



8 Packing Tips for Long Vacations

1. Bring an Extra Bag

Whether your vacation involves visiting lots of different amazing places or you're simply planning a venture to just one, chances are you're going to want to bring home a few souvenirs. Packing an extra—preferably, collapsible—bag will definitely save you a bit of stress when the time comes to begin packing for your return home.

2. Prepare for Lost Luggage

One of the delights of travel are the unexpected happenings that can occur. Unfortunately, one of the not so delightful parts of travel is when you end up being separated from your luggage for any amount of time should they end up in a different location than where you are at. To navigate the unexpected like a pro, be sure to include in your carry-on: a change of clothes, a couple pair of underwear, some toiletries, and (of course!) any medications you are bringing. Also pack in that bag: items you would not want to lose for good (e.g., special jewelry, etc.) While lost luggage happens less, it definitely does still occur and much better to be prepared for the "just in case"

3. Check Weather and Long-term Trends

A typical weather forecast is arguably only close to being accurate about five or ten days out and, if you're going on an extended holiday, you're going to be gone a bit longer than this. Do a quick check on average long-term trends for the time of year you will be traveling – and always pack layers (and an umbrella!) so you are prepared for whatever happens!

4. Capsule Wardrobe

Regardless of what kind of holiday you're going on or how long you'll be gone, packing a capsule wardrobe is easy, efficient and helps keep your luggage lighter! The concept of a capsule wardrobe is to choose a limited number of clothing items that can be mixed and matched for completely different outfits. When done correctly, you will be able to get many combinations and different looks out of just 5 items. The key to creating a successful capsule wardrobe is to focus on layering and keeping bold patterns to a minimum. Keep stain-forgiveness in mind as you most likely will not have access to the same laundering facilities that you do at home. Ideally, when you're done putting everything together, you'll be all set for any range of situations—from exploring a hot city to dinner in a nice restaurant.

5. Bring a Way to Freshen Your Clothes

The specifics here will vary a little depending on the type and length of your trip, the main point is to be able to give your clothes a refresh while you're away. In the event that the trip is 7-10 days, a bottle of fabric deodorizing spray/wrinkle release will be your new friend! Also pack a small travel bottle of gentle detergents for items you may want to wash and rinse in the sink or bathtub and hang to dry for a nice refresh on the road.

6. Packing Cubes

If you haven't used packing cubes, talk with anyone that has (or Google reviews!) and you will be sold before you even try them! At first thought, you might think they are just more to pack; however, the cubes actually work to compress what you're packing so that you can get more into the suitcase. They are also extremely helpful in keeping your items organized so you aren't digging through the entire suitcase looking for that one specific shirt or scarf you KNOW is in there somewhere! With cubes, all you have to do is locate the cube you're looking for and that's it. If you like to unpack when you arrive at a destination, they're also great for being able to just throw into a drawer for easy access, which is fantastic when you are staying in multiple places throughout the course of your trip.

7. Reevaluate Your "Just in Case" Items

Before putting your items in the suitcase, take a step back and really look at what you're bringing along, paying special attention to what you know you won't be using every day. Reevaluate by thinking: Is it a 'just in case' item? If something comes up and you do need it, can you simply stop into a shop to grab it if necessary? For the things you do intend to use every day, like that journal or specialty camera, be truthful with yourself: if this is the third time you've taken it with you on a trip and you didn't use it at all previously, chances are it doesn't belong in your suitcase. If you haven't used it for 5 years.... chances are you won't use it now. Apply this same concept to everything you intend to bring with you and you can leave with confidence knowing you are ready to begin your vacation in the best way possible!