



Eagle Creek pack-it system review

Transcript 030

September 2007

- Linda: Welcome to the Indie Travel Podcast, episode 30. This week, we're recording in Zwettl, Lower Austria. And by "we", I actually mean "me", because unfortunately Craig is quite sick and he's got absolutely no voice. Since it's the second Friday of the month, it's review time, and this week we're talking about Eagle Creek's pack-it folding system.

Before we get into things though, I just wanted to remind you about Chris Christensen's podcast, the [Amateur Traveler](#). Two weeks ago we spoke to Chris about travelling in New Zealand - which is absolutely the best place in the world! And we thought we'd share a bit of the interview with you.

[excerpt from Amateur Traveler Podcast]

Craig and I really like the Amateur Traveler, it's one of our favourite travel podcasts, there's some really interesting things on there all the time. And we'll have a link to that show at www.indietravelpodcast.com. Craig also does some writing for the Amateur Traveler website, so we'll link to that, as well to the episode on advice for travelling in New Zealand - if you're new to the Indie Travel Podcast you can find episode 17: which is "Independent Travel in New Zealand" in the archives.

Right, so onto the actual content of this episode - we're talking about Eagle Creek's Pack-it folding system. Now what this is, is basically, a system for keeping your shirts and trousers flat in your bag. And the main component is actually just a really thin piece of plastic, about the dimensions of A4 paper, but a bit longer. And what you do, is you get your shirt, and you follow the very clearly detailed instructions on the piece of plastic, basically for guys so they don't get too confused by it. And you use the plastic to fold up your shirt, to fold up your trousers. You then put all of your clothes in the middle of the rest of the system. That is basically a piece of material with a hard base, it's rectangular as well, and then each of the sides of the rectangle have a triangular piece of material coming off it, with velcro on it. When you've put your shirts and

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trousers in the middle of it, you just fold the flaps in and they velcro together, and you've got a kind of a case of all your clothes. We travel for work, so we really need something like this to keep, well, for Craig to keep, all his shirts together. And it's really good. They're really good to stop things wrinkling. And it means that you've got everything all in one place.

If you're thinking about whether to get one of these, or just to use the scrunch system or the roll system, well, this does add a little bit of weight to your bag. But, I think it's great because it keeps your work clothes separate and clean. When we're backpacking, when we're actually on the road rather than working, Craig can just pack up all his work stuff and leave it to one side. So I think if you need to take any special events stuff with you, maybe you want to have a nice pair of trousers, a nice shirt, it's worth having something like this so you can keep your nice stuff away from your regular day-to-day stuff.

Another thing to think about, in some places around the world when you're travelling, you can expect to find an iron in your hotel, hostel or guesthouse. But unfortunately quite a lot of other places, especially Europe and a quite lot of Asia, there is not an iron to be found. We carry a travel iron with us, unfortunately, because it does add a lot of weight, but having a pack-it system minimises the need for an iron. Unfortunately you do get the fold lines on your shirts, but that can't be avoided, and at least your shirts are looking presentable, rather than completely scrunched.

Well, that's it for the pack-it folding system. Now I just want to give you a quick site update before I go.

We're thinking about starting to send out a monthly email newsletter that recaps what we've been talking about on the show as well as including some bonus material and maybe even some give-aways. Please let us know if you'd like this, or if you'd prefer to just stick to the audio.

We've also got quite a bit of listener email in the last couple of weeks, so thanks for that. We heard from Tamra from the USA, who wanted to let us know about www.couchsurfing.com, which is a site where you find a free place to stay in someone's home, or you can offer one to travellers. We've heard of it before but

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haven't had a go yet, I think we're a bit too nervous. She also recommends a good place to buy Vibram Five Fingers if you're in the United States and if you're interested in that. Check out the comments for episode 26, which is the Vibram Five Fingers review.

HM also left a comment on episode 18, our review of online hostel booking engines. He recommends www.hostelz.com as another alternative.

We also heard from Drew from www.budacast.hu - he has a really great podcast about Budapest. He commented on the last episode on budget travel, and says that the Hungarian for budget airlines translates as something like "wooden bench" travel, which we think is quite apt.

So, cheers to everyone for the feedback - both the people I've just mentioned and also to everyone else who contributes to the website and the conversation on there.

Going back to Tamra's email, we'd love to hear some first-hand couch-surfing experiences, so if you'd take the time to email us your stories and experiences, both good and bad - or if you're keen to do an interview about it, please get in touch with us: that's mail@indietravelpodcast.com or there's an online form at www.indietravelpodcast.com, just click on "contact".

Well, that's it: thanks again for listening, and hopefully Craig will be back next week. So until next week, travel well.

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