



坐飞机出行是一种方便快捷的方式。然而如果你的随身行李太多或太大，或者就算随身行李不多不少，而飞机行李舱太满，或太窄，或把手太高够不着，就会产生种种的麻烦和尴尬。下面我们来看看Karen乘坐美国航班飞机因为行李的问题而遭遇的诸多窘境。



Today, when you are about to board an American airliner, you have to prepare for two possibilities: one, the overhead bin above your seat is full and you have to stow<sup>[装载]</sup> your carry-on bag elsewhere. Two, the overhead bin is too small to fit your presumably<sup>[大概]</sup> regular-sized carry-on luggage. Even though you have tried many ways—horizontally, vertically, on the side, upside down, punching and squishing<sup>[压扁]</sup>—and a flight attendant may come to assist you, your bag simply won't budge<sup>[移动]</sup>.

On my recent international trip, I experienced the same quandaries<sup>[窘境]</sup> on a United flight. Since I am not disabled or a mother with babies, I could not board the plane with priority. In fact, I boarded way behind for my coach-class seat.

Compared to Asian airliners, the overhead bins on the American planes are higher. Perhaps the North Americans are really taller. I can barely reach the latch on the overhead bin, let alone lifting up my 30-pound

backpack. So I had to excuse myself for taking off my shoes and standing on the aisle seat. I then awkwardly lifted my backpack and pushed it into the overhead bin. In the past I did not stow my bag so smoothly. One time, with the help of a tall man who sat across from me, we two people managed to tuck<sup>[塞]</sup> my backpack in a compartment several rows down.

After I was seated, I saw a few more passengers having trouble stowing their carry-on bags. Sometimes it was not because a passenger had an oversized carry-on bag, but it was because an early-bird passenger had stashed<sup>[存放]</sup> all his belongings in the overhead bin. The compartment was far from fully used. You couldn't do much about it other than keep looking for empty space for your carry-on luggage.

All in all, I think the frustration of traveling by air in America appears greater than that in China. I can check at least two pieces of luggage *free* on a Chinese airline. But the U.S. airlines charge for checked bags. Before I might become a victim if a piece of oversized carry-on luggage fell on my head, and before I waste too much time and energy to figure out how to economically pack<sup>[打包]</sup> my suitcase in order to avoid the extra baggage charges, I may just be better-off choosing a non-American airline to travel next time. ④