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Packing for Travel

With the long weekend just about here, everyone is thinking summer and holidays. Holidays mean travel and that means packing. While I'm good at packing clothing, I'm absolutely hopeless when it comes to jewellery. So much so that I don't take any. But no more. I have the answer--or rather my friend Lara does.

Lara Bazant, Bazant Unique Adornments, (www.bazant.ca) is Toronto's original eco and ethical jewellery designer and silversmith. She specializes in recycled silver, exotic materials sourced from travel and custom reinventions of vintage and sentimental costume jewellery.

Lara recommends that when you pack for a trip, you think about the jewellery you'll be wearing with your outfits. Otherwise, you end up sporting the same earrings until you're sick of them, or worse, over-pack and have extra weight in your suitcase. Having traveled a lot, she's tested a variety of techniques and here are her suggestions for a week long vacation:

- Three pairs of earrings--one "everyday" for casual; one "sophisticated" for evening; one "bold" for party time.
- Two chains--one long and one short, with a selection of pendants you can easily interchange.
- One bold necklace that goes with a number of outfits.
- A convertible piece you can wear as a bracelet.

As for rings, Lara says, "Much as I love rings, they can be easy to lose on vacation, so I suggest you leave them at home, or just bring one of your faves."

When she travels, she carries a small, plastic, double sided fishing tackle box. Her makeup goes in one side and jewellery in the other. The small compartments keep necklaces from tangling and make it easy to double-check you haven't left anything behind. The box is light and doesn't take up much room in your hand luggage.

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