

# International Moves by Susan Miller

## Three Months to Go

- Get passports and other official documents needed for the country where you will live.
- Learn all you can about the country and culture. Make it a project for your children. Search the Internet and visit the library.
- Begin learning the language. Get to know basic words and phrases. It will make life easier and more fun for your family.

## Two Months to Go

- Arrange storage for the things you can live without. Remember, less is more.
- Make arrangements for your pets to go or not to go with you.
- Talk to other expatriates in the country to find out what essentials are limited or unavailable at your new location and stock up before you leave. Items may include deodorant and other hygiene products, your favorite brand of coffee and spices you use often, etc.

## One Month to Go

- Inquire about banking accounts and money exchange.
- Find out the best long-distance telephone service for your needs. There are VOIP services that allow you to make low-cost international calls. All you need is a computer, a microphone and Internet access.

## One Week to Go

- Pack your luggage, making sure you have enough clothing and other essentials to last for a while. It could take a few weeks before the items you ship overseas reach your new home.
- Move unneeded items into storage.
- Buy traveler's checks.

## Moving Day!

- Make sure you have your passport and official documents with you.
- Be sure your luggage is not over the weight limit for air travel.
- Don't forget your camera.
- Take lots of pictures; make lots of memories in your new international life!

