

Snowbird Checklist

Heading south for the winter? Use this checklist to get organized.

Created by CanadiansInTheUS.ca - Your resource for Snowbird information

Before You Leave Canada

Travel Documents & Visas

- ☐ Valid passport (6+ months past return date)
- ☐ NEXUS card (if applicable)
- ☐ B2 visitor visa or ESTA waiver (if eligible)
- ☐ Bring past travel records (helpful at the border)

Insurance

- ☐ Emergency medical insurance (review exclusions)
- ☐ Travel cancellation/interruption coverage (optional)

Finances

- ☐ Notify banks/credit cards of travel
- ☐ Set up online bill pay and auto-payments
- ☐ Prepare U.S. funds or use cross-border account

Healthcare

- ☐ Refill prescriptions, bring in labeled containers
- ☐ Carry medical summary & emergency contacts
- ☐ Ensure provincial health plan covers your absence

Home & Security

- ☐ Arrange house sitter or property check-ins
- ☐ Pause/forward mail and suspend services
- ☐ Set up timers and ensure home insurance complies
- ☐ Review latest travel advisories at travel.gc.ca

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Upon Arrival in the U.S.

Housing

- ☐ Inspect rental/unit and utilities
- ☐ Know lease terms and emergency numbers

Legal & Tax Considerations

- ☐ Track days in the U.S. (Substantial Presence Test)
- ☐ Understand U.S. tax triggers for Canadian pensions/income
- ☐ If staying for more than 30 days, follow USCIS Alien Registration guidance
- ☐ Do not work or volunteer without proper authorization

Healthcare & Safety

- ☐ Find nearby hospitals, urgent care locations and pharmacies
- ☐ Register with the Registration of Canadians Abroad service

Before Returning to Canada

End-of-Season Prep

- ☐ Turn off utilities, unplug devices
- ☐ Lock up and secure the property
- ☐ Leave maintenance plan with caretaker

Border Declarations

- ☐ Know duty-free limits for alcohol, gifts, and goods
- ☐ Keep receipts and be ready to declare honestly

Documents

- ☐ Bring updated travel/tax documents
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- ☐ Record your stay for CRA and immigration