The Essential Packing Checklist for Flying With An Infant

Three Surprising Essentials for Flying with an Infant:
  1. A baby passport.
  2. An airplane bassinet/travel cot for long flights.
  3. A bribe bag for your fellow passengers.

What to pack in your carry-on when flying with baby
  □ Diapers: In your carry-on, you'll need one for each hour of transit, plus extras, BabyCenter recommends. Don't risk getting stranded without diapers during a travel delay.
  □ Diaper cream
  □ Changing pad
  □ Wipes for diaper changes and messes
  □ Plastic bags for wet or dirty clothes and diapers
  □ Burp cloths
  □ Nursing cover
  □ Blankets: Small ones for wrapping baby and a big one to place on the airport floor so baby can play
  □ Two changes of clothes for your baby
  □ Change of clothes for yourself
  □ Pacifiers
  □ Snacks, such as cereal, puffs, crackers, fruit
  □ Breast milk or formula: Both of these are exempt from the TSA's 3-ounce limit. Or try individual, pre-measured formula packets to mix with bottled water.
  □ Canned or jarred baby food: These items may be subject to additional TSA screening.
  □ Small cooler with ice packs
  □ Bottles
  □ Passport (if traveling overseas)
  □ Travel insurance documents: Remember that the Classic Plan from Allianz Global Assistance covers children aged 17 and under for free when they're traveling with a parent or grandparent.
  □ Consent letter from other parent if you're traveling solo
  □ First-aid kit
Allianz Global Assistance: List continued

- Infant medications, including antihistamine and acetaminophen, plus any prescriptions. Don’t give your baby Benadryl or another antihistamine unless your pediatrician recommends it.
- Oral rehydration unfrozen freeze pops: an essential, says Have Baby Will Travel
- Nasal aspirator and saline solution
- Toys and books
- DVD player or tablet with headphones, if baby will be entertained by these
- Passenger goody bags

What to pack in checked luggage when flying with baby

- Car seat: Most airlines will let you gate-check this for free. You can also arrange to rent one at your destination. If you've bought a seat for your baby, carry the car seat on board.
- Umbrella stroller: Same as above. Read the guidelines for gate-checking your car seat and stroller on Have Baby Will Travel, then double-check your airline’s policy.
- Backpack carrier
- Baby monitor and batteries
- Diapers: Calculate how many your baby uses per day, then pack a few extra.
- Wipes
- Rain and cold-weather gear (if applicable)
- At least two outfits per day with socks, packed in individual bags
- Shoes or booties
- Pajamas and sleep sacks
- Swimsuit and sunsuit
- Water shoes
- Swim diapers
- Baby laundry detergent
- Formula
- Baby food
- Baby fork, spoon and dishes
- Spill-proof snack cups
- Bottles or sippy cups
- Breast pump, if you use one
- Bibs
- Dish soap and brush
- Inflatable baby bathtub, if you're flying with an infant so young he/she needs one. Otherwise use the hotel sink.
- Baby shampoo/wash
- Baby toothbrush and toothpaste
- Baby comb, brush and hair ties
- Baby nail clippers
- Baby thermometer
- Sunscreen and sunhat
- Baby sunglasses
- Outlet plugs, doorknob covers, toilet locks and other safety devices for crawling babies or young toddlers
- Nightlight