



# Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 20

September, 2009

## Travel Hints

This newsletter is published by the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit, U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai. If there are any particular topics you are interested in, please contact ACS at: [ShanghaiACS@state.gov](mailto:ShanghaiACS@state.gov).

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### Special points of interest:

- \* China - Security Concerns in the City of Urumqi
- \* NEWS: Slower Pace at Airport Security
- \* NEWS: Shanghai Warns Ex-pats Perils of Drunk Driving

As the fall travel season approaches, please check the passports of all your family members to verify that they are all still valid and do not expire any time soon!

- Check your passport's expiration date. Some countries including China, the Philippines, and Indonesia require that a U.S. passport be valid for at least six months for visa issuance or visa-free entry. For information about a specific country's visa and entry requirements, the best source of information would be that **country's Embassy or Consulate**; however, you can also visit the State Department's website at [www.travel.state.gov/travel/travel\\_1744.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html) to see country specific information about your destination.
- Children's Passports. Check the expiration date of your child's passport – remember that passports for children under 16 are only valid for 5 years.

- Make an appointment. All non-emergency consular services require an appointment. You can make an appointment online through our website: [http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/general\\_information\\_acs.html](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/general_information_acs.html). It typically takes 10 working days from the time you apply to receive a full validity passport. There is a high level of demand for appointment slots in the days and weeks before a holiday and during the summer school holiday.
- To avoid a long wait, try not to schedule your appointment for Mondays or the days immediately before or after a holiday when wait times are longest.
- Check the website. You can find the answer to many common questions, as well as useful forms and instructions, on the Consulate website at [http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/general\\_information\\_acs.html](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/general_information_acs.html).

## Upcoming Holidays and Other Closures

Please remember that the days just before and just after a holiday are often extremely busy and you can expect significantly longer wait times. If you visit us outside of these times, you should have a shorter wait.

A full list of all of our holiday closings is available online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/holidays.html>.

The American Citizen Services Unit will be **CLOSED** all day on the following days:

- Oct.1-6 Thur.-Tues.**  
**Chinese National Day & Mid-Autumn Festival**
- Oct.12 Mon.**  
**Columbus Day**

## China - Security Concerns in the City of Urumqi

### September 09, 2009

The State Department alerts U.S. citizens to safety and security concerns in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, particularly in the city of Urumqi. U.S. citizens are advised to carefully consider travel to the Xinjiang Uyghur region at this time. This Travel Alert expires on December 10, 2009.

On September 3, 2009, thousands of Chinese took to the streets of Urumqi to demand in-

creased security after reports of alleged needle stabbings. According to New China News Agency (Xinhua) and other news sources, five people were killed and fourteen were wounded in the protests. Following an early-July outbreak of ethnic violence, tensions have continued and a



heavy security presence is in place in Urumqi, Kashgar, Hotan, and other major cities in the region.

The Embassy is closely monitoring the situation in Xinjiang. U.S. citizens in Xinjiang, and especially in Urumqi and other regional cities, are advised to avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place. Banks, shops and schools in Urumqi may close unexpectedly. Communications and transportation routes have reportedly been restricted; however, the Chinese authorities report the airport, railway, and roads remain open.

## Security Situation - Travel Warnings and Alerts

Security reminder: It is prudent for you and your family to review your personal security profile and to be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Since our previous Newsletter for August 2009, the U.S. Department of State has issued new Travel Warnings for the following countries.

<u>Congo, Democratic Republic of the</u>	09/01/2009
<u>Mali</u>	08/31/2009
<u>Eritrea</u>	08/28/2009
<u>Central African Republic</u>	08/19/2009
<u>Israel, the West Bank and Gaza</u>	08/14/2009

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html).

The U.S. Department of State also has issued new Travel Alerts:

<u>India</u>	09/12/2009
<u>Uganda</u>	09/11/2009
<u>China - Security Concerns in the City of Urumqi</u>	09/09/2009
<u>Mauritania</u>	09/01/2009
<u>Tanzania (including Zanzibar)</u>	08/28/2009
<u>Mexico</u>	08/20/2009

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. This information is available at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_1766.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html).

An earlier Travel Alert for China, and an earlier Travel Warning for certain parts of the Philippines remain in effect.

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and prohibited items on flights can be viewed online at <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>.

For additional information, please visit "Americans Traveling Abroad" on the U.S. Department of State website: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans\\_1252.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html). Students traveling abroad may wish to visit the State Department site designed for them: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>.

To obtain up-to-date information on security conditions, please call 1-888-407-4747 (toll free in the United States), or +1-202-501-4444 if you are outside the United States.

## Travel Alert: China H1N1 Update

July 09, 2009

The Department of State alerts U.S. citizens to the quarantine measures imposed by the Government of China in response to the 2009-H1N1 pandemic that may affect travel to China. This Travel Alert updates the June 19, 2009 Travel Alert in order to address the potential for quarantine of unaccompanied minors. This Travel Alert expires on September 30, 2009.

In May 2009, China implemented a policy that allows it to quarantine arriving passengers who exhibit fever or flu-like symptoms if they are arriving from a country which has cases of 2009-H1N1, including the U.S. Although the overall percentage of Americans being quarantined remains low, the seemingly random nature of the selection process makes it almost impossible to predict when a traveler may be placed into quarantine. Travelers with even a slightly elevated body temperature risk being placed into hospital quarantine, while passengers sitting in close proximity to another traveler with fever or flu-like symptoms may be taken to a specially-designated hotel for a quarantine of approximately seven days, even if they show no symptoms themselves.

The Department of State has received reports of minors traveling without a parent or adult guardian being taken into quarantine upon arrival. Some of the children were under 10 years of age. Parents considering sending their children unaccompanied to China are urged to consider postponing their travel until the quarantine policy ends or until 2009-H1N1 Influenza subsides. In addition, there have been some instances where children have been separated from their parents during quarantine because only the parent or the child tested positive for 2009-H1N1 or exhibited symptoms. Travelers are advised that Chinese health authorities have not issued a country-wide policy on keeping family members together in quarantine, and the practice of keeping young children with their parents or guardians varies by

Quarantine facility. In some hospitals, parents have been denied access to their children who were in isolated quarantine. In these situations, there exists the possibility of Chinese medical personnel administering medications to minors without parental permission.

The Department of State continues to receive reports about poor quarantine conditions, including the unavailability of suitable drinking water and food, unsanitary conditions, the lack of telephone access, the absence of English-speaking staff, and limited availability of English-language interpreters.

Travelers to China are reminded that all foreign travelers, including U.S. citizens, are obliged to follow local procedures regarding quarantines and any other public health-related measures. The U.S. Embassy is unable to influence the duration of stay in quarantine for affected travelers. The Chinese government will not compensate people for lost travel expenses. Travelers to China are urged to consider purchasing travel insurance to protect against losses in the event they are quarantined.

For more information on US Government policy during a pandemic, and for travel safety info, please see the State Department's "Pandemic/Avian Influenza" and "Remain in Country" fact sheets on [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Further information about 2009-H1N1 Influenza can be found at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/), the US Government pandemic influenza website at [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov), and the WHO website at [who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html](http://who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html).

U.S. citizens are strongly encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the Department of State's travel registration website. By registering, American citizens can receive the Embassy's most recent security and safety updates during their trip. Registration also ensures that U.S. citizens can be reached should an emergency arise either abroad or at home. While consular officers will do

their utmost to assist Americans in a crisis, travelers always should be aware that local authorities bear primary responsibility for the welfare of people living or traveling in their jurisdictions.

Beijing: The U.S. Embassy is located at 55 An Jia Lou Road, Chaoyang Dist. American Citizen Services section can be contacted during regular business hours and for after-hours emergencies at (86-10) 8531-4000. The consular district includes the following provinces/regions: Beijing, Tianjin, Shandong, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, and Jiangxi.

Chengdu: 4 Lingshiguan Road, Section 4, Renmin Nanlu; tel. (86-28) 8558-3992, 8555-3119; after-hours emergencies (86-28) 1370 8001 422. This consular district includes the following provinces/regions: Guizhou, Sichuan, Tibet, and Yunnan, as well as the municipality of Chongqing.

Guangzhou: 5th Floor, Tianyu Garden (II phase), 136-146 Lin He Zhong Lu, Tianhe District; tel. (86-20) 8518-7605; after-hours emergencies (86-20) 8121-8000. This consular district includes the following provinces/regions of China: Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, and Fujian.

Shanghai: Westgate Mall, 8th Floor, 1038 Nanjing Xi Lu; tel. (86-21) 3217-4650; after-hours emergencies (86-21) 6433-3936. This consular district includes the following provinces/regions of China: Shanghai, Anhui, Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

Shenyang: No. 52, 14th Wei Road, Heping District; tel. (86-24) 2322-2374; after-hours emergencies (86-24) 137-0988-9307. This consular district includes the following provinces/regions: Liaoning, Heilongjiang, and Jilin.

Travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

## Preparing for H1N1 and the Upcoming Flu Season

With the potential threat of the spread of H1N1 this fall, overseas schools have been encouraged to review their preparedness planning. As the fall flu season approaches, it is critical that everyone reinvigorate their efforts in

order to mitigate the effects of this virus on our communities both at home and abroad.

Taking precautions for this fall's flu season is a responsibility we all share.

Visit Flu.gov to make sure you are ready, learn how you can help promote public awareness, and learn what steps you can take to prepare and do your part to mitigate the effects of H1N1.

## FVAP Newsletter, Helpful Hints for Voters

Topics in the August newsletter include:

- Introducing Bob Carey, who was appointed as the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program

on July 6, 2009

• FVAP Resources list  
The Federal Voting Assistance Program publishes the Voting Information News, which is a roundup of voting

news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). FVAP's August 2009 issue can now be viewed on their website at: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/vin.html>.

## Tips For A Smooth Consular Visit

**Please make sure** you have read our hours of operation and have taken note of Chinese and American holidays before planning your visit.

**For passport applicants:** Complete (but don't sign) passport applications ahead of time – this considerably shortens your visit.

**For passport applicants:** Pay special attention to passport photo-

graphs requirements and make sure you obtain 2" by 2" photos.

**For minor (below age 16) passport applicants:** Parents, please remember to bring your child's original birth certificate when applying for a new or replacement passport.

**For notary clients:** Please ensure you have read your document(s) to be notarized and understand the

contents. **Do not sign your document**, but make sure that all other blanks are filled in before coming to the Consulate.

**Please remember:** The fewer items you bring to the Consulate (i.e. backpacks, laptops, cellphones, etc.), the more quickly the security check will be for everyone.

## Leaving Shanghai Consular District?

If you are departing from Shanghai consular district after a long stay here, and you formally registered your stay with the U.S. consulate, please be sure to "cancel" your registration when you leave.

You can unregister yourself by visiting the [travelregistration.state.gov](http://travelregistration.state.gov) site if you were previously registered through this site.

If you previously submitted a paper registration form to the U.S. consu-

late, you may unregister yourself by sending an email request to:

[ShanghaiACS@state.gov](mailto:ShanghaiACS@state.gov).



## News: Slower Pace at Airport Security

TRAVELERS flying out of Shanghai may want to get to the airport a little earlier, as security is being beefed up against possible terrorist threats during celebrations surrounding the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Security checks have already been enhanced at the city's two airports and will remain in effect at least through the National Day holiday period, which runs from October 1 to 8, according to the Civil Aviation Administration Bureau of East China.

More passengers will be stopped at security checkpoints and asked to open their carry-on luggage, remove shoes, or submit to body searchers if X-ray scans aren't conclusive. Not everyone will have to open their bags,

however, in an effort to prevent major backups during the peak travel period.

"We must strike a balance between the safety and efficiency of the whole operation," said Qin Gang, an official with the regional aviation authority. Airport security staff will also use a special test paper to detect whether passengers are carrying explosives, flammable substances or prohibited chemicals in their bags. Security staff will rub the test papers on travelers or their luggage and be able to tell immediately whether recent contact with prohibited items has occurred.

The same test measures were used while the Beijing Olympic Games were under way last year. But unlike that period, the checks will not be made before passengers enter the

terminal but only at security checkpoints inside. The aviation administration also asked the local airport authority to give checked luggage a more thorough inspection.

Travelers were also reminded that they are allowed only one piece of carry-on luggage.

Aviation authority and airline company officials advised travelers to arrive at the airport earlier than usual because the security checks may take more time, but they did not specify how much leeway to allow. The previous rule of thumb was that passengers for domestic flights should arrive at least an hour early and international travelers should be there two hours early.

(From Shanghai Daily September 4, 2009 Zha Mingjie and Wu Shen)

## News: Shanghai Warns Expats Perils of Drunk Driving

FOREIGNERS living in Shanghai were reminded that their residence permit may be revoked if they are caught driving under the influence of alcohol, the Shanghai Exit-Entry Administration Bureau was quoted by Shanghai Daily as saying.

A man from a Southeast Asian nation who was caught driving after drinking had his residence permit revoked, was ordered to serve 10 days' detention and was fined 500 yuan (73.21 U.S. dollars). He was also asked to leave the country after serving the detention. Police didn't give other details such as the suspect's name and nationality.

The man was stopped by police for a routine alcohol test on Aug. 15 when he was heading home from a party at 3 a.m.. A breathalyzer test indicated that the man was driving under the influence of alcohol. Police also said he was carrying a fake license. The man confessed that he had obtained a driving license in the United States when he studied there, but that he didn't want to go through the hassle of getting a Chinese one after moving to China so he purchased a counterfeit license, according to police.

"Since his behavior has caused danger to public security, the Shanghai Exit-Entry Administration Bureau decided to revoke his residence permit according to the country's immigration law," the bureau said in a written statement to the media Monday. "Any foreigner caught driving drunk will get the same punishment as a local," the statement added.

In a related development, Xinhua reported on Sept. 10 that a German man who caused a serious accident while driving drunk, had been ordered to serve for 15 days detention in Xi'an, the capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

The Ministry of Public Security launched a two-month nationwide campaign against drunk-driving on Aug. 15, in the wake of a series of fatal accidents which have sparked public anger against drunk drivers. Chinese police have caught 25,765 people driving under the influence of alcohol during the campaign. The ministry says drunk drivers will be suspended from driving for three or six months and, in serious cases, detained for 15 days. If a drunk driver is caught twice within a year, his or her license will be revoked for two to five years.

(From People's Daily Online September 15, 2009)

## Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

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Shanghai, China  
1038 West Nanjing  
Road, Westgate Mall, 8th  
Floor

Tel: (86-21) 3217-4650

Fax: (86-21) 6217-2071

After Hours  
Emergencies:

(86-21) 6433-3936

Open 8:00am - 11:30am  
and 1:30pm - 3:30pm  
Monday to Friday.

\*Closed on Tuesday  
afternoons, weekends  
and holidays.

[http://shanghai.usemba  
ssy-china.org.cn/](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/)

### Someone Asked the Consul:

**Do I need to register with the local police every time I come back from trips outside China?**

If you hold a residence permit (Ju Liu Xu Ke),

- 1) you DO NOT need to register every time you reenter China.
- 2) you DO need to register before you renew your residence permit if you have been out of the country since your last residence permit renewal.
- 3) you DO need to register if you have any change of information, e.g. home address, new residence permit.

If you do NOT hold a residence permit,

you DO need to register every time you reenter China. This usually applies to those who hold business or tourist visas. Keep in mind that this regulation applies to short-term visitors staying at your house.

## Electronic Applications Now Required

Starting February 15, the Shanghai American Citizen Services Section will require use of electronic application forms for all passport services, including passport renewals and adding visa pages (Form DS-11, DS-82, DS-5504 or DS-4085). After filling out your application on-line, print application and bring it to your appointment.

You may fill out the required forms at the ACS

website

[http://shanghai.usembassy-  
china.org.cn/passports.html#l  
ast](http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/passports.html#last)

Failure to fill out applications on-line, instead using handwritten applications, will delay the processing of your application.

If your passport is ever lost or stolen, you can print out a Statement Regarding Lost or Stolen Passport (DS-64). And if you are applying for a mi-

nor's passport and both parents cannot sign the application together, you can print out a Statement of Consent (DS-3053). These special forms do not need to be filled out online.

