

Packing Tips

- **#1 This is Not a Fashion Show & You'll Never See These People Again** - There I said it. Be presentable, but first be comfortable and functional.
- **Carry Ons** - Whenever possible stay "hands on" to avoid lost luggage stress. You'd be surprised how much you can fit in a carry on and personal item size bag.
- **Cross Pack** - If you do end up checking bags, don't put all your items in one suitcase. Share items for each person between suitcases, if one suitcase goes missing or gets delayed, everyone will still have something to wear.
- **Packing Cubes** - Amazing little inventions! Pack clothes in the cubes, then play suitcase tetris. I can't explain it, but this really helps you fit more in there.
- **Stuff 'Um** - Pack things in things, no space goes unused! Several pairs of socks will fit inside each shoe. Eyeglass cases can hold two pairs of glasses and a scarf as well.
- **Jewelry** - Bring a bare minimum of the cheap stuff. Leave the expensive jewelry at home! It's safer there and you're safer without it, don't make yourself a target.
- **Rain Gear** - For most trips the disposable ponchos will do; there's a daily afternoon thunderstorm in the Caribbean. For Alaska trips; "Froggs Toggs" are lightweight, pack in little space, are cheap, and don't breathe - they keep you warm with less bulky underclothes.
- **Shoes** - Minimize, multi-task and be realistic. Natural leather or black match most outfits. Leave the house in good comfy sneakers, you'll need them for airport hikes to your gate and transfer shuttles, then later for touring/adventuring. (For Alaska, I love Merrells, they're waterproof and will eliminate the need to pack rain boots.) Flip flops/Sandals for pool/beach. Loafers/Flats for nice dinners. Water Shoes are needed for most snorkeling adventures.
- **Quart Bag Liquids** - 3 oz bottles really will get you thru 7-10 days! Cruise ships and hotels provide shampoo and soaps. Sunscreen, sunscreen, sunscreen!
- **Matchy Matchy** - Plan your outfits; if they're in the same color palette they're interchangeable - even better. A good cheat is plain pants/shorts (jeans, khakis, or black) and colored tops. Sundresses are almost the dress code in the Caribbean and they take up little space! Throw a shawl on top and swap the flip flops for flats to dress it up for dinner.
- **Heavy/Bulky Coat** - Wear it on the plane. Yep, even in July. Use it as a pillow! It takes up too much space in your suitcase.
- **Tide Travel Pouches** - For clothing emergencies and when "whoops I didn't pack enough" and you need to wash something and reuse it.
- **Electronics** - Make sure you have the charging cable for each item you bring.
- **OTC Meds** - these are expensive to purchase on ship or at resorts. I find a daily "pill minder" a convenient way to transport/pack them, be sure to label which is what.
- **Trip Folder** - Make one! If you paid for it, print it. Take all printed receipts; tours, flights, resort/cruise, copy of passport, drivers license, birth certificate (in case of loss).
- **Home Folder** - Make one and leave it with someone trusted. In case of loss: copy of passport, drivers license, birth certificate and health insurance information. Itinerary, ship/resort info, flight info. I like to take an AirTag and/or use a cell tracking app (find my iphone or Life 360) and link to that person's phone. (Don't pack this! The info just "fit" here, lol.)

Cruise Packing List

- **Nightlight** - for bathroom at night
- **Power Cube/Strip** - without a surge protector, often cabins only have one plug.
- **White Board & Marker** - for your door, magnetic backing
- **Highlighter** - for your Daily
- **Ziplocs/Trash Bag** - wet/dirty clothes, phones etc on excursions in rain
- **Wristwatch**

- **Binoculars** - ship/dolphin/whale watching
- **Cup** - with lid (ships do rock on occasion) and a straw if you like your drinks frozen
- **Lanyard**