



## SUGGESTED SETUP FOR PACKING

1 × satchel-type bag

1 × backpack

1 × suitcase

That's it. Three pieces. Nothing more.

### The Satchel-Type Bag

Look, this doesn't \*need\* to be a satchel. You could use a (very) small backpack, as well which you wear on the front. A belt pack would also very well do the trick. The purpose of it is to keep your (what I will term here as) "vital" belongings. Be sure that it is easily accessible. By this, I mean that if you would need to take something out of it, you wouldn't have to do a contortionist's pose to reach whatever you're looking for. Also, make sure that it will not rip or tear up on you. (All this might seem common sense, but believe me, some people come here crazily and critically unprepared.)

"Regular" vital belongings might include:

Passport(s)

Plane ticket(s)

Wallet/purse

Cash

Mobile phone

earphones and charger (and plug adaptor)

What I suggest you add as your vital belongings:

Handkerchief

Wet wipes

Tissue paper

Small LED flashlight

Few band-aids

Glasses/Sunglasses

Pen and paper

A few pills (if you suffer from any condition)

Anything which you think you might need to survive for 24 hours (if ever you lost the other two pieces of luggage).

Notice that everything in the satchel must conform to the rules and regulations of air travel. That is, no knives, scissors, nail clippers, liquids and explosives etc. So, inform yourself if you're not sure of anything.

### The Backpack

The backpack is what you would carry as "hand" luggage.

Normally, you would be allowed 7-8 kg of hand luggage.

It is especially important to find out about your hand luggage weight allowance since my advice to you is to use up all the 7-8 kg.

The backpack I would advise you to get is one which is padded. Your backpack should be tough and be able to withstand you running with it and roughing it around. (This is very important and you will understand why in due time.)

Nothing but a backpack will do. Not a duffel bag, not a suitcase, not a trolley case. A backpack and only a backpack.

I also advise a backpack with many small pockets, inner pockets, padded pockets, multiple compartments, etc. This will enable you to pack your stuff in an orderly manner and it will be easier for you to retrieve anything you might need.

The Backpack will also be of great use to you after you make hijra as you will definitely have to move around in al-Shām, once you get here.

What you should ABSOLUTELY pack in the Backpack and not in the Suitcase:

[What I list here are items which will be of great use to you in al-Shām. If you can't afford stuff on this list, so be it, AlHamdulilLah, qaddar Allahu wa mā shā fa'al. You DON'T need to buy everything on this list before you make hijra. These are just items which would facilitate your stay here, but let not your making hijra depend on your ability to afford those items. One muhājir I met here came only with the clothes on his back and a few other belongings. Also, the fact that I list items in this article doesn't mean I own them or brought them here with me. Those are just suggestions .

One change of (clean) clothes. This is important in case your checked-in luggage (henceforth referred to as theSuitcase) gets lost or stolen. I've heard of people making hijra having their suitcases stolen, mind you, it happens. (It's not a random occurrence that I've put this on top of the list of things you should put in your backpack. If you can, even try to squeeze in 2 fresh change of clothes. If you can't pack the second one, at least pack some clean underwear.)

All of your electronics. Do NOT pack any electric/electronic equipment in the Suitcase. If you lose the Suitcase, you will regret doing so.

Examples of electronic equipment which would be handy here:

Tablet -

MP3 player - For lectures and Qur'an.

External HDD - Use a software to "hide" all jihādi material you might be bringing.

Solar charger (s) - I strongly advise you to invest in solar chargers for your electronics. This is very important since electricity is a big problem here. While electricity is indeed available, its provision is erratic and interrupted. On the other hand, there's an abundance of sun and solar energy which goes to waste. Also, using solar energy is ecological and gives you a certain amount of "independence". No doubt this will also bring you more ajr and hasanāt since you will be minimising wastage and polluting less. Wastage is not of the dīn. It doesn't mean that because you're making hijra, you can now start dirtying the Earth which belongs to Allah. Allahu a'lām. Take my advice and invest in solar chargers which are adapted to the electronics you possess and which are of good quality . The more you spend on your hijra from your own pockets, the more ajr you will reap. Keep this in mind.

#### Batteries and battery packs

Plug adaptors - The type of plug adaptors you should bring are Type C, E & F from this link (<http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>). It's better if you bring 2 or 3 small adaptors which are "adapted" to the plugs here than a single "all-in-one" but bulky travel adaptor which will cover up two adjacent plug spaces once you plug them in.

Hair clipper - If you're a brother, this is the quickest way to trim your moustache here, and if you like the Talafi buzzcut or egghead-style, then bring a bigger hair clipper. The ones which are cordless and work with rechargeable batteries are better.

Portable Wi-Fi Modem - These are available to buy here, but if you want you can bring yours, in shā Allah. Provided they're unlocked (or are all of them unlocked? I frankly don't know).

Flashlights I recommend you buy three (types) of flashlights/lamps:

One tactical flashlight. If you have the cash, go for anytype of military-grade one.

One headlamp. This is a very important piece of equipment which you would never regret investing in. You don't need to buy the most expensive ones. Go for the cheaper ones in a sober colour and that will be good enough, in shā Allah.

One lantern-type (camping) lamp. They're good for illuminating a room and for other uses such as eating and whatnot.

Sturdy hardcover notebook and pens . You need to keep written record and notes of everything you learn here and nothing beats hardcopy.

Jacket . Extremely important piece of clothing. I would advise to invest good money on a jacket. It should be able to protect you from rain and from the cold. There are new materials available nowadays which are very thin and light yet, they offer excellent protection from rain and cold.

Don't go for a bulky jacket as they are very inconvenient. You can also bring cardigans.

Footwear . If you can get your hands on military boots, they're worth your money. Bring also one pair of running trainers which have good shock-absorbent soles. Hiking shoes are not bad either. Go for high-tops or anything which offer ankle-protection. Sandals (with straps) and flip-flops don't hurt either.

Socks . Thick, sports-/military-/hiking-grade socks. Around 4 pairs are enough, bi-idhniLah.

Insoles . Bring any foot protection which you can afford to. Insoles are very helpful. Ankle-support contraptions, as well.

Gloves . Shooting gloves, gloves for protection against the cold. Whatever you can get your hands on (or into!).

Knee-protection and elbow-protection . VERY important piece of equipment. Essential if you have weak and easily-bruised elbows & knees. This is something you want to bring with you since there is much crawling you will have to do here.

Beanie hat and other headwear . To protect your head against the cold.

Spare glasses/Goggles-type glasses . If you wear glasses, bringing spare ones is essential. If you can get yourself some goggles-type (maybe they're called by some other name, I don't know) ones, as well, they will come in handy.

Camelbaktype water reservoir . If you can invest in a good Camelbak backpack, you could use that itself as \*the\* Backpack I'm describing in this post.

Bottle . And sports water bottle would do, as well.

Binoculars . Or a monocular. Not extremely essential but helpful enough. Worth your money if you have extra cash.

Compass . Again, not extremely essential, but if you own one, bring it.

Measuring tape. A small 3-metre one would do.

Carabiners and S-biners . Those are the little things which you will regret not bringing. Very helpful if you have a good idea how they can be of use to you.

The idea here is to pack anything which is "of value" to you. Always think in terms of: "What if I lost the Suitcase? What would I regret losing?"

#### The Suitcase

The Suitcase is the piece of luggage which I would allow you the most freedom to choose, but it should be your ONLY checked-in piece of luggage. (Anyways, most airlines allow you only a single piece of checked-in luggage.) Why am I adamant on a single suitcase? This is because you have to be as mobile as possible. Having the Satchel strapped across your shoulder, the Backpack weighing 7-8 kg on your back, you can't afford to drag along much more. So one light suitcase is what I recommend. Holding it with one hand, you still have your other hand free, giving you the opportunity to switch hands if you're tired.

Ideally, I would recommend that you choose a "backpacking" backpack. Those big backpacks are very convenient since you can sling them on your back, wear your Backpack in front, with your Satchel peeking on the side. This allows you to have both of your hands free and running will be a tad easier, bi-idhniLah.

A trolley case is not bad either however, most trolley cases are very heavy (around 3-4 kg) and every extra kilogramme will add to the difficulty of your journey. Be very mindful of this.

A duffel bag is also alright. It's light but it's not as robust as a trolley case might be. Anyhow, choose a tough one which won't give up on you.

#### What to pack in your Suitcase:

Some clothes. Bring only the strict minimum (okay, so some sisters fainted after reading this bit, but continue reading, in shā Allah). By this, I mean, in addition to your 2 change of clothes in the Backpack, bring an additional 2 fresh change of clothes. Examples of pieces of clothing which would be helpful:

Your trousers should be hard-wearing and even military grade, if you can afford. Camping-grade or hunting-grade would be also very useful.

Trousers with multiple (side) pockets are very useful.

Sports T-shirts are very good. Choose fast-drying materials.

Long-johns, for winter

Any kind of inner garment to protect from the cold.

Cardigans and/or hoodies

Underwear

Sleeping bag . Very useful. Here you might have to sleep in uncommon places at odd hours and a bed or mattress will not always be available.

Toiletries . Toothbrush, toothpaste and stuff.

Skin lotion and hand lotion if you have dry skin.

Nail clippers/cutters . To me, those are essential.

Utensils . Camping utensils mostly. Those are not essential, but nice to have.

Spork. (You don't know what a spork is? Shame.)

Foldable/Collapsible cup

Camping plate

Sewing kit . Here, if you rip your trousers, you will most probably have to stitch them up (yourself) before you get the opportunity to buy new ones.

First-aid kit . If you can afford a small one, Al-HamdulilLah.

Medication and medical supplies . If you suffer from any condition, pack some of the meds you need. Chances are you might not get them here as readily as you can in your country.

Knives. The only reason why you should be packing this in the Suitcase and not in the Backpack is because of flying constraints: you can't bring knives in your hand luggage, but you can in your checked-in luggage. However, depending on where you're coming from, you should think long and hard before taking the risk of bringing knives (even in your checked-in luggage). If you're going through airports with heightened security like those of America or UK, you should be extra careful. Pray istikhāra if you must. I strongly recommend you to bring knives because they're essential tools here, there isn't one day I spent here where I didn't have to use my knife. Also, knives here are scarce and those available are of very, very low quality (and that's putting it nicely), so bringing your own is a must.

@Abdul\_Aliy\_3

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