



Worldwide Escorted Holidays

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ATOL PROTECTED (No 9373)

TOURIST VISAS FOR CHINA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All visitors to China require a Tourist Visa. It is each passenger's responsibility to obtain the appropriate Tourist Visa and to make sure that when you receive it, all details are correct.

The Chinese Authorities have recently increased the complexity of the visa application process. Passengers in possession of an Irish passport may apply to the Chinese Embassy in Dublin. Residents of Northern Ireland who are in possession of a British passport must apply to the UK for their visa.

When you apply for your visa, **your passport must have at least 2 blank pages and must be valid for 6 months from your return date of travel.** The Chinese Embassy will not process visa applications should your passport expire within this time frame.

Chinese visas are valid for three months from the date of issue.

Please also note most airlines flying to China now require details from your passport: your passport number, the expiry date of your passport, place of issue, your nationality and your date of birth. If you have not already provided us with this information, please contact our office immediately. The Travel Department may take this information from your passport when it is in our possession.

The following information is for UK and Irish passport holders only. For further information concerning other nationalities, please contact The Travel Department or the Chinese Consulate/Embassy.

There are five ways to go about obtaining a Tourist Visa for China:

Option 1 - UK passport holders may apply by post via The Chinese Visa Application Service Centre.

Option 2 – UK passport holders may apply in person via The Chinese Visa Application Service Centre.

Option 3 – UK passport holders may apply in person to one of two Chinese Consulate offices in the UK.

Option 4 – Irish passport holders may apply by post via The Travel Department.

Option 5 – Irish passport holders may apply in person to the Chinese Embassy in Dublin.

Full details for each option are provided below.

Neither The Travel Department nor the Chinese Consulate or Embassy will be held responsible for the loss or damage of your passport or any document sent by post. We strongly recommend you use Royal Mail Special Delivery or a similar secure service when sending valuable documents by post.

OPTION 1: APPLY BY POST VIA THE CHINESE APPLICATION SERVICE CENTRE

There are two Chinese Visa Application Service Centres (CVASC) in the UK:

London - Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct London, EC1A 2AT

Tel 0207 842 0960

Email ukcentre@visaforchina.org

Web www.visaforchina.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1500 (application submission) 0900-1600 (payment and collection)

Manchester - First Floor, 75 Mosley Street, Manchester, M23HR

Tel 0207 842 0960

Email manchestercentre@visaforchina.org

Web www.visaforchina.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1500 (application submission) 0900-1600 (payment and collection)

You will need the following for your application:

1. One Entry Visa application form per person. All fields must be completed correctly.
2. One recent passport photograph per application, with the name of the applicant written on the back and attached with a paper clip to the application form
3. Booking Confirmation Invoice from The Travel Department
4. Completed Payment Authorisation Form (debit cards only accepted)
5. Your passport/s
6. A Stamped Self Addressed Royal Mail Special Delivery Envelope for return delivery.

Fees

- The fee for a UK Passport holder is £82.88 per person, including service fee charged by the CVASC.

Notes

- Note the tracking number of your mail in order to check the status of delivery
- It is strongly recommended that you send it by Recorded/Special Delivery
- The Centre handles your application material after receiving it and you can log on to the Centre's website to check the status of visa application
<http://www.visaforchina.org.uk/visaen/visaView.html?method=index>
- The Centre will return your passports by post once your visa has been issued. This process takes approximately 2 weeks.
- The Chinese Embassy or the Consulate General has the right to request the applicant to provide additional supporting documents or to come to the Embassy or the Consulate General for an interview.

OPTION 2: APPLY IN PERSON VIA THE CHINESE APPLICATION SERVICE CENTRE

There are two Chinese Visa Application Service Centres (CVASC) in the UK:

London - Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct London, EC1A 2AT

Tel 0207 842 0960

Email ukcentre@visaforchina.org

Web www.visaforchina.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1500 (application submission) 0900-1600 (payment and collection)

Manchester - First Floor, 75 Mosley Street, Manchester, M23HR

Tel 0207 842 0960

Email manchestercentre@visaforchina.org

Web www.visaforchina.org.uk

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1500 (application submission) 0900-1600 (payment and collection)

You will need the following for your application:

1. One Entry Visa application form per person. All fields must be completed correctly.
2. One recent passport photograph per application, with the name of the applicant written on the back and attached with a paper clip to the application form.
3. Booking Confirmation Invoice from The Travel Department.
4. Your passport/s

Fees

- The fee for a UK Passport holder is £65.25 per person based on a standard 4 working day service.

Notes

- Make an online appointment for application submission
<http://www.visaforchina.org.uk/vaciswaiwangen/yyacinfos.html?method=attention#Menu=ChildMenu4>
- Obtain a queue number on arrival at the Centre and submit your application when your number is called
- There are two options available for collecting your visa and passport:
 - **Collect in Person**
 - Return to the Centre on the collection day.
 - Pay at the Centre when your queue number is called.
 - Collect your passports and check all details prior to leaving the building.
 - **Return by Post**
 - Provide a Stamped Self Addressed Royal Mail Special Delivery Envelope for return delivery.
 - Complete the Payment Authorisation Form (debit cards only accepted)
 - If you have chosen to have your passport returned by post, an additional service fee of £15 (exclusive of VAT) will be applied.
- The Chinese Embassy or the Consulate General has the right to request the applicant to provide additional supporting documents or to come to the Embassy or the Consulate General for an interview.

OPTION 3: APPLY IN PERSON VIA THE CHINESE CONSULATE

Edinburgh - 55 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 5QG

Tel: 0131-3379896

Website: <http://edinburgh.chineseconsulate.org/>

Visa Section Opening Hours

9:00-12:00 Monday - Friday, except for Chinese and British public holidays.

Visa Application Office: The Application Office is located at the backyard of the Consulate.

London - 49-51 Portland Place, London, W1B 1JL

Tel: 020 -7631 1430 (answered by staff 09:00 – 12:00 and 14:00- 17:00 Monday - Friday, except public holidays)

Website: <http://www.chinese-embassy.org.uk/eng/lsw/chivisa/>

Visa Section Opening Hours

9:00-12:00 Monday - Friday, except for Chinese and British public holidays.

You will need the following for your application:

1. One Entry Visa application form per person. All fields must be completed correctly.
2. One recent passport photograph per application, with the name of the applicant written on the back and attached with a paper clip to the application form
3. Booking Confirmation Invoice from The Travel Department
4. Your passport/s

Fees

- The fee for UK Passport holders is £30.00 per person based on a standard 4 working day service.
- Payment can only be made using a debit card, company cheque or Postal Order made payable to Chinese Consulate in Edinburgh.

Notes

- The Consulate does not offer a same day service.
- The Consulate does not accept postal applications. All applications must be made in person.
- The Chinese Embassy or the Consulate General has the right to request the applicant to provide additional supporting documents or to come to the Embassy or the Consulate General for an interview.

OPTION 4: APPLY BY POST VIA THE TRAVEL DEPARTMENT, DUBLIN

This option is available to **Irish passport holders only**. The process can take up to 16 days from receipt of your application.

You will need the following for your application:

1. One Entry Visa application form per person. All fields must be completed correctly.
2. One recent passport photograph per application.
3. Completed Airline Security Form
4. Completed Credit/Debit card payment form
5. Your passport/s

Please write your holiday reference number on the outside of the envelope. (e.g. A123456)

Send your application to: **The Travel Department, Harmony Court, Harmony Row, Dublin 2.**

We strongly recommend you send your application to us using an international registered post service, such as Royal Mail Airsure if posting from the UK. Secure, pre-paid Special Delivery envelopes may be bought at any Post Office branch. Please check with the Post Office for the correct postage rate.

We will deliver applications to the Chinese Embassy every **Thursday morning** and collect them the following **Thursday morning**. In order for the application to be sent to the Embassy on a Thursday, we must have received it by Wednesday.

We will return your passports to you on the same **Thursday** that they are collected from the Embassy, using registered international post service.

Fees

- The fee for an Irish passport holder is £74.00 per person
- The relevant amount will be added to your holiday invoice. Please enclose a cheque or bank draft for payment. Alternatively you can include the card payment details form with your details.
- Your application will be processed on receipt of this payment
- Cash cannot be accepted when applying by post via the Travel Department

Notes

- If you have failed to complete the application properly the documents will be returned to you and you will need to make a second application. The fee will be charged each time you apply.
- Please remove any additional plastic/leather covers from passports before sending them as they may not be returned by the Embassy.
- Passports cannot be retrieved while in the possession of The Travel Department or the Chinese Embassy.
- The Chinese Embassy or the Consulate General has the right to request the applicant to provide additional supporting documents or to come to the Embassy or the Consulate General for an interview.
- Neither The Travel Department nor the Chinese Embassy will be held responsible for the loss or damage of your passport or any document sent by post. We strongly recommend you use registered post when sending valuable documents by post.

OPTION 5: APPLY IN PERSON AT THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN DUBLIN

This option is available to **Irish passport holders** only.

Visa Section

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ireland

118 Merrion Road, Dublin 4

Tel – 01 2691707 / 2691120

Fax – 01 2839938

Email - chinaemb_ie@mfa.gov.cn

Web - <http://ie.china-embassy.org/eng/>

Visa Section Opening Hours:

09.00hrs – 12.00hrs

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

You will need the following for your application via The Travel Department:

1. One Entry Visa application form per person. All fields must be completed correctly.
2. One recent passport photograph per application, with the name of the applicant written on the back and attached with a paper clip to the application form.
3. Booking Confirmation Invoice from The Travel Department.
4. Your passport/s.

Fees

- The fee for an Irish Passport holder is currently €40.00 per person.
- Payment is by bank draft issued by Bank of Ireland or Allied Irish Bank, or post order issued by An Post made payable to the Chinese Embassy in Ireland upon collection.

Notes

- It takes 5 working days for visas to be ready for collection. Therefore you must visit the embassy twice (once to drop off the application and once to collect it).
- There may be a long queue at the Embassy and we advise that you allow sufficient time for this process as the Embassy does not offer the option of same-day visa processing.
- The Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China in Dublin does not offer a postal service.
- The Chinese Embassy or the Consulate General has the right to request the applicant to provide additional supporting documents or to come to the Embassy or the Consulate General for an interview.
- Neither The Travel Department nor the Chinese Embassy will be held responsible for the loss or damage of your passport or any document sent by post. We strongly recommend you use registered post when sending valuable documents by post.