

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION CHINA INCLUDING HONG KONG & TIBET

PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of three (3) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

CHINA

A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into China and must be obtained prior to departure. A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained either by applying directly to a Chinese consulate or through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer additional assistance in the visa process.

U.S. citizens who have a passport with a remaining validity of one year or more will be issued a multi-entry China visa that will be valid for 10 years. *Note: If you renew your passport after being issued a 10 year China visa, the visa will still remain valid for the full ten years. If you visit China again during this time, you will need to carry both your current, valid passport and the old passport with the 10 year China visa stamp.*

Those with passports that have less than one year remaining validity will be issued a visa that is valid for 6 months.

China consulates are jurisdictional and you must submit your application to the specific consulate that covers the region of your home address. Application specifics and requirements may differ between consulates. You may be required to appear in person to apply for your visa (though this is a rare requirement). When applying for your China visa, you may be asked to provide copies of any or all of the following:

- Letter of Invitation: Please contact Buongiorno Travel prior to submitting your China visa application for a personalized letter of invitation. To fulfill this request, we must have received your completed online Guest Information Form, copy of your passport and international flight schedule.
- Your day-by-day itinerary: If you are visiting any other country/countries prior to arriving into and/or after leaving China, you may be asked to provide a copy of your day-by-day itinerary for those portions of your overall journey as well. *However, do NOT mention any planned travel to Tibet, which may result in your visa application being denied.*
- A copy of your round-trip international air ticket: Including any connecting flights within the US to your gateway city, or letter noting you will be driving from your home city to the gateway airport if located in another state.
- Your paid in full invoice.
- Your current employment resume.
- If you are self-employed, you may be asked to include a brief letter containing the company profile and your job description.
- Your current, valid passport as well as your previous, expired/non-valid passport.

- If you have ever travelled to Turkey, you may be asked to provide a personal statement letter that includes specific dates and details about all visits. Your statement letter must include details for every Turkish immigration stamp in your current passport.
- Carefully follow all instructions for photograph submissions. Make certain your photograph matches the size requirements, was taken in front of a solid white background and has no shadows and was taken within the last six months. Also remove eye glasses before taking your photo. Other specifics may also apply and are subject to change without notice.

All of these documents should display your full name on them as it appears on your passport. All of these documents should also be TYPED not hand written.

Of Special Note for Canadian Passport Holders

Effective January 1, 2019, the government of China requires all visa applicants in Canada to submit fingerprints. Applicants may submit fingerprints at Visa Application Centers located in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, and Vancouver. These application centers are jurisdictional and you must submit your application to the specific center that covers the region of your home address.

TIBET

A special permit is required to enter Tibet. In order to obtain the appropriate authorization required to secure this permit, please email a clear, photo quality, copy of your passport – inclusive of both the photo/information page, as well as the page displaying your valid tourist visa for entry into the Peoples' Republic of China – to Buongiorno Travel at: a.sule@buongiornotravel.com

It is imperative that we have this information **no later than 65 days prior to your departure** from the United States.

This information is specific to Tibet, when combined with China. If you are combining Tibet with Nepal, please contact Buongiorno Travel for information specific for travel between Nepal and Tibet.

HONG KONG

Holders of U.S. and Canadian passport are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Hong Kong for stays of up to 90 days.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

VACCINATIONS

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter **China** (including Tibet) if you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

There are no required vaccinations to enter **Hong Kong**.

STAY HEALTHY ON THE ROAD

High altitudes are a feature of travel in China's mountainous regions, including Tibet. You may experience altitude sickness. Please consult your healthcare provider for suggestions on prevention and treatment.

CASH & CREDIT CARDS

China: Cash transactions should be made in Chinese renminbi. Hong Kong dollars cannot be used in China but are easily converted to renminbi. Major credit cards are widely accepted for goods and services. Access to ATM machines is widespread in cities and towns but may be limited in rural areas.

Tibet: Cash transactions should be made in Chinese renminbi. Major credit cards have limited acceptance for goods and services. Access to ATM machines is limited to a few locations in Lhasa and Shigatse.

Hong Kong: Cash transactions should be made in Hong Kong dollars. Chinese renminbi are accepted at some shops but the exchange rate is usually poor. Major credit cards are widely accepted for goods and services. Access to ATM machines is widespread in cities and towns but may be limited in rural areas.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: INTERNET RESTRICTIONS IN CHINA

Please be aware that, due to government regulations, certain internet websites are not accessible in Mainland China, including Tibet. Currently blocked sites include, but are not limited to, Google, gmail and Facebook.

PACKING LIST & BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS CHINA INCLUDING HONG KONG & TIBET

BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

On Internal Air flights within China, each passenger is limited to approximately 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of checked baggage in Economy Class, approximately 66 pounds (30 kilograms) in Business Class and approximately 88 pounds (40 kilograms) in First Class.

For carry-on baggage, passengers are allowed one piece of baggage for Economy and Business Class, and two pieces for First Class. Each piece is limited to a maximum weight of approximately 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) and dimensions of 7 inches (18 centimeters) x 15 inches (38 centimeters) x 21 inches (53 centimeters).

Luggage restrictions on high-speed “bullet” trains in China are 44 pounds (20 kilograms) of checked baggage per person. Total dimensions of any single piece of luggage are not to exceed 63 inches (160 centimeters).

Please use the provided Buongiorno Travel luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for Buongiorno Travel staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

Special Restrictions on Lighters, Matches, Power Banks, Cellphone or Computer Batteries:

On Internal Air flights within China, lighters and matches are not allowed to be brought onto airplanes, either in checked or carry-on baggage. Power banks, cell phone and computer batteries are not allowed to be brought onto airplanes in checked baggage, they can only be brought onto the plane in carry-on baggage, however, power banks larger than 10400 mAh are not allowed to be taken on domestic flights in either checked or carry-on bags. Specifications of the power bank must be clearly labeled on it. Airport security officers have the right to confiscate any items that violate these restrictions.

PACKING LIST

Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather requires. Tibet's varied topography and high altitudes create weather conditions which can change radically in the course of the day, and between daytime and nighttime. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Temples and other religious sites require modest dress to enter. Guests are advised to pack clothing that covers knees, shoulders, and upper arms for select visits. You may be required to remove shoes when entering sacred sites.

Clothing

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casual slacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking shorts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeve shirts or blouses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweater or lightweight jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> Long comfortable skirts for women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable walking shoes with traction | <input type="checkbox"/> Lightweight raincoat or poncho |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brimmed hat for sun protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal garments | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks |

Swimwear/cover-up/bathing cap (many hotel swimming pools in China require bathing caps for both men and women)

Foldable umbrella for rain protection and sun shade

Other Recommended Items

Sunglasses

Sun block / Insect repellent

Simple first-aid kit

Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)

Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses

Smartphone

Charging cables for electronics

Global travel adapter

The mountain roads of Tibet are very rough. An inflatable pillow or stadium cushion can help soften the bumps.

Women may want to wear a supportive sports bra.

Optional Items

Small LED flashlight

Foldable walking stick

Lightweight binoculars

Small daypack or fanny pack

Laundry service is available at most hotels and dry cleaning is available in larger cities. Check costs and return times before using these services.

TIPPING GUIDELINES CHINA INCLUDING HONG KONG & TIBET

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey.

	All Small Group Journeys and Pre/Post Tour Group Extensions	Tailor Made and Signature Journeys
Resident Tour Director or Group Extension Guide	\$15 per person, per day	Not applicable
Local Guides	Included	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	Included	\$10 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	Included	\$2 per bag
'Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer' (if applicable)	Included	\$15 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted on board and shared among the staff.
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a Small Group Journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journeys guidelines for these days only.