

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.

Children

Remember, the practice of adding a child's name to a parent's passport is no longer permitted. This new security measure is also intended to help protect children and combat child slavery and prostitution. (More information on children's issues is available at www.voyage.gc.ca/alt/pubs.asp.) However, if you hold a valid Canadian passport issued before December 11, 2001, that bears the name of your child, the passport will remain valid for both you and your child until it expires or until your child reaches the age of 16, whichever comes first. If your child is travelling without you, he or she is required to have a separate passport.

If you are travelling to China with your child and there is a possibility of a custody dispute developing while you are away, you should talk to a lawyer before leaving home.

Your child custody arrangements in Canada may not be recognized in China. In extreme cases, you or your child may not be allowed to leave. Check your status with the Chinese embassy or a consulate in Canada before you travel. If you have custody questions, contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's consular case management division at **1 800 387-3124** (in Canada) or **(613) 943-1055**.