



The Best Ways to Save on Gas for Summer Road Trips

by Marcy Black

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Prices at the gas pump are rising with the temperature as
With gas prices at more than \$4 a gallon, grandparents n
planning to drive to see the grandchildren, or take them o
minimizing your fuel bills.

1. Know before you go. You can avoid sticker sho
gas prices at home, along your route, and at your final de
[Report](#) that lets you track gas prices across the country. I
and your start point and destination, the [Fuel Cost Calcul.](#)
before you turn the key in the ignition.

2. If you have a choice of vehicles, drive the gallon. We have an SUV that holds an entire T-ball team more fuel-efficient, seats five, and can hold more in its trunk. My husband has typical male spatial skills for figuring out. Small grandkids won't mind the back seat. Be prepared for you'll all arrive at your destination with a few more dollars.

3. Pick a place to stay that pays for your gas offering cash rebates or free gas cards to customers whose lodgings are reducing room rates to help vacationers defray promotions at BedandBreakfast.com and BnBFinder.com. Nashua offers a \$20-a-night gas rebate to guests. Choice Comfort Inn and Econo Lodge — provides a \$50 gas card stays. These are just a few examples. When you make your promotions. Be sure to check any packages against regular you're getting a real deal.

4. Drive conservatively. You'll get better gas mileage speed, and start and stop smoothly. Cruise control can help. Don't race a cold engine or idle for lengthy periods.

5. Buy cheaper gas. Gas prices vary, even in the same to fill up at an isolated service station that jacks up prices expensive outlets, as long as you don't have to drive far. In unfamiliar territory, GasBuddy.com can help you find the

And don't pay for premium fuel if your car doesn't need it.

says, “Even many cars for which premium is recommended the differences are imperceptible during normal driving.”

6. Check your tires. Low-rolling-resistance tires will save a gallon, according to *Consumer Reports*, which rates replacement tires. A 2003 [report](#) from the Green Seal environmental group recommends a specific tire model.

Once you’ve got the right tires, make sure they’re properly inflated. A study found that corporate travelers under-inflated their own tires, costing them an estimated \$112 a year in reduced mileage.

7. Check your top. Car designers put a lot of effort into making cars wind aerodynamically. Roping a suitcase, kayak, and bicycle on top of the car wastes mileage. Try to pack everything in the car, not on top of it.

8. Review your destination. The best way to cut travel time is to drive. If you’ve always spent a week at the seashore, consider driving all the way to see your grandchildren, ask your middle-aged friends. You’ll have just as much fun and save a bundle by driving in neighboring states, rather than across the country.

9. Consider RVing. This may seem counterintuitive but it could pay off overall. Calculate how much more you’ll spend on gas against your possible savings in food and lodging. Campgrounds are cheaper than a hotel, resort or cottage. And an RV gives you the option of eating out every day.

10. Relax. Carol White, co-author of [Live Your Road T](#) over-psychoanalyze this whole thing. AAA says the price last year. [Editor's note: That was May 22, 2008.] A 500-r gallon will cost \$15.25 more than last Memorial Day. So is Starbucks-free week will save you more than \$15.”
