



## TRAVEL CHECKLIST

### General Travel Preparation:

- ❑ **If you do not already have a passport, get one now. If you do have a passport, verify its expiration date; renew if within 9 months of expiration.**
  - If you can get additional documents like a passport card when you get your passport, do so.
  - If you travel through countries at war, often need multiple visas, or just like the redundancy or cool guy factor, consider obtaining a duplicate passport.
    - Duplicates are valid for 2 years instead of 10 so you'll have to renew more frequently; it's up to you whether this is worth the effort or not.
- ❑ **Enroll in [Global Entry](#), [SmartGate](#), [Registered Traveller](#), or your country's trusted traveler program.**
- ❑ **If you do not have automatic payments set up to take care of all bills, set that up now.** You do not want to take off for a month only to come home and find unpaid bills, eviction notices, repossessed vehicles, etc. because you forgot to make payments while you were on vacation.
  - ❑ If you cannot automate certain financial obligations, pay any bills that will come due during your trip.
  - Automating your finances will simplify your life and save you time and money. Read [Ramit Sethi's I Will Teach You To Be Rich](#), automate everything you can, and rest easy.
- ❑ **Put together an [emergency information report](#) in case something happens overseas and you need assistance.** Include your name, physical characteristics, defining marks like scars and tattoos, blood type, medical conditions, and recent front and side profile pictures. A template is provided in the [downloads section in the members' area](#). Give copies to your next of kin, family, etc.
  - If you regularly travel to Africa, South America, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, or other high risk environments, consider kidnap and ransom (K&R) insurance.
- ❑ **Get required vaccines or verify vaccination status.**
  - ❑ [Carte Jaune/Yellow Card](#) should be kept inside your passport.
- ❑ **Ensure that all important documents, credit cards, ID cards, etc. are valid through the duration of your trip.**
  - ❑ If anything will expire during the trip or soon after your return, renew before leaving.
- ❑ **Inform your credit card issuer(s) of your travel dates and locations.**
  - ❑ You don't want to be stuck in a foreign country with no money and no way to get the problem fixed.
- ❑ **Make sure somebody knows your travel plans:** where you're going, where you're staying, contact information, expected time of return, etc.

### Right Before Leaving:

- ❑ **Verify accommodations and arrangements.** This is particularly important at smaller places like bed-and-breakfasts and rental houses or family, friends, or business associates who are picking you up or you're staying at their places. If traveling to locations that require a guide or "fixer," verify those arrangements.
- ❑ **Clean your house, take out the trash, and dispose of anything that would stink if left alone.**
  - ❑ Refrigerator, sinks and dishes, toilets, litter boxes, etc.
- ❑ **Check batteries in anything that might need them**
  - ❑ Electronic door locks, smart home devices, thermostats, smoke detectors, etc.
- ❑ **Turn off the thermostat or create a travel setting that uses minimal power**
- ❑ **Unplug appliances and turn off water**
  - Most devices still draw power in standby mode or when "off;" unplugging what you can is always a good idea and safer overall.
- ❑ **Shut off anything that can freeze, leak, or cause problems with water.** If possible or practical, shut down the main water supply to your home.
- ❑ **Do what you can to limit the impression that you are out of town or not at home.**
  - Cancel or put on hold newspaper and mail delivery so it doesn't pile up.
  - Automate lighting and use a "fake TV" to create the impression that somebody is home.
  - Fresh snowfall makes it very clear that nobody is home; arrange with a friend or neighbor to create fake foot or vehicle tracks and shovel or snow plow if necessary.
- ❑ **Don't kill things left in your charge.**
  - ❑ Arrange care for your pets
  - ❑ Water your plants



## TRAVEL CHECKLIST

### Dopp Kit:

- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Dental floss
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Shampoo/Conditioner
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hair brush
- ☐ Hair product if you use it
- ☐ Razor
- ☐ Razor blades (if using a safety razor, pack single blades in multiple locations so they don't all get confiscated; in general TSA or other security folks won't notice them at all, but better safe than sorry)
- ☐ Shaving soap
- ☐ Shaving brush or ayate cloth
- ☐ Nail clippers
- ☐ Nose/ear hair trimmer
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Prescription medications
  - ☐ Make sure that you have enough medications to get you through any delays – an extra one week supply is a good starting point
    - From 9/11 to the Eyjafjallajökull eruption to political instability, delays and groundings of 2-10 days or more are possible
  - ☐ Military personnel deploying overseas or those planning extended travel to the third world should have 2 full months of necessary medications to see you through expected delays in medical or postal systems.

### Documents:

- ☐ Passport
  - ☐ Verify all necessary visas (don't forget visa requirements for intermediate stops)
  - ☐ Carte Jaune/Yellow Card/International Certificate of Vaccination inside passport
- ☐ Driver's license
- ☐ Credit card(s)
- ☐ Debit/ATM card(s)
- ☐ Reservations
  - ☐ Boarding pass
  - ☐ Hotel reservation confirmation
  - ☐ Rental car confirmation
- ☐ Company/government orders or other documentation as required
  - ☐ Company/government identification cards, access badges, etc.
- ☐ Emergency phone numbers
  - ☐ Include international and local calling codes; phone numbers may vary depending on where they're called from
- ☐ Contact information and address of embassies or consulates



## TRAVEL CHECKLIST

### Clothing / Accessories:

- ☐ Suit
- ☐ Blazer, sport coat, or odd jacket
- ☐ Slacks
- ☐ Chinos
- ☐ Jeans
- ☐ Dress shirts
- ☐ Polo shirts
- ☐ T-shirts
- ☐ Sweater
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Socks (pair socks with pants/outfits as packing)
- ☐ Dress shoes
  - ☐ Matching belt
- ☐ Upscale casual shoes
  - ☐ Matching belt
- ☐ Casual shoes
  - ☐ Matching belt
- ☐ Ties
- ☐ Cufflinks, tie pins, etc.
- ☐ Pocket squares or handkerchiefs
- ☐ Coat or jacket (weather or climate dependent)
- ☐ Sport or location specific gear as necessary
  - ☐ Bathing suit
  - ☐ Hiking boots
  - ☐ Shell jackets
  - ☐ Synthetic or merino layering
  - ☐ Gloves
  - ☐ Goggles

### Gear / Miscellaneous:

- ☐ Phone
  - ☐ Charger
- ☐ Computer
  - ☐ Power cables
- ☐ Tablet
  - ☐ Charger
- ☐ Headphones
- ☐ Pen
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ First aid kit (if not kept in toiletry bag)
- ☐ Microfiber travel towel