

A FIELD GUIDE FROM THE PACKED LIST

Seven packing hacks for *traveling well*.

The difference between a trip that starts frazzled and one that starts calm is usually decided the night before, at the open suitcase. These are the seven habits we actually use — to pack faster, lighter, and with far less stress.

01 Pack a palette, not outfits.

Choose one neutral base and a single accent so every top works with every bottom. Ten well-chosen pieces make thirty outfits — and you stop over-packing “just in case.”

02 Roll, then compress.

Rolling beats folding for most fabrics — fewer hard creases, better use of the corners. Compression packing cubes then turn a soft, expanding pile into a firm brick you can actually stack.

03 Wear the bulk.

Your heaviest shoes, your jacket, and your thickest layer go on your body at the gate — not in the bag. It feels obvious, and it’s the single biggest space-saver most people skip.

04 The 3-2-1 toiletry rule.

Three multi-use products, nothing over 100 ml, all in one clear quart bag. A solid shampoo bar and a moisturiser that doubles as aftershave dodge the liquids limit entirely.

05 Keep a “go bag” always packed.

Chargers, a universal adapter, medications, earplugs and an eye mask live in a small kit that stays in your suitcase. You’re never re-gathering the basics the night before a trip.

06 Photograph your documents.

Keep a photo of your passport, visa and travel insurance in your phone — plus one paper copy packed separately. It turns a lost-document nightmare into a minor inconvenience.

07 Leave fifteen percent empty.

Pack to about 85% full. You'll have room for whatever you buy along the way, and the bag will close without a fight on the trip home.

Make it automatic.

Our free Packing List Generator builds a tailored, printable checklist from your trip in seconds — and our Carry-On Size Checker, Jet-Lag Planner and Tipping Guide are all free at poshready.com.