

THE ULTIMATE HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

from RoomsForAfrica.com

Getting ready to head off on your relaxing holiday can be stressful! You want to make sure that you have everything you need, and that life at home runs smoothly while you're away. We've put together a really great 'to do' list to help you get super organised:

Things to consider ahead of time

GENERAL

Kids – Are the kids staying behind or coming along?

Pets – Are they coming along, going to a friend or to the kennels?

Leave – Have I organised leave? Do all the right people know that I won't be at work?

Money – Can I draw money when I get there, are there funds available on my credit card, do I need foreign currency?

Medical – Do I need to make any doctor's appointments before we leave, do I have enough prescription medicines?

Beauty – Do I need to make any hair or beauty appointments before we leave?

DOCUMENTS

Passports – Do we need passports, when was the last time they were renewed?

Visas – Do we need visas?

Insurance – Do we need travel insurance or medical cover while travelling?

WHILE I AM AWAY

House – Does someone need to look after my house and garden, does anything need fixing, is my home secure?

Garden & pool – Is the irrigation system working, is the pool pump working?

Deliveries & services – Are there any deliveries or services I need to pause (garden service, newspaper delivery etc.)?

Month end payments – Will there be enough funds in my account for debit orders, are there any bills that become due while I am away (rent, telephone, electricity etc.)?

IF I AM DRIVING

Car – When was the car last serviced, is it roadworthy?

License – Is my driver's license still valid?

Fines – Are all my traffic fines paid?

Trailer – Do I need a trailer, is it roadworthy and when was its license last renewed?

IF I AM FLYING

Pick-up & collection – How will I get to and from the airport?

Car hire – Do I need a rental car at my destination?

Luggage – What are the baggage allowances of the airline? Will my luggage fit in the rental car?

WHEN I'M AT THE DESTINATION

Weather – Will it be hot, cold or rainy?

Gear – Do I need to bring along any specific clothing or equipment for my trip?

Things to do – Do I need to pre-book, restaurants, day trips or activities?

Driving: Essentials for in your car

Ensure your car trip is hassle-free by having your must-have items within easy reach.

ESSENTIALS

- Car keys
- Driver's license
- Map, GPS and directions
- Glasses and sunglasses
- Music and CD's
- Valuables (phone, camera etc.)
- Wallet with cash and cards

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- Passports and ID's
- Hotel reservations and itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Senior or student cards for discounts
- Membership cards
- Voucherville vouchers
- Important contact numbers

EXTRAS TO PACK

- Hand sanitizers
- Re-usable water bottle
- Lip balm
- Tissues
- Travel sweets and snacks
- Magazines and guide books
- Notebook and pen
- Kid's activities
- Car charger

CAR SAFETY: THINGS TO CHECK

- Tyre pressure
- Oil and water levels
- Fuel tank level
- Spare wheel and tools required
- Car seat for kids
- Child-lock
- Road-side assistance number
- Insurance number

Flying: Essentials for your hand-luggage

Even short flights can feel long when you don't have what you need. Make sure you have those essential in-flight items handy for a stress free journey.

- Flight tickets
- Valuables (phone, camera etc.)
- Hotel reservations and itinerary
- Car hire documentation
- Driver's licenses
- Map, GPS and directions
- Important contact numbers
- Senior or student cards
- Membership cards
- Voucherville vouchers
- Hand sanitizer
- Re-usable water bottle
- Glasses and sunglasses
- Padlocks for your luggage
- Lip balm
- Tissues
- Travel sweets, snacks and gum
- Painkillers and anti-nausea medication
- Socks
- Warm long-sleeved top
- Reading material, notebook and pen
- Spare change of clothing
- Travel pillow
- Earplugs and eye mask

FLYING INTERNATIONALLY

- Passports and visas
- Foreign currency
- Back-up credit card stored elsewhere
- Travel insurance certificates
- Medical aid certificates
- Proof of residence
- Proof of funds
- Travel vaccination certificates
- Translation dictionary
- Photocopies of documentation
- Medication with prescription

TIP: Pack all liquids that you will be taking in your hand luggage in a one-litre clear Ziploc bag for the security check (each container within the Ziploc bag must be under 100ml).

TIP: Check that your mobile is activated for roaming when travelling internationally.

Packing clothes

Most people have the tendency to over pack. Plan carefully and choose items that are easy to layer and wear together. Consider the weather, what activities you're likely to be doing and whether there will be laundry facilities available.

BASICS

- Casual / comfortable clothing and shoes
- Smart clothing and shoes
- Exercise clothing and shoes

- Underwear and sleepwear
- Watches and jewellery

PACKING FOR COLD WEATHER

- Jackets and jerseys
- Raincoat
- Scarf and beanie
- Gloves

PACKING FOR WARM WEATHER

- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Beach towels and bag
- Sun cream and After-sun
- Hat
- Sarong

Toiletries

These items are very personal, so our list is very general but it will be a good starting point.

- Glasses and/or contacts
- Any prescription medicine
- Shaving equipment and lotions
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Shower gel and soap
- Tooth brush, paste and floss
- Make-up and cosmetics
- Deodorants
- Tweezers, nail clippers and files
- Hair brush, dryer and gels
- Hair bands, clips and ties
- Moisturisers and lotions
- Personal items
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen

TIP: Be sure to seal toiletries that could possibly leak, separately in a Ziploc bag.

Gadgets and entertainment

Technology is quite a big deal and they're items you can't just rush out and buy if you have forgotten them. Forget your tooth-brush (we hope you won't), but don't forget your camera.

- Cellphones
- Laptop and tablets
- Camera with SD cards and spare battery
- Travel adaptors
- Any connection cables required
- Chargers for devices and camera
- GPS
- Binoculars
- Book or Kindle / e-reader
- Playing cards and travel games
- Downloaded movies or TV series

TIP: Make sure that your camera's memory card is empty and that the batteries are charged.

First-Aid

Having a stash of emergency medical supplies can save you a lot of hassle when you're in a holiday town and looking for a 24-hour pharmacy. These are just a few of the essentials worth taking along.

- Pain-killers
- Cold and flu relief
- Nausea and diarrhoea pills
- Allergy pills
- Prescription medication
- Vitamins
- Eye drops
- Rehydration salts
- Anti-histamine pills
- Plasters
- Disinfectant wipes
- Ointments for burns and bites
- Sunscreen
- After-sun
- Cough sweets

TIP: Remember to take your first-aid kit out-and-about with you. Foot blisters are probably the most common tourist injury.

Kids essentials

It goes without saying that there are loads of things that babies and kids need when travelling. Be it a car trip or a long haul flight, you'll want to have those essentials quickly and easily at hand. These items are very much age and personality dependent, but here are a few ideas and guidelines.

- Toys, activities, books and music
- Food and snacks
- Handheld games and devices
- Kids sized headphones
- Movies downloaded on devices
- A favourite teddy or blanket
- Emergency change of clothes
- Nappies and wet wipes
- Bottles and pacifiers
- Baby medications
- Creams, lotions and toiletries
- Stroller

Last minute check: As you lock the door

Here's a last minute checklist that will set your mind at ease as you depart.

MAKE YOUR HOMECOMING EASIER

- Empty all bins.
- Run the dishwasher and clear the sinks.
- Do a five-minute tidy-up.
- Empty perishable food from the fridge.
- Empty the fruit basket.
- Disconnect your car battery, if flying.

LAST MINUTE CHECK: AS YOU WALK OUT THE DOOR

- Bags, documents and essentials packed?
- Geyser, iron, stove and oven turned off?
- Electrical appliances unplugged?
- Valuables stored in a safe place?
- Instructions for house-sitter?
- Pets taken care of?
- Garden and plants taken care of?
- Windows closed and doors locked?
- Alarm activated?

WHAT DO HOUSE-SITTERS NEED TO KNOW?

- Clear guidelines of what is expected from them
- How to enter and leave the house
- Alarm function, code and password
- Emergency numbers
- Your number and the number of a trusted family member
- Details relating to your pets – food, medication and daily routine
- Details relating to the garden, pool and irrigation
- How to purchase prepaid electricity
- Details of appliances
- Contact details for your domestic helper and gardener
- Refuse removal details
- TV and remote information

**The RoomsForAfrica team hope you have a fantastic time!
Safe travels!**