

Published based on [A Handy Vacationer's Checklist](#)

# **A Handy Vacationer's Checklist**

When planning a trip, with so many things to think about, it's certainly possible to forget a few items. We've created a convenience checklist to help you remember everything that's important.

### **1. Passport and Visas**

It goes without saying - your passport needs to be up-to-date. You also need to obtain any required visas for the countries you'll be visiting.

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

Even though we mostly use e-tickets nowadays, it's still smart to print out your tickets, including your airline tickets, or have the information available on your laptop or cell phone. That way you'll have important information, as well as your itinerary, easily available.

### **3. Accommodation Reservations or Vouchers**

As mentioned above, even if you reserved your accommodations online, be sure to have the reservation confirmations, and hotel information, with you.

### **4. Travel Insurance**

Be sure to have your [travel insurance](#) and medical insurance documentation with you when traveling. You don't want to find yourself in a situation where you need that documentation only to realize that you left them at home.

### **5. Cash**

Most of us travel with credit cards, debit cards or both. Some of us still carry a few travelers checks with us, as well. Nonetheless, it's good to have some local currency available, as well. Make an effort to obtain some of the local currency before you travel so you can get the best exchange rate.

### **6. Essential Contacts**

If you booked your trip through a travel agent, you should have their contact information with you. On top of that, ask for information about contacts they may have in your destination country.

Also be sure to have any necessary contact information for your credit cards and banks. You'll need to contact them if your cards are lost or stolen.

### **7. What You Need in Your Carry-On Luggage**

It seems to be unavoidable at times - lost luggage. Dealing with this kind of inconvenience is bad enough. However, if you arrive at your hotel without so much as a toothbrush or deodorant, it can be very unsettling.

There are some hotels that offer free, small toiletries packages for guests that have forgotten theirs, but some don't.

Reminder: Be sure to keep to the size requirements that are imposed by the airlines.

### **8. Mobile Phone**

So that you are able to stay in touch while you're traveling, consider taking your cellphone with you. Ask your service provider about coverage where you're going and about any roaming charges.

### **9. Speaking a Foreign Language**

Even though we're not quite to the point of a "universal translator" as in Star Trek, there are still some pretty advanced devices out there. Or, you can opt for a low-tech version - an easy to use phrase book.

### **10. Medications and Immunization**

Before your trip, find out if you need any vaccinations and then, if you do, 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. A lot of countries impose harsh penalties if they suspect you of attempting to smuggle controlled substances.

### **11. Avoid Over-Packing**

Stick to what is really necessary. Things like a bathing suit, shorts, t-shirts, a few dressy items, dress shoes and a pair of comfortable walking shoes. Pick things that you can mix and match. And, try not to over-pack.

### **12. Books**

If you'll be spending extended periods of time on planes, buses, trains, ships, etc. then have some reading material with you like books, magazines, crossword puzzles and more.

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

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

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