



China

Travel Guide

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ADOPTION – A JOURNEY OF LOVE

Dear Families,

You are about to embark on one of the most meaningful trips of your life! We feel that it is very important that you are fully informed regarding the process you will go through. It can be unsettling to embark on such an adventure without some idea of what is in store. For this reason we have put together this manual to take care of much of the uncertainty so that the experience can be altogether positive.

If you have adopted before, or if this is your first trip, it would be to your advantage to take a look at this guide, to update yourself on what to expect when you travel to adopt your child. This website can also be used periodically as a reference guide and topics can be found easily in the table of contents.

We will attempt to address many issues on this website, most of them related to the adoption process, travel, and also some of the cultural issues. Of course, we will not be able to address every single issue related to travel, so we suggest you do some homework, so that you are truly prepared for the trip. We suggest networking with other families that have recently traveled, because these families can be a wealth of information. Also a yahoo group is available to all CHI families and you may find this helpful. To join, please email Ann Tollefson at met9995@swbell.net and she will send you an invitation.

Information in this guide is subject to change due to occasional changes made by the U.S. Federal and individual State Governments, the China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption (formerly the China Center of Adoption Affairs) and the Provincial Officials. Between receiving your referral and travel, we will send you detailed instructions addressing all current paperwork issues or changes needed to complete your adoption. To keep updated on what is going on in the China program, please read the weekly/bi-weekly updates that are sent to you by email. So please be assured we will take care of you before you leave the U.S.

In China, a CHI coordinator will be assigned to your group and she/he will be able to assist you through the entire adoption process. Please trust and rely on your coordinator. You won't believe this now, but all you will need to do in China is follow your coordinator's lead.

The China Team,

Tina and Karolyn

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After your Completed Dossier is submitted to CHI

- 1) Your completed dossier will be sent to our Beijing Office, it will take approximately 3 to 5 working days to arrive.
- 2) Our Coordinators will quickly translate your dossier (approximately a 2 week process).
- 3) Your dossier will be given to the (CCCWA) China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption Administration Office. The CCAA has up to one month to log in the dossiers.
- 4) Your official wait begins when your dossier is logged in.
- 5) After your dossier is logged in at the CCCWA, you will be advised of your official log in date (LID). The China Team will notify you of the date and will be available to answer all of your questions. Your questions are welcomed, so please feel free to call or email us.
- 6) You will receive a China Program update via email several times a month. It is very important to read these updates in their entirety as they will contain vital information regarding your adoption. Please also keep us informed of significant life events that may occur and any changes in your contact information (including your email address).
- 7) The CCCWA Administration Office will take your dossier to "Bridge of Love", where the translation is verified.
- 8) Your dossier waits in line to begin the review process.
- 9) Your dossier will be passed to Department I for review.
- 10) Your dossier is then sent to Department II for matching.
- 11) Your dossier will be matched and then sent to the Administration Office to be signed by all the CCCWA directors.
- 12) Your referral is then sent to Children's Hope International, taking several days for delivery at our office in St. Louis.
- 13) The China Team will contact you by phone when your referral arrives, and information on your child will be expressed to you.
- 14) You will return your original "Letter of Seeking Confirmation" (SCL), additional paperwork and fee to the St. Louis Office and your signed original letter will be returned to the CCCWA.
- 15) At this point the process differs for I-600A and I-800A families. (refer to complete information in the following sections on the different processes and time frames).
- 16) CHI will send you a "travel preparation guide" when your signed (SCL) documents are submitting to the CCCWA.
- 17) The CCCWA will mail your travel approval approximately one month after they receive your SCL.
- 18) Upon receipt of your travel approval, your American Consulate appointment will be requested, adoption appointments will be confirmed and travel dates will be finalized.
- 19) You will travel to China (see differences for I-600A and I-800A families)

Keep a Watchful Eye on your Immigration Approval Dates

While you are waiting for your referral, it is your responsibility to keep track of the expiration dates on your immigration approval form, either the I-800A (I-797C form) or I-600A (I-171H form). It is necessary to have a current immigration approval in order to receive a referral and travel. Please keep the CHI China Coordinators up to date on your immigration status. We need to have your current approval and current home study in your file at all times.

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE CCAA (July 21, 2010)

TO: Government departments and adoption agencies in receiving countries,

Recently after CCCWA sends out Letter of Seeking Confirmation to adoptive families, it is found that some families' immigration approvals have expired, which requires them to reapply for a new certificate from their government. In Hague Convention cases, families are required to prepare a new home study report. All these caused a great delay in the feedback of the signed Letter of Seeking Confirmation and consequently the timely registration for adoptive children to be able to join the families.

In order to avoid the above problem, adoption agencies are suggested to keep their attention on the present processing time of matching in CCCWA and check family files whose log-in date is within one month after the present matching date in case there are families whose approval certificate will expire. For families whose immigration approval is already expired, adoption agencies shall submit a suspension application for these families to the Children's Inter-country Placement Department of CCCWA. After the family gets a new approval, agencies can apply to restart the suspended case. Adoption files with a new immigration approvals will be processed with their original log-in date.

Thank you for your cooperation.

China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU:

- The CCCWA has sent a notice to all agencies to suspend all families' dossiers, **if a family does not have a current I-171H or I-797 (USCIS approval to bring a child in to the US) on file** and their log in date is within one month of the present matching date.
- What does suspend mean: Information will be sent to the CCCWA and you will not be assigned a child if you do not have a current USCIS approval.
- Once suspended, you must submit a copy of your new current USCIS approval in order to receive a referral.
- Please refer to the China updates sent to you several times a month for the latest referrals including the log in date information.
- If your adoption plans have changed please contact Tina or Karolyn to update your information.

PREPARING WHILE YOU WAIT FOR ADOPTION: GETTING YOURSELF IMMUNIZED NOW

By Deborah A. Borchers, M.D., F.A.A.P.

As families collect the mounds of paperwork to prepare for international adoption, some prospective parents find ways in which to prepare themselves for parenthood. Besides reading books about parenting, taking a class on infant CPR, fixing up the child's room, cleaning out the garage and attic, and meeting other parents through support groups, there are some unexpected ways to better anticipate the travel abroad by protecting yourself now for exposures that may occur when you travel.

Most trips to adopt internationally last no more than three weeks. Even so, during that short time new parents are exposed to a myriad of infectious diseases that are rare in most parts of the United States, due to better health conditions in the U.S. It makes sense to be prepared and to be protected while you travel, rather than risking that you will be significantly ill just as you become a new parent. Some of the recommended vaccines require multiple doses spread out over up to six months to confer full immunity. If families prepare to travel before they have a referral, there is less concern about all that needs to be done once they have a date to travel abroad.

It is recommended that all adults and children traveling abroad to developing nations have an updated panel of all routine immunizations, as well as additional ones that are necessary just for travel.

For all adults traveling internationally, it is recommended that they have three **Hepatitis B** vaccines to fully protect them from acquiring Hepatitis B. This disease, which is spread in manners similar to HIV, is contagious through blood and body fluids, particularly sexual transmission. Testing for children still in the country of their birth is not reliable, and some children who have tested negative abroad have tested positive once in the U.S. Family members have then been needlessly exposed. All newborns in this country begin this series of shots shortly after birth, and many states now require the full series of shots for school entry. Adults employed in occupations with the risk of exposure to body fluids (particularly health care workers) should be already vaccinated through their place of employment. The vaccine is given three times, the second one at one month after the first dose, and the third shot four to six months after the first dose. Although the risk of exposure for families while traveling is probably low, this is an important vaccine that should be given in the event of an accidental exposure to an adult or child with Hepatitis B, especially if that child becomes a member of your family (since it may take more than four months for an adult to become immune from the vaccine).

Families who travel abroad are also at significant risk of contracting **Hepatitis A**, another form of hepatitis that is preventable by a vaccine. This disease is much more contagious than is Hepatitis B, and is spread through contaminated water, contaminated food, or the mouth or fecal excretions of a person infected with this virus. Thus, it can be communicated by sharing food, drinking unsafe water (ice in drinks, as well as water that is not boiled or bottled), eating food washed in unsafe water (including lettuce, uncooked vegetables and unpeeled fruits), and even by changing the diaper of an infected infant without using good hand washing. This vaccine is effective for a short term if given one month prior to travel abroad. If multiple trips are planned, it is suggested that an individual have a booster 6 to 12 months after the initial dose, as this will avoid the need for a repeat booster prior to all future trips. This vaccine should not be given to children less than two years of age. The Hepatitis A vaccine has replaced the need for the gamma-globulin shot, which was formerly given to most adults prior to international travel.

Although wild type **polio** has been eradicated in North America (some vaccine acquired polio has been seen from the polio vaccine that is given by mouth in individuals who have a compromised immune system), polio is still seen in developing nations. It is recommended that all adults traveling to a developing nation receive an inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) to lessen the risk of acquiring polio abroad. This should be done even if the polio vaccine was given during childhood, as it will serve as a booster dose. The oral polio vaccine (OPV) should not be given to adults because of the risk of acquiring polio from the vaccine itself in individuals whose immunity may have waned. If children are traveling abroad for adoption, they should also receive an additional dose of the polio vaccine, preferably as IPV. This means that they should have a total of five doses of polio vaccine by age 4 rather than the recommended four doses. Adults that receive a booster before travel do not routinely need a dose before each trip.

Diphtheria and tetanus are still seen in other countries. Adults are reminded to have a Td booster every ten years to give continuing protection against these diseases. If an injury that is at risk for tetanus occurs more than five years after one's tetanus shot, a booster is needed at that time. Since none of us can predict what injuries may occur while we are abroad, it is recommended that adults have a tetanus shot booster if it has been more than five years since the last shot. This lessens the chance that a tetanus shot may be needed while overseas.

Measles, mumps and rubella are childhood illnesses that were once common, and have lessened in frequency due to the MMR vaccine, now given during childhood. Due to several outbreaks of measles in children returning from China, the recommendations have been updated as of 5/2004:

Born before 1957: likely had disease, so no vaccines officially recommended. If you are unsure, immune compromised or want to be certain, an antibody level (rubeola titer, not rubella, which is the GERMAN measles) can be drawn.

Born after 1957: TWO doses of the live virus measles vaccine or an antibody level (as above) to demonstrate immunity. There was a killed virus vaccine given in the early 1960's, and this likely did not give long term immunity. My recommendation is for families to be certain that they are immune, (via the two doses of the vaccine or blood test) and if not immune then get the vaccine. The vaccine has a certain percentage of failure to the measles component, so that's why the two doses are recommended. The second dose catches the people who missed making antibody the first time.

For children traveling:

CDC recommendations include a dose of MMR (Measles/Mumps/Rubella) at 12-15 months. A second dose (for vaccine failure) is given at 4-6 years old. If a child has not received the second dose prior to travel to China (such as a child between 1-6 years old), it can easily be given earlier. The timing of the second dose is very arbitrary and not necessarily related to any medical reason. In fact, the two doses can be given as closely as 6 weeks apart.

There is now an effective shot to protect against **chicken pox**, which can cause significant illness in adults. The shot, given in two doses (the second 6 weeks after the first), is thought to be fairly protective against this disease, lessening the illness if an individual does acquire chicken pox. A blood test can be done if an adult's history is unclear, although the shot is not harmful if given in someone who had the disease and did not know it. This shot, as well as the MMR, should not be given in pregnant women.

For individuals traveling during the fall and winter months, it is recommended that they have the **influenza vaccine** which is offered each fall.

The recommendations regarding malaria prophylaxis vary depending upon the length of the visit, the ultimate destination (particularly rural versus urban), and the hours of exposure (whether you will be out after dark). Given that most adoption trips are relatively short in length, many doctors do not recommend that you take these medications, which have significant side effects, and must be taken for long time prior to travel, during the trip itself, as well as upon return home. For updates about malaria, it is suggested that you contact the CDC Malaria Hotline at (404) 332-4555, the CDC automated fax line at (404) 332-4565 or the CDC web site <http://www.cdc.gov>.

There are also vaccines for cholera, typhoid and yellow fever, but these are not universally recommended for all international travelers due to expense, side effects, low availability, and mostly the low risk of exposure in most travel for international adoption. Again, for information about the particular area of the world where you will be traveling, contact the CDC at the above numbers or through the International Traveler's Hotline at (404) 332-4559. Many cities also have an international travel center with physicians who are knowledgeable about travel abroad.

By Deborah A. Borchers, M.D., F.A.A.P.

Please reprint at will, permission is not necessary for families, health care professionals or social workers. This information is provided for adoptive parents, according to the current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. It is intended to encourage prospective adoptive parents to immunize early, but not to take the place of a primary care physician familiar with each family member. All immunizations should be given by trained medical personnel in a health care setting. Dr. Borchers is a general pediatrician and adoption medicine specialist in Cincinnati Ohio.

Revised May 31, 2004.

CHI RECOMMEND STARTING YOUR IMMUNIZATIONS 6 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR TRIP

Current information can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/china.aspx>

All travelers should take the following precautions, no matter the destination:

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Because motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury among travelers, walk and drive defensively. Avoid travel at night if possible and always use seat belts.
- Don't eat or drink dairy products unless you know they have been pasteurized.
- Don't share needles with anyone.
- Eat only thoroughly cooked food or fruits and vegetables you have peeled yourself. Remember: **boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it.**
- Never eat undercooked ground beef and poultry, raw eggs, and unpasteurized dairy products. Raw shellfish is particularly dangerous to persons who have liver disease or compromised immune systems.

Travelers visiting undeveloped areas should take the following precautions:

To Stay Healthy, Do:

- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes.
- Protect yourself from insects by remaining in well-screened areas, using repellents with DEET (applied sparingly at 4-hour intervals), and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants from dusk through dawn.
- To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot.

To Avoid Getting Sick:

- Don't eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Don't drink beverages with ice. (It is OK to use ice at hotels and restaurants like McDonalds and KFC.)
- Don't handle animals (especially monkeys, dogs, and cats), to avoid bites and serious diseases (including rabies and plague).
- Don't swim in fresh water (except for well-chlorinated swimming pools) in certain areas of China (southeast, east, and Yangtze River valley) to avoid infection with schistosomiasis. Salt water is usually safer.

This document is not a complete medical guide for travelers to this region. Consult with your doctor for specific information related to your needs and your medical history; recommendations may differ for pregnant women, young children, and persons who have chronic medical conditions. In addition, you may also want to review the CDC site.

NOW IS THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT: WHO WILL BE TRAVELING TO CHINA?

Families will submit an on-line travel form after receiving their referral. CHI makes the travel arrangements according to the number of people listed on the travel forms. Below are some considerations:

The decision whether one or both parents should travel to China involves much more than convenience or cost. If only one parent travels, several additional documents before, during, and after traveling will be required. There are also additional expense incurred when only one parent travels.

If both parents do not see the child before the adoption takes place, you will be required to readopt upon your return to legalize the adoption. According to current Immigration laws, automatic citizenship* will not go into effect until after the re-adoption. You will have to apply for a citizenship certificate. We strongly advise both parents to travel. This will simplify your process considerably and add a lifetime of shared memories involving your family.

**The Child Citizenship Act of 2000, effective February 27, 2001, requires that both parents see the child before the adoption takes place for the adoption to be considered "final", therefore meeting this criteria for automatic citizenship for the child.*

Helping to Make your Adoption Trip a Wonderful Adventure for Everyone

It is CHI's hope that your trip to adopt your child will be the 'trip of a lifetime', and beautiful in every way. What we include below, are suggestions that will help make the journey better for you and all others in your group.

Both Parents Should Travel If At All Possible

CHI highly encourages both adoptive parents to travel to adopt their child. If only one parent can travel, we encourage the traveling spouse to take one companion along on the trip. Now what about others accompanying? What about your children; would it be a 'good' thing?

We Have Helped Thousands Of Families Make This Great Journey

Over the years we have dealt with thousands of families making this journey of love to get their child. Based on their experiences and our own observations, we have included some information that might help you answer these questions.

It Is Wonderful, But Not Easy

Probably first and foremost to consider is that international adoption travel is very rigorous. Even though it is a great adventure, it is important to remember that, the adoption trip is not a vacation. Jet lag, strange places, unusual food, along with a strict schedule, conjunct together to require all one's concentration. That is why we urge adoptive parents to never schedule business appointments during the trip. (Rare, yes, but it has happened). And the schedule? Parents will travel to 3 cities in 12-14 days, having many appointments, completing paperwork while adjusting to a new member of their family.

A Time For Bonding

This is a very special time for parents to bond with their new child, and adoptive parents may never have this special time alone again! When others (children or adults) are along, it can detract from the bonding process. We have found that children bond with one person at a time and additional traveling companions may confuse the child in addition attachment may be harder for the child in the long run. The newly adopted child may bond with the traveling companions and not the parents, thus adding extra stress to the newly adopted child and the adoptive parents, and causing additional problems later on. Having another child along may also cause jealousy issues on the part of either or both children. Adoptive parents can compare their first or other child(ren) unfavorably to the newly adopted child and adoption agencies have seen a higher disruption rate in these cases. There are positive results that we have seen too, of course, but we feel it is important to share with you the experiences of others.

Taking Other Family Members

One of the great, results of traveling with a group of families, all caught up in the wonders of adopting a child is that they often become almost family. As you make your plans for your adoption journey you will want to consider how your decisions affect others in the group. Often couples traveling alone have expressed to us they felt the adoption process was neglected when a particular family brought along their children and other family extended family

members. They may feel some resentment that a large part of the time is devoted to the families with a lot of accompanying members that are taking so much time and attention from the coordinators. It is important to understand that all families want the CHI Coordinators to be able to concentrate on helping them finalize their adoptions.

Adoption Appointments

Our families can travel in groups of up to 10 families. That's 20 people plus perhaps 10 more, totaling 30. Adoptive parents may start out with a smaller group and meet other CHI groups in Guangzhou, while completing the American Consulate paperwork process at the same time and grow to 20 families. That then becomes perhaps 80 people. There are many issues in scheduling and making travel arrangements for large groups: Tour buses have a limited number of seats and space. The seats are not large seats that Americans are accustomed to. There are many appointments involved in the adoption process in China and when groups are large, just the basic logistics of getting people to be on time; listening to the CHI coordinators; and arriving at the appointed times can become very difficult. There have also been instances where additional travelers who are traveling with our adoptive parents became ill or were injured and it put added stress on the group and that adoptive family.

Of Course You Can Take Additional Family Or Accompanying Members

If it sounds like we are recommending that a couple travel alone, it is because we think this is best in most cases. We want to thank you for considering the reasons why we feel this way. We are happy to consider your particular situation and make special arrangements for other approved travel guests. We hope you will also understand, based on everything said above, that we feel it necessary to include an additional fee of \$450 per additional person, for your extended family members (grandparents and other relatives), and family friends, because of the necessity of adding additional staff and vehicles for transportation, etc. This will be included in the inside-China Travel Invoice if you choose to do this. Please have your additional travel companions complete the Travel Waiver Form (please contact Karolyn Tucker for a copy of the Waiver Form) after you receive your referral and you submit your on-line travel form.

There will not be an additional travel companion fee for other children of the adoptive family.

ADOPTING A TODDLER AND OLDER CHILDREN VERSES INFANTS

For families adopting children over the age of two, we recommend that parents prepare two (2) small identical 4x6 photo albums with photos of parents, siblings, the new child's room, family activity shots and family pet(s). If you label the photos, we will translate and mail the photo book to China. After receiving your referral, send the package to CHI along with a check for \$25 to cover the mailing cost, so your child will have time to receive your package before you travel. This is permitted by the CCCWA in order to better prepare the older child for his/her adoption.

Please take the remaining book to China with you, just in case the orphanage staff forgets to give it to your child when leaving the orphanage.

For families adopting an older child (age 5 and older), we will also translate a letter from you and send one disposable camera so photos can be taken of the child's China family in the orphanage prior to his/her departure.

For families adopting infants (children under the age of two) we do not send any items (gifts, cameras, etc.). The CCCWA has instructed agencies not to send items to the orphanages. We also request that families not send items directly to the orphanage. CHI does not want to jeopardize the future of our adoption program with the CCCWA.

To send a care package or not? Written by: Amy Eldridge (Love Without Boundaries Foundation)

That is a question that many adoptive parents ask themselves as soon as they are matched with a child. As an adoptive mom myself, I remember vividly searching for the perfect stuffed animal to send to my new daughter – a pink bunny that was incredibly soft. I wanted to think of her sleeping with it every night, waiting for the day she would finally have a family. Of course, adoption day finally came and she arrived without the rabbit, and I of course had to wonder if she had ever even gotten it. The honest answer? She had not.

Once I began working heavily with her orphanage, I quickly learned that care packages were not given to the children, but for very good reasons that I had not thought about in my own desire to feel a connection to my daughter-to-be. I have realized after talking to dozens of orphanage directors that care packages are usually much more important to the parent than the child, and they are often actually hurtful to all the other children living in an institution who have not been chosen by families.

Singling out one child in a group living situation can be very disruptive, and so many orphanages just put the care package away and don't even bring it out until the bus or van ride to the province. This is because it can be very upsetting to all the children still waiting for homes (or ineligible for adoption) to see just one child get a package with presents. I think it is very important for us to remember the children who will not ever receive the gift of a family. I also think it is important to remember that not only is it hurtful to the other kids in an orphanage when a child is singled out, but it also can be detrimental to the child being adopted as well. We shouldn't think that every orphaned child is congratulating the one chosen for adoption. I know of many cases where older kids who have either aged out of the system or who weren't given a chance took out their frustrations on children who were picked for adoption. Kids can be quite cruel at times, as we all know – and I understand completely how distressing it can be for the older kids who never got a chance to find a family. A care package from the US can be like rubbing salt in their wounds. While some will react with tears or sadness to know they will never be chosen, others can react with anger towards the kids who are.

I have never had an orphanage director tell me they love care packages. But if a family sends a stuffed animal or a blanket to a child, they need to know the odds are slim that the child will be given it. Aunties worry that nice gifts from overseas will be damaged; many orphanages put babies in multiple cribs so keeping track of one blanket is difficult; urine leaks with cloth diapers are a daily occurrence and so stuffed animals aren't really practical, etc. I also have received several emails from orphanages who got care packages that weren't marked properly for customs and they owed fees. One family sent such a large package that the orphanage owed almost 1000 RMB to pick it up.

Now when people ask me my opinion on sending a package, I always recommend simply sending photos of their family, so that the aunties can get to see where the child they have cared for is going. Then the orphanage staff can choose whether or not to share them with the child. Even if it is just on the van ride to the adoption center – the child will know at least a bit in advance who is coming for them.

I do understand why parents want to send packages, as I have been there myself. But now I know that while I was thinking of my single child – the orphanage has to think of ALL the kids in their care. Parents need to realize that there is a high likelihood

that anything sent will just be put in a director's desk or storage cabinet until adoption day, but for very good reasons that we as adoptive parents often don't think about.

RECEIVING YOUR REFERRAL

Referrals come in groups according to the LID dates. It is possible for only a few log in dates (LIDs) be included in one batch of referrals. This is due to the number of dossiers received by the CCCWA for those dates and the number of children's paperwork at the CCCWA.

"THE CALL"

When CHI receives your referral from the China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption the China Team will call you with the good news. Basic information will be exchanged over the phone and we will then express mail your announcement with photo(s), original medical report, any other information provided by the orphanage, the CCCWA Seeking Confirmation Letter, CHI Agreement to Adopt and various other paperwork to the address of your choice. A letter with an explanation of what to do next will be enclosed. You will receive your packet the next day unless referrals are received on a Friday and then you will receive it on Monday.

The following forms/documents will be returned as soon as possible* by trackable mail (Fed Ex, UPS, DHL, or USPS/Overnight):

- The original signed CCAA Seeking Confirmation Letter
- The signed Agreement to Adopt
- The International Program Fee (personal checks are accepted).
- Your release form
- Emergency contact form
- I-800 families will also sign and return the DS-230 form

*** If you have any concerns about your referred child, please contact a China Coordinator immediately. Please note the CCCWA will not process a travel approval until the original signed Seeking Confirmation Letter has been returned to them. Bottom line: The sooner it is returned, the sooner your Travel Approval will be received, and the sooner you will travel.**

We will ask you to also complete and submit your on-line *Travel Form*. Please list the names of all people that will travel. We ask that no changes be made to your travel plans when the travel dates are confirmed.

Once you know where your child is living (province and orphanage), you can join a province or orphanage specific yahoo/discussion group.

THE I-800 PROCESS AND TIME FRAME

After a family receives their referral from China, Children's Hope will provide the family with the information needed to file an I-800 with USCIS.

- The following is the documentation that is needed to file the I-800:
 1. I-800 application and Supplement 1.
 2. I-864W Affidavit of Support
 3. Copy of I-797C
 4. Affidavit from Children's Hope International verifying the accuracy of the child's documents and family's pre-adoptive training.
 5. Copies of prospective adopted child's documents received from the China Centre for Children's Welfare and Adoption
 6. Copy of the signed Seeking Confirmation Letter

Send to: Regular Mail:
 USCIS
 P.O. Box 660087
 Dallas, TX 75266

Express Mail and Courier Service deliveries:
USCIS
ATTN: Hague
2501 S. State Hwy. 121 Business, Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

You will need to submit the I-800 as soon as you receive the packet from CHI. Time frames vary on when you will receive your I-800 form. When you do receive the I-800 approval, please fax or scan/email a copy to CHI.

Two weeks after receiving your I-800 form, you will receive a letter from the National Visa Center (NVC), Bureau of Consular Affairs. CHI needs this immediately so that it can be sent to the American Consulate (ACS) along with your child's visa application. Then the ACS will sign the Letter of Seeking Confirmation for the Central Authority of Receiving State and then our staff returns the approval to the CCCWA so that they will process your Travel Approval.

The above process takes approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

When the Travel Approval is received, CHI will fax your TA, I-800 approval and letter from the National Visa Center (NVC), Bureau of Consular Affairs to the American Consulate to request your child's visa appointment.

Most I-800 families travel approximately 3 to 4 months after receiving their referral.

I-600 PROCESS AND TIME FRAME

Families traveling with an I-600a approval (the I-171H form) will need to verify all the information listed on the I-171H form is correct.

The I-171H form will list:

- your I-600A expiration date
- your fingerprint expiration dates
- specific information on the child you are approved to adopt (including the number of children, gender, age and special needs).

The American Consulate will no longer accept a hand carried addendum to your home study. If there have been changes for example:

- you were approved for a healthy child but are now adopting a special needs child
- you were approved for a child under 18 months and are adopting a 2 year old
- you had a change in your situation including an address change, etc.

an updated home study along with a copy of your I-171H will need to be sent to the National Benefits Center. The NCB will send you an updated I-171H form and will send your updated information to the National Visa Processing Center. The NVC will send a revised visa 37 cable to the ACS in Guangzhou.

The Travel Approval along with a copy of your current and correct I-171H is needed to request the American Consulate (ACS) appointments in Guangzhou. Your Visa 37 cable on file at the American Consulate in Guangzhou must state all the correct information before they will confirm your appointment date.

Most I-600 families travel approximately 2 months after receiving their referral.

TRAVEL APPROVAL FROM THE CCCWA

The Travel Approval comes from the CCCWA and is one of the required documents that allows the adoptive parents to travel to China and finalize the Chinese adoption process

CHI will send your original signed Seeking Confirmation Letter to the CCCWA for the processing of your travel approval.

- I-600A Families will have their SCL's sent to the CCCWA as soon as the groups' are received.
- I-800 Families will have their SCL's sent to the CCCWA after all documents are approved by the American Consulate in Guangzhou (waiting/processing time is approx. 6 to 8 weeks).

When the CCCWA receives your signed, original "Letter Seeking Confirmation" which states your agreement to adopt your child, they will begin to process your travel approval. We *estimate* the turn-around time to be about 1 month after the CCCWA receives the original "Letter of Seeking Confirmation". Therefore **it is important to return**

the signed agreements to CHI as soon as you can. In anticipation of receiving the official travel approval, CHI will start to make tentative travel plans.

TRAVEL PREPARATION

While we are waiting for your travel approval, we will send the “travel preparation package”. Most of the contact with your China Travel Coordinator will be through group emails and she will keep you updated throughout the process. Your group list will be compiled from the submitted on-line travel forms and you will receive a copy of your group list by email. Please contact your travel coordinator if you have any questions, and please keep us updated on any changes in your email addresses or phone numbers.

The China Travel Coordinator in the St. Louis Office will be working with the Beijing Office Travel Department, putting all the travel plans in place, so when travel approvals are received, we will be able to finalize everything very quickly.

APPLYING FOR YOUR VISA

Visa Application forms with samples and instructions will be sent to you in the travel preparation package after receiving your referral. Your visa application along with your passport and one passport size photo (front view) of each traveling person will need to be hand carried to the Chinese Consulate that handles your state's documents. The list of Chinese Consulates and a list of couriers will be included in the travel preparation package. (*You will need to take to China, two (2) additional passport photos of each adoptive parent, in case you want to have all the photos done at one time.*)

Please make sure your passport is in order and current: a) states your legal name; b) spelled correctly; c) valid for at least six months beyond your visit; d) and with two blank pages left. Your visa will be stamped in your passport. You will have 90 days to enter China from the date stamped on your visa and your stay in China is valid for 30 days.

Please refer to the appropriate Chinese Embassy/Consulates' website for their specific visa form, rules & regulations.

Courier & Visa Services for the following Chinese Consulates:

Chicago Consulate: Contact Denise Hope's website at www.theres-always-hope.com . Phone: (815) 690-7035 email: info@theres-always-hope.com

Houston Consulate: Contact Cindy Marut at www.MyChinaDocs.com E-mail her for info at cmarut@earthlink.net. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact her 832-368-1844 between: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM, or 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM Central Time, Monday through Friday. You may also send a fax message at any time to 832-201-8175.

Los Angeles Consulate : Contact Janice Moore at 951-805-3008 E-mail: gggandjmoore@aol.com

New York Consulate: Contact Ms. Patti Urban and Mr. Chris Moore at <http://www.Legal-Eaze.com> . E-mail them for info at NYOffice@Legal-Eaze.com phone NYC office:845-642-2990

San Francisco Consulate: Contact Jill Touloukian at jill@papermidwife.com or her website <http://www.papermidwife.com> ; tel:650- 329-0243 ; fax650-329-9907

Washington DC Embassy: Contact Laura Morrison, The Assistant Stork, phone number is: 540-659-6845; website: www.asststork.com *CHI will include instructions from The Assistant Stork for families using the Chinese Washington DC Embassy.*

Please check their website for all the courier requirements.

CHINESE CONSULATES AND EMBASSY

Website www.china-embassy.org

New York (handling documents from: NY, RI, PA, CT, MA, VT, NH, ME, OH, NJ)

The Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China, 520 12th Avenue, New York, NY 10036. Tel: 212-868-2078, Fax: (212) 465-1745. Please refer to website for information: www.nyconsulate.prchina.org
(Applicants to [apply for authentication](#), are required to mark *Document Application* clearly on the envelope and designate Mail that fails to meet these requirements will be returned immediately.)

Chicago (handling documents from: IL, IN, WI, MN, IA, MO, KS, CO, MI)

The Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China, 1 East Erie Street, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60611
Tel:(312) 803-0095, Auto Info Machine: (312) 573-3070 Fax: (312)803-0122. Please refer to website for information: www.chinaconsulatechicago.org

San Francisco (handling documents from: Northern CA, OR, NV, WA, AK)

The Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China, 1450 Laguna Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.
Tel: (415) 674-2900. Fax: (415) 563-4861 Please refer to website for information: www.chinaconsulatesf.org

Los Angeles (handling documents from: Southern CA, AZ, NM, HI, Pacific Islands)

The Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China, 443 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, CA 90020.
Tel: (213) 807-8088, Fax: (213) 380-1961. Refer to website for info: www.chinaconsulatela.org

Houston (handling documents from: TX, LA, MS, AL, FL, AR, OK, GA)

The Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China, 3417 Montrose Blvd., Houston, TX 77006.
Tel: (713) 520-1462, (713) 521-7459. Please refer to website for information: www.chinahouston.org

Washington, D.C. (handling documents from: DC, MD, VA, WV, DE, KY, TN, NC, SC, ND, SD, NE, MT, ID, WY, UT)

The Embassy Visa Office of the People's Republic of China, Suite 110, 2201 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20007. Tel: (202) 338-6688 Fax: (202) 588-9760. www.china-embassy.org

Fees for Visas: \$140 per individual applicant, no matter the number of entries

Please refer to the specific consulate's website for information for their specific requirements. Applicants are required to come to the visa office for visa applications. If an applicant cannot come personally, he/she may entrust a relative or friend, courier or travel/visa agent to come to the visa office for the application process.

TRAVEL DATES

The American Consulate celebrates both American holidays and the Chinese holidays. Chinese holidays are: Spring Festival in January or February, Labor Day on May 1st, and National Day on October 1st, and are celebrated for approximately 7 days.

Two international trade fairs are held in Guangzhou each year, usually the second half of April and October. Hotel accommodations are nearly impossible to book in Guangzhou during these times and if they can be made, the cost is double or triple the normal rate. Occasionally, we are able to work around the break in the middle of the trade fairs or use hotels outside the city.

Most I-800 families travel approximately 3 to 4 months after receiving their referral. Most I-600 families travel approximately 2 months after receiving their referral. Once the appointment at the American Consulate is confirmed, you will be informed immediately. It is possible that only a 2 week prior notice for the actual date of departure will be given. CHI will make every effort to have you travel as quickly as possible.

Adoption Agencies are not able to request appointments at the American Consulate (ACS) in Guangzhou without a copy of your travel approval from the CCCWA and your I-800 form with letter from the Bureau of Consular Affairs **OR** your current I-171H approval. Appointments will be made immediately upon receiving all needed documents. The turnaround time to receive a confirmed date from the ACS can take several days.

With confirmed appointments in hand, we can finalize all the travel plans. Families will be notified immediately by email of the travel schedule and asked to make their international flight arrangements. CHI will give you the date when the group is to arrive and in which city; and the date and time you can depart from Guangzhou.

Unfortunately, most of the correspondence after your referral is received will be done by email. That way, all families are informed of every aspect of the travel preparation and all families will receive the same information. We do apologize for the loss of personal contact, but feel free to call with any of your questions or concerns.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

The CHI China Travel Coordinator will contact you when it is time to make the *International* reservations. You are free to use the travel agency of your choice or book your own US domestic and International flights. We highly recommend you use a travel agency experienced with international adoption travel. We will also send you a list of resources / travel agencies that can assist you in booking your international tickets.

The following airlines fly to China, there may be others, but these are the most common:
(please note these are subject to change)

- *Continental Airlines*—to Beijing, Hong Kong and Shanghai
- *United Airlines*— to Beijing, Hong Kong and Shanghai
- *American Airlines*—to Shanghai or to Tokyo with connections to Beijing, & Hong Kong
- *Air China* - to Beijing & Shanghai
- *China Southern Airlines*- Los Angeles to Guangzhou (does not operate every day)
- *Delta Airlines*- to Tokyo with connections to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou & Hong Kong
- *China Eastern Airlines* – Los Angeles to Shanghai (direct) or connections to Beijing, Guangzhou & Hong Kong
- *Hainan Airlines* - to Beijing (does not operate every day)
- *Cathay Pacific*
- *Asiana*
- *Korean Airlines*
- *Japan Airlines*
- *All Nippon Airlines*

Procedures and tips for booking your international flights

- Please do not book a flight returning to the US with any layover in Canada (such as Cathay Pacific, etc.). Your child will not be able to board that airplane even if you won't be getting off the plane in Canada, because she/he will be traveling on a Chinese Passport.
- A layover to catch another flight via Tokyo is permitted, but your child will not be able to leave the airport. Do not book the layover for overnight.
- If you need a flight from Guangzhou (the day after receiving your child's visa) to Beijing, Shanghai or Hong Kong in order to catch your international flight, your travel agent can arrange it along with your international flights, or CHI can arrange that flight for you. Just let the St. Louis China Travel Coordinator know your preference. Please allow enough time (**a minimum of 2-3 hours**) to catch your international flight.
 - Earliest flight from Guangzhou to Hong Kong is DragonAir at 9:50am to 10:50am
 - Earliest flight from Guangzhou to Beijing is either Air China or China Southern at approximately 8:00am to 11:00am
 - Earliest flight from Guangzhou to Shanghai is either Shanghai Airlines or China Eastern at approximately 8:00am to 10:00am
 - There are other flights from Guangzhou to Hong Kong/Beijing/Shanghai throughout the day.
- When arranging your US flights to the city of departure, please allow enough time (**a minimum of 2-3 hours**) to catch your international flight. If need be, you may have to fly the night before and spend the night in order to catch your international flight.
- The ports of entry into China are determined by the location of your child's orphanage. Most groups will arrive in Beijing, but if your child is located in the Guangdong Province, the group can enter China through Guangzhou. The Guangdong Group families have the option to enter through BJ and sightseeing with other groups. CHI will arrange flights for those families to meet their group in Guangzhou at the proper time.
- If you are entering China through Guangzhou, Shanghai or Hong Kong and need a flight to join your group in Beijing OR your child's provincial capital city, you will need to have your travel agent book that flight for you.
- *It is common that the confirmed travel date may not be known until about two weeks prior to leaving.*
- Families will be notified when appointments are confirmed with the American Consulate and the China arrival and departure dates are set up by our Beijing Office Staff.
- CHI cannot make arrangements for Inside China Travel until every person in the travel group has booked their international flights, so it is very important to confirm your flights in a timely manner.
- CHI will need to know your specific international airline flight information with carrier name, flight numbers, arrival date/time and departure date/time. Please send your complete travel itinerary by email to Karolyn.Tucker@ChildrensHope.net .
- Our China Travel Team will coordinate the schedules, so all travel can flow together with arrangements and appointments in China.
- It is sometimes very difficult to use frequent flyer mileage due to the short notice of the confirmed travel dates.
- A return international ticket for your child in his/her Chinese Name is required even if your child is under the age of two. You do not have to purchase a seat ticket, but a lap ticket is required, and the cost is a percentage of your adult ticket. **The ticket must be in your child's Chinese Name, because that is the name that will appear on his/her Chinese passport.**

- Regarding your child's Chinese Name: In China, the last name is always listed first, the next one or two names is considered to be your child's given name (first name). All names on tickets must match the names on the passports.

INSIDE CHINA FLIGHTS, HOTELS, SIGHTSEEING, GROUND TRANSPORTATION

- All families must be with the group to begin and complete all of the adoption process. Children's Hope International will make all the inside China hotel arrangements. **Families cannot make their own arrangements or stay at different hotels.**
- CHI will coordinate flights, hotels (breakfasts are included at each hotel), sightseeing, ground transportation, airport/hotel transfers, service fee and CHI coordinator expenses. Tip money (local guides and drivers) will also be included in the invoice for *GROUPS* containing 5 or more families.
- CHI will arrange extra nights at the hotels in order to accommodate your stay in China.
- CHI will automatically arrange airport/hotel transfers if arriving and departing China during reasonable hours (6:00 am – 11:30 pm).
- CHI will email your Summary of Adoption Travel Fees for the Inside China Travel costs along with your detailed Itinerary, shortly before travel. CHI does not accept credit cards and requests that you pay this fee by a certified check or money order before you travel.
- CHI books the same type of rooms (usually standard or deluxe) for all the families. Please inform the China travel coordinator if this will not work for your family.
- **Standard/Deluxe room arrangements:** Most hotels have 2 twin beds and we will request a crib for a child under the age of two. For children over the age of 2 (either adopted children or children accompanying their parents from the US) a rollaway bed and breakfasts will be included. Only one rollaway bed will fit in a room. Please talk to your CHI travel coordinator about the room arrangements, if two children are on the trip. Adjoining rooms can be requested, but please keep in mind, it will depend on the availability at each hotel.

Refund Policy for inside China Travel:

- We cannot refund money for hotel rooms when families make changes while they are in China.
- If you cancel your trip to China, 72 hour prior notice is needed in order to obtain a refund for hotels.

Typical Inside-China Travel itinerary

Tentative and subject to change due do China Provincial regulations & U.S. Government requirements

<i>Thursday:</i>	Leave the US
<i>Friday:</i>	Group arrival in Beijing
<i>Saturday:</i>	Group Sightseeing in Beijing: TianAnMen Square, Forbidden City, the Great Wall (Juyongguan), Lunch is included. And CHI Orientation
<i>Sunday:</i>	Fly to capital city of your child's province, if you wish to skip Beijing, you will need to meet your group this day in the morning.
<i>Monday:</i>	Meet your child
<i>Tuesday:</i>	Begin adoption process, registration and apply for your child's passport
<i>Wednesday:</i>	Sightseeing or free day
<i>Thursday:</i>	Sightseeing or free day
<i>Friday:</i>	Receive your child's passport and all adoption paperwork. Fly to Guangzhou.
<i>Saturday:</i>	Medical exam for children
<i>Sunday:</i>	Free day
<i>Monday:</i>	Free day and re-check on medical tests (TB test) if needed
<i>Tuesday:</i>	American Consulate Visa Appointment (first choice), your CHI coordinator will submit your documents at the appointment time; in the afternoon families will go to the American Consulate and sign the DS230 form in front of the US Consulate Officer and take oath
<i>Wednesday:</i>	Receive child's visa late in day depending on date of ACS appt
<i>Thursday:</i>	Depart from Guangzhou on this day and return to the US

Normally there is one day of sightseeing in Beijing, but our staff in BJ can arrange additional sightseeing. *Upon your arrival in Beijing you can inform your CHI coordinator if you wish to join in the additional/optional tours. Fees will be paid directly to the CHI Beijing Travel Department Staff.*

Additional (optional) tours prior to the group's arrival (fees are subject to change)

Thursday: Summer Palace (Half day, lunch is not included) Cost: \$ 50 per adult, \$ 35 per child under 12 years old;

Friday: Temple of Heaven in the morning; Lunch at Dai Jia Cun Restaurant; Hutong Tour and the Chinese Acrobat Show in the afternoon (Dinner is not included). Cost: \$85 per adult, \$60 per child under 12 years old.

The final travel information will be either mailed or emailed after Travel Approvals have been received. The information will include:

- Group List
- Copy of your signed Seeking Confirmation Letter
- Copy of your Travel Approval for your records
- *If no group leader is assigned, you will also receive a sealed envelope with your Original Travel Approval to be taken to China and given to your CHI Coordinator.
- *Group Leaders will receive by express mail the check for tips and possibly all the travel approvals for your group, to be given to your CHI coordinator in China.

Money Matters (revised July 2011)
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Travel fees-Approximate travel costs (2 parents/14 days):

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • International Air fare-round trip/coach fare
<i>(fees may vary during high travel seasons)</i> | \$3000 + |
| • In-side China travel: based on 2 people/1 room
Cost depends on season of the year and size of travel group.
(hotels w/breakfasts, flights in China, ground transportation, sightseeing, coordinator's travel expenses, CHI service fee, tips for local guides and drivers) | \$3000 - \$4000 |
| • Additional cost when adopting an older child (age 2 & over) | \$1000 - \$1500 |
| • Cost for adopted infant return flight /with adult coach fare
Approximately 10% of the adult fare. This is not a ticket for a seat, but a lap ticket.
Children ages 2-12 fees are about 75% of adult fares for a seat. | \$ 100 + |
| • Air fare-round trip /US flights | unknown |

Costs for additional travel companions (all costs approximate):

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • <u>Air fare-round trip /US flights</u> | unknown |
| • <u>International Airfare - coach fare</u> | unknown |
| • <u>In-side China travel costs:</u> *hotels w/breakfasts, flights in China, ground transportation, sightseeing, coordinator's travel expenses, CHI service fee, tips for local guides and drivers | |
| ○ for one additional child to accompany the parents in the same hotel room: includes basic items above*, with rollaway bed at each hotel. | \$1500-\$2000 |
| ○ for one adult to accompany the parents in the same hotel room: includes basic items above*, rollaway bed at each hotel and \$450 additional travel companion fee | \$2000-\$2500 |
| ○ for one adult to accompany the parents with one additional hotel room, and basic items above*, and \$450 additional travel companion fee | \$3000-\$3500 |

There will not be an additional travel companion fee for other children of the adoptive family.

Most hotels have 2 twin beds and we will request a crib for a child under the age of two. For children age 2 & over (either adopted children or children accompanying their parents from the US) we will request a rollaway bed and breakfasts will be included. Only one rollaway bed will fit in a room. Please talk to your CHI travel coordinator about the room arrangements, if two children are on the trip. Adjoining rooms can be requested, but it will depend on the availability at each hotel.

This does not include:

- Meals for Lunch & Dinner in China (Breakfasts are included)
- Shopping expenses in China = vary w/personal preference
- Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone, etc.

Adoption Expenses to be paid in China-all costs approximate (in US Dollars):

* Registration fee	\$ 200 (approx.)
* Notary Fee	\$ 550 (approx.)
* Child's passport & service fee	\$ 200 (approx.)
* Translation fee for Adoption Certificate for Civil Affairs (100 RMB)	\$ 15 (approx.)
* Medical test in Guangzhou	\$ 65 (approx)*
*Additional fees (198 Yuan or 109 Yuan) will be charged for x-rays if your child tests positive on the tuberculin skin test.	
* Visa in Guangzhou (For I-600 families only)	\$ 404
* Service Fees (for Orphanage, province, & officials,)	\$ 300 (approx.)
* Orphanage Donation depending on exchange rate of the way (if cannot be wired)	\$ 5200-\$5400 (approx)
Will be paid in Chinese Yuan (35,000 RMB), US Dollars can be exchanged in China	

Please call your bank several weeks in advance to order your new or newer crisp US money. New or newer meaning, not worn or torn bills, please make sure that the face on the bill is clear and not worn or damaged in any way. We recommend that you take **\$2,000 OR \$7,400 (depending if orphanage donation can be wired by CHI)** into China in cash (new or like new One Hundred Dollar bills) for legal expenses, due the first two days in the province.

You will need some additional money (also bills should be new/newer and in very good condition) in a variety of denominations (\$20, \$10, \$5 & \$1) for buying souvenirs, gifts, meals (for lunch and dinner), and miscellaneous personal expenses.

You will be able to exchange your US dollars to Chinese yuan in China just before you need it at the hotel lobby desk or nearby bank. The coordinator will tell you if the legal fees will need to be paid in US dollars or Chinese yuan. There is no need to cash in very large sums of US dollars to Chinese Yuan at one time. Exchange money as needed and keep your receipts.

Tips for saving your cash dollars:

- If you eat at the hotel restaurants, you can charge your meals to your room and then pay with a credit card when you check out.
- You can charge your purchases from the hotel gift shops to your rooms.
- Credit cards are accepted in some stores.

We understand that in our plastic society it may seem absurd to carry cash. But it is really quite important. Let us explain why. The money is needed in the first two days in the province and time is very important:

- \$** Your first appointments are early the next morning after you arrive at the adoption city.
- \$** But a trip to the bank for even one person means that half a day or more is lost because of the archaic system.
- \$** Exchanging \$5,000+ in Traveler's Checks in a country that uses another currency may meet with negative response.
- \$** A money belt is a handy, safe, and convenient way to carry money, passport, etc.

GUIDELINES FOR TIPPING IN CHINA (1/31/08)

The following are standard recommendations from Travel Agencies in China.

Your final travel invoice will note if tip money has been collected for your group's basic travel schedule in your child's province and in Guangzhou.

In Beijing: Tips for your stay in Beijing have not been included because the CHI Beijing Office covers all tips for local guides and all drivers in Beijing. CHI Coordinators will tip drivers or local guides after picking up at the airport or after sightseeing.

You are responsible for tipping in the following situations:

In Guangzhou:

- Guangdong Group families' arrival in Guangzhou (Please tip your local guide, local driver and luggage van driver from airport to hotel.)
- **All** families upon departure from Guangzhou at end of trip (Please tip your local guide, local driver and luggage van driver from hotel to airport.)

In Province for families not arriving with their Group:

- Families not flying with their group and traveling directly to child's province (Please tip your local guide, local driver and luggage van driver upon arrival in province from airport to hotel.)

In all cities:

- ***Bellboy/Porter: \$1 per bag at arrival and departure for each hotel***

STANDARDS FOR TIPPING FOR SMALL GROUP OR TRAVELING ON YOUR OWN:

Local Guide (tip at the end of each day)	\$5 per person per day
Local Driver (tip at the end of each day)	\$3 per person per day
Luggage Van Drivers to hotel and to airport	\$1 per person per trip

STANDARDS FOR TIPPING FOR LARGER GROUP* FOR THE BASIC TRAVEL SCHEDULE:

Local Guide	\$3 per person per day
Local Driver	\$2 per person per day
Luggage Van Drivers to hotel and to airport	\$1 per person per trip

**Groups with 5 or more families will be assigned a "Group Leader" and the leader will be responsible for tipping the local tour guides & bus drivers in the province and in Guangzhou (see exceptions listed). We try to anticipate all tips, but there may be an instance or changes in the schedule where the Group Leader may request some additional tip money.*

- Please do not tip (in cash) the CHI coordinator, any Chinese Officials, or orphanage staff.
- A surcharge is already included in your bill at restaurants, so tipping is not needed.
- When taking a taxi, pay the driver the amount on the meter.

Custom of Gift Giving in China

It's the established custom for adoptive families to present some gifts to the officials for Adoption Registration and Notary Paperwork. The officials are pleased to have the gifts and they share them among their colleagues, so it doesn't matter if gifts are for male or female. It's also a tradition to give gifts for practical use as well.

The Chinese do not generally open gifts publicly and you should be prepared for this cultural trait.

Wrapping gifts: Can be done before you travel or you can take wrapping paper, small scissors and tape along with you and wrap in China. ***Gift bags with tissue paper are a great time saver instead of wrapping.***

CHECK LIST OF GIFTS TO TAKE TO CHINA

1. 1 gift for orphanage director (cost of no more than \$15)
2. 2 gifts for notary and registrar (cost of no more than \$10)
3. 3 gifts, tokens of your appreciation to some of the aunts
4. If your child is in foster care, you may want to give a gift to the foster mother. The foster family may be pleased to have a photo album.
5. A gift for your CHI Coordinator - The coordinators in China are part of our agency and are paid employees. Families will bond with their coordinators in China during this very emotional and life altering event. Some families like to show their respect and appreciation for their hard work with a small gift and thank you note.

GIFTS OF CASH ARE NOT APPROPRIATE AND ARE INTERPRETTED AS BRIBES AND ILLEGAL.

We understand it's hard for a family to prepare gifts for people they have never met. The following are our suggestions for gifts for the people in China:

- Art and craft items from your area
- Cosmetic kit w/lipstick, etc.
- Stationary
- Perfume
- Special sports item, baseball hat, T-shirt from your favorite team. American Basketball is big in China.
- "Save the Children" design items, tie, necklace, or earrings.
- Jewelry (pin, earrings, bracelet, necklace)
- Purse
- Chocolate
- Scarf
- Picture Frame

The Director of "Love Without Boundaries" posted the following gift ideas and suggestions in August 2006 and we are including this list to help you.

I would not stress AT ALL about the gifts. It is the thought that counts.

For Directors and Officials:

- I know it is so controversial to many people, but if you want a gift for a man, you cannot go wrong with Marlboros. I am completely against smoking, but it is still the most appreciated gift I take. I think directors like being able to go to meetings and other functions and offer their friends these. Yes, you can buy them in China but they are more than many people can afford. I really stressed about buying them the first time, but once I saw how truly appreciated they were, I got over it.
- For officials, just remember that many times the gifts you give will be given to their friends and relatives, so you can do any gender (male or female). I really have given just about everything you can think of, including penlights, pocket knives, golf shirts, bracelets, scarves, binoculars, and CDs with showtunes. I do not do t-shirts as most officials I have met dress very, very nice and would never usually wear something like that. But that isn't to say they couldn't give them to teens in the family. I don't get a lot of feedback on

these gifts, except I was told once that some really nice disposable razors I took were much appreciated (the top of the line ones here).

For Aunties: Here is what they have told me specifically that they love from parents:

- potpourri envelopes (they are great because they pack flat). They CANNOT get anything like that in China and it makes small apartments smell great.
- They also like the pretty room fresheners (like the glass ones) but they are heavy to pack.
- Jelly Bellies (again, not usually found in China. Nestle and Cadbury chocolate is everywhere now and easy to buy, so this is more unique)
- Anything "pretty". Gifts do not have to be expensive. Simple things like postcards of flowers, sunsets, etc are so popular because they can be hung on a wall. Similarly, books of flowers, gardening, etc or calendars with beautiful photos are great as well. Postcards from your home state are always fun, and can be given to their children or relatives to collect. They should be nice scenes, however. I remember taking one of Oklahoma with a tornado on it and no one wanted it. Too unlucky I guess! Just remember that aunties get paid minimal salaries and so they often do not have the funds to buy pretty things like this.
- Deodorant. Okay, I have to admit that I was stubborn as all get out on this one when asked to bring it. I kept saying "there are so many rules about gifts and there is NO WAY I am taking deodorant because I am afraid it will imply that I think someone smells." My Chinese friends in China kept saying, "trust us...you cannot buy this in China and they will LOVE IT." So finally two trips ago I took Secret deodorant that smelled great (the flower ones). I took a whole basketful, along with other gifts and presented a basket to aunties saying "pick what you want". The deodorant was the first to go and they were all standing in the orphanage learning how to use it and laughing and smelling it, and now I have been asked to PLEASE bring more. You really cannot buy it there! On my last trip I gave it to both men and women and they loved it.
- Wrap around ear muffs. The flat kind that go behind the head. Most people in China ride bikes or scooters and in the winter it is COLD. These have been an enormous hit and I have been asked to bring more the next time I come.
- Make up. Soft colors, any type.
- Lotions. You don't have to spend a fortune on these. The Walmart kinds are fine (the pretty ones with flowers and good scents). I take travel size ones, along with travel size luxury soaps.
- Local treats. This is always fun for them to try. If your region has a specialty like pecans, walnuts, Frango mints, a certain cookie, etc....this is a great gift with a note that it is from your hometown.

TRAVEL TIPS

China may feel like a different world to you when you arrive. It is easy to become critical of the differences. Every country has its own problems, but you will gain so much more from the experience if you remain open and flexible.

We really think this is unnecessary, but we have been asked by families who have traveled to China to remind our families the importance of being polite and respectful when traveling to China. Your behavior is a reflection upon your agency (Children's Hope International), your country and most importantly, yourself.

SMOKING: Many people smoke in China and there are very few "non-smoking" areas. We do request non-smoking hotel rooms for our families and these are subject to the availability when you check-in. Flights are non-smoking.

PERSONAL SPACE is defined differently in a country where there are one billion three hundred million people.

WAITING IN LINES: People do not wait in lines in most cases in China. Be prepared to move with the crowd or you will be left behind.

TIME DIFFERENCE

On your flight, you will cross the International Dateline. You will lose a day when you fly to China and you will gain a day on your return. For convenience, you may want to wear two watches. Keep one on your home town time and adjust the other to the actual time.



WATER

DO NOT DRINK THE TAP WATER. Drink only boiled or bottled water. DO NOT USE THE TAP WATER TO BRUSH YOUR TEETH. You may want to place a washcloth over the water faucet as a reminder.

ELECTRICITY

In China and Hong Kong, 220 volts AC, 50 HZ is standard. Some hotels provide 110 outlets, but they are unreliable. If you take an appliance, take a universal mode or a voltage converter. China has its own type of socket. Take an adapter.

PHONE CALLS

- CHI uses onesuite.com for our business calls to China
- Prepaid calling cards are available in China at newspaper stands and are economical.
- Panda Cell Phone (www.Pandaphone.com) service is commonly used by adoptive families in China.
- You can also use a US calling card so that you can bypass the China Telecom system, which is much more expensive or ask your family to call you at an appointed time. Make sure they have a long distance carrier on the phone. You will want to inquire from your carrier the country code and rate before you travel.

E-MAILS / INTERNET / BLOGS / SKYPE

You may want to set up a "portable-free" email account (Hotmail, Yahoo, etc.) from your home computer before you leave. Before you leave enter the email addresses of the people to whom you want to correspond in your account's address book. Internet service is available in the business centers at the hotels, in some hotel rooms, and many cities have internet bars.

METRIC COVERSIONS

Centimeters to inches – centimeters divided by 2.5 = inches

Kilograms to pounds – kilograms multiplied by 2.2 = pounds

AIRLINE INFORMATION

Please allow enough time to check in for your international flight. Refer to the information sent to you by the international travel agency.

If you are prone to motion sickness, ask for a seat over the wheel or wings. The tail section gets the bumps. Keep air vents pointed toward your face. Relax. Ask your physician about anti-nausea medication.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

US Domestic and international flights allow two (2) checked bags per person up to 50 pounds per bag, and one carry-on bag per person (no larger than 14"x9"x22"). For any recent changes, please check with your airline carrier.

China Domestic flights allow one (1) checked bag per person-up to 44 pounds, and one carry-on bag. Some Chinese Airlines will charge additional fees for overweight luggage. Our coordinators try to have group check-ins for the luggage, sometimes eliminating any additional fees.

Please refer to the Transportation Security Administration website for permitted and prohibited items: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>

Since the Olympics, the airports in China have new regulations for luggage and the security check has become very strict. All liquids are now required to be included in your check-in luggage. For emergency liquid medicine, the security staff needs to see the prescription and open the medicine to check. Since the US medication is different from Chinese, families may experience delays if you carry on liquids. Please remember, the duration of China domestic flights is usually short.

In case your checked luggage does not arrive with you, pack necessities in your carry-on bag. The carry-on bag should include all of your important documents and a change of clothes. You will be able to survive until the luggage is delivered. Cameras, adoption paperwork, prescription medication and valuables will be safer in your carry-on luggage also. Keep your travel documents (passports and airline tickets) organized and easy to access. Make copies of your passport and visa and keep in a safe place.

Some people like to put a heavy, colorful strap around their checked baggage for security and for easy identification. Attach strong, well-marked ID tags to all luggage and also put ID tags inside.

When packing luggage, don't pack all of the child's clothes and supplies into one bag. Mix parents' and child's belongings together, packing half in one bag, half in another. If one bag is lost, you will have enough clothing and supplies to survive until your other luggage is found.

WEATHER

China is on the same latitudes as the U.S. and has the same seasons and variation of weather from north to south. Dress accordingly for your trip to China. In the central area, you will find it quite hot in the summer, and moderate in the winter -- but with many buildings and vehicles unheated. Your hotel will be air-conditioned and heated, but otherwise you will find buildings to be hot in the summer and uncomfortably chilly in the winter. Be prepared for long waits in cold rooms so bring layers. In summer, Guangzhou can be extremely hot, as can Nanjing and Shanghai. We recommend checking the Asia weather forecasts on-line before traveling,

AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE (F) OF MAJOR CITIES

City	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Beijing	28	32	40	60	82	89	89	89	80	69	40	36
Chengdu	45	50	55	64	73	78	84	88	77	65	55	50
Chongqing	45	50	58	67	73	80	85	90	80	70	60	51
Guangzhou	58	60	70	72	80	85	88	85	78	66	57	51
Guilin	50	51	58	64	67	80	85	82	79	70	60	50
Hangzhou	39	41	48	60	69	75	83	83	75	64	54	43
Ho Chi Minh City	79	80	80	81	82	85	85	88	86	82	80	80
Hong Kong	65	64	68	76	83	86	88	88	86	82	75	69
Kunming	50	52	58	64	67	67	68	68	65	60	54	50
Lhasa	26	35	42	49	55	63	61	60	58	47	39	32
Shanghai	45	46	54	67	78	83	91	91	83	75	64	52
Urumqi	4	10	32	62	66	74	79	75	64	47	28	11
Wuhan	37	41	50	61	70	80	84	83	75	64	52	42
Xian	30	35	47	57	68	79	80	78	66	56	44	33

PACKING AND PREPARING

Do it right! Travel light!

We strongly recommend that you take one suitcase (with wheels) -- per person and one carry-on per couple. There will be many occasions when you will have to carry all your belongings. Whatever you take will be an unyielding part of your life for the entire trip. We have heard of many whom were sorry for taking too much. Very few have said they took too little.

PACKING CHECK LIST FOR AN INFANT

- Bottles with a variety of nipples
- *Powdered formula-1 can
- Thermos (unbreakable) for carrying hot water
- Plastic bottle for carrying cold, boiled water or use bottled water available while traveling
- Rice cereal, child's spoon, small bowl, bibs
- 1 package of Disposable diapers (until supplies can be purchased)
- Changing pad
- Baby wipes
- spit-up cloths
- Vaseline
- fingernail clipper
- medicine for tooth pain/teething
- comb and brush
- pacifiers
- Q-tips
- liquid baby soap and shampoo
- Snuggli or other front or hip "sling" baby carrier; for older baby, a "Sara's Ride"
- Five (5) outfits, plenty of layers for colder temperatures
- sleepwear
- hat to protect against sun or cold
- coat or sweater
- two receiving blankets
- diaper bag
- several toys, some of which you may decide to give to the orphanage

*Most babies will be accustomed to a milk powder/formula enriched with sugar. We strongly recommend: Follow the same mixture the baby is used to until you are home and then change it *gradually*. You will have a chance to talk to the aunties about formula and other matters concerning the baby. **Ask your coordinator to help you buy some Chinese formula before your baby arrives.**

Diapers, strollers, baby bottles, (almost anything) can be purchased in China.

PACKING CHECK LIST FOR THE TODDLER OR OLDER CHILD

- Five (5) outfits, a lot of layers for colder temperatures
- Sleepwear
- Gloves/mittens, scarf , hat, sweater or coat
- socks and shoes
- raincoat for fall, spring and summer months
- pkg of Pull Ups, depending on age-Even when potty trained, it is nice to have them to wear for the long trip home when they cannot wait in long lines for the bathroom. Pull ups are not available in China.
- underwear
- toothbrush & paste -They may have never brushed their teeth before, so don't force it.
- Wipes
- Hairbrush, comb & child's shampoo
- hair decorations for girls
- photo book of home and family
- a backpack - depending on the child's age
- Magna-Doodle (for the plane ride)
- Crayons, washable markers, coloring books
- paper and pencils
- bubbles (several small bottles)
- little purse
- stuffed animal or doll
- baseball cap
- simple games
- "Blankie"
- lollipops, raisins, crackers, Cheerios, other snack foods

Umbrella stroller for ages 2-4, and almost anything can be bought in China.

PACKING CHECK LIST FOR PARENTS

- Two pairs of pants (wear one)
 - Casual tops (wear one)
 - Sleepwear
 - Underwear
 - Poncho
 - For colder months, bring scarf, gloves, thermal underwear, outer layers
 - Woolite/dish detergent for washing clothes
 - Clothespins-Hotels have excellent but not inexpensive laundry
- Simplify! Simplify! Sample size:***
- shampoo
 - toothpaste, toothbrush, floss
 - razor, shaving cream
 - comb & brush
 - deodorant
 - travel soap
 - washcloth
 - tissues
 - wash 'n wipes
 - Your prescription medications (in carryon bag)
- Pepto-bismol, anti-diarrhea medicine, aspirin, motion sickness, mild sleeping formula
 - Swiss army knife
 - collapsible umbrella
 - electrical adapters - Chinese electricity is 200V, 50 cycles.
 - mini office supplies - few paper clips, a small stapler, black pen for fax message, big envelopes, rubber bands, scotch tape
 - waist money belt or pouch, for carrying money, passports, tickets
 - A major credit card can be used for getting cash advances, if needed. It can also be used for incidental hotel expenses, and for much of your shopping at the Friendship Stores and some other shops.
 - camera/video camera
 - film - also readily available in China
 - You may want to pack a few snacks such as crackers, candy, dried soups or instant drinks

*Donations for the orphanage or CHI Hope Center (Rehabilitation Center for Children that have had surgery): Some families want to take supplies, like clothing, toys, games, etc. for the children left behind at the orphanage. We can find out specific needs of the orphanage in advance, if you wish. Some families purchase items in China to donate to the orphanage.

Laundry at the hotels can be expensive. Throughout China there are good laundry services available and they are very reasonable. Your CHI Coordinator or local guide will be able to direct you to the nearest laundry service.

Websites with packing list for adoptive parents:

We have listed several websites that have packing lists, but please remember these are just suggestions. The CHI list above is pretty thorough, but the following will give you ideas. Remember you can buy many items in China.

<http://www.geocities.com/baci326/packing.html>

<http://wanderlustandlipstick.com/blogs/pamperspakhlava/2010/08/10/leavin-on-a-jet-plane-how-to-pack-for-an-international-adoption-trip/comment-page-1/>

DOCUMENTS TO TAKE TO CHINA

We will send the most current document checklist to you in the "travel preparation package" after you receive your referral. Most of the items on the list are already in your possession.

Helpful Medical Items to Take for Your Child

by Deborah Borchers, M.D

It is helpful to take at least a ten-day supply of **antibiotics**. Several do not need refrigeration, namely Zithromax, Biaxin and Trimethoprim-Sulfa (also known as Bactrim or Septra). Antibiotic coverage may be needed for ear infections, skin infections and pneumonia. With a prescription, the dry powder of any of these may be obtained from a pharmacist. Upon request the pharmacist will also put the correct amount of sterile water in a separate bottle to mix with the powder. Ask your doctor to write down the dosage range based on weights. (You may be able to estimate your daughter's present weight by looking a growth charts and plotting known weights, then using the curve to estimate up.)

Optimally antibiotics should not be used without an examination by a physician. Physicians in developing countries may not look in children's ears the same way that western physicians do, so you should discuss conditions with your physician that are acceptable for you to start antibiotics without an exam by an MD. Such symptoms may include a child with a fever for three days, a child with persistent thick discharge from the nose, or an irritable child who is pulling her ear. If your doctor is reluctant to give antibiotics, ask if an arrangement can be made for you to contact her/him at home or office (remember the time difference!) to discuss if antibiotics are needed. Often there are physicians traveling with other adoption agencies to adopt children, so an exam by a US physician may be possible. They will likely not have access to medications as they do in the states, so your physician's assistance in supplying the prescription will expedite care for your child.

A **syringe** calibrated in cc or ml (identical) is needed to mix and give antibiotics. If you do not have water premeasured in a separate bottle, you may safely use the boiled water provided in the rooms once it has cooled down. That water may be also used for making the baby's bottles. If your child has feeding problems and will not suck on her bottle, the syringe may be used to slowly feed your child fluids and prevent dehydration. A **medicine cup** may also be useful with the administration of medications, as well as fluids if your child is having problems eating.

Nystatin cream (prescription) or **Lotrimin cream** (over the counter, in the athlete's foot treatment area) may be used for diaper rashes that are red and weepy, often caused by yeast infections. These often occur when children are on antibiotics or kept in wet diapers for extended periods of time.

Desitin cream, Daily Care cream, or A & D Ointment are useful in small amounts for irritant diaper rashes. You do not need to put any medication on your child's bottom if there is no rash. Check with your child's doctor or nurse practitioner to see if he/she recommends the routine use of baby powder -- most do not.

Elimite cream is a prescription medication used to treat scabies. This condition, caused by a skin mite (and highly contagious) is characterized by small red bumps that are very itchy. Consider this diagnosis if all (or most) of the children in the orphanage have a rash, especially on their faces, heads, hands or feet. Scabies should be diagnosed by a doctor if possible. Apply the cream from head to toe everywhere (not just where there is a rash). Leave it on for 8 to 12 hours, then bathe. All bedding and clothing should be washed after treatment. If your son or daughter has scabies, also wash or dry clean your clothing that came into contact with him/her. You may wish to put his/her clothing from the orphanage into a plastic bag or two, and wash them in hot water when you get home.

Nix cream rinse is the best (and unfortunately the most expensive) treatment for head lice. Lice are little hopping bugs about 1/8 inch long. Often you can only see the nits, the cases of the eggs, which are concentrated behind the ears and at the hairline. Nix is safe for all children. After washing the hair you put on the Nix for ten minutes (just as you would a cream rinse), and then rinse the hair. There is a comb enclosed. You can use it to comb out the nits. Often they must also be removed by hand picking them out. Generic forms of Permethin 1% (the active ingredient in Nix) are just as effective and are cheaper. Some physicians recommend retreatment for lice in one to two weeks.

Baby shampoo is useful for washing your child's hair, as well as to treat mild cases of cradle cap. At the start of your daughter's bath, put a small amount of the shampoo directly on the area of dried, crusty hair, which is most commonly over the soft spot on the top of the head. Wash his/her body as usual, then work in the shampoo with a damp washcloth to loosen the scaly area. Using the rough side of the washcloth will provide the necessary friction to loosen the dried crusty area, but if that doesn't work after a day or two, use a moist toothbrush (often provided in the hotel rooms in other countries). More severe cases may need to be addressed by your child's doctor upon return home, as fungal infections such as ringworm of the scalp will be less responsive to this treatment.

Acetaminophen drops or syrup (best known as Tylenol, but generic substitutes are just as good) is helpful if your child is irritable or running a fever more than 101 degrees. The dose is 40 mg (1/2 dropperful or 1/4 teaspoon) for a child under 12 pounds, 80 mg for a child 13-17 pounds, and 120 mg for a child 18-23 pounds. You can estimate weight from kilograms to pounds by multiplying kilograms by 2.2. It may also be helpful to take **acetaminophen suppositories** in the event that your child will not take medications by mouth.

Take a **rectal thermometer**, either glass or digital. Ear thermometers are convenient (and expensive), but many doctors question their accuracy when used by inexperienced caretakers or on younger children. To take a temperature, lubricate with **vaseline** and insert less than one inch into the rectum while your child is held over your knees. A glass thermometer should be held in place for five minutes, a digital until it beeps. If your child has a fever (usually defined as a rectal temperature more than 101 degrees), it lets you know that you should watch your child for other signs of infection. What is also important when your child has a fever is the way that your child feeds, sleeps and interacts with you and her environment. A low grade fever without other symptoms is not harmful. If your child has a temperature more than 104 degrees, the fever itself is unlikely to be dangerous, but the reason for the fever may be. You may wish to seek medical care to evaluate the reason for the fever, particularly if your child is at all not responding normally or acting ill. With any fever your child will require an increase in his/her fluid intake to prevent dehydration.

Any over the counter **cough and cold medicines** may be helpful if those symptoms are present. Many children have some runny nose and a dry cough after leaving the orphanage. Most doctors only recommend treating these symptoms if they interfere with sleeping or eating. Often children with nasal congestion will “feel” like the congestion is “in their chest.” This is merely the sound of the nasal congestion being transmitted into the chest cavity, and is not a sign of bronchitis or pneumonia. You should be concerned about these illnesses if your child’s breathing is labored and fast (more than 10 to 15 times in 15 seconds of counting). Medical consultation should be obtained if those symptoms are present, especially with a fever more than 101 degrees. A safe dose of cold/cough medicines for a child over 6 months old is 1/4 of the dose recommended on the bottle for a six year old child. Consult with your doctor before leaving home to see if he/she recommends these medicines for children younger than six months old.

Saline nose drops (such as Ocean, Nasal or Ayr) and a small ear (not nose) syringe are also quite useful for nasal congestion. They may be safely used in children of any age, and are especially helpful when the nose is noisy or wheezy, but not necessarily draining. Put one drop into each nostril with a dropper before each feed or prior to sleeping, then suction the nose once (not repeatedly) with the ear syringe. You do not have to obtain mucus when suctioning for these to help. This may be used frequently, as they help to restore the nose’s natural moisture.

Hydrocortisone 1% cream may be useful for rashes due to bug bites or irritation from new clothing or soaps. This cream may be used for any rash that remains after treating scabies or for rashes with very dry skin. Do not use it with any rash that looks infected, namely with blisters, pus or significant redness, as it may worsen infections.

Benadryl (generic name is **Diphenhydramine**) is an antihistamine with the most potent side-effect being sedation. It is safe to use 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon every six hours on the flight home if your child is inconsolable. Be warned, however, that some children may become more irritable with Benadryl. It is suggested that you try using the Benadryl one afternoon at nap time to see if he/she becomes more irritable, rather than waiting until the flight home (if you think that your child will not adjust to the airplane conditions well).

Babylax or **Glycerin suppositories** are useful to have in the event that your child has constipation. Constipation is usually defined as hard, infrequent bowel movements (less than one every two or three days). Normal bowel movements for infants are soft and mushy (usually requiring two to three baby wipes to clean up). Some children have problems with constipation in the change to different baby formulas. The suppository or Babylax should be put in only about 1 to 2 inches using your finger. Do not push further into the rectum if resistance is met. If your child has severe abdominal pain with drawing up of the legs, vomiting or bloody bowel movements (more than just a small streak of blood), obtain medical care IMMEDIATELY. It may also be helpful to take one or two small cans of **apple juice** to help keep your child’s stools loose if a suppository is needed. Ask your pediatrician about her/his recommendation, but a good mix is 1 ounce of juice to 1 to 2 ounces of water, given once a day.

Pedialyte or **KaoLectrolyte** is a helpful formula substitute to use in the event of diarrhea, defined as frequent (more than 2 or 3) water loss bowel movements. Pedialyte comes premixed; KaoLectrolyte is a new formulation that comes in pre-measured powder packets, takes up less luggage room, and is cheaper. If unavailable in your

home stores, you can take rice cereal and salt to make up a substitute for these water-based solutions. Use 2 cups of water, add 1/4 teaspoon table salt (the amount of salt in two packets from your favorite fast food place), and dissolve the salt into the water. Gradually add 1/2 to 1 cup infant rice cereal to the water until the mixture is as thick as is drinkable. Mix well. Give this solution or the Pedialyte or the KaoLectrolyte solution to your child after each diarrhea-like stool, giving infants a half cup and older children a full cup. The rice cereal solution should be discarded after 6 to 8 hours. If your child is vomiting, offer the mixture in amounts of 1 teaspoon or less. If your child fails to urinate, a medical evaluation is needed.

Revised May 8, 2000. Permission is not necessary to reprint this information with parents, health care professionals and social workers involved in international adoption.

Dr. Borchers is a general pediatrician and adoption medicine specialist in Cincinnati, Ohio (513-753-2820), and the mother of three daughters adopted from China. This advice is not intended to be a substitute for medical care. All families traveling to another country for the purpose of international adoption should schedule an appointment with their child's physician or nurse practitioner prior to traveling to review these recommendations, as well as other they might have.

Children's Hope International strongly recommends: Use the same formula and follow the same mixture the baby is used to until you are home and then change it *gradually*. You will have a chance to talk to the aunts about formula and other matters concerning the baby. Ask your coordinator to help you buy some Chinese formula before your baby arrives.

Feeding Suggestions While Abroad by Deborah Borchers, M.D

Before leaving home, talk to your child's doctor or nurse practitioner about what formula he/she recommends. Many pediatricians recommend taking a milk based formula, such as **Similac with Iron** or **Enfamil with Iron**. Others recommend **Lactofree** (a milk with no lactose sugar, but also also no soy protein), as many people of Asian descent have a lactose intolerance. This often does not manifest until the children are older, however. In my experience, Lactofree seemed to be the closest in taste to the Chinese formulas used in most orphanages, but the milk based formulas were tolerated just as well. The soy formula can sometimes constipate the children, and many have already been on a milk based formula. You can safely use the water provided in the thermos supplied in your hotel room. Take your own **thermos** (preferably stainless steel so as to avoid accidental breakage) with a narrow spout or lid from which it will be easy to pour while in dining rooms, on buses and on planes. A **funnel** is also helpful for transferring hot water into your thermos without burning yourself.

To ease the transition to US baby formulas, some people mix the formula in a lesser strength for a few days. This avoids some problems with constipation and stomach aches. Usually powdered formula in the US is mixed at a ratio of one scoop to 2 ounces of water. You may wish to mix it for a day at a ratio of one scoop to 4 ounces of water, then one scoop to 3 ounces of water for a day. If your child refuses the change in formula, Chinese baby formula (actually made by American companies) is easily available from Friendship Stores. The same is true in many other countries. We figured that one scoop of Chinese formula to one ounce of water was the correct ratio, but double check this ratio if you need to use Chinese formula (1 ounce is about 30 cc of fluid). After one or two days of feeding the Chinese formula, start mixing in gradually the American formula. Friends who have traveled to other countries for adoption have said that they were also able to easily obtain baby formula.

It does not matter if you take disposable or washable bottles, but take ones that have **interchangeable nipples**. Different babies prefer different types (standard versus nuk) and different openings(regular holes versus cross-cut), as well as different textures (latex versus silicon). Although it sounds crazy, some babies are that picky. My younger daughter stopped eating after two days because she preferred a different nipple, so it is worth the trouble to bring the variety. If you need to enlarge the holes in the nipples for your daughter once you are in another country, do not enlarge all of the nipple holes. Sometimes children will prefer the formula fast flowing at first, then want to slow down.

Some children in orphanages are used to the formula being given at temperatures that are outrageously hot by our thinking. Try to use water temperatures that are comfortable to your touch. If your daughter refuses to eat, use water that is a little warmer or cooler. The children adjust easily to a gradual decrease in the water temperature once you are comfortable with their eating habits.

While at the orphanage, ask what other foods your child is being fed. It may be helpful to ask your physician before you go his/her recommendations regarding other solid foods to be fed while abroad. Some useful foods for children more than six months old include Cheerios, Kix, goldfish crackers, graham crackers, fruit bars, and other finger foods. Jar foods should probably not be taken abroad due to the increased risk of breakage in your suitcase. Most children will be able to eat limited food from the table if cut up into very tiny pieces, so as to avoid the risk of choking.

This advice is based on experience gathered through her years of pediatric practice, as well as during the adoption of her 3 daughters. Families need to remember that in transition feeding issues, flexibility and patience are key. Families traveling to adopt internationally should make an appointment with their health care provider prior to travel to obtain their input and preferences regarding these suggestions

MEETING YOUR CHILD AND ADVICE FOR A SMOOTH ADJUSTMENT

- ♥ Meeting your child is a moment you have been looking forward to for months now. You may have a picture in your mind of how this meeting will be and may be disappointed when this precious moment does not exactly meet up to your dreams.
- ♥ Be prepared for your child to be hesitant to come to you on the first meeting. Remember you are a stranger to your child--he/she is not use to you and may even be afraid to come to you.
- ♥ Your child may have formed an attachment to his/her caregiver. Your child will not be able to understand the miracle of becoming a part of your family and may experience loss or grief at leaving the people and surroundings he/she is accustomed to. This grieving may take only a few days to get over or in rare cases longer. This is normal...be patient and loving.
- ♥ Bubbles, candy in your pockets, and small toys can often give your child a positive image of you, lessening their fear of you, and easing a tense moment. These items can often give a needed diversion to months of long awaited expectations or awkward moments. Word to the wise: **GO SLOW!** Take your cues from your child!
- ♥ Many of the things your child will experience with you are completely new to him/her. He or she may burst into tears at any given time. Just be as loving as possible. You may feel you are prepared for this, but don't be surprised if you experience some feelings of rejection if your child seems to prefer someone else besides you. Most children will feel loved and secure with their adoptive parents very soon and will quickly begin forming a love and trust for you and your family.
- ♥ Adjustment is normal and no one will judge your capabilities as a parent by how quickly the child bonds with you. The time you spend in China with your child will be a time of adjustment for you and your child. There may be times you feel unequipped to handle some of these adjustments.
- ♥ For the older child, give them their backpack and just a few small toys. (You may want to give them their toys over several days, so as not to overwhelm them.) **DO NOT** ever try to take this away from your child. Remember, they may have never had their own possessions! They may not even let you take off their coat for a while! Give them time—they'll learn they are not going to lose it! No need for power struggles, just try to put yourself in their place.
- ♥ Try to introduce new things gradually to your child. Any new foods should be introduced slowly. Realize that this may be hard for your child. Do not force feed your child at any time. Do not be concerned if they skip a few meals. Their eating schedules may be irregular at first, but will soon become routine. If you feel your child is not eating enough when you return home, you can ask your doctor about it. (However, the reverse is true with most children! You may be concerned they are eating too much ... they may never have gotten full in their lives, or they may think that this is the only meal of the day. Don't worry, this too shall pass!)
- ♥ The child may favor one parent at first, remember this is temporary. You might try having the spouse with whom the baby is more comfortable hold her while the other feeds her during meals.

- ♥ Crying is good. Crying lets you know when your child is hungry, tired or needs a diaper change.
- ♥ Don't be concerned if your child cries. Crying is a way for the child to release some of their grief and loss. It also can help you know when your child is hungry, needs to be changed or is tired. Many children will stop crying if you simply go outside or into another room. If weather allows, take your child outside for walks and let them get some fresh air. If your child cries, hold them and let them know they are safe with you.
- ♥ Go with the child's schedule. Put the priority on letting the child feel safe and secure. Change your child's schedule after she has adjusted to you.
- ♥ You may notice a blue-ish mark on the child's lower backside, ankle or arm. Don't be alarmed – this is a birthmark called a Mongolian Spot. Most Asian, Hispanic and Black children are born with this birthmark and it will fade as the child gets older. The spots are purely cosmetic and have no impact on the child's health or well-being.
- ♥ You will be given information on your child's "Potty Schedule". If you put your child on the toilet at these times and make a "Shhhhh" sound your child will urinate and "poop" in the toilet. This is hard for American's to believe, but most of the Chinese children are "potty trained" by the time they are six months of age. If the child is not put on the toilet on his/her "poop" schedule, he/she will probably become constipated and suffer discomfort. After time the child will regress, so be prepared.
- ♥ Patience. Don't worry. Relax. It will be alright. For the next 2-3 days, you will have a chance to get used to your child – and he/she to you. You will have two appointments during this time – registration and notary work with Chinese government officials. You will also get a chance to do some sightseeing, shopping, and getting immersed in one of the world's great cultures.

The following article was written by Marianne Adams, Director of our Arizona Branch Office, for her families that were preparing for their travel. We thought it was a wonderful article and would like to share it with you.

Grieving

Recently I have had a couple of moms call me from China because they were concerned with the behavior of their child. In both cases their child was grieving (both toddlers). I was kind of surprised that the parents didn't recognize it for what it was because in both families this was their 2nd adopted child, they had friends whose child went through this, they are active members of FCC, have read many books on the topic, attended many picnics, and had many friends who adopted. It made me realize that I need to summarize what you could/might expect from your kids.

All six of your kids look like they are in VERY good shape. That means that they are probably getting VERY good care, and it also means that they are probably attached to a special A Yi (nanny) at the orphanage. The more your child is attached to the caregiver, the more likely that he/she will give you a hard time. Below are the steps that your child may go through while grieving. The older the child is the harder he/she might grieve. The child may do it only in China. They may do it only in U.S. and they may grieve in both countries.

First Stage --ZOMBIE STAGE---This stage scares parents because they think the child could be retarded. The child just stares over you and through you. He/she may not react to noise as if he/she might have a hearing problem. He/she may or may not eat or take a bottle when in this stage. You may put the child to bed and he/she stares up at the ceiling and never moves. He/she looks like a frozen little robot. The child does not usually want to be touched or held. This first stage might go on for 3-4 days, this Zombie stage can last for one hour up to three or four times daily, or it can go on for hours and hours on end. By day four it is usually happening occasionally off and on through out the day, but only lasts for a few minutes each time it happens. After 3-4 days all of a sudden she wakes up from a nap or bedtime, notices who you are and screams bloody murder. Next Stage!!

Second Stage--uncontrollable crying--- This stage is what most of you would expect for grieving. The crying is just like an adult would cry who lost a loved one. This is your opportunity to be there for her so that she can bond to

you. This stage can last from a few hours total ---all done--, or a few hours a day, or a few hours a day for three-four days. After this stage you will usually start to see the child needing you more, and a few smiles peak through. You might see some of the child's true personality at this point. Hold her/him as much as possible during this stage. The crying can get to you after awhile, but it is important that you be there to start that bonding (her with you). Leah (Marianne's daughter) cried for hours and hours during this stage for about 2.5 days. It didn't happen until we got back to the states.

Third stage. This is the stage that concerns everyone. Parents think that the child is emotionally disturbed. If the child is in this stage he/she is feeling rage. There will be frequent temper tantrums. The tantrums can last one-four hours and often do. It usually happens more with the toddlers. Again, be there for the child, distract the child. They get upset over the smallest thing in this stage. It can be because it is time to leave the hotel, you turned off the TV etc. Most of the time you won't even know what sparked it--the child won't either. The child is just feeling ---how dare you take me away from everything I know, and everyone I love. How dare you think that I would be better off with you. At that point the child gets very stubborn because he/she wants control of their life. This stage will usually last 2-3 days off and on in China, and it often comes and goes for a few weeks when you are back to the U.S. Again this is a stage that usually-but not always- happens with 18 month-4 year olds. In this stage it is important that you be firm about what is and isn't appropriate behavior even if they are grieving. In other words no matter how sad, it is not appropriate to bite, kick, or spit. Make eye contact with the child and say NO. You may feel uncomfortable doing this in front of Chinese people, but if you let it go over the two weeks it will be harder to get straightened out when you get home. If you can't get the child straightened out during this rage, then go to your hotel room unless you are at an appointment. Those of us (me included) who tried to be understanding and let that behavior go until we reached the U.S. wished we hadn't later.

Your child may experience all of these feelings or only one or two. The kids under one year of age usually experience #2 stage. The toddlers usually experience all three stages. The toddlers are apt to have the rage stage for 3-4 weeks after they get to the U.S. It is normal and believe it or not, it is good! It means that they loved someone and miss that person. That means that they will eventually love you. I have had some kids experience stage #2 after being home two-three months.

Another thing is, it will often take the kids awhile to trust you. Why should they? The orphanage who they trusted dumped them with you and they trusted that director for months-maybe years. So if they don't trust you they don't want you to be out of their sight because maybe you will dump them also. This usually happens after they get back to the U.S. Where you will probably see this lack of trust the most is during naps and when you are around other Asian people.

It can be so complicated --can't it?? But your child will be such a blessing and worth every bit of fear and frustration you will be feeling over the next few weeks.

If you have any questions please let me know. I don't mean to scare you. I think it is scarier if you don't know what is going on. Also, if your child does not experience any of these stages, that does not mean we have a problem either. The younger the baby the less apt you are to pick up on it. He/she could be sleeping a lot to escape her/his grief.

YOUR ARRIVAL IN CHINA

Before departing for China you will receive an **itinerary specific for your group (please remember details are always subject to change), and a group list** from our office.

If you are arriving in Beijing: You will be greeted by our Coordinator who will carry an identifying "Children's Hope International" sign. She/he will welcome you to China and will take you to your hotel where you will stay the first evening.

If you are arriving in Guangzhou: Staff from the transfer desk will help you transfer to another terminal in order to catch the flight to your adoption city. If your child is from the Guangdong Province you will be greeted by our Coordinator and taken to the hotel.

If you are not arriving in Beijing or Guangzhou, but are meeting your group in the provincial capital city, you may need assistance in the airports.

FOR TRAVEL ASSISTANCE INSIDE CHINA, IF NOT TRAVELING WITH YOUR GROUP

If traveling inside China and you need assistance transferring from one flight to another, please go to the airport transfer desk and ask for help. Please copy this information and take with you. Please refer to the appendix for maps of the Beijing and Guangzhou airports.

Dear Airport Staff,
Please give me directions and assistance, so that I may find the correct gate to catch my next flight.
Thank you very much for your help.

请问，我该走哪一门搭乘我的下一航班。

谢谢。

TYPICAL ITINERY IN CHINA

For families wanting to arrive in Beijing earlier than the group schedule, CHI arranges the following extra optional tours. If you want to join in, all you need to do is tell your CHI Coordinator when you arrive in Beijing. Payment for the tours will be given to the CHI office in Beijing. The cost of the additional, optional tours will be provided before you make your international arrangements.

- *Thursday:* Summer Palace (Half day, lunch is not included)
- *Friday:* Temple of Heaven in the morning; Lunch at Dai Jia Cun Restaurant; and Hutong Tour & Chinese Acrobat Show in the afternoon. (Dinner is not included.)

A typical schedule would have the group fly from the US on a Thursday and arrive in Beijing on Friday. Since you are crossing the International Dateline, you will lose one day. You will gain a day when you return home.

Group Schedule (detailed events are always subject to change):

Date	Itinerary
Fri	Arrive in Beijing You will be greeted at the airport by your CHI Coordinator . She/he will welcome you to China and will take you to your hotel. Our families stay at a 4 or 5 star hotel.
Sat	After breakfast, the Coordinator will give you helpful hints about your trip. Today's schedule will include: the CHI orientation meeting; sightseeing (TianAnMen Square, Forbidden City, the Great Wall at Juyongguan, Lunch will be included) and normally families will return to the hotel around 6:00pm. No activities are scheduled upon returning to the hotel.
Sun	You will fly from Beijing to the capital city of your child's province, and will be taken to a 4 or 5 star hotel. After getting settled in your hotel, your CHI coordinator and local guide will help you buy some Chinese formula for those families adopting infants.
Mon	The Orphanage Director and Aunties will bring your child to the Adoption Center/Civil Affairs Office since most provinces require the adoptive parents to receive their children at that office. You may have a chance to talk to the Aunties about formula and other matters concerning your

	<p>child. Please prepare a list of questions you would like to ask your child's Auntie. This will be the only time to ask questions of the Aunties about your child.</p> <p>You will sign official adoption documents and you may have a 24 hour adjustment "harmonious period" before proceeding with the adoption process.</p> <p><i>If you are having difficulty bonding with your child, or need more time to make a decision, or if you are having any doubts about completing your adoption, PLEASE talk to your CHI Coordinator in China immediately. This is more likely to happen with families adopting an older child. More time can be given for the bonding process, but be prepared to spend a few extra days in the province.</i></p> <p>Most groups are no longer permitted to visit to the orphanage.</p>
Tues	<p>You will sign the adoption documents on Tuesday after the "harmonious period" is over.</p> <p><i>PLEASE talk to your CHI Coordinator in China if you need more time to bond with your child or you do not want to complete the adoption process as soon as possible. Due to the USCIS process, you will no longer be able to receive another referral while you are in China.</i></p> <p>You will have an interview with the local Civil Affairs Officials and the Orphanage Director and complete the "Application for Approval of the Adoption Registration" and the "Adoption Agreement". Upon the registration of the Adoption Decree, your adoption will be finalized according to Chinese Law. After the Registration, you can't undo or change your referral, your adoption will be final!</p>
Wed	You will have a several days of sightseeing and free days
Thurs	Sightseeing or free day
Fri	<p>You will receive all of your child's adoption paperwork with English translations: Chinese Birth Certificate, Abandonment Decree, Adoption Certificate, Adoption Registration Certificate and Child's Chinese Passport.</p> <p><i>Copies of all Adoption Documentation (the English Translations) are on our CHIFamily.net website for you to review before traveling.</i></p> <p>Your CHI Coordinator will help the group complete the documents needed for your American Consulate appointment. You will fly to Guangzhou.</p>
Sat	<p>The Coordinator will take you to the medical clinic designated by the American Consulate for a medical exam of the baby: eye, ear, nose and throat with an EKG and measurement and weighing. Children 2 years of age or older will be required to have a TB test, and the results will be read on Monday. The Coordinator will also take you to get the visa photos for your child.</p> <p>Cost: Medical test in Guangzhou is approximately \$65, Additional fees (198 Yuan or 109 Yuan) will be charged for x-rays if your child tests positive on the tuberculin skin test</p>
Sun	You will have a free day for shopping, playing or individual sightseeing.
Mon	Free day or parents with children 2 years of age or older will go to the medical clinic and the TB test results will be read. A chest x-ray will be taken if your child tests positive.
Tues	Before your American Consulate appointment, the coordinator will have met with the group to go over what you will need and to help you fill out the needed documents. A plastic folder labeled with your name will have been provided in the Travel Preparation Package along with

	<p>the Adoption Documents Checklist. Your completed documents must be submitted to the Consulate in this clear plastic folder.</p> <p>It is possible your appointment at the American Consulate will be scheduled for this morning. The family will go to the ACS, have an interview with the Consulate Officer, sign DS230 documents (if necessary) and will pay the visa fee for I-600, and take the oath for your child.</p> <p>Please bring the original passports with you. Please do not bring a camera, knife or scissors into the Consulate. Since 9/11, photos are not permitted inside or outside of the Consulate. We recommend parents stay at the hotel on the appointment day, so they could respond immediately to the ACS Consulate Officer, if needed.</p>
Wed	<p>You will receive your child's visa package in the afternoon. It will be a sealed packet to be given to Customs Officials in the U.S. DO NOT open the packet or the visa will be invalidated! Hand carry the envelope and turn it over to immigration officials at your U.S. port of entry.</p> <p>We ask that you not schedule a flight home on this day. The Consulate occasionally experiences delays in getting the visas processed and returned to the families on time.</p>
Thurs	<p>You can depart from Guangzhou today. Please allow enough time to catch your international flight if you will be flying back to Beijing or flying to Hong Kong or Shanghai. There are flights from Guangzhou to Tokyo in the morning. Direct flights back to the US are available from Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing. Your Coordinator/ Local Guide will see you off at the Guangzhou airport.</p> <p>Flying with your child: Come prepared with things to entertain your child with on the flight home. These things will help both your child and you on the plane. Sometimes children have problems with equalizing the pressure in their ears during the plane flight. This can cause discomfort and the child may cry. Especially during take-off and landings, try giving your child a bottle or for the older child a sippie cup of juice, gum or candy, or something in their mouth to help alleviate this. Keep Tylenol handy while flying.</p>

This would be the ideal schedule, but sometimes we have to make adjustments and you will be notified of your particular schedule before you make your international arrangements.

SHOPPING TIPS IN CHINA

You may want to buy some special gifts to give your child for when they are older, maybe on special adoption anniversaries. It is also nice to have items from China around your home. When in China and sightseeing, take lots of pictures. This is an important event in your life and a history for your child. Suggested souvenirs for your child: A "chop" in her Chinese name, silver or gold bracelets, map of the province where your child was adopted, jade bracelets, pearl earrings and necklace, silk pajamas (several different sizes), pictures painted on silk, books written in both Chinese and English. Your CHI Coordinator can help with your shopping needs.

MAKING HUMANITARIAN AID DONATIONS WHILE TRAVELING

CHI is privileged to be able to carry out an extensive humanitarian aid program in China. While traveling, families are able to see many of our efforts up-close and are often touched so deeply that they want to make a financial gift so that the work may continue.

If you do choose to give a donation directly to an orphanage or to our in-country staff while traveling, it will be used for the purpose given, but please keep the following in mind:

- Donations made in China are not tax-deductible according to IRS regulations and the receipt you receive cannot be used for this purpose.
- You will not receive a personal follow-up on how the donations are used.

Tax-deductible gifts can be made through our secure website (www.childrenshope.net) when you have access to a computer – whether in the hotel, at the Beijing office, or back in the U.S. All donations made through our website go straight back to China for the designated project of the donor's choice, in accordance with CHI's donation policy and procedures.

BACK TO THE U.S.

IMMIGRATING YOUR CHILD

When you land in the U.S., you will be required to go through Immigration. As a U.S. citizen all that is required of you is a simple verification of your passport. Your child, however, will have to go through an additional process taking a few more minutes. The CIS Officials will take your child's paperwork given to you by U.S Consulate. The CIS Official will stamp and return your child's passport. Your child's alien registration number will be recorded in the passport. You will either receive your child's Certificate of Citizenship or "green card" for permanent residency in the mail several months later. The document you will receive will depend of what type of visa (IR3 or IR4) your child received.

INTRODUCING YOUR CHILD TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS

When you come home, you have the great joy of introducing your child to your loved ones. This is a very special time for you and your child, as well as for your family and friends. Remember this will be new to your child and the excitement can be overwhelming for them. Your child will still be in the process of adjusting and may feel insecure and overwhelmed. Watch your child for cues to their level of comfort. Other considerations may also include the age of your child, if they will be meeting other siblings, etc. People may want to hold your child, but try to avoid this during the first several months home. Your child may not understand that you are their "forever parent" and wonder if all the new folks are their next parents. Offer a brief and loving explanation to those whom are eager to shower their love on your child. Most people will understand this.

You may want to schedule an appointment with your child's pediatrician after you have received your travel itinerary. Hopefully, your pediatrician will have experience in caring for children internationally adopted. If not, you may wish to educate your pediatrician on what screening tests are recommended for internationally adopted children. All screening tests should be completed before any immunizations are given-especially Hepatitis B vaccinations. (Refer to post adoption information on recommended screening tests.)

HOME FINAL STEPS

When you return home CHI will send a Post Adoption guide that will help you with:

Legalization of the Foreign Adoption:

Contact a local lawyer and legalize your adoption in the U.S. and in your state. This may not be required if both parents traveled to the country, but is strongly recommended in order to receive a U.S. birth certificate of foreign birth or a state birth certificate with the child's English name. *Laws vary from state to state.*

If both parents did not see the child before the adoption took place, parents will need to readopt in state of residence. Automatic citizenship will only occur after re-adoption takes place and you will need to apply for proof of citizenship (Certificate of Citizenship).

Citizenship:

On October 30, 2000, President Clinton signed into law H.R. 2883, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000. The new law, Public Law 106-395, amends the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to permit foreign-born children, including adopted children, to acquire citizenship automatically if they meet the following requirements: 1) Child is under 18 years of age, 2) At least one parent is a US citizen, 3) Child is residing in the US in the legal and physical custody of the US citizen parent, 4) The child was adopted pursuant to a full, final and complete adoption. This law went into effect February 27, 2001.

As of January 2004, the CIS will automatically send the Certificate of Citizenship to all children that enter the US on an IR3 visa. Expect to receive it about 60 days after entering the US.

Obtaining a State Birth Certificate:

Laws vary from state to state, so please contact your State's Vital Records office for information on applying for the State Birth Certificate with your child's English name. The State Birth Certificate is required for applying for the US passport and enrolling into school.

Post-Placement Reports.

Six post-adoption reports are required by the CCCWA at 1 month, 6 months, 12 months, 2 years, 3 years and 5 years after the child returns home. All reports should be notarized and written by a social worker employed by a Hague or COA accredited agency.

If your child entered the US on an IR-4 visa (requiring re-adoption) and you have not finalized the adoption within 12 months after arriving in the United States, you are required to continue submitting post-adoption reports every 6 months until the child has been granted US Citizenship

Reports must be sent to us in a timely manner, so we can send your report to the country's officials. Please make sure your reports are not completed too early. These positive reports are very important and help contribute to the continuance of the adoption program in the country. Failure to submit post-placement reports as required, will result in notification of family's local Division of Child and Family Services.

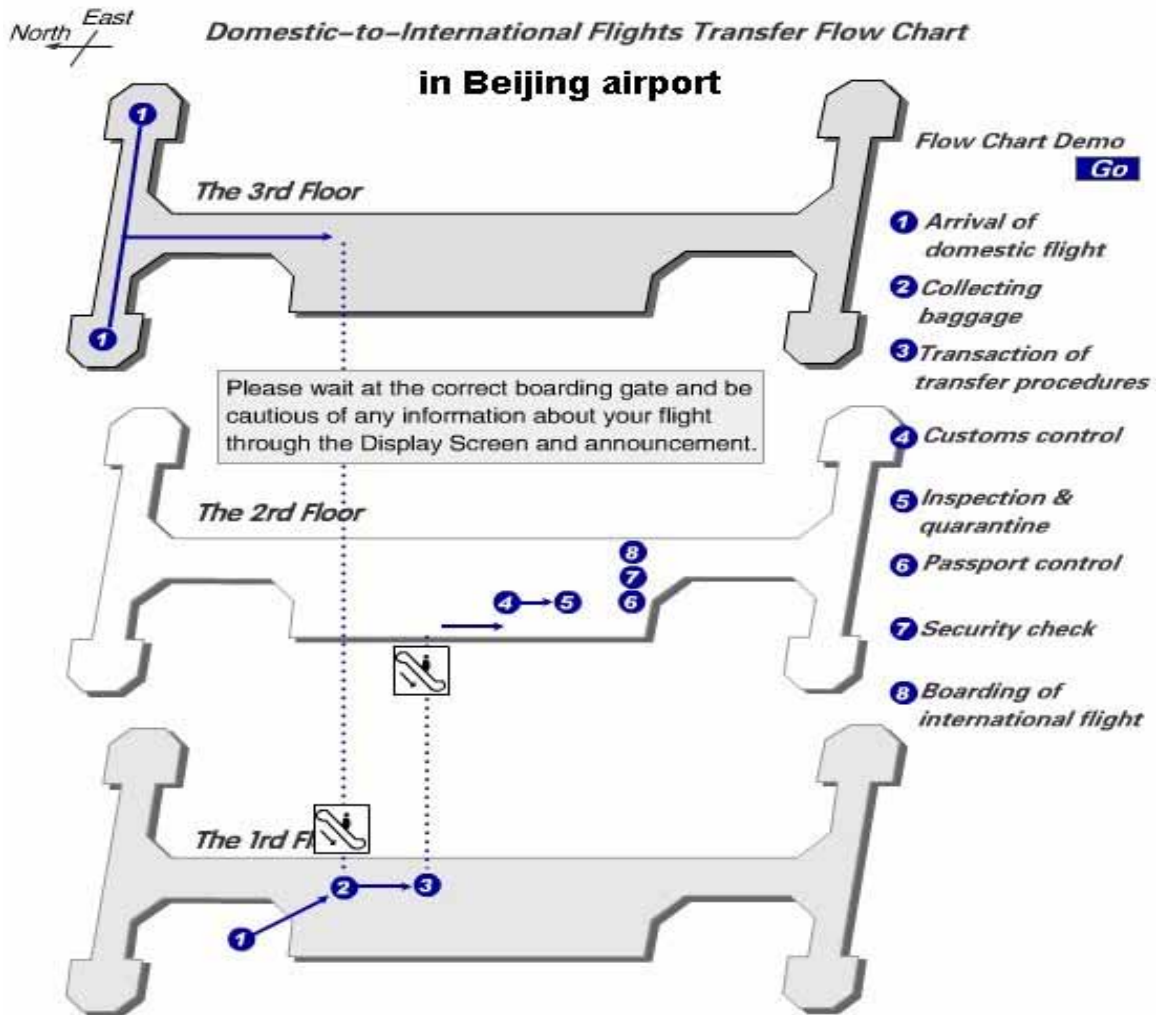
Plus information on:

- Adding your child to your Medical Insurance Policy (you have 30 days after placement)
- Medical and Health Issues
- Obtaining a Social Security Card in the US (You can apply for your child's social security card in China by completing line items #43a and #43b on the DS230 Part II. This form is submitted to the ACS in Guangzhou.)
- Federal and State Tax Credits
- Applying for a US Passport

CLOSING THOUGHTS

A lot to remember? Well, remember this. Everything is going to be just fine! -- so relax and enjoy. China is wonderful -- but it is not America, so don't expect it to be. Discover it for what it is. You're going to be bringing home that beautiful gift to be yours forever and so we ask God's blessings to be richly with you now and always.

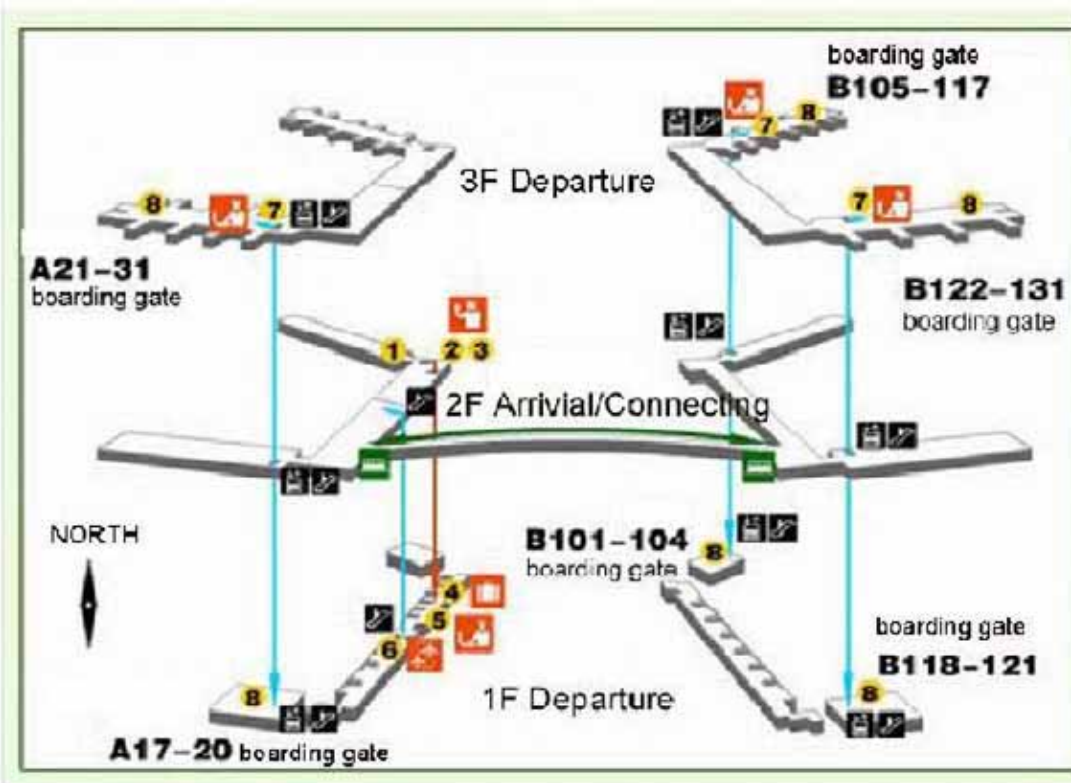
MAPS



For more information on the Beijing airport please refer to this website:
http://www.bcia.com.cn/en/passengers_transfer_international_page.html

The airports are much more complicated than the maps show, so we recommend families to observe carefully the signs and ask for help from the service or transfer desks if you become confused or lost. Please refer to the section on Travel Tips in this guide for a note in English and Chinese asking for assistance to catch your next flight

Transfer guide from international to domestic flight in Guangzhou airport



1. Arrive at 2nd floor
2. Go through the custom on the same floor
3. Go down to 1st floor to pick up luggage
4. Finish connection process in TRANSFER COUNTER (include checking luggage and getting boarding pass)
5. Go up to 3rd floor and go through the security
6. Wait for boarding at the boarding gate

For more information on the Guangzhou airport please refer to this website for current Local: Boarding Procedure> Passenger Guide: <http://www.baiyunairport.com/english/process.jsp>

SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, _____ husband/wife of _____,
both residing at _____,
do make, constitute and appoint my husband/wife _____,
due and lawful attorney in fact for me in my name, place and stead to assist me in the adoption
and immigration of a child from China. This authority includes the right to appear for me before
all Chinese and United States government offices and courts, sign all necessary legal
documents for me, retain any necessary attorneys or agents in China in order to facilitate the
adoption and obtain a US entry visa for the child, and to obtain the passport, any necessary
visas, travel documents, or to make any travel arrangements for our child's travel from China to
the United States.

Granting and giving unto said attorney in fact full authority and power to do and perform any and
all other acts necessary or incident to the performance and execution of the power herein
expressly granted, with power to do and perform all acts authorized hereby, as full to all intents
and purposes as the grantor might or could do if personally present, with full power of
substitution.

In testimony whereof, I have here unto set my hand this _____ day of _____, 20__.

(STATE OF _____)
(COUNTY OF _____)

On this _____ day of _____, 20____, before me personally appeared
_____ (Name of person) to me known to be the (person or persons) described in and
who execute the foregoing instrument, and acknowledge that _____ (he/she or they) executed the same as
_____ (his, her, or their) free act and deed.

My commission expires on _____.

Notary Public

AGREEMENT/WAIVER FOR SPECIAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

I/We have read and understand the issues, costs and concerns listed in the Children's Hope International Travel Policy and request that additional persons, children or travel companion(s) accompany my party to China. I/We understand that we can take our child(ren) and that a single traveler may take a companion without any additional service fees.

This additional travel companion: is in good health, is flexible, will be on time, will not in any way interfere with the adoption process nor attempt to influence group decisions, will not make special requests other than the normal adoption trip.

Below I have provided the information on my additional travel companion includes: extended family members (grandparents and other relatives), and family friends (one form for each additional person).

NAME	
ADDRESS	
PHONE	
FAX	
E-MAIL	
PASSPORT #	
DATE OF BIRTH	

***Basic in-side China travel** (approximate cost)

for adoptive parents (2 adults and adopting an infant) based on double occupancy, includes hotels with breakfast, 2 flights in China, sightseeing, ground transportation, coordinators travel expenses, service fees and tipping for larger groups) \$3000 - \$4000

Costs for additional travels beyond two persons (All costs approximate):

Air fare-round trip for US domestic flights Determined by location

International Airfare for adult - China and return/coach fare unknown

In-side China costs for one child to accompany parents (includes above basic items*, Includes a rollaway bed in each hotel room) \$1500 - \$2000

Additional In-side China costs for one additional adult (includes above basic items*, Includes a rollaway bed in each hotel room and \$450 additional travel companion fee) \$2000 - \$2500

OR

In-side China cost for one additional **adult** (includes above basic items,* in private room and including \$450 additional travel companion fee) \$3000 - \$3500

Most hotels have 2 twin beds and CHI will request a crib for a child under the age of two. For children over the age of 2 (either adopted children or children accompanying their parents from the US) CHI will request a rollaway bed and breakfast will be included. Only one rollaway bed will fit in a room. Two rooms are required for 4 people in most cases. Adjoining rooms can be requested, but it will depend on the availability at each hotel when checking in.

There will not be an additional travel companion fee for other children of the adoptive family.

By our signatures, we agree to all of the above.

Signature of Adoptive Parent

Signature of Adoptive Parent

Signature of Additional Travel Companion

Date

