

How to get Tibet Travel Permit, Successful Application Tips?



Lhasa, Xizang Mar 27, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - If you are looking forward to visiting [Tibet](#). You must understand that Tibet is unlike any other destination in China. The region is open to international travelers with tourist visas. Yet all international guests have to go through the permit system in addition to a passport and a Chinese Visa. Understanding the Tibet Travel Permit is clearly the first and most important step in planning a successful visit to the roof of the world.

You must get the [Tibet Travel Permit](#) before entering Tibet. A Tibet travel permit is a basic permit; additional permits include border permits, military permits, and Alien Travel Permits based on your travel destination in Tibet. You cannot apply for a Tibet travel permit; only your travel agency in Tibet can get it for you. So you must arrange it with a local travel agency that offers a confirmed guided tour service.

It is important to have up-to-date information, as the **Tibet Travel Permit**, its processing time, and access to any region can be changed. This Tibet Travel Permit guide explains all types of Tibet permits, who needs them, the application process and timeline, the documents required, and important Tibet travel regulations you should know before booking your trip.

If you are coming to Tibet from other cities in mainland China or via Nepal, this guide will help you fully understand the permit, clearly and step by step, so you can confidently prepare your tour to Tibet.

1. Overview: Tibet Entry Requirements for 2026

Basic Entry Requirements

1. Valid Passport — Minimum 6 months validity is recommended.

2. China Visa (ordinary L-type tourist visa) — Required if entering from mainland China (Chengdu, Xining, etc.).

- Do not indicate “Tibet” on the visa application to avoid possible refusal.

3. Special Permits for Tibet — Required separately beyond the China visa.

Note: If entering from Nepal (e.g., via flights from Kathmandu or overland border posts like Gyirong/Kerung), tourists must obtain a Group Tourist Visa in Kathmandu from the Chinese Embassy — arranged by your travel agency or partner — before entering Tibet.

2. Main Permits Foreign Tourists Must Obtain

1) Tibet Travel Permit (TTP) — Mandatory for All Tourists

- **Issuer:** Tibet Tourism Bureau.
- **Required For:** Entry into Tibet for tourism — without it, foreign travelers cannot board flights or trains to Lhasa or other parts of Tibet.
- **Who Applies:** Only licensed local travel agencies in Tibet (e.g., your agency). Independent applications are not accepted.
- **Processing Time:** Typically 8–20 days; must be applied well before travel dates (20–30+ days recommended).
- **Cost:** Officially free (no fee charged by the government), but service/application costs are included in your tour package.
- **Restrictions:**
 1. Valid only for the specified itinerary and dates.
 2. Travelers must enter and travel within Tibet exactly as listed on the permit.

2) Tibet Border Permit

- **Issuer:** Tibet Armed Police Border Corps authorities.
- **Required For:** Visiting borderlands or frontier zones, including certain crossings and areas adjacent to India, Nepal, Bhutan, or other international borders.
- **Who Applies:** Travel agencies assist; they cannot be obtained independently.
- **Example Regions:** Some Everest border points, remote border checkpoints.

3) Military Permit

- **Issuer:** The Military Permit Affairs Office is issued by the Tibet Military Affairs Office, in Lhasa
- **Required For:** If you are traveling to a military-sensitive area, such as Mount Kailash or the border

Area in Nyingchi and Lhoka prefectures.

- **Processing:** This military permit typically takes 14-21 days, so you must plan your travel well in advance to ensure you have enough time.

4) Aliens' Travel Permit

- **Issuer:** Prefecture-level Local Public Security Bureau (PSB).
- **Required For:** Visiting the restricted area of Zanda near Mount Kailash, which is most popular for its ruins of the Guge kingdom.
- **Processing:** Your tour guide usually applies it at the local station after arrival. They need to take your passport and the permit for this permit. It takes only a few hours.
- **Cost:** ~CNY 50 per person.

Important: In the year 2025, most ideas that required this permit will no longer be needed. Including some of the most popular routes, such as the Everest tour, Kyirong, Nyingchi, and the Samye area. Yet this permit is still required for the Guge Kingdom and some remote areas in Nyingchi

3. Step-by-Step Permit Process for Tourists

Before Arrival (Planning Stage)

1. Tour Booking & Itinerary Planning

- Traveller sends passport copy, travel dates, requested route, and China visa details to your agency.
- You design the tour itinerary and confirm accommodations & guide assignments.

2. Apply for Tibet Travel Permit (TTP)

- Submit materials to the Tibet Tourism Bureau at least 20–30+ days before departure.
- Once approved, deliver the permit to the traveller:

§ Flights and Trains: an original permit is required at the departing station. We must arrange delivery of the permit to your hotel.

§ Overland: original hard copy is required. And the guide will have it when you meet the tour guide.

4. [Travel Rules & Limitations](#)

No Independent Travel

- International travel must be a part of a guided tour with a licensed local guide and a private vehicle arranged by the local Tibetan Travel Agency in Tibet — independent travel is prohibited.

Timeframes

- It is usually best to apply for the permit a month before your arrival date.

5. Permits Checklist (Quick Summary)

Tibet Travel Permit (TTP)

All foreign tourists visiting Tibet
Your agency → Tibet Tourism Bureau
Pre-arrival

Aliens' Travel Permit (ATP)

Visiting restricted areas
Local PSB (after arrival)
After arrival

Military Permit

Military-sensitive sites
Military authorities
Advance via agency

Border/Frontier Permit

Border zones
Armed Police Authority
Via the agency in advance

Conclusion

Traveling to Tibet in 2026 is absolutely possible for international tourists — but it requires **proper planning, accurate documentation, and the right permits arranged in advance**. Unlike other destinations in China, Tibet operates under a special permit system, where foreign travelers must first secure a Tibet Travel Permit (TTP) and, depending on their itinerary, may also need a Border Permit, Military Permit, or Aliens' Travel Permit.

The key takeaway is simple:

Independent applications are not allowed. All permits must be applied for by a **licensed local Tibet travel agency** to the **Tibet Tourism Bureau**, and every permit is associated with a confirmed plan, travel dates, guide, and vehicle. Early preparation is recommended — ideally 30 days before arrival — to ensure smooth approval and avoid last-minute stress, especially during peak travel seasons.

[About Tenzin Travel & Tours](#)

Tenzin Travel is one of Tibet's most experienced tour operators, with over 20 years in the industry. Founded by a local Tibetan family with decades of expertise as guides, managers, and route planners, we craft personalized itineraries for every traveler.

Our Lhasa office is just steps from Barkhor Square, and our all-Tibetan team ensures deep cultural, linguistic, and religious insights, setting us apart from other agencies.

Beyond tourism, we support Tibetan communities by donating a portion of each tour to local projects.

Your travel to Tibet is about more than profit—it's about opportunity for us to give back.

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