

Top 25 items that should be at the top of your travel checklist

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[United States Department of State Travel information](#)

Here's a comprehensive pre-vacation checklist to ensure you're fully prepared for your trip:

1. Travel Documents:

- Passport/ID
- Visa (if required)
- Travel tickets (flight, train, etc.)
- Hotel reservations
- Rental car documents (if applicable)
- Travel insurance documents

2. Money and Banking:

- Sufficient cash (both local currency and some in your home currency. I usually wait until I get to the foreign country and then use a reputable bank's ATM.)
- Credit/debit cards
- Notify your bank of travel plans

3. Health and Safety:

- Prescription medications
- First aid kit
- Health insurance information
- Emergency contact information

4. Packing:

- Clothing appropriate for the destination's climate
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.)
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Travel-sized laundry detergent (if needed)
- Travel adapters/converters for electronics

5. Electronics:

- Mobile phone Camera and charger
- Universal travel power adapter (If traveling outside the USA)
- Laptop/tablet and charger
- Power bank
- Headphones/earphones

6. Entertainment:

- Books/magazines
- Travel guides/maps
- Games or activities for downtime

7. Transportation:

- Arrange airport transportation
- Check rental car reservation details (if applicable)

8. Home Preparation:

- Arrange for pet care or house-sitting
- Set timers on lights or consider a home security system
- Hold mail/newspaper delivery
- Empty the trash and fridge of perishables

9. Utilities:

- Set the thermostat to an appropriate level
- Unplug non-essential electronics to save energy

□10. Work/School:

- Set up an out-of-office email response (if needed)
- Inform colleagues or supervisors about your absence (if applicable)
- Clear any pending tasks or deadlines

□11. Itinerary:

- Create a detailed itinerary with addresses and contact information
- Share your itinerary with a trusted friend or family member

□12. Emergency Preparedness:

- Research emergency services at your destination
- Know the location of the nearest embassy or consulate (if traveling internationally)

□13. Special Needs:

- Arrange for accommodations if traveling with children, elderly, or persons with disabilities
- Pack any necessary equipment or supplies

□14. Activities/Reservations:

- Make reservations for any tours, activities, or restaurants
- Print or save electronic copies of reservations and confirmations

□15. Communication:

- Download offline maps or language translation apps
- Have a communication plan in case of separation from your travel companions

□16. Travel Health:

- Stay hydrated and get enough sleep before your trip
- Avoid excessive alcohol consumption before traveling

□17. Security:

- Keep valuables secure and only carry what you need
- Be mindful of pickpockets and scams, especially in tourist areas

18. Weather:

- Check the weather forecast for your destination and pack accordingly

19. Housekeeping:

- Water the plants (if applicable)
- Secure windows and doors

20. Vehicle Maintenance:

- Check tire pressure and oil levels if driving
- Ensure your vehicle's registration and insurance are up-to-date

21. Travel Snacks:

- Pack some snacks for the journey

22. Medications:

- Pack any necessary medications and prescriptions

23. Backup Copies:

- Make copies of important documents like your passport and itinerary

24. Local Information:

- Familiarize yourself with local customs and laws

25. Relaxation:

- Take some time to relax and mentally prepare for your trip

This checklist should help ensure you have everything you need for a stress-free vacation!