

Helping You Travel

Smarter!

Travel Tips with Printable Packing Lists for All Your Travel Needs

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# Introduction

#### Do I really need a list?

Kelly Stilwell

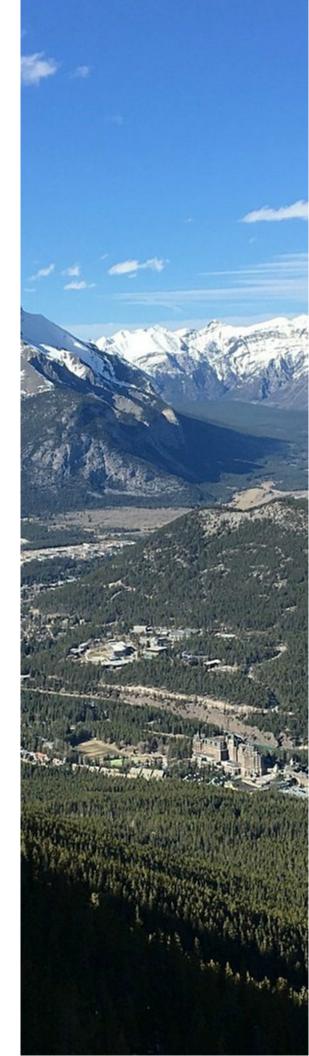
I travel a lot, and from experience, I know I need a list to guide me in packing everything I need. Imagine getting to the other side of the world only to realize I don't have my voltage electricity converter. Even aspirin can be difficult to find if you don't know what to ask for.

### What to Pack?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Where am I going?
- What will I be doing there?
- What will the weather be like?

Once you know the answers to these questions, you can determine which list is best for you.



# About The Author

Kelly Stilwell



Kelly Stilwell is a lifestyle blogger with a focus on travel, food, and entertainment. Whether she's working with a tourism board on the other side of the world or walking the red carpet in LA with Disney, she knows she has to be prepared for anything. This is why she still uses a packing list for every trip.

Carrying a camera, extra chargers, batteries, and all the other paraphernalia that goes with traveling in order to share the experience is not an easy task! Especially if you have kids, packing is not fun. Don't worry. There's a list for that!

Hopefully, this eBook with printable lists will make it a little easier for you to head out and see the world, or even just your little neck of the woods.

*"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." –* Saint Augustine

# **Before You Leave**

Don't wait until the day before to prepare. There are a few things you will want to do in advance

Stop your mail: A sure sign that you are not going to be home for a while is seeing a full mailbox. This is an easy way for thieves to decide who to target. You can do this online and it only takes a minute.

Stop the paper: For the same reasons as above, don't let the papers pile up in your driveway.

Set your lights on a timer: Anything you can do to give the presence of being home as usual!

Contact your bank and credit card companies: You don't want to be stuck with ATM cards or credit cards that don't work, so let them know you will be traveling, especially when you will be out of the country.

Boarding Passes: When you go to get your boarding passes online, have it sent to either your email or as a text message. Then (immediately) take a screenshot of ALL flights. If you have a connecting flight, make sure you screenshot that one, too.

If you end up with no wifi, or the airline site goes down (just happened to me last week!) your boarding pass will be in your camera roll. I've made the mistake of not doing this twice, and both times caused me problems I could have avoided.

In addition, if you're leaving the country, make a copy of your passport and pack it in your suitcase. While you're at it, take a photo with your phone and email it to yourself. It only takes a minute and you'll be so glad you have a copy if you lose it!

# **Before You Start Packing**

Do yourself a favor and think about your trip a bit before you start packing. Traveling is so much fun, but it can also be stressful. Being prepared is the only way to go!

Have you thought about all you'll be doing on your trip? Think of all possibilities as you never know what opportunities may come up.



On cruises, you should always have a day bag as you may not get your luggage until sometime in the evening. You'll want to have your bathing suit, a cover up, medications, and anything else you would need before your luggage arrives.

I even make sure my basic toiletries and makeup are in my day bag. After lounging around at the pool all day, I don't want to be caught without being able to freshen up and reapply my makeup before dinner if my bag is delayed.



It's not a bad idea to carry these basics with you when you're flying, too. I went to a conference in Arkansas a few years ago, and as I was rerouted when there was an issue with the plane, my luggage didn't get on the new plane with me. I had a cocktail reception that I had to attend - in jeans.

Though I probably wouldn't have packed my cocktail dress in a backpack, at least I would have had my toiletries so I could freshen up. As it was, the car that picked me up had a can of air freshener under the front passenger seat, and when I put the seat back, it sprayed all over my legs, making me smell extra nice. Not! I will always be remembered at that conference as smelling like a pine tree! Speaking of flying, be sure to drink a lot of water before your flight. So many times I've felt exhausted when flying and realized I was just dehydrated. Most airports now have filling fountains for water bottles. I don't travel without mine. It also saves me a bundle on bottled water.

### Tips for Packing

1. Always try to pack what you might need the first day, in a bag you can take with you. Think prescriptions, nausea and pain meds, snacks, games for the kids, makeup bag. If you're flying, get compression socks to keep your feet from swelling, especially on long flights.

2. Tightly roll your clothes and pack items closely together. This really does prevent wrinkling. Packing cubes make the process easier and are great to just pull out and put in a dresser.



3. Check the weather. I can't tell you how many times we have been unprepared. It does get chilly in Florida in the winter. Bermuda is just off the coast of North Carolina, so don't think it's warm all year. Check the weather! 4. When packing for your return trip, pack your dirty clothes (in plastic hotel bags) all in one suitcase. This makes unpacking so easy. If you are not staying in a hotel, pack a few garbage bags to place your dirty clothes in for the trip home.

5. Pack an extra large tote bag. The kind that folds up in a pouch works great, but make sure it zips. You can use it as a beach bag and carry home extra purchases.

On one occasion I had a suitcase that was over the free limit on Southwest. I took out one of the bags of dirty clothes, placed it in my tote bag, and my suitcase was then under the weight limit. I think it saved me \$75. Sweet!

6. Use a Packing List. I know, that's why you're reading this! But you *will* be so glad you didn't forget anything by writing it all down!

Of course, not all packing lists are the same. Depending on where you're going, you may need a bathing suit and snorkel, or you might need gloves and a ski mask. Wherever your travels may take you, I hope there is a packing list here that helps! Kids bring a host of other necessities, so there's a special list for them, as well as a list just for cruising. Just click on the list you need and print.

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## FREE Printable Packing Lists

Kelly Stilwell

#### Click on the title of the list you want and print!

### Warm Weather Packing List



### **Cold Weather Packing List**



### **Packing List for Kids**



### **Cruise Packing List**



If you are looking for ways to save on your vacation expenses, check out my **8 Steps to Almost Free Travel**.

If you are traveling internationally, read this post about what doctors recommend you do first.

What other ideas would help you with getting ready for your next trip? Let me know and I'll try to address them in updates.