



distant francophile

For when France seems too far away...

Packing For Paris – My Five Step Packing Process

Step One – Planning On Paper

Before I even peek into my wardrobe or start thinking about clothes, my planning process starts on piece of paper.

I make notes about where we are travelling and what we will be doing.

I also print out a copy of the relevant Distant Francophile Packing Guide as a reference. I've included all of our downloadable Packing Guides along with this training, so you won't miss a thing.

Step Two – Start With Shoes

I, like so many other travel and style bloggers, always start my packing plans with shoes.

There's a reason for this.

Shoes are bulky and heavy and they eat into your valuable luggage real estate. Given this, wherever possible, I travel with only two pairs of shoes, unless we are doing something unusually fancy that does require me to wear heels. I'll wear one pair on the plane and stow the other pair in my case.

Depending on the season your travelling options to consider include boots - ankle or knee-high, sneakers, sandals and ballet flats.



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Step Three - Choose A Colour Palette

With your shoes sorted, it is now time to decide on your colour scheme. Your choice of shoes will dictate your travel wardrobe colour palette, at least to some extent.

Other factors will include the time of year you are traveling. Warmer months allow you introduce lighter and brighter colours. That said, black, blue and grey seem to be perennial Parisian favourites regardless of the season.

My preference is to build my travel capsule wardrobes around three colours. I recommend choosing two neutral colours and an accent colour or sticking to three neutrals.

Step Four – Onto The Clothes

With all the foundation choices made, I begin transferring all the clothes I think I might want to take with me onto a portable wardrobe rack (or, before I realised how affordable those racks were, the bed in the guest bedroom).

I've spent a number of years building up a wardrobe of travel friendly clothing that usually find their way into my packing choices. These items are light, easy to layer and most importantly, resist crushing.

I also make sure I include all my wardrobe essentials. For me, that includes a white button down shirt, a dressy black v-neck top, my favourite skinny jeans, a white t-shirt and a cashmere sweater. I also consider possible outfits for my dressy days.



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Step Five – I Wait

And I think.

And I really question myself.

Once you can see everything the questioning becomes easy. Questions you might like to ask include:

- Have I chosen too many items?
- Am I'm planning to take a number of similar items?
- Do the shoes I've chosen work with the items I'm planning to pack?
- Are the likely weather conditions accounted for?
- Is my colour palette consistent?
- Do the outfits I've chosen cover the activities we're planning to do?
- And will I feel confident and comfortable in these outfits? Consider the temperature and how loose, tight or scratchy the outfits might be. There is nothing worse than wearing travel outfits that don't feel great on your body.