

Packing for a Scuba Trip





The Challenge



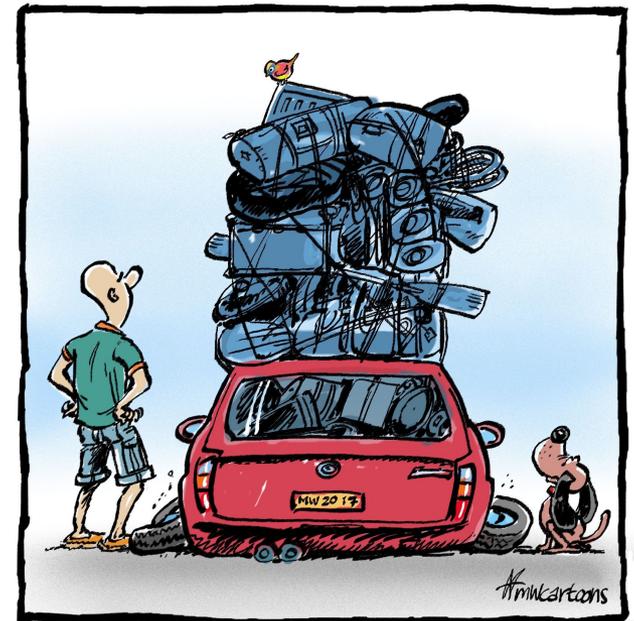
- Ensuring that you take everything you need for your planned Diving Trip without taking Too Much!!!



TRAVEL LIGHT
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This VS This



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Group Experience



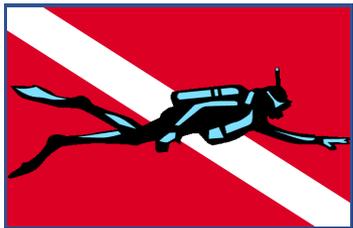
- **Who has been on a Dive Trip where you discovered that you were missing critical Items when you arrived?**
- **Who has been on a Dive Trip where you discovered that you had totally unnecessary items when you arrived?**



Trip Assumptions



- **Multi-Day Trip**
- **Traveling long distance requiring Air or Boat transport.**
- **Traveling Outside the US.**
- **That you own your own equipment (Otherwise – plan on renting)**



Planning Considerations



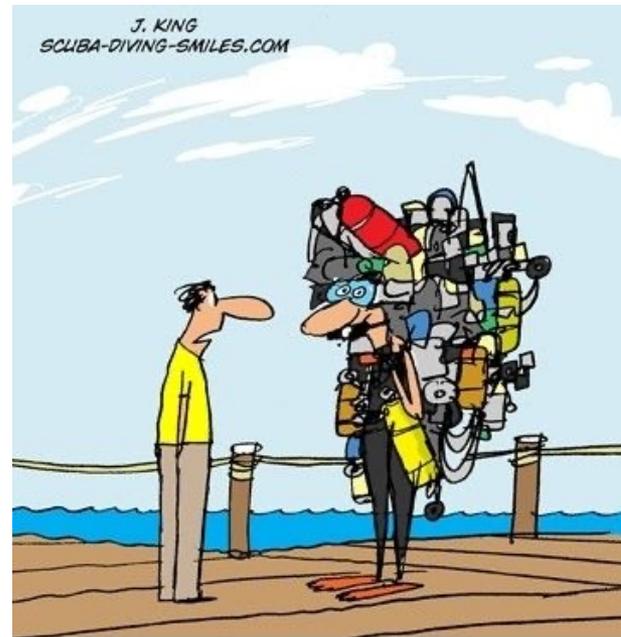
- **Boat vs Shore Diving or Both?**
- **Liveaboard?**
- **Private Diving vs Diving with Professional Operator?**
- **Diving Resort vs Non-Diving Resort?**
- **Non-Diving Activities Planned?**



Topics

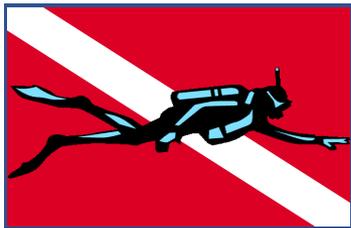


- Scuba Gear
- Documentation
- Personal Items
- Cameras
- Batteries
- Actual Packing



“I think maybe it’s time to scale back on the amount of equipment you use.”

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Scuba Gear



- **Mask and Snorkel**- New Mask Prepped?
- **Fins and Booties**- Thick Sole for Shore
- **Dive Skin vs Wetsuit?** (Multiple?)
- **Gloves** (Permitted?)
- **Beanie or Lycra Hood**
- **BCD w/ Whistle**
- **Weight Pouches** – if integrated, recommend at least one extra pouch!
- **Regulator** (Serviced??)
- **Compass**
- **Watch**
- **Underwater Light**
- **Dive Computer AND its Instructions**
- **Knife (ves) / Line Cutter / Scissors**
- **Save-a-Dive Kit** (Mask Strap, Fin Straps, O-rings, Etc)
- **Slate w/ Pencil – Eraser**
- **Safety Sausage (Surface Marker Buoy) – Reel?**
- **Night Dive Tank Light** (Some places restrict use of Chemlight Sticks)
- **Defog** (Enough for Trip...)
- **Scuba Gear Net Bag.**
- **Batteries / Chargers?**
- **Lanyards**
- **Zip Lock Bag and Large Trash Bags**



Scuba Gear



Other Potential Items:

- **Emergency Strobe light**
- **Emergency Transmitter (EPIRB/AIS-DSC/ GPS) Nautilus / In-Reach, Etc**
- **Second Air Transmitter** - if you use an Air-Integrated Wrist Computer.
- **NITROX Analyzer**
- **Backup Computer**
- **Mirror** (on Lanyard)
- **Spare Air / Pony Tank** (Empty, if flying)
- **Tank Banger or Rattle**
- **Weights Normally Available at Location!!!** BUT some carry 1's or 2's...

Mark / Re-Mark ALL Equipment!!!:

- **Permanent Markers.**
- **Any Color That Contrasts.**
- **Personal Preference:**
 - PILOT Silver Marker (Extra Fine Point) for most equipment.
 - Sharpie WHITE or SILVER (Metallic) for Boots, Wetsuit, Gloves, other soft items.



Documents

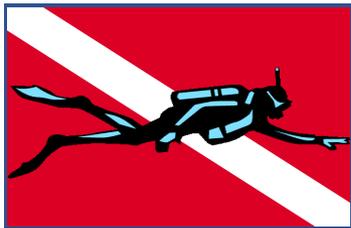


- **C-Cards / NITROX Card**
- **Logbook (Electronic / Hard Copy)**
- **Passport** (Photocopy in each Suitcase)
- **Money!!**
 - For those items where a card will not suffice: Tips (Crew, Servers, maids, Etc)
 - Mandatory Cash Fees
 - General Spending
- **Pay Park, Conservation, Etc Fees in advance if possible.**
- **Insurance Documents (Trip / DAN, Etc)**
- **Scuba Physical?**

- **Fish ID Books / Cards**
- **Guidebooks**
- **Maps**



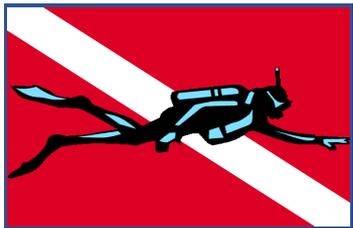
"I learned how to pack small.
I bought Brad a big suitcase."



Personal Items



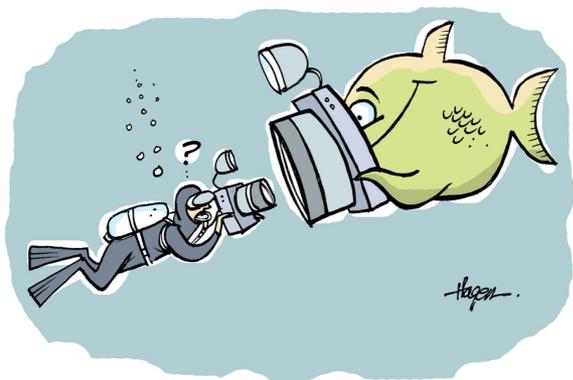
- **Clothes appropriate to the location and planned activities.**
- **Windbreaker/Coat**
- **Rain Gear**
- **Bathing Suits**
- **Sandals – If warm area.**
- **Appropriate Outfits for Meals (if swim attire not accepted)**
- **Hat / Sun Coverup**
- **Alarm (Phone, IPAD, Etc)**
- **Personal Medications (Vitamins, Ear Drops, Swim Ear, Seasick Medicine (non-drowsy) – Benadryl or other decongestant – if clearing issues)**
- **Sunscreen (Environmental?)**
- **Sunglasses**
- **Socks / Dive Socks**
- **Band-aids and First Aid Kit (Neosporin or Bacitracin for scrapes); moleskin for blisters) – Consider Hard-topped Booties**
- **Suction Cup Hooks for Hanging wet gear**
- **Personal Toiletries**
- **Zip Locks for Goodies**
- **Insect Repellant**
- **Personal Computer / Pad**



Camera / Batteries



- **Camera / Housing**
- **Lights – Video / Strobe**
- **Batteries** (Enough to be able to recharge regularly based on planned Dive Cycle)
- **Battery Chargers** – Multiple, if necessary.
- **Moisture Munchers**



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Battery Considerations:

- **Computer**
- **Camera**
- **Camera Light(s)**
- **Dive Lights**
- **Tank Light(s)**
- **Strobe**
- **Emergency Device** – If Using
- **Alarm Clock**
- **Availability of Batteries** (Unique batteries for your equipment??)
- **Lithium Batteries MUST go in Carry-on!!!**



Actual Packing



- **Selection of Luggage. Hard Case vs Soft Case?**



VS



- **Recommend Soft Bags (Clothes and Scuba) if you are going on a Liveboard (limited storage space) or going to use Gear Shipping Bag as a Boat Bag.**
- **Less an issue IF you don't plan to use as a "Boat" Bag, Too.**
- **Recommend a mesh gear bag for use as a gear bag on board.**



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Actual Packing



- Carry-on Packing:
 - All Essential Travel Documentation (Passport, Tickets, Special Access Info, Etc)
 - Lithium Batteries must go in Carry-on.
 - Cert Cards
 - Dive Logs
 - Dive Computer(s)
 - Camera Equipment (if small enough)
 - Portable Computer or Pad
 - No Knives
 - If enough room, Change of clothes in case main bag doesn't initially show up.
- Checked Baggage. Check Weight Limits:
Air usually **50 lb per bag.**



*“The charges are correct, sir.
The airline now charges for
emotional baggage as well.”*

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Discussion



“It’s my scuba kit. My motto has always been, ‘you can never be too prepared’”

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