

“A to Z” 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 with 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. Each day you will choose a seat on the bus that will be yours for the rest of the day. Buses leave the hotels approx. 8:00am daily and return after dinner.
- E. The tour operators in each city may collect your passports and/or flight tickets. They will check you into the hotel or flight and return your materials to you later.
- F. On Chinese domestic flight(s), the group is pre-checked in.
- G. Voltage is 220 so you will need a converter/adaptor for any electrical item you plan to bring.
- H. Pack as light as possible. You will be handling your baggage frequently.
- I. Bring lots of film, batteries, or extra memory space for your digital camera. You can buy film and batteries in China but the quality may not meet your expectations and these items may not be readily accessible when you need them.
- J. You will need a passport and Chinese visa to enter China. Passports can be obtained at the Post Office. Visas can be obtained from the Chamber for a fee of \$180.
- K. You should have a sense of adventure and a sense of humor (you'll be experiencing a completely different culture.)
- L. You need to be flexible as the daily schedule is subject to change at any time.
- M. Be prepared for some wait times.
- N. 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.
- O. Visa and MasterCard are accepted at all government stores and hotels. U.S. Dollars and Chinese Yuan will be needed for the street vendors.
- P. Please take enough prescriptions, inhalers, headache, cold remedies and other medical supplies. Chinese remedies are quite different!
- Q. You will be provided with three meals a day. All of the provided food is Chinese, with the exception of breakfast, which will have some “Western” items.
- R. Soda and water are part of the meals. Beer may be purchased for a small additional charge. Expect a large bottle to cost 10 Yuan (\$1.25 or so.)
- S. Your waiters may not speak English so please be patient with them.
- T. Some restaurants only provide chopsticks. Practice before going or you may ask for a fork.
- U. Do not drink the tap water. Bottled water is available and is usually about \$.50 per bottle.
- V. 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.
- W. Toilet paper is not always available while sightseeing. Carry toilet paper or tissue with you. Wet wipes are also recommended for washing or freshening up.
- X. Hotels are very nice with all amenities available including hair dryers in the room.
- Y. 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.
- Z. Any extra room charges must be taken care of early on the last day in each city (prior to boarding the bus).

