



PRE TRAVEL

CHINA

GUIDE

You're traveling to China!

This short guide will help you prepare for your upcoming journey with Alluring Asia.

Passports & Visa

A passport with a minimum of six months validity remaining from the date of entry and evidence of onward/return ticket are required. A visa is required for United States citizens to enter China.

Click on bulleted items below for more information.

- Apply for a passport
- Renew by mail
- Report and replace lost/stolen U.S. passport
- Correct or change U.S. passport information
- Visa information

Immuzinations & Vaccines

We strongly recommend you seek the advice of your physician for all travel vaccinations. For additional information please visit www.cdc.gov/travel.

Tipping

10%-15% of your check is considered standard. The same applies to room service waiters. Some establishments may automatically add a gratuity to your bill, check before tipping.

Airport porter/hotel bellboy:

\$1.00 - \$2.00 USD per bag.

Your tour guide:

\$10.00 - \$15.00 USD per person per day.

Driver/assistants:

\$6.00 - \$8.00 USD per person per day.

What to Pack

China is a huge country with varied climates; the north is cold and dry in winter (November-March); the south in summer (May-September) is hot and humid.

Dress is casual and conservative in style; avoid any revealing types of clothing. For the summer months, dress in lightweight, loose fitting clothing in natural fibers like linen, silk and cotton to be the most comfortable. For the winter months dress in layers with fleece lined jackets/vests and sweaters.

A scarf, sarong or pashmina to cover your head, arms and legs when visiting religious sites or you may wear long sleeves and loose pants or long skirts.

An umbrella and rain jacket are essential during the rainy season from June-September but even during the other months it's wise to have one with you for those occasional showers.

Mosquito repellent, sunscreen, sun hat, sunglasses, hand sanitizer/handi-wipes, and binoculars.

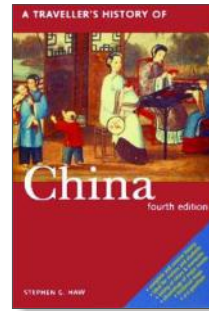
Hiking or trekking shoes and a good pair of walking shoes for city touring.

Water purifier or a Safe Water Drinking Bottle since water is not safe to drink in many parts of China.

Electronic chargers for your camera, phone, iPad, etc. and extra camera memory card(s).

Electrical converter and outlet adapter. Their electrical voltage is 220 volts AC, 50HZ and they use several different plugs; two round prongs, two square prongs and three square prongs.

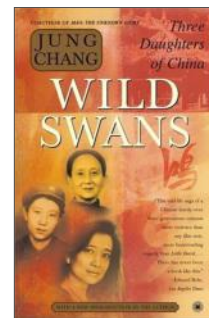
Reading List



A Traveler's History of China

Author: Stephen G. Haw, History, 2008, 310 pages.

Description: An admirably brief, lively history of China (including a chronology, list of dynasties, historical gazetteer and index), remarkably clear and necessarily condensed.

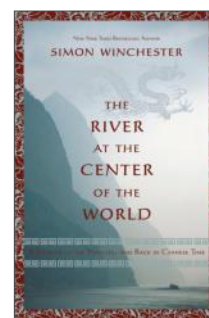


Wild Swans, Three Daughters of China

Author: Jung Chang, Biography/Memoir, 2003, 524 pages.

Description: A riveting tale of three generations spanning the end of Old China, Mao's regime and

the Japanese occupation. Chang chronicles the enormous changes in China since 1929 through her family's story, which includes arrest during the Cultural Revolution, exile to the Sichuan wilderness and coming to terms with the bewildering state of China today.



The River at the Center of the World

Author: Simon Winchester, Exploration, 2004, 410 pages.

Description: In this wide-ranging journalistic overview of the Yangtze, veteran journalist Simon

Winchester travels upstream into the heartland of China. He and his guide log 4,000 miles over many months, interviewing peasants and politicians throughout the region. It's a remarkable, wonderfully written portrait of life along the river.

