

SAVE TIME AND MONEY



TOP 5 MISTAKES AMERICANS MAKE WHEN MOVING ABROAD

HOW TO AVOID THEM & WHAT TO DO INSTEAD

1

FAILING TO UNDERSTAND DOUBLE TAXATION (AND HOW IT CAN RUIN YOUR FINANCES)



WHAT TO DO INSTEAD:

- **Don't assume you're free from U.S. taxes** just because you're living abroad. Many Americans are shocked to find out they still owe taxes on their income back home, even while living overseas.
- **File IRS Form 2555** to claim the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion (FEIE), but don't forget to also track your foreign taxes to avoid penalties.
- **Set up an appointment with a tax advisor** specializing in expat taxes before you leave—the last thing you want is an IRS audit while living overseas.



2

NOT KNOWING THAT YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE MAY NOT COVER YOU OVERSEAS (AND WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU GET SICK)



WHAT TO DO INSTEAD:

- **Don't assume your U.S. health insurance will follow you abroad**—most plans won't cover you outside the U.S., leaving you at risk of astronomical medical bills.
- **Get a specialized expat health insurance plan** that covers emergency evacuation (yes, that's a real thing) and all the basics in your new country.
- **Check the policy carefully**—some plans only cover certain countries, so make sure your destination is included.



3

OVERLOOKING THE HIDDEN COSTS OF MOVING (AND WASTING MONEY ON DUMB THINGS)

WHAT TO DO INSTEAD:

- **Shipping your stuff isn't cheap.** Many people underestimate the cost of moving their belongings internationally. Did you know it can cost \$5,000 to \$10,000 to ship a container overseas?
- **Factor in customs duties and taxes—**the last thing you want is your belongings stuck at customs for weeks (or worse, destroyed) because you didn't file the right paperwork.
- **Make sure to get international shipping quotes ahead of time** and only take what you truly need. Downsizing can save you more than just the shipping fee.



4

THINKING YOU CAN JUST OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT LIKE YOU DID IN THE U.S. (SPOILER: YOU CAN'T)



WHAT TO DO INSTEAD:

- Many countries have strict banking regulations for foreigners—**expect paperwork, multiple visits** to the bank, and potentially waiting weeks or even months to get your account set up.
- **Avoid surprise fees** by understanding the banking system in your new country —some countries have high foreign transaction fees, so opening an account with a local bank is often the best move.
- Do your research ahead of time to **find banks that accept foreign residents** and offer reasonable fees.



5

NOT PLANNING FOR A SMOOTH EXIT IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND (AND GETTING STUCK WITH UNFORESEEN PENALTIES)

WHAT TO DO INSTEAD:

- You might love your new country, or you might hate it. If you find yourself wanting to leave after a few months, make sure you **understand the terms of your visa**—some visas have long waiting periods or costly penalties if you decide to leave early.
- **Check the fine print**—in some cases, leaving a country prematurely can result in permanent bans or difficulty obtaining a visa to move elsewhere.
- **Always have an emergency exit plan** for returning to the U.S. or moving to another country. Understanding the visa exit conditions will help you avoid a nightmare situation.



BONUS TIP

YOUR U.S. CREDIT SCORE WON'T WORK OVERSEAS



WHAT TO DO:

- **You'll need to establish credit in your new country**, and that can take time. Don't wait until you need a loan or a car rental to figure this out. Research local credit systems well in advance.





CHECKLIST

FOR A STRESS-FREE MOVE ABROAD

OPTIMIZE YOUR TAX LIABILITIES

ENSURE YOU'RE PROPERLY INSURED

DOWNSIZE YOUR BELONGINGS

MEET ALL VISA REQUIREMENTS

OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT EARLY

