

TRIP PACKING AND PREPARATION

JC2NYC FEBRUARY 2020!!

New York City hotel rooms are cozy. Bring just what you need; a lot of extra stuff will be a burden to you. Looks like we will have partly cloudy weather with some rain showers and possible snow flurries. Daytime temps in the mid-30s to low-40 degrees F. Chilly, possibly wet. Check the weather forecast right before the trip and make sure you have adequate warm and protective clothing. We will not have time for, or access to laundry. Lifetime Californians – layering is your friend!

Luggage: One checked suitcase, one backpack or similar for carry-on and everyday use as a daypack (see airline baggage limits below), plus one additional personal item (purse, laptop, ukele). The choir will pay for one piece of checked luggage within the airline limits (see below). You are responsible for the cost and management of additional checked or oversized luggage. Overweight bags are subject to a charge of \$150 per flight. It's not worth it! Put tags with your name and address clearly marked on all bags. Also recommend something to help you easily identify your luggage – a strip of colored duct tape, a short colorful ribbon or bandana. Also recommend locks, on checked bags especially.

Checked luggage limits: maximum weight of 50lbs and maximum size of 62in in any dimension (length, width, or height). The airlines don't even accept bags larger than 80 inches or heavier than 99 lbs. Carry-on luggage limits: must fit in overhead compartment or under seat in front of you. For overhead, max size is 24 x 14 x 9 inches. For under seat, max size for personal item is 17 x 13 x 8 inches. Items that don't fit overhead or under the seat are checked at the gate and claimed at the gate after the flight.

Pack in your carryon: A wallet with your ID and any cash or cash cards (debit, loadable credit cards) you want. Electronic/technology things, including phone, chargers, earbuds. Spare batteries (no external batteries allowed in checked luggage). Keys (including keys to locks on your luggage, if applicable). Medications and toiletries for plane (a toothbrush and chapstick could come in handy). Refillable water bottle or thermos. Also – carry-on your winter coat and keep access to warm clothing on the plane. Plane rides can start out one temp and change – be prepared with layers. You will need your winter coat available when we land in NYC – do not check it.

NOTE: Each passenger may carry on a small quantity of liquids, limited to 3.4 oz (100 ml) per item. These should be packed separately in a clear Ziploc bag (1 quart max size). Medication should be in a separate Ziploc bag in its original container with original label and doctor-signed form and should be turned in to Dr. Gardias or one of the doc chaperones (Cydney or Bimla) in NYC .

NOTE: Sharp items, such as manicure scissors, tweezers, and travel sewing kits with needles, should be packed in checked luggage. If you pack such items in your carry-on bag, they will likely be confiscated at the TSA security checkpoint.

At the airport, before going through the TSA security checkpoint:

- Empty liquids from carry-on bottles, coffee cups or thermoses
- Take out Ziploc bag(s) with liquids and meds (if any)
- Remove jackets, shoes, belts, watches and bracelets, money and other items from pockets. Take electronics out of carry-on bags. Place all items in bins provided and place on conveyer belt for screening. Keep track of items as they go through the machine and claim them on the other side.
- Have boarding pass and ID readily accessible to show security personnel (make sure to put these safely away on the other side of security).

After going through security: Put clothes back on and everything safely away. Check to be sure you have everything.

WHAT TO BRING:

A positive cheery attitude! In some ways, this is the most important thing to bring. You will be experiencing some new things on this trip. That's the idea. Not everything will be your favorite. Please realize a lot of thought and planning has gone into this and try to go into everything with an open mind and heart. You may become tired or overwhelmed at some point. It's 3 hours later in New York than California and jet lag is real, plus we have packed a lot into a short time. Your choir mates, the chaperones and staff are all here to help you. If you need a break, take it. There is nothing here that HAS to happen and your physical and mental health are paramount. Sometimes an hour or two of rest time at the hotel can make all the difference for enjoying the rest of the trip. We have chaperones who are ready to make that happen if you need it.

Besides your positive attitude, things to bring include:

- Photo ID: School ID is fine for <18 years old. State-issued ID needed for >18 year olds.
- Phone, watch, or some way of keeping track of time + phone charger, earbuds etc.
- Refillable water bottle or thermos

- Daypack – backpack or equivalent – big enough to carry a change of clothes, shoes, water bottle. A small waterproof bag that you can use for wet items in your backpack would be a very good idea.
- Jazz Choir t-shirts and sweatshirts. Leave the glittery costumes at home.
- Danceable clothing for 3 dance workshops (no laundry).
- Comfortable casual clothing for 5 days. Think business casual for at least 3 of those days - what you might wear to represent your school and choir at Broadway shows, vocal clinics, and nice but not super fancy restaurants. Business casual is not well defined and it's maybe better to say what it's not. Not t-shirts, old faded or torn jeans (nice dressy looking jeans OK), not tennis shoes in general, definitely not shorts, not anything with holes even if those holes are part of the fashion. Biz cas is generally a little conservative – not too much skin showing – this will keep you warmer too. Basically not shlubby-looking. Clear as mud?
- Something a little more dressy for Friday night out at the opera and Sunday night out at the jazz club. This can be the same outfit – a nice dress or nice slacks and top – or two separate outfits. Seniors might also want something a little more dressy for their surprise night out on Saturday. If you do wear a dress, consider tights or leggings underneath
- Shoes are tricky – they are heavy and take a lot of space in luggage, but you will need multiple pairs, especially if rain/snow seem likely (stay tuned!). Chances are we won't be walking through deep snow, but slush and puddles are possible. Recommend having at least 2 pairs of close toed shoes (e.g., comfortable water-resistant shoes or boots for walking in rain/snow and an extra pair of dry shoes you can change into indoors). You will want one of these pairs to be something that works with business casual attire (not tennis shoes). If you have nice boots, those can work for business casual and even for the dressier evenings; otherwise, you might also want to bring a pair of dressier shoes for evening wear. Dance shoes, like jazz shoes, that squoosh easily into your daypack are nice, but optional. Character shoes with a low heel (like the ones the girls have for JC) may be used for dance classes and for evening wear too. Recommend against bringing new shoes that haven't been broken in on the trip. We will be walking and new shoes + walking = blisters.
- Warm winter coat, hat (or coat hood), scarf, gloves/mittens (something you can wear over casual and dress clothes). Coats will be worn when we are outside!
- Rain jacket, poncho and/or small collapsible travel umbrella (recommended)
- Underwear and socks for 5 days plus at least 2 extra pairs (consider thin wool socks which absorb less moisture)
- Pajamas (for wear only in the hotel rooms please)
- Toiletries (rooms have soap, shampoo, hair dryers, so you don't need those). Chapstick or lip moisturizer is a great idea.

Medication: Bring Signed Medication Form (Dr. signature if needed) and medications including any over-the-counter meds like Dramamine, if needed. Rx drugs must be in original container with original label. As noted above, you will carry this with you in a Ziploc bag on the plane and turn it over to Mrs. Gardias, Cydney, or Bimla in NYC.

Food: Note that 3 meals a day are included in this trip. (The exception is the first day on the plane, where breakfast and lunch are not included). We will also provide snacks at certain times noted on the itinerary. Bring extra snacks if you think you will need them. Rooms do not have microwaves or refrigerators, so don't bring perishables or food that requires heating.

Optional items to bring: A small amount of cash or a loadable credit card (for shopping or purchasing souvenirs, extra snacks, coffee drinks, etc). Note: airlines do not accept cash for food purchased on the plane. Do not recommend bringing lots of cash, high end cameras or other valuables. All activities, transportation and meals are covered. At some of our meals, drinks (other than water) are not included, but can be purchased with cash. **Other optional items:** an inexpensive camera (or use your phone), binoculars (for theater), books to read or for journaling, sunglasses and an extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses if you have them (could come in handy!).

Please do not bring loads of cash, high end electronics, or other valuables. Try to avoid bringing a laptop – you will not have a lot of time for schoolwork, and bringing it may just create anxiety and frustration.

VERY IMPORTANT: PLEASE keep track of your belongings. Even if you have a parent who is a chaperone on the trip, YOU are in charge of YOUR belongings. Look around every place you leave, do a mental and physical check that you have EVERYTHING with you. We are on a tight schedule and can't be spending a lot of time tracking down lost/forgotten items. Lost/forgotten items may remain lost (though not forgotten).

Also, keep in mind that everything you purchase in NYC needs to fit back into your luggage and other bags and to remain under the airline weight guidelines. There will not be a lot of time for shopping, but if you do plan to shop, leave some space in your luggage when packing in California.