

## It's in the Bag!

By Nancy Smith, Sargent Travel Agency

Short of riding a camel through the desert or tracking a tiger on an Indian elephant, there are five basic modes of travel — car, airplane, bus, train and cruise ship. When you've visited your travel agent and decided which of these is best for you then it's time to pack your bags.

The first thought to keep in mind is that you always need about half or less of what you think you need — so consider the following:

1. **Purpose of Your Trip:** Business trips require more formal clothes than the casual wear of vacations. Cruise travel is an exception since you'll need both elegant dress and informal deck clothes.

2. **Climate:** Pack for the climate of your

destination but always include at least one outfit for unusual weather (or things you can "layer"). Rainy London has heat waves and Florida can turn chilly in January or February.

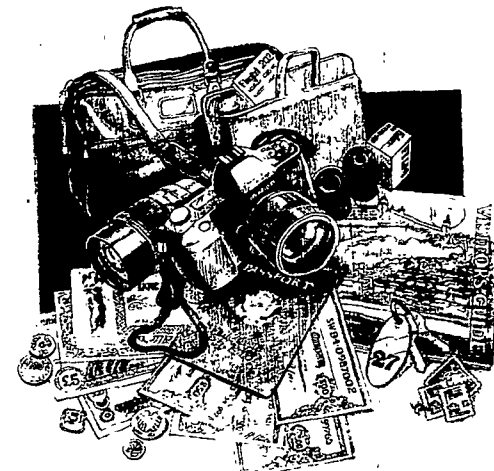
3. **Length of Stay:** Don't believe that the longer your trip the more you should pack. For both short and long trips, you'll require the basics. For extra days, you need only add a few more shirts or tops and if you pick 2 (3 at most) basic colors and then mix and match a few things can go a long way.

4. **Local Customs:** Remember that in many countries shorts and bikinis are taboo and that you may need a head covering for visiting churches, temples, mosques, etc. Ask your travel agent for tips on acceptable

dress in places you're visiting.

In closing I should point out that there are some things that should NOT go in the bag — at least not the one you're checking — so DON'T PACK the following: passport and visas, travel documents (Itinerary, tickets, hotel and car confirmations, sight-seeing vouchers etc.), travelers checks, credit cards, cash and medication. These should go on board with you along with your toothbrush and one extra set of clothes — so that "HEAVEN FORBID" your luggage and you don't arrive at the same time — you'll be prepared.

These few simple tips and an experienced travel agent are all you need to make sure your "Best Vacation Ever" is in the bag!



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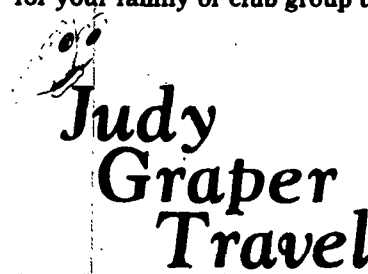
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