



WESTERN NEW YORK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(Please note as information has been updated on Visas)

Who/what is Citslinc?

Citslinc International, Inc. was established in June 1995 and operates out of Monterey Park, California; Mr. Leo Liu is the President. Mr. Liu has been coordinating tours to China for over 20 years and has partnered with Chambers of Commerce since 2001. Last year over 9000 tourists visited China on Chamber tours such as this one. To learn more, Google "citslinc" or visit www.citslinc.com.

Do I need to be a Chamber member to go on the trip?

No, everyone is welcome to join us in this exciting adventure.

When do I need to commit?

You must pay for the trip in full by August 15th. A refundable \$200 deposit will hold your spot until that date. Side trips are arranged in China and cost \$25 to \$45 per person, in US Dollars. If you must cancel after September 1st, there is a \$600 cancellation fee.

What about travel documents?

You will need a passport and a visa. Visas can be arranged through the Genesee County Chamber for a \$160 fee. Visas are issued for a six month window and your passport must be valid for the full period. Example: if your visa is issued on September 15th, 2008, your passport must be valid through March 15th, 2009.

What about travel insurance?

Both Travel and Trip Insurance can be arranged by your local travel agent.

What is China's weather like in November, how should I pack?

The weather is very much like it is here, 40F at night to 60F daytime in Beijing and 10 degrees warmer in the Shanghai area. "Casual" is the word for touring but you may want to pack business attire if you plan to attend the business functions.

May I pay the Chamber by credit card?

Yes, but there is a 4% add-on to cover bank charges.

Will I be able to use credit cards in China?

You will find very few ATM machines, but traveler's checks and credit cards are accepted everywhere. Leave your checkbooks and debit cards behind.

I am interested in investigating business opportunities in China. Is it possible to do this on this trip?

Yes, there will be a reception one evening to meet and discuss business with local China businessmen. Fill out the "Business Questionnaire" and the reception will be arranged by Citslinc at no cost.

How many others will be on this trip?

We are planning on blocks of 150 travelers. The individual groups will be sized at 25-30 and it is likely the only time you will see the others in your block will be in the evening.

Will I have the opportunity to travel outside of the tour group?

No, you may not leave the tour to do your own thing. There are exceptions when there is allotted free time and you will be advised when it is okay.

How much money should I plan on taking?

How much you spend on those "I gotta have it" items is of course up to you but in general, you should plan on \$200-\$400 per person, for miscellaneous items.

Do I need any vaccinations?

There are no vaccination requirements at this time, but travelers should check with their physicians or the Centers for Disease Control Web site at www.cdc.gov/travel/vaccinat.htm to learn of any recommended vaccinations or up-dated health-related news.

What are the limitations on luggage? How many pieces and how much weight is allowed?

International flights permit two checked pieces weighing 70 pounds total, plus a carry-on. Actually, that's quite a bit. Pack light and plan on shopping later during the trip, especially in Shanghai.

What about airport security?

The best information can be found at www.tsa.gov --follow the prohibited/allowed link and you will find all the information as to what you may take on board an aircraft.

What are the guidelines on tipping?

The bus captain will collect \$25 from each traveler on the first day for the combined services of the tour guide, the bus driver and all hotel personnel. Unless you request special services, you should not expect to tip anyone else.

How can you do this for the price?

Several things are in play to keep the costs reasonable. First is the volume; Leo is able to achieve discounts from the airline and hotels due to the large number of travelers he brings to China. Second, it is the "off season" in China and the hotels/busses would be otherwise unutilized. Third, China is gearing up for the 2008 Olympics. Many of the hotels in which you will be staying have been constructed just for this event.

How do I learn more?

There will be informational meetings scheduled to answer questions. Contact the Chamber for details.