

## What Size Luggage Shall I Use?

This may be a silly question but for international travelling, it really isn't. I am Gwen McNeill, one of CMGA Coordinators, and am going to give you some of the tips that I have learned over the past 12 years travelling to the Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Australia.

One thinks that if you go to Scotland or Ireland during summer months that shorts are the normal attire and less to pack. This is a myth! In all the years, I have been travelling to Scotland and Ireland, the only time I wore shorts was in July, 2006 and that was once and a mistake. Remember, Scotland can have 3 seasons year round (Sun, Rain, possible Snow pending the month and the temp could still be only 50-60's in summer).

My average trip to Scotland is usually 11 days. I have used both carry-on or a regular size suitcase. I use my carry-on more often when travelling by train and buses because sometimes I have had to carry the bag up/down stairs at the stations, onto buses and even BnBs or hotels. The regular check-in size suitcase, I have used on less occasions but mostly when travelling via a hire (rental) car, based in one city or only have 1-2 cities destinations only. You also have to consider the size when travelling via plane (usually Loganair) from the mainland to the Outer or Inner Hebrides such as Glasgow to Barra will limit the weight less even if the suitcase is a full size bag.

### Luggage Luggage Sizes

- 11" tall by 17" wide by 18-20" long - Wheeled Totes (will fit under the seat)
- 18" - 20" Carry-On Luggage - These are considered the International carry-on sizes, as they are allowed as a carry-on for most International flights
- 21" - 22" Carry-on Luggage - These are the most popular sizes of carry-on luggage for U.S. domestic flights. Most U.S. airlines have carry on restrictions of 22" x 14" x 9", or 45 linear inches.
- 23" - 24" Small Checked Luggage -These sizes are popular for travelers looking for a smaller, lighter option of luggage to check. These pieces are too large to carry onto the plane
- 25" – 27" or 28" – 32" – full size suitcase which can be harder to maneuver and if not careful can exceed the weight allowance once you buy souvenirs, etc.

**Bag Sizes** - Since you have already answered the length and how you are travelling once you arrive, you can now determine what size suitcase you wish to utilize. If children are travelling with you, think about how or where you will pack their clothes and accessories. Will you need to use a full size bag with your children and yourself? See "How to Pack Like a Pro!" document for example of packing for 11- 12 days trip.

**Luggage Weight** – Most airlines have same basic check-in weight but some international airlines have different size, pound and piece restrictions based on fare class and travel zones. Overall, the average weight and size for checked bags is 50 pounds and 62 inches. Average maximum size for carry-on luggage is 45 inches.

Loganair Hand Luggage: Loganair allows Fly and Fly Flex passengers to carry one item of hand luggage weighing up to 6 kg only and with maximum dimensions of 40 x 35 x 18 cm (including handles and wheels). Fly Flex + passengers may bring one 6 kg bag, plus a laptop. Loganair Hold Luggage Allowance: Fly and Fly Flex passengers may check up to 20 kg across a number of bags. Fly Flex + passengers may check 30 kg. Passengers can only check 15 kg on inter-isle services and on routes to /from Barra, Tiree and Campbeltown. Loganair excess baggage fees

However, if these weight allowances are exceeded, baggage will only be accepted if space is available on board, at an additional charge of £10, with a further £10 charge for any additional items of luggage.

Just FYI, if you do not own a luggage weight scale, buy one! They are not expensive and you can get either manual or electronic.

NOTE: Once you have packed your check-in bag, weigh it before you leave for the airport. Try to keep your bag 4-5 pounds less than what the max requirement may be such as 50 pounds. Example: bag weighs 45 pounds. This gives you that extra available pounds once you are at the airport and they weigh your bag (can differ by a pound or two). Also, that extra few pounds available later is for souvenirs to bring home without paying additional weight costs!



Luggage Scales

**Bag Straps** – If you two bags are not part of a set or your larger bag does not have the built-in strap to attach a smaller bag to, then you can purchase these easily.

