

Hargrove No Check Checklist

This is a checklist we use for birding trips where we plan to travel without checking a bag. This is not always possible or desirable, for example if traveling to Antarctica. This takes advantage of airline rules that allow one carry-on and a personal item. We use our daypacks as the personal items, which allows us to pack more than you would expect. I also wear a vest with many pockets where I carry some important items. The goal is to avoid checking anything. Sometimes, even today, bags don't arrive when you expect them.

Cosmetic Kit

We call this a Dopp kit for historical reasons. Usually packed in a rollaboard. Also fits into a daypack when that is more convenient.

Item	Comment
Toothbrushes, Floss, etc.	Toothpaste is in LGA Bag
Hair brush	For Linda
Razors	Several Disposables, numbered with masking tape. That way you can use #1 until is used up, etc.
Band-aids	Several different sizes. I like the ones with anitseptic built in.
AfterBite	to relieve itching from insect bites.
Cipro	For serious Diarrhea
Other meds	For daily Rx, we pack weekly doses in pill organizers, one per week of the trip. This takes much less space than Rx bottles.
Sewing kit	Save one from a hotel somewhere. You never know when you'll need one.

LGA Bag

Liquids, Gels, Aerosols for the TSA. See note on Wet Ones and Insect Repellant. If needed, we pack two bags, one for each of us.

Item	Comment
Lip Balm	
Shampoo	Usually at hotel, but not always
Conditioner	Ditto
Sunscreen	A problem: Not usually available in the right size. Buy a travel bottle and fill it with your favorite sunscreen.
Hand Lotion	
Shaving Cream	One of those small sizes you find in the travel section
Lens Cleaner	ROR recommended
Ultrathon	insect repellant for face and hands
Superglue	A small kit of four one-shot tubes. You can usually get away putting this in the rollaboard
Toothpaste	Several small travel sizes
Skin shield	Superglue based bandage stuff

Jim's Backpack

I have a "TSA Friendly" backpack that lets me avoid taking the laptop out. I open it flat, take the LGA bag out, and that's it. Several compartments help organizing. This contains "absolutely must haves." You may have to check the rollaboard, which might be delayed, so...

Item	Comment
Laptop	For blogging, etc
Power Supply	For laptop
Computer mouse	Optional
Jim's Bins	That's birder slang for binoculars, in case you're not a birder
Backup Bins	Just in case
Ethernet cable	Needed at some hotels.
Electrical converter	Bestek Universal Adapter
Single Packet Wet Ones	Hand wipes. Doesn't count as a liquid.
Insect Repellant in Single Use Packets	Ditto
Superglue	A small kit of four one-shot tubes. You can usually get away putting this in the rollaboard
Flashlight	Several, just in case. We also usually take some headlamps. A red cover is helpful if you want to use the flash for spotlighting. You can buy a bundle of accessories with this light.
Spare batteries	Rechargeable Batteries
Hearing Aid stuff	Batteries, etc.
Jim's Camera	Small Ultrazoom is good for this use.
Recharger for camera	Only thing that requires its own charger. Fit into rollaboard if possible.
USB Cables	For recharging
Earbuds	for the airplane.
Field Guide	if it is small enough
Sunglasses	With a spare
Reading glasses	spare
Umbrella	Open it before you leave to make sure it still works.
200mw Green Laser Pointer	Take the batteries out first or they will likely be dead when you take the pointer out of your vest. Becoming an essential tool for birding. Consider taking a spare, just in case.
Travel alarm clock	Since we have to get up early some mornings. More reliable than using a cellphone.
Cellphone	Leave it where you can find it.

Jim's Vest

A good travel vest is a way to carry extra stuff onboard the plane. What you wear is not luggage.

Item	Comment
Passports and travel docs	The vest should have a pocket just for these items.
Emergency Meds	Pain killers, eye stuff, immodium, Sudafed
House key	on the clip provided for that purpose.
Business cards	To give to other participants
Several combs	They keep getting lost
Pen and pencil	For record keeping
Some insect repellant	A few of the ones from the backpack
Some Wet Ones	Ditto

Linda's Backpack

This is a "one big compartment" style with some outside pockets. I like to use this as a day pack for birding, leaving the other backpack hidden in our room.

Item	Comment
Linda's Camera	Doesn't need a recharger
Ear buds	For the airplane
Linda's Bins	
iPad	For reading on the plane
rain jacket	If expected to be needed at destination
Cosmetic Kit	if space available. This ensures that it will be available if we are forced to check the rollboards.
Umbrella	
Woolite packets and stopper	Woolite packets and drain plug. Don't forget the latter, as you will almost certainly need it, even in 5-star hotels. This means you don't need to rely on the lodge for washing.
Other Stuff	Her "Kiwi bag", laundry bag, etc.

Jim's Rollboard

Check the size carefully. Most international airlines will allow bags up to 23" in height. Mine is 22" and will always fit

Item	Comment
Shirts	Three, plus the one I wear on the plane. All use InsectShield permethrin built in. Quick drying, not cotton, no matter what they say. Check out Ex Officio Insect Shield.
Pants	Two, plus what I wear. Also treated with Permethrin. Quick drying. That way, you can get away without rain pants, unless you need those for warmth.
T-Shirts	Two quick-dry. I found some that will dry overnight in almost any situation. Also have the one I wear on the plane
Underpants	Several pairs of quick dry.
Socks	Lots of these. They take forever to dry, so you will want to rely on the lodge.
Fleece	If needed
Warm cap	Or balaclava if you prefer. Only when needed
Gloves	if needed
Thermal underwear	If needed
Rain Jacket	If not in a backpack
Rain Pants	if needed for warmth.
Wet ones and insect repellent	Can be here or in backpack, depending on how things fit best.
Bootlaces	A spare, just in case.
Sandals	For wearing in the lodge, etc.
Umbrella	If not in a backpack
Photocopies	Of Passports, in case of emergency.
Plastic bags	For wet stuff, etc.

Linda's Rollaboard

A slightly larger rollaboard, which can be expanded for the return trip to hold items bought on the trip, etc., when we

Item	Comment
Shirts	Three, plus the one .Treated with Permethrin. Quick drying, not cotton, no matter what they say.
Pants	Two, plus what is worn on the plane. Also treated with Permethrin. Quick drying. That way, you can get away without rain pants, unless you need those for warmth.
T-Shirts	Two quick-dry.
Underpants	Several pairs of quick dry.
Socks	Lots of these. They take forever to dry, so you will want to rely on the lodge.
Fleece	If needed
Warm cap	And balaclava in Linda's case
Gloves	
Thermal underwear	If needed
Rain Jacket	If not in a backpack
Rain Pants	if needed for warmth.
Hat	
Wet ones and insect repellent	Most of the supply should be here, with just enough for a day or so in pockets.
Sandals	For wearing in the lodge, etc.
Umbrella	If not in a backpack
Photocopies	Of Passports, in case of emergency.
Plastic bags	For wet stuff, etc.
Gown for sleeping	
Bra	
Scarf	
Trekking Poles	We found some that will fit in a rollaboard. These can be taken apart to fit, just barely.
Binocular Repair Kit	Stuff we've found useful in the past. Spare eyecup, several cable ties, etc. (Or Jim's depending)
Bathing suit	Just in case
Back Brace	We've needed this in the past.

What we don't take

If one of these items is needed on the trip, we give up and plan to check a bag. That's a different checklist. Basically,

Item	Comment
Personal Mosquito Nets	Take up too much room. We don't usually go where this is critical.
Extra clothing	We have managed to get by on what is listed above. Sometimes we find room for "one nice outfit."
Telescope	No room for a decent tripod
Rubber boots	There is no way to pack these into a rollaboard