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Top Ten Tips for Visiting the Shanghai Expo

1. Wear comfortable shoes. The Expo grounds extend to both sides of the Huangpu River and there is LOTS OF WALKING. The only way to avoid walking is to use a wheel chair. (There is a limited number of publically-available wheel chairs; it is encouraged to bring one if needed).

2. Enter grounds at the opening time of 9 am. A daily crowd of 200,000 – 400,000 people is the norm. Ninety-five percent of visitors are Chinese tourists.

3. To visit a particular country pavilion, go there first. Wait times for the most popular can exceed three hours. Longest lines were for pavilions of: Japan, Saudi Arabia, the US, most Western European countries. China can be entered by only by getting pre-arranged entry time ticket on the morning of the visit.

4. Bring cash (RMB – the local currency). Many pavilions sell their home country products and refreshments but do not take credit cards. Buy only what you can carry for several hours.

5. Eat lunch early. Restaurants begin to fill up at 11 am – often with large Chinese tourist groups. Many country pavilions serve their regional specialties but they fill up, too. Eating at off-peak times is also recommended for dinner.

6. Have a “strategy”. For example, choose to see as many different pavilions as possible in a day or to see one or two in particular. To visit many pavilions, it is best to do so over several day. Use a map of the grounds, for advance planning.

7. Shanghai can be hot – especially in the summer. In July and August, consider buying a night ticket (entry at 5 pm). Also consider taking a fold-up umbrella to use for shade. Note – must be a travel-size umbrella. Full-size or golf umbrella may not be allowed.

8. There is a security line at the entrance. If you are not part of a large group, ask to go through the short “special” line – any line with no people. Smile and this often works. It can save you 30 minutes. No lighters, roller skates, or promotional materials allowed. Liquids also supposedly disallowed but this rule was flexible.

9. Alcoholic beverages are more readily available in the Americas and European pavilions (Zone C on the map); also some in Zone B.

10. Check out the official English website at <http://en.expo2010.cn> for more information. There are maps on-line, though mainly in Chinese. Be sure to pick up an English language “Official Map” at the entrance as needed.

For additional tips on visiting the Expo, contact us info@BlueHeron8.com or through the website www.BlueHeron8.com. Happy travels!