

Business Chinese Radio Classes— Lesson 9 Travel to China Tip: How to buy ticket in China

I Learning Goal

Getting to know the procedure of buying train tickets in China

II Cultural Backgrounds

Basic Knowledge about purchasing train tickets

1. Buy tickets at Railway Stations or Ticket Outlets
2. Buy tickets online through the official website
3. Other three tips of buying tickets

III Question

What are the two ways to buy train tickets in China that mentioned by the host?

IV Scripts:

Xiaomeng: Hi, welcome to the special culture session of Everything about Business Chinese. Today we are going to talk about Traveling to China! I am your host Xiaomeng.

Colin: I'm Colin.

Xiaomeng: Colin, I heard that you plan to visit China next month?

Colin: Yes. Can you give me some tips about the trip? You know, it will be my first time to visit China.

Xiaomeng: Sure! One thing you need to know is how to buy train tickets in China.

Colin: Cool! I am excited to take the high speed rail. Tell me something about it!

Xiaomeng: Alright! Train tickets can be bought from Railway Stations or Ticket Outlets in China in person, or online at 12306.cn, the official website of China Railway Corporation.

Colin: I see. How to buy tickets at Railway Stations or Ticket Outlets?

Xiaomeng: You can go in person to purchase tickets at any railway station or ticket outlet in China. Both of their pre-sale periods are 58 days before departure.

Colin: Sounds very convenient. What should I prepare before I go?

Xiaomeng: First, look up for the real-time schedule and choose your train. You can also check out the information board at stations.

Second, print out the web page or write down the train number, class, departure station, departure date, arrival station, and all other necessary information and show them to the staff.

Colin: I guess I should bring a valid ID like a passport. And how about buying tickets online?

Xiaomeng: Ordering online is faster and more convenient. Before buying, you should have a phone number in China to receive the verification codes. In addition, it's better to have someone help you work through the process.

Colin: I see.

Xiaomeng: The most important thing is that your name on the booking system must exactly match the one on your ID.

Colin: I'll keep that in mind.

Xiaomeng: And I have three other tips:

First, the pre-sale period may be adjusted during the rush holiday. Make sure you should book through an agency as early as possible.

Second, if a passenger is unable to travel on schedule, he or she can refund or change the ticket at any railway station according to their policy. If you lose a ticket, you can reclaim the booked seat or sleeper with your valid ID certificate.

And third, the ticket price does not include insurance and you need to buy travel insurance separately.

Colin: Ok. Let's end today's episode here. Thank you for listening. Today's question is, what are the two ways to buy train tickets in China mentioned by Xiaomeng? You can email your answer or your comments to CIB@Chinamericaradio.com and we will post them on our twitter account @Confuciusbiz.

Xu: You can download today's transcript or listen to the program again for free at Chinamericaradio.com. Just go to the Partners page and click on the SUNY-CIB banner.

Tingting: You can also see a listing of the upcoming activities at SUNY-Confucius Institute for Business. See you next week! 下周见 xià zhōu jiàn!