

General Information

Appliances

Hotels are wired for use of 220 Volt in mainland China and Hong Kong. Small adapters for international travel can be purchased at appliance or hardware stores in the US.

Baggage

For international flights, you may bring two checked bags per person for free of charge. Maximum weight per each bag should not exceed 50 lbs and the total dimension (length, width and height) of the two bags should not exceed 107 inches. One carry-on bag of total dimension not exceeding 45 inches is allowed. For domestic flights in China, you may bring one checked bag per person for free of charge. Maximum weight per each bag should not exceed 44 lbs and the total dimension (length, width and height) of the bag should not exceed 62 inches. An additional shipping charge is required for any additional baggage.

Clothing

Pack lightly and bring casual clothes. Attire for dinner is also casual, but shorts or sandals are not considered appropriate.

Cruises

Cruises along the Yangtze River are provided by five-star China Regal Cruises or other similar luxury cruise lines on the Yangtze River. Accommodations include deluxe double staterooms with outside windows and complete bathroom with shower. "Pea-boats" and other small craft used for stream drifting are chartered from the local land operators by China Regal Cruises or other luxury cruise lines. Boats for cruising on the lake, river or canal in the other cities are chartered by Southeast Travel Service land operator in China.

Currency

The US dollar can be exchanged for Chinese currency at airports or hotels (Currently about 7.4 Chinese yuan against 1 US dollar) ATM machines are available in China and major credit cards are accepted at many stores. You need Chinese currency for taxies, tips, shopping at street vendors, and smaller shops.

Expert Tour Guides

Our tour guides are required to meet very strict professional requirements including English language proficiency, knowledge of the history and culture in China, and congeniality toward our tour participants.

Flights

We customarily use United Airlines, Air China for our international flights, or other airlines for certain tours. Meals are provided on board, and movies are also available. Add-on airfare from other cities to the gateway cities may be arranged at a nominal additional cost. Direct international flights from the west coast of the US to China take about twelve hours, while non-stop direct flight service from New York to Beijing takes about thirteen hours and a half.

Health

The local handling travel agency requires exclusion in China of any person rendered unsuitable for long trips by health conditions such as mental illness, serious, chronic ailments, contagious disease, advanced pregnancy, senility or infirmity. Vaccinations are not required. Please check with your travel agent or Public Health Service for current required or recommended inoculations.

Hotels

We offer the comfort, the best available hotel accommodations with full American breakfast in each city. For the hotels in Hong Kong and Japan, hotel surcharge may apply during the conventions or special events.

Itineraries

All Southeast Travel Service tour programs have been created by tour experts with many years of experience - not only designing the tours to these destinations - but also living and working in that part of the world.

Japan & Hong Kong Special Administration Region

Visas are required for non-US citizens and must be obtained directly by the passenger or the travel agent.

Local Contacts

We have set up Local Contacts in order to better coordinate our tours and render immediate assistance - if needed - to our clients during their stay in China. We also provide names and telephone numbers of contacts in each city, along with a complete itinerary including hotel addresses and telephone numbers, to our passengers before every tour departure.

Meals

In addition to the breakfast buffet served at the hotel, most tours include lunch and dinner at select, on-site locations. Most itineraries include special dinners, such as the Peking duck dinner in Beijing, the dumpling dinner banquet in Xian and etc. Passengers enjoy fine dining on China Regal Cruises. (See individual tour descriptions for meals included.)

Passport

All passengers must have a passport which is valid for six months from the tour return date to the US, and the passport must have at least two blank pages for a visa.

Relaxed Pace

We have gone to great lengths to make each tour a vacation that is relaxed in pace, as there is so much to see and do in this ancient/modern cities.

Shopping

Time for shopping will be arranged during your tour at various sites for your convenience. Southeast Travel Service does not take any responsibility for any damages, payments, shipping or other problems of your purchases. It is each passenger's responsibility to contact stores directly.

Tour Size

The average tour group for our prime tours is 15 to 25 people. Customized and private tours can also be arranged.

Visa

Visa is required to travel to China. You may apply for a visa through Southeast Travel Service requires a non-refundable fee of \$120 per person. You need to send us your passport along with your final payment 45 days before departure. The normal processing time is two weeks including the delivery time. For express processing within one week, an additional charge of \$40 per person will apply. When the visa is done, the passport will be mailed back to you along with the Tour Package 1 week before departure. Visa is not required for US citizen to travel to Hong Kong and Japan.

Value Pricing

Because of our extensive contacts in China and our special arrangements with hotels, land operators, and airlines, we are able to arrange top-notch service for our customers at very competitive prices. Departure dates, tour prices per person based on double occupancy, and cost of single supplements appear with each program.