

[Home](#) > [Operations](#) > [Business Travel](#) > **Luggage for Business Travelers**

Featured Vendor

[MasterCard: Business Travel](#)

Offers a range of credit cards specifically designed for the unique needs of corporations, including purchasing oversight and expense management.

www.mastercardbusiness.com



Work.com How-to Guides:

✓ **Learn** What you need to know.

✓ **Discover** the Web's best business solutions.

✓ **Share** your expertise.







[Learn More](#)



Guide to Luggage for Business Travelers

With tightened security, what you carry on is more important than ever

By [Betty W. Stark](#)

 [Email](#)  [Save](#)  [Print](#)  [Link here](#)  [del.icio.us](#)  [Add to digg](#)

As a business traveler, you can't run the risk of checking your bag and then losing it for days (or for good) when your flights are delayed or cancelled. Luggage manufacturers are responding to the harsh realities of air travel by designing bags that are smaller, lighter, tougher, and whole lot "smarter" when it comes to maximizing space. There are steps you should take before heading out to buy a new bag:

1. Know the carry-on rules: TSA, airlines', the U.S. and other countries.
2. Define how and how often you travel then buy a bag that best meets those needs.
3. Learn the pros and cons of various bag types, including construction, features, warranties and cost.

Action Steps

The best contacts and resources to help you get it done

✓ Review the rules

Between the airlines and the government, it's a challenge to know what you'll face when you get to that critical airport security checkpoint. The savvier you are, the quicker you'll get through and on to the gate.

I recommend: It's a long list but review the [TSA](#) rules anyway; they're the official guidelines. (For regulations governing several European airports check out the [British Airways](#) website). Knowing what to expect from the airlines is tougher because regulations can change with plane size, load factors, etc. Your best bet is to review the guidelines on airline [Web sites](#).

✓ Know what luggage is top-rated and why

Frequent business travelers and the publications they read are great resources when it comes to evaluating the best carry-on bags.

I recommend: Check out the [Travel Insider](#), [American Express SkyGuide](#) awards, [Consumer Research](#), [Consumer Reports](#) (subscription required for full reviews), and the [FlyerTalk](#) forums.

✓ Evaluate luggage features, construction and warranty

Look for quality materials: leather is nice but expensive and heavier to carry; nylon or ballistic nylon is more durable than polyester; soft-sided is more versatile than hard-sided. Check out construction: bags with rounded corners hold less than those with square corners. An internal handle mechanism takes up valuable space but an external assembly should be built tough to hold up to rough handling. Pull-handles should not wobble when extended (look for a handle grip on the bottom of the bag too—it makes it easier to heft into an overhead bin). And check out the warranty. Some manufacturers (Briggs & Riley, for example) are noted for a warranty that will repair whatever happens to the bag, whenever. Others are not so generous. Read the fine print.

I recommend: Check out these highly-rated bags: Value priced: [Samsonite](#) mid-priced: [TravelPro](#); top-of-the-line: [Briggs & Riley @ Work Collection](#)

✓ Evaluate luggage features, construction and warranty

Look for quality materials: leather is nice but expensive and heavier to carry; nylon or ballistic nylon

Uncommonly
Useful
9.0
out of 10

[Rate This Guide](#)

[Add Your Comments](#)

Related Guides

- [Guide to Best Web Sites for Business Travel](#)
- [Guide to Booking a Hotel For Business Travel](#)
- [Guide to Car Rental Deals for Small Business](#)
- [Guide to Expense Report Software](#)
- [Guide to Frequent-Travel Programs for Small Business](#)
- [Guide to Gadgets for Business Travelers](#)
- [Guide to Great Laptops for Small Business](#)
- [Guide to Traveling Smart](#)
- [Browse All](#)

Related Topics

- [Accounting](#)
- [Business Travel](#)
- [Business Vehicles](#)
- [Computer Hardware](#)
- [Browse All](#)

Featured Vendors

[Enterprise Rent-A-Car: T and Tourism](#)

Great cars, low rates and free p up. Worldwide locations offering airport rentals, vans, trucks, cor rentals and long-term rentals. www.enterprise.com

is more durable than polyester; soft-sided is more versatile than hard-sided. Check out construction: bags with rounded corners hold less than those with square corners. An internal handle mechanism takes up valuable space but an external assembly should be built tough to hold up to rough handling. Pull-handles should not wobble when extended (look for a handle grip on the bottom of the bag too—it makes it easier to heft into an overhead bin). And check out the warranty. Some manufacturers (Briggs & Riley, for example) are noted for a warranty that will repair whatever happens to the bag, whenever. Others are not so generous. Read the fine print.

I recommend: Check out these highly-rated bags: Value priced: [Samsonite](#) mid-priced: [TravelPro](#); top-of-the-line: [Briggs & Riley @ Work Collection](#)

✔ Shop online for the best deals

Except for rare (i.e. emergency) situations, you should never have to pay full price for good quality luggage. Once you know what kind of bag will work best for the way you travel, head to the Internet to track down best-values.

I recommend: [The Luggage Catalog](#), [Discount Luggage](#), [Luggage Pros](#), [eBags](#), [Irv's Luggage Warehouse](#) and [Altman Luggage](#).

✔ Have a Plan B when your luggage absolutely must be there

Even with carry-ons, there's always the chance that you and your luggage might become separated. When 'taking a chance' is not an option, look into alternative ways to get your bag(s) to your destination.

I recommend: There are several luggage-forwarding services that will collect, ship and deliver your bags. Check out [The Luggage Club](#), [Luggage Forward](#), [Sports Express](#), and the [Luggage Concierge](#). Ask about corporate and volume discounts too.

Tips & Tactics

Helpful advice for making the most of this Guide

- If your itinerary includes both domestic and international travel, make sure you know ALL the applicable security carry-on rules before you travel. A bag that might make it onboard a domestic flight could end up in the baggage hold on the return from your international destination.
- Size is important, but weight matters too. Opt for the lightest quality bag you can find to avoid hefty overweight charges.
- European Union (EU) countries have recently changed their carry-on and checked luggage rules. Check them out before you travel.
- Find out if the aircraft you'll be flying are classified as "regional jets." Some of these smaller aircraft have miniscule overhead bins, some none at all. This means you'll have to gate-check your bag and pick it up on the Jetway or the bottom of the aircraft stairs as you exit the plane.
- While it's now OK to lock your bags, you can only use TSA-approved locking devices that can be opened with a universal TSA key or their approved tools (Caution: this rule is not consistently applied by TSA agents.)

Featured Vendors

[MasterCard: Business Travel](#)

Offers a range of credit cards specifically designed for the unique needs of corporations, including purchasing oversight and expense management.

www.mastercardbusiness.com

[Schedule Your Business Railroad Travel with Acela Express](#)

High-speed train to NY, DC, Boston and Northeast cities in between. First-class and business-class accommodations. The daily commute just got easier.

www.amtrak.com

[Mastercard: Business Travel](#)

Offers a range of credit cards specifically designed for the unique needs of small businesses.

www.mastercard.com

[Marriott Hotels: Business Travel Deals](#)

Save 5% on business travel when you book Marriott with your American Express? Business Card. Learn more

marriott.com/opensavings

[Business Travel Expense Reports: Concur Technologies](#)

Lower travel and booking costs our on-demand travel manager service. View a webinar or get y free white paper now!

www.concur.com

[Visit Nevada's Finest Golf Courses & Resorts](#)

Traveling for business or pleas Play golf In Nevada's finest golf courses & stay at luxury resorts Request a free golf guide today Golf.TravelNevada.com

[Business Travel: L & L International Ltd.](#)

Provides sales and acquisitions pre-owned private corporate executive business jets includin Gulfstream, Challenger, BBJ, a Learjet.

www.l-lint.com

[NetJets. - Business Travi](#)

Visit the worldwide leader in pri aviation. Learn more about frac jet ownership today!

www.NetJets.com

[Business Travel: HotelReservations.com](#)

Discounts up to 70% on hotels, motels, and resort reservations. Search hotels by price, distance star rating. Book online or call to free.

HotelReservations.com

[Travel Franchise](#)

Hundreds of franchises in the U Find your business opportunity www.FranchiseGator.com

[ExpenseWire: Travel Expense Management](#)

Expense Management 2.0. True demand expense management. Advanced features, 30 days free www.expensewire.com

[DATABASICS, Inc.: Trav Expense Reporting Softw](#)

Streamline your expense report without compromising requirem pre-trip approval, policies, open workflow, SARBOX and DCAA compliance.

www.data-basics.com

[CreditCards.com: Air Tra Credit Cards](#)

Provides comparison of Freque Flyer credit cards as well as link online credit card applications w 0% APRs, Cash Back and Rew Programs.

www.creditcards.com



Recommended Solution Providers

[Back to top](#)

[Luggage Catalog Web Site](#)

Product information and pricing on several luggage brands.

[Discount Luggage Web Site](#)

More product information and pricing on several brands of luggage.

[Luggage Pros Web Site](#)

Compare product features and pricing on several brands of luggage.

[eBags Web Site](#)

Rated one of the best Web sites for luggage.

[Irv's Luggage Warehouse Web Site](#)

Irv's pricing and selection is competitive; check it out.

[Altman Luggage Web Site](#)

Another resource for several lines and styles of luggage.

[Luggage Club Delivers Bags](#)

Let the Luggage Club get your bags to your destination.

[Top-Rated Briggs & Riley Luggage](#)

For top-quality luggage, check out the @ Work collection and the lifetime warranty.

[Ship Luggage and Sports Equipment](#)

This service will deliver luggage and sport equipment to you destination.



Best Sites to Learn More

[Back to top](#)

[Transportation Security Administration Rules](#)

This is the place to find U.S. government currently applicable rules for what items you can and can't carry on and/or check when you travel by air.

[Airline Web sites](#)

Check the Web site of the airline(s) you're traveling on for their carry-on and checked baggage rules.

[British Airways Regulations](#)

Check here for carry-on and checked baggage regulations governing several European airports.

[More Airline Baggage Regulations](#)

Look here for current rules and links to the carriers' Web sites.

[Travel Insider Review of Carry-Ons](#)

David Rowell evaluates several carry-on bags in this top-rate guide.

[American Express SkyGuide Top Luggage Awards](#)

Check out the best-of-the-best luggage awards from American Express Executive Traveler.

[Consumer Research Reviews the Reviewers](#)

Find evaluations of the best luggage reviews here.

[Review of Value-Priced Samsonite Luggage](#)

David Rowell reviews the features of Samsonite luggage.

[Review of Mid-Priced TravelPro Luggage](#)

David Rowell reviews the features of TravelPro luggage.



Best Blogs and Forums

[Back to top](#)

[FlyerTalk Member Opinions](#)

Opinions and advice from your fellow travelers can help you decide on the best luggage.



Comments

[Back to top](#)

[Add Your Comments](#)







The rolling bag is a must-have, of course, but I also can't live without my [Tumi backpack](#). It saves my shoulders, plus I also have a little nylon Tumi handbag that I tuck inside of the pack and that holds all the personal items I might need during the flight. It's a great system.

Posted by: [Donna Fenn](#) WORK.COM EXPERT 03/02/2007 06:40 AM

I have found that a rolling bag with wheels is extremely beneficial when weaving your way through the airport.

Posted by: [Anita Campbell](#) WORK.COM EXPERT 02/28/2007 07:07 AM

[Add Your Comments](#)

 Email  Save  Print  Link here  del.icio.us  Add to digg

 Is any content on this page inappropriate? To let us know, please [click here](#).

© 2007 Work.com, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Work.com is a property of [Business.com](#).
[Help](#) | [About Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Community Policy](#) | [Community Blog](#) | [Advertise on Work.com](#) | [Contact Us / Feedback](#)