

obtain a "G" visa, you must provide evidence of your onward trip. This may be a copy of an onward visa or a connecting air ticket to the next country of destination. Transit visas are generally valid for 10 days.

Student Visas

Students must submit an Application Form for International Students issued by the State Education Commission of China, or a notification of admission from a university or college bearing the seal of the State Education Commission. Persons entering China on an "X" visa are not permitted to work and must obtain a residence permit from the Public Security Bureau after they arrive.

Travel to Tibet

Special permission is required to visit Tibet. Although the requirements change from time to time, obtaining permission to travel to Tibet is usually easier if you are part of an escorted group tour. Ask your Canadian travel agent to provide you with appropriate documents regarding tourist permits to Tibet.

Customs

Foreign visitors complete a Passenger's Luggage Declaration before proceeding through the customs area at the Chinese port of entry. You are allowed to bring in personal belongings duty-free, including a camera, a portable tape recorder, a movie or video camera and a portable computer. You are also entitled to bring in 400 cigarettes and two 0.75-litre bottles of alcoholic beverages if your stay will be less than six months. For longer stays, the limits are 600 cigarettes and four bottles. Gold and silver jewellery and other objects made of precious metals are duty-free up to a weight of 50 grams.

There are absolute prohibitions against arms, drugs, and plant or animal products considered infested with disease or pests. There are also restrictions on the entry of printed matter, film, photos, videotapes and CDs considered detrimental to the interests of China. These regulations are unlikely to affect tourists carrying small quantities of printed or electronic media for personal use, but be careful to avoid items that might be considered political or pornographic by Chinese authorities.