

Amazing Vacation Packing Tips

Well it's that time of year again, to plan and pack our suitcases, backpacks and overnight bags for a long deserved vacation! Whether a weekend or a week, the key to successful packing is really analyzing where you will be going and what you will be doing. Is it a casual camping trip with the family, or a sightseeing trip to New York City? I will give you some general rules and you can take it from there!

What to take

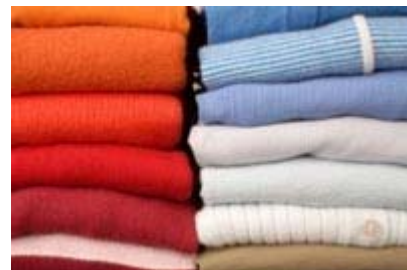
This will vary by trip so just lay out everything you'd like to take with you. Make sure that you can compose many outfits in many different ways by combining what you have. This will reduce the amount you take and make it easier to get dressed when you are there. Personally, I take items in blue, black, grey and white shades so I can mix and match. You may create your own palette, but just keep versatility in mind!

How to pack your suitcase/overnight bag

Fold sweaters and any items that are not lightweight knits. Button up shirts and blouses and fold them like they do in retail stores, with the front facing up and the sleeves folded behind. These will be placed in the center of your bag. With knits, denim and less wrinkle-prone clothing, simply roll as neatly as possible and fill in around the edges of the folded items.

Pack everything in clear plastic bags (e.g. zip-loc) before placing in your suitcase or backpack.

Divide the bags into categories: one for underwear, one for t-shirts, one for socks, etc. This will be great when unpacking, or if you're staying in several places on a longer trip. When you unpack your bag you'll just take out a series of bags and you'll be able to immediately see what you want. When going through customs or security the plastic bags will keep things from spilling out of your suitcase if it needs to be



searched. Plastic bags also come in handy for keeping toiletries from spilling onto other items, or for storing dirty clothing. Remember friction is what causes wrinkling and plastic reduces friction!

When flying, these are my top rules

For a weekend getaway, you should definitely use a carry on bag to make things simple. When starting to pack, remember to count the slacks or skirt you are wearing on the plane as one of the pieces in your wardrobe for the trip. Sunglasses are always on my list as a staple as well. For example, on the flight I will wear a nice pair of jeans or khaki slacks, with a t-shirt and a light jacket that I may wear again later. I know for a fact that keeping all your clothing “mix and match” is the way to go.



If you're a gal, bring a few knit shirts, a fancier pair of shoes, dressy jewelry and scarf. If you're a guy, bring two t-shirts, a button down, a nice belt, dressier shoes, and a watch. Slip-on shoes or any shoe that is easily removed are important when going through security. In other words, leave the lace up boots at home! I can't tell you how much more pleasant this will make your trip.



You can affordably purchase small toiletry containers that are regulation size for liquid items in your carry-on. Always check the website of your carrier to see their regulations. Once onboard I always carry an inexpensive inflatable neck pillow to make sure my flight is comfortable and gum to relieve ear pressure.



When driving, these are my rules

Use soft sided luggage as it will fit into the trunk or cargo area of your vehicle better than hard sided suitcases. If you are staying with family or

friends find out what guest items they might supply for you like a blow drier, shampoo, soaps, etc. There is no need to over pack if they already have these for you. The same rule applies with a hotel. Find out what amenities are provided and do not double up on any of these items! Just because you are driving doesn't mean you should be any less diligent in your wardrobe choices. Really think about what you will be doing on your trip. Why bring an evening dress, or fancy dress clothing if you will not be using it. I have never needed anything that I packed "just in case". In an emergency you can always go to the Goodwill Store & Donation Center nearby and buy whatever you need.

Long trips/abroad

For longer trips or trips abroad, really edit down your clothing to just the essentials. Jeans, khakis, numerous t-shirts, button downs, a light sweater or jacket, and another pair of shoes. Change your looks by changing accessories as they take up less space and work with multiple outfits. Always take enough undergarments, socks, hosiery and the like, for the entire trip. In many cases you can launder items at a Laundromat or in the sink.

Remember our vacations are a time to relax and refresh, so pack smart and light and you'll have a happy and fashionable trip every time!