

15 Tips for Travelers



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*Here's a handy check
list to save and
use whenever you're
planning an extended
automobile trip*

TRAVEL by automobile is easy and convenient—and, as a result, nearly 9 out of 10 Americans vacation by car.

But to assure carefree hours on the road, you need to do a little advance planning. Getting your family, your car, and your home prepared for an extended motor trip can add greatly to the safety and pleasure of such a journey.

American Automobile Association travel counselors, who last year plotted more than 12 million trips in the United States for AAA members, offer these useful car vacation tips:

1. Before you leave, take your car in for a tune-up and maintenance check of lubrication, tires, brakes, lights, and steering mechanism. If you're without seat belts, have them installed now, and get your family into the habit of using them before you start out. Seat belts mean nothing if they are not used.
2. Check the expiration date of your automobile insurance and arrange payment if it will become due while you are away. It's also a good idea to check into insurance that will properly cover your belongings while you are traveling.
3. Fasten a set of duplicate car keys on the outside of your car but in a place that is hidden from view. They will come in handy if you lose your keys or lock them inside.
4. Lock the doors and windows of your home securely, but don't advertise your absence by drawing the blinds. Leave the shades in the position they would be in if you were at home.
5. Arrange for your mail to be picked up, forwarded, or held at your post office.

6. Cancel regular deliveries of such items as milk and newspapers.

7. If you are going to be away for an extended time, arrange to have the lawn mowed in your absence. A straggly, unkempt lawn is a sure sign the homeowner is away.

8. It's nice to have your name mentioned in the society columns, but try to postpone items about your vacation until you return. Professional burglars are on the lookout for such items.

9. Advise local police of your absence and expected date of return; they will check your house occasionally.

10. Leave a copy of your itinerary, your automobile license number, and a key to your house with a neighbor or friend for use in emergencies.

11. Pack your car as carefully as you do your luggage. A check list of things to take along will be of great help—items such as a first-aid kit, flashlight, flares, tire tools, and other accessories.

12. If the children are going along, be sure to pack their favorite toys and games as well as a few surprises to bring out if and when they become bored.

13. Once you are on the road, don't overdo it. Travel only 300 miles—or at the most 350—each day. This will allow time for really enjoying the sights along the way.

14. Stop early in the day, and you will find a better selection of accommodations at a price you can afford.

15. Vary your sight-seeing. This is especially important when youngsters are along. Museums may fascinate you, but a continuous round of them can quickly tire the children.

COVER:

A surprise package in the shape of a brand-new automobile awaits this eager family, photographed by Ozzie Sweet. For a round-up of "The Fabulous '64s," turn to page 12 of this feature-packed special issue.

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