

# 15 Steps To Travelling Abroad With A Dog

This 15 step guide will provide you with a quick checklist of the actions to take when traveling abroad with your dog. By following this guide, you will have a clear plan on exactly what you'll need, who to contact, and how to prepare, fly and return.

- 1: Research the airline and requirements for traveling with your dog.** Note down the pet carrier permitted dimensions, how pets travel (in Cargo hold or cabin) and how to book then check-in a pet.
- 2: Lookup the best hotels and venues that will cater to pets** including taxis and rental cars. Make notes on all the services you will consider and where each of them is located along with contact details for each.
- 3: Contact airline reservations** and book your own and your pet's tickets on the same day. Your pet can be added up to 7 days before your flight, but remember there is a maximum number of pets per flight, so the earlier you book, the better.
- 4: Time to buy your supplies.** You are going to need an airline-approved pet carrier, leash and harness, pee pads, dog diapers, dog treats, crate-friendly dog bowls and water bottles, and dog poop bags. Next, its time to get packed and ready for your trip.
- 5: Prepare your travel documents** such as your passport, health certificates, vaccination certificates, pet insurance documentation, boarding passes, and customer acknowledgment form.
- 6: Contact the departure and arrival airports to find out where the pet relief areas are located** and make notes on the terminals or gates they are closest to.
- 7: Crate train your dog to begin the process of them staying in the pet carrier/kennel over long periods of time.** 10 minutes per session is a good place to begin and then increase each day thereafter. Use a dog treat to entice them in while leaving the door open and allowing them to enter, eat, and exit.  
  
Use familiar toys and allow them to smell, scratch, or play with the crate. Once they are comfortable its time to close the door and re-open any time they wish to exit. Repeat the process for around 30 minutes per day at least 1 week before the flight.
- 8: Exercise your dog on the day of travel** or the night before if you have an early flight. Give them enough food to not be too hungry, so they endure the flight without the need for many potty breaks. This can also help them to reduce anxiety and help them to sleep on the flight.

- 9: Have all of your documents ready, bags packed and dog ready for the day of travel.** Leave with enough time to arrive at the airport 3 hours before the flight. This will allow for additional reliefs and a calm relaxed journey for your dog.
  
- 10: Head to the check-in and counter** where you can check-in your dog for cargo hold travel at the luggage check-in. Or you can check them in as carry-on luggage for traveling with you in the cabin (onboard). **Note: Non-service dogs traveling in the cabin may be subject to a fee charged by the airline.** (refer to the original post for this information)
  
- 11: Make your way to the security checkpoint** and when instructed remove your dog's collar, leash, and any metal identification tags. Put the carrier through the security scanner and make your way through the gate to the other side. Wait for your items and continue through.
  
- 12: Allow your pet to go for a potty break** and have a stretch of legs as they've been in the crate for a long period thus far. You should already have information on the location of the pet relief areas. But if you don't, then now is a good time to ask.
  
- 13: Board the flight with your pet early (early bird catches the worm).** If your dog is traveling in the cabin, then they will be boarding the flight with you. Zip up the carrier all the way, have your documents ready (boarding pass and passport) then ask the crew for priority boarding. This will allow you to board the plane through a less populated route.
  
- 14: When you arrive at your destination country take your dog for a stretch of their legs and potty relief.** This is also a good time to reward their great behavior with a treat as staying calm on a flight for X number of hours is no walk in the park. Locate your taxi, make your way to your accommodation and enjoy!
  
- 15: Follow all the above steps for returning home** and be aware that some countries require a second vet-approved health check before returning. Animal Health certificates (AHC) for example will in some cases last for just 10 days and are required for renewal in order to travel internationally again.

**Supplies that you'll need:**

- Roll of bags for poop
- Pee pads (7):
- Fanny pack for phone/id and bags/treats (size large)
- Pet carriers (what we recommend)
- Heavy-Duty Dog Travel Crate (Cargo hold travel compliant)
- KT recommends this (in-cabin compliant pet carrier)
- Amazon carrier (in-cabin compliant pet carrier)
- Roverlund (in-cabin compliant pet carrier)

- Medicines to and from vacation
- Treats
- Pet Carrier food bowls
- Drip-style water bottle
- Chew Toys
- ID dog tag
- A stuffed animal for crate
- Bedding for the travel crate
- Wet wipes in a baggie
- Leash
- Live animal stickers
- Cable ties
- Regular tape
- Harness
- Collapsible dog bowl