



Know before you go ~ packing tips ~ travel tips

Clothes:

First and foremost, pack lightly. You can find somewhere to do some laundry if need be. That being said, here is my advice for packing:

Check the weather of your destination(s) and pack accordingly. Try to mix and match your tops and bottoms so you pack less but you have more outfit choices. If you going to a warm area, pack shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, a pair or 2 of long pants and a light jacket. For cold climates, long pants, long sleeve shirts, t-shirts, sweats and a jacket. Try to match all your outfits with 1 or 2 pairs of shoes, and make sure you have comfortable walking shoes. You don't need to pack tons of shoes – they take up to much space and you will never wear them all. I roll my clothes very carefully and put them in neat, tight rows in my suitcase. That way I can keep them neat and I can fit more in. Make sure you don't go over the weight limit of 50 pounds!

If you're going on a cruise, make sure you know if there are formal nights or not. If there are: Ladies – cocktail dresses or silky suits. Men – suit and tie or tuxedo. For the rest of the time resort casual is perfect, no shorts or tank tops in the formal dining room. Sundresses, walking shorts and casual skirts for ladies. Walking shorts, khakis, polo shirts and a navy sport coat for the guys. Beachwear for the pool and outdoor cafés, only.

Light jackets or sweaters and hats or visors. Embrace the layered-look. And sunglasses, maybe 2 pairs in case one gets broken or lost.

Non-Clothing & Accessories:

Day or Back Packs are perfect for 2 things: 1 – Perfect as your carry on piece of luggage on your flight, packed with all your important items:

All Travel Documents, Passports/Photo IDs, Insurance Protection ID Cards, Credit Cards, Cash (don't carry too much cash), Jewelry, Medication, Camera, Tablet/Laptop, Charging Cables, MP3/IPOD Players ~ **NEVER pack these items in your checked luggage.** 2 – Ideal for using as a tote to carry water, sunscreen, cameras or whatever on a tour or in a cruise port.

Smartphones or Tablet: Check with your wireless provider regarding international calling and data rates. International rates can be expensive, but you may also need to take your cell phone with you. Consider renting an International cell phone or

purchasing a global WT Sim card if your wireless provider is Verizon. We have a supplier with great prices on these. Let me know if you would like more information.

You can also use free Wi-Fi hotspots when you find them, without incurring extra international charges. Just remember they are not secure connections. If you just want to use your device as a camera, turn off both your data and Wi-Fi access and use it in Airplane Mode only. Ask your provider how to do this if needed, so there are no surprises when you get home.

Cruise lines offer Wi-Fi packages onboard for a price once you board your ship. Check the cruise ship daily paper or with the purser's office where to purchase Wi-Fi packages. Most hotels and resorts offer complimentary Wi-Fi these days. Make sure you inquire at check in.

Personal Care Items: Most hotels, resorts and cruise ships will provide soap, shampoos and conditioners, hair dryers and possibly body lotion. If you are picky, pack your own. Remember to pack hairstyling products, toothbrush and toothpaste, sunscreen and any other personal products you use. **You cannot pack aerosol hairsprays** If you pack any of your personal items in your carry on, don't pack any liquids or gels over 4 oz. each, and they must be in a clear zip-lock type quart size baggie. Some destinations you travel to recommend insect repellent. Try to find the wipe kind, they pack easier. I pack my personal care items in my checked luggage and put them in a couple of zip-lock bags. This gives me protection against exploding products and I have extra bags in case I have to pack wet items on the trip home.

Other items to consider packing: Spare batteries (if necessary), Travel Alarm Clock, Extra Memory Cards, Converters or Adapters (check for electricity of destination) Binoculars and Underwater Camera. Cruise ship cabins do not have many electrical outlets, but are typically 110 Volts. Bring a small power strip or extension cord for extra plug-ins. The walls of the ship are metal so you can 'hang' tour vouchers or important papers with magnets. I bring a few flat, plastic magnets with me and they work great! There are no clocks in the cabins. Extra hangers are helpful as are clothes pins or hair clamps to keep the curtains tightly closed. Most ship cabins have a laptop size safe – make sure to lock up all your valuables when exiting your cabin. **(Always bring your passports or other Photo IDs, sign and sail cards, and credit cards when going ashore!!)**

Keep copies of your passport or other Photo ID and credit cards with you in a safe place. Also give copies to a loved one so you have a backup if you need it. Contact your bank prior to leaving home to advise you will be using your credit card in whichever country you will be visiting – or on a cruise. Also you will get the best exchange rate using your credit card over cash. You don't need large amounts of cash. You can get a good exchange rate using an ATM. Traveler's Checks aren't necessary, but you can still use them if you choose.