

Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 67

August 2013

500 Caught Under New Visa Law

Leaving China?

Did you know that you can end your enrollment with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) by visiting the step.state.gov site? If you previously submitted a paper enrollment form to the U.S. consulate, you may end your enrollment by sending an email request to: ShanghaiACS@state.gov.

(Ma Yue, 8-20-2013, Shanghai Daily)

Immigration authorities at Shanghai's two airports have reported nearly 500 cases of people overstaying their visas since China's new Exit and Entry Administration Law took effect in July.

The regulations raised the upper limit of fine for an illegal stay to 10,000 yuan (US\$1633) — double previous fines.

Since July 1, Shanghai immigration has reported 485 cases — up 20 percent on last year — and handed out fines totaling 430,000 yuan.

On August 2, a Dutchman was fined 10,000 yuan at Pudong International Airport. His visa was for a 15-day visit in China, but he had stayed 48 days.

He was the first person to be hit with the top 10,000 yuan fine in Shanghai.

Americans were among the top culprits in Shanghai over the past 45 days, followed by Japanese, Canadians, French and Singaporeans.

"Those who seriously break the law will be deported and get a one to five-year ban from entering China," said Lu Weibing, deputy chief of the Shanghai airport immigration.

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We have become aware of long-term rental car companies requiring excessive deposits and ceasing service before the lease agreement term ends. We recommend that you carefully review the terms of the lease agreement and research the company's reputation before signing the lease agreement.

Illegal Shanghai Stay Costs Foreigner 10K Yuan

(Wang Zhenghua, 8-8-2013, China Daily)

A foreigner who stayed illegally in Shanghai for 33 days has been fined 10,000 yuan (\$1,600), the largest fine issued in the city and the maximum allowed since the Exit Entry Administration Law took effect last month.

The foreigner, identified by police only as

Peter, was fined on Tuesday by the city's immigration inspection authority.

Airport police with the immigration inspection department gave the man a detailed explanation of the rules listed under the law, the Shanghai General Station of Immigration Inspection said on Wednesday.

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Travel Warnings and Alerts

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

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

Algeria	08/23/2013
Afghanistan	08/23/2013
Egypt	08/15/2013
Haiti	08/13/2013
El Salvador	08/09/2013
Pakistan	08/09/2013
Yemen	08/06/2013
Saudi Arabia	07/25/2013

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the

U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html.

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new **Travel Alerts**:

[Worldwide Travel Alert](#) 08/02/2013

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events

such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might generate a Travel Alert. This information is available at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html.

The most up-to-date information regarding permitted and **prohibited items** on flights can be viewed online at www.tsa.gov.

For additional information, please visit "**Americans Traveling Abroad**" on the website of the U.S. Department of State http://travel.state.gov/visa/americans/americans_1252.html.

Students traveling abroad may wish to visit the State Department site designed for them: <http://studentsabroad.state.gov/>.

Upcoming Holidays & Other Closures

A full list of all of our closures is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html>. The ACS Unit will be **CLOSED** to the public on:

<u>September 2, 2013, Monday</u>	Labor Day	劳动日	Láodòng Rì
<u>September 19, 2013, Thursday</u>	Mid-Autumn Festival	中秋节	Zhōngqiū Jié
<u>September 20, 2013, Friday</u>	Administrative Closure	行政管理日	Xíngzhèng Guǎnlǐ Rì

American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

U.S. Consulate General, Shanghai, China, 1038 West Nanjing Road, 8/F
Westgate Mall 梅龙镇广场 (Méi Lóng Zhèn Guǎng Chǎng)

To Make Or Cancel An Appointment:

<https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/default.asp?postcode=SHG&appcode=1>

Mon - Fri *Closed on Wednesday afternoons, weekends, and holidays.

After Hours Emergencies: (86-21) 3217-4650

Homepage: shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/service.html

Illegal Shanghai Stay Costs Foreigner 10K Yuan

(From Page 1)

He was also told that he has the right to demand a hearing on his fine, but the station said he was sorry he had stayed in the city illegally and raised no objection to the penalty.

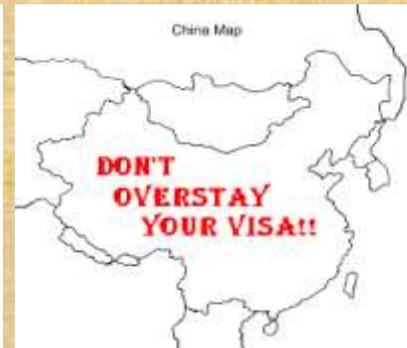
Under the provisions of the exit-entry law, which took effect on July 1, foreigners who stay in China illegally will be given a warning. For offences of a serious nature, a 500 yuan fine will be levied for each day they overstay, with this amount not exceeding 10,000 yuan. The maximum fine for overstaying under the previous regulation was 5,000 yuan.

Instead of a fine, overstayers can be detained for between five and 15 days.

In a related development, by July 1 some 5,800 foreigners had benefited from the new policy that allows overseas passengers to stay in Shanghai visa-free for 72 hours. The policy took effect on Jan 1.

Airport figures show that US residents took most advantage of the policy, with 920 making three-day visa-free stays in Shanghai in the first half of the year. The United States was followed by Australia, Germany and New Zealand.

Other countries with more than 400 residents benefiting from the policy



in the first six months include France, Britain and Canada.

From the start of the year, residents of 45 countries, intending to visit a third country and holding air tickets to continue their trips, have been allowed to stay in the city visa-free for three days.

Woman Loses All Her Savings Of 1M Yuan In Phone Scam

(Luo Tianya, 8-8-2013, Shanghai Daily)

A woman in Hongkou District was convinced to transfer all her savings, more than 1 million yuan (\$163,400), to an account as part of an elaborate phone scam involving fake power company and police officials, eastday.com reported today.



The woman, surnamed Shu, answered a call from a so-called staffer from State Power Information Network National who said she stole electricity in Jinshan District and threatened to cut off her power on July 29.

Shu told the man that she never lived or worked in Jinshan District and was told she might have a leak of personal information. Shu was then offered a phone number, supposedly of Jianshan Police Station.

A fake police officer called Shu and claimed Shu was being investigated for involvement in a money laundering case.

Shu was told to transfer money to a certain bank account so that her assets could be notarized.

Shu then transferred all her savings to the bank account.

Police said residents should take extra care when transferring money, especially to so-called safety accounts. They should not hesitate to call police if they sense anything wrong.

The Dos And Many Don'ts Of Gift Giving In China

(8-12-2013, Shanghai Daily)

Are there any rules about giving gifts in China? What types of gifts should I give to locals? Which ones should I avoid?

A: China has a long tradition of giving gifts. We give presents on many occasions such as festivals, business meetings, weddings, promotions and birthdays. Moreover, we always give gifts when we visit someone's home. In that case, fruit, dim sum and teas are the most common things to give. The value of the presents should be decided case by case.

We recommend you consider the background and the personal interest before choosing a gift for someone. Here is a list of items that you should avoid when giving gifts, according to Chinese customs:

Clocks

In Chinese, clock sounds the same as zhong, which literally means "the end" and elderly people will

associate it with "death."

Pears

Just like we said earlier, fruit is the most common gift to take when visiting friends or relatives. But some fruits should be avoided, especially pears, which sounds the same as li, meaning literally "separation." You can't give pears to couples and lovers.

Umbrellas

Umbrellas are unlucky gifts as the Chinese word sounds like san, which also literally means "separation."

Shoes

Shoes should not be presented to your boyfriend or girlfriend because, hypothetically speaking, he or she can run away from you after wearing them, which suggests the end of a relationship.

Sharp objects

Sharp objects can easily hurt people. On the other hand, as the saying goes yi dao liang duan, or

make a clean break, if you give a knife to someone, they may link it with cutting off the relationship.

Hats

Never gift green hats to anyone. In China, "wearing a green hat" is an expression that is used when a woman cheats on her husband or boyfriend. The Chinese phrase sounds similar to the word for cuckold.

Chrysanthemum

Chrysanthemums are often used to commemorate the dead. So it is definitely a bad gift choice when visiting friends or attending any celebration.

Certain numbers

Four sounds like si in Chinese, meaning "death," so we should avoid this number or any other number that contains four. And 13 has become increasingly unacceptable to Chinese people in recent years.

China Halts Import Of New Zealand Milk Powder Because Of Botulism Bacteria

(Emma Lacey-Bordeaux, 8-5-2013, CNN)

China has halted imports of some New Zealand milk powders after a company disclosed that three batches of an ingredient used in sports drinks and baby formula tested positive for a strain of bacteria that causes botulism.

The New Zealand-based Fonterra Group said Saturday that three batches of its whey protein tested positive for the Clostridium botulinum bacteria. Those batches weren't for use in Fonterra-branded products, but they said companies that used the whey protein in their products might issue recalls.

Fonterra, the world's largest dairy exporter, said it had warned companies that bought the whey protein about the problem. "As a result, these customers are urgently investigating whether any of the affected product, which contains a strain of Clostridium, is in their supply chains," the company said.

Read more at <http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/04/world/asia/china-botulism-milk-powder/index.html>.