



## *Checklist for Moving to Sydney*

### **Before you move to Sydney**

1. Do a reconnaissance trip, if you have the time and budget (especially if you have never been to Sydney before)
2. Arrange your Visa – by yourself or through a migration agent
3. If you have children, arrange inspections of child care centres/schools. If your child(ren) are younger than 6, you will probably need to book your them into a child care centre/preschool/kindergarten asap, as there is often a 12-24 month waiting list!
4. Give the notice required in your tenancy agreement, if you are renting your home
5. Alternatively, if you own in your home country, arrange to sell or rent it out (I would advise renting it out, at least at first)
6. Sell your car, unless you want to ship it to Australia (a costly exercise)
7. Organise for any pets you have to be quarantined, as Australia has strict regulations
8. Book flights – one way or return (return tickets are usually valid for 6 or 12 months' maximum – check their T&C – but can be good for a visit home and for something to look forward to if you find the first few weeks/months hard)
9. Book travel insurance for your flight here
10. Decide which suburb you want to live in \*
11. Book a hotel/serviced apartment for your first few days/weeks, or somewhere to live longer term
  - a. If the latter, let family and friends know your new address \*
  - b. If the latter, organise utilities (electricity and/or gas and home internet, as well as possibly a landline) \*
  - c. If the latter, go online shopping for furniture and appliances \*
12. If you are not moving to Australia for a job offer, apply for jobs before you leave and try to set up interviews (not too soon after arrival though, as the jetlag can be horrendous) \*
13. Pack your items, including those to be shipped here
14. Research shipping companies and arrange collection
15. Compare and obtain health insurance (compulsory with some visas)
16. Set up a bank account and transfer money \*
17. Organise your leaving party
18. Pay your final bills in your home country and cancel any direct debits
19. If you are migrating from the UK, complete a P85 to see if you are entitled to a tax refund and tell HMRC that you are moving overseas
20. Buy some Australian currency, either in cash or on a travel card
21. Obtain a tax file number \*
22. Buy electrical adaptors \*
23. Book car hire for your first few days/weeks in Sydney, unless you plan to buy one \*
24. Obtain an Opal card, for public transport in Sydney \*
25. Get in touch with any long-lost friends or relatives you know in Sydney, or even a friend of a friend. It can help settling here much easier, if you have that local support \*
26. Organise a car to pick you up from Sydney Airport

*\* Can also be done after you arrive*



## After you move to Sydney

1. Go shopping for furniture and appliances
2. Unpack your belongings and organise your new home
3. Wait at home for tradespeople to set up your utilities and deliver your furniture
4. Assemble your new furniture
5. Purchase a car (if you didn't ship one here)
  - a. Purchase car insurance
  - b. Obtain an eTAG for toll roads
  - c. Apply for a NSW driver's licence
  - d. Purchase roadside assistance
  - e. If you buy a new car, you need to get rego and a Green Slip (the dealer should do it for you). If the car is second hand, they will automatically come with the car.
6. Compare home contents insurance options before purchasing
7. Obtain a Medicare card
8. Find a job (if you do not already have one lined up)
9. Purchase a local sim card and/or a mobile phone plan
10. Get a Skype and/or Whatsapp account, to keep in touch with family and friends at 'home' more easily
11. Let family and friends know your new phone number
12. Register any pets on the Central Animal Records Database
13. Purchase Foxtel, if you would like pay TV
14. Realise that homesickness and loneliness (if you moved by yourself) is normal and will decrease with time
15. Get to know your neighbourhood and the rest of Sydney
16. Organise weekends away to places like the Hunter Valley and the Blue Mountains, to help you realise how lucky you are to live here
17. Invite family and friends from 'home' to visit – it's great as a distraction and for something to look forward to
18. Even though you will probably do it subconsciously, try not to compare Sydney with home all the time. Despite being one of the best cities in the world, Sydney is not perfect (just as nowhere is). To some extent, it is inevitable so if you do find yourself comparing Sydney to home, ensure you look at both sides, remember the grass is not always greener and keep in mind why you moved here in the first place.

**Please note, Sydney Concierge can help you arrange all of the above, including recommending the best suburbs to live based on your criteria. We can also do rental inspections on your behalf, and show you around on Skype (or if the time difference makes this impractical we will take photos and record a video for you).**

