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Airport News

VISA CHANGES IN CHINA

14 July 2008 - As preparations for the Beijing Olympics gather pace, Hogg Robinson Group (HRG), the international corporate travel services company, is alerting business travellers to changes in visa regulations and urging clients to prepare travel plans well in advance. To date, business travellers to China have enjoyed relaxed visa regulations. However, as the Olympics approach, Chinese authorities have significantly tightened visa controls in a bid to manage heightened security concerns that relate to hosting such a major international sporting event and the inherent explosion in visitor numbers. These recent changes apply only to travellers to mainland China and Hong Kong continues to be exempt.

City	Airline	Time	Class
Tokyo	Northwest	7	2-45P 01
Vancouver	Horizon Air	2000	1-30P C20
Vancouver	Horizon Air	2204	2-30P C10
Vancouver	Horizon Air	2024	3-30P C10
Vancouver	United	0724	3-30P 013
Vancouver	United	0330	4-10P 012
Vancouver	United Express	0330	4-14P
Vancouver	Horizon Air	2204	4-30P C10
Victoria	Horizon Air	2004	2-30P 0100
Victoria	Horizon Air	2070	3-30P 0100
Walla Walla	Horizon Air	2235	3-50P 010A
Wenatchee	Horizon Air	2000	1-40P C10
Wenatchee	Horizon Air	2212	5-50P C20
Tulsa	Horizon Air	2040	3-50P C20

HRG's James Stevenson, Executive Vice President, AsPac, comments: "Under new regulations, all travellers going to mainland China are now required to provide proof of flight and hotel booking prior to their visa application. Companies must now also obtain an official invitation from the Chinese Foreign Ministry on behalf of employees ahead of visa applications being made and explicitly request a multiple entry business visa if required. Without this specification the maximum regular travellers to China can secure is a double entry visa and both trips must be completed within three months."

These latest requirements follow the outsourcing of all visa applications by the Chinese Embassy last month to the Chinese Visa Application Service Centre (CVASC), which has been established to help process the increased number of visa requests.

"The introduction of the CVASC adds an additional step to the application process and increases the cost of obtaining a visa, which differs country by country. For example, regular applications in the UK increase by £30 +VAT and express services by £40 +VAT. The move to a third party operator is a growing trend amongst embassies, with India introducing the process earlier this year, and Russia set to announce changes in the coming months," comments James.

He concludes: "This does require a shift in behaviour. However, it highlights more than ever the

benefits that corporate travel service companies such as HRG can offer business travellers. As experts in the market, with local representatives on the ground, we are able to take the complexities out of such changes to travel rules and regulations, minimising disruption to client operations.”

New visa restrictions are temporary and are expected to be revised in the autumn. All information available to HRG indicates that they are likely to return to previous relaxed levels.

PASSENGERS ADVISED TO ARRIVE EARLY AT HKIA

29 July 2008 (Travel Weekly) - HONG KONG – The Departures Immigration Hall at the Hong Kong International Airport is undergoing reconfiguration until the third quarter of 2009.

Passengers are advised to arrive early at the airport to allow more time for check-in and bag drop.

NEW MEASURES AT CHINA AIRPORTS DURING OLYMPICS

22 July 2008 (Travel Weekly) - HONG KONG – In order to better safeguard the security of air transportation during the Beijing Olympics, starting July 20, new special security check measures will be enforced in some of China’s airports. These involve the airports in Beijing, Shanghai Hongqiao, Shanghai Pudong, Qingdao, Tianjin, Shenyang, Qinhuangdao, Shijiazhuang, Taiyuan, Ji’nan, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Hefei, Changchun, Harbin, Hohhot, Dalian and all airports in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Tibet Autonomous Region. Anyone entering the above airports will be subject to security check at the entrance of the terminals. Passengers are advised to arrive at the airport early with ample time for security check. Passengers caught entering these airports with explosives, flammable or explosive articles will be subject to severe punishment in accordance with China’s current laws and regulations.

JETQUAY CIP TERMINAL, SINGAPORE

29 July 2008 – SINGAPORE – Working closely, in conjunction with its service partners, JetQuay has significantly reduced its pricing over the past few months to make it more cost effective for any passenger to use JetQuay’s service at Singapore’s Changi Airport. The revised pricing schedule for the service adds value to all passengers, especially small groups, families and those travelling with the elderly, as JetQuay’s charge is ‘per event’. An ‘event’ means up to three people who are travelling on the same flight. That is, irrespective of whether it is one, two or three passengers travelling on the same flight, the maximum charge for a ‘Quayside’ service roundtrip through the CIP Terminal would be SG \$250.00.

A key advantage of using JetQuay’s standalone CIP Terminal is that it has secure, private parking, free of charge for the duration of your stay abroad. A guest relations officer sees to all the usual necessities – baggage check-in, boarding passes and pre-clearance for immigration matters. You are personally driven to or from the air-bridge, so you don’t need to find your way to the gate or waste time finding your way there. You may maximise your day as you need only to check in one hour before your flight. Groups are welcome and discounts may apply.

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT