



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1. Entry Requirements and Instructions (China Visa)

- A valid passport (valid for a minimum of 6 months before arrival date) and China Visa are required for visiting China. To process your visa application, we'll need your actual passport and filled China Visa Application Form. In addition to China Visa, Tibet Travel Permit is required for traveling to Tibet region; Best China Tour will apply the permit for you.
- China Visa is valid for 6 months from the date of issue. It takes about 4 weeks (including mailing time) for the process. Expedited service is available at extra cost. Please contact us if you need special arrangement for your China Visa application.

### 2. Safety Issues



- Low crime rate, the strictest gun control and above all the peace-loving people make China one of the safest countries for international travelers.
- Always use your common sense and be careful with your purse; consult your local guides/tour director or hotel concierge if you have to go out in the evening or leave the group.

### **3. Hotels in China**

- As the result of the extraordinary economic development in last two decades, Hotel industry has become mature and reached world-class standards in China.
- Most of five-star hotels chosen for our clients are managed by major international hotel chains, such as Hyatt (Grand Hyatt/Park Hyatt, Ritz Carlton, Sheraton, and Hilton).

### **4. Service from Tour Directors and Local Guides**

- All our licensed English-speaking tour directors and local guides have at least a 4-year college-degree and 3-year tourism experience. All of them have passed Best China Tour's strict selection criteria as well.
- The tour director, representing Best China Tour, coordinates and supervises overall ground operations, such as airline, hotel, baggage, local guide, driver and restaurants, etc. Tour directors provide on-site assistance for emergency as well.
- Local guides focus mainly on comprehensive presentations of history, culture and sight-seeing.

### **5. Food and Water**

- You will enjoy a full western style breakfast buffet at hotel every morning.
- Lunch and dinner are offered at distinguished local restaurants.
- Tap water is not drinkable unless it is clearly stated in hotel rooms. Bottled water is strongly recommended, and can be easily purchased at hotels or nearby convenience store.

### **6. Baggage**



- Domestic flights within China allow *one checked luggage* (up to 50 pounds, with a total sum of length, width and height less than 62 inches) and *one carry-on* (9"x14"x22", 45 inches in total dimension);
- Int'l flights allow *two checked luggage* (with total weight up to 50 pounds for economic-class, and 70 pounds for business-class and first-class and with a total sum of length, width and height less than 107 inch) and *one carry-on* (9"x14"x22", 45 inches in total dimension).
- Based on above regulations, we recommend to only bring one luggage and one carry-on when you tour around China and add one luggage if necessary at the last stop.

## 7. Money Exchange, Credit Card and ATM

- Local currency is called "*Renminbi*" (RMB); US\$1 equals 7.6 RMB (*rate may change without notice*). Money change is easily available at *Bank of China* branch offices located at hotels and stores. Daily exchange rate is the same everywhere. There is no need to bring RMB from U.S. You will need *exchange receipts* to convert unused Chinese currency back to US dollars when you leave the country.
- Major credit cards and American Express Travelers' checks are accepted everywhere (except street stands, and small shops). Personal checks are not accepted.
- ATM is available but costly (both US bank and Bank of China will charge for transactions, ATM fees, and exchange rate adjustment fees) and time-consuming (you have to go central office of Bank of China to withdraw cash).

## 8. Tips

- Gratuities are expected for tour directors, local guides, drivers, cruise staff and hotel baggage porters. Check inclusive-features of your tour package to find out if tips are included in price.

## 9. Basic Travel Checklist

- Electrical converter and adapter plug. China operates at 220 Volts.
- Bring comfortable, casual clothing: khakis, walking shorts, short and long-sleeved shirts, sweaters, wind-breakers, rain coat, umbrella, comfortable walking shoes, and a dressier outfit for special banquets.



- Sunhat, sunglasses, travel alarm clock, daypack, swimsuit (most hotels have pools)
- Prescription medications, vitamins, antacids, throat lozenges, Imodium or similar medication, pain reliever, band aids, insect repellent, sunscreen, liquid hand sanitizers, Kleenex, and other toiletries
- For passengers with pre-medication, we recommend you to visit your doctor, especially when you plan to travel to Tibet. Bring a basic medical record with you. The medical record should include your blood type, allergies, medications you are currently taking, the address of your doctor and emergency contact.

## **10. Reduce the Effects of Jet Lag**

- Some travelers have jet lag effects after a long flight. To alleviate symptoms, adjust your watch to your destination time zone as soon as you get on the plane; once onboard, don't drink alcohol, take small portions of meals, and get up and walk every two or three hours.

## **11. Immunizations and Health Alert**

- No special vaccinations are needed for travel to China and Tibet. Please contact the U.S. Center for Disease Control [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for latest health alert.

## **12. Final Payment**

- Please check your tour specifications regarding final payment requirement. Most tours require checks as final payment.
- Some tours accept credit card as final payment, but there will be 5% extra charge on top of tour sales price for bank transaction fees and convenience fees.

## **13. Use Mileage and Earn Mileage Points**

- For group travel (above 10), passengers can't use mileage for int'l air or upgrade int'l air.
- For group travel, passengers may or may not (*depends on your group discount rate*) earn airline mileage points. Please consult airline staff at check-in regarding this issue.
- For individual travel (less than 10 passengers), you may earn airline mileage points.

## **14. International Phone Calls**



- You can receive and make international phone calls from hotel room at hotel rate
- You can ask hotel operator to connect you to AT&T calling number to make phone calls to US using your AT&T calling card or paying by major credit cards
- You can also use GSM tri-band mobile phone if your US service provider (such as T-mobile) provides international roaming service in China. Check with your mobile phone carrier for rate and instructions.

*Please call our toll free at 1-866-566-7788 for more questions.*