

Published based on [A Handy Travel Checklist](#)

A Handy Travel Checklist

There's always lots to think about when planning a trip, so it's easy to forget things. Here's a convenient checklist that will hopefully make it a little easier to remember the important things.

1. Your Passport and Any Visas

Be certain that your passport is current and valid. Arrange for any visas you may required for the countries you're planning to visit.

2. Don't Forget Your Tickets- Plane, Bus, Train, etc.

Even in the age of the e-ticket, it still makes sense to print out all the tickets, including your airline tickets, or have the information available on your laptop, tablet or smart phone. By doing so you'll have any important information readily available, should it be required.

3. Accommodation Reservations or Vouchers

Once again, even if you made your reservations online, be certain to have all the accommodation information and confirmations with you.

4. Travel Insurance

Always have your [travel insurance](#) documents with you. You don't want to be in a difficult situation when you need them only to realize that they're still sitting on the dresser at home.

5. Available Cash

Most of us travel with credit cards, debit cards or both. Some of us like to carry a few travelers checks as well. However, it's also a good idea to have some local currency with you. In order to get the best exchange rate, try to find some of the local currency before traveling.

6. Essential Contacts

You should have your travel agent's contact information with you, if you booked through an agent. On top of that, ask for information about contacts they may have in your destination country.

Make sure you have the proper contact info for your banks and credits cards. If your cards are lost or stolen, you'll need to contact them.

7. Things to Put in Your Carry-On Luggage

At some point we'll all experience it - lost luggage. It's unsettling enough to have to deal with this, but arriving at your hotel without your toothbrush or deodorant can be really annoying.

Some hotels may offer travel-sized toiletries packages for guests that have forgotten theirs, but many don't.

Quick Note: Make sure you keep to the size guidelines set by the airlines.

8. Cell Phone

So that you are able to stay in touch while you're traveling, consider taking your cellphone with you. Check with your service provider to see if there will be any roaming charges and to be sure there is coverage where you're going.

9. Other Languages

A "universal translator" like those used in Star Trek would sure be nice. However, there are many advanced devices available right now. And, you can use a low-tech version - a comprehensive phrase book.

10. Prescription Drugs and Immunization

Prior to your departure date, find out if there are any vaccination you need to have for your destination country. If there are - get them!

Don't forget to take your essential medications with you. Also, have the doctor's prescription available should any of your medications be questioned. Some countries impose drastic penalties if they suspect you of attempting to

smuggle controlled substances.

11. Avoid Over-Packing

Stick with a few essentials - a swimsuit, shorts, t-shirts, something for a dressy evening, dress shoes and comfortable walking shoes. Select items that you can mix and match and that can be laundered along the way.

12. Reading Material

If you'll be spending extended periods of time on planes, buses, trains, ships, etc. then make sure you bring along some reading material - books, magazines, crossword puzzles and more.

We hope this checklist helps you plan for a stress-free vacation.

For more travel tips and advice on [cheap vacations](#) we suggest that you visit <http://www.DirtCheapTravelSecrets.com>.

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