



FALL TRAVEL TIPS



Know your Route



Check the Weather

While driving in the mountains is often a serene experience, a few unique challenges and safety measures are important to keep in mind. If you plan on enjoying the fall colors in the Colorado mountains, we've provided some tips to help make your trip safer and more enjoyable!



Prepare your Vehicle



Plan your Trip

- Beware of quickly changing temperatures.** As you're probably aware, temperatures change with altitude. Some mountain passes can bring you up and down thousands of feet within a short distance. The skies might be bright, sunny, and clear on your way up, but when you reach the top of the pass, blizzard conditions may appear.
- Fog can be a huge issue.** Visibility can go from totally clear to extremely limited in a matter of seconds.
- Fallen leaves on the road can be dangerous when wet.** Driving on slippery leaves can be similar to driving on ice! Leaves can also obstruct traffic lines, potholes, or pavement markings. Remember to use caution, drive slowly, and keep a safe following distance.
- The days are becoming shorter which means reduced visibility.** Turn on your headlights and watch for pedestrians walking or biking on the roadway at dawn, dusk, or night. Also, remember to check that all of the lights on your car are working properly.
- With the time change, the sun rises and sets at different times.** The sunset and sunrise may occur during the morning and evening rush hour, producing a dangerous glare at the same time that many cars are on the road. Keep a pair of sunglasses in your car that you can wear to reduce sun glare.
- The cool overnight temperatures bring morning frost.** Keep a snow broom/ice remover in your car and give yourself extra time to clear your windows of frost before you start driving. Make sure your wipers and defrosters are working as they should.
- Watch for deer and elk.** Deer and elk accidents are common in the fall because it's mating **season**. If you see a deer or elk, proceed with caution and slow down as they often travel in groups. Remember that deer are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Monitor your tire pressure regularly.** Temperatures fluctuate frequently in the autumn. It can go from double digits in the afternoon to subzero at night into early morning. This will cause your tires to expand and contract, leading to a loss of pressure and issues while driving.
- Don't park where it says "No Parking".** Just don't. They say "No Parking" for a reason which is often for safety purposes or to protect the nearby environment and ecology of the area. There are several safe pull-off areas, please use those.



COLORADO STATE PATROL