

Plan for a smoother journey with the Highways Agency



We've all been there. Getting more lost with every turn as you and your front passenger play tug of war with an increasingly tattered map. Stuck in traffic for hours with the kids kicking off in the back. Then you finally reach your destination and you can't find your accommodation or a parking space within walking distance.

Trying as these situations are, you'd be surprised at how often people set off on a day trip or holiday without planning their route or checking traffic conditions. Particularly as just a few minutes on the phone or internet, or listening to the travel news on the radio, can mean the difference between a hellish journey and a smooth one.

So take control of your trip and plan before you go. Here are some tips to get you on your way.

BEFORE YOU GO:

- Check your route on www.transportdirect.info
- Check traffic conditions on the automated telephone info line **08700 660 115**
- Check for roadworks by calling **08457 50 40 30** or visiting www.trafficengland.com/disruptions
- Check the weather at www.metoffice.gov.uk

ON THE MOVE:

- Look for motorway message signs
- DAB digital radio – radio scan for 'traffic radio' or stream from www.trafficradio.org.uk
- Call for updates on **08700 660 115**
- Use your mobile; www.highways.gov.uk/mobile

But remember to use your mobile only at rest points – it's dangerous and illegal to drive while using your phone.

Also –

Remember to get your car serviced regularly. This will reduce the chances of a breakdown, which means you're less likely to have everyone in your car shouting at you, not to mention everyone in the tailback you've caused.

Finally, in case the worst does happen you should always carry an emergency kit. Ideally this should contain a map, battery jump leads, a torch, a warning triangle, a fluorescent jacket, relevant medication, food and water. This might seem over-cautious, but you only have to pack it once and then you're ready for anything.

The Highways Agency is responsible for England's motorways and trunk roads on behalf of the Department for Transport. For more information please visit our website at www.highways.gov.uk