

Tips for Planning Your Cross-Country Road Trip



1) Choose your final destination.

- a) Whether you are doing a one-way tour (like for travel nursing) or a round-trip vacation, it helps to have a final destination in mind.
- b) If you are going round-trip, choose the spot farthest away that you want to go to.

2) Choose your route.

- a) It helps to keep in mind the season you are traveling. I went in the wintertime and wanted to avoid ice/snow storms, so I chose to drive the southern route. I used [Google Maps](#) to help me plan it out.
- b) This will just be like an overview/general route. You will get into more details later on...

3) Determine how many hours you can drive each day.

- a) Everyone is different. Personally, if I am by myself, I can only drive about 6-8 hours max per day. However, my cousin can drive around 12 hours per day on his own.
- b) If you are with someone else, you can drive longer. My cousin and I drove about 14 hours one day and felt fine since we could switch drivers. When I was with my aunt, we felt comfortable driving about 9 hours total together.

4) Pick a start and end date.

- a) Now that you have figured out how far you want to drive each day, you can calculate how long your total trip will be. Always add an extra day or two at the end so you won't feel rushed.

5) Start an itinerary.

- a) Use a blank itinerary like [this one](#) that I created. It can help you to organize your route.

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6) Choose your overnight stops.

- a) Most of my hotels were booked before the road trip started. I used [AAA](#) to get discounts, but Googling it is fine if you aren't a member.. You can also use airBNB, just the process will take longer.
- b) Some of the overnight stops I waited to see how long I wanted to drive the day of. In that case, I Googled for hotels nearby as it was nearing dark. I also used the AAA app to see if I could get discounts.

7) Pick the places you want to sightsee each day.

- a) I tried to have 1-2 big stops each day with sightseeing or hiking. It helps to get your legs moving from sitting all day in a car!
- b) [Roadtrippers](#) is a nice app/website that helps you pick the places to go along your route. You are only allowed five stops before you have to start paying. I used [Google Maps](#) after roadtrippers got me started.

8) Ask!

- a) The best stops/biggest moments I had on my first cross country road trip was from advice from my friends/cousins who live in the area or who have traveled there before.
- b) You can also use my blog to help you with places to eat or see, or contact me!

9) What are you bringing?

- a) It is helpful to make a packing list of items you will need. Start working on that NOW vs. later. You will keep adding to it, trust me!

Get out and explore!!

--Rosie--