



Travel Guide

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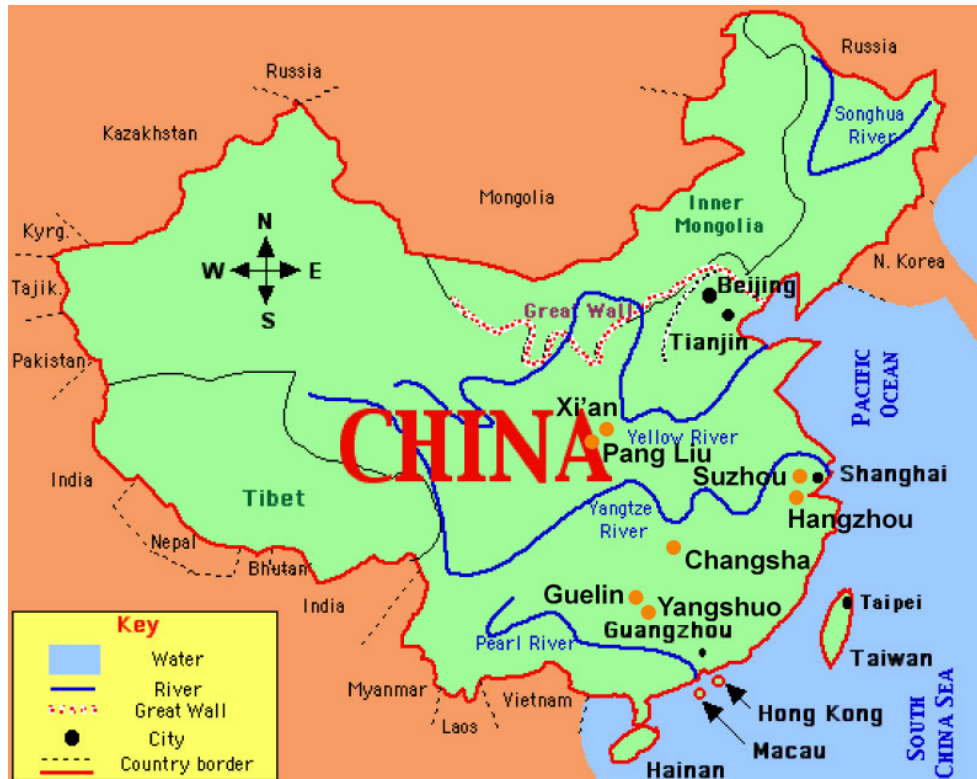
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1 Introduction

Pursuing international adoption is similar to mountain-climbing. Now that you have reached the Referral Phase of your adoption, you have conquered half of the mountain and are on your way to the peak! Your hard work has been fruitful—your completed dossier has now been forwarded to China. Early congratulations on your achievement. Now it's time to focus on the exciting preparation for your trip to China and the union with your child!

This travel guide was prepared in hopes of getting you ready, mentally and physically, for the journey ahead. We hope by providing this information that you feel informed and prepared throughout the travel phase of your adoption. This information is only a guide and is not designed to answer every question you may have. Please feel free to contact your Travel Advisor (even if you're not in the travel phase) if you have questions or concerns not addressed in this guide.

When you return from China, please tell us about your experience and anything you feel might be helpful for our future adoptive parents. We hope you enjoy preparing for your journey to the top of the mountain! There is a survey your Travel Advisor will send to get your feedback.



2 Frequently Asked Questions

1. When can we expect to know our date of travel?

We usually have an estimated date for you about 4-9 weeks after you receive your referral.

2. How are our travel dates determined?

There are several factors that determine your time of travel as well as the duration of our travel:

- a. When you return your acceptances to the CCCWA
- b. When we receive the Travel Approval from the CCCWA
- c. Scheduling of your child's visa appointment at the American Consulate in Guangzhou
- d. The adoption process in your child's province.

Each of these processes can affect your travel. Travel is usually about 6-9 weeks after your acceptances are returned to China. When we can schedule your visa appointment and how long you have to stay in the Province often determines the duration of your trip. The trip averages 13-21 days. If you're adopting 2 children from different provinces, your stay will be 3 weeks.

3. Who do I pay for travel?

Delight Travel, or your travel agent, will book and need to receive payment for a) your international plane tickets and b) any hotel accommodations in Hong Kong. Great Wall will handle and receive payment for all other travel and accommodations in China. If you choose to use a service or travel agency, other than Delight Travel, please make sure your Travel Advisor approves your flights before you make your purchase.

4. When do we pay for our travel arrangements?

The international portion is usually paid 4-6 weeks after you receive the referral; Delight Travel accepts credit cards. Intra-China travel arrangements are paid to Great Wall by cashier's check, money order, or credit card (we do not accept AMEX, within 3 business days of receiving the invoice).

5. When will we have an itinerary for travel within China?

You should receive a travel itinerary from your Travel Advisor 7-10 business days before you leave for China.

6. How will I get the plane tickets?

Delight Travel will email the tickets to you. The tickets for the flight from Beijing to your province will either be waiting for you at your hotel in Beijing or your guide will have them for you. All other airline tickets will be with your guides in China. Please be sure the names on your tickets match your passport.

*****Also, use your child's Chinese name on all tickets while in China. Your adopted child will be holding a Chinese passport. All airline tickets must be listed in the child's Chinese name, as written on your referral or your LSC. Please note that children who have US visas (adopted children) can't go back into China once you've left to Hong Kong with them. For example, if you want to go from Guangzhou to Hong Kong and back to Guangzhou, you cannot do this because your adopted child will not have a Chinese visa, and a Chinese visa is required for any travel coming back into China from Hong Kong.**

7. Can I reserve a bassinet for my child on the return flight?

If available, you may reserve a bassinet with the airline. To do so, you will need to call the airline directly, after you receive your tickets for your international flights.

8. Do I need to stay with the group?

For your safety and to help ensure that your adoption is completed without any delays, it is best to stay with your group. If you want to arrange something outside the itinerary scheduled, please let your Travel Advisor know before you are invoiced. If you choose to arrange something after you've been invoiced, there will be a \$100. per change fee.

9. Can we take our extended family with us on our trip?

It is alright to bring along anyone you wish for the trip. Great Wall will make the intra- China travel arrangements for anyone accompanying you on your trip. The international travel arrangements will be made by Delight Travel. We ask that you include information for all travelers on the Travel Management System.

10. When will the guides meet us?

The guides will meet you in Beijing after you pass through customs and pick up your luggage, or in your child's province, should you decide to skip Beijing. Your guide will have a green flag that says GWCA or a sign with just your name on it. Please be aware that sometimes our guides are running behind due to traffic, etc. Please wait 30-45 minutes. If they do not show up after that amount of time, please call them (phone number will be on your itinerary). If you are not able to reach your guide please call the Great Wall travel emergency phone number.

11. Are we allowed to have extra tours arranged during our adoption trip?

Please note that Great Wall is happy to arrange extra tours for families while they are in China. If you are interested in this service, your Travel Advisor will handle all the arrangements, as part of your intra-China arrangements. Please discuss with your Great Wall Travel consultant.

3 Planning Your International Travel

Once Great Wall has received your Consulate appointment confirmation, your Travel Advisor will send your Travel Information Sheet to Delight Travel. Delight Travel will send you an email with tentative bookings within 24 hours of receipt of your travel information.

Please make sure that your Travel Advisor has your preferred email and make sure you check your junk email. Families have reported that emails from Great Wall and Delight Travel are going to their junk email. Even if you are making your own international arrangements, Delight will send you this information so you have back up bookings available. When you receive your email from Delight Travel with the tentative bookings, you can decide whether you would like to Delight Travel. If you want to pay for the bookings sent to you by Delight Travel, or make changes to these bookings, then you will need to contact Delight Travel directly. Delight Travel can be contacted at 1-800-328-6638 or you can visit them on the web at www.delighttravel.com. You may also reply to their emails. They are located in Seattle, WA, so be aware of the difference in time zones. Please make sure you send your flights to your Travel Advisor for approval prior to purchasing.

Keep in mind that families can book with Delight Travel for international flights only. This includes the flight from your hometown to Beijing/Shanghai/Hong Kong, and the flight from Beijing/Shanghai/Hong Kong back to your hometown. If you want to use frequent flyer miles or make international arrangements on your own or without using Delight Travel, you need to contact your airline or other service directly to begin arranging some tentative bookings. Once you arrange tentative bookings with your airline or other services please send them to your Travel Advisor to preview before purchasing them.

Once you have gotten approval from your Travel Advisor and have purchased and confirmed your international flights with Delight Travel, they will send this information to your Travel Advisor so your Intra-China travel arrangements can be made Great Wall. If you did not use Delight Travel then you will need to send your Travel Advisor a finalized copy of your international bookings as soon as possible. The international flights confirmation triggers the intra-China arrangements. So, this needs to be done as soon as possible.

1.1 One Spouse & Single Parent Travel

When completing an international adoption from China, the local provincial Civil Affairs requires that both parents be present for the adoption finalization in your child(ren)'s province(s). This is typically the day after Gotcha Day, when you first meet your child, after a mandatory 24-hour waiting period.

If only one spouse is present for the adoption finalization, you are considered to be under "one spouse travel," and you **MUST** complete additional documentation – including the certification and authentication of a Power of Attorney. This is **REQUIRED** by the provincial Civil Affairs. Given the time it takes to certify and authenticate a document, please make sure to discuss this option with your Travel Advisor at least one month prior to your departure.

While GWCA understands that in rare cases it is sometimes necessary for just one spouse to travel, this is not recommended. For those adopting one child, it is very highly recommended that another person travel with you. If your family is adopting two children, one spouse travel must be approved on a case-by-case basis.

Please keep in mind that while we recommend any additional adult traveling with you, your parenting partner is vital in the bonding and transition process for the entire family, including your newly adopted child. In the rare case that you're not able to travel with your co-parent, having another adult ensures a safety net in case of illness or other emergencies.

While you will have excellent guide service during your stay, they will not be with you in your hotel room 24/7. Your guide will speak excellent English, but the vast majority of the population you encounter will not. And while you will likely at some point encounter another family adopting as well, we can not guarantee that you will travel with another adoptive family. Having an additional person to speak to, even for just a few minutes to relax while your kiddo is sleeping, can be extremely beneficial, particularly in times of stress and worry.

A completely stress-free adoption process is impossible, and having a friend or family member with you will allow you more freedom to bond with your kiddo and ease their transition without worrying about the (comparatively) "small" things like navigating the airport(s), getting dinner or extra water, or keeping your child entertained while you rest.

For single parents, extra documentation is not required. However, we also recommend that single parents bring another person with them on their trip for the same reasons.

4 Using Frequent Flyer Miles and Making Your Own Travel Arrangements

If you hope to use frequent flyer miles, we will try to assist in any way we can, but we want you to be aware of a few details.

1. Sometimes there is not enough time to convert the miles before you travel once we receive travel approval and the visa appointment confirmation.
2. Sometimes there are not seats available for the times you need to travel.
3. If you plan to go to China ahead of the group, you will need to speak with our travel agent to make separate arrangements.

4. You will still need to allow Great Wall to make your intra-China arrangements including flights/trains and hotels. This is to make sure that you meet all of your appointments.
5. You need to inform us of your arrival and departure times, and they must be made around the intra-China travel arrangements. For example, you must not leave China until at least the day after your visa is to be received.
6. If you arrive in Beijing early, we can have staff meet you and arrange additional hotel accommodations. Let your Travel Advisor know if you would like to fly into Beijing early. *Note that we do not have guide services in Hong Kong.
7. Once you arrive in China, you need to stick to the intra-China arrangements. Any plans to deviate from the intra-China schedule must be discussed with your Travel Advisor prior to traveling. This is for your own protection as well as to ensure that the adoption will proceed smoothly.
12. Great Wall China Adoption cannot be held responsible for any arrangements made outside of our agency.

5 Planning Your Intra-China Travel

Once we have your finalized international flights to and from China, your Travel Advisor will send them to our Beijing Division to begin making your Intra-China arrangements.

These arrangements include:

- Flights from Beijing or other point of entry to your Province
- Flights from your Province to Guangzhou
- Flights or trains (Guangzhou to Hong Kong only) from Guangzhou to Hong Kong/Beijing/Shanghai
- Hotel arrangements for your family
 - Keep in mind that you will be booked in a standard room at all hotels, unless you have indicated otherwise in our travel management system.

Because this is time sensitive information, you must contact your Travel Advisor as soon as possible if you have changes to your international bookings.

The arrangements for your travel accommodations while in China are a package deal and cannot be changed or refunded due to a missed a flight, a schedule change, choosing not to participate in group activities, or traveling outside the intra-China arrangements. We accept money orders, cashier's checks, Visa, Master Card and Discover. We do not accept personal checks or American Express for the travel part of your journey.

You will receive your final Intra-China itinerary the Friday prior to your departure, unless you are leaving early, in which case it will be 3 days prior to departure. This itinerary will list your activities while you are in China. Additional information not listed on your itinerary will be given to you once you are in China at your different locations. This itinerary will include your hotels in Beijing, your child's Province, and Guangzhou. This itinerary will also include your Gotcha Day date. **(Please note that if you are adopting a child in Guangdong, you will be in Guangzhou for the duration of your trip, and it is still required for you to be in China for 13-15 days.)**

6 Great Wall China Guides

Great Wall's China Guides will greet you at the airport and are available at all times. Your bilingual guide will review and finalize your paperwork and translate for you throughout the trip. Your guide will take you to all appointments and even give you their cell phone number for emergencies. Our guides are facilitators for the Civil Affairs office, and the Consulate in Guangzhou, and MUST accompany to all your pertinent adoption appointments. Our China Guides are professional, experienced and friendly. More importantly, our China Guides love children and believe in what they do. Your guide's phone number and name will be on your intra-China itinerary. Don't hesitate to call them if you need anything! Typically, you will have 3 different guides – one in Beijing, your child's province and Guangzhou.

The guides will be there to walk you through the process from beginning to end. Please find below a list of some of the things your guides will do for you*:

- Transportation from airport to hotel and hotel to airport in all cities
- Ground transportation in all cities to and from contracted hotels through GWCA
- Entrance admission fees for tours and sight-seeing
- Booking, ticketing, and arranging hotels and airfares
- Coordinating and making all the travel arrangements
- Working with various travel agencies
- Reviewing itineraries and bookings
- Providing travel advice and consultation
- Communicating with our China service provider and guides on all travel details to ensure all details are finalized and confirmed
- Communicating to set up appointments with the American Consulate in Guangzhou
- Contacting and coordinating with the provincial Civil Affairs offices, notary offices, and police bureaus to find out the adoption paperwork requirement of each province, its special rules and policies, and to book all the appointments
- Communicating with various provincial government offices in China regarding adoptive families and child information to civil affairs office, notary office, and police bureau
- Ensuring the adoption certificate and other legal documents are prepared and translated and the adoption paperwork is ready for the family to sign
- Working with welfare homes to arrange delivery of child and to verify the child's information prior to welfare home bringing the child to the family
- Taking families to visit Chinese doctors, if needed
- Escorting the families throughout the trip to adoption meetings, adoptive child's medical checkup, Consulate and Civil Affairs meetings
- On call 24 hours a day
- Interpreting between the adoptive families and officials, welfare homes, older adopted children, hotel staff and any other interpretation or translation, as needed.
- Reviewing and checking Chinese government and USCIS adoption paperwork
- In the event of disruption, guides will work with welfare home, provincial government and the China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption to advocate for your family

***Please note that guide service(s) will be different if you are an Executive or Elite client with our agency. Please contact your Travel Advisor for more information.**

Great Wall recommends and respectfully requests that you tip your guide \$15.00 (USD or RMB) per day per family. This is a show of appreciation and respect for the service that they have provided to you, and it may be taken as an offense if you do not. For example, if you stay in your baby's province for 6 days then you would tip the guides \$90.00 for your family at the end of your stay in the province. You may give this tip to your guides in an envelope. We recommend using a red envelope for tips or any monies, however white will be accepted.

Great Wall's China Guides will be your best friends in China. They will act as your guide, your interpreter, and even your concierge. If you need anything at all, please call or ask your China Guide!

Please note that tipping other service personnel, such as drivers, bell hops, etc., are at your own discretion. We recommend \$2-5 for the drivers, if you feel they have provided good customer service.

7 Packing for China

One of the many preparations you will make for your trip to China is deciding what to bring with you. While packing, it will be important to keep in mind several factors, including the airlines' luggage limitations and China's weather at the time you will be traveling. (You will need to pack for your trip to China based on the regulations set forth for the intra-China flights, as they have very strict rules for check-in baggage and carry-ons. Contact your Travel Advisor for more information. Your Travel Advisor can provide you with actual packing lists.)

Since you will carry everything you take to China, you should consider packing items that have dual uses. For instance, one family packed a mailing tube filled with protein bars. They ate the bars in their Province, where American food was difficult to obtain. By the time they reached Guangzhou, the tube was empty and they used it to mail home the art they purchased as souvenirs.

The airlines' luggage limitations are as follows:

- International flights: Most airlines will allow 2 check-in bags not to exceed 50 pounds total. You are also allowed 2 carry-on pieces per adult ticket. Please check with your airline because certain airlines are now charging to check one bag. Most airlines now charge for a 2nd bag. Please keep that in mind prior to going to the airport.
- Intra-China flights only allow each ticketed passenger 44 pounds total of checked luggage and one standard sized carry-on bag, not to exceed 10-12 pounds. A laptop can be carried on top of your carry-on bag for intra-China flights, and is not included in the 10 pounds. A diaper bag is considered a purse, and not considered a carry-on.
 - For example: A passenger can carry a purse/diaper bag, laptop and a carry-on. Note that if you do go over the weight limit specified, the airline will charge 1.5% every 2 pounds of the cost of the ticket purchased. This could result in high fees, so please try and pack light!

One of our families provided us with a link to a great website called "one bag.com". Our family stated they have used the techniques described on this site and have easily packed one carry-on bag for multi-week business travel stays across the country. The link to this website is: <http://www.onebag.com/>

Your Travel Advisor can also give you more information, if you need it. Sample packing lists from families have been very helpful to families that are now getting ready to go to China.

7.1 Food and Medications

People's opinions vary as to their enjoyment of the food in China. Some people love the food; however some families have a completely opposite experience. Although the breakfast buffets are "Americanized," they may include food that is not necessarily what we consider American-type foods. Be prepared. If you are traditionally a picky eater, bring snacks and other foods that can tide you over. Families who have traveled have said that if you generally have stomach issues in the U.S. that you should probably take some kind of stomach medication (Pepto-Bismol, Imodium) each day before you start your day.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER in China. When taking a shower, don't let the water run into your mouth, and brush your teeth with bottled water. Note that while you aren't accustomed to the water, your adopted child will be. Do not use ice. Only eat fruit that you peel yourself. Bottled water is safe and available everywhere. Bottled water in the hotel is expensive and it is much cheaper from street vendors or grocery stores. For convenience, buy several bottles and store them in the refrigerator in your hotel room. Hotels will provide you with a thermos of boiled water or a hot pot to boil water in. Boiled water is drinkable. You can ask for more boiled water from the hotel. Use boiled water to mix baby formula. Bring a few water bottles to cool the boiled water.

Be sure to plan ahead and bring extra prescription medications. This is especially necessary if you suffer from any condition that causes breathing difficulty, such as asthma or allergies. Note that while your Travel Advisor will request non-smoking rooms, not all hotels in China offer non-smoking rooms for the standard rooms, and are only offered in the higher rooms, such as suites, deluxe rooms or executive suites. Some hotels offer only non-smoking floors. Note also that non-smoking rooms might simply be a room they turned into a non-smoking room. 90% of Chinese smoke.

You will encounter severe air pollution in some areas of China. All prescription medications need to be clearly marked and in the prescription bottle given by the pharmacy. We recommend bringing over the counter medications, such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc., as these are not readily available in China. If you have questions regarding other medications, please contact your Travel Advisor.

If you have questions or concerns about the pollution in any of the cities you may be traveling in, you can check the air quality at the following link:

<http://aqicn.org/city/all/>

If you are, or are traveling with, someone who is asthmatic, we do recommend purchasing and carrying a respirator with you. These can be easily and cheaply purchased, and this may help reduce polluted air intake. Please also remember to discuss this with your general practitioner, who may also have additional recommendations including preventative medication.

7.2 Clothing

Adult Attire in China: Historically, fashion in China differs from that of the U.S., though now clothing in China is much more modernized. Most middle-aged Chinese dress conservatively. Men are often dressed in plain shirts and slacks. The younger generations usually dress much like westerners. We recommend that you pack attire that you are comfortable in. You do not need any dressy clothes. However, the Chinese officials do like to see nicely dressed families. Do not show up in clothes that are too casual for the adoption interview, such as shorts, capris, etc. The Civil Affairs and Consulate recommend wearing nice jeans and a nice shirt for men and women.

Make sure you check the weather before leaving, so you can pack appropriately. You may go to weather.com and see what the weather is like where you're heading in China. We recommend you start

watching the weather about 2 weeks prior to your departure, so you can get an idea of what the average temperature will be upon your arrival. Note that all regions are different, such as in the U.S.

Families who have traveled to China say that the most important item to bring is a pair of very comfortable shoes. Everything is very fast paced, and the only time of real rest is at night, when you're done with all the day's activities. Investing in a good, sturdy, supportive pair of shoes will go a long way!

Laundry Service: Hotel laundry services fees range between \$.50 and \$1.50 per item. If you choose to use the laundry services be sure to indicate that you want your clothes to be washed. Some hotel laundry services will press and fold, but not wash your clothes unless washing is specifically requested. Pack cotton clothes; they breathe and dry faster if you have to hand-wash and line-dry in your room. Your guide will advise where the best laundry service is outside the hotels.

I know some families may find it difficult to stay within the airlines' baggage limits. Many of our families who previously traveled to China also felt that way before their trip, but now these same families recommend taking only what is necessary. Lighter packing definitely seems to be the way to go! Families who have traveled to China recommend packing enough for 7 days, and then using a laundry service once you're in Guangzhou.

What to bring for baby/toddlers/older children:

- Stacking cups are great for young children.
- Pieces of cloth (washed bandanas) – may soothe the child
- Rattles
- Plastic key rings
- Small stuffed animals/toys
- Backpack for carrying baby - This is a good alternative to a stroller, especially when
 - touring sites with stairs.
- Cheerios, raisins, or other finger foods for your child to snack on. Sharing Cheerios
 - can be a great bonding experience! Make sure to pack some finger foods if you take any bus rides or long road trips.
- If your baby weighs more than 20 pounds, an umbrella stroller, which can be
 - purchased in China, is recommended. Check with your airline to see if the stroller will be counted as one piece of approved carry-on luggage. Some parents use the stroller while in China and donate it to the hotel before traveling home. (Families who have traveled advise getting the umbrella stroller in China.)
- BUBBLES – many families who have returned from China and brought bubbles for
 - their child said it was a “big hit”. Don't bring toys that light up or make a lot of noise, as your child hasn't seen these kinds of toys and it may scare them. Keep it simple.

8 Great Wall Red Backpack



Great Wall is proud to announce an exciting addition to your Intra-China experience! We have put together a product that will not only cut down on your packing, but will alleviate the confusion of deciding what to bring for your child. The Red Backpack is a comprehensive package of all your child's needs! All these items come in a stylish red backpack that will be easy for you to carry around on your trip. The Red Backpack includes the following items:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| *28 count diapers | *bottle and nipple brush |
| *450g powdered milk | *silicone pacifier |
| *250g rice cereal | *nose cleanout |
| *baby skincare wipes | *100 cotton buds |
| *100ml baby shampoo | *nail clippers |
| *100ml baby bath | *food bag |
| *100ml baby lotion | *clinical thermometer |
| *100g baby powder | *16 Band-Aids |
| *100ml Vaseline Intensive Care | *baby fork and spoon |
| *45g Johnson's Cream Diaper Rash | *plastic document pouch |
| *2 milk bottles | |

You will receive your Red Backpack upon arrival in Beijing or your child's province, where it will be waiting for you at your hotel or given to you by your guide! Please remember the intra-china luggage requirements, and know that from Beijing to your Province, the Red Backpack may be used as your carry-on luggage. Once your child has been united with you, it will count as their carry-on or diaper bag!

We also have red backpacks geared for children 3 years of age and older. If you are interested in purchasing the Red Backpack, please contact your Travel Advisor. The cost for this is \$99. Some of the items in the older child backpack include:

For children 3 years and older:

- Chinese-English Study Machine
- Toiletries
- Disposable Camera
- Water Bottle
- Pajamas
- First Aid
- And other helpful items

The items come in a stylish red backpack that will be easy for you to carry around on your trip.

9 Gifts For and From China

Giving out gifts to strangers may be a new concept for our culture. However the Chinese see it as a way of building rapport and friendship. It is like setting up a bridge between the two banks of rivers. Most of our families want to share gifts as a way to express their gratitude.

The gift itself is not as important as what it symbolizes: respect, friendship, and closeness. We recommend that you bring 4 female and 4 male gifts (at most) to be given to the orphanage director, aunties, local officials, and children. Please avoid giving gifts that are labeled "Made in China" as American made products are much more popular in China. We recommend packing gifts unwrapped and also packing gift bags. We recommend packing gift bags along with your unwrapped gifts and waiting to wrap your gifts until you are in your child's province.

We offer a Gifts of Love donation that can take the place of bringing gifts. If you choose the Gifts of Love, you can also bring gifts. It's at your discretion. The minimum donation is \$195. Please note that the orphanages have asked for more financial donations for their children, in order to properly care for them. You may donate now in your child's name, or wait until you get to the travel phase. Please contact the Travel Advisor for the Great Wall Gifts of Love Donation Form.

For orphanage director (1) (\$15 - \$20)

Inexpensive cologne or perfume, sample make-up from department stores, scarves, ties, western shampoo (pick one with a nice bottle, it is expensive in China), local items from your state, stationary, and nice fountain pens.

For aunties (2-3)

Skin care products, local items from your state, silver jewelry, make-up sets, bath sets, or writing pens.

For local officials (4-5)

American commemorative stamps, cartons of cigarettes (many Chinese men smoke—even if the official does not smoke, he can treat his guest to an American cigarette), and pens with American flags.

For the orphanage children

Boxes of crayons, markers, coloring books, simple Legos™, clothing, disposable diapers, stacking cups, rattles, and, small balls.

Gift Kit

Another great gift idea it to create your own "kit" before your trip containing several small items. Suggested items to include in these kits are receiving blankets, small stuffed animals, socks, hats, onesies, sleepers, baby soap, powder, lotion, washcloths, and towels.

Items for older children may include books, mittens, toothbrush/paste, coloring books and crayons, and quilts. General gifts may include M & M candies, small boxes of chocolate, and Snickers bars which are well received by the Chinese. Gifts that are made in America are very well received.

Chinese officials may feel embarrassed if you give them the gifts at the wrong time. Your guide will inform you of when and how to present the gifts. You can wrap the gifts in red or colorful paper or in gift bags, but avoid using the color white. White represents mourning in China. Please remember that these are suggestions; you do not have to follow the above list.

Gifts From China

Since you are adopting a child from China, you may want to purchase some Chinese gifts to keep their heritage alive. Some parents prepare 16 presents, purchased while in China, to give to their child as a

birthday present each year until they turn 16 years old. Popular gift ideas include: silk outfits, jade bracelets, jade birth sign pendants, spoon and fork with cloisonné handle, Chinese stamps, paper cuts (delicate paper crafted into beautiful artwork), “chop” with your child’s name in Chinese, lion-head shoes, or nicely crafted chopsticks. Your Great Wall representatives will be happy to give you more gift ideas while you are in China.

10 Doctor On-Call Referral Service

In a combined effort with Dr. Todd Ochs, we are able to offer a medical “on-call” service while your family is in China. This means that, if for any reason, you need a physician’s advice or recommendation, Dr. Ochs will be expecting your call. Dr. Ochs has been a general pediatrician in Chicago since 1984. He lives in the Ravenswood neighborhood, with his wife, five daughters, and dogs. He began working with adoptive families in 1997, during the adoption of his first (of four) Chinese daughters.

Since then, he has seen over a thousand of internationally adopted children in his practice and adoption clinic, has done thousands more referral reviews, has spoken to thousands of adoptive parents, and has adopted three more special needs Chinese daughters. His office also is recognized as a “Center of Excellence” by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, to see foster children for their comprehensive examinations after placement, and he is the pediatrician for an adolescent group home, as well.

With this service you will also be provided with prescriptions for four medications that your child may need while you are in China. Many pediatricians will not prescribe the following medicines without meeting the child in person. However, due to professional experience with adopted children in China and internationally, Dr. Ochs is able to prescribe the following medications:

Families who purchase this offer will receive a prescription for:

- Elimate cream for possible scabies
- Gentamycin drops for conjunctivitis/pink eye
- Nystatin cream for diaper rash
- Zithromax antibiotic

Please note that this service is for the prescription only, not the actual medications. You will need to have the prescriptions filled at your pharmacy.

If you have any questions about this service please contact your Travel Advisor.

11 Immunizations

Although there are no immunizations required for travel to China, we support the National Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations on immunizations. If possible, see your doctor at least 4-6 weeks before your estimated travel to allow time for the vaccines to take effect. The CDC suggests all travelers to China receive:

1. Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B immunizations.

- The Hepatitis B immunization consists of a series of three injections given over a period of 6 months. If you have not yet received the initial two immunizations, we recommend doing so now.

- We suggest immunizing yourself; all travel companions, and anyone who will be a consistent caregiver for your child.
2. Current Tetanus or booster
 3. Current Measles/Mumps or booster
 4. Current Typhoid or booster
 5. Malaria: If you are traveling to a malaria-risk area in this region, (see Malaria Information for Travelers to East Asia), discuss antimalarial medications with your health care provider.
 6. For a list of additional immunizations, please go to the CDC website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia.htm#vaccines>.

What Immunizations your child may have:

- Children are tested for Hepatitis B and immunized for measles
- Children in China are usually immunized against tuberculosis. This is called the BCG vaccine.

You will receive an immunization record for your adopted child when you finish your paperwork in China. We suggest you re-immunize your child, upon return to the US. Although children are immunized, sometimes the serums are not refrigerated properly and/or are expired. This is why it is so important to have your children re-immunized when your return home. Your doctor may want to give your child the titer test, as this test will enable your doctor to learn what immunizations your child has had, prior to coming into your care.

If your child is sick in China:

- If you feel there is a physical, emotional, or mental health problem with your child, immediately tell your guide and they will take you to a doctor.
- If something is found to be wrong and you have reservations about going through with the adoption of the child, we can advocate for you to receive another referral. Note that the CCCWA has sole discretion over whether or not another referral will be allowed, and all Great Wall can do is advocate for your family. This could delay your travel but you need to feel comfortable with your child's physical and emotional condition. We, at Great Wall, are here to help in any way we can, should this occur. Also note that any delays in travel will be at an additional cost to your family, and your guide will have you sign a change order form, then send it to your Travel Advisor and a credit card you will put on file with us before you leave will be charged here in the U.S.
- Because of the potential of unsafe medical procedures, including contaminated needles, we do not recommend having the child exposed to any additional tests or immunizations until they return from China.

12 Travel Tips

12.1 Your Child's Health

When you are united with your child, she/he may have a cold or an ear infection. Don't panic! The cold/infection may be a result of stress, the change in environment, cooler rooms (there is no air

conditioning in most orphanages), or a myriad of other factors. Treat your child with the medication from the U.S. Your Great Wall guide will assist you in contacting the hotel's doctor (not all hotels have a doctor, but your guide will let you know) or a nearby hospital if your child needs further medical attention. Most of the doctors in China are public doctors and they may not prescribe western medicine; however, Chinese medicine can be administered.

Some babies have "flat heads". There is nothing abnormal about this characteristic. It is from lying on their back (Chinese babies sleep on their back, while some American babies sleep on their stomach). The Chinese think a girl should have a flat head so her head looks pretty in pig tails.

Many Chinese children have Mongolian spots, which are purplish colored birthmarks on their backs and buttocks. These spots are normal. Because Mongolian Spots resemble bruises, if your child has a Mongolian Spot, please have your doctor document their presence upon returning to the U.S.

Past traveling parents suggest taking a small mirror toy, a rattle, and/or any small stuffed, textured object and stacking cups. These are small toys that the children will enjoy. Keep it simple. Most of children who have lived their lives in orphanages have never seen westernized toys and the lights and sounds could scare them. Bubbles are a big hit! When packing bubbles, make sure you wrap them in three baggies to avoid a mess!

12.2 Formula and Bottles

Some orphanages will provide you with a week's supply of powdered Chinese formula. Formula may also be purchased in a grocery store in many cities. Your guide can advise. Most of the babies have low iron levels. You can take along some baby multivitamin drops until they begin to drink American formula, which is fortified with iron and vitamins. Be aware that the addition of iron may cause digestion problems in some children if they are not used to the mineral.

American babies drink formula at room temperature. Chinese babies are usually fed formula hotter than room temperature. The Chinese simply do not believe in drinking cold beverages, especially for babies under one year old. With toddlers, do not let them drink cold drinks or ice water right away. They will need time to adjust to cold beverages and some of them may be afraid of ice cubes.

Bring a scoop from a container of American baby formula and use 4 level scoops per 8 oz. bottle. It is recommended that you bring 2 bottles for the disposable liners, a pack of disposable liners, and 6 silicone nipples. The babies are accustomed to long and straight nipples. After each use, thoroughly wash the nipple and bottle. Pre-measure a number of formula bags with formula or formula/cereal for easy preparation while traveling, and secure them with a rubber band.

When feeding your baby American soy formula, you may learn that your baby does not like the soy formula. If this happens, it may help to add a whole or partial sugar cube to the formula because Chinese formula is made of milk and sugar powder. Please remember that a sudden change in diet may cause digestion problems for your baby. It is a good idea to gradually introduce your baby to new food items.

Note that older children at the ages of 2 and 3 years in the U.S. are typically potty trained and not drinking from bottles anymore. In China, some children at this age are not potty trained and are still being bottle fed at nap times and bed time. Please keep this in mind when dealing with your toddler.

12.3 Money

American money is readily accepted for gratuity and is easily exchanged in the hotels or by your guide. Credit cards are accepted in the more Westernized areas, such as Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Nanning, etc.; Visa or MasterCard seem to be the most widely accepted. If you plan on using credit cards

on your trip, be sure to call your credit card company before you travel to let them know you will be traveling overseas. This should prevent you from having any problems using your credit cards in China. It is not recommended that you bring traveler's checks as they are not widely accepted at this time in China. The best bet is to bring CASH. You must bring a credit card to swipe at the hotels, but this is for any meals you purchase, or movies, or telephone calls from your room, and possibly internet service.

The adoption donation fee, legal fees, Consulate medical exam, passport and visa fees must be paid in cash and your guide will direct you on whether or not the orphanage wants US dollars or RMB and will help you exchange your monies upon arrival. We also ask that you not convert your monies to RMB prior to travel as customs has issues with this, and it's easier to just carry US dollars with you. **WE DO NOT OFFER WIRE SERVICE** for the adoption donation fee or any of the legal fees. The Civil Affairs don't accept wire transfers.

12.4 Transportation

You will need local currency for departure tax in China and in Hong Kong (different currency can be acquired at the airport or train station in Hong Kong). The airport procedures are as follows: pass through security (x-ray checked baggage), check in, pay airport tax, pass through immigration, and x-ray carryon baggage. Store passports, tickets, boarding passes, and receipts for the airport tax in an easily accessible location, as each document is reviewed at each check point. Personal space is treated differently in China than it is in the U.S., so pay attention and be aware of your surroundings.

Items from the hotel room mini bar are very expensive. It is more economical to purchase snacks at small grocery stores. Do not take items from the mini bar after you have checked out, as it can delay your departure when you are going through customs.

12.5 Toilets

Western-style facilities are available in your hotel room and restaurants. Outside the hotels most of the facilities are Turkish-style – a tiled trench filled with water. Use the restroom before leaving your hotel if you feel uncomfortable using different facilities. Keep some change in your pocket, as some Chinese restrooms charge you a few cents for use. There isn't always toilet paper available in the public bathrooms, so carry some toilet paper or tissues with you.

12.6 Hong Kong

You may take a flight or train from Guangzhou to Hong Kong. When clearing immigration at the Hong Kong airport or train station, several lighted screens advise travelers of the luggage carousel assigned to arriving flights. After picking up your luggage, you can convert some U.S. dollars to Hong Kong dollars at the currency exchange. The rate is approximately \$7.3 (HKD) to \$1.0 (USD). Please check the most current exchange rate is you're going to Hong Kong prior to your departure to China.

Taxis are located right outside the airport entrances if transportation to the hotel is needed. The taxis can seat four passengers and have fairly large trunks. The drivers speak fair English. Most Hong Kong residents speak English well, as it is one of the two official languages of the region (the other is Cantonese, a Chinese dialect spoken in Guangzhou). The taxi fare includes the ride and the luggage. If the ride is around twenty-five minutes, it should cost about \$80 (HKD) or \$12 (USD). If you spend a night in Hong Kong, your group can choose to tour the city. A four to five hour tour is available at hotels for \$35 - \$45 (USD) per person. These tours are arranged by Delight Travel, and when making your international flights, and if you decide to spend a few days in Hong Kong, please let them know at that time. Please also check with them on updated pricing. Taxis are also located right outside the train station, and it's about 40 minutes to the airport where there are many hotels that service the airport. There are several Delight Travel uses, and whether you use them or not, they can reserve rooms for you at one of these

hotels. Note that if you use their bookings for your international flights, and you're leaving through Hong Kong, they will automatically reserve your room in a hotel either inside the airport or very close to it.

Most Great Wall families take the train to Hong Kong. Families don't often use trains as transportation in the U.S., so this would be a new experience for your family, and it's much cheaper than a flight from Guangzhou to Hong Kong.

12.7 Safety

Please remember that crime happens everywhere, so you should pack with safety in mind. Be sure to keep the cash needed for your orphanage donation in a money belt or similar device. Also be sure to make an extra copy of your passport for your personal records – you will want to carry this with you while traveling in China and keep your actual passport locked in your hotel safe. China is probably the safest place that you will ever visit, but common sense and caution when traveling are always advisable.

13 Projected Expenses for Adoption in China

Please remember this information is only an estimate. Airfare and hotel rates may have changed by the time you travel. Your Travel Advisor will be able to give you the most updated pricing when you are transferred from the Referral Phase to the Travel Phase. Families can arrange their International travel on their own or through Delight Travel. As for your Intra-China travel, Great Wall's Travel Advisor will make all of your arrangements, to include hotels, transportation, guides, and flights within Intra-China. You will pay Great Wall for your Intra-China travel via cashier's check, money order or credit card (we do not accept American Express), 7-10 days before your departure to China. Payments for International flights to and from China will be made directly to the airline or to Delight Travel. The average cost for the entire trip varies depending upon the time of year, the length of travel, and the number of travelers. A breakdown of your estimated travel expenses and adoption fees is provided below (if you would like a more detailed estimate of your cost, please let your Travel Advisor know, once you've been transferred to the Travel Phase of your journey):

International Travel

International airfare is \$1500 - \$4000/adult

Intra-China fees

We estimate the cost for every TWO adults (this includes an adopted child under age 12) intra-China expenses to be \$6000-\$7500. The average cost for the entire trip varies depending upon the time of year, the length of travel, number of travelers, and room requests. Intra-China fees include the following:

- **Hotels:** all hotels include a breakfast buffet for 2 adults each morning (our standard fees include any additional breakfast buffets)
 - Beijing & your child's Province: \$110 (standard room)-\$215 (regular suite) per night for double occupancy.
 - Guangzhou: \$165 (standard room)-\$265 (regular suite) - \$310 (executive suite) per night, single or double occupancy
- **Intra-China air fares, including airport fees & taxes:** \$250-\$400 per person

- **China guides:** included in the adult standard fees price \$1268 per adult traveling with another adult; and \$1695 for a single adult traveling (18-up). Please talk to your Travel Advisor for more information. For any days over 13 days, the fee is \$189 per day
- **Young Adult Fee:** \$1010 (12-17 years of age)
- **Child and Adopted child fees for travel:** \$156 (under 2 years)-\$285 (2-11 years)
- **Travel Coordination fee:** included in the standard fees price. Please talk to your Travel Advisor for more information.

Begin collecting \$100 bills now. Contact your bank to request the total of your legal fees (get from travel advisor, as all provinces vary) and the \$5,500 donation to include bills that are as clean, crisp, un-torn, and as possible with no rips, creases, tears or bends. These do not have to be brand new bills, but they should be in excellent condition. Many U.S. banks won't order brand new bills to avoid counterfeit money. Also collect \$200-\$300 in \$20s, \$10s, and \$5s. Most families bring \$8,500-\$9,500 in cash if 2 adults and 1 adopted child is being brought home.

13.1 Adoption Fees

Orphanage Donation: \$5,700 USD – please note the orphanages will let your guide know if they prefer U.S. dollars or RMB. Your guide will take your family to your hotel either in Beijing, or your province, or both to exchange USD to RMB. Guides may also take you to exchange your US dollars through a friend. This is very common in China, and usually the exchange rates are better. Guides avoid the banks as sometimes the lines are very long, and the staff aren't always friendly.

The orphanage donation should be brought in crisp, like-new bills in denominations of \$100.

Adoption legal fees: Anywhere from \$900 - \$2000. Please contact the Travel Advisor for this information or it will be provided to you when you're in the Travel Phase.

****Child's Visa:** \$230 (includes the \$45 security enhancement charge) for Non-Hague only. Hague families pay this through Great Wall prior to your LSC package being sent back to China.

****Doctor exam:** \$95.00 Hague and Non-Hague

****Children 10 and older** are required to have shots at the medical exam in China. Please bring an extra few hundred US dollars to cover the fee for these shots.

The provincial/legal fees should be brought in crisp, like-new bills. Half of this amount should be provided in denominations of \$100, and the rest in a mix of \$50 and \$20 bills.

***Disclaimer:** The above listed travel and adoption fees can vary and are subject to change without prior notice at any time due to changes in fees by China and our vendors. Contact your Travel Advisor for the most updated costs.

14 Hotels

All Great Wall families stay at four and five star hotels while in China. Please note that our version of 4 or 5 star hotels may differ from China. All of your hotels will offer a complimentary Continental Breakfast. However, you are responsible for your other meals. All the standard fees include free breakfast for all

Deleted: For example, The Marriott Hotel in Guangzhou is one of nicer hotels in Guangzhou.¶

travelers. If you have allergies to specific foods, your hotel will supply a card explaining your allergy in Chinese. Please also advise your Great Wall Travel Advisor prior to travel. We will notify our China staff, but also suggest you inform your Guide as soon as possible after arriving at your hotel.

15 Communications in China

Email

Most hotels offer Internet services, however not all have WiFi. Please be prepared to pay a small fee for internet services in some of the hotels. Also keep in mind that some hotels have hard wire (Ethernet cord required), and some have Wi-Fi. Most major cities have Internet Cafés that allow you to purchase a specific amount of Internet time. These shops will also assist you in sending digital photos, or scanning actual paper photos to attach to your emails.

****Many families enjoy using Skype to stay connected with family at home. This is a very cheap and resourceful way to keep in contact with family and friends in the US while you're in China. If you have web cam, Skype is free of charge. Contact Skype.com for more information****

Great Wall Cell Phone Service

Great Wall China Adoption is happy to offer Great Wall Cell Phone service to our families traveling to China.

- A cell phone number provided to you prior to traveling to China
- 60 (\$98) or 120 (\$130) initial minutes calling to U.S from China (you can purchase additional minutes while in China and your Great Wall guide will help you)
- The cell phone will be given to you upon arriving in China and you will receive your number and instructions prior to your departure to China.
- Return the cell phone to your Great Wall guide before leaving China so there is no hassle of shipping

Mobile Phones in China

These are cell phones that you can rent while in China. Talk to your Travel Advisor about more information regarding services not offered by Great Wall. We highly recommend ALL families bring a phone with them while traveling internationally. This allows you to let your Travel Advisor know if you have flight delays, or talk with your family along your journey to China, and sometimes call your guide upon late arrival.

Prepaid Calling Cards

These are calling cards similar to those available for domestic use. Each card offers a finite number of minutes for a flat fee. These are a good, reliable alternative to email and Panda Phones. These calling cards are available in your hotel lobby and most Friendship Stores, but you should be sure to ask your China Guide to help you purchase them. The cards you buy in Guangzhou are only good in Guangzhou. The cards you buy in your Province are only good in your Province, and so on. Your China Guides will advise you regarding which cards to buy.

16 Additional Great Wall Amenities

Chinese Family Ink Chop (see pictures below)

Great Wall is proud to offer a Family Chop. This is an ink stamp that is made of Jade or Stone in one of the twelve animals of the Chinese Lunar Calendar, and is housed in a beautifully decorated Chinese silk

box. Your choices of animals include the rat, ox, horse, sheep, tiger, monkey, dragon, dog, rooster, snake, pig, and rabbit. This is a unique way to commemorate your child's birth year or the year your child is united with your family. The stamp includes one name translated into Chinese characters (can be your last name or child's first name).

You will receive this Family Chop during your trip in China, unless requested to be shipped to your home prior to travel (additional cost). Talk to your Travel Advisor for cost and more information.



Orphanage Photo Albums

Great Wall is able to obtain photo albums from the orphanage your child resided in before coming home. This album will be given to you in your province by your guide. Check with your Travel Advisor to see if your child's orphanage offers a photo album.

Orphan Announcement – Finding Ad

Great Wall has received many requests from our families asking us to help obtain their child's Chinese Orphan Announcement. Based on families' request, Great Wall is happy to offer services to locate the orphan announcement to families for a nominal fee.

As all adoptive families know, the day will come when your child wants to learn about their history, and how they became a part of your family. It can be hard to face this subject, especially when there is little known about your child before the adoption. Great Wall understands your desire to obtain whatever information you can about your child's story. That being said, Great Wall is working with orphanages to offer you the Chinese Orphan Announcement, otherwise known as a "finding ad".

In 1999, the Chinese government developed a policy requiring all orphanages to run a provincial newspaper advertisement for children who were found and brought to the orphanage. These "finding ads" contain information about where and when the children were found, which orphanage they were brought to, the age when they were found, and info from when they were found. These ads often include a picture of the child the day they were brought to the orphanage.

Great Wall can obtain your child's Chinese Orphan Announcement for a \$50 fee, which covers the expense of staff time, and long distance phone calls. If purchased, you will receive the announcement when your family travels to China for the adoption.

Please know that Great Wall can only obtain the announcements when it is available or the orphanage is willing to provide. Due to the amount of communication and work involved by our staff with orphanage and with headquarters staff, the \$50 fee is nonrefundable.

Also please note that many times the finding ad is a copy of the actual finding ad that the orphanage provides. This could mean that the actual clipping is unavailable, and all the orphanage has is a copy. Whatever is provided to our office in Beijing is what's provided to us.

Travel Insurance

Great Wall is now offering travel insurance. We feel this is a great opportunity for families to feel safe and secure during their travel to China.

The cost per person up to the age of 80 is \$75 for coverage up to 30 days.

Please let your Travel Advisor know If you have a family member traveling who is over age 80. They are also able to obtain travel insurance, but will have different limits. Also, some Non US Citizens who are traveling for adoption can also receive coverage, but the pricing changes.

For more detailed information on the policy, please contact your Travel Advisor. All pricing is subject to change without notification.

CCCWA Keepsakes Book

China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption (CCCWA formerly CCAA) has created a very unique book specifically for parents who have adopted from China. Beautiful illustrations can be found throughout this treasured book, which contains over 40 stories told in the Chinese tradition. This book is a wonderful way to share China's traditions and history with your entire family and it is sure to become a valued keepsake for generations of adoptive families. This is also a wonderful gift for any occasion! Great Wall is honored to be the ONLY agency entrusted by the CCCWA to distribute this book to U.S. adoptive parents. Your order will be mailed to your home in the continental U.S.

Communication & Cultural Booklet

Great Wall offers a Communication and Cultural Booklet for families to take when you travel. This is a pocket sized Chinese and English word reference including phonetics and characters. Important reference words and adoption phrases are included such as: *mommy, daddy, big brother, I love you, taxi, bathroom*, and many more. This booklet is a quick reference for the language barrier, and has both the Chinese and English version, along with the Chinese characters. Please talk to your Travel Advisor for more information.

Personalized Care Package

Once you've accepted your child referral, you can send care packages to your precious one to let them know you're on your way soon! Sending care packages to China can sometimes be trying. Finding a courier service what will deliver to your child's orphanage can be difficult. Not to mention the cost of shipping the package to China; only to have the package stuck in customs and finally returned to the states. While it is not always this difficult, families often run into snags. To make this easier, Great Wall offers to send the care package for you.

The Personalized Care Package contains:

For children 5 months to 3 years:

- Camera
- Film
- Batteries
- Candies
- Blanket
- Pink or Blue Teddy Bear
- A Translated Note from You

For children 4 years to 7 years:

- Camera
- Candies
- Crayons
- Coloring Book
- Dolly or Toy Car
- A Translated Note from You

For children 8 years to 14 years:

- Camera
- Candies
- Puzzle
- Hair Accessories for Girls
- Toy Ball for Boys
- A Translated Note from You

The package is shipped from our office in Beijing directly to your child's orphanage. The benefits of this service are that we will ask the Director of your child's orphanage to take photos of your child, their friends, their nannies, the orphanage campus, and bring the camera to you when you arrive in China to meet your child! We will also include one family photo as well as one written note no longer than 500 English characters, which can be anything you would like to say to your child or her/his caretaker. We will translate this letter into Chinese and send it along with the Personalized Care Package.

Note: Once the Personalized Care Package is delivered to the orphanage and signed for by a staff member there, we no longer have control over whether or not it gets given to your child. This doesn't happen often, but it does happen, and Great Wall has no control over the staff or their desire to make sure the Personalized Care Package is gifted to your child. Please keep that in

mind. Your Travel Advisor is happy to check on delivery confirmation, but can't guarantee that the orphanage will do the next step.

Connecting Hearts Care Package

Our Connecting Hearts Care Package contains items listed below for different age ranges. If you are interested in sending your child a care package, we will notify our office in Beijing.

The package is shipped from our office in Beijing directly to your child's orphanage.

For children of all Ages:

- One 27 Kodak exp. disposable camera with your child name as Tag!!
- 1 2lb Fresh Cake
- One Mother with Child Panda Family
- One pillow with your Family Picture
- One Translated Letter up to 400 words

We've had several families purchase this, and they received pictures back from the orphanage of their child eating the cake! The orphanage sends those pictures to our office in Beijing, who then sends them to your Travel Advisor. What a precious gift! While we can't guarantee all orphanages will do this, we advocate for each and every family as this opportunity arises. This is very exciting, and it gives the possible chance of seeing pictures of your child outside the request for an update!

Please note that we highly recommend one (or multiple) packages particularly for older children, as this can be a great way to introduce your family ahead of your travel to China. A personalized or connecting hearts care package can go a long way in beginning the transition period with your letter, photo(s), and these gifts, which can act as a strong connection as you both wait to unite as a forever family.

17 Projected Daily Activities in China

Please use this plan as a reference as your actual schedule may vary. This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change. Contact your Travel Advisor for more information. Note this is for families traveling for 13-15 days. Families adopting 2 children from two different provinces will be in China for 19-21 days. Note that the first week for the province will be the same even if you're adopting from 2 different provinces.

Day 1: Leave your home city and fly to Beijing or directly to your child's province.

Day 2: Arrive in Beijing. Great Wall China staff will meet you at the Beijing airport. (if you're participating in the Beijing tours)

Day 3: Tour Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square, and Forbidden City. Arrive in your province, if you are not participating in the BJ tours.

Day 3 or 4: Leave Beijing for your child's Province. Departure depends on when Gotcha Day is – Sunday or Monday. Arrive in China if you are skipping the Beijing portion of the trip the day prior to Gotcha Day.

Day 5: Adoption registration

Day 6: Adoption notarization and an interview by the Civil Affairs officials with simple questions about things like your occupation, income, and your plans for the child.

Day 7: Apply for child's passport

- This is usually ready on Friday. However, it may be available on Monday due to an increased workload for the provincial Civil Affairs. If this is the case, it must be express shipped to Guangzhou. This will be an additional cost of \$165, and is not covered by your standard fees.

Day 8: Shopping/Tour. These vary by province and availability of certain tours.

Day 9: Notarized adoption documents and child's passport delivered to you. Hotel checkout.

Day 10: Leave for Guangzhou.

Day 11: Adopted child's physical exam and photo for the visa in the morning. Shopping and touring in the afternoon.

Day 12: Visit the American Consulate for your child's entry visa interview.

Day 13: Guide to pick up adopted child's visa at the American Consulate while families pack and get ready to departure to their exit city.

Day 14: Leave Guangzhou and fly or take the train to Hong Kong, or leave Guangzhou for Beijing or Shanghai as your exit city, or leave directly out of Guangzhou at 9pm or later if you're leaving out of Guangzhou directly.

Day 15: Depart for U.S. from Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou.

- Many families request to visit their child's orphanage. Visiting the orphanage is a standing request for all families; however, it is not always possible to accommodate. Also, due to the distance of some orphanages, there may be additional fees involved for transportation and guides. If you are interested in visiting your child's orphanage, please contact your Travel Advisor and the request will be made. Remember not all orphanages allow visits. This request needs to be made at the time you enter the travel phase.
- Note that visiting your child's foster family isn't allowed by the CCCWA.
- Once you have traveled to your child's province, you will have the opportunity to see the local sights. Please remember that these tours are voluntary. You may choose instead to stay in your hotel room and bond with your child. The choice is yours.
- You will meet your child usually the next day after arriving in your Province, if you're skipping Beijing, 1-2 days if you participated in the Beijing tours. The rest of the day is spent speaking with your child's nannies and bonding with your child. Your guide will act as an interpreter, translating your conversation and explaining your child's personal information and schedule.
- If you have specific questions for your child's nannies, please write them down ahead of time and ask your guide to translate your questions for the nannies. Please limit the number of questions and have them easily available. Be sure to have pen and paper to write down the nannies' answers.
- One of the most important things to find out is your child's eating and sleeping schedule, because you should try to adhere as closely as possible to the same schedule, at least while you are in China. Doing so will promote bonding, and it will help to promote a healthy digestive tract for the remainder of the trip.

Please Note that Chinese and American holidays affect Travel Departure dates. Please also note that if travel is possible during these dates, the cost of the rooms will be higher in some areas of China.

- Guangzhou trade fair: exact dates differ each year, but occurs in April and October. If you think you may be traveling at this time, contact your Travel Advisor. Otherwise, you will get an update when you are transferred to the Travel Phase of your journey.
- Chinese National Holiday: October 1, they are typically closed the first week of October (typically 10 days)
- Chinese New Year: Varies sometime in January or February and offices are usually closed for at least a week (7-10 days)
- International Labor Day: May 1–7

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18 Beijing

For most families, Beijing is the first stop on their journey to China! The flight to Beijing lasts fourteen hours from the U.S., not including your flights to the port city to go to Beijing, and you will arrive in Beijing the next calendar day.

- The four seasons in Beijing are very distinct; therefore, it is very important that packing is planned in advance! Spring is very dry and windy, while summer is hot and rainy. It is recommended that you bring an umbrella with you from July- August, as downpours unexpectedly occur! Winter in Beijing is cold, dry, and snowy. Autumn is the favorite season and the sky is blue and the air is crisp, mild, and humid.

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A Great Wall guide will meet you at the airport as you exit customs. The guide will hold a green flag or a sign with your name on it, so that families can identify him/her. Your guide will use a flag throughout your trip. The Great Wall guide will escort families to the group hotel.

There are no activities planned for families on the day of their arrival into Beijing. China is 13-14 hours ahead of the United States, depending on time change, so families can use this downtime for rest. We ask that families arrive no later than 8pm, and if you want to arrive later than that, you will need to schedule yourselves to come in one day earlier.

The second day in Beijing is reserved for the exciting Great Wall Cultural Tour! Families will experience the extraordinary Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, and the famous Tiananmen Square. During

this adventure families will be escorted by a Great Wall guide, and lunch will be provided during the tour. These guided tours are designed to give you a better sense of your child's cultural heritage. Families will return to the hotel around 5-6 pm following the tour. Now, it's time to get some rest, and prepare to pick up your child on Sunday or Monday.

- Plan to take as many photos as possible to show your child later. Remember that as your child grows, he or she will be curious about your experiences in China. The more documentation that you can gather for your child now, the more satisfying your information will be later.
- Beijing is an optional part of the Great Wall experience. Families who choose to fly directly into their child's province will not be charged the fee for the Great Wall Cultural Tour. There is a \$26 deduction off the standard adult fee if you skip Beijing.

19 Guangzhou

The climate in Guangzhou is normally hot and humid, with a short winter ending in March.

- The first day in Guangzhou, the children will receive a brief, general medical exam as required by the American Consulate. At this appointment, the medical information given to the family will be reviewed. No blood will be taken. For children 2 years and older, a TB test will be administered. This is a requirement of the US Consulate.
- Families will have a previously scheduled appointment with the American Consulate upon arrival in Guangzhou. At this appointment, families apply for their child's American visa. The day after the appointment, families will attend an oath taking ceremony, and the following day, families will pick up their child's passport.

- Families can depart Guangzhou the day after receiving the child's visa.

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20 Grievance, Disruption, and Dissolution Policies

20.1 Grievance Policy and Procedure

Complaints by any Birth Parent, any Prospective Adoptive Parent(s), adoptive parent(s) or adoptee about any services or activities of the agency or person, including supervised providers, that he or she believes raises an issue of compliance with the Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) or the regulations implementing the IAA are initially discussed and mediated between the assigned Great Wall China Adoption DBA Children of All Nations case manager and aggrieved party. The following level of staff will address the complaint before a written complaint is filed: Assigned Case Manager, Case Manager Supervisor, and Supervisor/Client Service & Relations Director.

If the complaint is not resolved amicably or to the satisfaction of the aggrieved party, the complaint, signed and dated, may be filed by any prospective adoptive parent(s), adoptive parent(s) or adoptee directly with GWCA/CAN about any services or activities of the agency or person, including supervised providers, that he or she believes raises an issue of compliance with the Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) or the regulations implementing the IAA. GWCA/CAN provides a Complaint/Grievance Form on the Family Only section of our website. This form is also sent to families upon request. Complaints may be submitted online or registered in writing by mail to: Children of All Nations, Attn: Supervisor/Client Service & Relations Director, 248 Addie Roy Rd, A104, Austin, Texas 78746. Unresolved complaints may also be filed by any Prospective Adoptive Parent(s), adoptive parent(s) or

Deleted: Families will stay at the China Hotel Marriott in Guangzhou. It's not located on the island, as the American Consulate in Guangzhou was moved from the island to the mainland.¶

adoptee directly with the U.S. State Department via the Hague Complaint Registry (<http://adoptionusca.state.gov/HCRWeb/WelcomeForm.aspx>), about any services or activities of the agency or person, including supervised providers, that he or she believes raises an issue of compliance with the Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act (IAA) or the regulations implementing the IAA.

All formal complaints received by Great Wall China Adoption DBA Children of All Nations will be reviewed by the Grievance committee and responded to in writing within 30 days. Grievances alleging fraud or deemed time sensitive by the committee will be expedited.

In addition, GWCA/CAN will maintain a written record of complaints received, and follow the steps outlined in the above section to investigate the complaint, and provide response per time frame specified in this policy and procedure. All complaints will be made available to Council on Accreditation or the Secretary upon request. GWCA/CAN will not take any action to discourage a client or prospective client from, or retaliate against a client or prospective client for: making a complaint; expressing a grievance; providing information in writing or interviews to an accrediting entity on our agency's performance; or questioning the conduct of or expressing an opinion about the performance of our agency.

GWCA/CAN will provide to Council on Accreditation and the Secretary, on a semi-annual basis, a summary of all complaints received during the preceding six months with information on number of complaints received and how each complaint was resolved and an assessment of any discernible patterns in complaints received against our agency, along with information about what systemic changes, if any, were made or are planned by our agency in response to such patterns. Upon request by Council on Accreditation or the Secretary, GWCA/CAN will provide any information about complaints received.

GWCA/CAN has a quality improvement program to systematically improve our services by providing client satisfaction surveys to the client(s), conducting regular staff meetings to review practices and improve procedures, reviewing complaint data and evaluating employees performance.

20.2 Disruption Policy

A disruption is defined as the decision by the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) to interrupt the placement of a child for adoption during the post-placement period, once they have taken custody of the child and accepted the referral in writing but before the adoption of the referred child has been finalized.

Client(s) understands and agrees that it is the right of all children in a disruption or dissolution to receive full protection and services and the child is deemed the primary client by GWCA/CAN and Client(s).

GWCA/CAN ensures that all appropriate measures for the transfer of a child take place with qualified escorts and in the company of the Client(s). This is ensured through the regulations and procedures outlined by the child's country of origin. GWCA/CAN also ensures this by assigning a bi-lingual guide that travels with the adoptive families throughout the adoption finalization trip. Client(s) understands and agrees that, if they are considering disruption of the child prior to the adoption finalization, Client(s) must inform their GWCA/CAN Guide or In-Country Representative and/or GWCA/CAN Staff. CAN Staff are available to client(s) 24 hours per day while client(s) are in-country. GWCA/CAN staff may provide resources and information for pediatric experts, social workers, and child development specialists as needed to discuss professional opinions of client concerns. GWCA/CAN staff cannot provide advice on proceeding with the adoption of the child. Steps to assess the child will be taken within the scope of available resources, such as assessing the child for physical or mental concerns.

Please note that should a disruption occur while in-country, the future placement of the adoptive child involved in the disruption and the decision to issue a second referral is completely and ultimately made by the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations has no control over this decision making process. If the decision for disruption remains, the

GWCA/CAN Guide or In-Country Representative and/or GWCA/CAN staff will provide assistance to coordinate with client(s), the Central Authority of the child's country of origin and the orphanage or local government, the safe return of the child.

During the post placement period, the foreign government adoption authority will remain the legal guardian of the child. Client(s) understands that if there is any disruption, as that term is defined herein, any costs for care, including medical treatment, are the responsibility of the Prospective Adoptive Parent until the time the custody of the child is remanded to the orphanage.

Client(s) understands and agrees that in the event of an emergency or in the case of a disruption while in-country, at no time ever, will a GWCA/CAN Guide or In-Country Representative assume custody of the adoptive child. Client(s) understands and agrees that the child will remain in the custody of the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) until the child can be returned to the custody of the orphanage. In the event of an emergency and the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) cannot adequately care for the child, local or government officials and the adoptive child's orphanage may be contacted by GWCA/CAN to attempt to arrange for an official or a staff member of the orphanage to come to the care of the adoptive child, in local government or official's sole discretion. GWCA/CAN shall not ever assume responsibility for the child during the in-country post placement phase.

Client(s) understands and agrees that Client(s) will not execute any documents, in-country or otherwise, without fully understanding the meaning and consequences of such execution. It is Client(s)' sole responsibility to understand or have all such documents explained.

Client(s) understands and agrees that the adoption documents signed in-country are legal documents granting legal rights to Client(s) as the adoptive child's parent(s). Completion and signing of the adoption documents assigns and formalizes Client(s) as the child's legal guardian(s). **CLIENT(S) UNDERSTANDS AND AGREES THESE DOCUMENTS HAVE PERMANENT AND LASTING CONSEQUENCES.**

Client(s) understands that once the adoption is finalized in-country and in accordance with local/government law, the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) become the legal parent/guardian of the child and the child acquires all the rights, privileges and immunities of a child born to the client(s). The Client(s) understand and agree they will then have all responsibilities, legal obligations and duties to the child as though the child was born to the Client(s). GWCA/CAN cannot reverse this legal and binding relationship. Any child that has been placed for adoption in the United States, cannot return to their country of origin as an orphan without the consent of the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. Client(s) understands and agrees that GWCA/CAN shall inform the Central Authority of the child's country of origin and the Secretary of any disruption. GWCA/CAN shall comply with the all procedures required by the Secretary and the Central Authority of the child's country of origin to ensure that all actions are taken in the best interest of the child, without regard to Client(s).

If applicable and the adoption is not finalized in-country, should the family return to the U.S. or their country of residence during the post placement phase, GWCA/CAN will continue to monitor and supervise, with the assistance of the home study agency as applicable, the required home visits by the State and the foreign government, and the placement of the child prior to the adoption finalization to insure that the placement remains in the best interests of the child. During the post placement period, the foreign government adoption authority, will remain the legal guardian of the child.

GWCA/CAN and the Client(s) will seek to avoid disruption of prospective adoption during placement period prior to final adoption if that is in the best interests of the child. Client(s) will notify CAN promptly if there are significant problems in the relationship or situation of the Client(s) and the child during such time. To the extent it has knowledge and resources, GWCA/CAN shall support and provide resources and appropriate referrals regarding available external assistance such as counseling that Client may engage in at Client's expense.

In the event that counseling and outside resources are not successful in resolving serious difficulties and there is a mutual agreement that the continued placement of the child is not in the child's best interest, it shall be expressed in writing that continuing the post placement period and subsequent final adoption of the child are not in the child's best interest. GWCA/CAN and the Client(s) will establish an agreed-upon date to effect a change in the custody and physical home of the child. The legal responsibility for transfer of custody in a disruption will remain with the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. GWCA/CAN will cooperatively work with the Secretary of State of the United States and the Central Authority of the child's country of origin who will place the child as they determine is in the child's best interest.

The child's age, wishes, length of time in the United States and the availability of other suitable matching placements are factors that will be taken into account by the Central Authority of the child's country of origin when they determine where to place a child. In considering future placement of the child, GWCA/CAN will consider the child's views when appropriate in light of the child's age and maturity and, when required by State law, obtain the consent of the child prior to change in physical home or custody. The Central Authority of the child's country of origin has sole responsibility to determine what placement is in the child's best interests. The child may not be returned to their country of origin as an orphan without the Secretary of State of the United States and the Central Authority of the child's country of origin giving written permission to do so. Returning a child to their country of origin will only be done when the Central Authority of the child's country of origin determines that it is the best suitable option.

During any disruption or crisis involving placement, the Central Authority of the child's country of origin and The Secretary of State of the United States will be notified in writing using email and by telephone contact followed up in writing. When GWCA/CAN is notified by the Client(s) regarding Client(s) intent to disrupt a child or that there are problems that might lead to a disruption, GWCA/CAN will work with Client(s) to resolve these problems and will notify the Secretary of State of the United States and the Central Authority of the child's country of origin as immediately as possible and within no more than 3 business days of the problems and of any attempts to resolve them.

If a placement is disrupted in an emergency situation (where the child or family's safety appears to be at risk), as assessed by GWCA/CAN and in a state where GWCA/CAN is licensed, GWCA/CAN Staff, will go to the Client(s) home to remove the child. GWCA/CAN Staff will alert the appropriate officials, including, but not limited to, law enforcement, CPS, and emergency medical personnel, if the situation warrants this action. If a placement is disrupted in a state where GWCA/CAN is not licensed but uses a Supervised Provider, the Supervised Provider will provide counseling to the Client(s) and written records and recommendations to the GWCA/CAN Staff, and cooperates in all manners reasonable and necessary to arrange for transfer of the custody of the child to a suitable custodian or foster home.

If it is in the best interest of the child, the Client(s) will maintain custody until such suitable placement is made. Financial and medical care of the child will remain the responsibility of the Client until custody is transferred per the decision of the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. Should this not be in the best interest of the child, GWCA/CAN and/or the Client(s)' home study agency will contact Child Protective Services or other such entity named in the State of Client(s)' residence for emergency placement of the child.

Notwithstanding removal of the child from the Client's home and custody, the Client(s) shall continue to have financial responsibility for all costs required for child's care until such time as CAN is able to effect other placement or return of the child to the foreign country as set forth above, and Client(s) will pay such costs upon billing by GWCA/CAN.

Client(s) must adhere to the post-placement reporting requirements set forth by the Central Authority of the child's country of origin. Client(s) are required to provide all necessary information for the reports and cooperate with social workers to meet all state, convention country post-placement requirements before the adoption is finalized.

GWCA/CAN will supervise the placement until such time GWCA/CAN receives an order declaring the adoption as final. During the post-placement services, GWCA/CAN will send regular reminders to the Client(s) regarding the non-finalized status of their adoption and stress the importance of adoption finalization. Once GWCA/CAN receives the order declaring the adoption as final, GWCA/CAN Hague Coordinator will inform the Secretary in any manner requested by the Secretary within 30 days of receipt of order.

20.3 Dissolution Policy

A dissolution is defined as the decision by the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) to dissolve the adoption of the referred child after the adoption has been finalized. In accordance with the standards of the Hague Convention for International Adoption, please review our Dissolution Policy below:

In the event that dissolution occurs once the adoption is finalized in the United States, the matter becomes a domestic matter that would follow U.S. Federal and State guidelines for domestic adoption. In the event of dissolution, at no time ever will Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations assume custody of the adoptive child.

Once the adoption is finalized in accordance with regulations set forth by the child's country of origin, the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) become the legal parent/guardian of the child and the child acquires all the rights, privileges and immunities of a child born to the client(s). Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations does not and cannot have any influence regarding the steps within this legal matter. The act of leaving your newly-adopted child in-country or attempting to return the child to their country of origin, after you have signed the adoption paperwork, is highly illegal. Failure to comply could result in civil and criminal penalties for such behavior and Great Wall China Adoption dba Children of All Nations cannot be responsible for the actions of the government officials both in the U.S. and the child's country of origin. This act would be considered second abandonment, and action may be taken by government officials both in the U.S. and the child's country of origin for individuals who engage in this activity.

In the event of dissolution, all post adoption reports MUST still be submitted to the Central Authority of the child's country of origin on behalf of the child. We request cooperation in submitting these reports to ensure the well-being of each child.

21 Finalizing the Adoption in China

**The following is an excerpt from “Finalizing the Adoption In China”
Produced by the United States Department of State, 1995 and is subject to change by
the Chinese government without prior notice**

1. Signing the Agreement

Adoptive parents will sign an agreement with the Children's Welfare Institute where the child is living. The agreement usually refers to Party A (the Orphanage) and Party B (adoptive parent(s)). Under this agreement, Party A agrees to place the child with Party B and Party B agrees to adopt him/her voluntarily; Party A agrees to keep it confidential and Party B agrees never to abandon or mistreat him/her, give him/her a good education; Party A requests the right to know about the child's growth and development in the new home, and Party B should be cooperative, etc.

2. Registration

After signing the agreement with the Orphanage, the adoptive parents will register with the local Civil Affairs Bureau. You will be asked to fill out a form regarding your background (birth date, education, occupation), and to write a short paragraph on your reasons for the adoption and your plan for the child. The registrar will then issue an adoption license for you.

3. Notary Procedures

The local notary, in the city where the Children's Welfare Institute is located, will conduct an informal interview in which questions posed include: name, sex, birth date; your reason for adoption, if you will guarantee that you will never abandon or mistreat her/him, and love her/him as your birth child; if both husband and wife agree to adopt, etc. With the completion of the interview, the notaries begin to notarize the following Documents: 1) Birth Certificate; 2) Abandonment Certificate (under what circumstances was the child abandoned); and 3) Adoption Decree. Parents will get three copies of each, which are crucial for your child's visa application and citizenship naturalization.

4. Applying for the Chinese Passport for the Child

Children's Welfare Institute officials usually apply for the child's passport and exit permit in the local security department. An interview similar to the notarization interview will occur. For a set fee, the local Public Security Bureau will normally expedite Chinese passport issuance.

5. Obtaining Translations of Documents

Three Notarial documents, in English and Chinese should be obtained by adoptive parents before they come to the American Consulate General in Guangzhou: (1) birth certificate; (2) statement of abandonment/circumstances under which the child was delivered to the welfare institute; and (3) the adoption decree. As previously stated, these documents should be translated into English for US immigration purposes. The Notarial Office will normally translate documents, but will usually charge an additional fee for the service. To avoid problems, lengthy delays and possible non-approval of the I-600 immigrant visa petition, adopting parents should ensure this certificate and any other required documentation has been issued by the Notarial Office.

6. Proof of Abandonment of Infant Under Six Months Old

It should be noted that internal guidelines of the Civil Affairs Bureau provide if an infant is under age six months and has been abandoned to a Children's Welfare Institute; the Ministry reportedly requires that the child remain in the Institute for two months while a thorough search is carried out for the natural parents. If no one is found within two months, then the child may be released for adoption.

22 Great Wall and Re-Adoption

Please note that Great Wall encourages all our families to readopt, even if both spouses travel to complete the adoption. During the adoption registration at the U.S. Consulate, the adopted child is eligible for two types of visas with the I600; the IR3 visa and the IR4 visa, or for the I800 IH3; IH4. When both parents are present when the adoption registration is finalized in the child's province, the child is given an IR3/IH3 visa. If only one parent traveled to China the child was granted an IR4/IH4 visa.

The type of visa your child enters the U.S. on will affect how you go about obtaining legal documents for your child. Below is a table to help determine which steps will need to be taken.

	Visa Received	Re-adoption Required?	Certificate of Citizenship

Both Spouses Travel	IR- 3 (non-Hague families)/ IH-3 (Hague families) Immediate Relative	Not required, but highly recommended	Mailed directly to family in about 45 days upon return (since Jan 2004)
Only One Spouse Travels	IR-4 (non-Hague families)/ IH-4 (Hague families) Permanent Resident	YES	Have to complete re-adoption, then apply for COC using N-600
Single	IR-3/ IH-3	Not required, but highly recommended	Mailed directly to family in about 45 days upon return (since Jan 2004)
Living Abroad	IR-3/ IH-3 or IR-4/ IH-4 Depends on who traveled to China.	Have to land on U.S soil within 6 months of placement. The child will need to be in the United States temporarily to complete naturalization processing. Re-adoption dependent upon visa	Will file the Form N-600K at any USCIS District Office or Sub Office in the United States. Family will need to travel to the United States to complete this application process.
Military	IR-3/ IH-3 or IR-4/ IH-4 Depends on who traveled to China.	Most bases are able to complete the re-adoption process on base	Special provision, in which the COC is provided (this to be confirmed by particular station/base)

- **For Adoptive Parents whose child entered the U.S on an IR-4/IH4 Visa:** Do we have to Re-adopt? YES! Please be aware that your child must be re-adopted in the U.S. before automatic citizenship can be fully granted and for you to apply for the proof of Citizenship. Since your child was only seen by one parent, she was only classified as a Permanent Resident.
- **For Adoptive Parents whose child entered the U.S on an IR-3/IH3 Visa:** Do we have to Re-adopt? NO. According to INS regulations, if the child was seen by all adoptive parents prior to an overseas adoption and traveled home on an IR-3/IH3 visa, the foreign adoption is considered final and the child was classified as an Immediate Relative. Readoption/ Recognition is not mandatory, and automatic citizenship applies as soon as the child enters the U.S (according to

the Child Citizenship Act of 2000) All IR-3/IH-3 Visa adoptions since January 2004 will receive the Certificate of Citizenship directly in the mail (within 45 days of U.S arrival).

We don't have to, but Should we? Yes! If the child was issued an IR-3/ IH-3 immigrant visa, you are not required **under Federal law** to readopt the child, although your **State adoption law may allow** you to do so. Some States automatically affirm or recognize the adoption from China without a legal court proceeding. It is very expensive, difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain duplicate copies of your child's Chinese documents. Many couples choose to re-adopt in order to leave a legal paper trail in their state and to obtain documents in English that will legally protect their child in the future. The following are reasons why families should re-adopt in the U.S.:

- **Name Change:** Your child's name is not necessarily legally changed when you get to the U.S., depending on if the proper paperwork is filed your child's "American" name will be considered a legal alias. When you do recognition in your state, you will have the opportunity to legally change your child's name. Most adoptive couples choose to change the child's Chinese name either in part or completely. A name change should be completed before new adoption documents are created. This will ensure that the rest of the documents processed have your child's new legal name.
- **Birth Certificates:** A birth certificate in English will also be issued when your adoption is recognized. This may be needed for future documents, such as passports and school registration. Most states will not issue a U.S. birth certificate unless a re-adoption or affirmation is completed. We highly recommend that families obtain a US Birth Certificate for their child as it will show both the child's information (American name, DOB, place of birth) but it will also show that you are your child's legal parents.
- **Assurance of Validity:** When a re-adoption or affirmation is completed, the U.S. state courts issue an adoption decree. This decree provides some additional peace of mind and protection should China or other parties challenge the validity of the adoption of your child or adoptions from China in general. This will assure that your child is yours and has the same rights as a biological child under the law.

How do we Re-Adopt?

Please check with your social worker regarding your State laws on the readoption/ recognition process. To re-adopt your child in the United States, you'll most likely need an attorney. The legal fees charged for a re-adoption are usually quite modest. It's important to look for an adoption attorney who specializes in international re-adoptions. Overall, the re-adoption itself is a festive event. Judges often conduct the re-adoption in their chambers, with the whole family invited to participate and take photos. Re-adoption day is yet another reason to celebrate on your international adoption journey.

23 Great Wall Re-Adoption & Finalization Services

Many families make the journey abroad to be united with their child and finalize the adoption in the child's country of origin. While these are the crucial steps of an adoption, it is also very important for a family to re-adopt their child in the United States.

Who can use this service?



1.888.GW.FAMILY | 512.323.9595
www.gwca.org | info@gwca.org

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GWCA/CAN has partnered with highly reputable adoption attorneys in Texas to offer low cost and hassle-free United States re-adoptions. For a one-time fee of (including court filing and birth certificate fees), our attorneys can assist families living in all 50 states and overseas. In most cases, our attorneys can provide re-adoption services without the family present. The attorney will represent the adoptive parents in a re-adoption, and obtain a certified adoption decree issued by a Texas Court. This decree will establish, in a form that is accepted by any state, that the adoptive parents are the legal parents of the child. The decree will also allow our attorney to obtain birth certificates from the State of Texas for the child, which will be accepted by any state. In most cases, the adoptive parents should not need to come to Texas. This service is also available to families wishing to complete the re-adoption process for two children at one time. It is not required that the children were adopted at the same time or even from the same country. A one-time fee of (including court filing and birth certificate fees) would cover the expenses for both re-adoptions.

Why Re-adopt in the United States?

- **To gain a domestic Adoption Decree and Birth Certificate**, issued in a form that is accepted in all domestic courts and recognized by American institutions. (There have been some cases where U.S. courts have not been able to “recognize” a foreign adoption decree, and/or children have not been able to participate in activities that require a United States Birth Certificate.)
- **Domestic adoption and birth records are available in the United States** (The replacement of foreign birth certificates and adoption records may be impossible to obtain. At a minimum, the replacement process may be very time consuming and expensive.)
- **To change the name of the child:** If there is a change to a child's legal name after their entry into the United States, a family must re-adopt, and then re-apply to USCIS for a new Certificate of Citizenship to establish this revision.
- **To request an amended date of birth:** Sometimes, an adopted child may appear older or younger than the original date of birth. If medical evidence of a different date of birth is obtained, it is possible to request an amended birth date during a readoption, and then re-apply to USCIS for a new Certificate of Citizenship containing the revised date.
- **To guarantee your child's right to inheritance in every state:** Not all states recognize the validity of foreign adoption decrees in all legal cases. If there were ever a question as to whether a child was eligible to receive inheritance or other legal benefit, the re-adoption provides a domestic record of a child's legal status.
- **To obtain school benefits:** From a practical stand-point, many school systems require a domestic final order of adoption or domestic birth certificate in order to qualify for activities, benefits, etc. In some instances, colleges require a domestic final order prior to admittance.

A Breakdown of the services is listed below:

- Preparing Petitioners' Original Petition for Adoption, Affidavit; preparing social study order;
- Filing petition with the Court; submitting social study order to Court for signature; forwarding petition and social study order to social worker;
- Reviewing social study report; preparing Final Adoption Decree; preparing Certificate of Adoption; preparing for hearing;
- Pre-hearing conference with clients and appearing in Court with clients for final hearing on the merits (if attended by clients); filing Social Study report; forwarding Certificate of Adoption to Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, requesting new birth certificates;
- Three Certified Final Adoption Decrees, in a form accepted by all states, that will establish that you are the parents of the Child under U.S. law;

- Two Certified Texas Long Form Birth Certificates, in a form accepted by all states, listing you as the child's parents.

24 Cultural Sensitivity

Soon, you will pack your bags and depart on a loving journey to meet your child. In preparation for your trip to China, we would like to share with you information about differences between Chinese culture and American culture. It's important to have an open mind when visiting any new surroundings. Please take time to learn more about the Chinese culture so that you are prepared for your China journey.

The People's Republic of China is a country that is different from the U.S. in its social system, economic status, and heritage. China is very a developed country, although there are still remote, rural areas. Do not assume business will be taken care of the American way. Try to be patient, understanding, and flexible in your perception of the Chinese people and local customs.

A few things to specifically note as you prepare for the final phase of your adoption journey:

- Hotel rooms are typically smaller than in the United States. As we like to say, "A Marriott in the U.S. is not the same as a Marriott in China." For example, double beds are full-size rather than queen. It is also important to remember that the view from your hotel room will be an urban landscape of a developing country, and as such may not be what you are used to seeing outside of your window.
- There are high amounts of congestion in China, exacerbated by its high population and road conditions. If you are making an additional trip (i.e. orphanage visit, or a required stop at a police station/notary office), your transportation to and from may take longer than anticipated.
- Cigarette smoke will be everywhere, and there may be lingering smoke in your hotel room (even if classified as non-smoking). There are 350 million Chinese smokers, and China produces 42% of the world's cigarettes.
- Please do not consume tap water in China. Please use/drink bottled or boiled water in order to avoid intestinal discomfort. It is also important to note that your hotel will provide you with a limited supply of free bottled water with your room (usually 2), and is very expensive afterwards. Please ask your guide to take you to a grocery or convenience store so you may purchase bottled water for your entire stay.
- Air pollution is very high in some areas of China, particularly Beijing. Beijing is an industrial city that heats with coal, so please be aware of this if you plan to fly into Beijing.
- Though travel can sometimes be chaotic in China, it is important to remember that it is very safe for all types of travelers: female, solo, and families.

If you have any complaints/concerns while you are in China, please address these in a constructive manner with your guide. Please be humble and gracious in all of your dealings in China. If you continue to have concerns, please call our emergency phone number so that our staff can try to resolve any issues for you.

Please also note that you MUST bring gifts or donate through our Gifts of Love program. Arriving without gifts can be met with great offense, and your child's orphanage and the officer conducting your adoption finalization in province can take this as a serious insult. Please make sure to speak with your Travel Advisor for more information about giving gifts, or GWCA's Gifts of Love program.

Differences in Chinese Parenting:

- Young children are often dressed in several layers of clothing. Be prepared for native Chinese people to instruct you to put more layers of clothing on your child. The belief is that more layers of clothing protect children from illness and other environmental toxins. Let the child adjust slowly to less clothing.
- Young children typically wear “split-pants” which eliminates the need for diapers or underpants.
- Due to their several layers of clothing and a lack of individualized attention, children may not have had a chance to master crawling and/or walking.

25 General Information about China

Viewing the world map, you will find that China is a vast country situated at the eastern part of Eurasia and the western coast of the Pacific Ocean. Covering a land area of 3,706,581 square miles (9,600,000 square kilometers), China is the third largest of the world, inferior to Russia and Canada. It is 3,231 miles long from east to west and 3,417.5 miles long from north to south. With the entire territory shaping like a rooster, China's northernmost end reaches Mohe in Heilongjiang Province; the southernmost is at Zengmu Ansha in Nansha Islands, the easternmost at conjunction of Heilongjiang River and the Wusuli River, while the western at the Pamirs.

China is an ancient country with a very rich history. Originated in the eastern area of the Yellow River Region, China's civilization is over 5,000 years old and was considered one of four ancient civilizations of the world, along with the civilizations of the ancient Babylon, the ancient Egypt and the ancient India. The first dynasty of Chinese history started from the Xia Dynasty (2070BC-1600BC) and the last one was the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), while the most glorious period were the Qin (221BC-206BC), Han (206BC-220), Tang (618- 907) and Ming (1368-1644) dynasties. During thousands of years of feudal ruling, Chinese people have created brilliant science and art culture, like the Four Great Inventions, the poetry, paintings and Chinese calligraphy. Also, a great amount of cultural relics such as the Great Wall and the Terra Cotta Warriors left by Chinese ancestors have become the treasures of the nation and the wonders of the world.

Founded in 1949 by the Communist Party of China, the People's Republic of China (PRC) is a unified multi-ethnic country. 56 nationalities are now living in 34 direct administrative regions including 23 provinces, five autonomous regions, four directly-governed city regions—Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing and two special administrative regions (SAR)—Hong Kong and Macau. The 55 ethnic minorities mainly live in Chongqing, Gansu, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Heilongjiang, Hubei, Hunan, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Liaoning, Ningxia, Qinghai, Sichuan, Tibet, Xinjiang and Yunnan. China is also the most populous country in the world. Being over 1.3 billion (in the end of 2007), China's population is about 22 percent of the world population. The most populous part of China is the eastern coastal areas. Almost 94 percent of Chinese people live in the Southeast China which covers 43 percent of China's land area; while the other six percent people live in the northwestern areas which cover 57 percent of China's territory.

Thanks to the Reform and Opening-Up Policy, China has become stronger and stronger in economy, science and technology. Currently, China's economy has been growing rapidly, with the GDP dramatically increasing year by year. The GDP growth rate of the first half year of 2008 has reached 10.3. In 2005 and 2008, China successfully launched the Shenzhou-6 and Shenzhou-7 manned spacecraft and the unmanned spacecraft, Shenzhou-8 will be launched in 2011. In August, 2008, the XXIX Olympiad was successfully held in China's capital Beijing. Most Chinese people are now living a well-to-do life and enjoy their happiness in this stable and harmonious society.

26 Language and Alphabet

There are eight major dialect groups in China: Putonghua (Mandarin or Standard Chinese, which is based on Beijing dialect), Yue (Cantonese), Wu (Shanghainese), Minbei (Fuzhou), Minnan (Taiwanese), Xiang, Gan and Hakka and many sub-dialects. Mandarin is the official national standard spoken language in China.

Pinyin: In 1958, at the Fifth session of the First National People's Congress in China, Pinyin (the name of the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet) was approved to be adopted for spelling Chinese names and places in Roman letters. But the Pinyin system was not popularly used until the late 1970s. Pinyin is now widely seen in China, and it replaces earlier Roman spelling systems.

字母表 - Alphabet

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm
Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

声母表 - Shengmu list

b ㄅ 播	p ㄆ 泼	m ㄇ 摸	f ㄈ 佛	d ㄉ 得
t ㄊ 特	n ㄋ 呢	l ㄌ 勒	g ㄍ 鸽	k ㄎ 蝌
h ㄏ 喝	j ㄐ 鸡	q ㄑ 七	x ㄒ 西	zh ㄓ 蚰
ch ㄔ 吃	sh ㄕ 狮	r ㄖ 日	z ㄗ 字	c ㄘ 刺
s ㄙ 丝	Y	W		

韵母表 - Yunmu list

i 衣	ao 幺 袄	ua ㄨㄚ 蛙	uai ㄨㄞ 歪	ueng ㄨㄥ 翁
u ㄨ 屋	ou ㄡ 藕	ün ㄩㄣ 云	ian ㄣ 烟	eng ㄥ 灯
ü ㄩ 鱼	en ㄣ 摠	üe ㄩㄝ 月	iao ㄣ 腰	uang ㄨㄤ 汪
a ㄚ 啊	an ㄢ 安	uo ㄨㄛ 窝	ing ㄣ 鹰	iou(iu) ㄣ 邮
o ㄛ 喔	ia ㄣ 呀	ang ㄤ 昂	uan ㄨㄢ 弯	uei(ui) ㄨㄝ 围
e ㄝ 鹅	ie ㄣ 叶	ei ㄝ 杯	iang ㄣ 央	uen(un) ㄨㄣ 温
ai ㄞ 挨	in ㄣ 印	üan ㄩㄢ 冤	iong ㄣ 雍	ong ㄨㄥ 龙
ng				

23 Shengmu letters in Pinyin:

Letter	Pronunciation	Letter	Pronunciation	Letter	Pronunciation
B	As in bay	G	As in go	Sh	As in shirt
P	As in pay	K	As in kit	R	As in leisure
M	As in may	H	As in hit	Z	As in reads
F	As in fad	J	As in jeep	C	As in hats
D	As in dad	Q	As in cheer	S	As in say
T	As in time	X	As in she	Y	As in yes
N	As in nay	Zh	As in junk	W	As in way
L	As in lay	Ch	As in church		

26.1 Written Language

China is the only country in the world with literature written in one language for more than 3,000 consecutive years. This continuity results largely from the nature of the written language itself. It is the use of characters which is most important in the Chinese language, not letters as in Western languages. The characters are based on a semantic system rather than a phonetic system. The primary function of the characters is to represent meanings instead of sounds.

The Han people have their own written languages, namely Chinese or Hanzi. It is the most commonly used written language in China. All of China's 55 national minorities have their own language except the Hui, who use Chinese. 21 minorities in China have their own scripts in which 27 languages are written. Schools in predominantly national minority areas use the local language with textbooks in both the local language and in Mandarin.

Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese

There are two standard character sets of the contemporary Chinese written language. One is called Traditional Chinese, and the other is called Simplified Chinese. The Simplified Chinese system was created by the government of China in the 1950s. Simplified Chinese characters are used in mainland

China, while traditional characters are used in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and many offshore Chinese communities.