

# Ultimate Family Vacation Planning Checklist and Budget Tracker

Designed by Sarah @ [Just Mom Journal](#)

Use this comprehensive checklist and budget tracker to plan your perfect budget-friendly family vacation. Stay organized, save money, and ensure you don't forget any important details!

## 1. Vacation Planning Checklist

### 3-6 Months Before

- Choose your destination
- Set your budget
- Research potential accommodations
- Look into transportation options
- Check passport expiration dates (if applicable)
- Start a vacation savings fund

### 2-3 Months Before

- Book your accommodations
- Book your transportation (flights, rental car, etc.)
- Research activities and attractions at your destination
- Make a list of free or low-cost activities
- Check for any required vaccinations
- Start planning your packing list

### 1 Month Before

- Book any tours or activities that require advance reservations
- Make a rough itinerary
- Arrange for pet care or house-sitting (if needed)

- Check the weather forecast for your destination
- Start gathering any necessary travel documents

## 2 Weeks Before

- Confirm all reservations (accommodations, transportation, activities)
- Notify your bank and credit card companies of your travel plans
- Arrange for mail hold or forwarding
- Begin packing non-essential items
- Make copies of important documents (passports, IDs, etc.)

## 1 Week Before

- Finish packing
- Clean out the refrigerator
- Set up an auto-response for your email
- Charge all electronic devices
- Download any necessary apps (maps, translation, etc.)

## Day Before Departure

- Double-check all reservations
- Pack last-minute items
- Set alarms for departure time
- Check-in online for flights (if applicable)
- Secure your home (lock windows, set timers for lights, etc.)

## 2. Budget Tracker

Category	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
<b>Transportation</b>	\$	\$	\$
Flights/Gas	\$	\$	\$
Car Rental	\$	\$	\$

Public Transportation	\$	\$	\$
<b>Accommodations</b>	\$	\$	\$
Hotel/Vacation Rental	\$	\$	\$
Camping Fees	\$	\$	\$
<b>Food</b>	\$	\$	\$
Groceries	\$	\$	\$
Restaurants	\$	\$	\$
Snacks	\$	\$	\$
<b>Activities</b>	\$	\$	\$
Attractions	\$	\$	\$
Tours	\$	\$	\$
Entertainment	\$	\$	\$
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$	\$	\$
Souvenirs	\$	\$	\$
Travel Insurance	\$	\$	\$
Emergency Fund	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

## Money-Saving Tips

1. Use credit cards with travel rewards or cashback for your purchases.
2. Look for free days at museums and attractions.
3. Take advantage of free walking tours in your destination city.
4. Pack snacks and refillable water bottles to avoid expensive convenience purchases.
5. Use public transportation or walk instead of relying on taxis or rental cars.
6. Cook some meals in your accommodation if you have kitchen facilities.
7. Look for combination or city passes that offer discounts on multiple attractions.
8. Travel during the shoulder season for better deals on accommodations and activities.

9. Use price comparison websites for flights, hotels, and car rentals.
10. Consider alternative accommodations like vacation rentals or hostels.

### 3. Packing List

#### Clothing

- Underwear and socks
- T-shirts/tops
- Pants/shorts
- Sleepwear
- Swimwear
- Jacket or sweater
- Rain gear
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Dressy outfit (if needed)

#### Toiletries

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash or soap
- Deodorant
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Medications
- First-aid kit

#### Electronics

- Smartphone and charger
- Camera and charger
- Tablet or e-reader

- Power bank
- Travel adapter

## **Documents**

- Passports (if traveling internationally)
- Driver's license
- Travel insurance documents
- Reservation confirmations
- Emergency contact information

## **Miscellaneous**

- Reusable water bottles
- Snacks for the journey
- Books or games for entertainment
- Day bag or backpack
- Laundry bag
- Travel pillow and blanket

## **Packing Tips**

- Roll your clothes instead of folding to save space and reduce wrinkles.
- Use packing cubes to organize your suitcase an