

Where can I get passport photos to submit with my visa application?

Most one-hour photo centers take passport photos. Also, some Wal-Mart, Wegmans, or CVS stores process passport photos – we suggest you call first.

How can I learn more about the hotels we're staying at?

The final itinerary you will receive in September will identify all the hotels. These hotels participated in past trips, but we don't know if they will be on our itinerary.

In Beijing: Beijing Xin Yuan Hotel, 6 Shifangyuan Haidian District

In Suzhou: Holiday Inn Youlian Suzhou, 99 Jiefang Donglu Cangliang District

In Hangzhou: Zhongan Huana Holiday Hotel, 21 Xiangjisilu

In Shanghai: Ambassador Hotel, 818 Wanhangdulu Jingan District

How should I dress? What type of clothing should I bring.

Most importantly, dress so you are comfortable, especially shoes. You'll walk quite a bit. We recommend layers of clothing so you can adjust to the weather. Check here for information about weather in China in October. http://gochina.about.com/od/weather/p/Oct_in_China.htm

Do I need vaccinations?

While immunizations are not required for entry into China at this time, you may wish to check with your health care provider. Passport Health in Rochester provides up-to-date travel medicine for international travelers. Contact them at 585-275-8884 or www.passporthealthusa.com. You can also check the Centers for Disease Control Web site at www.cdc.gov/travel/vaccinat.htm.

Is it safe to drink the water?

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travelers. Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes
- Do not eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Make sure food is fully cooked.
- Avoid dairy products, unless you know they have been pasteurized.

Can I receive frequent flier miles for my Air China trip?

Contact Air China at <http://www.fly-airchina.com/> or 1-800-982-8802.

Is there MSG in the food?

We will be dining at a variety of restaurants and banquet facilities and have no control over menus. If you have serious dietary restrictions, we suggest you consult with your health care provider.

Can I bring food with me? Can I bring wine?

Yes, you can bring non-perishable foods such as power bars or packaged nuts. Fruits, vegetables, or plants are not permitted. According to Air China, a passenger should not travel with more than two bottles (each bottle should not be over 500ml) of carbonated drinks, mineral water, tea, milk, acidophilus milk, juice, etc... Passengers can purchase drinks after the security checks in airport/as long they are in compliance with the limits. Except for alcohol purchased after the security check in the airport, no alcohol should be carried. Limits on alcohol per passenger are 2 bottles under 1kg and total cubage should not exceed 1000ml. Check the Air China website for more information. <http://www.fly-airchina.com/>

Will my cell phone work?

Ask your cell phone provider about international service. You may also use international phone calling cards.

Is there access to the Internet?

Most of the hotels we stay at have business centers for access to email.