

Master Traveling Checklist

Keep prepared year-round and keep in suitcase (for frequent travelers):

- Make paper and electronic copies of all of the following: vaccination records (if specific vaccinations are required for your travel destination), emergency contact information, government-issued IDs (driver's licenses, social security cards, passports, birth certificates for children under two), health insurance cards, and credit cards
- Travel-size hygiene items: shampoo, conditioner, lotion, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, razor and razor blades, comb or brush, hair ties, floss, mouthwash, and motion sickness remedy, sunscreen
- Airplane entertainment: deck of cards, travel-size games
- Miscellaneous: travel pillow, ear plugs, extra cell phone charger
- Children's items: baby oil, baby lotion, hair detangler, baby wash, children's sunscreen, quiet toys and children's entertainment (stickers, crayons and paper, flashcards, activity books)

One month ahead of time:

- Find a house sitter

At least two weeks ahead of time:

- Plan your trip itinerary (what you plan to do on your vacation, day by day)
- Plan all transportation: make sure you know how you're getting to and from your home airport, and destination airport

One week ahead of time:

- Begin packing
- Finalize packing list
- Finalize all travel plans, transportation, and travel plans
- Make sure you have paper and electronic copies of identification, vaccination records, health insurance cards, and credit cards
- Tell your kids what to expect with traveling and the vacation
- Pay all bills that will be due while you're away
- Cancel any deliveries that may come during your vacation (such as milk or produce)

A few days ahead of time:

- Clean the house (coming home to a messy house is the worst)
- Do all laundry
- Give your travel itinerary to a couple close friends, family, or neighbors
- Prepare for the house sitter (see the post on this!)

The day before:

- Print boarding passes
- Get cash
- Do all weekly beauty and hygiene routines (such as shave, tweeze eyebrows, and skin and hair treatments)
- Shower and bathe (to minimize last-minute packing items and save time the morning of travel)
- Bathe the children
- Charge your phone, turn it off, and pack your phone charger
- Charge all electronic devices you plan to take including laptop, DVD player, and music player
- Put the stroller in the car
- Review the list of items allowed in carry-ons to make sure you're in compliance
- Create a list of items you will need to pack the next morning

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- Pack snacks for the airplane – nothing messy! For Paleo people I suggest jerky, almonds, fruit, leftovers, and salad (although you'll have to keep the leftovers and salad in the refrigerator until the next day). For normal people I suggest granola bars, sandwiches, and trail mix. For everyone I suggest bottled water.
- Prepare bottles for the baby.
- Prepare your breakfast for the next day.
- Make sure you have a separate bag within your carry on with the items needed at check-in
- Make sure you have a separate bag within your carry on with the items you'll need to take out at security
- Pack your house keys in an easily-accessible place
- Lay out all family members' clothes for the next day

The morning of travel:

- Pack all your last-minute and refrigerated items
- Go through your master packing list to make sure you didn't forget anything