



1 • BEFORE YOU GO

Plan enough to feel prepared — and leave room for the unexpected.

- ☐ Choose your destination and map your general route.
- ☐ Check the weather forecast for the route and destination.
- ☐ Research road closures, construction, tolls, and seasonal conditions.
- ☐ Choose a realistic number of driving hours or miles per day.
- ☐ Build in breaks every couple of hours — and stop sooner if tired.
- ☐ Estimate where you will realistically end each driving day.
- ☐ Pre-book hotels for busy weekends, holidays, or major events.
- ☐ For flexibility, save 2–3 possible hotels in each overnight area.
- ☐ Download offline maps in case cell service disappears.
- ☐ Share your general route and expected arrival with someone you trust.
- ☐ Keep your itinerary flexible enough to change when you need rest.



2 • VEHICLE CHECK

A calmer road trip starts before you pull out of the driveway.

- ☐ Schedule an oil change if due or coming due during the trip.
- ☐ Check tire pressure — including the spare tire.
- ☐ Inspect tire tread and look for uneven wear or damage.
- ☐ Check brakes if they are squeaking, grinding, or due for service.
- ☐ Top off windshield washer fluid and check coolant.
- ☐ Check engine oil, brake fluid, and other recommended fluids.
- ☐ Test headlights, brake lights, turn signals, and hazard lights.
- ☐ Inspect windshield wipers and replace worn blades.
- ☐ Check the battery, especially before a long trip or extreme weather.
- ☐ Confirm registration, insurance, and inspection are current.
- ☐ Make roadside assistance information easy to find.
- ☐ Fill the gas tank or fully charge your EV before departure.



3 • WHAT TO PACK

Keep the things you may need during the drive within easy reach.

- ☐ Driver's license, registration, and insurance information.
- ☐ Roadside assistance details and emergency contacts.
- ☐ Phone, car charger, and portable power bank.
- ☐ Water and easy snacks.
- ☐ Essential medications.
- ☐ Sunglasses and sunscreen.
- ☐ Small first-aid kit and flashlight.
- ☐ Blanket or warm layer.
- ☐ Paper towels, tissues, and hand wipes.
- ☐ Emergency supplies appropriate for the season and route.
- ☐ Comfortable shoes.
- ☐ Small overnight bag so you do not have to unload everything.
- ☐ Downloaded playlist, audiobook, or podcast.
- ☐ A little cash and a backup payment method.



4 • ON THE ROAD

The goal is not just to arrive. Give yourself enough room to enjoy the journey.

- ☐ Buckle up and follow posted speed limits.
- ☐ Take regular breaks and stop sooner if fatigue sets in.
- ☐ Stay hydrated and keep easy snacks nearby.
- ☐ Follow your planned route — but allow safe, interesting detours.
- ☐ Notice the towns, overlooks, roadside stops, and views along the way.
- ☐ Do not push farther simply because a hotel is already booked.
- ☐ If you feel tired, stop safely and adjust the plan.
- ☐ Choose rest over proving you can finish “just one more hour.”
- ☐ Be present. Take photos. Make memories.
- ☐ Remember: getting there safely matters more than a perfect schedule.



5 • THE CONFIDENCE CHECK

A road trip can be a first step into travel — no airport, passport, or flight across the pond required.

- ☐ I chose a trip that feels exciting, not impossible.
- ☐ I know my general route and my first day's plan.
- ☐ I have given myself permission to stop, rest, and change plans.
- ☐ I am not measuring success by how many miles I cover.
- ☐ I left space to notice something I did not plan.
- ☐ I know I can turn around, take a detour, or ask for help.
- ☐ I am taking this trip one road, one stop, and one decision at a time.
- ☐ I am ready to enjoy the journey — not just the destination.

Maybe your first adventure doesn't start at an airport.
Maybe it starts in your own driveway.