

Interpretation of the 144-Hour Visa-Exemption Transit Policy



Sanctioned by the State Council, **Shanghai Municipality, Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province, Beijing Municipality, Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province**, and certain ports in **Liaoning Province** are to adopt the **144-hour** visa-exemption transit policy available to nationals from 53 countries.

1. An eligible passenger can transfer via any of the following ports of entry including Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport, Shanghai Port International Cruise Terminal, Shanghai Wusongkou International Cruise Terminal, Shanghai Railway Station, Nanjing Lukou International Airport and Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport, and stay within the administrative precincts of Shanghai Municipality, Jiangsu Province and Zhejiang Province for 144 hours.

2. An eligible passenger can transfer via any of the following ports of entry including Beijing Capital International Airport, Tianjing Binhai International Airport, Tianjin International Cruise Home Port, Shijiazhuang Zhengding International Airport and Qinhuangdao Sea Port, and stay within the administrative precincts of Beijing Municipality, Tianjin Municipality and Hebei Province for 144 hours.

3. An eligible passenger can transfer via any of the following ports of entry including Shenyang Taoxian International Airport and Dalian Zhoushuizi International Airport, and stay within the administrative precincts of Liaoning Province for 144 hours.

The 144-hour visa-free transit policy shall apply to the following 53 countries:

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

An applicant for 144-hour visa-exemption transit needs to possess a **valid passport** or other valid international travel documents and an onward **air / vessel / train ticket** to a third country (region including Hong Kong and Macau and Taiwan) with confirmed date and seat within 144 hours upon arrival, fill out **an arrival card** for temporary entry foreigners, and be interviewed by the immigration inspection authority. The following types of foreign nationals will not be issued a temporary entry permit:

- I. Those who are inadmissible to China in accordance with relevant laws and administrative regulations;
- II. Those whose international travel documents are valid for less than 3 months at the time of application, or those who possess international travel documents containing refusal stamps affixed by Chinese visa issuing authorities;
- III. Those who have records of illegal entry or exit, illegal stay or residence, or illegal employment in China in the past 5 years;

IV. Those who have seriously violated the regulation of registering their addresses for temporary residence in China with the public security bureaus in the past 2 years.

In addition, foreign crew members aboard internationally sailing vessels and their accompanying family members are not eligible for this policy.

PLEASE NOTICE THAT Foreign nationals, during their visa-exemption transit, must abide by Chinese laws and regulations. They must not leave the specified area of stay or overstay the visa-exemption period. In the first 24 hours of entry, foreign nationals themselves should register their residence addresses with the local public security bureaus or foreigner service stations, or those who provide the foreign nationals with residence can complete the registration on their behalf. For foreign nationals who dwell at a hotel, the hotel has the obligation to register residence for them. In case of force majeure which necessitates a longer period of stay than 144 hours within the visa-exemption area, they need to lodge an application to the exit and entry administration department of a public security bureau for corresponding stay or residence documents.

Regarding those foreign nationals who have entered China by successfully applying for 144-hour visa-exemption transit, the following acts including traveling beyond the specified areas of stay, overstaying the visa-exemption transit period, departing from unspecified ports, or failing to register their residence information, will be punishable by law by the immigration inspection authority or local public security authority.

How do I request the 144-hour TWOV China: transit without visa?

6 Steps to Apply for 144-Hour Visa-Free Transit:

1. Inform the carrier when boarding
2. Fill an Arrival/Departure Card
3. Apply for the 144-hour visa-free stay permit upon arrival
4. Claim the luggage
5. Go through the customs
6. Leave the airport

Documents Needed for Application

1. Passport valid for at least 3 months from the date of entry
2. Ticket to a third country with confirmed seat and date
3. Fully completed Arrival/Departure Card



- * Prepare a valid visa if the third country or region in your plan requires.
- * Hotel reservations may be required if you want to leave the airport.

Q&A

1, How is the duration of the 144 hour visa-free transit policy calculated?

The duration of stay as referred to in the 144-hour visa-free transit policy will begin from 00:00 o'clock the following day, after entry in any relevant port mentioned above. For example, in accordance with the 144-hour visa-free transit policy, from 00:00 o'clock the following day after entry in Beijing, the traveler will be allowed to stay for six days at most in the area of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei without entry visa.

If visitors are unable to depart on time due to unavoidable reasons, such as flight cancellation or treatment of sudden disease, they need to apply for a visa from Municipal Public Security Bureau (PSB).

2, If citizens from any of the 53 designated countries eligible for the 144-hour visa-free transit policy do not hold a valid connecting travel ticket to a third country; can he/she apply for 144-hour visa-free transit?

According to the regulations pertaining to the 144-hour visa-free transit policy, any applicant must hold a valid connecting visitor tickets for travel, with confirmed seat and departure time within 144 hours, or he/ she must possess relevant supporting documents. The applicant must have these documentations before applying for the 144-hour visa-free transit.

3, If citizens from any of the 53 designated countries arrive in those specific regions mentioned above with a valid ticket for travel to their country of origin, with a confirmed seat and with a departure time within 144 hours, would he/she be eligible for the 144 hour visa-free transit policy?

The policy applies for 144-hour visa-free transit rather than visa-free entry. Therefore, the applicant should transit to a third country or region. Visitors returning to their country of origin would not be eligible for this policy.

For example:

United Kingdom - Shanghai - Russia is available to apply 144 hours transit visa in shanghai.

United Kingdom - Singapore - Shanghai - Russia is available to apply 144 hrs transit visa in shanghai.

United Kingdom - Shanghai – United Kingdom is **NOT** available to apply 144 hrs transit visa in shanghai.

4, Can I enter China in one city (for example: shanghai) and apply the transit visa, then leave China from another city (for example: Hangzhou) in the same 144-hour visa-free transit region?

Yes, if visitors have applied the 144 hours transit visa in the specific administrative precincts, they can arrive in one city and leave from another one which these two cities are both in the same region.

5, Can I enter China in one city (for example: Shanghai) and apply the transit visa, then leave China from another city (for example: Beijing) which is in different 144-hour visa-free transit region?

No, if visitors have applied the 144 hours transit visa in the specific administrative precincts, they will not be allowed to travel beyond this region. Any other city outside this specific area is not available to travel to.

6, What kind of punishment will be imposed on those who have successfully applied for the 144-hour visa-free transit but have stayed in China for more than 144 hours when they depart from China?

According to the relevant regulations of the Exit and Entry Administration Law of the People's Republic of China, individuals who do not hold a valid Chinese passport and are suspected of illegal residence in China will be warned. In case of gross violation, the offender will be fined RMB500 per day for illegal residence, not exceeding RMB10,000 in total, or he/she will be detained for 5-10 days. Anyone who violates the relevant laws and regulations for the 144-hour visa-free transit policy may not be accepted for future applications for visa-free transit.