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Restaurants and food

From getting a table to paying the bill, with the phrases for spice, allergies and diets.

A table for two

两位

liǎng wèi

The menu, please

请给我菜单

qǐng gěi wǒ càidān

Do you have an English menu?

有英文菜单吗?

yǒu Yīngwén càidān ma?

Do you have a menu with pictures?

有带图片的菜单吗?

yǒu dài túpiàn de càidān ma?

What do you recommend?

有什么推荐的?

yǒu shénme tuījiàn de?

I'd like this one

我要这个

wǒ yào zhège

Not spicy, please

不要辣

bú yào là

Mildly spicy

微辣

wēi là

No coriander, please

不要香菜

bú yào xiāngcài

I'm vegetarian

我吃素

wǒ chī sù

I don't eat pork

我不吃猪肉

wǒ bù chī zhūròu

I'm allergic to peanuts

我对花生过敏

wǒ duì huāshēng guòmǐn

A bottle of water, please

请给我一瓶水

qǐng gěi wǒ yì píng shuǐ

Do you have it cold?

有冰的吗？

yǒu bīng de ma?

Do you have a fork?

有叉子吗？

yǒu chāzi ma?

It's delicious

很好吃

hěn hǎochī

The bill, please

买单

mǎidān

Can I take it away?

可以打包吗？

kěyǐ dǎbāo ma?

Good to know

- In many restaurants you order by scanning the QR code on the table (扫码点餐 sǎo mǎ diǎn cān): the menu opens in Alipay or WeChat, with photos, and you pay in the same place.
- 微辣 wēi là “mildly spicy” in Sichuan or Hunan can still be very hot for a visitor. If you don’t eat spicy food, say 不要辣 bú yào là.
- Water and tea are often served hot or warm. Ask 有冰的吗? yǒu bīng de ma? if you want a cold drink.
- Tipping is not expected in China. 买单 mǎidān asks for the bill; in many places you pay at the counter.
- For a serious allergy, write it down in Chinese and show it each time you order: “我对花生过敏 wǒ duì huāshēng guòmǐn” is a peanut allergy.