

## Some budget airline hold baggage info – mainly aimed at flying with iSUP's (but please double check before you book/fly)

All prices quoted are correct as 27/06/2018 & refer to prices paid if booked online – they will be considerably higher if left till you check in

### Easyjet -

Easyjet have a standard bag weights of 15 & 23kg. Additional bags can be booked or you can increase the weight of your first bag in 3kg increments up to a maximum of 32kg – charge is £12 per 3kg. The sharing of baggage allowance across a group of travellers is permitted

No hold bag can weigh more than 32kg and the max size (length + width + height combined) is 275cm so flying with a full length paddle is possible

Bags over the booked weight will be charged at £10 per additional kilo

If you are travelling with a paddle bag it is worth printing off the small print regarding the max size from the website & having it with you as some check in staff may try to get you to pay extra for sports equipment even though it fits into the size & weight of a standard bag

Easyjet are well used to flying kayaks, Surfboards & SUP's on many of their routes and at £42 when booked in advance for up to 32kg is good value when you cram all of your clothes etc in the board bag too (for padding & protection if they ask)

Links - [Cabin & Hold Baggage](#) [Sports Equipment](#) [Baggage Fees & Charges](#)

### Ryanair

Ryanair have a standard bag weight of 20kg

Sports equipment has a max weight of 20kg and is charged at £35 each way for small £ £55 for large

As with all airlines the maximum weight for a single item is 32kg and Ryanair has max sizes of 81x119x119cm rather than a combined size which rules out flying with paddles unless they are booked as sporting equipment.

The airlines website is rather vague about carrying solid boards and no sizes are listed – they will allow you to book them as large sporting equipment but have the following hidden away in their T&C's "*surfboards are inherently unsuitable for carriage by airlines operating fast turnarounds such as Ryanair*"

Bags over the booked weight will be charged at £11 per additional kilo but you can increase your baggage allowance up to 2 hours before your flight online

Links - [Cabin & Hold Baggage](#) [Baggage T&C's](#) [Baggage fees & Charges](#)

### Jet2

Jet2 have a standard bag weight of 22kg and a maximum of 3 hold bags per passenger with max sizes not stated on the website but iSUP's in their bags are fine

Sporting equipment can be carried and SUP's surfboards etc must be pre booked with charges starting at £30 per flight & their excess baggage charge is £12 per kilo

The max sizes for normal sporting goods (paddles etc) are 182 x 91cm so one piece paddles for all but the tallest are generally okay and bookings for solid boards can only be made over the phone rather than online.

**Flying with paddles** – there are some awesome performance 3 piece paddles out there to fit in your iSUP bag but they do come at a price which may be prohibitive unless you are a regular traveller

If you are flying with one piece or adjustable paddles I would recommend getting yourself a good paddle bag designed to hold 2 or more paddles. This will give plenty of space in it to stuff wetsuit, towels, clothes etc for padding & to keep the weight of your hand luggage/ other hold bag down. If you are hiring a car at the other end then the paddle bag is an ideal place to pack a set of soft foam roof racks.

Even inside the paddle bag I would recommend at a minimum the thickest foam pipe insulation you can find to protect against knocks & bangs. A tougher option is to get a section of 2" diameter waste pipe, cut it to the length of your shaft & cut out a slit lengthways to allow you to slot it over the paddle

### **Packing up your iSUP**

This is our preferred method when it comes to packing up iSUP's ready to fly.

First thing is to roll the board up & get as much air out of it as you can.... We used to go through this a few times, each time getting a bit more – now we use a double action pump that also allows us to suck the air out of the board. The board was rolled up around the pump starting at the tail with the fins (or fin box) on the inside. Once rolled up and secured with a strap a 3 piece paddle can be slotted in either down the middle or between the layers of the board. Any spare space in the bag is filled with padding gear, wash kit' clothing, soft roof racks, pfd's etc up to the weight limit

Doing it this way results in a smoother bundle with no bits sticking out to damage the bag or dig into you as you lug it through the airport.

Other bits to consider –

- How well do you trust the zip on your bag? We tend to fasten the two ends of the zip together and often use a roof rack strap around the whole lot just to be safe.
- Is your iSUP bag suitable to fly with? Are any of the seams coming apart? Is it likely to fail in transit & leave you with a pile of kit going round the carousel? If you are unsure then we can highly recommend the [100](#) or [150ltr](#) jumbo drybags from [Lomo Watersports](#) – they are strong, light & pack down small
- Keep a few kilos below the weight limit on the way out if you can as the rolled up board is great protection for a couple of bottles of something nice!
- All airlines will regularly send iSUP's down the oversized baggage belt once they have been checked in, especially if there are any exposed shoulder straps etc
- Ryanair & Easyjet will allow you to carry an inflatable PFD or lifejacket with 2 CO2 cylinders (plus 2 spares) in either your cabin or hold luggage



For a quick trip to Paris for the Nautic SUP Crossing we were lucky enough to be offered the use of some boards so took only our paddles... padded out with all of our clothing & wetsuits for the weekend. Made it a lot easier to navigate the Paris metro at rush hour

All loaded up for the 404km Massive Murray Marathon in Australia  
Paddle bag with 2x 2 piece paddles  
Board bag for the RedPaddle Tandem  
Dry Holdall full of camping gear, nutrition & hydration  
2x drybags (hand luggage size) for our clothing

