

The Ultimate Packing List: What to Pack for Every Type of Vacation

Beach vacation packing list

Before you can sink your toes into the sand and sip your fruity drink under the sun, you need to think about these elements in relation to what you're going to bring with you. Daffodils Travel, a travel advisor for ocean destinations, says that the perfect packing list goes beyond the requisite bathing suit, sandals and sun hat. "Here's what I take into consideration: length of stay, itinerary and the destination's climate, which, even for a beach location, can vary drastically."

And one thing Daffodils Travel recommends for travellers' suitcase – **Packing cubes**. Here's what else should go in your suitcase for a beach trip.

Clothes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bathing suits• Dress• Tops (at least 3)• Blazer• Skirt• Beach cover-up or sarong• Casual pants• Business casual pants• Workout clothes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hoodie (for cold flights and chilly nights)• Pajamas• Undergarments• Socks• Raincoat or all-weather jacket• Hat or visor• Purse• Jewelry (pack this in your carry-on) |
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Shoes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open-toe shoes• Closed-toe shoes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sandals/flip-flops that can do double duty at the pool and in the shower• Comfortable walking shoes |
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Toiletries

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunscreen with high SPF• Face wash• Contact lenses and solution• Extra glasses• Prescription medication• EpiPen, if needed• Vitamins• Toothbrush• Toothpaste• Mouthwash• Dental floss• Deodorant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Face and body moisturizer• Hand lotion• Hand sanitizer• Shampoo, conditioner and body wash• Feminine-hygiene products• Birth control• Hairstyling products• Brush and comb• Hairstyling tools• Hair ties and clips• Razor• Aftershave/perfume |
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- Cosmetics (concealer, mascara, lip gloss/balm, setting spray)
- Nail clippers and files

- Tweezers
- Insect repellent
- Travel-size tissues

Electronics

- Cellphone
- Computer
- Tablet
- Noise-canceling earbuds or headphones

- Device chargers
- Hairstyling tools
- Camera with charger, extra batteries and memory cards

Miscellaneous

- Luggage tags
- Sunglasses
- Umbrella
- Binoculars
- Waterproof day bag or backpack
- Dry bag for cellphone or camera
- Laundry bag
- Water bottle
- Snacks
- Books/magazines
- Journal

- Pen
- Antibacterial wipes
- Sewing kit
- Lint roller
- Flashlight
- Reading light
- Copies of ID, vaccination info
- First-aid kit (painkillers, antacids, allergy meds, bandages, etc.)
- List of emergency contacts, plus contact numbers for credit cards and banks

International travel packing list

Clothes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cargo pants• Leggings• Jeans• Casual pants• Belt• Shorts (if in warm climates)• T-shirts (long and short-sleeve)• Sweater• Little black dress that doesn't wrinkle• Undergarments | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thermal underwear• Pajamas• Well-fitting socks (dry-wicking are excellent for hiking)• Raincoat• All-weather jacket• Scarf• Shawl or pashmina• Hat or visor• Gloves (for cold climates) |
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Shoes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slip-on shoes• Hiking boots (broken in on terrain similar to your destination)• Comfy, post-hiking shoes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chunky heels• Flip-flops/shower shoes• Water shoes• Sandals (for warm climates) |
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Toiletries

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hydrating facial spray and lotion• Sunscreen• Contact lenses and solution• Extra glasses• EpiPen, if needed• Vitamins• Toothbrush• Toothpaste• Dental floss• Mouthwash• Deodorant• Feminine-hygiene products• Birth control• Brush and comb• Hairstyling products• Hair ties and clips | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Razor• Aftershave/perfume• Cosmetics• Lip balm• Travel-size shampoo and conditioner• Dr. Bronner's Pure Castile Liquid Soap, a peppermint-scented multitasker that can be used as shampoo, body wash and laundry detergent• Insect repellent• Hand sanitizer• Nail clippers and files• Tweezers• Travel-size tissues• Prescription medications in their original packaging, plus a copy of the prescription |
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Electronics

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Universal travel adapter• Cellphone | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headphones or earbuds (consider noise-canceling) |
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- USB hub
- Charging cords
- A power bank (ideally one with a solar panel)
- A water purification device like a Steripen
- Rechargeable hand warmers (which can also be used for warming up a cold sleeping bag)

and even extending the life of a phone or camera)

- Camera with charger, extra batteries and memory cards

Miscellaneous

- Passports and visas
- Driver's license/photo ID
- Vaccination info
- Sewing kit
- Lint roller
- Journal
- Pen
- Binoculars
- Flashlight
- Reading light
- Waterproof day bag or backpack

- Dry bag for cellphone or camera
- Reusable water bottle
- Sunglasses
- Travel documents, including insurance paperwork
- List of emergency contacts, plus contact numbers for credit cards and banks
- First-aid kit (painkillers, allergy relief, antacids, bandages, etc.)
- Small gifts to show appreciation to people you encounter along the way

Cruise vacation packing list

Clothes

- Smart, casual sportswear (golf polos, collared shirts)
- Skirts/dresses, slacks, blouses and sweaters for women
- Pants and collared or dress shirts for men
- Loose-fitting clothes in cotton or linen for hot climates
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Bathing suits
- Bathing-suit cover-up
- Fitness clothes, leisure wear

- Evening gown, cocktail dress or elegant pantsuit for women
- Little black dress
- Tuxedo, dark suit or dinner jacket, and slacks for men
- Fun costume attire for theme nights
- Raincoat and/or all-weather jacket
- Pashmina
- Hat or visor
- Gloves (for cold climates)
- Belts
- Purses
- Jewelry

Shoes

- Dress shoes
- Loafers or flats
- Pool-deck shoes/flip-flops

- Low-heeled, rubber-soled shoes (for strolling on deck)
- Walking/hiking shoes

- Sandals

- Water shoes

Toiletries

- Sunscreen with high SPF
- Insect repellent
- Contact lenses and solution
- Extra glasses
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Mouthwash
- Deodorant
- Face and body moisturizer
- Hand sanitizer
- Cosmetics
- Lip balm
- Face wash

- Shampoo, conditioner and body wash
- Hairstyling products
- Brush and comb
- Hair ties and clips
- Razor
- Aftershave/perfume
- Nail clippers and files
- Tweezers
- Feminine-hygiene products
- Birth control
- EpiPen, if needed
- Prescription medication in its original packaging, plus a copy of prescriptions

Electronics

- Cellphone
- Computer
- Tablet
- Headphones or earbuds
- Device chargers
- Hairstyling tools

- Magnets
- Power strip (see if approved on your ship)
- Universal plugs/adapters for international travel
- Camera with charger, extra batteries and memory cards

Miscellaneous

- Luggage tags (most cruise lines will supply in advance)
- Sunglasses
- Umbrella
- Binoculars
- Waterproof day bag or backpack
- Dry bag for cellphone or camera
- Laundry bag
- Reusable water bottle
- Passports and visas
- Driver's license/photo ID
- Travel documents, including insurance paperwork
- Electronic System for Travel Authorization confirmation paperwork for cruise

- First-aid kit (painkillers, antacids, allergy relief, bandages, etc.)
- Sewing repair kit
- List of emergency contacts, plus contact numbers for credit cards and banks
- Copies of ID and vaccination info
- Flashlight
- Reading light
- Books, magazines
- Journal
- Pen
- Antibacterial wipes
- Face masks
- Thank-you notes for staff, tipping, etc.
- Lint roller

Road trip packing list

Clothes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• T-shirts• Sweatshirts, hoodies and sweaters• Jeans• Khakis• Cargo pants• Shorts• Sundresses or casual dresses• Little black dress | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undergarments• Pajamas• Comfy socks• Sunhat• Waterproof outerwear (for cold destinations)• Bathing suit• Bathing-suit cover-up |
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Shoes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comfortable tennis shoes• Hiking shoes• Running shoes• Flip-flops and sandals (for warm destinations) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boots (for cold destinations)• Water shoes• Nice shoes |
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Toiletries

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunscreen• Insect repellent• Antibacterial wipes for cleaning hands after snacking• Contact lenses and solution• Extra glasses• Toothbrush• Toothpaste• Dental floss• Mouthwash• Shampoo and conditioner• Face and body moisturizer• Face and body wash• Cosmetics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lip balm• Feminine-hygiene products• Birth control• Hairstyling products• Hair ties and clips• Brush and comb• Razor• Aftershave/perfume• Nail clippers and files• Tweezers• Vitamins• Prescriptions• EpiPen, if needed• Travel-size tissues |
|--|---|

Electronics

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cellphone• AirPods/headphones, especially if you're traveling with a crew• Kindle/iPad• Power bank, device chargers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camera with tripod• Hairstyling tools• Digital air compressor• Tire-pressure gauge |
|--|---|

- Cellphone charger that's compatible with your car

- Extra camera chargers, batteries and memory cards

Miscellaneous

- Sunglasses with UV and blue-light protection
- Books, magazines
- Reading light
- Journal
- Pen
- Umbrella
- Binoculars
- Backpack
- Laundry bag
- Travel pillow
- Blankets for picnic or beach stops
- Towels for beach swims
- Water bottle
- Sewing kit

- Lint roller
- Face masks
- Copies of ID, vaccination info
- Road trip snacks (popcorn, individually wrapped cheeses, water, juice, sodas)
- Snow chains
- Sun visor for windshield
- Flashlight
- Mini cooler for front seat, larger cooler for longer stays
- First-aid kit (painkillers, antacids, allergy relief, bandages, etc.)
- List of emergency contacts, plus contact numbers for credit cards and banks

Vacation must-haves

No matter where you're traveling, certain packing list items always ensure a better journey. And one thing you shouldn't neglect? Packing your suitcase properly. Compression packing bags are great for adding space as well as organizing clothing, and an organizer tote for toiletries, electronics or power cords is essential too. Beyond that, you'll never want to leave home without noise-canceling headphones or earbuds. You'll be thanking us for this tip if you end up seating next to the airplane engine—or a chatty road trip companion!

What shouldn't you include on your packing list?

Of course, there are certain things you can't take on a plane—in either your carry-on or checked luggage. If flying, visit the TSA's "What Can I Bring?" page for the dos and don'ts of specific items and any other restrictions. Cruise lines also have a no-pack list, and of course, international travel can present other obstacles. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs can help put you on the right path for the latter.

Here's a list of common no-pack items. Check your destination, airline or cruise line for additional details.

- Fireworks, flares and pyrotechnics
- Flammable substances and hazardous chemicals
- Weapons and ammunition
- Drones and any remotely controlled flying devices or toys (these have been prohibited on many cruise ships)
- Compressed gas tanks, bottles and cylinders, including dive tanks, propane tanks and aerosol cans
- Electric steamers
- Lasers and laser pointers
- Any items or amounts of currency prohibited by customs regulations
- Balloons (many cruise lines don't allow them to ensure the safety of marine life)

Are you ready to pack like a pro?

Share your own tips or packing success stories in the comments below!