



**An Exacting Life's Travel Ready Checklist**

[anexactinglife.com](http://anexactinglife.com)

	Basic	Personal	Children 0-3	Children 4-12	Pets	House and Garden	Car Travel (own car)
<b>Far Future</b> (12 months ahead or more)	Choose dream destination  Research things to do and prices  Set budget  Save money  Book travel if it is time-sensitive (e.g. attend ABBA reunion tour in Sweden)  Consider time share, home exchange or alternate lodgings	Set and meet personal goals before dream travel (get promotion, get healthier, etc.)  Buy needed clothes that will be out of season when you travel (buy sandals in summer for a warm-weather vacation next winter)	Check child-friendliness of destination and your comfort level (such as access to health care)  Be aware of diet sensitivities  Think about child's temperament for travel	Check child-friendliness of transportation, destination, activities and meals  Completely child/family-oriented trip or not?  What decisions will you allow the kids to make about the trip?  Spending money?  Work on child's habits and fears if they will impact travel	If bringing pets, check for pet-friendly transportation and lodging	Install timers for lighting and thermostats if possible  Is an alarm system needed?	Ensure safety inspection is up to date  Save for new, safe tires if required



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Before Booking  (3-6 months ahead or more)	Check travel advisories  Check transportation options (Direct flights? On rail line?)  Check exchange rates  Apply for or renew passport and visas  Check on health insurance, especially exclusions	Book vacation time from work  Plan timelines for work projects; include travel time in calculations  Keep up on medical and dental appointments	Consult with non-custodial parent and get written permission for child to travel with you  Arrange childcare if not travelling with child (e.g. work conference)  If travelling with child, check childcare policy: do you pay for vacation weeks when child is not present?  Apply for or renew passport and visas for each child	Consult with non-custodial parent and get written permission for child to travel with you  Arrange childcare if not travelling with child (e.g. work conference)  If travelling with child, check childcare policy: do you pay for vacation weeks when child is not present?  Apply for or renew passport and visas for each child  Check school's annual calendar for big events; check with kids' activities for big events (plays, recitals, tournaments)  Inform children of trip and educate about destination	Attend to pet health problems such as diet sensitivities and dermatitis	Complete urgent repairs (such as roof leaks)  Check home insurance policy for conditions when house is not occupied	Take care of that Check Engine light!



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<p><b>At Booking</b></p> <p>(3-6 months ahead unless budget is not an issue!)</p>	<p>Book transportation (flights, rail pass, car rental)</p> <p>Reserve accommodations and pay deposit</p> <p>Purchase travel health insurance</p> <p>Buy tickets for concerts, plays and attractions if dates are non-negotiable or supplies are limited</p>	<p>Make arrangements and requests for mobility, special diet, allergies to others' pets</p>	<p>Check age at which you must pay for young children's tickets (e.g. some domestic flights do not require a ticket for a "babe in arms" under 2)</p> <p>Check baggage and equipment limits (car seat, stroller, bassinet: on board or checked)</p> <p>Reserve car seat if not bringing own</p>	<p>Reserve booster seat if not bringing own</p> <p>Check if specific theatres and restaurants welcome/allow children</p>	<p>Register pets travelling with you on flights and get details on restrictions</p> <p>Confirm pets are permitted at lodging and if there are conditions (such as in carrier only)</p> <p>Book kennel or pet sitter, especially if travelling over a stat holiday or summer weekend</p>	<p>Book house sitter or property maintenance (such as lawn mowing or snow plowing service)</p>	



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<p><b>Same Month as Travel</b></p>	<p>Check availability of bank, debit and credit at destination</p> <p>Order currency</p> <p>Borrow luggage if required</p>	<p>Refill prescriptions, keep in original labelled containers</p> <p>Get hair cut/colour</p> <p>Cancel or reschedule any appointments or meetings that you made and will miss</p> <p>Stay healthy: eat well, sleep well</p> <p>Maybe cut back on snacks and increase exercise to allow some vacation leeway!</p> <p>Use up fresh foods while they are still in date</p> <p>Stay up to date on work to avoid last-minute cramming</p>	<p>Buy or borrow novelty games, books or activities for flight/drive</p> <p>If using a new childcare provider while you are away (even if it's a relative), make time for child to spend time with caregiver and do an overnight "practice run"</p>	<p>Inform school of travel dates. May need "permission"</p> <p>Inform childcare and children's activities of travel dates</p> <p>Use travel count-down calendar</p> <p>Talk about expectations for trip (Try new foods? No video games at Grandma's?)</p> <p>May need to set limit on items from home that child can bring</p> <p>Buy or borrow novelty games, books and crafts for flight/drive</p>	<p>If pets going to kennel, get preventative flea treatment. May require vet visit and check-up. (Don't wait until week of travel in case pet has a reaction)</p> <p>If travelling with pet, talk to vet about travel medications if pet is usually anxious</p>	<p>Keep up with outdoor work to avoid "overgrown" look just prior to travel</p> <p>If it will be used by someone else, ensure equipment is in working order (lawn mower, sprinklers, etc.)</p> <p>Get extra house key(s) made if needed</p>	<p>Install new tires if needed</p> <p>Get regular maintenance such as oil change, filter, lube</p> <p>Purchase or update car emergency kit</p>



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<b>Same Week as Travel</b>	<p>Confirm all arrangements: transportation/car rental, accommodations, childcare</p> <p>Arrange travel to/from airport or car rental pickup point</p> <p>Meet with childcare provider, pet sitter and/or house sitter to review instructions and routines</p> <p>Make copies of travel documents and/or store copies on smart phone or tablet</p> <p>Share itinerary and travel contact info with friend or relative near home</p> <p>Check weather forecast at destination</p> <p>Get cash (at least enough for airport/travel to destination)</p> <p>Pack items not needed before travel date</p>	<p>Choose books for travel, hotel, beach, etc.</p> <p>Pay bills due before and during travel</p> <p>Notify credit card issuer of travel plans ( so it will not trigger a suspicious use warning from a new location)</p> <p>Check toiletries: need to buy travel containers or travel sizes?</p> <p>Buy/make travel snacks</p>	<p>Buy disposables, if using (diapers, wipes)</p>	<p>Communicate with child's teacher about homework; pick up at school if necessary</p> <p>If going on an extended trip with children, honour their wishes to spend extra time with grandparents, friends, team mates, etc. before they leave</p>	<p>Stock up on pet food and litter</p> <p>Check pet toys, bedding, etc.</p> <p>Borrow pet carriers if needed</p>	<p>Mow and water lawn and garden</p>	



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<b>Day/Night Before Travel</b>	<p>Pack luggage</p> <p>Pack carry-ons</p> <p>Charge cell phones, tablets and camera batteries; pack devices and chargers</p> <p>Verify all tickets, itineraries, maps and directions are stored on smart phone and/or print copies</p> <p>Keep all print documents and IDs together in carry-on</p> <p>Make copies of itinerary and contact info for childcare, pet sitter and/or house sitter; leave them notes about anything you forgot to review</p> <p>Set two alarms if getting up earlier than usual</p>	<p><i>Housework:</i></p> <p>Wash dishes</p> <p>Sweep kitchen floor</p> <p>Remove items that will spoil from the fridge</p> <p>Take out compost and garbage and wash bins, if necessary</p> <p><i>Office:</i></p> <p>Personally remind or call boss about your absence</p> <p>At end of day, set vacation voice mail message and automatic replies for email</p>	<p>Pack a minimum of 24 hours worth of food, diapers and clothes changes in case of travel delays</p>	<p>Review with kids what the travel day will be like</p>	<p>If taking pets on vacation or to kennel, get their carriers and supplies ready</p> <p>Walk dogs before departure or going to kennel</p> <p>Allow time to find and catch hiding cats!</p> <p>Bring pets to kennel if you have an early morning departure</p> <p>Leave time for cuddles and goodbyes!</p>		<p>Fill up gas and washer fluid; check tire pressure</p> <p>Bring cleaning supplies for spills (hopefully not vomit)</p> <p>Pack car with everything except last-minute essentials</p>



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<b>Day of Travel</b>	Allow extra time for traffic, baggage check-in and security line-ups	<p>Pack toiletries used for morning shower</p> <p>Expect to spend time entertaining or calming children and pets</p>	<p>Debate skipping nap prior to travel if you think child will sleep better en route</p> <p>Bring child's blankie, stuffed toy, etc. on board</p> <p>Bring toys, games, books, activities, drinks and snacks no matter what time of day or night you travel. Child will not sleep when expected and may cause disruption to others</p> <p>Have drink ready for plane take-off and landing</p> <p>Bring light weight umbrella stroller on board (to better manage airport after landing)</p>	<p>Do your kids use anti-nausea meds like Gravol?</p> <p>On road trips, look out for upcoming washrooms – may be scarce!</p> <p>Use play spaces at airports and roadside rest stops; on road trips, stop in safe areas such as parks where kids can run</p> <p>Enforce flight rules such as no devices during take-off and landing; no kicking the seat in front of them</p> <p>Have drink, snack or gum ready for plane take-off and landing</p> <p>On flights, escort child to washrooms before big after-lunch line-ups</p>	<p>Debate not feeding pets for a couple of hours before travel if they get car sick</p> <p>Administer sedation for travel if using</p>	<p>Set timer for lights</p> <p>Set thermostat to "away" temperature</p> <p>Unplug appliances; turn off power bars</p>	<p>Pack last-minute essentials</p> <p>Secure packed items so they will not fly through the air if you stop suddenly</p> <p>Double-check that car seats and booster seats are secure</p>