The 10-Year China Visa

What US citizens should know before applying · 美国公民十年签证攻略

$140 flat — single-entry and 10-year multiple-entry cost exactly the same.

There is no reason to ask for less than the 10-year visa. You pay $140 either way (discounted consular fee, currently extended through Dec 31, 2026).

What you can get

- **Validity up to 10 years** — one application, a decade of travel.
- **Multiple entries** — come and go as you please, including side trips to Hong Kong or Macau (each exit/re-entry counts, so single-entry visas won't cut it).
- **Up to 60 days per stay** in most cases. The exact validity, entries, and stay length are the **consulate's decision** — request the 10-year, but read what is printed on the visa you receive.

Why some Americans don't get the full 10 years

- **Passport valid less than 1 year** — the single most common reason. The consulate won't issue a 10-year visa in a nearly expired passport. **Renew first, then apply.**
- Previous visa still valid for 6+ months — the consulate generally won't issue a replacement; travel on the one you have.
- First-time applicants who were formerly Chinese nationals need extra documents (old Chinese passport + naturalization certificate).

What you need to apply

- US passport: **6+ months validity**, 2 blank pages
- COVA online form — **printed and signed in ink** (digital signatures are rejected)
- One photo: **33mm × 48mm**, white background — **not** the square US passport size. This trips up more applicants than anything else.
- "Where You Stay" form with your address in China

Don't drive to the consulate. There are only a handful of submission points in the US. Mail us your passport — we review everything, submit in person, and ship it back tracked with signature required.

China Visa US — from $199, handled start to finish.

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Fee and policy notes reflect consular guidance as of 2026 and may change. The 10-year validity is requested, not guaranteed — the consulate decides.