

Coming to Wuhan –from Beijing

From Beijing you can take a flight or a train to Wuhan.

The air ticket price varies significantly during the year, from as low as RMB400 to as high as RMB1500 (one way). Several airlines (local carriers) are available. Check with the airlines ticketing boxes at the airport. And ask what discount can they offer. You might find that not being able to speak Chinese is a problem but you should find someone there who speaks some English at the airport. If the price is good, it is a good option as it saves you a lot of time and effort.

If the air tickets are expensive, you can take a train. First you need to take a bus or a taxi to the Beijing city. The airport is around one hour from the city. The bus fare should not be expensive. The taxi should cost you less than RMB100. You will find money exchange at the airport. If you take a bus, get off in any stop within the city area, then take a taxi from there to the rail station. You might find it challenging there because most bus and taxi drivers in China do not speak English and you might have problem if you have too many cases with you. So you might show the following Chinese to them if necessary:

我要到北京市区(I need to go to the Beijing urban area).

我要在这里下车(Let me get off here)

请送我去北京西站火车站(Please take me to the Beijing Xi rail station)

There are several rail way stations in Beijing so make sure that you go to the right one – the new station call “xi” (meaning “west” in Chinese) station. There are many trains a day from Xi station to Wuhan. There is one at around 6:45pm and another one at around 8:30pm. The price is around RMB300 for hard sleeper. You can show the following to the ticketing box:

请给我一张到武汉(汉口或武昌)的特快火车卧铺(Please give me a ticket for Wuhan, either Hankou station or Wuchang station, express, hard sleeper).

Important: Please make sure that you take the express train. There are two stations in Wuhan you can get off (Hankou and Wuchang). The Hankou station is closer to the school. Make sure that you know which station you are getting off so that the school knows exactly where to pick you up.

When you have your tickets, call the school to tell your train or flight number and the starting time. If you are taking a train, make sure to tell them which station you are getting off so that they can pick you up there.

The school’s number is (27) 82846536 and 82836471. Call for Morgan or Lucy or someone else there. Dial 0 instead of 1 before the area code. You might need to buy a telephone card there to be able to use the paid phones on the street. You can buy a phone card for RMB50. Calling Wuhan from Beijing should cost you less than RMB0.50 per minute. The phone card will be able to used in Wuhan if there is value left.

There is food and a restaurant in the train.

Most trains going into Wuhan will just stop for a few minutes then go to other cities south. When you board the train the attendant will keep your ticket and give you a metal card. It is their job to give you back your ticket and notice your arrival when you arrive the city you are going. So you won’t miss it. If you arrive and you don’t see someone there picking you up, then call the school again.

Remember: the security at train station area and in the train is usually very bad so avoid exchanging money at train station and keep your eyes wide open on your personal belongings when you are within the train station area or in the train. Do trust anybody who approach you to offer or ask favors to/from you.

In case you miss the last train or plane to Wuhan and you need to stay overnight at Beijing, the hotel can be very expensive. Call this number to ask for a cheaper hotel: 800-820-6666. When asked for a card number, say 1032383727. Ask for a hotel that is less than RMB200. If not, you should be able to get a room around RMB300 to RMB400.

At any time or when you are in trouble, show the following to police or someone helpful to let them know that you are coming to TDM. This is also useful if you miss pick up at the station and you need to take a taxi to school within Wuhan city.

Chinese address of TDM Language College:

武汉市怡文语言中心
武汉市汉口胜利街1号(步行街与扬子街交界处)
电话: 27-82846536, 82836471

At anytime, you can call Canada for me for help at 1-519-8306868.

Once again, be alert during your travel as you might encounter different kind of people, some people you will not encounter at home.

Good luck and have a nice trip.