

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION CHINA INCLUDING HONG KONG

## 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.

Chinese 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.

#### 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** 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**.

#### 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.

**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. Currently blocked sites include, but are not limited to, Google, gmail and Facebook.