

Moving

December 27, 2011

Part I

Apartment shifting and hunting

1 Shifting apartments

1.1 Cancel services

Time-Warner internet.

City of Austin. Lease sometimes requires you to disconnect 3 days later.

1.2 Acquire services and utilities

City of Austin electricity. (website or on 4949400).

Visit website, set up facility for receiving bills by email.

1.2.1 Internet service providers

Time warner, after the initial Earthlink promotion, is expensive.

ATT DSL costs 30\$ for 1.5 to 3 mbps when connected with iphone account.

nAgarAjan pays 40\$ for 6mbps.

1.3 Mail service

1.3.1 Set up address forwarding

Attach name to USPS mailbox

print USPS form online, give it to carrier or take it to post office.

with apartment management.

1.3.2 Fix address with civic authorities and insurers

TX DPS (extra money, not eligible for online address change).
TX Travis county tax office (no easy online change form).
AAA.

1.3.3 Fix credit card addresses

Amazon chase card: online.
UFCU credit card.

1.3.4 Fix bank contact addresses

BoA (by going in person)
UFCU (go in person, or phone)

1.3.5 Fix address with universities

UMass, on spire website.
UTexas, on website and website 2. (CS dept address used.)

1.3.6 With shopping websites

amazon, google products, ebay/ paypal.

1.4 Clean old apartment

Defrost refridgerator.
Empty everything.
Remove all stains.
Clean fan, sweep floorboard.
Cleaning tiles and tub: Rolando recommended multiple applications of tilex. Internet recommends scrubbing with baking soda and hydrogen peroxide.
Cleaning ovens: Rolando recommended 'Easy Off Oven cleaner' with an abrasive called s(t)eel wool.
May be use professional cleaners: see craigslist.

1.5 Clear and surrender old apartment

Move luggage.
Return apartment, mail, laundry keys, parking stickers.

1.6 Move into new apartment

Photograph the place while moving in and moving out.

Pay rent.
 Note defects in the condition form.
 Fix bill pay.

2 Apartment hunting

2.1 Finding good apartments

<http://www.housingmaps.com> searches craigslist ads on google maps. sulekha.com is useful for finding Indian apartment vacancy postings.

Note map with 20 minute walking radius of the department. Just search for "apartment" in google maps; see the apartmentreviews map. Drive around and note "leasing" signs. Start searching for an apartment around 1.5 months before the planned move-in, when people will have given move-out notices. Contact apartment finders at the suitable time.

2.2 Good and close studios and 1 BHK

Matthew properties: Duval, Elmwood: 512 454 0099. Rolando: 512 731 6799. Around 40 efficiencies and 1 BHK. Prompt management. They do small leases. Determine apt price: RK pays \$450, 495 sq ft. Slight bug infestation. 525\$ for #207 above RK, with 350 deposit. Efficiency 420 sq ft; Must move in on 1st; Good AC; 550\$. Equivalent Apt near the stair available for 535\$; must move in on 7th. 1BHK for \$575.

Century apartments Dean Keeton: 512 327 6968. Negatives: Management slow to respond to maintenance requests; Noise from Dean Keeton St. 545\$. Around 8 units.

Campus crossings apt: 512 322 0512. Management may not do a thorough job in fixing problems. Very tiny: like a jail cell, an electric range is provided separately. Unfurnished. 545\$. Around 25 to 30 units.

Chaparosa: Slightly more spacious than Century or campus crossings. 525\$. Bug infestation, but this can be avoided with good maintenance. 512-481-8600.

Leon apartments: 2207 Leon St, Austin, TX 78705 512-474-2215 Good reviews, glass on parking lot, slow maintenance, 475 sq feet.

2302 leon st. zip code 78705. 512 476 6616, 512 497 8282, Pat 512 363 7294. Ricardo's apartment complex. 495\$. Friendly management. No disposal. 300 sq feet.

305 apartments: good reviews; 570\$.

ElDorado: smaller than El Campo; 600\$; Ardavan had no complaints; .

ElCampo: 39th and Speedway; Ardavan is getting a special rate of

600.

3 Checks and negotiations

3.1 Things to check

Check facility provided to control AC/ heater. If electricity and water are submetered, find out how much the bill is in winter and in summer.
Check crime rate. Check apartment reviews online.
Subletting policy.

3.2 Negotiation

Note that you can negotiate with the management over rent.
Suggest a lower rent for signing a 1 year lease, rather than a 6 month lease.
Ardavan got a bigger apartment unit managed by the same company for the same rent upon negotiation.

Part II

Travel protocol

4 Pre travel preparations

4.1 Prepare home for departure

Ensure rent, if due during journey, is paid.
Throw trash.
Dispose food which will get spoiled.
Set heater to 48 F.
Replenish cell phone and calling card charge. Set 'travelling abroad' voice mail.

4.2 Prepare documents

Address and contact sheets.
Domestic flight tickets.
Scholastic emergency services and health insurance cards.
ID: Passport or drivers license.
Copies of important documents.
Prepare flash drive.

4.2.1 For international travel

Gather important documents. (Passport/ visa/ I-94, I-20, academic records, tickets, customs info.)

Ensure that I-20 has signature which is at most 6 (to 12?) months old.

If coming to USA, include:

Letter of Good Standing, also called Letter of Enrollment (obtained at the Registrars Office)

Official UT Transcript (obtained at the Registrar's Office - Main Building 1)

Proof of financial support (a personal bank statement, Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant verification letter that includes salary and tuition payment details.

Prepare address/ phone sheet [with calling card information for places visited, address information at source and destination, travel agent and airline numbers].

Prepare copies of travel documents. [Passport, Visa, I-94, I-20, address/ phone sheet, tickets, customs info]

4.3 Gather travel details

Acquire mileage credits.

Determine weight limits.

Check flight departure time/ status: Use the airline confirmation codes to check flight status, not just the travel booking agent website. Eg: In May 2010, Vayama did not send me a notification when the frankfurt - bengaluru flight was cancelled.

4.4 Financial arrangements

Inform credit / debit card companies of travel plans to ensure that credit cards are not blocked.

BoA debit card center: 18778335617, customer care : 18004321000, India prefix 000117 or use 1.925.681.7600.

4.4.1 For international travel

Acquire required currency.

Acquire health insurance if needed.

4.5 Pack sustenance items

4.5.1 To be worn

Socks. Shirt, underwear, suitable pants, kerchiefs.

A pair of boots.

1 sweatshirt, 1 jacket.

Wallet. Driver's license. Credit cards, a check leaf.

Label/ tag the luggages.

Wear coat, shoes: airports may be cold.

4.6 Cabin luggage

2 or 3 pairs of Socks.

quick dry Swimming trunk, an underwear.

Gloves, warm hood.

Tooth brush and paste, tongue scraper.

GPS. Camera, if necessary.

Medicines: Petroleum jelly.

Chewing gum.

Pack work items:

Laptop, its charger, microphone/ earphone.

Cell phone, phone charger.

Papers and books to read.

Pens, scratch pad, small notebook.

4.6.1 To be carried as luggage

3 pants with kerchiefs. If visiting cold weather, carry or wear warm pants.

Water and windproof pant shell, jacket shell.

1 sweatshirt, one of them warm.

Underwear. Also, Long underwear for cold weather.

Slippers.

2 or 3 pairs of Socks.

Essential sustenance kit, including scissors, tape, nail cutter, shaving blade, sewing thread, twig for wearing caste mark.

Take emergency medicine: pain relief, acidity, allergy.

Take soap strips, toothbrush, comb.

4.7 During Travel

Check-in, fly.

You can get boarding pass for flights of other airlines at the gate of one airline - generally, there are agreements amongst airlines.

While boarding the flight, at each gate, confirm transfer of luggage, meal, seating preferences. American airways had not ensured vegetarian meals for me during mid2010 visit to bhArata.

4.8 International travel

While travelling from USA to outside, ensure that I-94 form is taken away.

4.9 After travel

Update glacier with travel dates.