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- Top 5 Things to Know
- ACIS Trip Services
 - Rooming
 - Meals
 - Tour Manager
 - Airport Tax
- General Information / Travel Tips
 - Flights
 - Passport Requirements
 - Parental Consent
 - Time Difference
 - Luggage Restrictions
 - Tipping
- What to Pack
- Healthcare
- Safety and Security
- Visa & Other Important Information

TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW

1

Visa

You will need a Visa to enter China. You will receive information from ACIS on how to acquire this visa. There is a fee involved and you will be required to submit many original documents, including passport and birth certificate. Estimated Visa Costs for 2025 travel is \$500. See important details below.

2

ACIS Travel App

You will receive the ACIS Travel App with information about your daily itinerary, hotels, etc. The mapping functionality should not be used, as GPS coordinates may not be accurate in China.

3

Food

All meals included on ACIS Trips will be in approved restaurants. If you are to eat on your own: It is advisable to dine only in restaurants or private homes recommended by your guide or other reliable sources. It is also a good idea to use disposable chopsticks or carry your own!

4

Water

We recommend not drinking the water in China. Drink only boiled, treated, or bottled water. Bottled water is provided in hotel rooms for brushing your teeth. Beverages such as hot tea, hot coffee or canned or bottled carbonated water or soft drinks are safe to drink.

5

Restrooms

Street-level public toilets are common in most Asian countries but there's often an entrance fee so keep some small change handy. There are two kinds of toilets in China, "western style" and "Asian style". Westerners sit and Asians squat. Do be prepared to do some squatting, as sometimes there is no choice. It's a good idea to pack Purell and some packaged tissues as paper can be scarce.



ACIS TRIP SERVICES

Hotels:

ACIS typically uses centrally located, three or four-star Western style hotels.

Rooming

Rooming is based on twin occupancy. Triples are available at the same rate but are more limited in China. Please note that the hotel rooms in Asia are generally quite small.

Meals

Most meals in China will involve several courses of family style servings with rice, vegetables and various choices. There is always ample food served in the restaurants so even if a passenger does not eat meat or seafood, there is

always plenty of other options. Most meals will be local style with only one or two Western meals during the trip to balance it out.

Tour Manager



Upon arrival, you will be met by an English-speaking tour manager who will accompany you throughout the tour. If the tour begins in a Tour Manager’s hometown, he/she may go home for the night rather than staying with the group at their hotel. In that case, the Tour Manager will stay with the group until they are ready for bed and then return first thing in the morning for breakfast, leaving contact numbers should he/she be needed for an emergency during the night.




If your trip involves Hong Kong, your Chinese Tour Manager will not accompany you to Hong Kong. They will escort you to the airport (if departing via flight) or to the train station if you are departing via train, where you will be met by a different Hong Kong guide. Your guide in Hong Kong will not stay at the hotel with you.

There may also be an additional local guide in some cities to provide you with additional historical information during sightseeing. It is not necessary to tip the local guides as their tips are already included.

Airport Tax

There are currently no additional taxes being levied in any of our trips involving China.

 GENERAL INFORMATION AND TRAVEL TIPS	
Flights 	Be prepared for a long flight (minimum of 12 hours) - Remember, you will cross the International Dateline.
Passport Requirements 	Visas are required for programs to China and ACIS will assist with advising how to secure a visa all groups. The cost of your visa as well as the expeditor’s fees and are subject to change. Estimated Visa cost for 2025 groups is \$500 pp.
Parental Consent (if necessary) 	No parental consent is needed to travel to China.

Time Difference 	<p>China is 12 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time in the Summer, 13 hours ahead in the winter. China does not recognize daylight savings time and the entire People's Republic of China operates on one time zone.</p>
Luggage Restrictions 	<p>The weight limit on internal flights is one checked bag maximum 44 pounds and one carryon bag maximum 15 lbs.</p> <p>Identification tags should be on all luggage, even carry-ons, and all other tags should be removed at each destination hotel, so that bags won't get misdirected as you travel through Asia.</p> <p>Take medicines, vanity kit and emergency clothing in your carry-on, in case your luggage is misplaced en route or tardy getting to your hotel room.</p>
Tipping 	<p>Pre-paid tips of \$14 per person per day will be listed on your account to cover tour manager, local bus and guide.</p> <p>All meals included in the itinerary also include gratuity, so it is NOT necessary to leave an additional tip at meals.</p>



WHAT TO PACK

As summer temperatures are quite hot and humidity is high, light cottons are recommended.

For winter, warm casual clothes that can be worn in layers are recommended. Many buildings in China and Southeast Asia may not be heated in winter or air conditioned sufficiently in summer.

- ✓ Pack lightly; remember you'll have to carry what you bring!
- ✓ One average case per person should be ample, plus one not too large flight bag.
- ✓ Bring comfortable walking shoes
- ✓ Bring a light sweater or jacket and an umbrella for evenings
- ✓ For winter, warm casual clothes that can be worn in layers are recommended
- ✓ Purell and tissues
- ✓ Basic Medical Supplies such as anti-diarrhea medicine, aspirin, Band-Aids.





HEALTHCARE

Visit a local travel doctor or your primary care physician with your itinerary to get the best personalized medical advice on any vaccinations or special medication needed for the program.

In the event of a medical emergency where medical expenses and/or insurance is involved, the passenger must pay the expenses directly and mail receipts to our Boston office for reimbursement. Deductible amounts according to the type of insurance purchased will apply. For information on vaccinations needed in each country, we recommend you consult <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

Medical Expenses

In the event of a medical emergency where expenses are involved, the passenger must pay the expenses directly and mail receipts to our Boston office for reimbursement. Deductible amounts per the type of insurance purchased.

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SAFETY AND SECURITY

Should you have any issues at all during your trip, please call ACIS and we will rectify the problem immediately. It is vital that you notify us as soon as you experience a problem as we can resolve issues very quickly on the spot before it adversely affects your trip.

ACIS Emergency number 617-450-5678



VISAS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Visas are required for US citizens on any ACIS® China programs. ACIS® offers guidance on processing visas for all groups and instructions will be sent to your Group Leader on how to obtain this visa. We recommend processing your visa through our preferred partner **Pinnacle Travel Document Services**. The visa application process, including

mailing of your documents, may take between 30 – 60 days. Please note that you will need your passport to process the visa and will not have access to your documents during the application process.

Estimated Costs for 2025 Visa Processing, including expeditor fee are approximately \$500 per person. If you were not born in the United States you may need additional paperwork and additional time for processing. Non-US citizens should carefully research entry requirements to avoid being denied entry into the country.

ACIS will provide you with hotel and flight confirmations, and invitation letter to submit to Pinnacle with your visa application. We recommend you begin the process as soon as ACIS provides you with the application instructions.

Denial of visa is not a reason for cancellation with refund so we highly recommend upgrading to an ACIS protection plans that included CFAR (Cancel for Any Reason) coverage.

Due to the recent changes in U.S. passport requirements, it may take longer than normal to process your passport. Be sure to apply for your passports especially early when traveling to Asia or the Pacific. It is best to apply for your passport when you first enroll on your ACIS® trip.

In addition to the visa required for China, a “Tibet Permit” is also required for entry into Tibet. The following information is required at least 90 days prior to a group’s arrival: full names (as same as passport), date of birth, nationality, occupancy, passport numbers, copy of passport and copy of visa.” (The copy of passport information page (with the name and passport number), and the copy of the China visa. Black and white copy is fine.)

Currency & Money Matters

Although Visa and MasterCard signs abound, credit cards may be of limited use in China -- in most cases only the local versions of the cards are accepted. Otherwise, an establishment will accept all of them -- American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard, and Visa -- or none at all.

ATM machines are widely used in Asia but only a selection of machines accepts foreign cards.

Currency exchange services are available at most hotels.

It is also useful to carry some US\$1.00 bills as they can be used instead of local currency in some areas.

Chinese currency is called Renminbi (‘people’s money’), (currency code RMB or CNY). The basic unit of renminbi is the yuan, with smaller denominations called jiao and fen. 1 yuan = 10 jiao = 100 fen