

Lisa Mandarin

General rules of homestay

As we appreciate the friendly and cooperative relationship with our homestay families, there are some easy rules to live after. During your stay we ask you to:

- Respect your host country and its culture
- Be responsible for your own belongings such as cash, important documents and other valuables during your stay
- Overnight girlfriend/boyfriend visits are not permitted. You must get your host family's permission before you invite friends to their home
- No "party animals" accepted unless your host family enjoys it too
- No smoking or heavy drinking at home before getting host family's permission
- Do not use the family telephone without permission. Local calls can be made for short conversation

If you do not follow the above Rules of Homestay, I reserve the right to terminate the accommodation for you. Your program fee will not be refunded.

Frequently asked questions homestay

- Will I have my own room?

Yes. Every family has at least one guest room. Your room is fully furnished with bed, desk, wardrobe (or closet) and air-conditioning.

- Will I get meals or can I cook my own food?

Dinner is provided on weekdays. Dinners are included in the regular homestay. Lunch and dinner are provided on weekends. You may also cook with the host family's permission.

- I am a vegetarian, is that a problem?

Don't worry. The host family will make special food for you. Please specify this on your register form.

- May I smoke in the house?

Yes, but only with the permission of the host family. Some host families will ask that you smoke outside the unit.

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- Can I use the host family's facilities.

Yes. The host family will show you where laundry facilities are. TV, internet access and telephone to make local calls will be available. Long distance calls should be made using a calling card. If you would like to have your own telephone number, you can register for one at a cost of RMB235.

- Why can't I get detailed information about my host family earlier?

I need to reconfirm the family 1-2 weeks before your arrival because each family may have their own plans or unexpected changes. The contact info of the host family will be provided after this reconfirmation.

- Is it safe to do a homestay with us?

Yes. Each family is interviewed by me, and a security check is completed before a family is accepted. The housing units are usually owned (not rented) by the host families, and most hosts have professional careers. Besides, many families are located in a nice community with 24 hour security service.

- Will I have a curfew (time that I need to return to the Homestay each night) ?

You will not have a curfew. However, it is customary that you notify your host family if you will miss dinner or will return to the house after 10pm.

- Can I join the family's activities?

Yes, the hosts treat you as a family member and welcome you to join their activities. Of course, young working couples will have a little less time than retired hosts.

- Is a married couple eligible to apply for your homestay program?

Yes, married couples are welcome to join our program as most of our families are open to couples. Please note that the homestay fee for couples is 50% more than for a single person.

- What is the communication language at my host family?

Your host family understands that your purpose for coming to China is for Chinese language learning, therefore, they will communicate with you in Chinese at home. Many families will be happy to tutor you Chinese and help you to improve your conversation skills. Don't worry if you are only beginning. Most of our families do speak some English.

- What do I need to bring with me?

The host family will prepare all the bedding in your room. Please bring additional items not mentioned along with you, but keep in mind that nowadays you can easily get almost any product or brand in Beijing that you would find at home.