

Bill Davidson

Traveling with your art supplies.

You can ship your art supplies to the hotel if you call and make arrangements or some other place. This is convenient if you like to travel light. Make sure you allow plenty of time for ground transportation, usually 5 days, or you will have to pay an exorbitant fee. You can also take your supplies as checked luggage. Keep in mind that some airlines charge fees for checked bags. I would suggest comparing prices.

I have heard a story or two where art supplies have been seized by the airline, but this has never happened to me or many other artists I know. The key is not to take any paints in your carry on luggage. I put a large cardboard sign taped inside the top of my suitcase that says "ARTIST MATERIALS NON-FLAMMABLE" so it can be seen if opened by airport security.

Watch your weight limits on the airlines. If you are carrying wood easels be sure to surround it with soft materials to prevent damage. I have a large, hard-shell suitcase that I paid \$120 for at the outlet mall. I drag it everywhere. I put my tripod, Pochade box and paints in it then surround them with my clothes. Your mineral spirits container should be empty and cleaned with water before packing. DO NOT PACK LIQUIN OR MINERAL SPIRITS.

I use only the lightweight canvas boards I order from Wind River Arts as a lot of the others are heavier. They are mounted on a thin Gatorboard approximately 1/8 of an inch. There are carriers to hold these type panels when wet. I like Raymar Carriers the best. If you use liquin and not too thick a paint, the paintings will dry in approximately 2 days. You can put wax paper between them, even if a little wet, and tape them together or use the little bump things, you put on the corners of frames to keep separated if still wet. I use my backpack as a carry-on holding my camera and computer. On my return I also carry my paintings in it.

There is an art supply store at our painting destination if you need anything. Please visit www.billdavidson.biz for a supply list and other information.

IMPORTANT

HIGHER ELEVATIONS (4,000 FT. OR ABOVE) WILL REQUIRE YOU TO DOUBLE YOUR WATER INTAKE 3 DAYS BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT AND CONTINUE WHILE THERE. THIS IS IMPORTANT IF YOU WANT TO FEEL AT YOUR BEST. FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS NO STRENUOUS EXERCISE AND VERY LITTLE ALCOHOL.