

Trip Packing Tips

Weather

Save space by packing only the clothes you need. TWC website allows you to put a location in their search bar for destination weather; here's the link: <https://weather.com/> That said, always pack one outfit for the opposite weather predicted, just in case.

Touring/Sightseeing

Comfort, comfort, comfort! Wear what keeps you comfortable and happy; sweatshirt, jeans and sneakers are fine. Out of the states you'll encounter some interesting terrain, stairs, and sidewalks; wear clothing you can freely and safely move in.

Security/safety

Don't advertise yourself as a target; leave the jewelry and expensive handbags at home. Men, you too, that wallet in your back pocket is easy prey for a professional ne'er do well. Look in the back of your closet for those 80's fanny packs, this is their time to shine! (Psst...the cool kids now call them "waist bags", "belt safes" or "belt bags". If you need a new one, they're available on Amazon for under \$10.) Wear under your shirt tail for a little extra concealment. Another great option is cross body bags. Both these options keep your hands free for other tasks.

Airtags/Tiles/Smartags

These are great to toss in your checked bags, in your day bag, on your spouse or kids; and work anywhere your cell phone does.

Make a LIST

Just like at the grocery, things are less likely to be forgotten with your trusty list in hand. When you return from your trip, make updates to help you do better on the next trip. There are a plethora of "vacation packing lists" available online. Scan through a few, pull the ideas, items, and information that applies to you; make your own perfect packing list.

Packing Light

Why?

- Ease - it's so much easier on your body to get from here to there with a carry-on and trolley bag riding on top, rather than suitcases.
- Savings - many airlines include a carry-on and personal item (trolley bag or backpack) in your fare, checked bags can incur fees of \$50-\$100 each bag, each way.
- Less stress - you don't have to worry about lost luggage, your bag is right there with you at all times.

Matchy matchy

Bring outfits that match each other, giving you the opportunity to make many different outfits, changing your look, and giving you the opportunity to reuse clothing.

- Plain slacks in base colors - black, navy blue, khakis.
- Colored/print tops and/or dresses.
- Plain jackets/sweaters in base colors.
- Shoes in base colors - black or brown leather "dress up" shoes for men, silver or black "dress up" shoes for women, black or white sneakers for touring, black or brown leather flip flops/sandals for the beach/pool.

Laundry Service

- For long trips, utilize your cruise ship's or hotel's laundry service. This allows you to travel with much less clothing, thus less bags.

How many?

- One outfit for each day you are away. (One shirt, one shorts/pants, one pair sock, one pair undergarments.)
- One “outside” light jacket.
- One fleece. (Can be worn alone or with the light jacket instead of bringing a bulky coat.)
- One formal outfit. (if needed)
- One bathing suit. (if beach based vacay more)
- Three pairs of shoes: one dressy, one beach/scuffs, one sneakers.
- Other items dictated by the trip type. (ie skiing, hiking)

Other items

- Sunglasses
- Disposable rain poncho
- Beach or Day Bag (needs to fold up small for packing)
- Fanny Pack/Belt Safe
- Electronics chargers/adapters (phone charger, laptop charger, electric adapters for overseas, memory stick/card)
- Jewelry - really do leave it at home, but if you must, limit it to bare “necessities”.
- Baggies - one or two sandwich, quart, gallon, trash bag (keep wet clothes from dry, dirty shoes/clothes from clean, etc)
- Fix its: duct tape, safety pins, zip ties, snaps, bungee, needle/thread, string & superglue.
- Toiletries Bag
 - Lip Balm, Medicines (Rx and OTC like tylenol), Deodorant, Brush/Comb, Make up (dry), Razors (safety only), Tweezers, Band-Aids, Toothbrush, Floss, Nail Clippers/File.
- TSA Quart Bag - you’re limited to 3oz bottles, one quart bag per person.
 - Link to TSA website: [Liquids Rule | Transportation Security Administration \(tsa.gov\)](https://www.tsa.gov/travelers/liquids-rule)
 - Toothpaste, Lotion (including sunblock), Fragrance Spray, Shampoo, Conditioner, Hair Spray/Mousse, Laundry Detergent (travel pouch), Orajel/Crown Repair Kit, Neosporin, Superglue

Get the most out of your space

- Pack the big things first, then the little things in the nooks and crannies. I.e. pack socks or undergarments inside shoes.
- Compression cubes - turns packing into Tetris! Much easier to organize then pack the pieces together, helps you use all available space.
- Roll clothes, don’t fold, takes less space, easier to pack, and wrinkle less.
- Wear your bulky clothes and biggest shoes to the airport.

My Travel & Packing “Must Haves”



Carry-on (22" x 14" x 9")

Four wheels.
Telescoping handle.
Dark color that doesn’t show dirt
Add colorful ribbon you’ll quickly recognize
Add a tag with your contact info



Personal Item Bag (18" x 14" x 8")

Trolley Sleeve (to secure to top of your carry-on)
Backpack best, shoulder shoulder strap ok.
Zipper pouch in the front for easy quick access
to Passport and TSA Liquids Bag
Add a tag with your contact info



Fanny Pack/Belt Safe

Elastic; just a little, it must be comfy all day.
Small as possible, but must be big enough to accommodate a passport (3.5" x 5")



Packing Cubes

Compression ability. (Two sets of zippers, one to close and one to squeeze)



Toiletries Bag

Clear compartments
Zip on/off TSA liquids bag
Hook to hang up - so these items never have
to be unpacked, just hang on a towel hook
and use, great when you’re staying in multiple locations on one trip.