



Release at Will

Packing Tips and Tricks **From the Experts at USTOA and TravelSmith**

If you're taking a vacation package or tour, the experts at the U.S. Tour Operators Association and TravelSmith, a premier purveyor of travel gear and clothing, offer the following advice:

- pack light,
- decide in advance what you'll wear each day,
- know baggage limitations.

Here are some expert hints by destination.

For U.S. Travel

New York City package: pack very light, advises Nico Zenner of Travel Bound. Chances are you will go shopping at the flagship stores of many designer brands. Try to travel with a carry-on only.

Alaska cruise tour: bring one moderate size suitcase that can be checked and no more than one carry-on. "You will not need as many clothes as you think!" Coordinate colors and outfits before packing, advises Cruise West's Jerrol Golden.

Hawaii resort package: easy-care clothes you can mix and match are the way to go. "Don't over-pack: For example, you don't need matching shoes for every outfit. Instead bring slacks and shorts you can wear every day with a different shirt or blouse. Pack your liquid and gel cosmetics in a 1 quart plastic bag to meet carry-on security regulations. If you really pack carefully, and are willing to wash clothes or send them for dry cleaning you may be able to get away with just a carry-on," says Ron Letterman of Classic Vacations, who travels with an overnighter for a one-week to 10-day vacation

U.S. motorcoach tour: take your day-by-day itinerary included in your final documents, and jot down what would work in your wardrobe for each day, suggests Jeanne Czerwinski of Mayflower Tours. Gather everything you want to take and lay the items on your bed. Then divide the articles and clothing into four categories: 1) heavy items, 2) soft items, 3) clothes likely to wrinkle, and 4) small or fragile items. Soft items—T-shirts, underwear, sleepwear, and socks -- fit into small spaces when rolled. They can

also be used to protect structured items such as shoes and shirt collars, thus helping to maintain their shape.

For Europe Travel

Motorcoach Tours

Clearly mark your name and address on all baggage. Motor coach passengers are restricted to only one checked bag. Carry-on baggage is limited to one piece and one personal item such as a camera or handbag. "Carry on your person all medicines and items of value. The following items are currently limited to small quantities and must be carried in quart-size clear plastic bags: cosmetics, toiletries, and other liquids and gels. Most hotels in Europe do not provide washcloths; we advise that you bring your own!" says Marc Kavanagh at Celtic Tours.

To make more room for purchases, pack old undergarments to toss along the way as they are used, thereby lightening some of your load during your travels, advises Mike Kasmauskis of Image Tours. Plan to purchase a piece of clothing while on your trip, so you can pack "one less thing".

Ladies should bring a medium or large size, neutral color purse that can be used for carry-on items, medications, water, sunglasses etc., says Paula Twidale of Collette Vacations. Also pack a tiny shoulder purse inside the large bag for touring "hands-free," and make sure it fits under a jacket if necessary.

City Packages

"The big difference between a motor coach tour and an independent package is that your luggage is taken care of on a tour, either stored in the coach while touring, or transferred to your room. However, on an independent package you are responsible for getting your luggage from point A to point B, and to and from the airport," says Bob Whitley, USTOA president, and veteran traveler who has visited more than 100 countries.

When taking a **Paris city package** or traveling in Europe, be size conscious. "Most likely you will have less room in your hotel than you would expect from an American room, and you will also find cramped quarters on busses and trains. If you think you can live without an item, it's better to leave it home," says Kelsey Merwick, Go-today.com, who also suggests taking one manageably-sized bag to avoid the hassle of lugging a big bag through busy airports and cities.

Other International Destinations

Qantas Vacations advises travelers taking **an air-inclusive package or tour to Australia/New Zealand** that passengers are allowed up to two 70 lb. bags on trans-Pacific international flights. However, most domestic flights within New Zealand and

Australia allow only one piece up to 20kg (44 lbs). “The smart traveler travels light!” says Kieron Keady, Qantas Vacations

For an **East African safari**, carry with you on the plane a soft-sided duffel with valuables including camera equipment, toiletries, prescriptions, spare eyeglasses, and a change of clothes in case of flight or luggage delays, advises Pamela Lassers, Abercrombie & Kent. Include a small tote or daypack to carry the items you want to keep with you during days in the bush.

About USTOA

“Many tour operators and vacation packagers provide packing guidelines in their brochures and with their travel documents to help you with your packing decisions,” says Bob Whitley, USTOA president and a veteran traveler who has visited more than 100 countries.

The USTOA web site – www.ustoa.com or www.ustoa.travel also provides packing and wardrobe hints, along with a Baggage Allowance Chart with security and baggage limits for travel worldwide.

USTOA members number 150 of the top brands selling worldwide tours and packages in the U.S. The association’s Active members must adhere to the travel industry’s strictest standards, including participation in the Travelers Assistance Program, which among other things, requires each Active Member Company to set aside \$1 million to protect travelers payments in case the company goes out of business.

About TravelSmith

Since 1992, TravelSmith has offered the most travel-worthy clothing, accessories, and gear available. Every item sold – whether via its catalog, online at travelsmith.com, or at its outlet stores – has been thoroughly field-tested for reliability and ease of care at home or on the road. TravelSmith is based in the San Francisco Bay Area but its products, from sophisticated wrinkle-defiant clothing to lightweight luggage, are favorites of savvy travelers everywhere.

To see a chart of TravelSmith luggage and carry-ons that meets airline requirements, go to www.travelsmith.com. Packing lists and travel advice are also available at the TravelSmith site or by calling one of TravelSmith's expert outfitters at 1-800-950-1600. For more recommendations on how to pack lighter and tighter, check out more tips from TravelSmith experts at www.travelsmith.com/lightenyourload.

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