

# China Tax Alert

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## China upgrades its visa-exempt transit policy

### Summary :

The national Immigration Administration (NIA) announced on 17th December 2024 that it will further relax and enhance visa-exempt transit policy with extended validity of each stay, more ports of entry, and open up areas for visa-exempt transit travelers to stay. The policy is effective immediately.

### Highlights

The upgraded policy includes the following key points:

- Extension of duration of stay: The duration of stay in China for individuals from 54 eligible countries is extended to 240 hours (10 days). Please refer to Appendix I for the list of countries.
- Increased number of ports of entry: The number of open ports of entry have been expanded to 60, which are located in 24 provinces adding 5 new provinces to the list, including Shanxi, Anhui, Jiangxi, Hainan and Guizhou Province.
- Expansion of allowed areas of stay: Foreign nationals from eligible countries would be able to stay in the allowed 24 provinces for the purpose of tourism, family visits, medical treatment, cultural exchange, and commercial trades, with specific cities in Shanxi, Heilongjiang, Jiangxi, Guangxi and Yunnan Province. Please refer to Appendix II for the list of applicable provinces and allowed areas of stay.

### Why this matters

By further relaxing and enhancing visa-exempt transit policy, China looks to attract more short-term visitors for cultural and business exchanges. Most of the newly added ports locate in cities and provinces with rich cultural heritage and tourism resources. It is conducive to promote Chinese culture and allow the world to experience charm of China.

The “upgraded” visa-exemption policies allow longer stay per entry and wider range of activities to be performed. The upgrade of China’s visa-exempt transit policy will continue to boost openness and attract visitors to China, aiming at accelerating cross-border mobility and promoting international communication and cooperations, and economic interaction.

Foreign nationals intending to utilise the 240-hour visa-exempt transit policy should ensure they have the following in place:

- Valid international travel document with at least three-month validity;
- Official document proving your right to enter the next destination country/region;
- Ticket for connecting flight/appropriate transportation to the next destination country/region with confirmed date and seat for departure within 240 hours.

Foreigners who intend to come to China to work should apply for working visa in advance and convert working visa to work permit after entering into China.

If you are uncertain whether the visa-exempt transit policy applies to you, please consult an immigration counsel or with a member of the KPMG immigration team in the People’s Republic of China.

## Appendix

### Appendix I

Eligible countries ( 54 countries )			
<i>Valid until further notice</i>			
Continents	Countries	Countries	Countries
Europe ( 40 countries )	Austria	Belgium	Czech Republic
	Denmark	Estonia	Finland
	France	Germany	Greece
	Hungary	Iceland	Italy
	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg
	Malta	The Netherlands	Poland
	Portugal	Slovakia	Slovenia
	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
	Monaco	Russia	The United Kingdom
	Ireland	Cyprus	Bulgaria
	Romania	Ukraine	Serbia
	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Montenegro
	North Macedonia	Albania	Belarus
	Norway		
America ( 6 countries )	The United States of America	Canada	Brazil
	Mexico	Argentina	Chile
Oceania ( 2 countries )	Australia	New Zealand	
Asia ( 6 countries )	Republic of Korea	Japan	Singapore
	Brunei	United Arab Emirates	Qatar

<b>Applicable provinces and allowed areas of stay</b>		
<i>Valid until further notice</i>		
<b>S/N</b>	<b>Provinces (Regions or Municipalities)</b>	<b>Allowed Areas of Stay</b>
1	Beijing	Beijing
2	Tianjin	Tianjin
3	Hebei	Hebei
4	Liaoning	Liaoning
5	Shanghai	Shanghai
6	Jiangsu	Jiangsu
7	Zhejiang	Zhejiang
8	Anhui	Anhui
9	Fujian	Fujian
10	Shandong	Shandong
11	Henan	Henan
12	Hubei	Hubei
13	Hunan	Hunan
14	Guangdong	Guangdong (Exit available at all open ports across the province)
15	Hainan	Hainan
16	Chongqing	Chongqing
17	Guizhou	Guizhou
18	Shaanxi	Shaanxi
19	Shanxi	Taiyuan and Datong
20	Heilongjiang	Harbin
21	Jiangxi	Nanchang and Jingdezhen
22	Guangxi	A total of 12 cities: Nanning, Liuzhou, Guilin, Wuzhou, Beihai, Fangchenggang, Qinzhou, Guigang, Yulin, Hezhou, Hechi, and Laibin
23	Sichuan	A total of 11 cities: Chengdu, Zigong, Luzhou, Deyang, Suining, Neijiang, Leshan, Yibin, Yan'an · Meishan, and Ziyang
24	Yunnan	A total of 9 cities and autonomous prefectures: Kunming, Yuxi, Chuxiong, Honghe, Wenshan, Pu'er, Xishuangbanna, Dali, and Lijiang

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