

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.