

Packing for Photography Trips



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Flagpole Photographers Mentor Night

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Slides at: CCullens.com/Packing

Packing for Photography Trips

Questions to ask:

- *Where are you going?*
- *What are you photographing?*
- *Do you need special equipment?*
- *How are you getting there?*
- *How much luggage can you manage?*
- *What type of weather do you expect?*
- *What should I pack?*
- *Foreign Travel Tips!*



Sedona, Arizona

Where are you going? Close by?

- *A nearby daytrip?*
Like a fieldtrip!
A backpack will do it!



New York City

- *Multiple night car drive out of state?*
A duffle bag or suitcase will probably be required. Yes, we usually pack more than we need, but if it fits in the car... why not!

Most of us already know how to pack for car trips though.



Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse, Maine

Where are you going? Far away?

- *A distant state that is too far to drive within your time limits?*
Might want to fly or take a train.



Sedona, Arizona

- *A distant foreign country?*
A flight is probably required.

*These trips probably mean
“packing luggage”!*



Xitang, China

What are you photographing?

- *General “Travel Photography”*
Including landscapes, people, culture, customs and history. Pack a 24-70 or 24-105 mm lens. Also consider a 70-200 mm for more options.
- *“Bird Photography”*
Pack the longest lens you have! 300mm+
- *“Safari Animals”*
Longest lens you have! Bigger the better! Unless you have a photo tour that gets really close to the animals.



*People and Culture
in Mumbai, India*



Birds in “Southern Connecticut” or Florida!



*Lions in Johannesburg,
South Africa*

Do you need special equipment?

- *“Landscapes”*

Do you want a tripod?

Tip: If you can't fit a travel tripod into your luggage, find a solid surface to rest your camera on for long exposures.



- *Wide Landscapes*

Do you need a wide-angle lens?



- *Dark Sky or “Astrophotography”*

Do you want a Star Tracker motorized mount?



How are you getting there?

- *Car trips are pretty easy.*
Pack them up and go!



- *Planes come in different sizes!*
And smaller airlines have different luggage weight and size restrictions.



- *Trains let you see the scenery.*
But you have to be able to easily manage your luggage. Especially overseas, only take what you can lift overhead.



Airplane Carry-On Bag Warning!

- *If overhead bins are full, the airline may ask you to check your carry-on at the gate.*
- *Planes come in different sizes with different overhead bin sizes too!*
What fits in a US plane's overhead bin may not fit in an overseas "Budget Airline" bin!

Tip: Always pack a collapsible bag or a garbage bag inside your carry-on at the top. If your carry-on can't be stowed in the overhead bin and the airline wants to check it at the gate, remove all camera gear, medicines, passport and other travel documents and put them in the bag so it can stay with you!



How much luggage can you manage?

- You probably don't need as much stuff as you think. Most places have stores if needed.
- Often cars in other countries are smaller than ours. Will it all fit?
- Do not pack your camera, lenses, medications or documents in your checked bags!
- Put undergarments, shorts, and t-shirts (change of clothes) around your camera gear.
- Put a copy of your itinerary, lodging info and your cell phone number in each bag.



San Vicenza, Italy



Venice, Italy



Frankfurt, Germany

Managing your luggage

- Does your luggage have wheels?
- Airport carts are helpful for a small fee.
- Hotel carts are useful too!
- Bright colored luggage straps are easy to spot!
- If room, pack another collapsible duffel type bag.
Once at your destination, use it as needed for day trips.



What type of weather do you expect?

- *Are you going during summer, winter, or monsoon season?*

It is easier to pack a swimsuit and flipflops than a parka and snow boots!

Tip: wear your bulkiest clothes, coats, and footwear on the plane to save room in your suitcase!

- *Rain is hard to predict.*

Pack a lightweight umbrella or raincoat to protect your camera! (And you too!)



What equipment should you pack?

- **Camera and/or Phone** – The best camera is the one you have with you!
- **Lenses** – We use 24-70mm or 24-105mm. A mid-range 70-200mm is nice too. A 100-400mm or 100-500mm+ if photographing birds. A wide angle is good for areas like the Grand Canyon.
- **Extras** – Memory Cards, Spare Batteries and/or Charger, and Foreign Adapter Plugs.
- **Backup** – Laptop, Tablet, External Hard Drive or some device to backup your photos.
- **Travel Tripod** – Optional, but nice. Consider for night photography, long exposures, HDR, or focus stacking. Or, look around for a flat rock, window ledge, post, etc. for some stability.



Photo taken on Canon 5D Mark III – 24mm



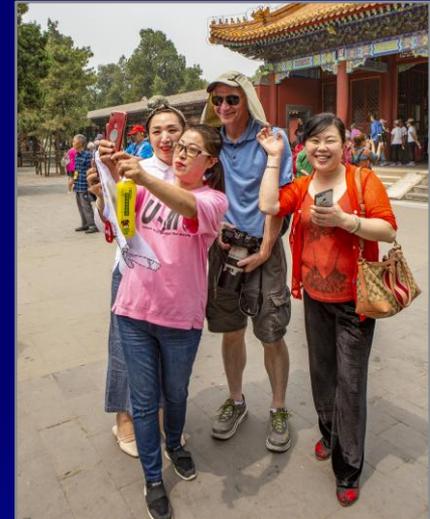
Photo taken on Chane's Google Pixel 3 XL phone

Sedona, Arizona

What else should you pack?

- **Backpack/Camera Bag/Duffle Bag/Large Purse** – Something for extra gear in the car or carrying around
- **Clothes to fit the climate** – Swimsuits & Flipflops vs. Parkas & Snow Boots (Think layers and comfortable walking shoes too!)
- **Appropriate clothing to enter sacred buildings** – Tops with sleeves and pants or leg coverings
- **Multipurpose “Pashmina style” scarf or hat** – Warmth, sun cover, head covering
- **Wallet** – Identification, Cash, Credit & ATM Cards, Insurance Card
- **Glasses** – If needed
- **Phone** – For calls, texts, emails and photos!

Tip: Some hats work as “chick magnets” too!



Have a “Go Bag” ready!

- **Travel Size Toiletries** – Toothbrush & paste, Dental Floss, Deodorant, Lotion, Shampoo, Hairbrush, Comb, Razor, Fingernail clippers, Q-tips, Make-up, Sunscreen, etc.
- **Medicine & Travel Kit** – Tylenol, Antacid, Diarrhea medicine, Antibiotics, Band-aids, Sewing kit, Safety pins, Ear plugs, etc.
- **Ziplocks** – Keeps things together, prevent leaks, or keeps things dry
- **Garbage Bags** – Dirty laundry, shoes, misc. items
- **Small Backpack/Duffel/Garbage Bag** – Pack at the top of carry-on to put essentials inside in case the carryon needs to be checked.
- **Rain Gear** – Small Umbrella, compact raincoat (Big garbage bag = Raincoat!)
- **Laundry** – soap, wire hangers, binder clips to hang wet clothes
- **Check lists** – Make a list of what needs done before leaving the house and list what you want to bring with you.



Mostly fits in 1 gallon bag



Mt. Thielsen, Oregon

Location Maps & Printouts of Reservations



Venice, Italy

- **Lists** – Bring reservations for your hotels and lists of must sees with the addresses in the native language.
- **Bring Printed Maps** – You can point to places when asking for directions or telling a driver where you want to go.
- **Rental Cars** – Many rentals overseas are a standard manual transmission (Stick shift). If you can't drive one, be sure to ask for an automatic when making your reservation. Bring a copy with you.

“Safe” Drinking Water Tips

- Consider packing diarrhea medicine and antibiotics if visiting “developing countries”.
- If there is a water bottle in the bathroom, you might want to use it to brush your teeth.
- Use the in-room coffee pot to boil water.
- Keep your mouth closed in the shower.
- Be cautious of fruits and raw vegetables washed in water.
- Avoid ice.



Bangalore, India

Foreign Travel Tips

- **Passport** – Have 6+ months of validity left for international travel. Don't leave in an insecure location.
- **Copies of Passport & Itinerary** – Leave copies of both with someone back home.
- **Passport & Credit Card Photos** – If password protected, take cell photos of both. Backs of credit cards too.
- **State Department Website** – Check for any VISA or immunization requirements, travel bans, or cautions.
- **Electrical plugs** – Check what they use. You might need to bring adapters to plug in your phone, battery charger and other devices.
- **Medication** – Check with a doctor about bringing antibiotics or other medicines with you.
- **Phone** – Set it up to make international calls.
- **Credit card** – Check if it has foreign charges.
- **ATM card** – Use it to get local currency.

Take lots of photos and have a barrel of fun!



Now it's time to "hit the road"!



Zion National Park, Utah

***Interesting subjects make
interesting photos!***

Go look for some!

I'm leaving on a jet plane...



And I'm taking a camera with me!

Thank you!

Presented by:

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