# Bringing Your Motorcycle into China

Temporary entry checklist for foreign-registered motorcycles

This guide covers a motorcycle brought into mainland China for a temporary riding holiday and taken out again afterwards. Prepare the rider documents, motorcycle documents and customs arrangements together. Foreign registration, a foreign driving licence or an International Driving Permit (IDP) does not replace the required Chinese temporary vehicle documents and driving permit. [1, 2]

## 01 Rider documents

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| **Passport and entry status** | Valid passport or other accepted entry/exit identity document. Confirm your visa or visa-free eligibility and permitted stay for your nationality and itinerary. [6] |
| **Motorcycle driving licence** | Original, valid overseas licence with a category that covers the motorcycle you will ride. A car-only entitlement is insufficient. [2] |
| **Chinese licence translation** | Bring a Chinese translation of a non-Chinese licence. Confirm the format accepted by the receiving vehicle administration office; Beijing requires a translation agency document or a notarised translation. [2] |
| **ID photographs** | Two recent one-inch, colour, front-facing, bareheaded photographs on a white background. Keep a digital copy as well. [2] |

## 02 Motorcycle documents

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| **Overseas registration** | Original registration certificate issued by the overseas authority, with a Chinese translation if it is not in Chinese. [3] |
| **Inspection documents** | A vehicle safety inspection certificate and Chinese translation where required. Eligible motorcycles registered overseas within six years may be exempt from submitting the certificate, but the motorcycle must still be presented for checking. [3] |
| **Chinese compulsory insurance** | Chinese compulsory motor vehicle traffic accident liability insurance (commonly called Jiaoqiangxian), covering at least the entire temporary entry period. [3] |

**Plan before departure:** confirm the entry and exit ports, dates, length of stay and riding route. For a travel agency-organised trip, the reception plan is also part of the vehicle document review. [3]

# At the Border and on the Road

Complete the entry formalities and ride within the authorised conditions.

## 03 Entry formalities

**1. Declare the motorcycle to Chinese Customs.** Tourism self-drive vehicles fall within the temporary import/export framework. A guarantee is generally required, subject to applicable exceptions. Confirm the accepted form, such as a deposit or other approved security, and the amount with the entry-port Customs office. Obtain the document permitting the motorcycle to enter and arrange re-export within the approved period. [3, 4, 5]

**2. Obtain the Chinese temporary entry plate and vehicle licence.** Apply through the traffic management authority at the place of entry or departure. Submit the customs entry document, overseas registration, Chinese compulsory insurance and any required inspection or trip documents, and present the motorcycle. [1, 3]

**3. Obtain a Chinese temporary driving permit for the correct motorcycle category.** Complete the required road traffic law and safety briefing. Temporary entrants applying for a motorcycle permit are currently exempt from submitting a medical fitness certificate. While riding, carry the permit together with your overseas licence and its Chinese translation. [1, 2]

## 04 Key conditions for your trip

**Visa-free entry does not waive motorcycle formalities.** Even if you can enter China without a visa, your self-owned vehicle still requires the relevant entry and exit procedures. [6]

**Vehicle documents are valid for no more than three months and cannot be extended.** The general customs re-export period is six months, but that does not authorise six months of road use. Plan around your actual immigration permission, vehicle document expiry and customs deadline. [1, 5]

**Confirm the route and local motorcycle restrictions.** Temporary vehicle documents specify the authorised area or route. Check city and road restrictions along the itinerary before finalising it. [1]

> **Prepare for the ride:** for a multi-province journey, contact a Chinese travel agency or reception partner experienced in foreign-vehicle entry before departure. Confirm port processing, the reception plan, insurance and temporary documents. Also bring a helmet, protective gear, basic repair tools and document copies, and consider medical and evacuation insurance that explicitly covers motorcycle riding.

**Trip details to confirm:** rider nationality; motorcycle registration country; entry and exit ports; travel dates; length of stay; intended route. Permanent import and registration require a separate assessment.

## Official references

[1] Ministry of Public Security: temporary-entry vehicle and driver regulations (Shanghai government republication)

[2] Beijing Traffic Management Bureau: temporary driving permit

[3] Beijing Traffic Management Bureau: temporary-entry vehicle documents

[4] General Administration of Customs: temporary import/export rules, Order No. 233 (MOFCOM republication)

[5] China Customs: temporary import/export service guide

[6] National Immigration Administration: visa-free entry FAQ and self-owned vehicles

Reviewed 30 September 2026. Confirm current port-specific requirements before departure; the Beijing service guides illustrate document requirements.