### **People from 74 nations can now enter China visa free**

China has made a big change to its visa system. More people can now visit the country without a visa. Citizens of 74 countries now have visa-free access to enter for up to 30 days. In addition, citizens from 54 countries can stay in-transit for 240 hours, but they must have a ticket to a third country. China's government is slowly expanding its visa-free entry process, so it can grow its tourism industry and its economy. It started allowing visitors from more countries in 2023. Almost every European country and many nations from South America, Asia, and the Middle East have been added since then. More than 20 million foreign visitors entered China without a visa in 2024.

The number of Chinese tourists at sights in China still greatly outnumbers international tourists. However, the country is preparing for a big increase in the number of overseas travellers. Tour companies are trying to find guides and staff, to help more and more customers. Gao Jun, an English-speaking tour guide with 20 years of experience, is very busy. He said: "I'm flooded with tours, and I'm struggling to keep up." He has started a new business to train new tour guides. Jenny Zhao, a director of the luxury WildChina tour company, said: "The new visa policies are 100 per cent beneficial to us." She said business was up by 50 per cent compared to before the pandemic.

**Homework:**

1. In your Vocab Notebook, write the words or phrases you did not know from the article, their definitions, and write a sentence using each word or phrase.
2. Write a full sentence answer for each question below.
3. For how long can citizens from 74 countries visit China without a visa?
4. For how long can citizens from 54 countries visit China in-transit?
5. What does China want to grow besides its economy?
6. When did China start allowing more tourists into the country?
7. How many overseas visitors went to China in 2024?
8. What does the article say outnumbers international tourists at sights?
9. What are tour companies trying to find?
10. What did a tour guide say he was flooded with?
11. What kind of tours does the company WildChina offer?
12. By how much has business increased at WildChina since the pandemic?