

2009 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **Deposit/payment**

The cost of the trip is \$1,899/person double occupancy. To reserve your space there is a nonrefundable \$200 deposit. The balance is due by close of business December 28, 2008. No refunds will be made after this date.

2. **Final Itinerary**

You will be provided with a final itinerary with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the hotels, flight information, etc. approximately 2 weeks before we leave. This may vary slightly from the current published one. Be sure to leave a copy with someone at home and always carry a copy with you on the trip.

3. **Departure**

The flight will leave JFK around 3p m and plan on arriving in to JFK by that same time. Specific flight/gate/time, etc. information will be available prior to the departure date.

4. **The Plane/flight**

All flights are regular, scheduled passenger flights; Air China from JFK in a Boeing 747. Seats are assigned at check-in at JFK. We will check in as individuals, not as a group. The plane has 4 aisle seats and 2 window seats in each row. We should arrive early enough to get good seat assignments. It is an approximately 13-hour flight. You will be served 2 meals and there will be 3 movies. You will receive your airline tickets before the departure date.

5. **Luggage**

You are allowed to check in 2 pieces of luggage (max. 50 pounds each) no more than 70 pounds total however! per person plus carry-on (i.e. luggage and a purse/laptop/briefcase). If you lock your luggage in the US, be sure to use TSA approved locks. You will need to lock your luggage for flights within China. If you do not bring locks, your tour guide may be able to purchase them for you.

6. **Frequent Flyer miles**

Air China is a partner with United Airlines. You can put mileage into your United account, but you cannot use your mileage points to upgrade on this trip, since it is already discounted.

7. **Arrival**

We will arrive in Beijing at approximately 6:00 pm. After going through immigration and customs, you will board your pre-assigned bus. We will go to a restaurant for dinner and then to the hotel for the evening. Tip: Don't sleep too much on the plane. You want to be tired when you arrive so you will get a good night's sleep and reduce the effects of jet lag.

8. **Hotels**

Hotels are 4 and 5 star. All of the hotels have Western facilities and include hair dryers and internet service. If you bring electrical appliances or gadgets that will need charging, 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.

9. **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 them up and make sure they are loaded and ready to leave before the passengers arrive. Other days you may need to carry them to the bus.

10. **Meals**
Breakfast will be a Western and Eastern buffet at the hotel. 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.
11. **Water**
It is not recommended that you drink any tap water unless you boil it. Bottled water is available at the hotel or can be purchased on the bus or from local vendors.
12. **Daily Schedule**
We will wake up at 6:00, eat breakfast at 7:00 and leave the hotel at 8:00 am for the day's tours and return after 8:00 pm. If you wish to leave the group (or not join the group for the day), let your bus tour guide know.
13. **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.
14. **Business Conference**
For those interested in making business contacts in Beijing you will have the opportunity to meet with government officials and business leaders after dinner at the hotel. Please fill out the "*Business Inquiry Form*" and return it to the Chamber so we can arrange to have the appropriate people there. Dress for this event is "business attire".
15. **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).
16. **Dress**
Informal. Dress comfortably and in layers. There is no time to change clothes during the day. Bring a coat, dress in layers, jeans are OK for all venues.
17. **Weather**
The average high in Beijing is 49°-52°; the average low is 29°-33°. In Shanghai, the average high is 61°-65° and the average low is 46°-49°. The weather at the Great Wall will be cooler.
18. **Longitude, Latitude, Elevation, Time**
Beijing is located at 37° 55' N, 116° 35' E; Shanghai is located at 37° 10' N, 121° 28' E Elevation: Beijing is about 142 feet, Shanghai is about 13 feet. When it is 12 noon in Dallas, GA, it is midnight the next day in China. There is only one time zone in China.
19. **Shopping**
We will be visiting many stores and factories, but don't feel obligated to buy. Many of these stores are able to ship purchases home for you. If you purchase from a street vendor be prepared to bargain; do not pay the initial asking price. Always pay with the exact amount. Do not expect these vendors to make change or exchange Chinese money for US dollars.
20. **Tipping**
Tips are not included in the trip fee. Total tips are \$25 for the whole 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 OK if you wish.
21. **Passport & Chinese Visa**
You are responsible for obtaining your own passport. It must be valid until at least May 2009. China's travel visas are only valid for 6 months. You may get your own or the Chamber can do it for you. If the Chamber does it for you, we will need 2 passport photos, your passport, the Visa application (complete boxes #1.1, 1.7, 1.8, 1.10-1.13 and sign), and a check for \$145 made out to Citilinc International, Inc. After we send your packet off, it will be returned in about 2 weeks. The Chamber will let you know when we will accept visa applications. If you wish to obtain your travel visa, contact:

22. **Shots/Vaccinations**
Special shots or vaccinations are not required to enter or travel in China. Check with your personal physician regarding your situation.
23. **Travel Insurance**
Travel insurance is available. We can give you a brochure or you can go with any company you choose.
24. **Money/Currency**
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 give change. ATMs are scarce and not reliable. Tip: Contact your credit card company to notify them you will be using your charge card in China.
25. **Single Travelers**
If you are traveling alone and do not wish to pay the additional private single room fee of \$450, the Chamber will match up same sex singles.
26. **Cell phones**
Your cell phone may work in China. Check with your provider.
27. **Additional Travel**
If you want to leave the group during the tour, please notify your bus tour guide. If you want to do additional traveling after the tour, check with your own travel agent. It is possible, but you will be responsible for all additional costs and arrangements.
28. **Suggested Websites:**
 - s Weather: www.weather.com
 - s What you can and cannot bring on the airplane
(US Transportation Security Administration): www.tsa.gov/travelers
 - s International Travel (US State Department): www.travel.state.gov
 - s Questions about bringing items back from your trip
(US Customs & Border Protection): www.cbp.gov
 - s Questions about health concerns, shots, etc.
(Centers for Disease Control & Prevention): <http://www.cdc.gov>
29. **Final Advice**
Be flexible and adventurous. And remember, you are in a foreign country.