

Travel

P4. WINNING FOF
REV UP YOUR
BREAK BY COM
IT WITH AN F1
GRAND PRIX



The Sunday Telegraph

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will secure you
an upgrade

5 Two wheels or four? Four tend to make larger cases easier to manoeuvre, particularly if each wheel swivels rather than being locked into position. Wheeling is not always possible, so ensure you are able to lift your packed case up a flight of stairs.

6 Samsonite's new Spinners range (from £165) takes wheel technology a step further: not only do cases have double wheels at each corner, but, like an F1 car, the wheels at the back are larger than those at the front and there is a handbrake. For stockists, call 01322 385169,

7 Live Luggage's new power-assisted case is even more impressive: internal motors fitted to each wheel make the 94-litre case feel as light as a feather, even when you are pulling it uphill. From £700 at www.liveluggage.com.

8 Handles should be long enough to tow comfortably and preferably pop-up rather than pull-up. Avoid leashes: you will end up dragging your case along on its side.

9 Hard- or soft-sided? A hard shell can add 10lb in dead weight but does offer contents more protection from damage, thieves and sudden downpours. But a soft-sided case will look smarter for longer and is less unwieldy when storage space is limited.

10 Seventy per cent of suitcases on any given carousel are black. A coloured luggage strap or piece of ribbon tied to the handle will make your black case easier to identify.

HOW TO PACK AND UNPACK

1 "When you figure out your suitcase, you figure out your life," fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg said recently. Yet according to a recent survey by the



Post Office, 37 per cent of holidaymakers admit to being disorganised packers, with women (55 per cent) finding it harder to pack than men – no wonder, as almost a third of women pack for their husbands, too.

2 Fold, roll or bundle? Wrap in tissue or plastic? Whichever method you use, the key is not to over-pack: squashed clothes are creased clothes – the same is true of garments that are too loosely packed.

3 The website www.butlerbureau.com has video instructions on how to fold a T-shirt and pack a suitcase. Go to YouTube to see Mr Bean demonstrating how not to do it.

4 Do not put wrapped gifts in checked luggage. If your case is opened for inspection, wrapping may have to be removed. And put heavy items, such as shoes, just above the wheels.

5 You can reduce creases at your destination by hanging items in a steamy bathroom, but you do have to persevere. Once clothing is slightly damp, give it a couple of sharp shakes and pull into shape.

6 Or invest in a travel iron (John Lewis sells one for about £12). An

iron will also extend the number of times you can wear an item that is not actually dirty.

7 Alternatively, let the professionals pack for you. In London, Blossom and Browne (www.blossomandbrowne.com) offers a jet-set travel service. Give them a bag containing the clothes you want to take, and they will return it with its contents laundered, ironed, and properly packed. Or try upmarket concierge service Practical Princess (www.practicalprincess.com).

Carousel: the resemblance to a ride at a funfair is lost on most of us

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8 Another option is to throw everything in dirty and use your hotel's laundry service. But never send anything delicate or liable to shrink to a Third-World laundry and always expect jeans to be returned with creases ironed down the front.

9 If you are travelling with young children, companies such as Tynyotsaway (01257 424241; www.tynyotsaway.com) or Bebebel (www.bebebel.com) will deliver baby products, food and heavy items to your destination.

10 If you live in London and face unpacking when you return home, you can drop your suitcase off at a branch of Jeeves of Belgravia (020 8809 3232; www.jeevesofbelgravia.co.uk). The company will unpack, sort, launder and dry-clean the contents, then deliver it all back to you.

KEEP IT SAFE

1 Airlines mislaid 42.4 million suitcases last year, reason never to put anything you would lose in your checked luggage.

2 A suitcase is easily parted from its luggage label. Always put a second one, with details of your name and destination, inside.

3 If two or more people are travelling, split belongings between checked luggage so if one case goes missing, each of you still have a change of clothes.

4 Try not to check in late: even if you make it on to the flight, your luggage might not.

5 Always lock your checked luggage. An unlocked suitcase could invalidate your insurance.

6 If you are travelling to America, you must use cases fitted with

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