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GIRAFFE



Welcome

to

WUHAN

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They say Wuhan is different every day. Living in Wuhan, you will come to realize how true that is. Things are constantly changing as the city grows into the Chicago of China. You will never get tired of the food here, as there is a multitude of food all around you. Being located in the middle of China, you will find cultures coming at you from the North, East, South, and West of China, right to your doorstep!

From sports to travelling, you can always find a group for an activity you want to engage in. Wuhan also has an excellent variety of exclusive restaurants for those who like to “wine-and-dine”. Wuhan also has a booming night-life for those who like to party. From clubs to live music, Wuhan has it all! Make sure to check out “Wuhan Social” to be up-to-date on what’s happening in Wuhan.



Pre-Departure Considerations

Before making the move to China, there are a few things you should do your best to wrap up in your home country.

Talk to your bank

Let them know that you will be moving to China and possibly travelling around Asia. They may even offer you information about international branches, transfer options, or other useful tools to keep up with your account.

Create a plan for debt

If possible, pay down any outstanding credit card you may have and make a plan to tackle any student loans or other payments that you will still need to cover while abroad. You can talk to your loan provider about options for those living abroad.

Get your taxes in

If you worked in your home country during the current fiscal year, you will likely need to file your taxes. Request that your forms are sent to a trusted person who can forward them to you abroad, and locate your previous year's return so that you are prepared to file online or have someone file them for you.

Prepare your phone

Check with your cell phone provider about cancelling your service while abroad, and see if your phone is unlocked to allow the use of a Chinese SIM card. Having an international plan is an option, but you will need to have a working Chinese phone number to use many essential services in China.

Get a VPN

You may have heard about the legendary "Firewall of China". Many western websites and applications such as Google, Facebook, Instagram, and more are blocked from use in China, but an easy way around this is to use a VPN service such as Express-VPN, Astrill, or many others that are available.



Packing for China

The final stop in the process is one of the most exciting yet daunting: what should I bring to China?

Clothing

Wuhan experiences four distinct seasons. Wuhan is at latitude on par with the U.S city of Chicago, so the climate is comparable. In addition to your typical clothing, you may also want to bring:

- Comfortable teaching attire, such as casual pants and skirts below the knee
- Comfortable shoes for teaching
- Raincoat
- Suit or formal outfit for Giraffe events throughout the year

Health and Beauty

Most mainstream items can be found in China, but if you prefer a specific brand, it is best to stock up before arriving in China.

- Deodorant
- Sunscreen
- Cosmetics
- Feminine Products
- Prescriptions, vitamins, and over-the-counter medications

Other

There are a few more things that will likely come in handy during your time in China.

- English language books or E-Reader
- Personal Electronics
- Comforting items from home



Finding an Apartment

Once you arrive, Giraffe will put you up in a hotel for two weeks while apartment hunting. The housing market in Wuhan is massive, and has a rapid turnover rate. When you find a place you love, don't think twice!

How to Find an Apartment

There are several ways to go about this, one of them being reputable real estate agents that we will help you communicate. Another way is going on the Wuhan real estate application, which allows you to browse through different apartments.

Keep in mind that real estate agents, while an easy option, will typically charge a finder's fee of 35% of the rent for their services, which include an English-translated lease, help with police registration, and negotiation with the landlord if necessary. In addition, leasing an apartment in Wuhan is a bit different from most western countries, as rent will typically be paid every 2-3 months. Therefore, the upfront cost can be quite high when considering the deposit and the first few months' rent. If this is an issue for you financially, let us know and we will do what we can to help you out.

Apartments in Wuhan

With prices ranging anywhere from 2,000RMB/month to more than you can imagine making in a year, there are options for everyone. Many teachers opt to live in shared apartments with other foreign teachers. If living with someone isn't your cup of tea, then you can seek out your own private residence near the school.



Neighborhood Guide

Zhongnan Road

Because many apartments in this area are within walking distance of the Zhongnan Road branch, it is easy for us to assist you in finding a nice place. Many of our Giraffers live in this area and enjoy getting together for a bite to eat. You can find anything you need at the beautiful new mall just down the street from the school.

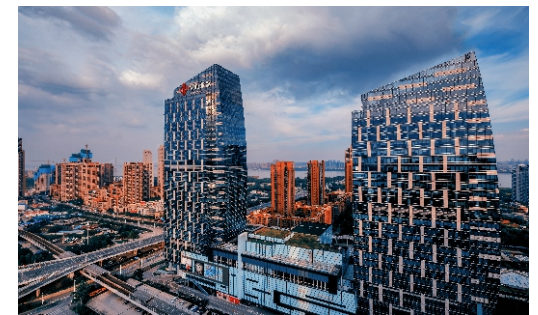
Jiedaokou

There are some apartments in this area which are very foreigner-friendly and are used to dealing with English speaking tenants because of the many international students attending the nearby universities. There is wide a variety of budget-friendly restaurants and bars to explore.



Wuhan Tiandi

While this area is a little more expensive than other parts of Wuhan, it's a great place to live for someone who enjoys popular restaurants, bars, shopping malls, and other amenities. It's near our Hankou branch and a 10-minute walk to the river.



Essentials

General Food Shopping



[Eleme <app>](#)

- The app has a pretty big groceries selection as well as being a good meal-buying app. Just click on the fresh fruits and vegetables section and scroll through. It's not really a whole supermarket on there, but enough to keep you going. It will provide you with veggies and protein for the evening.



One of the first things you look for when you get to Wuhan is where to buy your daily goods. While there is not one solid answer for this, as it mainly depends on where you live, here are a few places to start looking when you first arrive.

There are supermarkets scattered all over Wuhan; some of western quality, and some that cater more to the locals. You can check out your local area to find the best local one for you. Walmart and Carrefour both have a lot of shops in the city and they will provide you with a lot of western goods.

Healthcare

There are many options available for healthcare in Wuhan. The first consideration, however, is to check with your insurance provider in your home country, possibly through a parent, to see if you are already covered while abroad.

Insurance

If you are not already covered abroad with your home provider, it is a good idea to consider taking out an insurance policy here in China. In addition to accident insurance, Giraffe offers employees an optional medical coverage to be deducted from your salary each month. Please contact us to inquire further. There are also other private options available here in China that you can enroll in, or other international travel insurance providers that will cover you around the world.

Medications

If you have a prescription from your home country that must be re-filled frequently, then it is advised to bring enough to last you as long as possible. For large quantities, carry a letter from your doctor for customs purposes. Foreign prescriptions are not accepted in Chinese hospitals, so you will need to make a trip to the doctor to get a prescription. It is also advisable to research in advance whether your prescription is available in China, as some pharmaceuticals are unavailable. For over-the-counter medications, we recommend bringing enough cold, flu, and general medications from your home country to last your time in China. Most typical western medications are difficult to find and Chinese medicine is preferred.

What if I get sick?

Moving to the other side of the world and working closely with children, you are guaranteed to come in contact with a few new germs. You can prepare by bringing plenty of cold and flu medicine with you, and you are free to take sick leave from work with a doctor's note. If something more serious occurs, Wuhan is equipped with a number of modern and international hospitals and clinics with English-speaking doctors who can assist.

Hospitals

If you have health insurance in your home country, it may work with specific hospitals in China, so it is advisable to check on that. If not, here are some great hospital recommendations that our foreign teachers prefer. **Be sure to bring your passport with you to the hospital.**



Wuhan General Hospital of Guangzhou Military Region

This is the nearest hospital to our Zhongnan branch. If you have any medical issues, someone from the school can easily take you there.

Phone: +86-27-50773333

Address: 武昌区武珞路627号

Closest Metro Station: Baotong Temple

Opening hours: 8:00-17:00



Tongji Hospital

Tongji Hospital is an innovative and modern hospital, and is widely known as the best hospital in Wuhan.

English service is provided.

Phone: +86-27- 83662688

Website: <http://english.tjh.com.cn>

Address: 武汉市硚口区解放大道1095号

Closest Metro Station: 中山公园 Zhongshan park

There are many other hospitals that provide English services, such as:

Union Hospital of Tongji Medical College

Phone: +86-27-8804 1919, +86-27-8806 6234

Website: <http://www.whuh.com/en/>

Address: 湖北省武汉市解放大道1277号

Closest Metro Station: 中山公园 Zhongshan park

Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University

Phone: +86-27-8804 1919, +86-27-8806 6234

Website: <http://en.rmhospital.com/>

Address: 湖北武汉武昌区张之洞路(原紫阳路) 99号解放路238号

Closest Metro Station: 复兴路 Fuxing Road

Opening hours: 6:30 - 20:00

Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University

Phone: +86-27-87312993

Website: <http://en.znhospital.com/>

Address: 武昌区东湖路169号

Closest Metro Station: 楚河汉街 Chuhe Han street

Opening hours: Morning 7:00 - 10:30 , afternoon 12:00 - 15:30

Useful apps



WeChat

This will be your primary messaging app to keep in touch with friends in China and folks back home.



Alipay

With just scanning a code, this app makes paying for things very easy. Paying with a card is very rare in China.



Hello Chinese

A free level-based app to learn Chinese. It's beginner friendly and offers several topics and options.



Pleco

A must-have Chinese-English translation app. Great for quickly looking up words and characters



WuhanSocial

This app can help you stay on top of all the activities and events going on in the city. It's also a great resource for a wide variety of restaurants and bars <http://www.wuhansocial.com/>.



Maps Me

You can download maps and use them when you don't have data



Eleme

Buy ready-to-eat food and have it delivered anywhere in Wuhan for an affordable price



Didi

The Uber of China. This service connects you with taxis or private drivers to take you where you need to go.



Taobao

You can call this the EBay, or the Amazon (or even both combined) of China! You will find anything you can think of. Delivery time is usually 2-3 days.



Trip.com

This is an app to help you take care of all your travel needs in English.



Recommendations

Chinese can seem very daunting at first, especially given the lack of alphabet. However, it's not as hard as you think. Here are some words and phrases to help you out until you get started with your Chinese lessons at Giraffe.

Ni hao – Hello

Ni hao ma? (“ma” is a question particle) – How are you?

Duo shao qian? – How much?

Hao bu hao – Is this ok?

Xie xie – Thanks

Dui bu qi - I'm sorry

You mei you – Do you have...?

Wo yao qu – I want to go to...

Xi shou jian– bathroom

Xi shou jian zai na li - Where's the bathroom?

Dining



Hai Di Lao Hot Pot –

Zhongshong Department Store, 9 Zhong Nan Road, 9F

This is one of the most popular places for Sichuan hot pot. The ingredients are always fresh and tasty!



Ba Li Long Xia – 30 Xue Song Road

This is one of the most popular places to try one of Wuhan's seasonal specialties...crayfish! You're sure to love one of the many ways that crayfish can be prepared.



Blue Frog – Wuhan Tiandi, 28 Lu Gou Qiao Road

If you feel like splurging on some western food, try one of Blue Frog's AMAZING hamburgers.



Bounty – 308 Hua Yuan Dao, B101

For a taste of authentic French dining in the middle of China, try Bounty!

Su Mei Hua Yuan – No.1 Chu He Han Street, Block One F1

They have a large menu that covers all kinds of Thai food.

Nanjing Impressions – Kai De 1818, 31 Zhong Bei Road, 6F

The food here is typical of what you'd find in Nanjing. If you don't like spicy food, this restaurant is for you.

Taco Amor – 115 Nan Jing Road

This Mexican restaurant has the most authentic dishes you'll find in the city.

U-ni – Star City, 120 Xu Dong Avenue, 5F

Try some of Hubei's specialties in this affordable restaurant that prides itself in using organic ingredients.

Lao Jie Shao Kao – 111-8 Jiang Han Second Road

This is one of the most popular places to have some typical Chinese barbecue.





Interactive Wuhan Natural History Museum
- 8 Jin Nan Second Road

Take a trip to Wuhan's latest natural science exhibition and enjoy amazing displays of dinosaurs, animals, and other historical items.



Museum of Science and Technology
- 91 Yan Jiang Avenue

This huge and impressive museum shows display of the universe, life, and water. There are exhibition halls for children, as well as a selection of classic exhibits from abroad.



Wuhan Museum - 2 Po Wah Street

At this museum you can check out artifacts representing the Wuhan area's long and interesting history.



Yellow Crane Tower - Snake Hill

One of Wuhan's most famous historic buildings, the Yellow Crane Tower can give you a breathtaking view of the Yangtze River.



Guiyuan Temple - 20 Cui Wei Road

This well-maintained temple is popular with both locals and tourists. You can see a huge sitting Buddha.

Hubu Alley - Min Zhu Road

This small street is jam-packed with traditional restaurants and food stands. You can try all of Wuhan's most famous specialties.



Lihuangpi Street - Li Huang Pi Street

For a taste of turn-of-the-century architecture, you can check out Lihuangpi Street which was originally the international concession. Many of the red-brick buildings have been converted into fashionable coffee shops and stores.



Shopping



Tan Hua Lin – Tan Hua Lin

This area has developed into an artsy area. The street is packed with unique coffee shops and art stores.



Wuhan Tiandi – 2 Lu Gou Qiao Road

Go to Wuhan Tiandi and stroll around window-shopping when the weather is nice. Check out the unique and fashionable stores.



Guang Gu Mall – 889 No Yu road

This mall is also enormous and covers shopping for all tastes. In this mall you can find Spanish Street, German Street, and Italian Street, all designed to make you feel like you are in Europe.

IKEA – 2 Zhang Bi Hu Road

If you want to get some furniture for your new apartment, there is an IKEA which is easy to get to.



Jiang Han Street- Jiang Han Road

When the weather is nice, you can go to one of Wuhan's most popular outdoor shopping streets and pedestrian areas. You can find any kind of store you can imagine.



Han Street- Han Street

Han Street is similar to Jiangnan Street. It is also popular with people who like to window shop on a beautiful day.



Yi Fang – 1515 Zhong Shan Avenue

This mall is huge and can probably take care of most of your shopping needs. There is even a zoo for small animals!



Entertainment



Bubble Lab – 869 Jing Han Avenue

Bubble Lab is a great bar and brewery. They are well-known for their IPAs and musical performances by local musicians.



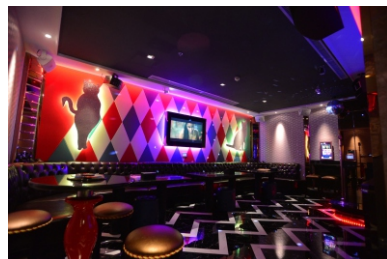
Devil's Brewery – Guang Gu Street

This bar and brewery is also famous for its unique and flavorful homemade beers.



Milo KTV – 658 Zhong Shan Avenue

Anyone looking for a night of singing and fun usually goes to Milo KTV.



Beer Barn – 3-85 Xi Bei Hu Road

This bar features imported bottled beer from all over the world. Try a new beer and have one of their yummy pizzas.



Greybox Coffee – Wuhan Tiandi

This is just one of many modern coffee-shops you can find around Wuhan, with a special design and great coffee.



Vox – 118 Lu Mo Road

This live music venue regularly features both local and foreign bands, and draws a crowd of mostly college students.



Prison Bar – Guo Guang Building, Lu Mo Road

This small bar and live music venue is perfect for anyone whose tastes lean towards music with a harder edge.

Leisure

Happy Valley – 196 Huan Le Avenue

When the weather is nice, you can go to Wuhan's most popular amusement park and spend the day!



Maya Water Park – 196 Huan Le Avenue

Maya Water Park is really popular with anyone who likes to swim and is looking for a fun place on a hot day.



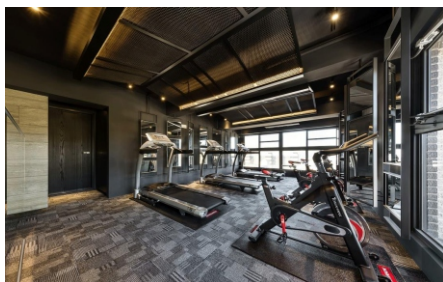
Skating Rinks – 690 Jie Fang Avenue, 6F

Even in the middle of summer, you can find a place to go ice-skating.



Gyms

There are many gyms around the city. It's no problem to find just the right one for you. There is even a gym across the street from the school!



East Lake Green Belt – 16 Yan Hu Avenue

For some free entertainment on a beautiful day, take a bike ride along the East Lake Green Belt.



Riverfront parks

There is a lot of riverfront in Wuhan, and much of it has been converted to park area. It's perfect for running or having an evening stroll.



Swimming pools

Besides Maya Water Park, there are many smaller swimming pools which are really popular when the weather gets warm.



Cherry blossoms at Wuhan University – 16 Luo Jia Shan Road

The Cherry blossoms at Wuhan University draw people from all over China in the spring. They are really breathtaking!

For more information, please contact us at:



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Giraffe English Wuhan

