



Moving Abroad Action Planner

You've chosen where. Here's how to actually get there.

This is the companion to the Destination Determination Workbook.

The workbook helped you decide WHERE. This planner helps you DO it — a clear, checkable path from “I've chosen” to “I've landed,” organized by what to handle first.

Start early on the slow things: residency paperwork and pet entry requirements can take many months. Work backward from your move date and check items off as you go.

Two ways to use it

Fill it in on screen and save your dates — or print it and check items off by hand.

My destination:

Target move date:

Start with what takes longest

- 12+ months out: residency/visa research & document gathering, pet vaccination timelines
- 6 months out: banking, currency transfers, health insurance, temporary housing
- 3 months out: logistics, shipping, phone/internet, language practice
- Moving month: travel medical coverage, final goodbyes, confirm everything
- After you land: registrations, local accounts, finding your essentials & community

1 Residency & Legal

TASK

TARGET DATE

Start here — these steps have the longest lead times and gate everything else.

Check your passport's expiration and renew if it's within ~6 months of expiring

Research the visa or residency options you actually qualify for

List every document each option requires (income proof, background check, birth certificate, etc.)

Get key documents officially certified / apostilled and translated if needed

Understand how long the residency process realistically takes

Learn the entry rules — arriving as a tourist vs. on a residency visa

Check how income and taxes are treated in both countries (and any tax treaty)

WHERE HELP EXISTS: residency & legal assistance · document translation services

Notes & links:

2 Money & Banking

TASK

TARGET DATE

Confirm each income source can be paid to you while living abroad

Notify any agencies or payers of your move if they require it

Plan the bank accounts you'll need at home and abroad

Choose a currency-transfer method and compare the fees

Build an emergency fund you can access from anywhere

Decide how you'll pay bills during the transition months

WHERE HELP EXISTS: [currency transfer / money-transfer services](#) · [expat banking](#)

Notes & links:

3 Healthcare & Insurance

TASK

TARGET DATE

Research hospitals and clinics near where you'll be living

Identify specialists for any conditions you manage

Request and organize your complete medical records

Plan how you'll fill prescriptions (drug names and availability vary by country)

Compare international health insurance options

Arrange travel medical coverage for the move itself

WHERE HELP EXISTS: [international health insurance](#) · [travel medical coverage](#)

Notes & links:

4 Housing

TASK

TARGET DATE

Set a realistic monthly rental budget

Book temporary housing for your first weeks or months

Research neighborhoods for the longer term

Understand local lease terms and tenant norms

Confirm whether foreigners can rent or buy where you're going

Notes & links:

5 Pets

TASK

TARGET DATE

Begin early — rabies titer tests and import approvals can take several months.

- Confirm the vaccinations and tests required for entry
- Gather veterinary records and microchip information
- Learn the import paperwork and any quarantine rules
- Book pet-friendly travel and any relocation assistance
- Line up a veterinarian near your new home

WHERE HELP EXISTS: pet relocation services

Notes & links:

6 Logistics & The Move

TASK

TARGET DATE

- Decide what ships, what flies with you, and what you let go
- Get quotes for shipping belongings vs. buying new there
- Sort out phone and internet plans that work abroad
- Forward or digitize your important mail and documents
- Start (or schedule) learning the local language

WHERE HELP EXISTS: language learning tools · international shipping & movers

Notes & links:

7 Safety Net & Exit Plan

TASK

TARGET DATE

Hope you won't need these — but they make the leap feel a lot safer.

- Set up a U.S. mailing address or mail-forwarding service

Share emergency contacts with trusted people on both sides

Set aside a return-home fund, just in case

Write a simple “if this doesn't work out” backup plan

Tell family and friends your plans and timeline

Notes & links:

8 After You Land (First 90 Days)

TASK

TARGET DATE

Register with local authorities if required

Activate your local healthcare or insurance

Open or finalize your local bank account

Register your pets locally if needed

Find your essentials: a doctor, pharmacy, market, and transport

Connect with a community — expat groups, neighbors, local activities

First impressions & things to remember:

You did it.

Give yourself time to adjust — the paperwork ends, but settling in is its own season. Be patient with it.