

GENERAL LUGGAGE & PACKING TIPS:

Note: Please be careful and try not exceed the following limits. Not only will you be charged new exorbitant fees for overweight, oversize, and/or additional pieces, they will add all applicable penalty fees together if you break more than one limit rule. This could happen before each of the flights you will be taking if the problem is not correctable. You do not want to be the one that causes a very embarrassing delay as they sort out the problem and collect the additional fees from you, and you may need to surrender the deed to your house by the time the tour is finished!

Consult the following website link for the latest CHECKED and CARRY-ON Baggage Information for Air China –

<https://www.airchina.us/US/GB/info/checked-baggage/> (Main page)

<https://www.airchina.us/US/GB/info/checked-baggage/general-rules.html>

<https://www.airchina.us/US/GB/info/checked-baggage/international.html>

<https://www.airchina.us/US/GB/info/checked-baggage/domestic.html>

<https://www.airchina.us/US/GB/info/carry-on-baggage/>

CHECKED LUGGAGE

For the **flight TO China**, because we are limited to **ONE checked bag per person at 44 lbs. MAX** for all 4 domestic airline flights in China, this becomes our limit for the flight to China from the US (- unless you want to add 6 lbs. of consumables - packaged/sealed food items and/or Duty-Free alcohol that you will use up during the TWO full days we are in Shanghai – since you can take 50 lbs. max. for your 1 checked bag TO China on the International flight).

This one checked bag is also limited in size and cannot exceed **62 linear inches** – add the length, width and depth together to arrive at “linear” inches. I own a roller bag that is advertised as a 26” bag and is just under the 62” linear maximum in its **unexpanded** version. If I take it and later fill it with souvenirs causing it to expand, it could end up costing me both money and time (delay). If I still take it, I cannot expand it beyond its normal 62 linear inch size. Your international **flight home** from Shanghai via a connection in Beijing to the US will allow your **TWO** checked bags per person (checked in Shanghai all the way through to San Francisco) but it can now weigh up to **50 lbs. each**. It still cannot exceed **62 linear inches**. Remember that you add together the 3 dimensions of height, length and depth to arrive at a bag’s total **linear inches**. Your free day in Shanghai (last full day in China) will afford you an opportunity to shop but be aware that you could exceed your extra 6 lbs. of weight. You can buy ONE extra bag which can often be purchased for \$20-\$30. Additional charges by Air China will apply if it exceeds the size or weight and can add up if you exceed more than one category.

CARRY-ON BAG and Other Permitted Items

Your one carry-on bag per person (plus anything else you carry on which is not included in the listed free items) is limited to 22 in. length x 16 in. width x 8 in. height = **46 T. linear inches** MAX (strictly enforced) and a max of **11 lbs.** (**which they are NOT yet enforcing**). The domestic flights in China (all are around 1 ½ to 2 hours) are often crowded and VERY limited for overhead bin space. The space under the seat in front of you (provided you are not at the bulkhead with NO space) is very tight as well and is usually used for your allowed personal item (tote, or etc.). **I use a smaller removable bag stored in my tote that I can remove for access during the flights (iPad and/or something to read, tissue, etc.) and stow it in the seat pocket in front of me.** The airlines worldwide are really cracking down on the total amount anyone can carry aboard. Keep it simple!

We STRONGLY recommend that you keep in your carry-on luggage and/or carry-on tote **all prescriptions, over-the-counter non-liquid drugs, fragile items, jewelry, and toiletries** (except for sharp objects not cleared for carry-on by the TSA – these must be in the checked luggage) - plus your **nightclothes** and **one change of clothing for daytime** to use as a precaution against lost checked luggage (very unlikely to happen, but always wise to be prepared). We advise that you not travel with any expensive jewelry or watches (even though China is a very safe country) - this is just good travel practice anywhere. Check <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/travel-tips> and <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/travel-tips/travel-checklist>. Refer to the TSA sheet enclosed in your tour packet to come for details on the 1 qt. bag containing bottles of liquids (3 oz. max ea.). I actually keep my meds and anything valuable (electronics, etc.) in my tote which is carried in addition to the carryon bag. I bring Nyquil and Cough Syrup in my checked bag in Ziplock bags in case of any need during the tour, but add a 2 oz. smaller version of one or the other in the 1 QT. TSA bag for use during a flight but only **IF** I contract a cough or cold and think I would need that during a flight.

CARRY-ON BAG Highlights (excerpted from www.Magellans.com):

While air carriers have tightened up their carry-on policies (see their related article *Airline Carry On Guide* below), you can still usually carry on a fairly generous amount (NOT in China - much more limited there). Generally, airlines allow one carry-on bag and one personal bag (I carry a "tote") per traveler. Additional items such as coats, camera bags, hats, umbrellas, canes, magazines or newspapers, food items for immediate consumption (purchased just prior to boarding), and the like, are usually not counted either as carry-on bags or personal bags, and will ALSO be allowed. Unlike luggage which is checked in for us by the National Guides in China just inside the terminal, carry-on bags need to make the long journey through Passport Check and Security and down the concourse, up and down escalators or stairs (common in China), and not slow you down when rushing to catch a flight, so you might consider a SMALL roller bag for carry-on. [I have purchased a nice travel-type shoulder tote bag into which I place my "purse" and my camera, any batteries not allowed in my checked bag, and a paperback book (or Kindle, etc.) to read. Then I use a small roller bag as my "carry-on bag" into which I carry the items I suggested a few paragraphs back.]

AIRLINE CARRY-ON Guide (excerpted from www.Magellans.com):

Experienced travelers know all too well that carry-on guidelines are just that: guidelines. The number of passengers on each flight, the type of aircraft, seat configuration, even the mood of the airline personnel can override the maximum guidelines at any time. Be sure to include a minimal change of clothes, any needed medications, toiletries, etc. in a small Cabin Bag, just in case your checked bag is misplaced.

Generally, airlines allow one carry-on bag and one personal bag per traveler. Additional items such as coats, camera bags, hats, umbrellas, canes, walkers, magazine or newspaper, food items for immediate consumption are generally not counted either as a carry-on bag or personal bag and will be allowed.

While individual airlines vary, as a general rule, the carry-on bag should not exceed 46 linear (add up the length, width and height of your bag to obtain the "total linear inches"). [Air China is "stating" 11 lbs. for maximum weight (including the bag) but not enforcing that yet.] Regardless of the actual weight limit, the bag should be light enough for you to lift into the overhead compartment without endangering other passengers.

Most airlines have a sizer box at the gate to determine if you may carry on a particular bag. Even if the linear maximum is not reached, odd shaped bags, such as one that is tall and skinny may be rejected. Carry-on bags must fit under the seat or in the overhead compartment. Overhead compartments tend to fill up quickly on crowded flights [especially in China]. To ensure your bag will fit under your seat, select a bag that is 18 inches or less wide.

PACKING:

I usually roll my clothing to avoid wrinkles and also choose things that do not wrinkle, whenever possible. You can stuff socks into your 2nd pair of shoes in your luggage. Zip lock bags are the greatest thing ever invented for travel. I prefer those over all the fancy toiletry bags sold and use them for tons of things – AND I bring extras. Pack similar items together in the zip lock bags – they come in all sizes and they are great protection against anything leaking and they help keep you organized since you can SEE the contents of each. You can also purchase packing cubes that are ventilated for packing similar items. Security checks are faster when any of these are used.

TOILETRIES & PERSONAL CARE APPLIANCES:

The hotels always provide ample soaps and shampoos and we are not picky. The women, or anyone with special allergies or requirements, may prefer to bring their own favorites of those in small sizes. I take several little bottles of hand sanitizer and use them OFTEN (one in my pocket or tote bag at all times). Take a maximum 3 oz. each of any liquid (total must fit in 1 qt. zip-lock bag) that is essential to you in your carry-on. Then pack any larger bottled amounts into your checked luggage – zip-lock them all, though, to prevent disaster.

Razors: Larry does not bother with an electric razor (and the required power converter if it is not dual voltage) in order to save space and weight although the hotel bathrooms usually have a plug for a razor that does NOT require a converter (but you will still need the plug adapter). You may need a converter and plug adapter for electric razor use in the bathrooms in your cabins onboard ship. *I forgot to ask the guys last year what our new ship had but will ask.*

Hair Care Appliances: ALL the hotels will have hair dryers (the ship has several loaners), but if you bring a small travel sized hair dryer and/or curling iron, you will need the right power converter unless it is dual voltage PLUS the adapter plug for China. The ship has some electrical concerns so they require you **borrow THEIR loaner hair dryers** for your use on board. There is also a beauty salon available which will normally treat you to a great head massage during a shampoo.