IRVINE USED CARS

FREE PRINTABLE

SoCal road trip checklist.

Desert, mountains or the coast: a long drive from Orange County asks a lot of a car, **especially in summer heat**. Do the car check a few days ahead so there's time to fix what you find.

Destination _____ Leaving (date) _____ Driver(s) _____

1 Car check

A FEW DAYS BEFORE

- [ ] Tire pressure set **cold** to the door-sticker number; spare or inflator kit checked
- [ ] Tread and sidewalls look good on all tires
- [ ] Oil, coolant and washer fluid at the right level
- [ ] A/C blows cold; wipers clear the glass
- [ ] All lights work, including brake lights and turn signals
- [ ] Brakes feel normal; no new warning lights
- [ ] Due for service soon? Do it before the trip

2 Heat and desert

SUMMER DRIVES

- [ ] Plenty of drinking water for everyone, plus extra
- [ ] Fill up before long empty stretches; don't run near empty
- [ ] Watch the temperature gauge on long uphill grades; ease off if it climbs
- [ ] Sunshade, sunglasses, sunscreen and hats
- [ ] Never leave children or pets in a parked car

3 Tolls and routes

BEFORE YOU GO

- [ ] Toll roads **73, 133, 241 and 261** are cashless: use FasTrak or pay online after the trip
- [ ] The 91 and 405 Express Lanes have their own rules; check before you use them
- [ ] Check road conditions and closures (Caltrans QuickMap)
- [ ] Mountains in winter: check chain controls and carry chains if required
- [ ] Download offline maps for areas with weak signal

4 Driving an EV

PLAN STOPS

- [ ] Plan charging stops and a backup charger for each one
- [ ] Leave a buffer: heat, A/C, speed and climbs use more range
- [ ] Charging app and payment set up before you leave
- [ ] Charging cable and adapters in the car

5 Papers and safety

IN THE CAR

- [ ] Driver's license, registration and insurance card
- [ ] Roadside help number saved in your phone
- [ ] Phone charger and a car mount (hands-free)
- [ ] Emergency kit: first aid, flashlight, jumper cables or jump pack
- [ ] Someone at home knows your route and when you'll arrive

6 Packing

PEOPLE

- [ ] Snacks, a cooler and trash bags
- [ ] Layers: deserts and mountains get cold at night
- [ ] Medicines and glasses
- [ ] Car seats installed and checked

Stops, chargers and notes

General safety tips, not professional advice. Toll and road rules change; check thetollroads.com, the Express Lanes websites and Caltrans before you go.
More ideas for drives from Irvine: irvineautosales.com/blog/road-trips-from-irvine/

SoCal road trip checklist · CC BY 4.0 — free to print, copy and share with credit