

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.

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.

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 220V. 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.

## 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	220–230V	Type A / C / I	US plug often fits but 220V — 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.

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](https://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.