

# TRAVELLING THE WORLD ON A LUGGIE

Fold, Pack, Travel. This is the freedom that's offered by a new generation of portable mobility scooters. Clever engineering has transformed the lumbering, awkward beasts of yesterday into the nifty and lightweight yet still sturdy travel scooters of today.

Australians struggling with anything from dodgy knees to degenerative conditions are increasingly taking advantage of these slick mobility aids. They have freed up the traveller to explore without assistance, through cities and over boardwalks, on trains and cruise ships, without the extensive planning and struggle that used to take place.

Maureen Corrigan, a retired health professional and compulsive traveller, marvels at how much easier the scooter makes things.

"The scooter lets me go where I want when I want – it's perfect for that! There's none of this waiting around for someone else to push me," she says.

Maureen is just one of many people rediscovering adventure in a way that was unthinkable even 10 years ago. Her scooter of choice is the Luggie. It was the first of this new type of scooter to gain popularity, and is arguably still the best of the pack. Sitting on one, you can feel that it's well-built and stable, and riding around is intuitive and smooth. With puncture-proof tyres and upgraded suspension, the Luggie is both tough and comfortable. And because the motor powers the rear axle – not the front, like some of its competitors – it can handle bumps and slopes with ease.

Scooters like the Luggie have been designed specifically with travel in mind – and indeed people like Maureen have taken theirs all over the world. When travelling by plane, there are some easy regulatory hoops to jump through and a few forms to fill in, but by now airlines are used to accommodating mobility scooters.

Another Luggie user, Scott Sanderson, has braved the Northern Lights and Alcatraz. For him it makes adventure

possible – something he once thought he'd lost. He isn't a fussy traveller – he just likes to drink in new places for their history and atmosphere. The scooter enables that in a way that makes him forget it's there at all.

When asked about his most fond memories, he shares "Going around the streets of Paris with my wife, the cafes, the museums, just being able to get out and about".

Scott also knows how smoothly things run at airports for someone with a folding scooter.

"They let you drive your scooter all the way down the tunnel, right to the door of the plane, before they take it off to the cargo hold. And when you get off, it's already there waiting for you. Very simple," he says.

In less than one minute, the Luggie can be folded into a compact shape that is small enough to fit into the boot of a car. It also has the option to be folded into a flat board-like shape that can then be levered into the boot, effectively halving the weight for those who otherwise might find it a bit tough.

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