
Information about Chinese Visas

Aliens to visit China are generally required to apply for visas in advance, but the following aliens are exceptions:

1. Ordinary passport holders from Brunei and Japan can gain access to China without applying for visas for up to 15 days for business, sightseeing, visiting relatives and friends, or transit. They can enter and exit from the ports that are open to foreigners.

The following citizens of Brunei and Japan are also required to apply for visas before they enter into China: 1) Ordinary passport holders intending to stay in China for more than 15 days; 2) Ordinary passport holders intending to study, work, reside or gather news; 3) Diplomatic passport or Official passport holders.

2. Non-U.S. or British citizens in transit China to other countries or regions may stay inside the airport (not enter into border control) for less than 24 hours without applying for visas.
3. Citizens of the following countries to transit Shanghai can stay in Shanghai up to 48 hours without applying for visas: Korea, U.S. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, French, Netherlands, France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Austria and Greek.

For entry into China, aliens shall apply for visas from Chinese diplomatic missions, consular posts or other resident agencies abroad authorized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, such as Chinese Embassies or Consulates. Each Embassy or consulate has its own consular districts. Usually, applicants are required to apply for visas from the relevant Embassy or Consulate. Applicants also can apply for visas at the nearest Embassy or Consulate.

Applicants who reside or travel away from the country of his or her nationality can apply for visas at a local Chinese Embassy or Consulate.

Aliens who are already in China can apply for an extension of *duration* at a local county level Public Security Bureau.

How to Apply Tourist Visa and Business Visa?

Tourist Visa (L-Visa)

Tourist visas are generally issued to applicants who intend to visit China for sightseeing, visiting family or friends.

Requirements:

1. One completely filled out *Visa Application Form for the P.R. China (Q-2007)* . No item should be blank or altered.
2. One recently taken 2X2 inch photo showing entire face and without a hat on. Please affix the photo to the application form.
3. Original passport with at least 2 blank visa pages and valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of application.
4. Former Chinese visa records (if any, together with their copies).
5. U.S citizens may apply for a single, double-entry visa valid for 3 months or a multi-entry tourist visa valid for 12 months. If people apply for a multi-entry tourist visa for 12 months their passports should be valid for at least 18 months.
6. An applicant born in China who is applying for a Chinese visa with his or her new foreign passport is required to submit his or her Chinese passport or last foreign passport.
7. A child of Chinese descent and born in foreign country who applies for a Chinese visa for the first time is required to submit his or her Birth Certificate and foreign passport or foreign permanent resident permit (e.g. Green Card) of one of his or her parents.
8. Non-US citizens shall provide documents valid for at least 6 months that entitles them to reside for an extended period of time in the US, Such as a Green card, work or study visa (together with their copies). Temporary visitors to the US should apply for a Chinese visa in their own country. For the special case, the visa officer has the rights to make the final decision on whether issuing a visa or not.
9. An approval notice from China Tibet Tourism Bureau is required if you intend to travel to the Tibet Autonomous Region (Telephone number for the Tourism Bureau: 86-891-6834313, fax number: 86-891-6834632).
10. Other files consuls request.

Business Visa (F-visa)

Business visas are generally issued to applicants who intend to visit China on business invited by Chinese partner and trainees to stay in China for less than 6 months.

Requirements:

1. One completely filled out *Visa Application Form for the P.R. China (Q-2007)*. No item should be blank or altered.
2. One recently taken 2X2 in. photo showing entire face and without a hat on. Please affix the photo to the application form.
3. Original passport with at least 2 blank visa pages and valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of application.
4. Former business visa (F-visa) records (if any, together with their copies).
5. Visa conformation letter from an economic and trade bureau or a foreign affairs office of the provincial or municipal government.
6. U.S. citizen may apply for a single, double-entry visa valid for 3 months or a multiple-entry F-visa valid for 12 months. A letter from the Chinese counterpart or foreign employee is required, stating that he or she will visit China frequently and need a multi-entry visa; Original passport should be valid at least 18 months beyond the date of application for those who apply for 12 months visa.
7. An applicant born in China who is applying for a Chinese visa with new foreign passport is required to submit his or her Chinese passport or last foreign passport.
8. Non-US citizens shall provide documents valid for at least 6 months that entitle them to reside for an extended period of time in the US , Such as a Green card, work or study visa (together with their copies). Temporary visitors to the US should apply for a Chinese visa in their own country. For the special case, the visa officer has the rights to make the final decision on whether issuing a visa or not.
9. Other files consuls request.

Reminder:

1. No visa application can be done through mail, email, internet, or any express delivery service such as UPS, FedEx, etc. Visa application should be submitted and picked up by the applicant or someone else entrusted.
2. If you apply for the visa too late, you may not have enough time for the application. If you apply for the visa too early, the visa may become invalid before you depart for China. Single-entry visas are generally valid for 3 months from the date of issuance. Two-entry visas are generally valid for 6 months. You are suggested to apply for the visa 2 months before your departure date.
3. If your application meets all requirements, you may pick up the visa on the fourth working day after you submit your application for regular pickup normally. If you really have emergency and want to pick up the same day, the consuls will take your application in considerations depending on the quantity of applications of that day. Your application may be expedited and you can pick it up by 2:15pm by paying the extra rush fee of \$30 per visa in addition to the regular visa fee. The next day or third day pickup express service fee is \$20 per visa.
4. Applicants should come to pick up the visas on time by presenting the pickup form. Those who cannot come on the pickup date should pick up the visas no later than 3 days after the pickup date.

For information about Visa Pickup, Fees and Payments:

<http://www.nyconsulate.prchina.org/eng/lqz/VisasforChina/t42204.htm#10>

For more information about Chinese Visa:

<http://www.nyconsulate.prchina.org/eng/lqz/VisasforChina/>