

The Ultimate House Sitting Due Diligence Checklist

*Ask yourself these 27 Questions before your next
Assignment in order to avoid a house sitting disaster.*

by Michael Bauche

First Things First

- Do the dates work for you the sitter?** Ask yourself this question before you even consider corresponding with the home owner?
- Are the owner's dates set and flights booked?** Have the owner's finalized their own travel arrangements?

Financial Considerations:

- What are the costs to get there?** Can you afford to get to and from the sit?
- What are typical accommodation costs?** Can you afford to do some independent travel when you are not house sitting?
- Is a rental car required?** Do you have use of a vehicle during the sit? Or is adequate public transportation available?
- Is the cost of living understood?** Can you live within your budget?
- Are any financial obligations with the homeowner well defined?** Have you defined who is responsible for paying household expenses, such as power, internet, cleaner, gardener etc?

Logistics

- How close are basic amenities such as groceries?** This is related to whether you have the use of a vehicle.
- Are there any language barriers?** Do your duties include having to interact with others (i.e. staff) in a foreign language?
- Are the country visa requirements fully understood?** Do you understand how long your initial visitor visa will be and the cost and the renewal process if you have to extend.

Safety and Security

- Are there any travel advisories?** Have you consulted government websites for general information that may affect your personal safety and security?
- What kind of weather / climate can you expect?** Does the location experience violent storms or other weather extremes?
- Any health issues associated with the area?** Are there any potential risks to your health where you will be house sitting?
- Any potential annoyances?** Are there any potential annoyances that may drive you mad?

Personal Requirements

- Are your personal requirements met?** Make a list of your personal requirements and ensure they are met.

Are There Any Show Stoppers?

- Will anyone else be living on the property?**
- Does anyone else have access to the property during your stay, pool privileges for instance?**
- Will there be any construction or maintenance work occurring during your stay?**
- Is there adequate internet in the home (and not a 3 mile trek through the Jungle)?**
- Are the kitchen facilities adequate?**
- What are the sleeping arrangements (some are not so keen to sleep in a Hammock)?**
- Are there any restrictions to your mobility i.e. are you required to be on the property 24 /7 to provide security or to comfort a dog with severe separation anxiety?**
- Do you have access to basic amenities like running water and an indoor toilet?**

Are the Roles and Responsibilities Well Defined?

- Is gardening or yard work involved?
- Are you expected to work a set number of hours?
- Will you be responsible for running the owners business interests while they are away?
- What are the number and type of pets that you are responsible for?