



Road Trip Travel Tips

Whether it's a quick weekend getaway or a cross-country trip with the entire family, road trips can be a fun adventure. There are several things you might want to consider to ensure your journey is safe.

Before hitting the road:



To avoid issues during your trip, it is important to inspect your vehicle. You should check things like tire pressure and windshield wiper fluid. For longer journeys, you might want to consider a full vehicle inspection where a certified mechanic can check the car's battery, fuel system, engine, brakes and fluid levels, and windshield.



Look to see if the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) has issued a safety recall. Visit [NHTSA.gov/Recall](https://www.nhtsa.gov/Recall) and enter the vehicle identification number (VIN) to find out.



Make sure the vehicle has items you may need, such as jumper cables, a car jack, a flashlight, and a first-aid kit.



Refrain from overpacking. More weight means more fuel will be used. When packing the vehicle, do not obstruct the driver's view from the windows and rear-view windows. Lastly, make sure any items packed on the outside of the vehicle are safely secured. In the event of a sudden stop, these items can turn into projectiles.

MAPFRE and the NHTSA have some additional safety recommendations for you:

- Program your GPS before putting the vehicle in drive.
- Make sure everyone is wearing a seat belt and that children are secured in age- and size-appropriate car or booster seats.
- Secure pets in crates or harnesses and be sure to stop frequently for them.
- Do not text or drive distracted – this includes things like adjusting the radio, eating or checking your GPS or navigation system.
- Obey posted speed limits.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- If you feel drowsy or exhausted, pull over and take a break. If you're feeling extremely tired, a 20-minute power nap will increase your alertness and decrease the risk of an accident.
- Share driving responsibilities with another driver, if possible, on long rides to avoid exhaustion.

No one wants to break down on the road. If you find yourself with a disabled vehicle, a flat tire, or warning lights on your dashboard, the first thing to do is to try to enter the breakdown lane or shoulder as quickly and safely as possible. You should also turn on your hazard lights as soon as possible to warn other drivers.

If there is an emergency, please call 911. If you are safe, you should initiate roadside assistance for help.

At MAPFRE Insurance, we worry about the what ifs, so our customers can focus on the truly important moments in life. We hope these tips keep you safe when you hit the road on your next adventure!