

Genealogy Research Trip Packing List

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Whether you've been researching your family history for over 20 years or you are just getting started, there comes a time when you will take a trip to assist you in your research. Here is a list of what many genealogists include when headed out!



Items to Print

- Directions:** Include directions mapped online using Google Maps or other mapping sites. Include "must see" destinations and "if I have time" destinations.
- Policies and procedures:** Make sure you know if you can bring your own scanner or even a camera into an archive and the policies on usage.
- Research information:** Print out any reports, family trees and charts from your genealogy research database that you will need to consult on your trip.
- Blank forms:** Blank copies of your research log, family group sheets, and family trees.
- Hours of operation:** Call each site you intend to visit including archives, court houses and libraries. **DO NOT RELY ON WEBSITES** since many facilities have experienced budget cuts.
- Emergency information:** Contacts for police, ambulance, hospital, etc. Include an urgent care facility nearby.
- Favorites and bookmarks:** If you are not taking your own laptop or tablet computer with you, make sure you have access to all the favorite websites you need for research.
- Confirmation numbers:** For air travel, car rental, and accommodations.

Technology

- Portable storage:** USB flash drives or portable external hard drives to store research information. Include a text file on each drive named "**_Contact Info**" and list your name, phone number and email in case you leave the drive at the library or lose it!
- Cameras and recorders:** Either digital cameras and voice recorders or a mobile device. Use these devices not just to record your trip but also to scan documents and other items during research.
- Global Positioning System (GPS):** Most smartphones already have GPS included, but take a standalone device if desired. Don't attract thieves and leave it on display in your car when parked!
- Cloud storage:** Set up an account at Dropbox or similar sites. Include app setup on your mobile device or tablet. Store digital images from research and access cloud files on library computers if needed.
- Mobile device:** Use your personal phone and purchase insurance in case it is lost or stolen. Consider a cheap disposable phone for \$20 or less purchased at a drug or office supply store.
- Mobile scanner:** Use a portable scanner or use a scanning app on your mobile devices. Scan original documents, photos when visiting relatives and other items.

Miscellaneous

- Batteries:** Take rechargeable batteries (and the charger!) or purchase various sizes of batteries you might need during the trip.
- Office supplies:** Highlighters, pens, folders, magnifiers, and the like.
- First aid kit:** Include specific items depending on your type of trip; cemetery research could result in sunburn or bug bites.
- Thank-you gifts:** Pack small thank you gifts for family members, interview subjects, and helpful staff. A small plastic bag filled with candy and your business card is a great idea!
- Power strip:** Purchase a mini power strip so you can charge multiple devices. A great way to make new friends at the library or airport!
- Food:** Pack your favorite snack foods and beverages especially if you have dietary needs.
- Clothes:** Clothing appropriate to the weather forecast and pack an umbrella. And one set of semi-dressy clothes for last minute invites!
- Nearby stores:** Print information on local office supply stores or pharmacies in case you need batteries, disposable cameras, etc.

Research Trip Resource List

- ***A Trip To Bountiful Genealogy Research***
<https://www.archives.com/experts/macentee-thomas/a-trip-to-bountiful-genealogy-research.html>
- **Conference Keepers** (upcoming genealogy conferences)
<https://www.conferencekeeper.org>
- ***Get These Apps Before Your Next Road Trip***
<https://www.techlicious.com/tip/the-best-road-trip-apps/>
- **Google Maps**
<https://maps.google.com>
- **Hotel Tonight** (last minute hotel rooms)
<https://www.hoteltonight.com>
- **PackPoint** (packing list app)
<https://www.packpnt.com>
- **Roadtrippers** (trip planning)
<https://roadtrippers.com>
- **Silent Beacon** (mobile phone panic button)
<https://www.silentbeacon.com>
- ***The Best Apps To Have In Case Of An Emergency***
<https://www.hellotech.com/blog/best-apps-to-have-in-case-of-an-emergency>
- **TravelMath** (calculate travel costs)
<https://www.travelmath.com>
- **TripAdvisor** (accommodation ratings)
<https://www.tripadvisor.com>
- **TripIt** (trip organizer)
<https://www.tripit.com>
- **Waze** (real-time driving directions)
<https://www.waze.com>