Pre-Trip: Close the House & Packing Prep Checklist

GatherandGoTravel.com

1 Month Before

✓

- [ ] Create or update trip packing list
- [ ] If applicable: Confirm kids' clothes and shoes still fit
- [ ] Order or purchase items needed
- [ ] If applicable: Reconfirm pet sitter dates
- [ ] If applicable: Plan for car maintenance (e.g., oil change, car wash, etc.) for a driving trip

1 Week Before

✓

- [ ] If applicable: purchase more pet food (e.g., dog, cat, or fish food), if needed
- [ ] If applicable: cancel or reschedule your kids' activities and lessons taking place during the trip
- [ ] Refill prescription medications you may need while traveling
- [ ] Hold all regular deliveries, including mail, groceries, newspaper, etc.
- [ ] Confirm all ordered trip items have arrived
- [ ] Let neighbors know you are leaving town. Ask them to water plants or collect packages, if needed

1 - 2 Days Before

✓

- [ ] Finish laundry
- [ ] Pack
- [ ] Make digital & paper copies of travel documents (e.g., IDs, credit cards, emergency contacts), esp. for international travel
- [ ] Share your itinerary with friends or family
- [ ] Get cash, including small bills for tipping
- [ ] Get gas, if needed for a driving trip, or for travel to the airport
- [ ] Pick up any final trip items
- [ ] Book airport parking, if needed
- [ ] Find and download apps, books, and media (e.g., movies, tv shows, podcasts, Spotify playlists, etc.) to use while traveling
- [ ] Perform app and software updates for all devices
- [ ] Charge all devices and backup batteries
- [ ] Set vacation light timers
- [ ] Check-in for flight, if needed
- [ ] Complete pre-trip travel documents, if needed for international travel
- [ ] Enable or pay for a mobile data plan, if needed for international travel
- [ ] Drop off your pet at the sitter (day before or day of, depending on departure time)

Day Of Departure

✓

- [ ] If applicable: Contact the school if kids are missing classes
- [ ] If applicable: Water plants
- [ ] If applicable: Feed fish extended fish food
- [ ] Run dishwasher
- [ ] Reduce heat or air-conditioning to conserve and save on energy costs
- [ ] Pull all street-facing shades, and ensure all windows are closed and locked
- [ ] Tidy the kitchen—sweep and wipe down counters as necessary
- [ ] Toss or freeze leftovers and other food that will spoil while you are gone
- [ ] Empty all trash and compost
- [ ] Unplug unnecessary appliances, including computers, as needed
- [ ] If you would like the reassurance, take photos of oven and stove in off position. Do the same for locked doors or windows.
- [ ] Set the alarm, lock the door, ensure car(s) are locked, and the garage door—if applicable—is shut. Have a great trip!