

# Pre-travel checklist



## Flights

It pays to check the current [immigration rules of USA](https://www.usa.gov/enter-us) (<https://www.usa.gov/enter-us>) as some countries don't allow entry without proof of return flights.

## Travel insurance

Protect your trip from unforeseen events by getting travel insurance as soon as you pay for your flights or accommodation, it won't cost any extra. Make sure you're familiar with your policy exclusions. We recommend keeping a copy of your policy handy, both as a physical copy and on any smart devices you're using.

## Visa

The USA have a visa waiver program that applies to [certain countries](https://www.dhs.gov/visa-waiver-program-requirements) (<https://www.dhs.gov/visa-waiver-program-requirements>).

For countries that are included in the visa waiver program, it's still important to get an [Electronic System for Travel Authorisation pass \(ESTA\)](https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/) (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>). Entry and visa requirements for the USA are strict, with even transit passengers having to apply for visas. If you're unsure of the requirements or want to know more, visit the [US Embassy](https://au.usembassy.gov/) (<https://au.usembassy.gov/>).

## Passport

Your passport needs to be valid for the entire duration of your trip and for six months after your intended departure from the USA. You should also ensure it has one spare page free and isn't damaged in any way. If your photo isn't in good condition or if your passport looks like it may have been tampered with, you could be denied entry.

## Extra copies

Take physical and electronic copies of your passport, visa, itinerary, travel bookings, driver's licence and insurance policy. Make sure you have copies in your carry-on and checked luggage.

## Vaccinations

Some are recommended, others you should just be [aware of](https://worldwise.co.nz/travel-vaccinations/north-america/united-states/) (<https://worldwise.co.nz/travel-vaccinations/north-america/united-states/>).

## Medication

Ensure you have a prescription for any medication you're taking and that it's in the original packaging.

## Current events

Keep up-to-date with current events and check the [Smartraveller website](http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/americas/north/Pages/united_states_of_america.aspx)

Don't pack electronics or valuables in your checked baggage. Your insurance won't cover you if you do.

Carry a pen to speed up filling out forms.



## Take a first aid kit

Include plasters, antiseptic cream, pain killers and back ups of any medication you use regularly, e.g. your asthma inhaler.

([http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/americas/north/Pages/united\\_states\\_of\\_america.aspx](http://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/americas/north/Pages/united_states_of_america.aspx)) before you go.

Use our pre-travel checklist to help you prepare for a hassle-free holiday.



Southern Cross  
Travel Insurance  
[scti.com.au](http://scti.com.au)