

Travel, Arrival and Quarantine

This is a living document compiled from various person's recent experience with travel and quarantine and is intended only to assist you in preparation. Be sure to check for updates.

Keep in mind, experiences vary and policies change.

Some of you are new and others are returning with language, so use the information as you need. If you have questions, ask.

If you are entering China for the first time, there will be added directives.

Packing

Luggage

You can take 2-50lb suitcases, a carry on and a personal item on the international flight leaving the US. Luggage allowance overseas will be less. In China, checked luggage allowance is 1- 20kg (44lbs) bag per person.

There are two options for moving your luggage once you are in China:

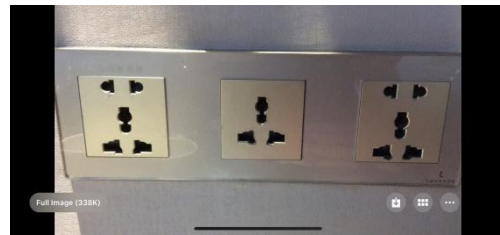
- A. A shipping company: You must pre-arrange with a shipping company. Have your address and Chinese currency (RMB) for charges (about 4¥/ kg.) Also, schedule extra time on the way to the airport after quarantine to meet the shipping company.
- B. Pay 25-30¥ per kg for excess luggage on the airplane.

Suggestions for quarantine

- SIM card with plenty of data - You may not have Wi-Fi.
- Food - The consensus has been that food provided during quarantine is not of the highest quality or variety so you may want to order out, be prepared for this added expense. You may not have a mini-fridge.
 - o energy bars
 - o nuts
 - o dried fruit and seeds
 - o instant coffee, tea, chocolate (Chinese hotels have boiled water available in the rooms)
 - o 2-minute noodles or Cup-a-Soup
 - o dehydrated packets that just need boiling water
 - o tuna/chicken in envelopes
 - o crackers
- Camping cutlery/think "spork", is helpful especially for kids.

Extras suggestions - from those who've done it

- Have patience and respect for hotel staff and delivery people.
 - o small gifts may be appropriate i.e.
 - post cards from your home state or town
 - stickers
 - thank you notes
 - candy
- pillowcases
- exercise bands- download exercise classes
- disinfectant cloths (probably won't have room cleaning service)
- dish soap
- laundry detergent
- mouth harps, kazoos, harmonicas (ration play time?)
- vitamin D and sit in front of a window for sunlight
- blue blocker glasses - lots of screen time in the hotel room
- paperbacks and notebooks. A favorite BOOK to read and study away from the screen.
- HDMI cables to project their computer screens onto the TV. Some hotels may not have this function.
- Bring an adapter if your laptop uses a 3-prong plug. Chinese outlets do not always accept American 3-prongs. 2-prong may be fine.
- Leatherman multitool - (pack in checked luggage!) It came in handy for all kinds of stuff, especially making chop stick art. But also cutting bread, cutting open delivery bags, making bowls from water bottles etc....
- crafts stuff (even for adults) string, paper, watercolors...



Lastly bring a positive attitude!

Tips for Quarantine with Littles

- 1) Stroller. It's worth the extra carry-on & will be of huge help while waiting in lines at the airport (especially when asleep). It will also serve as an extra chair at the hotel which probably only has 1 chair.
- 2) Spoon/fork set if your littles don't use chopsticks.
- 3) Dish detergent. The hotel is set up for 1-2 people (2 teacups), not for 3. Food delivery is not set up to split between littles.
- 4) Slippers/beach sandals. Some hotels have carpet and it won't be vacuumed for 2 weeks.
- 5) Wipes for wiping down floors.
- 6) A mat / tablecloth to contain craft messes. IKEA silicone baking mats & an old Lunchables container for paint water.

- 7) Blue tape to put up artwork. Also handy when you need to designate specific boundaries.
- 8) Playdough
- 9) Lightweight bins to put toys/activities. Not have much drawer / storage space.
- 10) Best traveling book - paperback copy of "The 20th Century Children's Book Treasury" by Janet Schulman. Protect the cover with contact paper and it will last for years. Stories for infants through upper elementary.
- 11) Older kids- loaded games, Kindles, card games Uno etc., crafts or art projects - a great time to learn to knit? A large puzzle.

Travel and Arrival Tips

Phones

If you have a China phone number continue to make your payments. It will be very useful while in quarantine. You will need a phone number to register for several apps (like food delivery). You may need to coordinate with someone who has a number so they can give you authentication codes.

If you are new or no longer have a China phone number:

- Makes sure you have an unlocked phone and can switch out the SIM card
- Order a SIM Card. This has been recommended by some:
https://www.amazon.com/Incoming-English-Customer-Support-WhatsApps/dp/B07CTFGRVR/ref=sr_1_8?dchild=1&keywords=SIM+card+for+China&qid=1620848283&sr=8-8
- Follow the directions to install carefully.
- Download WeChat app.
- Look for the Expat group app in your city, as this can be helpful.

The Airplane

- Bring wired earphones for plane (none were provided) and a left-right mono to stereo adapter (to hear sound in both ears).
- Bring your own food (a bag of snacks and 2 small waters are provided. Towards middle/end of flight, they offered another water bottle.)
- Bring your own power charger (none was provided).
- Bring a refillable water bottle. Airports have water fountains, fill it before you get on the plane and as soon as you find a source when landing.
- (Note especially for littles): Go to the restroom when you're half an hour from landing; you may not have immediate access to a restroom while you're waiting at the airport.

The Airport on arrival in China

Due to quarantine things are not as usual when you arrive:

- Wear comfortable clothes/shoes & don't put a lot of weight in your carry-on because you will be standing in lines & traveling up/down stairs at the airport.
- There is no food available in the airport, except perhaps a water bottle and a small bun right before you get on the bus but this is not guaranteed. Save some food and water from the flight.
- You may not be able to use the bathroom until you get to the hotel. ("There are bathrooms along the way, some had to cross the lines to get to them, the airport staff didn't have a problem with that- as long as you are only going to the bathroom and straight back to line.")

Arrival Procedures

These are experiences to let you see how things have changed. They are not guidelines for you to follow.

You should be given directions from your school or university.

Business visa holders' experience may look very different.

One teacher's experience is below:

- When we got off the airplane, they gave us a sticker with a number written on it, then we found a seat and waited for that number to be called. During this time you can find the China customs QR code and scan it to fill out the customs form.
 - When you are done filling out the form hit submit/register then take a screenshot of the QR code that comes up.
 - Make sure you have the school's contact information if you are teaching or a student.
- After you go through immigration take a picture of your visa and entry stamp. (The hotel may keep your passport so do this before you get to hotel)
- **We regrouped at the luggage area**, got in line for the quarantine hotel bus together.
- **If with a group:**
 - It may be helpful to send someone up to the front of the line to tell the staff that you have a group of __#__ foreigners that need to go to a hotel that caters to foreigners. Hopefully this will save a trip to the wrong hotel. We found that most of the airport staff spoke some English.
 - While waiting for your hotel bus, you may be asked who you are traveling with. **Make sure to emphasize who you are traveling with.** You want to all be on the same bus to the same hotel.
 - Be proactive about putting your luggage inside the bus luggage area. If one side is full, they may say that you need to bring all your luggage into the bus but check the other side first as there may be room there.

