

Greater Carlisle Area Chamber of Commerce

Traveler Information

Thailand and Hong Kong Tour November 1 - 9, 2012

Citslinc International, Inc. was established in June, 1995 and operates out of Monterey Park, California. President of the company Mr. Leo Liu has been coordinating tours to China for nearly 20 years and has partnered with Chambers of Commerce since 2001. The main reason this trip can be offered at this unbelievable price is the volume of business. Last year over 20,000 Chamber members and friends visited China on Chamber tours such as this one. Due to its large volume of business Citslinc is able to achieve discounts for airlines, hotels, vendors, etc. To learn more about Citslinc visit www.citslinc.com.

- Reservations and deposits are taken on a first come, first served basis.
- The following are due no later than June 30, 2012:
 - Final Payment
 - Signed Power of Release
- Cancellations made prior to June 30 are subject to a loss of the \$300 deposit. Cancellations made after July 1 are subject to a loss of \$800.
- Passports - **Required**
 - Passports must be valid through May 1, 2013.
 - Your passport information is required on your reservation form.
 - The name on your registration form must match (**exactly**) the name on your passport.
 - If for any reason you will not have your passport by June 1, please contact Mary Kay Durham (mkdurham@carlislechamber.org) **ASAP**.
 - Prior to traveling a copy of your passport should be given to your contact at home.
 - While traveling a copy of your passport should be given to your travel companion or kept with you in a location other than where you keep your passport.
- Insurance
 - Trip insurance is *highly* recommended and should be purchased *as soon as you place your deposit*. Insurance can be purchased from AAA or any travel agency.
 - Citslinc provides insurance at no cost to you **while you are in Thailand** but it does not cover trip cancellation or trip interruption.
- Food
 - Breakfast is a combination of American, Chinese and Thai food.
 - Lunch and dinner are traditional Thailand and Chinese meals served family style.
 - You are discouraged from eating food sold by vendors. If you purchase fruit it is advised that you peel the skin and only eat the inside fruit.
 - Bottled drinking water will be available for purchase at the hotel and at tour attractions.
 - Coffee and tea served in hotel restaurants is safe to drink.
- Hotels
 - Lodging will be in excellent 4 – 5 star hotels that compare to a Holiday Inn Select or Crowne Plaza.
 - Bed accommodations will be 1 king bed or 2 doubles. Three in a room can be arranged and the third bed will be a cot or rollaway.
 - All have access to Internet service (for a fee).

- Depending on the hotel you may be provided with combs, razors, slippers, robes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.
 - If you bring electrical devices that need to be charged, you will need an adaptor which should be purchased prior to your departure. Typically AAA, Walmart or Radio Shack sells adaptors for China and Thailand. Electrical Current in China and Thailand is 220 V. When purchasing an adaptor make sure it will work in China and Thailand.
- Money & Credit Cards
- Visa and MasterCard are accepted at all major shops. American Express is accepted in most places. Discover is accepted at some locations.
 - ATMs are available in hotel lobbies and airports. However, they give you Thailand or Hong Kong money.
 - Before you go contact your bank and credit card companies so they know you will be out of the country and using your cards.
 - Divide your cash between traveling companions and do not keep all of your money in one place.
 - Tipping: \$60 (US money) from each passenger will be collected during the trip to cover combined services of the tour guides, bus drivers and hotel personnel. Your bus captain will send an envelope around on the last day in Bangkok and the last day Hong Kong for any additional tips for the tour guides. Additional tips for the bus drivers may be given to them personally.
 - You will need US dollars for tips and optional tours.
- Clothing
- The weather will be warm: 70 – 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - Comfortable and casual clothes are recommended. There is no need for anything dressy. Jeans are appropriate.
 - You should dress in layers (shirts, sweaters, jackets) and take what you think you will need for each day. Once you leave the hotel in the morning you will not return until the evening.
 - Comfortable shoes are necessary.
 - In the temples women should wear skirts, slacks or capris. Knees should be covered. Men should wear slacks. No shoulders should be showing. Shoes will need to be removed in some locations.
 - If you are traveling with a companion, put half of your clothing in each suitcase in case your luggage gets lost.
- Luggage
- While there are liberal luggage allowances, you are encouraged to pack light. You may be responsible for transporting your own luggage to/from bus and to/from your room.
 - On Cathay Airlines each passenger can bring one cabin bag not exceeding 56x36x23cm (22x14x9 in) in size. These dimensions include wheels, handles and side pocket and weigh no more than 15 pounds.
 - In addition to the standard cabin baggage allowance, you may carry onboard one of the following items free of charge: a small handbag, a small backpack, a briefcase or laptop bag.
 - Checked luggage – one free piece weighing no more than 50 lbs.
- Tickets, Luggage Tags and Baggage Tags
- Prior to the trip you will receive your ticket and final itinerary which will list the hotels.
 - The final itinerary will list 24 hour emergency phone numbers and hotel addresses/phone numbers.

- Seats are assigned at the airport when you check in.
 - **Make sure your name on your airline ticket matches your passport exactly.** If not, contact Mary Kay Durham (mkdurham@carlislechamber.org) **immediately.**
 - Make a copy of your airline ticket and itinerary for your contact in the states.
 - The bus lists and room assignments will be emailed to you. On those lists you will have a *travel number* which will correspond to your luggage tags and name tag. Please contact Mary Kay Durham (mkdurham@carlislechamber.org) if there are any errors.
 - On the day of departure you will be given 2 luggage tags and a name tag. Put your name on each piece of carry on and checked luggage.
- Additional travel notes
- Cathay Airlines is used for international flights.
 - No vaccines are necessary, but make sure you are physically fit to travel and to participate in the tours. Check with your doctor about your personal health and your need for vaccines and/or travel restrictions.
 - The flight from JFK to Hong Kong is approximately 15 hours.
 - Thailand is 12 hours ahead of Pennsylvania time.
 - Approximately 25 – 30 people are assigned per bus.
 - In addition to local shopping, the tour will stop at a leather and gem factory for tours.
 - Typical daily schedule
 - 6:00 AM Wake up
 - 7:00 AM Breakfast
 - 8:00 AM Departure
 - 8:00 PM Return to the hotel
- Miscellaneous tips
- Leave valuables at home.
 - Bring snacks such as granola bars, nuts, and sweets.
 - If you bring your cell phone, contact your provider before leaving the states. Make sure your phone has the *capability* to work internationally and make sure that you have international *access* for China.
 - You should pack handi-wipes and hand sanitizer.
 - If you take prescription drugs, bring twice what you need and pack one set in your carry on and one set in your checked baggage. You should also bring a copy of your prescription or your medication in the prescription bottle. Discuss your trip with your physician.
 - Public toilets are a combination of western and Asian (“squatty potties”) toilets.