

Packing Light For Thanksgiving Travel

By Jen (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/author/jena/>) **Monday, November 24, 2014** 0

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Traveling during the Thanksgiving weekend isn't fun. It's a short trip and you don't want to spend any more time traveling than you have to. The problem is that a lot of other people are traveling exactly when you are, and things are crowded, and crazy, and ugh. We can't help you with most of that, but we promise that packing light makes the trip that much easier.



http://abbeypost.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/packing_light_for_honeymoon.jpg?9eab75

Does Packing Light Really Matter?

Abso-freaking-lutely. If you're going by train or plane, you want to be able to lift your bag into the overhead rack quickly and easily so you're not holding up your fellow travelers. Oh, you were just going to check your luggage? Why? Why would you waste time at baggage claim when your trip is only 4 days, tops?

And what are you going to do if the airline misplaces your bag? Wear your mom's sweatpants all weekend? You won't be there long enough for your bag to find you, and if you're plus size, or otherwise hard to fit, you can't just run out to the mall and buy a bunch of new outfits. Keep your valuable clothes with you at all times.

With our tips, you can carry your clothes on to the plane with you, without being that poor slob who has to check an overly large bag at the gate after making everyone else wait 10 minutes while you try to fit in into the overhead compartment.

Travel in Your Bulkiest Items

The clothes that take up the most room in your luggage are jeans and boots. Since you can wear your jeans multiple times (<http://www.cnn.com/2014/07/29/living/how-often-should-i-wash-everything/>) between washings, just wear them on travel days so you're not lugging them around in your bag. Worried about spilling something on yourself in transit? Spot cleaning is your friend.

Boots are even bulkier than jeans. They might be a hassle in the security line, but it's worth it to be able to carry a smaller and lighter bag.

Thinking of packing a bulky sweater? Just take it with you. The plane might be chilly and if not, you can use it as a pillow or lower back support.

Consider the Fabrics

The matte jersey and ponte we use for most of our AbbeyPost Made to Measure clothes fold down to almost nothing. That makes them perfect for packing. When you're deciding which clothes to bring, pick the lighter weight fabrics because they'll take up less room in your bag. Resist the urge to show off your new sweater dress or leather skirt. Save them for longer trips when you're not so concerned about packing light.

Packing lighter weight fabrics doesn't mean you'll be cold all weekend. Pair a ponte dress with tights and a fabulous cardigan (like [Jennifer](http://abbeypost.com/jennifer-ponte.html) (<http://abbeypost.com/jennifer-ponte.html>) or [Jackie](http://abbeypost.com/jackie.html) (<http://abbeypost.com/jackie.html>)) and you'll be warm and toasty.



(<http://abbeypost.com/jennifer-ponte.html>)

A comfy and classic cardigan will keep you warm and be versatile for easy packing!

Bonus – lighter fabrics like matte jersey dry quickly, so you can wear your [Sophia palazzo pants \(http://abbeypost.com/sophia.html\)](http://abbeypost.com/sophia.html) out with your friends on Thanksgiving Eve, wash them in the sink, hang them up to dry and then wear them again Friday or Saturday. That's one less pair of pants you need to pack.

Think Small

Of course you'd rather use your own shampoo than whatever you can find at Mom's house. But don't even think about lugging the whole bottle with you for a 4 day trip. Even without the TSA restrictions of 3 ounces of liquids max, full sized bottles are heavy and take up way too much space. When packing light, go with travel-sized containers. Even better, keep a few essentials (like deodorant and toothpaste) at Mom's for when you visit. Travel home so rarely that your toothpaste and hand lotion might expire between trips? Mail a box of toiletries to your destination a few days in advance. Bonus – if anything spills, it won't be all over your clothes.

Another trick to packing light? Those travel vacuum bags. They're like giant zip top bags with a one-way valve so you can squeeze out all the excess air. Your socks, undies and long-sleeve tees will take up much less space when they're squished down in a vacuum bag.



