Five Apps To Download (Before Arriving In China)

1. WeChat

Have your friends and family download the app as well so you can contact them while abroad. There is a text messaging and voice call function — both of which are completely free if you’re connected to wifi. Once you leave China this will also be a way for you to stay in touch with your newfound friends!

2. Pleco

Translation softwares are notoriously unreliable, but having a Chinese-English dictionary on hand is invaluable. Even better, this one works offline for when you don’t have wifi or data connectivity.

3. City Weekend

City Weekend is the #1 news source for English speakers in Shanghai. Search through articles for ideas on places to visit for food, culture, and fun. For convenience they include the Chinese addresses to show your taxi driver.

4. MetroMan

Shanghai is a huge city, luckily well connected by a massive subway system. This app allows you to map out your route and includes travel times.

5. A Virtual Private Network

If you plan on using any blocked websites you will want to download a VPN. VPNs are constantly evolving, so it is best to check out the most popular ones closer to your departure date.