

A close-up photograph of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling and looking down. She is wearing a pink top. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a wooden surface.

Moving Abroad Checklist

**SO YOU ARE MOVING ABROAD?
HOW EXCITING!**

We have personally moved countries numerous times and understand how many things there are to think about and DO!

IT CAN BE OVERWHELMING!!

But don't worry. Take a deep breathe right now and use this checklist to make your move abroad much easier.

We also include our favourite apps and websites to make the whole process easier!

Enjoy your new life abroad!

Alison and Alastair

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BEFORE YOU START...

Being organised and having the right tools is vital before you start anything and moving abroad is no different. Here is the list of the apps we cannot do without. Most of them are free but you can pay for more advanced versions

OUR FAVOURITES APPS FOR EXPAT LIFE

- ☐ Tripit - this app scans your email for flights, hotel bookings and other events and then organises them into a lovely itnierary for you.
- ☐ MSecure - Secure vault for all our passwords. passport numbers, credit card details etc
- ☐ XE - Currency Converter
- ☐ Google Maps - transport options all over the world
- ☐ Google Translate - translation tool
- ☐ Duolingo - to learn another language

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3 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR RELOCATION

DOCUMENTS - COLLECT AND UPDATE

- ☐ Passports - are they all valid for more than 6 months? If not get new ones.
- ☐ Driving Licences - apply for an international drivers licence if needed.
- ☐ Birth Certificates
- ☐ Marriage Certificate
- ☐ Health Records
- ☐ Health Records for your pet
- ☐ School/ University Papers
- ☐ Other Qualifications
- ☐ Insurance documents (Life, property etc)
- ☐ Tax Records
- ☐ Financial Records (e.g.: bank statement)

We recommend that you scan all of your documents and save copies to storage in the cloud like OneDrive, Google Drive or Dropbox. That way they are available from anywhere.

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3 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR RELOCATION

TASKS

- ☐ Join a Facebook Expat Group for your new city. These groups can answer any questions about the area.
- ☐ Decide which area you would like to live in.
- ☐ Search for schools / colleges in your new area.
- ☐ Apply for visas if required
- ☐ Book your Flights. We recommend using skyscanner to compare flight options & book.
- ☐ Get 5 quotes from reputable international removal companies here.
- ☐ Look at options for health insurance.
- ☐ Own your property? Call your agent to lease or sell your current house.
- ☐ Book in a short term rental option for when you arrive. (Airbnb, managed apartment etc)
- ☐ Check the requirements for transferring your pet. Employ a pet relocation company.

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2 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR RELOCATION

TASKS

- ☐ Enroll your children at the school of choice
- ☐ Schedule a doctor's appointment for check-ups and/or vaccinations.
- ☐ Visit the vet for all vaccinations etc
- ☐ Book your mover and have an in-home inspection.
- ☐ Start informing people about your relocation (family and friends, your employer etc.)
- ☐ Rent your current property? Contact your landlord to give notice on moving out.
- ☐ Book a storage unit if needed.
- ☐ Inform your bank about your relocation.
- ☐ Mobile Phone - can you use your current number initially in your new country?
- ☐ Contact your utility suppliers and fix a date to turn off gas, electricity, water, internet etc.
- ☐ Selling your car? Advertise it.

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1 MONTH BEFORE YOUR RELOCATION

TASKS

- ☐ Have your doctor and vet appointments.
- ☐ Buy any prescription drugs that may not be available in your new country.
- ☐ Cancel magazine and newspaper subscriptions.
- ☐ Organise a bank account in your new country and transfer money to the new account.
- ☐ Get packing boxes, tape and bubble wrap from your mover or buy it yourself. Start packing.
- ☐ Move boxes you will not take with you to your storage unit.
- ☐ Cancel any home deliveries.
- ☐ Get a Mail forwarding service to a friend or family. You can sign up at your local post office.
- ☐ Purchase power adaptors for your new country
- ☐ Purchase a power bank to charge your devices.
- ☐ Contact your Tax Agency to notify them of your relocation.

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1-2 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR RELOCATION

TASKS

- ☐ Purchase travel insurance
- ☐ Cancel house and car insurances for the day you leave.
- ☐ Book in a professional clean for your house after the movers have left.
- ☐ Leave your travel essentials aside to pack in your hand luggage.
- ☐ Add extras to your flight if needed (extra bags etc)
- ☐ Start using up your pantry items and giving things away that you won't use.
- ☐ Meet friends and family. Arrange a farewell party.
- ☐ Finish packing, seal the last boxes and leave out only the essentials.
- ☐ Donate or throw away any items that you don't really need.
- ☐ Arrange transfer from and to the airport.
- ☐ Prepare entertainment for little kids for your flight

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48-24 HOURS BEFORE YOUR RELOCATION

TASKS

- ☐ Removalist Day - co-ordinate as much as you have agreed to.
- ☐ Get the cleaners in to do a thorough clean.
- ☐ Check in drawers , cupboards and behind doors for forgotten items.
- ☐ Choose your travel outfit and keep it aside.
- ☐ Run the washing machine for one last time and pack the remaining clothes.
- ☐ Unlock your phone for international calls.
- ☐ Confirm your flight status.
- ☐ Charge all electronic devices you may need
- ☐ Enjoy a drink with your friends or family.
- ☐ Check – in online
- ☐ Give your flight number to friends or family.
- ☐ Prepare some snacks for your trip.

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D-DAY - MOVING ABROAD DAY

TASKS

- ☐ Remember to remove your house key from your key ring.
- ☐ Check one last time for forgotten items.
- ☐ Got your passports?
- ☐ Ensure your documents, money and phone are in your bag.
- ☐ Take a photo to remember your old life.
- ☐ At the airport, go straight to check-in
- ☐ Once your bags are checked through enjoy duty free shopping, a snack or drink.
- ☐ Relax, sit back and enjoy your flight!
- ☐ Start your new life abroad!

We wish you all the best for your new life abroad!
Watch this space for tips on settling into your new country.....