Shutterstock.com

Ningbo Lishe International Airport (NGB)



Ningbo Lishe International Airport (NGB) is the main airport serving Ningbo. Located about 10 kilometres (6 miles) southwest of the

city centre, this modern airport offers a range of domestic and international flights. Travellers can easily access the city centre from the airport via various transportation options, including airport shuttle buses, taxis, and the convenient Ningbo

Metro Line 2.

Photo: Sean Wang/unsplash

Address: Ningbo Lishe International Airport, Yinzhou, Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8189 9000

Internet: www.ningbo-airport.com/english/index.jhtml

Passport / Visa



Most travellers visiting mainland China are required to obtain a visa before arrival. Tourist visas (L visas) are typically issued for stays

of up to 30 or 60 days and must be obtained in advance from a Chinese embassy or consulate.

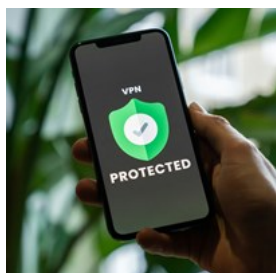
Citizens of Japan, Singapore, and Brunei are permitted to enter China without a visa for stays of up to 15 days for tourism, business, or family visits.

Keep in mind that travellers who plan to visit Hong Kong or Macau in addition to mainland China may require separate visas for these regions, as they have different entry requirements from mainland China.

Visa and entry policies may change frequently. Be sure to confirm the latest requirements with your nearest Chinese embassy or consulate before travel.

Photo: Kit/unsplash

Internet Access & VPN in China



Because of the internet security laws of China, certain websites and applications are not accessible from the mainland, which includes

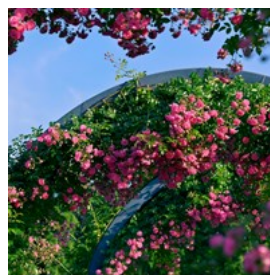
those very commonly used in the west (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google and Gmail, Skype and more). Some travellers have been able to gain access to those via a VPN service installed prior to arrival in China.

Make sure you comply with local laws and regulations when deciding on whether or not to employ a VPN, and which one to choose. If you do, only use those explicitly allowed by the Chinese government, and only use them for authorised purposes to avoid any trouble. There have been reports of foreigners in China getting their cell service cut off in response to unauthorised use of VPN; restoring cell service required a trip to the local police station, where contents of the device were investigated and certain apps removed.

Given that Google is banned in China, Google Maps might not be the most accurate and reliable source of information. Some local apps such as Baidu Maps tend to work better than Google Maps.

Photo: Privecstasy/unsplash

Best Time to Visit



Ningbo, with an average annual temperature of 16°C (61°F), is a city that can be enjoyed year-round. For the most pleasant weather, plan

your visit during the spring (March through May) or autumn (September through November) months. If you're interested in exploring the Zhoushan Islands, the summer months (June through August) offer the best conditions for enjoying these popular vacation resorts.

Photo: Jiang Lewis/unsplash

Public Transport



Ningbo offers a variety of transportation options to help you navigate the city and its surrounding areas. Within the city, the Ningbo Metro is an efficient and affordable way to travel. It currently has 4 lines that connect key locations such as the airport, railway station, Tianyi Pavilion and popular parks. The public bus network is also extensive and can take you to many attractions within the city. However, announcements and signage are primarily in Mandarin, which might present a challenge if you are unfamiliar with the language.

If you are looking to explore areas outside the city, such as Xikou Town or the Zen Buddhist Temples in Jinzhou District, hiring a private car is recommended for greater convenience and flexibility.

Photo: Yue GUAN/unsplash

Internet: www.chinadiscovery.com/zhejiang/ningbo/transportation.html

Taxi



Taxis are the default mode of transportation for many foreigners in Beijing. Have your destination written down in Chinese and hail a cab. Make sure there is a taximeter and it starts at its initial point. You can also use the popular ride hailing app Didi if you have a Chinese phone number and internet access.

Most taxi drivers may speak only a little English. Expect to get your change; tipping is

discouraged.

Photo: Jeffrey W/unsplash

Internet: www.travelchinaguide.com/cityguides/zhejiang/ningbo/transportation/town-bus.htm

Post



Sending mail or packages in Ningbo is easy thanks to the city's numerous post offices and readily available post boxes. Post offices typically operate from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, with some branches also open on weekends. Services offered at these post offices include mailing packages and letters, postal savings, and international parcel services. Post boxes are available across the city and are relatively easy to locate, often marked by their distinctive dark green colour.

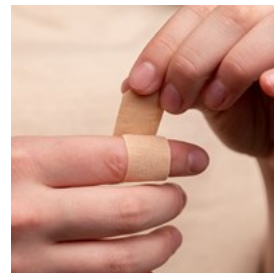
Photo: Ali Bakhtiari/unsplash

Address: China Post, 2 Xiaoliang Street (Gulou Subway Station Entrance), Ningbo

Phone: +86 574 8736 5701

Internet: www.chinapostaltracking.com/office/ningbo

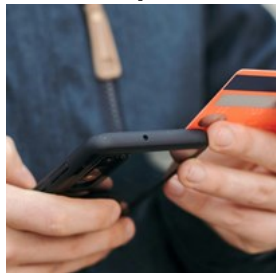
Pharmacy



In Ningbo, there are several well-established pharmacy chains that offer a wide range of health products, prescription medications, and over-the-counter remedies. Here are some of the main pharmacy chains in the city: Siming Drug Store, Nep-Star Drug Store, Watsons, and LBX Pharmacy.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/unsplash

Mobile Payments



In China, mobile payment apps such as Alipay, WeChat Pay and UnionPay are widely used and accepted almost everywhere, including restaurants, shops, street food stalls and tourist attractions. To use them, you can link your international credit card or set up a local bank account. Both apps provide features in English and are user-friendly, making it easy to handle payments, split bills, and even pay for transportation. Download these apps before your trip and familiarise yourself with their functionality to enhance your travel experience in Beijing.

Photo: Anete Lusina/pexels

Telephone



Country code: +86 Area code: 574

Photo: Miryam León/unsplash

Electricity



You'll likely encounter Type A, Type I, and Type C outlets in mainland China. Type A outlets accept two flat parallel pins, Type I outlets take three flat pins in a triangular pattern, and Type C outlets — two round pins. It's always a good idea to have a universal travel adapter that can handle all three types, just in case. Make sure your device is compatible with 220V power

supply.

Photo: ergonofis/unsplash

Population

9.6 million

Currency

1 RMB (renminbi, also known as Chinese yuán) = 10 jī o

Opening hours

Office hours are 9am–5:30pm, from Monday to Friday. Banks are open 9am–4pm on weekends. Most malls and supermarkets close at 10pm.

Newspapers

Ningbo Daily (in Chinese and English)
China Daily: www.chinadaily.com.cn

Emergency numbers

Police: 110
Ambulance: 120
Fire: 119

Tourist information

Ningbo Old Bund Tourist Service Center
Old Bund Scenic Area, 157-159 Zhongma Lu, Ningbo