

DESTINATION INFORMATION FOR WINGS OVER CHINA

What You Need to Know Before You Go

PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

In order to enter China and Hong Kong as a citizen of the United States, you will need:

A signed, valid passport and tourist visa that must be obtained prior to departure.

Contact our partner, VisaCentral for easy, efficient passport and visa processing. Call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001 or visit our Travel Store at www.abercrombiekent.com/travel_store.

Your passport must remain valid for at least 6 months beyond the completion of your trip. It is also imperative that your passport has at least 2 blank visa pages available for entry and exit stamps. Additional blank pages are always a prudent precaution.

U.S. passport holders are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Hong Kong.

US citizens, who have a passport with a remaining validity of one year or more, will be issued a multi-entry China visa that will be valid for 10 years. Those with passports that have less than one year remaining validity will be issued a visa that is valid for 6 months.

When applying for your China visa, you may be asked to provide copies of any or all of the following:

- Your international air ticket, including any connecting flights within the US to your gateway city, or letter noting you will be driving from your home city to the gateway airport if located in another state.
- Your day-by-day itinerary.
- The contact list of accommodations used on the tour (this will suffice for the "hotel confirmations" requirement noted on the visa application).
- Your paid in full invoice.
- Your current employment resume.
- If you are self-employed to include a brief letter containing the company profile and your job description.
- Your current, valid passport as well as your previous, expired/non-valid passport.
- Carefully follow all instructions for photograph submissions. Make certain your photograph matches the size requirements, was taken in front of a solid white background and has no shadows and was taken within the last six months. Also remove eye glasses before taking your photo. Other specifics may also apply and are subject to change without notice.

All of these documents should display your full name on them as it appears on your passport. All of these documents should also be TYPED not hand written.

If your itinerary includes travel to Tibet, it is imperative that you not mention this on your application form for your China visa or your application may be denied.

If you are not a citizen of the United States, your entry requirements may vary. Please consult your nearest diplomatic or consular office of the country or countries you will be visiting.

CONSULAR INFORMATION

The U.S. State Department provides Country Specific Information sheets for every country in the world, as well as Travel Alerts and Warnings. Find this information by calling 888 407 4747 or 202 501 4444 or online at travel.state.gov.

CURRENCY

China's unit of currency is the Renminbi. **Hong Kong's** unit of currency is the Hong Kong Dollar.

Exchange money only at authorized outlets such as currency exchange kiosks, banks and hotels. Only exchange what you feel you will need while visiting. Save all receipts from any currency transaction. You may be asked to produce them when you exit the country, and they are required if you intend to reconvert local currency. Do not exchange money on the black market as this is a criminal offense.

We suggest travelling with some U.S. dollars to be exchanged for local currency and at least two major credit cards. Major credit cards are generally accepted at shops, hotels and restaurants. If you have a "Chip and PIN" card, be careful to shield your number from view while entering it on a keypad; never disclose your PIN verbally. Notify your credit card company of your travel plans prior to your departure to avoid any fraud concerns.

ATMs are plentiful in major cities in China and Hong Kong, but are limited in smaller cities. Avoid using street ATMs, and use those which are attached to a bank, or manned by a staff. We do not recommend traveller's checks as they are not as widely accepted as in previous years, and are only accepted at some banks and international hotels.

Please note: Hong Kong Dollars cannot be used on the Chinese mainland but are easily converted to local currency.

HEALTH

It is important to familiarize yourself with any potential health issues or concerns related to your destination, and so we strongly recommend consulting the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for up-to-date information on required and recommended vaccines and medications. Visit them online at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel or call 800 232 4636. Plan to visit your doctor or local travel clinic at least 4-6 weeks before departure to allow time for any vaccinations to take effect or to fill any prescriptions.

Required Vaccination

China: A yellow fever vaccination is required to enter *** only if you are arriving from or have transited through a yellow fever endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC provides a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; without it, you may be denied entry. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country(ies) that you are visiting.

Hong Kong: None

Note: If your journey includes travel in China's mountainous regions, you may experience altitude sickness. Please consult your healthcare provider for suggestions on prevention and treatment.

WEATHER

China: With its vast size, China has quite a variety of temperatures and precipitation. The north is generally cooler than the south, and the west is more extreme than the eastern coastal areas. In April, daytime temperatures in Beijing, Xian, Guilin and Shanghai average in range between the upper 60s° to low 70s°F and evening temperatures that range from the mid-40s° to low 50°s.

Hong Kong: Spring in Hong Kong can be warm and humid; characterized by daytime highs that average in the upper 70s°F and evening temperatures in the upper 60°s.

Use a website such as weather.com to find average temperatures and rainfall during your travel times.

ELECTRICITY

China and Hong Kong – both countries supply electricity at 220 volts / 50 hertz.

Please refer to the “Electrical Adapter Guide For Global Travel” included in your pre-tour materials.

WHAT TO PACK

Daytime attire: Comfortable, casual clothing in natural, breathable fabrics that can be layered in cool weather or air-conditioning. Long shorts are acceptable for men and women.

Evening attire: Somewhat smarter but casual clothing is appropriate for big city or resort restaurants. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Comfortable walking shoes with low or no heels.

Sweater or lightweight jacket.

Lightweight raincoat or poncho.

Sunglasses, sunscreen or sunhat. Swimming suit.

Lightweight binoculars.

Simple first-aid kit. Prescriptions and medications (We recommend you carry these in their original bottles and/or packaging.)

Charging cables for electronics. Voltage converter and adapter plugs.

Note: Laundry service is available at most hotels; dry cleaning is available in larger cities.

ABOUT YOUR AIRCRAFT

Wings Over the World itineraries all feature private charter flights between destinations, allowing you the convenience of visiting remote places with less time spent getting there. Enjoy nearly hassle-free flight departure and arrivals, flying from one destination to the next on board an exclusively chartered plane with a dedicated flight crew and no more than 13 guests. Avoid waiting at airports due to restrictive commercial aviation schedules. In addition, our charter planes offer roomy seating configurations with personalized in-flight service.

Baggage Restrictions

Charter domestic flights within the People's Republic of China limit luggage to approximately 44 pounds of checked baggage per passenger. All limits are strictly enforced. Overweight baggage cannot be accommodated on the flights.

Special Restrictions on Lighters, Matches, Power Packs, Cellphone or Computer batteries:

On Internal Air flights within the People's Republic of China, lighters and matches are not allowed to be brought onto airplanes, either in checked or carry-on luggage. Power packs, cell phone and computer batteries are not allowed to be brought onto airplanes in checked luggage. They can only be brought onto the plane in carry-on luggage. Specifications of the power pack must be labeled on the power pack. Airport security officers have the right to confiscate any items that violate these restrictions.

What You Need to Know When You Arrive

TIME ZONES

China and Hong Kong both operate on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 8 hours.

At 9:00 a.m. in China, it is:

EST	8:00 p.m. the previous day
CST	7:00 p.m. the previous day
MST	6:00 p.m. the previous day
PST	5:00 p.m. the previous day

Note that China does not observe daylight savings time, so adjust the above times accordingly.

LANGUAGE

China: Mandarin Chinese is the official language; there are also many regional dialects including Cantonese, Mongolian and Manchurian.

Hong Kong: English and Cantonese Chinese are both official languages.

Please consult with your guide on translations, if needed.

AIRPORT INFORMATION

At international airports in Mainland China and Hong Kong, passengers cannot be met inside secured areas. This includes Immigration, Customs halls and Baggage Claim. Your A&K representative will greet you as you exit these restricted areas; look for the person holding the distinctive yellow A&K signboard.

Please be aware that there are no airport porters in China.

Before departing, remember to tag your checked luggage with the A&K luggage tags provided. These brightly colored markers help identify you and your luggage quickly.

PROTECTION AND PRECAUTIONS

Use the safes where available in your accommodations to secure your valuables, especially passports, medications, jewelry, money and electronics. If you must carry valuables, keep them on your person at all times. Be mindful of your surroundings and take extra caution in crowds.

Photocopy the personal information pages of your passport; leave one copy with a family member or friend and pack another separately from the passport itself. You may want to scan and email a copy to yourself for easy, online access. This will help you to quickly secure a replacement should the need arise.

As a preventative measure, it is recommended that all luggage be secured with a TSA approved lock.

ETIQUETTE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Unless you are shooting a crowded public scene, it is considered courteous to ask permission before taking pictures of local people, especially small children. Please be respectful of local people who do not care to be photographed.

Photography is not permitted at some locations, which may include government buildings, museums, art galleries, private houses, etc. These areas are usually clearly marked. If in doubt, please ask; this will avoid having your camera confiscated.

Be sure to pack ample amounts of batteries and memory cards or film for your camera and video equipment, along with the appropriate charging cables. A dustproof case or sealable plastic bags and lens brush are also recommended.

FOOD AND DRINK

Do not use tap water for drinking or brushing your teeth. Even "purified" water in open containers should be avoided. It is always preferable and safer to use only bottled water.

Regardless of precautions, changes in water and diet can result in mild abdominal upsets and nausea. To prevent serious illness, avoid suspect foods such as uncooked vegetables, peeled fruit, unpasteurized milk and milk products. Beware of any food or drink sold by street vendors.

SHOPPING

Many A&K guests enjoy the chance to purchase items that reflect their destination, and so as a courtesy, your guide may recommend a particular shop or arrange a shopping visit. Please note, however, that these recommendations should not be taken as A&K's endorsement of the shop, merchandise and/or pricing. You assume all responsibility for any transactions that take place, including shipping arrangements that are made.

The decision to shop while travelling is a personal choice and shopping is never compulsory. If at any point during your journey you feel pressured to shop or make purchases, please immediately discuss the matter with your Abercrombie & Kent representative.

In China, most stores offer fixed prices; in the free markets, bargaining is accepted and expected.

To avoid disappointment, we suggest the following guidelines:

- Compute the exchange rate and thoroughly review credit card receipts before signing.
- Take your purchases home with you whenever possible. Airfreight can take many months and actual shipping charges can be excessive. Customs delays, fees and regulations can further complicate the issue. If you choose to ship purchases, we suggest taking a picture of the item(s) and/or marking them in some way to ensure you receive what was purchased. For example, you could write your name on the backside of a rug. Determine if your shipment will be delivered door-to-door or to the nearest customs facility, as is often the case. Most goods shipped from other countries to the United States are subject to Customs duty.
- Duty taxes, if applicable, are paid as you re-enter the United States. Regardless of assurances by merchants, these cannot be prepaid on your behalf. Currently, each person is entitled to an \$800 duty-free exemption, however, may only bring one liter of alcoholic beverages, 200 cigarettes and 100 cigars.
- Keep all sales receipts for items purchased throughout your trip and try to pack all items that you will need to declare together. This will ease the Customs process upon re-entry into the U.S.

Consult the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website for more details. <http://www.cbp.gov/>

COMMUNICATIONS

Contact your cellular telephone provider to determine if your phone operates on the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and what, if any, activation may be required.

If your phone is not GSM-enabled, you may find that renting a phone specifically designed for use overseas is the most practical option.

In Asia, reception on any cell phone can be unreliable and unpredictable, and in some locations it is not possible at all.

Due to government regulations, please be aware some internet websites are not accessible in Mainland China. Currently banned sites include, but are not limited to, Google, gmail, Facebook, YouTube, the New York Times and Whatsapp. Please be aware the list of banned sites is subject to change without notice.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey:

	All Small Group Journeys and Pre/Post Tour Group Extensions	Tailor Made and Signature Journeys
Resident Tour Director or Group Extension Guide	\$15 per person, per day	Not applicable
Local Guides	Included	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	Included	\$10 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	Included	\$2 per bag
Sanctuary 'Yangzi Explorer' (if applicable)	Included	\$15 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted on board and shared among the staff.
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	10-15% unless already added
Restaurants or Room Service on own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a small group journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journey guidelines for these days only.