

Maximize International Pre-Move Trips

by Beverly D. Roman

Most companies provide their employees with at least one pre-move visit to survey a location and find a new home. Use this opportunity to further evaluate your decision and to gather more information to share with your family when you return. Advance preparation will help you to settle in and adapt more quickly.

The House Hunt

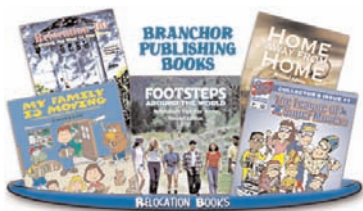
Before you leave, write down your furniture measurements, especially for larger pieces, because it will help you to evaluate areas in prospective homes. When home shopping, consider the distance everyone will have to travel to schools, work and places of interest, as well as, the available transportation. Suggested activities:

- Check room sizes, particularly family rooms, bedrooms and kitchens of prospective homes.
- Note the locations of doors and windows of the various rooms.
- Take along a camera, tape measure, note pad, pencil and a calculator. If the seller doesn't object, take pictures of any unique or odd shaped areas which will help you to "mentally" place your furniture before your move.
- Take pictures of homes, schools and any places of interest to show your children.
- Obtain informational packets, maps and brochures to help you become familiar with the new country.
- Locate your home country's embassy.
- Find out if there are fellow expats living in the community.
- Look into local Internet providers so you can easily keep in touch with family and friends after the move.

A Pre-Move Trip Bonus

This trip also provides a wonderful opportunity to do much more than home shopping. In a relatively short time, you can check out services you know your family will need, collecting business cards everywhere you go. Some companies encourage employees to take their children on this trip. If so, pencil in an extra day or two to show the children their new school and areas that are of particular interest to them. Becoming familiar with the new location will remove some of their concerns about the move and greatly smooth the transition.

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This newsletter is published by
BR Anchor Publishing
www.branchor.com
Amy Roman, Publisher
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Resources

The U.S. Department of State
<http://travel.state.gov> provides passport and visa information for spouses and children, as well as, children born overseas.

Plan ahead, visas can take months to acquire. Call 1.877.487.2778 to schedule an automated appointment.

Message from the President

As you all know, Miles Higgins has embarked on a new chapter in his life and is no longer President of The Relocation Center. Although Miles has left big shoes to fill, it is with great enthusiasm and humility, that I accept the challenge of running this exciting company. I look forward to guiding The Relocation Center through our growth in the coming years. I have been a part of The Relocation Center's management team for the past 14 years in the capacity of Chief Financial Officer. Over the course of my time here, I have come to truly believe in our product...relocation made simple. We will continue to strive to provide our customers with the best service at competitive prices. As always, our door is open to your comments, questions and suggestions. I look forward to working with you to simplify your relocation needs.

Sincerely,
Missy Higgins
President & CEO
The Relocation Center

RelTips

New Community: Areas to Research

- Medical services: hospitals, pharmacies and physicians.
- Schools, teachers and counselors. Share descriptions of children's books, readers and special programs.
- Services/businesses and all places of interest relevant to your family.
- Place to obtain new driver's license.
- Local Internet Service Providers, utilities and any other services.
- School and public transportation.