

## Travel Tips for this Holiday Season



### Description

Take a moment to consider the travel tips below to ensure a safe and rewarding road trip.

#### Mobile Phones

- Mobile phones only work in metropolitan and major regional areas
- Using a hand-held mobile phone is illegal while driving, whether receiving or making calls
- Check your phone will work in the areas where you are travelling to
- In emergency, the telephone number to dial in Australia is '000'

#### Fatigue

- Avoid driving while tired
- Take a 15 minute break every 2 hours
- Don't try to drive too far in one day
- Plan your journey to allow adequate rest stops
- Share the driving with your licensed companions
- Take regular rest breaks at roadside rest stop areas

#### Unsealed and Outback Roads

- Dust on unsealed roads can obscure your vision and conceal ruts or potholes
- When passing or following another vehicle, take extreme care, and wait for the dust to settle before proceeding
- Turn your lights on to increase your visibility to others
- Road shoulders on outback roads can be soft and may not support your vehicle's weight
- Always reduce speed before nearing the road edge or when passing an oncoming vehicle
- Beware of edge drop-offs and loose stones

#### Approaching Road Trains

- Huge trucks, known as road trains, can be the length of 10 cars
- Slow down and gently pull onto the shoulder of the road to allow the road train to pass
- If necessary, stop to let the road train pass

#### Overtaking a Road Train

- Don't expect the road train to move off the sealed road to let you pass
- Flash your headlights to warn the road train driver you are overtaking
- It can take up to 2.5 km to overtake a road train travelling at 100 km/h

#### Sunrise & Sunset Driving

- Many roads travel east to west
- Driving when the sun is low in the sky makes clear vision impossible

- If driving in a westerly direction, plan to reach your destination one hour before sunset

### **Wildlife & Stock**

- Be on the lookout for wildlife and straying stock
- Drive carefully especially at night, sunrise and sunset
- If animals are in your path, reduce speed safely and do not swerve violently, or you may roll the vehicle

### **Wet Weather Driving**

- Postpone your trip on unsealed roads until the road surface has stabilised
- Some roads can become inaccessible in wet weather; especially during the 'wet season' months from November to March
- Check road conditions with local police or the RACQ. Call 1300 130 595 or visit [www.racq.com.au](http://www.racq.com.au).

### **Driving in Remote Areas**

- Always notify family, friends or a responsible person such as a police officer of your intended trip and estimated time of arrival
- At all times, carry plenty of drinking water and water for your vehicle (minimum 20 litres)
- Plan ahead for fuel stops in remote areas
- Some remote service stations have restricted opening hours and limited credit card facilities
- Be sure to carry adequate reserves of petrol, oil and food

### **Keep Left**

- Always drive on the left hand side of the road
- Ask passengers to remind you each time when taking off or when turning at an intersection
- When walking across the road, look right, left, and then right again to check for traffic before crossing
- Obey all road signs

### **Speed**

- Speed limits are enforced strictly in Australia
- Don't speed - obey the speed limit, and do not drive above this limit
- If the weather is bad (rain, fog) make sure you drive slower
- Some roads and streets do not have speed limit signs but speed limits still apply
- In built-up areas the speed limit is generally 50km/hr unless otherwise sign-posted
- Outside built-up areas the speed limit is generally 100km/hr maximum
- Check the default speed limit for each State or Territory
- Most States and Territories have mobile and/or fixed speed cameras so slow down, drive safely, and avoid heavy fines
- Obey all road signs

### **Alcohol and Drugs**

- Don't drink alcohol and drive
- Driving after consuming alcohol or drugs is dangerous
- Australia has strictly enforced drink driving laws and penalties; police actively enforce laws through random breath testing
- On a full driver's licence you must not drive if your blood alcohol level is 0.05% or higher
- Driving after taking drugs that effect your ability to drive is illegal in all States and Territories; penalties are severe

### **Seatbelts**

- Seatbelts and child restraints must be worn at all times where available in vehicles
- There are heavy fines for not wearing a seatbelt or restraint
- You must wear a crash helmet when riding a motorcycle, moped, scooter, or bicycle (also non-motorised scooter in Victoria and South Australia)

### **Sun & Beach Travel Tips**

- The sun is very strong in Australia
- Drink plenty of water regularly
- Always protect your skin from burning
- Seek shade when outside
- Cover up with clothing and wear a sun protective hat, sunglasses and SPF 30+ sunscreen
- When at the beach, swim between the red and yellow flags

- Lifesavers and lifeguards patrol flagged areas for your safety
- Don't swim outside the flag areas

*Original article from [www.queenslandholidays.com.au](http://www.queenslandholidays.com.au)*

## Comments