

# 20 things to do before travel

## 1. visa

Do I need to pay for it?

Do I need to ask for visa in advance at an Embassy? If so, only in my native country or where?

Or will I get a free visa on the arrival?

**How long can I stay in the country?**

## 2. entrance/exit fees

Some airports/countries won't let you enter/leave the country until you pay a fee.

## 3. passport validity

Is your passport still valid during the whole trip?

**Most countries require your passport to be valid for another 6 months beyond the end of the trip.**

## 4. weather forecast

Check how's usually the weather in the destination in the month of you trip. Then check a few days before the trip, as well.

## 5. mobile roaming

Roaming charges can get pretty high, unless you are from the US where you do have affordable roaming plans. I can highly recommend you **Chatsim**

**which is a sim card using 9 chat applications in more than 150 countries without wifi.** If you live in Slovakia, Czech republic, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Austria, Switzerland or Slovenia, I recommend you to order Chatsim from [Chatsim.cz](https://chatsim.cz).

## **6. travel insurance**

**If you are from Slovakia, I recommend you to check [Netfinancie.sk](https://netfinancie.sk),** a website that is comparing all the different kinds of insurance. If you are from outside of Slovakia, then [check your World Nomads travel insurance](#).

## **7. accommodation**

What's the best or the cheapest way to get to your accommodation? Walking? Public bus or train? Taxi? Uber? **Take a photo of the hotel on the map and also a screenshot of how to get there.**

## **8. paying by card or cash**

How easy it is to pay by card in your next destination? Do you need to carry extra cash with you?

## **9. credit card/debit card charges**

Check for three main things, i.e. **if your credit card will work in the country you are visiting** (you might need to call your bank to inform them about your destination so they won't block your card), what card has the lowest ATM withdrawal fees and what withdrawal limits the card has.

## **10. vaccinations**

They won't let you into some countries without vaccinations so check which ones you need. Always carry an International certificate of vaccination in which your doctor had written all the vaccinations you got and when.

## 11. flights and airports

If you are traveling on plane and changing flights, make sure there is enough time between the flights. The bigger the airport, the more time you need but minimum should be 2 hours. **Double check if the flights are leaving from the same airport.** Many cities have more than 1 airport.

## 12. transportation tickets

You need to check if it's necessary to print out tickets or it's enough just to have the screenshots/confirmation emails in your phone. I'm talking of boarding passes and other transportation tickets. **Some airlines require printed boarding passes.**

## 13. scams and traps

**Do a Google search if the destination is famous for any scams** so you can avoid them.

## 14. advance payments

If you are going to travel for longer, **make sure you set up all the advance payments you need to take care of at home** (accommodation, phone, car etc.).

## 15. activities

**Search for activities you will do in your destination.** For sure there will be loads of them so just pick some you definitely need to do, and leave the rest for "if I get free time". The one I use the most is obviously [TripAdvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com), and not just for activities, but also to check hotel and choose based on reviews they have.

## 16. bag

Backpack or suitcase? What do you prefer? What will be better for your trip? If you are planning on hiking to places such as the Andes in [Argentina](#) or Chile, don't even think about carrying a suitcase.

## 17. culture rules

Read about the culture to know what not to do once you get there.

## 18. document copies

Making copies of your documents can save your ass if your passport got lost or stolen. Just copy the passport page with your photo, personal and demographic details. **It's recommended to send the electronic copies to your email and have them in your phone/laptop as well. Also print some copies** to put in each bag.

## 19. adapters

There is a number of different plugs and voltage around the world so don't forget to **check what plugs they use in the country you are visiting**. Carrying an extra multifunctional adapter will never hurt when traveling overseas. You wouldn't be able to buy an adapter easily in a smaller town so bring one with you.

## 20. photos

It's a good idea to have small **passport-size photos** with you if they were needed for visa etc.