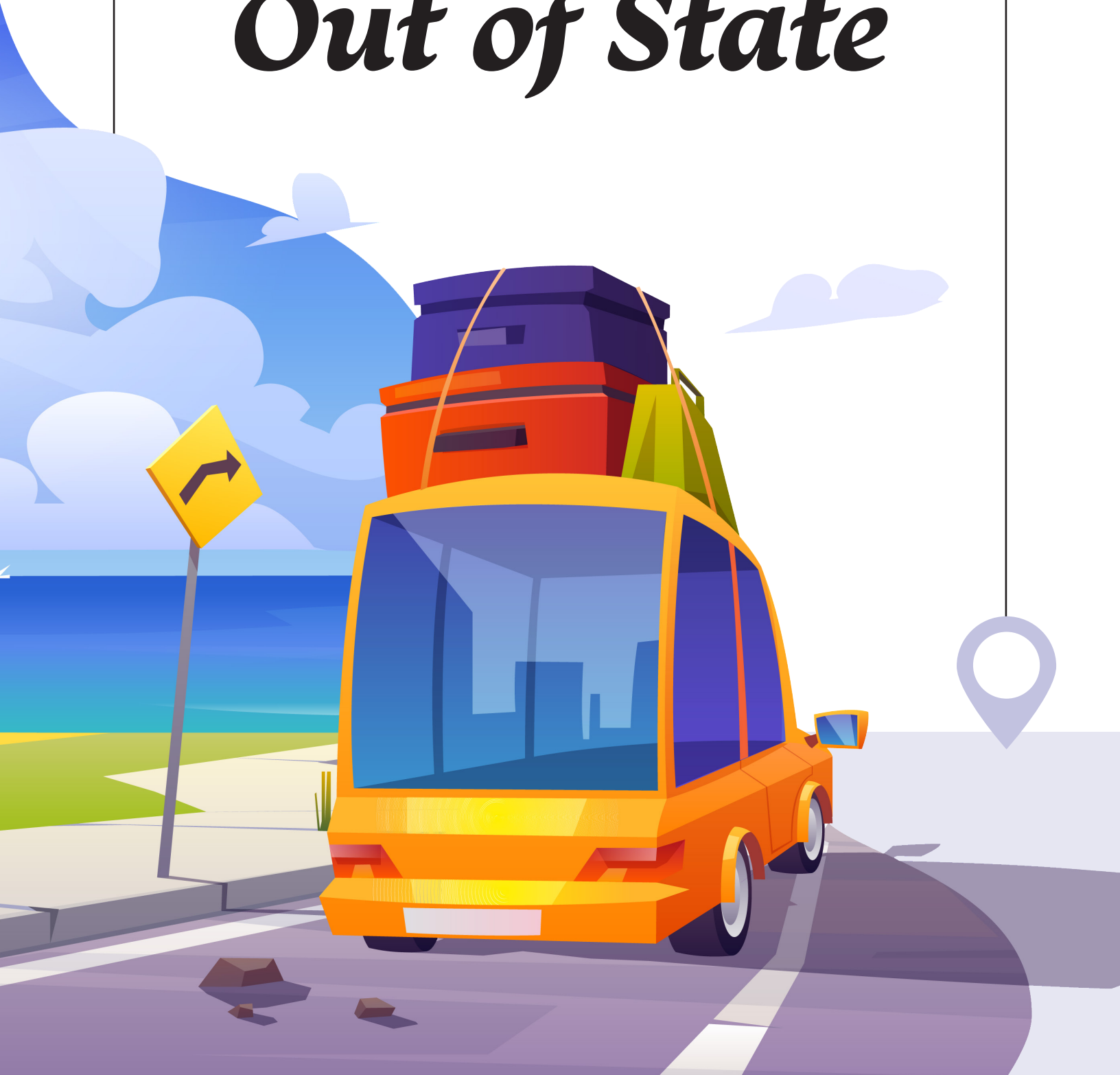


A TEN-STEP GUIDE FOR

# Moving *Out of State*





**W**hether it's for a better career opportunity, to get a lower cost of living, or to live closer to family, moving to a different state is never simple or straightforward. From planning and packing to calculating expenses and selecting services, there is a lot to keep track of. To help make your move a smooth one, work with a real estate agent for their expert guidance and referrals, and follow the tips in this guide on how to choose the right place for you and save time and money getting there.

## ONE

### ***Make a list of priorities***

Writing out your must-haves and dealbreakers can help you narrow down which areas you are interested in. Weigh factors like your housing budget along with each location's climate, population density, access to outdoor spaces or activities, and affordability. If the location has already been decided and you are simply homing in on specific neighborhoods, consider factors like walkability, safety, proximity to retail and restaurants, and the local real estate market.

## TWO

### ***Research schools***

If you have school-age children, you'll want to factor their education into your city and neighborhood search.

Look up districts with well-rated schools, then see what the real estate market is like there and if there is available housing.

## THREE

### ***Visit prospective locations***

Arguably one of the most important things you can do before moving is visiting your top two or three locations. It's one thing to collect data and read information online about a place, but experiencing it in person is a whole different ball game. Book a stay near or in the neighborhood you think you'd want to live in, and live like a local for a few days. Go to the local farmers' market or grocery store. Grab coffee at the café down the street. Strike up a conversation with a friendly face. Asking residents if they enjoy living there will give you valuable firsthand information that can help you make a final decision.

## FOUR

### ***Budget for the move***

Moving is expensive, especially if you're going to a place where the cost of living is higher. You'll need enough money to cover any tax increases and housing costs on top of the expense of hiring movers and arranging transport of your belongings.

## FIVE

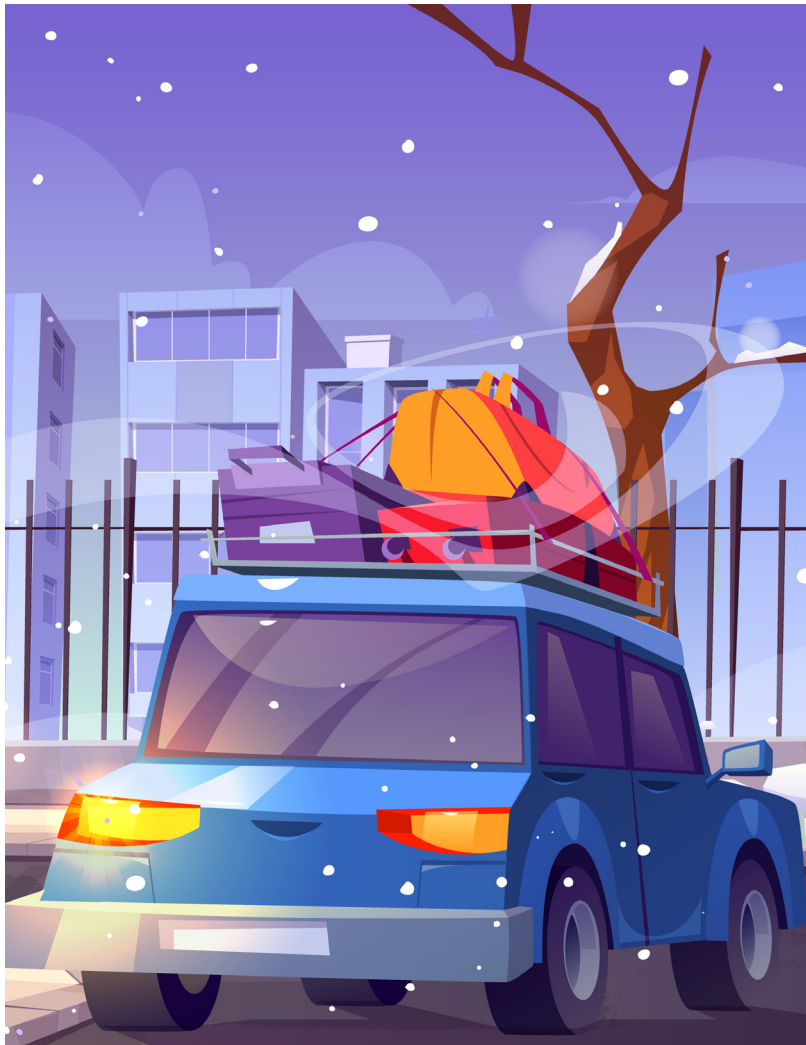
### ***Figure out what to do with your current housing***

If you own a house, this is a good time to seek out a local real estate agent's advice on the best course of action. Are you planning a permanent move and need to sell your house? Or is this more of a trial adventure, meaning you'd prefer to just rent it out? Having a strategy in place will free up your time to begin looking for housing options or real estate in another state.

## SIX

### ***Move in the off-season***

Believe it or not, there are peak times when it comes to moving; around 80 percent of moves occur between April and September. Availability of movers drops during these months, while prices can dramatically rise. If you aren't bound by a specific day or



month, time your move for fall or winter and consider choosing a weekday. In addition, it's better to move in the middle of the month; you are much more likely to find reasonably priced movers who won't be overwhelmed by a long list of clients trying to exit their space by the end of the month.

## SEVEN

### ***Be flexible***

On top of opting for an off-season move, you should also try to be flexible about your dates in general. Rather than committing to a specific

one, let your movers or moving company pick a time that works best for them. This will increase your chances of getting a better rate and more attentive movers.

## EIGHT

### ***Use Pirate Ship***

If you are going to be shipping your belongings instead of renting a truck or hiring a moving company, you can benefit from the reduced rates that Pirate Ship offers. Their customers' shipping volume enables them to offer the type of discount usually reserved for big corporations. Plus, you can calculate prices and print

labels at home and drop off boxes or schedule a pickup whenever you're ready.

## NINE

### ***Rent a moving container***

Rates for a cross-country move can be quite expensive if you are using a moving company. A portable moving container can potentially save you thousands. As an added bonus, it can also function as a storage unit for the days before and after your move.

## TEN

### ***Rent a moving truck***

If you feel comfortable with driving a large truck (even for long distances), DIY-ing your move is a great money-saving option. You can pack the truck to your own specifications, and you never have to worry about a moving company losing your belongings. When stopping for the night, choose a safe and well-lit location and back the truck up to a bush or another well-protected area for extra security.

***Moving to a new state can be very rewarding. Do your research, and get in touch with a professional real estate agent today to begin planning for your next big adventure. They are one of the best resources thanks to their knowledge of other markets, connections to agents in other states, and referrals for shipping companies, junk haulers, and move-out cleaners.***