

# CHINA AT A GLANCE

## Domestic Airline Baggage Allowance

### Carry-on baggage

The maximum Carry-on baggage allowance for each economy class passenger is 5kg. First class passengers can have 2 pieces of carry on luggage. All other passengers can carry on only one piece. The size may not exceed 20x40x55cm. Carry on baggage in excess of the limit is subject to an excess baggage fee and must be carried as checked baggage.

**Above regulation was executed from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008**

Below are some other information about the luggage requirements.

### Check-in Baggage

Adults and children are entitled to **ONE** free checked baggage allowance of 40kg, for first class, 30kg, for business class, and 20kg, for economy class while traveling on domestic airlines in China. No free baggage allowance is granted to infants. Groups traveling together are able to combine their baggage allowance if they check in together.

### Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited and cannot be carried in checked or carry on luggage:- Flammable, explosive, corrosive, poisonous, radioactive, polymerizable and magnetized materials. Passengers are forbidden to carry arms, sharp or lethal weapons during flight. Security inspection passengers and their baggage (including checked and carry on baggage) are subject to the security inspection before boarding the aircraft.

### China bans liquids on domestic flights, including baby formula

- BEIJING, March 14 (Xinhua) -- Baby food, cosmetics and medicine, among others, will all be banned from carry-on luggage on domestic flights following the implementation of a new regulation that went into effect on Friday.
- The General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) issued a notice here specifying details of what **liquids could no longer be taken onto aircraft.**
- For passengers with an infant, they will now need to apply in advance with the airline to provide them with formula or baby food free of charge, according to the notice.
- For others, they are now forbidden to carry any liquids on board. However, the CAAC said liquids could be put in luggage in the hold.
- For cosmetics, those under 100 milliliters each will be allowed on but need to be put in separate bags. They also can be opened for a security check.
- Diabetics or other patients who needed to carry liquid medicine should give them to flight staff to hold after clearing a security check.

## Tips for traveling in China

### WHAT TO PACK

Bring spring-weight clothing as a base for your wardrobe. You can then add layers to adapt to a wide range of temperature conditions; natural fiber clothing is best. We recommend casual comfortable clothes for traveling. Make sure you bring **comfortable walking shoes**. Packing lightly is always a good idea. China today is well stocked with most personal items, although you may prefer to take along your favorite brands.

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MAY BE INVALUABLE ON YOUR TRIP:

- Money, passport, traveler's check, etc.
- Comfortable walking shoes (rubber soles are a must)
- Extra pair of prescription glasses
- Pocket calculator
- Moist towelettes
- Sweetener

### HEALTH REQUIREMENT

No special vaccinations are required for travel to China. Though China does offer preventive healthcare products and modern healthcare systems in major cities, travelers should bring with them any special health remedies or medications

ASIA GETAWAY INC

7668 El Camino Real Ste 104 #618, Carlsbad CA 92009

Tel: (760) 635-1288 / (888) 288-1868 Fax: (760) 635-1287 E-mail: info@asiagetaway.com

they required. Elderly travelers, or those with medical problems, are advised to check with their health care professional before visiting China. Pack all medicine in unbreakable containers and store them in your carry-on bag. Bring a list of the generic names of medications. It is wise to carry an up-to-date record of known allergies or chronic medical problems so that emergency treatment, if necessary, can be carried out without endangering your health.

You can obtain the latest, most up-to-date immunization requirements from your doctor or Local Centers for Disease Control. You should talk to your doctor no later than 5-6 weeks prior to departure. The phone numbers for some of the health bureaus in some major cities are:

San Francisco: (415) 876 2872  
Los Angeles: (310) 215 2365

### **FLIGHTS**

Check in at least 3 hours prior to departure for international flights. Each traveler is required to check in with your own bags and passport.

### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

We strongly recommend extra travel protection plan.

### **VISA/PASSPORT**

Make sure your passport is valid for more than 6 months. A visa is required for travel to China.

You can download application from the following website:

<http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/hzqz/zgqz/default.htm>

### **CLIMATE**

For the latest weather information, you may wish to refer to USA Today, or the weather Channel on cable television. China covers a vast area; therefore, you would experience a wide range of temperature depending on the city you visit.

Dec- Feb: 28 – 50 °F  
Mar- May: 40 – 70 °F  
Jun – Aug: 60 – 80 °F  
Sep- Nov: 35 – 65 °F

### **BANKS**

In China, banks are not opened in Saturday, Sunday and public holidays. ATM machine is available in all cities.

### **CURRENCY**

Please find the current currency exchange as follows:

US1 = RMB6.75

Usually bank offers better rate in exchange except China, you can exchange money in hotel. Small US\$ note is always useful.

Local money when shopping in local stores, free market and taking a taxi. **Please keep the receipt** in case you would like to change the money back to U S Dollar. You need to present the receipt at the airport.

### **TELEPHONES**

If you want to call home, you can call from hotel room but the phone charge is very expensive. You can buy local phone card in each city to make long distance calls.

Most phone card available at the convenience store. Or you can bring a phone card from your country to make international calls.

### **POST**

For mailing letters or post card, you can arrange through hotel concierge.

## **CHINA CUSTOM**

Passenger is allowed to bring 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars and one bottle of liquors (less than 0.75Liters). There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency, traveler's checks and credit cards a visitor may bring in. (not apply to Chinese residents)

## **UNITED STATES CUSTOMS**

Shopping abroad is one of the pleasures of international travel. Since your stay outside of the U S exceeds 48 hours, you may bring back up to \$800 worth of goods per person without paying duty.

You are entitled to bring back to the U S, 100 cigars (not of Cuban origin), 200 cigarettes (one carton), and one liter (33.8 fluid ounces) of liquor. The cost of these items must be included in your \$800 exemption.

Unless accompanied by an import license from a U S Government agency, meats, fruits, vegetables and plants will be impounded and destroyed by U S Customs. Similar rules apply to furs, pelts, or articles made in whole or in part from any endangered species. We would recommend that you keep all receipts especially of valuable items.

## **SHOPPING**

In China, when you shop on the street and open market, you should always start at 50% off and bargain up. Normally, major to winter sales are after Chinese New Year and summer sales are around end of August. China is famous for its silks, porcelains, paintings, embroideries, carpets, jade carvings, furniture and many more. Most local stores in China do not accept credit card.

Saving all receipts and recording all your purchases can save you a lot of grief when you go through US customs! You will not be taxed for the first \$800 worth of goods you bring back. You will be assessed a flat 10% on any \$1000 worth of goods beyond that. Good record keeping saves the customs officials from having to guess how much you spent!

## **ELECTRICITY**

In China, the electrical voltage is 220 volts AC.

## **LANGUAGE**

The official language is Putonghua. English will be used in most tourist area such as hotels and airports. Street signs are in Chinese only. Therefore, please consult with your local guide or with the hotel before you explore the city on your own. Most taxi drivers do not speak English. We suggest that you carry a hotel card (normally in English name of the hotel) with you.

## **HOTEL INFORMATION**

### *Hotel Incidentals*

You will be responsible for covering the cost of your hotel incidentals, such as phone calls, room service and laundry. Before checkout, please settle any personal charges the hotel may place on your account.

## **LOCAL TIME**

<b>US Time (Pacific Time)</b>	<b>China Time</b>
7 AM	11 PM
3 PM	7 AM

\* There is only one time zone in China.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATIONS**

In China, we suggest you take a taxi or hotel car when you explore the city on your own. Please make sure you obtain Chinese translations before you get into a taxi.

## **TIPPING**

Tipping to service people such as guides, drivers, porters are customary. Additional gratuity is always appreciated. For most restaurants, service charge is included.

## **FOOD**

The meals we included are mostly of local cultural favor.

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Although the quality and quantity is very good, some may find the ingredients monotonous. However, this is the best way to experience Asia culture.

Breakfast – all breakfasts will be full American buffet style, which includes eggs, meats, coffee, tea, juice, breads, fruit, cereal etc.

Lunch and dinner- will be served in Chinese menu.  
For Chinese meals, usually there are 8-10 courses for you to share.

In China, one soft drink is included per meals. Please note coffee will not be served during the Chinese lunch and dinner. Chinese tea will be included with Chinese meal.

### **WATER**

It is inadvisable to drink tap water in Asia. Flasks of hot and cold boiled water in rooms are telltale signs of non-potable water. Bottled mineral water is widely available in all stores and sometimes provided free by hotel. Ice and ice cream supplied by hotels are safe. Avoid uncooked vegetables and anything sold by street vendors.

### **CAR/ COACH**

Arrival and departure transfers are conducted by private car.

### **SMOKING**

Due to overwhelming demand from passengers, all coach tours worldwide are now non-smoking. Stops are made wherever possible to allow for refreshments and smoking.

### **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Public conveniences in China are not up to Western standards. Many toilets are of the "quat" type. In some cases, toilet paper is not provided and some toilet may not have doors. In most tourists' sites, you will find "pay toilets". These are clean and better.

Remember to **carry toilet paper or tissue** with you at all times.

### **SECURITY TIPS**

- An alert traveler is the best security!
- Keep an eye on your cameras and handbag
- Keep your suitcases locked during transit and when you leave your hotel room.
- Keep your valuables (passport, air ticket, jewelry) locked in hotel safety deposit box.
- Make sure you remove your belongings upon checking out.
- Carry as little as possible
- Leave fine jewelry and other valuables at home
- Follow hotel guidelines for safety and security suggestions.
- Do not follow stranger on the street even they sell you a product at very attractive price

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

If your camera requires batteries, take spares with you. Major brands of film are available in hotels and most tourist spots. Photography is prohibited in some museums.

Please do not take photos of military installations. Consult your local guide if you are in doubt. If you wish to take photographs of people, ask permission first. (sign language will usually work if they do not speak English.)

For your convenience, we suggest you make a **copy** of the following:

- Your passport identification page
- A list of your credit cards, telephone cards and electronic or photographic equipment
- Number of traveler's checks