

## Essential Travel Tips

# How to Select Your Luggage

The concept of luggage has evolved. The search for that magic bag starts with looking for the lightest that you can get to give you enough carrying space without taking you beyond the airline weight limits. Your luggage experiences range from funny to frustrating and you undoubtedly have bags that don't make sense anymore in the new travel environment.

### 1 / Luggage Essentials

The following 3 pieces of luggage are essential for the modern traveller:

1. Wheeled 21" trolley case  
(for business & other short trips)
2. Wheeled 29" suitcase  
(for trips lasting more than 10 days)
3. Small and lightweight duffel bag  
(with multiple pockets for carry-on or overnight stays)

### 2 / Hard-side vs Soft-side

You can get a soft or hard-sided luggage in nylon, polyester, leather or mystery fabric canvas. The soft-sided ones are the most expandable and lighter. However, they are easier to break into. Get one made of heavier polyester, not lightweight nylon.

The hard-sided cases protect fragile items that you might carry with you. But they can be heavy and may crack/shatter when handled improperly by airport handlers and can be more secured compared with soft-side case's.

### 3 / Construction

Go for the lightweight and expandable cases, preferably with outside pockets. Choose the ones with large zippers and wide, rubber, recessed wheels. Get one with spinner wheels on each of the four corners of the luggage. If this is too pricey, then get the ones with two wheels spaced far apart for more stability. Look for double or triple stitching as well.

### 4 / Handles and Grips

Make sure the telescopic pull handles work smoothly, are padded and have good length. It should lock into both short and long handle positions so you can adjust them appropriately for a range of heights. Multiple hand grips are very useful especially when present on each side as well as top and bottom.

### 5 / Carry-on Considerations

Be careful when choosing a 21" trolley bag. Some bags, when extension pockets are fully loaded, exceed airline size restrictions for carry-on luggage.