



Changchun

Living Guide



General Information

(a) HISTORY

China is one of the oldest nations in the world. For most of its time, China has been ruled by a succession of dynasties. The Qin began the construction of the Great Wall, the Sui built the Grand Canal and the Song period is known for its artistic achievements.

The first Europeans to reach China were the Portuguese, who began trading on the island of Macau in the 16th century. The British soon followed, the Opium Wars eventually led to British control of Hong Kong, a place that was not returned to China until 1997. (Macau was reintegrated into China in 1999.)

The last dynasty officially ended in 1911. Chiang Kai-shek held control throughout the 1930s, but after World War II, Mao's guerrilla army began winning the hearts and minds of the Chinese people and the battle against the Nationalists. In 1949, the People's Republic of China was born and Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan.

Led by Mao Zedong, the new government transformed China into a communist nation. Land was redistributed; industries were absorbed by the state. Tibet was brought under Beijing's control in the 1950s. Thousands of writers, artists, teachers and others were imprisoned or killed during the Cultural Revolution of 1966-1970.

China's recent leaders have embraced free trade. The country was admitted to the World Trade Organization in 2001, which means the world's most populous nation is now officially open for global business. The first big venture took place in Beijing in 2008, when the Olympic Games came to China for the first time.

(b) AREA

China is located in central and eastern Asia, bordering the East China Sea, Korea Bay, Yellow Sea, and South China Sea, between North Korea and Vietnam

- **Area total:** 9,596,960 sq km
- **Land:** 9,326,410 sq km
- **Water:** 270,550 sq km
- **Land boundaries:** 22,143.34 km
- **Border countries:** Afghanistan 76 km, Bhutan 470 km, Burma 2,185 km, Hong Kong 30 km,
- India 3,380 km, Kazakhstan 1,533 km, North Korea 1,416 km, Kyrgyzstan 858 km, Laos 423 km, Macau 0.34 km, Mongolia 4,673 km, Nepal 1,236 km, Pakistan 523 km, Russia (northeast) 3,605 km, Russia (northwest) 40 km, Tajikistan 414 km, Vietnam 1,281 km
- **Coastline:** 14,500 km
- **Terrain:** mostly mountains, high plateaus, deserts in west; plains, deltas, and hills in east
- **Natural resources:** coal, iron ore, petroleum, natural gas, mercury, tin, tungsten, antimony, manganese, molybdenum, vanadium, magnetite, aluminum, lead, zinc, uranium, hydropower potential (world's largest)
- **Arable land:** 10%
- **Permanent pastures:** 43%
- **Forests and woodland:** 14%
- **Irrigated land:** 498,720 sq km (1993 est.)

China is the world's third-largest country (after Canada, and US)

(c) CLIMATE

China's climate is one of extremes -- hot summers in most parts of the country, bitter winters in the north and comfortable winters in the south. Spring rains can make southern cities (especially Guilin and Guangzhou) dreadfully humid. Sandstorms can be a problem in the north (including Beijing) in April. Tibet can be bitter cold, even in the autumn and late spring. Changchun is of monsoon climate in the transitional belt from wet area to sub-dry area. The four seasons varies a lot and the climate is rather pleasant, therefore Changchun is honored Spring City of Northland. In winter time, the average temperature is -17.2°C with the lowest temperature of -36.5°C ; **in summer time, the average temperature is 23°C with the highest of 38°C . Annual average sunshine time is 2866 hours and the rainfall is 567.0 mm.**

(d) RELIGION

China is a country with a great diversity of religions. The main religions are Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Taoism, along with Shamanism, Eastern Orthodox Christianity and the Dongba religion. Religious Han Chinese tends to practice Buddhism, Christianity or Taoism. The Hui, Uygur, Tajik, Dongxiang, Salar and Bonan peoples adhere to Islam; the

Tibetan, Mongolian, Lhoba and Yugur, to Tibetan Buddhism (Lamaism), and the Dai, Blang and Deang to Theravada Buddhism. Quite a few Miao, Yao and Yi are Christians.



Islam first reached China in the mid-seventh century. The Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) witnessed the zenith of prosperity of Islam. Now China has more than 30,000 mosques.
 Catholic influence reached China after the seventh century. Protestantism was introduced into China in the early 19th century. Now there are more than 4,600 Catholic churches and over 12,000 Protestant churches, as well as over 25,000 other types of Christian places of worship in China.

Taoism took shape as a religion during the second century, based on the philosophy of Lao Zi and his work – “*道德經 Dàodéjīng*” (translatable as the Book of the Way and its Virtue). China now has more than 1,500 Taoist temples.

Although officially an atheist state, the most important religious beliefs include Confucianism which accounts for 20% of the population while Taoism accounts for 2%, Buddhism for 6% with around 2% of the population Muslim and 1% Christian.

(e) TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS

Most traditional festivals took shape during the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC). In the most prosperous Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE), traditional festivals liberated themselves from primitive sacrifice, taboo and mystery and became more entertaining. From then on, festive occasions turned more exciting as more and more folk customs developed.

- ◆ Spring Festival
- ◆ Lantern Festival
- ◆ Qingming Festival
- ◆ Dragon Boat Festival
- ◆ Double Seventh Festival
- ◆ Mid-Autumn Festival
- ◆ Double Ninth Festival
- ◆ Winter Solstice Festival

(f) NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Chinese Spring Festival follows the lunar calendar, therefore the dates change each year.

- ◆ New Years Day 1st January
- ◆ Chinese New Year Vary every year
- ◆ Qingming Tomb Sweeping 4th April
- ◆ Labor Day 1st - 2nd May
- ◆ National Day 1st - 7th October

(g) POPULATION

Population: 1,321,851,888
 Literacy Rate: 90.6%

(h) ETHNIC GROUP

As a large united multi national state, China is composed of 56 ethnic groups. Among them Han Chinese account for 91.59% of the overall Chinese population and the other 55 make up the remaining 8.41%.
 Remaining 8.41%: Chuang, Hui, Uigur, Yi, Miao, Mangchu, Tibetans, Mongols, Ruyi and Koreans.

(i) GOVERNMENT DETAILS

- People's Republic of China (PRC) or 中华人民共和国
- Communist State.
- Capital: Beijing

Administrative divisions: 23 provinces, 5 autonomous regions, and 4 municipalities.

Note: China considers Taiwan its 23rd province; see separate entries for the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

Natural Hazards:

Sands storm, pollutions and respiratory element.

Legislative branch: National People's Congress or Quanguo Renmin Daibiao Dahui (2,979 seats; members elected by municipal, regional, and provincial people's congresses to serve five-year terms)

Judicial branch: Supreme People's Court, judges appointed by the National People's Congress.



(j) CURRENCY & MEASUREMENTS

The official currency is the Yuan (Y) divided into 10 Jiao and 100 Fen.

(k) WEIGHT & MEASUREMENTS

The metric system is used throughout China. Numerals on vehicle speed, highway markers and speed limits all indicate kilometers: food is purchased in kilograms: petrol, water and milk in litres. However fabric can be bought in meters.

- 1 li = 1/2 kilometer = 0.3107mile
- 1 jin = 1/2 kilogram = 1.1023 pounds
- 1 sq.km. = 4 sq.li = 100 hectares = 0.3861 square
- 1 sq. meter = 9 sq.chi = 10.7636 sq.feet
- 1 kilogram = 2 jin = 2.2046 pounds
- 1 cubic meter = 27 cubic chi = 35.3147 cubic feet

(l) VOLTAGE



(m) EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS:

Public Security	110
Ambulance	120/999
Fire	119

Medical Emergency
International SOS Beijing Alarm Center (24 hours): 010-64629100
Note: Beijing Alarm Center coordinates for emergencies in Changchun

Other Useful Numbers	
Weather	12121
Consumer Complaint Line	12315 Chinese
Directory inquires	114
Traffic accident call	122
Time	12117
Fault report	112
Changchun airport	88797111

Medical Care

(a) GENERAL

Usually each company chooses a medical facility for their employees for medical dental care and emergency evacuation. Most of the expatriate facilities that are not run by the Chinese government have doctors, dentists, and nurses who have either trained in a foreign country or are expatriates themselves. We recommend that you bring a copy of your medical records from home, including dental records. It is also advisable to bring a one-year supply of any maintenance prescription drugs.

Service at any of the Chinese hospitals is on a cash only basis whereas the foreign run clinics also take credit cards. Cash is required in advance for more costly procedures. The medical evacuation programs are generally swift and efficient.



(b) IMMUNIZATION TO CONSIDER FOR ADULTS LIVING IN CHINA

Hepatitis A-Hepatitis A is a food and water borne illness that can cause reversible inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis A is endemic in China.

Havrix - Hepatitis A vaccine

Schedule:

2 shots 6 - 12 months apart

Hepatitis B-Hepatitis B is a blood borne illness that usually causes and occasionally leads to chronic infection of the liver which can cause liver cancer and cirrhosis. Hepatitis B is endemic in China.

Energix - Hepatitis B vaccine

Schedule: 3 shots - initial, 1 month and 6 months

Twinrix -a combined vaccine for both Hepatitis A and B

Schedule: 3 shots - initial, 1 month and 6 months, Immunity is good for 10 years.

Booster: 10 years after primary series.

Considered safe for pregnant women, children greater than 1 though data are lacking.

Influenza-Influenza is a viral illness which can cause a 1-2 week long febrile illness. The season for influenza is November through February in the Northern Hemisphere; April through September in the Southern Hemisphere. Influenza is especially recommended for those over 65 years of age or those less than 65 with chronic disorders of the lungs and heart such as asthma, emphysema or chronic bronchitis; chronic metabolic disorders such as diabetes; renal or kidney dysfunction; hemoglobinopathies; immuno- suppression caused medications or by HIV; children and teenagers who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy, and for women who will be in their second and third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season.

Influenza vaccine

Schedule: one a year

If a child below 9 years of age is receiving their first influenza vaccine, a booster is recommended 1 month after the initial dose.

Re-immunization recommended every year due to new strains Safe in pregnant women, children and infants > 6 months.

Typhoid- Typhoid is a bacterial illness which can lead to a severe, prolonged febrile illness which can lead to death. Typhoid is transmitted by contaminated food and water and is endemic in China although not frequently seen in Changchun.

Vivotif: Oral typhoid vaccine

Schedule: 1 capsule every other day; capsules to be refrigerated, 3 doses

Typhium Vi: Injectable typhoid vaccine, 1 shot

Immunity is good for 1-3 years. Safe in children and infants. Injection probably safe in pregnancy.

Japanese Encephalitis-Japanese Encephalitis is a mosquito-borne viral illness which, at its worst can cause encephalitis or inflammation of the brain leading to brain dysfunction or death. The peak season in Changchun is from May to September. The season for the rest of China and Southeast Asia varies from place to place. Japanese Encephalitis is endemic in much of China.

Japanese Encephalitis vaccine "Biken"

Schedule: 3 shots, initial, 7 days and 30 days

Booster is recommended at 2-3 years

Safe in pregnant women, children and infants

Rabies- Rabies is a viral illness which is transmitted by the saliva of infected dogs, cats, or bats. It contracted and no previous or immediate vaccination, rabies is fatal. Rabies is endemic in China.

Rabies active vaccine - for prevention of rabies infection before exposure

Schedule: initial, 7 days and 21-28 days

If exposed and no previous vaccine, may need a series of 5 shots in addition to a passive immunization initially.

Booster at 1-3 years is recommended

Safe in pregnant women and children

Diphtheria-Tetanus(Pertussis) Diphtheria is a bacterial illness. The diphtheria bacteria produce a toxin which can damage the heart. It is transmitted by person- to- person contact. It can cause death and outbreaks have occurred in China.

Tetanus is a bacterium that produces a toxin which can lead to respiratory failure and death. Most countries recommend this vaccine to everyone and most vaccinate all children. Even small wounds are susceptible to tetanus spores.

Td: For children over 7 years and adults

Schedule: 1 shot every 10 years

Childhood immunization:

DtaP or DTP: Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis

also come with HiB and IPV in some vaccines

Part of routine immunizations given to infants and children. Booster every 10 years.

Safe for pregnant women, children and infants



Polio-Polio is a viral illness which can lead to paralysis of limbs. China is now polio-free. However, parts of the world still have polio and because of travel, immunization is still recommended in children and adults.

Oral Polio Vaccine

Schedule: 3 doses in infants with booster at 4-5 years

Adults: If received a childhood primary series, one booster in adulthood.

Injectable Polio Vaccine

Schedule: same as oral

the following vaccines are recommended for women of childbearing age in any location.

-Measles

-Mumps

-Rubella

Rubella is a virus which can cause congenital problems in babies born to women who are not immune

MMR vaccine

Schedule: In childhood at 18 months and 4-6 years old

Recommended to check women of childbearing age for immunity and if not immune, give one shot

Varicella- Varicella is a viral illness that is otherwise known as chicken pox. It is important to have immunity to it (especially in pregnancy) if you have never had it as a child

Varilrix

Schedule:

In childhood at 12-15 months and booster at 11-12 years

Above 13 years of age, 2 shots with an interval of 6-10 weeks

Booster: unknown at this time

Contraindicated in pregnancy

Those are recommendations made by doctors using the guidelines and recommendations issued by the World Health Organization, British National Formulary, and the Centers for Disease Control in Washington D. C. as well as the package inserts for the individual vaccines.

(c) HOSPITALS & CLINICS

Jilin People Hospital (吉林人民医院)

Address: No. 6 Hongqi Street (红旗街 6 号)

Tel: 0431-85956 901-426/85956 901-120

Jilin Chinese Medical Hospital (吉林省中医院)

Address: No. 1478 Gongnong Road (工农路 1478 号)

Tel: 0431- 85656 164

The First Hospital of Jilin University (吉大一院)

Address: No. 71 Xinmin Street (新民街 71 号)

Tel: 0431- 85612 222

Mail: Lunzhijun@126.com

The Second Hospital of Jilin (吉大二院)

Address: No. 218 Ziqiang Street (自强街 218 号)

Tel: 0431-88975 634

Changchun Chinese Medical Hospital (长春市中医院)

Address: No. 463 Shuguang Road (曙光路 463 号)

Tel; 0431-88495 114

Chuangchun Municipal Central Hospital (长春市中心医院)

Address: No. 66 Sidalin Road (斯大林路 66 号)

Tel: 0431-88916 232

Fax: 0431-88939 468

Changchun Children Hospital (长春儿童医院)

Address: No. 1175 BeiAn Road (北安路 1175 号)

Tel: 0431-82728 015



Changchun Zhong-Ri Lianyi Hospital (吉林大学中日联谊医院)

Address: No. 126 Xiantai Road

Tel: 0431-84645 407

Department II

Address: No. 148 Ziyou Road (自由大路 148 号)

Tel: 0431-84646 484/84646 331

Emergency Tel: 0431-84646 024-5039

Education

(a) INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

A variety of preschools are serving the foreign community in Changchun. A parent's first choice will be whether to place their child in a regular Chinese-speaking kindergarten, a private English-speaking preschool or a playgroup.

Since there are not many expatriates in Changchun and most of them are German, so there is one International German School.

Deutsche Internationale Schule Changchun

Address: South Lake Hotel 3798 Nanhu Road Changchun P.R. of China 130022

Tel: 0431-8569 1673

Mobile: 135 7877 6894

Email: info@dis-changchun.com

Web-link: www.dis-changchun.com

Changchun American International School

Add: 2899 Dong Nan Hu Road, Kai fa qu. Changchun China 130033

Tel: 0431 8467 1818

Website: www.cais.org

Changchun Economy Technology development Zone kindergarten

Address: District 4 Changchun Economy Technology Development Zone

Tel: 0431-4645 222

Web-link: <http://www.jkbaby.com>

Mail : yuanzhang@jkbaby.com

Changchun Montessori Kindergarten

Address: Building 17, 18 Venice Garden

Tel: 0431-5318 077, 131 3430 6051

Web-link: www.mtsl.net

Number 1 Foreign Language Middle School of Changchun City

Address: No. 25 Linhe Street Erdao District

Tel: 8494 1622-8008

(b) Chinese Language Learning

The official language of the People's Republic of China is Putonghua (Mandarin). The population of China is so great that Mandarin is spoken by over fourteen per cent of the people in the world. At the moment, the written language is being modified so simplify the characters involved.

Learn to speak Chinese (link to <http://www.chinese-tools.com/learn/chinese>) with this free online audio guide. Another good resource is this:

Chinese and English Dictionary

(link to <http://www.chinese-tools.com/tools/dictionary.html>)



Banking

(a) GENERAL INFORMATION

It is easy and simple to set up a bank account in Changchun. All you need to take is your Passport and a proper Visa in order to enter into China. You can open an account with any bank using RMB or USD. You can also get an ATM when you open the bank account. ATMS are all around town and will allow you to withdraw Yuan from both foreign and local accounts.

Foreigners, overseas Chinese and staff from Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan who work in the foreign investment enterprise may, after paying taxes in accordance with the law, have their RMB salary and other lawful income converted into foreign currency. This should be done at an authorized foreign exchange bank. Relevant evidencing documents need to be produced (Employment Contract, Copy of Working Permit, Individual Income tax receipt).

Banks in China will offer a very different level of service that you may be used to. Actually, the problem is that service is often not part of the experience that is provided but on the flip side banking in China also has some positive points, most notably long opening hours and on weekends.

Please note that Chinese banks are all very regulated still today and that therefore they are in many ways more bureaucracies than commercial enterprises, so be patient.

You will need to present your original passport many times during the course of your banking experience but there is no way around it.

Prior to leaving your home country, please consider opening an online banking facility if you do not have that yet as it will be helpful for you to manage your finances from here and especially to order wire transfers.

(b) CREDIT CARDS

It is always easier to have a 'debit card' or ATM Card when you open a bank account. As for applying for a credit card, Banks are usually very careful and selective. That said, it is much easier for Chinese citizens to attain a credit card than it is for foreigners. The selection process for the receivers of credit cards depends heavily on the bank and of course some luck!

Banking systems are still very different in Changchun/China compared to overseas ones. Having a credit card in hand does not guarantee you can use it overseas smoothly. Therefore, it is highly recommended to approach bigger banks (e.g. Bank of China and Commercial Bank (Zhao Shang Bank) when applying for credit cards.

The following criteria are always required for foreigners when applying for a credit card:

1. A copy of your passport with the pages showing your identity as well as your visa information.
2. An original officially stamped letter from your company (employer, HR or Account Department) with your salary information
Depending on the bank, some will require you to show a copy of the labor agreement to prove that you have a contract with your company.
3. Permanent address in Changchun - present a copy of the property's monthly utility fee of which your name should appear on the receipt.

Other useful supporting documents:

1. A photocopy of property ownership (if you are the owner of the property).
2. A photocopy of the amount deposited in your other bank account(s).
3. Monthly states of your credit card (for the past 3 months).

Once you have collected the above documents, please make sure you bring along the original copies with you to the Bank as the Bank will need to review and approve these documents (both the photocopied and original documents), before submitting them to the 'Credit Card' department for processing.

(Note: After you have submitted the above documents, depending on the bank, the process should take between 3 weeks and a month.)

For foreigners, the Bank of China is the most likely to reject foreign passport holders, unless you have a strong supporting background.

The China merchants Bank (Zhao Shang Bank) is the easiest bank to handle - staff are polite and professional. Card can also be used overseas.



(c) TRANSFERS FROM FOREIGN BANKS TO CHINESE BANKS

According to banking regulations, foreigners are restricted to a maximum transfer limit of USD50,000 per annum into China. Because of this limit, every time you will do a transfer you will be asked to go to your bank in person to register this transfer into the central bank system (you will need to present your original passport which you used when issued the bank account)

Make sure your bank notifies all your exact information (which must match 100% with your passport and your local account name) and destination bank details on wire transfer orders as otherwise your local bank will not credit your account until they get a clarification telex from your bank overseas. So if you have a middle name on your passport make sure that is included as your local account name matches normally your passport name. If your bank does not get a clarification telex within 30 days they will return the money to the bank of origin.

Even though you are sending foreign currencies to your multi currency account, you will not be able to withdraw this sum in cash as foreign currency. It will be held in foreign currency until you ask the bank to convert it (at which point you will be asked again to provide original passport).

If you send a wire transfer of foreign currency and do not convert it then you will be able to send it back overseas. If you deposit cash as foreign currency then you cannot transfer that out as cash to another country. You can still withdraw it back as foreign currency if you do not convert this to RMB.

Transfers are much faster than in the past but still take about a week to 10 days to process from point to point. If you are in a hurry then you can always withdraw from an ATM. The normal ATM daily limit is RMB20,000 a day but some banks and different cities may have a limit of their ATMs.

For more information on transfers for some banks, please see:

ICBC:

<http://www.icbc.com.cn/icbc/personal%20banking/convenient%20banking/overseas%20remittance%20%20inward%20remittance/>

Bank of China: <http://www.boc.cn/en/common/third.jsp?category=1099362314100>

China Merchants Bank: <http://english.cmbchina.com/corporate+business/international/settle/settle1.htm>

(d) WITHDRAWING CASH FROM CHINESE BANKS

Please note that if you would like to withdraw over RMB50,000 at a time then you will have to present your passbook, your passport and also tell your bank several days in advance that you intend to withdraw this sum.

Under RMB50,000 you will need to take your passbook or Debit card only.

Sports Clubs and Activities

(a) GOLF CLUBS

Yafeng Golf Club

Address: No.18 Gate Nanguan District, Changchun, China, CN
Tel: 0431 8583 7116

(b) MOVIES

Movie theaters do not usually show movies in English in Changchun and you will mostly have to rely on television or DVDs for English language audiovisual entertainment.

Wanda International Cinema

Add: Chongqing Road opposite Shangri-la Hotel
Tel: 0431-8898 8922

(c) READING & BOOKSHOPS

In Changchun, there is only one foreign language bookstore in Changchun with a small but fair selection of English language books: a lot of classics, some paperback novels and art books and also a number of children's books including all the Harry Potters. Most five star hotels will sell magazine.

Xinhua Book Store

Add: No. 32 Chongqing Road Chaoyang District
Tel: 0431-8893 9462



Add: No. 525 Hongqi Street Chaoyang District
Tel: 0431-8595 2610

Provincial Foreign Language Bookstore

Add: No 1660 Tongzhi Street Chaoyang District
Tel: 0431-8566 0414

(d) PLACES OF WORSHIP

<p>Catholic Churches</p> <p>Chuncheng Church, Kuancheng Church</p> <p>Buddhist</p> <p>Banruo Temple Baiguo Xinglong Temple</p>	<p>Muslim</p> <p>Qingzhen Temple</p>
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(e) CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EUROPEAN UNION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Shenyang

Room 2-1105, Office Tower 1,
City Plaza, No.206 Nanjing North Street, Heping District,
Shenyang, 110001, P.R. China
Tel: 024 - 2334 2428



(f) EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

<p>Embassy of the Republic of France</p> <p>No.3, Dong San Street, San Li Tun, Beijing Tel: 010-65321331 010-65324841</p> <p>Russian Consulate in Shenyang</p> <p>31, Nan Shisanweilu, Shenyang, 110003, China Tel: 024-23223927</p> <p>Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</p> <p>No. 11, Guang Hua Road, Jianguomenwai, Beijing Tel: 010-5192-4000 Fax: 6532-1937</p> <p>U.S. Consulate General, Shenyang</p> <p>No. 52, 14 Wei Road, Heping District, Shenyang, Liaoning, China 110003 Fax: 0086-24-2322 1733 Email: Harbinuscg@yahoo.com.cn</p> <p>Embassy of Singapore</p> <p>No.1, Xiu Shui Bei Street, Jian Guo Men Wai, Chaoyang District, Beijing Tel: 010-6532-1115 Fax: 6532-9405</p> <p>Consulate of the Republic of Korea –Shenyang</p> <p>F/13-14, Mingzhe Building, Heping District, Shenyang 110003 Tel: 024 2385 7820</p>	<p>Branch Office in Dalian Consulate-General of Japan</p> <p>Sen Mao Building, No.147, Zhongshan Road,. Xigang District, Dalian, Liaoning Tel: (0411)8370-4077 Fax: (0411)8370-4066</p> <p>Embassy of Malaysia</p> <p>No.2 Liangmaqiao Beijie, Tel: 010-6532-2531-33</p> <p>Embassy of Israel</p> <p>No. 17 Tianzelu Chaoyang District, Beijing Tel: 010-8532-0500</p> <p>Embassy of Ireland</p> <p>3 Ritandong Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, 100600, P.R. China Tel: 010-65322691 Fax: 8532-0555</p> <p>French Consulate – Shenyang</p> <p>34, Rue Nan Shi San Wei Lu , Heping Qu, Shenyang 110003 Tel: 024 – 23190000</p>
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Domestic Help

Finding efficient staff can make a considerable difference to overseas families staying in Changchun. Do not rush into this; however, take time to learn what general practices are in Changchun.

All Maids should have a valid I.D card. Drivers should also have ID card as well as a Changchun License.

It is a wise precaution to obtain and keep details of all the staff that you employ. It is advisable to have your staff take a pre-employment health check, especially if you have young children. Salaries are usually reviewed on the anniversary of hiring, and you should be aware that salaries are discussed with others, especially in apartment buildings. A bonus equivalent to one month's salary is paid at or before Chinese New Year.

If you would like a probation period in which you can see if the arrangement is going to work or not, make sure that it is understood.

Kindly note those foreigner helpers are considered by the Public Security Bureau (police) to be illegal workers and you can incur a 50,000 RMB fine for employing one.

The Interview

When interviewing, try to ask only open ended questions, it is much easier to give the correct answer if it is simply yes or no. These types of questions can be more revealing and show how she would perform in specific situations.

During your preliminary interview, you should discuss all your expectations about her duties, etc. Salary should be determined as well as bonus.



SAMPLE INTERVIEW

Name: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____

Nationality: _____

Marital Status: _____

Dependants, family commitments: _____

Friends in Changchun: _____

Religion: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Level of education: _____

Previous experience

How long have you worked as a domestic? _____

What are your previous jobs? _____

How long were you with your last employer? _____

What did you enjoy the most about your last job? _____

What did you least enjoy? _____

Why did you leave? _____

Have you worked with children? _____

Ages: _____

Agencies

The advantage of using an agency to find domestic staff is that they deal with all the formalities. If a particular person is unacceptable, then the employee can contact the agency, which will tactfully organize a replacement. Personal confrontation is avoided and there is no hostility or loss of face on either side.

Reputable agencies

You can contact the management office in your housing compounds for maid service introductions or you can ask the relocations supplier to help search from a list of service companies.

Other service provide such as picture framing, tailoring, beauty parlors and hair dressers, telecommunication, etc. will be provided by your relocation representative upon arrival for house hunting.

Transportation

(a) PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Changchun offers many form of public transport – taxi, bus, light-rail, mini-bus, tram and cars.

(b) TAXI

Taxis are easy to get around in and are readily available. Driver do not have change for RMB 100, so best to keep small bills (RMB 50) or smaller in your wallet or ask if they can give change upon entering a car. It is rare to come across taxi drivers who speak English, so it is a good idea to learn your frequent destinations in Mandarin or have them written in Mandarin to show the driver.



The most common type of Taxi used is air-conditioned, reasonably comfortable and not expensive. Open the door, and state your desired destination before getting in, make sure the driver turns the meter on. Taxi rides start at 8 RMB, and they drive pretty fast so do not be shy to tell a driver to slow down if you feel uncomfortable.

(c) BUS & SUBWAY

Buses can take you everywhere in Changchun. Most buses have routes. You may pay in exact change or small bills. Normally it costs around RMB 1-2/person depending on distance. Destinations are written in Mandarin and bus conductors do not speak English. Bus route maps are available from bookshops. Some of the buses are air conditioned, reasonably comfortable and not expensive.

The subway is currently being built and is slated to open sometime in 2009.

(d) CAR RENTALS

As you can see, public transport in Changchun is quite extensive, inexpensive and convenient; however some still prefer a private car for the freedom it does allow. It is also possible to rent a car.

Please find below the general price for renting a car with driver (AVIS China):

BUICK (GL8-Van) RMB 800 /9 hour

Notes:

1. on occasions we provide special offers and discounts, driver and fuel is non discountable and excluded from special offers
2. Flexible pricing will be applicable from time to time for rentals up to 90 days.

(f) DRIVERS LICENSE CONVERSION

If you have a valid driver's license issued by another country, a valid passport with a valid any type of visa/resident permit, we can assist you to convert it to a Chinese one with the corresponding type of vehicle(s) as listed on your overseas driver's license. According to the current regulation, 'International driver's Permit' can not be converted into a China driver's license.

Testing

After the government accepts the application, the applicant may reserve a time for the theory test. If applying to drive large-size passenger vehicles, tractor, mid-size passenger vehicles, mid or large-size freight vehicles, the applicant also need to book a practical test.

The theory test is computerized and available on every week. Question types are T/F and multiple choices. Currently, Language problem in Changchun is test is only available in Chinese (but you will be able to bring with you a translator). 100 questions are selected from the question pool and a score of 90 is the pass mark for the test.

The tests can be re-sat once. If the candidate fails the test twice, he/she has to re-apply. The practical test must be reserved for 20 days later, within the validity period of 'Driving Test Permit'. Any test that was passed serves as the applicant's current status.

Any candidate who exhibits inappropriate or fraudulent behavior during the exam process will have his /her qualification nullified and all previous results will be invalidated.

Services provided:

- Photo taking
- Overseas driver's license translation
- Document handling
- providing 'theory test reference material' handout
- Medical exam arrangement and on site assistance at the government authority approved medical center/hospital
- theory test booking
- Shuttle service for the theory test
- Driver's license delivery arrangement

Procedures:

- Contact us for an appointment
 - Email or mail us the applicant's identification and overseas driver's license ('International driver's Permit is not recognized) 48 hours prior to the appointment or bring it with you to the appointment
 - Physical examination and test booking (Original identification and overseas driver's license are needed.)
 - Test (Appointment Letter for the test is needed)
 - License insurance
- after the applicant has passed the required exam(s), a license will be issued in five working days.



Note:

For foreigners: Passport with the valid Visa or Residence Permit, Registration Form of Temporary Residence (Applicable for the applicants who do not have a residence permit or the resident permit issued out of Changchun)

For Overseas Chinese residents: Chinese passport and foreign green card

For Hong Kong and Macau residents: Travel pass to the mainland

For Taiwanese residents: Travel pass to the mainland

Shopping

(a) GROCERIES

Starting June 1, 2008, China has introduced a new ban of free plastic bags in supermarkets and markets. Shoppers will now have to pay extra for their bags (price differs according to shop, bag size and city) and are encourage making use of durable eco friendly re-usable bags.

Carrefour

Add: Juncture of Yatai street and Dongwu road

A small selection of imported products

Walmart

Add(1): Juncture of Xi'an Dalu and Chongqing road

Add(2): Changjiang Road opposite the Technical City

Add(3): Qianjin Square Qianjin Road Chaoyang District

(b) SPECIALTY SHOPS

Home Improvement / Electronics & Home Appliances

Zhongdong Big Shopping Center

Add : Juncture of Huichang Jie and Ziyou Dalu

This is one of the largest wholesale markets in Changchun and you can find clothes

Su Ning

Add: Xi'an Dalu

Changchun Computer City

Address: Hongqi Street

Changchun Technical City

Add : Changjiang Road

Changchun Taihe Flower Market

Add : No. 3776 Ziyou Dalu Nangan District

Tel :0431-85204488/0431-8505 4888

Clothes & Shoes

Charter Shopping Center

Being one of the top shopping malls in Changchun, Charter Shopping Center provides you commodities of top-grade international , Asian and Chinese brands.

Add : No. 99 Chongqi Road

Bus route : No. 62 and 362

Changchun International Commercial Center

Designed according to modern business center buildings, it is in front of Changchun Railway Station.

Add : No. 2, Liaoning Road

Youyi Road Branch

Add: conjunction of Ziyou Road and Renmin street

Bus route : No. 61, 62, 25, 224, 361, 6, 256 and 306

Changchun Parkson Shopping Center



It is a Malaysia chain shopping center, located in the downtown area, providing you clothes, cosmetics, jewelries and bags etc.

Add: No. 2 Guangming Road, Chaoyang District

Bus route : No. 62 and 362

Changchun department Store

It is the largest general merchandise center throughout Jilin Province.

Add : No. 77 Renming Street

Bus route : No . 6 , 5 and 62

Changchun International Trade Center

Located in the downtown area, it is one of top-grade shopping centers in Changchun.

Add : No. 79 Renmin Street

Bus route : No. 3, 4, 5 and 6

Business streets

Chongqing Lu Business Street

It is the most famous business street in Changchun. Changchun General Merchandise Center, International Trade Center, Charter Shopping Center, Wangfujing Shopping Mall, Wal-Mart Supermarket can all be found here.

Bus route: No.62 and 362

Guilin Lu Commercial Street

It is a large business area mixed with shopping and entertainment. Hengkelong Supermarket, Guilin Lu Market, Lufthansa Shopping Center and so on can cater for all your shopping desires.

Bus route: No.62, 362, 281, 277 and 25

Hongqi Jie Business Area

Bus route: No.62, 362, 25 and 258

Heishui Lu Business Area

It is a very big comprehensive and influential wholesale market in Changchun, and renowned throughout Jilin Province.

Bus route: No.10, 11 and 231

Changjiang Lu Pedestrian Street

It is located in the south of Changchun Railway Station. Fashionable and elegant shopping environment will definitely make you feel at ease.

Bus route: No.6, 62, 306 and 281

Jinbu Jie

You can find a number of monopoly stores selling religious items.

Address: Jinbu Jie

Specialties of Changchun

Woodcarvings

Changchun woodcarvings are of exquisite shape and design, high quality and rich content.

Ginseng

Ginseng is one of three treasures of Dongbei (northeast part of China). It is honored as No. 1 of herbal plants. Wild ginseng of Changbai Mountain is of top-class.

Deer's Antler

Just like ginseng, deer's antler is also one of the three treasures of Dongbei. It is mainly produced in Changbai Mountain area, coming from newly born deer.

Kitchen Tips

The basic rule in China is not to drink unboiled water and eat anything that hasn't been washed carefully. Obviously, food washed under the tap water must be dried.

- ♦ **Eggs:** Be careful to select ones that have no cracks.



- ♦ **Fruit and Berries:** Chinese peel their fruit before eating them. You can do this too, or you can wash them in soapy water and rinse with clean water. (Remember to take off strawberry stems before washing so that dirt can not be trapped under the stem.)
- ♦ **Meat:** Many westerners are afraid to buy Chinese meat that is sold on the streets. However, since meat will be cooked, it is safe to buy if it looks fresh. Meat will stay fresh in winter, but in warmer months, buying in the early morning is best. Cleaning meat is absolutely necessary. Wash thoroughly under tap water and cut away any parts that seem less than fresh. Meat does not have to be rinsed in boiled water since it will be cooked anyway.
- ♦ **Vegetables:** China produces many vegetables. Be particularly careful of foods grown in the ground (carrots, potatoes & radishes) since China uses fertilizer and pesticides, you should soaked them in water for 20 minutes and then wash them carefully before eating or cooking.
- ♦ **Drinking Water:** It is best to drink bottled water which is bought from supermarket or water from a filtration system. Make sure you know the source that your water is coming from and have you home water filtration system checked periodically.
- ♦ **Note:** Shops generally open around 9:00am and close around 9:00p.m., seven days a week, opening hours during public holiday will be extended.

(c) BARGAINING

Bargaining is generally not possible in department stores, but in smaller shops, particularly where items are not visibly priced. Price can fluctuate widely from big department stores to smaller shops.

Bargaining requires time and patience – most vendors have plenty of both and will appreciate your efforts if you are genuinely interested in buying and can maintain a sense of humor in the process. If you can speak just a few words of Chinese, such as numbers, you will enjoy the experience a lot more and often get a better deal.

In Changchun it is possible, to bargain in open markets and other shopping areas where prices are not already clearly marked. The only important rule is to be polite. It is perfectly fine to ask for a discount, but do it with a smile. While some would see a tough attitude as the key to a cheap price, it usually backfires with the “face” and you end up not getting the best price. Remember that no vendor will sell you a product at a loss!

(d) TIPPING

Most restaurants and pubs include a service charge in the listed price, so tipping is not necessary, but if the service is good, if one wishes can leave a tip. Hotel porters and housekeeping staff should also be remembered with a small tip. To ensure that staffs receive your tip; do not add it to your credit card bill. Do not tip friendly government employees or business people as they may interpret your generosity as a bribe.

(e) MEANS OF PAYMENT

Cash in RMB only. Restaurants, large department stores and hotels accept credit cards.

Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are readily available in Changchun to use Visa, MasterCard, etc.

(f) FASHION SHOPS & MALLS

Zuozhan Shopping Mall

Address: Xi'an Dalu

Changchun Changbai Mansion

Address: Chongqing Street

Guomao Mansion

Address: Juncture of Renmin Road and Chongqing Street, near Shangri-la Hotel

Changchun Asiatic Department Store

Address: Gongnong Street



Telecommunications

There are two mobile phone providers in China which are China Unicom and China Mobile. China Mobile is said to be the best for coverage all over China. They have two types of plan for China Mobile:

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Flat Fee</u>	<u>Call Fee</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Shenzhouxing	Must buy prepaid card	RMB 0.6/min	Pre-paid card in amount of RMB 50/100 are available in pos offices, stores, newsstands and supermarket.
Quanqiutong	RMB 50/month	RMB 0.4/min	Subscription, International Note: the Quanqiutong plan is cheaper for those using over 250 minutes per month.

You can go to China Mobile's store to get a SIM-Card with really good price:

Shenzhouxing: only RMB 20/card

Quanqiutong: only RMB 50/card with pre-paid of RMB 500 to activate the phone (the foreigner need to bring the original Passport)

China Mobiles and the services they provide in different cities may vary a little.

Making overseas phone calls dialing direct will be expensive. You can buy a long distance calling card know as an "**IP Card**". With it you dial a local access number from your phone, enter card number and pin then do the dialing. You can buy it from cell phone stores, newsstands, and China Telecom outlets. Different IP cards have different long-distances rates and call qualities for different countries. Please be advised never pay the face value of an IP card - the going rate for a RMB 100 card is around RMB 35-50 at time of writing. For a card valued at RMB 100 and costing around RMB 35 - 50, normally able to talk quite clearly to the USA for 37 minutes total or you can **dial 12593** before the called numbers of Taiwan, Hong Kong, USA or other countries and enjoy preferential tariff for long distance calls to other countries but you need to activate international long distance service first and the tariff as below:

- ♦ Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao = 0.8 RMB Yuan/min
- ♦ USA, Canada, Japan, South Korea and Singapore = 1.2 RMB Yuan/min
- ♦ 23 countries including Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, UK, France, Germany, Italia, Spain, Ireland, Austria = 2 RMB Yuan/min
- ♦ Other countries and regions = 4.6 RMB Yuan/min

What to Bring to Changchun

Shipping over your favorite paintings, books, rugs, ornaments, etc., will help make you feel at home while you become accustomed to living in Changchun. Listed below is a broad overview of the basic goods that are available:

BOOKS

Consider shipping a good collection of books to Changchun as there are very few choices available locally. There is only one bookstore which stocks English language books and their selection is quite limited. Books on the other hand are readily available in Beijing or Shanghai.

MEDICINES

Western medicines are hard to come by in Changchun so consider bringing as many supplies as possible. Simple medication like aspirin is not always available. You may want to stock up during trips at home or to Beijing or Shanghai.

CHILDREN'S REQUIREMENTS

Most babies' needs are catered for. Sterilized products and a wide range of powdered milk formulas are available, but please note most brands of formula available in Changchun are made in China. Imported baby food is not readily available. Many brands of disposables are available. Children of all ages will settle more quickly and easily if they bring some personal items with them.

Supplies for all children are now easily obtainable. There is a good range of clothing, toys/games, sports shoes, sportswear and equipment.

CLOTHING

You can purchase clothes in department stores, or at street stalls. Your choice may be limited as sizes are designed for the Chinese people. Mail order from your home country may be an option. If so, bring the contact details with you. Clothing made of cotton, cotton mixes, wool, cashmere or linen, is best suited to Changchun's climate.

Larger men should bring a good supply of socks, underwear, shirts, and swimwear, ladies a selection of cotton underwear, and large-sized bras, pantyhose and swimsuits.



COMPUTERS

There are many suppliers offering a full range of computer equipment and software, although you must be careful that some stores sell counterfeit software. English language software availability can also be a problem..

COSMETICS

Imported international brands are readily available in most department stores but prices are pretty steep.

FOOD

Western food is hard to come by in Changchun and is normally restricted just to a handful of restaurants (in hotels) and supermarkets. Local markets and restaurants cater for more local tastes.

HOME WARE/KITCHENWARE

The opening of major supermarkets has led to a supply of most home ware and kitchen requirements.

LINEN

A variety of good quality, locally made bedding and towels is available but imported brands can be expensive. The standard size for single beds: 120x200cm, double beds: 150x200 or 180x200cm. Local quilts are available in cotton and silk. Good table linen is made by Chinese handicraft organizations.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

Photographic equipment is easily obtainable. Most brands of film are available and color print processing is speedy and reasonably priced. There are a lot of professional labs for black and white and color slide development.

SHOES

For men, large size, 44 plus, are now found and for women, large size, 40 -41 are found in some markets and athletic stores.

TOYS

You can purchase a wide range of toys, but overseas safety guidelines are not always met. Educational toys such as Lego, Playschool, etc., are expensive. Playing cards and board games are available in the large department stores.

THE GROUNDWORK

Before you set off on a pre-move visit to survey the new country, you must have the appropriate travel documents. Begin the document process early on (preferably three to four months in advance of your departure date during peak passport times, March to August.) In addition, have a clear understanding of the additional documentation necessary for the country in which you are relocating. Work permits are often required to work in another country. Responsibility should fall on the employer. Working without authorization may lead to eventual deportation. Be sure you check with the appropriate department in your company to assure that proceedings have been implemented to obtain this permit.

WHAT TO MOVE

Moving internationally is a challenge unto itself, adjusting to the culture, climate and people can take a few months. It is always wise to pack a lot of familiar items to create a 'homey' feeling in your new country. Having familiar things around you can mean a lot, especially in the beginning. This includes favorite expendable items that may not be available in Changchun.

Family Concerns

VALUABLE TIPS FOR KIDS TO LEARN IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MOVE

If you have moved before you know that it's always hard to leave your friends, school and favorite activities. You also know that you always find friends and activities in the next community you move to, maybe even ones better than before. Moving to another country is more challenging and you probably have a lot of questions about what you can expect.

♦ **Getting Started**

It is not knowing what to expect in any situation that is often the scariest. So the first thing you need to do is learn as much as possible about the new country before the move. This will help you feel more comfortable and more at home



when you arrive. There are several things you can do to prepare yourself, and one of them is reading books at your own school library or the public library in your area. Of course a bookstore will also have plenty of good travel and reference books. Other sources for information are the internet. www.thatsbj.com, www.chinesecultureclub.org Another good idea is to try and locate your country on a map. To have a better idea about the location, compare the latitude and longitude of the new country to where you live now.

- ◆ **Get Involved in the Move**

This is a good time to clean out toys or other belongings that you no longer use. If you and your family are having a garage sale, you can sell books, toys or sports equipment that you have outgrown. Or, you can donate them to a local charity.

Ask your parents what you can do to help with the move, keeping in mind that moving requires many chores. Perhaps you can take one of your parent's "to do" list and complete the chores outlined on it.

As you make your final arrangements for the move to your new country, be sure to think about the things you will need for the trip itself. This would include any items you want to have during your travels as well as things you'll need as soon as you arrive at your new home.

- ◆ **Stay Connected**

Give your address to relatives and friends and be sure you have their information as well. Communication on the Internet by email is very handy and easy to use.

ARRIVING IN THE NEW COUNTRY

Once you have arrived in the new country, be sure you become aware of all the safety aspects of traveling and living there. Things you will have to think about are public transportation and the safest route from your home to your school.

Then there is the issue of adjusting to a new school in a new country. The schools abroad may feel and look very different from the ones you may have attended. Today, most countries have international schools that cater to students from all over the world, e.g.: American, French or British schools. Give yourself time to adjust and to get used to your new home, town and school. If you feel overwhelmed at the new school, ask your teacher to get started by introducing you to other students and pairing you up with someone on your first day. Making new friends may seem difficult at first, but with time you'll have a group of special friends.

Apart from settling in at school, one thing you can do to feel more at home is to decorate your new room with your favorite things. You can use some of the items in your room back home and add posters or items from your new country.

Be sure to tell your parents about how you feel, especially if you are sad about missing your friends from your hometown. Sad and sometimes even lonely feelings are often part of moving. Remember that happy ones are too. It all takes time, but everyday in a foreign country is a chance to learn something new. Your goal is to make this a happy experience, learn as much as you can about the foreign country and ultimately, create wonderful memories that you will treasure long after you return home.

Pets Moving

You can move your pets accompanied or unaccompanied by you. Your international pets mover will be able to assist and the likelihood of successful clearance of the pet is possible with proper instructions followed below **CAREFULLY**.

- Please do not send the pet to China without prior approval.
- Import of dogs and cats only is allowed.

The following needed information:

- Stamped (chopped) veterinarian's certificate showing the size, age, weight and sex of the animal. Especially, the size of pet is very important to us.
- Stamped (chopped) veterinarian' Health Certificate from the government of origin country as proof of the animal's good health.
- Stamped (chopped) Vaccination Record Book shown the record of the vaccination before.
- Photograph of the animal, preferably with a measuring ruler next to it for size reference.

Restrictions/Other Information:

- Only one pet per adult is permitted with the maximum per family of 2 pets.
- Only 1 pet is allowed for Each Airway Bill
- On Airway Bill, the consignee part only show the name as that shown on the passport
- On Airway Bill, the description of the goods should be " A Cat" or " A Dog"



- Importation of male and female animals together is prohibited.
- Shipper's original passport must be provided at the clearance.
- Please ensure to check with the management at your new home for any compound restrictions since certain districts in Changchun has strict size limitations. Should you require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us for further details.
- Your pet(s) should arrive into the Changchun airport during working hours on weekdays only. Please confirm with us your flight details at least one week in advance.

Preparation, Clearance & Handling Procedure:

1. Your international pet movers will check the necessary documents supplied by the client before the flight booking.
2. Upon arrival to Changchun airport, the animal will be taken to the airport inspection & Quarantine Department.
3. At the Quarantine office an application form will be completed by your pet mover staff on the owner's behalf. In general, the owner does not have to be present during the application.
4. The pet will then have to pass a quarantine inspection with the Inspection & Quarantine Department. Your pet mover can apply for the special release of the animal to be released to the owner's home for up to 30 days quarantine period.

Remarks:

Please bear in mind that all pet importations are dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and that the guidelines shown herein are for reference purposes only. The enforcement of the regulations reflected in this quote is subject to change by customs and health/quarantine officials at any time.

Lastly, depending on your length of stay in China you may need to up date your pet's rabies inoculations. On export, an Export Permit will be issued by the Changchun Health Authorities. They will only approve animals for export if booster shots have been given locally by the following pet hospital. Below is a certified animal vet clinic the PRC recognizes.

Changchun Sanqian Congai Pets Care Center

Add : F2 No. 69 Changjiang Road

Tel: 0431-86112998

(No English speaking service is available)

Notes:

Any pets exported to the EU should have a micro-chip containing the pet's detailed information implanted in the ear as well as titer blood test. Thus please take it into consideration when you re-export your pets out of China. If your pets have already got that chip before entering China, that will be OK!

It is the law in Changchun that all dogs must be registered with local police station. Owners found to have unregistered dogs will receive a citation and a large fine. You could contact your residence management and local police station for further instruction.