

Summer Vacation Safety Tips

Whether your summer vacation takes you overseas or on the road, these tips will keep you safe so that you can enjoy your summer travels with your family and friends.

- Know your vehicle load limits. If adding a rooftop carrier to your vehicle, make sure you are reading the car's manual to figure out the dynamic weight limit for the roof rack. Also, remember that adding a rooftop carrier raises the center of gravity which can cause an SUV to sway or become less stable on the road.
- Don't completely rely on your GPS/phone maps. Always have a back-up plan in case your GPS/phone map fails you. Paper maps are a good back up, along with emergency water, food, and other supplies.
- Steer clear of wildlife. Wild animals are drawn to campgrounds because they can forage in trash or snag snacks from tourists. In fact, every year people are attacked by animals like bears and bison. The key thing to remember is most animal attacks are provoked. Never feed or harass wildlife, even if you see other people doing it.
- Make sure you're protected in case of a medical emergency. If you are traveling out of the country, on a cruise, or more remote areas of the United States, ensure that you have travel insurance with emergency medical benefits and emergency medical transportation benefits. These benefits can cover medical care and/or emergency transportation if you experience a covered medical emergency while traveling.
- Use "touch supervision" with young children around pools. The CDC recommends designating one adult to watch all children swimming or playing in or around water. Supervisors of small children should practice "touch supervision," which means being close enough to reach children at all times. About half of all child drownings take place within 25 yards of an adult.
- Know your US Embassy & the local 911. If traveling internationally, find out where the US Embassy is located for your intended destination. If there is any type of emergency, that is where you would want to go. It's always important to know a country's version of 911 when traveling overseas.
- Wait to post. Do not advertise to everyone that you're out of town, which leaves your home and other belongings vulnerable. Wait to post your vacation photos until after you've returned home.

