



U.S. Consulate General Shanghai

News for U.S. Citizens

Winter 2016

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TRAVEL SAFE

Enroll in [STEP](#) to receive security and emergency messages from the U.S. Consulate.

Holiday Schedule

The American Citizen Services Unit will be closed on the following days. Please plan ahead and make an appointment for your services now!

January 15 – Administrative Day

January 18 – Martin Luther King Day

February 8 -10 – Chinese Lunar New Year Holiday

February 15 – Washington's Birthday

February 29 – Administrative Day

Visa Pages Program Put to Rest

U.S. passport holders are no longer able to add extra visa pages to their passports. This worldwide policy, which went into effect on January 1, 2016, was made to enhance passport security and comply with international passport standards. Applicants in need of additional pages in their valid passports must obtain a new passport. To make an appointment for a new passport, please visit

http://shanghai.usembassychina.org.cn/appointment_system011309.html

Planning to Vote? Request Your Ballots Now!

The U.S. presidential primary elections kick off February 2016 and run through June 2016. To vote absentee, U.S. citizens living outside the United States must be registered to vote and must request an absentee ballot. Voting regulations and procedures differ from state to state and can be found on each state's Web site. U.S. citizens living overseas can also complete a federally-issued combination voter registration application and absentee ballot request form known as the [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#). This form, along with key state-by-state instructions, is available on the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov.

U.S. Passports: Apply Before the Rush

In 2007, the Department of State experienced an unprecedented surge in passport applications, issuing more than 18 million passports as a result of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). Nearly ten years later, those passports are beginning to expire, and the Department is experiencing increased demand for passport renewals. Travelers are encouraged to submit passport applications well ahead of their planned travel dates in order to avoid delays.

Contacting the IRS

Need to file U.S. taxes but don't know where to begin? While the IRS no longer provides overseas in-person tax consultations, it has developed online resources for U.S. citizens living overseas. For tax forms, go to <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>. For a list of frequently asked questions and answers for international taxpayers online, please visit <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/Frequently-Asked-Questions-About-International-Individual-Tax-Matters>. Those who prefer to talk to someone on the phone can dial the U.S. number 267-941-1000 (not toll-free). The call center is open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. EST.

Shanghai Public Service Hotline 12345

Shanghai offers a public service hotline, 12345, that provides Shanghai residents with information about a variety of public services, including medical, food, housing, and public transportation. The hotline also offers English-speaking services. The hotline's Web site (in Chinese) is <http://www.sh12345.gov.cn>.

Obtaining a Driver's License in China

For those interested in applying for a Chinese driver's license in Shanghai, this article provides detailed step-by-step instructions: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/guide-getting-your-chinese-drivers-licence-shanghai-victor-nugter>. The author offers several driving test study tips and shares observations about driving in China.

Shanghai Bus Stops List Arrival Times

The Shanghai transportation authority plans to specify the arrival time of city buses on 20 routes in Shanghai on a trial basis. For some lines, passengers can use a "Shanghai Public Transportation" app to view bus schedules. The 20 lines are known for their high punctuality rate. The buses are No. 48, 56, 108, 930, 1006, 1008, 1009, 1012, 1013, 1023, 1047, 1049, 1201, 1210, 1212, 1217, 1218, Caoyang No. 3, Baoshan No. 9 and Zhoukang No. 10. Bus passengers can call the hotline 12345 or 12319 to file complaints if they experience long delays on any lines, the Shanghai Transport Commission said.

U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai China Opening Hours and Location

Public Appointment Hours:	Monday to Friday, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Passport Pickup:	Monday to Friday, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
U.S. Citizen Visa Hour:	Tuesday, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Address:	1038 West Nanjing Road, 8th Floor
Web site:	http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn