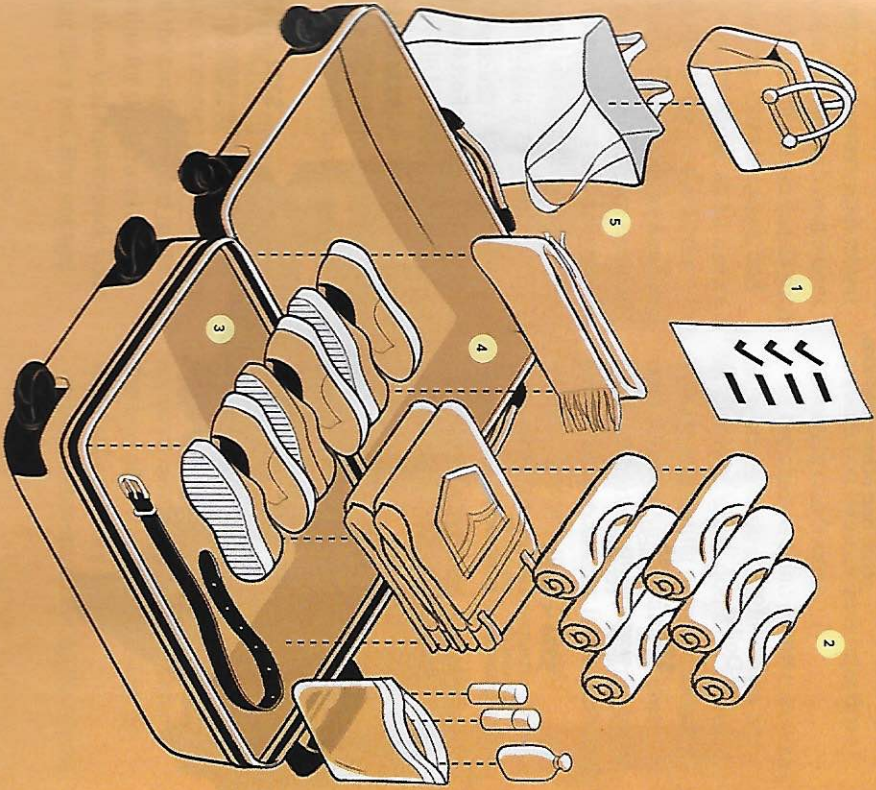


# The Right Way to Pack a Carry-On

SAVE MONEY—AND STOP SPINNING YOUR WHEELS AT THE BAGGAGE CAROUSEL—BY PACKING EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN A CARRY-ON SUITCASE. TRY THESE TIPS FROM PROS.



**THE FINANCIAL ARGUMENT** for traveling light got even stronger this fall when American, Delta, JetBlue, and United raised their checked-bag fee from \$25 to \$30. Limiting your luggage to one carry-on bag can certainly save you money, but it can also seem impossible to anyone who's used to cramming a big suitcase full of "just in case" for every trip. Follow these steps to get everything you truly need into your carry-on bag—and maybe still have room left for souvenirs.

## 1 Make a List of Your Needs

Pare your packing down to essentials: Take only what you will need, not everything you might need. Check the weather forecast for your destination and think through your itinerary day by day. The list should include clothing, electronics, medications, and toiletries. Transportation Security Administration rules require that liquids be in containers of 3.4 ounces or less and that all of them must fit into a quart-sized resealable bag.

## 2 Rethink Your Wardrobe

Rather than packing a different outfit for each day, take items that easily mix and match, so

you can wear as many pieces as possible more than once. Anne McAlpin, author of "Pack It Up: The Essential Guide to Smart Travel" (Flying Cloud Publishing, 2016), recommends limiting yourself to three pairs of shoes and packing three tops for every bottom.

"The bottoms should be neutral colors like dark navy, denim, and khaki," she says. "Then you can pair any color top with those bottoms."

## 3 Pack in the Right Order

Start by consulting the website of the airline you'll be flying to make sure your carry-on is within the maximum acceptable dimensions. These change from time to time and can differ among airlines.

Place heavier items at the base of the suitcase, near the wheels, to keep it stable and help to prevent it from tipping over, McAlpin says. Next, fill the suitcase with your clothes. Rolling soft items that don't wrinkle easily will free up more space. (They take up less volume than folded garments.) Slide wrinkle-prone items into a dry-cleaning bag or a large trash bag and lay them flat across the top. McAlpin says.

## 4 Strategize Your Suitcase Space

Use every inch of available space. That means flattening scarves and belts and placing them along the perimeter and filling a half-empty shaving kit with rolled-up underwear or socks in a small plastic bag; Pack shoes toe to heel, and don't leave them empty. "The inside of your shoes is a great place for things like sunglasses in a case," says Jennifer Snyder, a certified professional organizer. Packing experts also

## 5 Think Outside the Bag

Most airlines limit passengers to one carry-on bag and one personal item, such as a purse or computer bag. To maximize what you can carry onboard while staying within the airlines' two-item limit, use a tote bag or backpack that will fit under the seat in front of you. You can fill it with items that you couldn't squeeze into your carry-on and still have room left over for a purse or laptop bag. —Beth Brauerman

the which tier of coach is it one for you, consider questions:

**Want being squeezed?**

...entire, enhanced economy only seat in torture on even the

**How important is it for you to sit next to a window or on the aisle?**

In general, basic economy tickets don't allow you to select seats when you book, so you could very well end up in one of the dreaded middle

**Are you traveling with children?**

Because basic economy tickets don't usually allow you to select seats when you book, they can present challenges for people who want to be seated together, particularly for parents traveling with young children.

encouraged anyone with questions about seating to call Delta reservations.

United referred us to Airlines for America, an industry trade group.

"Every effort is made to make sure families sit together," says Alison McAfee, Airlines for America's

"This is a not ju issue," says Constan

"It's about safety, created by the airt opportunity to nic passengers," he sa

The DOT website