

Visas and Documentation

Canadians visiting China require a visa, which can be obtained from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ottawa, or from the Chinese consulates general in Calgary, Toronto and Vancouver. The Vancouver office has responsibility for British Columbia and Yukon. The Calgary office covers Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Toronto office handles applications from Ontario and Manitoba. Residents of the other provinces and territories should apply to the Embassy in Ottawa. Visa applications can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Chinese Embassy, or they can be downloaded online (<http://www.chinaembassycanada.org>). Applications are normally processed in about five days, but priority service is available for an additional charge.

If you are travelling to Hong Kong first, visas for the rest of China can be obtained fairly quickly from the Visa Section of the Commission Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 5/F Lower Block, China Resources Building, 26 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, or through

the China Travel Service (CTS), China International Travel Service (CITS) or some private travel agencies.

The Chinese visa will be stamped into your passport, and you must submit your passport with the visa application. At least two completely blank pages must be available in your passport.

You must also affix a passport-sized photograph to the application form and include a money order or corporate cheque for the required fee. Personal cheques are not accepted. The fee for a single-entry or transit visa is about \$50; multiple-entry visas can cost up to about \$300. Other required documentation depends on the type of visa you are requesting.

Tourist Visas

An "L" visa will be issued to Canadians travelling either on group tours or as individual tourists. If you are participating in a group tour, submit a letter of confirmation of the tour arrangements from a travel agency in China along with your application. If you are travelling as an individual tourist and not as part of an escorted group, submit a copy of your return ticket along