

Style

Packing tips for trips



Celia Leung
Fashion Stylist

The flights and accommodations are booked, places of interest noted and organized, and list of fun activities already

planned. Now you just have to pack — a somewhat tiresome but necessary task. The main idea is to pack smart so you don't risk over-packing with things you never end up using, or realize an important item is missing by the time you're at your destination. Make a list of items to bring at least a few days before you start packing for your trip. That way, you'll never forget to bring something that is

essential. Also check with your airline's baggage regulations and the transportation authority of the countries you're flying in and out of, especially rules for carry-on luggage. Then you can plan your travel bags accordingly and prevent any hassle at the airport.

For clothes to pack that will have you

looking stylish in all your travel pictures, the key is versatility. Bring basic items that will go well with anything such as jeans, neutral tees, blouses and skirts. Pack pieces that are in a similar colour scheme so it'll be easier to mix and match. Casual dresses are always great since they're a comfortable, one-piece ensemble.

Dresses can also be transformed into a different look by covering the top with a different blouse or the bottom half with a longer skirt layered over. Also pack layers such as cardigans, vests and thin sweaters so you'll be ready for chilly nights or places that are heavily air conditioned. Of course, take into consideration the activities you'll be doing during your trip, whether you'll be attending a work meeting, hiking around scenic areas, spending time on a beach or dressing up for a night out. A dark blazer usually works to make a look more polished and dressed up.

A must have for any trip are shoes that are comfortable to walk hours in and can go with most of your outfits. Low top *Chuck Taylor's* are a popular option. Street stylish girls have been pairing the classic sneakers with anything from boyfriend jeans to miniskirts. As for bags, go with a cross-body purse, or at least one with a shoulder strap, for your travels so you'll have both hands free to explore the town. If you do find it necessary to bring a lot of clothing, try using packing bags that you can compress in order to maximize available space. And for those going on a lengthy trip, there's always the option of washing your clothes at your hotel, local laundromat, or even hand-washing in the sink.

Try to bring items that are wrinkle-resistant — no one wants to take time out

of their sightseeing schedule in order to iron. Usually man-made fabrics such as nylon, polyester, and lycra are wrinkle-free. Cotton blends, denim and knits can also go without ironing. Linen, a lightweight fabric great for hot weather,

from the collar to the hem. For pants, bring the legs together and fold in half, and then roll from the open end to the crease. If you're bringing formalwear, insert some tissue paper between each piece to prevent any creases and try to lay



A simple white blouse is perfect for any style of skirt, shorts or trousers. (Source: Simons.ca)

is supposed to be slightly wrinkled. So if you don't mind an earthy, rumpled look, incorporate linen fabrics into your summer travel ensembles to keep cool.

For the actual packing process, whether you're carrying a suitcase or a backpack, roll your clothes instead of completely folding them. It will create fewer wrinkles while saving more space. For shirts, align the sleeves together by folding the shirt in half lengthwise, tuck the sleeves onto the body, and then roll

them flat at the top of the suitcase, or use a garment bag.

By not leaving packing until the last minute, planning ahead and preparing your luggage smartly, you'll be on your way to a stress-free trip. Have a happy and safe journey!

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Maxi dresses can take you from a casual breakfast to a fancy dinner. (Source: ASOS.com)

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