

# Road Trips: Preparing Your Vehicle

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□ Now that summer is truly upon us, we wanted to share some tips on how to prepare your car for a road trip. An impromptu day trip is one of the best ways to take advantage of longer days and warmer temperatures, and getting your car ready to take you anywhere need not be a challenge.

Here are 8 easy tips for how to make a road trip as easy as a summer breeze:

1. Plan to have a beverage at hand. We recommend bringing a refillable water bottle that fits right in your cup holder. A refillable bottle gives you the flexibility of filling up at rest stops or restaurants along the way without adding any additional expense.
2. Pack nonperishable snacks. Keep a small snack pack in your center console or at the feet of your front-seat passenger with portable snacks that do well in all weather. We recommend almonds, apples, bananas, granola bars, and trail mix.
3. Consider a cooler. If you are going to be driving for a longer distance, it helps to pack a lunch. A small cooler with an ice pack or two is an inexpensive way to pack sandwiches, grapes, string cheese, and other food that travels well. This way lunch is ready when you are. *Bonus tip:* put a few bottles of water in the freezer the night before you travel. Use those as your ice packs the next day. You'll keep your food cool, and have extra bottles of water available for the ride home!
4. Sunglasses just for the car. It's not a bad idea to have a pair of sunglasses dedicated to staying in your car. This way, even those impromptu trips to the beach have you covered and this is one less item to pack!
5. Keep a beach bag packed at all times. It's quick and easy to pack a small tote bag with items you might need for an impromptu picnic or day at the beach. Toss a hat, travel size bottle of sunscreen, small towel, and pair of flip-flops in a tote bag and keep it in your trunk all season. The items are lightweight, so the effect on your gas mileage is minimal.
6. Take your bike! Trunk racks are a great way to transport your bike without the investment of attaching a hitch to your car, but they can make accessing items in your trunk a hassle. Don't forget that many cars have back seats that fold down; that feature is not just for when you need to fit extra large items in your trunk! Keep that travel bag in your trunk, where it is

accessible by simply folding down your seat.

7. Speaking of bikes... Have you considered a roof rack? Bike shops will tell you what types of racks are compatible with your make and model (or call us and we'll help!). There are great models available that are easy to install for any trip, and easy to pack away once you're home.
8. Consider a luggage roof rack. For longer road trips, did you know that there are different size roof rack containers that do not require professional installation? Hard sided or soft, there are a variety of options to fit any vehicle. A luggage roof rack will give you that extra bit of space to fit suitcases, your snorkeling gear, or those golf clubs.

Now you're ready for anything! If you find that you are in need of any automotive accessories when planning for your stress-free road trip, stop by Jones! We can help you with bike racks, luggage racks and more.

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