



Overseas tourists can enjoy an eight percent tax refund for purchases

Yunnan implements tax refund policy for purchases of overseas tourists leaving China

On April 1, Yunnan officially started to implement tax refunds for purchases of overseas tourists leaving China. Overseas tourists can enjoy

183 consecutive days

Overseas tourists who have resided in China for no more than 183 consecutive days can get a value added tax (VAT) refund for tax refundable articles purchased from tax refund stores when they leave China from designated departure ports.

an eight percent tax refund on goods purchased in China.

According to the tax refund policy for purchases of overseas tourists leaving China, overseas tourists who

have resided in China for no more than 183 consecutive days can get a value added tax (VAT) refund for tax refundable articles purchased from tax refund stores when they leave China from designated departure ports.

Tax refundable articles are mainly personal articles purchased by overseas tourists themselves from tax refund stores which meet tax refund conditions. However, they do not include articles prohibited or restricted from export as listed in the List of Articles Prohibited or Restricted by the People's Republic of China for Import and Export.

Articles sold by tax refund stores to which the VAT exemption policy applies also include other articles prescribed by the Ministry of Finance, the General Administration of Customs (GAC), and the State Administration of Taxation (SAT).

For an overseas tourist to apply for tax refund, the amount of tax refundable articles purchased by an overseas tourist from the same tax refund store on the same day shall reach 500 yuan. Additionally, tax refundable articles cannot have been unpacked or used, tourists must have purchased arti-

cles fewer than 90 days before leaving China, and the purchased tax refundable articles must be personally carried by the overseas tourist, or within his or her luggage upon departing China.

The refund rate for tax refundable articles is 11 percent. It is worth noting that the Yunnan Tax Refund Agency will charge a three percent commission fee, so the tax refund that an overseas tourist will actually get is eight percent of the invoice amount (including VAT) of refundable articles.

(By Hu Yuanhang)

Each resident enterprise can receive up to one million yuan in rewards

Recently, the Kunming National Advertising Industry Park Phase II (the Park) released a new investment policy: Depending on their sizes, nature and qualifications, each resident enterprise can receive a reward between 50,000 and 1,000,000 yuan.

The investment policy mainly targets Kunming National Advertising Industry Park Phase II. In terms of rent, the Park will grant each resident enterprise a monthly rental subsidy of 15-20 yuan per square meter based on their annual revenue. The total subsidy can be as high as 200,000 yuan. Depending on their sizes, nature and qualifications, each resident enterprise can receive a reward of 50,000 to 1,000,000 yuan.

(Zhao Shuyong)



Lijiang listed among china's top 10 destinations

Recently, the world's largest online tourism platform Trip Advisor, announced its "Travelers' Choice 2016 - the World's Best Destina-

tions" list. Lijiang in Yunnan has been on the list of "China's Top 10 Destinations" for two years in a row. Lijiang is located in northwest Yunnan. It is famous for its unique and beautiful

landscapes. In the above photo, the owner of a musical instrument store is playing drum with her friends in Dayan Ancient Town, Lijiang.

(Photo by Li Qiuming)

LMC spurs SE Asian languages learning craze

55,000 students

As of the end of 2014, Yunnan has established 11 international training bases in its colleges and universities, with a total of 55,000 students enrolled in related majors.

Hearing the news about the first Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting, Ren Maoyang, a graduate student studying the Cambodian language at Yunnan Minzu University, was excited. His major is becoming increasingly popular as the Lancang-Mekong cooperation continues to gain momentum.

Ren still remembers that his undergraduate classmates had already been fully "reserved" by employers even before they graduated. Ren himself was offered the job of Cambodian language teacher by Yunnan Normal University, although most university teachers must have a doctoral degree. However, as top talents in Southeast Asia languages are so urgently needed due to the Lancang-Mekong cooperation, Ren still chose to pursue his master degree first.

Since the 1990s, Lancang-Mekong regional cooperation has taken diverse forms. Currently, pertaining cooperation mechanisms include the Lancang-Mekong Subregional Economic Cooperation, the ASEAN-Mekong Development Cooperation, the Mekong Commission and more. On March 23, the first LMC Leaders' Meeting was held in Sanya, Hainan, during which leaders of the six countries had an in-depth exchange of views on the promotion of the LMC mechanism, all-round cooperation in GMS countries and regional integration.

Professor Liu Xiaorong, who has been teaching at Yunnan Nationalities University for 37 years, believes that as the GMS regional cooperation mechanism deepens, the demand for talents in Southeast Asian languages will grow drastically. As early as 2013, Yunnan Province set up a non-generic language education board to strengthen training in the fields of Southeast and South Asian languages.

As of the end of 2014, Yunnan has established 11 international training bases in its colleges and universities, with a total of 55,000 students enrolled in related majors. At present, these majors include Thai, Burmese, Lao, Hindi and more, and are training a large number of students of Southeast and South Asian languages every year. Employment prospects in the future look promising.

(By Yuan Xuelian and Bai Jingli)



UK research shows values of Yunnan Pu'er tea

Recently, the British Journal of Nutrition published an article, saying that unlike green tea, Yunnan Pu'er tea retains more nutrients in the leaves. The latest research shows that this type of tea not only reduces the risks of cancer and rheumatoid arthritis, but also helps to reduce age-related wrinkles as well.

Researchers at Kingston University London collaborated with Neal's Yard Remedies (NYR), a British essential oils brand, in testing the health characteristics of extracts from 21 species of plants and herbs. They found that Pu'er tea was the most beneficial. According to Professor Declan Naughton from the School

of Life Sciences at Kingston University, the research shows that Pu'er tea has an anti-aging effect and high levels of anti-oxidants, which can help prevent cancer and heart disease. Naughton said: "The early indicators are that Pu'er tea reduces the risk of the inflammation which is characteristic of rheumatoid arthritis and some cancers, as well as preventing wrinkles."

Pu'er tea is generally classified as black tea but is actually very different from black tea. The tea trees suitable for making Pu'er tea are planted nowhere else in the world but China's southern Yunnan.

(By Staff Reporter)

"Maritime activity on Mekong River becoming safer"

—The CLMT four-country joint patrol has won public praise for its four years of operation

"Maritime activity on the Mekong River is becoming safer. We are not worried about theft and extortion anymore", said a Mekong River fisherman. Reporters along the borders of China, Laos and Myanmar were recently informed that a series of civil ship distress incidents occurred in the Mekong River. During these emergencies, people along the river have seen the bravery and dedication of the Mekong River joint-patrol crew, who participated in the rescue of distressed civilians.

China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand Mekong joint patrol (CLMT joint patrol) operation has been in its 5th year since it was initiated on December 10, 2011.

Yang Yun is a Chinese vendor who set up his store in Gwanlei Port in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture. After the Mekong River massacre October 5 in 2011, the

Mekong River freight was suspended for several months. Yang Yun said, "After CLMT joint patrol, security along the Mekong River has been improving. Wholesalers from Laos, Myanmar and Thailand come to here trade every month, which benefits my business greatly!"

"Before the joint patrol was conducted, the security situation along the Mekong River was bad. Bribery and extortion by criminals on the cargo vessels occurred frequently." Wang Ronghua, a frequent sailor in transport told the reporter that the patrol effectively curbed the situation. At present maritime activity is twice as much as it was in Mekong before the October 5 Massacre.

The joint patrol has been a model for law enforcement cooperation between China and surrounding countries. Under the joint efforts of the four countries, the Mekong River joint patrol is presently being operated on a monthly basis. The four countries have improved their communication and expanded their cooperation, including joint rescue, epidemic response and channel safety. All these efforts effectively safeguard the stability of Mekong River.

(Source: China Border Police Press)