

What's up in China



Rixin Jiang

CEO, Nordic Friend Agency

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rixinjiang/>

rixin@nordicfriend.net

Facts

- Still “zero-COVID” but with a "dynamic clearing" policy
- Shanghai city lockdown in Spring 2022
- Some other cities or regions are also under (semi) lockdown or strict entry policy at the moment; frequent PCR testing has become the new normal
- Mandatory quarantine time for inbound travellers shortened from the 14+7 model (14 days of centralized quarantine and 7 days of home quarantine) to a current 7+3 model
- In Q2 2022, China's immigration authority issued 214,000 new ordinary passports, an increase of 41.8% compared to Q1.
- "Suspending passports" rumour is not accurate, but the current policy only allows applicants with "necessary travelling reasons" to get a new passport. Pure leisure tourism is not yet seen as necessary travelling.
- There's never been a total ban on international travelling; anyone with a valid visa and ticket can travel from or to China anytime.



Some Signs

- **High-level visits:** German chancellor to visit China next week with a business delegation;
- G20 Summit to be held in Indonesia next month – not yet confirmed whether Chinese leaders will participate
- **Flights:** China Plans to Increase International Flights From This Weekend to 840 a week from Oct. 30 to March 25. That's a jump of 105.9% from October 2021 to late March this year.
- **Visas:** French Embassy in China confirms to continue/resume issuing visas normally, according to the usual procedures. All categories of short or long-stay visa applications are admissible (tourism, private visit, business) without restriction.
- **Policy:** National Development and Reform Commission (10.25): *"China will facilitate the entry and exit to the country of multinational companies' executives, technicians and their families, under the prevention and control of COVID-19."*
- Four provinces and municipalities have been permitted to expand a pilot program to allow foreign-invested travel agencies to engage in outbound Chinese tourism business



Pic: MAD Architects

What's Next?

- **Group Travellers** (organized by travel agencies) will surely come back later than **the FIT travellers**
- Official delegations later than business travellers from commercial or foreign investment companies
- Chinese customers residing outside of China, including but not limited to Chinese immigrants, students and workers. Bear in mind that some of them are also receiving information and even purchasing products from the Chinese language channels
- Recovery will come gradually and step by step. FIT travellers will be the first ones and might even be the core segment for a while.
- Coming back timeline? Hard to say. MAYBE after Q2 of 2023.
- Marketing activities and preparations in advance.

