

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TRAVEL: CHINA'S 144-HOUR VISA-FREE TRANSIT

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Wanna explore the wonders of Shanghai and the Yangtze River Delta region? The 144-hour visa-free transit policy offers an opportunity for short stopover in China while traveling to a third country.

Passengers from 53 countries can enter China from designated ports with their valid travel documents and a connecting ticket to a third country or region, with a confirmed seat and date within 144 hours.

They can have visa-free stay within the administrative areas of Shanghai as well as Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces for up to 144 hours.

Q: Which ports does the 144-hour visa-free transit policy cover?

A: It applies to several ports, including Shanghai's Pudong and Hongqiao airports, Shanghai Port International Cruise Terminal, Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal, Shanghai Railway Station, Nanjing Lukou International Airport and Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport.

Q: Which countries are eligible for the 144-hour visa-free transit?

A: They are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, Russia, Britain, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Belarus, the United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Brunei, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Q: If I am a citizen of one of the 53 countries and travel by train from Hong Kong to Shanghai, will I be allowed to leave Shanghai by air after visiting Jiangsu and Zhejiang? Or if I arrive in Shanghai from a foreign country by air, would I be able to exit



Special channels have been set up for the 144-hour visa-free transit in Shanghai.

Shanghai by ferry?

A: Yes. As long as you have a connecting ticket to a third country or region within 144 hours, you can enjoy the visa-free transit, regardless of whether you enter China by plane, train or ferry via the airports, railway stations or cruise terminals in Shanghai, Nanjing Lukou Airport in Jiangsu or Hangzhou Xiaoshan Airport in Zhejiang. Additionally, you can exit from any of the mentioned ports to a third country or region.

Q: What is the process for the visa-free transit?

A: You should present your valid exit-entry documents and connecting ticket to a third country or region, with a confirmed seat and date within 144 hours, to the check-in staff when departing from abroad. The carrier you are traveling with will declare your transit to the border inspection station before arrival at the port in China. The border inspection station will review your documents and handle the visa-free transit.

Q: Where should I go for border inspection procedures when arriving at the port of Shanghai?

A: The Shanghai Border Inspection Authority has set up special channels for the 144-hour visa-free transit at Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Hongqiao International Airport,

Shanghai Port International Cruise Terminal, Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal and Shanghai Railway Station. You can follow the signs to the special channels.

Q: What materials should I submit for the 144-hour visa-free transit?

A: 1. Valid exit-entry documents (must be valid for no less than 3 months).

2. A connecting ticket to a third country or region with a confirmed seat and date within 144 hours.

3. A fully completed Arrival/Departure Card.

Q: How is the duration of the 144-hour visa-free transit calculated?

A: The border inspection station will issue you a temporary entry permit, and the visa-free transit is calculated from 12am of the next day upon arrival. You can stay within the administrative areas of Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces without a visa for up to 144 hours.

Q: Is there a charge for the temporary entry permit under the 144-hour visa-free transit?

A: No fees are charged by the border inspection station when issuing the temporary entry permit.

Q: Will stay at a Shanghai hotel be a problem under the transit policy?

A: No. The border inspection authority will issue a temporary entry permit sticker, which will be stamped in your passport. The permit will indicate your arrival port, arrival time, permitted duration and region of stay. With this permit, you can check into a hotel or register for your stay.

Q: What should I do if I need to leave Shanghai, Jiangsu or Zhejiang for other areas in China or cannot depart within 144 hours due to special circumstances?

A: If you are under the 144-hour visa-free transit, you are required to stay within the administrative areas of Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, and depart within the permitted duration.

In case you have to stay beyond 144 hours or outside of the permitted areas due to special circumstances, you must apply for a stay permit with the exit-entry department of the public security bureau at the provincial or city level.

Q: If I am a citizen of Singapore who is eligible for both the 144-hour visa-free transit and visa-free entry policies, how will the border inspection procedures be handled?

A: Currently, among the 53 countries, China implements a 15-day visa-free entry policy for citizens of Singapore, Brunei and Japan who visit China for tourism, business, transit or other private purposes, as well as a mutual visa-free entry policy with Serbia, Bosnia and the UAE.

For transit passengers from these countries who are traveling to China for

