

"Weird Florida" Packing List: 25 Oddball Essentials You Forgot to Pack

STOP PAYING TOURIST PRICES FOR THINGS YOU ALREADY OWN. A NO-BS CHECKLIST FROM AMERICANTRAVEL.FUN.

 **Hey Traveler!**

You packed the swimsuit. You packed the shorts. You even packed the Mickey ears. But Florida is a weird place. It has aggressive bugs, tolls that haunt you by mail, and rain that falls horizontally. I put together this list of 25 "Oddball" Items that most people forget. These are the things that separate the rookies from the pros. Save this list, check it twice, and save yourself a ton of money.

– Chuck, American Travel Fun





The "Don't Get Ripped Off" Drive Kit

1. YOUR E-ZPASS OR SUNPASS TRANSPONDER
DO NOT USE THE RENTAL CAR'S PASS! THEY CHARGE THE TOLL PLUS A \$15/DAY "CONVENIENCE FEE." E-ZPASS NOW WORKS IN FLORIDA. BRING YOURS FROM HOME.

2. A CHEAP WINDSHIELD SUNSHADE
RENTAL CARS NEVER HAVE THESE. FLORIDA PARKING LOTS TURN CARS INTO OVENS. BUY A CHEAP \$5 ONE AT A DOLLAR STORE BEFORE YOU FLY DOWN. YOUR HANDS WILL THANK YOU.

3. A DASHBOARD PHONE MOUNT
RENTAL CARS SOMETIMES CHARGE FOR GPS, AND HOLDING YOUR PHONE IS ILLEGAL IN WORK ZONES/SCHOOL ZONES. BRING A CHEAP VENT CLIP MOUNT FOR WAZE/GOOGLE MAPS.

4. SMALL BILLS (\$1S AND \$5S)
FOR TIPPING SHUTTLE DRIVERS, VALETS, AND BELLHOPS. IN A DIGITAL WORLD, CASH IS STILL KING IN FLORIDA HOSPITALITY.

5. A PAPER MAP (YES, REALLY)
CELL SERVICE IN THE EVERGLADES OR DEEP PARTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA CAN BE SPOTTY. A PHYSICAL MAP DOESN'T LOSE SIGNAL.





The Weather & Body Survival Kit



6. BODY GLIDE (ANTI-CHAFING STICK)

FLORIDA = HUMIDITY = SWEAT = CHAFING. IF YOU ARE WALKING DISNEY OR THE BOARDWALK, THIS SAVES YOUR THIGHS.



7. LIQUID I.V. / HYDRATION PACKETS

WATER ISN'T ENOUGH WHEN YOU'RE SWEATING OUT ALL YOUR SALT. ADD THESE TO YOUR WATER BOTTLE TO PREVENT THE "DISNEY HEADACHE."



8. BABY POWDER (THE SAND HACK)

HEADING TO THE BEACH? SPRINKLE BABY POWDER ON WET, SANDY LEGS. THE SAND FALLS RIGHT OFF. MAGIC.



9. BABY OIL (THE NO-SEE-UM HACK)

MOSQUITO SPRAY DOESN'T ALWAYS STOP "NO-SEE-UMS" (SAND FLEAS). THEY CAN'T BITE THROUGH BABY OIL. SLATHER IT ON YOUR ANKLES AT SUNSET.



10. A BATTERY-OPERATED NECK FAN

YOU MIGHT FEEL SILLY WEARING IT, BUT YOU WILL BE THE ONLY PERSON NOT MISERABLE IN LINE FOR SPACE MOUNTAIN.



11. DISPOSABLE PONCHOS (THE 10-PACK)

DO NOT BRING AN UMBRELLA; THE WIND DESTROYS THEM. DO NOT BUY PONCHOS AT THE PARK (\$15). BUY THEM AT THE DOLLARSTORE (\$1.25) AND THROW THEM AWAY WHEN WET.



The Weather & Body Survival Kit



12. TWO PAIRS OF CHEAP SUNGLASSES
THE OCEAN CLAIMS AT LEAST ONE PAIR PER TRIP. LEAVE THE OAKLEYS AT HOME; BRING THE GAS STATION SHADES.



13. A LIGHTWEIGHT HOODIE
YES, IN FLORIDA. THE AC IN RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS IS SET TO "CRYO-FREEZE." YOU WILL FREEZE INDOORS WITHOUT IT.



14. MOLESKIN OR BLISTER BAND-AIDS
YOU WILL WALK 20,000 STEPS A DAY. APPLY MOLESKIN THE SECOND YOU FEEL A "HOT SPOT" ON YOUR HEEL.





The "Hotel & Condo" Fixes

15. A CHEAP POWER STRIP

HOTELS NEVER HAVE ENOUGH OUTLETS, ESPECIALLY FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR WITH PHONES, IPADS, AND WATCHES. (NOTE: CRUISE SHIPS DON'T ALLOW THESE, BUT HOTELS DO).

16. CLOTHESPINS OR CHIP CLIPS

TWO USES: 1) CLIP YOUR BEACH TOWEL TO YOUR CHAIR SO IT DOESN'T BLOW AWAY. 2) CLIP THE HOTEL CURTAINS SHUT SO THE MORNING SUN DOESN'T WAKE YOU UP.

17. A POP-UP MESH HAMPER

STOP THROWING DIRTY LAUNDRY ON THE FLOOR. THESE FOLD FLAT IN YOUR SUITCASE AND KEEP THE HOTEL ROOM TIDY.

18. ZIPLOC BAGS (GALLON & QUART)

THE ULTIMATE WATERPROOF PHONE CASE. ALSO GREAT FOR PACKING WET SWIMSUITS ON TRAVEL DAY OR HOARDING SNACKS FROM THE BREAKFAST BUFFET.

19. A NIGHTLIGHT

HOTEL BATHROOMS ARE PITCH BLACK. DON'T STUB YOUR TOE AT 3 AM.

20. LAUNDRY DETERGENT PODS (JUST 3)

EVEN IF YOU DON'T PLAN TO DO LAUNDRY, SOMEONE WILL SPILL KETCHUP ON THEIR FAVORITE SHIRT.



The Beach & Park "Extras"



21. WATER SHOES

NOT ALL FLORIDA BEACHES ARE SOFT SAND. SOME ARE CRUSHED SHELLS (SANIBEL) OR ROCKY. PROTECT YOUR FEET.



22. A WATERPROOF LANYARD POUCH

KEEP YOUR PHONE/CREDIT CARD AROUND YOUR NECK AT THE WATER PARK.



23. A COOLING TOWEL

WET IT, SNAP IT, WRAP IT AROUND YOUR NECK. IT LOWERS YOUR BODY TEMP BY A FEW DEGREES INSTANTLY.



24. AN INSULATED WATER BOTTLE (YETI/HYDROFLASK)

PLASTIC BOTTLES GET WARM IN 5 MINUTES. YOU NEED INSULATED STEEL TO KEEP ICE FROZEN IN THE FLORIDA HEAT.



25. A CARABINER

CLIP YOUR WATER BOTTLE, HAT, OR SANDALS TO THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR BACKPACK TO SAVE SPACE INSIDE.

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