



# Road Trip Co-Pilot Rules

Being the “co-pilot” on a road trip is much more than passively looking out the window, napping, and staying glued to your cell phone.

A good co-pilot makes the trip easier, for everyone in the car, but most especially the driver. Want to be a great co-pilot? Follow these rules:

## **Be the Navigator**

Know how to read a map, both digital and paper. You’re in charge of directions. Watch out for exits, street signs, and destinations.

If you miss a turn, think quickly. GPS can help reroute but don’t let Siri rattle you with constant reminders of your missed turn. Stay calm.

## **Be a Good Lookout**

A co-pilot locates places to stop for food, fuel, restrooms, and stretching breaks. Plan ahead when possible but always be on the lookout for necessary stops.

## **Handle all Things Phone Related**

The driver should never have to take their hands off the wheel. Co-pilots handle all phone calls and texts as well as taking trip photos—including selfies.

## **Keep the Driver Awake**

It’s tempting to drift off when you get drowsy but don’t do it. Stay alert and make sure your driver is alert too. Engage in conversation. Have a sing along. Do anything to keep you both alert and awake.

## **Be the DJ**

Normally “he who drives chooses the music.” So, offer your best DJ services by finding stations, playlists, or podcasts. This will keep your driver’s hands on the wheel.

## **Distribute Snacks**

This includes opening packages, unwrapping food, removing bottle caps, etc. so the driver doesn’t have to mess with anything. Keep a bag nearby and handle all used wrappers, bottles, and trash.

## **Assist the Driver Any Way You Can**

Be the extra hands finding whatever the driver needs—sunglasses, removing a jacket, snacks, music, or anything they need to remain comfortable and alert.