

Family Road Trips – A Comprehensive Guide & Most Important Tips

A family road trip is often one of the most exciting things for everyone involved. After a grueling school schedule, work pressure, and daily domestic madness, it is only right for the family to head out on an adventurous road trip. Let's have a look at a few tips to make a family road trip a successful one (mountain or otherwise).

1

Actual preparation

At the very beginning, plan your dates well in advance, and try to avoid monsoons. Hills during monsoons are rough, and there are chances of landslides which make your trip risky. Beaches will be a pain with minimal activities for the kids to enjoy.

2

Involve everyone

Do not leave the kids out when you are planning the destination. Remember that even kids might have some preferences, and you really do not want nagging children when you finally reach.

3

Research for the road trip

You are bound to find out some unique place that you have never heard of, and going there can be a thrilling experience. Buy guide books (please don't call me old school – sometimes, they have more decent information), or find them online.

4

Reservations

Mountains are popular destinations, and if you are going out during tourist seasons, you will find yourself in real trouble, because most places are booked. So make your reservations before you head out.

5

Prepare for worst

You are preparing for the worst means to pack a bag full of medicines and emergency supplies. Remember that the long winding roads of the mountains can often cause nausea, and you do not want people throwing up and falling sick, especially children. So, you need to get medicines for the same (read, first aid kit).

6

Food & necessities on a road trip

You need to pack food. You are granted that there are numerous Maggie Points and tiny stalls everywhere, but what if it is raining and you cannot get out of the car? Ensure you get some healthy options in the pack and of course, the regular kids' demands – cookies, chocolates, chips, juices, etc.

7

Love the Vehicle

Make sure that you have all emergency tools, such as torque wrench, Stepney tire, screwdrivers, and a flashlight. Water is yet another essential thing required at all times, so do pack a few bottles.

8

Clothes

We must always pack in layers and dress in layers! Of course not to mention, have jackets handy, especially if you're in the hills. Dressing heavily and having the weather change on you is not a fun situation to be in – especially with kids in tow. Pack according to the weather you're visiting.

9

Google Maps

Ensure you have the Google map downloaded for offline usage. Don't want to be lost in the woods with kids in tow, no matter how interesting of a story it makes down the road.

10

Spread a smile

Especially in the hills, know that the basic amenities we take for granted are often a luxury for the local folks. Carry goodies like crayons, small soft toys, pencils, notebooks, or sweets for little kids that you meet on your trip. If you are traveling with kids, make them give away these goodies as they are sure to learn a thing or two about joys of giving and empathy.

11

Take a break and enjoy nature

Don't try to reach your destination in one go. Take frequent breaks at any beautiful spot that you come across and breathe it all in. Live the nature up! If your kids want an additional stopover at a random little place that they might fancy, take that short break – so what if you can't reach the hotel on time, not the end of the world!

12

Have buffer days

Most times, we tend to jam-pack our schedule when on vacation with N things to accomplish, experience, visit, see, shop, eat! In all the madness of wanting to DO things, we forget that this is relaxation time to regroup, rewind and reconnect! Let's keep buffer days for a day or two where you've planned no activity.

13

Pictures, please!

Make sure your camera and phones are always charged as you would not want to miss out on any picture that could be a million-dollar shot! That said, make sure your little ones(or you) are not glued to their gadgets or just clicking pictures and missing out on the views outside their windows.

14

Play Vacation Games

Each family has a unique way of passing time – choose yours, it will become a legend! Also, it is an excellent way to carry on traditions from your childhood – will make you feel like a kid again! Don't to forget to carry some games to play when you are at the destination.

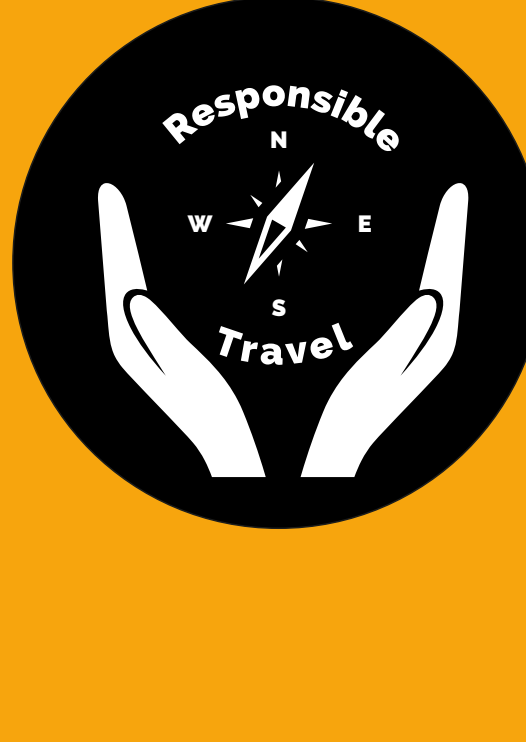
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Be realistic

Even with all the preparation and hard work, know that there will be fights, tears, happiness, laughter, boredom, irritability – it is family after all! Learn not to take things too seriously and just let things be. You will be making good memories and don't set too high of an expectation for everything to be perfect.

Himalayan Travel Tips

- Have Buffer Days
- Stay Warm & Hydrated
- Avoid Alcohol
- Carry Required Clothing, Food & Water
- Drive with Caution & Care
- Start Early, Sleep Early



#SaveOurHimalayas

- Spread Smiles Not Plastic
- Stop Littering
- Bring Back Your Own Trash
- Avoid Plastic Water Bottles