

Business Abroad: Journey to China

April 4 - 12, 2011

Beijing ♦ Shanghai ♦ Suzhou ♦ Hangzhou

Thank you for your interest in joining the West Shore Chamber of Commerce on the trip to China from April 4 - 12, 2011. This business trip will provide an outstanding experience to business people and their families and friends. You will visit memorable sites, both ancient and modern, and enjoy a multitude of unforgettable experiences. You will also learn about how the Chinese business system operates. This tour is an exceptional value, so please do not wait too long to decide whether to accompany us, as space is limited and reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Please find below a list of FAQ's that may assist you in your consideration of joining us.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q 1: What is the cost to attend the trip?

A: The cost to participate in the trip is \$1,999 per person for Chamber members and their guests and \$2,199 for non-members (based on double occupancy). This includes round-trip airfare from JFK Airport (including transportation from Camp Hill to JFK), 4-star and 5-star hotel accommodations, deluxe tour bus, a knowledgeable English-speaking tour guide in each city, three full meals every day, fees for all attractions and any applicable taxes.

Q 2: What if I will be travelling alone on the trip?

A: If you are travelling alone, the cost for a single room (single occupancy) is an additional \$450, in addition to the cost as a Chamber or non-Chamber member (noted above in question #1). If you are interested in being matched with a roommate, let us know. We will keep a list of those interested and work to facilitate introductions, after which you may decide if you want to select a roommate.

Q 3: When are the due dates for payments to attend the trip?

A: A non-refundable registration fee of \$500 per person is required and due at the time you register for the trip. This will be deducted from your total tour fare. This deposit will hold your space to attend the trip.

The balance is due in full by December 1, 2010.

Q 4: Do I need to obtain a passport and visa for the trip?

A: Yes. Securing or updating a passport is your responsibility, and you may also take care of the required visa yourself. However, if you wish for us to handle the visa application, you will need to provide us with your passport, a signed visa application form, two passport photos and \$155 before January 1, 2011. We will return your passport to you in 10 working days. Should you need assistance completing the visa application, please ask us. The visa application process for China can be challenging. The Chamber recommends using the Visa Application service available through our trip partner Citisync.

Q 5: What if I decide to cancel my reservation to participate in the trip?

A: If you cancel your reservation prior to December 1, 2010, you will receive a refund of your payments less the \$500 non-refundable deposit fee.

Q 6: Where can I go to find out more information about the trip to China?

A: You may visit www.wschamber.org/journeytochina to learn more. We recommend that you purchase trip insurance within 10 days of deposit with AAA or another company of your choice.

Final Itinerary:

You will be provided with a final itinerary with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the hotels, flight information, etc. approximately one month before departure. This may vary slightly from the brochure. Be sure to leave a copy with someone at home and always carry a copy with you on the trip.

The Plane/Flight

All flights are regular, scheduled passenger flights. Seats are assigned at check-in at JFK. We will also check in as individuals, not as a group. The plane has four aisle seats and two window seats in each row. You should arrive early enough to get good seat assignments. You will be served two meals and there will be three movies. You will receive your airline tickets before the departure date.

Luggage

You are allowed two small carry-ons, and two checked bags. Total weight for checked bags not to exceed 70 pounds (with no individual bag larger than 50 pounds).

Hotels

Hotels are four and five star (similar to Hilton or Sheraton). All of the hotels have Western facilities and include hair dryers and internet service. If you bring electrical appliances that will need to be charged, it is recommended that you bring electrical adapters. Although the hotels have them, you don't want to take a chance that they won't have enough for everyone. Unless otherwise notified, all rooms will be booked as non-smoking.

Changing Hotels

The night before we leave each hotel you may be asked to leave your luggage outside the door and a porter will pick it up and make sure it's are loaded and ready to leave before the passengers arrive. Other days you may need to carry it to the bus.

Meals

Breakfast will be a Western and Eastern buffet at the hotel. Breakfast will be your only opportunity for Western food. Eat a hearty breakfast and take fruit such as apples, oranges, etc. with you from breakfast to snack on during the day. Lunch and dinner will consist of Chinese food. Lunch and dinner are family style at local Chinese restaurants. Soft drinks and beer are served. The beer is very good quality. Chinese liquor is very strong. The wine is poor quality, but you can find American wine. Alcohol is not included in the cost of the trip.

McDonald's, KFC, Starbucks, etc. are available if you crave American food.

You can ask for forks at any restaurant. You may also want to pack some plastic forks and keep one with you.

Water

Water is fine to wash with. It is not recommended that you drink any tap water unless you boil it (you can boil the water with the coffee pot located in your hotel room). One bottle of water per person is made available daily in your hotel room. Bottled water is available at the hotel or can be purchased on the bus or from local vendors. Bus drivers make a small profit by selling water during your tours. The price for the bottled water is typically two for \$1.00.

Daily Schedule

We eat breakfast at 7:00 a.m., leave the hotel at 8:00 a.m. for the day's tours and return after 8:00 p.m.; If you wish to leave the group (or not join the group for the day), let your bus tour guide know.

Bus Travel

You will be assigned the same bus for the entire trip. Each bus will have 25-30 passengers. Your seat on the bus will be "yours" for the day. You can leave personal items on the bus for the day but take valuables with you. There are no bathrooms located on the bus, but adequate stops are made along the way.

Business Conference/Agenda

The content for the business agenda is under development.

Optional Tours

Optional tours will be available for an additional charge. The tour guides will describe them to you and if

interested, you will pay the guides in cash (US dollars). The cost averages \$15 - \$35 and the option excursions do not conflict with the other items on the trip itinerary.

Weather

The average high in Beijing is 49° to 52°; the average low is 29° to 33°. In Shanghai, the average high is 61° to 65° and the average low is 46° to 49°. The weather at the Great Wall will be cooler.

Shopping

We will be visiting many stores and factories, but don't feel obligated to buy. If you purchase from a street vendor be prepared to barter; do not pay the initial asking price. Many stores are able to ship purchases home for you.

Tipping

Tips are not included in the trip fee. Expect total tips to be approximately \$25 for the trip. This will be collected in US dollars - CASH at the Great Wall. If you receive special services, an additional tip is not necessary, but acceptable if you wish.

Passport & Chinese Visa

If you do not have a passport now, please take care of that. You can get the forms at the post office, your travel agent or AAA. You will need to get a passport photo and there is a fee. Make sure your passport will be valid through October, 2011. A visa is only good for six months so do not start your visa process until December.

Shots/Vaccinations

Special shots or vaccinations are not required to enter or travel in China. Check with your personal physician regarding your situation. If you have not had a tetanus shot in the past 10 years, you might want to get one.

Restroom Facilities

Always take advantage of a restroom (especially a Western-style one). Some toilets are only holes in the floor (i.e. toilets are flat on the ground).

Travel Insurance / Trip Cancellation Insurance

Travel / Trip Cancellation Insurance is available and recommended. We can provide you with a brochure from AAA or you can select another company of your choice.

If you opt to purchase trip cancellation insurance it must be purchased within ten days of making a deposit on the trip.

Money/Currency

The official currency in China is the Yuan. The exchange rate is roughly 1 USD = 6 Yuan. Most stores will accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Discover Card is not generally accepted. You can exchange American dollars and traveler's checks at the hotel, banks, and airport, although US dollars are welcome almost everywhere. If you take cash, take small denominations. Street vendors do not like to give change. It is suggested that you bring \$500 in cash, plus an additional \$75 in ones. Street vendors only know \$1 bills. ATMs are scarce and not reliable. Tip: Contact your credit card company to notify them you will be using your charge card in China.

Cell phones

Your cell phone may work in China. Check with your provider.

Suggested Websites

Weather: www.weather.com

What you can and cannot bring on the airplane (US Transportation Security Administration):

www.tsa.gov/travelers

International Travel (US State Department): www.travel.state.gov

Questions about bringing items back from your trip (US Customs & Border Protection): www.cbp.gov

Refund Policy

If you cancel your reservation on or after December 1, 2010, you will not receive a refund - that is why we recommend trip cancellation insurance.

If you cancel your reservation prior to December 1, 2010 in writing, you will receive a refund of your payments less the \$500 non-refundable deposit fee.