

# TIPS ON TRIPS



## Gearing Up For Holiday Travel

(NAPSA)—Before you take to the road this holiday season, heed these hints that can drive down on-the-road tensions.

### Prepare Your Vehicle

Make sure your turn signals, wipers, parking brake, brake lights and headlights are working. Check the air pressure in your tires, including the spare. Check the oil, radiator, and windshield washer fluid and refill as needed. Remember to pack safety equipment such as a flashlight, first-aid kit, blankets, jumper cables, food and water. A cell phone is also helpful for emergencies.

### Plan Your Route

Minimize stress by mapping out your route in advance and having an alternate in case of heavy traffic. Keeping a road atlas on hand for quick reference can be a good idea. To help, Michelin recently launched a brand-new atlas for North America. This spiral bound, compact atlas lies flat for easier navigating and is organized geographically, not alphabetically, as are most atlases. That means you can focus on your trip and spend less time fumbling to find the right map.

### Don't Eat and Run

Don't eat a big holiday dinner and immediately get back into the car for a long drive. A big meal can make you drowsy and a tired driver has slower reaction times. Take a walk after dinner to get the blood flowing or better yet, take a nap. Once you do head out, take a 15-minute break—or more—every two to three hours to stretch and break the boredom of driving.



A little advance planning can help keep your family in a festive mood throughout your holiday season travels.

### Leave Early, Stay Late

If your schedule permits, avoid peak traffic by leaving a day earlier than everyone else and returning a day earlier or a day later.

### Entertain The Kids

Entertaining car-based activities for the kids will help make the journey more pleasant. Compact board games with magnetic pieces or such classic games as "I Spy," scavenger hunts or even counting cows can help make the time pass quickly. Try giving children their own map or atlas so they can track the journey and learn how to use a map at the same time. Make a game out of it and see who can calculate the distance the fastest.

Spending time together on a road trip can be a great way to have quality time with your family. Some advance planning can help keep your family in a festive holiday mood.

For more information on Michelin's North America Atlas, call 1-888-610-5122.