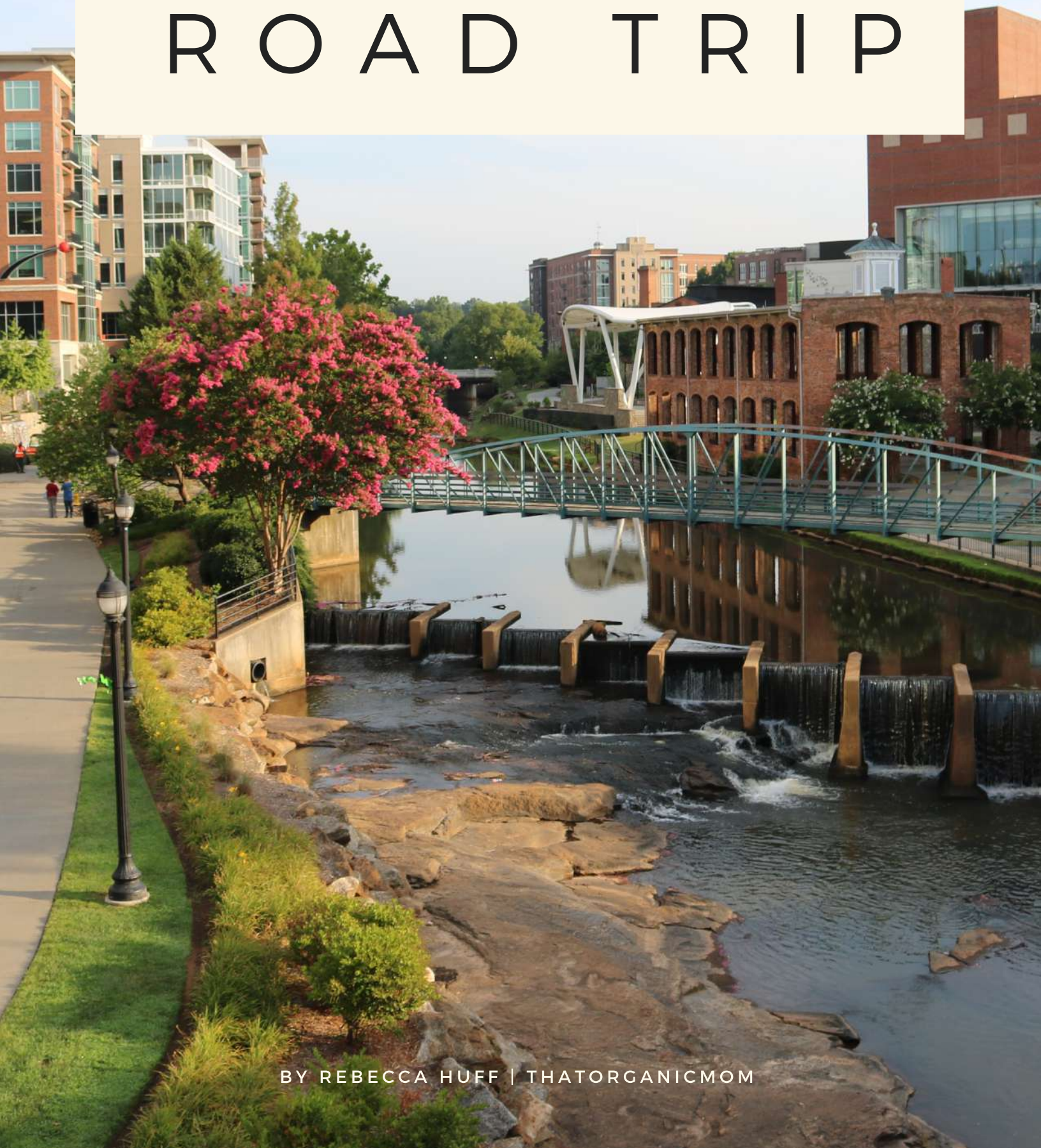


HOW TO HAVE THE BEST EVER

ROAD TRIP



BY REBECCA HUFF | THATORGANICMOM

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

*JUST A LITTLE PREPARATION
WILL MAKE THE TRIP GO
SMOOTHER. THINGS CAN
ALWAYS GO WRONG, BUT IT'S
BEST TO BE PREPARED!*

Pray - I always pray when I get in my car. There's so many things that could happen. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

-Buy postcard stamps
BEFORE you leave

-Buy tiny books with blank pages, passport size

- Let each child bring one small bag of "things to do" if possible.

**THE WORLD IS A
BOOK AND THOSE
WHO DO NOT
TRAVEL READ ONLY
A PAGE ~ SAINT
AUGUSTINE**



ACTIVITIES FOR THE ROAD

*THINGS THAT WILL HELP
CHILDREN PASS THE TIME*

Give the kids a map (printable) on a clipboard and let them follow your progress.

When you see a postcard, buy it, send it to yourself with a little message about how it's going. I did this once in China and didn't receive the postcards till 3 weeks after I returned home. It was AWESOME to open the mailbox and discover the postcards after I had returned. It took me back to the memories of that day riding bikes on the City Wall at Xi'an. Later, I found out that I'm not the only one who does this. It's a great idea for honeymooners.

Make Food Passports: name of the eatery, address, how many hearts 1-5, what you ate along the way, etc.

Playdough inside a balloon to squish (it's a great stress reliever for kids)

No road trip is complete without the license plate game

For older kids, origami can help pass the time
You can do a printable scavenger hunt (unless you are the driver...but even then you can find things while you are driving)

Come up with some type of reward system. I kept it simple. I just cut out eight square shapes in blue for my son and eight flower shapes in pink for my daughter and put them in a small box. They could earn one per hour for good behavior while we are on the road. Then allow them to use the shapes as vouchers to buy special trips while you are wherever you are going!

to travel
is to eat



When traveling, try scouting out the local restaurants. Skip the chain restaurants and hit up the mom and pop places! If you are concerned about quality, use an app like TripAdvisor for reviews and ratings or read them on Yelp, Google, etc. The best way to get to know a region is through food!



IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO

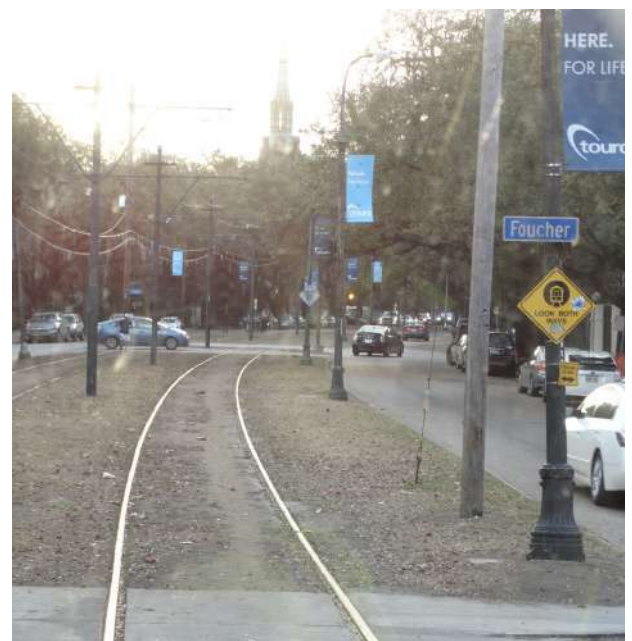
*SAFETY FIRST! DON'T FORGET
TO TAKE THESE SAFETY
PRECAUTIONS.*

- Share your location with someone who really cares about you
- Keep your tank half full (for you optimists) or at least above 1/4 tank (just part of being a prepper) not only is it safer, it's better for the maintenance of your vehicle.
- Wear actual shoes. Not flip flops or sandals, or even high heels. Sorry, but it is proven to be safer while driving and could save your feet if you are in an unfortunate accident. We learned this at Driving School. Also, if you ever have a problem and end up walking, you'll be glad.
- Stick your business card in your kids' pockets OR:
- Write your phone number on their inner arm in permanent ink (trust me) or if you have time you can order "tattoos" <http://www.tottoos.org/>
- Take a photo of your kids right before you get in the car each day, if for some reason you get separated you will have a recent photo (plus be able to describe what they are wearing)
- If you're using credit or debit cards you might want to contact the bank to let them know you will be traveling. A couple of times I have tried to use my bank card out of town only to discover that "area" was blocked for frequent fraud! It took about an hour to get the bank to unlock my card. Something that could have been avoided if I had let them know I was traveling.



STAVE OFF BOREDOM

- Get an Audible.com subscription or your Library's digital borrowing app like Overdrive and have several books already downloaded. Have music from itunes or Spotify!
- Some of our favorites listed below:
- Anything by Erin Hunter, such as the Warriors, Seekers, etc. (middle schoolers)
- Anything Pearl S Buck, because she is an amazing writer (older kids and teens)
- Inspirational books, like anything from the Robertsons Duck Dynasty clan, I've heard at least one from each generation, they're all good.
- A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park
- Sound of Music soundtrack (or whatever movie you guys dig at the moment...we know all the words to Sound of Music...so this is ours. Later when you hear that music again, it will "take you back" to that trip in your head. Kinda like a trigger; hopefully a good one.
- Sermons (unless they put you to sleep) can be a break from music or books. I keep some old favorites on CD.
- Podcasts are great for traveling. You can catch up on all the ones you missed during your busy life back home. (Check out My Favorite Podcasts Guide for recommendations)





- Healthy Snacks so you don't have to buy overpriced, stale junk at the gas stations.
- Ginger Candy (in case anyone feels sick) or Nausea Relief for those who don't care for Ginger
- Case of water bottles (if you have room) or a handy Berkey water filter bottle
- Essential oils, I take Chill Pill and a diffuser
- Electronics (but save them till extreme boredom sets in... let them build up the anticipation of using them, then let them have some screen time
- Road trip pillows (need I say naps?) and tiny blankies (for when one person is cold but everyone else is hot).
- Multi-way charger - trust me, if you have more than one device you'll need this
- Keep a stash of cash (1's and coins) for incidentals like toll booths, parking meters, etc.
- Clip boards and box of markers, pens, pencils, tape
- First Aid Kit
- Tissues and Baby wipes (for everything, I even clean my car with them)
- Small trash bag or box (we use a plastic cereal container)
- Power bank / battery back up
- If more than one child is going, pack one outfit per person into one grocery bag, including socks and undies. Put the entire stack in the grocery bag. You can label it however you like: "day one" or "red t-shirts" or "dressy outfit" or "play clothes" you get the idea. This way you only have to pull out ONE bag per day. If your child wears clean pajamas every night you could also include one pair of pj's and just lay them out of the bag in the morning.
- Don't pack ALL of each person's clothes in separate suitcases. If multiple people are traveling, pack individual outfits, then put one outfit per every person in one suitcase. This way, it will not be necessary to carry in every single suitcase at every single stop.
- Pack all your bathroom and shower stuff in one bag. Even if multiple people are going. Each person can pack their stuff into individual (hopefully clear) bags, but all those bags can go in one bag designated for the bathroom.
- Keep paper towels, disposable gloves, extra baggies, and baby wipes in the car for spills and other messes.



UPON ARRIVAL

ARE WE THERE YET?

- Continue Food Passports: name of eatery, address, how many hearts 1-5, what you ate along the way. Looking back at the food passports later is always fun when you have the post trip blues!
- Use TripAdvisor to check out local attractions, places to eat, where to stay, etc. I do this before I go then ♥ SAVE them on the app. You can even download the city to your phone so as not to use data while you are there. Make sure to take note of local parks so the kids can burn off energy. TripAdvisor now even has a timeline so you can look back at your trip and remember all the cool places you visited.
- My favorite way to travel is using Airbnb, each home we visit has some new and interesting things about it that are fun to explore.

**“TRAVEL TEACHES
TOLERATION.” -
BENJAMIN
DISRAELI**

C H E C K L I S T

CHOOSE WHERE YOU'LL STAY

List your top 3 choices with pros and cons of each
Find accommodations that meet your needs

MAKE TRAVEL PLANS

Create a budget
Book accommodations
Plan your travel route
Purchase tickets for any events or attractions

TO DO BEFORE YOU GO

Arrange for a house or pet sitter
Ask someone to check your mailbox for you or have the post office hold your mail

CALENDAR TO DO LIST

Block off your travel dates
Make a flexible itinerary of activities for the trip (Tripadvisor is great for this)

SHOPPING LIST

Gather supplies and gear you might need
Healthy Snacks and other car supplies
Appropriate clothing for the weather wherever you are going (don't go to NYC without rainboots or Florida without a swimsuit!)

An outdoor cafe setting with a long row of tables and chairs. The tables are covered with white tablecloths and have a red runner down the center. Each table has a small vase of colorful flowers. The chairs are dark brown with patterned cushions. Large blue umbrellas are open over the seating area. In the background, there is a stone building with a red door and a white van parked on the street.

*Taste
your
way
around
the*
WORLD