

Escape Towns — Pre-departure Packing List

Don't forget a thing — your friendly day-one checklist

Please note — template checklist

This is a general template, not the final or official version. Requirements change often and vary by nationality and consulate, and country-specific items may be missing. Always double-check the official consulate/embassy pages and confirm the details with our consultants before you rely on it.

DOCUMENTS (CARRY-ON, NEVER CHECKED LUGGAGE)

- ☐ Passport (valid well beyond your stay) + visa / entry documents
- ☐ Admission / contract letters (university, Ausbildung, or J-1 sponsor)
- ☐ Health-insurance certificate & policy contacts
- ☐ Proof of funds (blocked-account confirmation for Germany)
- ☐ Accommodation confirmation & arrival address
- ☐ Certified copies + translations of diplomas & transcripts
- ☐ Passport photos (4–6 biometric)
- ☐ Printed copies AND phone scans of everything above

MONEY & CARDS

- ☐ Debit/credit card that works abroad (tell your bank you're travelling)
- ☐ Some cash for the first days (EUR for Germany / USD for the USA)
- ☐ Emergency backup card stored separately from your wallet

TECH

- ☐ Phone + charger, laptop + charger
- ☐ Plug adapter (Type C/F for Germany · Type A/B for the USA)
- ☐ Power bank (in carry-on only)
- ☐ Offline maps & translation apps downloaded

CLOTHES & ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Layers! A warm, waterproof jacket (Germany) / season-appropriate wear (USA)
- ☐ One smart outfit (registrations, interviews, first day)
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes
- ☐ Prescription medicines in original packaging + doctor's note
- ☐ Glasses/contacts + your prescription
- ☐ Small first-aid kit & toiletries for the first week

GERMANY-SPECIFIC

- ☐ Blocked-account activation details for after arrival
- ☐ Documents for Anmeldung (city registration) — passport + rental confirmation
- ☐ A few passport photos for the residence permit

USA-SPECIFIC (WORK & TRAVEL)

- ☐ DS-2019 form + J-1 visa in passport (check the dates!)
- ☐ Sponsor's emergency phone number saved AND written down
- ☐ Employer contact & first-day instructions printed
- ☐ Social Security application documents (your sponsor will guide you)

LEAVE AT HOME / DO BEFORE FLYING

- ☐ Share your itinerary & copies of documents with family
- ☐ Set up international roaming or plan a local SIM/eSIM
- ☐ Check airline baggage limits — weigh your bags
- ☐ Notify your bank & check card limits

Escape Towns · Study Abroad & International Living. Template checklist — always verify with the official consulate/embassy pages and with our consultants.