



SUMMER 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 Colorado summers in the mountains, we've provided some tips to help make your trip safer and more enjoyable!



Prepare your Vehicle



Plan your Trip

- Don't hug the center line when driving on winding roads.** This can be especially dangerous if a vehicle coming from the other direction is also hugging the center. If you are driving on a single-lane mountain road and come across a blind corner, drive slowly and continuously honk your horn to notify other drivers to prevent collisions.
- Drive the posted speed limit.** The speed limit is set for your safety. If you are going slower than the posted limit, be courteous and pull into a turnout or on a straightway with a shoulder to allow a group of other motorists to pass.
- Only pass slower-moving traffic when you've got a clear view of the road ahead.** Do not pass unless you are in a marked area that allows it. Never pass another car on a blind curve or when your visibility is compromised.
- Be alert to wildlife to avoid critter collisions.** Wildlife may wander out into the middle of the road, especially during the hours between dusk and dawn. It is important to slow down and be aware of your surroundings. Use your high beams if there is no oncoming traffic for better visibility. Remember that elk and deer often travel in groups, so if you stop and allow one of these animals to cross, it's a good idea to wait a moment to see if any others are following.
- Use designated pull-offs to enjoy the views not while driving.** Colorado has beautiful scenery and there are numerous areas to pull off to take pictures. For your safety, do not park on the side of a road or in undesignated areas.
- Yield to vehicles driving uphill.** You may run into narrow, single-lane roads when you get deep into the mountains. When two vehicles approach each other on these roads, the driver going downhill must yield to the driver moving uphill by reversing and carefully pulling off to the side so that the other party has enough room to pass.
- Remember to downshift before steep downgrades or while going uphill.** Plan ahead of a downgrade by slowing down and downshifting into a lower gear. If you're in a higher gear, it will cause more wear and tear on your brake pads. Downgrades will naturally speed you up. Instead, evenly pulse your brake by applying steady pressure until your speed drops slightly under the limit, then let off the brakes and allow your vehicle to speed back up to the posted limit and repeat the process.
- Pay attention to your engine temperature.** Steep inclines can cause your engine to heat up, so keep an eye on your temperature gauge to avoid becoming disabled on a narrow roadway or road with no shoulder. If it starts getting hot, turn off your air conditioning and roll down your windows can help cool it off. If that doesn't help, pull over when safe and let the engine idle for a moment to help lower the temperature.



COLORADO STATE PATROL