



YoNomad



Renting abroad, from first search to getting your deposit back

A long-term rental in a country whose rules you don't know yet: what to budget, how to spot a scam, what to check at a viewing, what to negotiate, what the contract must say, and how to leave without losing your deposit.

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Deposit rules checked against government and legal sources on 11 October 2026

16 pages · printable checklists, scorecard, condition report and tracker

Start here

Most rental problems abroad start before you sign: paying a "deposit" for a flat you haven't seen, signing a contract you can't read, or moving in without a record of the place's condition. This guide is a set of checklists for each of those moments.

Start

6–8 weeks before you need the keys

Move-in cash

2–4 months' rent typical, see page 4

Never

Pay before viewing in person or by live video

Always

Condition report signed, with photos

Countries

8 deposit rules page 11

Printables

6 pages scorecard to tracker

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General information, not legal advice. Tenancy law is local: for anything disputed, check with the local tenancy authority or a lawyer.

Your timeline

- 1** **8 weeks out**
Pick two or three areas
Commute, noise, shops, internet, how it feels at night. A short stay first is the cheapest way to decide.
- 2** **6 weeks out**
Set your budget and paperwork
Page 4 for the cash you'll need. Get together your passport, visa or permit, proof of income and references.
- 3** **4 weeks out**
Search and shortlist
Page 5. Contact several places at once: good ones go fast.
- 4** **2–3 weeks out**
View and inspect
Pages 6–8. Score each place the same way.
- 5** **1–2 weeks out**
Negotiate and review the contract
Pages 9–11. Nothing is agreed until it's in writing.
- 6** **Move-in day**
Condition report, keys, meters
Page 12, before you unpack.

Book a short stay first

Two to four weeks in a furnished short-term place lets you view in person, which avoids most scams and most bad flats. Many landlords also won't sign with someone who isn't in the country yet.

Plan

Search

View

Sign

Live

Tools

The real move-in cost

The first month costs far more than the rent. Fill in this worksheet for each place on your shortlist.

Item	Notes	Amount
First month's rent		_____
Rent paid in advance	Some countries cap it (page 11)	_____
Deposit / bond	Refundable; capped in some countries	_____
Agency or letting fee	Banned for tenants in some countries	_____
Guarantor, insurance or guarantee product	Where landlords ask for one	_____
Utility connections and deposits	Electricity, water, gas	_____
Internet setup	Router, installation	_____
Furniture and household basics	If unfurnished	_____
Translation or contract check	Optional, page 10	_____
Moving and transfer fees	Including currency exchange	_____
Total cash needed		_____

Monthly running costs

Item	Amount
Rent	_____
Building or service charges	_____
Utilities and internet	_____
Total a month	_____