

Protocol Tips

Conversation

Refer to the country as the People's Republic of China, or simply China. Taiwan is considered a province of China, so do not refer to it as a country.

Politics

The close relationship between the Communist Party of China and the Government of the People's Republic of China means that there are few aspects of life in the country that do not have a political dimension.

Moreover, Chinese citizens do not have the same rights or expectations of privacy that Westerners are accustomed to. The Chinese people you encounter may feel justifiably uncomfortable if you discuss politics, particularly if you are critical of their government—or even your own. If you are not a Chinese citizen, participation in any political activities will be considered inconsistent with your status, and you may be expelled from the country.

Canadian Consular Services

If you plan to stay longer than three months in China, it is recommended that you register at the nearest Canadian government office abroad. This will help us contact you in case of an emergency. Registration is

voluntary, and the information you provide is protected and used in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act. You can register on-line (www.voyage.gc.ca/main/sos/rocapage-en.asp).

Keep in mind, however, that your Canadian citizenship does not exempt you from local laws and regulations. Moreover, Canadian officials may not be able to help you at all if you have Chinese citizenship.

The Canadian embassy or consulates can help you with any of the following:

- contacting relatives at home in case of an emergency;
- dealing with medical emergencies;
- coping with situations such as natural disasters and civil or military conflict;
- accessing sources of information about local laws, regulations, cultural customs and visas;
- replacing passports; and
- dealing with local authorities if you are arrested.

These Canadian government offices offer 24-hour emergency assistance. You can also contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa at (613) 996-8885 (collect calls accepted) or call 10800-1400125 toll-free from inside China.