

Frequently Asked Questions for Chinese Visa

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✧ **General**

1. Do I need to apply for a visa beforehand if I plan to go to mainland China?

Answer: Holders of Ordinary passports are generally required to apply for a Chinese visa before departure, but some don't if they enjoy exemption or visa-free policies.

Holders of Diplomatic, Service or Official passport may or not be required to apply for visa depending on agreements of Mutual Visa Exemption between the People's Republic of China and Foreign Countries. Find [here](#) the list of Agreements on Mutual Visa Exemption between the People's Republic of China and Foreign Countries

For citizens of the Republic of Rwandan holding valid Diplomatic passports and service passports of the Republic of Rwanda shall be exempted from visa requirement for entry into, exit from and transit through the territory of the People's Republic of China, for a period of stay not exceeding ninety (90) days from the Date of their entry.

Citizens of the Republic of Rwandan holding valid Diplomatic passports and service passports of the Republic of Rwanda who intend to enter and stay in the territory of the People's Republic of China, for a period of more than ninety (90) days or to study, reside,

engage in employment, media activities or other activities which shall be approved in advance by the People's Republic of China competent authorities, shall apply for the visa before entering the territory of the People's Republic of China.

2. Where should I apply for a visa?

Answer: You can apply for a visa at a Chinese Embassy or the Chinese Consulate General.

3. I am a Rwandan citizen, can I apply for a Chinese visa at the port of entry?

Answer: Rwandan citizens holders of Ordinary passport must obtain a visa before arrival in China. They cannot apply for a visa at the port of entry.

4. What type of visa should I apply for?

Answer: It depends on the purpose of your trip to China and other factors. See [here](#) for more information on the visa types. Consular officers have the final say on the type of visa to be issued.

5. Can I apply for a visa by mail? Could you mail the passport with visa back to me?

Answer: No. We do not accept mail-in visa applications. We do not provide mail-back service either.

6. I live far away from the Chinese Embassy or Consulate General. How can I apply for a visa?

Answer: Your presence is highly recommended to apply for a visa and you take your own risk of being rejected if you cannot go in person.

7. Can I apply for a visa at The Chinese embassy in Rwanda if I am not a Rwandan Citizen?

Answer: Yes if you have stayed for at least six months in Rwanda and hold a valid residence Visa issued by the Rwandan Immigration office.

8. I got a new passport, but I have a valid Chinese visa in my old passport. Can I travel with both passports to China without applying for a new visa?

Answer: It is not necessary to travel with two passports. If your passport has expired or is going to expire in 6 months or less, you are suggested to apply for a new visa with your new passport.

✧ **Application documents**

9. What kind of documents should I provide for a visa application at a Chinese embassy or consulate? And is there anything particular I should pay special attention to?

Answer: You need to prepare required documents according to the purpose of visiting China. For details please see [the requirements for visa applications](#).

You need to prepare your valid passport, duly completed and signed [visa application form](#), a passport photo, and supporting documents based on the purpose of your trip.

10. What are the requirements for passport, visa application form and photo?

Answer: Your passport must be valid at least for six months, and not altered/ damaged/ smudged in any way.

Make sure you complete and sign an up-to-date version of visa application form ([V2013](#)). You must provide true, complete and accurate answers to each question on the form. The form needs to be signed by the applicant (or a parent /guardian in case of a minor). Only original signature is accepted.

Please glue a photo that is printed on glossy photo paper onto the form. Your photo must meet [these requirements](#).

11. What are the requirements for an invitation letter?

Answer: The invitation letter may be in the form of fax, photocopy or computer printout, and should contain:

- a) Information on the applicant (full name, gender, date of birth, etc.)
- b) Information on the planned visit (purpose of visit, arrival and departure dates, place(s) to be visited, relations between the applicant and the inviting entity or individual, financial source for expenditures)
- c) Information on the inviting entity or individual (name, contact telephone number, address, official stamp, signature of the legal representative or the inviting individual). An applicant may be required to provide the original invitation letter as deemed necessary by a consular officer.

12. Do I have to see a doctor to have the "Physical examination record for foreigner" filled out?

Answer: According to the Chinese Visa requirements, foreigners who apply for Student and Work visa have to follow relevant regulations, attend medical examination and submit the physical examination form. [Click here for more details](#).

❖ Submission and collection

13. How long before my planned trip should I apply for a visa?

Answer: It is advised that you submit the application one month in advance of your planned date of entry. Application made too early may cause the expiry of the visa and you won't be able to use it in the end, but if you submit an application too late, there might not be enough time for the application to be processed.

Normally it takes 4 business days to process a visa application although some applications require longer processing time. You will be notified of the estimated collection date either on your pick-up slip or by phone later. You are advised to submit your visa application about one month before your planned travel date in China.

14. Do you provide express visa service?

Yes Express service is available normally if you have travelled in China during the last two years. You need to make such request to our staff while submitting your application. You may apply for the express service and collect the visa on the third working day, in which case you will need to pay an extra fee. Express service is not guaranteed in the Chinese Embassy or the Chinese Consulate General, and the eligibility for express service is judged on a case by case basis.

15. How much do I need to pay for my visa? What are your accepted methods of payment?

The consular fee vary enormously depending on many factors including your nationality and number of entries. For your reference, the price is written on your pick-up form. Click here for [the price list of consular services](#).

Chinese Embassy in Rwanda accept payment made through bank payment. For more info click [here](#). For info about the Embassy Bank Account click [here](#).

16. How long does it take to get a visa after my application?

Answer: If you have submitted all documents required, it normally takes 4 business days (it varies case by case). If you have a special or emergency situation, you may request express (2 or 3 business days) or rush service (within 24 hours) for an additional fee. Approval for such services is not guaranteed in the Chinese Embassy or the Chinese Consulate General, and the eligibility for express service is judged on a case by case basis.

Applicants should come to get the visas on time. Visas not taken after 90 days from the day it should be taken away will be deemed abandoned. Find [here the working hour](#) of the Chinese Consulate in Rwanda.

17. When will my visa become valid and when will it expire?

Answer: The validity of a visa starts from the date of issue, unless otherwise indicated on the visa.

A visa expires under any of the following circumstances:

- (1) After 24:00 (Beijing Time) of the Enter Before date shown on the visa;
- (2) The number of entries is used up;
- (3) The visa is revoked or canceled by the Chinese government authorities;
- (4) Other circumstances in accordance with Chinese laws.

18. What does "Entries" on the visa mean? What should I do if the number of entries on the visa runs out?

Answer: "Entries" refers to the number of entries the visa holder is permitted to enter China. When all entries permitted are used up, the visa will not be valid any more. When there is still entry unused, but the validity of entry runs out, the visa is not valid either. In either case, the visa holder should apply for another visa before they go to China.

19. What does "Duration of Each Stay" mean? What should I do if I need a longer duration for my stay?

Answer: The Duration of Each Stay refers to the longest period of time the visa holder can stay in China from arrival each time and is not related to the validity of visa. If the visa holder needs to stay longer than the duration of stay, he or she should apply for extension of duration to the office of the China National Immigration Administration Bureau in advance.

The duration of each stay on X, Z, D, or J-1 visa is 000 day. Those visa holders should go through the procedure for obtaining residence permit in the office of the China National Immigration Administration Bureau within 30 days from the date of entry.

It is a breach of Chinese laws and regulations if someone stays longer than the visa permits while visiting China. As a result, he or she may face fines or other means of penalties.

Therefore, you are advised to make sure your stay is within the permitted duration of stay.

20. I am planning to go to Mainland China with a Rwandan passport and then go to Hong Kong to travel for 7 days, and afterwards, back to Guangzhou, how many entries do I need to apply for?

Answer: You need to apply for a **double entry Chinese visa** and a **Hong Kong Visa**; because you need your first entry when you visit Mainland China from Rwanda, and your second entry to Guangzhou from Hong Kong.

✧ **Other**

21. Can the validity, duration of each stay and number of entries be changed after I get the visa?

Answer: No, they cannot be changed. Please plan your trip before applying for a visa, and fill out the application form with accurate and complete information. You should check the contents of your visa when you get it. If you want to change your visa, you should submit a new application and pay the visa fee again.

22. Can I enter China after I get the visa?

relevant laws and regulations will be punished.

26. May I check with the Chinese embassy about someone else's visa application?

Answer: No.

27. Does Chinese visa application require interview and fingerprints collection?

Answer: According to Chinese laws and regulations, visa officers may interview certain applicants and collect their 10 fingerprints.

28. I am currently in China on a visa and the permitted time of stay is almost up, but I need to stay longer. May I send my passport back to a friend in Rwanda in order to get a new valid visa?

Answer: No. You must leave mainland China if you need to apply for a new visa. Or you may apply for an extension of visa from the China National Immigration Administration Bureau in China.

29. I am now in China on a Z visa and have received my residence permit. Can I leave China and come back as often as I wish?

Answer: You may use your residence permit (placed on your passport and similar to a visa) issued by the China National Immigration Administration Bureau to enter and exit China during the validity of the residence permit. No other visa is needed.

30. What should I do if I lose my passport during my stay in China?

Answer: You should report the loss to local public security authorities as soon as possible and go to your country's Embassy or Consulate in China to apply for a replacement passport or travel document. After that, you must go to the local public security authorities to apply for a new entry and exit visa.

31. I have received my visa. Is there a guarantee that I will be allowed to enter China?

Answer: A visa is not a guarantee to enter China. The decision on whether or not you will be allowed to enter China is made at a port of entry by Chinese Border Control authority in accordance with Chinese Laws and Regulations.