

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

CHINA

(Updated March 2019)

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

As you prepare to embark on your upcoming Affordable World journey, please log on to your My Affordable account and click on your trip confirmation ID to review the most up to date trip details including hotel information, flight schedules, and ticket number(s). Please make sure you have all travel documents, passports, and necessary visas ready before you depart for your trip.

CHECKING IN AT THE AIRPORT

Be sure to bring your **passport** as you will need to present it when checking in at the airport. Please be advised not all airlines assign seats in advance. Some airlines assign seats at the airport during check-in. We recommend all travellers arrive at the airport at least 3 hours prior to the flight departure time. You will receive your boarding pass(es) at the airline counter when you check in for your flight.

UPON ARRIVAL IN CHINA

Please go through Customs and Immigrations on your own. (144-hour Beijing or Shanghai Transit Visa Exemption passengers – please register at the 144-hour Visa free desk upon arrival in Beijing or Shanghai). After you pick up your luggage, exit the baggage claim area and look for the Affordable World representative holding an Affordable Asia/World flag or sign. **Please wear your Affordable badge for easy identification.**

Airport Transfers Upon Arrival

Affordable World tour guides/airport assistants will wait for arriving tour members outside the airport baggage claim area for up to **90 minutes*** after the landing time of the tour member's flight before departing from the airport with transportation to the hotel. If for any reason a tour member does not meet the Affordable World representative within 90 minutes after the landing time of the tour member's flight, the tour member will be responsible for his or her own transportation from the airport to the hotel, along with all associated expenses.

**90 minute wait time does not apply for those travelling on tour codes ATB, AJB, ATKB, ATAV, ATKV*

Land Only & Extended Stay Travelers

Land only packages do not include airport transfers. Please arrange your own airport transfer to the hotel in Beijing as listed in your travel documents. The tour guide will leave information for you at the hotel regarding the time of the meeting the next day. Airport transfers out are not included for those who have chosen to extend their stay in China at the end of the tour. If you have purchased an airport transfer service from us, please be sure to provide all flight information to Affordable World prior to your trip departure date.

PASSPORTS, VISAS & TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Passports must be valid for 6 months from the return date of your trip
- **A China visa is required for all tourists entering China. Visa must be obtained prior to arrival in China.**
- We have partnered with Visa Central to offer a fast and easy way to obtain a visa, passport and other documents for your Affordable World vacation. Please visit www.visacentral.com/aw and select your tour to obtain more information

- It is the responsibility of the traveller to obtain a China visa in a timely manner. If you are going to another country including Hong Kong after the trip and re-entering China afterwards, you will require a double entry visa which is available upon request
- **Hong Kong entry permit:** US citizens must have a valid passport, but no visa is required for a stay of up to 90 days
- For detailed passport and visa requirements, all travellers are advised to check with their related embassy or consulate
- If you are holding a non-US passport, please check with your embassy or consulate in your jurisdiction for China travel requirements
- For those who have purchased the Forbidden City optional tour in Beijing – your passport is required for entry. Please note if your passport does not match the passport information on file for your reservation, you will be denied entry at the Forbidden City and your optional tour will be non-refundable.

144-Hour Visa Free Transit Exemption

Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) and Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) have implemented the 144-hour Transit Visa Exemption policy for foreign nationals of 53 countries. Such foreign nationals must hold valid international travel documents and passenger tickets (by air/train/ship) of confirmed travel dates and confirmed seats to a third country (or region such as HKG/MFM/Taiwan). Nationals of the below 53 countries can enjoy the 144-hour transit visa exemption.

- **24 Schengen countries in Europe:** Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherland, Poland, Portugal, Slovak, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.
- **15 other European countries:** Russia, Great Britain, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Republic of Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Monaco, Belarus.
- **6 American countries:** The United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Chile.
- **2 Oceania countries:** Australia and New Zealand.
- **6 Asian countries:** Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Brunei, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

In addition to the above criteria, the following conditions will apply for the 144-hour visa free transit exemption:

- Passengers must hold an onward ticket with a confirmed seat and date as well as a valid visa (if required) to a third country or region within 144 hours
- Passengers are required to enter from an eligible transit port; passengers must also leave for a third country from one of the eligible transit ports
- Passengers with the 144-hour transit visa exemption must stay within the administrative region of Beijing or Shanghai but cannot leave for other cities during this time. The stay shall not exceed 144 hours.
- **It is important to note that both Beijing and Shanghai are eligible for the 144-hour transit policy, but travellers may only have one between the original country and the third country**
- **If you are transiting in Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) or Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) under 144-hours and are holding a passport from one of the 53 applicable countries, please register at the 144-hour visa free desk upon arrival in Beijing or Shanghai.**
- **If you are staying past 144 hours or are holding a passport from a country that is not applicable for the 144-hour transit visa exemption, you will need to obtain a China Visa prior to your trip departure**
- It is the responsibility of the traveller to determine if a China visa is required and to obtain all visa's in a timely manner

BAGGAGE

Baggage allowance for international flights may vary by airline and is subject to change at any time. Please refer to the below information for Air China and Cathay Pacific's baggage policy as of November 1st 2016. For up to date baggage allowance information, check directly with the airlines.

Baggage Allowance:

- **Air China International Flights** → The standard free check in baggage allowance on international flights from the U.S to mainland China is one piece per person, up to 50 lbs. Carry-on baggage is limited to one piece per person up to 5 kg.
- **Cathay Pacific International Flights** → The standard free check in baggage allowance on international flights is 2 pieces per person, up to 50 lbs each. Carry-on baggage is limited to one piece per person, up to 15 lbs.
- **Please keep in mind that within China and Asia, the baggage limitation on all flights is restricted to one piece of check-in luggage, up to 44 lbs and one carry-on bag with a combined total dimension not exceeding 45 inches.**

Important Luggage Info & Tips

- Baggage is the sole responsibility of the traveller. We recommend using a TSA approved luggage lock and **Affordable Asia/World** luggage tags showing the name and contact information of the owner (**Please use the Affordable Asia or Affordable World luggage tags provided in this package**). Baggage without a lock may be refused for transport in China
- DO NOT pack medicine, valuables, and other personal necessities in checked luggage. Keep these items in your carry-on bag
- Consider packing a change of clothing and toiletry in your carry-on bag to avoid inconvenience caused by delays or lost luggage.
- Power bank chargers over 20,000 mAh are restricted from carry on and check in luggage
- Power bank mAh capacity must be clearly labelled by manufacturer on the charger
- Please visit www.tsa.gov for USA carry on restrictions
- No porter service will be provided throughout the tour. During the tour please keep an eye on your personal belongings and valuables at all times. Be aware of your surroundings when going out on your own.
- **Important note: Affordable World Tours' representatives cannot enter the luggage claim area. After you collect your luggage and exit customs, our local Affordable World representative will be waiting for you outside with an Affordable Asia/World flag or sign.**

CHINESE CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

Foreign visitors are allowed to import, free of duty, one carton of cigarettes and one 750 ml bottle of alcohol. There are no restrictions on importing the following items for personal use: medicine, camera/camcorder, watches, personal jewelry and any amount of money (**Important note:** The total amount you can bring back from China to the U.S is \$5,000. For those carrying more than \$5,000 - Upon arrival in China, please report to the China customs agent the total amount of currency you are carrying). Professional recording equipment is not allowed without an import permit. Pornography, weapons, inflammable and explosive items, certain drugs are illegal and not allowed to be taken into China. Merchandise labeled as "cultural relic" or "antique" may not be taken out of China without an official export license.

CURRENCY

Chinese currency is called Ren Min Bi (RMB). As of December 2017, the exchange rate is \$1 U.S dollar to 6.62 RMB. We suggest you bring a combination of cash and credit cards for your trip. Most department stores, hotels and restaurants will accept major credit cards such as American Express, Visa, and MasterCard. However it is more convenient to use cash especially if you are planning to shop and eat in smaller shops. Please always keep your currency exchange receipts as you may need to present these when changing RMB back to your own currency at the end of your trip.

TIPPING

Please note gratuities are not included in your tour cost. They are customary and their purpose is to encourage and reward quality service. Our guides greatly appreciate any tips you would like to give them. Our recommended tip amount is \$10 USD per person per night.

HEALTH & MEDICAL MATTERS

Medical and vaccination requirements vary between countries and it is important you check with your family doctor or a qualified medical professional for the most up to date travel health information for the region you are visiting. Due to the length of the trip, it is advised you consult your doctor for existing medical/dental conditions before departure. It is advised to pack any prescription medicine in your carry on hand luggage. Please make sure prescription medicine is fully labelled. It may also be useful to bring aspirin, over-the-counter medicine for the flu, indigestion, motion sickness, etc. In case of illness during the trip, please immediately notify your tour guide for assistance.

ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENT

China's electrical system operates at 220 volts. The electrical outlets are either for fat round pins or flat angled blades. It is recommended travellers bring their own voltage converter and adapter

TIME DIFFERENCE

The time difference between major cities in North America and China are as below:

- Los Angeles + 15 hours
- New York + 12 hours

MEALS

Meals are included in China as per itinerary. Tap water is not potable in China. Bottled water may be purchased from the hotel or convenience store. We regret to inform you that Affordable World is unable to confirm any special meal requests as it is based on the availability of the providing restaurants, hotels, and airlines. Please contact the airlines directly to place special meal requests for your flights.

SHOPPING

Although Affordable World's national guides will be happy to assist you with any shopping requirements, Affordable World Tours does not assume responsibility for any items purchased at shops while on tour. You are never required to purchase any items while on tour and thus must be responsible for your own purchases. Any after sales correspondence must be between the passenger and the shop in question.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS**National Holidays:**

- Jan 1 – New Year
- May 1 – Labor Day
- Oct 1 – National Day

National Festivals

- Chinese Lunar New Year and Spring Festival – 1st day of the 1st lunar month
- Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Festival) – The 15th day of the 8th lunar month

CLIMATE & CLOTHING:

Since the nation stretches for over 3,000 km from north to south, the weather is varied depending on where and when you travel. Please refer to the below chart for average temperatures in China's major cities. We suggest travellers to pack comfortable, casual clothing and a pair of walking shoes.

Temperature in Major Cities, China

City	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beijing	28	32	40	56	69	76	79	76	67	55	39	36
Xian	32	38	50	56	72	80	78	76	60	52	40	30
Shanghai	40	42	47	57	66	74	82	82	75	64	55	42
Guilin	47	48	56	65	74	79	83	82	78	69	59	50
Suzhou	38	40	48	58	67	74	83	83	74	64	54	43
Hong Kong	60	61	65	72	79	82	84	83	82	77	71	64

LANGUAGE

China has 28 provinces and 28 major dialects; the official language is Mandarin. To make your trip more interesting and rewarding, we have included a list of the most useful phrases in Mandarin.

English	Mandarin Pronunciation	Chinese
Hello	Ni Hao	你好
How are you?	Ni Hao Ma?	你好嗎？
Please	Qing	請
Thank you	Xie Xie	謝謝
Yes	Yao	要
No	Bu Yao	不要
You're welcome	Bu Ke Qi	不客氣
Sorry	Dui Bu Qi	對不起
I can't understand	Wo Bu Dong	我不懂
Good morning	Zao Shang Hao	早上好
Good afternoon	Xia Wu Hao	下午好
Good evening	Wan Shang Hao	晚上好
Good night	Wan An	晚安
Goodbye	Zai Jian	再見
See you tomorrow	Min Tian Jian	明天見
You are nice	Ni Hung Hao	你很好
American	Mei Guo Ren	美國人
May I ask your name?	Qing Wen Gui Xin?	請問貴姓？
My name is	Wo Jiao	我叫
How much?	Duo Shao Qian?	多少錢？
Where is the restroom?	Che Suo Zai Na Li?	廁所在哪裡？
Where is the telephone?	Dian Hua Zai Na Li?	電話在哪裡？
What time?	Ji Dian?	幾點？
The food was delicious	Heng Hao Chi	很好吃
Cheers! /Bottoms up!	Gan Bei!	乾杯！
Excellent!	Heng Hao!	很好
Coffee	Ka Fei	咖啡
Tea	Cha	茶
Beer	Pi Jiu	啤酒
Mineral water	Kuang Quan Shui	礦泉水
Ice cubes	Bin Kuai	冰塊

CHINA TRAVEL INFO For detailed China travel guides & maps please visit: <http://www.cnto.org/>

CHINA EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER 011-86-21-5294-1088

HONG KONG EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER 011-852-9571-7700