RV travel day checklist

Plan ahead, pack up and leave room for a slower departure

A general planning aid for motorhomes and towable RVs. Follow your vehicle, trailer, hitch and appliance manuals and the manufacturer-approved sequence. The order here is not an operating procedure. Mark items that do not apply as N/A.

Date _____ **Driver** _____

From _____ **To** _____

01 The night before

- ☐ Confirm your reservation, check-out time and arrival window; save an offline copy.
- ☐ Choose who handles each departure task and who does the final walk-around.
- ☐ Charge phones and download maps. Keep keys, wallet and trip documents accessible.
- ☐ Pack drinking water, snacks, essential medicines and a roadside kit. [1]

02 Route and destination

- ☐ Review the forecast, road conditions and closures through official sources. [1]
- ☐ Verify the route and campsite fit your rig's actual height, width, length and weight, including rooftop equipment and anything towed. [4]
- ☐ Check bridge, tunnel, park and seasonal restrictions with the relevant authorities. [4]
- ☐ Plan fuel or charging, rest stops and a backup overnight option. Allow extra time. [1]
- ☐ Save campground directions, contact details, check-in instructions and your ETA.

03 Inside the rig

- ☐ Secure loose items and latch cabinets, drawers and refrigerator doors. [3]
- ☐ Check appliance, propane and water-system travel requirements in your manuals. Do not guess equipment settings.
- ☐ Clear slide-out paths. Prepare windows and vents for travel as the manuals direct.
- ☐ Keep walkways and emergency exits clear, with essential supplies easy to reach.

Travel height _____ **Total length** _____ **Width** _____

Outside and ready to roll

Use your equipment manuals for the exact checks, settings and order. This checklist does not replace training, inspection or professional service.

04 Outside the rig

- ☐ Confirm required vehicle and trailer maintenance checks are complete. [5]
- ☐ Check cold tire pressures against applicable placards and manuals. Inspect tires, including the spare, for damage. [2]
- ☐ Confirm loaded weights are within vehicle, trailer and equipment ratings. [5] Secure exterior cargo. [3]
- ☐ Complete hitch, coupling, safety-chain, brake and breakaway checks using the applicable manuals. [5]
- ☐ Verify vehicle and trailer lights and signals; check mirror visibility. [1, 5]
- ☐ Disconnect and stow hookups and campsite gear. Prepare slides, awnings, antennas, steps and jacks for travel in the manufacturer-approved sequence.

05 Final walk-around

- ☐ Walk completely around the rig. Check the ground, sides, overhead clearance and exit path. Account for every traveler and pet. [1]
- ☐ Confirm doors and compartments are latched, with nothing attached to the campsite or left behind.
- ☐ Seat everyone in designated travel seats with appropriate restraints. Keep people clear before moving. [1]

Pause before moving. If a check is uncertain or something seems unsafe, resolve it using the manual or help from a qualified professional before departing.

06 Travel day record

Departure _____ **Arrival** _____ **Miles** _____

First stop _____ **Campground phone** _____

Notes or unresolved items _____

Sources and further reading

[1] NHTSA - Road trip planning, lights and occupant safety - nhtsa.gov/summer-driving-tips
[2] NHTSA - Tire pressure and tire condition - nhtsa.gov/vehicle-safety/tires
[3] NHTSA - Securing cargo - nhtsa.gov/drive-safe-secure-your-load
[4] NPS - RV size and weight restrictions at Zion - nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/large-vehicles.htm
[5] U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center - Know How to Tow - safety.army.mil