

# Seven checks to carry out on your car before a road trip

Whether you're taking a short drive to the nearest B&B or gearing up for a lengthy family road trip, make sure your ride is ready before you head out on the open road.



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Imperial Auto has compiled a quick checklist for holidaymakers to work through before hitting the roads.

**1. The basics** – Be sure to fill up on fuel before you hit the road, and check your windscreen for chips at least a week before you are due to travel. Keep close at hand the contact information for roadside assistance programmes you belong to – check that your membership has not expired.

**2. Under the hood** – Check that the engine oil, brake fluids and windscreen washer fluid are topped up. Also check the condition of the battery and, if necessary, have the battery recharged or replaced.

**3. Tyre talk** – Ensure your tyres are inflated to the recommended pressure (found on the inside door panel on the driver's side or near the fuel tank). This is particularly important if you will be towing a trailer or caravan on your trip. It is also vital to check that the tread of your car's tyres measures at least 1mm across the circumference of the tyre and that there are no tears or bulges on the sidewalls.

**4. Brightness on the road** – Check that all lights in the front and in the rear of the car as well as the indicators and

emergency hazard lights are working properly.

**5. Be prepared for anything** – Ensure that the reflective warning triangle, jack and spare tyre are where they belong, in the boot of your car. It's a good idea to pack a medical kit and a basic set of tools for the road.

**6. Mapping the way** – Today's technology makes it really easy to navigate your route. With all the great attractions along the way, why not plan a few pit-stops to make the journey more interesting.

**7. Pack with thought** – Avoid overloading and check the maximum weight allowance for your car, which you can find printed on the doorjamb on the driver's side, as well as the payload of your trailer if need be.

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