

ICON

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An old-fashioned hardcase

The busy traveller's luggage gets beaten like a punchbag. Stop the violence with this superb wardrobe trunk from Tumi.

OF LIFE'S MANY humiliating possibilities, one of the most excruciating is seeing your bag appear on the carousel at Heathrow, open like a clam and displaying a fortnight's dirty washing to the gaze of everyone in arrivals. Which is why people with a truly international schedule go to great lengths to make sure that their luggage is tough enough to keep up with them.

Tumi, who not only make the finest luggage in the world, but are also renowned for their design innovation, attention to detail and peerless performance, have just introduced a wheeled wardrobe trunk that will repel even the most fanatical of baggage handlers. Inspired by the luxury liner luggage of the 1930s, the trunk is handcrafted in Italy and features a boxed wood construction, with one side for hanging garments (three hangers included), the other for three pull-down "drawers" for folded clothes, shoes and assorted accessories.

It is fully lined in linen with hand-polished nickel hardware, and has a machetta leather trim, but that's where the fancy stuff stops. The case is covered with ultra-durable ballistic nylon, which was originally developed as a material for flak jackets for World War II airmen. It was intended to protect its wearers from flying debris and shrapnel caused by bullet or artillery shell impacts, which makes it incredibly tough and immune to tearing and fraying. The case can be carried, wheeled – or crouched behind in times of conflict.

⇒ £5,475 from Tumi, 170 Piccadilly W1, 020 7493 4138 and Harrods. For more information about Tumi products, go to www.tumi.com