

TSA (& US CUSTOMS on reverse)

TSA - AIRPORT SCREENING PROCESS & NEW SECURITY RULES

For all TSA information for Air Travel, go to <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/index.shtm> - then follow the links on the left from there.

Things that can set off the Magnetometer as you pass through: metal objects in your pockets (loose coins, keys, metal pens), jewelry and watches, under-wired bras, belt buckles, glasses in your pocket. Note to gals who wear an under-wire bra: this will ALWAYS set off the magnetometer as you pass through and will result in a small delay while they “wand” you. You might want to wear a non-under-wired bra on the days you will be flying to avoid this. It is also common to have everyone remove your shoes and place them in a bin to send through the machine, so be prepared.

The TSA has a fairly detailed list of allowed and banned items available at: www.tsa.gov – see “Permitted and Prohibited Items” under “**What to Know Before You Go.**” You may want to check this if you are concerned about anything special. I found buried under the Hazardous Materials section the fact that you cannot wear or take in your carry-on any CLEAR GEL SHOE INSERTS (I use these myself) – they will be confiscated by Security, so pack those only in your checked luggage.

You will probably be asked for your identification several times while at the airport — once when checking in, again at the security check point, and perhaps even prior to boarding on certain flights. Be sure to carry your passport on your person – **NEVER PACK YOUR PASSPORT IN YOUR CHECKED OR CARRY-ON BAG! ALWAYS have your passport on your person BEFORE you leave the hotel for the airport** - or stored in the hotel room safe (or safety deposit box on board the cruise ship) on all the other days.

Once you have passed through security, be sure to collect all your belongings. It’s easy to forget something, especially if it is still inside the scanner, so take a brief inventory before you rush off to your gate. Remember that any beverages purchased after passing security must be consumed before boarding your plane. If you want to keep your water bottle, empty it into a planter before going through security – then refill it at a water station (safe f drinking) outside many restrooms near the boarding gates. Prescription drugs and other medical devices must be accompanied with proof of medical need. Be sure to bring along documentation (RX from the doctor).

For current rules on carrying liquids ["3-1-1"] in your carry-on, click on:

<http://www.tsa.gov/311/index.shtm>

Here is a review of carry-on of liquids and toiletries – refer to the “3-1-1” at www.tsa.gov/311/index.shtm and www.tsa.gov - and China follows these same rules:

The following rules apply to all liquids, gels, and aerosols carried through security checkpoints.

1. All liquids, gels and aerosols must be in three-ounce or smaller containers. Larger containers that are half-full or toothpaste tubes rolled up are not allowed. Each container must be three ounces or smaller.
2. All liquids, gels and aerosols must be placed in a single, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag. Gallon size bags or bags that are not zip-top such as fold-over sandwich bags are not allowed. Each traveler can use only one, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag.
3. Each traveler must remove their quart-sized plastic, zip-top bag from their carry-on and place it in a bin or on the conveyor belt for X-ray screening. X-raying separately will allow TSA security officers to more easily examine the declared items.

There are exceptions for essential liquids, gels, and aerosols, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

BATTERIES - for full information, view: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/assistant/batteries.shtm> (especially info re: Lithium batteries).

