

## **One Month or More Prior**

- □ Make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months past your return date and has enough pages available to stamp.
- □ Check the requirements of the country you'll be heading to (link is for US passport holders) as some require an International Driving Permit if you're planning to drive, or a Visa prepared in advance. Others have requirements such as having a round trip ticket or amount of currency you are required to have in your bank account which aren't always enforced but it's good to be prepared.
- □ Make sure your pets, lawns, plants, mail etc are taken care of by someone.
- □ Since holes, plugs and pins differ everywhere, get a universal electrical travel adapter before you go to prevent accidents and damage to your appliances. Also, laptops and cell phone charges will require a different converter than what you would use for a hair dryer. For any Apple products, Apple sells a neat pack that has several different chargers.
- □ If planning on carrying on only check all your airlines' guidelines. The dimensions for a carry-on in the US is not an international standard and you may get hit with hefty fees even if your bag fits on a Transatlantic plane.

## **One Week or More**

- □ Money- ideally take a credit card with no international fees, two debit cards to use ATMs with (bonus if it has no international fees), and make sure to get cash from your bank to have with you. Let your bank(s) know the countries and dates you'll be travelling. Some countries take chip and pin card only so research this beforehand. Travelers checks, cashier's checks and money orders are not used abroad anymore.
- □ Contact your cellular carrier to see what International Plans they have if you're planning on having your phone on or if you want to disable it. Some price saver examples for Europe include getting a month-to-month T-mobile plan for your phone (and shutting off your phone service with your carrier) which has great service in Europe or get a new sim card.
- □ Take care of upcoming bills or set them up on autopay.
- □ Make sure pets, lawns, plants, mail etc are taken care of by someone.
- □ Check the itinerary to make sure all hotels, transportation, and tours are booked. You may also want to make reservations for popular restaurants that get filled quickly.

## 72 Hours Prior

- Pack two to three days earlier, and have it ready to go except for any essentials. You'll feel a lot better getting everything done ahead of time and have time to catch anything that needs to be purchased last minute.
- □ Re-confirm everything- This is especially true with airbnb & vacation homes. Make sure the flight's schedule hasn't been changed or cancelled.
- □ Send a copy of the itinerary, phone numbers, etc to your emergency contact



□ If you haven't already, get your booking documents organized. I use Travefy to keep my itineraries electronic, and a folder with everything printed out is important for a copy on hand. I also use an excel spreadsheet for longer trips to keep my dates, confirmations, and contact numbers.

## **The Day Before**

- Check in for your flight and make sure your Frequent Flier Number and Known Traveler Number (Global Entry, TSA Precheck etc) if applicable are on your boarding pass.
- □ Go through your packing check list and make sure anything that will be packed the day of travel is out and ready. Ensure that all toiletries in your carry on are under 3 oz. Keep any medications on hand, do NOT check them!
- □ Contact your banks to remind them you will be traveling.
- □ Make copies of your passport, license, and important documents to keep secured electronically and/or on person.
- □ Try and get a good night's sleep and drink tons of extra water today!