PLUGVOLTAGE

TRAVEL SAFETY · 2026

Travel Electricity Checklist

Print this, pack it, and never fry a hair dryer abroad again. A calm guide to checking your devices, choosing an adapter or converter, and avoiding the traps that catch travelers at the outlet.

01. Before you go

Do this at home, a week before you fly. It's the difference between a smooth trip and a fried device.

Audit every device you're packing

Find the small print on each device — usually on the base, the plug, or the power brick. Look for the line that starts with **INPUT**. You're checking one thing: does it say **100–240V** (dual voltage) or a single value like **120V**?

- [ ] **Phone & laptop chargers**
  Almost always dual-voltage (100–240V). Tick and move on — these only ever need a plug adapter.
- [ ] **Camera, e-reader, tablet, handheld consoles**
  Usually dual-voltage. Confirm the brick; USB-C devices are safe.
- [ ] **Hair dryer, curling iron, flat iron**
  The danger zone. Many are single-voltage. If yours says 120V only — leave it, or buy a dual-voltage travel version.
- [ ] **Electric kettle or high-watt appliance**
  Leave it. Travel converters can't safely handle 1500W+. Use the hotel's or buy locally.
- [ ] **CPAP / medical device**
  Never assume. Confirm the label and check with the manufacturer.
- [ ] **Electric shaver / toothbrush**
  Most modern ones are dual-voltage. Check the base.

✓ If a device says "100–240V" — dual voltage, safe anywhere, adapter only.

✕ If it says a single value like "120V" — do not plug it into a different voltage. An adapter won't save you; it changes the shape, not the voltage.

02. At the outlet

You've arrived. Before you plug anything in, run this 30-second check.

1

Confirm the local voltage

Ask at reception, or check the outlet plate. Most of Europe/Asia/Africa is 220–240V; the US, Canada, Japan and parts of Latin America are 100–127V. Brazil is both — ask the city.

2

Match the plug shape

If your plug doesn't physically fit, use your adapter. If it fits, don't relax yet — fitting does NOT mean it's safe (see traps below).

3

Re-check the label if unsure

If you didn't check at home, do it now. One line on the device decides everything.

4

When in doubt, don't plug in

A dead phone is annoying; a fire is worse. Treat uncertainty as "no" until you've confirmed.

The three traps that catch travelers

⚠ The Philippines & Thailand trap

These countries use US-shaped sockets (Type A/B) but run on 230V. Your plug fits perfectly — and a single-voltage US device overheats instantly. The plug fitting is a lie; the voltage is the truth.

⚠ Brazil's split voltage & the "adapter makes it safe" myth

Brazil has no single national voltage — São Paulo and Rio are 127V, Brasília and the northeast are 220V, sometimes on the same street. Always confirm your city. And remember: an adapter changes only the plug shape, never the voltage. No adapter protects a single-voltage device on the wrong grid.

03. Destinations & pack list

Quick reference: popular destinations

100–127V (US-style) 220–240V (Europe/most of world) Mixed — confirm city

COUNTRY	VOLTAGE	PLUG	NOTES FOR US TRAVELERS
United Kingdom	230V	Type G	Adapter always needed; converter for single-voltage devices.
Italy	230V	Type L / F	Adapter needed; dual-voltage gear is fine.
France / Spain / Germany	230V	Type E / F	One Europe adapter covers all three.
Japan	100V	Type A / B	Plugs fit, but only 100V. 50Hz east / 60Hz west.
Australia / New Zealand	230V	Type I	Unique plug shape; adapter essential.
China / Thailand / Philippines	220–240V	Type A / C / I	US plug often fits but 230V — trap. Adapter only if dual-voltage.
Brazil	127/220V	Type N / C	Confirm the city's voltage before plugging in.
Mexico / Canada / Colombia	120V	Type A / B	Same as the US — no adapter or converter needed.

What to pack

- [ ] **Plug adapter for your destination's type**
  Or a universal adapter with USB-C if you visit several regions.
- [ ] **Spare adapter (one always gets lost)**
  Especially for longer trips.
- [ ] **Dual-voltage travel hair dryer / iron (if needed)**
  Only if your regular one is single-voltage. Look for "100–240V".
- [ ] **Voltage converter — only for a single-voltage device you must bring**
  Rated for at least 25% more watts than your device. Skip for heating appliances over 1500W.
- [ ] **Power bank (carry-on only, under 100Wh)**
  Never in checked luggage.

04. The five rules

Tear this page off and stick it in your bag. These five rules cover every situation.

1. "100–240V" = dual voltage = safe everywhere (adapter only).

2. A single voltage + the wrong country = do not plug in.

3. An adapter changes the plug shape, never the voltage.

4. If the plug fits but you're unsure of the voltage — don't plug in.

5. Heating appliances (dryer, iron, kettle) are the most dangerous abroad. When in doubt, leave them.

Need a precise answer?

This checklist is a general guide. For an exact verdict for your specific device and destination, use the free checker at **plugvoltage.com** — pick your device and country, and we'll tell you exactly what you need.

This is general guidance, not professional electrical advice.

Voltage and plug data can vary by building, region, or individual outlet — especially in older hotels. Always confirm against your device's printed label before plugging in. When the label and this guide disagree, trust the label. For medical devices, consult the manufacturer.