

Things To Know Before You Go

CHINA

Thank you for selecting Ritz Tours for your China Travel

Our experienced staff of China specialists take pride in providing you with the very best in service and planning. We offer comprehensive and carefully planned programs at a very competitive price. We hope you will have a wonderful and stimulating trip.

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING TOUR DOCUMENTS:

1. **US domestic and international airline tickets**
(note: your China domestic flight tickets may not be enclosed in this package. They are issued locally and will be given to you by Ritz Tours representatives in each city)
2. **Day-by-day itinerary**
3. **Flight schedule, hotel vouchers (when applicable), name badge**
4. **Hotel list with addresses, telephone numbers & fax numbers.**
5. **Overseas emergency contact phone numbers**
6. **A copy of "China Trips--things to know before you go"**

Upon arrival in China, please go through Customs and Immigration on your own. After exiting the Customs area, please look for a Ritz Tours representative who will be holding a Ritz Tours flag or a sign. Please make sure that you wear your red name badge for easy identification.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE

Please note that gratuities are not included in your tour cost. They are customary, and their purpose is to encourage and reward quality service. Our tour conductors, local guides, drivers, hotel porters and other service personnel do their best to make your trip smooth and pleasant. Gratuities are a way of showing your appreciation. Ritz Tours suggests about US\$5 per person per day for all service personnel. For your convenience, your tour conductor usually collects all the gratuities at the beginning of the trip and distribute them to the appropriate people along the way. For the Yangtze River cruise, there are additional gratuities to the ship staff. These are given at the end of the cruise by the travelers themselves. The information on the recommended amount is available on board.

Again, thank you for choosing Ritz Tours as your Partner-in-Travel. We are confident that your trip will be happy and rewarding. If you need further information, please contact your travel agent or Ritz Tours.

We wish you "yi lu shun feng," our way of saying Bon Voyage!

RITZ TOURS

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CHINA TRIPS: THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel Documentation

Passports must be valid for at least 6 months on the return date of your trip. A visa is needed for all tourists entering China. Visa must be obtained prior to arrival in China. In order to obtain a China Visa, you need a valid passport, 2 passport photos, and a visa application, available at the Chinese Consulate or sometimes at your travel agency. Submit everything to the Consulate for processing. There is also a processing fee for this. Please note it is the responsibility of the traveler to obtain this visa in a timely manner. If you are going to another country after the trip and re-entering China afterwards, you will require a double entry visa.

Health & Medical Matters

No vaccinations are required for your trip with the exception of anyone traveling from or via an infected area. Due to the length of the trip and local traveling conditions, it is advised that you consult your doctor for existing medical/dental conditions before departure. If you are taking prescription medicine, please pack (in your hand luggage) sufficient quantity for the duration of the trip. It may also be useful to bring aspirin, over-the-counter medicine for flu, indigestion, motion sickness, etc. In case of illness during the trip, please immediately notify your tour conductor and local guide for assistance.

Clothing

We suggest you bring comfortable, casual clothing and good walking shoes for the trip. Check newspaper for weather conditions before you go, and pack accordingly. It is not necessary to bring formal clothing. Do not over pack, you can buy everything you need cheaply in China.

Airport Tax

Airport departure tax in China is RMB\$50.00 (appx US\$6.50) for domestic flights, RMB\$90.00 (appx US\$11.50) for international flights. Airport departure taxes vary by location and are subject to change. Rate quoted here is valid at the time of travel. Please note airport taxes are not included in

your tour cost. Local guides will collect from you before your arrival at each local airport

Baggage

For China domestic flights, each passenger is allowed one piece of check-in luggage per flight, up to 44 lbs., and one carry on bag with a combined total dimension not exceeding 45in. Checked luggage must have a lock (combination locks are recommended) and a luggage tag showing the name and contact information of the owner. (Please use Ritz Tour tags for easy identification by our airport staff.) Baggage without a lock may be refused for transport. Consider packing one change of clothing, one set of underwear and toiletry in your carry on bag to avoid inconvenience caused by delayed or lost luggage. DO NOT pack medicine, valuables and other personal necessities in checked luggage. Keep them in your carry on bag.

Important note: Ritz Tours representatives cannot enter the luggage claim area. Luggage carts are available, free of charge, at all airports. Collect your luggage and exit, our local representatives will be waiting for you outside. All the luggage from the group will be collected for transport to your hotel in a separate vehicle.

Chinese Customs Procedures

Foreign visitors are allowed to import, free of duty, one carton of cigarettes, one 750ml bottle of alcohol. There are no restrictions on importing the following items for personal use: medicine, camera/camcorder, watches, personal jewelry and any amount of money. Professional recording equipment is not allowed without an import permit. Pornography, weapons, inflammable and explosive items, certain drugs are illegal and are not allowed to be taken into China. Merchandise labeled as "cultural relic" or "antique" may not be taken out of China without an official export license.

Money matters

Chinese currency is called Ren Min Bi(RMB) and is issued by the state bank, the People's Bank of

China. We suggest you bring a combination of cash (some \$1's, \$5's and \$20's) and travelers checks for your trip. It is not a good idea to bring only travelers checks, because only 50% of exchanged value can be converted back to U.S. dollars. US dollars in cash form are accepted at many places while travelers checks must be converted into RMB first.

- ❖ There is not limit on the amount of foreign currencies you may bring into China.
- ❖ Credit cards are not widely accepted in China but are becoming more popular in major cities. International hotels, department stores and shops frequented by foreign tourists generally accept them. Cash advance by credit card is not common and is only possible at a few assigned banks.

As of January 2002, the following exchange rates apply:

US\$1 = RMB 8.07
US\$1 = HK\$ 7.70

Electrical Requirement

China's electrical system operates at 220 volts. The electrical outlets are either for fat round pins or for

flat angled blades. Please bring you own voltage converter and adapter.

Food and Drinks

- ❖ All meals are included in China as per itinerary. For Hong Kong portion of your trip, only breakfast is included.
- ❖ For your enjoyment and comfort, we provide a variety of Chinese meals and also Western style food. Most meals are served as a set menu with 10 people per table. One glass of local beer or soft drinks or mineral water is included with lunch and dinner. Unlimited amount of tea is included with all meals. Additional drinks are available for purchase. Please verify cost before ordering. Tap water is not portable in China. Hotel stores generally carry a variety of soft drinks and bottled water.

Language

- ❖ China has 28 provinces and 28 major dialects; the official language is Mandarin.
- ❖ To make your trip more interesting and rewarding, we have included a list of the most useful phrases in Mandarin.

A LAST REMINDER

PLEASE BE SURE YOU HAVE ALL THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS & MONEY BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT.

Average Temperatures in China Major Cities

CITY	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
<i>Beijing</i>	40F	56F	68F	76F	79F	76F	67F	55F	37F
<i>Chongqing</i>	57F	36F	72F	78F	84F	83F	75F	65F	57F
<i>Guangzhou</i>	64F	71F	78F	81F	83F	83F	81F	75F	68F
<i>Guilin</i>	56F	65F	74F	79F	83F	82F	78F	69F	59F
<i>Hangzhou</i>	49F	59F	69F	76F	84F	83F	74F	63F	54F
<i>Hong Kong</i>	73F	76F	82F	87F	91F	90F	87F	76F	73F
<i>Kunming</i>	56F	62F	67F	67F	68F	67F	64F	59F	53F
<i>Lhasa</i>	41F	46F	54F	61F	61F	57F	57F	48F	39F
<i>Shanghai</i>	47F	57F	66F	74F	82F	82F	75F	64F	55F
<i>Suzhou</i>	48F	58F	67F	75F	83F	83F	74F	64F	54F
<i>Urumqi</i>	32F	50F	66F	75F	79F	75F	64F	48F	28F
<i>Wuhan</i>	50F	61F	70F	78F	84F	83F	75F	64F	52F
<i>Xian</i>	50F	56F	72F	80F	78F	76F	60F	52F	40F

