

PCS Road Trip Planning Tips and Tricks



- Start planning early.
- Determine your PCS travel budget.
- Research activities, distances between locations, and availability of amenities. Take pets and children needs into consideration.
- Involve family members in the planning process.
- Consider reaching out to spouses in a Coast Guard social media group for advice. There are many who are Destination and Travel Specialists.
- Determine the must-see items and plan around them.
- Book hotels in advance. Ensure you ask for military rate.
- You can save money by staying at the [hotels on military bases](#). These need to be booked ahead as they fill up quickly.
- Book activity tickets in advance.
- Take advantage of National Parks. Military members can get a National Parks pass for free. Some parks now require you to make a reservation ahead of time. Check out the [National Park Website](#) for more information.
- Give yourself plenty of travel time.
- Schedule breaks into your timeline. Consider pet and child needs.
- Allow room in the schedule for spontaneity and hiccups.
- Plan downtime into your schedule.
- Research the typical weather along your planned route. Ensure you pack appropriate attire.
- Take advantage of military discounts to save money.
- Create a packing list.
- Seek out advice from locals.
- Notify your extended family or someone you trust about travel plans in case of emergency.
- Expect problems and be ready to ad-lib.
- Tools to help you plan:

[Roadtrippers](#)

[Recreation.gov](#)

[Pinterest](#)

[TripAdvisor](#)

[Google Maps](#)

[Google Trips](#)

[Yelp](#)

Apps: Waze

iExit Interstate Exit Guide

AllTrails

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