

# International Travel Checklist

- Check visa and passport requirements for your destination.
- Check required and recommended vaccinations and medications.
- Understand the drinking water situation at your destination.
- Get to know basic food safety rules.
- Take out appropriate travel insurance for your destination, trip length and activities.
- Purchase currency for your destination, or find out where you can exchange/withdraw it once you arrive.
- Find out the international fees charged by your bank for debit/credit card transactions.
- Contact your bank and let them know your itinerary so they don't freeze your card the first time you try to use it.
- Make copies of your passport, visa and itinerary and give them to a reliable friend or family member. Also, make a digital copy in a secure cloud location like Dropbox so you can access them online from your destination if required.
- Familiarise yourself with local etiquette including dress and tipping.
- Learn some basic words in the local language - even just *hello*, *please* and *thank you* can go a long way.
- Research internet accessibility in your destination.
- Find out the best way to get from the airport to your accommodation on arrival/departure.
- Read up on local transport options and safety.
- Remove unnecessary items from your wallet such as spare credit cards, in case of loss or theft.
- Memorise the PIN numbers for the debit and credit cards you will be taking. Many countries use a PIN to authorise transactions instead of a signature.
- Investigate local tourist scams and security concerns including any neighbourhoods you should avoid.
- Do your laundry including sheets and towels. You don't want to come home to housework at the end of your fabulous holiday.
- Pay upcoming bills or schedule automatic payments to avoid late fees or service shut-offs.
- Organise someone to collect your mail or get a temporary hold/redirection.
- Recruit someone to water your plants.
- Arrange pet sitting if required.
- Clear out perishable food items and empty your rubbish bin.
- Turn off and unplug unnecessary appliances to save on your power bill.
- Set your thermostat appropriately to save on energy but also keep your pipes etc. from freezing.

*Bon Voyage!*