

ROAD TRIP ESSENTIALS

Must Haves:

1. Valid Driver's license!
2. Travel documents if driving across the country
3. Car manual
4. Insurance documents
5. Spare tire (make sure it is inflated!)
6. Car Jack
7. Lug wrench
8. Jumper cables
9. First aid kit
10. Loose change/cash
11. Road map - Download offline maps on your phone. I always prefer to carry hard copy as well. Cell phone signal is not available everywhere so please do not just rely on your phone GPS.
12. Water resistant flash light
13. Extra car key, not in the same keychain as the other car key!
14. Emergency contacts list - I have my emergency contacts listed on a piece of paper stuck in my dashboard.
15. Swiss army knife
16. Drinking Water - I keep refillable steel tumblers as well as disposable water bottles. I fill up the tumbler at each stop if possible. Save disposable for emergency.

Nice to Haves:

1. Snacks – For me, this is almost a must have. Ideally, carry snacks like nuts, energy bars, fruits like apples, oranges, bananas etc that do not requiring cooling. I also make my own trail mix.
2. Cooler – For me, this is another almost a must have. I make my own sandwiches or take some meat, bread and veggies every time I go on a road trip. I use ice packs mostly, and they easily last for two days. If I am on the road longer, then I buy ice from stores along the way.
3. Garbage/disposable bags
4. Wet wipes/napkins – if you forget from home, no problem. Can always pick up napkins from rest areas.
5. Tooth brush and paste
6. If you wear glasses/contacts, then carry a spare pair
7. Photocopy/picture of driving license and/or traveling documents
8. Notebook and pen
9. Car phone charger
10. Power bank
11. Hand sanitizer
12. Toilet paper
13. Safety pins (stick em in the first aid kit)
14. Small Blanket or shawl
15. Small Towel
16. Umbrella
17. Sunglasses/cap
18. Lotion/cream
19. Travel pillow
20. Travel mug