

Frequently Asked Questions Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce April 13 – 21, 2011 China Adventure (August 2, 2010 update)

Thank you very much for your interest in the **Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce 2010 China Adventure tour scheduled for April 13 – 21, 2011** and presented by tour operator Citslinc International, Inc.

Following are the answers to some frequently asked questions for those of you considering joining us. Check back frequently to the Chamber website for updated information.

Who/What is Citslinc International, Inc?

Citslinc International, Inc. was established in June, 1995 and operates out of Monterey Park, California. President of the company Mr. Leo Liu has been coordinating tours to China for nearly 20 years and has partnered with Chambers of Commerce since 2001. Last year over 20,000 tourists visited China on Chamber tours such as this one. To learn more about Citslinc visit www.citslinc.com.

Do I need to be a member of the Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce to go?

No, everyone is welcome. However, there is a slight increase in the cost for non-Chamber members.

When do I need to commit?

A non-refundable and non-transferable deposit of \$200 per person is due upon reservation. Last day for this deposit is December 1, 2010 and this is also the last day for final payment. Space is limited to first come, first served. Make checks payable to: Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce. Credit cards are accepted but incur a processing fee. Cancellations made after January 1, 2011 are subject to an additional \$500 penalty per reservation.

Will I be able to use credit cards in China?

Credit cards and traveler's checks are accepted everywhere. There are very few ATM machines. It is recommended that you do not bring an ATM card or checkbook. If you plan on using your credit card in China, notify your credit card company in advance to avoid the impression of "suspicious activity."

What travel documents do I need?

You will need both a passport and a visa. You are responsible for obtaining both and making sure your passport is valid through October, 2011. Your local travel agent can help you acquire both the passport and visa.

Do I need travel insurance?

This is a personal choice, but it is highly recommended. You never know what could prevent you from participating on the trip after you have committed to the trip. Your local travel agent can assist you with travel insurance.

What is China's weather like in April?

It is very much like Carlisle's weather. Be sure to bring a coat or jacket and dress in layers.

Will it be possible to investigate business opportunities while in China?

Yes, one evening there will be an opportunity to meet with Chinese business leaders. Complete the Business Inquiry Form and submit it to the Chamber by December 1 so that Citslinc can arrange to have the appropriate business people available.

How do we travel from sightseeing venue to venue?

Comfortable buses are provided for approximately 25 people per bus. Each bus has its own English speaking guide.

May I take a day and sightsee on my own?

No, you may not leave the tour to travel on your own. There is some free time allotted. Optional tours are available and cost \$25 - \$45 per person.

How much money shall I plan on taking?

That is a personal choice. In general, you should plan on \$300-\$500 for optional tours and shopping. Take lots of ones, fives, tens and twenties as vendors do not always give change.

Do I need vaccines?

There are no vaccination requirements at this time, but travelers should check with their own physicians to learn of any recommended vaccinations or up-dated health related news.

What are the limitations for luggage?

Each traveler may take two check two bags and carry on two bags. The checked bags may not total more than 70 pounds. One carryon bag must fit below your seat and the other in the overhead bin. Travel light and casual!

What about tipping?

Your bus tour guide will collect \$25 per person. This will cover the combined services of the tour guide, the bus driver, and the hotel personnel. Unless you request special services, you should not expect to tip anyone else.

When will I receive final details of the trip?

You will be provided a Departure Manual showing your final itinerary, the names, addresses, phone numbers of the hotels, all flight information, your bus number and color code, name badge, luggage tags, etc. approximately two weeks before we depart.

What are the departure details?

A charter bus will take us from Carlisle to JFK on April 13. (The location and time are not yet determined.) Or, you may drive to JFK at your own cost.

What are the hotels like?

We will be staying in excellent 4 – 5 star hotels that generally compare to a Hilton, Marriott or Sheraton. All have western facilities and include hair dryers and Internet service. Depending on the hotel you may also be provided with combs, razors, slippers, robes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. If you bring electrical devices that need to be charged, you will need an adaptor which should be purchased prior to your departure. Typically, AAA or Radio Shack has adaptors for China. Bed accommodations will be 1 king bed or 2 doubles. Three in a room can be arranged and the third bed will be a cot or rollaway. All hotels have western toilets.

What will the food be like?

Breakfast is always at the hotel and is a good selection of Chinese and American style food. Lunch and dinner are family-style at local Chinese restaurants and the offerings will be the same at both meals. 8 – 10 Chinese entrees – rice, noodles, vegetables, fish, shrimp, chicken, pork, beef, fruit, soda, tea and beer. It is much like Chinese restaurants in the states. The beer is supposedly very good, but not the wine.

What is the daily schedule?

6:00 AM	Wake up
7:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Departure
8:00 PM	Return to the hotel

What clothing or personal items should I bring?

Dress is very informal; jeans are acceptable for all venues. Bring a warm jacket and dress in layers as there is no time to change clothes during the day. This is an *active* trip so wear comfortable shoes.

Remember to bring daily medications and contact lens supplies. The air quality is poor so if you suffer from breathing issues you should bring your medications. It is a good idea to bring hand sanitizers or handi-wipes and toilet paper. Not all public restrooms have toilet paper. Also bring anti-diarrheal, such as Imodium or Pepto-Bismol. It probably doesn't hurt to bring anti-histamines or decongestants.

If you have health issues, talk with your physician prior to departure to make sure you have your necessary medications.

How can this trip be done for this cost?

The main reason is the volume of business. Citilinc International, Inc. took over 20,000 Chamber members and friends last year to China. They are able to achieve discounts for airlines, hotels, vendors, etc due to their large volume of business.