



STONE ARCH TRAVEL

Travel Tips

How to make your life MUCH easier when traveling!

Passport

When using a passport for international travel, you **must** have a minimum of 6 months from your initial date of travel remaining on the passport before expiration.

Not having the required amount remaining can be a costly mistake – as you may be denied boarding for flights/cruises/etc. Don't make the mistake: simply check and renew your passport in plenty of time.

Make a copy of your passport before traveling and keep the copies separate from your passport and credit cards. In addition, we recommend leaving a copy with a friend/relative at home. This way, should you lose your passport or have the misfortune of having your wallet stolen, even if you are away from where your copies are, you can still quickly contact your friend/relative at home to get the numbers needed to call and cancel credit cards.

Tip: *keep your passport in your money belt or money pouch so you always know where it is.*

Money and credit cards

When traveling internationally, we typically bring \$200 in local currency (i.e., euros, pounds, etc.). In addition, we bring \$100-200 in USD that we can change into local currency as needed.

Credit cards: When traveling overseas, Visa and Mastercard are typically accepted. Please note: when traveling overseas, American Express credit cards are typically NOT accepted. While hotels may take AmEx, small shops and restaurants typically will not accept AmEx. Always have a back-up Visa and/or MasterCard and assume your AmEx will not be accepted.

Debit cards: you can use debit cards in Europe with the same security pin that you use in ATM machines at home.

Alert your financial institution/credit card company that you will be traveling so there is not a hold put on your transactions.

Make copies of your credit cards (front and back) before traveling and keep the copies separate from your credit cards. Again, we suggest leaving a copy with a friend/relative in case you would need to quickly cancel your credit card(s) due to theft.

Tip: quick note: the currency from cash machines in foreign countries will be distributed in the currency of the foreign country you are in. (Currency will not be distributed in USD.)

Travel Protection Insurance

We suggest always talking to your travel advisor regarding travel protection insurance. Many times, medical insurance does not cover international travel, so talk to your advisor, review coverage options and choose a policy that will best fit your needs.

Your travel advisor is a wealth of information, although they legally are unable to advise on specifics of the policies offered. Your advisor will be able to provide you with a quote for travel protection insurance as well as contact information for a licensed insurance agent to answer any questions you have and to assist with choosing the best policy for your individual needs.

Tip: if you have a pre-existing health condition, be sure to make your advisor aware of it during initial discussions so the "Cancel For Any Reason" clause can be included in the policy purchased. Typically, cancel for any reason must be purchased within 14 days of your initial deposit – so it is extremely important to let your advisor know this is something you will need.

Packing: Carry-on - Personal Item - Checked Bag

Typically, travelers are allowed one checked bag, one carry-on bag (to be placed in the overhead bin on the plane) and one personal item (i.e., purse or small backpack that will fit under the seat in front of you).

Please keep in mind that each airline may have a different policy for the class of service purchased. If you have questions, your bag allowance can quick be confirmed by checking on your airline's website.

Carry-On Bag (placed in the overhead bin on the plane)

Type: a small suitcase with 4 spinner wheels are the easiest to maneuver.

In this bag place items you will not need access to during the flight: computers, electrical cords, at least one extra change of clothes, prescriptions/medication you will not need during your flight – but will need during your travels.

One Personal Item (placed under the seat in front of you)

Type: small backpacks work well, the key is to keep this item small as you will be sharing the space with your feet – and on a long flight, you want all the leg room you can get!

In this bag place only the items you will need access to during the flight: iPad/book, neck cushion (the soft, blow-up type are best, they can then be flattened at the end of the flight by removing the air and tucked away until you board your next flight), reading glasses, contact lenses holder, contact solution, eye wetting drops, toothbrush and small toothpaste,

mints/gum, headset/ear buds for audio/movies. (Ear buds are typically also available on the flight, sometimes for a small fee), prescriptions/medications you will need access to during the flight.

Tip: *keep these bags light and tight – quick easy access is key when you need to quickly locate something during a flight! If kept light – your carry-on will provide you with space to bring home fun things you purchase during your trip!*

Checked Bag (checked in at the airport before departure)

Type: make sure your bag has wheels – 4 spinning wheels are the easiest to maneuver when making your way through airports, hotel lobbies, etc.

Size: airline requirements can vary; however, typically there is a 50 lb. limit per checked bag. Overages to the weight requirement come with a hefty fee, so check your specific airline to confirm their weight requirements. (This can be done via a quick Google search.)

Tip: *typically, one checked bag is complimentary on international flights – but not always. Once again, check with your airline to confirm so you are not surprised when you arrive to check your bag.*

Packing: Clothes

1. Pack comfortable shoes (only!).
2. If you will not be wearing something *at least* twice – leave it at home.
3. Practice the art of capsule packing: pack items that will blend/layer so you can mix and match. Packing this way will turn 5-7 pieces into 10-12 outfits, simply by mixing and matching.

Additional Suggestions:

- For women: throw in a couple of light scarves, mixing and matching will quickly and easily change your look.
- Always pack with the option to depending on the weather.
- Be aware that many religious sites (churches, etc.,) require modest dress which includes having arms and upper legs covered.

Tip: *to stay organized during your trip, we like the organization and simplicity that using packing cubes provides. There are many options available at reasonable prices and the organization in your suitcase when packing this way makes living out of a suitcase a breeze!*

Packing: Liquids and Gels

If possible, the easiest place to pack liquids and gels is in your checked bag. (Be sure to place them within a Ziploc bag in case one leaks.)

If you bring liquids or gels in your carry-on, remember the airline rule of **3-3-1**: **3** bottles, no more than **3** ounces each, placed in a **1**-quart zip loc bag.

***Tip:** keep the bag easy to reach in your carry-on as you will need to pull it out and place it in a bin when going through security.*

Rain Protection

Weather happens – and you want to be prepared. Don't let rain ruin a vacation day!

For rain gear, be sure to pack the following:

1. Small, retractable, umbrella
2. Hat
3. Raincoat
4. Rain shoe covers (trust us: wet shoes are a d-r-a-g!)

***Tip:** Just pop these items in small bag that you can place in your day bag when you are ready to head out for the day!*

Electric Adaptors and Cords

Make sure you have an adapter that works for the country. Not sure what you need? Take a trip to your local luggage store or check on Amazon.

Think about what you will be charging and take enough cords/adapters – you'll want to stay charged so you can keep snapping pictures!

***Tip:** always keep electronics in your carry-on bag on the plane with you in case your checked bag is delayed or lost.*

Moving through Security at Airport

You have arrived at the airport, you have checked in and your bag has been checked to your destination, now what? Before you get into the security line, just pull off to the side and get organized with these simple steps:

1. Remove **everything** (keys, paper, Kleenex, coins, jewelry, belt, wallet, etc.) before arriving in the security line. (You must have empty pockets when going through the scanner.)
2. Everything should be in your carry-on or personal item except your ticket and your identification which you should have in hand.
3. Place everything else in your carry-on bag or personal item so you can retrieve it easily after you pass through security.
4. Remove jackets and sweaters as you cannot wear them through security. Again: pop them in your carry-on and you can take them back out as soon as you're through security.
5. Typically, computers and iPads must be removed from carry-ons and placed in a bin. Have those items within easy reach within your carry-on so you can pull them out quickly and pop them back in on the other side.

6. Wear easily removeable shoes.
7. When you get to the security line, listen to the instructions and move through quickly.

If you have done everything suggested above, your security experience will be a breeze!

Tip: *to keep things simple: tuck an extra Ziploc in your carry-on and place all of your pocket items inside of it. Once you're through security – it will be easy for you to retrieve the items!*

Security: Money, Credit Cards, Passport

1. Wear a money belt or bag that is held closely to your body.
2. Do not carry a purse.
3. Limit what you have in your money belt to money, passport and credit cards.
- 4.

Tip: *money belts or over-the-shoulder bags for security are inexpensive and can save travelers from losing days of their vacation should they be the victim of theft and must replace passports and credit cards. Find the one that is most comfortable for you and keep it on!*

Day Bag

What is it: a small, easy bag to load up for the day as you head out on your adventures!

Type: a small backpack works well; it's nice to have a zipper on the bag – but you will not want to put anything into the bag that you would feel bad about losing!

What will you put into your day bag during your adventures:

- Rain gear
- Sweatshirt/light coat
- Scarf
- Bottle of water
- Kleenex

Tip: many times, in foreign countries, toilet paper can be difficult to find. Keep a pack or two of tissues with you just in case!

Security - hotel room

1. ALWAYS use the safe in your room – or carry your items with you.
2. Do not leave anything out in a hotel room that you would want to lose.
3. Charge electronics at night while sleeping and take them with you or lock them up when leaving for the day. Simply put, do not make it easy for someone to put a damper on your vacation.

Tip: *test the safe (empty) when you arrive to make sure you can close/lock and open it. If you have trouble: call the front desk and request help to set or reset.*

Questions? Contact your Stone Arch Travel Advisor!