

THE CAR MENTOR'S SUMMER ROAD TRIP PRE-TRAVEL CHECKLIST



VEHICLE READINESS

- ☐ Check oil level and change oil if needed
- ☐ Inspect and top off all fluids (coolant, brake, windshield washer, transmission)
- ☐ Test battery strength and clean terminals
- ☐ Inspect tires for wear, cracks, or bulges
- ☐ Verify tire pressure, including spare
- ☐ Confirm your jack, lug wrench & spare are accessible
- ☐ Replace worn windshield wipers
- ☐ Test all lights and turn signals
- ☐ Examine belts and hoses for cracks or leaks
- ☐ Ensure A/C is blowing cold
- ☐ Schedule a pre-trip inspection if due for maintenance

EMERGENCY ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Jumper cables or jump starter
- ☐ Portable air compressor or tire inflator
- ☐ First-aid kit
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ☐ Phone charger/power bank
- ☐ Reflective triangles or road flares
- ☐ Duct tape & basic tools
- ☐ Fire extinguisher (Class B/C)
- ☐ Paper towels & window cleaner
- ☐ Water, snacks, and non-perishable food

TRIP PREPARATION

- ☐ Update vehicle registration & insurance docs
- ☐ Check roadside assistance coverage
- ☐ Download GPS maps for offline use
- ☐ Confirm hotel & activity reservations
- ☐ Plan rest stops every 2-3 hours
- ☐ Share your travel route with someone you trust
- ☐ Review weather forecast
- ☐ Pack duplicate car key in a separate bag
- ☐ Load music, podcasts, or audiobooks

PASSENGER COMFORT

- ☐ Neck pillows & blankets
- ☐ Sunscreen & bug spray
- ☐ Reusable water bottles
- ☐ Sunglasses for all passengers
- ☐ Entertainment for kids (games, tablets, books)
- ☐ Travel garbage bags
- ☐ Tissue & hand sanitizer
- ☐ Extra masks or face coverings
- ☐ Emergency medications & prescriptions

BEFORE YOU GO

- ☐ Fill up your gas tank
- ☐ Clean your windshield and mirrors
- ☐ Set up your navigation system
- ☐ Do a final walk-around check
- ☐ Take a deep breath - and enjoy the journey!