

# Outsmarting Overweight Luggage and Fees

*Excess baggage fees bog down any travel plans, these tips save you time and money the next time you're packing.*

You've accounted for your accommodation, airfare, and entertainment, but you've failed to claim your baggage.

One of the most overlooked totals in travel budgets is baggage fees. Whether you are planning a weekend trip or trekking your way through this world, heavy bags can darken the skies of any traveler. These tips will keep the airport scales from tipping.



## Tips for Packing

### Limit toiletries

All of your products and bottles are adding more bulk than necessary. Your leave-in conditioner can be left at home, only the necessities should be on-board. With many accommodations providing the basics (and sometimes a little more), most of us can do without our beloved products for shorter periods of time. If you're traveling for an undetermined amount of time, it's wise to invest in collapsible, reusable bottles. These bottles are easy to fold when empty, making them major space-savers. Remember, only 3 oz. bottles are allowed in your carry-on.

### Store it in your hand

Phones go everywhere with us. They also tell us where to go, what to do, complete transactions, and store tons of sacred data. Whether you need a ticket, reservations, passports, travel documents, there's an app that grants you the freedom to travel free of crumpled paperwork. However, if you hardcopies are a necessity, ask your hotel or accommodation if they have a printer. Printing at your destination keeps your luggage light and your papers neat. The more data that's stored on your phone, the lesser your load.

### Invest in a luggage scale

Don't start your trip with an unpleasant surprise at the ticket counter. Spend your time stressing less by knowing the weight of your bag(s). There are many hand-held luggage scales that are compact and convenient. They also save you the humility of repacking all of your belongings at the gate to avoid excess baggage fees.

### Know where your soles go

Try to keep the pairs of shoes to a maximum of three. Shoes are heavy and bulky, wear your heaviest pair during the flight for lighter luggage. When packing, think about which shoes are the most versatile, you can do anything in them and wear anything with them. Don't forget to check the weather prior to your adventure, as this may affect the shoes you choose.

### Mix-and-match

When it comes to your wardrobe, keep it simple. Pack articles that can pair together, this way you'll be able to change your style without bringing a pile. Color-blocking comes in handy when outfit planning for trips. By using a three-color palette, select pieces that are interchangeable. Get the most out of your pieces and consider doing laundry as you trek.

### Matryoshka

Put your things in other things to save space. Try putting your socks inside of shoes and rolling your thinner items within heavier objects. If you're a time-conscious traveler, roll your pre-planned outfits together, so you can grab-and-go. Smaller, soft bags are also useful for the Matryoshka method since they are easy to stow into your larger bag. Also, packing your heavier items on the back and bottoms of your suitcase ensures proper weight distribution.

Packing tends to be the lesser-fun activity when planning your next trip but it doesn't have to weigh you down or cost you extra. Next time you're packing, remember to cut down on bulky items, consider buying a luggage scale,