

The Organized Overlander: Packing For Your Journey

By Stephanie Hackney

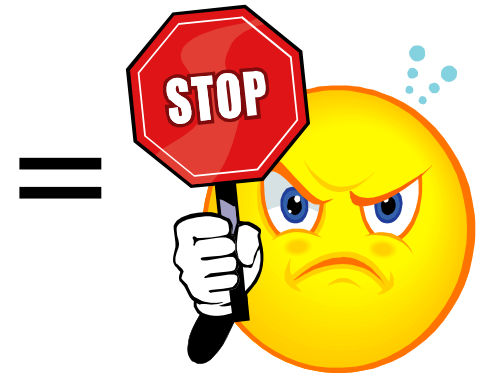
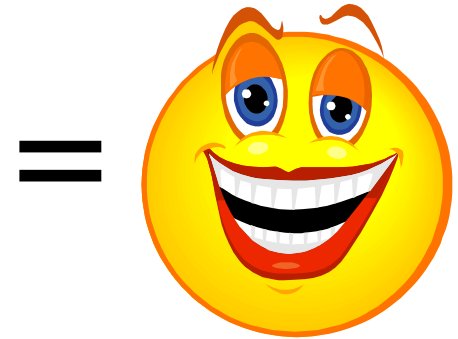


*Photos By: Doug Hackney, Scott Brady,
Kathy Stajic, Kemal Ertem*

My Background a.k.a. The Bonafides

- Travel History
 - Traveled through 44 countries, across 6 continents, *so far!*
 - Travel by foot, motorcycle, car, sailboat, overland vehicle, bus, train & plane
- Prior to Overlanding:
 - Military Brat: 21 moves by the age of 16
 - Event Management: 100+ corporate events, and hundreds of thousands of details, managed each year
 - Professional Organizer: provided organizing services to individuals & businesses
 - Business Travel: 75-150k+ miles and 150-200+ days per year

In the Good Old Days...



All of a Sudden, I Was Forced to Manage with...

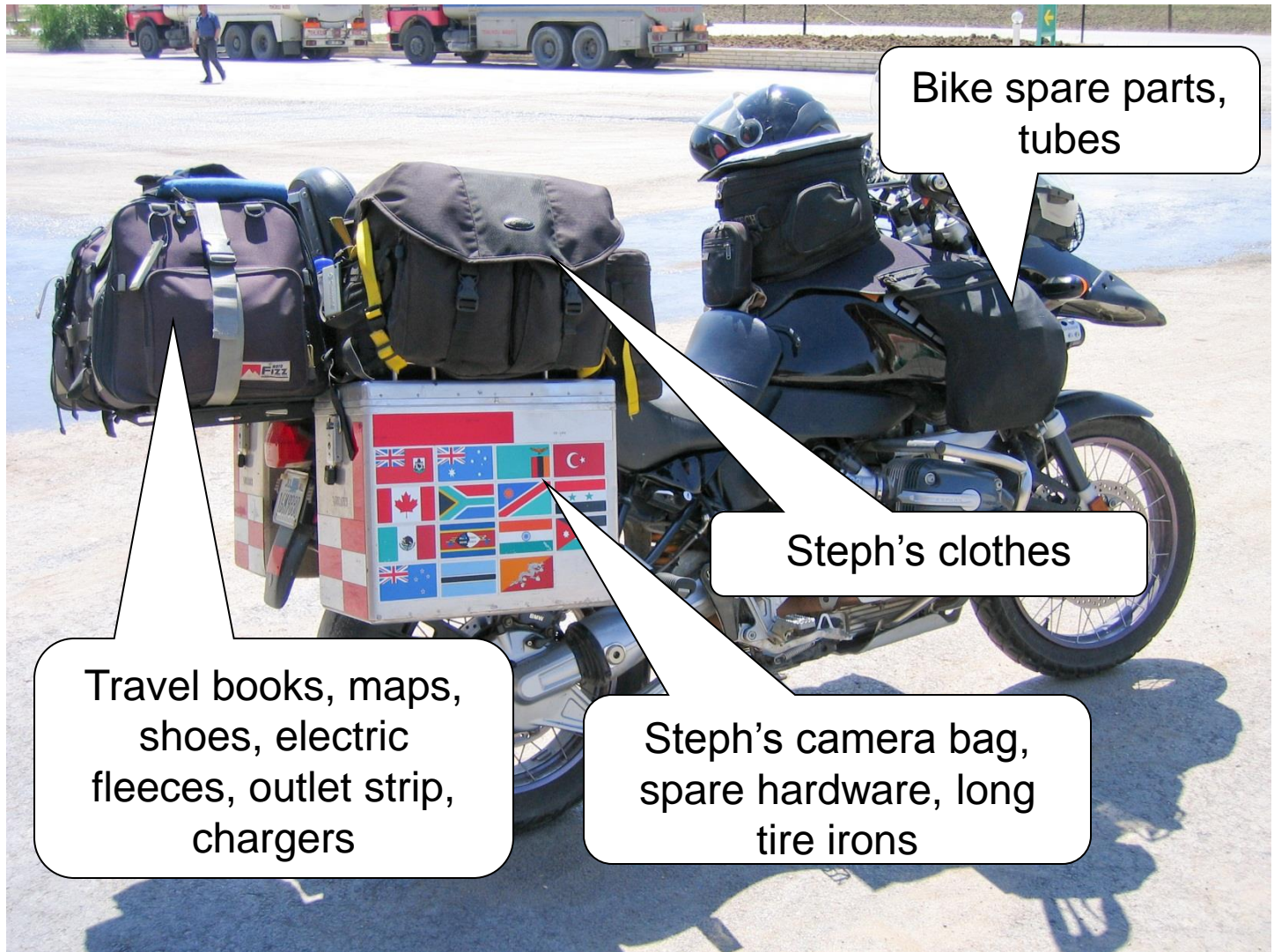
This!



Note the relative scale of my "new" bag compared to just one of my old, beloved bags!

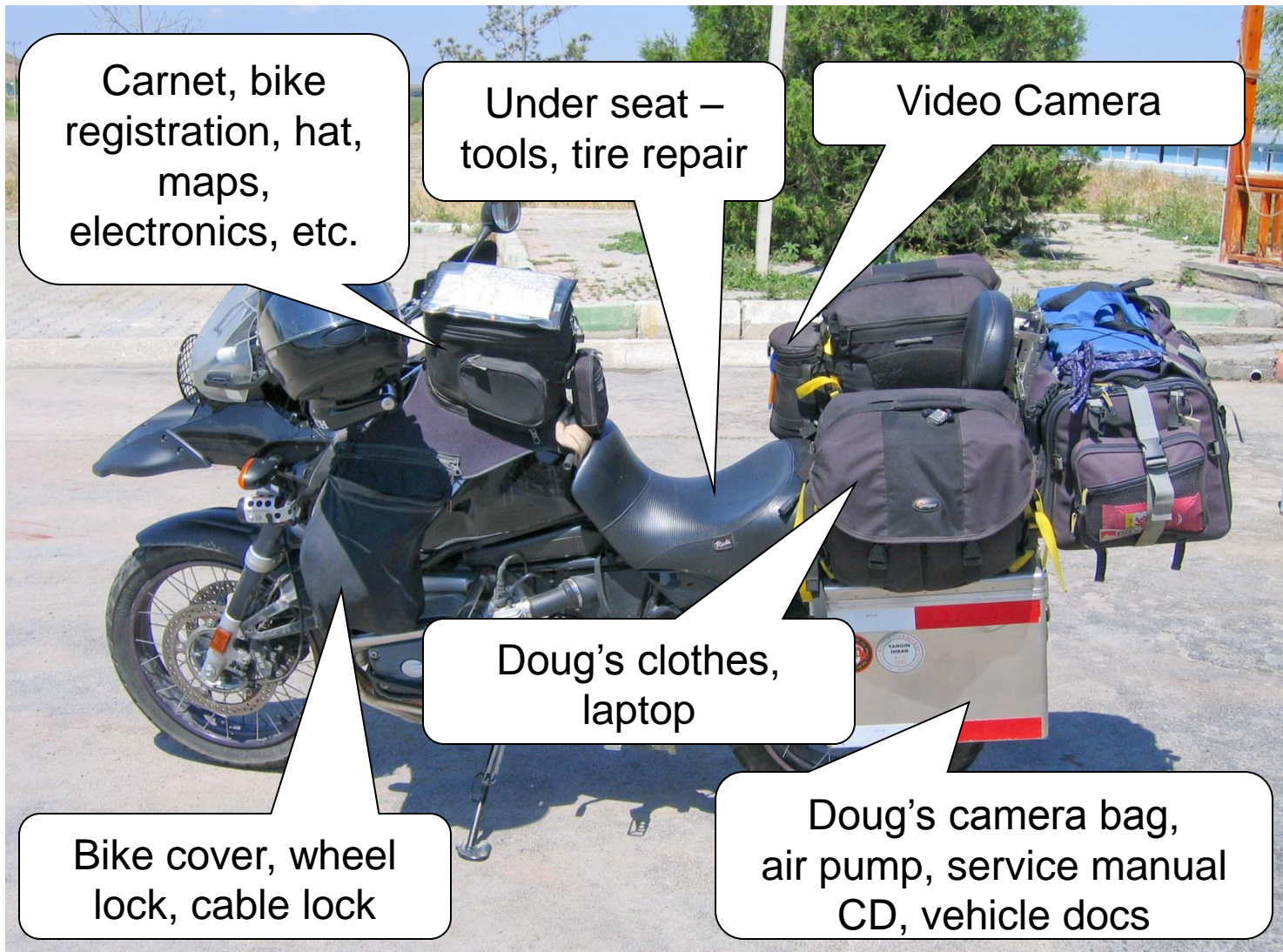


Total bike storage = 257.5 liters / 9.1 cubic feet



*Photo/Diagram: Douglas Hackney
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Total bike storage = 257.5 liters / 9.1 cubic feet



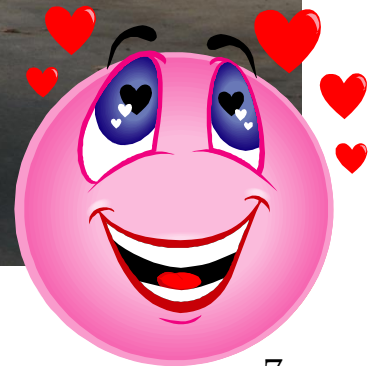
*Photo/Diagram: Douglas Hackney
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But Then, I Was Presented With...

This!

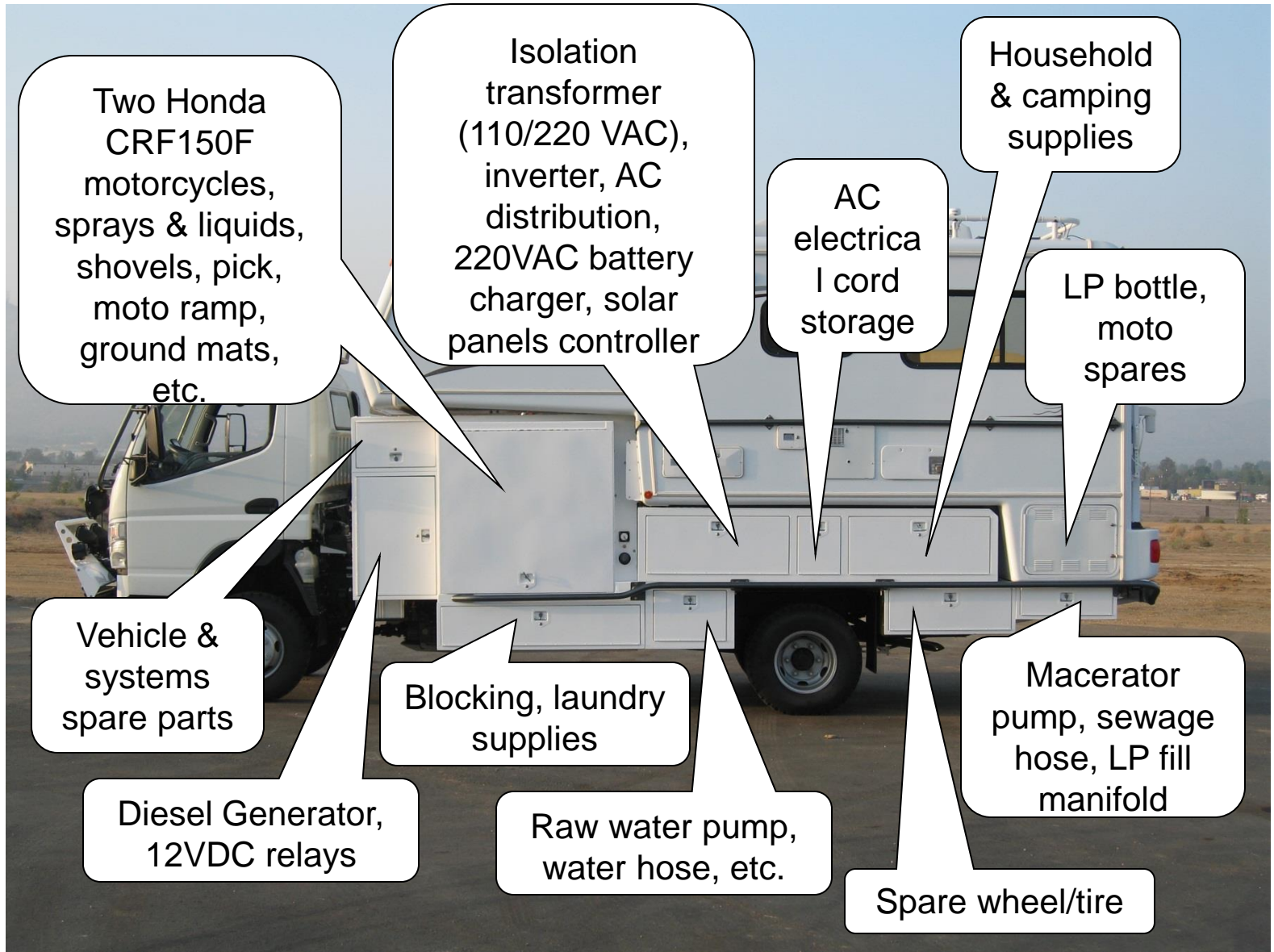


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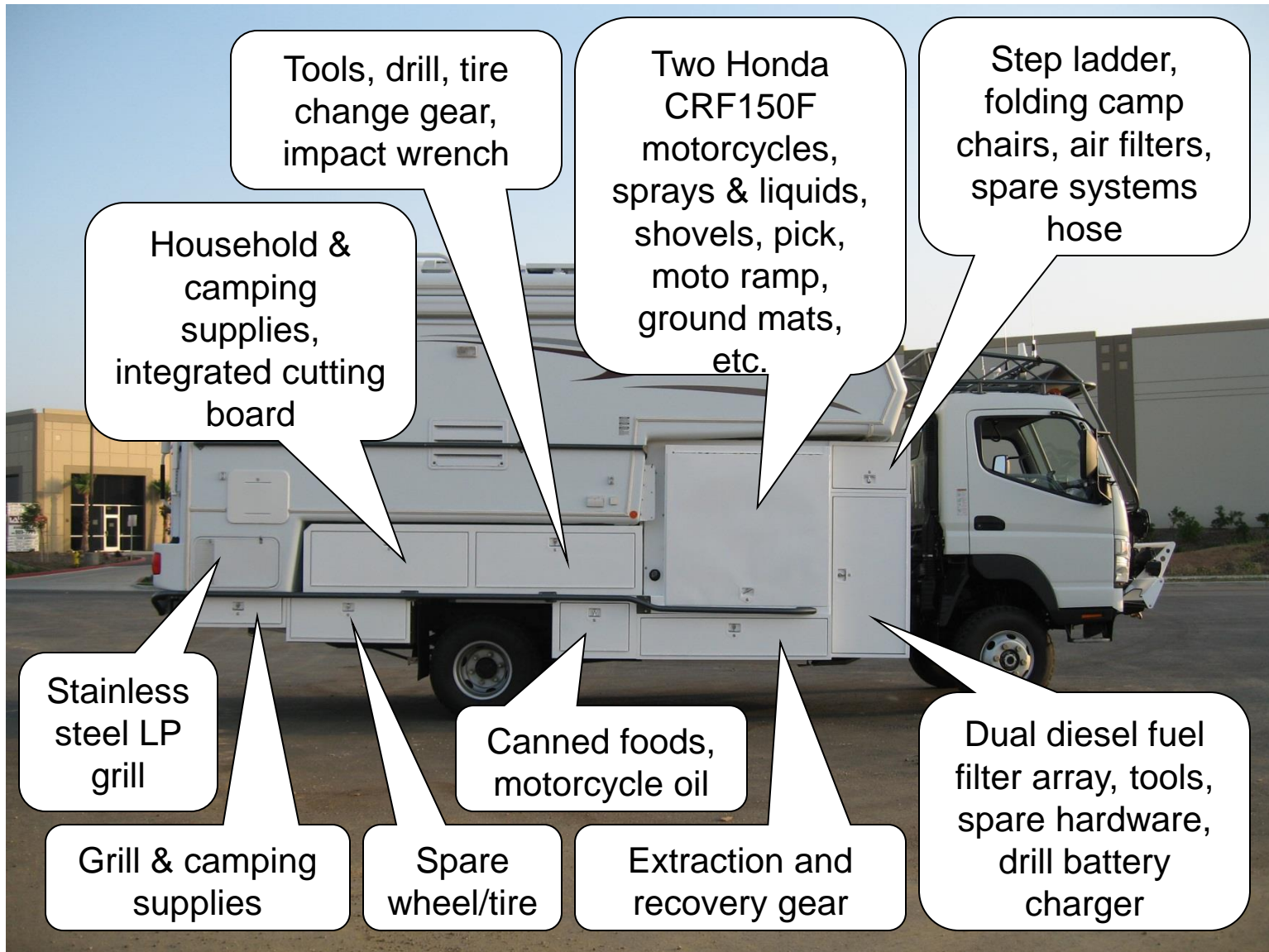
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Total storage: 360.99 cubic feet / 10.22 cubic meters /
10,222 liters



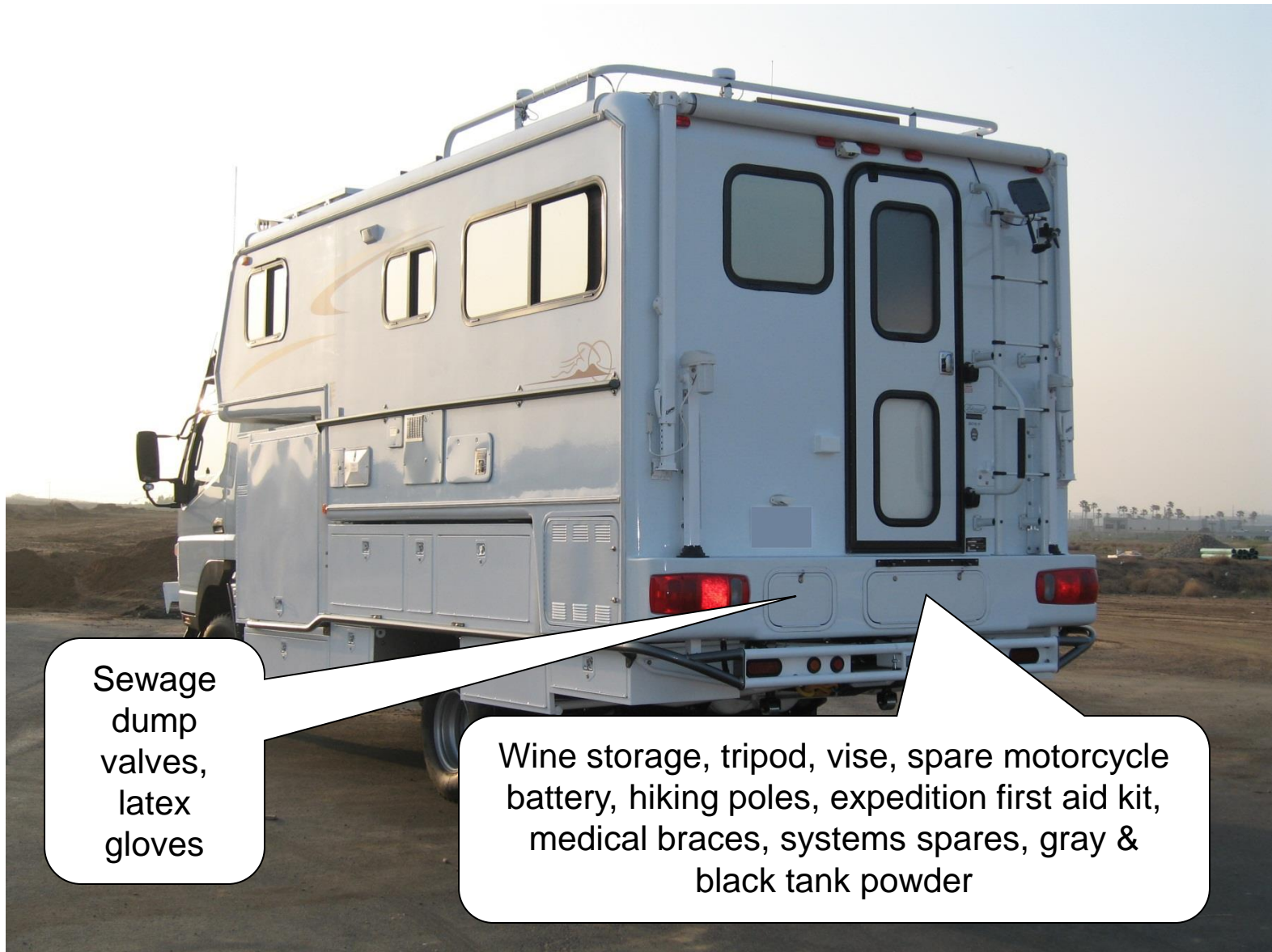
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Sewage
dump
valves,
latex
gloves

Wine storage, tripod, vise, spare motorcycle
battery, hiking poles, expedition first aid kit,
medical braces, systems spares, gray &
black tank powder

*Photo/Diagram: Douglas Hackney
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In Other Words:

A Heckofalotta Room!
Oh, Yeah!



What Did I Learn Through These Transitions?

- I still wore the same 10 items of clothing
- I still wasn't all that great at predicting how my time would be spent
- I still brought along things that were not used
- I still thought I would **NEED** way more than I actually did!

Today, You Will Learn...

- The most important principles of organizing
- How to distinguish between NEEDS and WANTS
- What items were beneficial vs. what was just an obligation when we traveled
- What items I recommend (*or simply adore!*)
- How to pack
- The answers to your specific questions

The Principles of Organizing

- Being organized is **NOT** about:
 - *Every thing* being perfect
 - *You* being perfect
- Being organized **IS** about being in control of:
 - Your Immediate Environment
 - Your Stuff
 - Your Time
 - Your Productivity
 - Your Money

Why & How Do We Acquire?

- 3,200 marketing messages a day, and darn good marketing!
 - We see how happy, successful and/or good looking the people who own item x are and we want to be them, to have their life!
- We surf the internet, visit the mall or watch infomercials when bored, unhappy or maybe even tipsy
- We can't resist a bargain
- We want to reward ourselves for working hard or accomplishing a goal
- We want to mark our time on earth
- We're trying to fill a void
- We want to impress others
- We have an addiction to acquisition
- We fear being without something at some time in the future
- We inherit items
- We receive gifts
- We actually NEED something

How Do I Get More Organized?

- **STOP** *unnecessary* acquisition. Period.
- Every time you are considering bringing something into your life, ask yourself these questions:
 - Do I LOVE it?
 - Do I really NEED it?
 - How often will I use it?
 - Can I borrow or rent it instead of buying it?
 - Do I need it NOW?
 - Can I get a better deal on it elsewhere?
 - Where will I store it?
 - Am I being realistic about my NEED for this, or is this more of a WANT?

The *Most* Important Concept...

***Everything* you allow
to come into your life
becomes an obligation
to YOU!**

And, much of this attention
involves your hard-earned dollars!

Before You Buy One Single Thing, Ask Yourself:

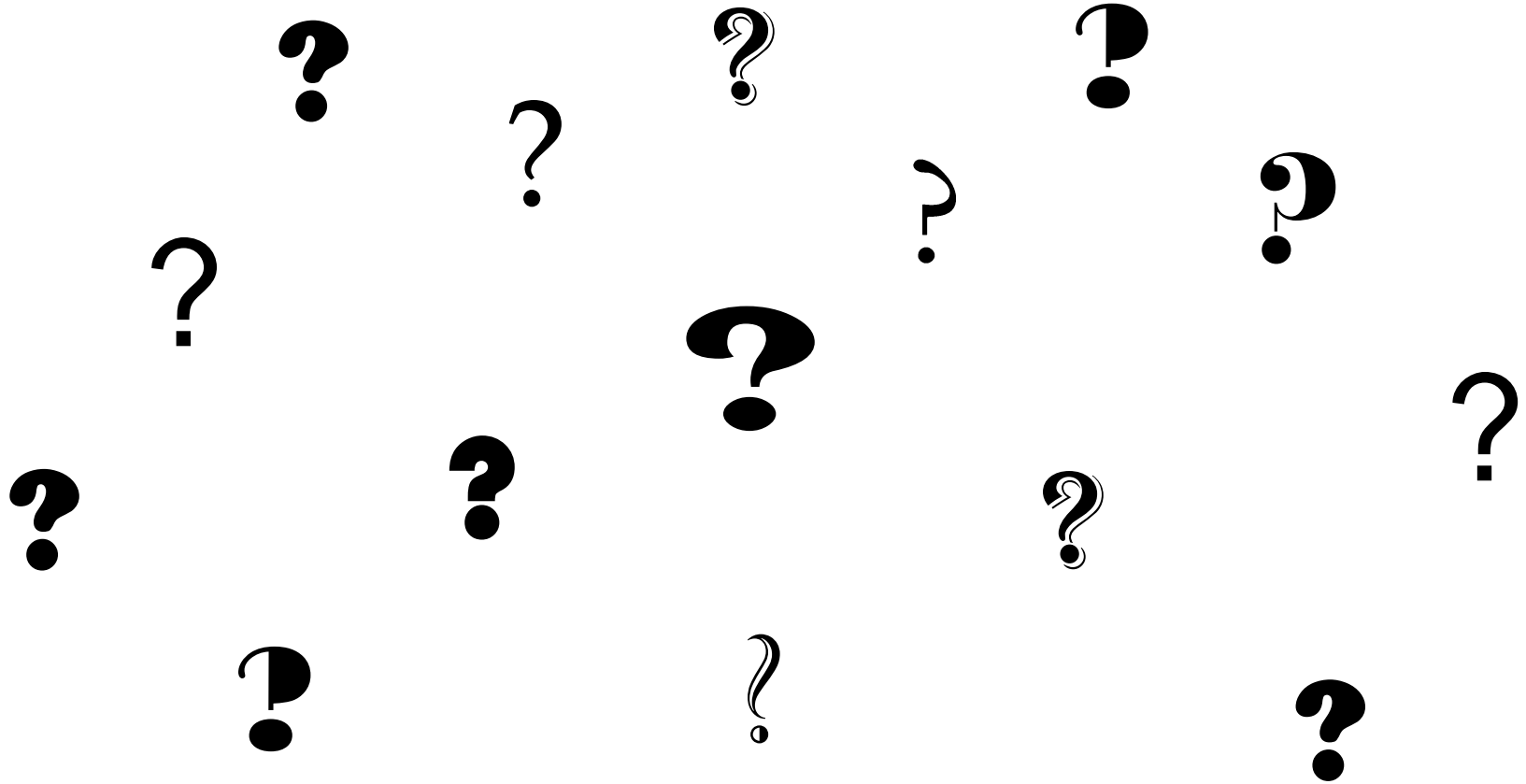
- Does This:
 - Enable Me To Reach My Travel Goals?
 - Enable or Restrict My Journey & Enjoyment?
 - Enable Me To Live Simply?
 - Communicate Who I Am?
 - Help Me *Become* Who I *Want to Be*?
- And, Is It:
 - *Worth Its Weight?*

***This IS
absolutely
worth its
weight!***



EVERYTHING
you bring
into your life
becomes an obligation
to you!

So, What Did We Take On *Our* Journey?



Too Much Stuff!



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Yes, It Was Well Organized, But...



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Next Time, We Would...

- ...start with basic NEEDS
- ...be more realistic about what we'll be doing with our time based on our:
 - Goals
 - Personalities
 - Destinations (& Research!)
- ...purge items as soon as we realized they would not likely be used
- ...have a scale on hand to weigh every item
- ... take less stuff!*

And, We'd Again Test, Test, Test!

- Practice packing and unpacking, in as many conditions as possible!
- Take test trips to places where you can try out your proposed “lifestyle”
- Keep a notebook/list of what works and what doesn't, what you use and what you wish you had along – get rid of the things you don't NEED!
- Prior to departing on your journey, test again with updated pack and inventory

Lastly, We'd Again Pack Our Stuff In An Organized Manner

- Start with your NEEDS and create a pack list
- Determine what can be eliminated from the list - remove it!
- Label everything, including all containers
- Pack like items together
- Make sure all items are in containers or otherwise protected
- Choose appropriate containers
 - Locking and clear, when possible
- Limit the work necessary to access items
- Store items where they will need to be accessed and used
- Keep valuables out of sight
- **IMPORTANT! ALWAYS** put items back where they belong!

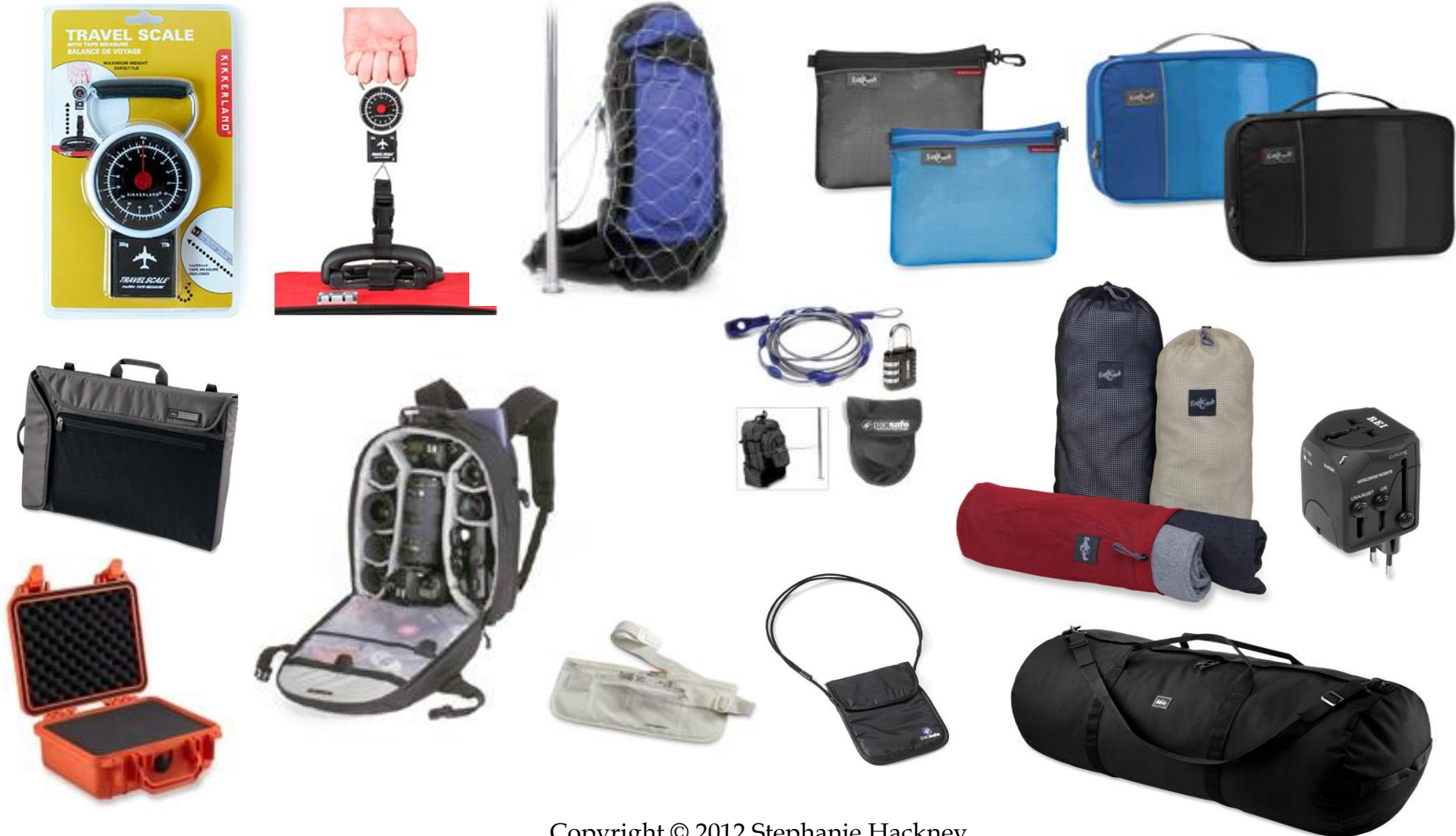
Still Not Convinced to Leave Most of The Stuff Behind? Then Consider...

- What will the roads be like where you're going?
- What is the weather like?
- How many borders will you likely cross?
- How important is ease of access to everything?
- Is it possible to purchase needed items at your destinations?
- Do you want to be able to collect souvenirs or buy gifts on your journey?
- Will you be OK leaving your vehicle if it's loaded with a lot of valuables?

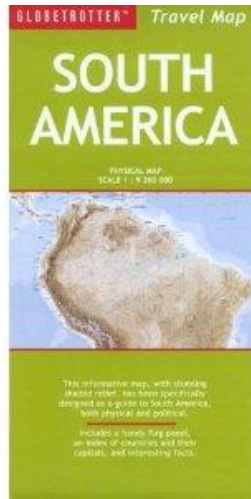
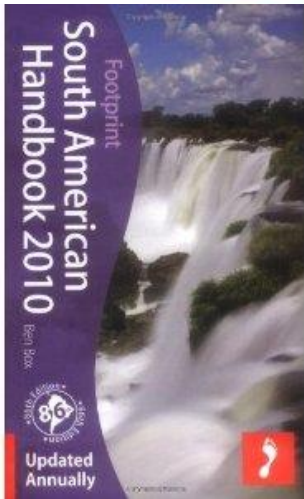
**And Now, The Moment You've All
Been Waiting For.....**

The Stuff!

On The Go: Packing/Traveling



On-The-Go: Driving

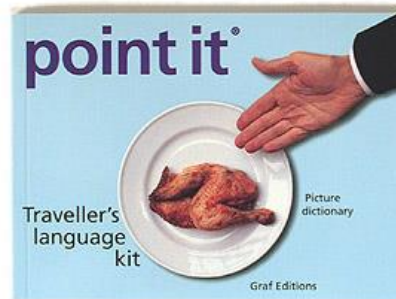


On-The-Go: Safety/Health



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Essentials: Shopping



Fresh Promotions

Essentials: Kitchen



Essentials: Kitchen



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Organization: Kitchen



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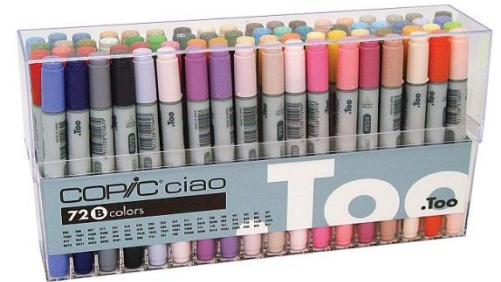
Essentials/Organization: Bathroom



Essentials/Organization: Living Area & Bedroom



Essentials: Entertainment



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Essentials: Clothing

- Quick-dry, rugged shirts, pants/shorts, socks and underwear (known as “travel clothing”)
- Rain-proof jacket
- Fleece shell(s)
- Wide-brim sun hat and/or baseball cap
- Shower shoes/Flip-flops
- Water shoes
- Good quality, waterproof hiking boots



FOR THE ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT
Clothing ▪ Footwear ▪ Gear

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Organization: Clothing/Closet



Organization: Paperwork & Data



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Some of My Favorite Products

- Footprint Guides, Moon Handbooks (Travel Books)
- Ziploc Baggies (Zipper Style)
- Eagle Creek Pack Cubes
- Moleskine Journals
- Royal Robbins Anywhere Pants
- LowePro Camera Bags
- PacSafes
- Canon Cameras
- Doctors Picks
- REI Camping Towels
- KnifeSafes
- Windex
- OXO Dish Brushes/Sponges
- Built NY Bottle Carriers
- Vapur Water Bottles
- Apple iPod/iPhone

Some of My Favorite Retailers

- The Container Store
- Organize.com
- OrganizeIt.com
- TJ Maxx/Marshall's/Homegoods
- Tuesday Morning
- Bed Bath & Beyond (*Linens & Things, RIP*)
- Target
- Big Lots
- Costco
- REI
- Amazon.com

Now Remember, No Matter *How* You Plan To Travel...



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It Ain't About The Stuff!

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Questions?

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