What to do if you lose your passport in China

This information is provided as a general guide based upon information provided to the British Embassy by the relevant local authorities and may be subject to change at any time with little or no notice. The FCO and the British Embassy will not be liable for any inaccuracies. In addition, we make no representation as to the quality or accuracy of the information which is available at the web addresses listed in this guide, nor can we accept any responsibility for the content that is hosted on them. British nationals wishing to obtain any further information must contact the relevant local authority.

Please note that the British Embassy is not responsible for passports – they are issued by Her Majesty’s Passport Office (HMPO) in the UK. Follow the instructions on www.gov.uk/overseas-passports. If you have any difficulties you can contact the HMPO directly on 0044 300 222 0000.
I’ve lost my passport/my passport has been stolen – what should I do?

Cancel it
If you lose your passport or it is stolen, it is important that you cancel it immediately. You can do this by completing an LS01 form and posting, faxing or taking it to your nearest British embassy or consulate. Check if you need to make an appointment first if you’re taking it in. You can download the form at [https://www.gov.uk/report-a-lost-or-stolen-passport](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-lost-or-stolen-passport).

Inform the local police
You will need to report the loss of your passport immediately to the nearest police station and obtain a police report of the loss.

Inform the Public Security Bureau
You should then also report the loss of your passport to the Municipal Public Security Bureau (PSB) to obtain a formal “Confirmation of Reporting the Loss of Passport” issued by the Exit and Entry Administration Section of the Public Security Ministry. This allows you to stay in China legally for 30 days without a valid passport.

Your hotel or local police station will be able to tell you where the nearest office is. You will need to go with a Temporary Residence Registration Form, which can be obtained from your hotel if it is in the same city as the PSB, or from the police station covering the area of your residence if you are not staying at a hotel.

Apply for a new passport
You should start applying for a passport as soon as you can.

Get a visa on your new passport
Your new passport will be delivered to the UK Visa Application Centre where you applied. Once your new passport has been issued, you will be required to transfer your current visa from your old passport or if needed obtain a new Chinese Visa from the Public Security Bureau.

According to Chinese Exit and Entry Management regulations, you have 10 days from your passport’s date of issue to apply for your Chinese visa to be transferred to your new passport. If you exceed the 10 day deadline you may be subject to a 500RMB fine per day up to a maximum of 10,000RMB. We therefore recommend that you collect your passport as soon as it is ready for collection.
What if my visa expires before I get a new passport?

If your visa expires before you get a new passport, you should discuss your status with the Exit and Entry Public Security Bureau while you are there.

I can’t wait for a new passport
If your passport is lost or stolen abroad and you urgently need to travel, you can apply for an Emergency Travel Document. The British Embassy can issue you with one. Consular staff will check if you’re eligible for an emergency travel document. If you’re not, they’ll tell you why. You will need to provide a police report, fill in an application form and pay a fee. Please read https://www.gov.uk/emergency-travel-document for details.

Get an exit visa
After obtaining an ETD, you will need an exit visa from the Public Security Bureau. This process can take up to 5-7 working days. You can use the ETD to get back into China providing you have evidence of residence here.
Useful Links

If you need general advice when travelling abroad or want to know how the Embassy can help you if you have difficulties please see Support for British nationals: A guide. We also publish and regularly update foreign travel advice with key information for 225 countries and territories around the world.

The British Embassy/Consulate-Generals provide guides on the following subjects:

**Adoption in China**
[www.gov.uk/adoption-in-china](http://www.gov.uk/adoption-in-china) - including details of who to talk to and documents you may need

**Bereavement in China**

**Commercial disputes in China**
[https://www.gov.uk/commercial-disputes-in-china](https://www.gov.uk/commercial-disputes-in-china) - advice for British nationals and UK companies in China doing business in China

**Emergency Travel Document**

**English speaking lawyers, translators and interpreters**
[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/china-list-of-lawyers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/china-list-of-lawyers) - list of English speaking lawyers and translators/interpreters in China

**Foreign travel insurance**
[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance)

**Giving birth in China**

**Living in China**
[www.gov.uk/living-in-china](http://www.gov.uk/living-in-china) - general information and links for British nationals living in China

**List of hospitals in China**