

## Section 4: Packing

- Put together a packing list several weeks in advance, in order to make packing easier so that you can simply check things off the list and you place them in the suitcase.
- If you are flying and travelling with others, split up clothing so that if one person's luggage gets lost, they will still have some clothes available until the airport can deliver their luggage.
- Also consider splitting up your valuables as much as possible in different pockets, bags, and wallets. In case you get robbed, at least you will have another stash to resort to.
- When packing a backpack, place the lighter items at the bottom and the heavier ones on top. Your bag will feel lighter this way as the pack rests on your lower back. Place the things you use the most, or need easy access to, at the top.
- Rather than folding your clothes, roll them to make more room in your suitcase. If you roll the clothes in tissue paper, the clothes will also get less wrinkled.
- If you are travelling with younger children consider placing each outfit (including socks and underwear) into a Ziploc bag and pack one bag for each day that you'll be on vacation.
- It is always handy to have a few plastic Ziploc bags to place certain items such as toiletries and dirty or wet clothes in.
- When packing something with batteries, turn the batteries around so that if the item is accidentally turned on, you won't empty the batteries unknowingly.
- Spread out any books or other documents that you are packing throughout your suitcase, rather than stacking them in a pile.
- Place a fabric softener sheet in your suitcase when packing because it will absorb odors and dampness and keep clothes smelling fresh.
- Baby wipes aren't just for babies. Take a travel-size pack in your carry-on bag and use the wipes to kill germs on public toilet seats or remove stains from clothes in a pinch.
- Allow young kids to bring along one comfort item from home such as a blanket or stuffed animal.
- Take an extra empty duffel bag with you if you plan on buying a lot of souvenirs during your vacation so that you have room to take them all home.