

# Chicago Tribune

## GEAR

**Name:** The Zami

**What it is:** A multicell inflatable pillow designed with versatility in mind for the weary traveler.

**How it works:** The pillow has a two-tiered center cell that forms the heart of the pillow, with smaller cells on either side. Each cell has a blow-up valve, so all can be inflated or just one or two. The end cells have a velvety finish that is comfortable enough for the face, sparing the user a skin-on-vinyl feel. Fully inflated, the pillow is slightly more than 13 inches tall, meaning that it's possible to place it on the lap and lean onto it for a comfortable snooze, especially on long flights, such as coast to coast or over an ocean. It might take a little practice to get the balance right, but it does work. Too, I found that by dropping the airline tray table down, I could wedge the pillow against it and the back of the



seat in front of me for an even more comfortable snooze.

**The good:** Deflated, the encased pillow is no thicker than a couple major magazines, so it's no space hog in the carry-on. With the three cells, you can inflate only what you need for various applications. For example, if you have a window seat on a jet, you can use just one or both end cells to lean against the wall. The pillow invites experimentation to find a comfortable posture.

**The bad:** Some economy seats are so close that you might knock your head on the seat in front of you when you hunch over. But by using the tray table/wedge technique, this can be overcome.

**Cost:** \$19.95, plus \$8.50 shipping

**Available from:** [www.thezami.com](http://www.thezami.com)

—Ross Werland