

CARRY-ON LUGGAGE GUIDE (International Travel Only)



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Many tourists choose to bring carry-on luggage with them when traveling abroad since the cost is included in the booking. However, because carry-on luggage size varies from airline to airline, it's often confusing for travelers to figure out what size luggage to fly with.

Most airlines charge around \$30/\$35 for the first checked bag, with a second bag costing between \$45 and \$50. To avoid paying a costly fee for overweight luggage, you'll need to plan, and that includes knowing what kind of carry-on bag is acceptable on your airline of choice.

The Exact Size of Carry-On Luggage

The dimensions of the standard domestic carry-on luggage size are 22" x 14" x 9" (with a maximum linear size of 45 inches) or 56 x 35 x 23 centimeters, including the handle and the wheels. However, luggage size can vary from airline to airline and can be different for international flights.

Be sure to measure the height of your luggage from the floor to the top of the handle in its lowered position (wheels included). Depth is measured from front to back and width is measured from side to side.

Weight restrictions for carry-on luggage can also vary according to the airline you are flying with. For example, Aer Lingus and Icelandair only allow carry-on bags up to 22 pounds (10 kgs), while Play Airlines restricts carry-on luggage at 26 pounds/12 kg. All the others mentioned in this guide do not have specific weight restrictions on carry-on baggage. However, it is a given that your carry-on must fit in the overhead bin.

In this guide, you'll find the carry-on specifications for carry-on luggage on transatlantic flights from North America to Ireland.

Airlines that Fly to Ireland from North America

Carry-On/Personal Item Allowances

Airline	Dimensions Height/Width/Depth	Weight Pounds/Kgs	Free Personal Item Height/Width/Depth
<u>Aer Lingus</u>	21.5"x15.5"x9.5" 55x40x24 cm	One 22lb/10 kg bag	10"x13"x8" 25x33x20 cm
<u>Air Canada</u>	21.5"x15.5"x9" 55x40x23 cm	No weight limit	13"x17"x6" 33x43x16 cm
<u>Air Transat</u>	21.5"x15.5"x9" 55x40x23 cm	No weight limit	12.20"x16"x5" 31x43x13 cm
<u>American Airlines</u>	22"x14"x9" 56x35x23 cm	No weight limit	18"x14"x8" 45x35x20 cm
<u>Delta Airlines</u>	22"x14"x9" 56x35x23 cm (not to exceed 45 linear in/115 cm)	No weight limit	No specifications mentioned
<u>Icelandair</u>	21.6"x15.7"x7.8" 55x40x20 cm	One 22lb/10 kg bag Two 22lb/10 kg bags* (*Saga Premium Flex fare only)	15.7"x11.8"x5.9" 40x30x15 cm
<u>United</u>	22"x14"x9" 56x35x23 cm	No weight limit	17"x10"x9" 43x25x22 cm
<u>Jet Blue</u>	22"x14"x9" 55.88x35.56x22.86 cm	No weight limit	17"x13"x8" 43.2x33x20.32 cm
<u>Play Airlines</u>	22"x18"x7.10" 56x45x25 cm	One 26 lb/12 kg	17"x13"x10" (10 kg) 42x32x25 cm
<u>WestJet</u>	21"x15"x9" 53x38x23 cm	No weight limit	16"x13"x6" 41x33x15 cm

Where to Find More Information on Weight and Height Specifications

Since the information in the above table can change at any time, I suggest that you check the baggage policies of the airline you are flying with. The following links refer to the above airlines.

Aer Lingus: [aerlingus.com/prepare/bags/carry-on-baggage](https://www.aerlingus.com/prepare/bags/carry-on-baggage)

Air Canada: [aircanada.com/us/en/aco/home/plan/baggage/carry-on.html#](https://www.aircanada.com/us/en/aco/home/plan/baggage/carry-on.html#)

Air Transat: [airtransat.com/en-CA/Travel-information/Baggage](https://www.airtransat.com/en-CA/Travel-information/Baggage)

American Airlines: [aa.com/i18n/travel-info/baggage/carry-on-baggage.jsp](https://www.aa.com/i18n/travel-info/baggage/carry-on-baggage.jsp)

Delta Airlines: [delta.com/us/en/baggage/carry-on-baggage](https://www.delta.com/us/en/baggage/carry-on-baggage)

Icelandair: [icelandair.com/support/baggage/allowance](https://www.icelandair.com/support/baggage/allowance)

United Airlines: [united.com/en/us/fly/baggage.html](https://www.united.com/en/us/fly/baggage.html)

Jet Blue: [jetblue.com/at-the-airport/baggage-information](https://www.jetblue.com/at-the-airport/baggage-information)

Play Airlines: [flyplay.com/en/baggage](https://www.flyplay.com/en/baggage)

WestJet: [westjet.com/en-us/baggage#baggage-carry-on](https://www.westjet.com/en-us/baggage#baggage-carry-on)

What are Considered Personal Items?

This could be anything from a laptop, a purse/small handbag, shoulder bag, or a briefcase. The general rule of thumb is that a personal item should be smaller in dimension and weight than your carry-on bag and must fit underneath the seat in front of you at take-off and landing.

If you are traveling with children, you may take a stroller to the door of the airport, where airport staff will store it for you.

What is the Best Luggage to Buy?

While the best luggage to buy is ultimately the brand that suits each individual traveler, there are some types of luggage that are better than others. They include something that is sturdy and is ideally on wheels.

Some of the most popular luggage brands include [Samsonite](#), [Kenneth Cole Reaction](#), as well as a variety of luggage choices from [Amazon Basics](#).

The Carry-On Luggage Features to Consider

When choosing carry-on luggage, there are different styles to consider. That includes hard- and soft-sided luggage.

Hard-sided luggage is best if you are carrying breakable items. This type of luggage also offers better security because it doesn't have outside pockets or zips that can be easily accessed by thieves. The inside has some organizational features that are like packing cubes, perfect for the Type A traveler. Hard-sided luggage is, however, more expensive.

Soft-sided carry-on luggage is cheaper and lighter, is more flexible and can conform to tight spaces. The expandable nature of soft-sided luggage is that you can pack more than you expected, although be aware of your airline's weight restrictions. Exterior and interior pockets are great for including last-minute items.

Wheeled luggage is a must if you're traveling long distances and especially if you are bringing a carry-on bag through the airport. There are different types, but four-wheelers seem to be the easiest to handle because each wheel swivels 360 degrees, meaning you won't have to drag your luggage, and that means less strain on your body.

What Can You Put into Your Carry-on Luggage?

While firearms, lithium batteries and other hazardous items are forbidden in carry-on and checked-in luggage, there are other restrictions that you should know about.

They include specific restrictions on various types of liquids that are not allowed in carry-on bags. No containers of liquids, pastes, aerosol, gels, or creams larger than 3.4 ounces (100 ml) are allowed through security.

Some of the items mentioned in this article are affiliate links and I may make a small commission if you choose to buy from those websites.