



SNP/AUTOSOMAL DNA Test

When you're searching for Chinese birth family members, it's critically important to do a SNP/autosomal DNA test through 23andMe or AncestryDNA and upload it to GEDmatch. Be sure to keep a record of names, birthdates, and login information since any of it may be required as extra security questions.

SNP/autosomal kits test the 22 numbered pairs of chromosomes. The test checks about 700,000 pairs of locations in a person's SNP/autosomal DNA. Companies like 23andMe and AncestryDNA use SNP/autosomal tests. SNP stands for single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs, pronounced *snips*.

STEP 1 SNP/AUTOSOMAL

Do one or both of these SNP/autosomal tests.

23andMe

Most Chinese adoptees are in 23andMe [[23ANDME.COM/EN-EU](https://23andme.com/en-eu)], and you typically find more people of Chinese heritage in this database than any other U.S. SNP/autosomal company. 23andMe is a saliva test.



AncestryDNA

If you choose, you can supplement your 23andMe test with AncestryDNA [[ANCESTRY.COM/DNA](https://ancestry.com/dna)], another SNP/autosomal test. Some adoptees have found Chinese relatives here, and adoptive families not involved in China-related Facebook groups may have also tested with AncestryDNA. This is a saliva test.



MyHeritageDNA | Optional Additional Test

[[MYHERITAGE.COM](https://myheritage.com)] MyHeritage is a swab test and a good alternative for those who can't generate enough saliva.



STEP 2 SNP/AUTOSOMAL

Download your 23andMe or AncestryDNA raw data and upload it to GEDmatch.

IMPORTANT: No matter which SNP/autosomal test you do, be sure to **UPLOAD YOUR RESULTS TO GEDMATCH**. As of September 2026, there are over 2,600 Chinese birth parents in GEDmatch, thanks to the work of DNAConnect, Nanchang Project, Roots of Love, and searchers in China.

GEDmatch

How-to Guide: Uploading 23ANDME TO GEDMATCH

Upload your raw data file to GEDmatch [[GEDMATCH.COM](https://gedmatch.com)]. This is FREE and easy to do. GEDmatch accepts uploads from 23andMe, AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, and most others. You can also compare your own 23andMe and AncestryDNA results within GEDmatch. You may receive different matches from the two tests.



Do a SNP/autosomal test with the Chinese company 23mofang.

23Mofang

How-to Guide: [SUBMITTING BLOOD SAMPLES TO 23MOFANG](#)

23mofang only sells their saliva-based DNA kits within mainland China, but they'll perform DNA tests on blood samples mailed to them. They'll analyze the DNA sample from the blood card just as they would a saliva-based DNA kit. Cost for ancestry-only test is approx. \$74 USD. In addition to relative matches, Chinese DNA experts in a WeChat group can often pinpoint the area your family is originally from, which is not always the same as your orphanage. You can do this additional test even if you have previously uploaded your data from 23andMe, which we no longer recommend since the blood test is much better.



Upload your raw data to additional databases.

Also consider uploading your SNP/autosomal data to the following databases. The first two are free and increase your chances of matching more people.

FamilyTreeDNA

[[FAMILYTREEDNA.COM](#)] Accepts free uploads from AncestryDNA and MyHeritageDNA. This is also a swab test and may be a good alternative to 23andMe or AncestryDNA for those who can't generate enough saliva.



LivingDNA

[[LIVINGDNA.COM/FREE-DNA-UPLOAD](#)] Accepts free uploads from AncestryDNA, 23andMe, MyHeritageDNA, FamilyTreeDNA.



WeGene

Accepts uploads from 23andMe and AncestryDNA with payment through PayPal (199RMB or ~\$30USD). The database is kept in China. Go to [[WEGENE.COM/EN](#)] (English site) or [[WEGENE.COM](#)] (Chinese site, which has more features; use Google Chrome to translate).



TIP: Use the English site to create your account and upload your DNA data, but then use the Chinese site, with Google Chrome to translate, to see relative matches and additional information not visible on the English site.

IMPORTANT... DON'T FORGET!

- ✓ Check your account(s) at least monthly for new matches!
- ✓ If you get a message or see a match that shows an identical twin or sibling, please check first who the match is. You could have accidentally uploaded your DNA twice.



STR/Paternity/CODIS DNA Test

Several databases only take results from STR (aka paternity/CODIS) tests, the most common DNA test in China right now. With a STR test, you will only find a match to someone close, like a parent or identical twin. **Your best option is to add your DNA by mailing a dried blood sample on a test card**, but some also accept test results from a commercial lab.

IMPORTANT: Since STR tests check far fewer markers than SNP/autosomal tests, it's critical to be sure any matches are good ones. You can compare details like birthdates, where the samples are from, etc., and you can also ask the Chinese police to do a STR test on both parents, which would guarantee accuracy. The police won't do a SNP/autosomal test, which many in the adoption community believe should be the only follow up. You can ask the birth parents or siblings to do a SNP/autosomal test for confirmation, but sometimes it's tricky negotiating that when you've first met. If you're able to convince a parent or sibling, both DNAConnect and Nanchang Project will do a follow-up SNP/autosomal test for free. A bonus is that their test is also uploaded to GEDmatch, which may lead to matches for other adoptees.

CODIS refers to the U.S. FBI's Combined DNA Index System, traditionally used by law enforcement to solve crimes and also used as a paternity test. STR DNA tests look for unique repeating patterns in an individual's DNA known as short-tandem repeats, STRs. STRs can be used to differentiate one person from another. Typically, a STR DNA test compares only 13 to 20 autosomal STR markers.

STEP 1 CODIS/STR

Decide WHERE to add your STR DNA.

China National Reunion Database

If You're in China

If you're visiting China, you can leave a DNA sample at the Ministry of Public Security (police station); see a list of locations [HERE](#). It's free, but the uploads haven't always been reliable. And unfortunately, there's no way for you to monitor or even see your data to know whether it was submitted.



If you previously traveled to China and submitted a blood sample while you were there, you can ask Nanchang Project to check if there's a record of it by completing their [CHECK REQUEST FORM](#).

If You're Outside China

Method: dried blood sample card 

Nanchang Project's National Reunion Database Assistance Project

Submit your sample through **Nanchang Project** [[NANCHANGPROJECT.COM/NATIONAL-DATABASE](https://nanchangproject.com/national-database)]. You send your dried blood sample card directly to the family reunion police officer, and they will contact you in the event of a match. You'll need to be sure your contact information is kept up to date so that the officer can reach you in the future. Follow the instructions on page 5 for [Dried Blood Sample Card](#) under [Step 2 - Collect your STR/Paternity/CODIS DNA as needed](#).



Boys also have the option through Nanchang Project for a Y-DNA test. This is a secondary test, only available to male adoptees (assigned male at birth). The Y-DNA test can identify male relatives in the database, in addition to parent-to-child matches (standard test). This additional test increases your chances of being able to locate a close biological relative.

Baby Come Home/Baobeihuijia

How-to Guide: HOW TO SEARCH ON BABY COME HOME

This is a Chinese website started by Chinese parents whose children were abducted or went missing [BAOBEIHUIJIA.COM]. It has listings of Chinese birth parents looking for children, domestic Chinese adoptees looking for their birth parents, ads for lost adults, and internationally adopted children looking for birth parents. If you open the website in Google Chrome, you can automatically translate the site into English or other language of choice.



To register with Baby Come Home, join the Facebook group **Baby Home**, [[FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/275651082969132](https://www.facebook.com/groups/275651082969132)]. Look in the files section of the Facebook group for information on how to register.

You can submit STR DNA to Baby Come Home on a dried blood sample card, but they do not have their own DNA database; they will add you to the China National Reunion Database for comparison.

In-China Volunteer Groups

Method: commercial lab results 

There are a few local volunteer groups in China with their own databases, such as one in Jiangyin (Jiangsu) and one for Zhejiang province. Check with the **PROVINCE SEARCH POSTER MANAGER** for your province to find out if they know of any in your area.

Help for Family Reunion (HFFR)

Method: commercial lab results 

Email your STR DNA results to Help for Family Reunion, a private non-profit organization in China that has helped to reunite 800+ families since it was established in 2015. The database is kept in the U.S. Follow HFFR on Facebook [[FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/2014039432246491](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2014039432246491)] to see new matches posted.



E-mail the STR/PATERNITY/CODIS DNA info below to BEEHFFR@GMAIL.COM:

1. Name - SWI assigned name is OK (Indicate which name to use in the database, Chinese OR English)
2. Photo of DNA results. You can remove your real name and address for privacy concerns
3. Date of birth
4. Gender
5. Current residing country
6. Contact info - customized WeChat ID (don't send WeChat code) preferred. Email is OK.
7. Pictures (2) - 1 headshot and 1 full body preferred.
8. Adoption info: a few lines on where you were adopted, your finding place, special physical features, etc.
9. If you don't get confirmation in a week, email again or WeChat *meefengbz*



Collect your STR/Paternity/CODIS DNA as needed.

Dried Blood Sample Card

The test involves putting some blood on a special blood collection card and mailing the dried blood to a family reunion police officer in China. Cost is minimal. Nanchang Project has [INSTRUCTIONS](#) on their website. You can order the required card from one of their volunteers for \$5-8 USD, and the cost to mail an envelope to China is about \$20-\$30 USD, although actual costs will vary depending on your location and chosen shipping company.

Follow the instructions on [NANCHANG PROJECT'S NATIONAL REUNION DATABASE](#) page.



Commercial Lab STR/Paternity/CODIS Test

Use one of these labs for a commercial STR/Paternity/CODIS test that you can submit to HFFR or a local volunteer group in China.

LabCorp [DNA.LABCORP.COM] - USA, purchase the *at-home single party test* for \$105. New York residents can't order the at-home test but will need to go to the local LabCorp office for the DNA test; cost is around \$210.



Consanguinitas [CONSANGUINITAS.NL/DNA-TESTEN/DNA-PROFILERING] - Netherlands, €149

PappaTest [PAPPATEST.SE/DNA-TESTER/DNA-ID] - Sweden, SEK 1,195



EasyDNA [EASYDNA.CO.UK/DNA-PROFILES/] - based in UK, with offices worldwide, £99



Who's Testing Birth Parents?

NOTE: All of these tested birth parents are added to GEDmatch with SNP/autosomal DNA.

DNAConnect

DNAConnect [[DNACONNECT.ORG](https://dnacconnect.org)] has located over 1,700 Chinese birthparents who are searching for children they relinquished and uploaded their DNA to GEDmatch. As of September 2026, they have successfully matched 320 adoptees to their birth families.



Note: DNAConnect charges to release birth parent contact information to the adoptee – \$50 if your donation is made before a match and \$299 if made after a match. However, if you provide contact information for a birth family in China, any future match to you through DNAConnect will also be free of fees to you. DNAConnect will collect and process SNP/autosomal DNA for any birth family that is located and also stay in contact with them over the next 10 years or longer until a match is made. See this Facebook [post](#) for a full explanation of DNAConnect's fees. Also note that there has been some controversy with DNAConnect: listen to [LILY'S ACCOUNT](#) and read [BRIAN'S STATEMENT](#).

Nanchang Project

Nanchang Project [[NANCHANGPROJECT.COM](https://nanchangproject.com)] is China-wide and has located 600+ birth parents and matched 160+ adoptees to their families as of September 2026. Nanchang Project adds birthparent DNA to GEDmatch through 23andMe and AncestryDNA tests completed by birth parents in China. All tests and matches are free of charge.



The Roots of Love

The Roots of Love [[THEROOTSOFLove.ORG](https://therootsoflove.org)] searches in Chongqing only and has located 359 birth parents and matched 15 adoptees to their families as of December 2025. They add birthparent DNA to GEDmatch through 23andMe and AncestryDNA tests completed by birth parents in China. All tests and matches are free of charge.



Chinese Searchers

A number of private searchers working in China have added birth parent DNA to GEDmatch. Find information on searchers on the ICSA website [[ICSACHINA.ORG/HIRING-A-SEARCHER](https://icsachina.org/hiring-a-searcher)]

