



PRINTABLE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHECKLIST + PLANNER

All-Inclusive Vacation Prep Kit

A printable beach resort planning guide packed with practical, advisor-style tips for smoother packing, smarter check-in, and fewer “oops, I forgot that” moments.

Quick Checklist

- ☐ Documents ready
- ☐ Carry-on packed
- ☐ Resort app downloaded
- ☐ Excursions reviewed

INSIDER TIPS EDITION

Perfect for Mexico, Caribbean & beach resort vacations



Resort Smart Start

All-inclusives feel easy once you arrive, but the smooth trips usually happen because a few details were handled before travel day.

Heather's Tip: Do not assume everything is included

"All-inclusive" can still have upcharges: premium dining, top-shelf liquor, spa services, cabanas, motorized water sports, specialty coffee, room service fees, resort fees, environmental taxes, or excursion costs. Screenshot the inclusions from your booking so there is no guessing at check-in.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

- ☐ Confirm exact name matches ID/passport
- ☐ Check passport validity and entry requirements
- ☐ Download airline app
- ☐ Notify bank if needed
- ☐ Check weather 3 days before
- ☐ Save resort confirmation offline
- ☐ Confirm airport transfers
- ☐ Download resort app if available
- ☐ Buy or review travel insurance
- ☐ Pack one change of clothes in carry-on

Heather's Tip: Transfer timing matters

If you booked shared transfers, expect stops at other resorts. Private transfers cost more but can save a lot of time, especially after a long flight or when traveling with kids.

Questions to ask at check-in

- ☐ What restaurants require reservations?
- ☐ Which restaurants have dress codes?
- ☐ Where is the quiet pool?
- ☐ What is included in room service?
- ☐ How do beach towels work?
- ☐ Where do we book excursions?
- ☐ Are any resort credits restricted?
- ☐ What is the Wi-Fi login?



Packing Checklist + Resort Extras

Pack for the resort you actually booked, not the fantasy version where everything magically appears in your room.

Clothing

- ☐ Swimsuits - at least 2
- ☐ Dinner outfits
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ Sandals/flip-flops
- ☐ Workout clothes if needed
- ☐ Cover-ups
- ☐ Light sweater/wrap
- ☐ Undergarments
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes
- ☐ Rain jacket or small umbrella

Toiletries + health

- ☐ Sunscreen - reef-safe if required
- ☐ Bug spray or wipes
- ☐ Pain reliever
- ☐ Bandages/blister care
- ☐ Feminine products
- ☐ After-sun lotion/aloe
- ☐ Motion sickness meds
- ☐ Stomach meds
- ☐ Prescription meds in original bottles
- ☐ Hair conditioner or leave-in spray

Heather's Tip: Bring more sunscreen than you think

Resort gift shop sunscreen can be painfully expensive. Pack enough for reapplying, especially if you plan pool days, beach days, or excursions.

Little things travelers love later

- ☐ Insulated tumbler
- ☐ Small bills for tips
- ☐ Packing cubes
- ☐ Portable fan
- ☐ Sunglasses backup pair
- ☐ Waterproof phone pouch
- ☐ Magnetic hooks? only for cruise, not needed at resorts
- ☐ Laundry bag
- ☐ Snacks for travel day
- ☐ Hat that will not blow away



Food, Drinks + Dining Tips

The best all-inclusive trips usually include a little dining strategy. You do not need to schedule every bite, but you do want to avoid missing the good stuff.

Heather's Tip: Make specialty dining reservations early

Some resorts let you reserve restaurants through the app or concierge. Do this soon after arrival, especially for hibachi, steakhouse, adults-only restaurants, or oceanfront dining times.

Dining game plan

- ☐ Review restaurant list before arrival
- ☐ Check men's dress code for closed-toe shoes/long pants
- ☐ Ask about allergy procedures
- ☐ Learn which bars serve premium brands
- ☐ Pack at least one nicer outfit
- ☐ Note buffet hours for late arrivals
- ☐ Find the coffee spot early
- ☐ Check if minibar restocks are included

Heather's Tip: Do not skip the lobby bar

At many resorts, the lobby bar has better cocktails, calmer service, and higher-end options than the swim-up bar. It is often the sleeper favorite.

Situation	Heather's move
Arriving late	Know which food option is open after dinner hours.
Traveling with picky eaters	Locate buffet, snack grill, and room service rules first.
Celebrating something	Mention it politely at check-in and dinner reservations.
Wanting quiet	Ask which breakfast spot is calmest and least crowded.



Excursions, Pools + Beach Days

You can absolutely just relax. But if you plan to leave the resort, think through timing, safety, and what you actually want from the day.

Heather's Tip: Plan only one big excursion for a shorter trip

For a 4-5 night resort stay, one major excursion is usually enough. Overscheduling turns an all-inclusive vacation into a field trip with humidity.

Excursion day bag

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Photo ID/passport copy if needed | ☐ Cash for tips/lockers |
| ☐ Water shoes | ☐ Reef-safe sunscreen |
| ☐ Bug spray | ☐ Towel if resort requires |
| ☐ Dry change of clothes | ☐ Waterproof pouch |
| ☐ Motion sickness meds | ☐ Confirmation screenshot |

Heather's Tip: Watch the return time

Do not book an excursion that returns too close to dinner reservations, spa appointments, or departure-day transfer time. Island and beach traffic laughs at your plans.

Pool/beach comfort checklist

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|--|--|
| ☐ Clips for towel/chair | ☐ Book or Kindle |
| ☐ Sunglasses | ☐ Hat |
| ☐ Lip balm with SPF | ☐ Tumbler |
| ☐ Small wet bag | ☐ Cover-up |
| ☐ Phone pouch | ☐ Room key holder |



Room, Money + Tipping Notes

A little room and money strategy helps you avoid those small annoyances that can nibble away at the vacation mood.

Heather's Tip: Inspect the room before fully unpacking

Check air conditioning, safe, shower, toilet, balcony door, and bed setup. If something is wrong, it is much easier to address before every suitcase explodes.

Room arrival checklist

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| ☐ Test safe | ☐ Check AC |
| ☐ Find extra blankets/pillows | ☐ Confirm bed setup |
| ☐ Check minibar inclusions | ☐ Locate outlet/USB areas |
| ☐ Review towel card policy | ☐ Take photo of room number |
| ☐ Put passports/IDs in safe | ☐ Set a daily tidy-up spot |

Heather's Tip: Small bills are still useful

Even at all-inclusives, small tips can be helpful for drivers, bell staff, bartenders, housekeeping, excursion guides, and beach service. Bring a small stack of ones and fives.

TRIP NOTES



Before You Go...

Use this page as your final sweep before you close the suitcase, lock the door, and head toward vacation mode.

Heather's Tip: The travel advisor shortcut

If you are overwhelmed by resort choices, cruise cabin categories, family logistics, transfers, insurance, or the tiny details that make travel smoother, that is exactly where a travel advisor can help. Keep this kit as your prep tool - and when you want the whole trip handled with care, reach out to Dream Destinations by Heather & Joe.

LAST-MINUTE SWEEP

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ IDs/passports packed in personal bag | ☐ Medication packed in carry-on |
| ☐ Chargers and power bank packed | ☐ Household trash handled |
| ☐ Thermostat set | ☐ Doors/windows locked |
| ☐ Travel documents saved offline | ☐ Payment cards and some cash packed |
| ☐ Out-of-office replies set | ☐ Rides/transfers confirmed |

NOTES
