

# Neapolitan

LIFESTYLE & CLASSIFIED



Marla Ottenstein wears her sleeveless black travel dress by lululemon and pashmina, beside hard-sided X-Frame Tegra-Lite 22-inch international carry-on by TUMI, at her home on March 19 in North Naples. PHOTOS BY KATIE KLANN/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

## Your travel essentials



**Get Organized**  
Marla Ottenstein  
Guest columnist

It only took one travel mishap — such as a checked bag coming off the baggage carousel with all of its locks and zippers deliberately broken and an array of clothing spilling out of the main compartment — for this professional organizer to reconsider checking her luggage ever, ever again.

No matter where I'm headed or for how long — Europe or South America for a month, Havana or New York for the weekend or Palm Springs for two weeks — if it doesn't fit, it doesn't go. (Although I must confess to always packing a foldable zipper tote, just in case ...)

Naysayers beware: Packing light and packing right can be done as long as you judiciously curate and edit your clothing and accessories, packing only those items that are comfortable, versatile, fashionable (if possible) and functional (always).

For now and for always, my credo is to travel light and travel smart, which also means packing the bare minimum when it comes to cosmetics — mascara, lipstick and bronzer — and toiletries.

← **1** My bag: I'd be lost without my hard-sided X-Frame Tegra-Lite 22-inch international carry-on by TUMI. It's stylish, super lightweight and surprisingly roomy.

↖ **2** My wardrobe: I stick with basic black adding POP with a few colorful sweaters, pashminas and accessories. Summer travel calls for a sleeveless black dress by lululemon. It's comfortable, chic and extremely versatile.

**3** I'm hooked on eBags soft-sided packing cubes, the perfect "drawer-on-the-go" when traveling. No more trying to figure out if I should roll or fold my clothes with these babies. →



**4** Bose QuietComfort Noise Cancelling earbuds: With these gems, nothing — including crying babies and chatty seatmates — can disturb the peace and quiet I crave when flying across country or overseas. ↓



**5** There's nothing quite as comforting as wrapping myself up in an oversized pashmina when taking a short or long flight.

**6** When it comes to traveling, I'm all about function, form and comfort. The beauty of my TUMI lightweight foldable down "puffer" jacket is that it folds up into itself, becoming an oh-so-comfy neck pillow.

↗ **7** Yep, I drank the Kool-Aid and am hooked on anything Apple. I always pack my iPad, iPhone and assorted chargers, as well as the necessary adaptor plugs when traveling out of the USA.

**8** Mophie backup battery pack: Having stood in line — unsuccessfully I might add — just one time to charge my phone between flights, I swore it would never happen again. I'm partial to this brand not only for its aesthetics but also for performance.

**9** Healthy snacks: Refusing to pay crazy prices for a preservative-laden boxed lunch, I pack a few healthy snacks, such as dried fruit and low-sodium nuts, when flying.

**10** I always carry a pack of Purell hand sanitizing wipes to wipe down my seat, tray table, knob, armrests and seatbelt buckle.