

PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Scuba Dive Trip Packing List

A practical pre-trip checklist for certified dive travelers. Use it before the suitcase closes, then confirm local rules, operator requirements, medical questions, and airline restrictions before departure.

Safety boundary: This PDF supports travel packing. It does not replace training, local dive briefings, gear servicing, medical advice, emergency procedures, or your dive computer and instructor/operator guidance.

1. Confirm Before You Pack

Do these checks before you decide what belongs in carry-on, checked luggage, or the rental request.

- Operator confirms which gear is included, which sizes are reserved, and what you must bring yourself.
- Your certification proof, recent experience, and planned dives match the operator's requirements.
- Final dive day leaves an appropriate pre-flight or altitude-travel buffer for your actual dive plan.
- Airline and airport rules are checked for lithium batteries, power banks, tools, liquids, and dive knives.
- Any prescription medication, seasickness plan, or health concern has been discussed with the right professional.
- Local reef, marine park, sunscreen, gloves, pointer, camera, and wildlife rules are understood.
- Travel insurance, dive coverage, emergency contacts, and operator contact details are available offline.

2. Documents And Proof

Keep proof and backup access separate from a single phone app whenever the trip depends on it.

- Passport, ID, visa or entry authorization, and copies stored separately from originals.
- Certification card or app access, plus a screenshot or printed backup if connectivity may be weak.
- Logbook or recent dive record if the operator may ask about experience or last dive date.
- Dive insurance or assistance membership details if you carry them.
- Operator booking confirmation, pickup time, address, and emergency phone number.
- Flight, hotel, liveaboard, resort, transfer, and cancellation-policy confirmations.
- Emergency contact card inside your wallet, phone, and boat/day bag.

3. Carry-On Dive Essentials

Carry the items that are difficult to replace, personally fitted, valuable, or needed if checked bags arrive late.

- Mask, prescription mask or spare contact lenses, and any strap or fit piece you rely on.
- Dive computer, charger, cable, spare strap, and allowed spare batteries or power bank.
- Regulator set if you are bringing your own and prefer not to check it.
- Camera, housing, o-rings, memory cards, chargers, and permitted spare batteries.
- Certification proof, medications, glasses, valuables, and one first-dive swimsuit or rashguard.
- Lightweight dry clothes, basic toiletries within liquid rules, and any must-have personal comfort item.
- Small save-a-dive pieces allowed by airline rules: mask strap, fin strap, clips, o-rings, and defog.
- Phone, charging cable, offline maps, operator contact details, and travel documents.

4. Checked Bag Or Rental Gear

Choose this section after the operator confirms rental availability, sizes, service standards, and adapters.

- BCD or rental reservation confirmed by size and style.
- Regulators serviced and packed securely, or rental regulator confirmed with DIN/yoke details.
- Fins, boots, socks, or open-heel setup matched to the destination and entries.
- Exposure protection: wetsuit, rashguard, hood, vest, gloves only where allowed, or rental size confirmed.
- Surface marker buoy, spool, whistle, cutting tool, or other safety items you are trained and allowed to use.
- Weights and tanks confirmed with the operator rather than packed for air travel.
- Mesh bag, gear tags, luggage scale, drying clips, and a plan for wet gear on the return trip.
- Spare straps, simple o-rings, mouthpiece, cable ties, and other destination-legal repair basics.
- Reef, wreck, current, cold-water, or liveaboard-specific items confirmed with the operator before packing.

5. Boat-Day Bag

Pack this as a separate repeatable kit so each dive morning does not become a suitcase search.

- Dry bag or dry pouch for phone, room key, wallet, documents, and spare layers.
- Reusable water bottle, electrolyte plan if useful, and snacks if the operator allows them.
- Hat, sunglasses, lightweight sun shirt, towel, and wind layer for boat rides.
- Reef-appropriate sun protection and a reminder to follow local marine-park rules.
- Seasickness supplies only if you already know they work for you and are appropriate for diving.
- Small personal first-aid basics for surface scrapes or blisters, within travel rules.
- Cash or card for tips, park fees, gear extras, lunch, transport, or unexpected local costs.
- Spare hair ties, anti-chafe balm, ear-safe comfort items, and a post-dive dry layer.

6. Clothing And Surface Comfort

Dive trips are hard on clothes because salt, sun, damp rooms, and repeated boat days make drying space matter.

- Quick-dry shirts, shorts, underwear, socks, sleepwear, and one cleaner travel outfit.
- Swimsuits: at least two, so one can dry while the other is in use.
- Sandals or deck-safe shoes, plus closed shoes if transfers or shore entries need them.
- Light rain shell or warm layer for boats, air-conditioned transfers, or windy surface intervals.
- Laundry bag, wet/dry separation bag, and a place to hang gear without damaging the room.
- Toiletries, lip balm, moisturizer, ear care, and destination-appropriate insect protection.
- Reading, notes, logbook, backup pen, and chargers for non-dive electronics.

7. Final 24-Hour Walkthrough

Run this once before departure and once before the first dive day.

- Dive computer turns on, battery is adequate, units are correct, and no-fly display is understood.
- Mask, fins, straps, buckles, mouthpiece, o-rings, and chargers are physically present.
- Operator knows your rental needs, certification level, pickup plan, and first-day timing.
- Batteries and power banks are in the correct bag and protected from short circuit.
- Any tools, cutting devices, liquids, or aerosols are packed according to current airline rules.
- Documents are available offline, and one backup copy is not inside the same bag as the original.
- The first dive day has water, sun protection, dry storage, and a realistic surface-interval plan.
- You can explain what you are renting, what you are carrying on, what is checked, and why.

Useful Trip Notes

Write destination-specific details here after your operator answers.

- Rental gear and sizes confirmed:
- First dive day pickup time and meeting point:
- Local reef, sunscreen, wildlife, camera, or marine-park rules:
- No-fly or altitude-travel buffer:
- Items to buy locally instead of flying with:
- Items to remove because this destination does not need them:

Source reminders to check before departure: FAA PackSafe battery rules; DAN guidance on flying after diving and medication considerations; local operator briefings; local marine-park and reef-protection rules. Printable from Dive Nomadic, updated May 19, 2026.