



Best Road Trips in North America



For the majority of Americans, the road trip has become a staple of summer.* Baggage fees and increases in airfare have prompted many people to drive to their vacation destinations instead of flying. Whether you plan to pack up the family and drive cross country or to the nearest theme park, here are some of the top road trips in the United States and Canada.

*Source: AAA

The U.S. Experience



Route 100, Vermont: See rural New England on a drive through the Green Mountains for which the state is named.

Route 100 traverses the state from Canada to Massachusetts, passing through quaint village centers, covered bridges, meadows and farms. Be sure to watch out for cows!

Image: Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing

Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina to Virginia:

The 469-mile Blue Ridge Parkway connects the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to the Shenandoah National Park and features ample recreational opportunities for the whole family, including camping, cycling, fishing and hiking.



Route 66, Chicago to Los Angeles:

Immortalized in popular culture, Route 66 was the road of opportunity for many families going to California during the Dust Bowl. Some sections of this National Scenic Byway have fallen into disrepair; however, Interstate 40 from Barstow, California to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma overlaps the historic highway in many areas and offers opportunities to drive part of the old route.



Pacific Coast Highway (US Route 1/101), West Coast:

This 1,500 mile drive spans the West Coast from Washington's Olympic Peninsula to Baja, Mexico and features views of redwood forests, rugged coastal cliffs, scenic wilderness, vineyards and seaside escapes.

US Route 1, East Coast: Explore the East Coast on US Route 1. The nearly 2,500 mile road runs from Maine to Key West, Florida, passing through big cities like New York City and Washington, D.C., as well as scenic vistas and coastline, including the Florida Everglades.



The Great River Road, Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico:


Follow the Mississippi River on its journey through the Midwest, from its headwaters in Minnesota to Louisiana. This nearly 3,000-mile drive passes through 10 states, allowing travelers to experience the history, culture and recreational opportunities that each state has to offer.



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The Icefields Parkway, Lake Louise to Jasper, Alberta: Explore the Canadian Rockies and enjoy views of glaciers, mountains, waterfalls, lakes and wildlife, including elk, moose and grizzly bears on one of the world's largest ice fields.

Image: Banff Lake Louise Tourism - Paul Zizka Photography, Nova Scotia Tourism



Trans-Canada Highway, St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia: See all that Canada has to offer and drive the longest national highway in the world. During the coast-to-coast drive, you'll see mountains and prairies, glaciers and lakes and historic and cultural sites that comprise a truly Canadian experience.



Cabot Trail, Nova Scotia:

The Cabot Trail is one of Nova Scotia's most memorable drives, featuring scenic views of the mountains and ocean that make Cape Breton a top island destination.

Image: Nova Scotia Tourism



Sea to Sky Highway, Vancouver to Whistler, British Columbia:

This 78-mile stretch of road on Highway 99 between Vancouver and Whistler is home to Shannon Falls, Horseshoe Bay, and Howe Sound, as well as dramatic cliffs, green forests and Black Tusk, a pinnacle of volcanic rock.

Image: SeattoSky - Bob Young Photography and Shannon Falls

Become a tourist where you live. If you don't want to travel too far from home, pull out a road atlas and see what's within 50 miles of your home. You might be surprised by the fun activities that are located within a 50-mile radius.

Keep in mind...

- 1. Top up your vehicle's tire pressure and all fluids,** and ensure there are no leaks.
- 2. Keep everyone buckled up** and activate the child safety locks, if necessary.
- 3. Have each child pack a small backpack** filled with their favorite books, toys, hand-held games and an MP3 player. And don't forget to bring their favorite snacks.
- 4. Stop every two to three hours for 20 minutes** so that everyone has a chance to use the restroom and stretch their legs.
- 5. Have your children choose three or four stops along the way** so that they feel included when planning the trip.

