

Initial Visitor's Packet

Hidden Treasures Home

For Visitors

Initial Visitor Information

Thank you for your interest in Loaves and Fishes International. Please note that all correspondence concerning visitors should be addressed to visitors@loavesandfishesintl.com.

We are blessed by the abundance of volunteers wanting to come and serve here. Unless traveling with a parent or team, visitors should be at least 18 years old. We ask that first-time guests plan on limiting their visit to 2-3 weeks. A request to visit initiates an invitation process. As part of that process, you will be asked to supply references and a clear statement of your vision, hopes and goals for working here with Loaves and Fishes. We will read your information and seek direction for how we can use you here. We do appreciate your patience in waiting to make final plans to come until you have received an invitation from us.

(note: if you are thinking of a longer volunteer position with us, you will first need to complete a short term trip and be accepted by our long term committee.)

Because of previous problems, we are now requiring that you come with emergency medical insurance in place. This is essential for all who visit or work at Loaves and Fishes International, whether for a few days or several years. You will need to pay the premiums and be sure you have enough money available to cover the deductible amount. Most domestic insurance plans do not cover foreign travel, so check with your plan administrator to verify your coverage. If you need additional coverage, talk with your travel agent, or contact Specialty Risk International, inc. (SRI) at www.specialtyrisk.com. International travelers are now able to obtain free, no obligation, online quotes, and you can purchase coverage immediately through SRI's secure server and receive a Virtual ID card immediately.

Thank you again for your interest in what is going on here in Fuzhou, China. Please do not hesitate to contact us with further questions. We will do our best to provide reliable answers to your questions and help you in any way possible. May you be richly blessed in your experiences with Loaves and Fishes International!

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1 Travel Requirements and Recommendations (personal trip preparations)

Luggage

You are allowed to check 2 pieces of luggage up to 50 lbs each with most airlines (please check their baggage requirements prior to departure)

1 carry on and 2 pieces of luggage are normally allowed on most airlines.

We ask that you bring only 1 carry on and 1 checked bag for your personal use. You are permitted 2 pieces of checked luggage if you are bringing items for Hidden Treasures Home.

Clothes

Please follow Loaves and Fishes dress guidelines in your travel to and from Hidden Treasures Home, as well as your stay here.

1. The Chinese people dress nicely and modestly. Low cut shirts, short shorts, and tops & pants exposing midriff area are inappropriate. Bring clothes that are modest and respectable looking.

2. Remember you are living in a different culture! You will be working with children, and you will be living in the village. It is very important that you wear clothes that honor them and their culture.

3. Be mindful of shirts with slogans and imprints that could be misunderstood.

4. Pack seasonally-appropriate clothing. Before your trip, go online and check out Fuzhou weather conditions.

5. You will need to bring a pair of house slippers to wear inside (something to slip on and off with ease) and we recommend another pair of sandals/flip flops and tennis shoes for outside depending on the weather.

6. You may want to bring a couple of nice outfits if you would like to dress up while going into Fuzhou, or visiting someone.

Jewelry

It is not advisable to bring a lot of jewelry to China. Limit yourself to a watch, wedding rings, etc.

Whatever you bring will be your responsibility.

Food

Remember you are choosing to go to a foreign country, and will need to adapt to their food. You may, however, want to bring your own breakfast foods (i.e. pop tarts, instant oatmeal/grits, breakfast

bars) and some of your favorite snacks, as you adapt.

Other Items to Pack

- ◆ Toiletries
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Antibacterial wipes and gel
- ◆ Travel alarm clock
- ◆ Small flashlight
- ◆ Medicine (please bring your own supply of cold medicine, Advil/Tylenol, antibiotics, allergy medicine, etc.)
- ◆ Tissues (travel size... you will want these)
- ◆ Travel size rolls of toilet paper
- ◆ Camera and/or video camera (optional and at your own risk)
- ◆ Work clothes and gloves
- ◆ Your own personal Bible
- ◆ Notebook
- ◆ Adapter for electronics
- ◆ Books (only 1-2 per person)
- ◆ ipod or MP3 players (optional and at your own risk)
- ◆ Photocopies of your passport and visa
- ◆ Money belt for under your clothes (optional)

For Women

You need to be mindful of your personal garments as all clothes are dried outside on a line. Please do not pack inappropriate undergarments (i.e. thong underwear, lingerie, etc.)

China does not carry the same feminine hygiene products as other countries. If you need them, make sure you bring enough.

Please also make sure to bring your own PMS medications.

Expense/Currency

1. You may want to bring some extra money for shopping in Fuzhou. The exchange rate is very favorable to our US dollar.
2. Bring extra money as you might be prompted in your heart to give during the offering on Sunday mornings or to someone personally.
3. Items that are covered by HTH: room and board, basic lunch and dinner (rice, meat and vegetables) and drinking water.
4. Items that *are not* covered by HTH: snacks, fruits, breakfast items, desserts, juices and sodas.
5. Please note: Loaves and Fishes International/ HTH is entirely dependent upon the generosity and responsiveness of people giving by the leading of our Father. While there is no direct charge for your accommodations, we ask that you remain sensitive to the many expenses related to your visit (including: correspondence, accommodations, transportation, etc).

Vaccines

There are no travel vaccines required by the Chinese government. You should, however, be up-to-date on the standard vaccines such as tetanus, typhoid, and hepatitis. We strongly recommend the hepatitis B and hepatitis A vaccines series. Please check with a travel nurse or CDC website for current recommendations.

Travel Documents

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: A valid passport and visa are required to enter and exit China and must be obtained from Chinese Embassies and Consulates before traveling to China. Americans arriving without valid passports and the appropriate Chinese visa are not permitted to enter and will be subject to a fine and immediate deportation at the traveler's expense. Chinese authorities have recently tightened their visa issuance policy, in some cases requiring personal interviews of American citizens. Although a bilateral United States-China agreement provides for issuance of multiple-entry visas with validity of up to one year for tourists and business visitors, Chinese consulates often limit visas to only one entry. Visit the Embassy of China web site at <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/> for the most current visa information. (this information was taken from the US Embassy. Please check with your embassy before traveling for current travel information.

For US citizens

The US embassy recommends registering with them when traveling overseas, to keep you updated on travel and security issues. You can register with them online.

The consular district including the Fujian province is located in: Guangzhou: The main office of the U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou is located at Number 1 South Shamian Street, Shamian Island 200S1, Guangzhou 510133. The Consular Section, including the American Citizens Services Unit, is now located at 5th Floor, Tianyu Garden (II phase), 136-146 Lin He Zhong Lu, Tianhe District, tel. (86)(20) 8518-7605; after hours (86)(20) 8121-6077, and email GuangzhouACS@state.gov.

2 Volunteer Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in being a guest at Hidden Treasures Home! Our goal is to provide a place of love and hope for special needs children. What you do will help make a difference in their lives. The following is some information you need to know when you arrive. We hope your time with the children will be a wonderful experience.

The Guidelines

Attitude

- ◆ Have an attitude of a servant. You are here to serve and help special needs children.
- ◆ Please don't take it upon yourself to correct the staff. The staff is caring for the children the way they have been trained. Work with the staff, respect and assist them



People from all around the world come to hold the Hidden Treasures children. It doesn't require much- just a willing heart- to serve the staff and the children, and show love to the babies.

- ◆ Please talk to our management staff if you have any suggestions, advice or concerns.
- ◆ The foster home is sometimes a very busy place; please try to help maintain a peaceful and quiet environment for the children.

Discipline

- ◆ You are **not** allowed to discipline the children.
- ◆ If the children misbehave, tell the staff. They are the ones responsible for discipline.

Clothing

- ◆ Please dress appropriately. Again, You will be caring for small children and may be asked to go outside for walks, sit on the floor, and supervise pool time.
- ◆ Dress modestly, with no low cut shirts, short shorts, or exposed midriffs. Sleeveless shirts must have a strap at least three finger widths. You are representing Hidden Treasures Home and we want to give our visitors a positive impression.



You never know what you may be put to work doing. Here, one of our visitors helps our staff give a few hair cuts.

Punctuality

- ◆ Always call Xiao Yu and ask permission before coming to volunteer.
- ◆ You are expected to be on time for your assigned duty. If you cannot be on time, please call Xiao Yu at 15959069749.
- ◆ Please arrive and leave on time! If you say you will come at a certain time, we will have made plans for you! It creates problems in our schedule when you are late.

Sick

- ◆ If you are sick, please don't come to the foster home. All of our children have medical problems and their immune systems are weaker than normal.

Be Responsible

Don't take off with the children without permission. Leave the children in the areas that they are in. If you want to take a child to a different floor, for a walk, etc., please ask permission first.

Be Considerate and Obedient

Please follow all house rules and obey all posted signs! Please do not bring other people with you without permission. Too many people are not a help to us, but can create more work. If you bring more people without permission, we will have to send them home.

Do not enter the babies' bedrooms without permission. Always ask first.

Please refrain from calling yourself "mommy" or "daddy" to the children. This can be very confusing to them. Address yourself by your given name, or as "auntie" or "uncle".

3 Application Process

Thank you for your interest in being a guest at Hidden Treasures Home! Our goal is to provide a place of love and hope for special needs children. What you do will help make a difference in their lives. The following application will initiate your invitation process. The visitors staff will review your information and send you the additional forms necessary to complete before your visit. These include a personal statement and confidential reference forms. This will allow us to get an idea of your vision and goals you hope to experience at Hidden Treasures Home, and also the gifts and talents you will share with our Home.

if you have any questions, please contact Sarah from our visitors staff at visitors@loavesandfishesintl.com

Hidden Treasures Home Application

I am applying for acceptance as a Hidden Treasures Home team member for Min Hou, China for:

Dates of Trip _____

Name _____

Nickname* _____

(exactly as it appears on your passport)

Date of Birth _____

Gender M F

Occupation* _____

Street Address _____

City* _____

State* _____

Zip Code _____

Phone Numbers

Home () _____

Work () _____

Fax () _____

Cell () _____

Email Address _____

Passport # _____

Emergency Contact Name _____

Relationship _____

Phone Number () _____

Have you previously been to Hidden Treasures Home or been a part of Loaves and Fishes Intl.? Y N

*Asterisks indicate fields that will appear on nametag

Are you willing to serve consistent with Hidden Treasures Home guidelines? Y N

Are you willing to submit to being monitored and lovingly corrected if necessary?

If married, does your spouse support your participation? Y N Spouse's Name _____

Do you have any physical disabilities? Y N If yes, please describe _____

Have you ever been treated for any mental/emotional condition? Y N

If yes, please describe _____

Please list any condition that may limit your participation and any medications you are currently taking _____

Medical Insurance Provider _____ Policy # _____

Phone (____) _____

How would you describe your temperament? _____

Are you fluent in any languages beside English? Y N If so, name language(s) _____

I, _____, declare that the information provided by me in this application is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize Loaves and Fishes Intl, Inc., to verify any and all information provided above.

Signed: X _____

Date ____/____/____

Loaves & Fishes International, Inc
 PO Box 833
 Englewood FL 34295
 941.475.4024
 visitors@loavesandfishesintl.com

Loaves and Fishes International, Inc. 375 North McCall Road. Englewood, Florida 34223. United States of America. +001 941 475 4024. loavesandfishesintl.com