



# Day Trippin' Tips

## Plan. Go. Enjoy.

Ah, the day trip. It can be a perfect day off or a perfect disaster. Want to minimize problems? Plan ahead of time to reduce surprises.

Have your map ready? If not, see our *"Mapping Treasures Close to Home"* tip sheet. Once that's done, it's time for planning.

Here are 7 simple, straightforward tips for planning your day.

### **Pick an Area**

Look at your 50-mile day trip map and decide which direction to go. Select a town or region on the map you want to explore.

### **Do Your Research**

Research one town in the area you chose.

Think like a visitor--what would someone new to the area want to see? Check Visitor Bureau websites to find places to visit and things to do. Be sure to note schedules, hours open, fees, best time to visit, etc.

### **Plan Your Route**

Next, plan which roads to take--back roads or main roads. Note if there's anything to see on the way to your destination. Plan pit stops along the way for rest, picnicking, snacks, potty, etc.

### **Set Your Limits**

Don't try to do too much in one day.

Have a list of activities as a guide--nothing is set in stone. Concentrate on 2-3 sites to see, depending on how big they are.

### **Prep the Day Before**

Ready the car--fueled, check fluid levels, tires, jumper cables, etc. Pack essentials--cash, flashlight, first aid kit, extra clothes, and jacket. Pack a lunch, snacks, water, cooler, tissues, towels, and sun protection

### **Up Early and Out the Door**

Get up early so you don't need to drive in the dark going home. Catch the sunrise and maximize precious daylight hours.

### **Be Flexible**

It's ok to change your plan if you hit a snag or unexpected detour. Ask the locals for recommendations when plans change. Love the pit stop and want to stay longer? Do it!

Day trips are about connecting with the place, not just a quick superficial lay of the land. You are in control so make the day what you want it to be. Plan. Go. Enjoy.