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More Travelers Say No to Lugging Luggage

Pak Mail center reports a rise in luggage forwarding following airlines' excess baggage fees.

Livermore, CA – June 8, 2011 – An increase in airline baggage fees, coupled with increasingly strict airline security, has lead more travelers to seek the convenience of shipping their luggage ahead.

The Pak Mail center in Livermore reports a rise in luggage shipments, particularly when travelers have to tote things such as ski and golf gear, or when they have to check multiple bags with the airline.

“We have definitely noticed more interest in luggage shipping over the past few years,” said Cyndi McGhee, owner of the Pak Mail center in Livermore. “Most people who decide to ship their luggage ahead want to avoid hassles and unexpected costs at the airport.”

Many airlines charge for a single checked piece of luggage, and weight restrictions can result in additional charges when a bag exceeds the stated limit. U.S. airlines collected more than \$2.5 billion in checked baggage fees in 2010, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics' Department of Transportation report. Between January and March of this year airlines have mishandled 162,402 bags.

Pak Mail implemented luggage forwarding services to meet the needs of today's travelers. The process is much easier than struggling with heavy luggage, inching through the airport check-in line, and wasting valuable time around the airport carousel hoping that luggage arrives.

Customers can request door-to-door luggage forwarding by phone or at the company website, PakMailUS.com. Customers have the option of scheduling a pick-up at a residence or place of business or dropping off their luggage at the Pak Mail center on Kittyhawk Road and Jack London Boulevard. A shipping tag can be attached to the actual luggage or items can be packed in a “suitcase box” or traditional shipping box to help reduce luggage weight.

The cost of shipping luggage is based on weight, dimensions, destination and how fast you want your luggage to arrive. Pak Mail recommends planning ahead to keep costs down and shipping luggage via its FedEx Ground services, which are priced more competitively with airline baggage fees. The large airlines charge from \$50 to \$125 each way for bags that weigh more than 50 pounds. Bags that weigh more than 70 pounds cost \$100 or more on many airlines.

“Often using a ground service to ship overweight and oversized bags can be cheaper than checking luggage, said McGhee. “Customers are even willing to pay a fraction more to ship their luggage to avoid more significant costs, such as possibly losing their luggage or missing an appointment because of time wasted at the airport.” Other benefits of luggage forwarding include \$100 complimentary coverage to protect items from loss or damage and the option to purchase additional coverage for a small fee.

About Pak Mail

Pak Mail is an international packing, shipping and business solutions provider with more than 500 centers across five countries. The Livermore center specializes in packing, custom crating and worldwide shipping logistics to transport over-sized, fragile, awkward-shaped, high-value, and everyday items. Pak Mail serves both residential and commercial customers.

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