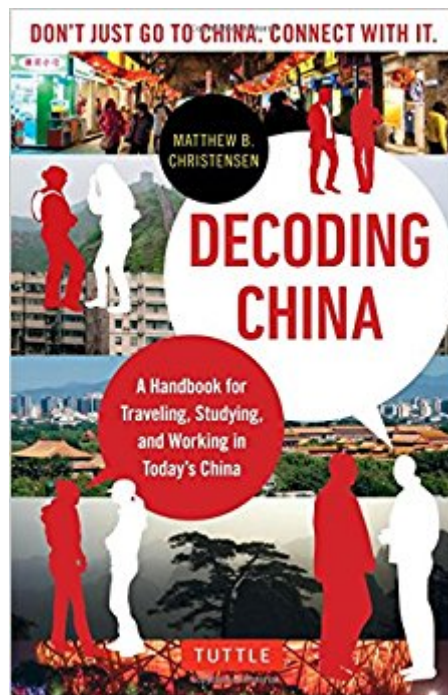




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# Decoding China: A Handbook For Traveling, Studying, And Working In Today's China



## Synopsis

Embrace the culture and get the most out of your time in China. Going to China for the first time can be an intimidating experience, even for those who have studied the language. In fact, traveling to China for the second, third, or fourth time can also be a challenging experience, especially if you intend to be fully immersed in daily life, get off the beaten path, and experience the "real" China. This China etiquette and culture guide is about how to get things done in China. Decoding China gives you down-to-earth information on how to deal with everyday situations—like eating at a restaurant or shopping at an outdoor market—that present unique and unexpected challenges for foreign visitors. Why being polite when you board a bus is a big mistake Finding a toilet (and what to bring along!) How to bargain for anything in a Chinese market Which train ticket to buy—hard seat? Soft seat? How the Chinese view privacy, and why it may make you seem suspicious Working in a Chinese office, and the politics of lunch As the Academic Director at the Chinese Flagship Center of Brigham Young University, Dr. Matthew B. Christensen has seen countless foreigners arrive in China—and fail to accomplish simple tasks like ordering food, boarding a bus, or making friends with a Chinese colleague. Why? Because they didn't understand China's basic cultural codes. This travel book will help you crack these codes. And with it, you'll soon be able to navigate your way in any situation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This makes a change from all the big-picture studies that allegedly empower people who want to do business in Beijing. Instead of once-over lightly explanations of China's eternal values,

Christensen explains how to order dinner and get on with people you need to know. There is a mass of information on business etiquette and the routines of life. Stephen Matchett, The Australian "Based on his own experience of teaching and traveling in China in the past decades, Christensen's book *Decoding China* serves as a reminder to anyone who will be living, studying and working in China that understanding the culture codes that help develop and maintain relationships is more important than just mastering a bundle of linguistic skills." •Shanghai Daily

Dr. Matthew B. Christensen holds degrees in Chinese, international relations, and Chinese linguistics. In addition to directing the Chinese Flagship Center, which is a partnership among the federal government, education, and business that works to help graduates attain superior-level Chinese language and cultural skills, he is also Professor of Chinese in the Department of Asian & Near Eastern Languages at Brigham Young University. He blogs about his adventures exploring the wide-flung corners of China at [intothemiddlekingdom.com](http://intothemiddlekingdom.com).

If you have never been to China this is a good primer. However, if you have spent some time there most of what is mentioned will be pretty well already understood. The descriptions of things are pretty accurate but not too detailed so if you are looking for real detailed information go elsewhere. If you want a quick overview of almost everything involved in what you may see in China, its a solid read

Covers so many questions a visitor or "in-law" might need. This has really helped me to understand more about where my daughter in law came from. Good info!

Great help and guide when I was studying abroad in Wuhan, China! Has some phrases that will be helpful to get around as well as information to prepare you before AND when you get there!

If you are planning a trip to China, whether it be short term or a permanent move, this book will tell you everything you need to know for your trip to China, from how to book a hotel room, open a bank account, or attend university there. I will definitely be referring to this book as my next trip draws nearer.

Good Tips but do not expect up to date suggestions to restaurants and hotels; must read for

students traveling their first time to China

The book was somewhat helpful, but it also was out of date.

This book is absolutely PERFECT for traveling abroad to China! It's easy to read and understand/comprehend-- I've highlighted throughout it as well and the ink does not leak :)

Many good tips on visiting China but also a great book if you are planning on living there for a period of time.

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