

parent. This is true even though there may be a valid child custody order in Canada. Further information on this issue is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade publication *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents*.

Many Canadians have adopted children from China. While the

procedures are relatively complex, there are no fundamental obstacles to this process, provided that all of the relevant laws of China, Canada and the province of residence of the adopting parents are satisfied. General information is available on several Internet sites (for example, <http://www.adopting.com/countries.html#China>).

Visiting China

China is a vast country with countless attractions for the traveller. But China is as diverse as it is large, and it is difficult to generalize about many aspects of the country. This section provides an overview of things the traveller should know, based mainly on the experiences of visitors to the major population centres. If you will be travelling off the beaten path, take extra time to research your destination carefully, and be prepared for the unexpected.

Travel

The Chinese government has been gradually opening the country to outside influences since 1978. Every year, additional

parts of China are opened to visitors. But travel permits are still required for many parts of the country. If you will be travelling outside established tourist areas, find out in advance if you will require a permit. Travel permits can be obtained from local offices of the Public Security Bureau.

The simplest form of travel within China is scheduled air services. Air China, the national airline, and its regional carriers serve all the major cities. Domestic flights generally involve large wide-bodied jets. Tickets can be obtained from any travel agency, or directly from Air China or one of the many domestic carriers serving the regional markets,