

# RTW COUNTDOWN

## PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST FOR LONG-TERM TRAVEL

### 12 TO 7 MONTHS BEFORE

#### PAPERWORK & FINANCES

- Apply for or renew your passport.
- Apply for Global Entry (U.S. travel only).
- Open a high-yield savings account.
- Apply for travel cards (credit and debit).

#### HEALTH

- Schedule an appointment with a travel doctor.
- Decide which vaccines to get.
- Plan for contraception abroad.

#### GEAR & PROPERTY

- Make a preliminary packing list.
- Start looking for deals or coupons for any gear you need to purchase.
- Start evaluating your possessions to decide what you will store, sell, donate and keep.
- If you own property, decide whether you will sell or rent it out.

### 6 TO 2 MONTHS BEFORE

#### PAPERWORK & FINANCES

- Apply for hard-to-get visas.
- Get your International Driver's Permit.
- Print extra passport photos.
- Apply for discount cards (if you qualify).
- Update your beneficiaries.
- Make a plan for filing your taxes.
- Begin cancelling recurring subscriptions.

#### HEALTH

- Schedule physical, dental and vision exams for before your departure.
- Plan for prescriptions you may need abroad.
- Research health insurance options.

#### GEAR & PROPERTY

- Research options for phone plans and connectivity abroad.
- Purchase luggage.
- Go on a test trip (or two!) with your luggage and any specialized gear.
- Begin downsizing your possessions more aggressively.
- Keep less than you think.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- Share your exciting news with family and friends.
- Get a library card.

### 1 MONTH BEFORE

#### PAPERWORK & FINANCES

- Buy travel insurance.
- Finish cancelling unneeded subscriptions.
- Set up autopay for recurring payments.
- Order foreign currency.
- Get a few large bills in USD, EUR or GBP.
- Forward your mail.
- Manually change addresses for important information (e.g. banks).
- Sign up for USPS Informed Delivery.
- Register with your State Department or Foreign Office.
- Leave physical copies of your passport with family or friends, and upload digital copies to a secure location.
- Put phone numbers for your bank accounts, travel insurance, etc., in your phone.

#### GEAR & PROPERTY

- Upload photos and receipts for expensive gear to a digital location for insurance purposes.
- Practice packing and weigh your bag.
- Take less stuff.