



TOP 10 BAGGAGE TIPS FOR AIRLINE PASSENGERS

The following advice should help you avoid many of the common problems that passengers have with carry-on or checked luggage.

- 1. Whenever possible travel with only carry-on luggage**
By using only carry-on luggage, you do not risk having checked luggage lost or stolen. Mini-size your personal care items. Look for trial sizes or fill small bottles with your everyday products like lotion, makeup and toothpaste. Clean old contact lens cases work amazingly well to tote small quantities of these liquids and lotions. If the containers are 3.3 oz or smaller and all fit in a one quart zip lock bag, you can put them in your carry-on.
- 2. Keep valuable items with you**
Medication, laptop computers, electronics and electronic files, and other items of high value or importance should be kept in a carry-on bag, preferably one that is small enough to stow under a seat. The airline may insist on checking larger carry-on bags if the overhead bins become filled.
- 3. Do not put heavy items in the overhead storage bins**
While the weight limit for carry-on items is generally about 35-40 lbs. (15 - 18 kg.), even a much lighter bag may cause severe injury if it falls out of the bin.
- 4. Put your contact information inside and outside every bag**
In addition to this information, you should also put a copy of your itinerary inside every bag to make it easier for the airline to reunite you if you are separated from your luggage. Do this with your carry-on bag in case you are forced to check that bag at the last minute. For personal security reasons, you may want to use an address other than your home address.
- 5. Customize the look of your bag to make it easy to identify**
Many bags on a flight may have a similar design, so customize the bag to make it easy to spot on a baggage carousel. This will keep other passengers from picking it up by mistake.
- 6. Make sure that the airline tag on your checked luggage is for the correct destination**
Every piece of checked luggage should have a three-letter airport identifier that matches your destination airport. If you are unsure of the code, ask the ticket agent or skycap.
- 7. Make sure that you keep the stub from your checked luggage**
This stub is a critical document that will be needed if your luggage is lost by the airline or if you are trying to prove that you own a piece of luggage.
- 8. Immediately report the loss of checked luggage**
If your checked bag does not arrive at your destination, immediately report this problem to the baggage agent on duty or to any other available representative from your airline. Do this PRIOR to leaving the airport.
- 9. Prepare to deal with a lost bag**
Pack key items in your carry-on bag like medications, a change of clothes and essential items for a business meeting so you can continue your trip if your checked bags are lost or delayed.
- 10. Don't pack hazardous goods**
There are quite a number of items or materials, some of them not so obvious, that may pose a risk if taken on an aircraft. For a complete list of prohibited items, go to tsa.gov.