



# 10 reasons to go light when backpacking on holidays

**1** Your bag is your life. Small bags are less noticeable, so you may feel less vulnerable. The closer you can stick to it, the happier you will be.

**2** A bulky, full bag has less space for souvenirs and a nightmare to lug around when on motorcycles, taxis or rickshaws. You also need to check-in the bag.

**3** The thought of wearing the same thing day in, day out, may seem terrible now, but it gets easy with the right clothes. There's no need to take too many pieces as they can be easily washed and dried overnight.

**4** You may need to walk with your backpack across town or from hotel to hotel in undesirable weather. A small bag lets you jump into a taxi or rickshaw with ease (without having to separate yourself from it). In addition, leaving your pack in a locker can be a problem if it's huge.

**5** Carrying a large, heavy bag onto a bus can become a problem if the bus is crowded. You may get separated from it if it gets loaded onto the roof or stored in the luggage compartment.

If you board the little buses that stop at the side of the road — the most common way of getting around in many countries — and they're crowded, your bulky bag will become a nuisance to other passengers and you may be forced to buy a seat for it.

**6** A full bag makes it difficult to get to things without taking other stuff out. This means you may not use what's at the bottom because it's easier to wear what you had on yesterday or what's on top.

**7** In some regions, you may have to pay a surcharge or buy an extra ticket for a large bag. The same can be said for some metro or underground or tram systems.

**8** It will be uncomfortable moving from town to town (short hops) and not easy to jump on and off buses and taxis. Not to mention that an oversized bag doesn't exactly make you feel confident by sticking out.

**9** A small bag makes it easier to travel from one spot to another with a quick stop in between, saving you time, money and hassle.

**10** Quite simply, you'll spend a good deal of time on the road thinking, "If I had a huge pack like that girl or guy, I won't be able to do this". You may need some bulky items, but there's no need to lug around a 60kg bag — not unless you're camping!

To read the full post, check out <http://www.travelindependent.info/whattopack.htm>



## WINNER THIS WEEK NOORINI ABDUL HAMID in New Zealand's North Island

### Must Do

IF you are visiting the country for the first time, go on the free red bus around the city (with a map in hand) to familiarise yourself.

You can hop-on and off at any of the designated bus stops. The Hop-on Hop-off Explorer Buses, which cover more sightseeing destinations, are also available for a price.

To enjoy the sight of rolling hills in the countryside, I recommend that you take short trips by bus or train, though flying is cheaper for longer distances.

Ardent gardeners can visit the rose and botanic gardens, especially in spring and summer, as every town has these.

Highly recommended is the Wellington Botanic Garden, which

## SAVVY TRAVELLER



among others, comprises the Lady Norwood Rose Garden and The Begonia House.

Another unique place to visit is Rotorua, which is situated on a volcanic crater.

It offers a unique geothermal wonderland, with colourful lakes, hot springs and mud pools as well as volcanic gases.

Witness the Lady Knox, one of the three geysers in the world that shoots up to a height of between 10 and 20 metres once daily.

Rotorua is also home to a large

Maori population. Visit Moari Villages to learn more about the culture. Don't miss the Rotorua Museum and watch a film on the eruption of the Tarawera Mountain in 1886.

Your chair will rock and sway as the volcano on the screen erupts.

When visiting windy Wellington, enjoy a stroll along the water front, drive along the bay, enjoy the view from Brooklyn Hill or Mount Victoria, go on the cable car to the Botanical Garden and enjoy a relaxing walk to Parliament House.

### Avoid

Avoid throwing rubbish and do not leave your trash after a picnic. It is also good practice to ensure the toilet is clean after using it.

### Good Eats

New Zealand has many fine dining restaurants and those that serve international cuisine.

Try the Tableman Fish Restaurant by Oriental Bay, Wellington.

The salad bar serves the freshest variety of salads. Muslims need not worry as there is no problem getting halal food.

Last but not least, don't miss the delicious, creamy New Zealand ice cream. I would recommend the honey-laced ice cream (available at the Honey Centre in Warkworth, to the north of Auckland).

### Top Shop

There are many souvenir shops, but the Great New Zealand Shop offers variety at reasonable prices.

Also not-to-be-missed is the

Victoria Park Market in Auckland. This historic market has shops and stalls selling arts and crafts, curios, footwear, souvenirs and jewellery.

If you prefer an open market, visit the Lakeside Market in Rotorua and end your trip with a visit to the Lakeside Café to enjoy the food, a view of the lake and the breeze.

### Insider Tips

Taxis and airport shuttle vans use metres or display the fare on their vehicles.

New Zealand Tourism has information and travel offices with the signature 'i-SITE' which gives advice and books hotels and transportation at discounted rates.

You can also seek assistance from the helpful tourism ambassadors in red with their little bags of guide maps and plans.

If time permits, see New Zealand by driving around. The country roads are good with little traffic and you can put up in clean cheap motels.

## Pulau Pangkor stay for savvy travellers

WIN a 2D/1N stay in a Garden Wing Room for two persons at Pangkor Island Beach Resort. All you have to do is share with us your travel tips and you may be featured in our Savvy Traveller column. Hurry, send in your entries. Here's what you must do:

1. Your essay must be typewritten and it must contain the following information: a. Your Name b. Holiday Destination (local or foreign) c. Tips for travel to the destination as categorised: • Must Do • Avoid • Good Eats • Top Shop • Insider Tip
2. Attach a picture of yourself taken at the destination
3. Attach the entry form on this page. You can send your entries via email — just make sure all the details required are provided and attach your picture in.jpg file
4. Email to [traveltimes@nstp.com.my](mailto:traveltimes@nstp.com.my) or send it by post to Travel Savvy Column, Travel Times, New Straits Times, 31 Jalan Riong, 59100 Kuala Lumpur
5. This promotion is open to all NST readers except for employees and stringers of the NSTP Group



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