

Sudoku Packing Method

A mix-and-match travel wardrobe system: choose 9 core clothing pieces - 3 tops, 3 bottoms, and 3 layers - then arrange them in a 3 x 3 grid so every row, column, and diagonal can become an outfit. Tiny suitcase, big outfit energy.

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Row 1	TOP 1 _____	BOTTOM 1 _____	LAYER 1 _____
Row 2	LAYER 2 _____	TOP 2 _____	BOTTOM 2 _____
Row 3	BOTTOM 3 _____	LAYER 3 _____	TOP 3 _____

How to read the grid: outfits can be made across each row, down each column, and on diagonals. The magic rule: every item has to play nicely with the others. If one piece only works with one outfit, it is acting like a diva and does not get suitcase space.

What to Pack

3 Tops T-shirt, blouse, tank, button-down, lightweight sweater	3 Bottoms Jeans, travel pants, skirt, shorts, linen pants, black pants	3 Layers Cardigan, denim jacket, blazer, linen shirt, wrap, rain jacket
Optional extras 1 dress or jumpsuit, sleepwear, workout/swim items, underwear, socks, jewelry/scarf/belt, 2-3 shoes max.	Hot weather swap If layers are ridiculous because humidity is trying to end you, use 3 shoes instead of 3 layers.	Color rule Pick 2 neutrals + 1 accent color. Example: black/white + blue or navy/tan + pink.

Mini Outfit Tracker

Outfit	Pieces	Notes
1	Row 1: Top 1 + Bottom 1 + Layer 1	
2	Row 2: Layer 2 + Top 2 + Bottom 2	
3	Row 3: Bottom 3 + Layer 3 + Top 3	
4	Column 1	
5	Column 2	
6	Column 3	
7	Diagonal	

Packing test before you zip: Can each top work with at least 2 bottoms? Can each layer work with at least 2 tops? Can every shoe work with most outfits? Can you re-wear pieces without feeling like you are starring in Groundhog Day: Laundry Edition?

Sources consulted: People, Apartment Therapy, Classy Yet Trendy, Travel + Leisure, InStyle. Created for personal planning.