

If a person younger than 18 is travelling alone or with only one parent or another adult, certified and/or stamped documentation proving that the trip is permitted by both parents should be carried. For a sample consent letter, refer to the Frequently Asked Questions section of our Web site ([www.voyage.gc.ca/main/before/faq-en.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/main/before/faq-en.asp)).

Parents should also be aware of the problem of international child abduction in cases where children may be considered citizens of other countries, including China. If a child enters China with a parent who does not declare Canadian citizenship on arrival, Canadian officials may not be in a position to intervene on behalf of the other parent. This is true even though there may be a valid child custody order in Canada. Further information on this issue is available from our 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, including [www.china-ccaa.org/zxwj/030624hfgz-english.htm](http://www.china-ccaa.org/zxwj/030624hfgz-english.htm) and [www.china-blas.org/english/azu/jj.htm](http://www.china-blas.org/english/azu/jj.htm).

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## VISITING CHINA

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China is a vast country with countless attractions for the traveller. 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 experience 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. Additional parts of China are opened to visitors every year, but travel permits are still required for some 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.

All foreigners (tourists, visitors or long-term residents) are required to register their place of residence with the local Public Security Bureau within 24 hours of arrival. If you are staying in a hotel, this is done as part of the check-in process. Those staying with family or friends in a