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Delegate with confidence—and come back to a business that hasn't missed a beat.

Whether you're heading out on vacation, attending a conference, or simply unplugging for a bit, your organization doesn't have to hit pause when you do.

This guide will help you prioritize what needs handling, leave clear instructions, and avoid the chaos of post-break catch-up.



PRO TIP: Use the checkboxes to track which tasks you've delegated—or note what to follow up on when you return!

 1. Email Correspondence & Management Triage your inbox: flag/forward urgent emails only, respond as needed Tidy up folders and delete spam Set (and check on) your OOO auto-responder WHY IT HELPS: Keeps you from returning to an avalanche of unread emails and ensures nothing important slips through the cracks.
2. Calendar Management
Reschedule, confirm, or cancel meetings and appointments
Add placeholders for important follow-ups
Block off catch-up/deep work time for when you return
WHY IT HELPS: Avoids calendar chaos and gives you time to ease back in, starting with what's most important.
3. Project Management
Track project updates and requests
Update/organize project management tools
Send client/team check-ins to maintain momentum
WHY IT HELPS: Keeps workflows moving and your clients/team feeling supported—even in your absence.
 4. Social Media & Marketing Management Schedule posts and respond to comments/DMs Track engagement and insights Begin planning next month's content WHY IT HELPS: Maintains your online presence and saves you from scrambling to catch up later.

 5. Create a Re-Entry Plan Compile a "while you were out" summary Prioritize what needs your attention first List what can wait, and archive what's done WHY IT HELPS: Transforms your return from totally overwhelming to totally doable.
6. Tackle the Backburner Projects
Follow up on pending proposals/invoices
Draft or update SOPs or process docs
Organize digital files and folders
WHY IT HELPS: Frees up future mental space and clears lingering to-dos while you're out.
7. Personal Tasks
Book travel accommodations and personal appointments
Manage family calendar or logistics
Order groceries or restocks for your return
WHY IT HELPS: Makes your personal life feel just as supported as your business.
8. Content Creation
Draft blog posts for future publishing
Repurpose already existing blogs or other content into social posts
Outline upcoming email campaigns/newsletters
WHY IT HELPS: Lays the groundwork for consistent content, even if you're not actively creating.

9. Online Research Collect competitor insights or pricing Research tools, supplies, or service providers Request and collect client testimonials, feedback, or survey responses WHY IT HELPS: You return with data and insights ready to act on—no digging required.

10. Data Entry & CRM Cleanup

- Remove unsubscribed or outdated contacts
- Add new leads from your inbox
- Tidy up tags, notes, or contact info
- **WHY IT HELPS:** Clean systems = smoother workflows and better marketing performance.

Stepping away shouldn't mean stepping into chaos. With the right prep and a reliable VA, you can unplug knowing things are still moving forward. Use this list as your go-to whenever you're out of office—and come back to an organization that's focused, responsive, and ready for what's next.

