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Best Messenger Bags of 2024

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Reviewed by [Marlo Jappen Porto](#)

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Messenger bags hit peak popularity in the '90s, but the easy-to-carry and practical design has carried them as staple bags well into this century. Originally designed for couriers, all messenger bags have a similar style with a cross-body strap, but they vary in size, material, layout and compartments, and waterproof capabilities. When considering your options, think about what you're looking for in a bag and how you plan to use it. We've highlighted the best messenger bags to find the right one to take with you.

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Best Overall

TimBuk2 Classic Messenger Bag »



PROS:

- ✓ Comes in four size options
- ✓ Water bottle and tech storage pockets

CONS:

- ✗ Material may be too casual for some offices
- ✗ Hand-wash only

[Buy From Amazon](#)

- ✓ Wide selection of fun or practical color choices
- ✓ Weatherproof exterior

The TimBuk2 Classic Messenger Bag is a functional bag to carry all of life's essentials. It's sold in four sizes (Extra-small, Small, Medium, and Large) with widths ranging from 10.6 to 15.7 to suit the needs of various users. All four options feature multiple pockets to keep your supplies – including tech gear – organized. The extra-small model can hold an 11.5-inch tablet while the large model can accommodate a [laptop](#) up to 17 inches.

The Eco Cordura recycled polyester material used to make this bag is weatherproof to protect items against the elements. For further protection, TimBuk2 added a waterproof 70D TPU moisture-resistant liner. This adjustable bag features an aircraft-grade aluminum buckle that slides to help you find the right fit. You can also switch between right- and left-hand carry options depending on your preferences. The small, medium, and large sizes offer a crossbody-stabilization strap to help keep the bag in place. With nine different color options, find a look that matches your style.

Specs

List Price: Starting at \$99 (Extra-small)

Materials: Eco Cordura recycled polyester

Dimensions: 10.6 in. W x 4.72 in. D x 10 in. H (Extra-small); 13 in. W x 5.12 in. D x 10.6 in. H (Small); 13.4 in. W x 7.28 in. D x 12.8 in. H (Medium); 15.7 in. W x 8.07 in. D x 14.6 in. H (Large)

Weight: 2.5 lbs.

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Best Budget

Mactso Vintage Canvas Satchel Messenger Ba...



PROS:

- ✓ Inexpensive
- ✓ Made of canvas
- ✓ Main compartment zips closed
- ✓ Five color options

CONS:

- ✗ No laptop sleeve
- ✗ Shoulder strap isn't padded

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The Mactso Vintage Canvas Satchel Messenger Bag is available for less than \$40, making it a more affordable option. This is a smaller messenger bag that can hold laptops or [tablets](#) up to 13.3 inches, as well as A4-size files or other documents. The bag is made from waterproof canvas with leather accents, including the zipper and strap connectors. It's available in five different colors, including neutrals like black, coffee, and gray, as well as more colorful picks like blue or army Green.

With its various pockets, this messenger bag helps keep your phone, keys, and other items within easy reach. It has a large zippered main compartment, a smaller security-zippered pocket, two open front pockets, and smaller interior pockets.

Specs

List Price:	\$35.98
Materials:	Canvas and leather
Dimensions:	13.5 in. W x 3.1 in. D x 11 in. H
Weight:	1.1 lbs.

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Work

Buffalo Jackson Roosevelt Leather Messenger ...



PROS:

- ✓ Full-grain water buffalo leather construction gives it a refined look
- ✓ Several interior pockets for holding smaller items
- ✓ Dedicated compartment for laptops

CONS:

- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ Heavy

[Buy From Buffalo Jackson](#)

Bring your laptop and important documents to and from the office with the Buffalo Jackson Roosevelt Leather Messenger Bag. Its full-grain water buffalo leather construction makes this an attractive and professional-looking pick. Additionally, the bag is outfitted with stylish antique brass hardware, including a quick-opening exterior clasp. Buffalo Jackson took care when constructing this bag, using rivets with thick nylon stitching. The high-quality construction combined with the full-grain leather material means that this bag should last for years to come.

The messenger bag offers a dedicated laptop sleeve that can accommodate computers with screens up to 15 inches (when measured diagonally). There are also several other smaller interior pockets for holding cell phones, cables, pens, and business cards. The padded shoulder strap extends from 41.5 inches to 58.5 inches to accommodate users of varying heights and carrying preferences.

Specs

List Price:

\$299.95

Materials:

Full-grain water buffalo leather

Dimensions:

16 in. W x 4 in. D x 11 in. H

Weight:

4.19 lbs.

[Buy From Buffalo Jackson »](#)

Best for Travel

Nomatic Messenger Bag »



PROS:

- ✓ Luggage passthrough and TSA-Ready laptop sleeve
- ✓ Customizable insert panels
- ✓ Strap buckles rotate for enhanced comfort
- ✓ Converts to a briefcase

CONS:

- ✗ Not very lightweight
- ✗ Only comes in one color

[Buy From Amazon](#)

Bring the Nomatic Messenger Bag along on your next trip. It offers several features that make it a suitable match for travelers. First, the bag's polyester and nylon construction is durable and water-resistant, so you won't need to worry if you get caught in a sudden rain shower. It also features a TSA-Ready laptop sleeve to make going through airport security a bit easier.

The Nomatic Messenger Bag is designed to be comfortable to carry. The magnetic strap buckles rotate 360 degrees, which means users can adjust the angle of the bag and how it hits them to prevent strain or discomfort. If desired, you can even take the straps off and carry the bag as a briefcase using the handle — a nice perk for business travelers. The full-perimeter zipper ensures that all of your items are safely contained while the interchangeable insert panels help you keep them neatly organized and easy to access. Other key features of this messenger bag include the luggage pass-through, the cord pass-through holes for charging your devices, and the spring-loaded shoulder strap buckle for seamless adjustments.

Specs

List Price: \$259.99

Materials: Polyester and nylon

Dimensions: 16.5 in. W x 5.5 in. D x 12 in. H

Weight:**3.77 lbs.**[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best Large Capacity

Chrome Industries Berlin Messenger »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Generous 47-liter capacity
- ✓ Harness system to distribute weight
- ✓ Easy-to-use seatbelt buckle

CONS:

- ✗ Heavier
- ✗ Doesn't have a laptop sleeve

[Buy From Chrome Industries](#)

If you need to carry a lot with you, then the Chrome Industries Berlin Messenger Bag is your best bet. The bag offers an impressive 47-liter capacity and is 25 inches wide and 11 inches deep. It can accommodate up to a 17-inch laptop (though you'll want to purchase a separate laptop sleeve since it doesn't come with one), while still offering lots of space for files, clothing, gear, and other essentials. To help keep you stable and ensure the bag's weight is more evenly distributed, Chrome Industries added a four-point harness system to this messenger bag. Additionally, the strap features a foam padded panel to alleviate the strain placed on your shoulder.

It's easy to put the bag on and to take it off thanks to its innovative seatbelt buckle. The bag is made from durable 1050D nylon with a waterproof tarp liner to protect your belongings. There are multiple pockets and compartments to keep everything organized and ensure you're able to find what you're looking for quickly.

Specs

List Price:	\$250
Materials:	Nylon and tarp
Dimensions:	25 in. W x 11 in. D x 13.75 in. H
Weight:	4.2 lbs.

[Buy From Chrome Industries »](#)

Best for Cameras

WANDRD Rogue 9L Sling »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Expandable tripod pocket
- ✓ Removable internal dividers
- ✓ Can hold up to a 16-inch laptop
- ✓ Customizable wear style

CONS:

- ✗ Tripod pocket may not hold some larger tripods
- ✗ Some reviewers say it could use a bit more padding

[Buy From Amazon](#)

The WANDRD Rogue 9L Sling is generously sized to hold more than just your camera. In fact, it's large enough to carry a 16-inch laptop. To allow you to customize the layout based on how you plan to use it, this model features removable dividers. You can also easily bring your tripod to photoshoots with the expandable tripod pocket. Or, if you're not shooting with a tripod, you could use this compartment to hold a [water bottle](#).

The Rogue 9L sling is made from weather-resistant nylon to keep your camera and other belongings dry. It has an air mesh back panel to keep you cool and comfortable when using the bag. This model also offers a five-point

adjustment system and flexible carrying options. In addition to wearing it as a messenger bag, you can also wear it as a sling bag or around your waist. WANDRF offers this bag in seven different color options.

Specs

List Price:	\$159
Materials:	Nylon
Dimensions:	13.5 in. W x 7 in. D x 8.5 in. H
Weight:	1.74 lbs.

[Buy From Amazon »](#)

Best for Style

Portland Leather Almost Perfect Modern Mess...



PROS:

- ✓ Made from full-grain leather
- ✓ Clean lines; doesn't look bulky
- ✓ Magnetic closure
- ✓ Four color choices

CONS:

- ✗ Too small for some laptops
- ✗ Expensive

[Buy From Portland Leather](#)

The Portland Leather Almost Perfect Modern Messenger Bag is a fashionable option. Made from U.S.-sourced, oil-tanned full-grain leather, this bag comes in four different finish options to help you coordinate with your wardrobe and preferences. Choose from pebbled black, nutmeg, dakota, or cold brew. It offers clean lines and a sophisticated look, making it an optimal choice to bring with you whether you're heading to the office or out for an adventure.

While this piece doesn't have as many compartments as some of the other bags on our list, the interior does have a few sections to keep belongings organized. After you grab what you need from the bag, secure the flap using the hidden magnetic closure. This model features a detachable crossbody strap. If you prefer, you can remove the strap and carry the bag as a briefcase using the top leather handle.

Specs

List Price: \$360

Materials: Full-grain leather

Dimensions: 16 in. W x 3.25 in. D x 9.5 in. H

[Buy From Portland Leather »](#)

The Bottom Line

Messenger bags can be used for everything from work to travel, so the right one for you depends on your specific needs. Patrick Burch, owner of Cave + Post Trading Co., says, "While features depend on how you plan to use your bag, you'll always want to be sure your messenger bag is durable and has the right design to meet your needs."

We selected the TimBuk2 Classic Messenger Bag as our top pick. We like that it comes in several size and color options, offers multiple pockets and compartments to keep everything organized, and has a weatherproof exterior and waterproof liner to protect belongings.

Things To Consider When Buying Messenger Bags

Size and Capacity: You'll want to think about the ideal size for a messenger bag before you get too deep into your search. Messenger bags come in a range of sizes, from compact options that will only hold a few items, to much larger bags capable of carrying lots of supplies and essentials. The right size depends on how you plan to use the messenger bag, what you need to carry, and how much weight you can hoist.

Start by laying everything out that you will regularly carry in your bag to help you visualize how much space you'll need. If you plan on using the bag to bring your laptop with you to the office or other locations, be sure to check the dimensions to ensure it will fit. While you want to have space to carry everything you need, you shouldn't necessarily get the largest bag you find. If the bag is larger than you need, it may be too bulky to carry comfortably.

Materials: If you have started looking for a messenger bag, then you've likely noticed that they are available in a wide range of materials. The best material for you will vary based on your budget, how you plan to use the bag, and your personal preference.

Zac Moyle of The Real Leather Company and Brooke Mullen of Sapahn both prefer leather messenger bags. Moyle says, "We see top-grain leather as the best material. It's super long-lasting as it uses the grain layer of the animal hide. But it's sanded to give a uniform pattern – ideal for the office." Mullen explains, "A leather messenger bag embodies timeless elegance and durability, ensuring a strong first impression that communicates quality and sophistication wherever you go."

However, Burch has a different opinion. He says, "We like twill or waxed canvas, which make the bag versatile and durable. A twill or waxed canvas bag can be brought to the office, to a meeting, on a trip, or on an adventure. They're extremely durable, get better with age, and make a statement."

Thinking about whether you will primarily be using the messenger bag for business or travel purposes can help you make the best decision for your specific situation. In addition to genuine leather, twill, and waxed canvas, messenger bags may also be made from nylon or polyester.

Weight and Portability: As you're comparing different messenger bags, you should take note of the weight of each item and think about how portable it will be. This can be an even more important factor to consider if you'll be walking long distances carrying the bag.

The design of the strap can directly impact how comfortable the bag will be to carry. First, consider whether there is any padding on the strap to keep it from digging into your shoulder. Wider straps do a better job of distributing weight, so they make it easier to carry heavier bags for longer distances. Some manufacturers design their bags with stabilizer straps, which prevent the bag from swinging around too much as you walk. These straps either go under your arm or wrap across your hips. They can also be a great asset for those who will be wearing a messenger bag while riding a bike.

Compartments and Organization: Messenger bags generally have several pockets and compartments to help users keep their belongings organized. However, each bag will vary in the exact number, size, and layout of these compartments, which can make some a better fit for you than others. You'll want to consider what you'll be packing in your messenger bag to help you determine the ideal number of compartments and how big you'll need each of them to be.

If you're planning to carry a laptop in the messenger bag you purchase, then you might want to look for one that offers a dedicated compartment – or even a padded sleeve – to protect your device and keep it separated from other items in the bag. You could also consider purchasing a separate padded sleeve for your laptop, but doing so will cost extra, and you'll still need to ensure that the sleeve and your laptop will fit in the bag.

Durability and Weather Resistance: Think about how and where you plan to use your bag to help guide you in selecting one that will be durable enough for your needs. Leather, nylon, and waxed canvas are two durable materials that can be used to make a messenger bag. Bags made from these materials are likely to hold up well to

repeated use, though waxed canvas or nylon may be the better fit if the bag will be regularly exposed to water.

The material of the strap directly impacts the overall durability of the bag. The last thing you want is for the strap to break as you are trying to carry the bag. Leather and nylon are both strong and durable choices. Thicker straps are also likely to last longer than thinner options.

Style and Design: Choose a messenger bag that matches your personal style and design preferences. Consider whether you're looking for something with a slimmer profile or if there are certain materials or colors that you prefer.

There are different types of messenger bags from taller and narrower options, to oversized models, to those that are designed to hold cameras. The ideal style depends on how you plan on using the bag. The perfect messenger bag for business meetings will look very different from what you'd want to use exploring a new city while traveling.

Care: The care that a messenger bag will need can vary significantly depending on the materials and manufacturer recommendations. Leather messenger bags, for example, may require more care and maintenance than bags made from other materials. While some bags may be machine-washable, leather will need to be wiped down by hand to remove dust and debris. It'll also require conditioning to keep the leather soft and prevent it from splitting or cracking.

Before making a purchase, check the manufacturer's care instructions. Choose a product that matches the time and level of care you'll be able to dedicate to its maintenance.

How We Chose the Best Messenger Bags

We considered a range of factors and consulted several resources to help us finalize our list of the best messenger bags. Zac Moyle, the founder of [The Real Leather Company](#), which sells leather bags and accessories; Patrick Burch, the owner of menswear store [Cave + Post Trading Co.](#); and Brooke Mullen, founder and designer of the ethical fashion brand [Sapahn](#), all offered their expert advice on some of the

top features to look for when choosing a messenger bag. We also factored customer ratings and information shared by professional reviewers when compiling our list.

WHY SHOULD YOU TRUST US?

The author of this piece, [Deirdre Mundorf](#), has more than five years of experience writing reviews about products related to the home and office. Mundorf regularly contributes to U.S. News 360 Reviews (including the [best label makers](#) and [best desk mats](#)) and has written for several other online publications, including Bob Vila, USA Today, and House Digest, among others.

FAQ

What's the difference between messenger bags and laptop bags? +

How large should a messenger bag be to fit my laptop? +

Are messenger bags waterproof? +

About Our Team



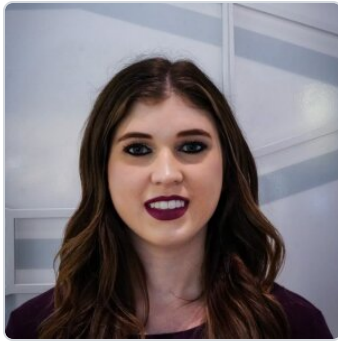
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Mundorf is a freelance writer who specializes in home goods, family, and pet content. She has more than three years of experience as a professional writer and her work has been featured in [Bob Vila](#), [Discover Magazine](#), and [House Digest](#). Prior to her freelancing career, Mundorf was an elementary school teacher for more than a decade.

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Marlo Jappen Porto is a former editor for U.S. News 360 Reviews, focusing on home goods. Prior to joining the team, she was a researcher at NBCUniversal, where she gathered compelling and relevant archival content for live broadcasts. In addition, she has spent years working as an editor and community journalist.

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