

Frequently Asked Questions

1. The price of this tour seems very low, does that mean this is a low budget tour?

No. The price of this tour is low, exceptionally low. But this is far from being a low budget tour. This trip includes round trip airfare on Air China, a very experienced airline; all travel costs within China, including first rate tour buses with fluent English-speaking guides, as well as round trip airfare between Beijing and Shanghai; 4- and 5-Star hotels; three full meals each day with cuisine that prior travelers on this tour have called excellent; and an outstanding itinerary. The reason that the price of this tour is low is that the GNHCC has made a special arrangement with Citilinc International, a China tour company with 28 years experience in the business and excellent relationships with hotels and other tour operators in China. Citilinc has successfully sent thousands of satisfied travelers to China from other parts of the country in recent years, and now the GNHCC is bringing that same opportunity to Connecticut. **This tour is not too good to be true, it is true.**

2. What have other travelers said about this trip?

We'll give you one very recent example, from our colleagues at the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, which sent over 1,000 people on the tour in the past year. Here's what David Duerr of the Syracuse Chamber had to say about the experience: "Having participated in the China adventure in March 2008, it is an unbelievable value. With 18 years experience in hotels operations, I found the Chinese level of services and amenities to be spectacular."

3. What kind of hotels are we staying in?

These are 4 or 5 star hotels that are as nice as or nicer than the Hiltons, Marriott's, etc. found in the U.S. We will not know the specific hotel names until much closer to our departure.

4. Are there optional side trips offered during the tour?

Yes. Most of them take place after dinner, but a few are during the day. Examples are the Peking Opera, a boat cruise, a Cirque de Soleil show, a high-speed train ride, etc. Perhaps the most popular side trip takes you by rickshaw into the old city of Beijing where you meet and have lunch with a Chinese family. Your tour guide will let you know what is being offered each day. There is a small charge for these events, paid in U.S. dollars on the day of the event.

5. What kind of food will we have?

Breakfast each morning is a buffet at the hotel with American breakfast items – eggs, bacon, toast, etc. Lunches and dinners are at Chinese restaurants and consist of meats (pork, chicken, beef), vegetables, and rice.

6. What is the weather like at that time of year and how should I pack?

The weather is very much like it is here, 30F at night to 50F daytime in Beijing. It is about 10 degrees warmer in the Shanghai area. "Casual" is the word for touring, but you may want to pack business attire if you are planning to attend the business functions.

7. How much luggage can I bring?

You are allowed 2 checked bags totaling 70 pounds, with a 50-pound limit on each bag. You are allowed one carry-on and a personal bag.

8. Will my cell phone work in China?

You need to check with your cell phone service provider regarding international calling plans.

9. Do I need to change my dollars to Chinese Yuan?

American dollars, Visa and MasterCard are accepted everywhere on our itinerary except for a specific shopping area near the end of the tour. You will have the opportunity to change your money there if you like. Check with your local bank for the current exchange rate of the US Dollar to Chinese Yuan. Travelers Checks are accepted in some places, but it is advisable to bring cash, particularly for shopping with street vendors and markets.



10. Is it safe to drink the tap water?

No. Even at the hotels, drinking the tap water is not recommended (but brushing your teeth and showering with it is okay.) Bottled water is available at the hotel and on the tour bus – it is recommended you buy the water on the bus (2 bottles for \$1), as it is significantly less expensive than anywhere else.

11. Do we need electric voltage converters?

There is one 110-volt outlet in each hotel bathroom. If you need to plug in multiple items, you will need a converter for the other 220-volt outlets.

12. What airline are we flying, and can we request certain seats?

Air China. It is a 300-passenger commercial airplane. Seat assignments are made at the gate the day of departure. Any seating requests will be addressed at that time.

13. When will the passports and visa applications be collected?

We will contact you when we are ready to collect your passport, visa application, and two additional passport photos. It takes about 2 weeks to get the visas stamped and your passports returned.

14. Are we required to tip?

There is a one-time \$25 tip collected during the tour. This covers your tour guide, bus driver, and hotel personnel. You are welcome to tip additionally if you are so inclined.

15. Is it acceptable to not participate in the tour on a given day?

Yes. If you do not wish to ride the bus, you must let your tour guide know. But please be aware that the bus will not return until after dinner each evening, so you would be on your own for the entire day.

16. How long is the flight from JFK to Beijing?

It is approximately 13 hours, non-stop.

17. What is the time difference between New York and China?

China is 13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. So if it is 10:00am in New York, it is 11:00pm in China.

18. Do the tour buses have restrooms?

No. The longest bus ride without a stop is 2 hours.

19. How many people will be on the tour?

Once in China, you will be grouped with approximately 25 people on each tour bus. You will stay with this group for the entire trip. If you wish to be included in a group with specific other travelers, you must notify GNHCC on your registration form. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request, though GNHCC cannot guarantee that you

will be grouped as requested.

20. Are there any physical limitations? How much walking is required for the tour?

Some of the sites will require walking in order to see everything. For example, at the Great Wall, there are 40 steps leading to the top of the wall. From there, you can do as much or as little walking as you like. To see the Forbidden City, it is a 2.5-mile walk from one end to the other. If you do not wish to take that walk, you can remain at the bus and wait for the group to return.

21. What is the daily schedule like?

Breakfast is served at 7:00am, and we board the buses sometime around 8:00am. We do not return to the hotel until after dinner each evening, between approximately 7:30 and 8:30pm.

22. Can 3 people share one hotel room?

Yes. The hotel will provide a rollaway bed at no additional charge. Please indicate on your registration form that there will be 3 people in the room.

23. Can I get a single room?

Yes, for an additional charge of \$450.

24. Are any shots or vaccinations required?

No. We do suggest that you speak with your own doctor to find out if he/she has any recommendations.

25. What is involved in getting the visa?

If you choose to get the visa through GNHCC and Citslinc International, you will be required to fill out the visa application form as described in number 26 below, and deliver it to GNHCC offices in New Haven with the original of your passport, which has to be stamped by the Chinese consulate with the visa itself. You can deliver the passport and visa form in person, or send it by mail or overnight delivery. We suggest that if you send it by mail you use certified mail. You will be informed exactly when that must be done. When your visa has been obtained, your passport will be returned to GNHCC, which will return it to you. If you choose to get the visa yourself, you must go to the Chinese consulate in New York City and follow the instructions you are given there.

26. Do I need to fill out the entire visa application form?

If you choose to get your visa through the GNHCC and Citslinc International, on the visa application form, you need to fill out only sections 1.1, 1.7, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5 and your signature at the bottom. If you choose to obtain the visa yourself, you must fill out the entire form.

27. What is the cost of the visa per person if I get it through GNHCC and Citslinc International?

The total cost, including shipping and handling costs, is \$180 per person. That covers the fee to the Chinese consulate, the work of Citslinc's staff in filling out the remainder of your visa forms, shipping your passport and visa form to Citslinc, and the GNHCC shipping the visa-stamped passport back to you.

28. Is travelers insurance a good idea?

GNHCC highly recommends that you purchase travelers insurance prior to the trip. We recommend contacting New Haven Travel Service at 203.772.0060. Please ask for Donna Dalnekoff.

29. What does travelers insurance cost?

The cost varies according to age, the cost of the trip, and the amount of coverage preferred.

30. I am 6'6" and would like to have a bulkhead or exit seat; is that possible?

It is possible, however seat assignments are made only when you check in at JFK Airport and GNHCC cannot guarantee seat assignments.

31. Is there Internet access at the hotels; do you recommend bringing a laptop?

Each of the hotels provides high-speed Internet connectivity. Some hotels provide that connectivity in each room; some provide it in the hotel's business center. Bringing a laptop is a personal choice on which we make no recommendation.

32. Is there a required dress code, or any formal dinners? What would you recommend to wear for everyday traveling?

There is no dress code, though it always is a good idea when traveling in another country to dress cleanly and appropriately for the circumstances. Most people wear comfortable, wrinkle-resistant clothing for the trip. It is important to bring a good pair of comfortable walking shoes.

33. Are there any "required" meetings during the trip such as you might find on timeshare offerings?

No.

34. What exactly are economic development zones?

Generally, the economic development zones referred to on the itinerary are between Shanghai and Suzhou and they consist of a large expanse of new commercial and industrial buildings. You will not tour the area on foot; you will see it on the bus tour.

35. How can I make a connection with Chinese business people with whom my company might do business?

After you register for the trip, you can fill out a business information form detailing the type of business you are in and the type of business people you would like to meet in China. Citilinc International, the tour organizer, will then attempt to arrange for appropriate Chinese business people to attend a special business connections meeting that takes place during the tour. At that meeting, which may be attended by many American and Chinese business people, you will be introduced to people from the kind of business in which you are interested and you can follow-up as you see fit afterward.

36. What are the names of the hotels at which we will be staying and which are 4-Star, which are 5-Star?

The exact hotels that we will be using for this trip will be determined much closer to the departure date. However, to give you an idea of the nature of the accommodations, some of the hotels that have been used in the past include: in Beijing, the Marriott City Wall, a 5-Star hotel; in Shanghai, the Glamour Hotel, a 5 Star hotel; in Suzhou/Hangzhou, the Regal Hotel, a 5-Star hotel, in Hangzhou/Shanghai, the Guangdong Hotel, a 5-Star hotel. These specific hotels are not guaranteed; but our accommodations will be in these or comparable hotels.

37. What happens if I send in my registration form and \$200 payment but I can't get on this trip?

Space on this trip is limited, and it may be that not everyone who wants to go can be accommodated. For this trip, the GNHCC will maintain a waiting list until confirmation that all of the available spaces have been filled and paid for. At that point, GNHCC will return the \$200 deposit of all people on the waiting list and contact you in the in the event future trips are organized.

For any further questions you may have please contact:
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Check out our website for additional information www.gnhcc.com.