

# Road Trip Short Checklist

By Fae Fisher

- Trip Planning
  - Choose the dates of our road trip.
  - In July and August, be prepared for crowds at the national parks and other popular destinations.
  - How far is this trip?
  - How much will the road trip cost?
  - How many stops are planned?
  - Find out if there are any special events happening along your route that you might want to see or avoid.
  - Leave plenty of extra time on your trip to be spontaneous.
- Your Car
  - Check the fluids.
  - Check the hoses and belts.
  - Check the tires.
  - Get any scheduled or needed maintenance performed before you leave.
  - Don't forget to check the spare tire.
  - Pack your car with all your gear to see if everything will fit.
- Your Family
  - Take toys and games that will keep your family occupied.
  - Bring along a few surprises to pull out in case of crankiness.
  - Pack snacks.
  - Pack some basic safety items in the trunk.
  - Bring along some plastic bags and moist towelettes to help keep messes contained.
  - Do special things you only do on road trips.
- Your Home
  - Unplug electrical appliances.
  - Shut off the water main.
  - Turn down the heat or air conditioning.
  - Check that all windows and doors are closed and locked.

- Have your mail and newspapers held, or ask a neighbor to pick them up for you.
- Install a timer on one or two lamps, to give the appearance that someone is home.