

Olympic Safety Information

Staying safe during the Games

By *China Brief* with the US Embassy

The 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games and subsequent Paralympics will take place from August 8-24 and September 6-17, 2008, respectively. For people who have never been to China, there will inevitably be some difficulties. However, given the magnitude of the events, even people who have been here for years need to be aware that the Olympics are an entirely unprecedented event and there may be unforeseen challenges. The key is to be prepared to react to any circumstances that may arise.

Many of us will have friends and family visiting from the United States for the first time. Some precautions that may seem obvious to us may be less so to those unfamiliar with China. Along with the useful numbers, transport and passport/visa information listed here are a few precautions and safety tips in order to prepare visitors for a memorable time in China.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Threat Levels: US citizens planning to be in China during the Olympics should regularly check www.travel.state.gov for updated travel warnings, alerts or cautions. All foreigners in China should also make sure to carry passports at all times.

Privacy & Safety: All visitors should be aware that they have no reasonable expectation of privacy in public or private locations, according to the US Embassy website. Furthermore, many hotels and apartment buildings may be of substandard construction, lack emergency exits, fire suppression systems, carbon monoxide monitors and standard security equipment (locks, alarms and personnel). Please remember to review fire evacuation procedures for hotels, apartments or offices.

Registration: The Department of State urges visitors to register with the US Embassy in Beijing via their Internet-based registration system.

Important Note: If you are a dual

American/Chinese citizen and are arrested or detained in China, the choice you made on which passport to use in entering China will be very important. US Embassy and Consulate officials are often denied access to arrested or detained Americans who do not enter China using their US passport.

Additional information about dual nationality can be found on the Embassy website.

- **Customs:** Customs authorities may enforce strict regulations concerning temporary importation or exportation of items such as religious materials (these should be limited to personal use only), antiques, medications, medical equipment, business equipment and other items.

- **Authentic Goods:** In many countries, including China, counterfeit and pirated goods, including medications, are widely available. Transactions involving such products are illegal and bringing them back to the United States may result in forfeitures and/or fines. US Customs and Border Protection may impose corresponding import restrictions in accordance with the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act.

- **Ticket Scams:** Make sure that your tickets to the Olympics Games are ordered from the official Beijing Olympics website or in the United States through CoSport, the designated sales agent.

SPECIAL NOTES

Exiting China: When you depart China to return home, your visa will be checked and a fine may be imposed for overstaying.

Health Information: The Chinese healthcare system and facilities in China differ from those in the US. Brands of medicine taken regularly in the United States may not be available in China, so please check with your physician if you need to take medication. It is important

Useful Numbers

• Emergencies & Ambulance	120
• Fire	119
• Police	110 (Cn) 8401 5300 (En)
• PSB (Foreigners)	6525 2729
• Traffic Accident	122
• Local Telephone Directory	114 (Cn)
	2689 0114 (En)
• Tourist Info	6513 0828
• Immigration Bureau of Beijing	6525 3102
• Postal Service	11185

Travel Info

• Beijing Capital Airport Info Hotline	6512 8931
• Beijing Capital International Airport	6454 1100
- Lost Luggage	6459 9523/4
- Customer Complaint Hotline	6457 1666
• Air China	6468 2001
• Continental Airlines	8527 6686
• Korean Air	400 658 8888, 8453 8137
• Northwest Airlines	400 814 0081
• United Airlines	800 810 8282, 6463 1111

Taxi Info

• Beijing Travel Taxi Company	6515 8604/05
• Beijing Yinjian Taxi Company (biggest taxi co.)	
	96103
• ASM Chauffeur and Tour Services	5166 1575
• Beijing Limo (Airport pick-up, sightseeing)	
	6546 1688, 139 1113 5613

Clinics & Hospitals

• Beijing United Family Hospital
• Mon-Sat 8:30am-5:30pm 24-hour emergency care
• 2 Jiangtai Lu (in Lido area), Chaoyang District
• 6433 3960, ER 6433 2345
• www.unitedfamilyhospitals.com
• International Medical Centre
• Daily 24 hour
• S106, 1/F, Lufthansa Center
50 Liangmahe Lu, Chaoyang District
• 6465 1561/2/3 • www.imcclinics.com

Passports/Visas

• Exit & Entry Administration of the Public Security Bureau
• Mon-Sat 8:30am-4:30pm
• 2 Andingmen Dongdajie (by Xiaojie Qiao), Dongcheng District
• 8402 0101, 8401 5294
• US Embassy
• 3 Xiushui Beijie, Chaoyang District
• 6532 3831

to bring your regular medications in their original containers and a copy of all prescriptions, including the generic names. If you take a controlled substance or an injectable medication, you should also bring a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead stationery. Some medications are not allowed in China, so it is important to check customs information before traveling.

Thanks to the US Embassy for contributing much of this information. For up to date Olympic announcements go to www.beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn or visit the AmCham-China website.