



## Basic Requirements For Applying For A **F** (Business) Or **L** (Tourist) Chinese Visa

**ALL** foreigners entering China must have a valid visa affixed to their passport.



China Entry Visa

When applying for a visa, foreigners are required to present relevant documents and go through the following formalities:

- Your original valid passport with at least 2 blank visa pages and six months validity left before expiration.
- One fully completed visa application form with your passport photo attached.
- Sometimes, documents that explain and prove your reason to enter China are needed for visa application.

All the incomplete and false information in the visa application form would lead to the failure of application. And all the consequences arising there from shall be borne by the applicant himself.

### How to apply for a tourist visa?

Traveling in China requires a tourism visa (L). L Visa is sub-divided into two kinds: group visa and individual visa. If you are a part of a group, the tour operator will often obtain it. Group visas will usually be issued for groups with at least 5, and the guide

accompanying your group will keep the visas.

An Individual traveler can apply for one at any Chinese embassy or consulates, and the procedure is usually straightforward. China has its embassies and consulates in most western and many other countries. You can either get an application form in person at the embassy or consulate or download one by visiting the website of Chinese embassies in the foreign countries.

After fully and accurately completed your application, you submit it to the nearest Chinese consulate and embassies, either in person or by mail. A standard 30-day, single-entry visa from most Chinese embassies abroad can be issued in three to five working days. Rush processing of 24 hours issue or same-day is also available (additional Embassy fee applies).

When apply for a tourism visa, some extra documents are required sometimes besides the **basic requirements**:

- 1) For individual tourism visa, a letter of confirmation of the tour arrangement made by a travel agency in China or letter of reservation of hotel in China is required
- 2) For group tourist visas, a confirmation letter from a provincial tourist bureau or a government-authorized Chinese travel agency; a name list of the whole group in triplicate and one copy of the information page of each passport are required

Foreigners from countries which have visa agreements with China, are treated in accordance with these agreements.

Visitors who want to Tibet need to acquire the consent of the Tourism Administration of the Tibet Autonomous Region or any one of its foreign representative offices.

Foreigners requesting to visit Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Xiamen and other Special Economic Zones may apply directly to visa authorities in these zones for tourist visas. Foreign tourist groups from Hong Kong for a 72-hour visit to the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone are exempt from entry visas.

Tourist visas are usually valid for three months, but can be extended for an extra month at the Foreigners Section of the Public Security Bureau. Passports must be valid for at least six months before you travel to China.

### **Extension of Visa**

Foreigners who want to stay in China beyond what their current visa allow need to apply for an extension to their visa with appropriate reasons.

The extension application should be made at the municipal public security bureau 7 days before the visa expires. Multiple visas cannot be extended.

Foreigners who wish to apply for extension or alteration of visas or certificates need to provided the relevant documents:

- 1) A valid passport and visa as well as the documents regarding accommodation registration
- 2) An fully completed application form for extension or alternation
- 3) Documents and papers supporting reasons for extension or alternation

The duration of visa extension:

- 1) F Visa: the total extensions add up to no more than 1 year and each extension should be less than 3 months
- 2) L Visa: The L visa held by visitors could be

extended once with the duration no more than 1 month; L visa held by family visitors could be extended three times with each duration under 3 months

3) C Visa: C visa only could be extended once with the total duration less than 7 days

Foreigners who are disallowed to extend:

- 1) Foreigners whose duration of stay is shortened and those whose residence right are deprived
- 2) Individual travelers who have no sufficient traveling expenses
- 3) Family visitors who has no special reason for extension when their visa expires