

Vacation Checklist

Checklist · 28 items · 7 sections

The complete vacation planning and preparation checklist. Covers what to book, what to pack, what to do before leaving home, and must-haves during your trip.

Open the editable, AI-powered version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/vacation-checklist>

BOOKING & PLANNING

- Set vacation budget: total spend including flights, hotel, food, activities, and buffer
HIGH
- Book flights or transportation
HIGH
- Book hotel, Airbnb, or accommodations
HIGH
- Purchase travel insurance
HIGH
Covers trip cancellation, medical emergencies, and lost luggage
- Research destination: entry requirements, visa, vaccinations
HIGH
- Book activities, tours, or restaurant reservations in advance
- Arrange airport transportation: shuttle, rideshare, or parking

DOCUMENTS

- Check passport expiration: valid for 6+ months past return date
HIGH
- Print or download boarding passes, confirmations, and hotel bookings
HIGH
- Photocopy passport and ID: keep copy separate from originals

MONEY & CARDS

- Notify bank and credit card of travel dates and destinations
HIGH
Banks flag foreign transactions as fraud: this call prevents your card from being blocked
- Get local currency or confirm card works at destination ATMs

HIGH

- Check your credit card's travel benefits: lounge access, trip insurance, no foreign fees

BEFORE LEAVING

- Check in for flight online (24 hours before for most airlines)
HIGH
- Arrange for pet care, house sitting, or boarding
HIGH
- Stop mail or hold packages (USPS mail hold at usps.com)
- Set home thermostat to energy-saving mode
- Unplug electronics and small appliances (saves energy, reduces fire risk)
- Lock all windows and doors: double-check before leaving
HIGH
- Take out trash (don't return home to a smelly house)
- Set smart home security or ask a neighbor to keep an eye out

PACKING ESSENTIALS

- Pack medications: prescription and OTC for stomach, pain, allergies
HIGH
- Phone charger, international adapter if needed, and portable battery
HIGH
- Sunscreen and insect repellent

TECH & APPS

- Download offline maps, translation apps, and entertainment for the trip
- International data plan or local SIM card arranged
HIGH

SAFETY

- Share itinerary with a trusted person at home
HIGH
- Research emergency numbers and nearest hospital at destination