

Travel To-Do and Packing List

Preparing yourself and your home for travel

6-12 Months (or More) Before Your Trip

- ☐ **Passports and visas**—Ensure your passport expiration date is valid for at least six months after your return date. It can take months to get a new passport. Obtain any necessary visas for your destination(s) and make copies of them.
- ☐ **Global Entry**—Getting [Global Entry](#) can speed your trip through security when leaving the US, and through immigration when returning. It can take a while to get approved; a recent estimate is up to 11 months.

4-6 Months Before Your Trip

- ☐ **Vaccinations and Health Preparations**—Check if any vaccinations or health precautions are required or recommended for your destination. Make sure you will have an adequate supply of prescription medications and copies of prescriptions.
- ☐ **Pets**—Identify who will take care of your pets. Draft instructions for care and feeding.
- ☐ **Phone forwarding**—Identify options for maintaining cost-efficient, reliable communications at your destination with a minimum of disruption and hassle. There are many options here depending upon your current carrier, phone, and destination(s). The important thing is to start your research early so that you have a strategy. You can set up an international data plan for your US phone or [purchase a SIM card for your phone](#). Check if your phone is unlocked and if it allows you to use a new SIM. Ensure the SIM will work in your destination(s). We use [Google Fi](#) as our cell phone provider since it can provide service overseas for short periods of time.
- ☐ **Travel Insurance**—Research travel insurance to determine if you need it. Policies cover a wide range of situations, including medical emergencies, trip cancellations, lost belongings, and much more.
- ☐ **Mail**—Determine how your mail will be handled. The USPS will hold your mail for up to 30 days. For longer periods, you can forward mail to another location for up to six months. That

can be family or friends, or a commercial mailbox service that can send you scans of your mail. We like [this provider](#) for longer term repeat travelers. Many others are available.

- ☐ **House/lawn maintenance**—Identify areas inside or outside of your home that require attention e.g., cutting lawns, watering plants, feeding fish or other animals. Identify who will be responsible for each area while you're away.
- ☐ **Home Security**—Identify any home security needs for your time away. A low-cost solution is this company, with low cost HD surveillance cameras and app-based monitoring. Also consider timers for lights.
- ☐ **Vehicles**—Identify a secure place to park your vehicles. Determine if there are any steps you must take to properly maintain them for the period of time you'll be away.

1-3 Months Before Your Trip

- ☐ **Itinerary and Reservations**—Confirm flight, hotel, and transportation reservations.
- ☐ **Money and Finances**—Identify which credit card(s) you will use. Obtaining a credit card with benefits specific for travelers may be a good idea. Notify your bank or credit card of your travel plans to prevent fraud alerts and declined payments. Be sure you know all PINs so you can obtain cash from an ATM when needed. Obtain sufficient local currency for emergencies.
- ☐ **Travel Documents**—Make photocopies or use your cell phone to capture photos of important documents (passport, visa, travel insurance, itinerary).
- ☐ **Auto rental preparation**—Make photos or copies of your auto insurance card. Bring your [International Driver's license](#) (if required at your destination) and credit card benefits booklet that details your car rental coverages.

The Day Before Your Trip

- ☐ **Electronics and Communication**—Charge all your devices and pack chargers, power banks, and travel adapters.

The Day You Leave for Your Trip

- ☐ Activate **video surveillance** cameras or alarms.
- ☐ Set **timers**.
- ☐ Set **thermostat** to desired temperature.
- ☐ Move **vehicle(s)** to desired location.

Packing list

Clothing

Check the weather forecast for your destination and plan your clothing accordingly.

- ☐ Lightweight clothing suitable for the climate
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes and sandals
- ☐ Swimwear, if applicable
- ☐ A jacket or sweater for cooler evenings
- ☐ A formal or dressy outfit for special occasions
- ☐ Undergarments and socks
- ☐ Pajamas or sleepwear
- ☐ Hats for blocking sun or colder climates
- ☐ Laundry bag and detergent packets for washing clothes
- ☐ Packing cubes for organizing clothing

Toiletries and Personal Care

Don't stress too much about these! You can get many of these items in your accommodation if you forget them. You can also purchase items in most locations.

- ☐ Toothbrush, toothpaste, and dental floss
- ☐ Shampoo, conditioner, and soap
- ☐ Razor and shaving cream
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hairbrush/comb
- ☐ Hair accessories
- ☐ Glasses/contact lenses and solutions
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Over the counter medicines
- ☐ Prescriptions
- ☐ Sunscreen and insect repellent

Traveler Supplies

- ☐ Daypack or small backpack for carrying essentials at your destination
- ☐ Noise canceling headphones or bluetooth speaker
- ☐ First-aid items or small kit
- ☐ Laundry detergent pods/sheets/powder
- ☐ Portable clothesline
- ☐ Small travel umbrella or rain poncho
- ☐ Earplugs and a sleep mask
- ☐ Snacks for flight

- ☐ Reusable water bottle

Electronics and Entertainment

- ☐ Smartphone and charger/cable
- ☐ Tablet or laptop, and chargers and cables
- ☐ Camera and accessories, including cables and charger
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ E-book reader or physical books
- ☐ Headphones/earbuds
- ☐ Foreign plug adapters and power strip with USB ports

Gear

- ☐ Items for activities specific to your trip, e.g., hiking gear, scuba gear.

Miscellaneous

- ☐ Travel wallet or pouch for documents and money
- ☐ Maps, guidebooks, and language translation apps
- ☐ Travel lock for your luggage and/or Airtags
- ☐ Travel-sized reusable shopping bag
- ☐ Travel guidebooks
- ☐ Travel-sized umbrella
- ☐ Utility knife (Leatherman Style) (only for checked bags)
- ☐ Notebook or pad and pens
- ☐ Ziploc gallon resealable bags for organizing items (like electronics)
- ☐ Wine bags (plastic) to safely store wine/liquor bottles in your luggage
- ☐ Walking sticks for longer walks/hikes

Please feel free to adjust his checklist based on your destination and personal preferences.

Suggestions for making this list better? Let us know at 89daysaway@gmail.com.