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5 Ways to Feel More Confident on Your Next Road Trip

Understanding the warning signs is the first step to preventing and treating common vision issues

by **Garmin (Paid Content)** | Comments: 0




It's hard to beat the classic American road trip for adventure and excitement. But before you pack your bags and hit the gas, stop and make a plan to stay safer on your trip. From using smart-car technologies to taking care of a few car basics, you'll be doing your part to keep the journey as bump-free as possible.

Follow These Tips

1. Get Your Car Serviced


Seems basic right? It's surprising how many people put this off and think they'll just take care of any car issues once they're on the road. Why do that to yourself? Schedule a car service appointment at your local dealership a few weeks before your trip. Be sure your vehicle passes the important safety checklist of items that include maintaining proper levels of fluids (oil, windshield, coolant and radiator), checking the battery, tires, brakes, wipers and spark plugs and having your oil and air filters replaced.




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2. Map Your Journey

Make your next road trip all about the journey, because you don't just want to get there, you want to enjoy all the stops along the way. One great way to ensure you won't miss a beat is to use a GPS. You can find lots of things to see and do with the Garmin® DriveSmart™ 65. It has road-ready features that allow you to map out your trip, add points of interest using the History® Network of notable historic sites and a U.S. National Parks Directory. Finding restaurants, gas stations and hotels is a breeze with a bright, easy-to-see display. With built-in Wi-Fi® connectivity for easy map and software updates without a computer, you won't be driving around in circles looking for your next stop.



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GARMIN.**3. Assess Your Health**

Driving may seem like a passive activity, but any extended road trip requires physical strength and endurance. Impaired vision or hearing can affect your ability to drive safely, so be sure to visit your doctor before your trip and have both checked and corrected if necessary. And while you're there, ask your doctor to review any medications you're taking. If a particular drug can cause drowsiness, for example, see if your physician can offer a better option that won't prevent you from focusing on the road.



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4. Obey Rule #1 - Safety First

Staying focused on the road can be challenging at times. Between reading road signs, finding your next bathroom stop or the ringing of your cell phone, it can all be very distracting. Put safety first and remove some of these distractions. A smart GPS puts the ease back into your road trip by allowing you to use your voice to set the navigation to your desired destination and then later hear turn-by-turn directions. Combine this with Bluetooth technology that pairs your smartphone with your GPS for hands-free calling and live traffic and weather alerts, and you'll wonder why it took so long to make a GPS your road companion.



5. Say Yes to Smart Technology

Gone are the days when a car's cutting-edge technologies are mostly confined to the space beneath the hood. Now the place for smart tech is front and center on the dash. You don't need a new car to enjoy the many benefits of such technologies. When evaluating your next GPS, look for an easy-to-use, out-of-the-box navigation system that offers high-resolution display, simple menus and maps and real-time traffic alerts.


Bonus Tip: Consider Taking a Driver Safety Class Before You Go


Sharpen your skills—and learn new ones as well—with a good refresher driver safety course designed for adults 50+. Driving, as you've probably noticed, is a very different experience today than it was even a few years ago. An in-person or online class will give you everything you need to feel confident on the road, from a better understanding of the new technologies in your car to a thorough review of traffic laws and regulations. And there's a potential financial bonus: Completing such a class may make you eligible for a discount on your auto insurance premium.

Click here to see how the Garmin DriveSmart™ 65 can help you be a smarter and safer driver.

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5 Historic Destinations That Shouldn't Be Missed

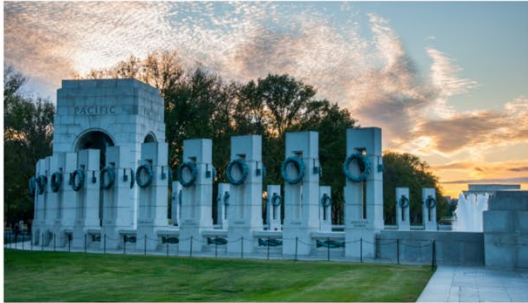
Discover America up-close and personal

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Eager to hit the road but don't know where to go? One great option, if you're ready for an adventure, is to hop in the car and head for an American landmark—any of the many sites nationwide known for their natural or cultural history. Which to see first will depend on where you live, as well as the time that you have available, but here are five suggestions to get you started, each in a different region of the country and each with its own set of wonders and surprises.



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1. World War II Memorial

Set on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the World War II Memorial is the most important and widely visited site recognizing Americans who served in the Second World War. Found between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, the memorial includes 56 granite pillars and two triumphal arches arranged around a central pool and fountains. Stone walls leading up to the site are engraved with battle scenes and other images, and 4,048 gold stars on its arching Freedom Wall each represent 100 Americans who lost their lives in the war between 1939 and 1945.




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2. Mount Rushmore

If you're anywhere near the Black Hills of South Dakota, plug Mount Rushmore into your Garmin GPS. This massive national memorial designed by sculptor Gutzon Borglum features the faces of four past presidents carved into a towering wall of stone. According to the National Park Service, which manages the site, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln were chosen by Borglum to represent "the story of the birth, growth, development and preservation of this country." While you're there: Plan a short side trip to the historic mining town of Keystone, home of the National Presidential Wax Museum.



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3. Yosemite National Park

El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall, Half Dome....at Yosemite National Park in California's Sierra Nevadas, these are just some of the iconic highlights you'll see from your car within a few minutes of your arrival. If you're willing to drive a little further into the valley (and are prepared for some serious hiking), you'll eventually find yourself in Yosemite's high country, home of Tuolumne Meadows, Merced Lake, and countless other less-visited alpine treasures. And if you're lucky? Maybe you'll see Alex Hunnold, star of the movie "Free Solo," climbing one of the park's many granite spires.



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4. Space Center Houston

This science and space learning center may be among the biggest attractions in all of Texas. Run by the nonprofit Manned Space Flight Education Foundation, the center attracts more than a million visitors a year who come to see everything from its Apollo 17 command module to its collection of moon rocks and its Skylab astronaut trainer. Another nearby site worth a visit if you're there between March and September: Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros of Major League Baseball.



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5. Bonneville Dam

Forty miles east of Portland, spanning the Columbia River between Oregon and Washington, Bonneville Dam is one of the top man-made attractions within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. A National Historic Landmark built in the 1930s, Bonneville includes a free visitor center with a view of a fish ladder that migrating salmon use to swim upstream. Also on-site: the "new" Bonneville Lock, which has helped passing ships to navigate the river (and the dam) since it was built on the Oregon shore in 1993.

Did you know? U.S. citizens age 62 and older can purchase an affordable lifetime pass for \$80 that allows access to recreation areas managed by five Federal agencies.

Be road trip-ready with the **Garmin DriveSmart™ 65** that includes the **History® Network** of notable historic sites and U.S. national parks directory and discover America's most treasured natural resources and experiences. Remove the stress with easy navigation to places within the parks, including visitor centers, picnic areas, campgrounds, trailheads and more.

Click here to see how the Garmin DriveSmart™ 65 can help you discover America's majesty.