



## 3 Tips for Planning an Epic Road Trip

Nothing conjures a carefree, adventurous feeling better than a road trip. Despite the cost of gasoline, road-tripping still offers one of the most affordable ways to “get away from it all.” A little planning can go a long way toward making your excursion an enjoyable experience—and we have some tips to help you!

### Top Three Things to Consider

#### 1. Carefully select your destination.

Making this decision involves multiple considerations:

- **Who will travel with you?** – Consider the ages, physical capabilities, likes, and dislikes of your passengers. For example, your 79-year-old mom may have a vastly different idea of a good time than your 23-year-old daughter or 8-year-old grandson.



- **What's your budget?** – Destination costs can vary significantly depending on the distance you'll travel, the vehicle you'll use, the overnight accommodations available, and entrance fees to attractions and activities. Don't book a trip that will break the bank; crunch the numbers before you make firm commitments to hotels, rental vehicle companies, and entertainment venues.

#### 2. Create your travel route to include strategic stops along the way.

If it requires days to arrive at your main destination, consider a driving route that allows you to visit other stops of interest along the way. An online search can turn up well-known (and lesser-



known) sights and landmarks en route to your endpoint. Making those interim breaks will allow you and your fellow travelers to explore new experiences, expand your perspective, and stretch your legs!

If you decide against taking in other sights on the way to your ultimate destination, at least plan a route that offers ample restroom facilities within a reasonable distance from each other.

#### 3. Prepare your vehicle for the trip.

Your road trip will be most enjoyable in a safe, comfortable vehicle.

Have your car or truck serviced a few weeks before you leave to check the tires, brakes, seatbelts, lights, turn signals, and other safety features. Ask your mechanic to change or add necessary fluids (engine oil, brake fluid, transmission fluid, washer fluid, coolant, etc.)



Also, equip your vehicle with other essentials you may need in an emergency: flashlight, jumper cables,

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## PENNSYLVANIA FACTS

that You Probably Didn't Know!

- **The smiley face emoticon** was invented in Pittsburgh by Carnegie Mellon University Professor Scott Fahlman on September 19, 1982.
- **Erie, Pennsylvania** was the snowiest city in the United States (with a population over 100,000) during the 2013-2014 winter. They city received 138.4 inches of snow.
- **The Big Mac** was invented by Jim Delligatti, who owned several McDonald's restaurants near Pittsburgh. It was first served in Uniontown in 1967, and there is even a Big Mac Museum that you can visit.
- **Mushrooms** Half of America's mushrooms are grown in and around Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.
- **Leap the Dips** at Altoona's Lakemont Park is the oldest, still-operating roller coaster in the world. It first ran in 1902.
- **Crayola Crayons** makes all of its products in Pennsylvania. They produce nearly three billion crayons each year, enough to encircle the globe six times.
- **The highest point in PA** (Mount Davis at 3,213 feet) is at a lower elevation than the lowest point in the entire state of Colorado (3,315 feet).



From <https://uncoveringpa.com/pennsylvania-facts>

## 5 fun roadside attractions in PA

Don't miss these bucket list worthy tourist traps and road trips stops on your Pennsylvania road trip!

- **Haines Shoe House**  
197 Shoe House Rd, York, PA  
<http://www.hainesshoehouse.com/>  
Built in 1948 by Mahlon Haines, the "Shoe Wizard," to advertise his booming shoe store empire.
- **The Pagoda**  
98 Duryea Drive, Reading, Berks County  
<http://www.readingpagoda.com/>  
This seven-story pagoda on Mount Penn was commissioned in 1906 by William Witman Sr. He wanted it to be a luxury resort, but that plan never came to fruition.
- **Giant Zippo lighter, Zippo Museum**  
Chestnut Street Extension, 1932 Zippo Drive, Bradford, PA  
<https://www.zippo.com/pages/zippo-case-museums>  
A giant 40-foot replica lighter sits outside 15,000-square-foot Zippo Museum.
- **The Coffee Pot**  
108 Telegraph Road, Bedford, Bedford County  
David Berton Koontz built this 18-foot tall by 22-foot wide coffee pot in 1927 to attract customers to his adjacent service station on the Lincoln Highway.
- **Mars Flying Saucer**  
100 Pittsburgh St., Mars, Butler County  
<https://www.visitbutlercounty.com/attractions/mars>  
Located in the town square, the giant silver Mars Flying Saucer is about 3 feet tall and 6 feet across.



Sources: [https://www.pennlive.com/entertainment/err-2018/03/9cb1491d5c/best\\_roadside\\_attractions\\_in\\_p.html](https://www.pennlive.com/entertainment/err-2018/03/9cb1491d5c/best_roadside_attractions_in_p.html)  
<https://sillyamerica.com/blog/best-pennsylvania-roadside-attractions/>

## 4 MEMORY-MAKING Pennsylvania Road Trip Destinations



Left: The Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, Right: City of Philadelphia. Liberty Bell

You don't have to cross the state line to experience the ultimate road trip. Many magnificent destinations await you right here in Pennsylvania. Below, we've highlighted several that offer something for nearly everyone. Go to [visitPA.com](http://visitPA.com) for more ideas.

### 1. Pine Creek Gorge (a.k.a. The Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania)

The stunning 50-mile-long, 1,000-foot-deep forested gorge is a beloved landscape for kayaking, hiking, and biking. It also offers many scenic lookout points accessible from the main road.

### 2. Falling Water

Designed by architectural master Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935, Falling Water stands as one of the most distinctive houses in the world. It's located in the mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania, about 70 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. Surrounded by over five thousand acres of nature's beauty (Bear Run Nature Reserve), Falling Water is open for the public to tour.

### 3. City of Philadelphia

Home to many of America's oldest historical landmarks —including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the Betsy Ross house, to name a few—the City of Brotherly Love is a "must visit." Also, put nearby Longwood Gardens, with over 1,077 acres of botanical beauty, on your agenda.

### 4. Bushkill Falls

Known as "The Niagra of Pennsylvania," Bushkill Falls encompasses 300 acres with eight waterfalls and over two miles of hiking trails, walkways, and bridges. Located in the Pocono Mountains of northeastern PA, it's close to many resorts. It's also within an hour of other popular attractions, such as the Crayola Experience & Factory, Lackawanna Coal Mine, and Knoebels Amusement Resort.

Sources: <https://www.visitpa.com/region/pennsylvania-wilds/grand-canyon-pennsylvania>  
<https://www.visitphilly.com>, <https://fallingwater.org>, <https://www.visitbushkillfalls.com>

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reflective triangles, license and registration information, proof of insurance coverage, blankets, rain gear, first-aid kit, and emergency contact numbers.

You can also make the ride smoother for your fellow travelers by packing forms of entertainment (smartphones and tablets with game apps, books, upbeat



music playlists, etc.) to pass the time. Oh, and don't forget some snacks to prevent "hangry" (hungry + angry) attitudes along the way!

### Next Stop: Fun for Miles

As you're planning your 2022 road trips, we're here to help ensure your vehicle is ready to roll. Contact us to schedule your pre-trip service check-up!

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup white wine
- 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1 teaspoon dried sage
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 lemon, juiced
- 1 tablespoon capers, drained (optional)
- 1/2 cup cornstarch, or as needed
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken thighs
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

**DIRECTIONS**

**Step 1**

Pour the chicken broth into a saucepan with the onion and garlic; bring to a boil and cook at a boil until the liquid reduces by half, about 10 minutes. Pour in the white wine. Stir in mushrooms, rosemary, and sage; simmer until the mushrooms are tender and have given up their juice, about 15 more minutes. Stir in milk, butter, lemon and capers; reduce heat and simmer the sauce until thickened, about 10 minutes.

**Step 2**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

**Step 3**

Place the cornstarch into a shallow bowl and press the chicken thighs into the cornstarch on all sides until thoroughly coated. Shake off excess cornstarch. Heat the olive oil in a skillet over medium heat; pan-fry the chicken thighs until they develop a golden brown crust, about 8 minutes per side. Place the chicken thighs into a 9X9 inch baking dish and pour the sauce over the chicken.

**Step 4**

Bake in the preheated oven until the sauce is bubbling and the chicken is no longer pink in the center. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center of a chicken thigh should read at least 2165 degrees F.



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