

Explore China with eSIMs

In the past, one of the biggest obstacles for foreigners traveling in China has been internet access. Chinese local SIM cards are hard to obtain, register, and use. Even if they have a local SIM card, travelers cannot access foreign social media and news channels they use daily outside China, such as Facebook, Google services, YouTube, WhatsApp, and TikTok.

Thanks to fast-developing technology, eSIMs provide a solution. They are affordable, easy to use, and don't require an extra SIM card slot. Most importantly, they include a VPN for unrestricted browsing. With eSIMs, you can be in China, but your internet connection can take you anywhere you want.

There are quite a few eSIMs available. Based on recent experiences from some of our clients, we would recommend two that have performed well in China.

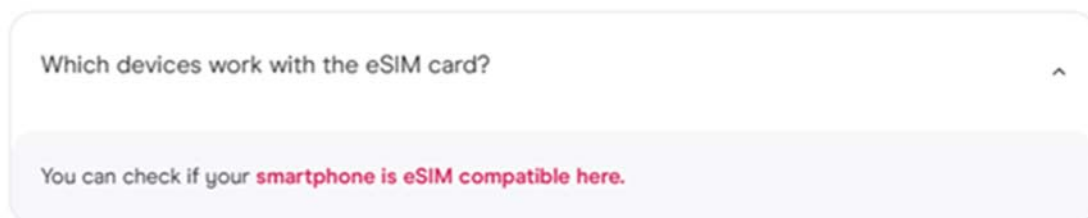
1. Holafly - <https://esim.holafly.com/esim-china/>.
2. Airalo - <https://www.airalo.com/>.

The eSIMs only allow you to use mobile data. They do not include a local phone number for mobile calls or messages. However, you can still make calls using apps like WhatsApp.

[Can I use my SIM card and Holafly eSIM at the same time? - Holafly FAQs](#)
[How can I receive SMS and calls while connected with my data-only eSIM? - Airalo Help Center](#)

For both eSIMs, the first step is to ensure that your smartphone or device supports eSIM technology. Both have a list of compatible devices.

[China eSIM for travelers – Unlimited Data - VPN Included - Holafly](#)



[What devices support eSIM? - Airalo Help Center](#)

Then you can purchase and install the eSIMs before you leave for China. Upon your arrival in China, you can activate them according to the instructions.

[How to install and activate your Holafly eSIM on iPhone](#)

[Getting Started with Airalo - Airalo Help Center](#)

[Troubleshooting - Airalo Help Center](#)

What are the main differences between Holafly and Airalo?

Holafly offers unlimited data but doesn't allow hotspot.

Airalo offers limited data plans at a cheaper price and allows hotspot.

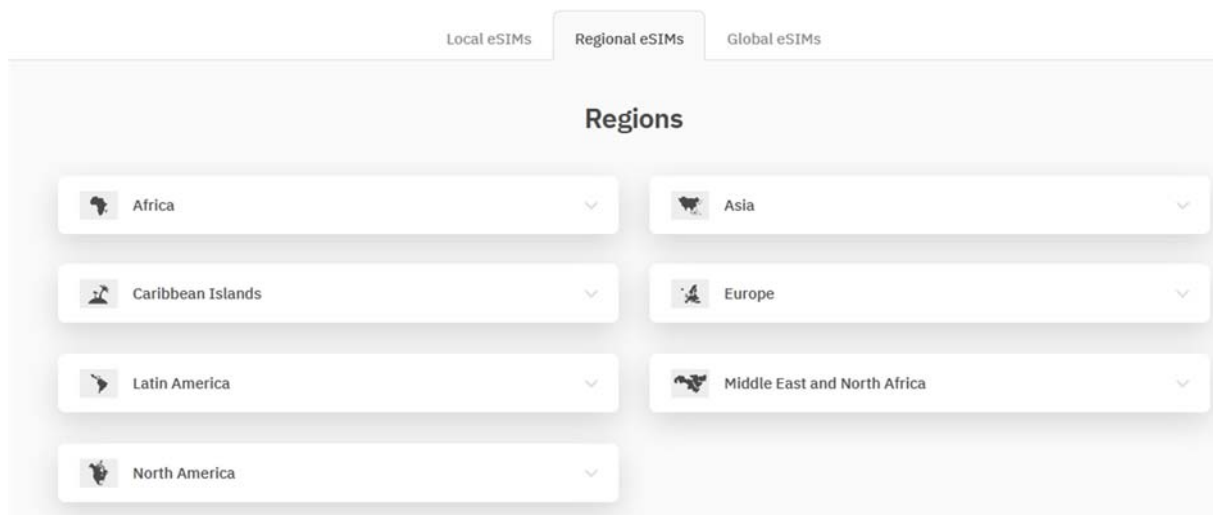
[\(Can I use tethering \(Personal Hotspot\)? - Airalo Help Center\)](#)

Both offers regional plans, but Airalo offers more regions and a global plan.

Holafly:



Airalo:



We will keep updating the information if there is something new worth noting.

Welcome and feel free to let us know your experience with eSIMs and any recommendations.