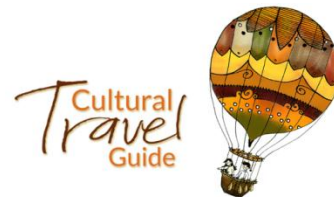


Countdown Cultural Travel Checklist



By Carolina Ayerbe from *Cultural Travel Guide* — www.culturaltravelguide.com

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5 years to go

- 1. Start your travel wishlist.
- 2. Start saving money.

1 year to go

- 3. Choose your destination.
- 4. Choose your attractions/sites.
- 5. Read about the history and significance of the sites.
- 6. Research local customs and laws.
- 7. Research driving requirements.
- 8. Learn polite expressions in language of destination.
- 9. Research culinary delicacies you want to taste.
- 10. Find out if there are festivals coming up.
- 11. Get in shape.

6 months to go

- 12. Research flights.
- 13. Research hotels.
- 14. Research rental cars.
- 15. Check vacation policies at work.
- 16. Find out how many days available you have.
- 17. Check passport validity.
- 18. Check if a visa is required for your destination.

3 months to go

- 19. Decide on your itinerary.
- 20. Book your hotel.
- 21. Buy travel insurance.
- 22. Check if vaccinations are required for your destination.
- 23. Brush up on the polite expressions in the language of your destination.
- 24. Notify your employer of your upcoming trip.
- 25. Get a house sitter.
- 26. Get a pet sitter.

1 month to go

- 27. Get a full medical and dental checkup.
- 28. Make sure your pet has all vaccinations.
- 29. Purchase clothes and shoes.
- 30. Purchase travel gear and gadgets.
- 31. Check that batteries and SD cards are working properly.
- 32. Check that you have the necessary chargers, converters and plugs.
- 33. Confirm that health and travel insurance offer the necessary coverage.
- 34. Inform your family of your trip.
- 35. Check to whom you can forward your mail.
- 36. Notify friends or family abroad that you will be visiting.
- 37. Purchase gifts for them.
- 38. Find out if your phone will work abroad and if not, how to activate it while on your trip.

2 weeks to go

- 39. Entrust somebody with a house key and the duty of mowing the lawn and watering the plants.

- 40. Get prescriptions refilled.
- 41. Review/replenish your travel emergency kit.
- 42. Start packing.
- 43. Buy foreign currency.
- 44. Scan and email yourself your travel documents.
- 45. Leave a copy of itinerary and contact information abroad with your family.
- 46. Gather and store in your phone important phone numbers abroad: The travel insurance company number, hotel number, friends and family's numbers abroad, credit card company number, your country's embassy at your destination number.
- 47. Arrange for someone to take care of important payments or events in your absence.
- 48. Cancel, suspend or redirect subscriptions and services.

1 week to go

- 49. Confirm hotel reservation.
- 50. Get and set up timers for the lights at home.
- 51. Arrange transportation to the airport.
- 52. Review/update your luggage tags.
- 53. Choose reading materials and entertainment for the waiting periods.
- 54. Train your house sitter.

3 days to go

- 55. Get your document travel pouch ready (passport, tickets, etc).
- 56. Check the weather at your destination.
- 57. Pay pending bills.
- 58. Place valuables in safe.
- 59. Clean and tidy up your house.

1 day to go

- 60. Purge your wallet of unnecessary cards.
- 61. Set your email autoreply message.
- 62. Check that windows are closed.
- 63. Check that there's no food lying around.
- 64. Check for dirty clothes that need washing.
- 65. Charge every electronic device.
- 66. Spend some time with your loved ones.

Go!

- 67. Check that there is no perishable food in the fridge.
- 68. Take out the trash.
- 69. Cut the natural gas line.
- 70. Water the plants.
- 71. Do the dishes and finish cleaning the house.
- 72. Check online if the flights are on time.
- 73. Pack your last minute items.
- 74. Turn on electronic timers for the lights.
- 75. Set down the thermostat.
- 76. Make sure every electric device is unplugged.
- 77. Walk around bathrooms and kitchen and make sure all faucets are closed.
- 78. Be sure that you have plane tickets, passports, money, credit cards, medications, driver's license, frequent flyer cards, maps, travel guides and phone numbers with you.
- 79. Check if there's anything you can leave at home.
- 80. Have an awesome cultural trip!