



# Chengdu Tribune

Cool News from the Land of Hotpot



## August/September 2015

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### Upcoming holidays closures for Consulate Services:

September 7—Labor Day  
 Sep 26-28—Mid Autumn Festival  
 Oct 1-5— Chinese National Day  
 For a complete list of holiday closures, please visit our website: <http://chengdu.usembassy-china.org.cn>

## Consulate Celebrates Independence Day and Highlights U.S./China Cooperation during WWII

U.S. Consulate Chengdu held Independence Day celebrations in Chengdu and Chongqing on June 26th and 29th, respectively. The theme for both events was the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII.



To commemorate U.S./China cooperation in WWII, both celebrations featured museum exhibits on WWII in Southwest China on loan from the Jianchuan Museum in Anren, Sichuan and the Flying Tigers and Stilwell museums in Chongqing. Special guests at the events included Lu Jianhang, a Chinese WWII veteran and pilot who flew the infamous "Hump" supply route from India over the Himalayas to China, and Long Wenwei, son of the late Eddie Long, a former Flying Tiger and Hump pilot.

## Upcoming Events

### Open House in September: Meet the Consulate

The Consulate will host an open house in Chengdu at the Ascott Building, next to Raffles Mall on Renmin Nan Lu on Thursday, September 10th from 6—8PM. Stop by for some American food and meet our Consul General and other Consulate staff members, and learn about the Consulate's work and mission. Look for an e-mail from us with further details in the near future.

### September Kunming Services Trip

A consular officer will visit Kunming to offer limited citizen services on Saturday, September 12th. We will send out an e-mail with further details and information on how to sign up for an appointment. If you have any questions or don't receive an e-mail, write us at [amcitchengdu@state.gov](mailto:amcitchengdu@state.gov).

## Recent news

### Systems Issues Delay Passport Issuances

Due to a systems issue affecting global passport operations, many of our customers have experienced delays in the printing of their new U.S. passport books or cards that were approved on or after May 26, 2015. The systems issues have since been corrected and the delayed passports should soon be ready for pickup. We will notify you by e-mail when your passport is ready for pick up at the Consulate. If you haven't received your passport and you have urgent travel plans in the next few days, please let us know by e-mailing us at [amcitchengdu@state.gov](mailto:amcitchengdu@state.gov).

### Consular Officers visit Kunming, Guiyang and Chongqing

Consular officers went to the Humdinger Brewpub in Kunming, Yunnan on the morning of June 13th to offer routine consular services.

That afternoon, also at Humdinger, the Consulate hosted an information session on Chinese visa and residency regulations featuring representatives from the local Entry and Exit Bureau and Foreign Expert Certification Bureau in attendance, as well as attorneys from Beijing Dacheng (Kunming) Law Offices and International Lawyers, Inc. A big thank you to David Tedeschi, the owner of the Humdinger, for donating his time and space for us.

U.S. Consulate Chengdu consular officers also went to Chongqing on April 25th where we offered consular services at the Intercontinental Hotel, and to Guiyang, where we offered services in the library of the Guizhou University of Finance and Economics on May 30th.

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**Planning a trip? First check your passport or your vacation may turn into a staycation! [http://v.youku.com/v\\_show/](http://v.youku.com/v_show/)**

### Important Change to your passport

After December 31, 2015, there will be no more extra visa pages added to U.S. passports. Instead, we are issuing 52-page passport books at no extra cost to U.S. citizens applying overseas.

Renew your passport early to make sure you have enough blank pages for visa stamps from other countries. Some require two blank pages for entry and exit.

*See [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) for more information on entry, exit, and foreign visa requirements.*

### What is STEP?

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

### Benefits of Enrolling in STEP

- ✓ Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- ✓ Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- ✓ Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

**Enroll today at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)!**

## Cheng-Du's & Don'ts



### Hotpot, not Hot Water



*Chinese laws and regulations can be very different from how things work back home. Here are some tips to stay out of hot water so you can keep enjoying your hot pot.*

#### **“Don’t” forget to register with the PSB within 24 hours of arrival in China.**

If you are staying in a hotel in China, register through the hotel. If you are staying in a house or apartment, even if you are just visiting a friend, you should register with the local PSB within 24 hours of your arrival. If you don't, you are considered out of legal status and could be subject to penalties or even detention.

#### **“Du” have all of your official documents translated professionally and authenticated by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate in the U.S. before using them in China.**

The Chinese don't recognize foreign official documents (e.g. birth and marriage certificates) unless they have been authenticated by the Chinese Embassy or Consulate in the U.S. The Department of State does not authenticate documents issued by other agencies or by state or local governments, so unfortunately, we can't authenticate documents here. We strongly suggest having all of your documents translated and authenticated before moving to China in order to avoid unexpected delays in your visa or residency application processes.

#### **“Du” notify PSB of any changes to your situation within 10 days of the change.**

Any change to your biographical information (name change, new passport number), residence, or purpose of residence/travel needs to be reported to the PSB within ten days or you will be considered out of legal status.

#### **“Du” apply to extend your visa at least seven days before your visa expires**

Even if you have already submitted your passport for your visa to be extended, you are still considered in China illegally if you haven't received your extension before your old visa expires. In order to avoid falling out of legal status, please start your visa extension process at least seven days before your current visa expires.

#### **“Du” apply for your residence permit at least 30 days before your current one expires**

For the same reason above, ensure that you apply at least thirty days early to ensure your residence permit is renewed or extended, since that process takes longer.

#### **“Du” submit a health certificate whenever you apply for residence longer than 1 year**

China requires all foreigners applying for residence permits of one year or longer in duration to get a medical examination and get a health certificate. You must submit your health certificate with your residence permit application.

**...And “Don’t” hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!**

## Take a minute to update your STEP registration. It's easy.

If you have had any changes to your location, name, contact info or details of your stay since you registered with STEP, why not take a minute to update your registration? It will help us better serve you in an emergency and it will ensure you receive the most relevant information from us including emergency messages and travel warnings, as well as news about upcoming events, changes in Consulate services, and our trips to your area.

## Pay attention to customs restrictions when you travel.

Many countries, including China, have restrictions on what you can bring into or take out of that country. For China, items subject to customs control include: drugs, weapons, animals and animal products (including coral and coral products), plants, cultural artifacts and antiques, banned publications, and some religious literature. China also restricts the amount of alcohol and tobacco products that can be brought into the country. Travelers may not carry more than 20,000RMB in cash or the equivalent of 5000 USD in foreign currency, though traveler's checks and letters of credit are not restricted. If you are carrying anything that might be controlled or restricted, remember you must go through the "Goods to Declare" Red Channel at customs. In China, failure to declare controlled items to customs officials can result in criminal prosecution.

For a complete list of items allowed in and out of China, please see:

<http://english.customs.gov.cn/service/guide?c=e6fb7440-5df2-4e87-bf92-c4eb697324d8&k=45>

For a concise and practical guide to customs restrictions, see the Beijing Capital Airport's customs page: <http://en.bcia.com.cn/server/notice/custom.shtml>

## Contact Us

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Chengdu, Sichuan

Appointment Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and  
Fridays from 13:00—16:00

Please make an appointment on our

Website:

<http://chengdu.usembassy-china.org.cn>

Phone: (86 28) 8558-3992

Fax: (86 28) 8554-6229

Email: [AmcitChengdu@state.gov](mailto:AmcitChengdu@state.gov)

**We welcome your feedback!**



Please use caution when walking in the street in front of our facility as Chinese authorities have restricted pedestrian access to the sidewalk in front of the U. S. Consulate General in Chengdu. The Consulate continues to request that the sidewalk be opened to pedestrians for their safety and convenience.

## Chinese emergency numbers:

Police	110
Fire Department	119
Ambulance	120
To report a traffic accident	122
Information	114