

MaxTips!

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Don't be a Travel Pack Rat

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We all pack too much. We try to prepare for all contingencies and end up taking home clothing we have never worn. Like all pack rats, we do not make room for future purchases and our bags and boxes full of pineapples, Mexican hats and other memorable items share space with us on the return trip. We lug overweight baggage, pay extra and have to check everything. The following tips will assist you in eliminating extra packing:

- Create a standardized list for all the items you need.
- Keep a separate prepacked kit containing toiletries, medication and a change of clothes to keep with you at all times in case your luggage gets lost.
- Lay everything out you think you need and eliminate half of it.
- Pick only two colors for your clothing. Add oomph with colorful accessories.
- If you intend to shop while you travel, take an empty suitcase or one of the folding cases available in luggage stores.
- Place a copy of your itinerary and contact information in each piece of your luggage. Leave a copy behind in a safe location.
- Don't ask for trouble by packing anything that will attract the attention of security agents. Leave that cute stapler in the shape of a grenade at home.
- Don't wear shoes with steel shanks or jewellery or accessories that will cause you to "beep" when you go through security.
- Buy something to quickly identify your bag.

Never pack valuables in checked bags.

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