

## The hints checklist - Hints for Australian Travellers

(from [www.smarttraveller.gov.au/hints/checklist.html](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/hints/checklist.html) (copy 1/2005))

### What to do in the months before you go

- Study your destination and its laws, customs and climate.
- Organise appropriate clothing and learn some useful phrases.
- Think about your personal safety on your trip. Check the [latest travel advice](#) for your destination and subscribe to receive instant email notification each time the travel advice for your destination is updated.
- See your doctor or travel health centre. Get your vaccinations and plan to stay healthy. (Note that some vaccinations can take three or even six months to become effective.)
- If you already have a passport, make sure it is valid for at least six months from planned entry to another country.
- If you need a [new passport](#), apply for it in plenty of time.
- If you have a disability, check the facilities of places where you want to go.
- Book your ticket and organise appropriate travel insurance.
- Find out what [visas you need](#) and obtain them.
- Check that your medicines are legal where you intend to visit.
- Arrange for sufficient medicines to meet your personal medical needs.
- Double-check that you have [adequate health](#) and [travel insurance](#).
- If you are receiving a payment through Centrelink, call to inform them of your trip.
- Write or update your will.
- Get adaptor plugs for electrical equipment you plan to take.
- Check what you can take back to Australia. If you're thinking about shopping overseas, read [Guide for travellers - know before you go](#) (pdf) and [What can't I take into Australia?](#); and if in doubt check it out! [Does your luggage break wildlife laws?](#).
- Consult [Tax back for travellers](#) (pdf). It tells you how to claim your GST refund under the Tourist Refund Scheme.
- Organise your travellers cheques, credit cards, foreign cash and phone card.
- [Register your presence overseas](#) to make it easier for us to contact you in an emergency, whether it be a natural disaster, civil disturbance or a family issue.

### If you will be away for a long time

- Consult your tax accountant or contact the [Australian Taxation Office](#).
- Inform your local [electoral office](#).
- Leave a power of attorney document with a person you trust.
- [Register your presence overseas](#)

### A few days before you go

- [Check the current travel advice](#) for any countries you plan to visit and subscribe to travel advice updates if you have not already done so.
- Confirm your reservations.
- Check your travel documents.
- Leave a copy of your itinerary, visa, passport photo page, credit card, phone card and travellers cheque details with family or a friend.
- Pack your own copy of your travel documents and other details separately from your handbag or wallet.
- Label all your luggage clearly.