BioFach China®
International Organic Trade Fair and Conference
中国国际有机食品博览会

**********TRAVEL INFORMATION**********

(for reference ONLY)

Shanghai, also called in short in Chinese "Hu" or "Shen", situated at 31.14 degrees north latitude and 121.29 degrees east longitude, in the middle of China's east coastline, is a gate to the Changjiang River valley. Shanghai has a delightful climate with four distinct seasons. Shanghai is a municipality under the direct jurisdiction of the central government. It is the largest economic and trade centre in the country and a comprehensive industrial base. Shanghai Port is the leading port in China. It is an open city along the coast, as well as a famous historical and cultural city. Its total area is 6,341 sq.km., of which the Pudong New Area occupies 523 sq.km. Its total population is over 13 million.

Shanghai is well known both at home and abroad not only for its prosperous metropolitan feature and rich humanistic resources but also for a number of tourist attractions with modern flavour that have been developed in recent years. Varied and colourful tourist festivities, like the Shanghai Tourism Festival, the New Year Eve Longhua Temple Bell Striking, the Longhua Temple Fair, the Nanhui County Peach Blossom Festival, the International Tea Culture Festival, the Sweet Osmanthus Festival and the Orange Festival are attracting an even increasing number of domestic and foreign tourists.

Shanghai is an ideal "Shopping Paradise"; Nanjing Road, known as "China's No.1 Street", the reconstructed Huaihai Road, Jinling Road, East, North Sichuan Road, the Yuyuan Garden Shopping and Tourist Area, the Ever Bright City Commercial Centre, Xujiahui Commercial Centre, and Zhangyang Road Commercial Centre in Pudong are packed with rows of shops arrayed with large collections of merchandise that are a feast to the eyes and meet the demands of different classes of domestic and foreign customers. Shanghai is also a paradise for gourmets. There are over a thousand restaurants serving the famous 16 styles of Chinese food, such as Beijing, Sichuan, Guangdong, Yangzhou, Fujian, etc. There are also French, Russian, Italian, English, German, Japanese, Indian and other kinds of foreign flavoured cuisines, genuine Muslim food and vegetarian food. In Shanghai you can have a taste of all the different kinds of food in the world. Shanghai is well developed in communications in air, land and sea, which render tourists with fast, efficient and quality service.

In building Shanghai into an international metropolis the open-minded, cheerful and hospital Shanghai people warmly welcome visitors from all places in China and the world.

Climate

Weather during November to April is the coldest and temperatures range between 3.5C to 13.7C (38.3F to 56.7F). Weather in May, June, September and October is cooling, ranging between 18.6C to 23.5C (65.5F to 74.3F). Climate in July and August starts to turn warm and temperature can go up to 28C (82.4F).

Travel Information – Shanghai China

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Clothing
Dressing in Shanghai is casual but modest. Bring along some heavy clothing for the winter whereas light clothing is adequate during summer.

Currency
The RMB (Renminbi) is the official currency. The basic unit of RMB is the yuan (¥), also known as "kuai," divided into 10 jiao, which is again divided into 10 fen. Yuan notes come in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100.

Credit Cards
Most major credit cards -- including American Express, Diner's Club, Federal Card, JCB, MasterCard and Visa -- are accepted at hotels and certain restaurants and shops.

Customs
Visitors to China must fill out a customs form upon arrival. When you enter the country you are asked to declare electrical goods and luxury items such as cameras, computer equipment etc. Keep this form until you exit to avoid paying duty on goods you brought into the country. There are no restrictions on the amount of foreign currency you can bring into the country. However, one must declare any cash exceeding US$5,000 or the equivalent.

Electricity
Electricity is supplied at 220 volts, 50 cycles.

Mobile Phones
Network accepted in Shanghai is GSM and CDMA.

Public Phones
In China, telephoning is relatively easier if you adhere to certain procedures. The best way to place a phone call is to go to the local post office. At most places it is possible to dial directly, in other places you have to ask the operator. There are now public phone booths where you can make calls with a phone-card.

Shopping and Business Hours
Shops are usually open from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. everyday.

Banks and Government offices
Banks and Government offices are open from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays only.

Taxes
Taxes are not applicable.

Time Zone
GMT + 8

Tipping
It is not a custom to tip and not necessary to do so.

Airport
Hongqiao International Airport in west Shanghai, about 15 kilometers from the city centre, handles all international flights. By taxi, the trip from the airport will take you about 30 min. to an hour. A new Shanghai International Airport in Pudong opened on October 1, 1999, which is fully operational. International flights land at the second airport, and it’s 7 minutes to the SNIEC centre by maglev train but 30 minutes drive by taxi.

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Visa
Consult the Chinese embassy or consulate in your home country to arrange for a visa. A tourist visa is valid for 90 days but can be extended for 30 days. CIEC offers you visa invitation letter issued from CCPIT, and it works well for exhibitors to apply visas from local Chinese embassies. For business visa extensions, you'll need to bring your passport and registration of temporary residency from your hotel, plus a letter from the business that invited you, to the Public Security Bureau (PSB) Division for Aliens at No.1500 Minsheng Road, Pudong District, (Tel: +86-21-28951900) on weekdays from 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m..

Banking Hours
Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., although all foreign banks have slightly different hours (Japanese banks tend to close at 4:30 p.m. and American ones at 6 p.m.). Half days are the rule on Saturdays.

Language
The official language in China is Mandarin but distinct dialects are spoken throughout the country. Shanghai people speak Mandarin or Shanghai hua, however most hotels have staff who are skilled in foreign languages.

Literacy
94% (1998 est.)

Religion
China is officially atheist, but traditionally pragmatic and eclectic. Some 2% to 3% of the population practice Daoism (Taoism), Buddhism and Islam. An estimated 1% are Christians.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN SHANGHAI

Shanghai Museum
The museum was opened in 1996, offers a spectacular collection in a superb setting. Its 11 state-of-the-art galleries house China's first international-standard exhibits of paintings, bronzes, sculptures, ceramics, calligraphy, jade, Ming and Qing dynasty furniture, coins, seals, and minority art. The bronze collection is reputedly the best in the world.

Longhua Pagoda and Longhua Temple
They are located in Longhua Town to the west of the city proper. Built in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), the pagoda is 40.64 meters high, seven-storied and octagonal-shaped. Each story features upturned eaves and winding balustrades. The temple is to the north of the pagoda. It was first built during the Five Dynasties (907-960). On its axis are four rows of magnificent buildings. Bell and drum towers and art halls line up on both sides of the temple. The bell and drum towers are all three-storied with upturned eaves.

Huangpu River and the Bund
Cruising on the Huangpu River, one can enjoy a sight of rows of magnificent buildings on the banks and ships of different sizes briskly playing the waters. Street gardens scatter along the Bund, with green trees and flowers in blossom most of the time.

Yuyuan Garden
Located in the southern part of the city proper, the garden was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It is divided into five parts with 30 scenic spots. The most outstanding is the Great Rockery, built with about 2,000 tons of rocks, features perilous peaks, cliffs, winding caves and gorges. It is claimed to be the most magnificent rockery of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in Southeast China. The Yangshan Hall and the Juanyu Tower face each other across a lake. There one can enjoy the sight of fine scenery and fish swimming in water.

Jade Buddha Temple
The temple is famous for its two Buddha statues made of white jade, brought back to China from Burma as a gift by the monk Huigen in 1882. The statues were later brought to Shanghai in 1918. One of the statues, of the Sleeping Buddha representing his entry into nirvana, is a special rarity. However, the other white-jade statue of the Seated Buddha -- 2 meters high, decorated with jewels and weighing 1,000 kilograms – is the more famous.

HOSPITALS IN SHANGHAI

Shanghai East International Medical Center (Pudong (River East))
Add.: 551 South Pudong Road Shanghai 200120 China
Tel: (86 21) 5879-9999

Renji Hospital (Pudong (River East))
Address: No.1630 Dongfang Road
Tel: 021-58752345

Ruijin Hospital (Puxi (River west))
197 Ruijin Er Road
TEL: 6437-0045 x 8101
Fax: 6431 2610
Tel: 6437-0045 x 8101 (Outpatients & Emergencies only)
6324-0090 x 2101 (24 hour house calls)

EMERGENCIES CALLS

Ambulance Emergencies 120
Fire & Ambulance 119
Police Dial 110
Weather Forecast.....221
Time 117
National Phone Directory 114
International Phone Directory.....115
National Long distance Phone Directory.....174
Shanghai Public Security Bureau Exit-Entry Administration Bureau…..021-68346205

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU LOST YOUR PASSPORT*

- If you lose your passport, you should report to the consulate at once.
- Report the loss to the security police.
- The consulate will confirm your identity and report to you.
- You will have a simple interview with the consulate, and you will be informed of a reissuing date.
- Finally, your passport will be reissued.

Required documents:

- An application for reissuing of your passport, 3 applications referring to your identity
- Identification, 6 passport photos

(It is best to keep your passport in your pocket and use care in handling this document, as it can be very time consuming to have your passport reissued. The rise of crime in passport transactions makes their reissuing more and more difficult. Students with verifiable identification may be able to have their passports reissued in a shorter time. Even so, it usually takes 2 months!)

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CUSTOMS REGULATIONS*

Entry:
Tourists must fill out a baggage declaration form (in two copies) and hand it in to customs, retaining the carbon to show

Upon exit:
Personal belongings will be admitted duty free, including food, two bottles of liquor and two cartons of cigarettes. Wristwatches, radios, tape recorders, cameras, movie cameras, and similar items may be brought in for personal use. But cannot be sold or transferred to others and must be brought out of China. Gifts for relatives or friends in China, or articles carried on behalf of other, must also be declared. Visitors can bring in an unlimited amount of foreign currency and Chinese Renminbi traveler's checks, and the unspent portion can be taken out.

***Bringing in the following articles is prohibited:**
1. Arms, ammunition, and explosives of all kinds
2. Radiotransmitters-receivers and principal parts
3. Manuscripts, printed matter, films, photographs, gramophone records, cinematographic films, loaded recording tapes and video tapes, etc. which are detrimental to China's politics, economy, culture, and ethics.
5. Poisonous drugs, habit-forming drugs, opium, morphine, heroin, etc.
6. Animals, plant sand products thereof infected with or carrying germs and insect pests
7. Unsanitary foodstuffs and germ-carrying foodstuffs from infected areas
8. Other articles the import of which is prohibited by state regulations

Exit:
On leaving China, tourists must again submit the baggage declaration form for customs inspection (the second copy). Travellers by ship are exempted. Items purchased in China with RMB converted from foreign currencies maybe taken out or mailed out of the country, after receipts are presented for customs inspection. In cities where a Customs Office does not exit, this can be arranged through the local Friendship Store.

***Taking out the following articles is prohibited:**
1. Arms, ammunition, and explosives of all kinds
2. Radio transmitters -receivers and principal parts
3. Renminbi (Chinese currency) in cash and negotiable securities in RMB
4. Unratified foreign currency, foreign notes or drafts
5. Manuscripts, printed matter, films, photographs, gramophone records, cinematographic films, loaded recording, tapes and video tapes, etc. which are detrimental to China's national security
6. Rare and precious copies of books about Chinese revolution, history, culture and art that are not for sale.
7. Valuable animals, plants, and seeds
8. Precious metals, pearls, and jewels (things declared to the customs are exempted)
9. Other articles the export of which is prohibited by state regulations

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HOW TO EXCHANGE RMB IN CHINA

A foreigner can bring cash and change it at the Bank of China for RMB. Foreign money can be exchanged in China through traveller's cheques, currency conversion at banks and hotels. Credit cards can also be used. What follows is a more detailed explanation. Enjoy your trip!

Traveller's Cheques
Traveller's cheques provide a fairly secure way of carrying money. The Bank of China can cash travellers' cheques sold by international commercial banks and travellers' cheque companies in the United States, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Britain, France, Switzerland, Germany and other countries and regions. Also the Bank of China sells travellers' cheques for such banks as American Express, Citibank, Tongjilong Travelers' Cheque Co., the Sumitomo Bank of Japan, the Swiss Banking Corporation and others.

Currency Conversion
Money exchange facilities for both currency and travellers' cheques are available at major airports, hotels, and department stores.

Please note that hotels may only exchange money for their guests. The Us dollar, British pound, Japanese yen, Australian dollar, HK dollar, Singapore dollar, Malaysian ringgit, Macao dollar, and Taiwan dollar are all exchangeable. Exchange rates fluctuate in line with international financial market conditions and are published daily by the State Exchange Control Administration.

Keep your currency exchange receipts, because you will need to show them when you change RMB back to your own currency at the end of your visit to China. Currency rather than credit cards is essential in remote areas, and you should ensure that you carry sufficient RMB and travellers' cheques to cover your requirements.

Credit Cards
At present, the following credit cards are accepted in China: MasterCard, Federal Card, Visa, American Express, JC Band Diners Card. Holders can draw cash from the Bank of China and pay for purchases at exchange centres of the Bank of China, appointed shops, hotels and restaurants. However, this applies only in major cities. Credit cards are not always accepted for the purchase of rail and air tickets. ATMs that accept foreign cards are few and far between. Do not rely on them as a way of obtaining cash in Mainland China. Consult with your bank before departing to make sure that your brand of cheque or credit card will be accepted.

Currency Regulations
There is no limit on the amount of foreign currency and foreign exchange bills that can be brought into China by tourists, but the amount must be declared to the customs.

About RMB
Chinese currency is called Renminbi (people's money), often abbreviated as RMB. Issued by the People's Bank of China it is the sole legal tender for both the Chinese nationals and foreign tourists. The unit of Renminbi is yuan and the smaller, jiao and fen. The conversion among the three is: 1yuan =10jiao =100fen. Chinese people normally refer to Yuan as Kuai, Jiao as Mao. RMB is issued both in notes and coins. The denominations of paper notes include 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2and 1 yuan; 5,2 and 1jiao; and 5, 2and 1 fen. The denominations of coins are 1 yuan; 5, 2 and 1 jiao; and 5, 2 and1 fen.