

## FOLD SCHOOL

Pamela Spruce, principal of the Australian Butler School, shares her tips for successful (and painless) packing

**25** Research your destination in terms of facilities. Does your hotel have a laundry service? Are there ironing boards in the rooms? These services will determine how much you'll need to pack and what can be left at home.

**26** Choose outfits that are interchangeable, preferably in non-crushable fabrics. Stick to neutral colours like grey, navy and khaki, which can be paired any number of ways.

**27** Create a packing list to ensure you leave nothing behind on your return. Stick to the list when packing. And remember, you don't need five pairs of pants "just in case".

**28** Lay everything on the bed, then reassess. Cull what you're still umming and erring over. Next, place shoes in individual protective bags, sole-side out, around the edge of the bag – this will stop grubby footwear soiling your clothes.

**29** Fold and place heavy casual items such as jeans or cardigans on the bottom. Wear your heaviest shoes and jacket to create space.

**30** Place your washbag in the centre of the bag, creating a "well" on either side. Fill the spaces with folded, lighter casual wear to hold your toiletries in place and protect them.

**31** Fill in corners and gaps with rolled socks, underwear, chargers and belts to create a level surface across the whole bag.

**32** Fold shirts buttoned and pack top to tail to ease pressure on collars. Pack more delicate items folded to minimise creasing.

**33** Finally, cover your belongings with a towel. This helps to hold your packing in place and adds an insulating layer of protection.

## WHAT A CARRY ON

All you need for a weekend break is a quality holdall



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**34** Made from Italian leather and lined with cotton plaid, this bag oozes understated style. (Rodd & Gunn, \$849)

**35** This bag's internal pockets allow you to stash your valuables in allocated compartments. (Manzoni, \$389)

**36** The capacity of this leather monster will accommodate your "bung-it-all-in" packing style. (Country Road, \$449)

**37** The durable nylon exterior of this compact overnighter laughs in the face of wind and rain. (Oroton, \$349)

**38** The rectangular shape allows you to stow your laptop and keep your paperwork crumple-free. (Hugo Boss, \$549)

## 39-43

### INSIDER'S CHOICE

Greg Barton, editor of *Australian Traveller* magazine, selects his favourite boutique hotels



#### 39 The Russell Hotel, Sydney

As an 1880s oasis in a sometimes too-modern city, The Russell is a historic gem in the most ancient part of town that's more cosy than cool, and that's exactly why I love it. George St, The Rocks ([therussell.com.au](http://therussell.com.au))

#### 40 Craig's Royal, Ballarat

Having hosted dukes, prime ministers, even Bradman himself, this gold-rush gem in Ballarat is one of the most superb resurrections of a traditional Aussie hotel/pub in the land. Lydiard St South, Ballarat ([craigroyal.com.au](http://craigroyal.com.au))

#### 41 The Emporium, Brisbane

At over 100 rooms, it's on the larger side of "boutique", but the décor and design are so stylish and of such artisan quality that you'll be bragging about your stay to friends for months afterwards. Ann St, Fortitude Valley ([emporiumhotel.com.au](http://emporiumhotel.com.au))

#### 42 The Lindrum, Melbourne

This classy hotel housed the Lindrum Pool Hall in the Seventies before becoming a newspaper HQ. Today it's as gorgeous and muted as any boutique outfit on Flinders St must necessarily be. Flinders St, Melbourne ([hotellindrum.com.au](http://hotellindrum.com.au))



#### 43 The Henry Jones Art Hotel, Hobart

This converted XL jam factory, crammed with local art and modern touches, is a joy. All exposed beams, stunning glasswork and ageing stone hallways, The Henry Jones has won a clutch of awards in its first five years. Hunter St, Hobart ([thehenryjones.com](http://thehenryjones.com))

