

“A to Z” of What You Should Know Before You Go

- a) Many places in China are not handicapped accessible.
- b) You need to be in good physical condition as there is a lot of walking and use of stairs. Buildings of less than six floors do not have elevators. All the hotels do have elevators.
- c) You will spend every day with the same people from the same bus. Please be courteous with your traveling companions.
- d) The tour operators in each city may collect your passports and/or flight tickets. They will check you into the hotel or for the flight and return your materials to you later.
- e) On Chinese domestic flight(s), the group is pre-checked in. Note that the boarding pass will most likely NOT be in your name.
- f) It is considered rude not to show up at the evening banquets.
- g) Pack as light as possible.
- h) Bring lots of film (or extra memory space for you digital camera). You can buy film in China but the quality may not meet your expectations.
- i) You will need a passport and Chinese visa to enter China. Passports can be purchased at the Post Office and must have an expiration date that is at least six months after our return date from China. Contact the Chamber for visa information.
- j) You should have a sense of adventure and a sense of humor (you'll be experiencing a completely different culture).
- k) You need to be flexible as the daily schedule is subject to change at any time.
- l) Be prepared for some wait times.
- m) If you plan to exchange currency, the rate in the US has historically been less than the rate in China. You can exchange currency at the airport or hotel(s) in China. You will need the receipt to convert it back to U.S. dollars if you don't use it all.
- n) Visa and MasterCard are accepted at all government stores and hotels.
- o) U.S. Dollars and Chinese Yuan will be needed for the street vendors.
- p) You will be provided with three meals each day. All of the provided food is Chinese, with the exception of breakfast which will have some items that are "Western".

- q) Soda and water are part of the meal; beer may be purchased for a small additional charge. Expect a large bottle to cost 10 Yuan (\$1.25 or so).
- r) Your waiters may not speak English, so be patient with them.
- s) Some restaurants only provide chopsticks. Practice before going or bring a fork with you.
- t) Bottled water is available. It's usually about 50¢ per bottle.
- u) All hotels and most restaurants have regular "Western" toilets. You may have to use a "squat-style" toilet (bowl in the floor) while out sightseeing.
- v) Toilet paper is not always available while sightseeing. Carry toilet paper or Kleenex with you. Wet wipes are also recommended for washing or freshening up.
- w) Hotels are very nice with all amenities available including hair dryers in the room. Voltage is 220 so you will need a converter/adaptor if you plan to use your own.
- x) Your room key will be passed out on the bus prior to arriving at the hotel on the first day and needs to be inserted in the slot just inside the door for the electricity to work in your room.
- y) Any extra room charges must be taken care of early on the last day in each city (prior to boarding the bus).
- z) Each day you will choose a seat on the bus and that is yours for the rest of the day.

For more information call Kim Egge at (253) 838-2605