

CHECKLIST – Start planning your house sit

Task	Completion Date
Check flights or other travel availability	
Organize house sitting agreement or confirmation letter	
Book flights	
Confirm flight bookings with home owners	
Apply for VISAs	
Hire car if necessary	
Organize transfers to the property	
Book for any necessary vaccinations	
Order local currency	
Purchase travel insurance if applicable	
For UK citizens make sure you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) for healthcare while in Europe. This will entitle you to health care in an emergency. http://www.ehic.org.uk/	
Consider your own property and pet care while you are away and make necessary arrangements.	

Check flight or other travel availability - Do this before anything else – don't get tempted to sign an agreement only to discover you can't get a flight because it's a busy holiday time, or they are more expensive than you're willing to pay.

House sitting agreement - Once you're happy transportation is available and within budget, then you can sort out your house sitting agreement, if of course you've both decided to opt for this extra reassurance.

Confirmation email - If you're not using a house sitting agreement, make sure you ask for an email detailing handover dates, and the expectations and responsibilities for the assignment. You don't want any surprises when you arrive!

Book flights - Once these things are in place you can book your flights. Always try to get flexible options. Hopefully nothing will go wrong, but just in case the plans of the home owners change, you will have the security of being able to alter the flight dates.

Send confirmation to home owners - Once you've booked your flights, send a copy of the confirmation to the home owners. It shows commitment and they are much less likely to let you down, or change their mind if they can see you've paid for and booked your flights.

Now you can make your own personal plans for the assignment. This will vary person to person and depend on whether you've booked a short or long term house sit.