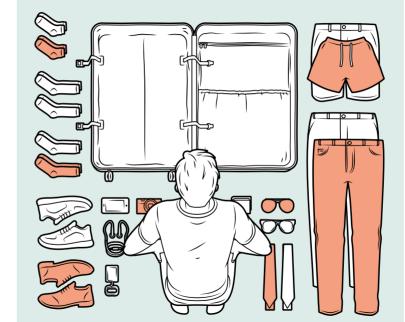
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Introduction

An art, a science, a necessary evil: packing is a task all travellers must tackle before their journey even begins. Not many of us, however, do it well, and even fewer of us approach it with any sense of pleasure. Let us fix that. Step away from that mountainous pile of clothing, get up off that suitcase you're trying to squash shut, and allow this book to unclutter your path to luggage liberation.

Do you tip the scales into

excess charges every time the family holidays, or are you a frugal carry-on-only business traveller looking for even smarter ways to minimise? Do you need savvy kit suggestions for your next foray into the wilderness or are you a luxury island hopper wanting the best couture on the move?

Whatever your style, we hope this neatly arranged book will help you keep your luggage equally on message and well organised. Take the pain out of packing by using our cut-out-and-keep lists. Teach the kids to pack and learn how to edit your own capsule wardrobe. Take comfort and inspiration in stories of packing mishaps and luggage pioneers from days gone by. Or simply drool over the latest must-have hard-shell, hi-tech spinner or re-imagined retro steamer case.

Packing light is once again à la mode. As the author Antoine de

Saint-Exupéry once said: 'He who would travel happily, must travel light.' When it comes to your suitcase, less really is more, leaving you light on your feet and free to immerse yourself in local culture and nature without being weighed down by masses of kit.

However, packing light also takes more time, more strategy and potentially a lot more faffing around. Happily, it is a skill that can be learned. And when less is not

necessarily more (we're looking at you, yoghurt-coated, rice-cracker-splattered 'holidaying' parents), we can help you decide what, how and when to pack for tantrum-free travels.

Whatever type of traveller you are, we can up your packing game. Learn how to make your tech work harder and choose apps that will pack for you. Are you a weekender, a business traveller or an adrenaline junkie? Our aim is to

matchmake your luggage to your travel type, and find a suitcase (backpack, wheelie or duffel) that's a true soulmate, in it for the long haul. It matters not if you're going round the world for a year or taking a cheeky city break, we have definitive packing lists, tailor-made tips and life hacks for all.

As organisational guru Marie Kondo says: 'A messy room equals a messy mind.' The same goes for your suitcase. Happy packing!

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How to be a packing maestro

Luggage: evolution

Luggage has come a long way over the centuries
– from the animal-hide holdalls of the Middle
Ages to the plastic ride-on cases sported by kids in
airports today. Modern suitcases, born out of hefty

trunks of wood with iron frames, saw their evolution leap forwards with the arrival of steamships. Waterproofed with canvas or tree sap, these chunky The suitcase spans every transportation revolution, from steamer to passenger jet. With the late 19th century came mass tourism and, a handful of decades later, mass aviation. Today, luggage design is intricately

linked to aircraft, from practical demands of baggage handling to what can squeeze into that overhead locker. In their myriad designs, our cases carry not just our stuff but also a history of human movement.



II53: The first wheeled luggage rolls into existence during the Crusades, when the Knights Templar use it to carry arms, chain mail and shoe-mending tools.



1596: The term 'luggage' is coined, from the Middle-English word 'lug' meaning 'to drag'.



1870: Louis Vuitton debuts a flat-top 'steamer trunk' designed to stack easily on ships: the prototype for the modern suitcase is born.



clunkies were the height of technology.

1910: The Shwayder Trunk Manufacturing Company launches with the tagline 'strong enough to stand on'. Later (in 1966) to become Samsonite, it pioneers the hard-shell case.



1920s-'50s: The evolution of mass transportation sees a boom in luggage design. There's now a case for every occasion and item, from cameras and dresses to cigars and hats.



1972: A US company patents suitcases with wheels.



1987: Pilot Bob Plath invents Rollaboard® luggage, a vertical rather than horizontal suitcase with wheels that can easily be towed through airports and stowed on planes; the granddaddy of today's wheelie cases.



1994: The telescopic/ collapsible handle is invented and patented by Don Ku.



2006: British company Trunki launches and soon dominates the world of familyfriendly luggage with its ride-on suitcases.



2014: Luggage with GPS tracking capabilities becomes available.



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About the writers



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Sarah would like to extend thanks, as ever, to her long-suffering family for their patience, notably to daughter Ella for finally conceding that travelling light means packing 'just' four teddies. Thanks also to travel buddy Celia
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